



Veterinary instruments for use in surgery
(photo by Ladislav Korenj)

Veterinarski instrumenti za upotrebu u kirurgiji
(Foto: Ladislav Korenj)

VETERINARY HISTORY MUSEUM IN ZAGREB
On the occasion of a jubilee monograph on the collection of
veterinary instruments of the Zagreb University Faculty of Medicine

POSTANAK I RAZVOJ MUZEJA ZA POVIJEST
VETERINARSTVA
Uz obljetničko izdanje monografije *Zbirka veterinarskih instrumenata*
Veterinarskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu

Vesna Vučevac Bajt*

SUMMARY

To mark its 90th anniversary, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zagreb, published a book *Collection of Veterinary Instruments from the Museum of Veterinary History*, which is a significant contribution to the history of veterinary medicine of Croatia. The presented collection is on display in the Museum of Veterinary History at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. The Museum, an integral part of the Department of History of Veterinary Medicine, was founded by decree in 1936. It houses several collections: archives, veterinary and related literature, a collection of veterinary instruments, and a collection of horseshoes. The monograph presents the veterinary instruments which were of utmost importance for the development of veterinary science and practice.

Key words: history of veterinary medicine, museum, veterinary instruments, Zagreb, Croatia

* University of Zagreb, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Veterinary Medical History and Ethics

Correspondence address: Prof. Vesna Vučevac Bajt, Ph.D., University of Zagreb, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Heinzelova 55, 10000 Zagreb

INTRODUCTION

On 13 November 2009, Zagreb University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine celebrated its 90th anniversary in the Art Nouveau building of the Croatian National Theatre and presented a monograph *Zbirka veterinarskih instrumenata iz Muzeja za povijest veterinarstva / Collection of Veterinary Instruments from the Museum of Veterinary History*. The selection included instruments which played a major role in the development of veterinary science and practice.

A JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY

The Veterinary History Museum was established by decree in 1936 and was first called “Veterinary History Seminar with a Museum”. As years went by its status and title changed several times. On the eve of WW2, it changed to “Veterinary History Seminar and Museum”, which remained until 1954, when the whole programme was revised and a new course established entitled “Seminar for the Introduction to Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary History”. In 1956, this title was extended to read “Seminar for the Introduction to Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary History with a Museum”. In 1965, the title changed to “Veterinary History Cabinet”, and in 1977 to “Veterinary History Seminar”, when it was included in the Department of Humanities. With new programme revision in 2005, the museum became part of the newly established Department of History, Ethics, and Sociology (since 2008 Department of Veterinary History and Ethics). Even though the title does not show it, the Veterinary History Museum is an integral part of the department.

Much of the credit for museum establishment and activity is owed to Professor S. Rapić, who gathered a group of enthusiasts and established a Veterinary History Section within the Croatian Association of Veterinary Doctors and Technicians. The Section established a Library for Veterinary History of the Socialist Republic of Croatia, which published a number of veterinary history books, organised many professional and scientific meetings with international participation, and which gathered archival items and museum exhibits. The Section and later the Veterinary History Museum were funded through contributions from several national funds, including the fund for abatement of infectious cattle diseases, scientific research fund, cattle health care fund, and a pretty number of veterinary stations. The exhibition space was inappropriate until 1979, when the museum received premises on the occasion of the Faculty’s 60th anniversary.



Veterinary History Museum of the Zagreb University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
(photo by Ladislav Korenj)

*Muzej za povijest veterinarstva na Veterinarskom fakultetu Sveučilišta u Zagrebu
(Foto: Ladislav Korenj)*

sary. Then Professor Vesna Vučevac Bajt set up the first permanent exhibition, and the museum became public. With funds it gathered, the museum was able to set up the display area and buy several important exhibits still in its hands.

THE CONCEPT OF THE PERMANENT EXHIBITION

Veterinary History Museum has divided its exhibits in the following groups: archival materials, veterinary and related literature, collection of veterinary instruments, and collection of horseshoes. Archival materials are divided in old and new. The old materials section consists of original diplomas of the first Croatian veterinary graduates, blacksmiths, and butchers between 1867 and 1923. It also includes a variety of documents belonging to renowned experts in veterinary medicine, a number of cattle passports issued between 1861 and 1890, and a few guidebooks about issuing cattle passports. The new materials section consists of documents related to the establishment and activity of the Faculty and its 248 medals, plaques, certificates of merit, and diplomas.



Veterinary instruments for treatment of internal diseases
(photo by Ladislav Korenj)

*Veterinarski instrumenti za upotrebu kod unutarnjih bolesti
(Foto: Ladislav Korenj)*

The second group of exhibits includes veterinary and related literature arranged by date of origin and language; it consists of 749 books, of which 187 are very valuable pieces from between the 17th and 20th century. The oldest book in the collection is *Opera medica*, a medical handbook published in Amsterdam in 1663. The museum also holds a collection of veterinary calendars and handbooks printed between 1866 and 1944 and a collection of encyclopaedias from the 19th and 20th century. Books on legal veterinary medicine belong to a separate unit divided in two sections: laws printed from 1704 to 1891 and laws printed from 1889 to this day.

The third group of exhibits includes a collection of 150-odd veterinary instruments divided in sections according to the area of application, while the fourth group includes a collection of horseshoes.

MONOGRAPH ZBIRKA VETERINARSKIH INSTRUMENTATA IZ MUZEJA ZA POVIJEST VETERINARSTVA / COLLECTION OF VETERINARY INSTRUMENTS FROM THE MUSEUM OF VETERINARY HISTORY

On the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the Zagreb University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, the Veterinary History Museum launched an exhibition of the collection of veterinary instruments. This exhibition is the crown of several decades of work headed by professor Vesna Vučevac Bajt and funded by the government. Over time a number of exhibits have been collected and preserved. The exhibition was accompanied by a monograph *Collection of Veterinary Instruments of the Veterinary History Museum* totalling 135 pages and presenting a selection of important veterinary instruments belonging to the museum. The monograph is bilingual, in Croatian and English, which will hopefully make Croatian veterinary medicine and science more popular among international readers. The monograph opens with a brief foreword describing how it came about and underlining its commitment to present a part of veterinary history to a broader public.

Follows a brief historical review of museum establishment that reveals a long tradition of teaching the history of veterinary medicine and of its museum. Veterinary history was the first course in the history of any of the biomedical fields in Croatia.

Follow three chapters dedicated to a variety of instruments, as follows: those used to treat internal diseases, those used in obstetrics, and those used in surgery. Each respective chapter is authored by a renowned expert in the field: Professor Zdravko Žvorc, Professor Zdenko Makek, and

Professor Josip Kos. Each chapter opens with their respective photographs in front of the Veterinary Faculty Clinic and a brief introduction into the type of instruments described.

The chapter dedicated to veterinary instruments used in treating internal diseases includes instruments which make part of laboratory equipment (11 photos), instruments used in applying drugs and collecting and letting blood (13 photos), diagnostic equipment and instruments used to tie down and pacify animals (6 photos), instruments used as wedges and mouth openers (8 photos), and finally probes and catheters (5 photos).

The chapter dedicated to instruments used in obstetrics includes obstetric tools (5 photos); instruments such as knives used in embryotomy and other equipment (17 photos), instruments used in vaginal examination (3 photos), instruments used in cows to stitch up the vulva after replacing the prolapsed vagina (4 photos), instruments used to examine and operate on cow teat (4 photos), ovariectomy tool used in cows and mares (1 photo), tools used in health care of younglings (1 photo).

The chapter dedicated to instruments used in veterinary surgery includes surgical blades (7 photos), suture instruments (7 photos), tools for holding a variety of tissues (4 photos), surgical sets (2 photos), castration instruments (10 photos), tools and instruments used for hooves (8 photos), veterinary dentistry instruments (5 photos), ophthalmology instruments (2 photos), abdominal surgery instruments (4 photos), and other special-purpose surgery instruments (14 photos).

The monograph thus aptly presents the development of veterinary profession and science and greatly contributes to the understanding and popularisation of Croatian veterinary history and culture in general.

LITERATURE

- Vučevac Bajt V. i M. Karlović: Veterinarsko povijesni muzej u Zagrebu. Zbornik sažetaka, 20. međunarodni simpozij o povijesti veterinarske medicine, Hannover, 8-12. svibnja 1985.
- Vučevac Bajt V. i M. Karlović: Veterinarsko povijesni muzej u Zagrebu. Vet. stanica, 1986., 17, 2, 35-38.
- XXX: Zbirka veterinarskih instrumenata iz Muzeja za povijest veterinarstva. Zagreb, 2009., 1-131. Gl. ur. Vesna Vučevac Bajt.



An old surgical set for veterinary application. Veterinary History Museum of the Zagreb University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (photo by Ladislav Korenj)

*Stari twomički pripremljen kirurški set za upotrebu u veterinarskoj medicini.
Muzej za povijest veterinarstva na Veterinarskom fakultetu Sveučilišta u Zagrebu
(Foto: Ladislav Korenj)*

SAŽETAK

U povodu proslave 90. obljetnice održane 13. studenoga 2009., Veterinarski fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu tiskao je kao prilog spoznajama iz hrvatske veterinarske povijesti "Zbirku veterinarskih instrumenata iz Muzeja za povijest veterinarstva". Obrađena zbirka nalazi se u Muzeju za povijest veterinarstva na Veterinarskom fakultetu, koji je osnovan Uredbom 1936. i koji djeluje do danas u sklopu Zavoda za povijest veterinarstva. Prikupljena građa u Muzeju razvrstana je po skupinama na arhivsku građu, veterinarsku i drugu srodnu literaturu, zbirku veterinarskih instrumenata i zbirku potkova. U objavljenoj monografiji opisani su veterinarski instrumenti koji su imali najveće značenje u razvoju veterinarske znanosti i prakse.

Ključne riječi: Muzej za povijest veterinarstva, veterinarski instrumenti, Hrvatska



Veterinary instruments for use in obstetrics
(photo by Ladislav Korenj)

*Veterinarski instrumenti za upotrebu u porođništvu
(Foto: Ladislav Korenj)*