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Vloga družin Bucelleni in Ruard v gornjesavskem fužinarstvu

IZVLEČEK

Družini Bucelleni in Ruard sta pomembno vplivali na razvoj Gornjesavske doline. Prva je prinesla naprednejši način pridobivanja jekla: proizvodnja je bila večja, zahtevala je močnejšo vodno silo in tudi večjo porabo oglja. Iskanje energentov je naletelo na odpor drugih uporabnikov gozdov, voda in poti. Ohranjeno je sorazmerno veliko korespondence med lastniki fužin, višjim rudarskim sodnikom in upravitelji blejskega gospostva, s pomočjo katere je možno spremljati razvoj fužinarstva od 16. do 19. stoletja. Do največjih trenj je prihajalo z lastniki blejskega gospostva, briksensko škofijo. Ta so se končala, ko je gospostvo kupil fužinar Viktor Ruard. Posodobil je način proizvodnje jekla, ki je bil v veljavi več kot tristo let. Na Savi je namreč dal postaviti pudlovkno. Za dokončno slovo od fužinarstva pa je poskrbela Kranjska industrijska družba z izgradnjo Siemens-Martinove jeklarne.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

fužinarstvo, rudarstvo, gospodarstvo, Sava, Jesenice, Bucelleni, Ruard

ABSTRACT

THE ROLE OF BUCELLENI AND RUARD FAMILIES IN THE UPPER SAVA VALLEY IRON PRODUCTION

The Bucelleni and Ruard families left an important mark on the development of the Upper Sava Valley. The former introduced advanced methods of steel production: the increased production volume required greater water power as well as higher consumption of coal. The search for energy sources met with resistance among other users of forests, waters and paths. A relatively large volume of preserved correspondence between the ironworks owners, the higher mining court judge and the administrators of the Bled seignior offers an insight into the development of ironmaking industry from the 16th to the 19th century. The greatest friction arose with the owners of the Bled seignior, the Diocese of Brixen, which was finally settled after the seignior was purchased by ironmaster Viktor Ruard. He modernised the more than three centuries old steel production method by setting up a puddling furnace on the Sava River. The end of ironmaking industry, however, was brought about by the Carniolan Industrial Company with the construction of the Siemens-Martin's steelworks.

KEY WORDS

ironmaking industry, mining, economy, Sava, Jesenice, Bucelleni family, Ruard family

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S U M M A R Y

The role of Bucelleni and Ruard families in the Upper Sava Valley iron production

In the early 16th century the Bucelleni family from Brescia settled in the area near the mines in the Sava caves. In order to increase steel production and build a Brescian type of furnace that required greater water power, they constructed a number of new facilities along the Sava River. Profitable production enabled them to set up the same kind of establishments in Plavž and Javornik. The family treated itself to a manor and three churches, i.e. the Church of the Assumption on the Sava River, the Church of St. Barbara in Plavž and the Church of the Holy Cross in Planina pod Golico. According to oral tradition, the latter was erected in gratitude to miners who discovered a new iron ore site. Iron ore was also sought in the vicinity of Kranjska Gora and in the Vrata Valley. The family was elevated to nobility and obtained a baronial title von Reichenberg. The Bucellenis's ascendancy spanned several generations, but it only took one to bring the family to its demise. When Pavel Nikolaj Bucelleni came into the possession of his father's property in 1705, the latter included two ironworks on the Sava River and in Javornik. After Pavel Nikolaj contracted an enormous debt, he was compelled to sell the ironworks in Javornik and the Sava ironworks was left in disarray. Comprising three steam hammers and a blast furnace, it annually produced no more than 140 tonnes of pig iron. The Sava plant came under receivership and was auctioned off in 1764, together with the manor. The highest bid was offered by loaners from Trieste who sold Bucelleni's property at a higher price to Valentin Ruard two years later.

The Ruard family came from Belgium. At the beginning of the 18th century it moved to Vienna, where it founded a trading company. Having come to

Carniola by its business ties with a textile factory in Ljubljana, the family subsequently bought the Šava ironworks and completely devoted itself to iron industry. Valentin restored the blast furnace to reach a daily output of 2800 kilograms of pig iron. He disposed of five steam hammers on the Sava River and three steam hammers in Mojstrana for steel treatment purposes. His son Leopold further expanded the family property by acquiring the plant and forests in Bela Peč and undertaking the mining industry in Zagorje. After his death in 1834 the family property was divided between his two children, Kristina and Viktor. The former received Bela Peč and the latter the mine in Zagorje, the iron foundry at Pašjek pri

Litiji, forests near Kranjska Gora, as well as immovable property on the Sava River, in Plavž and Mojstrana. In 1858 Viktor bought the seigniorship of Bled, thus providing his ironworks with a greater coal supply. His company employed 1688 people. However, the production with so many workers was an expensive one, rendering his steel uncompetitive. Viktor joined the Carniolan Industrial Company by concluding a purchase agreement, through which the aforementioned company acquired the Sava plant and the former seigniorship of Bled.