

ESTABLISHMENT AND ACTIVITY OF MEDICAL SOCIETIES IN LOWER STYRIA – A REVIEW

PREGLED UTEMELJENJA I DJELOVANJA LIJEČNIČKIH DRUŠTAVA NA PODRUČJU DONJE ŠTAJERSKE

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SUMMARY

In the 1860s, the medical societies in Habsburg Monarchy, undertook a part of the medical postgraduate training. Doctors and wound surgeons from Ljubljana established medical association in October 1861 («Ärztlicher Leseverein in Laibach»). At a meeting in October 1862 they decided to include all the doctors and wound surgeons from the Carniola region. Following the organization was renamed Medical Association in Carniola («Verein der Ärzte in Krain»). A similar provincial association was founded by the Styrian doctors in Graz as early as in May 1862 («Verein der Ärzte in Steiermark»). Similar medical associations were also established in the Lower Styria in the 1870s. The most important medical association was established in Maribor in 1876. Another medical association was established in Celje in 1877 and one in the Ptuj-Ljutomer region in 1877. As the associations were mostly communicating in German, this might have been the reason for the establishment of the Slovene medical society in Celje in 1906. The Slovenian national consciousness began to strengthen across the territory of today's Slovenia. Already after the First World War in 1918, they managed to achieve the establishment of the Slovene Medical Society. Due to the events during the Second World War, a uniform Slovene medical association was established in 1947.

Key words: *medical associations in Slovenia; medical-surgical committee of the Maribor district; Matija Prelog; Štefan Kočevar; doctors – national awakers in Styria.*

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INTRODUCTION

The beginnings of the operation of medical associations in the area of the modern Slovenia are in close connection with the regional regulation of the then Habsburg monarchy (Austria or later Austro-Hungarian). Administratively and judicially, the monarchy was divided into provinces, inconsistent with the Slovene national borders. Moreover, the ethnical and political idea of Slovenia was only about to begin, as Slovene people were divided by the provincial borders into Carniolans, Styrians, Carinthians and inhabitants of the seaside region. The idea of the United Slovenia was developed not earlier than after the Spring of Nations (1848), a political program of the Slovene national movement. The associations were established within the provincial borders and their members were mostly of German nationality, as there were only a few nationally aware Slovene doctors. The first and foremost task of the medical associations was to educate their members and to continue the tradition of the surgical committees from the period of Maria Teresa and Joseph II. Gerhard van Swieten (1700-1772) played an important role as the medical adviser of the Empress. In this position he implemented medical-surgical schools in Austrian administration centers (e.g. Klagenfurt, Innsbruck, Olomouc, Lvov, Graz, and Ljubljana). Wound surgeons (Wundärzte) — known later as practicing doctors - were studying at the medico-surgical schools, which were operating since 1782. They significantly raised the level of the health care. Therefore it is understandable that only surgeons were active in the Slovene rural areas by the 1860s, as there were only a few doctors of medicine.¹

Medical education facilities were gradually closed by the Austrian authorities; the school in Klagenfurt ceased operation in 1829, the medico-surgical school in Ljubljana was closed in 1850 and in Graz in 1863. At the same time medical faculties were being established in Graz, Innsbruck, and Salzburg entitling their graduates as »doctors of medicine«. However, despite the efforts of intellectuals living in Ljubljana; being the provincial center of Carniola at that time, a medical faculty was not established there. Probably on behalf of Vienna to completely Germanize the Slovene territory in order to create a safe access to the Adriatic Sea.²

¹ Pertl E. Zdravstvo med Muro in Dravo s posebnim ozirom na razdobje 1850-1941. V: Svet med Muro in Dravo. Maribor: Založba Obzorja, 1968:518.

² Borisov P. Ljubljanska Medikokirurška šola po letu 1813 in prizadevanja za njeno ohranitev. V: Od ranocelništva do začetkov znanstvene kirurgije na Slovenskem. Ljubljana: Slovenska akademija znanosti in umetnosti, 1977:242.

During this time, only a few doctors were bearing the title 'Doctor Med. Univ.' and were mainly from universities in Vienna, Prague and Krakow, and Italian universities — especially Padua.

After the fall of Bach's absolutism and the introduction of the institutional system in the 1860s, it was the medical societies which undertook a part of the medical education.

ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL DOCTORS IN CARNIOLA AS THE PREDECESSOR OF THE SLOVENIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The organised association of physicians in Ljubljana began with the establishment of the Medical Reading Association (»Ärztlicher Leseverein Laibach«) on October 27, 1861. Already one year later, on 28. October 1862, it was decided to rename the association into the Association of Medical Doctors in Carniola (»Verein der Ärzte in Krain«). The first meeting under the new name was held in January 1863. The association operated in German, although Slovene physicians and wound-surgeons were also members of the association.³ At first, the association was strictly medically oriented, however a few Slovene patriotic physicians influenced the development of the Slovene national identity. By the end of the 19th century the Association of Medical Doctors in Carniola began using Slovene language. In 1900 all members of the managing board were Slovenians and the proceedings were written in Slovene language.⁴ Immediately after the collapse of the Monarchy and the subsequent creation of the State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs (SHS) on 2 November 1918, the Association of Medical Doctors in Carniola in Ljubljana changed its name to Association of Slovene Doctors. On 30 January 1919; yet within the new state Yugoslavia, the association was renamed into Slovene Medical Association unifying the majority of physicians from the province Drava Banovina as between both World Wars – from 1921 to 1941 – the independent Medical Association in Maribor was still active.⁵ The experience gained during the Second World War, when national existence was in the line, lead to a uniform society: on 24. October 1947 physicians in Slovenia

³ Zupanič-Slavec Z. Slovensko zdravniško društvo v 140-letni preglednici. V: Iz rok v roke, iz roda v rod. Ljubljana: Slovensko zdravniško društvo. Znanstveno društvo za zgodovino zdravstvene kulture Slovenije, 2001: 23.

⁴ Zupanič-Slavec Z. Slovensko zdravniško društvo v 140-letni preglednici. V: Iz rok v roke, iz roda v rod. Ljubljana: Slovensko zdravniško društvo. Znanstveno društvo za zgodovino zdravstvene kulture Slovenije, 2001: 43.

⁵ Pertl E. Oris razvoja strokovno-društvenega udejstvovanja zdravnikov v severovzhodnem delu Slovenije 1863-1963. Zdrav Vestn 1963; 32: 217-220.

were united in the Slovene Medical Association. Further medical development of the association is described in detail by Zvonka Zupanič-Slavec, published in the *Acta medico-historica Adriatica*.⁶

MEDICAL ASSOCIATION IN STYRIA AND THEIR SLOVENIAN MEMBERS

The establishment and activity of the medical associations in the Styrian part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire was slightly different. The province of Styria was divided into the Upper Styria – the northern section being completely German, and the Lower Styria inhabited mostly by ethnic Slovenians, which became a part of the new State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs after the peace conference in 1919.

The physician Josip Vošnjak (1834-1911), who began to work in his birth town Šoštanj, suggested the establishment of a medical association in the Lower Styria in 1859 and even set some rules serving as the basis. However, it only remained as an idea for several years.⁷ Later, Josip Vošnjak was an intern at the surgical ward of the Ljubljana hospital and one of the 16 physicians contributing at the preparing meeting of the »Medical Reading Association in Ljubljana«.⁸

On 17. May 1862, the Medical Association in Styria (»Verein der Ärzte in Steiermark«) was established in the library of the medico-surgical school in Graz. In 1865 the association launched its publication »Jahresberichte des Vereines der Ärzte in Steiermark« with data about Slovenian physician being members of this association.

Well-known Slovenian physicians appear on the first members list of the association from 1863, e.g. Benjamin Ipavec, who was an intern at the State hospital in Graz at that time, and physicians of other nationalities working in the territory of the modern Slovenia. Among other members also the following names are listed: Dominik Bankalari, a relative of the family of apothecaries and mayors in Maribor, Tomaž Huben,⁹ and Matija Prelog

⁶ Zupanič-Slavec Z. The Slovenian medical association at its 145-anniversary. *Acta med-hist Adriat* 2007; 5(1):37-42.

⁷ Vošnjak J. Spomini. Prvi del. Otroška in mladeniška leta 1840-1860. Ljubljana: Slovenska matica, 1905: 63.

⁸ Zupanič-Slavec Z. Konstantin Schrott (1861-1863), dolenski medicus-prvi društveni vodja. V: *Iz rok v roke, iz roda v rod*. Ljubljana: Slovensko zdravniško društvo. Znanstveno društvo za zgodovino zdravstvene kulture Slovenije, 2001: 30-32.

⁹ Pivec G. Razvoj bolnišnice Maribor od ustanovitve do druge svetovne vojne (doktorska disertacija), Maribor: Medicinska fakulteta Univerze v Mariboru, 2011: 29.

from Maribor; Franc Kraus and Ignacij Tšchesnik from Ptuj; Štefan Kočevar from Celje, Jakob Ehmer from Slovenj Gradec; Ivan (Johann) Farkaš from Ljutomer; Gustav Ipavec, a well-known Slovenian composer from Šentjur pri Celju; Maks Schüler from Dobrna; Rudolfa Tišler (Tischler) from iz Ožbalt pri Radljah, and Aleksander Vaczulik from Podčetrtek.

Later, Slovenian physicians that were temporarily working in Graz joined the association, as well, for instance Edo Šlajmer, an assistant at the surgical clinic in Graz.

Among corresponding members of the association in 1867 were also physicians living in Carniola: August baron Andrioli (Ljubljana), Rajmund Cornet (Gradiška), Franz Fux, Ignacij Mally, Alojz Valenta (all from Ljubljana), (Kamnik) Ludvik Gerbetz (Idrija), Josip Kappler (Kočevje-Ljubljana), Fortunat Müllner (Radovljica), Janez Pestotnik (Črnomelj), Martin Raspel (Postojna), Andrej Schwegel (Vipava),¹⁰ and Moriz Gauster (Kamnik).¹¹

Drago Mušič, the 30th chairman of the Slovenian Medical Association, took the opportunity in 1962 at the celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the society to describe the ongoing situation: “We must not overlook the Slovenian physicians from the

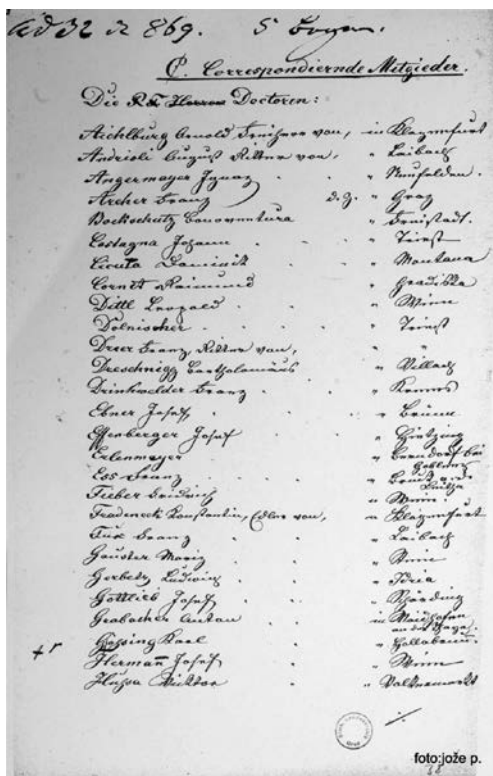


Figure 1. Front page of the list of corresponding members of the Medical Association in Styria, among them also doctors of the Association of Medical Doctors in Carniola. (Provincial Archive of Styria (StLa): Statth 53 – 142381/1862 K1486)

¹⁰ Mynařík F. Iz najstarejše in starejše dobe mariborske bolnišnice. V: Zbornik Splošne bolnišnice Maribor. Maribor: Splošna bolnišnica v Mariboru, 1959: 42.

¹¹ Ribnikar P. Prispevek k zgodovini ustanovitve Slovenskega zdravniškega društva. A contribution to the History of the Founding of the Slovene Medical Society. ZdravVestn 1993;62:202

former Styria who were already joined in 1862 under a German medical society; in 1876 a medical association was formed in Maribor, and in 1877 also in Celje. The name of the physicians and composers Benjamin and Gustav Ipavec are related to the development of medical associations in Styria. Benjamin was the vice-president of the medical association in Graz, a member of a Committee for promoting scientific research and public healthcare and later also the president of the association. Stefan Kočevar and Gustav Ipavec are especially known as the presidents of the medical association in Celje. The Slovenian physicians from the former Lower Styria are mentioned because many of them were national awakers as well as political and cultural workers finding it even more difficult to promote the Slovene language and culture during the monarchy period than in the former Duchy of Carniola.¹²

MEDICAL SURGICAL COMMITTEE OF THE MARIBOR DISTRICT (1776-1873)

Educating the members was on the most important goals of medical association from the very beginning. Under the influence of the health care reforms at the time, the administration centers in Austria started establishing medico-surgical schools since 1782 (e.g. Klagenfurt, Innsbruck, Olomouc, Lvov, Graz, and Ljubljana) which provided training for wound surgeons to raise the level of health care.

The Austrian authorities gradually terminated/cancelled the training for this profile, first in Klagenfurt, until 1850 in Ljubljana and in 1863 in Graz. Simultaneously/at the same time a medical faculty in Graz and Innsbruck was established awarding the title “Medical Doctor” to its graduates. As there was no such process in Ljubljana, which was also a provincial center, the ratio of physicians per a certain number of inhabitants in the Carniola of the monarchy strongly decreased and thus affected health care work in the Carniola region.¹³

Already in 1776 the wound surgeons in Maribor established a medical surgical committee (“Chirurgische Viertel Laade des Marburger Creys”) for the entire Maribor district/region and educated its members with its small library. The committee was later organized as a District Medical Association in Maribor.

¹² Mušič D. Zgodovinski razvoj Slovenskega zdravniškega društva. Zdrav Vestn 1963; 32: 284-291

¹³ Borisov P. Od ranocelništva do začetkov znanstvene kirurgije na Slovenskem. Ljubljana: Slovenska akademija znanosti in umetnosti, 1977:252.



Figure 2. Front page of the proceedings book of the Surgical committee of the district of Maribor. (The Regional Archives Maribor (PAM), Fond Kirurški gremij za mariborsko okrožje 1776-1873, AŠ I, (Chirurgische Viertel Laade des Marburger Creys)

By reviewing the preserved records/archives, we came across the following Slovene names of the surgical committee members: Ferik, Krajnc, Kres, Kupec, Kurnik, Medved, Prekar, Postič, Račič, Režnak, Simonič, Srebre, Živak. Even certain important committeemen were member with Slovenian roots/heritage. According to the research performed by the medical historian Eman Pertl, “the preserved diploma papers and certificates of the surgeons suggest that their study of medicine was not narrow at all; in accordance with the development of medicine in that period, they successfully completed almost all subjects registered in the program of medical faculties. It is understandable that their knowledge could not be as extensive as that of physicians of general medicine. They were qualified to work as practicing physicians in towns and especially in the countryside.”¹⁴

There was a sufficient number of wound surgeons in Maribor district in the beginning of the 19th century. After the medico-surgical schools in Graz ceased operation, the number of health care workers drastically decreased

¹⁴ Pertl E. Oris razvoja strokovno-društvenega udejstvovanja zdravnikov v severovzhodnem delu Slovenije 1863-1963, Zdrav Vestn 1963; 32: 217.

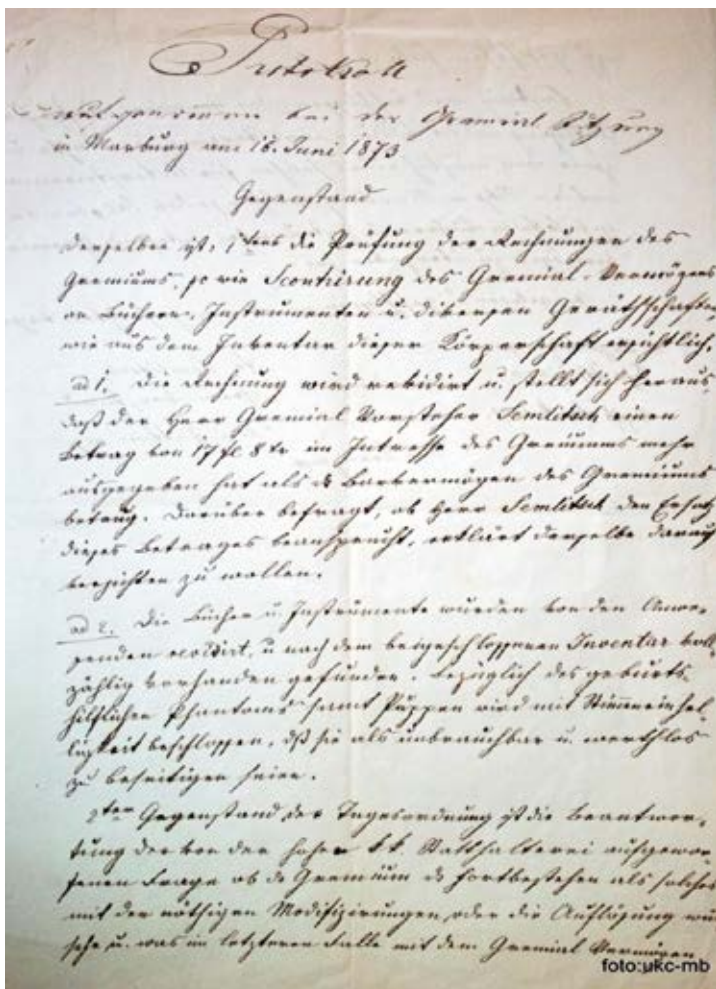


Figure 3. Proceedings of the last meeting of the Surgical committee of the district of Maribor with a dissolution decision, and a decision on establishing a medical association with the transfer of property. (The Regional Archives Maribor (PAM), Fond Kirurški gremij za mariborsko okrožje 1776-1873, AŠ 1, Chirurgische Viertel Laade des Marburger Creys)

in the Lower Styria, resulting in one physician or wound surgeon per 6947 inhabitants in 1887. Districts with the lack of physicians/with a shortage in/, also had a shortage in midwives. In approximately 90% of births non-educated midwives had to assist.¹⁵

¹⁵ Mynařik F. Iz najstarejše in starejše dobe mariborske bolnišnice. V: Zbornik Splošne bolnišnice Maribor. Maribor: Splošna bolnišnica v Mariboru, 1959: 49.

Zahl 12076
Ärztlicher Bezirksverein
Marburg;
Vereinsauflösung.

K.k. Statthaltereii

Es wird berichtet, daß sich der ärztliche Bezirksverein Marburg freiwillig aufgelöst hat, daß diese Vereinsauflösung im Amtsblatte zur Grazer Zeitung vom 22. April 1911, No. 93 kundgemacht und die Löschung im hiesigen Vereinskataster durchgeführt wurde.

Statrat Marburg, am 28. April 1911.

Der Bürgermeister:

St. Z. 1403/1911

K. K. Steiermark Statthaltereii	
Eingelangt am 20 APR 1911	
Gesch. Zshl. 1403	Belegon.
Ord. N ^o	

39428

Im Auftrage des H. 459 J. 1911
Graz am 1. Mai 1911

ad akt.

Graz am 2. Mai 1911

S 1921

145-11-2

Figure 4. Statement with data on the ceased operation of District Medical Association in Maribor in 1911. (Provincial Archive of Styria (StLa): Statth M297a – 1403/1911)

After the last meeting held by the medical surgical committee in Maribor on 16 June 1873, the association faced the changes in the health care education. As the medico-surgical schools in Graz ceased operation in 1863 and the first generation of medical doctors did not finish their studies at the newly established medical faculty in Graz yet, the number of surgeons naturally began to decrease in the Lower Styria and the members declared the following: “We came to a unanimous decision. The committee is to be dissolved and a medical association for the Lower Styria will be established with the

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS IN THE DISTRICTS MARIBOR, CELJE AND PTUJ - LJUTOMER

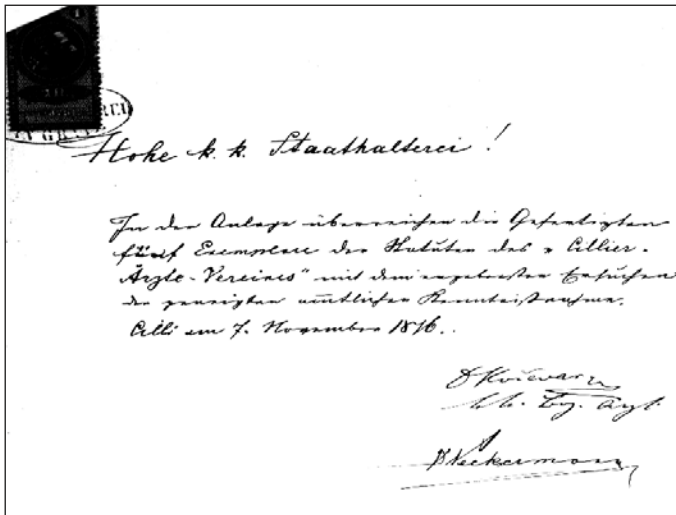


Figure 6. Establishment of the District Medical Association in Celje, 7 November 1876

Upon the decision made at the last meeting of the surgical committee a District Medical Association in Maribor was established on 3. January 1876 in order to broaden the scientific-research work in the field of health-care, improve professional and medical affairs, and provide help for disabled doctors and their families.

By the years 1883/1884 the association had 21 regular members, 2 corresponding and one honorary member. They met every three months and discussed important medical and corporative issues. The then president of the Medical Association in Maribor was Dr. Amand Rak, his deputy was Jožef Urbaczek, general practitioner, the treasurer was Dr. Rajmund Grógl, and following members of the managing board: Dr. Lois Brezina, Dr. Gašpar Gorišek, physician from Ruše, and Dr. Rast.¹⁷

In 1899 the president of the District Medical Association in Maribor was the head physician of the department of internal disease of the Maribor hospital, Dr. Arthur Mally, the deputy was Dr. Amand Rak, the secretary

¹⁷ Jurik's Adress-Buch. Maribor, 1884: 70.

Hohe h. h. Statthalerei!

Das gefertigte Societätsblatt enthält die
 für mich zur Benützung zu bringende, Aufsatz
 in der Specialconferenzen vom 29. Decem-
 ber 1877 der D. D. der Mediziner des k. k. l. l.
 Styria Societät abgeändert wurde, und
 enthält, diese Mediziner abgeändertem Geset-
 zungen zu stellen.

Das abgeänderte D. D. enthält nämlich:

D. D. mittel zur Begründung dieses
 Zweckes sind:

- a. Beauftragung der Societät zur
der abgeänderten Styria
Societätsblatt
- b. Paritätische Kaufmännische
- c. Spezialconferenzen zur Begründung
der Societät der Mediziner
- d. Spezialconferenzen zur Begründung
der Societät der Mediziner

Zur der Societät folgen fünf Comités der
 abgeänderten Mediziner und ein Comite der
 Mediziner der abgeänderten Styria Societät
 abgeändert.

Lilli, am 30. December 1877.

für die Societät
 der k. k. l. l. Styria Societät:

Der Obmann: *[Signature]* Der Secretär: *[Signature]*
 foto: joze p.

Figure 7. Report of the board of District Medical Association in Celje on the amendment to Article 2 of the statute of the association, 30. 12. 1877. (Provincial Archive of Styria (StLa): Statth 53 – 16256/1876-13)

Jožef Urbacek and the members of the managing board were Dr. Tomaž Bergmann and Dr. Robert Frank.¹⁸

The Association ceased operation in 1911 by its own choice.

¹⁸ Mynařík F. Iz najstarejše in starejše dobe mariborske bolnišnice. V: Zbornik Splošne bolnišnice Maribor. Maribor: Splošna bolnišnica v Mariboru, 1959: 54-55.

The Medical Association for the district Ptuj-Ljutomer was established (»Ärztlicher Bezirksverein Pettau-Luttenberg«) on 19. January 1877. Its president was the Slovenian physician Viktor Skrabar. Both former members of the central association in Graz, physicians Franc Kraus and Ignacij Tschesnik, became members of the Association in Ptuj.¹⁹

The association was officially dissolved in 1882 as an independent body and merged with the Graz association as its section counting 15 members.^{20,21}

The establishment of the Medical Association in Celje (»Cillier Ärzte-Verein«) began already in November 1876 and did not obtain all the required consents for operation until 30 December 1877 when they amended the Article 2 of the Statute and committed to cooperation with the association of Austrian medical societies (»Österreichisch Ärzteverein – Verband«).²²

From all the medical association in the Lower Styria only the medical association in Celje joined as a section in 1888 the provincial association in Graz. However, the section in Celje decided at a meeting on 25 May, 1892 to function independently.²³

On 21 November 1892 the association obtained all consents required for independent operation. The association was officially operating until the end of WWI and can also be found on the list of associations produced by the management of the state police in Celje on 8 May 1919.²⁴ In addition to the German association, the Slovene Medical Association in Celje was established in 1906.²⁵ The association's secretary Anton Schwab, a physician in Celje, notified on 23 November 1918 the Slovenian Medical Association in Ljubljana that the association in Celje would like to join the medical association in Ljubljana.²⁶

The relationship between individual parts of the Habsburg Monarchy continued also after the creation of the new state and caused on 21 June 1921

¹⁹ Pertl E. Zdravstvo med Muro in Dravo s posebnim ozirom na razdobje 1850-1941. V: Svet med Muro in Dravo. Maribor: Založba Obzorja, 1968: 544.

²⁰ VierVereineaufgelöst, Cillierzeitung, 13. 7. 1882; 7: 4.

²¹ Pertl E. Zdravstvo med Muro in Dravo s posebnim ozirom na razdobje 1850-1941. V: Svet med Muro in Dravo. Maribor: Založba Obzorja, 1968: 544.

²² SteiermärkischesLandesarchivGraz (StLa). 53-16256/1876. Poročilo odbora celjskega zdravniškega društva o spremembi II. člena statuta, 30. 12. 1877

²³ Steierm. StaatthalereiGraz, 3. november 1892, št. 119A-2.

²⁴ Zajc Cizelj I. Izobraževanje odraslih v okviru celjskih društev do leta 1918. Kronika. Časopis za slovensko krajevno zgodovino 1997; 45: 58-59.

²⁵ Zajc Cizelj I. Izobraževanje odraslih v okviru celjskih društev do leta 1918. Kronika. Časopis za slovensko krajevno zgodovino 1997; 45: 58.

²⁶ Logar I. Društvo zdravnikov na Kranjskem. Zdrav Vestn 1960; 29: 308.

the establishment of a special medical association in Maribor, in addition to the already existing Slovenian Medical Association in Ljubljana, which operated until 1941.²⁷

SLOVENIAN PATRIOT PHYSICIANS AND NATIONAL AWAKENERS IN STYRIA

According to Eman Pertl's proceedings on the first Slovene physicians in Maribor, there were 18 Slovenes and 11 Germanized Slovenes among 34 physicians all together.²⁸

The driving force of Slovenian national identity was Matija Prelog (1913-1872) – a physician, politician, journalist, actor, and the first director of Slovenian theatre productions in Maribor.²⁹ In 1864 he published an authorized translation of Christoph Wilhelm Huferland's book "Macrobiotics: The Art Of Prolonging Life", which was one of the first Slovenian medical texts.³⁰ An extensive description of the importance of Matija Prelog's life and work was published in 1907 by Karel Verstovšek.³¹

Štefan Kočevar (1808-1883), born in Središče ob Dravi, had a similar leading role in the Celje region. On 16 February 1862 he stated at the establishment of National Reading Society in Celje: "I take pride in this nation of ours and love it like I loved my mother. I shall never leave it!"³² He also published an educational booklet entitled "Slovenian mother". Physicians of no lesser importance followed these two patriots and expressed their national awareness in different manners – brothers and musicians Benjamin Ipavec (1829-1908) and Gustav Ipavec (1831-1908) as well as Josip Vošnjak (1834-1911), a national politician and a thorough reporter of the events and people important at that time, who worked in Slovenska Bistrica from 1861 to 1870 and lived in its surroundings after his retirement.

The already mentioned surgeon Andrej Kranjc (1811-1893) also promoted Slovenian national awareness. On account of his knowledge of the Slovenian

²⁷ Pertl E. Oris razvoja strokovno-društvenega udejstvovanja zdravnikov v severovzhodnem delu Slovenije 1863-1963, *Zdrav Vestn* 1963; 32: 217-220.

²⁸ Pertl E. Prvi slovenski zdravniki v Mariboru. Zbornik za zgodovino naravoslovja in tehnike. Ljubljana: Slovenska matica, 1981: 95-191.

²⁹ Hartman B. Zgodovina slovenskega dramskega gledališča v Mariboru do druge svetovne vojne. Maribor: Obzorja, 1996: 22.

³⁰ Pertl E. Začetki slovenskega zdravstvenega tiska. Maribor: Združeno zdravstvo, 1986: 9-11.

³¹ Verstovšek K. Dr. Matija Prelog. *Dom in svet* 1907; 20: 464-473, 493-502.

³² Goropevšek B. Kočevarjeva celjska Narodna čitalnica. V: Štefan Kočevar-rodoljub slovenski. Celje: Zgodovinsko društvo Celje, 2006: 102.

language he cooperated in 1836 in controlling the cholera epidemics in the region of Ljubljana and its surroundings, following the directions by the Styrian guberniya. Another surgeon living in Maribor from 1850 onwards was the Carinthian Slovene Jurij Srebre (1809-1869). Jurij Srebre and Anton Tomšič (1842-1871), the editor of the Slovenian newspaper "Slovenski narod" which was first published in 1868 in Maribor, were the first to have a Slovene inscription on their gravestones at the old Maribor graveyard/cemetery.

Lovro Modrinjak (1823-1885) from Središče ob Dravi, a physician working for the railways in Maribor, was a personal physician of the Lavantine bishop Anton Martin Slomšek. His death was marked by a statement in the newspaper "Slovenski narod": "The deceased was a very popular man showing much interest in our national movement during his time with us. May his soul rest in peace!"³³

Jožef Šubic (1802-1861) was a physician who completed his studies in Padova and worked in Celje until 1860. Later he moved to Sv. Trojica in Slovenske Gorice (northeast region of Slovenia) and right before he died to Maribor. The cause of death was tuberculosis.³⁴ He mostly published in the newspaper "Novice" under the section entitled "O spisovanji dobrih slovenskih knjig". He was the first Slovene translator of the ancient Roman poet Virgil. Franc Postič (1794-1861) worked in Sv. Ana as a surgeon for 45 years. He was a member of the Medical-Surgical Committee of the Maribor district. The newspaper "Novice" marked his death with the following words: "He was a friend of the Slovenian language, a national supporter, and a true advocate of our national matters."³⁵ He was also a well-established wine-grower and a vine type is named after him.

The first Slovenian physician in Ormož was Anton Magdič (1820-1879). Stanko Vrzel, a Slovene-Croatian poet known for his activities under the Illyrian movement (Croatian national revival), wrote: "He is a true Slovene."³⁶

In an extensive discussion entitled "Zdravstvo med Muro in Dravo s posebnim oziron na razdobje 1850-1941" which we already mentioned, the Slovene medical historian Eman Pertl wrote: "Therefore we, Slovenes, can be especially proud that already before the March Revolution in 1848, and

³³ Anon. Nekrolog. Slovenski narod, 22. 12. 1885; 292: 3.

³⁴ Štolfa F. Dr. Jožef Šubic. ISIS 1997; 6:51.

³⁵ Novice 1862: 337. Cit. po Pertl E. Zdravstvo med Muro in Dravo s posebnim ozirom na razdobje 1850-1941. V: Svet med Muro in Dravo. Maribor: Založba Obzorja, 1968: 529.

³⁶ Vraz S. Dela. Peti dio. Zagreb, 1877:155. Cit. po Pertl E. Zdravstvo med Muro in Dravo s posebnim ozirom na razdobje 1850-1941. V: Svet med Muro in Dravo. Maribor: Založba Obzorja, 1968: 547.

especially in the beginning of the second half of the 19th century, we can name several nationally aware and professionally reliable physicians who carried their professional tradition from generation to generation – the Porekar family (Bučkovci), the Ferk family (Korena), the Žižek family (Cekvenjak), the Gregorec family (Gorišnica), the Lebar family (Križevci), and the Kristan family (Ormož).”

150th anniversary of the Slovenian Medical Society is therefore an appropriate opportunity to make a record of the historical development of medical societies in Slovenia and provide a short description of the role of nationally aware physicians in the formation of a unified Slovenian nation.

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SAŽETAK

Uvođenjem ustavne monarhije, šezdesetih su godina XIX. stoljeća dio poslijediplomskog obrazovanja liječnika preuzela liječnička društva u regionalnim granicama tadašnje Habsburške Monarhije. Liječnici i ranarnici u Ljubljani ustanovili su svoje strukovno udruženje u listopadu 1861. (Ärztlicher Leseverein in Laibach). Udruženje je u listopadu sljedeće godine uključilo sve liječnike i ranarnike Kranjske dežele i preimenovalo se u Društvo liječnika Kranjske (Verein der Aerzte in Krain). Slično udruženje ustanovili su liječnici Štajerske u Grazu u svibnja 1862. (Verein der Ärzte in Steiermark). Sedamdesetih godina XIX. stoljeća slična su liječnička društva pokrenuta i u Donjoj Štajerskoj. Najvažnije je ustanovljeno u Mariboru 1876., zatim u Celju (1877.) te za kotar Ptuj-Ljutomer (1877.). Društva su djelovala većinom na njemačkom jeziku pa je zbog toga 1906. u Celju ustanovljeno i Slovensko liječničko društvo Celje. Odmah nakon Prvoga svjetskog rata, 1918., ustanovljeno je Slovensko liječničko društvo. Nakon Drugoga svjetskog rata, 1947., stvoreno je jedinstveno Slovensko liječničko društvo.

Ključne riječi: *Liječnička komora Slovenije; kirurški gremij za Štajersku; Matija Prelog; Štefan Kočevar; strukovno udruženje liječnika za Štajersku*