

BOOK REVIEWS

Coen G., Petricioli, M., 1996: The first botanists in Zadar. Narodni muzej, Zadar, 1996. 104 p. illustrated (partly in colour), in Croatian and English. ISBN 963-96859-0-7.

The book constitutes a fine source of information on the first botanists who worked and lived in Zadar (coastal part of Croatia). Their investigations included not only its flora, but covered a wider field. Although some of them were amateurs, they left behind a legacy of precious and important records, either in the form of verbal descriptions or in herbaria, and some of them taught at the Lyceum of Zadar. The book lists eight names: Ambrogio Cariboni, Franz von Portenschlag-Ledermayer, Andreas Alschinger, Friedrich Ludwig Barun von Welden, Maria Selebam de Cattani, Bartolomeo Biasoletto, Robert Visiani and Domenico Pappafava. The only native of Zadar among them was Pappafava, while the others came to Zadar as physicians, philosophers, military officers and the like, or conducted floristic investigations in the region of Zadar or elsewhere in the Croatian Littoral.

The book has 11 chapters. The first describes the state of affairs in botany in Dalmatia in the first half of the 19th century. The second chapter, written by Sofija Petricioli depicts Zadar in the 19th century. Each of the other chapters relates to one of the botanists mentioned, with references following each chapter. Chapter 11, which it describes Domenico Pappafava's Herbarium, also has a list of references used.

The book was used as a catalogue to the exhibition of the same name displayed in Zadar from 1 to 12 December, 1998. The exhibits included portraits of some of the botanists, the signature of Cariboni, no portrait of whom has been preserved, a picture of Welden's garden, Cariboni's letter to Vicko Dandolo, a picture of Emperor Franz Joseph accompanied by Franz Portenschlag-Ledermayer, a list of botanists in Dalmatia with cities and towns where they worked. The layout and design of the Exhibition was by Silvija Petricioli.

Since the book is of considerable interest, but is not available in bookshops, it is worth mentioning that it can be purchased at the Narodni muzej in Zadar.

LJERKA REGULA-BEVILACQUA