

1.01 Izvirni znanstveni članek

UDK 929Födransperg J.:070.16"1908"  
343.611(450.361)"1908"

Prejeto: 5. 6. 2015

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## »Razparač iz Rojana« Primer Julija Födransperga iz leta 1908 v luči časopisja

### IZVLEČEK

*Prispevek obravnava razvpit primer morilca Julija pl. Födransperga. Dogajanje je postavljeno v leto 1908, ko je tržaški ribič iz morja potegnil zavoj, v katerem je našel odsekano človeško glavo. Odkritje je sprožilo pravo senzacijo in ni bilo časopisa, ki o tem ne bi pisal. Kmalu zatem so odkrili storilca, Julija Födransperga, in zanimanje za primer se je še povečalo. Da bi ugodili radovednim bralcem, so časopisi začeli brskati po Födranspergovi preteklosti, za katero so ugotovili, da je bila vse prej kot vzor plemiškega življenja. Poročanje o tržaškem »razparaču« tako lahko najdemo v tržaških, ljubljanskih, dunajskih, pa tudi ameriških časopisih.*

### KLJUČNE BESEDE

*Julij Födransperg, Trst, Razparač iz Rojana, časopisje, senzacionalistično poročanje*

### ABSTRACT

*"THE RIPPER OF ROLANO". THE CASE OF JULIUS FÖDRANSPERG OF 1908 IN LIGHT OF PRESS COVERAGE*

*The paper describes the infamous murder case of Julius von Födransperg. The events are set in 1908, when a Trieste fisherman hauled from the sea a parcel containing a severed human head. The discovery created a huge sensation that made headlines everywhere. Before long, the investigation identified Julius Födransperg as the murderer, drawing even more attention to the case. To satisfy the readers' curiosity, the press began to dig through Födransperg's past, which turned out to be anything but an example of noble living. Little wonder, then, that the Trieste "ripper" received press coverage not only in Trieste, Ljubljana and Vienna, but also in the American press.*

### KEY WORDS

*Julius Födransperg, Trieste, Ripper of Roiano, newspapers, sensationalism*

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## S U M M A R Y

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### »The Ripper of Roiano«. The case of Julius Födransperg of 1908 in light of press coverage

The paper focuses on the press coverage of a crime committed by a Carniolan nobleman Julius Födransperg in Trieste in 1908. Like many others, Födransperg and his victim Lucienne Fabry came to Trieste to pursue the city's many opportunities. Seven years earlier (in 1901), Födransperg left his family and set out for Trieste, where he was about to embark on a ship bound for Latin America in the

desire to start a better life, but changed his mind and stayed in the port city. The opera singer Lucienne Fabry came to Trieste from Tunis, searching for employment. She found work in one of Trieste's many cafes. Before he first met Fabry in 1908, Födransperg changed several jobs and built a new life with a widow Katarina Celič, who financially supported him when he had no income. Despite his lasting and public relationship with Katarina, Födransperg asked for the hand of the young Lucienne Fabry only after a brief acquaintance. He introduced himself to her as a wealthy bachelor holding a noble title. Fabry believed him and, in the hope of improving her prospects moved to live with him in the town of Roiano. However, already on the third day of living together, they had a bitter argument in which Födransperg stabbed Fabry to death. To conceal his crime, he dismembered the corpse and threw the head, which he had wrapped in paper, into the sea while hiding other body parts in suitcases. The crime was soon discovered and Trieste newspapers that covered the murder began to draw rather sensationalistic parallels with the London's extremely notorious case of Jack the Ripper. Investigators did not have much work finding the murderer, who left his main lead—his own initials—on the piece of paper, in which he wrapped the victim's head. Födransperg was arrested and put in Trieste's jail, where he awaited the start of the trial in 1909. The case generated most interest among local inhabitants who had a very negative opinion of the main and only suspect. Newspapers sensationalized the progress of the police investigation as well as the victim and much ink was also spilt on unveiling the criminal past of the murderer and his family. These writings threw light on a clear deviation from conduct befitting members of nobility. Nonetheless, despite of reports on the actual events that took place in Födransperg's life, his image could not entirely escape press mythicisation, which only added to the popularity of the case. The newspaper coverage reached its peak on the conclusion of the trial in 1909, when Födransperg confessed the crime and was sentenced to death. The death penalty was never carried out, however, as the emperor pardoned him and reduced his sentence to life in prison. Födransperg spent the last years of his life in the Koper penitentiary, where he died of a disease in 1913. Public interest and the number of articles about the murder decreased with geographical distance from Trieste. Nevertheless, the gruesome nature of the murder made Födransperg's case also known to readers in Ljubljana, Vienna and America.