

Book Announcement

Stanislav Južnič. History of Kostel 1500-1900: between Two Civilizations

Abstract

The development of Kostel, Slovenia, was researched from the earliest known records of 1494 to the end of the 19th century. Through the use of archival records, some used here for the first time, this book describes:

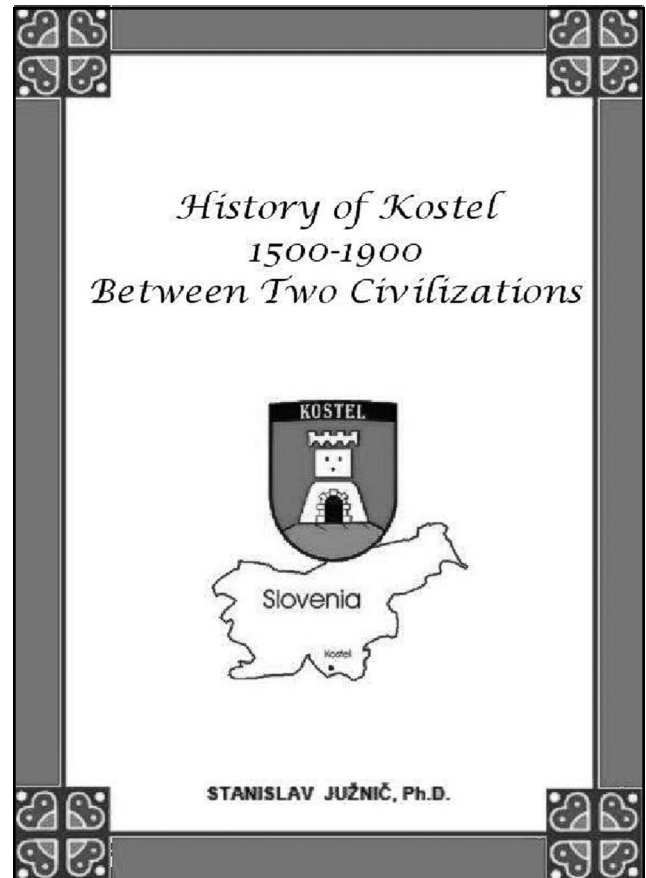
- the disorder along the Turkish border, the settlement of Uskoks and their assimilation into the Kostel region
- the material and cultural conditions of Kostel's landlords and priests, as they were described in preserved inventories and correspondence
- conflicts between landlords and the local clergymen in Kostel
- the development of villages in Kostel before the destruction of the castle in 1809
- trade patterns of Kostel and its landlords, especially in the direction of Fiume and Buccari to the south
- material conditions of the Kostel peasants and the characteristics of their agriculture
- the peasant rebellions and the beginning of political life in Kostel

About the author

Dr. Stanislav Južnič (Južni) was born in San Francisco 11 December 1955 of Slovene parents and therefore has USA and Slovene citizenship. He lived in Beograd until 1968. In Ljubljana, he finished high school and graduated at the University in 1980. During his studies, he was a visiting student at the University of Minsk in Russia. He published his graduate work in the USA. After graduating, he studied at the department of history of the University of Ljubljana and finished with a Masters degree in 1984. During this time, he worked at the state computer department in Gottschee (today Kočevje). While working on a doctoral dissertation at the same department of history of the University of Ljubljana he taught at the high school of Gottschee. He was also mayor of the Kostel area at the same time. Working as their mayor for six years, he was able to collect from local Kostel people of all generations the detailed information for this book. That sort of case study was difficult, but he always felt that he just could not finish his work otherwise.

After obtaining his doctorate in Ljubljana on the history of the region of Kostel in 1999, he returned to the USA and researched as a visiting professor at the University of Saint Louis, Missouri and at the University of Oklahoma. He is currently publishing about ten scientific works per year and has already published two hundred articles and books, many of them devoted to the genealogy and history of the regions of Kostel and Gottschee. He shares his good fortune with his wife Nevenka and daughter Ursula in the village of Fara in Kostel on the banks of river Kolpa, where some four centuries ago one of his ancestors of Uskok origin stopped

his horse after a long ride from the South, saying to his colleagues: "What a nice valley! Why don't we stay here for a while?" The descendants remain there today.



From the forward by Albert Peterlin

SGSI is proud to make this History of Kostel, Slovenia available to English speakers. Thoroughly documented and painstakingly footnoted, this classical academic text can provide insight into a time in our ancestors' past not available anywhere else. Much may yet be accomplished when a forensic economist reviews these data and pieces together a clearer portrait of the financial difficulties our ancestors overcame. While not an easy read, there is much to be learned about our Slovenian past by digesting the massive amount of information presented in these pages.

Ordering information

To order The History of Kostel, please sent \$37.50 plus \$5.00 postage and handling (PA residents add \$2.25 sales tax) to:

Slovenian Genealogy Society International, Inc.
52 Old Farm Road
Camp Hill, Pa 17011