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Discovering Dalmatia – twelve different views on Dalmatia from the sixteenth to the early twentieth century

Otkrivanje Dalmacije – dvanaest
različitih pogleda na Dalmaciju od
16. do 20. stoljeća

Discovering Dalmatia: Dalmatia in Travelogues, Images, and Photographs, urednice: Katrina O'Loughlin, Ana Šverko i Elke Katharina Wittich, Izdavač: Institut za povijest umjetnosti, Zagreb, 2019., ISBN 978-953-7875-46-6, 410 stranica s ilustracijama u boji

ABSTRACT

The book *Discovering Dalmatia: Dalmatia in Travelogues, Images, and Photographs*, edited by Katrina O'Loughlin, Ana Šverko, and Elke Katharina Wittich, brings twelve studies focusing on the image of Dalmatia in different travelogues, photographs, and illustrations.

Keywords: *Discovering Dalmatia*, travelogues, sixteenth to twentieth centuries

SAŽETAK

Knjiga *Discovering Dalmatia: Dalmatia in Travelogues, Images, and Photographs*, urednice: Katrina O'Loughlin, Ana Šverko i Elke Katharina Wittich, donosi dvanaest različitih istraživanja koja se bave prikazom Dalmacije u različitim putopisima, fotografijama i prikazima.

Ključne riječi: *Otkrivanje Dalmacije*, putopisi, od šesnaestog do dvadesetog stoljeća

Discovering Dalmatia: Dalmatia in Travelogues, Images, and Photographs, edited by Katrina O'Loughlin, Ana Šverko, and Elke Katharina Wittich, is a new and refreshing study on Dalmatia as seen through the eyes of painters and photographers, with impressions and perceptions of travelogue authors and different maps and images of Dalmatia from the sixteenth to the early twentieth century. It is the second volume to emerge from the conferences organized as part of the Croatian Institute of Art History's research project *Dalmatia as a Destination of the European Grand Tour in the Eighteenth and the Nineteenth Century (Grand Tour Dalmatia)*. This three-year project has been funded by the Croatian Science Foundation and the books are published by the Institute of Art History in Zagreb. The first volume, published in 2017, was dedicated to Diocletian's Palace as seen through the prism of Robert Adam's book *Ruins of the Palace of the Emperor Diocletian in Spalatro in Dalmatia* (London, 1764). This second volume includes different studies of the Eastern Adriatic in a cross-cultural context, exploring Dalmatian spaces, cultural and ethnological heritages from the perspectives of travellers – archaeologists, writers, painters, architects, and photographers presenting Dalmatia in various perspectives and through various media. In addition, the intention of the editors was to explore the *genius loci* of Dalmatia, which was considered at the time to be a peripheral region of the world. Twelve essays, chronologically ordered and using very impressive and rich visual sources, make this book a very interesting reading.

The first article, written by Elke Katharina Wittich and titled *On Towns and People: Traditions of Describing and Depicting Dalmatia and South-Eastern Europe from the Sixteenth to the Eighteenth Century*, describes Dalmatia and South-Eastern Europe during the wars with the Ottoman Empire. The author has included very good maps of Dalmatia, which help the reader to visualize the said period.

Jean-Pierre Caillet brings us an impression of the travels of Jacob Spon, a French physician and archaeologist from Lyon who visited Istria and Dalmatia in 1675/76. The article is titled *A French Humanist's First Impressions of Istria and Dalmatia: The Account of a Voyage by Jacob Spon, 1678*.

Colin Thom writes about the publication of Robert Adam's folio volume from 1764 in "*This Knotty Business: The Making of Robert Adam's Ruins of the Palace of the Emperor Diocletian (1764), Revealed in the Adam brothers' Grand Tour Correspondence*". The subject is explored through correspondence between Robert Adam and his brother James (who was on Grand Tour in Italy at the time).

Correctio descriptionis: Lovrić vs. Fortis is the title of Cvijeta Pavlović's article. She brings to light the observation of Ivan Lovrić (c. 1754-77), writer and polemicist from a wealthy Sinj family, on the *Dalmatian Travels* of Abbe Alberto Fortis.

Magdalena Polczynska's article is titled *Who is Observing and Who Describing?: Travels to the Slavic Lands by Aleksander Sapieha*. The author analyses the image of space in the travelogue of Duke Aleksander Antoni Sapieha. He was a Polish natural scientist and thinker who travelled along the Dalmatian coast and hinterland in the nineteenth century.

Nataša Ivanović writes about the Viennese painter Rudolf von Alt and his father Jakob Alt. Father and son travelled together in the 1840s along the eastern coast of the Adriatic to paint watercolours of Dalmatia for Emperor Ferdinand I with detailed depictions of historical monuments and urban scenes in the Eastern Adriatic. Her article titled *Framed Views of Dalmatia* is enriched with watercolours that vividly illustrate the daily life, landscapes, monuments, and inhabitants of Dalmatia.

In her article *Views of Dalmatian Cities and Architectural Monuments for the Publication The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in Words and Pictures – Volume Dalmatia*, Irena Kraševac discusses the impact and the authors of *Dalmatia*, a book published in 1892 and equipped with 117 illustrations, drawings of motifs from five important



Dalmatian cities: Zadar, Šibenik, Trogir, Split, and Dubrovnik. The volume *Dalmatia* was part of large edition named *The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in Words and Pictures*, initiated by Crown Prince Rudolf of Habsburg in 1883.

Archduke Ludwig Salvator von Habsburg's Travel Writing from the Region of Dubrovnik is in the focus of Sanja Žaja Vrbica's article. The Archduke wrote his travelogue at the turn of the nineteenth century and published it in three books. At that time, Dalmatia was perceived as part of the Orient and travellers to the East often started their journey there.

Hrvoje Gržina discusses the work of photographer Franz Laforest on the Eastern Adriatic during the second half of the nineteenth century in his article *Nineteenth-Century Dalmatia Inverted in the Camera: Photographic Glass Plate Negatives by Franz Thiard de Laforest*.

Dragan Damjanović's article discusses the first study trip to the Eastern Adriatic from the University of Vienna in 1910, the focus being on the photographic material. The article is titled *Politics, Photography and Architecture: The University of Vienna's First Study Trip (Erste Wiener Universitätsreise) and Monuments on the Eastern Adriatic Coast*.

In their article *Gertrude Bell's Spring in Dalmatia, 1910*, as the title suggests, Katrina O'Loughlin and Ana Šverko present the week-long research trip of the female archaeologist Gertrude Bell to Dalmatia in 1910 through her letters and photographs.

The last article, written by Joško Belamarić and Ljerka Dulibić, is titled *Bernard Berenson's Journey to Yugoslavia and along the Dalmatian Coast, 1936* and presents a journey of Bernard Berenson and his assistant and companion Elisabetta Nicky Mariano in the summer of 1936. The authors have analysed seventeen long letters that Berenson and Elisabetta Nicky Mariano sent to his wife Mary from this and other journeys. Mary Berenson prepared them for publication under the title *An Art Critic's Travels in Yugoslavia and Along the Dalmatian Coast*, but the manuscript was never published and remained unknown.

Contributors to this volume include historians of art, archaeology, architecture, and literature, whose articles are not intended just for experts, but for all interested readers. The book is equipped with numerous illustrations (reproductions of rare historical maps, drawings, photographs, watercolours, etc.), some of them published here for the first time. The articles offer a chronological insight into the way these educated travellers, artists, and scientists saw Dalmatia, its people, cities, monuments, art, inhabitants, and way of life from the sixteenth to the early twentieth century.