Gjuro Baglivi, De fibra motrice et morbosa / O zdravom i bolesnom motoričkom vlaknu (On the nature and disorders of motor fiber). Zagreb: Prometej and Medicinski fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, 1997. Pages 434.

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institutione di tutta la vita de l' huomo nato nobile e in città libera, Sperone Speroni's *Della cura familiare* and *Dialogo d' amore*, in the Castiglione's above-mentioned Il *Cortegiano*, and many others. In defense of Nikola Gozze, one should say that although his work mirrors the old, conservative ideas and patterns, his life-style was characterized by a new outlook. His wife Marija and friend Cvijeta Zuzorić indulged just as equally in the cultural pursuits at Gozze's estate in Trsteno and took part there in dialogues on love and beauty. One should also point out the injustice Marinko Šišak did to Marija Gozze by denying her the authorship of the foreword to her husband's book on meteorology, in which Marija courageously argued against the public opinion of Dubrovnik, in defense of her friend Cvijeta Zuzorić. Speaking boldly of the relationship between the genders and stating her view on the problem, Marija became the only woman of Renaissance Dubrovnik and Croatia to take her place among the Humanistic feminists so numerous in Italy of the first half of the sixteenth century.

These commentaries on *Governo della famiglia* related to the contemporary society of Dubrovnik and Europe should be understood as historiographic complements to the philosophical analysis that supplements the new Croatian edition. After all, it is through the interdisciplinary approach that we will achieve a more complete picture of this and any other source. I believe that diverse interpretations such as these will be stimulated by the Croatian translation of Gozze's treatise.

Zdenka Janeković-Römer

Gjuro Baglivi, *De fibra motrice et morbosa / O zdravom i bolesnom motoričkom vlaknu* (On the nature and disorders of motor fiber). Zagreb: *Prometej* and *Medicinski fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu*, 1997. Pages 434.

First published in Rome in 1702, Gjuro Baglivi's most important treatise on medical theory, *De fibra motrice et morbosa*, has recently appeared in Croatia in a bilingual edition, faithfully translated into Croatian by Augustin Pavlović.

It is the first comprehensive and up-to-date study of the life and work of Gjuro Armen Baglivi (1668-1707), a highly reputed Dubrovnik-born physician. This reprint of his great work is accompanied by a most thorough discussion of Mirko Dražen Grmek—"The life, work, and historical significance of Gjuro Baglivi"— in which the author epitomizes his long-established consideration of Baglivi's life and work. Grmek is also the author of a bibliography of Baglivi's works, as well as of a select bibliography of major publications concerning Baglivi's life and work. The book contains an interesting contribution by Stjepan Krasić, in which Krasić presents the course and results of his research on Baglivi's burial site in the church of St. Marcel in Rome.

Gjuro Baglivi was born in Dubrovnik in 1668 as Gjuro Armen, the son of a petty Armenian merchant. Being an extremely gifted child, he attended the Jesuit *Collegium Ragusinum*, but a tragic course of family events soon engendered his departure from Dubrovnik in 1684. He joined his foster parents in Lecce and was to study medicine in Naples and Salerno under a new surname Baglivi. In the 1690s he pursued his scholarly career at Italian universities, working with the noted M. Malpighi. He was eventually rewarded with the post of professor at

the Sapienza University in Rome. His *De praxi medica* (1696), a masterpiece of Neo-Hippocratism, was published in 1696. The road to medical knowledge was not an easy one, and Baglivi devoted himself passionately to study and experimentation, endorsing new theories and practical methods. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, Baglivi was a distinguished university lecturer and the pope's archiater. He died in Rome in 1707 at the height of his fame, shortly after the publishing of his collected works and the remarkable reception of his work Europewide.

Though destined to spend his life away from Dubrovnik, the city of his birth occupied an exceptional position in Baglivi's heart, and as he put it, "being part of Dubrovnik, the marvellous and dignified Dalmatian city ... capital of the outstanding and free Republic" imbued him with tremendous pride. Thus he sought every occasion to visit it, as he did in 1688/9, and kept regular correspondence with his friends and fellows from the Ragusan college. At home his work received particular recognition in the 1730s in the foremost biographical work of Serafin Crijević, *Bibliotheca Ragusina*. In Francesco Maria Appendini's book *Notizie istorico-critiche sulle antichità, storia e letteratura de' Ragusei*, more space was dedicated to none other than Baglivi that the Ragusan physicians, while the younger post-Republic generations credited his work by including him in the great edition of *Galleria degli Ragusei illustri* from 1841.

Baglivi's work *De fibra motrice et morbosa* saw several editions throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and, in Grmek's opinion, represents by far one of the most important events in the history of biostructuralism. Following exhaustive clinical research, Baglivi turned to the theoretical molding of his own pathophysiological observations. In the early 1690s Baglivi came forward with a thesis according to which the cerebral cortex and nerve fibers played a prime role in the physiological and pathological processes. Considering it the first part of an extensive future-study, Baglivi published the work in April 1702, dedicating it to Pope Clement XI. *De fibra motrice et morbosa* took the public by storm and saw a number of revised editions over a short period of time, also included in Baglivi's collected works in Latin, the original of which was used for the most recent Croatian edition and translation.

Although some of Baglivi's views were eventually rejected as erroneous (particularly the parallel drawn between the heart and the cerebral cortex), his contributions to the understanding of the structure of human tissue based on microscopic observations, biological experimentation, and comparison with animal organisms, were those of a pioneer. Baglivi shapes his iatromechanical concept according to which *fibre,* living fibers composed of atoms, were the basic structural elements of all organisms. Fiber carries the vital functions, is the site of diseases, and has both mechanical and contractive properties. Fiber is divided into flesh tissue (muscles, tendons, and bones), dependent on the bloodstream and the function of the heart, and membranous tissue, the structure of which is more refined and dependent on the cerebral cortex, nerve fluid, and lymph. The latter make up all of the body's structures except the fleshy ones, that is, nerves, muscles, glands, abdominal organs, etc.

The heart and the solid cerebral cortex are the central motor mechanism of the body. Their impulses irritate both types of fiber tissue. This "body machine" is operated by the soul, which is located in the brain, close to

the cortex, maintaining the harmony of the body as a whole. Inspired by Harvey's discovery of the nature of the circulation of blood, Baglivi envisaged a similar model of the nervous system. According to him, the solid cerebral cortex relays impulses from the brain to the peripheral nervous structure, witnessing simultaneously the feedback mechanisms. Baglivi's definition of *stimulus* anticipated Albrecht von Haller's studies on sensibility and irritability as specific properties common to all living structures. Baglivi also points out the autonomous function of certain structures in the "energy" of vital motions. Each fiber is under the control of the central stimulators, but is also characterized by its own innate vital autonomy.

The motion of the heart and the role of the blood and other bodily fluids are essential for the vital functions but, like all the other vital functions, are dependent on the centrifugal and centripetal fibrillation of membraneous tissue. This is the basis of Baglivi's interpretation of pathological disorders. The vital properties of the *fibra* determine the harmony among the complex processes within the body. If the tone and the balance of the constant activities of the fibers is disrupted, the body is exposed to disorder and eventual death. "Inadequate tone, elasticity, or structure of the body's solid parts in the balance disorder between different solid parts or between the solid and fluid parts of the body" are where Baglivi seeks the origins of pathological processes.

The development of all the disciplines based on the application of scientific results has been characterized by trial and error; medicine, therefore, is no exception. Although medical progress has shown that *De fibra motrice et morbosa*, the fruit of Baglivi's observations, contained a number of errors and misleading assumptions, it still represents an outstanding contribution to the understanding of the human body.

Stjepan Ćosić

Stijepo Obad, **Serđo Dokoza** and **Suzana Martinović**, *Južne granice Dalmacije od XV. st. do danas* (The Southern Borders of Dalmatia from the Fifteenth Century to the Present). Zadar: Državni arhiv u Zadru, 1999. Pages 104.

The most recent political situation regarding the definition of the border of the Republic of Croatia and the two of its neighbours—Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro—stirred the general public interest for the origin, historical development, and shifts of the Croatian borderline in the south. Based mainly on the written and cartographic evidence from the State Archives of Zadar, this book represents a considerable contribution to the aforementioned topic.

The book contains three sections: an introductory study, a presentation of the southern borders of Dalmatia, illustrated with the reproductions of historical maps and documents, and a detailed analysis of the borderland between the former Republic of Dubrovnik and the Bay of Kotor, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Montenegro as shown on the Austrian specialized maps from the 19th century. The introduction was written by Stijepo Obad, while the documents and maps were analyzed by Serđo Dokoza and Suzana Martinović.

Obad's historical perspective provides insight into the origin and frequent shifts of the political but also administrative boundaries in Dalmatia from the 15th century to the present day. As the historical, territorial, and