

THE MAŽURANIĆ-BRLIĆ-RUŽIĆ MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND COLLECTION: A BRIEF REVIEW OF ITS CONTENT, INCLUDING SEVERAL MEDICAL HISTORICAL ITEMS

SPOMENIČKA ZBIRKA I KNJIŽNICA MAŽURANIĆ-
BRLIĆ-RUŽIĆ U RIJECI: KRATAK PRIKAZ SADRŽAJA
S OSVRTOM NA POVJESNOMEDICINSKI DIO

Theodor de Canziani Jakšić*

SUMMARY

Mažuranić-Brlić-Ružić Memorial Library and Collection is a protected monument that includes furniture, art objects, library and archive materials kept in a villa of a Croatian viceking [orig. ban] Dr Viktor Ružić, dating from 1938. Thanks to family ties between several old and reputed Croatian families, their heritage was pooled into a rich historical and cultural collection with substantial material relevant to the history of medicine. This particularly refers to the heritage left by reputed Croatian physicians such as: Ivan Kristofor Daubach Daubachy de Dolje, Dimitrije Demeter, and Andrija Torkvat Brlić jr.

Keywords: *history of medicine sources, collections, libraries, Villa Ružić, Rijeka, Croatia*

A lush Mediterranean park in Sušak, Rijeka hides a family Villa Ružić at the address 5 Pećine, designed by architect David Bunetta and built in 1938. Its owner, viceking and minister Viktor Ružić, greatly influenced how it would turn out, going into the slightest of design details to fit it into his own idea of a seaside mansion. It stands by the sea, enclosed within a park, with terraces and a most outstanding view of Mt Učka, Rijeka and the islands of Cres and Krk. It is an eclectic combination of modern, Post

* Spomenička knjižnica i zbirka Mažuranić-Brlić-Ružić, Villa Ružić, Rijeka, Pećine 5, 51000 Rijeka.
Tel. info. 091/5127254

Historic and post Secession (aka Art Nouveau) styles, which makes it a contemporary of Freudenreich's and Denzler's buildings in Sušak of the 1930s. Dr Viktor Ružić was a man of sophistication and a skilful amateur painter who had a clear idea what he wanted with his house. His changes to the original Bunetta's design greatly determined the final appearance of the house. The Secession is visible in the treatment of the park and the house interior, as it blends smoothly with this particular *genius loci*.

Ružić's furniture, works of art, and the library, which has been protected as a culture monument since 1945 thanks to historian Ferdo Hauptmann, have been moved to the villa from one of the mansions owned by Đuro Juraj Ružić, a factory owner and Dr Viktor Ružić's father. More furniture and other objects owned by the Brlićs, Mažuranićs, and related families came with the marriage between Dr Viktor Ružić and Nada Brlić. First there came armchairs, the wedding present by Ivan Mažuranić, then a clock and some Mažuranić family things, and other artworks. In the 1960s, Villa Ružić inherits a library and a number of objects owned by the Mažuranićs. The library had already been declared a culture monument since 1946, and was situated in a Mažuranić family house at 5 Jurjevska street in Zagreb. The books were collected by Ivan Mažuranić, once the viceking (orig. *ban*) of Croatia, a lawyer, and a poet of the Croatian Illyrian Movement in the 1830s, and Ivan's brother Antun, a storyteller, culture activist, and the principal of the Royal Grammar School of Rijeka, who worked with others on the completion of Gundulić's epic *Osman* and some Ivan Mažuranić's texts. The library was also furnished by the books collected by Matija Mažuranić, the first Croatian travel writer, who wrote *A View to Bosnia*. The library includes titles collected by Vladimir Mažuranić, the author of the first Croatian dictionary of law and history, then by Želimir Mažuranić and Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić. Ivana Mažuranić married Vatroslav Brlić in Slavonski Brod and set up her own library and an archive that is indivisible from Ivan Mažuranić's library, as it completes family documentation and correspondence. She moved a part of Mažuranić's library from Jurjevska street in Zagreb to her Slavonski Brod. Today, Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić's grandson Viktor Ružić keeps a part of this heritage in Villa Ružić in Rijeka.

The books Ivan and Antonio Mažuranić collected, bought or received as presents had to do with their scientific and literary work. When they worked on the completing Gundulić's epic *Osman* by additional cantos, the Montenegrin Prince-Bishop (*vladika*) Petar Petrović Njegoš presented them with a manuscript copy of this masterpiece. To create a glossary of



Veliki salon u Vili Ružić

The grand salon in Villa Ružić

Osman, the Mažuranićs obtained a number of dictionaries including Mikaglin's, Stulliev's, Della Bellin's, and Bellosztenezc's *Gazophylacium*. Writing about old Croatian literature, Ivan and Anton Mažuranić were particularly keen on collecting authors and publications from Dubrovnik. When they worked on old Glagolitic titles, they collected scripts in this alphabet, some of which were donated by island Krk priests. Of particular value are Glagolitic books printed in Rome and Levaković's *Misal*.

The Mažuranićs collected a number of valuable 16th and 17th century prints to preserve them from obliteration. Most of the 8000 library titles is from the 19th century. They include nearly all relevant prints in Croatian from the Croatian national movement to the early 20th century. Worth mentioning are the periodicals *Danica Ilirska / Danica Horvatzka* and one of the oldest Croatian bilingual newspaper *Kraglski Dalmatin / Il Regio Dalmata* issued in Zadar in the early 19th century. The library contains works by Ivan, Antun, and Matija Mažuranić, then by the Brlićs, Andrija, Torkvato, and Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić, translated and published in foreign languages.

The books are kept in genuine Biedermeier-style bookcases, some of which belonged to the Demeter family of Ivan Mažuranić's wife Aleksandra. Beside the books, the library contains charters and diplomas issued to Ivan Mažuranić, Vladimir Mažuranić, and Teodor and Dimitrije Demeter. It also contains birthday and nameday greeting cards to Ivan Mažuranić, a collection of maps and astronomy gadgets, because Ivan Mažuranić was an amateur astronomer. A separate unit of particular value are the personal documents of the Mažuranićs, Brlićs, Demeters, Kušlans, Bernaths, and other families. The library also contains an outstanding collection of the original photographs of these families. Most have been arranged in albums by Alka Nestoroff nee Mažuranić.



Dio knjižnice

A section of the library



Bibliofilski rariteti
Gems for bibliophiles

Another piece of particular value is the writing desk that belonged to Dimitrije Demeter, a physician who graduated from the renowned Padua University, and whose painting hangs in Galileo's hall. Demeter later turned to the theatre and founded the first Croatian theatre in Zagreb's Gornji Grad. On this desk Vladmir Mažuranić later wrote his dictionary of law and history. For this purpose, he had the desk added 24 new drawers.

The collection also includes Biedermeier-style furniture, family portraits, paintings and busts. Of particular merit is the plaster-cast bust of Ivan Mažuranić by a known Croatian sculptor Ivan Rendić. There is also a large portrait of Ivan Mažuranić, authored by painter and printmaker Božidar Jakac .

Cabinets and cupboards keep artefacts for everyday use owned by the Mažuranićs, Brlićs, and Ružićs, including tableware and personal items such as the rings of Smail-aga Čengiđ that were presented to Ivan Mažuranić by the Montenegrin duke Đorđe Cerović, the son of the epic hero Novica Cerović, who slew Smail-aga. Other personal items worth mentioning include Ivan Mažuranić's notebook with a turtle shell hard cover enamelled with a historic decoration and initials I.M. Inside the notebook, there is a small writing ivory tablet and a silver pencil. There is

an interesting tiny leather cigar case with a papier-mâché nymph that Dimitrije Demeter gave to Ivan Mažuranić as a gift. Sets of stylish furniture, *objets d'art*, china, glassware, and paintings have also been inherited from families related to the Ružićs, such as Badovinac pl. Badovinski, Daubachy pl. Doljski, Špun-Štrižić, Lantieri, Solci, Müller von Thomamühl, Dworski von Prus, and barons Nikolić of Podrinje. The collection also includes articles from reputed Rijeka families Gelletich, Adamich, Vallentschits, and others.

The Mažuranić-Brlić-Ružić library and collection are inseparable from the archive of the Ružićs. It was meticulously built by Viktor and Matilda Ružić. The archive holds family documents and massive correspondence between the Mažuranićs/Brlićs/Ružićs and related families.

The family villa is a living organism of paintings, furniture, and other artefacts, carefully looked after by Gilda Ružić. They are a unique example of a vigorous bourgeois 19th and 20th century life. In Croatia, the Mažuranić library is the only family library that has remained in the hands of the family since its first days, serving its purpose for the benefit of friends and scientists.

SOURCES AND LITERATURE

Mažuranić-Brlić-Ružić Memorial Library and Collection, Ružić archive, Pećine 5, Rijeka

Brlić Memorial Library and Archive, Slavonski Brod

Mažuranić-Brlić-Ružić Memorial Library and Collection, Mažuranić archive, Pećine 5, Rijeka

Mažuranić family collection of journals Ivana Mažuranić's library, Pećine 5, Rijeka

Memoirs by Dr Viktor Ružić, unpublished, 1968.

SAŽETAK

Spomeničku zbirku i knjižnicu Mažuranić-Brlić-Ružić u Rijeci kao zaštićen spomenik kulture čine namještaj, umjetnički predmeti, knjižnica i arhivska građa pohranjena u vili hrvatskog bana dr. Viktora Ružića, sagrađenoj 1938. Zahvaljujući rodbinskim vezama nekoliko uglednih starih hrvatskih obitelji iz njihove ostavštine nastala je osebujna kulturno-povijesni zbirka u kojoj ima i podosta povijesno-medicinski zanimljivog materijala. Tu je prvenstveno riječ o ostavštinama poznatih hrvatskih liječnika kao što su: Ivan Kristofor Daubach Daubachy de Dolje, Dimitrije Demeter i Andrija Torkvat Brlić ml.

Ključne riječi: izvori za povijest medicine, zbirke, knjižnice, villa Ružić, Rijeka, Hrvatska