

1.01 Izvirni znanstveni članek

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## Od srčastega ščita do srčastih kamnov

**Prispevek k poznavanju šoštanjskega grba**

### IZVLEČEK

*Na osnovi starih pečatov, prapora in opisov grba trga/mesta Šoštanj je sestavljen prikaz spreminjanja šoštanjskega grba od zgodnjega 17. stoletja do danes, s poudarkom na pojavu »srčelike« oblike kamnov in na spreminjanju barvne sheme. Na novo najdena upodobitev šoštanjskega grba je 130 let starejša od najstarejše do sedaj poznane.*

### KLJUČNE BESEDE

*Šoštanj, grb, kamni, srca, orel, trg*

### ABSTRACT

*FROM A HEART-SHAPED ESCUTCHEON TO HEART-SHAPED STONES – A CONTRIBUTION TO UNDERSTANDING THE COAT OF ARMS OF THE TOWN ŠOŠTANJ*

*Based on old seals, banner, and descriptions of the coat of arms of the town Šoštanj, the article describes the changes that the Šoštanj coat of arms has undergone from the early seventeenth century to the present day, with an emphasis on the emergence of heart-shaped stones and the changing colour scheme. The newly discovered depiction of the Šoštanj coat of arms is 130 years older than its hitherto known counterpart.*

### KEY WORDS

*Šoštanj, coat of arms, stones, hearts, eagle, market town*




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## S U M M A R Y

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### **From a heart-shaped escutcheon to heart-shaped stones – a contribution to understanding the coat of arms of the town Šoštanj**

The »discovery« of two seals of the market town Šoštanj in the Collection of Signet-Rings in the Provincial Archives in Graz, along with the imprints of the market-town seal from 1626 in the Historical Archives in Celje and the market-town banner from 1791 in Joanneum Museum in Graz provided the basis for an examination of all historical depictions of the coat of arms and the town Šoštanj, respectively. As it has turned out, the current municipal coat of arms is not based on the drawing from 1756, which was presumably the oldest known depiction of the Šoštanj coat of arms. The document from 1756 features a seal that the painter Ludwig Kobel used as the starting point for his interpretation of the Šoštanj coat of arms, and his drawing was used as the basis for the municipal coat of arms on the establishment of the Municipality of Šoštanj. The latest discovery of a seal dated 1626, however, leads to the conclusion that the Šoštanj coat of arms is, in fact, at least 130 years older. And if one also considers Božo Otorepec's observation that the signet-ring

bearing only three stones is even older than the seal from 1626, one may place its origin to the beginning of the seventeenth or even to the sixteenth century. The »beautiful stones« which, according to the principle of the so-called talking coat of arms, attest to the name of the place (Germ.: schöne Steine = Šoštanj), are depicted in the seals in organic, rounded shapes. Instead of stones, the heraldry books by Widimsky (1864) and Siebmacher (1885) feature hearts or »heart-shaped stones« as part of the coat of arms, while Schmutz (1822) and Kaiser (1830) still drew globular or spherical stones. Also featured in a newspaper presentation of Šoštanj (1931) and in Hribernik's historical description of the town, the anachronistic »heart-shaped stones« made their way to the municipal Decision on the Coat of Arms through Kobel's drawings. It was still in the period between 1907 and 1912 that the office paper used by the administration of the market town Šoštanj featured the elements from the market-town banner: a laurel wreath enclosing three spherical stones at the foot of a slope and a black-headed eagle with a sceptre and a sword. The market-town banner is perhaps indicative of the primary colour scheme of the heraldic elements: it features white or silver stones (»natural colours«) on a red background, whereas the current coat of arms features red stones on a silver background. On the internet, it is also possible to encounter more recent drawings of the Šoštanj coat of arms which do not take account of all stipulations contained in the municipal decision on the coat of arms.