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Vojna po vojni – očetovstvo Ambroža Maleka

IZVLEČEK

Kulturnozgodovinska študija je drugi del trilogije *Vojna po vojni* (prvi je bil objavljen v *Časopisu za zgodovino in narodopisje*), ki se osredotoča na odnose med štajersko kmečko populacijo po prvi svetovni vojni. Avtorica se v razpravi ukvarja z življenjskima zgodbama kmečkih mladostnikov Ambroža Maleka in Marije Brandsteter; njuna ljubezenska zveza je leta 1921 dobila tragični zaključek, zato jo lahko spremljamo v kazenskem spisu mariborskega Okrožnega sodišča, ki ga hrani Pokrajinski arhiv Maribor. Razprava se med drugim osredotoča na spremenjene spolne vloge in svobodno partnerstvo po vojni. Ugotavlja, da je bilo življenje lokalnih skupnosti štajerskega obrobja neposredno po koncu vojne globoko povezano z okoliščinami vojne, ki je boleče zamajala trdno usidrane patriarhalne vzorce v kmečkih družinah.

KLJUČNE BESEDE:

prva svetovna vojna, kmečke družine, zgodovina mentalitet, zgodovina spolov, Ambrož Malek

ABSTRACT

A WAR AFTER THE WAR—AMBROŽ MALEK'S FATHERHOOD

The cultural-historical study is the second part of the trilogy *A war after the war* (the first one was published in the *Review for History and Ethnography*) focusing on relationships among Styrian rural population after the First World War. In this study, the authoress describes the life stories of two young peasants, Ambrož Malek and Marija Brandsteter. Since their amorous relationship came to a tragic end in 1921, we can follow it in the prosecution file of the Maribor District Court, kept at the Maribor Regional Archives. The paper focuses, among others, on changed gender roles and free partnership relationships after the war. It concludes that in the war's immediate aftermath life in local communities on the margins of Styrian society was profoundly marked by the circumstances of war, which delivered a painful blow to the deeply rooted patriarchal patterns in rural families.

KEY WORDS:

First World War, rural families, history of mentalities, history of genders, Ambrož Malek

VIRI IN LITERATURA

ARHIVSKI VIR

PAM – Pokrajinski arhiv Maribor

Okrožno sodišče Maribor 1898–1941, spis Vr VII 588/21.

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S U M M A R Y

A WAR AFTER THE WAR—AMBROŽ MALEK'S FATHERHOOD

On the night of 8 and 9 February 1921, a nineteen-year-old farmhand Ambrož Malek from Žikarce near Maribor lured his former sweetheart, an eighteen-year-old Marija Brandsteter from the neighbouring village of Selce, who was about to give birth, to a nearby forest where he strangled her. As became clear at the very start of the criminal proceedings against Malek, of which we can read in the prosecution file of the District Court Maribor, kept at the Maribor Regional Archives, the defendant had no allies in his village community. Nor would anyone take the side of the deceased Marija. Even her father,

a crofter Janez Brandsteter, was more concerned with the quantities of alcohol that Malek had consumed in his house than with the relationships between his daughter, his family and Malek. In the initial phase of the criminal proceeding against Malek, the investigation most heavily relied on the comprehensive report that the police commander at Sv. Barbara, Franc Prekoršek, completed in mid-February 1921 on the basis of inquests and a sound knowledge of the web of ties among the local inhabitants. The report provides the modern cultural-historical observer with a unique illustration of relationships within a local community that were largely based on close cooperation necessitated by the nature of rural life as well as village rumours incited by prejudice and moral judgment regarding the lives of others. If in the initial police reports of Commander Prekoršek the locals unanimously described the victim as dissolute, individual testimonies subsequently given before the court portrayed a diametrically opposed image of Marija Brandsteter. The villagers placed the greatest blame on Malek's idleness; indolence was the basic category by which the village community judged its members. In early April 1921, the state attorney's office in Maribor filed an indictment at the local District Court against Malek, charging him with the murder of Marija Brandsteter and in June he was sentenced to nine years of "close confinement". Malek started his sentence in the male penitentiary in Maribor. Malek's story clearly illustrates what losing the head of the family meant for the strictly patriarchal rural family system, given that Ambrož was unable to accept the substitution of his father's authority with his mother's. He sought to re-establish the patriarchal pattern by physically eliminating his girlfriend and their unborn daughter. His early release from the Maribor male penitentiary in February 1928 indicates that the penal institution gave him enough sense of security and stability to become an exemplary inmate and perhaps successfully reintegrate into the community upon his release.