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Kmečko življenje v Zgornjesavski dolini v 18. in 19. stoletju

IZVLEČEK

Območje Zgornjesavske doline je precej obsežno in raznoliko, v njen okvir pa po Gamsovi pokrajinsko-ekološki členitvi spada alpska dolina, po kateri teče Sava Dolinka. Pričujoči članek na osnovi podatkov v starih zemljiških evidencah obravnava območje od Bele Peči do Jesenic, ki ga je v preteklosti močno zaznamovalo rudarjenje in do danes pustilo trajni pečat. Zemlja je za osnovno kmetijsko dejavnost slabo rodovitna in najbolj primerna za živinorejo, mikroklimatske razmere pa se od ene do druge katastrske občine nekoliko razlikujejo. Klima je povsod bolj ali manj visokogorska in kmetijski pridelavi dokaj neprijazna. V preteklosti pa je tistim, ki so živeli v visokogorskih predelih območja, življenje oteževala tudi geografska oddaljenost.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

Zgornjesavska dolina, kmečko življenje, Bela Peč, Rateče, Podkoren, Dovje, Hrušica, Jesenice, Kranjska Gora, Planina, Gozd

ABSTRACT

RURAL LIFE IN THE UPPER SAVA VALLEY IN THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES

The area of the Upper Sava Valley is a vast and diverse one and, according to the Gams's landscape-ecological classification, also includes the alpine valley of the Sava Dolinka River. Drawing on old land records, the paper at hand discusses the area stretching from Bela Peč to Jesenice, which was once strongly affected by the mining industry, with its traces still visible today. Land was poor for the basic agricultural activity and most appropriate for cattle farming, with microclimatic conditions slightly varying from one cadastral municipality to another. The climate throughout the entire area under discussion is more or less high-mountain and rather unfavourable for agricultural activity. In the past, the lives of those living in high mountainous areas were considerably constrained by geographical remoteness.

KEY WORDS

Upper Sava Valley, rural life, Bela Peč, Rateče, Podkoren, Dovje, Hrušica, Jesenice, Kranjska Gora, Planina, Gozd

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the area stretching from Bela Peč to Jesenice, which was once strongly affected by the mining industry, with its traces still visible today. Due to the developing mining industry, the local farmer community was expanded by foresters who cut wood and prepared it, together with firewood, for use in mines, charcoal burners who burned charcoal for blast furnaces and, finally, drivers who transported wood and charcoal as well as removed pig iron and iron products. The area was also settled by blacksmiths and carpenters who were indispensable for repairing tools and doing carpentry work in caves, and ultimately by roasters who roasted iron ore in improvised furnaces.

Farmers in the Upper Sava Valley led a simple life, with their diet and clothing in the period concerned mainly consisting of what they produced on farms. Wood was the primary building material for the construction of agricultural buildings. The inhabitants slowly moved from wooden cottages into much more fire-resisting brick houses. Barring a few smaller compact settlements, farms were scattered around the hills and relied heavily on self-sustainability.

Land was poor for basic agricultural activity and most appropriate for cattle farming, with microclimatic conditions slightly varying from one cadastral municipality to another. The climate throughout the entire area under discussion is more or less high-mountain and rather unfavourable for agricultural activity. In the past there were very few road links, except main roads, which were maintained by the state and barely passable for most of the time. In the area under discussion, the road maintenance costs were increased by a large number of bridges that crossed the Sava River and its tributaries.

Although fields were the most valuable land plots where farmers grew their basic crops that were never of any particularly good quality, meadows and pastures were the prevailing forms of arable land. In the period under discussion cattle farming was still predominantly pasture-based and in summer months most animals were driven to high mountain pastures.

Although mines, ironworks and smelters provided farmers from the Upper Sava Valley with an opportunity to make extra income, they continued to till their fields assiduously, since there is no indication in the examined material of them abandoning their agricultural livelihoods. The lives of those in high mountainous areas, however, were considerably constrained by geographical remoteness.



S U M M A R Y

Rural life in the Upper Sava Valley in the 18th and 19th centuries

The area of the Upper Sava Valley is a vast and diverse one and, according to Gams's landscape-ecological classification, also includes the alpine valley of the Sava Dolinka River. The paper at hand discusses