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Eterović, Igor; Doričić, Robert; Buterin, Toni

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JOURNAL AMHA – ACTA MEDICO-HISTORICA ADRIATICA: 20 YEARS OF DEDICATED WORK ON THE SCIENTIFIC VALORISATION OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

ČASOPIS AMHA – ACTA MEDICO-HISTORICA ADRIATICA: 20 GODINA PREDANOG RADA NA ZNANSTVENOJ VALORIZACIJI POVIJESTI MEDICINE¹

Igor Eterović*, Robert Doričić**, Toni Buterin***

SUMMARY

In this paper, the first 20 years of publication of the scientific journal AMHA – Acta medico-historica Adriatica (2002–2022) are presented and analysed. This journal has undoubtedly become and remained the central activity of the Croatian Scientific Society for the History of Health Culture, which has rapidly evolved into a globally esteemed journal in the

¹ This article is a thoroughly revised and supplemented version of the article published in a separate supplement on the occasion of the journal's 14th anniversary (Eterović, 2017).

* Department of social sciences and medical humanities, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Medicine, Rijeka, Croatia; ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2232-0289>.

** Department of social sciences and medical humanities, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Medicine / Department of public health, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Health Studies, Rijeka, Croatia; ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4948-956X>.

*** Department of social sciences and medical humanities, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Medicine / Department of public health, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Health Studies, Rijeka, Croatia; ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0725-1008>.

Correspondence Address: Toni Buterin, Department of social sciences and medical humanities / Department of public health, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Medicine / Faculty of Health Studies, B. Branchetta 20 / V. C. Emina 5, Rijeka, Croatia. E-mail: toni.buterin@uniri.hr.

history of medicine. The beginning and the context of publishing the journal with reference to the scientific conference “Rijeka and Its Citizens in Medical History” are presented, as well as the journal’s profiling into a distinguished international scientific journal, co-publishing with the Faculty of Medicine (University of Rijeka) and its fast development in the later years. The analysis shows the growth of the journal’s visibility through indexation in different international journal databases, the number and ratio of scientific articles and the variety of published material. Finally, a review of the potential future directions of development and the significance of this journal within the national, regional and international context is given.

Keywords: AMHA – Acta medico-historica Adriatica, scientific journal, history of medicine, “Rijeka and Its Citizens in Medical History”, Croatian Scientific Society for the History of Health Culture, University of Rijeka – Faculty of Medicine

The founding and continuous publication of the AMHA – Acta medico-historica Adriatica journal (hereinafter: AMHA or Journal) is a decisive moment, as will be shown, in the valorisation of the history of medicine, not only of regional but also national and international significance. A key factor was certainly the establishment of the Croatian Scientific Society for the History of Health Culture (hereinafter: HZDPZK or the Society), which initiated the establishment of the Journal, which became the central activity of the Society and its recognisable mark even beyond the borders of the city and country where it was founded (Škrobonja & Salopek, 2017). In this article, we will present the Journal’s importance and the meaning it indirectly gave to the Society and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Rijeka (hereinafter: Faculty or MEDRI) as its publishers.

THE BEGINNING AND CONTEXT OF PUBLISHING AMHA JOURNAL

The history of AMHA is related to the traditional scientific conference “Rijeka and Its Citizens in Medical History” (hereinafter: Ri&Ri or Conference) (Eterović, 2011a; 2011b; Doričić & Eterović, 2017). Professor Anton Škrobonja, who was then, among other things, the leader of the courses History of Medicine and Introduction to Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Rijeka (hereinafter: MEDRI or the Faculty) and was the president of the Society, realises that serious scientific activity of valorising the history of medicine must begin with research and gathering a critical mass scientists and experts. He visionarily started in 2000 with the regular holding of the scientific Conference, and bearing in mind the importance and meaning of the paper trail Professor Škrobonja, at the very beginning, encouraged the publication of contributions in the then-existing journals (*Acta Facultatis Medicae Fluminensis*, i.e., *Medicine*).

Believing that the right moment had come, that the time was ripe for a separate scientific journal for the history of medicine, Professor Škrobonja began to develop his idea, gather collaborators, and with incredible enthusiasm and personal commitment, he succeeded in publishing the first two issues of the AMHA journal in 2003, bearing in mind that from the very beginning, at least two issues per year should be regularly published.

The birthing period of any journal is extremely challenging, especially in a domain that has not had a strong tradition and predecessor. This includes the daily struggle to find collaborators, enough (quality) material for publication, designing the visual identity of the journal and finally finding the initial financial resources for the realisation and printing of the issue. Adding to the fact that from the very beginning, Professor Škrobonja, as editor-in-chief, carried the bulk of the work, this pioneering undertaking is even more admirable today from a historical distance.

DEVELOPMENT AND (SCIENTIFIC) PROFILING OF AMHA JOURNAL

The direction and movement of the Journal towards a strictly scientific periodical have already been clear from the first issue. The Editorial Board of the Journal included a significant number of experienced scientists and experts on the one hand, and on the other, younger ones (who will soon, partly through this effort, profile important links in the historical medical valorisation of our past). The scientific background and support were provided by an exceptional number of domestic and foreign scientists who readily responded to the invitation to join the Advisory Board. The emphasis on double-reviewed scientific contributions was immediately initiated. Finally, AMHA has been explicitly, formally and substantively determined by the editor-in-chief's words in the Greeting to the Readers, who points out:

Thus, in the desire to make it a recognisable international journal, we have already in the title emphasised that we are primarily interested in:

- The medical past of peoples who, due to their geographical and historical determination, belong to the Adriatic and Central European cultural traditions;
- Their mutual connections and cooperation and the traces they left in other environments;
- Other topics that, by their approach, fit in any way into the context of the multicultural Adriatic environment;

However, not wanting to be confined to strict formal geographical and historical frameworks, apart from these topics, the editors will publish other contributions at their discretion. (Škrobonja, 2003: 7)

Precisely this last one, the refusal to submit to geographic and historical frameworks, proved to be crucial in profiling the Journal and gathering a critical mass of collaborators and high-quality manuscripts in the field of medical history, which conditioned the rapid increase in quality material and the expansion of scientists' interest in publishing in the Journal, which is *conditio sine qua non* of development and securing the future of each journal.

This formal-methodological dimension around a clear focus on scientific profiling and a content orientation defined above all by the historical medical heritage of the wider Mediterranean and Central European area is the basis of the Journal's recognition.

However, the technical and logistical elements of its realisation are crucial for the realisation of the journal, especially with such methodological and substantive aspirations. The problems of the Journal's labour pains are different, and they are especially visible to the reader who knows how the journal works. Let us take a look at two factors profiling the functioning of journals: publishers and funding.

In addition to HZDPZK as the publisher, the co-publishers were MEDRI and Adamić in the first three issues. After that, HZDPZK and the Faculty were exclusively the publishers. This is the first step in profiling the publisher of the Journal, which has remained to this day.

Table 1. AMHA's (co-)publishers.

| Release years | Publishers; Co-publishers |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 2003(1) – 2003(1) | HZDPZK; MEDRI and Adamić |
| 2003(2) – 2022(2) | HZDPZK; MEDRI |

Providing funding is a more complex issue. In its beginning, the struggle for every support was essential. Thus, financial supporters were initially sought at a large number of addresses in order to manage to collect enough for the journal's survival with smaller amounts. However, the number of sponsors mainly stayed the same, and later, with the establishment of regular sources of co-financing based on the recognition of the journal, it became completely stable. Exceptions were, of course, supplements for which additional funds had to be sought, and thus additional sources of financing, and

some more substantial crises and financial disturbances when some sponsors were absent for a shorter period.

Table 2. Sponsors of AMHA journal publishing.

| Release year | Sponsors |
|----------------------------|---|
| 2003(1), 2003(2) | MZT (later: MZOŠ) ² , PGŽ ³ , GR ⁴ |
| 2004(1) | MZT (nowadays MZOŠ), PGŽ, GR, HAZU Foundation ⁵ |
| 2004(2) – 2005(2) | MZOŠ, PGŽ, GR |
| 2006(1) – 2007(2) | MZOŠ, PGŽ, GR, UNIRI Foundation ⁶ |
| 2008(1) – 2010(2) | MZOŠ, PGŽ, GR |
| 2011(1), 2011(2) | MZOŠ, UNIRI Foundation |
| 2012(1), 2012(2) | MZOŠ, PGŽ, GR |
| 2013(1), 2013(2) | MZOŠ, GR, MEDRI |
| 2014(1) | MZOŠ, GR, MEDRI, UNIRI Foundation |
| 2014(2) | MEDRI, GR, MZOŠ |
| 2015(1), 2015(2) | MZOŠ, MEDRI, |
| 2015(S1) | OB SB ⁷ , HAZU Foundation, MEDRI, MZOŠ |
| 2015 (S2) | Institute in Shiraz (Iran), MEDRI, MZOŠ, PGŽ, GR |
| 2016(1), 2016(2) | MZOŠ, MEDRI, GR |
| 2017(1), 2017(2), 2017(S1) | MZO, MEDRI, GR |
| 2018(1), 2018(2) | MZO, MEDRI |
| 2019(1) – 2020(2) | UNIRI ⁸ , GR |
| 2021(1), 2021(2) | MZO, MEDRI |
| 2022(1), 2022(2) | MZO, MEDRI, GR |

² Ministry of Science and Technology, later Ministry of Science, Education and Sports (MZOŠ), and at the time of publication of this contribution, the name of the competent ministry is the Ministry of Science and Education (MZO).

³ Primoje-Gorski Kotar County.

⁴ City of Rijeka.

⁵ Foundation of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

⁶ Foundation of the University of Rijeka.

⁷ General Hospital of Slavonski Brod.

⁸ University of Rijeka.

RAPID GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF AMHA JOURNAL

The ground created by intensive work in the first seven years of the journal publishing enabled a stronger breakthrough in 2010. The most visible changes occurred in the substantive strengthening of the Journal and the exceptional increase in its recognition, as well as the growth of all scientific indicators of quality. Let us consider the basic ones: the number and level of scientific papers, the scope of Journal, and the presence in international academic bibliographic databases.

Table 3. Number and share (by pages) of scientific papers in the AMHA journal.

| Release year and number | Number of scientific articles | Number of pages (Scientific articles) | Number of pages (total) |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2003/1 | 5 | 75 | 124 |
| 2003/2 | 5 | 82 | 114 |
| 2004/1 | 5 | 105 | 128 |
| 2004/2 | 7 | 95 | 126 |
| 2005/1 | 10 | 118 | 142 |
| 2005/2 | 3 | 43 | 140 |
| 2006/1 | 10 | 157 | 180 |
| 2006/2 | 8 | 105 | 170 |
| 2007/1 | 9 | 96 | 154 |
| 2007/2 | 7 | 96 | 160 |
| 2008/1 | 6 | 86 | 160 |
| 2008/2 | 11 | 127 | 192 |
| 2009/1 | 9 | 104 | 170 |
| 2009/2 | 7 | 117 | 158 |
| 2010/1 | 6 | 128 | 188 |
| 2010/2 | 12 | 162 | 196 |
| 2011/1 | 9 | 116 | 164 |
| 2011/2 | 8 | 116 | 176 |
| 2012/1 | 8 | 122 | 180 |

| | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 2012/2 | 7 | 142 | 178 |
| 2013/1 | 10 | 131 | 188 |
| 2013/2 | 11 | 132 | 184 |
| 2014/1 | 10 | 180 | 208 |
| 2014/2 | 10 | 198 | 228 |
| 2015/1 | 10 | 172 | 228 |
| 2015/S1 | 7 | 112 | 136 |
| 2015/2 | 13 | 190 | 232 |
| 2015/S2 | 10 | 120 | 132 |
| 2016/1 | 12 | 176 | 192 |
| 2016/2 | 7 | 146 | 208 |
| 2017/1 | 7 | 130 | 176 |
| 2017/2 | 10 | 153 | 176 |
| 2017/S1 | 10 | 126 | 172 |
| 2018/1 | 8 | 148 | 176 |
| 2018/2 | 9 | 146 | 172 |
| 2019/1 | 9 | 152 | 176 |
| 2019/2 | 9 | 162 | 184 |
| 2020/1 | 10 | 168 | 192 |
| 2020/2 | 9 | 197 | 211 |
| 2021/1 | 9 | 160 | 186 |
| 2021/2 | 9 | 150 | 172 |
| 2022/1 | 8 | 166 | 188 |
| 2022/2 | 8 | 143 | 162 |
| Total | 371 | 5.750 | 7.081 |

Out of 7,081 pages, as many as 371 scientific papers on 5,750 pages (!) were published in the AMHA journal. This amounts to 81.2% of the total number of printed pages. Therefore, over 80% of the Journal's content is exclusively scientific. One should certainly note the increase in the volume of the Journal, especially since 2010, which in 2015 culminated in the need to print as many as two separate supplements alongside the regular issues. Nevertheless, this high pressure by a strong influx of contributions was balanced through the publication of volumes with approximately the same numbers of pages in the

years that followed and through a greater filtration of manuscripts, i.e. raising the standard through the publication of exclusively scientific contributions (with the exception of the traditionally present specialised conferences, exhibitions and books reviews related to the history of medicine) which we will discuss in more detail below.

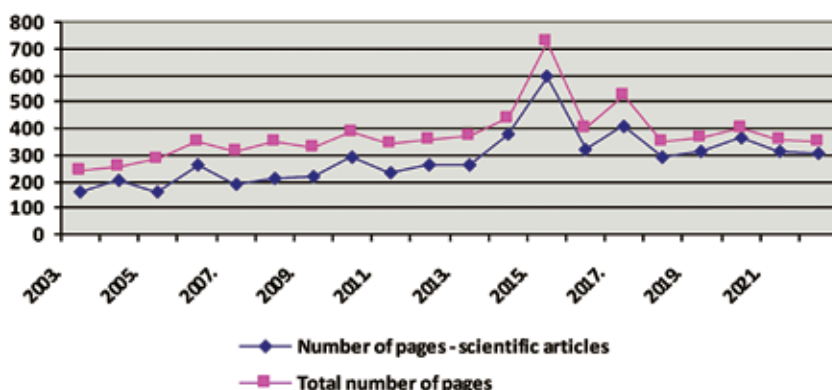


Chart 1. The number of pages of scientific articles and total number of pages in AMHA.

As far as the type of scientific papers is concerned, it can be seen that out of a total of 371, as many as 83 are original scientific articles (32%), 17 are preliminary communications (7%), and 156 are review articles (61%). A significant increase in the number and share of scientific papers since 2010 should be noted.

Table 4. Types of contributions represented in the AMHA journal.

| Year | <u>Original articles</u> | <u>Preliminary communications</u> | <u>Review articles</u> | Professional articles | Essays | Other |
|------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------|
| 2003 | 2 | | 8 | | 2 | 12 |
| 2004 | 3 | | 9 | | 1 | 8 |
| 2005 | 4 | 1 | 8 | | 4 | 11 |
| 2006 | 6 | | 14 | | 1 | 10 |
| 2007 | 3 | 2 | 11 | | 4 | 7 |
| 2008 | 5 | | 12 | | 5 | 16 |
| 2009 | 5 | | 11 | | 4 | 14 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|------------|-----------|------------|----|----|-----|
| 2010 | 4 | | 14 | | 1 | 8 |
| 2011 | 9 | | 13 | | 5 | 8 |
| 2012 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 9 | 3 |
| 2013 | 10 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| 2014 | 10 | 3 | 7 | | | 5 |
| 2015 | 11 | 6 | 19 | 5 | 3 | 5 |
| 2016 | 7 | 1 | 12 | 3 | | 4 |
| 2017 | 9 | 2 | 16 | 5 | | 8 |
| 2018 | 7 | 2 | 8 | | | 5 |
| 2019 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 1 | | 8 |
| 2020 | 8 | 4 | 7 | | | 4 |
| 2021 | 7 | 2 | 9 | | | 5 |
| 2022 | 5 | 3 | 8 | | | 3 |
| Total | <u>125</u> | <u>35</u> | <u>211</u> | 19 | 43 | 149 |

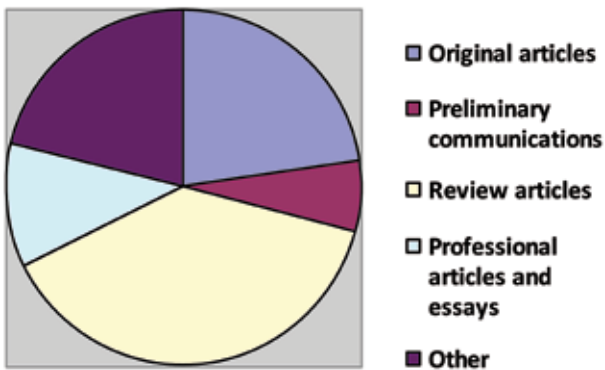


Chart 2. The share of certain types of published works.

This rapid growth and development were certainly contributed by the recognition and worldwide praise of the Journal's quality by inclusion in the most prominent international academic bibliographic databases (SCOPUS, EBSCO, PubMed/MEDLINE, Web of Science CC/ESCI and DOAJ) and in the medical context, the increase in recognition measured in quartiles.

Table 5. Entry into important bibliographic databases and increase in visibility (quartiles).⁹

| Year of entry | Bibliographic database | Quartiles |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 2006 | SCOPUS | Q4 |
| 2007 | EBSCO | Q4 |
| 2008 | MEDLINE | Q4 |
| 2009 | | Q4 |
| 2010 | | Q4 |
| 2011 | | Q4 |
| 2012 | | Q3 |
| 2013 | | Q3 |
| 2014 | | Q4 |
| 2015 | Web of Science Core Collection (ESCI) | Q3 |
| 2016 | | Q3 |
| 2017 | | Q4 |
| 2018 | DOAJ | Q3 |
| 2019 | | Q4 |
| 2020 | | Q4 |
| 2021 | | Q4 |
| 2022 | | Q4 |

In the two decades of AMHA's existence, a total of 43 volumes were published, of which 3 were supplements. Each supplement is published with a separate topic. Thus, in 2015, one was dedicated to Andrija Štampar and the other to Persian medicine, while in 2017, a supplement marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the HZDPZK. The analysis of published texts includes formal and substantive elements. Content analysis of titles, summaries and keywords provided insight into the prevailing published medico-historical topics. At the same time, the categorisation and language of articles

⁹ Data on registration in the databases were taken from the AMHA archive, but are also available in certain bibliographic databases on the Internet. Data on quartiles were taken from Scimago Journal and Country Rank ("AMHA - Acta medico historica Adriatica", Scimago Journal and Country Rank, <http://www.scimagojr.com/journalsearch.php?q=5200152838&tip=sid&clean=0>, accessed: May 1, 2023).

and the number and geographical positioning of authors were included in the formal analysis.

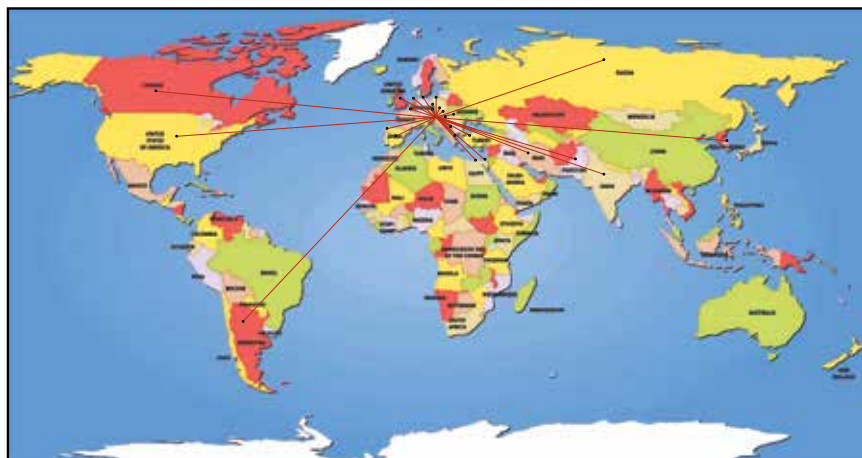


Figure 1. Graphic representation of the countries from which authors of articles in AMHA come. (source: www.freeworldmaps.net; author: Antun Mikleš)

The categorisation of texts has changed over the years, but today the categories are reduced to Original Scientific Articles, Preliminary Communications, Review Articles, Professional Articles and Book and Scientific Conference Reviews. So far, most Review Articles (35%), Original Scientific Articles (22%) and Book Reviews (10%) have been published. The average number of articles published per volume is 13.65, or 29.35 on an annual basis. Despite the fact that AMHA is primarily focused on topics regarding the history of medicine and other related scientific disciplines of the cultural heritage of the Adriatic and Central European region, the authors who have published in AMHA come from different parts of the world. In addition to the predominant area of Europe, that is, the Mediterranean and the broader areas, we must mention the authors who sent their contributions from Canada, the USA, Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan, India, Russia and South Korea. Most articles were published in the Croatian language, 265 of them. Then, 257 articles were written in English. On the other hand, Italian is represented in 48 articles, while 10 articles were written in Slovenian, 3 in Spanish, and 2 in French as well as in German. The history of medicine cannot avoid topics about the people and institutions that created the history of medicine itself. Thus, 25% of the total number of scientific and professional articles on biographical topics were published, and 12% were written about the history of institutions.

Although in Croatia, according to the Ordinance on Scientific and Artistic Areas, Fields and Branches¹⁰, the history of medicine belongs to a separate field of Basic Medical Sciences, that is, to the branch of History of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, an additional analysis of the topics of the articles was made (reviews of books, scientific meetings, exhibitions, etc. were not taken into account). Thus, it has been shown that topics devoted to the history of medicine from the field of clinical medical sciences, followed by public health and health care and basic medical sciences, dominate within the fields of biomedicine and healthcare, followed by a slightly smaller number of published articles and contributions on pharmacy, dental and veterinary medicine. In most cases, the approach or perspective could not be determined for reasons of general medical topics, although an ethnomedical approach could be clearly read from individual articles. The theological, artistic and legal perspectives are also expressed to a large extent.

Table 6. Corresponding authors' countries.

| | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|-----------------------|----|----------------|
| 1 | Argentina | 12 | Greece | 23 | Romania |
| 2 | Austria | 13 | Hungary | 24 | Russia |
| 3 | Belgium | 14 | India | 25 | Saudi Arabia |
| 4 | Bosnia and Herzegovina | 15 | Iran | 26 | Serbia |
| 5 | Canada | 16 | Israel | 27 | Slovakia |
| 6 | Croatia | 17 | Italy | 28 | Slovenia |
| 7 | Czech Republic | 18 | Republic of Macedonia | 29 | South Korea |
| 8 | Egypt | 19 | Montenegro | 30 | Spain |
| 9 | England | 20 | Pakistan | 31 | Turkey |
| 10 | France | 21 | Poland | 32 | United Kingdom |
| 11 | Germany | 22 | Portugal | 33 | United States |

¹⁰ Ordinance on Scientific and Artistic Areas, Fields and Branches (Official Gazette No. 118/09)

WORKING BACKGROUND OF THE JOURNAL

The members of the Editorial Board have changed over the years, and many have contributed to the profiling and development of the AMHA journal. They are all listed in the summary table:

Table 7. Changes of the Editorial board structure.

| Year/issue | Members of the Editorial Board |
|-------------------|---|
| 2003(1) – 2005(2) | Josip Ažman, Željko Dugac, Vladimir Dugački, Marija-Ana Dürriegl, Stella Fatović – Ferenčić, Amir Muzur, Đana Pahor, Vlasta Rotschild, Ante Škrobonja (editor -in-chief). ur.) [*] |
| 2006(1) – 2010(2) | [*] + Anja Petaros, Igor Salopek |
| 2011(1) – 2014(2) | Igor Eterović, Anja Petaros, Igor Salopek, Ante Škrobonja [**] |
| 2015(1) – 2015(2) | [**] + Robert Doričić, Ana Montan [***] |
| 2016(1) – 2017(2) | [***] – Anja Petaros |
| 2018(1) – 2018(2) | Ahmet Aciduman, Bruno Atalić, Toni Buterin, Robert Doričić, Igor Eterović, Antonio Fornaciari, Dean Krmac, Ana Montan, Igor Salopek, Ante Škrobonja [****] |
| 2019(1) – 2020(2) | [****] + Evgenia Arh – Ana Montan [*****] |
| 2021(1) – 2021(2) | [*****] + Marko Medved, Bernarda Mrak, Ivana Tutić Grokša |
| 2022(1) – 2022(2) | Ahmet Aciduman, Evgenia Arh, Bruno Atalić, Toni Buterin, Robert Doričić, Igor Eterović, Antonio Fornaciari, Dean Krmac, Marko Medved, Bernarda Mrak, Igor Salopek, Ante Škrobonja, Ivana Tutić Grokša |

At the end of 2010, the Editorial Board underwent revision in order to improve the operational part of the Journal's functioning and thus to facilitate the maintenance of high standards, i.e. for further improvement. The structurally most important change, crucial for the continuous operation of the Journal, took place in 2017, when Igor Eterović became the editor-in-chief, and the function of executive editor, performed by Robert Doričić, was introduced. Both of them have held these positions until today. With a joint effort, they have initiated new interventions essential for strengthening the Journal, which we will discuss in the next chapter.

A major change in the composition of the Editorial Board occurred again in 2018 when the journal received quantitative (doubled the number of Editorial Board members) and qualitative reinforcement (members from different parts of Croatia and members from abroad¹¹). A significant change followed in 2019 when, along with changes in the structure of the Editorial Board, the function of the Technical Editor was introduced, and in 2022 another technical editor was introduced due to the increase in the volume of work in the Journal.

At this time, the working part of AMHA consists of editor-in-chief Igor Eterović, honorary editor Anton Škrobonja, executive editor Robert Doričić, technical editors Ivana Tutić Grokša and Ivan Butković and members of the Editorial Board Ahmet Aciduman, Evgenia Arh, Bruno Atalić, Toni Buterin, Antonio Fornaciari, Dean Krmac, Marko Medved, Bernarda Mrak and Igor Salopek.

At the moment, the Advisory Board has as many as sixty eminent experts from all over the world.

The number of reviewers is significant, and articles published in 2022 alone were reviewed by as many as forty reviewers (!), all prominent domestic and foreign experts.

Tisak Zambelli from Rijeka (until 2019) and Grafomark from Zagreb (since 2021) are in charge of graphic preparation and high-quality printing.

Table 8. Responsible functions in the Editorial Board.

| Year/issue | Editor-in-chief | Executive editor | Managing editor/s |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2003(1) – 2010(2) | Ante Škrobonja | | |
| 2011(1) – 2016(2) | Ante Škrobonja | Igor Eterović | |
| 2017(1) – 2020(2) | Igor Eterović | Robert Doričić | Toni Buterin |
| 2021(1) – 2021(2) | Igor Eterović | Robert Doričić | Ivana Tutić Grokša |
| 2022(1) – 2022(2) | Igor Eterović | Robert Doričić | Ivana Tutić Grokša, Ivan Butković |

FORMAL AND SUBSTANTIVE ADVANCES IN THE JOURNAL'S WORK

With the already mentioned change in the composition of the Editorial Board in 2017, intensive work began on gradual planning to improve the work

¹¹ Until then, only the Advisory Board comprised members from abroad.

of the Journal in order to keep up with the most modern requirements of publishing the scientific journal.

Thus, in 2017, there were important structural changes through the creation of the function of the technical editor and the engagement of new people for the set goals of improving the Journal, on the one hand, and a stronger connection with the Faculty as an equal partner in publishing the Journal, on the other hand. This created a high-quality logistical foundation and a prerequisite for the improvement of the Journal in the near future.

So, very quickly, there was the creation of a functional electronic system for the submission of papers and the creation of a separate journal website (2018), the introduction of universal classification - DOI numbers (2018), the improvement of the existing visibility on the Portal of Scientific Journals of the Republic of Croatia – Hrčak (2019) and implementation of the Journal on a separate area on the main website of the Faculty (2022).

In terms of content, all of the Journal's advantages have been retained, such as the unique visual identity of each notebook (each cover is original), the scope of topics that are considered for publication, following current events through the publication of displays (collections, books, museum displays and exhibitions related to the history of medicine) and the general recognisable structure of content distribution and graphic layout within the Journal.

Some existing aspects have been improved, such as equalising the number of pages of each volume (approximately 175 per volume, a total of 350 pages per year), an even stronger focus on the scientific valorisation of the history of medicine (non-publishing of essays and other non-scientific contributions, very exceptional publication of professional papers), more precisely listing in the Instructions for authors, stricter selection of members for the Advisory Board, etc.

THE WIDER MEANING OF AMHA JOURNAL

AMHA is of particular importance to its parental association - HZDPZK, and equally to its parent co-publisher - MEDRI, which can and should be proud of such a scientific publication that was born and developed among its professors, students and employees.

AMHA has a special value for the broader region as a meeting place of the results of all its historical medical research and has profiled itself as the central historical medical journal of the whole of Europe and the surrounding

Mediterranean area. In the true sense of the word, it has become the “scientific brand” of the wider region.

In the international sense, i.e. on the world stage, AMHA, with increasing recognition, shown by its acceptance into various scientific databases, has been included among the dozen (if not less!) of the best journals for the history of medicine in the world.

In addition to its primary scientific significance, which it has achieved as one of the few strongest journals in the history of medicine globally, AMHA has a much broader significance for science and the profession itself. First of all, it should be pointed out that it contains conference and book reviews, as well as news from the history of medicine, which in the professional sense of monitoring events, has an irreplaceable role for everyone who deals with this field. There are also the obituaries of well-known historians of medicine from a wider area, which, in addition to paying due respect to our predecessors, irreplaceable biographical data about the lives of those great people for the field in which they worked are permanently recorded.

INSTEAD OF A CONCLUSION: A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

The development and growth of the Journal so far provides an impetus for moving forward. The Journal has reached such a level that at the end of the previous year, we have completed material for the entire first issue of the following year, sometimes for the entire year.

The most important step is a stronger connection with the Faculty as an equal partner in the publication of the Journal, which is an important prerequisite for guaranteeing its further continuous publication.

In front of us, it remains to monitor contemporary journal publishing trends and keep the quality of the Journal high.

However, it is already necessary to consider refreshing the Editorial Board with new members, who, logistically, would make it extremely easy to maintain such high standards that have been set in AMHA by its previous appearances. The continuation of providing quality human resources is simply a prerequisite for maintaining the quality of the Journal, both in terms of formality and content, and this is imperative in the further work of the Editorial Board and its cooperation with the publishers of the Journal.

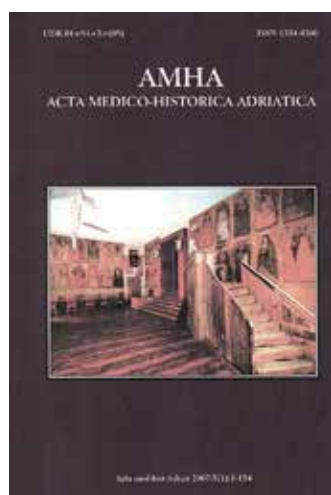
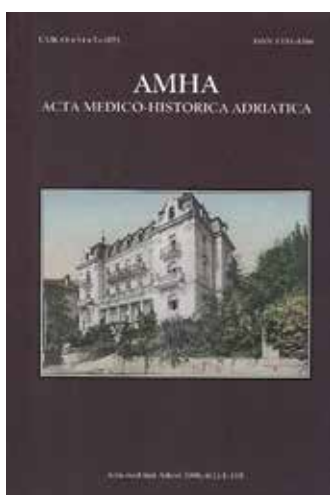
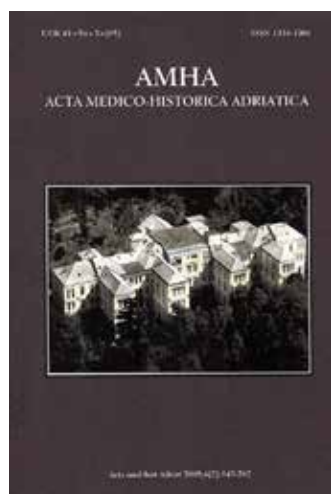
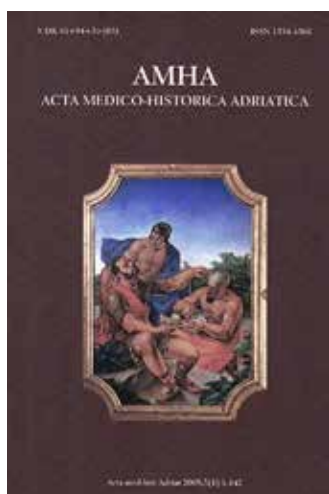
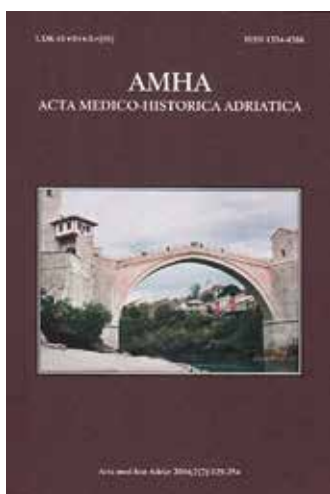
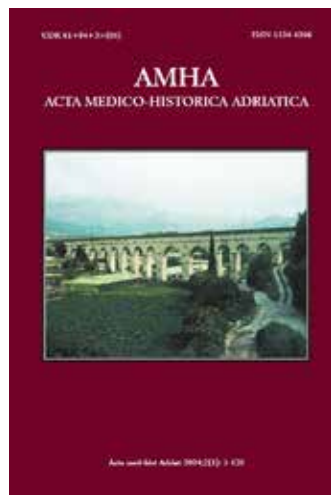
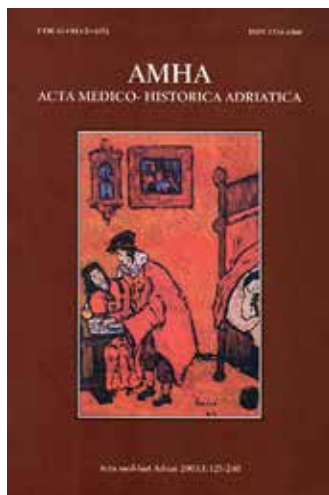
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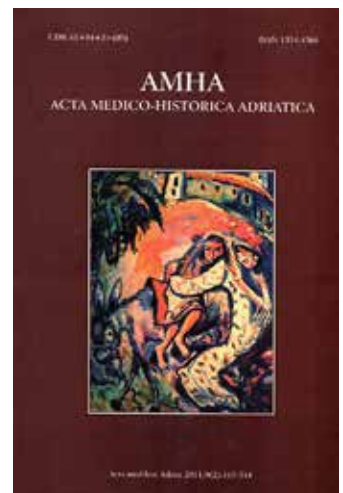
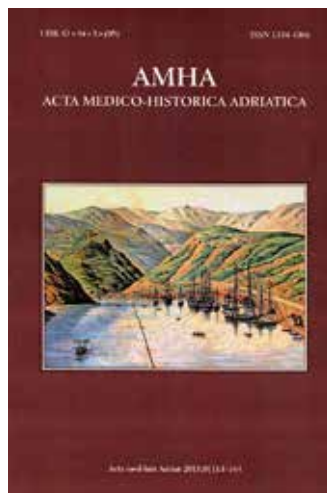
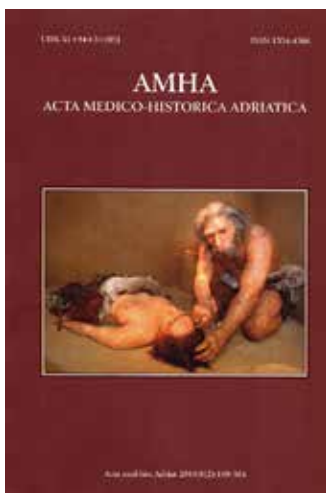
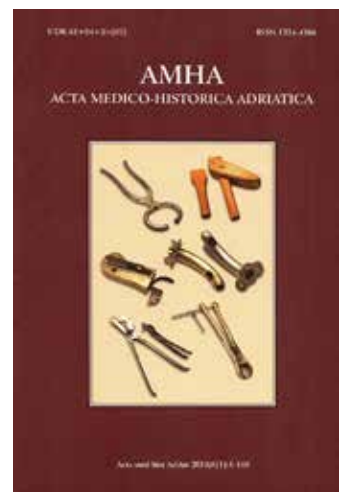
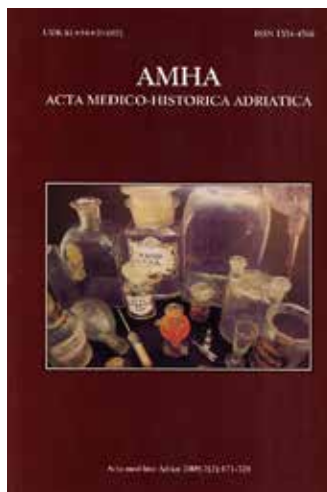
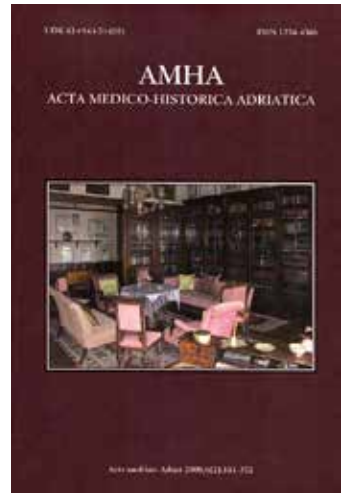
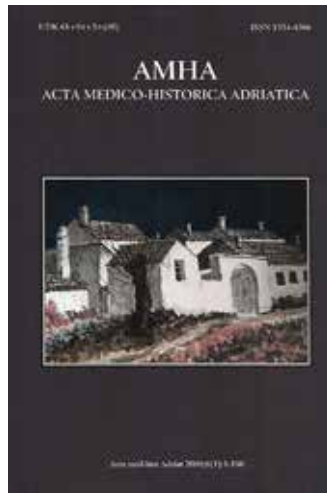
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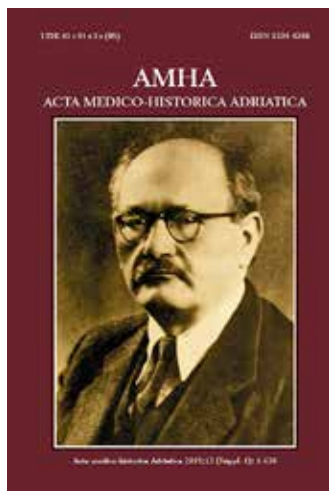
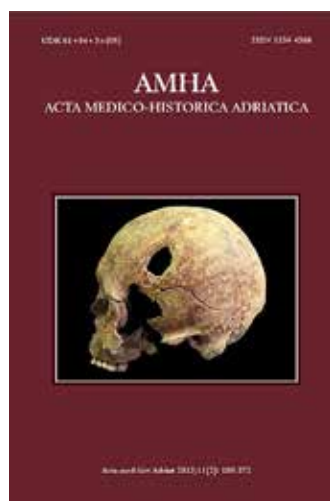
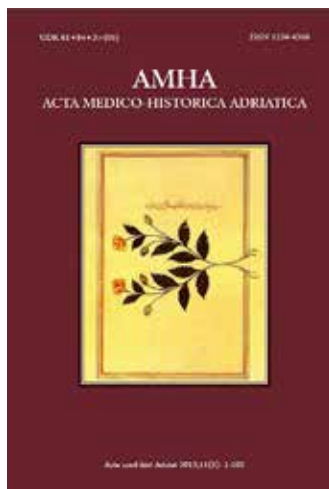
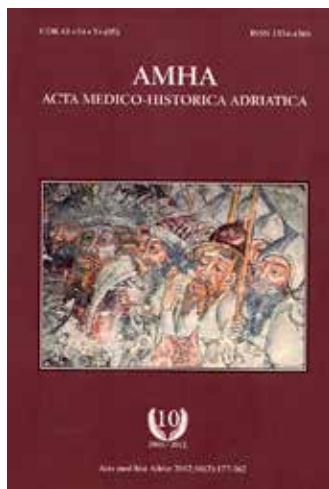
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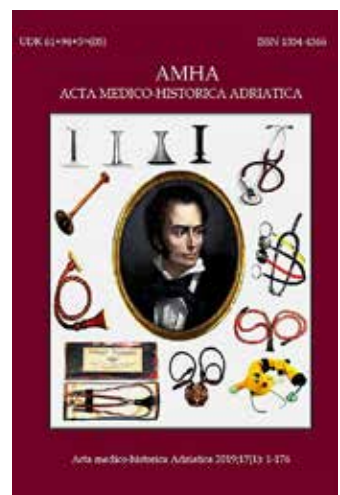
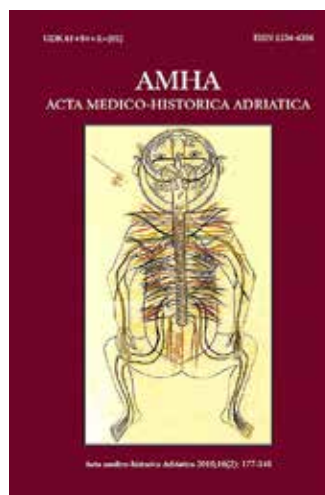
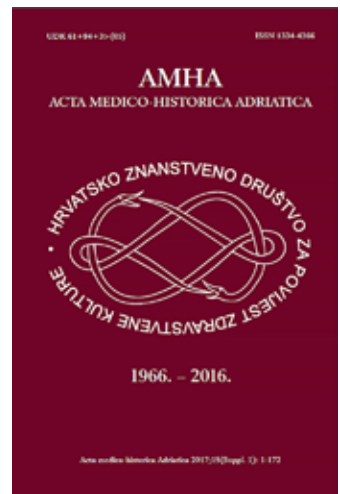
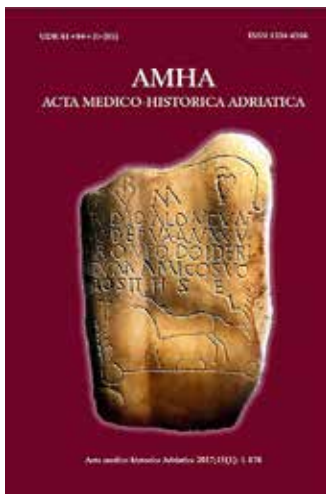
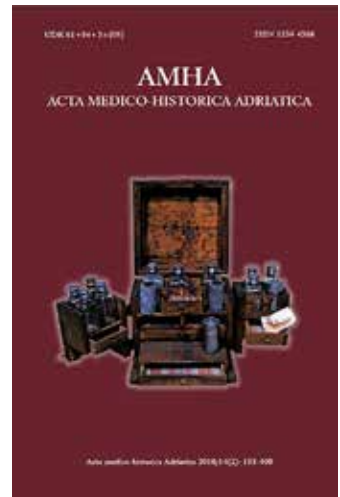
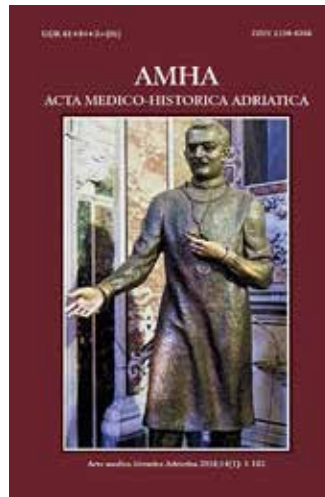
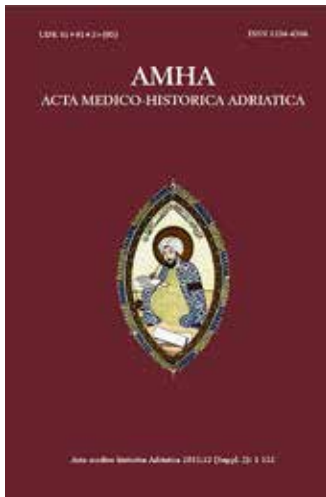
U članku se predstavlja i analizira prvih dvadeset godina izlaženja znanstvenog časopisa AMHA – *Acta medico-historica Adriatica* (2002. – 2022.). Časopis je bez sumnje postao i ostao središnja aktivnost Hrvatskoga znanstvenog društva za povijest zdravstvene kulture i ubrzo se prometnuo u svjetski cijenjeni časopis iz povijesti medicine. Predstavljen je početak i kontekst njegova izlaženja, u poveznici sa znanstvenim skupom „Rijeka i Riječani u medicinskoj povjesnici“, njegovo profiliranje u istaknuti međunarodni znanstveni časopis, suizdavanje s Medicinskim fakultetom Sveučilišta u Rijeci te nagli razvoj u kasnijim godinama izlaženja. Analiza pokazuje rast prepoznatljivosti časopisa kroz indeksaciju u različitim međunarodnim časopisnim bazama, broj i omjer znanstvenih članaka i vrstu objavljenog materijala. Zaključno se daje osvrt na moguće smjerove razvoja u budućnosti te značenje časopisa u nacionalnim, regionalnim i međunarodnim okvirima.

Ključne riječi: AMHA – *Acta medico-historica Adriatica*, znanstveni časopis, povijest medicine, „Rijeka i Riječani u medicinskoj povjesnici“, Hrvatsko znanstveno društvo za povijest zdravstvene kulture, Sveučilište u Rijeci, Medicinski fakultet









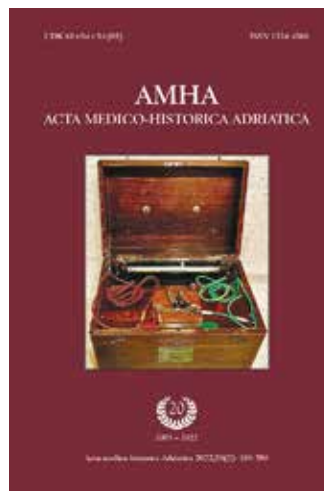
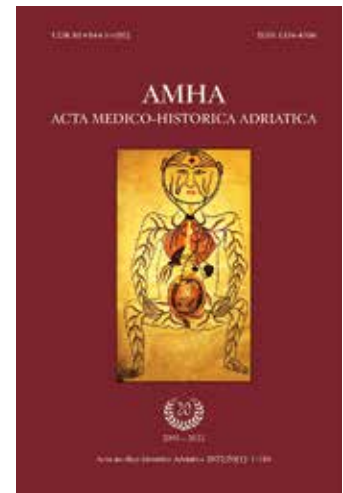
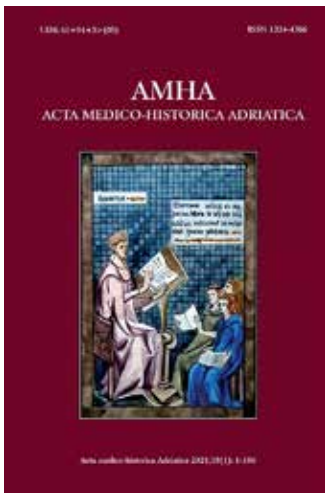
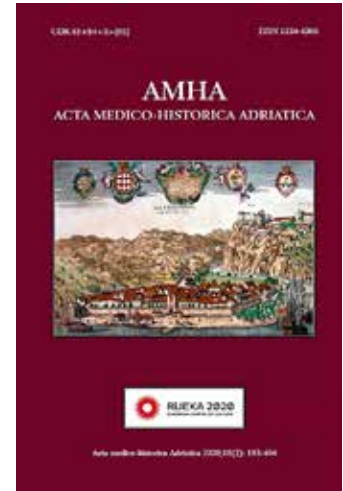
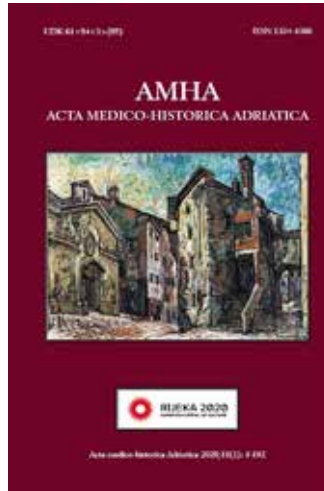
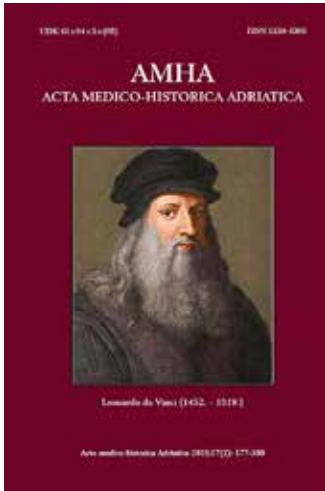


Figure 2. All cover pages of the AMHA journal issues in chronological order.