

1. Andriæ M. Croatia's undersea world. Zagreb: Car Herc; 1999. 276 pages, hard cover. ISBN 953-97748-0-2.
2. Baæa I, Bokan I, Barko M, Marušiæ M, Novak D. Kronika svjetskog zbora hrvatskih lijeènika 1991.-1997. Chronicle of the World Association of Croatian Physicians 1991-1997. Zagreb: Croatian Medical Journal; 1999. 370 pages, paperback. ISBN 953-96875-1-9.

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Although the Adriatic Sea is a small bay of the Mediterranean Sea (1), only about 800 km long and 200 km wide, it is well known not only for the beauty of its coast, but also for its undersea world. Šiljka širolja, šiljka oštrulja, oštrulj, prè, modraš, gira plavica, gira žutoperka, gira širolja, gira oštrulja matica, gira bjelica, gira oštrica, gira divlja, gjara, mendula, menula, manula, lužina, èikavica.

If you don't speak Croatian, you probably would not even guess the meaning of these words. Even if you do speak Croatian, you will probably recognize only one or two of them. The fact is that all these eighteen words are synonyms! They are all Croatian folk names for a single fish, *Smaris vulgaris* (2). "Croatia's undersea world" was written by Miro Andriæ, a Croatian underwater photographer. He had four individual exhibitions of his undersea photographs and, although he published his work in different magazines, this is his first book. I hope it is not the last.

The book contains over 700 photographs taken at more than 150 locations. Inside cover page hosts the map of the Croatian part of the Adriatic sea and the map of the national park Mljet with the diving sites of the author.

The book is divided into 14 chapters. First seven (Life in the Adriatic, Sun - Source of Life, Shape and Locomotion, Marine Food Chain, Relationships between Marine Creatures, Undersea Realms, and New Adventures in the Adriatic) introduce the reader to the Croatian undersea world. Basic facts about sea life and the Adriatic Sea are given, for example how the marine creatures act, move, defend, and feed. Every true nature lover will enjoy the chapter New Adventures in the Adriatic. There are nine pictures of previously unknown marine creatures. Looking at the pictures, one cannot be sure whether they are plants or animals (or something else).

The following six chapters deal with marine life forms: Plants; Sponges (*Spongia*) and Stingers (*Cnidaria*); Mollusks (*Mollusca*); Marine Worms (*Poly-chaeta*); and Crustaceans (*Crustacea*); Echinoderms (*Echino dermata*); Broyozoans (*Broyozoa*), and Tunicates (*Tunicata*); and Fish (*Pisces*).

In every chapter some basic facts about undersea plants and animals are given. The text is short, but gives many interesting facts about underwater life. Did you know that a lobster can actually swim? In a need of sudden escape it can use its tail as a paddle and swim backwards! Perhaps you did know that, but I'm pretty sure that most of you do not know that sea cucumbers, when threatened, can expel a sticky mass that sometimes contains different toxins, even their own internal organs in great danger! Just think of their regenerative ability and the clinical application.

Although reading this book is fun, what really makes it a great book are the photographs. More than 700 full color photographs show about 400 various species that inhabitate the Adriatic Sea. Perhaps the life in Adriatic is not as rich as that in some south seas, but you will certainly be amazed by the great variety of shapes and colors. Even a marine biologist or experienced scuba diver will be surprised because significant number of shown species have not been previously spotted in the Adriatic.

One can ask why we published a review of this book in a medical journal. It is my strong belief that every physician is a biologist or life-scientist and should be interested in all living creatures. For readers who are interested in human body only, there is another argument why they should read this book. Some marine animals can, usually in self defense, hurt people (3). So, if we are taught about bacteria and viruses that can cause disease, there is no good reason why we shouldn't know something about other potentially dangerous creatures.

To conclude, this is a wonderful book and there is a reason for everyone to read it: physician,

photographer, scuba diver, marine biologist, fisherman, globe trotter, and cook. Everyone will find something interesting and worth knowing. Everyone will find his/hers favorite photograph (or dozens of them).

If you have been to the Adriatic before, this book will help you to refresh your memories. If you haven't, you'll see what you miss, and perhaps you will decide to come and take a look at the Croatia's undersea world yourself.

Ivan Krešimir Lukiač

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The World Association of Croatian Physicians (WACP) was founded in the autumn of 1991, while a war raged in the Republic of Croatia. The war and urgent need to help the home country under attack precipitated the half-century suppressed wish of Croatian emigré physicians to collaborate with their colleagues at home. The WACP immediately turned into a strong professional organization with clearly defined goals, broad activity and number of achievements.

The "Chronicle of the World Association of Croatian Physicians" was written by the founders of the association. Ivo Bačea, MD, PhD, is the president of WACP and the Head of the Department of Surgery at the Zentralkrankenhaus Bremen-Ost, Bremen, Germany. Ivan Bokan, DDS, PhD, has his own practice in Verden, Germany. Valentin Barko, MD, is the Head of the Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Unit at the County General Hospital in Osterholz-Scharmbeck, Germany. Matko Marušiač, MD, PhD, is the professor of physiology and immunology at the Zagreb University School of Medicine and founder and editor-in-chief of the Croatian Medical Journal, the official journal of the WACP. Drago Novak, MD, is a professor of radiology at the Hamburg University, Germany, and the editor-in-chief of the journal "Medizin im Bild".

The chronicle was written in three languages: Croatian, German, and English; and is divided into nine chapters. Following the Preface and Introduction, Chapter 3 gives a list of the first board members and the Statute of the WACP. Chapter 4 offers a selection of letters and appeals sent by the WACP members during the war, including correspondence with Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Dr Helmut Kohl, Dr Alois Mock, Dr Klaus Kinkel, Albert Gore, John Major, George Bush, Perez de Cuellar, Lord Carrington, and François Mitterand.

The 5th chapter deals with the congresses and meeting of WACP. Although the association organized numerous meetings, the most important are five General Assemblies held in 1992 (Frankfurt), 1993 (Zagreb), 1994 (Pula), 1995 (Osijek), and 1997 (Opatija). The Assemblies were well attended by professionals from abroad and Croatia, as well as by physicians who have been members of Croatian Government (Mate Granič, Andrija Hebrang, Ivica Kostovič, Zdenko Škrabalo, Juraj Njavro). Extensive reports from the Assemblies, with a touch of humor, were previously published in the Croatian Medical Journal.

At the First General Assembly of the WACP, the initiative was given to establish the Croatian World Congress, as described in Chapter 6. Chapter 7 deals with the assistance to Croatian medicine in 1991-1997. The impressive data on various aspects of aid of the WACP members are depicted. The assistance included: direct humanitarian work (donations of equipment and material); organization of treatment of wounded Croatian citizens abroad; financial aid to war orphans; financial assistance to students of medicine; help to young physicians from Croatia to obtain training positions abroad; and WACP awards to the especially successful young researchers from Croatia.

Annual reports of the WACP are collected in Chapter 8. The president of the WACP, Ivo Bačea, reported general WACP activities, financial income and spendings, and activities of various WACP groups. The last chapter contains a membership list.

"Chronicle of the World Association of Croatian Physicians" is a historical document about the work of the Croatian physicians during and after the war in Croatia, until the end of 1997. It is a memory of the establishment, work, and results of a group of people who love their homeland and knew how to transform their love into specific professional achievements. Indeed, simple organization, working enthusiasm, and the extent of results achieved should serve as an example to every Croat, even to non-Croats, and non-profit professional organizations in general.

Ivan Krešimir Lukiaë

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