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Nagrobni spomenik Simonu Gregorčiču

IZVLEČEK

3. decembra 1906 so v Gorici ustanovili odbor za spomenik Simonu Gregorčiču in postavili spominsko ploščo na pesnikovi rojstni hiši. Nabiranje prispevkov so ovirala strankarska nasprotovanja, saj odbora Narodno napredna stranka na Goriškem ni priznavala, ker ni imela v njem dovolj močnega zastopstva. Mnogi so raje kot za (nagrobni) spomenik darovali za Šolski dom v Gorici. Spomenik, ki je prislonežen na zunanji zid prezbiterija cerkve sv. Lovrenca pod Libušnjem, in spominsko ploščo na Gregorčičevi rojstni hiši na Vrsnem je izdelal kipar Anton Bitežnik (1869–1949) iz Gorice. Odkrili so ju 6. septembra 1908. Klerikalno-liberalni spor glede Gregorčičevega spomina se je nadaljeval tudi po odkritju. Leta 1920 sta bila medaljona na spomeniku nadomeščena z novima z verzi iz Gregorčičeve pesmi »Naša zvezda«.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

spomeniki, Simon Gregorčič, Anton Bitežnik, Andrej Gaberšček, Ivan Kokošar, katoliško-liberalni razkol, časnika Soča in Gorica, Vrsno

ABSTRACT

HEADSTONE TO SIMON GREGORČIČ

The committee for the headstone to Simon Gregorčič and the memorial plaque on the poet's birth house was set up on 3 December 1906 in Gorizia. The fundraising was hindered by objections voiced by the Gorizian branch of the National Progressive Party, which did not recognise the committee on account of its under-representation in the body. Many preferred to donate funds for the School Home in Gorizia than the headstone. The headstone, set against the external wall of the presbytery of the St. Lawrence Church at Libušnje, and the memorial plaque mounted on Gregorčič's birth house at Vrsno, were made by sculptor Anton Bitežnik (1869–1949) from Gorizia and unveiled on 6 September 1908. The clericalist-liberal rift over how the memory of Gregorčič should be preserved continued even after the unveiling. In 1920, the medallions on the headstone were replaced with new ones featuring the lines from Gregorčič's poem *Naša zvezda* [Our Star].

KEY WORDS

monuments, Simon Gregorčič, Anton Bitežnik, Andrej Gaberšček, Ivan Kokošar, Catholic-liberal rift, newspapers Soča and Gorica, Vrsno



Nagrobni spomenik Simonu Gregorčiču ob cerkvi sv. Lovrenca pod Libušnjem (Zbirka upodobitev znanih Slovencev, NUK).

navdušil gozdarja Črnigoja iz Kobarida, ki je zbral denar. Osnutke za medaljona je izdelal slikar in ilustrator Maksim Gaspari. Verze Gregorčičeve »Naša zvezda« je v bron vrezal Černe v Ljubljani. »Prav tihotapsko, z osebnim tveganjem in nevarnostjo, hkrati pa z veliko spretnostjo in veseljem je Črnigoj v trdi noči sam pritrčil na spomenik ti v domačem jeziku glaseči se plaketi.«⁷¹ Levo: Pridi zvezda / naša pridi / jasne v nas / upri oči. Desno: Naj moj dom te / zopet vidi / zlata zvezda / srečnih dni / 1920.

Med prvo svetovno vojno so italijanski vojaki sneli spominsko ploščo na Gregorčičevi rojstni hiši in jo uskladiščili. Po umiku italijanske vojske (1917) so jo hoteli domači fantje spraviti k fari na Libušnje, vendar jim je po nesreči padla s sani in se razbila. Razbito ploščo so ponovno vzdali po prezidavi hiše po vojni.⁷²

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Slovenec, 1906–1908.
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S U M M A R Y

Headstone to Simon Gregorčič

Poet and priest Simon Gregorčič died on 24 November 1906 in Gorizia/Gorica. The Slovenes bid their farewell to the popular poet with two-day mourning and funeral ceremonies. Gregorčič was buried at the St. Lawrence Church at Libušnje. The central committee for Gregorčič's headstone and memorial plaque on his birth house was set up on 3 December 1906 in Gorizia/Gorica. That same day, Ljubljana's Mayor Ivan Hribar convened a similar

⁷¹ *Jutro*, XXIV/240, 19. 10. 1944, str. 3.

⁷² Marušič in Komac, *Vrsno in Simon Gregorčič*, str. 18.

meeting in the city council; however, it was already at the first session that the local liberals decided to dissolve the committee, maintaining that the endeavours to erect the headstone in Gorizia should be dominated by the Gorizian committee.

The latter had a Catholic majority and no local representative of the National Progressive Party. Andrej Gaberšček (1864–1938), the editor of the newspaper *Soča* and a co-founder of the Gorizian branch of the National Progressive Party, opined that the committee would use the funds raised across Slovenia to erect a reasonable headstone and memorial plaque in consideration of local conditions, while the remainder would be invested in the School Home, which was built by all Gorizian Slovenes and usurped by clericalists after their rift with the liberals.

Fundraising was a time-consuming task. The collection of contributions was hindered by objections voiced by the Gorizian branch of the National Progressive Party. The better part of funds was raised through festivities dedicated to Gregorčič and one part was collected by the emigrants to the USA and Alexandria.

In October 1907, six drafts of Gregorčič headstone were exhibited in Gorizia's reading club. The first award was won by a young sculptor Svetoslav

M. Peruzzi (1881–1936) and the construction of the headstone was awarded to a local sculptor Anton Bitežnik (1869–1949), who carved out a relief with a motif from Gregorčič's poem *Mornar* [*The Mariner*] and the poet's portrait. The headstone is set against the external wall of the presbytery of the St. Lawrence Church at Libušnje. Bitežnik also made the memorial plaque mounted on Gregorčič's birth house in Vrsno. The headstone and the memorial plaque were unveiled on Sunday, 6 September 1908.

The rift between the clericalists and liberals over how the memory of Gregorčič should be preserved also continued after the unveiling. The newspaper *Primorec* and *Soča* stated that the festivities featured Italian choral singers from Gorizia headed by parish priest and member of the central committee Ivan Kokošar (1860–1923), which the both above-mentioned committee and Kokošar denied.

In 1920, the medallions on Gregorčič's headstone were replaced with new ones, featuring the lines from Gregorčič's poem *Naša zvezda* [*Our Star*]. During World War I, Italian soldiers dismantled the memorial plaque on Gregorčič's birth house and put it away. The plaque was mounted again during the post-war rebuilding of the house.