

1.02 Pregledni znanstveni članek

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»Po srcu so ostali Kraševci« Kras, Kraševci in morje

IZVLEČEK

V luči pomorske zgodovine in relacij med obmorskimi mesti in zaledjem prispevek govori o prebivalcih Krasa in širše kraške pokrajine ter potomcih izseljenih Kraševcev, ki so bili v preteklosti povezani z morjem, nekateri občasno, drugi vsakodnevno s potovanjem med kraško pokrajino in obmorskimi mesti ter služenjem v pomorskih dejavnostih, tretji trajno z izselitvijo v obmorska mesta ali zaposlitvijo na trgovskih in vojnih ladjah ter pomorskih institucijah različnih držav. Dotakne pa se tudi tistih Kraševcev, ki so vsak na svojem področju poskrbeli, da pomorska povezava Krasa in Kraševcev ne utoneta v pozabo.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

Kras, Kraševci, pomorstvo, trgovska mornarica, vojna mornarica, ladjedelništvo, ribištvo

ABSTRACT

*“THE KARST DWELLED FOREVER IN THEIR HEARTS”
THE KARST, ITS PEOPLE AND THE SEA*

In light of maritime history and relations between coastal towns and hinterland, the article presents the inhabitants of the Karst Plateau and wider karst area, as well as the descendants of emigrants from the Karst who had close ties to the sea—either through occasional or daily journeying between the karst landscape and coastal towns, or by finding employment aboard merchant or navy ships and in maritime institutions abroad. The paper also briefly presents those Karst natives who have, each in their own field, made sure that the ties between the sea on the one hand and the Karst and its people on the other will never sink into oblivion.

KEY WORDS

Karst, Karst natives, maritime transport, merchant navy, the navy, shipbuilding, fisheries

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S U M M A R Y

»The Karst dwelled forever in their hearts« The Karst, its people and the sea

The paper presents the inhabitants of the Karst Plateau and wider karst area, as well as the descendants of emigrants from the Karst, who had close ties to the sea. In light of maritime history and relations between coastal towns and hinterland, the paper aims to present different maritime activities (port operations, transport, shipping, shipbuilding, the navy, merchant navy, maritime education, etc.), as well as some individuals who have, each in their own way, left a lasting imprint on Slovenian maritime history. They sustained their families and connected coastal areas with continental hinterland, either on an occasional or daily basis, by journeying between the Karst landscape and coastal towns, particularly Trieste and Rijeka, and serving in maritime industries. Others

permanently emigrated from their native villages to coastal towns or by finding employment aboard merchant or navy ships as well as in maritime institutions abroad. Wherever they settled or travelled, emigrants always took a piece of the Karst and characteristic of karst landscapes with them.

Karst natives and their children can be found in all coastal towns and in a broad range of connections with the sea. The time of their immigration to the coast varies and dates at least back to the 18th century, when Trieste and Rijeka also started to absorb newcomers from the immediate hinterland. They are identified as cart-drivers who delivered goods to ships, as traders, ship-chandlers, shipbuilders and port workers, shippers, sailors, navy officers, pupils and students of maritime schools, as well as navy commissioned officers and ship captains, researchers of maritime history, and artists who used different techniques to depict the sea and maritime themes. Although, despite its geographic proximity to the coastline, the Karst appears separated from the sea, it only takes a glance into the past to see that just the opposite is true.

Primary focus is therefore on the postwar period, during which the economic, political and social changes which took place in the present-day Slovenian coast pushed the majority of autochthonous population from urban and partly from rural areas to emigrate to Italy. This altered the ethnic composition of the entire region. The annexation to Slovenia/Yugoslavia in 1954 provided Koper and other coastal towns with an opportunity to pursue an organised and accelerated economic and social development. The London Memorandum caused migration waves in different directions. The vacuum in three coastal towns produced by the emigration of the majority population to Italy was quickly filled by settlers from the Julian March (Zone B) and the Free Territory of Trieste (Zone A). They began to seek employment in industrial plants on the coast and also made well in the maritime industry. Yugoslav authorities as well as political and economic forces strove to transform Koper into a major economic centre to compete with Trieste. Due to the then living conditions and despite the unplanned yet expected demographic policy, the coastal area also received a major influx of settlers from the nearby Karst.

Finally, the paper briefly presents those Karst natives who had ties with the Rijeka maritime sector and who have, each in their own field (history, art, socio-political life, journalism, media, etc.), made sure that the ties between the sea on the one hand and the Karst and its people on the other will never sink into oblivion.