

## Slovenia

### A New Country with a Rich Past and Amazing Beauties

Slovenia, a hen shaped country in the heart of Europe, measures roughly 20.000 square kilometers. It is the only country in the world to incorporate the word "love" in its name and has about 2 million inhabitants. It is bordered by Austria, Italy, Croatia and Hungary. Although a relatively small country it varies geographically: you can find everything from sea beaches to high mountains on the surface and many caves beneath. The historical and ethnographical heritage of the country is amazingly rich and so are its flora and fauna with many endemic species. Many of its men and women have been known well beyond the country's borders. All this – and much more – is shown in my exhibit.

Although Slovenia has been populated since prehistoric time, the first major rulers were the Romans. The next longest ruling family, until the end of WWI was the Habsburgs. Then it was, for some 70 years part of Yugoslavia, before finally gaining its independence in 1991. Its territory was occupied during WWII by Germany, Italy, Hungary and Croatia. Maximum cards, displaying all these periods are displayed.

The story of Slovenia is narrated by the author of this exhibit, who, with his wife, tours the country with his guests from the United Kingdom, Peter and Cynthia, thus helping them to enhance their experience of the country which they have visited before for a few days only, liked it, and returned for a more comprehensive visit.

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#### Highlights of the exhibit:

Pre - and early post - WWII cards as well as postcards up to 100 years older than the affixed stamps (on various pages)

#### References:

1. Enciklopedija Slovenije, Mladinska knjiga, Ljubljana 1987-2002
2. Post of Slovenia, Philatelic Bulletins 1992-2015
3. Various internet sites

#### 1. History

*We met our friends at the airport and drove them to our house. After a light supper I told them some basic facts about our country's history before Independence*

Although Slovenia has been populated since pre-historic times, the first major rulers were the Romans



Glass Necklace from Novo mesto - Kapiteljska njiva found in various graves, 5th-4th Century B.C.

Stamp: 26th Nov. 2010  
Cancel: Commemorative DI  
Card: Dolenjski muzej



rimska nekropola

A motif from the Roman necropolis from Šempeter near Celje emphasises the fact, that already 2000 years ago Slovenia belonged to the area that is today linked together by the idea of the European Union. The stamp depicts Europe riding on the back of a white bull - the Greek God Zeus - and twelve stars in a circle, the EU symbol.

Stamp: 21st Mar 2001  
Cancel: 21st Mar 2001  
Card: AFDRMA



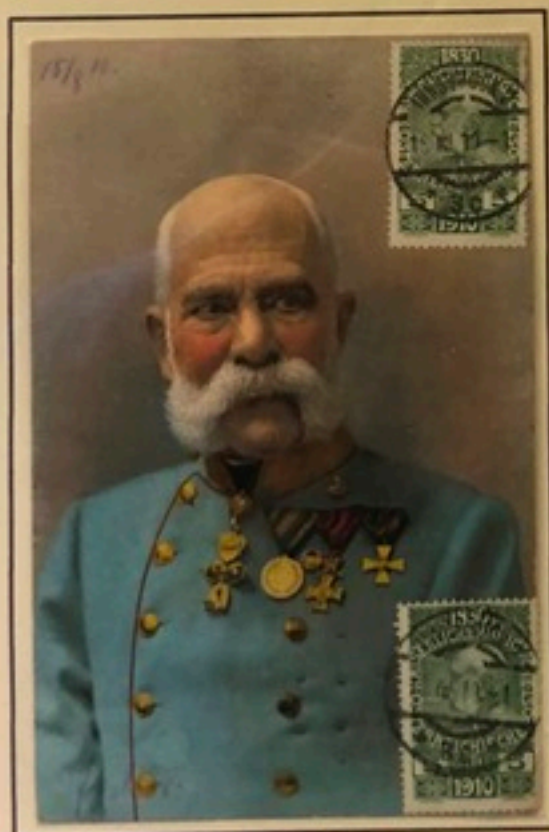
## 1. History

In the next centuries various rulers reigned over Slovenia, but the ones who have ruled over Slovenia for some 600 years (except for a short time during Napoleon's occupation) were the Habsburgs. The two most prominent emperors from this dynasty were...



... Maria Theresa, (b. 1717, reigned 1740-1780) reformed the army, taxes, penal code and cadastre, and introduced public schools ...

Stamp: 13th May 2017  
Cancel: Commemorative FDI  
Card: Narodna Galerija



... and Franz Joseph (b. 1830, reigned 1848-1916). During his reign the first railways were built, which enabled the industrialization of Slovenia.

Stamp: 4th Oct. 1914  
Cancel: Innsbruck, 18th Aug 1915  
Card: Pietzner

## The Habsburg Period

## 1. History

After WWI, Slovenia became part of Yugoslavia. It was ruled first by....

... King Alexander Karadjordjević (b. 1888, reigned 1921-1934)

Stamp: 1st Jul 1924  
Cancel: 14th May 1925, Travelling Post Office  
Card: L. Paler



... and later by King Peter II (.1923 - 1970, reigned in 1941 only)

Stamp: 28th June 1933  
Cancel: 30th Aug 1933, Osijek  
Card: Keller & Kiss



H. B. Kralj. Aleksandar I.  
N. V. Kralj. Aleksandar I.



## 1. History

## WWII Occupation and Resistance



In the beginning of WWII, Slovenia was occupied by Germany, Italy, Hungary and Croatia. After the capitulation of Italy on 8th September 1943, almost all of Slovenia came under control of.....

... Adolf Hitler's (1889-1945) forces

Stamp: 20th Apr 1941  
Cancel: Commemorative FDI  
Card: Photo Hoffmann



Partisan forces built a strong resistance against the occupying powers and together with the allied forces won the war in 1945.

Stamp: 10th Oct 1945  
Cancel: 9th May 1946  
Card: Vjesnik

## 2. History

## The Post WWII Yugoslav Period

After the WWII the Partisan leader, Josip Broz Tito (1892-1980) became the undisputed ruler of Yugoslavia...

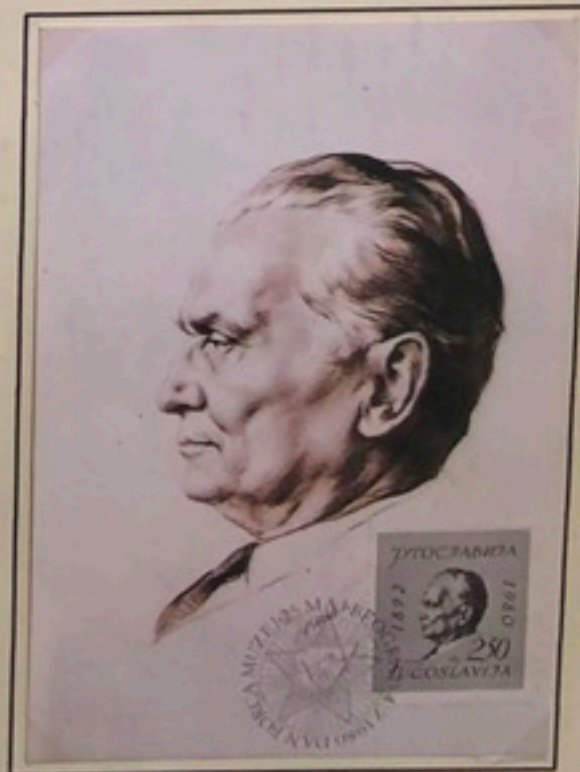


...first as Prime Minister...

Stamp: 10th Oct 1945  
Cancel: Beograd, 20th June 1946  
Card: Državna štamparija

...and since 1953, until his death, as President

Stamp: 4th May, 1980  
Cancel: Beograd, 4th Jul 1980  
Card: Muzej 25. maj





## 1. Independence & Symbols

## Independence & EU Presidency

After having finished Slovenia's history under foreign rulers I continued with the...



.... Independence, which Slovenia gained on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1991. The blueprint of the Slovenian Parliament (never realized), made by architect Jože Plečnik (1872-1957), is displayed on both card and stamp.

Stamp 26<sup>th</sup> Mar 1996  
Cancelled Commemorative FDI  
Card unknown



Slovenia became member of the European Union on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2004, together with nine other countries. It was only four years later that it presided over the EU in the first half of 2008.

Stamp 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancel  
Card Europa

## Independence & Symbols

## Coat of Arms and Flag

Later that evening I explained them our country's symbols, both official and unofficial.



The Slovenian coat-of-arms has the form of a shield containing three symbols: the three-headed mountain (the highest in Slovenia, Triglav, and name of an ancient Slovenian god), the sea and rivers below (represented by two wavy lines) and the three stars above (from the coat of arms of the Princes of Celje, the mightiest Slovenian medieval family).

Stamp 26<sup>th</sup> Dec 1991  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card unknown

The flag of the Republic of Slovenia is composed of three colors, white, blue and red, with the state coat-of arms in the upper left corner. The first lines from the national anthem are also displayed.

Stamp 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2001  
Cancelled Commemorative, FD Cancellation  
Card ČZP Knečki glas





## 2. Regions

### 2.1. Primorska (Littoral) with Karst

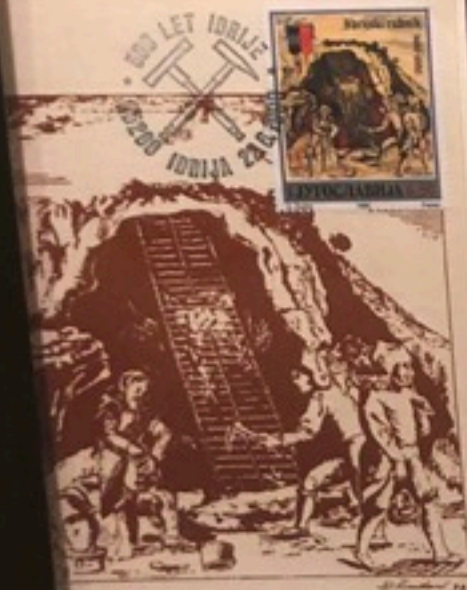
#### Idrija



the early next morning as we had  
a journey to make on that day.

ated our exploration of Slovenia  
Littoral and Karst region, situated  
outh west and our first stop was  
an over 500 years old city (here  
on an old engraving by J.V.  
from 1689) which is...

Stamp 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1990  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card FZS



... best known for its **quicksilver mine** which was in  
operation for 500 years. It is now closed and was added as  
Heritage of Mercury, to the UNESCO World Heritage List in  
2012.

Stamp 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1990  
Cancelled Commemorative FD cancellation  
Card FZS

## Independence & Symbols

### Linden Tree leaf & Love



Slovenec sem!  
Tako je mati d'jala,  
Ko me je dete pestovala;  
Zanorej dobro vem:  
Slovenec sem!

Dr. G. Ipavec

The **linden tree leaf**, a generally recognized symbol of the  
Slovene national identity, includes both blossom and fruit and  
thus depicts the natural process of growth and development.

Stamp 25<sup>th</sup> June 1992  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card Kres R & S

Slovenia is the **only country in the world** to  
incorporate the word **LOVE**. A gingerbread heart is  
the traditional token of love and affection. Honey  
bread or gingerbread-making is, together with candle-  
making, one of the oldest traditions in Slovenia

Stamp 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 1994  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card MPZ-PTT





## Primorska (Littoral) with Karst



Although Idrija's quick-silver mine is now closed, a good mine dwarf, called "Bergmandelc" is still said to reside in it.

Stamp 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2013  
Cancelled Commemorative FD  
Cancellation  
Card FD Idrija

The Gewerkenegg Castle, which served as the administrative headquarters and warehouse of the Idrija mine, was built in the first decades of the 16th century. The castle now houses the Idrija Museum.

Stamp 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2004  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card FD Idrija



## Idrija

## Primorska (Littoral) with Karst



Vasja Pirc (1907-1980), born in Idrija, was a chess grandmaster and chess writer. He competed in seven Chess Olympiads, winning two bronze medals and a gold one (Dubrovnik 1950). He is author of a defensive scheme named after him — Pirc Defense.

Stamp 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2007  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card FD Idrija

As we got up quite early, we soon became hungry, so we had some

Idrija-style pasta parcels (žlikrofi) with meat stew (bakalec) which is small pasta envelopes or parcels with a filling made from potato, onion, minced lard or smoked bacon and seasoning (marjoram, chives, pepper, salt) and is a characteristic dish of the former mercury mining town of Idrija and the surrounding area.

Stamp 6th Nov 2015  
Cancelled Commemorative FD  
Cancellation  
Card FD Idrija





Our next stop was **Cerkno**, a place known for carnival figures named "laufarji" ("runners"). The "laufarji" family is a community of boys, which is in charge of all property, clothes, masks, etc. There are 24 mask figures. All but one wear wooden face masks, called "larfe".

Stamp 21<sup>st</sup> Jan. 1997  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card FD Idrija



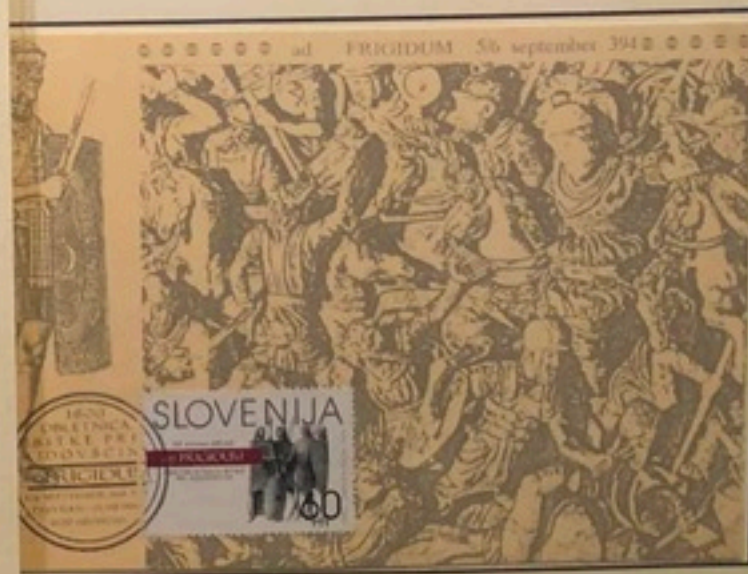
Not far from Cerkno lies one of the best equipped partisan medical facilities during WW on Slovenian territory, the **Franja Partisan Hospital**. It performed the most difficult surgeries and treated altogether more than 900 injured resistance fighters and Allied soldiers from 23rd December 1943 to the end of the war.

Stamp 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2003  
Cancelled Commem. FD Cancellation  
Card Pazice



A perforated thigh bone of a prehistoric cave bear (*Ursus spelaeus*) was excavated in a near Cerkno. It is possibly the oldest flute in the world, going back to the middle of the Ice Age, around 55,000 years ago.

Stamp 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 2007  
Cancelled Commem. FD Cancellation  
Card FD Idrija



We then drove to **Vipava Valley** where the encounter between the armies of the emperor **Theodosius** and his rival emperor **Eugenius** took place on September 5 and 6, 394 A.D. Theodosius, who was a devout Catholic, defeated the last rival emperor Eugenius, thus dealing paganism a destructive blow.

Stamp 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. 1994  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card D.Z.A.N.O.



We then proceeded to Križ where the counts of Attems built a monastery for the Capuchins and the Church of St. Francis, which also houses their tomb, in 1637. In 1660, assisted by the same Counts, the inhabitants of Križ erected the sizeable present-day parish church.

Stamp 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card D.Z.A.-490



Vipavski Križ



We became thirsty so we ordered local wine, produced from the Vipava zelen, an old vine grown mostly in the Vipava Valley. The vine is rather small and pointed; the berries are round, rather big and greenish-yellow in color with small brown spots.

Stamp 15<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2000  
Cancelled Vipava FD Cancellation  
Card MRGH

While we were waiting for the wine to be served, I presented my guests with some facts about the good Slovenian wines. I told them that Slovenia has three principal wine regions: the Drava Valley, Lower Sava Valley and Slovenian Littoral, differing in climate and soil. Over the centuries, some old vine types were preserved, which are part of the country's heritage.

One of the day's highlights was our visit to the Postojna Cave, which is the most famous cave in Europe and also the most visited place in Slovenia, extending for 21 kilometers. On 15<sup>th</sup> August 1899, next to the Dance Hall, the first under-ground post office in the world was opened. Various species of fauna can be found inside.....

Stamp 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2013  
Cancelled Postojna Commemorative 2014  
Card Regia Ann. Delle Grotte  
(Pre WW II)



..... the most famous being the European cave salamander (*Proteus anguinus*), which is a tailed amphibian that can grow up to 30 cm in length. It is extremely well adapted to its natural habitat. It is blind with a colorless skin.

Stamp 12<sup>th</sup> July, 1993  
Cancelled Postojna FD  
Cancellation  
Card Postojnska jama





Snežnik, 1796 m

As we drove further south, we saw in the distance Snežnik (meaning snow-covered mountain), the highest peak of the Slovene Karst (1796 m) and at the same time the highest Slovene mountain outside the Alps.

Stamp 21<sup>st</sup> Jan. 1997  
Cancelled Snežnik 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1997  
Card P.D. Snežnik



ŠKOCJANSKE JAME - CAVES

Our next stop was the Škocjan caves, which have been part of the UNESCO list of world and cultural heritage since 25th November 1986. Here the Reka River disappears underground through a spectacular subterranean canyon.

Stamp 5<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1996  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card Ari. Mat

As we drove further south we noticed along the road a group of people, some of them clad in Slovene Istrian national costumes. That's how they looked like.

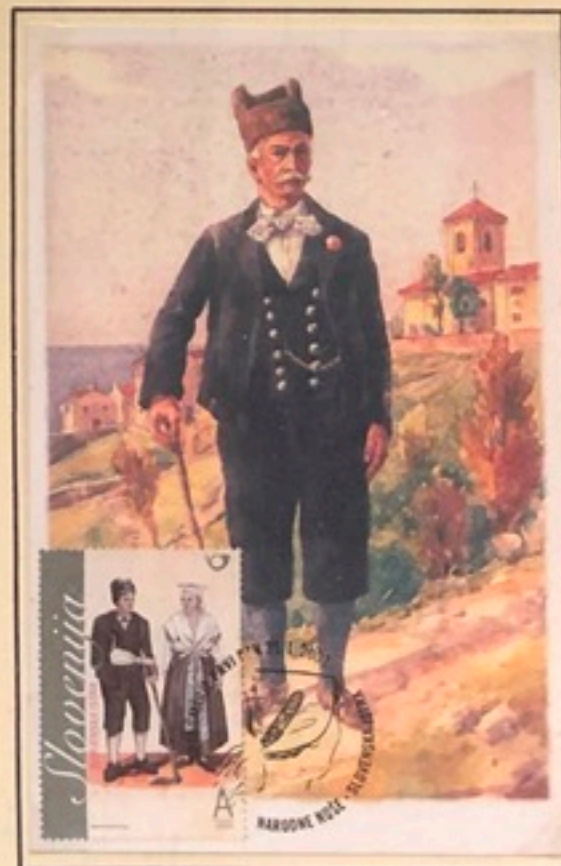


The women were dressed in long undershirts, sometimes also white skirts with narrow straps, on the top of which they wore another skirt made of black linen and plaited at the front and back. Whereas...

Stamp 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. 2003  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card unknown

men wore hats without rims. They were dressed in short, loose-fitting trousers. The jackets were rather long trimmed with green cloth. They wore white or blue shoes and "nice" shoes.

Stamp 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. 2003  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card unknown





The Church of the Holy Trinity in Hrastovlje, a picturesque village in Istria, is painted with beautiful frescos by Istrian painter Johannes de Kastua. A masterpiece example of Gothic art is the Dance of Death fresco completed on 13 July 1490 (a detail is displayed on the stamp).

Stamp 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2005  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card Družina



After Hrastovlje we proceeded towards the last stop of the day, Piran



Piran is an old coastal town, which maintained the clustered medieval structure of narrow winding streets, and houses, huddled close together. The Church of St. George, the patron saint of Piran, rises above the town.

Stamp 18<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1972  
Cancelled Piran, 27<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1985  
Card Prospektiro

We visited Piran's Aquarium where we saw examples of marine life of the area, including two species, displayed below.



### Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

It can live more than 80 years, a length of more than 100 cm, weight more than 200 kg. Their nesting sites in southern Slovenia. In the Mediterranean they migrate to the Adriatic Sea in Slovenia, even the northern parts of the Adriatic Sea in Slovenia, summer when the water is warm.

Stamp 25<sup>th</sup> Sep. 2013  
Cancelled Piran FD Cancellation  
Card FND Piran

### Golden grey mullet (*Liza aurata*)

This marine fish can grow to a maximum length of 45 cm. It lives in coastal waters, predominately in rocky littoral areas, as well as in estuaries, lagoons and even harbours. Golden grey mullet can be easily recognised by the gold spot on the gill plate. On the short Adriatic coast of Slovenia mullet is very prized in winter, when the catching in the Bay of Portorož is a traditional event.

Stamp 25<sup>th</sup> Sep. 2013  
Cancelled Piran FD Cancellation  
Card FND Piran



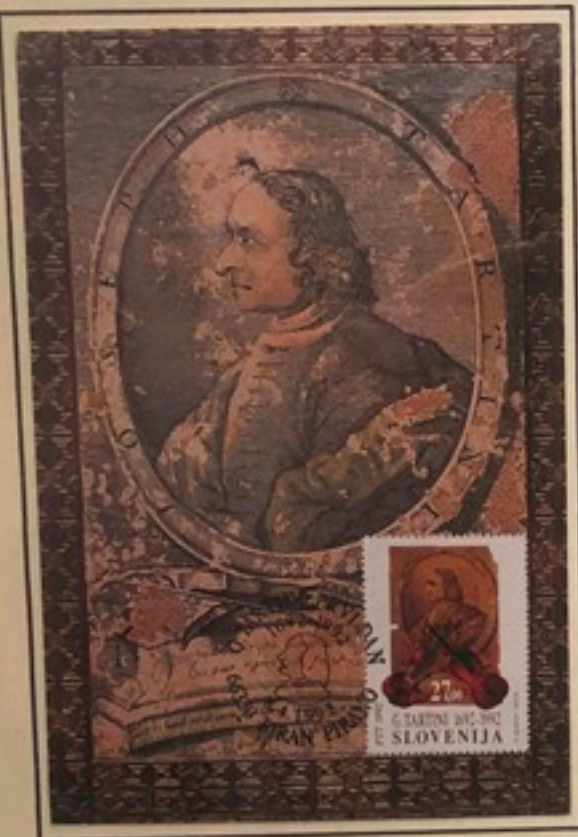


Before going to bed we visited a square in the city center, named after...

...Giuseppe Tartini (1692 -1770), born in Piran, who was composer, great master of violin, music scientist and pedagogue. His most famous work is the "Devil's Trill Sonata," a solo violin sonata that requires a number of technically demanding double stop trills and is difficult to be played even by modern standards.

Stamp 8<sup>th</sup> Apr 1992  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card SO Piran

After a good night's sleep we headed north and took a shortcut through Italian territory to Lipica, where we enjoyed...

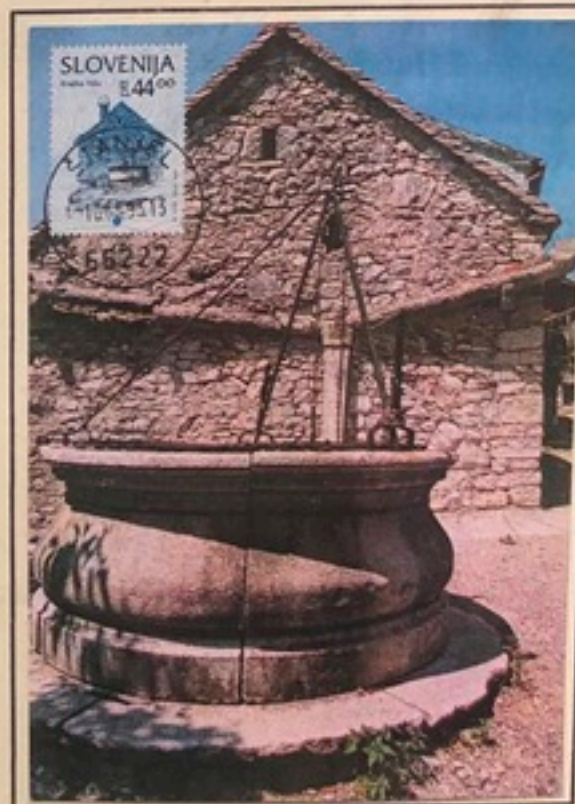


#### The Lipizzaner horses

Lipizzaner is a breed of horse, the same as the one associated with the Spanish Riding School of Vienna, Austria, where they demonstrate the 'haute école' movements of classical dressage. The Lipizzan breed dates back to the 1580, when it was developed with the support of the Habsburg nobility. The breed takes its name from one of the earliest stud farms established, located near the Karst Plateau village of Lipica in Slovenia.

Stamp 26<sup>th</sup> Sep 1969  
Cancelled Lipica 8<sup>th</sup> Jun 1985  
Card MAK

Our next stop further north was Štanjel with its typical architecture, represented by



...The karstic house, built from stone, to a special type of more gently slanting roofs covered with slates or brick tiles, as well as courtyards surrounded by walls. A dominant feature of the outer space including the courtyard is a stone well.

Stamp 18th Feb 1993  
Cancelled 10th Mar 1993  
Card P.I.G.

Max Fabiani (1865-1962) was an architect and town planner, born in the Karst village of Zgornji Kobdilj, near Štanjel. His works may be seen in various parts of Europe: Konopiště Castle (Bohemia), a regulation plan and plan for rebuilding Ljubljana after the earthquake of 1895, the Krisper, Hribar and Bamberg houses, the Mladika building and the Jakopič Pavilion (Ljubljana), Karlsplatz, the Prater and the Portois & Fix, Urania and Artaria buildings (Vienna), the Sacro Cuore church and the Attems-Heiligenkreuz palace (Gorizia). He is also called "Architect of the Austro-Hungarian Empire".

Stamp 30<sup>th</sup> Jun 2015  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card Arhitekturni muzej





Soška postrv - *Salmo marmoratus*

As we became hungry we entered  
a restaurant and had a local  
specialty called...

... Marble trout  
(*Salmo marmoratus*)

...that can be found only in some rivers  
and streams that are flowing into the  
Adriatic Sea in Slovenia, Italy, Bosnia,  
Croatia and Montenegro. It can be  
easily recognised by its distinctive  
marbled colour pattern. There are still  
genetically pure populations on the  
tributaries of the Soča River.

Stamp 27<sup>th</sup> Mar. 1997  
Cancelled Tolmin FD Cancellation  
Card SRZ

After leaving the restaurant, a dog ran toward us, waving his tail. It was a

Karstic shepherd dog

which is the only autochthonous dog breed in Slovenia. It is medium-tail and strong, with a rich, dark iron-grey fur and dark grey stripes on his legs. It is a quiet and good-natured and at the same time brave and untiring dog. It is strongly attached to his master and is a very pleasing house-dog. In the past it was used as a shepherd dog. Nowadays it is becoming popular again for the sheep protection against wolf or brown bear attacks. It was mentioned for the first time in J. V. Valvasor's *Glory of the Duchy of Carniola* in 1689. It was recognised and registered as a breed by the *Federation Cynologique Internationale*.

Stamp 4<sup>th</sup> Sep 1992  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card KD Ljubljana



After Stanjel we headed further to the North Littoral and our first stop was...



...Solkan, which is famous for  
its railway bridge, constructed at  
the beginning of last century. Its  
main arch, depicted also on the  
stamp, is the largest stone arch in  
the world completely made of  
carved stone.

Stamp 21<sup>st</sup> March 2001  
Cancelled Commemorative FD  
Cancellation  
Card Stengel & Co. (1909)

The next place on our tour of the day was...



...Kanal, mentioned first in the  
14<sup>th</sup> Century. It is a lovely  
place, best known for its mighty  
double arch bridge, built  
between 1815 and 1817, from  
where diving-into-the-river  
competitions take place  
regularly.

Stamp 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
Cancelled Commemorative FD  
Cancellation  
Card Primorski tisk



## 2.2. Upper Carniola

Next morning we drove further north towards Vršič Pass (1611 m high) which is a natural border between the Littoral and Upper Carniola, situated in the northwestern part of the country. The first magnificent sight we saw while still on the Littoral side was that of...



Pogled na Jalovec kot ga je videl dr. J. Kugy

### Jalovec, Planica

...Jalovec (2645 m), undoubtedly the most beautiful of Slovene mountains, rising like a mighty crystal above the Alpine valleys of Planica, Trenta, Bavšica and Koritnica; here seen from the Littoral side.

Stamp 21<sup>st</sup> Mar. 2001  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancel  
Card VEK

The first place we visited after having descended from the Vršič Pass was the valley of Planica, where...



ski jumping and flying competitions have been regularly held in this cradle of ski flights since 1934 when the world record was first broken, with 45 records to follow.

Stamp 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1994  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card Pink

## Upper Carniola

We then continued our daily trip to admire the Triglav Mountain ("Three-headed Mountain") which is...



...Slovenia's highest mountain (2864 m). The mountain cabin, situated in Vrta Valley was built in 1896 by Rev. Jakob Aljaž (1845-1927) and is named after him.

Stamp 13<sup>th</sup> July, 1951  
Cancelled 14<sup>th</sup> July, 1951  
Card unknown

## Triglav Mountain



Triglav's North Wall, rising above the Vrta Valley is a serious challenge even for experienced climbers.

Stamp 26<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1978  
Cancelled Majstara, 25<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1978  
Card Krželj



# Upper Carniola

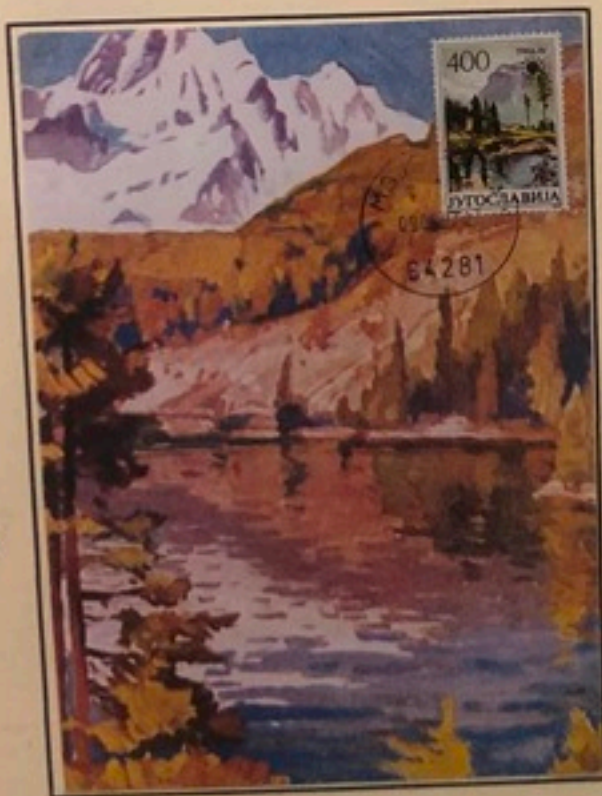


I told my guests that a small iron cabin, cylindrical in shape, also built by Rev. Jakob Aljaž, mountaineer, composer and whole-hearted patriot, in 1895 and named after him, stands on the top of Triglav and can provide shelter to a maximum of five people in case of bad weather.

Stamp 8<sup>th</sup> June, 1996  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card unknown, pre 1934

In the Triglav National park there are seven magnificent Triglav lakes, one of them being displayed on this card.

Stamp 9<sup>th</sup> March 1987  
Cancelled Mojstrana, 9<sup>th</sup> May 1987  
Card DF Novi Sad



# Triglav Mountain

# Upper Carniola

# Triglav Mountain, Prešern



While there, I also told them a legend how a hunter shot the Goldhorn, keeper of treasures in the Triglav Mountain. From his blood a flower grew, the Goldhorn ate it and was healed. He then pushed the hunter into the precipice.

Stamp 27<sup>th</sup> Mar 1997  
Cancelled Commem. FD Cancellation  
Card Gaspari



Driving southward we visited the birth house of Dr. France Prešern (1800 - 1849), the most important Slovenian poet and one of the most outstanding European Romantic ones. The day of his death (8th February) is the Slovenian Cultural Day. Part of his poem *Zdravljica* (The Toast) is now the national anthem of Slovenia.

Stamp 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1949  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card DZS



# Upper Carniola

## Bled, Iztok Čop

Bled, an over 1000 years old city is one of the most visited places in Slovenia, due to a castle built on a high rock above the magnificent lake and the island with its pilgrimage church situated on it.

Stamp 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2004  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card Fotoli



Bled is also a well-known rowing center. Iztok Čop (born 1972), a rower born here, won the men's double sculls (with Luka Spik) at 2000 Olympics. In addition he won three more Olympic medals and 12 World Championship ones, including four gold.

Stamp 6<sup>th</sup> June 1996  
Cancelled Bled, 9<sup>th</sup> Aug 1996  
Card Polta Slovenija



# Upper Carniola

## Lake Bohinj, Brezje

Not far from Bled, the Gothic Church of Saint John the Baptist built on the turn of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Century, with a Baroque steeple, is situated on the banks of Lake Bohinj. Frescoes, painted by various painters can be found inside.

Stamp 21<sup>st</sup> June, 1971  
Cancelled 6<sup>th</sup> Aug 1985  
Card Fotoli



Man does not have only physical but also spiritual needs, so on our way home, we stopped at the National shrine of Slovenia, situated at Brezje village, which is the most important pilgrimage place in Slovenia. Pilgrims stop and pray in front of the picture of Our Lady of Brezje (Help of Christians), painted in 1814 as a vow of Leopold Layer (1752-1828).

Stamp 16<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1995  
Cancelled Commemorative FD cancellation  
Card Brezje





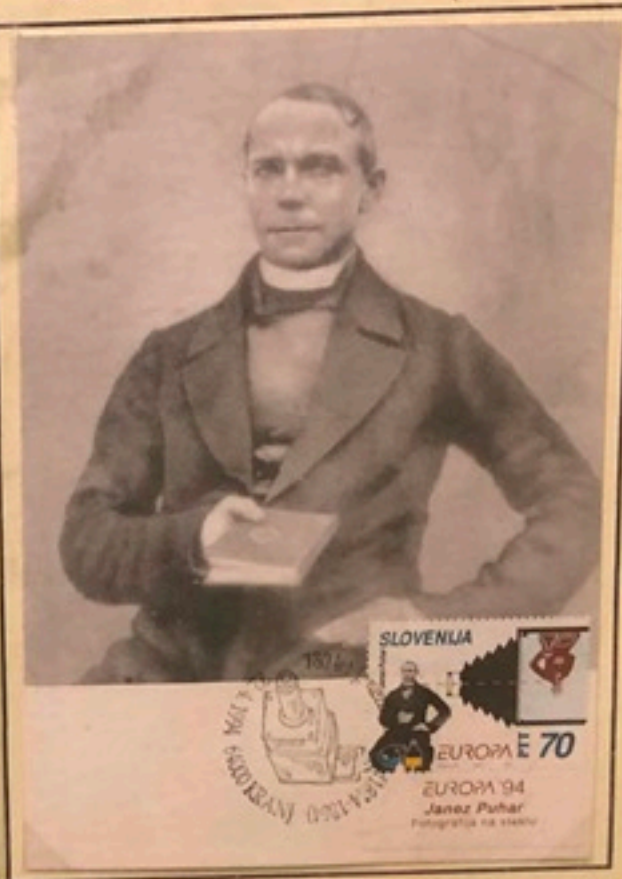


Driving home we had on our left Ljubelj (ger. Loiblpass), a 1369 high mountain crossing between Carniola and Carinthia, here shown as per copper engraving by Janez Vajkard Valvasor (1641-1693).

Stamp 1<sup>st</sup> Jun 1991  
Cancelled Commemorative  
FD Cancellation  
Card unknown

Along our route Kamen castle was set atop a rocky promontory at the entrance to the narrow Draga Valley in Gorenjska (upper Carniola) region. It was built in the 12th century by The Counts of Ortenburg. Later it was owned by the Counts of Celje, followed by the Lamberg family.

Stamp 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2003  
Cancelled Commemorative FD  
Cancellation  
Card Unknown, based on  
Valvasor's engraving



We passed Kranj, the birthplace of Janez Avgustin Puhar (1814 - 1864) who was a Slovene Catholic priest, inventor, scientist, photographer, artist and poet. He is the inventor of glass photography, documented in 1842.

Stamp 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr. 1994  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card unknown

We turned right from the main road towards Škofja Loka, first mentioned in 973, which lies on the confluence of two branches of the same river. The castle was first mentioned in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century and overlooks the old city center.

Stamp 15<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1982  
Cancelled 8th Aug. 1984  
Card Turistkomerc





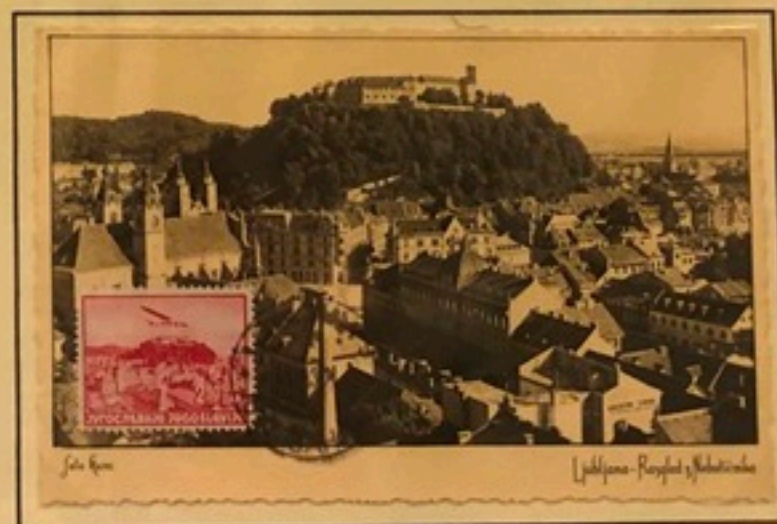
After three days away from home it was time to get acquainted with the Capital and largest city of Slovenia, Ljubljana, first mentioned in historical documents in the mid-12<sup>th</sup> Century, and its surroundings. So, after a good night's sleep, we first mounted the...

...Ljubljana Castle, today the second most visited tourist attraction in Slovenia. It overlooks the city and dates to 1112. It was in possession of the Spanheim family and in 1335 became property of the House of Habsburg.

Stamp 30<sup>th</sup> April, 1945  
Cancelled Lj. 30<sup>th</sup> May 1945  
Card CAR



From the Castle we enjoyed an excellent view of the City. This view differs, of course, from...



...the aerial view of Ljubljana from the 1930's.

Stamp 12th September, 1937  
Cancelled Ljubljana (date illegible)  
Card. Kun



OČE POŠTNE ZNAMKE  
ОТЕЦ ПОЧТОВОЙ МАРКИ  
LE PERE DU TIMBRE POSTE  
FATHER OF THE POST STAMP

Not far from Škofja Loka lies Podnja Luša, the birthplace of Lovrenc Kolár (1804-1879), an Austrian civil servant who in 1835, five years before the introduction of the postage stamp suggested the use of adhesive tax postmarks for correspondence to the Department of Commerce in Vienna, but his idea was rejected.

Stamp 21<sup>st</sup> Aug. 1948  
Cancelled Ljubljana FD Cancellation  
Card unknown

Grammatik  
der  
Slavischen Sprache  
in  
Krain, Kärnten und Steiermark.



Leipzig,  
Verlag Wilhelm Heinrich Korn.  
1808.

Already close to Ljubljana, to where we were returning, lies Repnje pri Vodica, the birthplace of Jernej Kopitar (1780-1844), famous linguist and publicist, well known also in Europe, who prepared in 1808 his best known work in Slovenia, "Grammatik der slavischen Sprache in Krain, Kärnten und Steiermark". ("Grammar of the Slavic Language Spoken in Carniola, Carinthia and Styria")

Stamp 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1994  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card Pink



## Ljubljana & Surroundings



*We descended from the castle to the old part of the city and entered first Ljubljana's*

St. Nicholas Cathedral through the new **bronze front door** of the Cathedral, masterpiece of the Slovene sculptor Tone Demšar. They were installed on the occasion of the 2000th Anniversary of Christianity, showing the history of the Slovene religion from the Christianization on and were commemorated with a stamp of corresponding (high) value.

*Stamp 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2000  
Cancelled Commemorative FDI  
Card Zupnijski urad*

While inside we enjoyed the **frescos**, painted by **Giulio Quaglio** from Lombardy, the most important baroque painter in Slovenia. They were restored on the occasion of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cathedral's consecration.

*Stamp 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2007  
Cancelled Ljubljana FD Cancel  
Card Zupnijski urad*



## Ljubljana's Cathedral

## Ljubljana & Surroundings



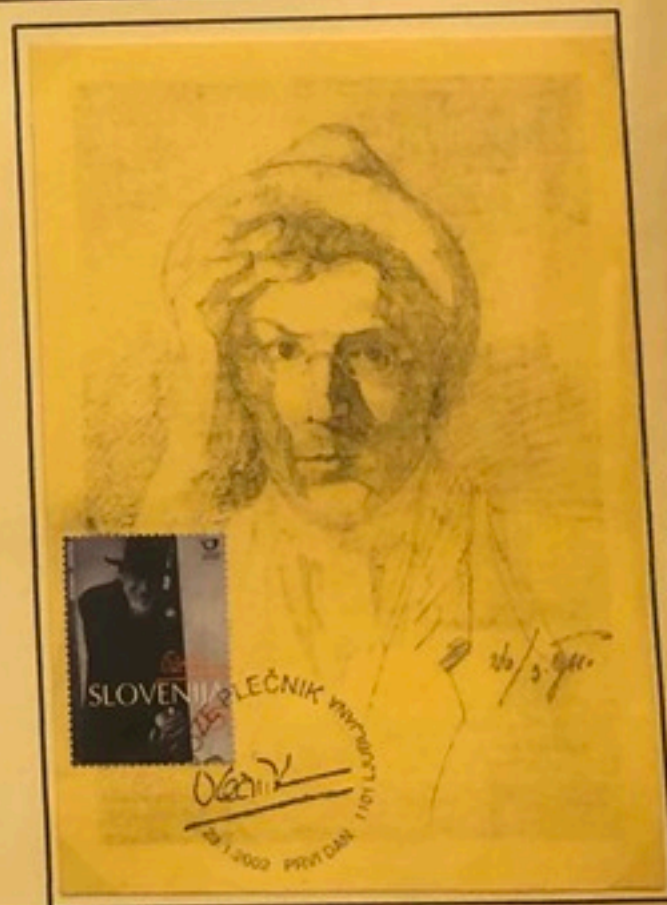
## Three bridges, Plečnik

About a minute's walk from the Cathedral are situated the *three bridges* crossing over the river Ljubljanica. They are incredibly well integrated into the urban environment. Built during the years 1931 and 1932 by ...

*Stamp 30<sup>th</sup> April, 1984  
Cancelled  
FD Cancellation  
Card Zadrutna Stampa*

...**Jože Plečnik** (1872 - 1957), an architect, town planner and designer. His most important works are in Vienna (*Zacherl House*), Prague (*Renovation of Hradčany Castle*) and Ljubljana (*The Church of St Francis in Šiška*, *Mutual Insurance Building*, *the Three Bridges*, *University Library* and *the Ljubljana Cemetery Žale with farewell chapels*).

*Stamp 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2002  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card unknown*







We then proceeded to the present Ljubljana main Post office building, finished on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1896. This two-floor building was built in the Renaissance style. Both frontal sides are connected by a central tower whose top is dome-shaped.

Stamp 18<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1996  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card. Stengel & Co. (Pre WWI)



A few meters from the main Post Office, at the beginning of the Congress Square (named after a Post Napoleonic Congress which took place in Ljubljana in 1821) a copy (original is in museum) of a 4<sup>th</sup> Century statue of a dignitary from Emona, excavated in 1836 can be found. It is a testimony of the Roman settlement Emona, founded 2000 years ago.

Stamp 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1971  
Cancelled Ljubljana FD Cancellation  
Card. Narodni muzej



The other important building represents the edifice of the University of Ljubljana, founded in 1919 and its seat has always been in the former Regional Assembly building, whereas its faculties are scattered around the city.

Stamp 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1969  
Cancelled Ljubljana, 19<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1970  
Card Turistcomerc

Just a minute's walk from the Congress square we saw the Slovenian Academy of Science and Arts, founded in 1938. Its predecessor was *Academia operosorum Labacensium*, founded in 1693. The coats of arms of both institutions are displayed on the stamp.

Stamp 13<sup>th</sup> October 1988  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card. FD Ljubljana





## Ljubljana & Surroundings

*In a nearby street stands*

the National & University Library. It keeps a number of important documents and books, including the first Slovenian translation of the whole Bible, published in 1584, the work of a Lutheran minister, writer and translator **Jurij Dalmatin** (c.1547-1589). His work ranks among earlier translations of the Bible into national languages, preceding that of many larger nations.

Stamp 25<sup>th</sup> May 2007  
Cancelled Ljubljana FD Cancellation  
Card NUK



Ljubljana followed the introduction of the tramway in large European cities in 1901 with a total of 13 tramcars and two trailers. The tramway was discontinued in 1957 and replaced by other means of public transport (trolleybuses and buses). The last one stands in a square, today converted into a café.

Stamp 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2001  
Cancelled Commemorative FD  
Cancellation  
Card Ig. V. Kleinmayr & Fed (Pre  
WWI)

## Ljubljana & Surroundings

*We became hungry, so we entered a restaurant and had a meal. After the meal we were served with...*

...Slovenia's Roll Cake or Potica, one of Slovenia's most prized culinary specialties. The cake stuffed with various fillings (the walnut filling is the most common) has developed over the centuries into a round, ring-shaped cake as we know it today.

Stamp 20<sup>th</sup> May 2005  
Cancelled Commemorative  
FD Cancellation  
Card unknown



While eating Potica, I told Peter and Cynthia about another Ljubljana's habit, **Palm Sunday bundles** or "butarice". They are made of new greens and painted shaves among the most recent features of folk art, stemming from the 1930s.

Stamp 20<sup>th</sup> Mar 1997  
Cancelled Lj. 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr. 2003  
Card Holcner Gargner



## Ljubljana & Surroundings

## The National Gallery

After lunch we visited The National Gallery, which had its premises renewed and extended in the beginning of 2016. Some of the pictures we saw (priority was given to Slovenian painters), as well as data on their authors, are displayed on this and the next few pages.

Baroque painter **Frane Jelečnik** (1700-1764) is mostly known as a fresco painter. One of his best known works is "The Holy Family", painted in 1734.

Stamp 28<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1970  
Cancelled Ljubljana, 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1985  
Card Narodna galerija



**Mihail Stroj** (1863-1871) is one of the most important 19<sup>th</sup> century Slovenian painters. His work is comprised mostly of portraits, one of the best known being "Portrait of Luiza Prejsek", painted around 1855.

Stamp 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1970  
Cancelled Ljubljana, 17<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1985  
Card Narodna galerija



## Ljubljana & Surroundings

## The National Gallery



**Matevž Langus** (1792-1855) was one of the last Slovenian baroque portrait and fresco painters. One of his paintings (1834) displays the Ljubljana book merchant Adam Henrik Höhn.

Stamp 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1970  
Cancelled 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1985  
Card Narodna galerija

**Marko Pernhart** (1824 - 1871) was the first Slovenian countryside painter. One of his most known pictures is "Mangart Lake in a storm", painted in 1852.

Stamp 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1968  
Cancelled 18th Nov 1985  
Card Narodna galerija





Ivana Kobilca (1861-1926), a realist painter who studied and worked in Vienna, Munich, Paris, Sarajevo, Berlin, and Ljubljana, is the most prominent Slovenian woman painter. She mostly painted oil paintings and pastels, one of her most known works is *Poletje* (The Summer), painted in 1889 and voted the most liked one by a vast majority of the gallery's visitors.

Stamp 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 1967  
Cancelled 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 1985  
Card Narodna galerija



Božidar Jakac (1899-1989) was a Slovene Expressionist, Realist and Symbolist painter, graphic artist, art teacher, photographer and filmmaker. The image of the girl drawing the window curtain symbolizes the youthful unravelling of the mysteries of life, hence the title of this painting - "Unravelling the Mysteries of Life".

Stamp 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 1999  
Cancelled Commemorative FDI  
Card FD Novo mesto



Matija Jama (1872 - 1947), the most doctrinaire Impressionist among them was above all a landscape painter. One of his best known paintings is "Village in winter", painted during 1911-1912.

Stamp 19<sup>th</sup> Sep 2002  
Cancelled Commemorative FD  
Cancellation  
Card unknown

Marij Pregelj (1913-1967) was certainly one of the key figures in the Slovene postwar painting. His creative career spanned his prewar colorful realism and distinctively expressive paintings of a later date. The painting "Pompeian company at table", painted in 1962 belongs to Pregelj's latter period.

Stamp 29<sup>th</sup> Apr. 31993  
Cancelled Commemorative FDI  
Card Moderna galerija





## Ljubljana and Surroundings

## Botanical Garden

## Blagay's Daphne Carniolan Primrose

The next day after having visited the Capital was devoted to its nature. So we first visited the Botanical Garden and later on Ljubljana's Zoological Garden. I told my guests that most of Slovenian endemics, of which only a small number exist, were discovered by Slovenians, including **Franz de Paula Hladnik** (1773–1844), founder of Ljubljana Botanical gardens but also by other botanists. They mostly bear their names. A part of them is displayed on the next few pages.



**Carniolan Primrose** (*Primula carniolica*) is one of the few Slovenian country endemics, so its name fits perfectly the facts! It can be found only in shady, damp gorges in rocky fissures of an area about 70 km long and 25 km wide. It flowers in April and May. It is protected since 1922.

Stamp 20<sup>th</sup> May 1994  
Cancelled Ig. FD Cancellation  
Card P.I.G.

**Blagay's Daphne** (*Daphne blagayana*) is one of the most famous Slovenian scent plants, discovered in 1837 near Ljubljana, described by Henrik Freyer (1802–1866) and named after count Blagay who brought him the flower. It was thought for quite a while that this plant grows only in the vicinity of Ljubljana, but now we know that Slovenia is the North-Western border of its distribution. It is protected since 1922.

Stamp 20<sup>th</sup> May 1994  
Cancelled Polhov Gradec FD Cancellation  
Card P.I.G.



## Botanical Garden

**Zois' Bellflower** (*Campanula zoysii*) is one of most eminent Slovenian plants, an endemic plant of the South Eastern Limestone Alps. Most of the localities where this plant grows are in Slovenia. It can be easily recognized by the characteristic shape of the bell-shaped flowers, which are not open; instead, the mouth is narrowed and hairy. The plant is named after its discoverer, Ziga Zois (1747–1819), a natural scientist and patron of the arts, and is protected.

Stamp 20<sup>th</sup> May 1994  
Cancelled Predjor FD Cancellation  
Card P.I.G.



## Zois' Bellflower, Fleischmann's Parsnip



**Fleischmann's Parsnip** (*Pastinaca sativa* var. *fleischmanni*) is a very interesting local variety of the common parsnip. Andrej Fleischmann (1804–1867) discovered this flower at Ljubljana Castle; it was regarded as a new variety and named after its discoverer. While this plant became extinct on the original locality, transplanted specimens survived in the Botanical garden until today.

Stamp 30<sup>th</sup> Mar. 2012  
Cancelled Common. FD Cancellation  
Card FD Idrija



## Botanical Garden

## Hladnik's scabiosa, Hladnik's scopolia

### Hladnik's scabiosa (*Scabiosa hladnikiana*)

The founder of the Ljubljana University Botanical Garden (1810), botanist Franc Hladnik, discovered an unknown species of scabiosa in the Polhov Gradec Dolomites. He used to send specimens of the plants he gathered to his botanical friends, among them Dr Host, court physician to Emperor Franz I in Vienna, who named this unknown species after its sender.

Stamp 30<sup>th</sup> Mar. 2012  
Cancelled Commem. FD Cancellation  
Card FD Idrija



### Hladnik's scopolia (*Scopolia carniolica* f. *hladnikiana*)

Henbane bell (*Scopolia carniolica*) was discovered by L. A. Scopoli. He was in regular contacts with C. Linne who named the plant after the discoverer. In 1819 a yellow variety of that plant was discovered by Franc Hladnik near Turjak. It can be easily distinguished from the typical species as the outer side of corolla has instead of reddish brown the same yellowish color as the inner part.

Stamp 30<sup>th</sup> Mar. 2012  
Cancelled Commem. FD Cancellation  
Card FD Idrija



## Zoological Garden

## Lesser Grey Shrike, Roller

The main characteristic of Slovenia is small-scale diversity: on an area, comparable with Wales, where influences of Alps, Mediterranean, Balkan Peninsula and Pannonia Plane merge, the number of species per area unit is extremely high and diverse. It ranges from large carnivores to specialized hypogaea species. In fact, the diversity of subterranean fauna of Slovenia is among the richest in the world. Our guests were especially interested in birds and mammals and a selection of what we saw is displayed on the next few pages.

### Birds

#### Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*)

The Lesser Grey Shrike is a good example how a common bird can become threatened in a relatively short time. The bird is living in the vicinity of meadows, fields and orchards. Its habitat is linked to man-made landscape. Some years ago, Lesser Grey Shrike was common in Slovenia, now it is mainly spread in north-eastern Slovenia. It is not a surprise that the bird is on the red list of threatened birds in Slovenia and that their best habitats are included in Natura 2000 network.

Stamp 8<sup>th</sup> Jun 1996  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card Posta Slovenija



#### Roller (*Coracias garrulus*)

This bird was once rather common in Slovenia, mainly in the Eastern parts. As a bird of prey, it was most easily seen sitting on electricity or telephone wires, watching on various small animals, from insects to small mammals hiding among grass. The number of Rollers in Slovenia has fallen dramatically in recent years and only a few pairs are still nesting. The Roller is listed on the Red List of threatened birds in Slovenia.

Stamp 8<sup>th</sup> Jun 1996  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card Posta Slovenija





**Peregrine falcon**  
(*Falco peregrinus*)

It is a widespread bird of prey, known as the fastest animal in the world. In its characteristic diving flight it can reach over 320 km/h. The peregrine falcon became an endangered species in many areas because of the widespread use of certain pesticides, especially DDT, and it can be threatened by hunters as well. The peregrine falcon is a well-respected falconry bird as it has strong hunting ability and high trainability.

Stamp 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept. 1967  
Cancelled Good murtuljek 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept. 1971q  
Card Engadin Press

**Capercaillie**  
(*Tetrao urogallus*)

Capercaillie is one of the most attractive birds of mountain forests. The bird is very vulnerable towards the touristic development and mostly threatened throughout mountainous part of Europe. In Slovenia we are recording a decline of the species. Though no hunting of that remarkable bird is allowed it is still becoming rare. It is also a qualifying species of the Natura 2000 network.

Stamp 25<sup>th</sup> May 1958  
Cancelled Good Murtuljek  
FD Cancellation  
Card Engadin Press



### Mammals

**Chamois** (*Rupicapra rupicapra*)

In Slovenia we can find this attractive alpine species in the whole alpine region. The main populations are in the Julian Alps, mainly in the Triglav National Park. Although chamois is a game species, hunting is strictly controlled and is in the core area of the Triglav National Park forbidden. The number of individuals can fluctuate quite substantially in time, mostly because of virus or parasite diseases, which can decimate populations when they are getting large.

Stamp 30<sup>th</sup> Jun 1954  
Cancelled Rateče 27<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1956  
Card Engadin Press



**The red deer**  
(*Cervus elaphus*)

The red deer is the largest deer in Slovenia. The male is usually 175 to 250 cm long and weighs 160 to 240 kg. Stags have antlers, which start growing in the spring and are shed each year, usually at the end of winter. As red deer is a very attractive game species and was nearly exterminated by hunting in Slovenia in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Stamp 30<sup>th</sup> Jun 1954  
Cancelled Ljutomer 1<sup>st</sup> May 1955  
Card Karl Lotze



The roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*)

is nowadays very common in Slovenia from the coastal area up to the upper tree limit. Until the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was rather scarce, but due to elimination of predators, better food availability and habitat quality its population increased. It is an appreciated game species.

Stamp 25<sup>th</sup> May 1960  
Cancelled Rateče-Planica FDI  
Card Engadin

Lynx (*Lynx*)

has a short tail, characteristic tufts of black hair on the tips of their ears, large, padded paws for walking on snow and long whiskers on the face. Under their neck, they have a ruff which has black bars resembling a bow tie although this is often not visible. It was extinct in Slovenia but resettled in 1970s. Its population is stable but it is nevertheless an endangered species.

Stamp 30<sup>th</sup> Jun 1954  
Cancelled Rateče-Planica 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug 1955  
Card Engadin



Next day we made a trip to see Ljubljana's surroundings. First we drove south through. ...

...the Ljubljansko Barje wetlands, a National Park, which are a unique blend of meadows, fields, hedges and channels, distinguished by great biodiversity including several hundred species of birds and numerous butterflies, dragonflies and with the Ljubljanica, the river that has helped create this area over the course of history.

Stamp 25<sup>th</sup> Sep 2015  
Cancelled Commemorative FD  
Cancellation  
Card Artisk



Then we visited the Carthusian monastery in Bistra near Vrhnika (one of the four in the country), established by the Carinthian Duke Bernard between 1255 and 1260. The monastery was closed in 1782 by Emperor Joseph II. The buildings today house the Technical Museum of Slovenia.

Stamp 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2011  
Cancelled Borovnica, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2014  
Card ZGP Mladinska knjiga



*We drove past Vrhnika, the birthplace of...*



...Ivan Cankar (1876 -1918), the most important Slovene writer and also playwright, essayist, poet and political activist. His best-known works are the play *Hlapci* ("Serfs"), the satire *Pohujšanje v dolini Šentflorijanski* ("Scandal in St. Florian Valley") and the novel *Na klancu* ("On the Hill").

Stamp 6<sup>th</sup> May 1976  
Cancelled Ljubljana FD Cancellation  
Card unknown



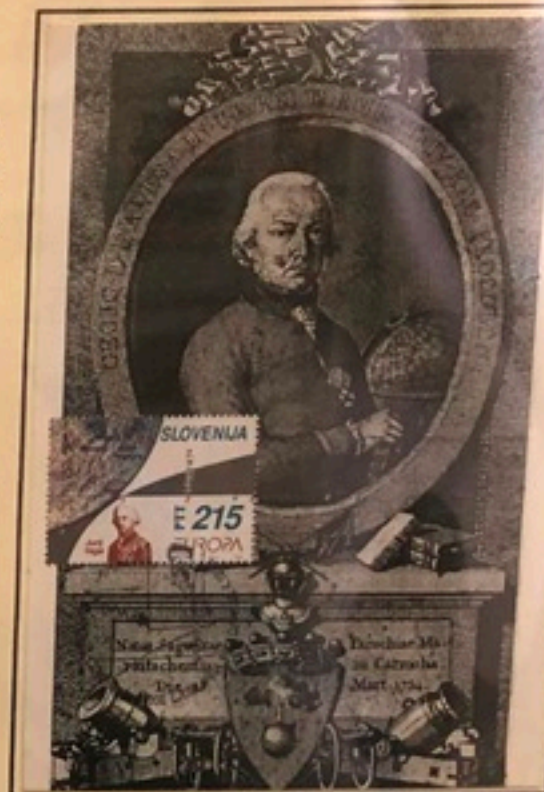
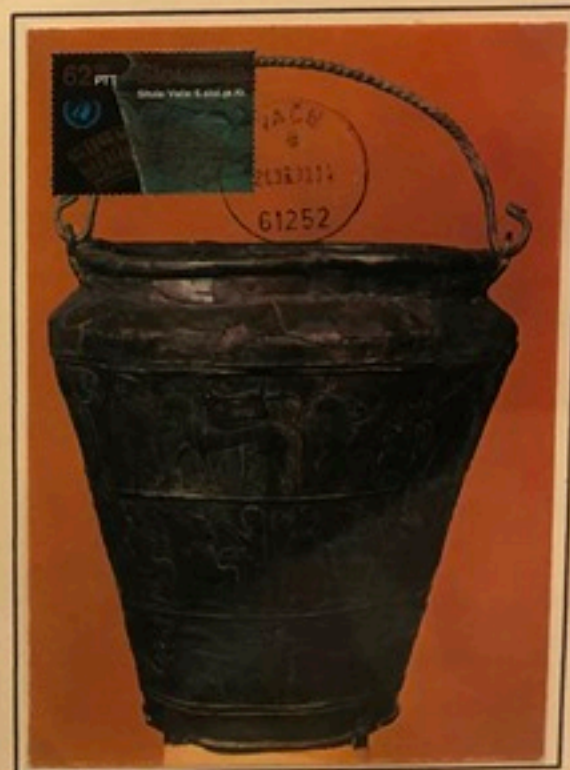
After that we visited The Museum of Post and Telecommunications, located at Polhov Gradec which displays national postal history and the history of telecommunications including the two depicted artefacts.

Stamp 20th May 2003  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card Tehniški muzej

*After having visited the museum we drove north and first passed Zagorica pri Dolskem, the birthplace of...*

...Jurij Vega (1754-1802), Engineer, Mathematician (Slovenia's most prominent one of the past centuries), Ballistics Expert and Inventor. His most important work is "*Thesaurus logarithmorum completus*" - logarithmic tables with ten decimal places. He is the only Slovenian after whom a moon crater is named.

Stamp 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr. 1994  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card PGO



We then visited Vače, (the geometric center of the Republic of Slovenia), where the bronze vase - *situla*, was found. It dates from the 6th century BC. Its decorations represent ritual scenes, animals, riders on horseback and animals harnessed to battle carriages.

Stamp 21<sup>st</sup> May 1993  
Cancelled Vače FDI  
Card CZP Narodni muzej



## Ljubljana & Surroundings

We turned back and just before Ljubljana turned north and passed Mengeš, the birthplace of...

## Ferdinand Hallerstein, Velika Planina

...Ferdinand Avgustin Haller von Hallerstein (1703-1774) who served from September 1739 until his death in 1774 as a missionary in China. In 1746 he took charge of the Chinese Imperial Astronomical Bureau and Board of Mathematics, becoming mandarin of the third rank.

Stamp 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2003  
Cancelled Commemorative  
FD Cancellation  
Card Muzej Mengeš



1703Ferdinand Avgustin Hallerstein1774

It was quite hot that afternoon,  
so we proceeded to

Velika Planina where we enjoyed numerous magnificent views of the peaks of the Karavank-Savinja Alps and the Ljubljana Basin. Velika Planina really comes to life in summer: from the beginning of June, when the herdsmen traditionally drive their livestock up from the valley, until mid-September, when quiet returns to Velika Planina.

Stamp 25th Sep 2013  
Cancelled Štanjovica Commemorative  
Card Artisk



## Dolenjska in Bela Krajina (Lower & White Carniola)

Next morning we started to discover Lower and White Carniola which is located in the southeastern part of the country.  
Our first stop was...

## Turjak Castle

...Turjak Castle, built in the 12th or early 13th century. It was owned, until the end of World War II, by one of the most prominent feudal families in Slovenia - the Counts of Turjak, acquiring its present appearance after a devastating earthquake in 1511.

Stamp 23<sup>rd</sup> Jun 2000  
Cancelled Turjak, 15<sup>th</sup> Sept.  
2014  
Card TD Ljubljana



The famous battle of Sinak, took place on June 22, 1593. The Christian world won a decisive victory, thanks to the Carniolan forces led by Andrej Turjaki (Andreas von Auersperg) from Turjak Castle, over the Turks led by Hassan Pasha.

Stamp 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1993  
Cancelled Commemorative FD  
Cancellation  
Card Odboj za proslavo bitke



# Dolenjska in Bela Krajina (Lower & White Carniola)

## Primož Trubar & Jacobus Gallus Carniolus

Close to Turjak Castle lies the village of Račca, where we visited a showroom, displaying the life and work of...



*Primož Trubar*

...Primož Trubar (1508-1586), a Protestant writer and the founder of the Slovenian literature and literary language. In 1550 he published his first two books, *Abecednik* (The Primer) and *Katehizem* (The Catechism) with many more works to follow.

Stamp 29<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2008  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card unknown

Not far from Račca lies Ribnica, one of the possible birthplaces (the other is Idrija) of...

...Jacobus Gallus Carniolus (1550-1591), a late Renaissance Slovenian composer. His most notable work is the six part *Opus musicum*, written in 1587, a collection of 174 motets that would eventually cover the liturgical needs of the entire ecclesiastical year.

Stamp 18<sup>th</sup> July 1991  
Cancelled Ljubljana FD Cancellation  
Card Codex



# Dolenjska in Bela Krajina (Lower & White Carniola)

## Stična Monastery



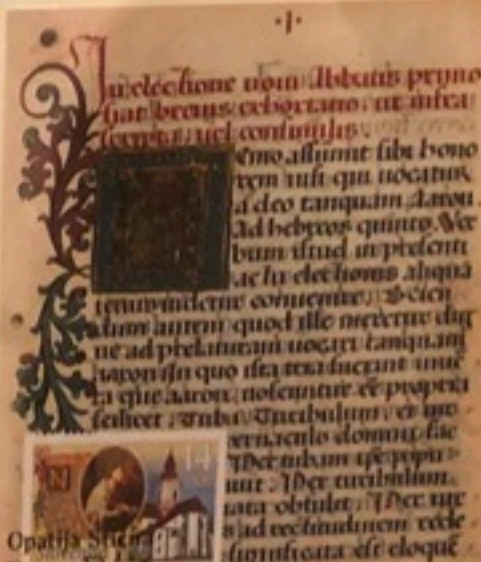
Monasteries played an important role in spiritual, cultural and sometimes also political life of the country. This also applies to...

... Stična, where Cistercians built their first monastery on Slovenian soil in 1136 with the help of the Patriarch Peregrin of Aquileia and the lords of Vilnja gora. There...

Stamp 11<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1998  
Cancelled Commemorative  
FD Cancellation  
Card Opatija Stična

...Manuscript codices were written and copied by skillful writers - calligraphers and decorated with enlarged initial letters by the illuminators such as the initial taken from the Latin Codex *Formulare cisterciense*, written in the 15th century.

Stamp 11<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1998  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card FD Kranj



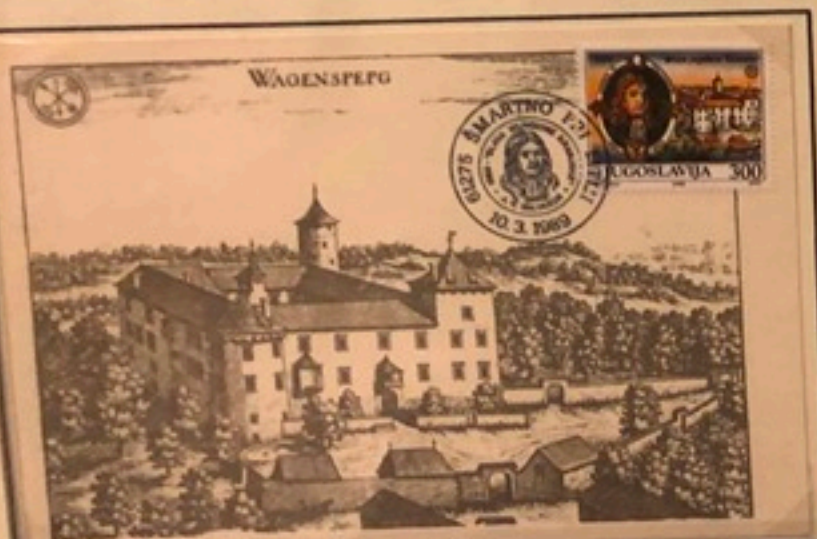
*Sum ex libris Reverendissimi in Christo patris ac Domini, Domini Laurentii Abbatis Subiaccensis, Anno 1511.*



*We then proceeded to see the workplace and display of another prominent Slovenian....*

...Baron Janez Vajkard Valvasor (1641-1693), a member of the Royal Society in London (since 1687), a historiographer, geographer, ethnographer, cartographer, naturalist and technician; and also collector, sketcher and publisher as well as a soldier and military commander, who...

Stamp 18<sup>th</sup> Mar 1989  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card FD Ljubljana



... at his home (Bogenšperk Castle) wrote several topographic and other books, including, in 1689, his best known work *Die Ehre des Herzogthums Krain* (The Glory of the Carniolan Duchy) in 4 volumes, divided into 15 books with 3,532 pages and 528 copper engravings.

Stamp 18<sup>th</sup> Mar 1989  
Cancelled Commemorative  
FD Cancellation  
Card FD Ljubljana

*A number of Slovenian missionaries were active far away from their native place; probably the best known of them is....*



...Friderik Irenej Baraga (1797 - 1868), born near Trebnje, a missionary among Ojibwa Indians in North America, for whom he also wrote their first dictionary and grammar. He became the first Bishop of Marquette, Michigan.

Stamp 29<sup>th</sup> Jun 1997  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card FD Novo mesto

*We became thirsty, so we ordered some drinks, including wine, produced from...*

...Modra kavčina or žametovka, an old vine from the Dolenjska region but was also widely grown in Štajerska. The berries are big, round and dark-blue in color.

Stamp 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2000  
Cancelled Podbočje FD Cancellation  
Card MRGH







Our next stop was...  
...Novo mesto, the capital city of Dolenjska. Part of its old quarters are situated above the greenish blue river Krka, as displayed on a 1973 painting by Božidar Jakac (1899-1989), a native of Novo mesto.

Stamp 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1999  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card FD Novo mesto



Then we ascended the hill above the city to visit...

...The Collegiate Chapter of Novo mesto, over five centuries old, coat-of-arms of which are displayed, that played an important part in the spiritual life of Lower Carniola.

Stamp 9<sup>th</sup> Apr. 1993  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card FD Novo mesto

While in Novo mesto we visited the Regional Museum where we saw lots of prehistoric excavations from the city and its vicinity, including....



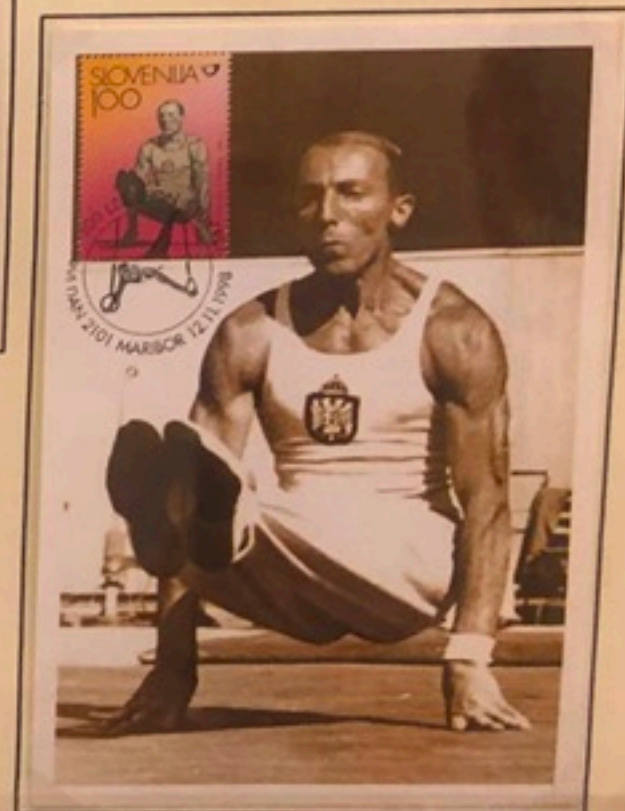
...the most common items of jewelry from the beginning of the Iron Age (8th-4th century BC), found in Lower Carniola, necklaces of glass and amber beads.

Stamp 26<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2010  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card ČZP Dolenjski muzej

Slovenian athletes have won many medals in European and world championships, as well as in the Olympic Games. Six of them, including a chess player won at least one of the most prized of them all - Olympic gold.

Leon Štukelj (1898 -1999), born in Novo mesto, a gymnast and athlete. He won six Olympic medals, including three gold ones (Paris 1924 and Amsterdam 1928). In addition he won 14 medals at world championships, including five gold ones, what makes him the greatest Slovenian athlete of all times.

Stamp 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 1998  
Cancelled Commemorative FDI Cancellation  
Card Muzej NO Maribor





## Dolenjska in Bela Krajina (Lower & White Carniola)

From Novo mesto we crossed the Gorjanci Hills that divide Lower from White Carniola.

## The Gorjanci Hills, Janez Trdina

Slovenia is one of Europe's richest countries as far as water reserves are concerned. The Gorjanci hills are no exception. One of the springs there is called "Gospodična" («Young lady»)

Stamp 22nd Mar 2002  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card FD Novo mesto



These hills were honored by **Janez Trdina (1830-1905)**, in his novel "Tales and Stories of the Gorjanci Hills", while his main work is "History of the Slovenian Nation", that describes for the first time the whole history of the nation in Slovenian language.

Stamp 21st Jun 2005  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card Kobe



## Dolenjska in Bela Krajina (Lower & White Carniola)

## Easter Eggs, Oton Župančič

Easter eggs with the most beautiful decorations in Slovenia are found in **Bela Krajina**. They are decorated by means of a special funnel-shaped stylus, which is constantly reheated in order to melt the wax inside.

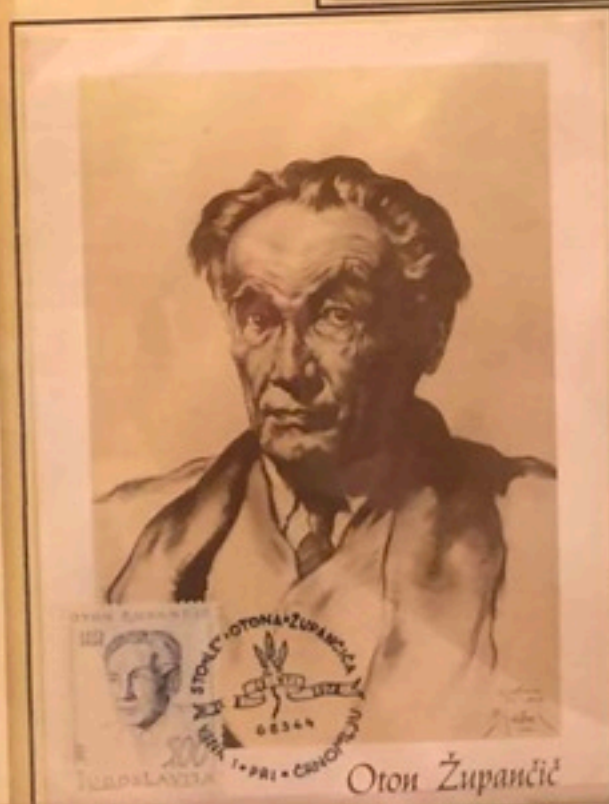
Stamp 28th Feb. 2002  
Cancelled Commemorative FD  
Cancellation  
Card Belokranjski mazi



We then proceeded to Vinica to visit ...

...the birthplace of **Oton Župančič (1878 - 1949)** a poet, translator (he translated, among other, the majority of Shakespeare's plays) and playwright. His masterpiece is the poem *Duma* (1908), but he is best known for the book of children's poetry *Ciciban* (1915).

Stamp 16th Feb. 1970  
Cancelled Vinica Commemorative  
Card MD Medika





At Vinica we turned back, crossed the Gorjanci Hills again and stopped at...



...Otočec Castle, the only castle in Slovenia and far around, that is built on a river island, first mentioned in 1252. During World War II, the castle was set to fire, but it has been completely renovated and is today a five-star hotel.

Stamp 24rd Jun 2009  
Cancelled Otočec, 16th Sep 2014  
Card unknown

Not far from Otočec Castle...

...lies The Pieterje Charterhouse, built by Count Herman II of Celje (c.1365-1435) and was active from 1403-1595. Spiritual life resumed in 1904 and originally housed monks from Bosserville (France). After the WWII a large part of the monastery estate was nationalized.

Stamp 28th March, 2014  
Cancelled Commemorative FD  
Cancellation  
Card ZGP Kartuzija Pieterje



The next place we visited was...



...Kostanjevica na Krki, the smallest Slovenian city, but one of the oldest and nicest. Many rights having been conferred on it in 1252. It lies on an island formed by meanders of Krka River.

Stamp 21st March, 2002  
Cancelled Commemorative  
FD Cancellation  
Card Sidaria



Šelma refers to the characteristic carnival in Kostanjevica na Krki, while at the same time it also presents a recognizable sign of carnival foolery in this town – pumpkins with burning candles inside.

Stamp 10th Jan 2009  
Cancelled FD Cancellation  
Card FD Novo mesto



## 2.5.Štajerska (Styria)

Brežice, Primož Kozmus

We drove further east and crossed the Sava River which divides Lower Carniola and Styria, where our last stop of the day, before returning to Ljubljana, was the Regional museum in Brežice, housed in ...



...The Brežice Castle, for centuries owned by the house of Attems (their coat-of-arms is displayed) who were one of the most important families in Lower Styria. They were later also given the title of Counts of the Holy Roman Empire.

Stamp 26th Sep 2014  
Cancelled Commemorative FD  
Cancellation  
Card Artist

Primož Kozmus (born 1979) is a hammer thrower who lives in Brežice. He won a Gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. In addition he won a silver medal at the London 2012 Olympics, as well as two medals at World Championships, including a gold one in Berlin 2009.

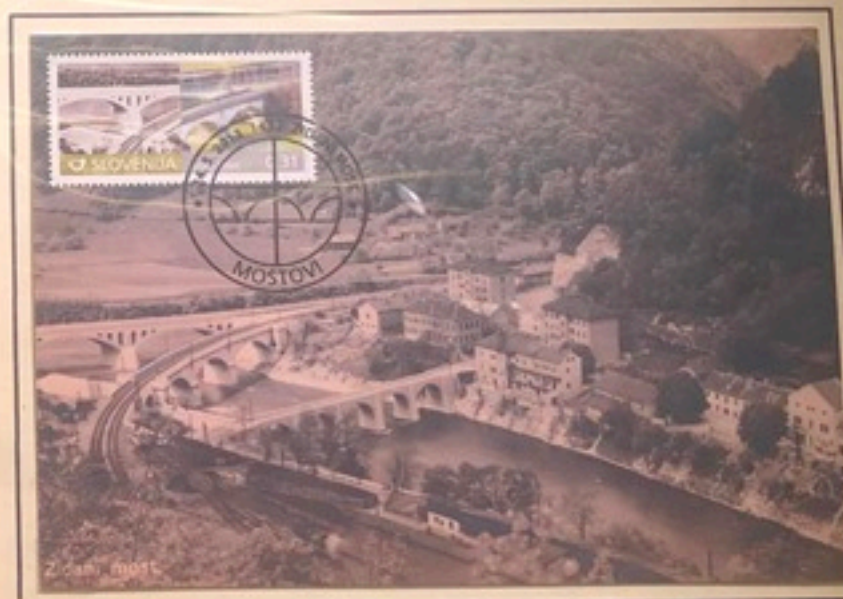
Stamp 14th Oct 2008  
Cancelled Commemorative  
FD Cancellation  
Card DZ "Veriga"



## Štajerska (Styria)

Zidani most, Logarska dolina (valley)

Although we returned home quite late last night, we got up quite early, as the day's plan was full of interesting visits to be made. As we drove along the motorway to visit Styria, which is located in the northeastern part of the country, I told our visitors that on our right side lies...



...Zidani most, an important railway crossing. Between 1824 and 1826, the five-arch stone bridge was built on the initiative of Archduke John of Austria.

Stamp 24th May 2013  
Cancelled Commemorative FD  
Cancellation  
Card Primorski tisk

The first stop on our day's tour  
was...

...one of the most beautiful Alpine glacial valleys in Europe the Logarska dolina. It is surrounded by eight mountains, the highest two being Planjava (2394m) and Ojstrica (2350 m).

Stamp 1980 (exact date unknown)  
Cancelled Solčava 28th Aug. 1980  
Card Fotolik





*We returned to the main road and visited....*



...The Roman necropolis in Sempeter. A motif from Europe riding on the back of a white bull (the Greek God Zeus) and twelve stars in a circle, the EU symbol, emphasises the fact that Slovenia already 2000 years ago belonged to the area that is today linked together by the idea of European Union.

Stamp 21st Mar 2001  
Cancelled Sempeter FD  
Cancellation  
Card TD Sempeter (vod)

*Our next stop was...*

...The Jurklošter Charterhouse, founded by the Bishop of Krka in 1170. It was abolished in 1595. Its stone gothic church roof tower dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> Century and is the only one of its kind to be found in Slovenia.

Stamp 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2010  
Cancelled Commemorative FD  
Cancellation  
Card unknown



*We then proceeded to Celje, a historically important city in Styria where we saw...*



... the Mansion ceiling in the master chamber, the sole example of profane painting from the period of transition from the late Renaissance to early Baroque, painted at the turn of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Stamp 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep 2006  
Cancelled Commemorative FDI  
Cancellation  
Card CZP Muzej Celje

While in Celje we visited the Billet House where Alfred Nobel (1833 -1896) was staying with his love, Sofia Hess (who earlier for some time also lived there), several times from 1876 until his death.

Stamp 7th Mar 2014  
Cancelled Commemorative FD  
Cancellation  
Card TD Celje





Our way then took us to....



...the Žiže Charterhouse, the oldest Carthusian Monastery on Slovenian soil, built around 1162 by the Styrian margrave Ottokar III. It is one of the first monasteries outside the Carthusian countries of origin (France, Italy). In 1786, the order was abolished by Emperor Joseph II and its decline began. It is today partly renovated.

Stamp 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2009  
Cancelled Loče 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2014  
Card F. Erben (pre WWI)



It was quite a long drive to reach...

... the Olimje Manor, built in 1550 by Hans Tattenbach. In 1663 it passed into the hands of the Pauline Order from Lepoglava in Croatia and a new, richly decorated and furnished Pauline church was erected next to it. The manor houses the third oldest pharmacy in the world.

Stamp 4<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2001  
Cancelled Olimje, 18<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2001  
Card MOBO

We then drove to Ptuj where we spent the night. After a good breakfast we started to explore the town.

Ptuj is Slovenia's oldest city, founded in 69 A.D. Some remnants from the Roman period can still be found in the city...

Stamp 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1969  
Cancelled 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1980  
Card TD Ptuj



... the best known being the stone Orpheus memorial.

Stamp 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1969  
Cancelled 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1980  
Card TD Pt



From Ptuj we drove to Ljutomer, the birthplace of...



...the Linguistic scholar and Politician **Franc Miklošič** (1813–1891), with two Ph.D.'s (philosophy, law). He was regarded as the leading figure in Slavic and some other studies of the 19th century; for one academic year he was rector of the Vienna University.

Stamp 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2013  
Cancelled Ljubljana FD Cancellation  
Card S. Marković (1927)



While there we had a glass of wine, this time not local but produced from...

...**Rumeni plavec**, an old vine from the Posavje region and most widely grown in the Bizeljsko (sub) region. The grape has large greenish yellow round berries.

Stamp 15<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2000  
Cancelled Bizeljsko FD Cancellation  
Card MRGH



**Ptuj Castle** was built in the 9th or 10th century by the Archbishops of Salzburg. In 1137 the first noted lord was Friderik of Ptuj and in 1490 it became the property of the Habsburg family. Today Ptuj Castle hosts a museum.

Stamp 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2000  
Cancelled Ptuj FD Cancellation  
Card Pokrajinski muzej Ptuj



Important ethnological features of Ptuj are also **The Korants**, masks active during the Carnival period. Their costume consists of two parts: the face mask and the coat. The mask is made of sheepskin, with openings for eyes above the cheeks, a molded nose and an opening for the mouth. Colorful ribbons adorn its top. The coat is made of sheepskin, fastened with a chain, on which five cowbells are hung.

Stamp 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. 1996  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card TD Ptuj



Our last stop of the day was...



...Maribor, the capital of Štajerska and the second-largest city in Slovenia, first mentioned as a market in 1204. Its oldest part, **Lent** is seen from the Old Bridge, built between 1906 and 1912, itself one of the city's prominent landmarks.

Stamp 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
Cancelled 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug. 2013  
Card FD Maribor

Of course we had to stop at **Lent**, where a variety of grape known as the **Žametovka** (the "velvet" one) has been growing in this medieval part of Maribor for more than 400 years. It was included in the Guinness Book of Records in 2004 as the oldest grapevine on the planet. It grows in front of the Old Vine House.

Stamp 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014  
Cancelled Commem. FD Cancellation  
Card FZS



**Blessed Anton Martin Slomšek (1800-1862)**, was writer, leader of national awakening among Slovenes, educationist and the Bishop of Maribor. In 1859 he transferred the seat of the diocese from St. Andra to Maribor and thus saved a large number of Slovenes in Styria from germanization. In 1999 Pope John Paul II beatified him.

Stamp 29<sup>th</sup> May 1992  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card 2U Ponikva



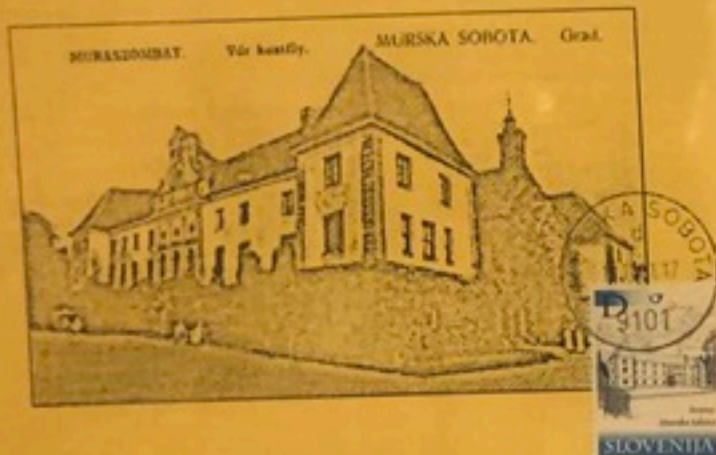
**Herman Potočnik - Noordung (1892 - 1929)**, who for some time lived in Maribor, dedicated his entire life to the problem of traveling through the Universe. The title of his only work, published in 1929 is: "*Das Problem der Befahrung des Weltraums*". It influenced the subsequent plans and practical execution of space projects.

Stamp 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1992  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card unknown



## 2.6 Prekmurje

### Murska Sobota Manor, White Stork



Next day we crossed the Mura River and entered Prekmurje, situated in the extreme north east of the country. First we visited

Murska Sobota Manor, built in the second half of the 16th century by the Counts of Széchy as a two-storey, four-wing building. The manor now houses the Murska Sobota Regional Museum.

Stamp 4th Oct 2001  
Cancelled 16th Oct 2001  
Card unknown

Not far from Murska Sobota, the capital of the region, lies the European village of white Stork, Velika Polana. The White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) that winters in Africa has been a symbol of fertility in Slovenia for a long time. They can most often be spotted in their nests, which they build at the tops of telephone and electrical poles and on the roofs of houses.

Stamp 23rd Sep 2011  
Cancelled 25th Jun 2013  
Card Občina Velika Polana

### Evropska vas štokelj Velika in Mala Polana

Občina  
Velika Polana



## 2.7. Koroška (Carinthia)



*M. Spavari*

Beehive panel paintings are a unique form of rural arts in the Slovene Alpine area. Panel paintings show historical and war motifs, scenes from village life and feasts, animals and various professions.

This panel, dating from 1862 portrays a scene depicting a girl's fight against boys. It illustrates a girl holding a hay rake in her hands high above her head and a boy standing opposite her with a hayfork high in the air.

Stamp 19th May 2006  
Cancelled Comm. FD Cancellation  
Card Korotki pole muzej

## Beekeeping, Beehive panel paintings

From Prekmurje we took a shortcut through the Austrian territory and arrived in Slovenian Carinthia. In Ravne we visited the regional museum where our guests, bee lovers, were especially interested in everything connected with beekeeping.

It was Slovenia's beekeeping that contributed to the development of apiculture in Europe. Austrian Empress Maria Theresia founded an apiculture school in Vienna, and it's the first teacher was the Slovenian Anton Janša (1734 - 1773). Beekeeping is today a profession for some and hobby for many.

Stamp 30th May 1997  
Cancelled Ljubljana FD Cancellation  
Card KD Gaspari







Millers had a general reputation of being dishonest. The miller depicted on the panel from 1869 greets a man and invites him to his mill, while miller's wife thumbs her nose at him behind his back, ridiculing human stupidity.

Stamp 21st May 2004  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card Koroški pokrajinski muzej

The turn from the 19th to the 20th century represents the last stage in the 150-year-long traditional art of painting beehive panels in Slovenia. This panel, dating from 1906 depicts a shepherd shooting an eagle.

Stamp 20th May 2003  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card Koroški pokrajinski muzej



As we drove to Kotlje we saw in front of a house a couple...

...in the Carinthian attire, the man's consisting of the leather lace-breeches, linen shirts with spread collars and a waistcoat or "lajbič". It is often dark red or black color. The most remarkable feature of the women's attire was the so-called Carinthian bonnet or "avba".

Stamp 20th Jan 2006  
Cancelled Commemorative FD Cancellation  
Card unknown



In Kotlje we visited the birth house of Prežihov Voranc (1893-1950), whose last novel "Solzice" (Lilies of the valley) is one of the most beautiful juvenile books in the Slovene literature. He wrote many other novels, the most known being "Dobrodob", "Požganica" and "Jamnica", and the collection of short stories "Samorastniki" (Self-made men).

Stamp 22nd Jan 1993  
Cancelled Kotlje Commemorative Cancellation  
Card KFD Ravne

