



Urban Jarnik

SLOWENISCHES VOLKSKUNDEINSTITUT

SLOVENSKI NARODOPIJNI INŠTITUT

THE URBAN JARNIK SLOVENE ETHNOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE

Martina Piko-Rustia, Uši Sereinig

www.ethno.at

Establishment of the Urban Jarnik Slovene Ethnographic Institute and the Urban Jarnik Ethnographic Society

1980s – start of the systematic collecting documentary materials at the Christian Cultural Association (KKZ – Krščanska kulturna zveza)

1983 – establishment of the department of ethnography within the Christian Cultural Association

1992 – establishment of the Urban Jarnik Slovene Ethnographic Institute as special organizational unit within the Christian Cultural Association

1994 – establishment of the Urban Jarnik Ethnographic Society as legal sponsor of the Urban Jarnik Slovene Ethnographic Institute

Key Figures in the Institute's History

Urban Jarnik (1784–1844)

poet, linguist, ethnographer, historian and priest

The Slovene Ethnographic Institute and Society „Urban Jarnik“ are named after him.

Dr. Pavle Zablatic (1912–1993)

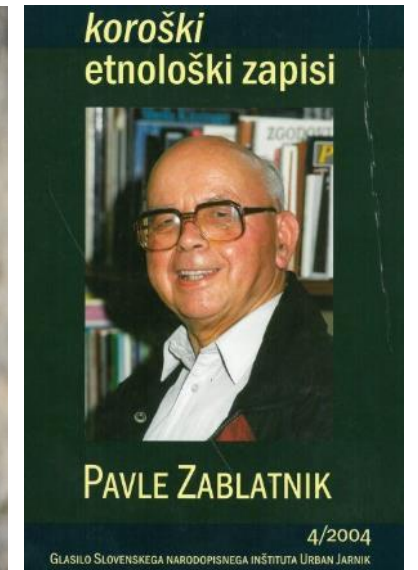
ethnographer, cultural worker, teacher and priest

Dr. Pavle Zablatic was the first academic leader of the Urban Jarnik Slovene Ethnographic Institute.

Nužej Tolmaier (1942–2025)

general secretary of the Christian Cultural Association (1965–2004), chairman of the Urban Jarnik Ethnographic Society (2004–2025)

Nužej Tolmaier was the main force behind ongoing ethnographic research within the Christian Cultural Association and the Urban Jarnik Institute.



The Institute Today: Team and Leadership

Martina Piko-Rustia, researcher, academic manager

Uši Sereinig, researcher

Irena Slavkov, cartographer

Florian Jordan, researcher

Ana Smrtnik-Einspieler, researcher

Milka Olip, secretary



Our Goals and Objectives

- Collection and documentation of the social, intangible and material culture of the Carinthian Slovenes
- Investigations into the past and present way of life of the Carinthian Slovenes



MATERIAL CULTURAL
HERITAGE

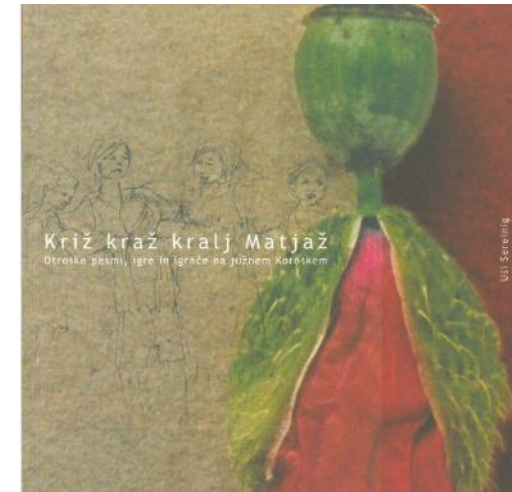
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL
HERITAGE

Focuses of Activity

1. Field research and documentation
2. Sorting and archiving materials recorded on tape and in photographs, and artifacts
3. Inventorying and restoration of cultural artifacts (Ethnographic museum Drabosnjakov dom)
4. Sorting and publishing legacies
5. Audio-visual documentation of Carinthian dialects and the Carinthian cultural heritage
6. Publication of the results of research activities
7. Presentation of research activities to specialist and wider audiences
8. Cooperation with scientific and cultural institutions in Austria and Slovenia, and with organizations of the Slovenian minorities in Italy, Hungary and Croatia

Topics of the Field Research and Documentation

- Recording **life stories**
- Investigating **social, economic and political life**
- Researching **architectural heritage** and residential culture
- Researching **folk costumes** and textile culture
- Researching and documenting **craftmanship**
- Documenting **Carinthian dialects**
- Recording **folk songs, stories and sayings**
- Researching **dance culture**
- Documenting **settlement, field and house names**
- Researching **customs**
- Documenting **children's games**
- Documenting **gravestone inscriptions**
- Researching **folk medicine and healing culture**
- Researching **ethnic identity of Carinthian Slovenes**



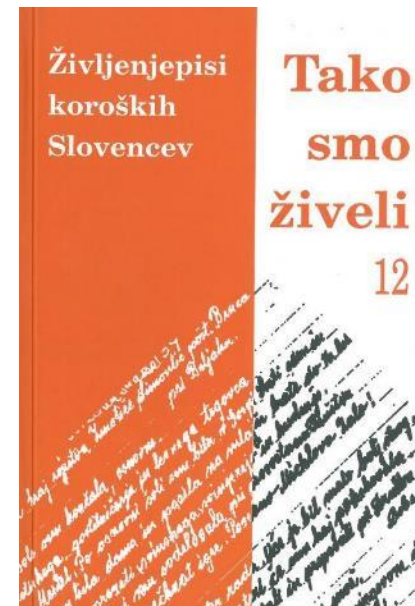
ORAL HISTORY AND LIFE STORIES

Tako smo živel – Življenjepisi koroških Slovencev

(This is how we lived – Life stories of Carinthian Slovenes)

The book series (1993–2004) *Tako smo živel – Življenjepisi koroških Slovencev* contains around 150 biographies of Carinthian Slovenes, representing an important source for contemporary history.

The Christian Cultural Association and the Urban Jarnik Institute also keep 28 documentary films featuring the life stories of Carinthian Slovenes.



INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

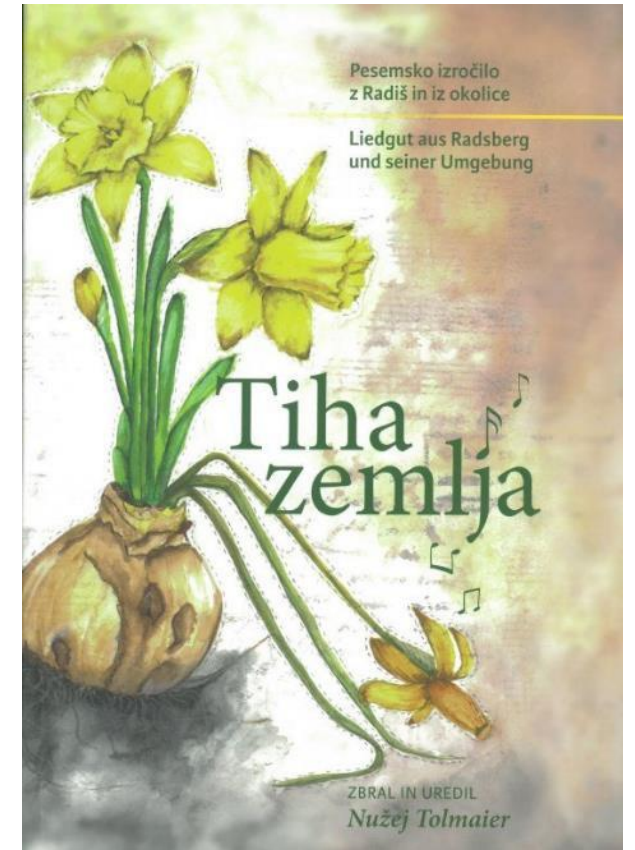
FOLK SONGS

A key focus of the institute's work is the documentation of Carinthian folk songs.

In 2017, the collection and editing of [songs from Radsberg/Radiše](#) and its surroundings (near Klagenfurt/Celovec), compiled by Nužej Tolmaier, was published.

The collection includes previously unpublished songs from archival holdings, songs from older published collections, and songs that Nužej Tolmaier recorded from the residents of Radsberg/Radiše.

Three CDs were released as a supplement to the book, featuring recordings of some of the collected songs in acoustic form.



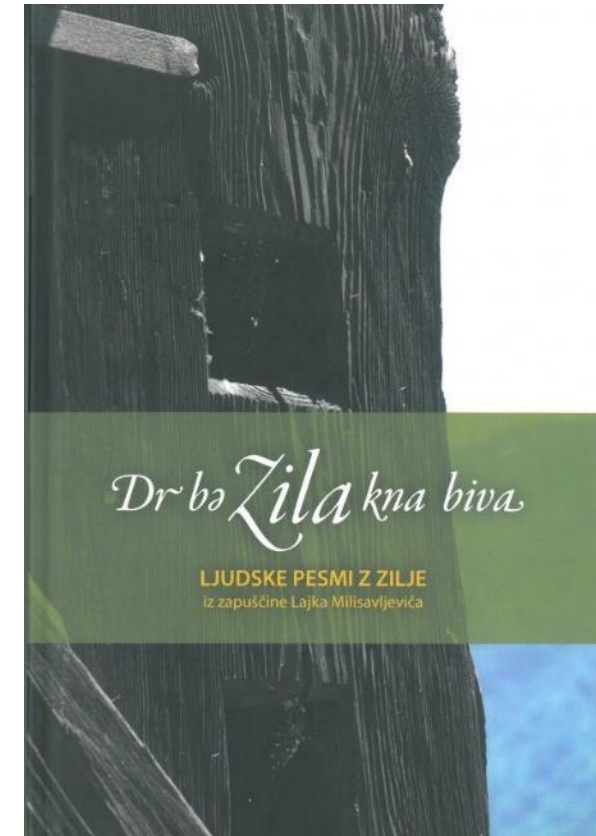
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

FOLK SONGS

The Urban Jarnik Institute is editing the traditional songs preserved in the legacy of Lajko Milisavljevič.

The extensive song collection *Dr bə Zila kna biva: ljudske pesmi z Zilje iz zapuščine Lajka Milisavljeviča* with folk songs from the Gail Valley (Gailtal/Zilja) was published in 2014. It attests to the rich singing and language culture of this valley.

The legacy of Lajko Milisavljevič also contains around 300 unpublished songs from the Rosental/Rož Valley and around 400 songs from the Jauntal/Podjuna Valley.



INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

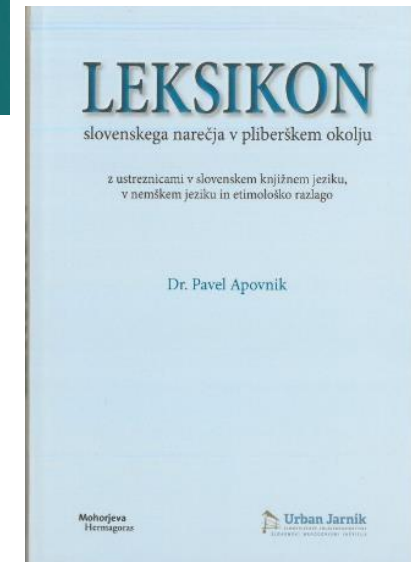
DOCUMENTING CARINTHIAN DIALECTS

The Urban Jarnik Institute is particularly dedicated to documenting Slovenian dialects and dialect vocabulary.

A Rosental/Rož dialect dictionary *Marnvam po domače* from the legacy of Father Bertrand Kotnik was edited, expanded and prepared for publication by Franc Kattnig in 2017.

Pavel Apovnik has prepared a comprehensive documentation of Slovenian dialect words from the Jauntal/Podjuna Valley (in the vicinity of Bleiburg/Pliberk) for publication. His *Leksikon* comprises approximately 4,600 dialect words with equivalents in standard Slovenian and German, including etymological explanations.

In 2009, a manuscript containing *Gailtal/Zilja dialect words* was discovered in the archives of the Republic of Slovenia. Milka Kriegl is currently preparing a dictionary of the Gailtal/Zilja dialect with around 2,000 words.



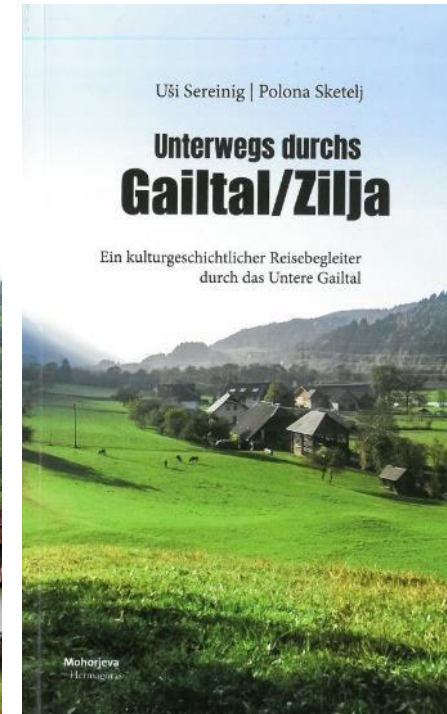
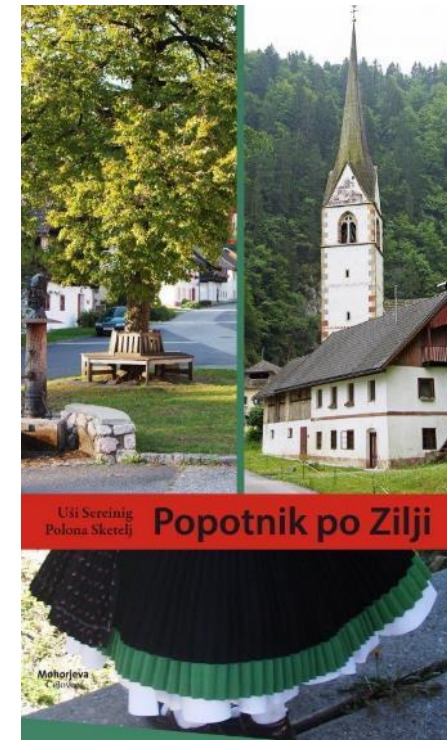
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

DIGITIZING THE GAILTAL/ZILJA DIALECT

In 2023, a [cross-border EU project](#) was approved, with Hermagoras Klagenfurt/Mohorjeva Celovec as the project coordinator. Part of the project involves digitizing the Gailtal/Zilja Slovenian dialect, which is spoken in the Gailtal/Zilja Valley in Carinthia/Kärnten/Koroška, the Canal Valley/Kanaltal/Kanalska dolina in Italy, and in Rateče (Ratschach) in Slovenia.

The aim is to create a [speech-to-text generator](#) for the Gailtal/Zilja dialect, which requires the manual transcription of approximately 100 hours of audio recordings using specialized software.

The goal of this project is to preserve the Gailtal/Zilja dialect through digital processing.



SLOVENIAN FIELD AND HOUSE NAMES IN CARINTHIA (KÄRNTEN/KOROŠKA) INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE AUSTRIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

SLOWENISCHE FLUR- UND HOFNAMEN IN KÄRNTEN

SLOVENIAN FIELD AND HOUSE NAMES IN CARINTHIA

Oral traditions in Carinthia, inscribed 2010

In 2010, Slovene field and house names in Carinthia (Kärnten) were included in the [Austrian National Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage](#). The application for the inscription of Slovenian field and house names in Carinthia was submitted by representatives of Slovene cultural associations and the interest group of farmers in Zell/Sele – initiatives that create maps documenting local field and house names.

Since the Austrian ratification of the Convention in 2009, the Austrian Commission for UNESCO has been responsible for implementing the Convention and drawing up a National Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Austria. Applications for inclusion in the Austrian Inventory can be submitted by communities, groups, and, in some cases, individuals who preserve and transmit intangible cultural heritage.



Österreichische UNESCO-Kommission
Immaterielles Kulturerbe/Nationales Verzeichnis

Slowenische Flur- und Hofnamen
in Kärnten
anerkannt 2010



**Immaterielles
Kulturerbe
in Österreich**

Slowenische Flur- und Hofnamen in
Kärnten | aufgenommen in das Nationale
Verzeichnis 2010

SLOVENIAN FIELD AND HOUSE NAMES IN CARINTHIA (KÄRNTEN/KOROŠKA) INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE AUSTRIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

SLOVENIAN FIELD AND HOUSE NAMES IN CARINTHIA

Many individuals, communities, associations, institutions, and researchers in Carinthia document the traditional Slovenian field and house names. They also try to consolidate their [use in everyday life](#). For this purpose, maps and hiking maps featuring the names of the locations in their dialect form as well as in standard Slovenian have been created in the past years.

Slovenian-language field and house names represent an [important source](#) for understanding the economic, social, and linguistic developments in the bilingual area of Carinthia.

They also attest to the deep-rooted presence of the Slovenian language and culture in Carinthia.



SLOVENIAN FIELD AND HOUSE NAMES IN CARINTHIA (KÄRNTEN/KOROŠKA) INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE AUSTRIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

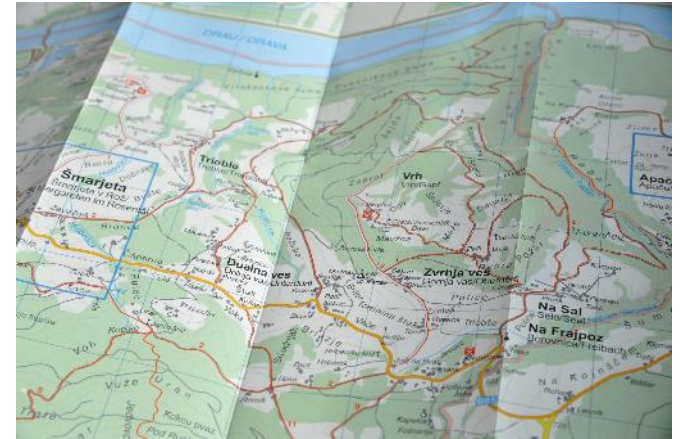
MAPS FEATURING SLOVENIAN FIELD AND HOUSE NAMES IN CARINTHIA

The first two maps featuring Slovenian field and house names in Carinthia were published in 2008. They formed the basis for the inclusion of the element “Slovenian field and house names in Carinthia” in the Austrian National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Austrian Commission for UNESCO in 2010.

In cooperation with the Urban Jarnik Slovene Ethnographic Institute and the two central cultural associations of Carinthian Slovenes (Slovenska prosvetna zveza and Krščanska kulturna zveza) – voluntary (cultural) associations, individuals, and interest groups (such as farmers’ associations and Slovenian municipal lists) collect and record local geographical names, which have mainly been transmitted orally.

So far, **eleven maps** have been published for eight municipalities in the Rosental/Rož valley and the Sattnitz/Gure mountain range, and numerous other maps for the Gailtal/Zilja, Rosental/Rož, and Jauntal/Podjuna Valleys are currently in preparation.

In 2022, the hiking map with field and farm names of the municipality of Zell/Sele became the first map to be endorsed and published by a municipality.



SLOVENIAN FIELD AND HOUSE NAMES IN CARINTHIA (KÄRNTEN/KOROŠKA) INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE AUSTRIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

EU-PROJECT FLU-LED

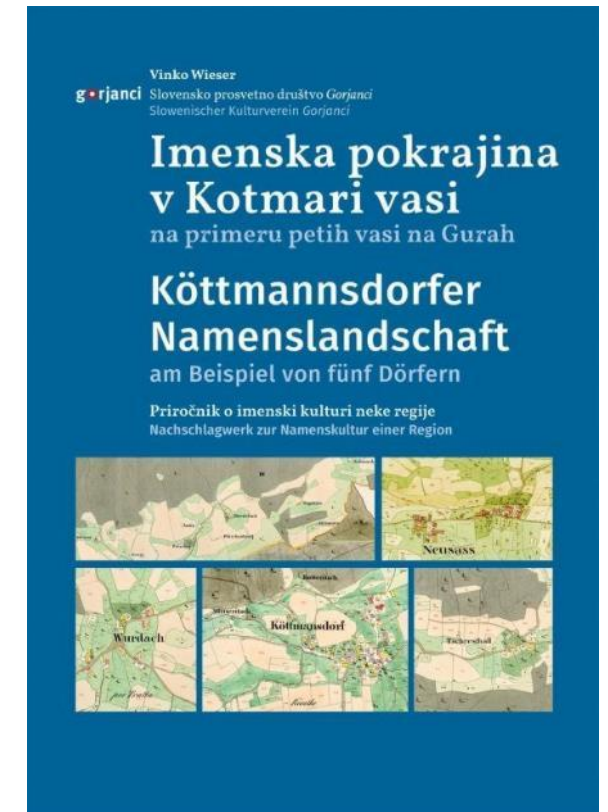
Between 2011 and 2015, the cross-border European Union project „Cultural portal of field and house names“ (Kulturni portal ledinskih in hišnih imen/Kulturportal der Flur- und Hausnamen, FLU-LED) was carried out. Its main aim was to document field and house names in Carinthia and in the Slovenian region of Upper Carniola (Gorenjska).

THE INTERNET PORTAL OF FIELD AND HOUSE NAMES

(see: www.flurnamen.at, www.ledinskaimena.si)

The internet portal of field and house names, together with its associated database, provides the opportunity to publish collected field and house names, as well as additional information and multimedia files, online.

They are accessible to the interested public and can be downloaded and used for private, cultural, touristic, or scientific purposes. The main principle of the portal is interactivity, which means that registered users can also upload new field and house names with additional information and multimedia files.



SLOVENIAN FIELD AND HOUSE NAMES IN CARINTHIA (KÄRNTEN/KOROŠKA) INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE AUSTRIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

THE PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL SLOVENIAN NAMES AND DENOMINATIONS AS AN IMPORTANT CULTURAL ISSUE

The inscription of Slovenian field and house names in the UNESCO Austrian National Inventory in 2010 aroused great interest in the Carinthian and Austrian media. Until then, Slovene denominations of places in Carinthia had largely been treated as a **political issue** due to the discussion about bilingual place name signs. But when these names were included in the UNESCO Austrian Inventory and this event was broadly covered by the media, the preservation of traditional Slovene names and denominations became an important **cultural issue**.

As a result of the **positive media coverage** about the Slovene denominations of places in Carinthia as part of the UNESCO cultural heritage, people started to **develop an increasingly positive attitude** toward this special regional culture in Carinthia – particularly on the level of municipalities.



BILINGUAL ELEMENTS IN THE NATIONAL INVENTORY OF THE AUSTRIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

UNTERGAILTALER KIRCHTAGSBRÄUCHE UND UNTERGAILTALER TRACHT / ZILJSKI ŽEGEN IN ZILJSKA NOŠA

TRADITIONS OF THE UNTERGAILTALER KIRCHTAG AND TRADITIONAL COSTUMES IN THE UNTERGAILTAL

Social practices in Carinthia, inscribed 2018

The type of kermesse fair that takes place annually between May and October in numerous communities of the Lower Gail Valley is known as the Untergailtaler Kirchtag / Ziljski žegen. These fairs consist of three main elements: the tradition of going to church, the horseback game Kufenstechen / štehvanje, and the Lindentanz / prvi rej (Linden Dance); as well as **relevant autochthonous songs** and the **valley's traditional costumes (Untergailtaler Tracht / Ziljska noša)** worn by young women and men who participate actively.

This was the first bilingual element in the Austrian National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage.



Immaterielles Kulturerbe in Österreich

Untergailtaler Kirchtagsbräuche und Untergailtaler Tracht / Ziljski žegen in Ziljska noša | aufgenommen in das Nationale Verzeichnis 2018



TRADITIONAL COSTUMES FROM THE GAIL VALLEY IN THE MUSEUM IN ST. PETERSBURG

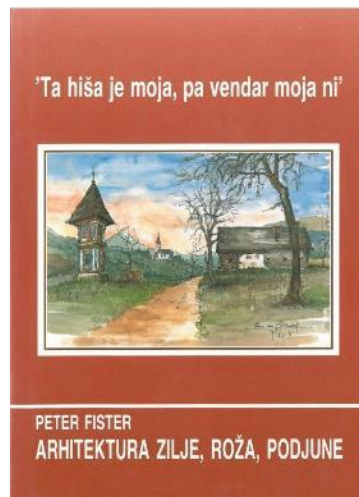
The museum in St. Petersburg houses impressive historical costumes from the Gailtal/Zilja Valley, that the priest Matija Majar Ziljski showed at the Slavic Exhibition in Moscow in 1867.

An exhibition of historical Slavic costumes, focusing on the costumes from the Gail Valley (Gailtal / Zilja), was held in Brussels in 2008.

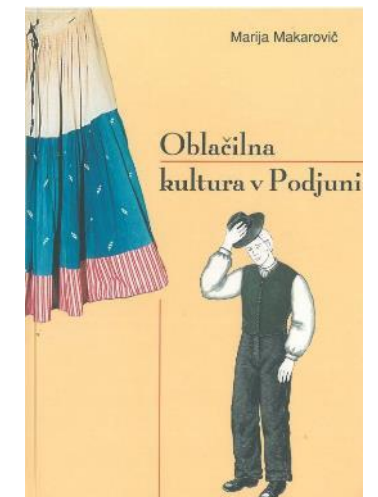


MATERIAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Researching architectural heritage and residential culture



- Researching folk costumes and textile culture



ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



ETNOLOŠKI MUZEJ DRABOSNJAKOV DOM – MUSEUM FÜR ALLTAGSGESCHICHTE DRABOSNJAKOV DOM
in Oberdorf/Gornja vas near Köstenberg/Kostanje (commune Velden on Lake Wörth, Slovenian: Vrba)

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNIAKOV DOM”

HISTORY

The building has been owned since 1975 by the local Slovenian association Slovensko prosvetno društvo Drabosnjak (Slovenian Cultural Association Drabosnjak), which is named after Andrej Šuster Drabosnjak. Originally, the building was a **farm building** that belonged to the Catholic Church. It was bought with the support of the two central Slovenian cultural associations and financial support from Slovenia.

The foundation for the museum was laid by the former chairman **Janez Lesjak**, who, beginning in the 1970s, worked to revive Slovenian cultural activities in the commune of Velden am Wörther See/Vrba. During this period, he also began collecting farm implements from the surrounding area that were no longer in use. In addition, as a mason, he was able to carry out much of the renovation work on the building himself.

Starting in 1998, a **complete renovation** took place: the roof was replaced, the upper floor was converted into a museum space, and an event room was set up downstairs in the brick section. Members of the association contributed **countless hours of voluntary work** to this project. The museum was officially **opened in 2002** with the support of experts from Slovenia and the Urban Jarnik Institute.

RESPONSIBLE PERSONS

- **Project Director:** Nužej Tolmajer (1942–2025), former leader of the Slovenian Christian Cultural Association and chairman of the Urban Jarnik Slovene Ethnographic Institute
- **Head Curator:** Vito Hazler, Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, The Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana
- **Exhibition Designer:** Architect Matjaž Deu
- **Restorer:** Milojko Kumer
- **Exhibition Texts and Concept:** Polona Sketelj (Slovene Ethnographic Museum, Ljubljana), Uši Sereinig

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”

The exhibits are divided into **three main thematic groups**, which also fitted in best with the layout of the rooms:

- **The first room displays pre-electricity farming tools and equipment:** in the fields of transport, ploughing, sowing, harvest, threshing, haymaking, food cutting, litter, and forestry.
- **The second room shows a selection of tools and some products from traditional crafts before industrialization:** wheelwrighting, blacksmithing, locksmithing, saddlery/harness making, shoemaking, roof covering, basket-making, milling, weighing, carpentry and carpentry workshops, spinning and sewing. Traditional musical instruments are also shown in this part of the exhibition.
- **The third room presents the daily life and activities in the house before it had electricity and running water:** care for clothing, traditional smoke kitchen and cooking area, bread and butter production, the family table, lighting, keeping clean and the sleeping place. Objects related to religious practice are also exhibited in this part.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”

The Ethnographic Museum is named after the Slovenian folk writer **Andrej Schuster – Drabosnjak** (1768–1825), who lived as a farmer near Köstenberg/Kostanje. Very famous is his Passion Play, which was often performed as folk theatre with many amateur actors in outdoor settings.



The Ethnographic Museum, named after Andrej Schuster – Drabosnjak.



The Passion Play in Köstenberg/Kostanje before the Second World War.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



Transport vehicles used before tractors replaced horses as the main source of traction.

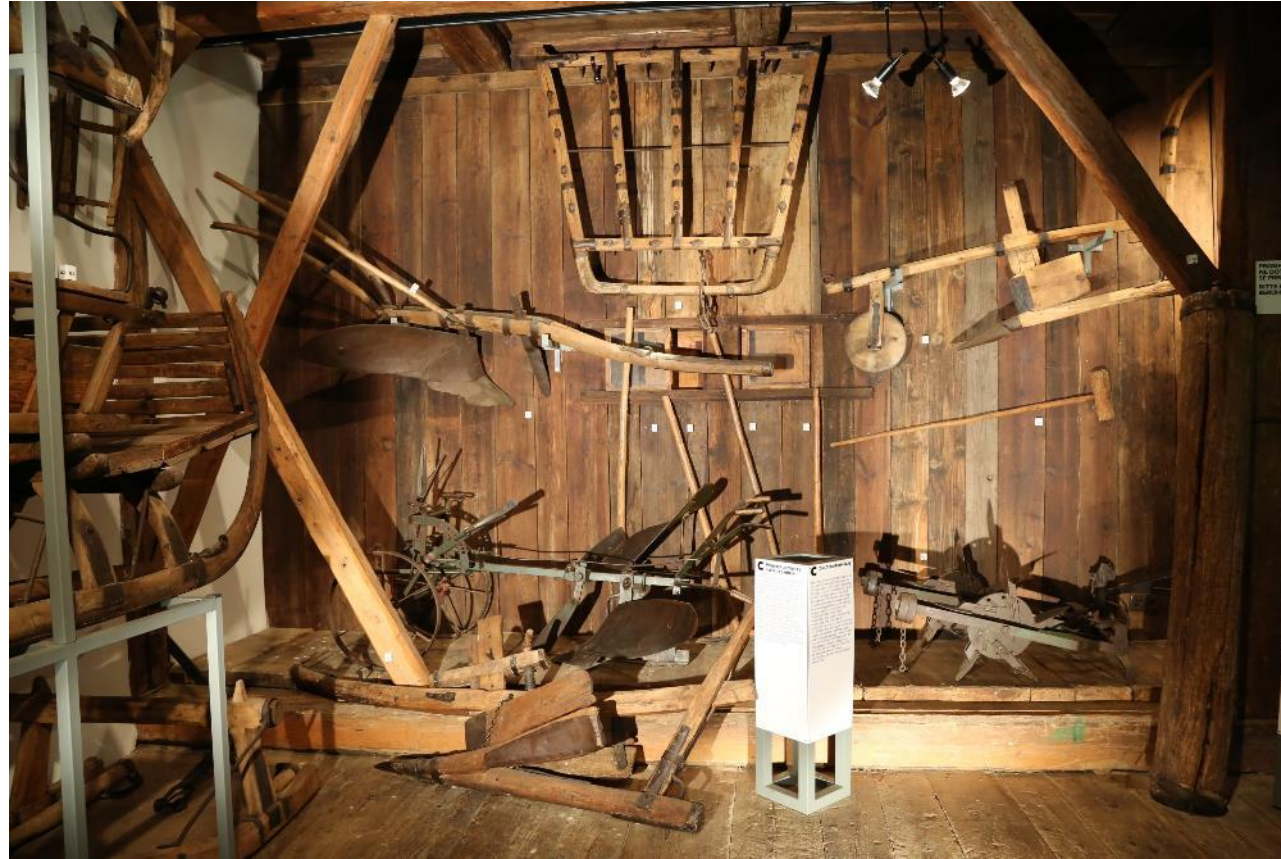


Various sleds.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



The threshing and grain-cleaning equipment; on the right is a threshing machine; above, on the ceiling, hang threshing flails.



Agricultural equipment: wooden plough, iron plough, harrow, cultivator.



Tools for haymaking.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



Ploughing with cows. Not all farmers had horses.



Mowing grass with scythes.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



Loading the hay cart.



A break in the field during the grain harvest; in the background: stacks of grain.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



Tools needed for forestry work.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



The most important trades for farmers were the blacksmiths (in the foreground) and the wheelwright or cartwright.



A closer look at the iron rings and wooden wheel.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



Saddlery products: various horse collars.

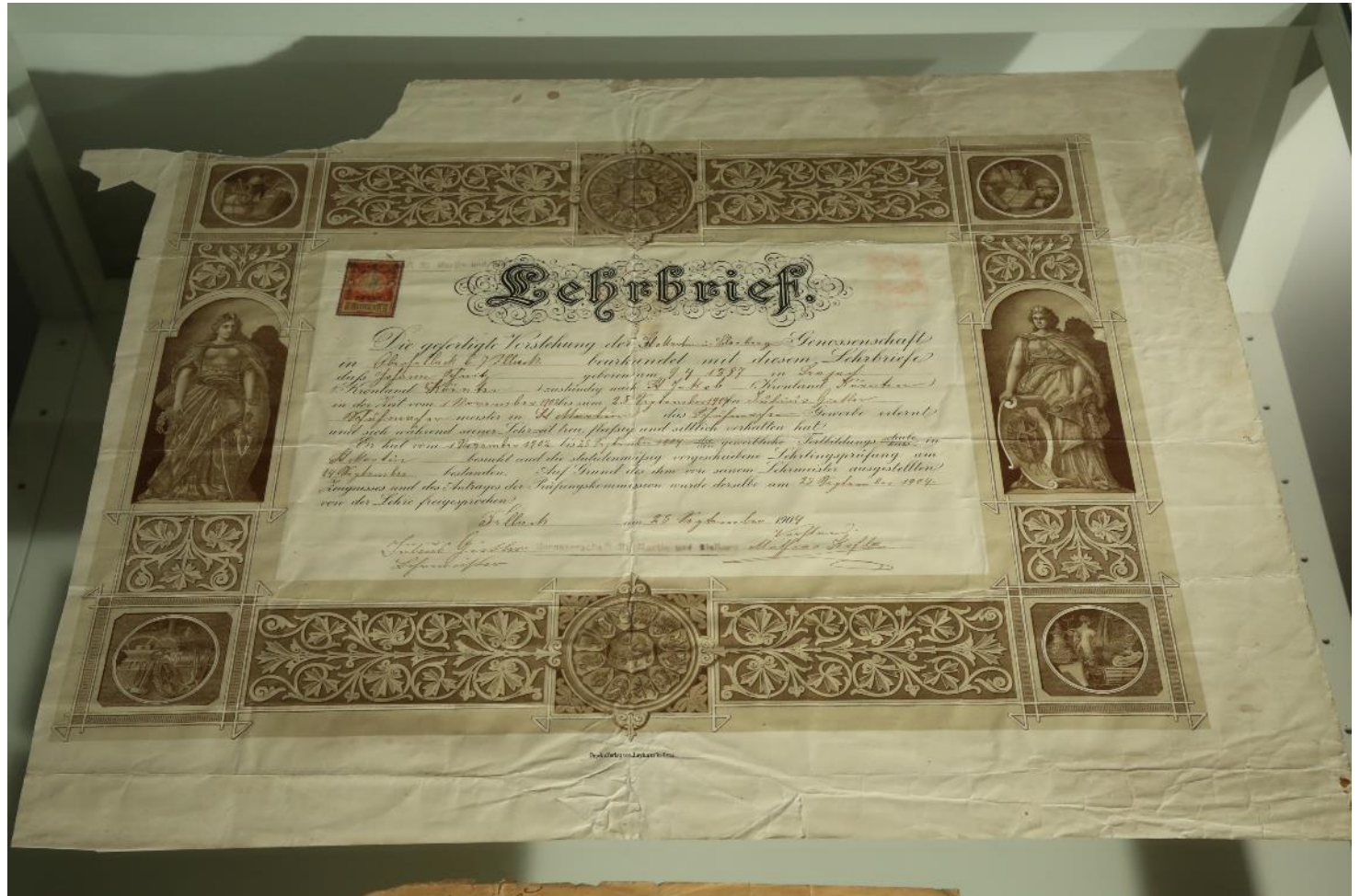


Machine for fluffing and cleaning horsehair, which was used for filling horse collars and mattresses.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



The shoemaker's tools.



A beautifully designed certificate for a shoemaker's assistant.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



The baskets were mostly bought.



Baskets made using different techniques.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



Tools used by carpenters and shingle makers.

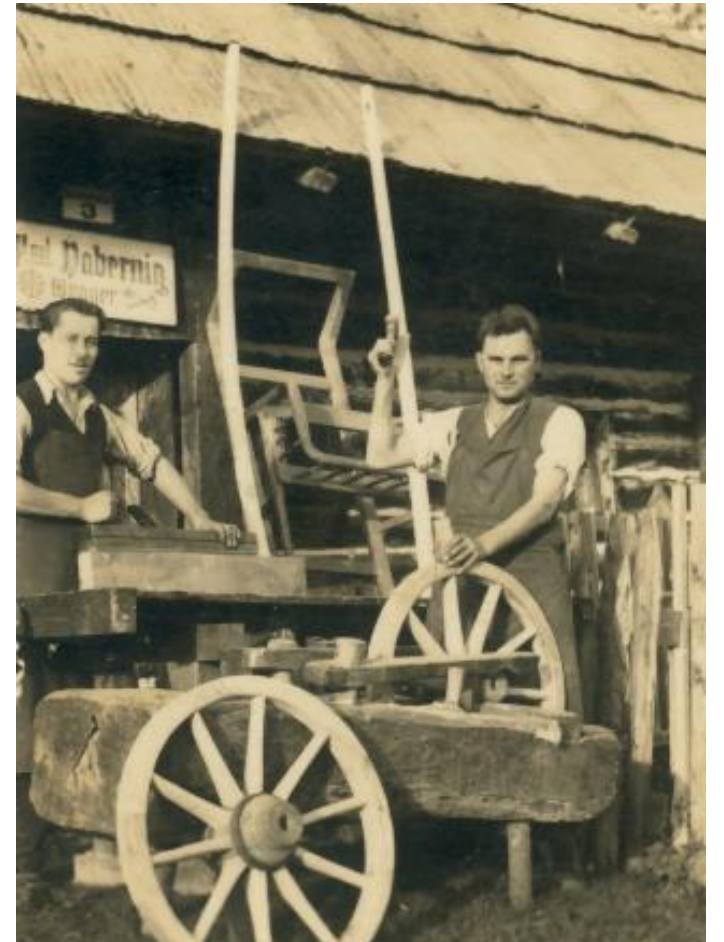


Joiner's tools.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



Blacksmith or farrier (before or after shoeing the horse).



Wheelwright in front of his workshop in Köstenberg/Kostanje.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



A travelling shoemaker; in the first half of the 20th century shoemakers usually went from house to house with their tools.



Forest workers at work – and of course, the boys helped too.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



A look into the third exhibition room.



A closer look into the third room, the right side of the room.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



Pots and utensils for cooking over an open fire or in a tiled stove. Before the Second World War, cooking typically took place in smoke kitchens, which had no chimneys.



Baking tins and utensils for baking bread and special cakes, called “šarklji” (in the tiled stove).

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



Wooden centrifuge and butter churn for making butter.



Wooden containers and earthenware pots for storing lard in the period before refrigerators. The large container was used for sauerkraut or preserving meat in saltwater before smoking.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



Washboards and different types of irons.



Sewing machines were usually owned only by tailors and seamstresses. They brought their sewing machines into people's homes, where they sewed clothes for all the family members. In the background: a spinning wheel used to produce linen and woollen yarn.



Family dressed in their Sunday best.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



Among the oldest exhibits are tools used in the process of producing linen from flax. In the first half of the 20th century, linen sheets were still partly produced at home.



This tool for removing the seed caps from flax stalks dates from 1742.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



Flax-brake (in the middle) and other objects; a winch for winding linen or wool threads (in the background).



Women and girls weeding the flax. Unlike with potatoes and maize, no tools could be used here.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



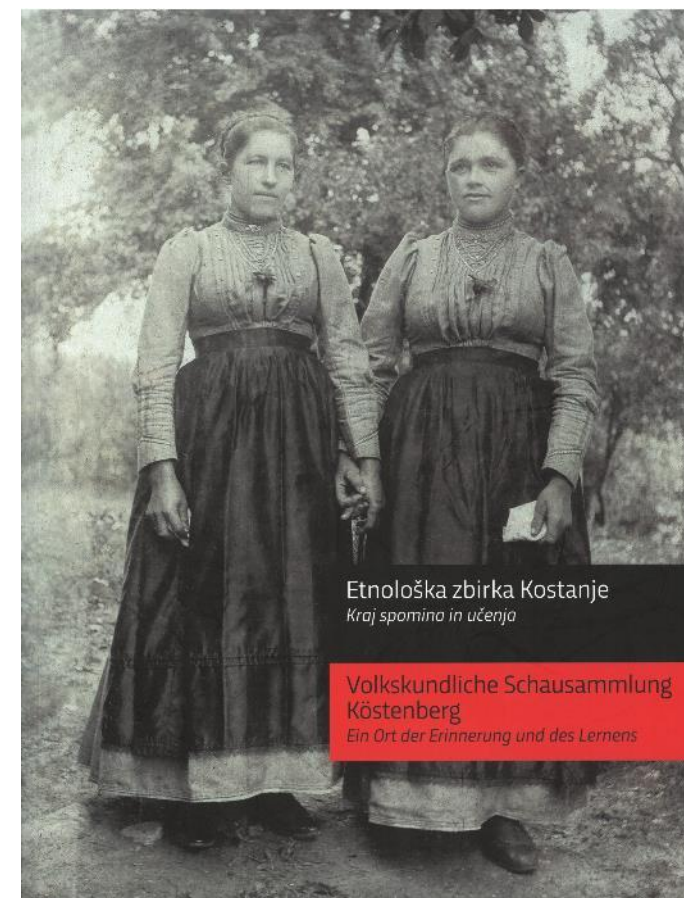
Some examples of historical lights; Kostanje was connected to the electricity grid in the mid-1950s

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM “DRABOSNJAKOV DOM”



Bilingual exhibition booklet:

- Numbers with the names of the exhibits in Slovenian and German
- Dialectal terms in Slovenian and German
- The function of the exhibits and the period during which they were used



Bilingual exhibition catalogue, 2016.

Link to the virtual museum tour:

<https://www.drabosnjak.at/language/sl/muzej/>

Thank you for your attention!



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