

A few words about the National and University Library in Ljubljana and the Carthusian Monastery at fii e



The National and University Library (NUK) collects, preserves and archives the written cultural and scientific heritage of the Slovenian nation. It provides ready access to knowledge and culture of the past and present Slovenian generations, making it available to the citizens of Slovenia and other countries.



In collaboration with national and international libraries, it enables access to the world's written cultural and scientific heritage. In the process of creating new knowledge, it helps its users to search, select, evaluate and use information resources in different formats, forms and languages.

Its collections and services support scholarly and scientific work of the Ljubljana University and other higher education institutions. The Library is a center of knowledge aimed at lifelong education of the Slovenian people, and at raising their cultural and educational level and information literacy skills.

Through research, development and educational activities in the field of librarianship, the Library is actively co-shaping Slovenian library system, and makes significant contributions to theoretical and practical knowledge of library and information science.

Plans for the University Library were created between 1930 and 1931 by the architect Jofe Ple nik. However, claims for a new Slovenian university library encountered resistance by the authorities, which were then based in Belgrade. Persistent student protests and demonstrations nevertheless brought an end to it. As a result, in 1941 the University Library moved into a new monumental building in the immediate vicinity of the University. Ple nik's Library is an exquisite cultural monument.



The monumentally secured complex of the fine Carthusian Monastery includes the narrow area of the upper Carthusian monastery in Stare Slemene, the valley of St. John the Baptist together with the monastery fish ponds and the lower monastic complex in Tivoli near Slovenske Konjice.



The monumentally secured complex is owned by the Slovenske Konjice municipality which has been trying to preserve, renovate and promote it on one hand and trade it on the other together with the conservation-preservation experts of the Institute for the preservation of Cultural Heritage, the regional unit Celje, and outside co-workers.

However, the value of the monastic complex lies not only in its lasting architectural development, the intact nature and its position far away from the madding crowd, but also in the recognition of Romanic effects on the development of the Carthusian settlements in Germanic and Slavic countries as the fine monastery is the first Carthusian monastery outside that cultural area. By building sacral buildings and outbuildings, the members of the Carthusian order created an opportunity for attracting adherents which later on meant maintaining their way of life and at the same time the possibility of mixing different cultures.



The architectural development of the monastic complex dates back to the beginning of 12th century when the Styrian border count Otokar III of Traugau ensured the Carthusian community a rich donation for its economic independence and consecutively its six-hundred-year development in the narrow valley under the steep slopes of Konji-ka gora.

The order developed in the Romantic and Gothic period. In the time of Reformation it died away only to bloom again in the Baroque period. In 1782, it was abolished by emperor Franc Jofef II.



The abolition of the order also brought the interference with the roof construction of the central sacral building, i.e. the church of St John the Baptist in the upper monastic complex. The removal of the roof caused a fast decay of the building which has been intensified by the moist climate, typical of this part of Slovenia. In years the rich Carthusian furniture and other elements were lost as well as different stone architecture elements.