

EDEL, Philippe and DASZKIEWICZ, Piotr. *Louis Henri Bojanus, le savant de Vilnius 1776–1827* (Series Portraits Célèbres d'Alsace 019). Vent d'est, [Strasbourg]: 2015. Pp 64; illustrated. Price € 10 (paperback). ISBN 9782371720169.

Knowing almost nothing about Louis Henri Bojanus, prior to agreeing to review this, and receiving a slim A5 heavily illustrated paperback, it seemed as if this would be a quick task to complete. In fact the book is packed with information, with the many colour illustrations complementing the accompanying text. This is one of a series celebrating significant people from Alsace, the region of Bojanus's birth in Bouxwiller. In fact most of his working life was spent in Vilnius, and his secondary education and family roots were in Darmstadt.

A timeline and summary page, giving an overview of his life, are followed by outline contents. Chapters follow on his early childhood in Bouxwiller, his higher education in Darmstadt (after his family moved there in 1794 as refugees from the French revolution). Further chapters cover his university training in medicine in Jena, together with his grand tour of European veterinary institutions, and appointment to the chair of veterinary medicine at the then Imperial University of Vilnius. This includes discussion on the importance of illustrations in his work, the history of the University of Vilnius and brief information on his final years.

The next two chapters provide more details of his pioneering work in veterinary medicine, especially veterinary parasitology. His work on comparative anatomy is also covered in some detail, including his monograph on the Testudinae of Europe and his comparative studies of skeletal remains of European bison and aurochs. The final chapters include one in which his role in the University of Vilnius is reviewed, including his refusal to become rector, his ennoblement by Tsar Alexander and his appointment as a State Councillor. The last chapter reviews his place in biology today and includes additional information on his family. An earlier family tree shows the link through his sister to the Merck pharmaceutical company.

The text is mostly in two columns, with full-page text only when treating special subjects. Small vignettes in colour and black and white include portraits of people appearing in the text, places and maps. Larger illustrations include several portraits of Bojanus and also show his skill as a zoological illustrator. A selected bibliography provides further sources.

The authors are to be congratulated for encapsulating so much information into 64 pages of French text. Bojanus certainly deserved wider recognition and the design and illustrations help to communicate his achievements. There is no index but the summary of contents suffices to guide the reader to the appropriate section, although page numbers are sometimes lacking. No place of publication is shown but it is likely to be Strasbourg.

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ASSELIN, Alain, CAYOUILLE, Jacques, MATHIEU, Jacques. *Curieuses histoires de plantes du Canada*, tome 1. Les éditions du Septentrion, Québec: 2014. Pp 284; illustrated. Price CAD\$ 44.95. ISBN 9782894487976 (paper); 9782896648948 (PDF).

*Curieuses histoires de plantes du Canada* is a treasure trove of information about the botanical exploration of eastern Canada between 1000 and 1675 CE, and more. The authors, two botanists and a historian, recount this history in a series of 21 un-numbered chapters that focus on successive accounts of European experiences with elements of the Canadian flora. In addition, there are four chapters that set the stage for these accounts, describing the state of European botanical knowledge in 1534 when Jacques Cartier first arrived in North America, the advances made in botany in Europe, 1535–1760, the complications surrounding the naming of plants, and a very brief overview of the botanical knowledge of the indigenous peoples encountered by the Europeans upon arrival in North America. The book also includes nine appendices, successive lists of plant names that provide an insight into how Europeans