

1.01 Izvirni znanstveni članek

UDK 718(497.473=411.16)(091)

Prejeto: 19. 3. 2017

**Renato Podbersič**

dr., znanstveni sodelavec, Študijski center za narodno spravo, Tivolska 42, SI-1000 Ljubljana
E-pošta: renato.podbersic@guest.arnes.si

»Hiša živečih« v Rožni Dolini

Judovsko pokopališče med Gorico in Novo Gorico*

IZVLEČEK

Prispevek prinaša zgodovinski pregled vzpostavitve in načina pokopavanja na judovskem pokopališču v Rožni Dolini pri Novi Gorici, ki velja za največje tovrstno pokopališče na Slovenskem. Do septembra 1947 je skupaj s sinagogo v Gorici (Italija) tvorilo zaključeno celoto. Vzpostavila ga je nekdanja goriška judovska skupnost, ki pa je leta 1969 prenehala obstajati. Danes omenjeno pokopališče, skupaj z nekdanjo judovsko mrliško vežico, ni več v uporabi. Kljub temu je odličen primerek ohranjene judovske kulturne dediščine, ki pa še čaka na ustrezno ovrednotenje.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

Judovsko pokopališče, Judje na Slovenskem, Judje v Gorici, zgodovina Judov, pokopavanje Judov

ABSTRACT

»HOUSE OF THE LIVING« IN ROŽNA DOLINA. JEWISH CEMETERY BETWEEN GORIZIA AND NOVA GORICA

The contribution offers a historical overview of establishing and maintaining burial practices at the Jewish cemetery in Rožna Dolina near Nova Gorica, which is the largest cemetery of its kind in Slovenia. Until September 1947, the Jewish cemetery formed a whole together with the synagogue in Gorizia (Italy), established by the former Jewish community of Gorizia, which ceased to exist in 1969. Even though the said cemetery, as well as the Jewish funeral parlour, is no longer in use today, it continues to serve as a splendid example of the preserved Jewish cultural heritage, which is yet to be properly appraised.

KEY WORDS

Jewish cemetery, Jews in Slovenia, Jews in Gorizia, history of Jews, Jewish burial practices

* Raziskovalni program št. P6-0380 je sofinancirala Javna agencija za raziskovalno dejavnost Republike Slovenije iz državnega proračuna.

- Jelinčič Boeta, Klemen: *Judje na Slovenskem v srednjem veku*. Ljubljana: Slovenska matica, 2009.
- Luzzatto, Gadi in Paolo Navarro in Tobia Ravà in Micaela Zucconi: Il sistema degli insediamenti ebraici in Friuli in età tardo-antica, medioevale, moderna. *Il Mondo ebraico: Gli ebrei tra Italia nord-orientale e Impero asburgico dal Medioevo all'Età contemporanea* (ur. Giacomo Todeschini in Pier Cesare Ioly Zorattini). Pordenone: Edizioni Studio Tesi, 1991, str. 573–596.
- Morpurgo, Marcello: Rievocando le ultime vicende della scomparsa Comunità di Gorizia. *Rassegna mensile di Israel*, 44, 1978, št. 11/12, str. 704–711.
- Morpurgo, Marcello: *Valdirose – Memorie della comunità ebraica di Gorizia*. Udine: Del Bianco Editore, 1986.
- Ogrin, Dušan: Židovsko pokopališče v Novi Gorici: pomemben spomenik pokopališke kulture. *Srečanja*, 7, 1972, št. 35–36, str. 33–40.
- Podbersič, Renato: Judovski vojaki na soški fronti. *Na fronti*, 4, 2006, str. 40–44.
- Podbersič, Renato: Stanje duha na Goriškem: judovsko pokopališče v Rožni dolini. *Razpotja: revija humanistov Goriške*, 3, 2012, št. 9–10, str. 73–74.
- Podbersič, Renato: *Judovska skupnost na Goriškem 1900–1950*. Koper: Doktorska disertacija. Univerza na Primorskem, Fakulteta za humanistične študije, 2016.
- Vivian, Angelo: Il cimitero israelitico di Nova Gorica. *Gli ebrei a Gorizia e a Trieste tra »Ancien Régime« ed emancipazione. Atti del convegno*. Udine: Del bianco Editore, 1984, str. 91–97.
- Vivian, Angelo: Il cimitero ebraico di Gradisca d'Isonzo. *Egitto e Vicino Oriente*, 9, 1986, str. 151–155.
- Toš, Marjan: *Zgodovinski spomin na prekmurske Jude*. Ljubljana: Doktorsko delo. ISH – Fakulteta za podiplomski humanistični študij, 2007.



S U M M A R Y

»House of the living« in Rožna Dolina. Jewish cemetery between Gorizia and Nova Gorica

Throughout its existence, the historical province of Gorizia was enriched by influences from different cultures, including the Jewish one. For this reason, Gorizia was sometimes also known as Jerusalem upon Soča (Ital. Gerusalemme sull'Isonzo). Jews were probably present in the city at the time of its establishment, and their first written mention dates

to 1288. The local Jewish community stood out more due its impact on the everyday life in the city than due to their numerical presence. Today, the Jewish community no longer exists in Gorizia. In 1969, the numerically weak local Jewish community united with that of Trieste. The memory of what was once an important part of Gorizian community is kept alive by the Jewish cemetery in Rožna Dolina near Gorizia, the final resting place of over nine hundred Jews, with the oldest tombstone dating to the fourteenth century.

The Jewish cemetery in Rožna Dolina not only stands as a unique monument to the Jewish cultural heritage in Slovenia, but it is the biggest Jewish cemetery in the state and one among the best preserved in Central Europe. Apart from the synagogue in Gorizia (Italy) from the mid-eighteenth century, it is the only remnant of immovable cultural heritage that once belonged to the rounded-out Jewish community in Gorizia, which is now divided between two countries.

Burying the dead has a special place in the Judaism (Talmud). The burial is to take place within one day after death or at least as soon as possible, since according to the Jewish belief, the soul cannot find peace until the deceased's body is buried. Burial is one of the most important rituals in Judaism and also customarily associated with ritual impurity, caused by the contact with the deceased's body. A special Jewish funeral service, which is usually composed of volunteers, cleanses the deceased's body before the funeral and makes all the necessary preparations for the burial.

The sanctity of the burial grounds is, among others, also attested by events that took place during the Battles of the Isonzo. After the fall of Gorizia and the Isonzo Front shifted eastwards, the city had found itself in the front line by the autumn of 1916. Military maps of the time show that the Austro-Hungarian units held their assault positions in the eastern part of the Jewish cemetery and the Italian units in the western part, both sides making every effort to respect the sanctity of the Jewish burial grounds, but nevertheless destroying the Jewish funeral parlour during the exchange of fire. After the First World War, Jews in Gorizia restored the facility and reopened it in 1929. The funeral parlour then remained in use until 1947, when the newly demarcated border between Yugoslavia and Italy cut the cemetery off from the seat of the Jewish community in Gorizia. The Holocaust, however, had an especially disastrous effect on the Jewish population in Gorizia, with the majority of those who persisted in the city during the war, being driven to Nazi camps. Thenceforth, the few Jewish inhabitants of Gorizia bury their deceased in the Jewish cemetery at Gradišče ob Soči (Gradisca d'Isonzo).