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Skromen mož velikih dejanj: Janez Hausenbichler

IZVLEČEK

Namen članka je osvetliti življenje in delo Janeza Hausenbichlerja, »očeta savinjskega hmeljarstva« (1838–1896). Po končanem šolanju se je vrnil v Žalec, kjer se je najprej posvetil medicinarstvu. Z ženo sta kmalu odprla gostilno, ki je postala zbirališče slovenskih narodnjakov. Bil je med organizatorji drugega slovenskega tabora v Žalcu, pospeševalec hmeljarstva ter pobudnik ustanovitve čitalnice, požarne brambe, denarnega zavoda Savinjska posojilnica in številnih drugih društev. Zavzemal se je za gradnjo savinjske železnice, več let je bil tudi župan takratne trške občine Žalec. Njegovo narodno zavest dokazuje tudi dejstvo, da je na začetku svojega županovanja v trgu Žalec uvedel slovensko uradovanje.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

Janez Hausenbichler, Žalec, narodno prebujanje, taborsko gibanje, hmeljarstvo, društva

ABSTRACT

A MODEST MAN OF GREAT DEEDS: JANEZ HAUSENBICHLER

The aim of the article is to shed light on the life and work of Janez Hausenbichler, the "father of hop-growing in the Savinja Valley" (1838–1896). After completing his education, Hausenbichler returned to Žalec, where he first dedicated himself to mead-making. Soon afterwards, he opened a tavern with his wife, which became the gathering place of Slovenian patriots. Hausenbichler co-organised the second Slovenian mass meeting in Žalec, promoted hop-growing as well as founded a reading club, fire defence, the Savinja Savings Bank, and many other clubs and societies. He endeavoured for the construction of the Savinja railway line, and was a long-standing mayor of what was then the market town of Žalec. His national awareness is also attested by the fact that he started his office as mayor by introducing Slovenian as the official language in Žalec.

KEY WORDS

Janez Hausenbichler, Žalec, national awakening, national mass meetings movement, hop-growing, societies

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S U M M A R Y

A modest man of great deeds: Janez Hausenbichler

The father of hop-growing in the Savinja Valley, Janez Hausenbichler, attended elementary school (*Volksschule*) in Žalec and completed two years of what was then the main school in Celje. He received instruction in mead-making and continued with training abroad for four years. After the death of his father, he returned home, where he administered an estate and opened a mead-making trade. He married Eliza Zmrzlikar from Celje, with whom he also opened a tavern, the reputation of which soon extended beyond the boundaries of their native valley. The tavern became a gathering place of patriots from across the Slovenian territory. Hausenbichler organised the second Slovenian mass meeting in Žalec (6 September 1868). It was at his house that the minutes were drawn up and signatures for the “mass meet-

ing proclamation” collected. One year later, the first reading club in the Savinja Valley was put into operation in his tavern, which he himself supplied with Slovenian newspapers. In addition, Hausenbichler helped establish a number of different societies. He founded a local orphanage at Graben in 1876 and a fire defence in Žalec in 1880, serving as its long-standing commander. He learned about hop-growing through Jožef Bilger, the steward of the Novo Celje mansion and planted the first hops. In 1880, he was one of the founders of the hops association and two years later, he published the booklet *Navod o hmeljariji* [*A Hop-Growing Manual*], in which he invited local farmers to follow his lead, saying: “Grab a shovel and plant hops...” Hausenbichler is justifiably dubbed the father of Savinja’s hop-growing. He encouraged the modernisation of livestock production, especially horse-breeding, and established the Horse Racing Society Žalec, which organised annual races. He planted willow trees along the Savinja River to provide a boost to willow tree growing and willow work as an additional source of income for farmers. And finally, he founded a tamboura club, which he provided with tambouras, and personally learned to play the instrument as well.

On Hausenbichler’s initiative, patriots from Žalec established the National Monetary Institute of the Savinja Savings Bank in 1881 to contribute to a greater prosperity in the Savinja Valley. Hausenbichler also made sure that the Savinja Railway, which was built in 1891, now runs right beside the Žalec square. For more than thirty years, he served as a councillor in the then market town municipality of Žalec as well as its mayor and vice-president of the Celje district administration. As a token of respect, several municipalities in the Savinja Valley proclaimed him their honourable member. Hausenbichler’s productive life was cut short by a sudden illness. Since he was an avid hiker, especially to Mrzlica, the Hausenbichler Cottage was built there in 1899 in his memory.

The father of Savinja hop-growing, as Janez Hausenbichler is often dubbed today, was a man who loved Slovenian soil and language. By organising the second Slovenian mass meeting in Žalec (1868), founding organisations, societies and clubs, as well as by encouraging hop-growing, he led to the watershed period in Žalec, whose aftermath is still visible today, with Žalec becoming the centre of the Lower Savinja Valley and Slovenian hop-growing centre.