

1.01 Izvirni znanstveni članek

UDK 908(497.4Komen)"1900/1945"

Prejeto: 30. 6. 2015

**Jasna Fakin Bajec**

dr. etnoloških znanosti, prof. zgodovine, Inštitut za kulturne in spominske študije ZRC SAZU, Raziskovalna postaja Nova Gorica,
Delpinova 12, SI-5000 Nova Gorica
E-pošta: jasna.fakin@zrc-sazu.si

Komen – kraški Pariz. Interpretacija krajevne zgodovine na podlagi ustnih in časopisnih virov iz prve polovice 20. stoletja

IZVLEČEK

Osrednji namen članka je predstaviti krajevno zgodovino Komna v prvi polovici 20. stoletja, ko so krajanje živeli pod žezlom dveh vlad: avstro-ogrske in italijanske. Ker so bile v drugi svetovni vojni (15. februarja 1944) Komen in tri sosednje vasi požgane, vojna vibra pa je uničila zunanjo podobo vasi, družinske, občinske, cerkvene in šolske arhive, je interpretacija lokalne zgodovine predstavljena na podlagi primerjave in analize individualnih spominov, dopisov iz časopisov Soča, Edinost in Goriška straža ter ohranjenih starih razglednic. Pod drobnogled je bil postavljen razvoj občinske uprave, gospodarstva, turizma in kulturnega življenja.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

krajevna zgodovina, Kras, Komen, občinska uprava, turizem, prosvetna društva

ABSTRACT

*KOMEN – THE PARIS OF THE KARST.
INTERPRETATION OF LOCAL HISTORY BASED ON ORAL AND NEWSPAPER SOURCES FROM
THE FIRST HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY.*

The main purpose of this article is to present the local history of village Komen in the first half of the 20th century, when the inhabitants lived under the scepter of the two governments: the Austro-Hungarian and Italian. Since in the Second World War (15 February 1944) Komen and three neighboring villages burnt down, the maelstrom of the war destroyed the external image of the village, familiar, community, church and school archives, the interpretation of the local history is presented on the basis of the comparison and analysis of individual memories, letters from newspapers Soča, Edinost and Goriška straža and preserved old postcards. Under the microscope was exposed the development of the municipal administration, economy, tourism and cultural lives.

KEY WORDS

Local history, Kras (Karst), Komen, the municipal administration, tourism, cultural associations

- Andrej Kranjc idr.) Ljubljana: Založba ZRC, str. 164–191.
- Paschini, Pio: *Storia del Friuli. Udine: Arti grafiche Friulane, 1975.*
- Patat, Luciano: *Il Duce ha sempre ragione: il fascismo in provincia di Gorizia e nella bassa Friulana. Gradisca d'Isonzo: Centro Isontino di ricerca e documentazione storica e sociale »Leopoldo Gasparini«, 2009.*
- Pavšič-Milost, Aleksandra: *Zadružni dom – naš ponos (katalog ob razstavi). Nova Gorica: Pokrajinski arhiv v Novi Gorici, 1996.*
- Potokar, Klelija: *Divjača na stičišču poti. Ilirska Bistrica: Borovci, 2011.*
- Potokar, Klelija: *Kačiče na Krasu. Kačiče-Pared: samozaložba, 2005.*
- Ročni kažipot po Goriškem in Gradiščanskem (1894, 1899, 1901, 1906, 1911, 1923), URN:NBN:SI:DOC-GXYG5IJF iz http://www.dlib.si; Ogled: 27. 6. 2015.*
- Rutar, Simon: *Poknežena grofija Goriška in Gradiščanska. Ljubljana: Matica Slovenska, 1892.*
- Skrinjar, Pavel: *Sežana: sonce nad prestolnico Krasa. Logatec: Ad Pirum, zavod za intelektualne dejavnosti, 2006.*
- Specijalni repertorij krajev na avstrijsko-ilirskem Primorju. Dunaj: Alfred Hölder (založnik), Vir: http://www.sistory.si/SISTORY:ID:835; Ogled: 3. 9. 2015.*
- Studen, Andrej: *Iz avanturizma v turizem. Razvoj turizma v Sloveniji: zbornik referatov (ur. Franc Rozman, Zarko Lazarevič). Ljubljana: Zveza zgodovinskih društev Slovenije, 1996, str. 96–104.*
- Širok, Kaja: *Kalejdoskop goriške preteklosti: zgodbe o spominu in pozabi. Ljubljana: Založba ZRC, 2012.*
- Štolfa, Boštjan: *Kulturni, gospodarski in politični utrip Komna v II. polovici 19. stoletja. Kras, revija o krasu in Krasu, št. 46, 2001, str. 36–41.*
- Uršič, Ivanka in Doroteja Jazbec (ur.): *Iz požganih domov v izgnanstvo: Divči, Jablanec, Komen, Mali Dol, Tomačevica: spominski zbornik. Komen: Krajevna skupnost, 1994.*
- Verginella, Marta: *Zgodovinska in politična raba pričevalca. Acta Histriae, letn. 20, št. 1/2, 2012, str. 107–120;*
- Vidmar, Cvetko: *Od prvih zametkov ljudske oblasti do današnje komune. Goriški zbornik 1948–1968. Nova Gorica: ČZP Delavska enotnost Ljubljana, 1968, str. 20–37.*
- Vidrih Lavrenčič, Liljana in Metka Nusdorfer Vuksanovič: *Občine na Goriškem od srede 19. stoletja do druge svetovne vojne (katalog ob razstavi). Nova Gorica: Pokrajinski arhiv, 1986.*
- Vodopivec, Peter: *Od Poblinove slovnice do samostojne države: slovenska zgodovina od konca 18. stoletja do konca 20. stoletja. Ljubljana: Modrijan, 2007.*



S U M M A R Y

Komen – the Paris of the Karst. Interpretation of local history based on oral and newspaper sources from the first half of the 20th century.

The main purpose of this article is to present the local history of the village of Komen in the first half of the 20th century, during which its inhabitants lived under the sceptre of two governments: the Austro-Hungarian and Italian. Since in the Second World War, Komen and three neighbouring villages burnt down and the village, familiar, community, church and school archives were destroyed, the interpretation of local history is presented on the basis of the analysis of oral and newspaper sources as well as preserved old postcards. The article expands some historical findings that the villagers themselves made in the 1990s, on Komen's two major anniversaries (50 years since the village burnt down and 750 years since its first mention in historical sources), and as unschooled historians opened a discourse on the importance of local history to strengthen the collective village identity and preserve its memory for future generations. Moreover, given that after the postmodernist shift, local history has vastly contributed to the development of tourism contents and promotion of sustainable development policy, the presented interpretation may also provide the basis for new innovative ideas of how the life of the village may be further improved in the future. Special focus is on the development of the municipal administration, economy, tourism and cultural life.

Before the Second World War, Komen was an important administrative and economic centre of the Karst region, which formed part of the province of Gorizia-Gradisca under Austria-Hungary and of the province of Gorizia in the interwar period. Until 1926, the municipality of Komen was led by Slovenian mayors, with Mayor Josip Žigon figuring most prominently in popular memory. Žigon brought economic development to the village, by providing it with the first electric lighting in the Karst in 1926. Electrical power was provided by an engine that stood in the location of the former steam mill, sawmill and iron works owned by Dominik Gaspari. Žigon also endeavoured for a good road connection, particularly to Tržič/Monfalcone, considered the second Trieste by the local inhabitants of the lower Karst. Komen also had a post office, a notary's office, a school and a magistrate's court for misdemeanours and minor offences. After 1926, the mayoral function was taken over by podestàs, most of whom were of non-Slovenian descent. Widespread municipal

administration under the Italian state imposed higher municipal and supplementary taxes on the local population than that of Austria-Hungary. During the period between the two wars, when many farms were crushed by heavy financial burden and poor harvest, local inhabitants nonetheless managed to derive some sustenance from cottage industry, shops, taverns and farming tourism. The interwar Komen was a renowned tourist destination, billed in the then press as the Paris of the Karst, and was an especially popular destination among less wealthy citizens of Trieste, Venice and Udine/Videm. Komen developed so-called summer freshness, i.e. a way of spending summer days outdoors, walking and sitting about in nearby forests and farm gardens. Some travellers retreated into cheaper inns, others found lodging with the local inhabitants who put their bedrooms up for rent. The restaurant and hotel Pasqualin, Muha and cart-drivers' Buža were the favourite food and lodging establishments among travellers. The village also became a blooming health retreat for patients with tuberculosis, as well as children suffering from anaemia and asthma. From 1930 onwards, Ernesto Solvay soap factory from Tržič/Monfalcone had its vacation house here, annually hosting up to 140 children.

Further adding to the dynamic village life in the first half of the 20th century were numerous village festivities and fetes that were organised by educational societies and youth. Albeit at odds with the authorities in the interwar period by refusing to comply with the then Fascist policy, the aforementioned societies contributed enormously to the cultural and social development of the Karst countryside. Komen had an active Singing and Reading Society Lira, Gymnastics Society Sokol and a Tambura Society.

After the Second World War, the ravaged Komen adopted a different line of economic and political development and began to lose its role as the administrative and economic centre of the Karst, as well as its primacy as a tourist destination. The latter was mainly due to the predominant socialist policy of mass tourism, which in the Karst concentrated in Lipica, Škocjan Caves and partly Štanjel. The recent development of the so-called ecological, cultural and active tourism, however, presents many Komen's inhabitants with the opportunity for further development, especially because it will allow them to build their business story on the time-honoured and time-tested tradition of their village.