

1.02 Pregledni znanstveni članek

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## O *wandelbahnu* iz Rogaške Slatine in drugih sorodnih stavbah evropskih termalnih zdravilišč

### IZVLEČEK

Leta 1982 so v zdravilišču Rogaška Slatina podrli t. i. wandelbahn oziroma pokrito sprehajališče iz srede 19. stoletja. Tovrstne stavbe so v Evropi poznane pod različnimi imeni, kot so wandelbahn, wandelhalle, kolonade, trinkhalle, elisenhalle, galerie in ponekod tudi dom zdrojowy in kursalon. Nastajale so tudi v drugih poselitvenih in gospodarskih okoljih, toda nikjer drugje niso razvile toliko raznolikih oblik in namembnosti kot prav v evropskih termalnih zdraviliščih, saj je zdraviliško vodstvo z njimi skrbelo za ugodje, zabavo in preživljanje prostega časa svojih gostov. Evropske wandelbahne ter njim po zasnovi in namembnosti sorodne stavbe so bogatile raznovrstne redne in občasne dejavnosti, v vojnem času pa so ponekod postale zasilne vojaške bolnišnice. V današnji čas se je od dobrih sto evidentiranih ohranilo vsaj 70 pokritih sprehajališč.

### KLJUČNE BESEDE

wandelbahn, wandelhalle, kolonada, colonnade, trinkhalle, elisenhalle, galerie, dom zdrojowy, kursalon, Rogaška Slatina, zdravilišča, klasicizem, historični slogi, preživljanje prostega časa

### ABSTRACT

#### REFLECTIONS ON THE WANDELBAHN OF ROGAŠKA SLATINA AND OTHER SIMILAR BUILDINGS FEATURED BY THERMAL SPAS IN EUROPE

In 1982, the health spa Rogaška Slatina demolished its so-called wandelbahn or the covered promenade dating to the mid-nineteenth century. These kinds of buildings are known across Europe under different names, such as wandelbahn, wandelhalle, kolonade, trinkhalle, elisenhalle, galerie, and at some places as dom zdrojowy and kursalon. Even though similar facilities were also constructed in other urban and economic centres, they have never developed as many diverse forms and designated functions as in European thermal spas, whose management boards made sure they generated an atmosphere of comfort, entertainment and leisure for their guests. European wandelbahns as well as buildings designed and used for a similar purpose enriched various regular and occasional activities, whereas during the war, some of them were converted into provisional military hospitals. At least seventy of over one hundred registered covered promenades have been preserved to present day.

### KEY WORDS

wandelbahn, wandelhalle, kolonada, colonnade, trinkhalle, elisenhalle, galerie, dom zdrojowy, kursalon, Rogaška Slatina, health spas, Classicism, historical styles, leisure

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## S U M M A R Y

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### Reflections on the *wandelbahn* of Rogaška Slatina and other similar buildings featured by thermal spas in Europe

*Wandelbahns* or, rather, covered promenades as well as buildings, designed and used for a similar purpose, have since the first half of the nineteenth century constituted an important spatial and programming component of European thermal spas. They primarily formed part of older spas and were characteristically multi-functional and hence promi-

nent health and tourism facilities of spa resorts. They hosted many kinds of regular and occasional activities, ranging from social life to trading and hospitality activities, as well as organising chess tournaments, political and social gatherings, private banquets, flea markets, used toy fairs, children's and sport equipment fairs, etc. In wartime, however, some of these facilities were converted into provisional military hospitals. Even though a number of different names are used for these buildings, an overview of their designated uses shows that they nevertheless share many key characteristics in common. Health spas and buildings described in this contribution may therefore provide a basis for new research challenges in the field of ethnology, since according to a general survey of previous studies, the festive and daily life of thermal spas has to date been largely neglected and all their characteristic manifestations inadequately demonstrated.

The daily and festive life in thermal spas has changed and continuously improved over the last two centuries. In many places, the wide array of activities and especially the annual calendar cycle of events surpassed the local frameworks. Some thermal spas are ranked among the most prominent cultural and political centres both in Europe and globally. The magnificent halls of their spa buildings or the expansive spaces of modernly equipped *wandelbahns*, *wandelhalls*, *trinkhalls* and other buildings, designed and used for a similar purpose, host important events that attract guests from around the world. Especially noteworthy in this regard are Austrian Bad Ischl and Bad Hall, Belgian Spa and Oostende, Czech Janske Lázně, Karlove Vary, Mariánské Lázně and Teplice, Italian Merano, German Bad Elster and Bad Ems, Bad Harsburg, Bad Homburg, Bad Kissingen, Bad Oeynhausien, Bad Steben, Bad Wildungen and Baden Baden, Polish Kudowa-Zdrój, Polanica Zdrój, Szczawno-Zdrój and Świeradów-Zdrój. Mention should also be made of Croatian Lipik, where the military conflict of 1991 left hardly any remnants of the *wandelbahn* left; Croatia, however, has committed to undertake a complete reconstruction of the promenade and introduce it to the public with the typical Austro-Hungarian appearance of the thermal spa resort. Rogaška Slatina, on the other hand, has made no such commitments. To the contrary, on 30 April 1982, the city decided to demolish its *wandelbahn* or *vadlpan*, as the locals called it, and fill the area with tall and huge buildings of reinforced concrete. In doing so, Slovenia lost one of its most outstanding cultural monuments. Some bitter solace may at least be found in the fact that at about the same time the Austrians demolished their own *wandelbahn* in the luxurious thermal resort Bad Gastein, which now showcases a huge building constructed of reinforced concrete and adorned with four transparent cupolas.