

1.02 Pregledni znanstveni članek

UDK 304.3(497.471)"1850/1900"

Prejeto: 21. 5. 2018

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Pivški človek v Vilharjevem času

Oris življenja na Zgornji Pivki v drugi polovici 19. stoletja

IZVLEČEK

Pivka je pokrajina s kraškimi značilnostmi. Ker reka Pivka presiha, je ljudje niso mogli uporabiti kot vodne sile. Rodovitno kraško prst je bilo zaradi obilice kamenja težko obdelovati. Dolge in ostre zime so narekovala prehrano, težke življenjske razmere pa sezonsko izseljevanje na zimsko delo. S kamenjem posejane travnike so Pivčani s pridom izkoriščali za gojenje drobnice. Pozen začetek šolstva so Pivčani do konca stoletja nadoknadili, vzporedno z razmahom šolstva pa se je razvijalo kulturno življenje. Požari so narekovali ustanavljanje gasilskih društev. Strah so Pivčanu druge polovice 19. stoletja prinašali udari strel in potresi, medsebojna pomoč pa se je kazala ob boleznih in drugih nesrečah.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

Pivka, 19. stoletje, Miroslav Vilhar, presihajoče vode, vsakdanje življenje, socialni položaj

ABSTRACT

THE PEOPLE OF PIVKA IN VILHAR'S DAYS AN OUTLINE OF LIFE IN UPPER PIVKA IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Pivka is an area with karst features. Being a losing stream, the Pivka River could not be used as a power source. Fertile karst soil was difficult to cultivate due to the excessive presence of rocks. Long and harsh winters determined the local diet and dire living conditions dictated seasonal migrations to find work in winter. Rocky meadows were put to good use with small stock breeding. By the end of the century, the inhabitants of Pivka made up for the late introduction of education, developing the local cultural life in parallel with the educational boom. Fires necessitated the raising of fire companies. Lightning strikes and earthquakes terrified the inhabitants of Pivka during the second half of the nineteenth century and mutual assistance manifested at times of disease and other misfortunes.

KEY WORDS

Pivka, nineteenth century, Miroslav Vilhar, losing watercourses, everyday life, social situation

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S U M M A R Y

The people of Pivka in Vilhar's days An outline of life in Upper Pivka in the second half of the nineteenth century

The Pivka Basin – simply called Pivka by its inhabitants – is part of Slovenian Karst region. In the second half of the nineteenth century, its hills were bare; what was left of the trees was cut down and sold by the locals to at least somewhat improve their financial situation. Being a losing stream, the Pivka River could not be used as a source to power major (saw)mills. Agricultural production was mostly subsistence-oriented, too, as fertile karst soil was densely dotted with rocks. The locals' main activity was breeding small stock, which they drove to the warmer nearby Istria during winter. Their diet was potato-based and subsequently expanded to include corn and beans, as well as some grains and cabbage. Two other important crops were flax and hemp, which were used to make clothing alongside sheep's wool.

Even though the inhabitants of Pivka also tried to improve their social situation with seasonal migrations each winter to find work in Croatian woods (these migrants were called *brvatarji*), poverty would occasionally manifest in evictions. Infants remained in their mothers' care for no more than the first six months, after which they were left in the care of their older sisters. Neighbourly assistance was already practiced among young boys who grazed the cattle together. Older boys became drivers of horse-drawn waggons, furmani. Although there was little time for school, cultural life did develop. The first cultural events coincided with the introduction of education, which in Upper Pivka developed at a very late stage, in 1842, when the first school built in Zagorje. A major contribution to the promotion of cultural life was made by Miroslav Vilhar, a poet, composer, national revivalist, and organizer of the Pivka gathering, which took place on 9 May 1869. Vilhar also inspired the subsequent emergence of reading rooms and clubs.

One major problem was natural hazards. Frequent fires compelled Pivka's inhabitants to organize fire companies. Poor hygienic conditions were the cause of cholera epidemics, with the worst outbreak recorded in 1855. Lightning strikes and earthquakes were unpredictable hazards.