



Spodnja Savinjska dolina – dežela grofov Celjskih, zelenega zlata in neukročene Savinje

Revijo *Kronika* je med njenim »potepanjem« po Sloveniji pot tokrat zanesla v Spodnjo Savinjsko dolino. Območje, ki je bilo predmet raziskovanja, obsega šest občin: Braslovče, Polzela, Prebold, Tabor, Vransko in Žalec. Omenjeni prostor so med drugim zaznamovali bogata zgodovina, hmeljarstvo pa tudi številne poplave, ki jih je »zakrivila« reka Savinja. Neukročena reka je v preteklosti nemalokrat povzročila milijonsko škodo, analiza poplave iz leta 1954 pa velja celo za začetek celovitejšega preučevanja naravnih nesreč na Slovenskem.

Kljub temu je Spodnja Savinjska dolina prijetna za bivanje. Njene prednosti in ugodnosti so poznali in cenili še stari Rimljani. Tu je uspevalo kar nekaj njihovih naselbin, med katerimi je bila najpomembnejša seveda znamenita Celeia, medtem ko je širše območje doline predstavljalo njeno podeželsko zaledje. O rimski prisotnosti na tem območju pričajo številni in bogati arheološki ostanki, in to ne le tisti najbolj poznani iz Šempetra, temveč tudi iz drugih okoliških najdišč. Katera so ta najdišča in kaj vse lahko razberemo iz dvatisočletnih ostankov, je v svojem prispevku predstavila Julijana Visočnik.

Ko govorimo o zgodovini Spodnje Savinjske doline oz. Posavinja na sploh, nedvomno najprej pomislimo na razvpite celjske grofe in njihove gradove. Prav v Spodnji Savinjski dolini, na gradu Žovnek nedaleč od Braslovč, se je začela ena najbolj vznemirljivih poznosrednjeveških zgodob, ki ni zaznamovala le slovenskega prostora, ampak je vplivala na širšo srednjeevropsko zgodovino. Zgodba, ki je že doživela številne literarne odmeve, bi si nekoč zaslužila tudi filmsko upodobitev. Tokrat je iz zgodovine celjske dinastije v ospredje stopil grad Ojstrica, eden prvih gradov, ki so jih Celjski imeli še v času, ko so se imenovali gospodje Žovneški. V zvezi s tem nam Igor Sapač ponuja vpogled v zanimivo podobo in usodo ojstriškega gradu, ki ga zgodovina povezuje predvsem s tragično smrtjo Veronike Deseniške. Grad je sicer propadel že kmalu po koncu srednjega veka in ga je nato zamenjal danes tudi že izginuli dvorec Ojstrica pod grajskim hribom, a stavba kljub temu še vedno zbuja zanimanje in buri domišljijo domačinov in vseh, ki jih zanima zgodovina Celjskih.

Zgodovine Spodnje Savinjske doline pa niso krojili le grofje Celjski, temveč tudi druge plemiške družine. Med njimi so nedvomno med pomembnejše sodili grofje Schrattenbach, ki so kot novoveški graščaki na Ojstrici leta 1635 »zakuhali« enega največjih

kmečkih puntov na Slovenskem. Poleg njih je Boris Golec v svojem prispevku v ospredje postavil Valvasorje, družino, ki je sicer sodila med kranjsko plemstvo, a so v Spodnji Savinjski dolini svoje zatočišče našli tisti njeni člani, ki se niso prilagodili družbenim oz. stanovskim zahtevam. Če je polihistor Janez Vajkard Valvasor svoje odpadniške sorodnike izbrisal z rodovnega debla, jim je Boris Golec na njem znova našel mesto.

Od 19. stoletja dalje je Spodnjo Savinjsko dolino zaznamovalo predvsem hmeljarstvo. Eden tistih, ki so bili najbolj zaslužni za uveljavitev te gospodarske panoge, je bil Janez Hausenbichler iz Žalca, ki velja za »očeta savinjskega hmeljarstva«. Hausenbichler, ki je bil kljub nemškemu priimku zaveden Slovenec, je bil tudi eden od organizatorjev žalskega tabora leta 1868. Tudi po njegovi zaslugi se je Žalec od druge polovice 19. stoletja vse bolj uveljavljal kot slovensko središče nasproti bolj nemško usmerjenemu Celju.

S hmeljarstvom se podrobno ukvarja tudi skupni članek Božene Hostnik in Vita Hazlerja, ki osvetljuje problematiko izginjanja stavbne dediščine, povezane s hmeljarstvom.

20. stoletje so zaznamovale velike družbene in politične prelomnice, ki so bile posledice zlasti obeh svetovnih vojn. Tudi Spodnja Savinjska dolina se jim ni ognila. Pestro dogajanje na Celjskem in v Preboldu v tem času je osvetlil Uroš Herman. Družbenopolitično podobo spodnjega Posavinja po drugi svetovni vojni pa sta predstavila tudi Hana Habjan in Damir Žerič: prva skozi spor pri preimenovanju šole v Grižah leta 1969 in drugi skozi usodo Tekstilne tovarne Šempeter, ki je sicer delovala le slabih 30 let, a je na svojem vrhuncu predstavljala enega izmed stebrov tekstilne industrije na Celjskem.

Vse to in še več (npr. spominsko gradivo Polzelanke Olge Repnik, vizitacije goriškega nadškofa Attemsa v 18. stoletju, najstarejša uradovalna besedila v slovenščini, življenje zgodovinarja Gregorja Čremošnika iz Ločice pri Polzeli in že omenjeno problematiko poplav v Spodnji Savinjski dolini) ponuja tokratna tematska številka *Kronike*. To je seveda le izbor tem, ki so jih ob tej priložnosti prispevali raziskovalci. Druge, tokrat prezrte teme bodo počakale na kakšno drugo priložnost – Spodnja Savinjska dolina jih ponuja v izobilju.

Miba Preinfalk
odgovorni urednik *Kronike*



Lower Savinja Valley – the land of the Counts of Celje, the green gold and the untamed Savinja River

This time around, *Kronika's* »wanderings« through Slovenia brought us to the Lower Savinja Valley. The area subject to our examination encompasses six municipalities: Braslovče, Polzela, Prebold, Tabor, Vransko, and Žalec. The region is marked by rich history, hop-growing as well as frequent flooding of the Savinja River. In the past, the untamed river used to cause enormous damage, and the analysis of the flood of 1954 marked the beginning of comprehensive investigations into natural disasters in Slovenia.

Nevertheless, the Lower Savinja Valley is an attractive place to live. Its advantages and benefits were already known to the ancient Romans, who established a number of thriving settlements here, with the most important one being, of course, Celeia and the wider area of the valley representing its rural hinterland. Testifying to the Roman presence in the region are numerous and richly adorned archaeological remnants – not only the most famous ones from Šempeter but also those that have been discovered at other nearby excavation sites. What these excavation sites are and what the two millennia old remnants convey is presented in the contribution by Julijana Visočnik.

The first thing that comes to mind when talking about the history of the Lower Savinja Valley or the Savinja Valley in general is the notorious Counts of Celje and their castles. It was in the Lower Savinja Valley or, more accurately, in the Žovnek Castle standing a stone's throw away from Braslovče, where one of the most turbulent late medieval episodes took place and left its mark not only on the Slovenian territory but on the wider Central European history as well. The story has found its way into many literary works and it would certainly deserve a film adaptation. In the current issue of *Kronika*, the centre stage in the history of the Celje dynasty is taken by the Ojstrica Castle, one of the first castles that the Counts of Celje owned still at a time when they were known by the name the Lords of Žovnek. In his article, Igor Sapač sheds light on the striking appearance and destiny of the Ojstrica Castle, which has historically been mainly associated with the tragic death of Veronica of Desence. Soon after the end of the Middle Ages, the castle ended up in ruins and was replaced by the likewise long-gone Ojstrica Mansion at the base of the castle hill. Nevertheless, the castle building still continues to rouse curiosity and imagination among the local inhabitants as well as anyone with a vested interest in the history of the Counts of Celje.

The history of the Lower Savinja Valley, however, was also made by other noble families. The most important among them were undoubtedly the Counts Schrattenbach, the early modern castellans of Ojstrica, who in 1635 »sparked« one of the biggest peasant uprisings in the territory of present-day Slovenia. Beside

them, Boris Golec also centres his contribution on the Valvasors, a family that was part of Carniolan nobility, but whose members, especially those unfit to meet the requirements of their social status, found their sanctuary in the Lower Savinja Valley. Therefore, after polymath Johann Weikhard Valvasor removed his disgraceful relatives from the family tree, Boris Golec has put them back in their rightful place.

Since the nineteenth century, the Lower Savinja Valley has above all been marked by hop-growing. One of the most deserving persons for establishing this industry in the region was Janez Hausenbichler from Žalec, who is considered the »father of hop-growing in the Savinja Valley«. Hausenbichler, a nationally conscious Slovene, was among the organisers of the mass meeting in Žalec, which took place in 1868. And finally, it was also to his merit that from the second half of the nineteenth century onwards, Žalec became increasingly recognised as the Slovenian centre vis-à-vis the more German-leaning Celje.

Hop-growing is also at the focus of the article co-authored by Božena Hostnik and Vito Hazler, which highlights the problem of the disappearing architectural heritage associated with hop-growing.

The twentieth century saw significant social changes and political watersheds, which were primarily the consequence of both world wars and the effects of which were also felt in the Lower Savinja Valley. Uroš Herman shed the light on the turbulent developments in the Celje area and Prebold during that period. Another description of the socio-political situation of the Lower Savinja Valley after the Second World War was provided by Hana Habjan and Damir Žerič: the former through a dispute over renaming the school in the settlement of Griže in 1969 and the latter through the fate of the textile factory Tekstilna tovarna Šempeter, which operated for less than thirty years, but at the peak of its success represented one of the pillars of the textile industry in the Celje area.

These and many other topics (e.g. the memorial materials of Olga Repnik from Polzela, the visitations of Gorizian Archbishop Attems in the eighteenth century, the oldest official texts in the Slovenian language, the life of historian Gregor Čremošnik from Ločica pri Polzeli, and the above mentioned problem of floods in the Lower Savinja Valley) are featured in the current thematic issue of *Kronika*. This, of course, is only a selection of themes that the researchers have contributed on this particular occasion. Themes that have been left out from this issue will have to wait for some other occasion – the Lower Savinja Valley surely has them in abundance.

*Miha Preinfalk,
Managing Editor of Kronika*