

## SEMINARSKA NALOGA

### V OKVIRU PROROGRAMA TURISTIČNI VODNIK TURISTIČNEGA OBMOČJA BELA KRAJINA

Udeleženka izobraževanja:  
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Avtorica: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020



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Avtorica: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020

## 1. INOVATIVEN TURISTIČNI PRODUKT: 'CICIBANOVI DNEVI V VINICI'

Vinico najraje »promoviram« kot rojstni kraj velikega slovenskega poeta Otona Župančiča. Njegov Ciciban je še 100 let po prvi izdaji otroške pesniške zbirke Mehurčki nepresežen otroški vzornik. Preprost, simpatičen, ravno prav nagajiv, zvit, radoveden, ljubitelj narave, spoštljiv, obenem pa tudi pravi 'mali gospod/človek', kar izvorno pomeni beseda CICIBAN.... Vse, kar je tudi vsak naš mali, živi in pravi, otrok 'ciciban'. Zato se vsi še vedno tako radi in zlahka poistovetimo s temi pesmimi, čeprav so se objektivne okoliščine življenja popolnoma spremenile od časov v katerih je Župančič ustvarjal tega svojega radoživega junaka. Pa vendar - to zbirko je napisal svojemu prvorojencu Marku in jo izdal ob njegovem prvem rojstnem dnevu kot najlepše možno darilo očeta sinu. 100 let kasneje lahko ugotovimo, da

se v odnosu starši/otroci zlahka poistovetimo s temi istimi občutji, kot jih je takrat tako mojstrsko, za vedno, spesnil ta veliki poet. Te pesmi so že prestale preizkušnjo časa in tako lahko upravičeno trdim, da so večne. In z njimi je večen tudi CICIBAN.

Svoj inovativni turistični produkt namenjam prvenstveno »cicibanom« in seveda vsem njihovim spremljevalcem, pa naj bodo to starši, vzgojitelji, učitelji, starejši bratci in sestrice, dedki in babice,... Želim, da bi si ravno ta 'turistični segment' Vinico zapomnil v svetli, lepi luči, kot kraj, kamor bodo vedno radi prišli. Tudi kasneje kot mladostniki in potem odrasli, s svojimi 'cicibani'. 'Dnevi cicibana na Vinici' so sklop raznovrstnih dogodkov, ki se bodo odvijali na tematiko Župančičevih pesmi, pa tudi obujanja običajev, navad, hrane, načina življenja... v času njegovega življenja in nastajanja pesmi, ugank, rebusov,... ki jih je posvetil najmlajšim. Tako bodo otroci dobili vpogled v preprosti, z naravo povezani svet cicibana izpred 100 let. Ob tem se bomo pogovarjali o razlikah in povezavah z današnjimi časi in ugotavljal, kaj je bilo morebiti bolje tedaj in kaj danes.

»**CICIBANOVI DNEVI V VINICI**« bodo nekajurne delavnice, namenjene otrokom različnih starostnih skupin, s spremstvom. Delavnice si bodo med seboj zelo različne:

- Včasih se bomo naučili recitirati eno izmed Župančičevih pesmi (npr.: Ciciban teče v zeleni dan);
- Naslednjič bomo likovno ustvarjali na izbrano pesem;
- Ustvarjali bomo tudi otroško gledališče na izbrano pesem;
- Barvali bomo pobaranke na temo Župančičevih ugank;
- Ustvarili bomo tudi svoj čisto pravi kamišibaj (papirno gledališče) na izbrano pesem ali uganko;
- Iz naravnih materialov (kamenčki, les, školjkice, polžki, volna, listje, ....) bomo ustvarjali izbrane like iz Župančičevih pesmi;
- Učili se bomo nastopanja oziroma javnega prikaza naučenega, narejenega;
- Pešačili bomo po 'Cicibanovi gozdni/učni poti' in spoznali mnogo naravnih in kulturnih vrednot Vinice; (podrobna predstavitev sledi spodaj);
- Iskali mir na romarski poti in se pogovarjali o današnjih 'romarjih', meditaciji, čuječnosti;
- Spoznali in obiskali bomo posebne naravne habitate (Perudinski kal, jame,...) v katerih živijo zaščitene vrste živali in rastlin;
- Prav tako bomo obiskali kulturno-zgodovinske in naravne vrednote Vinice in okolice, npr.: jame (Zjot v Sečjem selu), ki so bile dom našim prednikom, kjer danes živijo zaščitene živalske vrste;
- Pogovarjali se bomo o gradovih, vitezih, graščakih;
- O življenju na meji in z mejo;
- Spoznavali Kolpo in njene avtohtone prebivalce;
- Spoznavali zeliščno abecedo teh krajev;

...IN USTVARJALI NA VSE NAŠTETE IN ŠE MNOGOTERE DRUGE TEME POVEZANE Z NARAVNIMI IN KULTURNIMI ZNAMENITOSTMI VINICE.

Tako bodo domači/lokalni otroci in otroci obiskovalcev/turistov skozi igro in ustvarjanje prejeli:

- veliko znanja o naravi, kulturi in življenju danes in v preteklosti,

- druženje in nova poznanstva (socialne spretnosti),
- gibanje, ustvarjanje, kreativno preživljanje prostega časa,
- ....in še mnogo prijetnih spominov na lepo cicibanovo Vinico.

**Za vedno si bodo zapomnili pesnika Otona Župančiča, njegovega otroškega junaka Cicibana in šum Kolpe, ki dajejo Vinici njeno bistveno naravno in kulturno identiteto.**

Turistična ponudba kraja bo s tem produktom znatno pridobila na kakovosti, raznolikosti, zanimivem in poučnem preživljanju časa z otroki in tudi za njihove spremljevalce bodo dogodki zanimivi. Prav tako bodo okoliški otroci dobili možnost sodelovanja v zanimivih, njim namenjenih dogodkih, preko katerih bodo na nevsiljiv način prejeli veliko znanja in veščin, ki jim bodo koristile v procesu formalnega izobraževanja in jih opolnomočile za razne življenjske okoliščine. Tako bomo na prijeten, nevsiljiv način, združili dva najpomembnejša akterja v turizmu: lokalno in turistično občestvo, ki velikokrat (zaradi pomanjkanja medsebojnih stikov, tkanja bolj pristnih vezi,...) eden drugega ne doživljata/sprejemata s preveliko naklonjenostjo.

Turizem je v Vinici prisoten že od nekdaj. Trenutno na viniškem območju reke Kolpe delujejo kar tri kampi, imamo obnovljen grad z apartmaji višjega kakovostnega/cenovnega razreda - turistične kapacitete v Vinici so kar visoke. Ponudba temu ne sledi. Gostom je potrebno ponuditi dogodke, doživljaje, ki bodo dvignili raven kakovosti viniškega turizma, ki je trenutno precej nizka. Kljub temu, da imamo 'bisere', kot je obnovljen muzej Otona Župančiča; znamenito cerkev 'Najdenja sv. Križa'; romarsko pot z eno najlepših 'Marijinih cerkev' z znamenitim baročnim oltarjem; smo končna postaja premalo promovirane 'Župančičeve poti', ki povezuje dve zavarovani območji narave - KP Lahinja in KP Kolpa;..., kljub vsemu temu se zdi, da je tu turist/popotnik/obiskovalec preveč prepuščen samemu sebi. Kraj z toliko turističnimi kapacitetami bi potreboval Turistično-informacijski center, kjer bi obiskovalci dobili vse informacije, napotke, organizirano ponudbo,... vse, kar potrebujejo za kakovostno raziskovanje/preživljanje dopustniških dni v Vinici in njeni okolici. Predvsem pa bi morali videti priložnost tudi v potnikih, ki SKOZI Vinico potujejo na izbrano destinacijo (Hrvaško). Ponuditi jim je treba dogodke, doživetja, pritegniti njihovo pozornost,..., in jih za dan, dva zadržati pri nas, jim predstaviti zanimive možnosti preživljanja prostih dni tudi pri nas, jih opozoriti na našo zanimivo naravno in kulturno dediščino in preseči trenutno anonimnost obmejnega kraja v katerem kupiš 'en Cofe To Go' in prestopiš mejo s Hrvaško.

S kakovostnim delovanjem je vse to realno dosegljivo.

## **2. PREDSTAVITEV DELAVNICE: CICIBAN IN ČEBELA NA GOZDNI/UČNI POTI**

Ta delavnica je namenjena otrokom različnih starosti (in njihovim spremljevalcem). Skupna dolžina/trajanje bi bilo cca 4 ure - z vsemi postanki, razlagami, malico in nagrado na koncu (skupni sladoled ali podobno). Na gozdni učni poti v kratkem, ne preveč zahtevnem sprehodu spoznamo večino bistvenih NARAVNIH in KULTURNIH spomenikov

Vinice. Razlago naravnih in kulturnih vrednot ob poti seveda prilagodimo skupini. Ker ta isti produkt ponujamo tudi odraslim, bom v spodnji razlagi poti veliko bolj obsežna in podrobna, kot bi bilo to primerno za otroško delavnico. Ker pa je namen te seminarske naloge predstaviti neko turistično znamenitost izbranega kraja, sem na tem mestu bolj izčrpna, kot bi bilo primerno za otroke. Za otroke prilagodimo vodenje na njim primeren način - opazimo več narave, metuljčkov, živalic, rastlin, omenimo zaščitene vrste, ki jih najdemo tu - vsa ta zgodovinsko-kulturna dejstva pa jim prihranimo in povemo samo najbolj zanimivo skozi zelo privlačno zgodbo. Nekatere spodaj opisane vrednote samo omenimo in jih podrobneje predstavimo na posebni delavnici/srečanju na otrokom prilagojen način - npr.: s kamenčki izdelamo Gradišče na Šleminah in se pogovarjam, kakšno je bilo življenje takrat,...

## ZGODOVINA GOZDNE UČNE POTI

Aprila leta 2002 je OŠ Vinica ob praznovanju 180 letnice organiziranega šolstva v Vinici ta praznik obeležila s posebnim prispevkom: pod vodstvom mentorjev (Mirko Bartolj, Jerneja Držaj, Ticijana Starešinič) so otroci takratnega zaključnega 8. a in b razreda, označili in uredili krožno gozdno učno pot dolgo 4 kilometre, katere začetek in konec je v Vinici (pri muzeju Ottona Župančiča). Pot je nezahtevna, primerna za otroke od petega leta starosti in dovolj zanimiva in ravno prav razgibana tudi za odrasle z osnovno gibalno kondicijo. Višinska razlika je 144 metrov. Na gozdnem delu poti (narava) je označenih več kot 30 različnih drevesnih vrst. Na poseljenem delu poti (kulturna) pa obiščemo večino viniških kulturnih spomenikov in spoznamo tako bližnjo kot tudi zelo daljno preteklost/zgodovino tukajšnjih krajev in naših prednikov.

**NA POT:**



Fotografija 3: Spominska hiša Otona Župančiča, Vinica

Avtorica: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020

Ob začetku naše delavnice se zberemo na vrtu Spominske hiše Otona Župančiča, tu se okrepčamo (pogača, kava, čaj, sok), si natočimo pitne vode iz pitnika/pipe na vrtu ob čebelnjaku in obnovimo spomin na znamenito pesem Ciciban in čebela. (V eni od prejšnjih delavnic smo to pesem podrobno spoznali in izdelali cicibana in čebelo iz naravnih materialov. Na tej delavnici se dogovorimo, da čimprej skupaj z radovednim Cicibonom in njegovo prijateljico čebelo odidemo na gozdno pot, kjer bomo vsi skupaj izvedeli veliko zanimivosti o naravni in kulturni dediščini Vinice.) Tako dobro pripravljeni (voda) in polni energije odidemo do naslednje kulturne vrednote na osrednjem viniškem trgu - kip Jožeta Vrščaja: Spomin na viniško republiko.



Fotografija 4: Kip Jožeta Vrščaja Spomin na viniško republiko, Vinica  
Avtorica: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020

Tu spregovorimo nekaj preprostih besed o tem znamenitem revolucionarnem dogodku, ki je v začetku prejšnjega stoletja izkazal živost duha tukajnjih prebivalcev.

Nato mimo župnišča in skozi pokopališče (pokažemo kje počiva Župančičeva sestrica Marica) pridemo do lepo ohranjene (gotske) **župne cerkve sv. Križa** in si ogledamo njeno bogato (baročno) notranjost. Povemo, da je ta cerkev prvič omenjena že oktobra leta 1228, ko se je ustanovila Črnomaljska pražupnija, katere podružnica je bila. Samostojna župna cerkev je že od l. 1268 (750 let), odkar je tu cerkvene pristojnosti prevzel nemški viteški red.



Fotografija 5: Cerkev sv. Križa z gotsko zasnovo; v ozadju lepo viden hrib Šlemina s sedlom, Vinica

Avtorica: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020

Skozi vas Ogulin se počasi dvigamo proti gozdu. Tu povemo zanimivo resnico, da domačini, ko kaj kopljejo, skoraj vedno najdejo ostanke rimske naselbine. Arheologji domnevajo, da je tu stala podeželska rimska trdnjava (vila rustika) z več kot 2 m debelimi zidovi! Najdeni so bili ostanki kopališča, oljenke, steklene in glinaste posode in tudi rimske grobovi. Ob nekem zemeljskem udoru pa se je odprl vhod v podzemno zidano kaščo, v kateri je bilo shranjeno pšenično zrnje. Nič od tega ni dokumentirano ali shranjeno.



Fotografija 6: Kužno znamenje nad vasjo Ogulin  
Avtorica: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020

Po vijugasti asfaltni cesti se počasi vzpenjamo proti vasi Perudina a že prej (**kmalu po kužnem znamenju**) naletimo na prvo markacijo (zelen krog z belo sredino na orehu ob cesti), ki nas usmeri desno v gozd, na gozdno cesto. Tu pa se začne naša gozdna avantura.



Fotografija 7: Markacija na drevesu  
Avtorica: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020

Na gozdni poti so z markacijo (zelen krog in bela sredina) ter številko (seznam v prilogi) označene drevesne vrste, ki so značilne za našo krajino. Ob poti najdemo tudi veliko zdravilnih zelišč, o uporabnosti katerih se pogovarjamo med našim spoznavanjem narave. Povemo, da je gozd za nas pomemben vir duhovne (mir) in telesne energije: poleg zdravilnih zelišč tudi gobe, kostanj, gozdni sadeži in tudi divjačina.

Po zložni poti se vzpenjamo proti **kopasti vzpetini, 300 m visokim Šleminam**. Pozorni opazovalec tu še vidi/najde ostanke prazgodovinske naselbine, gradišča. Naši davni predniki so si na tej naravno zavarovani vzpetini zgradili dobro zavarovano gradišče, obzidano z zidom. V sredini nekdanjega gradišča danes (žal) stoji televizijski pretvornik. Severozahodno od naselbine je ledina (prisojno travnato pobočje) Stražni dol, na kateri je bila odkrita plana nekropola - tu so prebivalci gradišča pokopavali mrtve. Grobišče je v letih 1906 in 1907 prekopala vojvodinja Mecklenburg. Odkrila je 323 žganih in skeletnih grobov z izredno bogato in dragoceno materialno dediščino tega ljudstva. Večina najdenega je bila prodana na dražbi v New Yorku in jih sedaj hrani Peabody Museum v Cambridgeu, nekaj malega gradiva pa hrani tudi Narodni muzej v Ljubljani in nekatere evropske muzejske hiše. Isto usodo so delile tudi gomile na t.i.m. Steljnikih v bližini Stražnega dola.



Fotografija 8: Oblikovani kamniti kupi, ki pričajo o nekdanjem velikem gradišču z obzidjem  
Avtorica: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020

Med potjo pozorno opazujemo in opazimo še veliko sledi starega gradišča/naselja, ki je obsegalo kar 8 Ha. Kučar in Šlemine sta bili največji in najmočnejši življenjski skupnosti/naselji na tem območju v času železne dobe/halštatu.

Na tej točki bi rada predstavila še nekaj arheološko-zgodovinskih dejstev iz prazgodovine Vinice in okolice (povzemam po: DULAR Janez, ARHEOLOŠKA TOPOGRAFIJA SLOVENIJE, Topografsko področje XI - BELA KRAJINA, SAZU, LJUBLJANA 1985):

prve datirane poselitve na tem območju so na prehodu iz bakrene v bronasto dobo, najdbe so najdene v jami Veliki Zjot pri Sečjem selu. Jama leži ob današnji cesti Vinica - Učakovci, ob Kolpi, poleg rodovitne ravnice, ugodne za razvoj poljedelstva in živinoreje. Izkopavanja v jami so odkrila 3 kulturne plasti: najstarejša plast je eneolitska (koščeno šilo, bodalo, kamniti obesek, keramika - vse hranita DM Novo mesto in BM Metlika). Izkop je odkril veliko keramike, ognjišče in koščeno orodje. Druga raziskana plast je iz zgodnjega halštatskega obdobja - žganina in fragmenti keramike. Vse to je bilo pokrito s tanko plastjo jamskega humusa s podorninami. Pod Učakovskimi stenami domačini pogosto naletijo na ostanke železove žlindre in prežgane ilovice - to nam govori o tem, da je bil tu neke vrste metalurški objekt.

V 8. st. p.n.š. - železna doba, halštat, je že poseljena vzpetina nad današnjo Vinico - Šlemine. Hrib je na dominantni poziciji nad okolico, kar je pomembno za varnost, v

bližini je neomejen vir vode (Kolpa) in veliko rodovitno področje ob njej, kar omogoča razvoj poljedelstva in živinoreje. Gradišče je bilo utrjeno z okopom. Kučar (osamelec pri Podzemlju) in Šlemine sta drugačni naselji znotraj nižinskega tipa poselitve Bele krajine v železni dobi. Preostala znana naselja iz te dobe so ob sotočjih oz. na okljukih rek, ki nudijo naravno pregrado/zaščito in hkrati ugodne pogoje za razvoj poljedelstva in živinoreje. V tem času je pomembna dejavnost za razvoj naselij in glavno gibalo trgovanja in razvoja metalurgija - poznavanje pridobivanja železa. Bela krajina je bila bogata s površinskimi ležišči, kar dokazujejo ta dobro razvita naselja/gradišča (na območju današnjih: Kučar, Šlemine, Pusti Gradec, Metlika, Črnomelj). V tem času je Bela krajina dobro povezana z območjem današnje Dolenjske. Te povezave so razvidne iz podobnih predmetov, ki jih najdejo arheologi ob posmrtnih ostankih. Prav tako imajo ta ljudstva podobne načine pokopa in med seboj ne samo trgujejo, ampak se tudi mešajo s porokami.

V 7. do 6. st. p. n. š. je opaziti slabjenje vezi z Dolenjsko. Na območje današnje Bele krajine se takrat priselijo Japodi. To je ljudstvo, ki izvira in prihaja iz Like v današnji Hrvaški. Proti koncu starejše železne dobe poselijo področje reke Kolpe. Ni znano, ali so se miroljubno združili z avtohtono skupnostjo na tem področju. Konec 5.st. p. n. š. so Japodi naseljeni na šleminskem gradišču - to »preberemo« iz novega načina pokopa svojih članov - ni več gomil, ampak izberejo novo plano grobišče (Stražni dol), kjer so pokopi žarni in skeletni. Gradišče na Šleminah je izpostavljena japonska postojanka, ki je v določenem obdobju politično obvladovala celo območje današnje Bele krajine.

V mlajši železni dobi na območje današnje Metlike prodrejo Kelti, kar prinese velike spremembe v takratni družbi (latenskodobne najdbe v Podzemlju). Tudi v grobišču v Stražnem dolu so opazne nove oblike, vendar brez večjih sprememb. Ni znano, kako sta sobivali oz. v kakšnih odnosih sta bili ti dve močni skupini.

Ob prehodu v antiko 1.st.p.n.š. nekateri zgodovinarji (Jaro Šašel) omenjajo ljudstvo Kolapijane, ki naj bi poselilo to območje. Leta 35. p. n. š. si v znamenitem vojaškem pohodu Oktavijan podredi celotno ozemlje Japodov, vse do današnjega Siska. Zahodni Balkan je priključen Rimskemu imperiju, ljudstvo upornih Japodov je v glavnem iztrebljeno, na izpraznjena območja rekrutirajo Kolapijane. Bela krajina je vključena v provinco Panonijo (1.st.n.št.), območje je romanizirano, preživeli staroselci se popolnoma prilagodijo novi upravni, ekonomski in politični ureditvi Rimskega imperija. Prazgodovinska gradišča so opuščena, življenje se iz višine preseli v ravnino. Poselitvena jedra ostanejo v istem krogu. Iz tega obdobja je pomembno naselje Ogulin pri Vinici, vendar zaradi neraziskanosti ne vemo, za kakšen tip naselja gre. Naseljeni sta tudi območji današnjega Podklanca in Goleka, tudi tam so najdene sledi naselja iz časa zgodnjega Rimskega imperija.

Temelj gospodarskega razvoja v tem času pa predstavlja železarstvo in tranzit - reko Kolpo že Strabon omenja kot plovno reko, kot najkrajšo povezavo med Siskom in Jadranskim morjem. To je bilo glavno gibalo takratnega razvoja tega območja. Na tem območju so si svoje 'vile rustice' gradile vplivne italske družine, ki so na to območje pošiljale svoje 'poslovneže', kateri so za njih opravljali gospodarske in finančne posle. Kljub skromnim naravnim bogastvom je to območje zanimivo tudi za najvišje rimske socialno-politične strukture. Območje Vinice je stalno naseljeno od bakrene dobe do današnjih dni. Zaradi slabe raziskanosti antičnih lokacij nam način življenja v obdobju

pozne antike in zgodnjega srednjega veka ni dovolj poznano, tako so odprta tudi vprašanja slovanske poselitve tega območja.



Fotografija 9: Romarska cerkev Marije Žeželjske  
Avtorica: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020

Ob pogovorih in razmislekih o davni preteklosti, se iz vzpetine Šlemine preko manjšega 'sedla' povzpnemo na najvišjo točko naše poti - **334 m visok Žeželj**. Tu nas že od daleč pozdravi ena najlepših slovenskih romarskih cerkev, cerkev Marijinega imena, za domačine: Marija Žeželjska. Zadnja temeljita prenova leta 2017 ji je povrnila sijaj od zunaj in tudi od znotraj, saj je bila obnovljena lopa, fasada in očiščeni oltarji v notranjosti. Prav tako so na novo urejene kapelice Križevega pota, ki so na romarski poti/stezi od Goleka do cerkve in so sedaj tudi osvetljene. Vseh 14 kapelic križevega pota in dve večji kapelici na začetku romarske poti (Marijina in Jezus na Oljski gori) je pred koncem 19. stoletja dal postaviti bogat viniški gostinec in mlinar Jurij Benetič. Leto izgradnje cerkve ni znano, je pa v isti obliki kot je danes, upodobljena že na Valvasorjevi upodobitvi Vinice (Weinitz). Zgrajena naj bi bila po zaobljubi viniške plemkinje Katarine, saj je pridelek na njivah nekaj poletij zapored opustošilo slabo vreme (sneg) in druge nadloge (kobilice). Vladala je huda lakota in beda. Po postavitvi cerkve na Žežlju, pa so se težke preizkušnje končale. Tako pravi legenda.

Med turškimi vpadi (15. in 16. stoletje) pa je cerkev dobila obzidje - taborska cerkev je služila lokalnim prebivalcem kot varno zatočišče. Prav tako postane tabor z obzidjem tudi trg Vinica, saj je bila tu ena glavnih turških vpadnic na Kranjsko. V tem času se ljudje bolj priporočajo Mariji kot drugim svetnikom. To povečano ljudsko čaščenje je vzpodbujal tudi papež. Tako postaja podružnična cerkev na Žežlju vse bolj poznano romarsko svetišče/središče, kamor prihajajo romarji iz obeh strani Kolpe. To nam še danes izkazuje velika lopa (15 m), ki je služila romarjem kot streha nad glavo in prostor za počitek.



Fotografija 10: Velika lopa namenjena romarjem pri cerkvi Marije Žeželjske  
Avtorka: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020

Cerkvena stavba je v baročnem slogu z osem kotnim zvonikom z razgibano čebulasto streho. Po velikosti presega vse podružnične cerkve v župniji Vinica, kateri pripada. Tudi v preteklosti je bila temeljito prenovljena - v 18. in 19. stoletju ter po hudem razdejanju, ki ga je doživela v 2. svetovni vojni. Njena notranjost je nenavadno razkošna in bogata. Prostorna ladja ima banjast obok, nekoliko ozji prezbiterij pa visoko kupolo. Zlasti oltarji in prižnica so bogati baročni izdelki iz dolenjskih rezbarskih delavnic (pozno 17. ali zgodnje 18. stoletje). Kot je to običaj pri Marijinih romarskih cerkvah, je na sredi cerkve Marijin tron, v katerem sedi svečano oblečena 'Kraljica Mati' z detetom Jezusom v desni in vladarskim žežlom v levi roki. Romarji običajno po kolenih obkrožijo Marijo na tronu ('Maria am Sessel' bi lahko bil tudi izvor imena Žeželj.).

Kot rečeno je glavni oltar eden največjih in najlepših baročnih oltarjev v Sloveniji. Proti poslikani kupoli se dvigne v treh nadstropjih, v vsakem so izrazite niše s svetniki, stolpi in angeli. V osrednji niši je Marijin kip z otrokom Jezusom, tudi tu sta oba razkošno oblečena. Ta kip občasno nadomestijo s sliko in Marijo z Jezusom nosijo v procesiji okoli cerkve. Ta se odvija v večernih urah, zato imajo udeleženci pri obhodu prižgane sveče v rokah. Malo se s tem spominjamo legende iz časa turških vpadov, ko so se lokalni prebivalci zatekli v utrjeno Marijino cerkev. V strahu so molili in s svečami hodili okoli cerkve - pri enih vratih noter in pri drugih ven, in tako vedno znova in znova. Turki, ki tudi sicer niso preveč radi osvajali utrjenih hribov, so se ob pogledu na silno množico odločili, da te 'trdnjave' raje ne bodo napadli in so odšli dalje. Od takrat so lokalni prebivalci Marijo, ki jih je obvarovala gotove smrti, še bolj zavzeto in iskreno častili. Tudi oba stranska oltarja, kapela pod zvonikom in prižnica so imenitni baročni izdelki. Vse slike so bile Cebejeve, vendar so nekatera dela žal zamenjali z novimi, veliko slabše kakovosti po umetniški vrednosti, vendar novimi. Kot zanimivost prilagam inventarni opis, župnika Pavla Verderberja iz leta 1953:

*»Oltarni nastavek je izdelan v treh etažah, sestavljen iz vdolbin za svetniške kipe in 20 stebrov. V središču prve etaže je Marijin tron s čudovito rezljanim okvirjem. Marijin kip ima izdelano samo glavo in roke, drugo je v oblačilu, prav tako Ježušček v njenem naročju. Pred njo klečita dva angela. Slika 2 metra visoka in 120 cm široka predstavlja Marijino Vnebovzetje. Slikar ni podpisani. Po mnenju Viktorja Steska naj bi bile vse slike na Žežlu Cebejeve. Enaka slika Marijinega Vnebovzetja se nahaja v Kloštru, podružnici podzemeljske fare. Ostali kipi v tej etaži od leve proti desni so: sv. Peter s ključi, sv. Simon z žago, sv. Tadej s sekiro, sv. Pavel z mečem. Velikost teh kipov je 1,40m. Druga etaža: sv. Ana, sv. Florijan, Presveta Trojica, sv. Sebastijan, sv. Elizabeta - mati Janeza Krstnika. Velikost teh kipov je cirka 1,10m. Tretja etaža: sv. Barbara, sv. Janez Nepomuk, sv. Lucija, velikosti cca 90cm. Ob robu desno in levo je razvrščenih deset angelov, ki so v spodnjih etažah večji, proti vrhu manjši, poleg tega še na frizih 16 stebrov in 16 angelskih glavic.*

*Stranska oltarja v ladji levo in desno od prehoda v prezbiterij sta po mnenju Steleta nova, izdelana po vzoru prejšnjih. Oltarne slike je naslikal neznani Metličan, saj podpisov ni. Stare slike, ki so bile po presoji Viktorja Steska Cebejeve, so bile na veliki petek sežgane ob cerkvi z ostalimi starinami vred. Sežig je ukazal župnik Pittner. Ta beležka se nahaja v Steletovi kartoteki pri Zavodu za varstvo spomenikov.«*

Glavni romarski shod je v nedeljo po Malem šmarnu (v preteklosti praznik Marijinega imena), imenuje se Posvetališče (posvetitev Mariji) in je od nekdaj velik praznik za širšo okolico, tudi romanje iz Hrvaške. Maša ob 9.00 je še vedno v hrvaškem jeziku. Ob romanjih so se tu od

nekdaj zbirali tudi kramarji in prodajali božje relikvije in kramarijo. To počnejo še danes. Romanja so na tiho nedeljo, Veliki šmaren, zahvalno nedeljo, večerni procesiji s svečami in Marijo na tronu sta 14. avgusta in v soboto pred Posvetališčem. Največje romanje v zgodovini je trajalo cel mesec! 12. avgusta 1873 so ljudje po napovedih pričakovali trk kometa v Zemljo in s tem konec sveta. Cel mesec so od blizu in zelo daleč romali k Mariji Žeželjski. Ker se konec sveta ni zgodil, so se še enkrat zahvalili Mariji in odšli v dolino. Tu so popili vse zaloge vina viniških trgovcev in se nato razšli po domovih. Pravijo, da so naslednjega dne iz Vinice romali vozovi s praznimi sodi v Metliko, kjer so jih ponovno napolnili in peljali domov.



Fotografija 11: Pod mogočno lipo pri cerkvi Marije Žeželjske  
Avtorica: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020

Pod mogočnimi hrasti in lipo pred cerkvijo so pri zadnji prenovi uredili imenitno počivališče, na katerem se tudi mi ustavimo, pomalicamo, otroci se lahko brezskrbno podijo naokrog, vsi se tu sprostimo in pripravimo za spust v dolino....Tu je stičišče več pohodniških poti (Župančičeva pot se spušča ob kapelicah do vasi Golek).



Fotografija 12: Stičišče več pohodniških poti s katerimi upravlja Krajinski park Kolpa  
Avtorica: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020

Gozdna učna pot nas od tu naprej vodi po urejeni gozdnici poti, med številnimi markiranimi drevesi, proti **Lovskemu domu LD Vinica**. Tu je urejena velika jasa, počivališče in zagotovo najlepši pogled na Vinico in njeno širšo okolico z dolino reke Kolpe. Tudi tu si malo odpočijemo oko, dušo in telo, ter se pripravimo za spust po strmi asfaltirani cesti.



Fotografija 13: Panoramski pogled z Lovskega doma Vinica  
Avtorica: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020



Fotografija 14: Lovski dom Vinica  
Avtorica: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020

Ta nas pripelje v **vas Podklanec** in takoj nato še v **Golek**. Tudi ti dve vasici sta postavljeni na ostankih rimskih 'naselij', vendar podrobnejših raziskav ni bilo. Mimo stare kovačije se po vijugasti cesti vrnemo v Vinico.



Fotografija 15: Obnovljeni grad Vinica  
Avtorica: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020

Preden zaključimo druženje/delavnico si seveda zaslužimo nagrado - v toplem obdobju leta je to sladoled, ki ga použijemo na **obnovljenem viniškem gradu**, od koder z enim pogledom najlepše zaobjamemo pot, ki smo jo prehodili.



Fotografija 16: Panoramski pogled na prehojeno pot  
Avtorica: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020

Tudi zgodbo o gradu in plemiških rodbinah, ki so živele na tem gradu, si še povemo saj nam ravno ta zgodba razkrije razvoj Vinice v pozrem srednjem in zgodnjem novem veku. Dežela Metliška (današnja Bela krajina), je bila takrat južna meja svetega rimskega cesarstva nemške narodnosti. Čas izgradnje kapele sv. Katarine, okoli katere je bil kasneje izgrajen viniški grad, nam po do zdaj poznani dokumentaciji ni natančno znan. Vemo pa, da je bila leta 1469 Vinica prvič opustošena od turške vojske. Po tem strahovitem dogodku, sta se takratni viniški župnik Viljem Graman (, ki ni bil duhovni brat nemškega viteškega reda, saj je bil meščanskega porekla in kranjskega rodu) in posestnik Viljem Semenič, dogovorila, da z namenom zaščite svojih posesti in podložnikov zgradita stolp in obzidje. Kapelo sv. Katarine so nadzidali z župnijskim denarjem in skupnimi delovnimi močmi ter ji dodali stolp ter kasneje še obzidje. Letnica 1472, ki je v gotski pisavi vklesana v ploščo nad vhodom v kapelo, bi lahko bila leto zaključka nadgradnje kapele in stolpa. Črki MG pa bi lahko pomenili inicialki arhitekta Matije Gombona, ki je v teh časih opravljal utrdbena in arhitekturna dela na Kolpi.



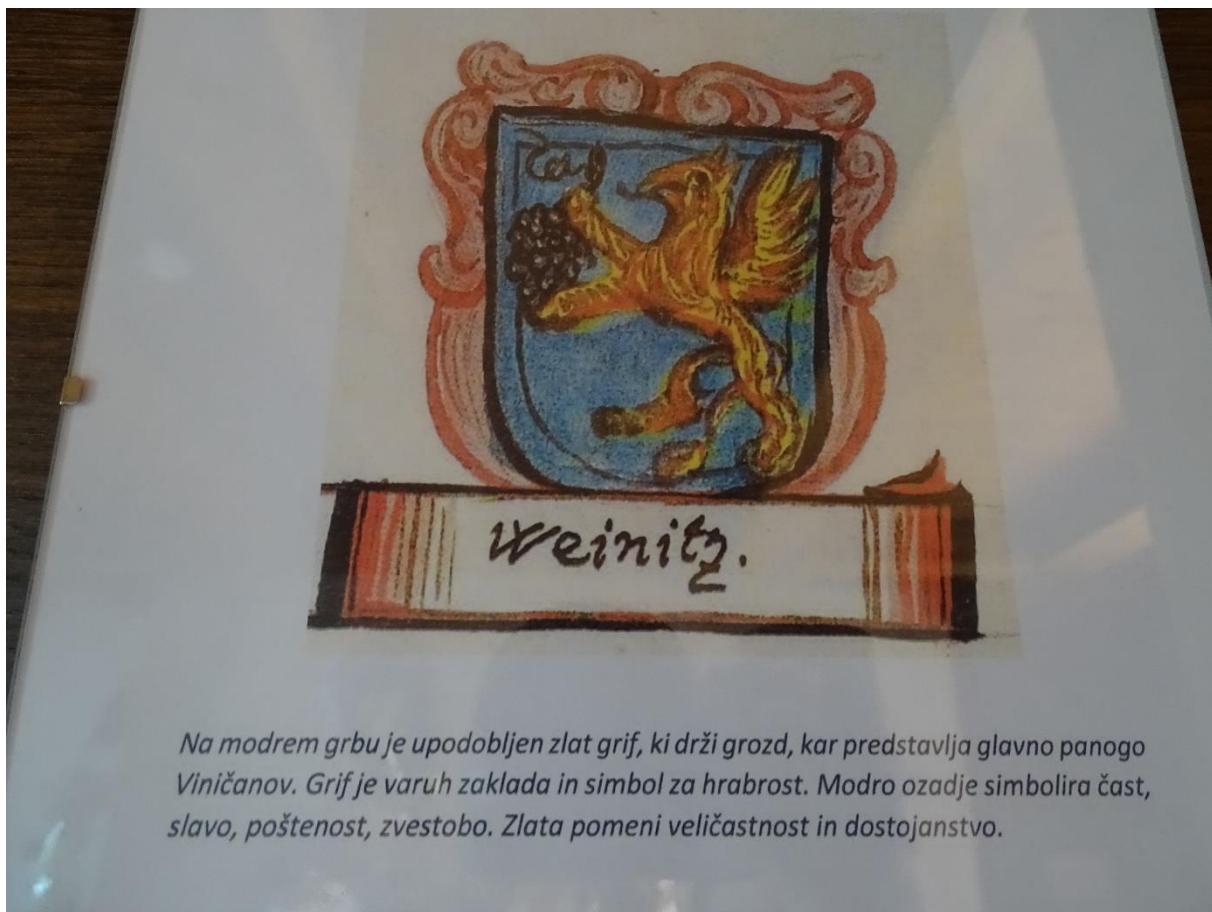
Fotografija 17: Plošča nad vhodom v kapelo sv. Katarine  
Avtorica: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020

Tu je do svoje smrti živel župnik in posestnik Viljem Graman, tu so varno zatočišče dobili tlačani. Po njegovi smrti je nemški viteški red (kateremu so bile od l. 1251 podrejene vse cerkve na Metliškem - današnja Bela krajina) tja poslal novega redovnega brata, vendar so ga bratje Semenič, ki so si že prilastili grad, izgnali. Tako je med nemškim viteškim redom in plemenitimi Semeniči prišlo do spora. Cesar Maksimiljan je dal grad zapleniti in rubežniki so izgnali brate Semenič, dokler spor ne bo rešen. Metliški glavar, pristojen za reševanje plemiških upravnih sporov je ugotovil, da posest, na kateri stoji stolp, res pripada plemiški rodbini Semeničev. Spor se je verjetno reševal na ograjnem sodišču v Ljubljani, zarubljeni grad so tako okoli l. 1520 vrnili rodbini Semenič.



Fotografija 18: Obnovljena nadzidana kapela sv. Katarine, kasneje žitnica in klet  
Avtorica: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020

Vinica je kot tabor prvič omenjena l. 1500, kot trg pa leta 1583, ko lastnik gradu, Mihael Semenič, prosi poveljnika Karlovca za pomoč v strelivu, da bo lahko branil svoj trg. Meja otomanskega imperija je bila takrat oddaljena slabih 15 kilometrov! Grad je bil pomemben del obrambe trga Vinica, ki je bil tudi povsem obdan z obzidjem. Tu so svoje zavetje, pred pogostimi turškimi vpadi, poiskali in dobili okoliški prebivalci. Vinica se tako od zadnje četrtnice 15. st. spreminja v trg z obzidjem, saj je pod njo pomemben brod (plitvina), na kateri je Kolpa prehodna. Zlasti po padcu bosanskega kraljestva (l. 1463) so turki čez ozemlje dežele Metliške vdirali naprej na Kranjsko. Vinica v tem času postane pomembno oporišče na meji imperija. Določena je za eno od vojaških središč v zaledju Vojne krajine. Tu je skladišče hrane in streliva, čez njo poteka prehod 'turških novic' o gibljanju otomanske vojske, kurjenje kresov in opozorilno streljanje. Predvsem pa je tu tudi zbirališče protiturške vojske in poveljnikov Vojne krajine. Zaradi vsega tega je Vinica v 16. st. dobro živila. Sredi 16. st. se trg (stolp z gradom in obzidje) dodatno utrdi, saj cesar Karel V. ukaže, da se izboljša obramba cesarstva na reki Kolpi in za to nameni denar iz deželne blagajne. Po postavitvi trdnjave Karlovec (1579), Vinica začne izgubljati svoj strateški pomen in se zato tudi ne razvije v 'pravi' trg, mesto. Tudi grad z obzidjem je pogosto menjal lastnike in temu primerno je bilo njegovo stanje zelo slabo. Leta 2017 je bil obnovljen in tako rešen pred pozabo in propadom.



*Na modrem grbu je upodobljen zlat grif, ki drži grozd, kar predstavlja glavno panogo Viničanov. Grif je varuh zaklada in simbol za hrabrost. Modro ozadje simbolira čast, slavo, poštenost, zvestobo. Zlata pomeni veličastnost in dostojanstvo.*

Fotografija 19: Posnetek grba iz Valvasorjevega dela Opus insignium Armorumque (1687 - 1688); tekst pod njim so dodali sedanji lastniki gradu  
Avtorica: Marjetka Mihelčič, 2020

Tako smo v nekajurnem sprehodu, v zavetju gozda, izvedeli veliko zanimivega in novega o naravi in kulturi tega kraja. Sprehod/vodenje po gozdni učni poti je namenjeno vsem starostnim skupinam, tekst v tej seminarski nalogi pa je ubral neko srednjo - poljudno pot razlage. Seveda vsebino in način interpretacije vedno prilagodimo skupini. Otrokom ne razlagamo stvari, ki so izven polja njihovega zanimanja in jim vsebine predstavimo na njim primeren način, skozi njim prilagojeno zgodbo. Za njih bi na pot vzeli s sabo 'Cicibana in njegovo prijateljico čebelo'(ročni animacijski lutki), in onadva bi se med potjo spraševala/odgovarjala na številna otrokom zanimiva vprašanja, ter tako animirala otroke, da bi med potjo ohranjali pozornost in zanimanje, ter tudi sami čebelo spraševali vse mogoče domislice...

VIRI:

KNJIGE:

DULAR, JANEZ. *ARHEOLOŠKA TOPOGRAFIJA SLOVENIJE, TOPOGRAFSKO PODROČJE XI (BELA KRAJINA)*. LJUBLJANA: SAZU, 1985

WEISS, JANEZ. »...na kraju, ki se imenuje Črnomelj...«. Črnomelj: Občina Črnomelj, 2018

WEISS, JANEZ. »Zgodbe z meje imperija. Grad Vinica in Semeniči, začetki in prvi posestniki v luči novih arhivskih virov«, *Ob Kolpi je moj dom*, Vlado Starešinič, Vinica: KUD Oton Župančič, 2016, str.: 15 - 43

TELEVIZIJSKA ODDAJA:

KULTURNI VRHOVI, ŽEŽELJ, RTV SLOVENIJA, Kulturni program, 2011, dosegljivo na spletnem portalu MMC RTV SLO

NEOBJAVLJENI VIRI:

POPIS CERKVA IN CERKVENIH ZNAMENITOSTI V ŽUPNIJI VINICA, avtorski zapis župnika Pavla VERDERBERJA, posredoval gospod župnik Tone GNIDOVEC, Vinica, 2020, hrani Mihelčič Marjetka

PRIROČNIK GOZDNA UČNA POT, Vinica: OŠ VINICA, april 2002, posredoval in hrani Mirko BARTOLJ, Sečeje selo

PREDSTAVLJEN INOVATIVNI TURISTIČNI PRODUKT »DNEVI CICIBANA V VINICI« IN VSE FOTOGRAFIJE SO AVTORSKO DELO.

ZA POSREDOVANZO (NEOBJAVLJENO) LITERATURO se zahvaljujem viniškemu g. župniku Tonetu Gnidovcu in Mirku Bartolju, upokojenemu učitelju OŠ Vinica, zbiralcu krajevne ljudske/ustne dediščine, katero skrbno ohranja in zapisuje.

ZA SPREMSTVO IN POGOVORE NA GOZDNI UČNI POTI se iskreno zahvaljujem Ticijani Starešinič, učiteljici in mentorici na OŠ Vinica.

ZA DOVOLJENJE ZA UPORABO GOZDNE UČNE POTI V AVTORSKEM TURISTIČNEM PRODUKTU se zahvaljujem vodstvu OŠ Vinica, ravnateljici Mag. Ines Žlogar.

ZA STROKOVNO POMOČ PRI PREVODU se iskreno zahvaljujem Daši Culiberg.

ZA NEIZČRPNEN VIR NAVDIHA PA SE ZAHVALIM MOJEMU CICIBANU MARKU.

## DODATEK (APPENDIX):

### 2. WORKSHOP: CICIBAN (RUGRAT) AND THE BEE ON THE FOREST LEARNING TRAIL

The workshop is designed for children of different ages and their companions. The total duration of the workshop is approximately 4 hours including stops, explanations, snacks and a group reward such as ice cream party at the end of the workshop.

On a short and moderate hike children familiarise themselves with most of the essential NATURAL and CULTURAL sights and monuments of Vinica. The introductions of the sights along the way are of course appropriately adapted to suit the age group as the same product offered to adults includes a much more comprehensive and detailed explanation of the trail than it is appropriate for children's workshop. Since the aim of this seminar paper is to trademark a local tourist attraction I offer here a more comprehensive introduction than it would be appropriate for children. The information passed to children is adapted to their ability to comprehend and in such a manner that children are able to benefit from it. On the hike children's attention is drawn more to discovering nature, the plants and animals around them rather than the historical and cultural facts; those are presented to children through interesting and engaging storytelling. Some of the sights presented further below are merely mentioned in passing and then re-introduced more comprehensively in a separate workshop, in a child-friendly way; for example: children recreate the Gradišče on Šlemina settlement using pebbles and other materials that were used in those times while listening to stories and learning about life in prehistory.

### HISTORY OF THE FOREST LEARNING TRAIL

In April 2002, Vinica Primary School celebrated the 180th Anniversary of organized schooling in Vinica by paying a very special respect to this important milestone. Mentored by professors Mirko Bartolj, Jerneja Držaj and Ticijana Starešinič the pupils of the then senior 8th A and B class constructed a designated circular forest learning trail, a 4-kilometers long route that has the same starting and ending point - the Oton Župančič Museum. The trail difficulty is easy to moderate, with elevation of 144 metres and is suitable for children over the age of five while still interesting and quite moderate for adults with basic physical fitness. There are over 30 different species of trees neatly marked on the forest part of the trail (nature) while on the inhabited part of the trail (culture) most of Vinica's cultural sights and monuments are introduced through storytelling about local people and places of interest in recent as well as in very distant past.

### ONTO THE TRAIL

The group meets at the starting point of the trail in the garden of the **Oton Župančič Museum** for a refreshment (flat cake, coffee, tea, juice), to refill fresh water from the fountain by the apiary and to refresh the memory of Ciciban and the Bee, the famous children poem by Oton Župančič, which is introduced in detail in one of the previous workshops. At that workshop children make mascots of both characters, the Ciciban and the

Bee from natural materials and decide there and then to hike the forest learning trail together with the curious Ciciban and his friend Bee as soon as possible. While on the hike they learn a lot about natural and cultural heritage of Vinica. Refreshed, well prepared (water) and full of energy the group hikes to the first cultural monument at Vinica Main Square: **The Vinica Republic Memorial**, a statue made by academic sculptor Jože Vrščaj. A brief introduction to this famous event from the beginning of the 20th century tells the story of the vitality of spirit that the locals possessed at the time.

The trail continues passing the Parish and the cemetery, where Oton Župančič's sister Marica is buried, leading to the beautifully preserved (Gothic) **Parish Church of St. Cross**. The group stops to observe its rich (baroque) interior and learns that the church was first mentioned as a branch of the Črnomelj Parish in October 1228. In 1268 (750 years ago), the German Knights took over ecclesiastical powers in Vinica and the Church of St. Cross has since been an independent parish church.

The trail slowly ascends through **the village of Ogulin**, where the guide tells the story of how locals, when digging on their property, almost always find the remains of a Roman settlement. Archaeologists believe there was a rural Roman fortress (Villa Rustica) with walls thicker than 2 metres built in this area as remains of a bathhouse, oil lamps, glass and clay vessels, as well as Roman tombs were found by the locals in the past. The aftermath of a landslide once laid open the entrance to an underground brick granary in which wheat grain was stored. Unfortunately, none of this is documented or preserved.

Following the winding asphalt road the group passes **the Plague Cross** and continues to slowly ascend towards the village of Perudina. Soon after, the first marked sign on an oak tree by the road - a green circle with a white centre directs the group to turn right and onto the forest road. And now the forest adventure begins.

On the trail, the tree species that are characteristic of our region are marked with a blaze (**green circle with a white centre**) and a number (list in the appendix). While exploring the nature the group discovers many medicinal herbs that grow along the trail and learns about their use and benefits. The forest is presented as an important source or provider of spiritual (peace) and physical energy: in addition to medicinal herbs various raw foods such as mushrooms, chestnuts, forest fruits and even venison can also be foraged.

Following the gradual slope we ascend towards a domed hill, a 300 m high **Šlemine hill**. Attentive observer's eye can still recognize the remains of a prehistoric settlement (**Gradišče**), where our ancient ancestors built a well-protected fortified wall. A Base Transceiver Station stands in the middle of the former forthill today (unfortunately). North west of the settlement in a fallow known as Stražni dol, a necropolis where the inhabitants of Gradišče buried the dead was discovered. The cemetery was excavated in 1906 and 1907 by the Duchess of Mecklenburg. She discovered 323 cremated and skeletal graves that unveiled the extremely rich and valuable material heritage of the deceased. Most of discovered artefacts were sold at an auction in New York and are now property of the Peabody Museum in Cambridge, while some artefacts are conserved by the National Museum in Ljubljana and a few European museums. The same fate was shared by the burial mounds in the fern fields near Stražni dol. A careful observer will notice many traces of the old settlement which covered as much as 80.000 square metres. Kučar and Šlemine were the largest and strongest living communities or settlements in this area during the Iron Age and the period of Hallstatt culture.

At this point I wish to present some more detailed archaeological and historical facts from the prehistory of Vinica and its surroundings (as summarized by Janez DULAR, ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOPOGRAPHY OF SLOVENIA, Topographic area XI (BELA KRAJINA), SAZU, LJUBLJANA 1985):

the first dated settlements in this area are from the period of transition from Copper to the Bronze Age, the archaeological finds were found in Veliki Zjot Cave near Sečje selo. The cave is located near today's road Vinica - Učakovci close to the Kolpa river and next to the fertile plain, which was favorable for the development of agriculture and livestock. Excavations in the cave revealed 3 cultural layers: the oldest layer is Eneolithic (a bone awl, a dagger, a stone pendant, ceramics - all conserved by museums in Novo mesto and Metlika). Excavations also revealed a lot of pottery, an ancient hearth and bone tools. The second layer studied is from the early Hallstatt period - charcoal and fragments of pottery covered with a thin layer of cave humus with subsoil. In the area under the Učakovci rocks the locals often come across the remains of iron slag and burnt clay which suggests there was a kind of a metallurgical facility here.

The Šleminje hill above Vinica was also inhabited during Iron Age and Hallstatt (8th century B.C.) The hill was in a dominant position above the surrounding area, which was important for safety and there was an unlimited source of water nearby (Kolpa river) as well as a large and fertile area along the river. Gradišče was fortified with a trench. Within the lowland type of settlement of Bela krajina in the Iron Age, Kučar (a solitary hill near Podzemlje) and Šleminje are different settlements. The remaining known settlements from this period are at the confluence or on the meanders of rivers, which provide natural safety barriers as well as favorable conditions for the development of agriculture and livestock. During this time the knowledge of iron mining (metallurgy) presents an important activity for the development of settlements as well as development of trade and metallurgy. Bela krajina was rich in surface deposits of iron ore as evidenced by these well-developed settlements in the area: Kučar, Šleminje, Pusti Gradec, Metlika, Črnomelj. During this time, Bela krajina was well connected with the region of today's Dolenjska. These connections are evident from the similarity of objects that archaeologists discovered on burial grounds. Not only did the peoples trade with each other, they also mixed with marriage and share similar burial methods.

In the 7th to 6th centuries B.C. the weakening of ties with Dolenjska was noticeable. At this time the lapydes (lapodes) immigrated to the area of today's Bela krajina. lapydes originated and came from Lika region in today's Croatia. Towards the end of the Early Iron Age, they settled in the Kolpa River area. It is unknown whether they merged peacefully with the indigenous community in the area. At the end of the 5th century B.C. they were settled on the Šleminje hillfort; evidence of this comes from the new burial methods used as there were no more burial mounds. Instead they choose a new plain cemetery (Stražni dol) where the remains of urn and skeletal burials were found. Gradišče on Šleminje was an exposed lapydes outpost, which in a certain period of time politically controlled the entire area of today's Bela krajina.

In the Late Iron Age the Celts penetrated into the area of today's Metlika, which brought about great changes in the society of that time (late La Tène finds in Podzemelj). New forms are also noticeable in the cemetery in Stražni dol, but without major changes. It is unknown how they coexisted or in what relationships these two powerful groups were.

At the transition to antiquity in 1st century B.C. some historians (Jaro Šašel) mention the people of Kolapiana who are said to have inhabited the area. In the year 35 B.C., during his famous battle march, the emperor Octavian subjugated the entire territory of the lapydes all the way to today's Sisak. The Western Balkans were annexed to the Roman Empire, the people of the rebellious lapydes were largely exterminated and the Kolapians were recruited to the vacated areas. Bela krajina became part of the province of Pannonia (1st century AD), the area was then Romanized and the surviving natives fully adapted to the new administrative, economic and political order of the Roman Empire. Prehistoric forts are abandoned, life moved from heights to plains. Settlement cores remain in the same circle. Another important settlement from that period in Vinica is in today's village of Ogulin but due to lack of research in the area the type of settlement remains unknown. The areas of today's Podklanec and Golek are also inhabited and traces of a settlement from the time of the Roman Empire have also been found there.

The basic of economic development at that time was ironworks and transit - Strabon mentioned Kolpa as a navigable river and the shortest route between Sisak and the Adriatic Sea. These were the main motors of development of this area at that time. Influential Italian families built their villas (Villa Rustica) here and have sent their 'businessmen' to the area to take care of various business for them. Despite its modest natural resources this area was also interesting to the highest Roman social and political structures.

The area of Vinica has been permanently inhabited from the Copper Age to the present day. Due to the poor research of ancient sites much of history from the period of late antiquity to the early Middle Ages is unknown, which leaves the issues of Slavic settlements in this area open to further research.

While storytelling and discussing the ancient past the group ascends from Šlemine crossing over a small col' and follows the trail to the highest point of ascent, the 334 m high Žeželj hill; we are greeted from afar by one of the most beautiful Slovenian pilgrimage churches the Name of Mary Church or the Church of Mary of Žeželj as is known locally. The last thorough renovation in 2017 restored its former beauty on the outside as well as the inside; the shed, the facade and altars inside were restored and cleaned. At the end of the 19th century a rich caterer and miller from Vinica, Jurij Benetič, built 14 chapels - Stations of the Cross and two larger chapels on the "Via Crucis" or the Way of the Cross, a pilgrimage route ascending from the village of Golek to the church on top of Žeželj hill. It is unknown when the church was built, but it was depicted in Valvasor's depiction of Vinica (Weiniz). According to the local legend the people of Vinica suffered severe hunger and misery after the crops in fields were ravaged by bad weather and other nuisances such as grasshoppers for years in a row. The church was supposedly erected after the noblewoman Katarina of Vinica vowed to erect one on top of Žeželj to bring end to difficult trials. The legend has it that the trials indeed ended after the church was built.

In times of Ottoman wars and Turkish invasions of Europe (15th and 16th century) the church was enclosed with a fortified wall and served the locals as a safe haven. The Main Square in Vinica, which was one of the main Turkish entrance points to Carniola was also enclosed to form a walled camp. During the hardships people prayed and commended themselves to Virgin Mary more than to other saints. This increased popular worship was also encouraged by the Pope and so the church on Žeželj became a well-known pilgrimage church visited by

pilgrims from both sides of the Kolpa river. The best testament to this is the large shed (15 m<sup>2</sup>) adjacent to church, which provided pilgrims with shelter and a place to rest.

The church building is in Baroque style and has an eight-corner bell tower with a variegated onion roof. It is larger than other branch churches in the Parish of Vinica and has been thoroughly renovated in the 18th and 19th century, then again in 1950's after it was severely damaged in World War II. Its interior is unusually rich and luxurious. The spacious nave has a barrel vault and the slightly narrower presbytery with a high dome. The altars and the pulpit in particular are rich Baroque products from carving workshops of Dolenjska region (late 17th or early 18th century). In the middle of the church, as is customary in Virgin Mary's pilgrimage churches, there is a throne which sits the ceremoniously dressed 'Queen Mother' with Jesus in her right hand and the royal scepter in her left hand. Pilgrims usually go around Maria on the throne on their knees ('Maria am Sessel' which translates as Mary on the throne/chair could also be the origin of the name Žeželj.).

The main altar is one of the largest and most beautiful baroque altars in Slovenia. It rises in three levels towards the painted dome with distinctive niches on each level, depicting saints, pillars and angels. The central niche holds a statue of Virgin Mary and baby Jesus, both luxuriously dressed. This statue is occasionally replaced by a painting while the statue of Mary with Jesus is carried in a procession around the church. The procession takes place in the evening and the participants join the procession with candlelights.

One of the legends from the times of the Turkish invasions says that the locals took refuge in the fortified Church where in fear they prayed and walked around the church in a candlelit procession, entering through the main door in and exiting through the back side door, over and over again. The Turks, who were not too keen on conquering fortified hills observed the procession and decided not to attack this 'fortress' as they believed it was protected too well. Since then the locals worshiped Virgin Mary, who they believed saved them from a certain death, even more enthusiastically and sincerely.

The two side altars, the chapel under the bell tower and the pulpit are exquisite Baroque products. All original paintings were the artworks of a Slovene painter Anton Cebej though some of the original paintings were replaced with contemporary ones, unfortunately of much lower quality in terms of artistic value. Enclosed is an inventory description of the pastor Pavel Verderber from 1953:

"The altarpiece is made in three levels, consisting of recesses for statues of saints and 20 pillars. Mary's throne with a beautifully carved frame is in the centre of the first level. On the statue of Mary only the head and the arms are sculpted, the rest is under the garment, as is Jesus in her lap. Two angels kneel before her. The painting, 2 meters high and 120 cm wide, represents the Assumption of Mary. The painting is not signed and the author is unknown. According to Viktor Stesk all of the paintings were painted by Cebej. The same depiction of the Assumption of Mary is found in Kloštar, a branch church of the Podzemelj parish. Other statues on this level from left to right are: St. Peter with the keys, St. Simon with the saw, St. Thaddeus with an axe and St. Paul with the sword. The statues are 1.40 metres in size. Second level: St. Anne, St. Florian, The Holy Trinity, St. Sebastian, St. Elizabeth - mother of John the Baptist. These statues are about 1.10 m in size. Third level: st. Barbara, st. John of Nepomuk, St. Lucy, approximately 90 cm in size. On the sides to the right and left there are ten angels, larger in lower levels, smaller towards the top, in addition to the friezes of 16 pillars and 16 angel heads.

According to Stele, the side altars in the nave to the left and right of the passage to the presbytery are new, modeled on the previous ones. The altarpiece is unsigned and was

painted by an unknown artist from Metlika. The old paintings, which Viktor Stesk believed to be those of Anton Cebelj were burned on a pile by the church along with other antiques on Good Friday. The fire-raising was ordered by priest Pittner. This note was found in Stele's file at the Institute for the Protection of Monuments."

The main pilgrimage gathering takes places on the first Sunday after The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is called The Consecration (dedication to Mary) and has always been an important event and a great feast for pilgrims from all over Slovenia as well as from Croatia and the 9 a.m. Mass is led in Croatian language to this day. A craft fair also takes place during the gathering where relics, homemade preserves and alike can be bought. Pilgrimages to Žeželj take place on a Passion Sunday (the fifth Sunday of Lent), on the Assumption of Mary and on Thanksgiving Sunday; there are also two processions with Mary on the Throne that take place in the evening; first one takes place on on August 14 and the second one on Saturday eve before The Consecration. The largest pilgrimage in history lasted for a whole month! On August 12, 1873 a comet was predicted to collide with the planet Earth, causing the end of the World. So pilgrims from near and far roamed and prayed to Virgin Mary on Žeželj for a whole month. As the World did not come to an end the pilgrims thanked Virgin Mary once again and descended to the lowlands, where they finished off wine supplies of all the Vinica merchants and then went home. It is said that the next day merchants of Vinica transported wagons of empty barrels to Metlika, where they were refilled and returned home.

During the last renovation in 2017 a wonderful rest area was set up under the mighty oak and linden tree; it is a perfect place for children to run around carefree, have a snack and take a moment to relax... (before the descent to the valley on Via Crucis.)

From here the trail continues on a well-kept gravel road through the forest, walking under many marked tree tops to **Vinica Hunting Society Lodge** surrounded by a beautiful meadow, which offers not only a place for rest but also the most beautiful view of Vinica, its surrounding valleys and Kolpa river. Here, too, is a great place to take a moment to absorb the beautiful sights and prepare for the descent along the steep asphalt road that leads to the villages of Podklanec and Golek.

These two villages are also built on the remains of Roman 'settlements' although the area has never been researched in detail. Passing the old forge on the winding road through Golek village the group returns to Vinica and makes one last stop to get a well deserved reward - an ice cream treat at **Vinica Castle**. The castle has recently been renovated and offers a nice view of the part of the trail, accompanied by stories of the noble families, who lived in the castle ...

While enjoying the ice cream the group learns many interesting facts about the castle and its noble residents through an interesting story, that reveals the development of Vinica in the late Middle and Early Modern Ages.

Back then the Land of Metlika (today's Bela krajina) was the southern border of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation. It is unknown when the first part of today's castle, chapel of St. Catherine, was constructed but it was first mentioned in the 11th century. It is, however a well known fact that in 1469 Vinica was devastated by the Turkish army for the first time. After this terrible event the parish priest of Vinica reverend Viljem Graman, who was not a member of the Order of the German Knighthood as he was of bourgeois

Carniolan descent, and the landlord Viljem Semenič, agreed to build a watchtower and walls to protect the estates and the people. The Chapel of St. Catherine was rebuilt with financial help from the parish and by joint labor; it was upgraded with a watchtower and a wall. The year 1472 engraved in Gothic script on a plaque above the entrance to the chapel could be the year of the completion of construction works. The letters MG could signify the initials of Matija Gombon, the architect who was in charge of the fortification and architectural works at the time.

The oppressed found a safe haven in the castle until the death of the landowner and parish priest Viljem Graman. After his death the German Order of Knighthood (to which all the churches in the Land of Metlika were subordinated from 1251) appointed a new priest but the Semenič brothers, who had by that time seized the castle, expelled him. Thus a dispute arose between the German Order of Knighthood and the noble Semenič family. Emperor Maximilian had the castle confiscated and the Semenič brothers were expelled until the dispute was resolved. The Head of Metlika responsible for resolving aristocratic administrative disputes established, that the property on which the tower was built belonged to the Semenič family. The dispute was most likely resolved at the district court in Ljubljana and the confiscated castle was returned to the Semenič family sometime around 1520.

Vinica was first mentioned as a camp in 1500 and then as a market town in 1583; At that time the owner of the castle Mihael Semenič asked the commander of Karlovac for help in ammunition so that he could defend his market town from Turkish invaders. The border of the Ottoman Empire was just under 15 kilometers away at the time! The castle was an important part of the defense of Vinica's main square, that was also completely surrounded by walls; as the Turkish invasions became more frequent the main square served as refuge and shelter to people fleeing the surrounding villages in fear of attack. From the late 15th century onwards Vinica becomes an important walled market town with close proximity to a shallow waterbed, where Kolpa river can be crossed on foot.

After the fall of the Bosnian kingdom in 1463 the Turkish invasions of Carniola across the territory of the Metlika region became more and more frequent. During this time Vinica became an important stronghold on the southern border of the Empire. It was designated as one of the military centres in the hinterland of the Military Frontiere, where food and ammunition was stored. It was also a meeting point for exchanging intelligence information on the movements of the Ottoman army and a bonfire lookout post. And most importantly it was a meeting point for defense army and the commanders of the Military Frontiere. Because of its important position the 16th century Vinica lived well. In the middle of the 16th century the watchtower, the castle and the walls were fortified again as Emperor Charles V ordered the improvement of defense on Kolpa river and allocated money from the provincial treasury for this purpose. After the Karlovac fortress was built in 1579 Vinica began to lose its strategic importance and therefore did not live up to the then standard of a "market town". Even the castle often changed owners and was in very poor condition accordingly. Today's owner renovated the castle in 2017 and thus saved it from oblivion and ruin...

On the few hours hike in the shelter of the forest children learn of many new and interesting facts about the nature and culture of this place. The hike is intended for all age groups and the text in this seminar paper took a medium-popular path of explanation. Of course the text is always adapted to the group age and does not explain things that are outside their field of interest. 'Their companions, Ciciban and his friend the Bee' ask and answer many interesting questions between them along the way, thus animating the children to keep their attention and interest throughout the hike, engaging and encouraging children to ask as many questions and share as many ideas as they like ...

