

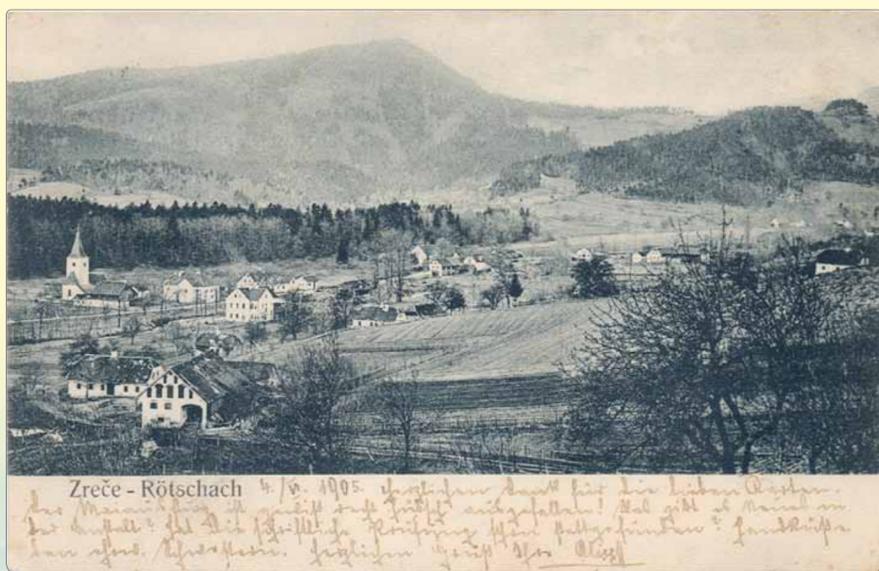


The Zreče fairy tale

Lots of people tend to compare the economic and social development of Zreče to a fairy tale or a miracle; others claim that it is only possible to find the reason for this development in the name of the town Zreče. »Nomen est omen«, a Latin proverb, means »there is a sign in the name« - »it is all in the name«. Zreče was named after the castle and the hill called Freudenberg, which in German meant a »happy hill« at the time. Of course one could swing his arms saying: these are all fairy tales; however, there is some truth in this. The exhibition shows some fragments of the prosperous development of our town.

From 1953 to 1963 the archeologist Stanko Pahič found out that people had already lived on Brinjeva gora about 3000 to 5000 years b. Ch. The Celts, the Romans and later the Slavs used to live there. The legend mentions the Salonika brothers Cyril and Methodius to have stopped in Zreče.

According to historical records there were three castles built in Zreče in the years from 1200 to 1500. The church of Saint Giles (Egidij in Slovene) was built at the beginning of the 12th century, and in the 14th century the church of Saint Martin was built. The monks of the Carthusian Order made an important impact on the economic and social life in our place. They built the monastery in Žiče around 1160 and left it in 1782.



The postcard of Zreče, the postmark dating back to 1905
(Source: The Central library in Celje)



Zreče. The view of the church and its surroundings south-west; Brinjeva gora at the back.

(Source: Stegenšek, Avguštin: The dean's office in Konjice, published by the author in Maribor in 1909)

They had the church of of Saint Giles, later the churches of Saint Agnes (sveta Neža in Slovene) and Mother of God on Brinjeva gora hill and the church of Saint Martin constructed.

The Zreče »miracle« really began with the opening of the mine in the area and the construction of the railway to Konjice in 1892 and later to Zreče.

Luckily the engineer Milko Bremec, who was employed at the shipyard in Pula at the time, came to Zreče in 1919. At the Kračun mill he started the first forge, which later grew into the present factory Unior. For the needs of the blacksmith-grinders the factory of artificial abrasives Comet was founded in 1958 in Zreče. Today the SwatyComet is one of the leading European manufacturers of high quality artificial abrasives.

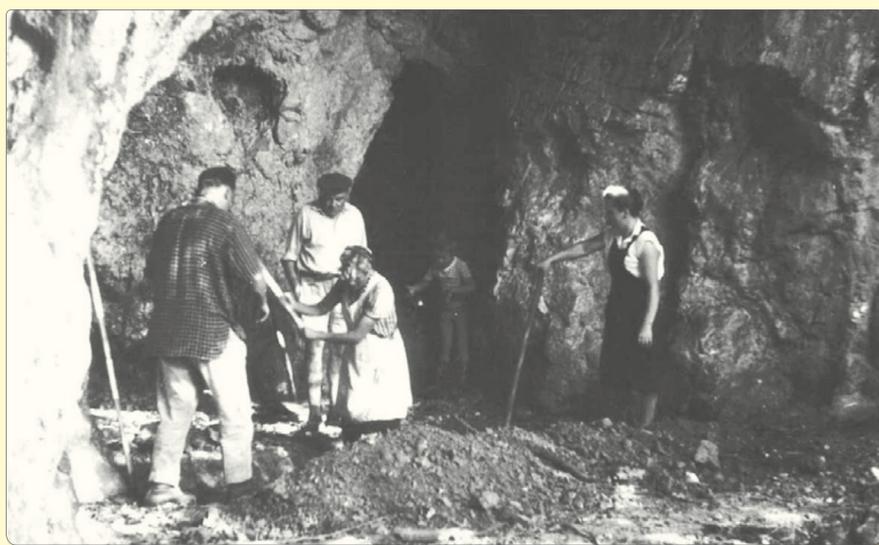
The local authority grew according to social and economic development of the town. In 1849, at the time of Austrian Empire, Zreče became Municipality and remained as such even in the former Yugoslavia. After world war II Zreče and its neighbouring Municipalities were united in the mutual Slovenske Konjice Municipality. Finally, in 1995 Zreče became an independent Municipality.





Once upon a time – archaeological findings in the Zreče Municipality

Archaeological excavations in the region of Zreče, carried out by the archaeologist Stanko Pahič from the Provincial museum in Maribor in the years from 1953 to 1963, provide the proof that the first traces of settling in this region date back to the time of the Bronze Age (from 4000 to 2300 b. Ch.). Below Brinjeva gora hill and in Zreče various stone tools were found. In the early Iron Age (3rd century b. Ch.) The Celts used to inhabit Brinjeva gora.



Excavation of the sound in front of the Pavlak's cave in Nova Dobrava

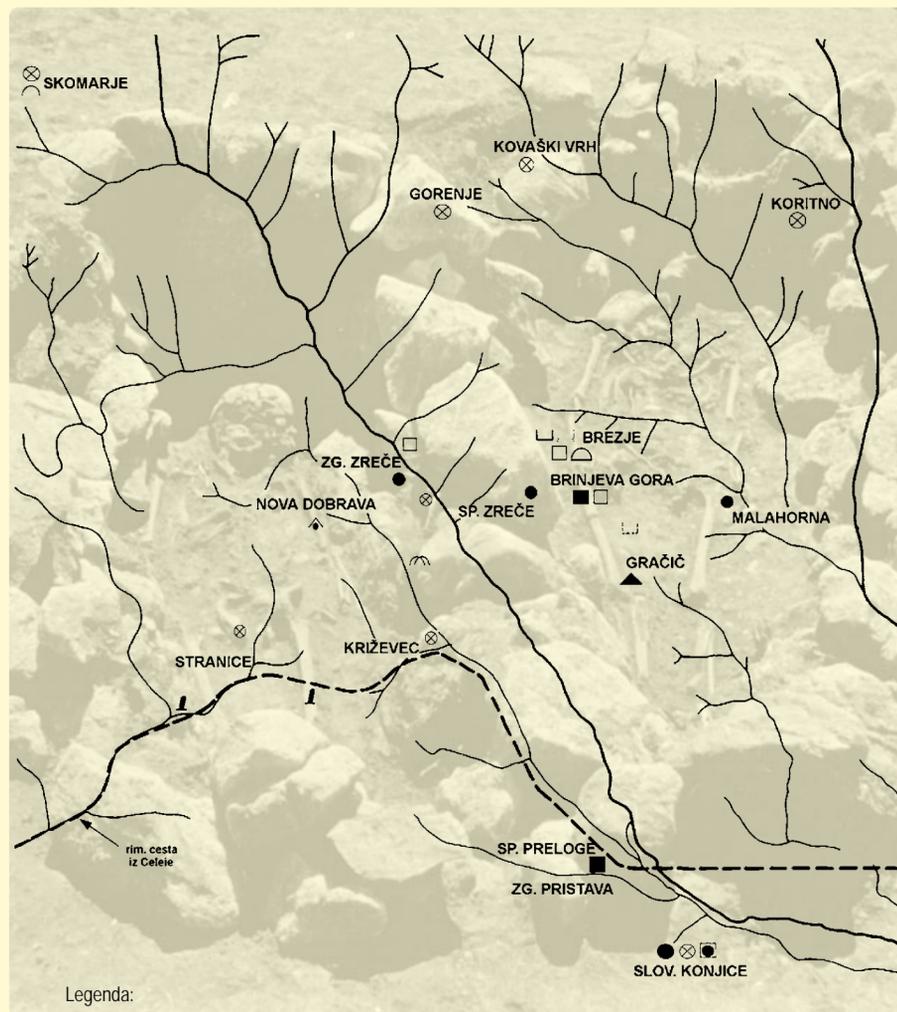


The finding – a stone hammer



The bronze figure of a boar

THE MAP OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS



- Legenda:
- Individual findings of stone weapons
 - Antique settlement remains
 - ⚡ Milestones
 - Prehistoric settlement remains
 - ⌒ Roman burial mounds
 - ▲ Treasured finding of coins
 - ⚓ Cave settlements
 - ▭ Late antique flat graves
 - Layouts of Roman roads
 - ⌒ Barrow
 - ⊗ Marble monuments
 - ▭ Slavic flat graves
 - ⌒ Prehistoric flat graves
 - ⌒ Roman burial mound
 - Individual findings of pottery and metal objects

(Source: Pahič Stanko, *Davni sledovi preteklosti – Brinjeva gora z okolico*, The Provincial museum in Maribor, 2003)

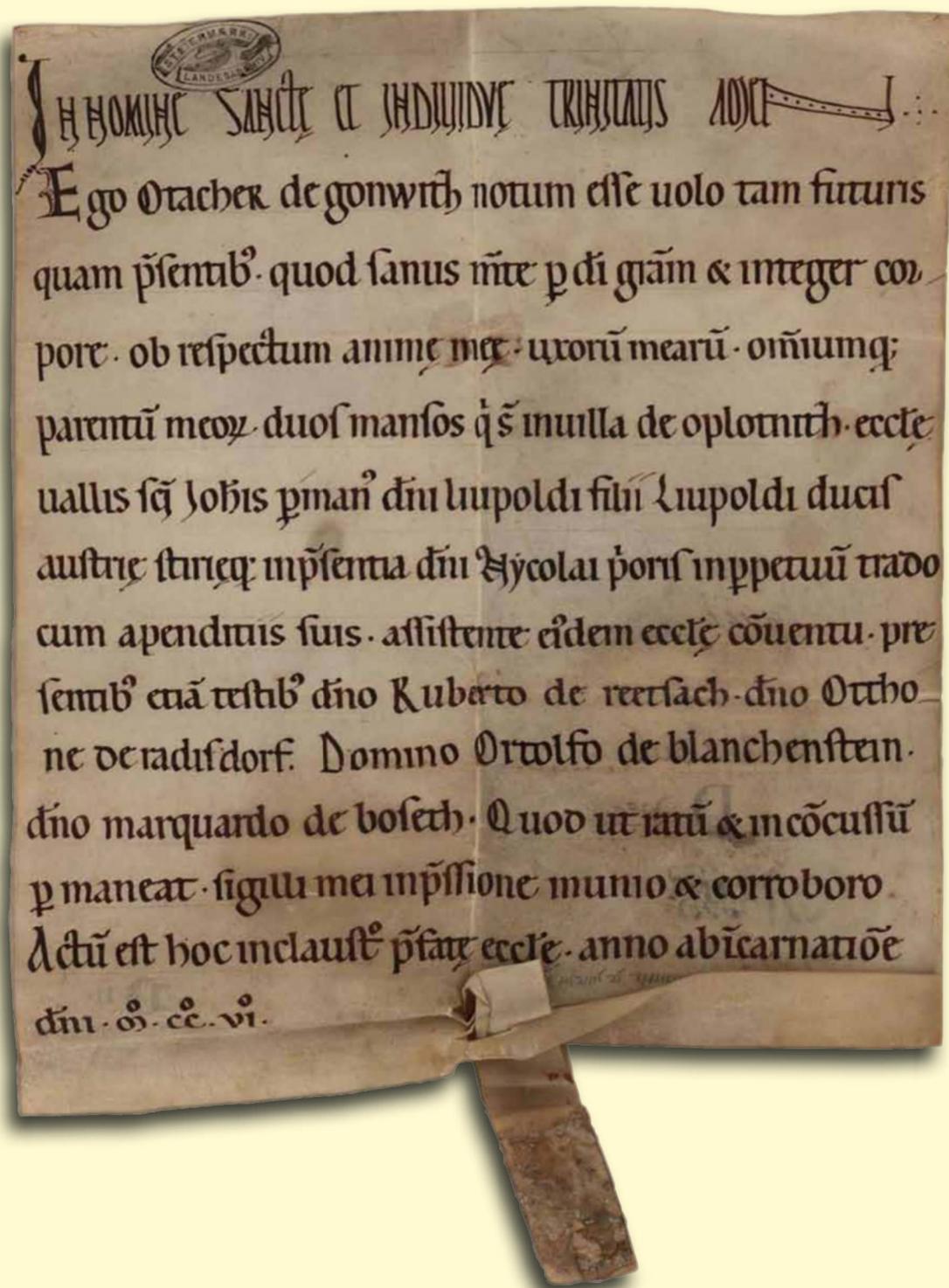


The votive altar, dedicated to Jupiter, found in Zreče at the presbytery





The first writing accounts of Zreče in 1206 – Reetsach



reetsach

The medieval document which was issued in 1206 in Žiče mentions Zreče as Reetsach. It is kept in the provincial archives of Styria (Steiermärkisches Landesarchiv) in Graz under the signature AUR 341.

(Source: The Zreče miscellany, the Zreče Municipality, 2006)

The translation of the medieval document:

For the well-being of his own soul and the souls of his wives and all his relatives Otokar from Konjice gives two farms with their appurtenances in Oplotnica to the church situated in St. Janez valley. In the presence of the church's prior Nikolaj and the convention of the church the document was signed by Leopold, the son of the Duke Leopold of Austria and Styria. The signing was witnessed by Mr. Ruberto de **Reetsach**, Mr. Ottone de Radisdorf, Mr. Ortolfo de Blannchensten and Mr. Marquardo de Boseth.



The castles in Zreče

Below are some pictures of medieval castles situated in the region of the present-day Zreče. They were built from 1200 to 1500. In the pictures you can either see abandoned castles or today's ruins.

The Freudenberg Castle in Brinjeva gora was first mentioned in written sources in 1224. Its building is attributed to Rupert, who was the first witness to testify in a deed of donation by Otokar from Konjice. He was supposed to be Otokar's relative. In the same deed Zreče was mentioned for the first time.



Photo of the ruins of Freudenberg taken in 2014



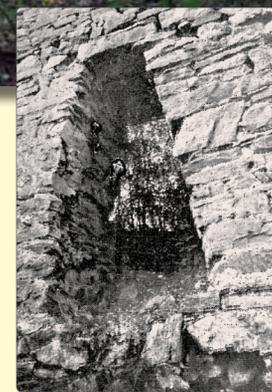
The Lušperg Castle (Lošperk)

The castle lies on the steep hill in Loška Gora. A castle bearing this name first appears in written sources in 1279, when Henrique of Lušperk was a witness to testify at the sale of the estates belonging to Ulrich of Maribor. The castle was owned by the bishops of Krško.

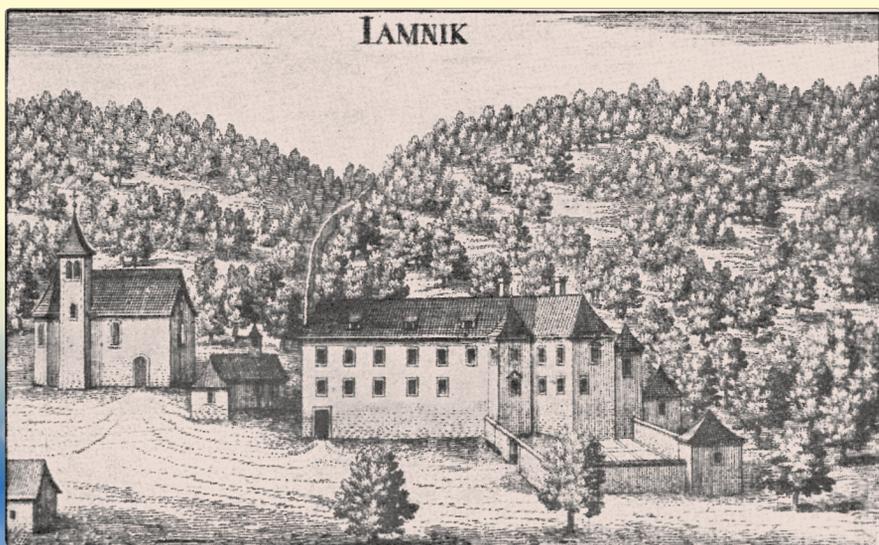


Photo of the ruins of castle walls taken in 2014

Photo right: northern side door in the walls of Lušperk castle from the outside, around 1900.

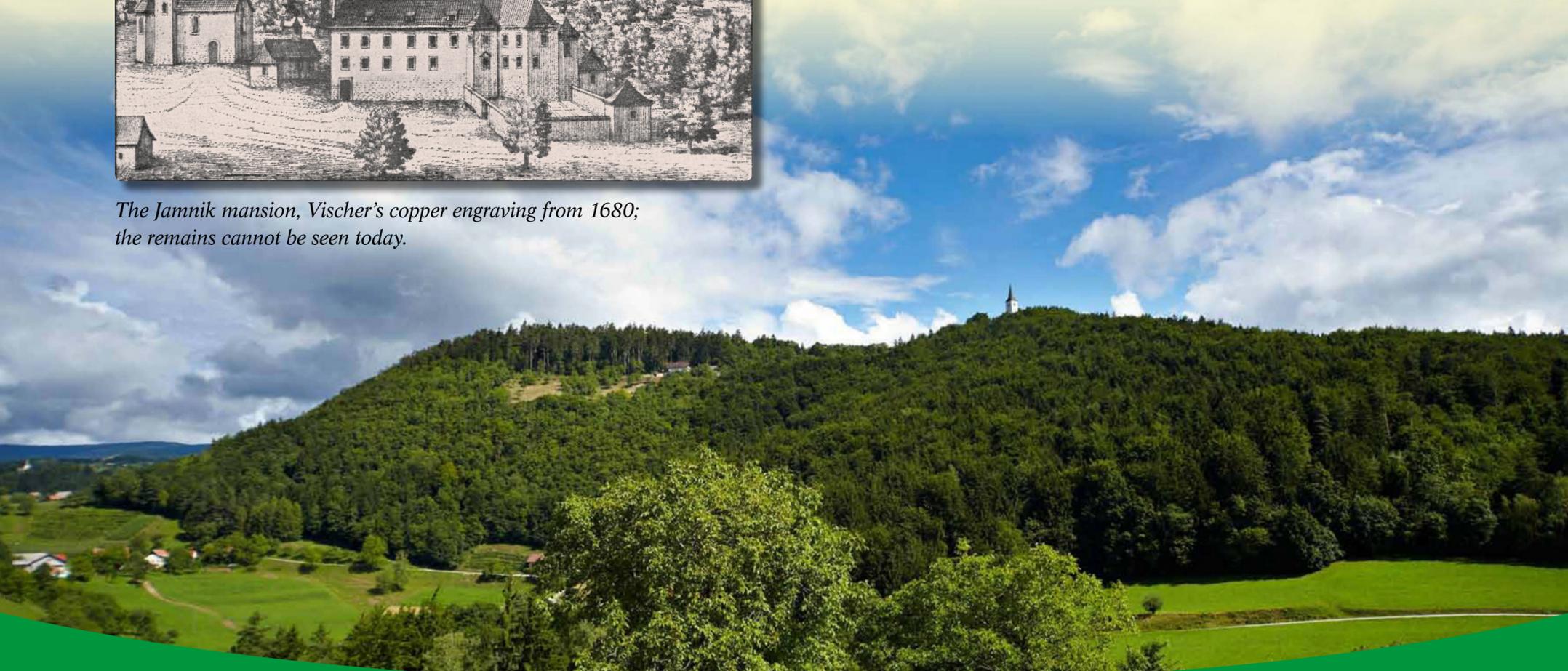


(Source: Stegenšek, Avguštin: The dean's office in Konjice, published by the author in Maribor in 1909)



The Jamnik mansion, Vischer's copper engraving from 1680; the remains cannot be seen today.

The Jamnik mansion - originally Hostenstein - was first mentioned in written sources in 1333. The knight Tanner from Konjice built the Chapel of St. Pancratius near the mansion in 1342. Thus it is assumed that Tanner was also the one who had the mansion built.





The mines – the first harbinger of the industrial era

In 1768 Jakob Bottinger from Varaždin found coal on the slopes of Brinjeva gora near the church of St. Agnes. They only started to excavate coal when the plans for the construction for the South railway and later for the narrow-gauge railway Poljčane-Slovenske Konjice-Zreče were made. Namely, the railway track was built for the purpose of transporting coal from Slovenske Konjice. In the region of today's Zreče Municipality the following mines were operating: The mine in Radana vas and the mine Polajna na Stranica.

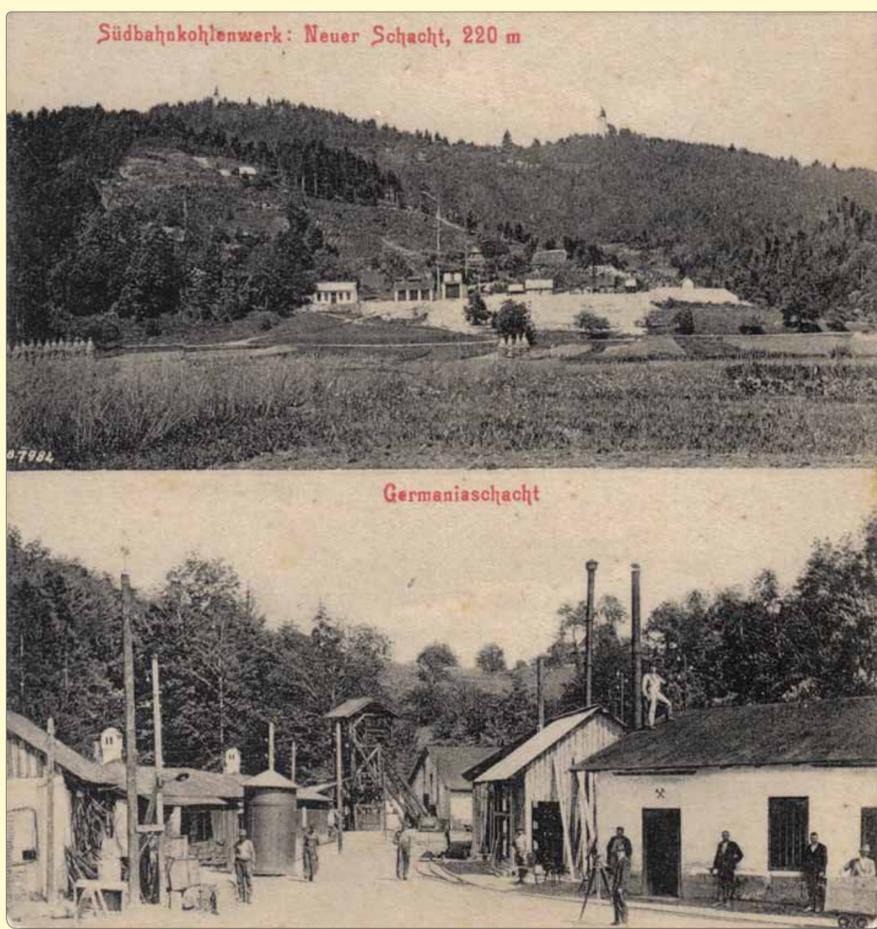


In 1947 the mine Poljana was closed due to a shortage of coal which was needed for profitable and contemporary exploitation of coal.

The cave lamp with the stamped initials LH which stand for Lovrenc Hasenbichel.

(Source: Private collection of Vili Hasenbichel)

The mine in Radana vas



The postcard with the Germania mineshaft from around 1910
(Source: Private historic archives, the postcard is owned by Danijel Leva Bukovnik)

The mine Polajna na Stranica



The Polajna na Stranica mine from 1940 with the owner Viljem Hasenbichel (Source: Private archives of Viljem Hasenbichel)

A lump of high-quality black coal from the Polajna mine before World War II.





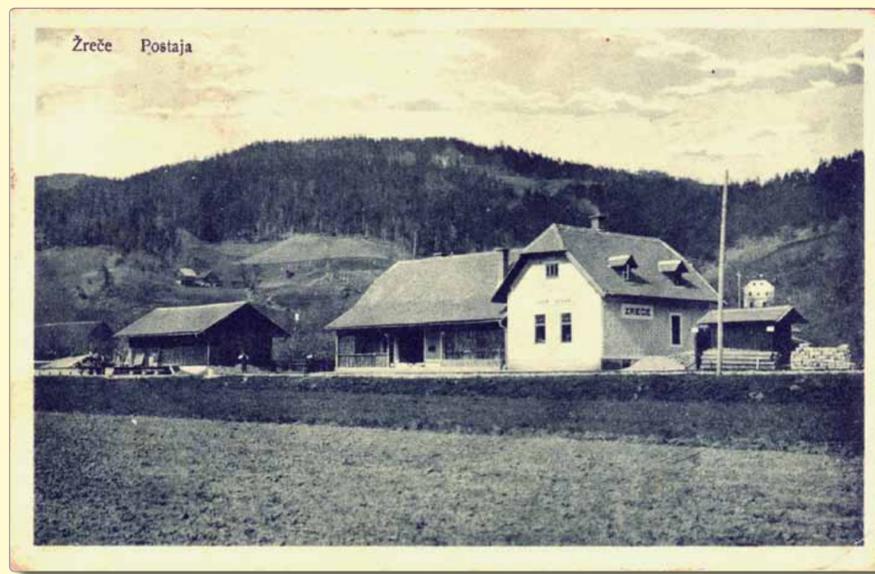
The narrow gauge-railway Poljčane-Konjice-Zreče

The construction of the narrow-gauge railway Poljčane-Konjice in 1892 was actually the beginning of the industrialisation of the Dravinja valley. The new times began. World War I stopped the construction of the track to Zreče. It was only built in 1921.

The railway line was abolished on 15th April 1962. The same year the tracks were taken apart and removed. Consequently, the Dravinja valley was cut off from all railway connections.



The train from Konjice at the railway station, 1938



The railway station in Zreče, the postcard is from 1929
(Source: The Central library in Celje)

Technical data

- The length of the railway: 20,96 km
- The distance between the rails: 760 mm
- The number of all stations and stops: 9
- The lowest point: 263 mmm (in Poljčane)
- The highest point: 396,40 mmm (in Zreče)
- The minimum bending radius: 60 m
- The maximum inclination: 32 ‰
- The viaduct in Zbelovo (Plankenstein), 43,20 m long (the railway track was below the viaduct)
- Bridges: 3 (the track crossed the Dravinja river at several points)
- The average speed: 17 km/h
- The lowest speed allowed: 10 km/h
- The highest speed allowed: 25 km/h



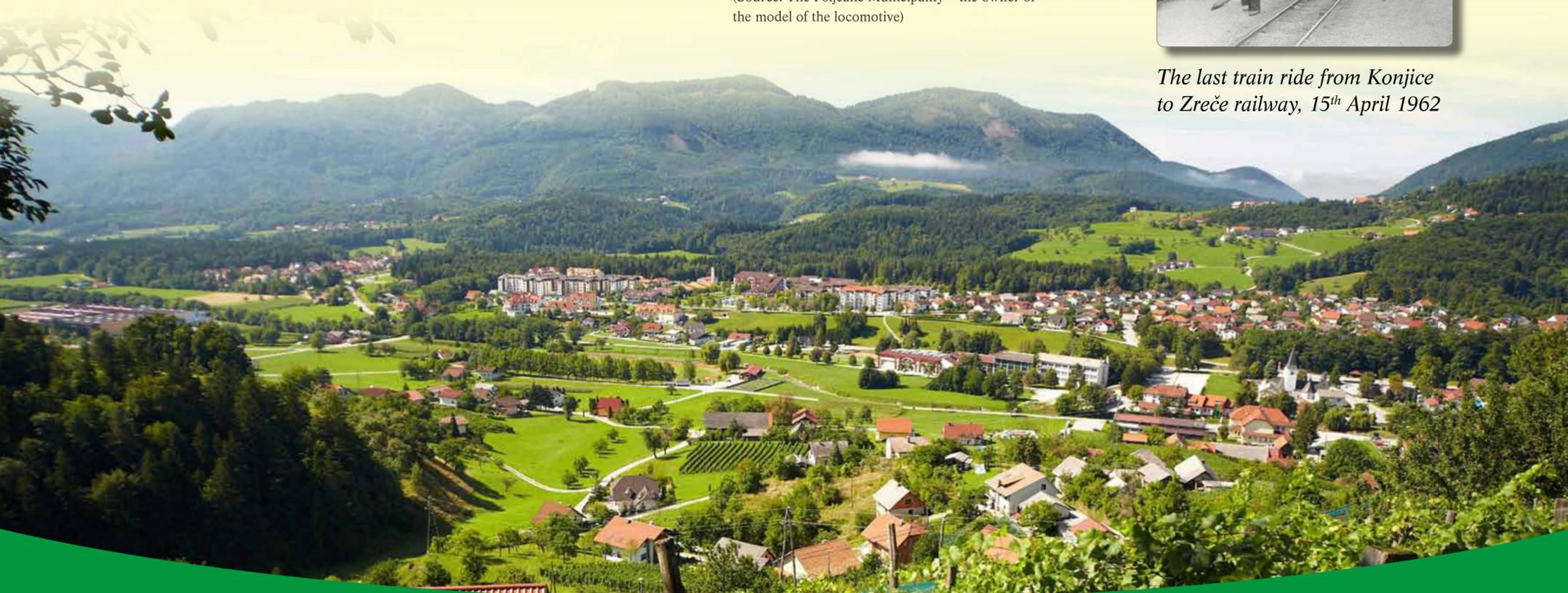
The replication of the locomotive K3
(Source: The Poljčane Municipality - the owner of the model of the locomotive)



Loading of sawn wood on the wagon at the railway station in Zreče



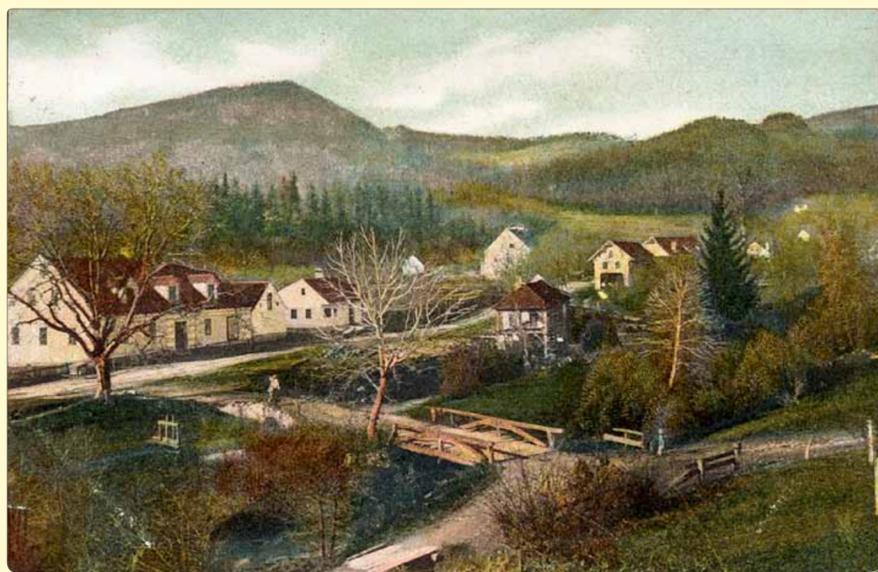
The last train ride from Konjice to Zreče railway, 15th April 1962





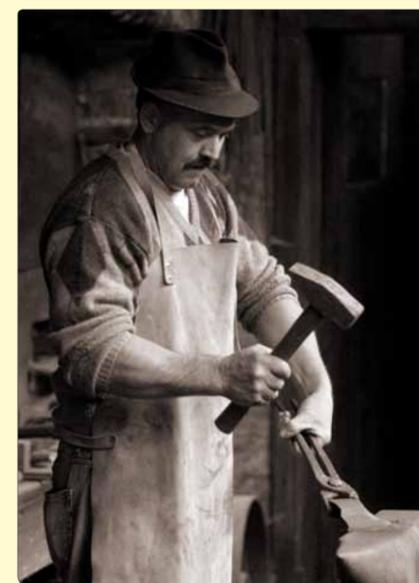
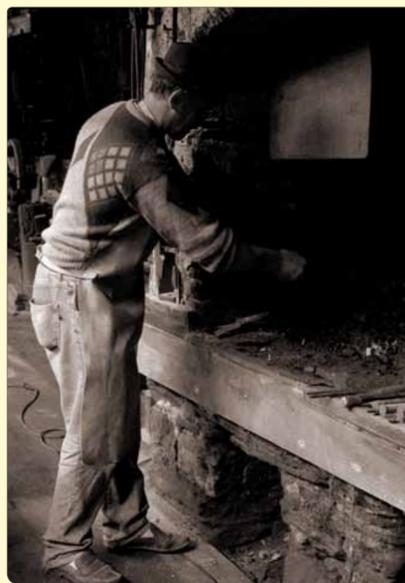
The beginning of industry

The advantageous geographical position of Zreče and the natural resources made the beginning of the economic and industrial development of places below Pohorje mountains in the second half of the 18th century possible. Ironworks, glass workshops, forges, sawmills, water-mills were built and coal mines were opened. The narrow-gauge railway built in 1892 enabled quite a rapid development of our places. The beginning of today's company Unior Ltd. dates back to 1919 when the foundry was established at the Kračun Mill. In 1958 the Factory Comet was established, which manufactured artificial abrasives. Today the company is called Swatycomet Llc.



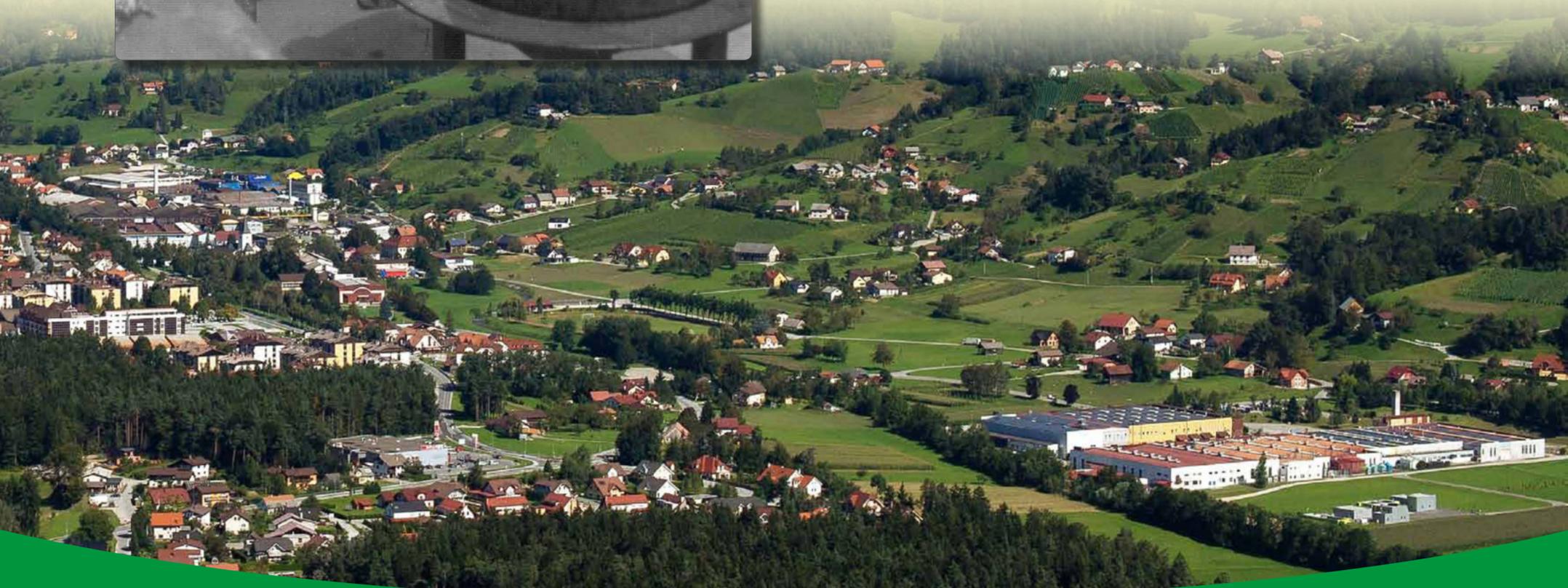
The Kračun inn, mill and sawmill - 1912

(Source: Private archives of Ivo Jančič)



In Zreče ironworks hand tools for farming and different crafts were manufactured.

The beginning of Comet - The manufacture of abrasives





The very beginning of tourism in Zreče

The leading people in Zreče, including the then manager of Unior Marjan Osole realised how important tourism for the future economy of Zreče was. Therefore, the new chapter in tourism development began in 1976.

How did the tourism begin in Zreče in the first place? Who had an important role in the development of tourism in Zreče? What were the first buildings that were used for tourism purpose? The answer is very simple: The cattle pens, buildings for herdsmen and forest workers afforded a shelter to rare hikers at the time.

In 1928 the Koča na Pesku lodge on Rogla was built. In 1934 the wooden observation tower was built and in 1956 the Koča lodge on Rogla was built.



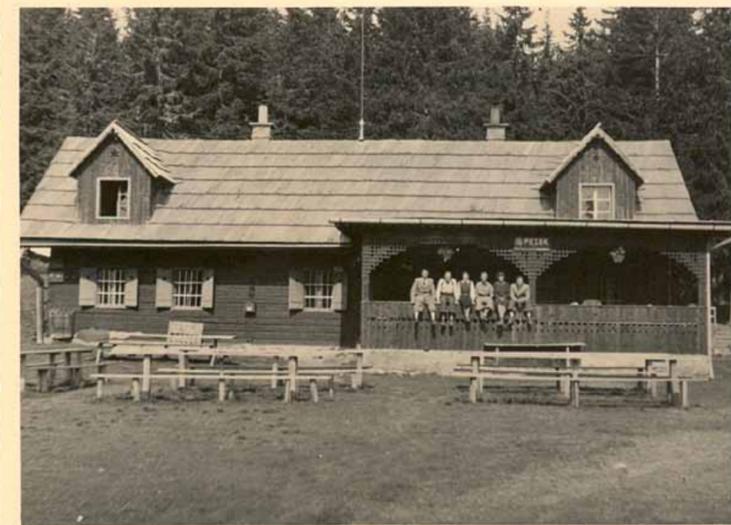
The Koča lodge on Rogla, a postcard from the period after 1956

(Source: The KUD Vladko Mohorič archives)



The observation tower on Rogla in 1936

(Source: Private collection of Bojan Padežnik)

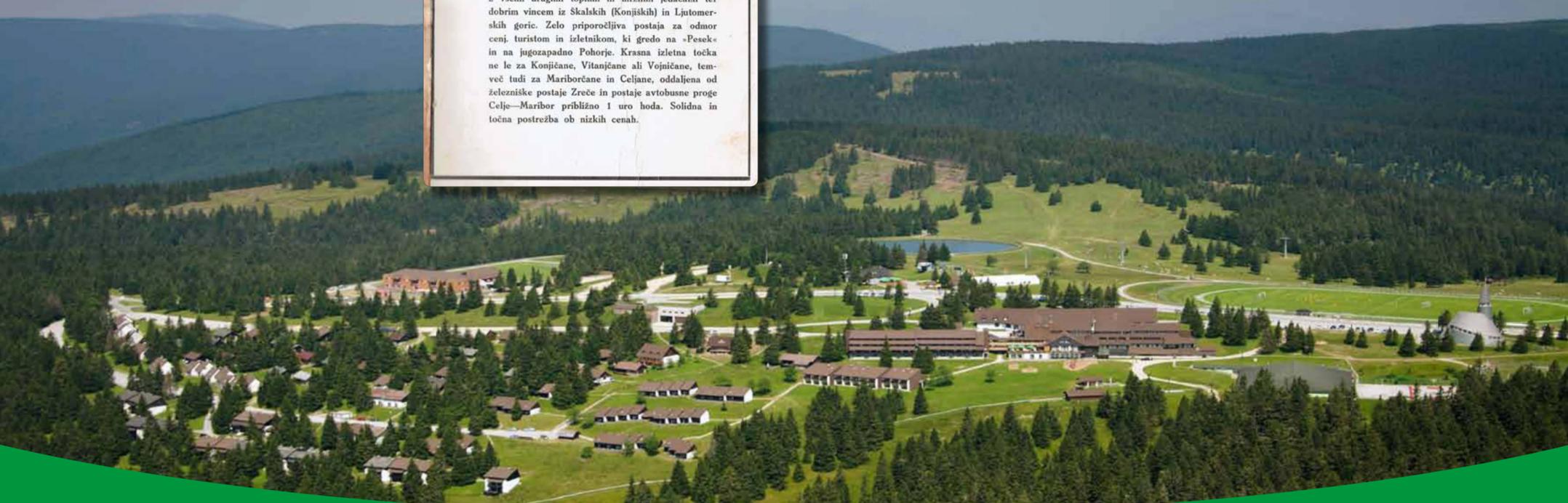
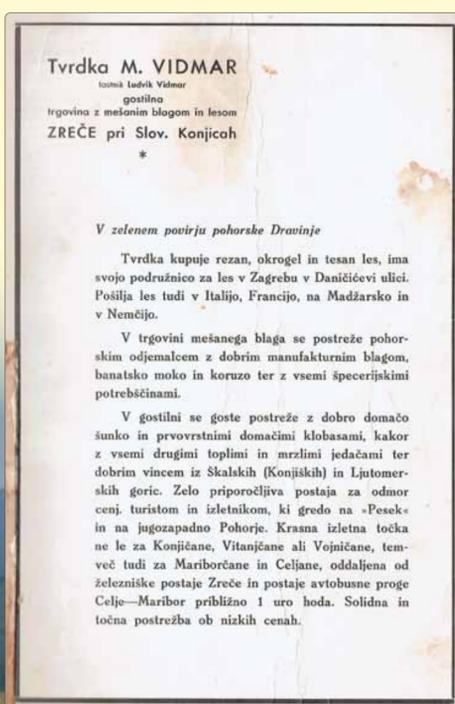


The Koča na Pesku lodge, the postcard from 1930s

(Source: The Central library in Celje)

An announcement in a book from 1941

(Source: Mišič Fran: *Izbrane pesmi Jurija Vodovnika*, published by the author in Maribor in 1941)





The outline of history of the Zreče area from 1849 to 1933

The beginning of the local autonomy dates to 1849 when the law on local self-government that was crucial to the founding of municipalities was passed. All the matters and duties were performed within district boards where several district courts were active. The district itself represented the highest level of authority.

The region of today's Zreče Municipality used to belong to the district board of Celje, which extended over the court circuits of Celje, Vrankso,

Gornji Grad, Jelšovec, Laško and Konjice.

After the counties had been established in March 1922 the area of today's Zreče Municipality became a part the Konjice county. According to the law on local self-government a new formation of municipalities took place in 1933. All municipalities with less than 3000 inhabitants became parts of bigger municipalities.

Srez: Konjski.		
Tek. št.	Nova občina:	Še danje občine, odnosno njih deli
1	Konjice — trg.	u. o. Konjice — trg
2	Konjice — okolica	u. o. Bezina u. o. Konjice — okolica u. o. Stranice u. o. Tolsti vrh k. o. Podgorje od u. o. Bezovica
3	Loče	u. o. Laže u. o. Loče u. o. Sv. Jernej u. o. Zbelovo u. o. Žiže
4	Oplotnica	u. o. Oplotnica u. o. Okoško u. o. Kot
6	Tepanje	u. o. Grušovje u. o. Vrhólje u. o. Tepanje
6	Vitanje	u. o. Vitanje u. o. Brezen u. o. Ljubnica u. o. Kozjak u. o. Paka u. o. Spodnji Dohanj k. o. Hudinja od u. o. Skomarje brez posestva dr. Arturja Pergerja
7	Zreče	u. o. Padeški vrh u. o. Sv. Kunigunda u. o. Zreče k. o. Skomarje od u. o. Skomarje



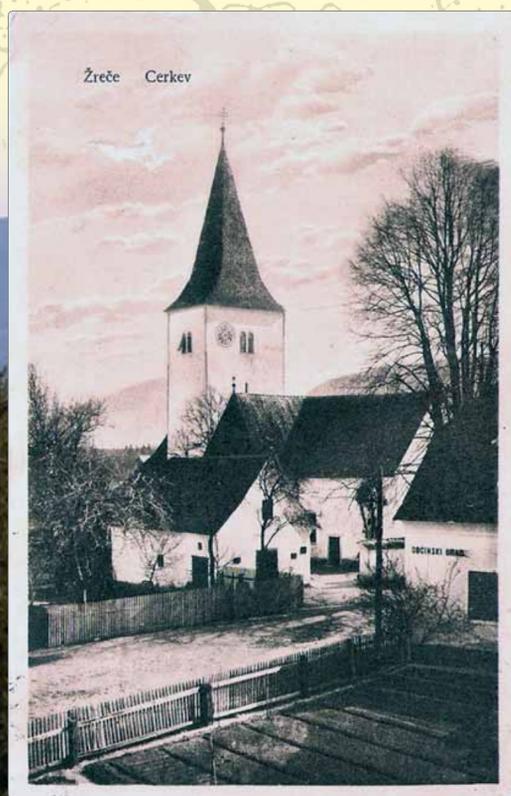
(Source: Royal administration's document of the Drava Banate, volume IV, Ljubljana, 27th September 1933)

The map of the Konjice county (page 1051); Zreče was a part of it.

(Source: The Drava Banate's local lexicon, Ljubljana, 30th April 1937)

Zreče in 1926, the municipal office used to be in the building on the right

(Source: Private collection of Alojz Pačnik)





The establishment of the Zreče Municipality and the beginning of its activity

According to the law on the local self-government 147 new municipalities were established on 3rd October 1994. The Zreče Municipality was one of them. On 4th December the bodies of the municipality: the municipal council and the mayor were elected for the first time. On 1st January 1995 after the former Slovenske Konjice Municipality had been abolished the Zreče Municipality started performing its tasks and duties. With the foundation of the Zreče Municipality the wish of its inhabitants came true. In the times of rapid economic development, they wanted to assume responsibility for the spatial development, the development of non-commercial and communal activities of the municipality.

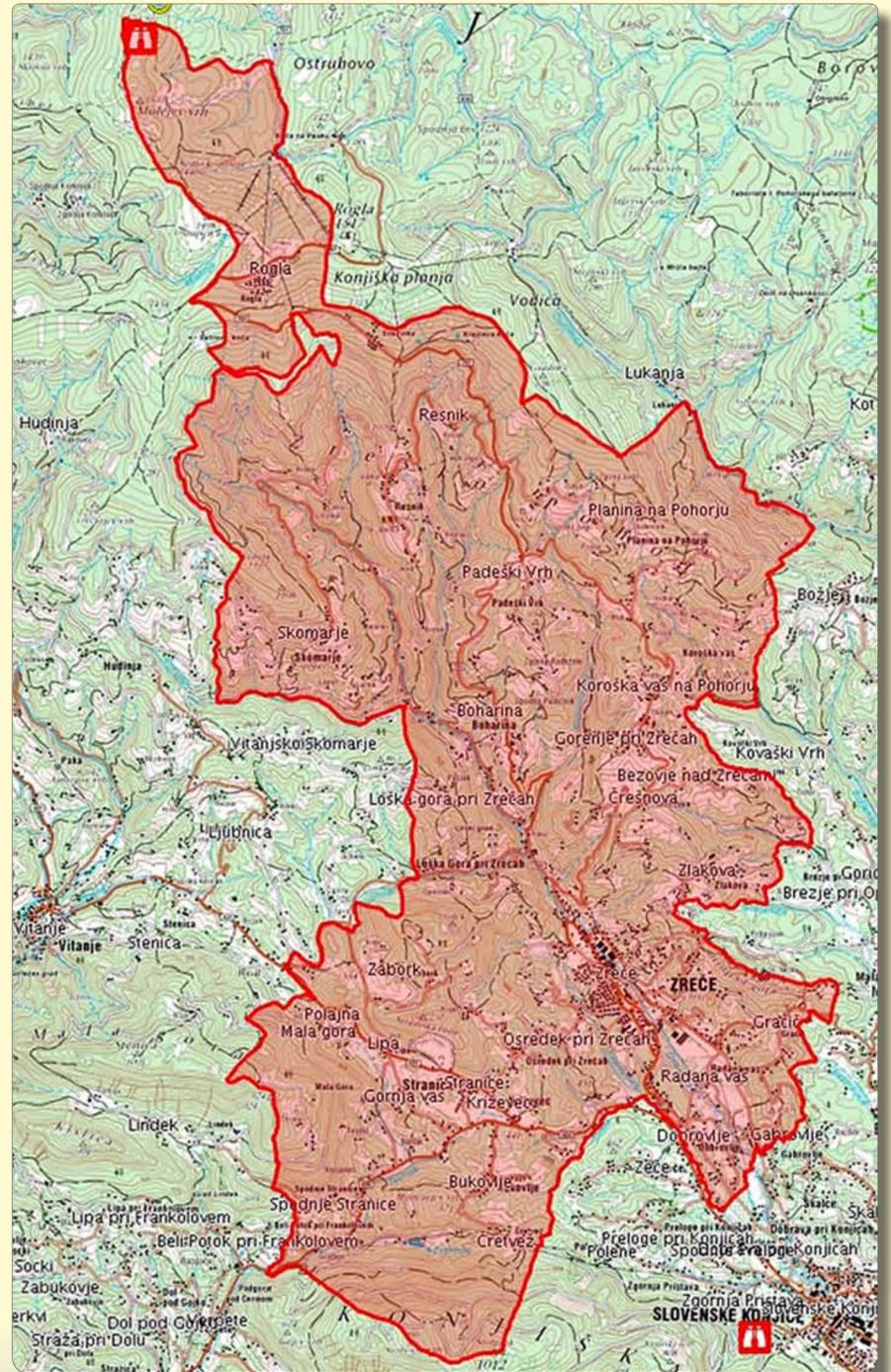
At the constituent meeting on 21st December 1994 the first municipal council adopted temporary regulations for the conduct of meetings. At the same time Gorazd Korošec was appointed the president of the municipal council. A commission for preparing the statute and the regulations for the conduct of meetings of the municipal council was established as well.

The statute of the Zreče Municipality was adopted on 25th April 1995 and was put into force on 17th June 1995.

Statistical data on the Zreče Municipality

The Zreče Municipality	
Covers an area of	6731 hectare
The number of local communities	6
The number of settlements	27
The number of inhabitants	6494
Population density	97 inhabitants/km ²
The number of households	2594
The height above sea level	The lowest point below sea level: 340 m (the Koprivnica stream)
	The highest point above sea level: 1533 m (the Mulej peak)

(Source: The Statistical office of Slovenia, Geodetic institute of Slovenia, the Ministry of internal affairs Slovenia)



The region of the Zreče Municipality
(Source: Geopedia)





Our local communities in pictures

The region of the municipality comprises 6 local communities:

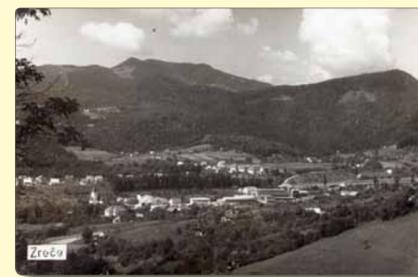
- The local community of Zreče
- The local community of Stranice
- The local community of Gorenje
- The local community of Resnik
- The local community of Skomarje
- The local community of Dobrovlje

The local community of ZREČE	
	<p>The settlements: Boharina, Gračič, Loška gora pri Zrečah, Osredek pri Zrečah, Radana vas, Zlakova, Zreče</p> <p>The size: 14,16 km²</p> <p>The number of inhabitants: 3.853</p> <p>The president of the local community council: Slavko Kejžar</p> <p>The members of the local community council: Anton Ošlak, Peter Kejžar, Marijan Jelenko, Dušan Jelenko, Drago Vrhovšek, Zdenka Kejžar, Milovan Karapandžič, Mateja Pučnik, Matej Kokol, Janja Klinčar</p>

The local community of STRANICE	
	<p>The settlements: Bukovlje, Čretvež, Gornja vas, Spodnje Stranice, Križevac, Lipa, Mala Gora, Polajna, Stranice, Zabork</p> <p>The size: 16,07 km²</p> <p>The number of inhabitants: 1.203</p> <p>The president of the local community council: Emilijan Fijavž</p> <p>The members of the local community council: Martin Lažeta, Srečko Švab, Dušan Brečko, Dejan Sodin, Dragica Cvelfer, Drago Padežnik, Drago Rošer, Jože Steble</p>



Stranice, the beginning of 20th century
Source: Alojz Pačnik



Zreče, posted in 1958
(Source: Private collection of Ivo Jančič)



Gorenje, posted in 1930
(Source: Private collection of Ivo Jančič)

The local community of SKOMARJE	
	<p>The settlements: Skomarje</p> <p>The size: 7,79 km²</p> <p>The number of inhabitants: 182</p> <p>The president of the local community council: Marija Magda Drozg</p> <p>The members of the local community council: Oto Mikek, Mirko Beškovnik, Aleksander Furman, Marija-Marijana Kovše</p>



Skomarje in 20th century
(Source: Pelikan, Celje)

The local community of GORENJE	
	<p>The settlements: Bezovje nad Zrečami, Črešnova, Gorenje pri Zrečah, Koroška vas na Pohorju, Padeški vrh, Planina na Pohorju</p> <p>The size: 15,37 km²</p> <p>The number of inhabitants: 757</p> <p>The president of the local community council: Marjan Hren</p> <p>The members of the local community council: Ivan Podgrajšek, Aleksander Hrovat, Ema Šloser, Klavdija Rutnik, Janez Rutnik, Mihela Kotnik</p>

The local community of RESNIK	
	<p>The settlements: Resnik, Rogla</p> <p>The size: 12,17 km²</p> <p>The number of inhabitants: 124</p> <p>The president: Borut Pačnik</p> <p>The members of the local community council: Janez Kovše, Primož Črešnar, Miran Krajnc, Srečko Koprivnik</p>

The local community of DOBROVLJE	
	<p>The settlements: Dobrovlje</p> <p>The size: 1,48 km²</p> <p>The number of inhabitants: 377</p> <p>The president of the local community council: Bojan Napotnik</p> <p>The members of the local community council: Barbara Ravnak, Ivan Hrovat, Damijana Retuznik, Urška Kovač</p>



Resnik – the second half of 20th century
(Source: Private collection of Anton Gričnik)



The symbols of the Zreče Municipality

The seal of Jurij of Freudenberg from 1377 represents the basis of today's Coat-of-arms, suggested by dr. Božo Otorepec. The document with the seal dates to 11th December 1377.

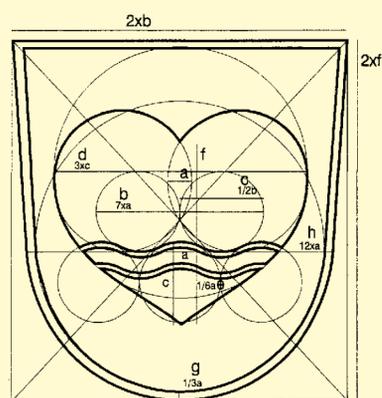


(Source: The archives of the Republic of Slovenia, number 6478)

The anthem of the Zreče Municipality is prescribed by the Decision *Odlok o grbu, zastavi in himni Občine Zreče*, adopted on 27th March 2013.

The Zreče anthem:

The Coat-of-arms of Zreče has a shape of a shield with a green border. In the yellow middle part there is a green heart with two yellow, wavy lines.



Geometric design of the coat-of-arms
(Graphic design by Samo Podgrajšek)



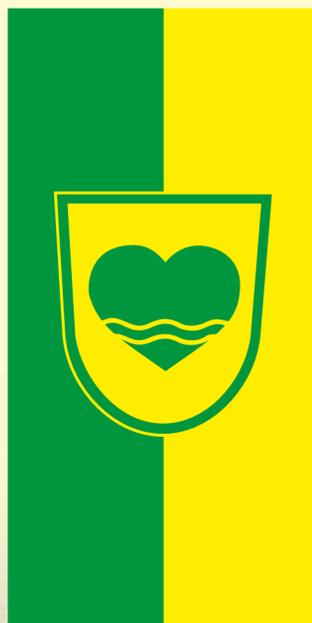
Coat-of-arms: colour variety
(Source: The handbook CGP, Zreče Municipality)

The flag

It is rectangular and vertically divided green-yellow with the coat of arms in the middle.

The coat of arms and flag of Zreče are prescribed by the Decision *Odlok o grbu in zastavi Občine Zreče*, adopted on 14th September 1995.

Municipal day – 29th May, a day when inhabitants of Zreče voted in a referendum on the establishment of the Zreče Municipality. On that day the referendum was held to decide if Zreče would become a municipality.



The date was prescribed by the municipal council on 29th September 1997 by the Decision *Odlok o prazniku Občine Zreče*. The first meeting of the municipal council was held on 29th May 1998.

LE NA NUOGE, ZRAJŠKI ŠMIRARTI

HIMNIČNO

GLASBA IN REŽERDA: JUDIT VODOVNIK
PRIVEDBA ZA ZBOR IN ORKESTER: AVGUST SKAZA

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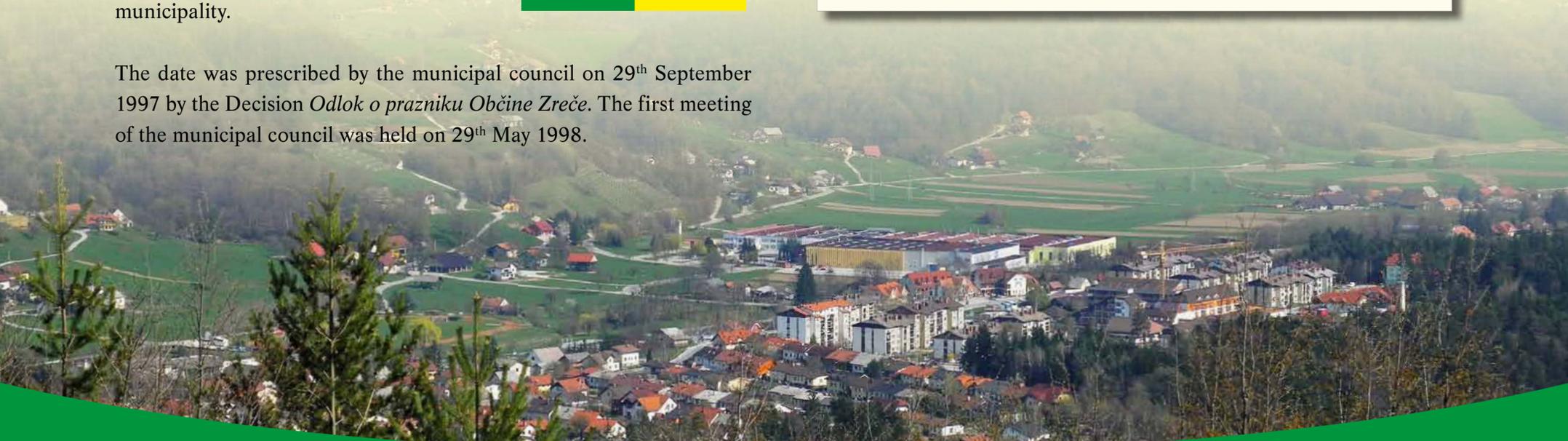
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AVGUST SKAZA - 2011





The mayor and the municipal council in the independent municipality



Jožef Košir, the mayor during the mandate periods 1994-1998, 1998-2002, 2002-2006



The mayor mag. Boris Podvršnik during the mandate periods 2006-2010, 2010-2014, 2014-2018

In the period of 20 years the Zreče Municipality was led by only two mayors. From the day of establishment of the municipality to the local elections in 2006, it was led by the mayor Mr. Jožef Košir. Since 22nd October 2006 the mayor has been Mr. Boris Podvršnik



The municipal council of Zreče Municipality (2006-2010)



The constituent meeting of the municipal council from the period 2010-2014.



The constituent meeting of the municipal council from the mandate period 2014-2018





Some of the most important projects carried out in 20 years of independent municipality

Several projects and investments were carried out in 20 years of independent municipality. We were able to provide funds from the state as well as from Europe. Some financially most difficult investments made in local communities are:

The local community Dobrovlje

- Repairing roads, building of sewage system and public lighting (Pasja gorca, a settlement Dobrava, Gabrovlje)
- Building of the community hall Dobrovlje
- Forming museum collections of the forge Šrekl-Zajc and the Buci's mill.

In 2007 the local road from Moljk to Drame was resurfaced in the length of 370 m. In 2010 another two sections in the new settlement Pasja gorca (Dobrovlje) and in the settlement near the community hall were rebuilt. A bearing layer was built in and the road was asphalted. The kerbs were built on the road section near the community hall. Public lighting was established as well.



The road Pasja gorca



The new road section at the community hall Dobrovlje

The building of community hall in Dobrovlje was carried out under the supervision of the local community. The work began in 2002 and ended in 2008. The multi-purpose facility and the sports centre improve the quality of living in the municipality and contribute to the development of sports and other social activities.



The community hall Dobrovlje

The local community Skomarje

- Reconstruction of the local road Skomarje-Vitanje
- Renovation of the following in the village Skomarje: repairing roads, building of the road drainage system, renovation of St. Lambert's church, the cemetery, the Skomarje house, the school and the playground ...

In 2008 the fence was put up around the cemetery, the retaining wall was repaired and the cemetery was widened. In the following year the retaining wall was lengthened, the new steps and a new path were made.



Renovated cemetery

The local community Gorenje

- Building of CŠOD – Centre for school and outdoor education, the subsidiary school, the kindergarten Gorenje, the gym and the fire station
- Reconstruction of the road and public lighting in the village
- Modernization of the local road Božje-Koroška vas
- Reconstruction of the local road in Planina on Pohorje mountains
- Building of the mortuary Gorenje, renovation of St. Kunigunda Church, building of a parking place at the cemetery



Building of CŠOD, Gorenje



The local road Božje-Koroška vas

In 2000 the project of building CŠOD, the subsidiary school, the kindergarten, the gym and the fire station began in collaboration with the Ministry of education and sports, the local community Gorenje, the Primary school Zreče and the Fire brigade society Zreče. The school and the kindergarten cover an area of 440 square meters. There's a joint use of the gym, kitchen, and the outdoor playground. The kindergarten got a new playroom and multi-purpose room; the school got two new classrooms. Both institutions have neatly arranged outside surface. The fire brigade gained a garage for two fire engines; the local community Gorenje got a new office.

In 2005 the modernization of the first section of the local road Božje-Koroška vas, 900 m in length, began and finished in 2007. Before, it was a macadam road which was asphalted and 3,5 m wide. Further modernization took place in the years from 2008 and 2010 when the whole road, 1,5 km in length, was reconstructed.



The opening of the renovated road



The playground Skomarje

In collaboration with the Vitanje Municipality the modernization of the local road number 46040 bordering the Zreče municipality took place in 2008. The length of the restored section was 3000 m of which 1400 m ran in the area of the Zreče Municipality. It was a 2,5 to 3 m wide macadam road. Due to a very unsuitable water drainage system, the road was in a very bad condition. The modernization finished in 2009.

The renovation of the playground next to the former school in Skomarje was being carried out simultaneously with the renovation of the playground in Resnik. In 2008 the European agricultural fund for rural development provided funding for that project, which started the same year. Some excavations were carried out and the suitable equipment was placed. The work on the playground finished in 2010 when it was asphalted and put to use.



Some of the most important projects carried out in 20 years of independent municipality

The local community Resnik

- The renovation of the local road Vidmar-Kumar
- The renovation of the public road Vidmar-Koprivnik
- The renovation of the playground and the community hall
- The renovation of St. Jacob's church

After getting funds from European agricultural fund for rural development in 2008, the playground was renovated in Resnik. The excavations were carried out and suitable equipment such as baskets for basketball, volleyball nets, guard rails, waste baskets was bought. The project was completed in the second half of 2009. In 2010 the playground and the path leading to it were asphalted.



Public road Vidmar-Kumar



The playground Resnik

The modernization of the local road Vidmar-Kumar was carried out in four phases. The supporting system of the road was built; the road was asphalted, 3,5 m in width. The water drainage system was provided, and the traffic equipment was installed. In the fourth phase the kerbs were built along the left side of the road.

The local community Stranice

- Building of the subsidiary primary school and the kindergarten with the gym and the parking space
- Building of a roundabout with an extra exit to Bukovlje
- Construction of the water supply system in Mala gora
- Development of the communal infrastructure
- Establishing the permanent collection in the 100 Frankolovo victims museum house



Subsidiary school Stranice



Stranice - crossroads

In 2004 the building of the subsidiary school, the kindergarten and the gym began. The school and the kindergarten cover an area 553,6 square meters. The kindergarten got two new playrooms, the school got four new classes. The surrounding of both was newly arranged and some new equipment for the playground was set up.

In 2009 the reconstruction of the crossroads in Stranice began. The road section to Bukovlje was built, which is now connected to the roundabout. The main investor was Slovenian infrastructure agency (DRSC), the Zreče Municipality was a co-investor. The sewage system and the pavement were built. The public lighting from the roundabout to the stream Tesnica was set up. The CATV wire and the underground electric wire were installed.

The local community Zreče

- Construction of PTC centre Tržnica Zreče
- Building of an extension to the primary school, the sports hall and the belonging playgrounds
- Building of the block of flats 2 and the flats lying under the roof
- Reconstruction of the roads Cesta na Roglo and Kovaška cesta, where a pavement and a cycle track were built.
- Reconstruction of the roundabout at Padežnik farm
- Building of the crossroads SN-1
- Building of the sewage system in Nova Dobrava 0, 1, 2, and 3
- Construction of the subway and the crossroads at the spa Terme
- Renovation of the health centre Zreče
- Renovation of the primary school library
- Energetic sanitation of the primary school and the kindergarten Zreče
- Construction of the central cleaning device and the creation of the main solar collector
- Building of the gas supply system and the CATV system
- Establishing museum collections (Ošlak forge, Narrow gauge railway Poljčane-Slovenske Konjice-Zreče)



The project of providing water drainage system, wastewater and rainfall water treatment comprised the construction of the cleaning device Zreče with 8500 PE, the main sewage system within the region of Kovaška cesta, Cesta na Roglo, Loška gora and Dravinjska cesta. The most contemporary cleaning technology with its advantages was used for this project.



Thus, it was easier to increase the capacity, smaller reaction reservoir was used, the reaction time to restore biology was shorter, the operating costs were lower, there was less sludge and there were better cleaning results. The project started in 2012 and was completed in 2015, when the use permit was issued.

Within energetic sanitation of Zreče primary school in the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 new windows, the main entrance door, the air conditioning system were built in. The facade was isolated. The pellets boiler and the sky domes in the sports hall were replaced. At the same time the energetic sanitation of the kindergarten was in full swing too. In the years 2013 and 2014 new windows and doors were built in, the attic and the ceiling above the non-heated cellar were isolated. The facade was hydro isolated, the biomass boiler was replaced and the solar system was built in.



Some of the most important projects carried out in 20 years of independent municipality

In the natural climatic health resort on the Rogla mountain a major project was carried out in 2014. A ski and cross-country skiing centre was developed.

The project began in August 2008 and was completed in June 2014.

The strategic goals of the project were the following: to complement the recreation and sports facilities in the Zreče Municipality, to enable the organization of FIS competitions where the participants ski at extremely high level, to increase the attraction and recognition of this tourist destination, to widen multiple developmental effects on the countryside and the Service sector and direct economic effects such as the increased number of performances and day visitors. The operative goals were: to increase the accommodation, employment, to build some new tracks, to modernize the old ones and to be granted FIS homologation.

The project comprised two phases:

- To prepare the project documentation, the investment documentation, the purchase of the equipment for artificial snowing up, the equipment for maintaining cross-country skiing tracks and the polygon, to build the start-finish place, the summer running, roller-blading and cross blading tracks.
- Construction of the multipurpose building.

Having finished the new multipurpose building with a modern wellness centre in December the whole project *Skiing and cross-country skiing centre on Rogla* came to an end.



Water-storage reservoir



A view of the new centre with a hotel



Engine house



Natura hotel





Sacral buildings – parish churches and their subsidiaries

We take pride in our sacral buildings which represent our cultural heritage.

St. Kunigunda Parish Church in Gorenje

The first written accounts of the St. Kunigunda Parish Church in Gorenje date back to 1391. The oldest part of the church is the impressive tower, which was built in the first half of 14th century, whereas the nave was supposedly built in the second half of 14th century right next to the tower.



Church of the Holy Mother of God at Brinjeva Gora

The construction of this pilgrim church began in 1769 and was completed in 1833. The church prides itself on frescoes painted by the painters Matija Bradašek and Anton Lerchinger and the organ built by Karl Schehl in 1840.



St. Giles Parish Church in Zreče The church was built after 1281. Some Roman and Gothic elements can still be traced. The Fuhrers, the owners of Jamnik Castle, were buried in the crypts of the church. In 1988 another church was built right next to St. Giles. It was dedicated to our Saviour.



Church of St. Jacob Senior at Rešnik was built sometime in the middle of the 16th century with gothic elements. Today's image of the church dates back to 18th century. The high altar is the work of the sculptor Ignacij Oblak from Celje.



St. Agnes Church on the Brinjeva Gora hill was built between 1723 and 1726 in a baroque architecture style. There are a luxurious high altar, two side altars and the pulpit, created by Franc Zamlik from Slovenske Konjice.



The church on Rogla is a part of the St. Kunigunda parish. It was designed by an architect Vera Klepej-Turnšek, and blessed in 2010. Father Marko Rupnik was meant to create a mosaic in the presbytery. The organ was built by Tone Škrabl from Rogaška Slatina, and the altar was made by the blacksmith Milan Očko from Zreče.

The first written accounts of the **St. Lambert Church at Skomarje** date as far back as 1313, but the oldest part of the current church is not necessarily from that time. It seems that the church was built in 15th century. Since 1834, when Mary's chapel was added the church hasn't changed its image. Inside the church there are beautiful frescoes painted by the painter Andrej Pavlič from Buče.



St. Martin's church in Zlakova was first mentioned as early as 1545. It is a late Gothic church that was extended in 1739. The high altar was built in 1709, whereas the side altars were built in 1664. In the church you can see St. Joseph's Stations of the Cross.



The first written accounts of **St. Lawrence in Stranice** date as far back as 1306. It is a part of the Vitanje parish. It was built in the late Gothic style. There are frescoes painted by the painter Elda Piščanec from Nova Cerkev. In the presbytery six Roman milestones were built in.





Twinning towns Sedbergh – Zreče

The story of the twinning goes back to July 2004 when in England the BBC show *The Town That Wants a Twin* was broadcast. The producers wanted to find a twin town for Sedbergh. Zreče was among the four finalists. After all the twin finalists had presented themselves the town of Sedbergh organized the elections, where the people from Sedbergh elected their favorite. The winner was Zreče.

The event was an excellent opportunity for Zreče to promote the town and Slovenia as well. The twinning between two towns meant an exchange of visits by people of different professions and cooperation in different spheres of life such as schooling economy, tourism, culture, sports. The main purpose of twinning was to cultivate the friendship between two different nations.



The document of the twinning and the agreement, what the fields of the future cooperation would be, were signed on May 27th 2005 in Skomarška hiša.

The signers were Alan Pratt, the president of the town council in Sedbergh, Garth Steadman, the president of the twinning committee, and Jože Košir, the then mayor of Zreče.

In the past ten years numerous exchanges have been carried out. The twin town Sedbergh has been visited by many primary school students from Zreče, the choir KUD Vladko Mohorič Zreče, the quartet Odmev, Ljudski pevci iz Stranic, the choir Jurij Vodovnik Zreče, a folk group KUD Jurij Vodovnik Skomarje, the Zreče town band, Pevke z Brinjeve gore, the band 500 metres, the firemen's choir from Zreče and many more. Of course many groups from Sedbergh have also visited Zreče, a lot of them have been led by David Burbidge (The Cautly Carolls, Werca's Folk and Malestrum to mention a few)

At the 800th anniversary of the first written accounts of Zreče the musicians of the Sedbergh Brass band visited Zreče.



Sedbergh Brass band with Alan Lewis, Zreče July 2005



The leaflet from Sedbergh, announcing the visit of our choir in Sedbergh and inviting town residents to join the choir for the "singing walk" around Sedbergh

(Source: Ivačić, Zdravko in Mrzdovnik, Martin Zreška kulturna dogajanja. Zreče, KUD Vladko Mohorič Zreče, 2013)





Museum collections – history reminders

The Zreče Municipality prides itself on extremely rich culture heritage. For the purpose of preserving it, some museum collections and sights have been renovated. The visitors take lots of interest in seeing them.

Archeological findings on Brinjeva gora hill

Brinjeva gora is one of the oldest high-altitude settlements. It existed as far back as the early Stone Age and outlived many lower lying settlements. Archaeological excavations in the 1960's discovered numerous antique findings, which indicate that life here was very active three to five thousand years b. Ch.



An exhibition of the Brinjeva gora excavations is currently held in the lobby of Hotel Planja on Rogla. Archaeological excavations led by Stanko Pahič took 11 years to complete. Archaeologists discovered several sites from various different prehistoric and historic periods: the ancient Bronze Age sites in Brezje and Zreče, the cave Pavlakova jama with prehistoric earthenware in Dobrava, sites on Brinjeva gora with excavations from Bronze Age, the urn burial period, the antique and the late antique. Some other important discoveries include the Bronze Age barrows, the urn burial ground, the Roman barrows and the late-antique and Slavonic graves, located in the area around Brinjeva gora.



The »100 Frankolovo Victims« Museum – the Frankolovo Crime

The »100 Frankolovo Victims« Museum was established in honour of an event from World War II, when 100 Slovenian patriots were hung in Graben na Stranica. The cruel homicide of Slovenian patriots was committed on February 12th 1945 in Graben na Stranica. It is considered to be one of the worst Nazi crimes of World War II. The Slovenian patriots were brutally executed in retaliation for the assassination of a prominent Nazi functionary Anton Dorfmeister, who was killed in a partisan ambush in the Tesno gorge. They were hung on the apple trees, lining the road, and buried in two mass graves.



The Šrekl – Zajc Blacksmith's Forge

The Šrekl – Zajc Blacksmith's Forge was established when a small workshop joined forces with a blacksmith's forge. In 2007, Ignac Zajc Junior organized the deconstruction of machinery and tools from the Šrekl blacksmith's forge and transported them to his blacksmith's forge in Dobrovlje, where master blacksmith Ignac Zajc Senior used to work. The workshop in Dobrovlje is still running, along with housing a collection of objects of blacksmith heritage.





Museum collections – technical and cultural heritage

Ošlak Forge

The Ošlak Forge is one of the rare remaining forges in the Zreče area which still uses traditional methods. According to written sources, it was established around 1770. Above the entrance to the forge some blacksmith decorations and the year 1789 are inscribed. In that year the building got its current shape. The Ošlak Forge contains an old residential house, an outhouse, a forge, the so-called *Venecijanka* sawmill with a joiner's workshop, a wooden shed and a new residential house.



The forge is powered by a water wheel. It is located in the central room of the building, while the smaller room is used as a storage room for materials and products. There are several interesting water powered devices in the forge. The most interesting is a kind of a hammer, called *»repač«*. One can also have a look at a rich collection of homemade farming tools used in that time.



»Repač« in Ošlak's forge

Narrow Gauge Railway Poljčane–Konjice–Zreče Museum The Zreče Railway Station is the only remaining railway station of the Poljčane–(Slovenske) Konjice–Zreče narrow gauge railway line. At the station, a train with a locomotive, a passenger car, and two freight cars are displayed.



The Poljčane – Slovenske Konjice narrow gauge railway line was opened in 1892 and extended to Zreče in 1921. The line was not profitable enough, so it was closed in 1962.



A part of the Zreče Railway Station was renovated where three museum collections are kept. The collections are dedicated to:

- The railway line Poljčane–Konjice–Zreče
- The ensemble Zreški kovači
- The latest events, connected to retaining a memory of the railway line





Museum collections – ethnological and cultural heritage

The Skomarje House

The Skomarje house (before the Štruc house) from 1803 is one of the most important sites of cultural heritage in the southern parts of Pohorje and the Dravinja Valley. It was built in a transitional design between the late medieval smokehouse and a more advanced house with a black kitchen. It was renovated in 1996 and is owned by the company Swaty-Comet Llc. Since 1999 poetry recitals called »Jaz mam en stari znucan koš« have been taking place there, where young, especially national poets read their poems.



The Buci's Mill

The Buci's mill is located in the settlement Dobrava, the southern part of the Zreče Municipality along the Mlinščica stream. The mill was built in 1914. Relatively stable water levels enabled the local people to make good use of the water. They built mills, saws, forges and water wheels along the streams. Buci's mill was built as a 2-storey construction building. It is a roller type turbine powered mill with 3 storeys per turbine. Machines, produced in Vienna, date back to 1892. Some of the machines were produced in factories in Maribor at the beginning of World War I.

The Vodovnik collection

The Vodovnik collection, which is kept in St. Lambert's church in Skomarje, depicts the culture of living and the religious-education activities at the end of 19th and the beginning of 20th century in the Skomarje village.

Jurij Vodovnik, a national poet and actor was born in Skomarje village. He was a France Prešeren's and Martin Slomšek's contemporary. He was a cloth weaver, but instead of weaving cloth he preferred weaving words into songs and poems. He could read and write, which was very rare at the time. Carrying his bottomless basket, his restless spirit took him all over Pohorje mountains, and the Dravinja valley.

After a short illness he died in Skomarje on 17th December 1858.



The Petelinek's mill

The mill was first located on the right bank of the Dravinja river. After the river had been regulated the mill lost its place. In 1924 they built a new mill on the left bank of the river where it is still located nowadays. A well preserved water wheel was restored and exhibited. In the past people used to mill wheat, barley, buckwheat, and pot barley. Today the mill is rarely used, except for the purpose of preserving tradition and the heritage of our predecessors. By prior arrangement with the owners, visitors can watch the presentation on how grain used to be milled. The transformation of water energy into energy to propel the wheel is nicely presented as well. The mill was almost completely renovated from 2009 to 2010. Next to the mill there's Petelinek's interesting homestead, which is also worth visiting.





When old photos begin to speak

This photo was taken in 1926 at the ceremony of blessing St. Giles new bells. In the photo we can see the priest Matija Karba, the mayor J. Winter, the later mayor J. Orož, the headmaster of the local school K. Mravljak, an organist A. Sadek and the Zreče musicians.



In the years 1968 and 1969 a Girls' choir often had concerts with the Men's choir DPD Svoboda Zreče. The choirs were led by a father and a daughter Vladko and Darinka Mohorič.



Social life in Zreče was very active. Several societies were founded, among them were the religious-education society and the so-called Straža society. In 1932 a new society was founded, which was today's cultural society Vladko Mohorič, and Zreče Catholic-cultural society's predecessor.



Ten years after the girls' choir had been active, a Women's choir, led by Vilma Ceglar was established. It was active for ten years. Then it joined with the men's choir in a new choir consisting of men and women. It was called Mešani pevski zbor DPD Svoboda Zreče.



In 1934 Farm boys' and girls' association from Zreče acted in a play, called Krivoprisežnik (in English: The Perjurer). The play was performed in Kračun's house (later The cultural hall Zreče).



The oldest choir in Zreče is St. Giles church choir, which was first founded more than hundred years ago. The first leader of a choir was Albin Sadek from Brinjeva gora. The photo dates back to 1975.

After World War II the social life in Zreče became active again. This photo of the singers and actors was taken after one of their performances on 29th September 1949.



The first national popular ensemble was called Zreški kovači, which became famous even outside the local community. They played and sang from 1958 to 1963. The leader of the ensemble was Franjo Kozelj, who also wrote the lyrics for the songs. He used to be the last stationmaster in Zreče.



200 years of primary school education in Zreče

In 2015 a significant anniversary was celebrated in Zreče, namely 200 years of primary school education in Zreče. The beginning of schooling in Zreče is documented in a letter sent to the dean in Slovenske Konjice from the diocesan ordinary's office in Št. Andraž na Koroškem on 12th October 1815.

(Source: Archiepiscopal archives in Maribor, Šolski škofijski protokoli, box 4, Protokol, 1815)

Le kje se jaz učim



1815–2015

In his poem *Preprosta pesem o koristi ljudskih šol* Jurij Vodovnik, a national poet and songster reflects on school. Reading his lines one can get the image of that time, the timeless nature and the significance of knowledge.

In this poem the author speaks about the times when there were no schools in Zreče and its surroundings. People could not read or write. They were ignorant and life was boring.

Schools in Zreče and its surroundings

Zreče, Stranice, Gorenje, Skomarje and Resnik are places that used to have primary schools. Today there is only a central school in Zreče with two subsidiary schools in Stranice and Gorenje. All other schools were closed; the buildings are used for other purposes today.



Resnik – the former school
(A postcard dating from the beginning of 20th century)



Skomarje – school building bottom left
(A postcard dating from the beginning of 20th century)



Zreče – the former Primary school; today's secondary school
(The photo was taken after World war II)



Renovated primary school in Zreče
(The photo was taken after the renovation in 2015)



Gorenje – the former primary school
(A postcard posted in 1921)



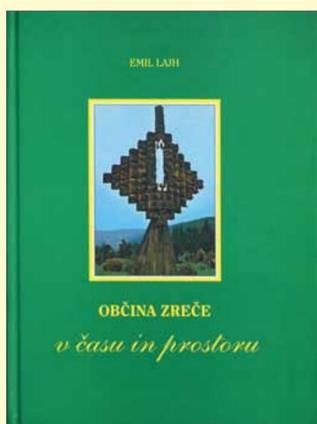
Stranice – the former primary school
(Facsimile, the Večer newspaper, 20th January 1975)





Books, published or co-published by the Zreče Municipality

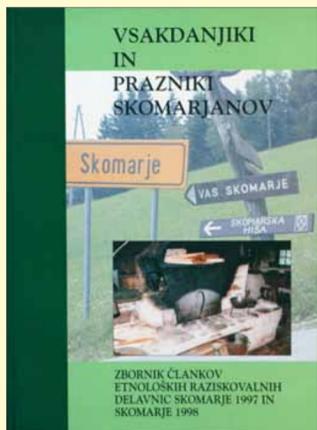
It is everyone's wish to leave a trace in time and place. What is not written can get lost. Our national poet and songster Jurij Vodovnik was well aware of that. He used to write with a charcoal on the board. He took every chance to write his poems and songs. Ever since the Zreče Municipality was established, the authors have been aware of the fact that material goods are not the most important thing in our lives; moreover, they have decided to publish their works for the common people to read. The municipal newspaper *Pohorsko srce* and the *Almanac*, which is published every four years contain news about daily events of the municipality.



Anton Gričnik, Koprivnik in njegovo Pohorje, published in 1997

The book is a reproduction of Koprivnik's most important work Pohorje. It depicts his life and work. Janez Koprivnik was born in the Gorenje village near Zreče.

Igor Cvetko, Pesmi iz koša, published in 2001
After having written his first book *Jes sem Vodovnik Juri*, he published another book with 18 Vodovnik's most well-known songs with music.



Emil Lajh, Občina Zreče v času in prostoru, published in 2002

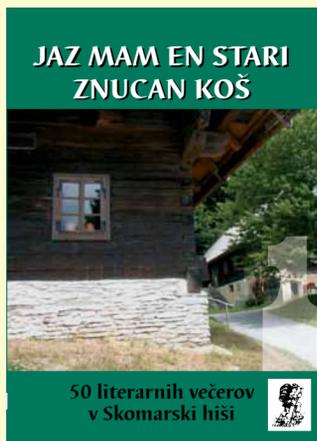
He wrote a history of places belonging to the Zreče Municipality.

Vsakdanjiki in prazniki Skomarjanov, was written by several authors in 2002, edited by dr. Vito Hazler. A collection of papers was written by authors who had researched the life in the Skomarje village at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century.



Anton Gričnik, Jurij Vodovnik – Pesmi, published in 2004 In this book of songs all Vodovnik's songs with their varieties and also those which are believed to have been written by Vodovnik are gathered.

The Zreče miscellany – It was edited in 2006 at the 800th anniversary of the first written accounts of Zreče. Several authors have given a detailed description of the history of Zreče and its neighbouring area. The miscellany was edited by Drago Medved.



Jaz mam en stari znucan koš I, II

This work is an account of 50 literary recitals, that took place in the Skomarje house. It was edited by Martin Mrzdovnik, KUD Vladko Mohorič in 2007 (II was published in 2012).

Anton Gričnik, Jaz hočem bit fraj, published in 2008 The last book in the trilogy about Vodovnik is a romanced biography of Jurij Vodovnik.

Karel Rustja, Ozkotirna železniška proga Poljčane–Konjice–Zreče

The book was published in 2009 in collaboration with the municipalities of Slovenske Konjice and Poljčane. It is the first attempt of a thorough written record of the building and the abolishment of the narrow-gauge railway Poljčane–Konjice–Zreče.

Almanah Občine Zreče, published in 2010

An extensive almanac contains the text, pictures and statistics about the most important projects carried out and the events that happened from 2006 to 2010.

Rudniki, premogovniki in kamnolomi v Dravinjski dolini,

published by several authors and edited by dr. Vito Hazler in 2011

The book is a scientific monography which was published in collaboration of six municipalities from the Dravinja valley.

Vrtec od včeraj do danes za jutri

This work is an expertise written by several authors. The editors are: Jana Bezenšek, Mirjam Senica, Marija Kovše. It was published in 2011.

Zdravko Ivačič in Martin Mrzdovnik, Zreška kulturna dogajanja

The book was published in 2013 at the 80th anniversary of Zreče cultural society KUD Vladko Mohorič.

Podobe naših krajev na starih razglednicah skozi čas

In 2014 there was an exhibition of old postcards showing various places of the Zreče Municipality. The same photos later appeared in a book edited by Blaž Prapótnik.

Praznično leto Skomarjanov

The miscellany was published in 2014 at 700th anniversary of the first written accounts of the Skomarje village. It was edited by Anton Gričnik and contains written records of seven speeches given by lecturers and seven by the priests. Those were the people who were in charge of the festivals all year round.

Almanah Občine Zreče

The second almanac, published in 2014 also gives a thorough account of the most important projects and events taking place in Zreče Municipality.

