



*... therefore, you must love this city,  
no matter how much of the world you have seen.<sup>1</sup>*  
**Tržič and its historical highlights in a new guise**

Tržič is one of many Slovenian places that could celebrate their rich and long history by publishing a local miscellany to accompany one of their numerous anniversaries. However, the reason for producing the current issue of *Kronika* on Tržič was not a jubilee, but the awareness that the town and its past require new research. Over eight decades have passed since the industrious parish priest Viktor Kragl compiled and published his *Zgodovinski drobci župnije Tržič* (Highlights from the History of Tržič), a treasure trove of information and a go-to source for every researcher studying the history of the town. Nonetheless, many new discoveries that have been made on Tržič's past to present day were inaccessible or unknown to Kragl. The last few years have witnessed the publication of a fair number of volumes and articles elucidating new aspects of the history of Tržič. Given that the review *Kronika* primarily promotes new research and knowledge on local environments, the editorial board decided to make the special thematic issue on Tržič a new addition to its colourful research mosaic.

The response to the editorial invitation for collaboration in the thematic issue of *Kronika* was remarkable, only further confirming that much new can be said about the history of Tržič. We have received the contributions from more than thirty authors, all recognised and well-established authorities in their fields, including a few natives of Tržič. Even though *Kronika* is essentially a historical review, its thematic issues are pronouncedly interdisciplinary. Apart from historical contributions, the current thematic issue therefore also features articles on art history, linguistics, ethnology, architecture, geography, archaeology, museology, and musicology. The result is an extraordinarily voluminous publication containing over thirty contributions shedding new (or first-ever) light on some aspects of the history of this Upper Carniolan town.

One of the topics bringing new knowledge about Tržič's history is undoubtedly its elevation into a market town at the end of the fifteenth century and the related conclusion that at that time Tržič used a coat

of arms that was quite different from the one used today (*Boris Golec*). An elaborate presentation is also given for the first time of the complex establishment of medieval seignories in the Tržič area (*Matjaž Bizjak*), coupled with a detailed architectural-historical depiction of the Gutenberg and Glanz (Novi Gutenberg) castles (*Igor Sapač*). As one contribution reveals, Tržič can boast the oldest civil registers in Upper Carniola that were kept even before this became an obligatory practice (*Tone Krampač*). The honorary townsmen of Tržič from the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth centuries are brought into the limelight again after long decades, with their proclamations as honorary townsmen being surrounded by many fortunes and misfortunes characteristic of that time (*Luka Cerar*). Art history is addressed in detail in two comprehensive contributions presenting the art historical heritage of church associations (*Ana Lavrič*) and modern fine art in Tržič and its wider surroundings (*Andreja Rakovec*).

The contributions cover the periods from antiquity to present day. Even though it is impossible to confirm the existence of a settlement of what is now Tržič in antiquity, the Roman presence and veneration of local deities are incontestable (*Julijana Visočnik*). The medieval period is, among other things, discussed in the geographical-historical contribution on the origins of Tržič and the famous rockfall, which the local folk tradition has credited to the dragon, but in reality it can be linked to the devastating "Villach earthquake" of 1348 (*Matija Zorn and Irena Mrak*). The Early Modern Period is represented by the contribution on the Upper Carniolan archdeacon Johann Andreas von Flachenfeld who made two visitations to the parish of Tržič at the beginning of the eighteenth century and transmitted his findings to the Patriarch of Aquileia (*Jure Volčjak*).

Of course, it is impossible to write about Tržič without mentioning its famous and highly diverse crafts. One contribution brings a thorough and detailed insight into the most important craft industries in Tržič (*Bojan Knific*), and another primarily focuses on the blacksmiths from Tržič and their products,

<sup>1</sup> Tone Pretnar: Pogled na Tržič (oktava št. 17). *V sotočju Bistrice in Mošenika. Tržič v 100 slikah in 100 oktavah*. Radovljica: Didakta, 1992.

some of which are now kept at the National Museum of Slovenia (*Gašper Oitzl*). Crafts and agriculture are also discussed in the contribution illuminating the everyday life in Tržič and its surroundings at the end of the eighteenth and in the early nineteenth centuries (*Alenka Kačičnik Gabrič*). What is more, the current issue of *Kronika* also features a contribution on the Tržič forest property and ironworks at the end of the nineteenth century as well as their relations with the famous Carniolan Industrial Company (*Marko Mugerli*).

The interwar period in Tržič was characterised above all by aspirations for regulated health conditions and an increased concern for hygiene, which ultimately led to the establishment of the healthcare centre (*Dunja Dobaja*), and the 1920s were marked by the mayoralty of Ivan Lončar, during which Tržič was elevated to a town in 1926 (*Nejc Perko*). In the same period circulated the *Cerkveni glasnik za tržiško župnijo* (Tržič Parish Bulletin), in which Karel Pirc analysed the particularities of the Tržič local speech (*Jožica Škofič*).

Tržič during the Second World War is discussed in the light of its inhabitants being forcibly mobilised into the Wehrmacht and continuing to fight the hardships of fate even after the war (*Monika Kokač Kočevar*). The Third Reich was known for its effective propaganda, which also rested on war heroes. One of them was the tank ace Hugo Primožič, who also had his roots in Tržič and in 1943 delighted the local inhabitants with his visit to the birth town of his ancestors (*Pavel Car*). The major strategic importance of the Tržič area is highlighted in the contribution revealing the Ljubelj mountain pass as the last German military base in Upper Carniola during the Second World War (*Klemen Kocjančič*).

The predominantly historical topics are further complemented by two geographical contributions, with the first one focusing on the flooding of the Tržič Bistrica River (*Matija Zorn, Irena Mrak, Matjaž Guček, Mauro Hrvatín, and Matevž Novak*)

and the second one discussing avalanches in Tržič (*Manca Volk Bahun and Matija Zorn*). Avalanches and mountainous world also form part of mountaineering around Tržič, one of the oldest and best organised activities of this kind in Slovenia (*Peter Mikša and Maja Vebar*).

Moreover, the current issue of *Kronika* also features a few contributions focusing on famous figures that either originated in Tržič or worked in the town and co-created its history. The authors present the parish priest Viktor Kragl and his turbulent life (*Boštjan Guček*), Anton Gross, who worked as a missionary in the United States of America (*Bogdan Kolar*), Amalija Šimec as the trailblazer of Slovenian social medicine (*Katarina Keber*), the military chaplain and founder of the school at Sv. Ana, Franc Čarman (*Miba Šimac*), the prolific yet never completely understood composer of church music, Ignacij Hladnik (*Aleš Nagode*), the naturalised inhabitant of Tržič, Bohuslav Lavička, and his valuable pharmaceutical collection (*Breda Škerjanc Kosirnik*), the Barons Born and the destiny of their property during and after the Second World War (*Renata Komič Marn*), and finally, the famous castellologist Ivan Stopar, who is now rarely associated with Tržič, even though this is where he grew up and obtained his first life experiences (*Igor Sapač*)... We also remembered the worldly and industrious teacher Marija Petek, who passed away this spring (*Sabina Šolar*).

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Managing Editor of Kronika*