

Book Review

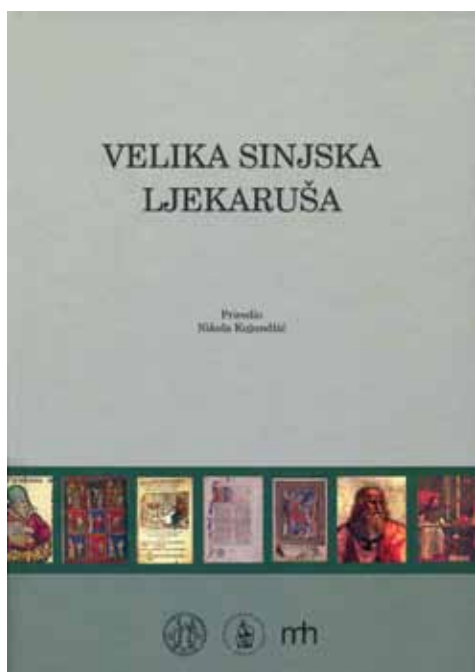


Figure 1. *Velika sinjska ljekaruša – obrada, transkript i faksimil* (The Big Folk Medicine Book of Sinj – Analysis, Transcript and Facsimile).

Croatian Academy's Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science. Further preserved was the transliterated text (into Latin script) prepared by Father Stanko Petrov, doctor of philosophy in classical philology (1887–1963). This work, which includes around 1,700 recipes, is in the safekeeping of the Franciscan monastery in Sinj under the title *Velika sinjska ljekaruša*.

Kujundžić, Nikola. *Velika sinjska ljekaruša – obrada, transkript i faksimil* (The Big Folk Medicine Book of Sinj – Analysis, Transcript and Facsimile). Zagreb: Farmaceutsko-biokemijski fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, Razred za medicinske znanosti HAZU – Odsjek za povijest medicinskih znanosti Zavoda za povijest i filozofiju znanosti i Ogranak Matice hrvatske Sinj, 2014. 756 pages. ISBN 978-953-6256-75-4. HRK 225,00.

The manuscript by an unknown author entitled *Velika sinjska ljekaruša* dates probably from mid 18th century. It was written in regular Cyrillic script from the Poljice area (*poljičica*). The original had earlier been kept at the archives of the Franciscan monastery in Sinj under the sign Rk. XLIX, but not any more. Fortunately enough, copies of the original have been preserved and are currently in the safekeeping of the Division of the History of Medical Sciences of the

The manuscript authored by Prof. DSc Nikola Kujundžić consists of three parts: his analysis of the medicine book; the transliterated text by Stanko Petrov; and the facsimile of the medicine book.

The author has thoroughly studied the content of *Velika sinjska ljekaruša* and the facts regarding its fate; he subsequently analysed it on around one hundred pages.

He described the manuscript, showed linguistic features of the text, and composed a glossary of less known terms, forms and archaisms. He listed herbs and herbal drugs, ingredients of animal origin, ingredients of mineral origin, resins and similar substances in recipes, auxiliary substances, and measures used in the medicine book. Divided in eighteen chapters, he listed the diseases mentioned in the medicine book, and put them in order according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10th Revision (ICD-10), and added appropriate explanations. He further studied biographical data on Stanko Petrov, in particular the correspondence between Stanko Petrov and university professor Antun Vrgoč, who planned to publish *Velika sinjska ljekaruša*, but did not manage to.

In conclusion, I congratulate Prof. DSc Nikola Kujundžić on having excellently prepared *Velika sinjska ljekaruša* for publication. It is a major book, as it contains an abundance of recipes (around 1,700). In the recipes, old Croatian (folk) terms for diseases and herbs, which are today to the most part forgotten, have been preserved. Herbs and their ingredients mentioned in folk medicine books are today a subject of interest and study in the domain of biomedical sciences; this confirms a large number of papers on the topic published in scientific journals. Interest for traditional ways of treatment and prevention has remained present despite accelerated development of medicine and pharmacy. Herbal cures found in old folk medicine books have preserved their practical value to the present.

Apart from all this, the folk medicine book of Sinj is a document that witnesses to the practical use of old Croatian script called *bosančica* as early as in mid 18th century. This script was called *poljičica* in the area between Split and Omiš of that time (County of Poljice), from which this folk medicine book probably originates.

I am very glad to be able to recommend the Department to have the book *Velika sinjska ljekaruša – obrada, transkript i faksimil* by Prof. DSc Nikola Kujundžić published. I propose for the word “transkript” (transcript) in the title to be replaced by the word “transliteracija” (transliteration), as this procedure has been consistently conducted in transferring *bosančica* to Latin script.

Anica Nazor