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## **Ignacij Holzapfel, župnik in dekan v Ribnici, dobrotnik gluhaneme mladine**

### **Ustanovitev ljubljanske gluhanemnice in ohranjanje spomina na Ignacija Holzapfla**

#### IZVLEČEK

*Prispevek se v prvem delu osredotoča na življenje in delo ribniškega dekana Ignacija Holzapfla. Raziskava je pokazala odsotnost poglobljenih virov o tem dobrotniku gluhaneme mladine, tako da se prispevek omejuje na osnovno predstavitev njegove življenjske poti. Drugi del prispevka je namenjen ljubljanski gluhanemnici, katere ustanovitev je tesno povezana z Ignacijem Holzapflom. Ta je namreč prispeval največjo vsoto denarja za izgradnjo učno-vzgojne ustanove, ki je slovenskim gluhanemim otrokom omogočila učenje v slovenskem jeziku. Pred njeno ustanovitvijo so se namreč ti šolali v nemških zavodih daleč od doma.*

#### KLJUČNE BESEDE

*Ignacij Holzapfel, Kranjska čbelica, Slavinja, Ribnica, gluhanemnica v Ljubljani, gluhanema mladina*

#### ABSTRACT

**IGNACIJ HOLZAPFEL, PARISH PRIEST AND DEAN OF RIBNICA, BENEFACTOR  
OF DEAF AND MUTE YOUTH  
FOUNDING OF LJUBLJANA'S DEAF-MUTE INSTITUTE AND PRESERVING  
THE MEMORY OF IGNACIJ HOLZAPFEL**

*In the first part, the article describes the life and work of the dean of Ribnica, Ignacij Holzapfel. Given the absence of detailed sources on the benefactor of deaf and mute youth that was revealed during research, the article limits itself to drawing a basic outline of his life. The second part focuses on the deaf-mute institute in Ljubljana, the founding of which was closely linked to Holzapfel. In other words, he contributed the biggest amount of funds towards the construction of the above-mentioned educational institution, which provided Slovenian deaf and mute youth with the possibility to learn in the Slovenian language. Prior to its establishment, deaf and mute youth received education in German institutions far away from home.*

#### KEY WORDS

*Ignacij Holzapfel, Kranjska čbelica, Slavinja, Ribnica, deaf-mute institute in Ljubljana, deaf and mute youth*

ŽUR – Župnijski urad Ribnica  
 Gluhonemnica Holzapfel, l. 1940, t. e. 16.  
 Tage-Buch od leta 1868, Kronika župnije Ribnica 1866–1917.

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## S U M M A R Y

**Ignacij Holzapfel, parish priest and dean of Ribnica, benefactor of deaf and mute youth. Founding of Ljubljana's deaf-mute institute and preserving the memory of Ignacij Holzapfel**

The article focuses on the life and work of the dean of Ribnica, Ignacij Holzapfel, who was originally from Tržič and whose occupation as a priest also led him to Ribnica. Holzapfel assumed the posts of dean and consistory counsel as well as district school supervisor in the revolutionary year of 1848, which left no direct impact on Ribnica. The consequences of the revolutionary period only became apparent years later. In the second half of the nineteenth century, the awakening national awareness gave rise to a lively social life. The national reading club in Ribnica obtained its first certified regulations in 1870. It maintained the people's library and a public reading room, as well as organised theatre performances, dances, and masquerades.

One lasting monument to Holzapfel in Ribnica is the magnificent church, for the construction of which he devotedly collected funds all of his life. Holzapfel also raised contributions for the deaf-mute institute in Ljubljana, another lasting monument to his name. In his last will and testament, he left his entire property for the construction of what was to become the institute for deaf and mute youth from Carniola, which had theretofore received edu-

cation in German institutes and thus alienated itself from the Slovenian language and home. Although he was not the sole donor, Holzapfel's contribution was undoubtedly the biggest and most crucial as it actually enabled the construction of the above-mentioned institution. By doing so, Holzapfel also provided many future generations of deaf and mute youth with education, vocational training as well as a chance of leading an independent life.

Last but not least, Ignacij Holzapfel was a poet and writer. He was a contemporary of France Prešeren, the central poet of Kranjska čbelica [The Carniolan Bee], the first almanac of poetry in the Slovenian language. In its first issue, the almanac also featured a few of Holzapfel poems. Although Prešeren found his poems as »sour as crab apples«, Holzapfel made a noteworthy literary name for himself. He was devoted to the Slovenian language and his native soil.