

Ostanki beneške meje na mejah katastrskih občin na Kraškem robu okoli Črnotič

The remains of the former Venetian border hidden in the cadastral municipality boundaries on the Kraški rob plateau around Črnotiče

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IZVLEČEK

Ostanki nekdanje beneške meje so se ponekod na terenu ohranili kot označevalci veljavnih mej katastrskih občin. Tako na Kraškem robu najdemo podolgovate kupe kamenja, ki jih domačini imenujejo muše. Na južnem robu katastrske občine Črnotiči smo jih izmerili 27. Na terenu smo identificirali še dve naravni mejni točki iz časa Beneške republike: izvir Brstenik ter brezno na zgornjem robu vrtače, imenovane V jami. Predstavili bomo še tri klesane apnenčaste mejnike iz časa franciscejske zemljiškokatastrske izmere z letnico 1819 ter 21 mejnikov srenj, večinoma brez napisov, ki so na severovzhodni meji katastrske občine Črnotiče ali v njeni bližini (dva z letnico 1865). Tu najdemo še jamo Špirnico, ki velja za mejnik te katastrske občine vsaj od časa franciscejske izmere naprej. Zelo zanimiv je še tromejnik katastrskih občin Črnotiče, Podgorje in Podpeč iz Krapnika na načrtu franciscejske izmere, imenovan Rjavi kamen v štirni. Mejnik predstavlja večji grobo klesan kamen temnejše rjave barve, na njem najdemo vklesano letnico 1865 ter pod njo ostanek pabljačastih črt, na drugi strani pa razpadajočo krožno obliko. Stoji le slabih 500 metrov severneje od nekdanje vogalne točke beneške meje na Debelem hribu, zato sklepamo, da bi to lahko bili ostanki beneškega in avstrijskega grba, torej bi to lahko bil nekdanji beneški mejnik.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

mejnik, beneška meja, muša, agrarna skupnost, Črni Kal, Črnotiče, Krapnik, Slovenija

ABSTRACT

The remains of the former Venetian border have been preserved in some places as boundary points of the cadastral municipalities. On the Kraški rob, Slovenia, special elongated piles of stones have been preserved, which are called muše by the locals. We measured 27 of them on the southern border of the cadastral municipality of Črnotiči. Two natural boundary points from the time of the Venetian Republic were identified: Brstenik spring and a small cave near a doline called V jami. Additionally, three carved limestone boundary stones from the time of the Franciscan land cadastral survey bearing the year 1819 and 21 boundary marks, mostly without inscriptions (two with the year 1865), located on or near the northeast border of the cadastral municipality of Črnotiči, are presented. Here, the Špirnica cave was also identified as a boundary point, at least since the time of the Franciscan land cadastral survey. At Krapnik, named on the Franciscan land cadastral map Rjavi kamen u štirni (Eng. brown stone in the well), a boundary stone of the three cadastral municipalities of Črnotiče, Podgorje, and Podpeč can be found. It is a larger, roughly hewn stone of a dark brown colour, with the year 1865 carved into it and the remains of fan-shaped lines on one side and a decaying circular shape on the other. It is located just 500 m north of the former corner point of the Venetian border on Debeli hrib, so it may even be an old Venetian boundary stone.

KEY WORDS

boundary marks, muša, Venetian border, common land, Črni Kal, Črnotiče, Krapnik, Slovenia

1 INTRODUCTION

Until 1797, the Venetian Republic included part of present-day Slovenia. Part of the former Venetian border thus ran along the edge of the areas around the towns of Bovec and Tolmin, and part through Istria (Coradazzi and Spinato, 1993; Kozorog and Triglav Čekada, 2025). The border in Istria remained largely unchanged from 1523 until the fall of the Venetian Republic in 1797 (Rutar, 1896). Nevertheless, areas of undivided or disputed land plots, called *differentie*, continued to exist on the Venetian border for a long time after this border settlement. People on both sides of the border had the right to use such land plots, which in practice led to numerous very long and bloody disputes. During this period, the border was frequently marked with new boundary marks, as each time the border was re-examined or newly demarcated it was discovered that the majority of the old boundary marks had been destroyed. Moreover, it was often found that the old men who knew the exact course of the border on the ground had died in the interim (Bertoša, 1983; 1985; 1986; Darovec, 1990; Bertoša et al., 2009, Bradara et al., 2013; Bradara, 2017). Regular border demarcations were mostly one-sided affairs (Bertoša, 1986; Bradara, 2017). For the locals, knowing the exact course of the border could even be dangerous, and a document has been preserved from the early 18th century which describes how a farmer was imprisoned after showing the boundary marks and course of the border on his own land plot to the authorities on the other side of the border (Bertoša, 1986).

During the Venetian Republic, all sorts of boundary marks were used in Istria: naturally recognizable topographical features such as hills, peaks, and trees (poplars, oaks), the oldest simple serif crosses carved into naturally occurring rocks or carved stones, carved crosses with added letters, carved horseshoes, carved coats of arms in naturally occurring rocks or carved stones, brick pillars with two carved slabs on each side bearing coats of arms, ditches, drystone walls or elongated piles of stones (Bertoša, 2016, Bradara et al., 2013; Bradara, 2017). The last of these are called *muše* in Slovenian Istria (Medvešček, 1992; Vilfan, 1957, 1996; Kocjančič and Bratož – Ježek, 1997; Darovec and Mihelič, 2024), and according to some explanations, the name is derived from a word meaning a donkey in the local dialect (e.g., Kerševan, 2016). Here, the relation to donkey may be due to one of the old methods of transporting goods along the main road on Črni Kal slope, where a caravan of donkey drivers was referred to as *mussolati*, in contrast to the caravans of porters who carried goods on their backs and were called *spalanti* (Bertoša, 1986). The term was once so well known that it even gave its name to an area of land on the former Venetian border (Darovec and Mihelič, 2024). The name Mušovlje is still written on national topographic maps on scales of 1:5000 and 1:50.000 at the present boundary between the cadastral municipalities of Gabrovica and Socerb, and today describes the area between the two quarries in Črni Kal (Tivnik and Grucelj). The main roads across the Kraški rob plateau once ran here, along which goods were transported from Istria to the interior (Darovec, 1990).

These special boundary mark structures – *muše* – have survived in Slovenian Istria at least along the former Venetian border between Osp and Socerb, on the borders of the cadastral municipalities of Podgorje (cadastral municipality No 2583) and Podpeč (No 2616), and on the slopes of mountain Kojnik (Kocjančič and Bratož – Ježek, 1997; Darovec and Mihelič, 2024). *Muše* are piles of stones about 20 m long, up to one metre high, and two to three metres wide. Today, without the help of a local, it is very difficult to distinguish them from the many deteriorating drystone walls in this area. Indeed, they can also be located in drystone walls, where they look like a form of reinforcement. In this article, we will present the locations of *muše* that have been verified in the field, as well as some other old boundary marks that are now located near the border of the

cadastral municipality of Črnotiče (No 2599). They were shown to the co-author Branko Bratož – Ježek by older locals in previous decades, and in 2023 and 2024 we revisited them together and measured their locations.

During the Franciscan land cadastral survey, which was carried out in the Slovenian Karst region in 1818–1819, the boundaries of the cadastral municipalities were defined and measured based on the Venetian border, and these boundaries remain valid to this day (Novak, 2020; Bradara and Kuzmanović, 2020; Triglav Čekada and Bratož – Ježek, 2024). Therefore, the Venetian boundary marks preserved in their original locations, including the special boundary mark structures called *muše*, may still represent the administratively valid boundaries today.

2 THE VENETIAN BORDER AND BOUNDARY MARKS ABOVE ČRNI KAL OVER TIME

The former Venetian border entered the present-day Slovenian Istria in the north from Italy, just above the village of Osp, and exited into Croatia at the top of the hill Kosmačič (736 m). The entire border in Istria can be traced on the GIS portal of the Archaeological Museum of Istria in Pula (AMI GISportal, 2025), and our interpretation is shown in Figure 11. In this paper, we will focus on the area between Črni Kal and Črnotiče, which is shown on an old topographical drawing of the border from the 17th and 18th centuries (Figure 1) from point A to point F. On Vincenzo Dini's map of the Venetian border in Istria from the 18th century (Figure 2), the areas in question are marked with squares, and these are shown in greater detail in Figures 5 and 9.



Figure 1: Topographical drawing of the plateau Kraški rob with the border line between the Venetian and Austrian territories in the 17th and 18th centuries, showing the border between villages Mačkolje (Caresana), which is now in Italy, and Črnotiče now in Slovenia (source: ASVe¹, DRI, f. 19, c.1).

¹ Archivio di Stato di Venezia.

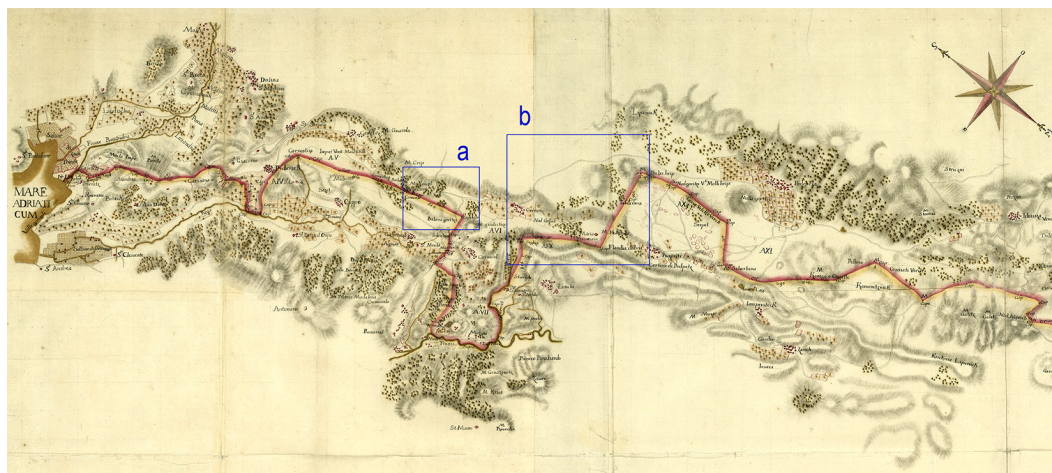


Figure 2: Excerpt from Vincenzo Dini's map of the Venetian Republic and the Habsburg Monarchy border in Istria, from the gulf of Milje to Rakitovec, 18th century (map source: ASTs², DFAP, c. 327). The blue squares represent the areas under consideration: a) above the village of Gabrovica around the spring Brstenik, and b) below the village of Črnotiče around the Church of St Marija Snežna.

2.1 Different types of Venetian boundary marks with coats of arms

Since Venetian boundary marks were regularly destroyed to conceal the course of the border, many have been moved to secondary locations. In Slovenian Istria, for example, there are several relocated remains of former rectangular limestone slabs measuring 49×49 cm with the coat of arms of the Venetian lion or the Austrian shield from 1755 (Premrl, 2024a; 2024b), which were once embedded in stone boundary pillars (their current locations are also shown in Figure 11): a) the Venetian lion at the address Črnotiče 29, placed to the left of the entrance portal around 1980, before this slab is said to have served as a cover for a drainage channel for a very long time; b) a Venetian lion broken into two pieces at the address Osp 43 (Figure 3a), which was built into a supporting wall about two decades ago, having previously been used as two bricks of an older house wall; each part was found separately when the old house was demolished, so they were also built into the newer wall separately; c) the Austrian coat of arms on the house at Črni kal 51; and d) the Austrian coat of arms built into the inner side of the cemetery wall of the Church of St Janez Krstnik in Predloka (Figure 3b), which was placed there during the renovation of the church floor in 1892 (Župančič, 2007). Two Venetian lions are also located in the Koper Regional Museum (Bradara, 2017). Between 1755 and 1757, 104 such stone pillars were erected along the entire Istrian border. They had a cross-section at the base of 100×100 cm or 120×130 cm and a pyramid shape at the top. Two rectangular carved limestone slabs were attached to each pillar: the one on the front with the Venetian lion, and the one on the back with the Austrian coat of arms. No original pillars from this period have been preserved in Istria, with only their foundations remaining in a few places (Bradara, 2017; Bradara and Kuzmanović, 2020). Similar Venetian border pillars are preserved in the Venetian lagoon, being slightly younger, dating from 1791 (Caniato, 2021).

² *Archivio di Stato di Trieste.*



Figure 3: Parts of preserved Venetian slabs from 1755, which are no longer in their original locations: a) two halves of the Venetian coat of arms built into a wall at Osp 43, b) the entire Austrian coat of arms on the inside of the cemetery wall of St Janez Krstnik in Predloka (photo: M. Triglav Čekada, 2024).

There are still preserved coats of arms carved into the natural rocks or into irregularly shaped boundary stones in some places along the former Venetian border. Just above the present-day northern Slovenian border in Italy, almost halfway between lake Predil and the Sella Nevea Mountain pass, near the intersection of the main road and a river with the meaningful name Rio Confine (Eng. *Border River*), two Venetian lions from 1757 are said to have been preserved, carved into the natural rocks (Coradazzi and Spinato, 1993). During a field inspection in 2023, we found only the northern one, which is nicely described on a new information board (Figure 4). This border later represented also the border between provinces and even between countries, and therefore on the top of this natural rock there is an additional state border mark between the Kingdom of Italy and Austria-Hungary from the year 1887. In Slovenia, a boundary mark with both coats of arms carved into the natural rock has been preserved from 1753 near the village of Golobi above Livek³ (Kozorog, 2008; Kozorog and Triglav Čekada, 2025; Coradazzi and Spinato, 1993). In Croatian Istria, a 70 cm high irregularly shaped boundary mark called Baba has been preserved, located at the tri-border point of the cadastral municipalities of St Lovreč – Dvigrad – Kringa, with both coats of arms preserved on it (Bertoša et al., 2010; Bradara, 2017). The location of this boundary mark was already mentioned in the *Istrski razvod* (Bradara, 2017), describing the demarcation procedure covering just a part of the Venetian border in present-day Croatian Istria in 1275 (Bratulić, 1978). Bradara et al. (2013) found a large number of a special type of carved boundary marks in Croatian Istria, 100 to 190 cm high, trapezoidal in shape and with a circular upper part, on which the Venetian coat of arms is also carved, but unfortunately these do not have the date on them. Moreover, a significant number of these are no longer preserved in their original locations.

³ It is listed in the Register of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia under the number of 1-00325.



Figure 4: The Venetian lion (a) and the Austrian coat of arms (b) from 1757, carved into the natural rock, located 60 m north of the main road between lake Predil and the Sella Nevea Mountain pass in Italy, near the Rio Confini river (photo: M. Triglav Čekada, 2023).

2.2 Course of the former Venetian border in the areas under consideration

The course of the Venetian border for the areas in question has been taken from the Treaty of Gorizia, which was signed on December 26, 1754, and ratified by both parties in 1755. The treaty was published in Croatian and Italian in Bradara (2017). Here we will summarise only the sections that describe our test areas. In the description of the border, the locations where the stone boundary pillars were erected at that time are numbered sequentially and described with their local names. On the excerpts from Vincenzo Dini's old map (Figures 5 and 7), these locations are marked with *Cap.*, or *Capitelo*, which is the Italian word for pillar. The hilltops are marked with the letter M (for the Italian word *Monte*).

The agreement in Gorizia contained the following description of the section of the border above Črni Kal before the border turns perpendicularly downwards below the Kraški rob plateau (area a in Figure 2):

From number 11 to point 14, located on the road before the spring called Brestenich, an average line shall be drawn dividing this part of the disputed territory transversely; this line shall be 1,160 pertikas long.⁴ The aforementioned spring will thus be divided into two parts, with half of the water belonging to the Venetian side and half to the Austrian side. Around it and towards the road, there shall remain approximately 20 pertikas of common land, which will serve as access for both municipalities, which will drive their livestock there to water.

From the point marked with the number 14, the border runs along the road called Brestenich, all the way to the field marked with the letter B, which belongs to the Church of the Holy Cross in Castellez

⁴ A pertik is an old unit of length.

and will remain Venetian. At the end of the field, a line 664 pertikas long shall be drawn along the same road to the point on the road called Cranzi, which leads to Cernicala, and this point shall face directly towards Babbina goriza, where point number 17 is located, and the aforementioned road shall remain Austrian.



Figure 5: Detail of the area in question from Vincenzo Dini's 18th-century map of the border between the Venetian Republic and the Habsburg Monarchy – area a in Figure 2 (map source: ASTs, DFAP, c. 327).



Figure 6: The Brstenik spring is located just above the remains of an old road below the Grucelj quarry, or below the former hilltop Gaber (photo: M. Triglav Čekada, 2024).



Figure 7: Sketch of the Venetian border covering the Socerb, Prebeneg, Gabrovica, and Kastelec: A) Brstenik spring, B) border road (source: ASVe, Provveditori alla Camera dei Confini, b. 234, c. 6).

In Bradara (2017), the place names from this description are interpreted as follows: *Brestenich* is the spring Berstenik, *Castelleza* is Kastelec, *Cranci* are Kranjci, *Cernical* is Črni Kal, and *Babbinagorica* is Babina Gorica. Darovec (1990) refers to the *Brestenich* spring as Brstenik, according to the locals from Črni Kal and Črnotiče, while the locals from Kaštel call it *Pr' kostelšče staje*. If we compare the old maps in Figures 1 and 5, we can quickly see that point B is located in the immediate vicinity of the spring, which can be easily recognised in Figure 1 by the topographical sign of two connected black circles at the location marked with the letter A, and in Figure 5 by the name *Wirstenic*. On the drawing of the Venetian border between Socerb and the Brstenik spring in Figure 7, the spring is drawn as a small lake and marked with point A, and in the caption section referred to as *Bristinich*. The caption also tells us that the sketch of the border in Figure 7 is more recent than the previous two, as it states that the Brstenik spring itself, or point A, is already the tripoint of the Venetian villages of Gabrovica and Osp and the Austrian village of Kastelec. On the map of the first military survey of the Habsburg Monarchy from 1784–1785⁵, a boundary mark named *Berstenik* is drawn here, while on the map of the Franciscan and Reambulation land cadastral surveys of the cadastral municipality of Prebeneg (today Socerb)⁶, which is based on data from 1819, it is named *Quelle Prestenig*. Today, the tripoint of the cadastral municipalities of Osp (No 2597), Gabrovica (No 2601), and Socerb (No 2598) is located about 100 m lower than the spring.

If we look at more recent maps, the spring of Brstenik is marked on an old national topographic map on a scale of 1:5000 (TTN5), but without a name. The water from the Brstenik spring sinks under an older road, then we encounter it again in the ravine above the area named Zabreg. This ravine still represents the boundary between the cadastral municipalities of Osp and Gabovica. The Brstenik spring itself also

⁵ Source: Arcanum Maps: <https://maps.arcanum.com/en/map/firstsurvey-inner-austria/?bbox=1541346.43912244559%2C5709824.045495721%2C1548612.7341238055%2C5712313.026229257&map-list=1&map-layers=138>

⁶ Source ASTI: <https://a4vieww.archiviodistatotorieste.it/patrimonio/bafd7675-af61-4348-a273-b95fd18a78de/675-a-07-mappa-catastale-del-comune-di-prebenigo-foglio-viii-1819-1872>

gave its name to the old border road that ran below it from the village of Kastelec towards Črnotiče – the road is marked with the letter B on the drawing in Figure 7.

From a surveying perspective, another interesting feature is the Venetian boundary mark which once stood halfway between the Brstenik spring and the hilltop of Babina Gorica (Figure 5), now above Mušovlje, at the point where the boundaries of the three cadastral municipalities of Gabrovica, Socerb, and Črnotiče meet. At least at the time of the Franciscan land cadastral survey, which was carried out here in 1818–1819, the tripoint of cadastral municipalities was marked by an old Venetian boundary marker – *Alt Venizianischer Confin* (Figure 8). Today it no longer exists, and only the corner of drystone walls remains here. Only with a great deal of the imagination can this boundary stone be linked to the boundary pillar location named *Crucele*, which is located a little east of the Brstenik spring on a section of an old map of the Venetian border (Figure 5).



Figure 8: Tripoint of the cadastral municipalities of Gabrovica, Socerb, and Črnotiče, today above Mušovlje, where at least during the Franciscan land cadastral survey an old Venetian boundary mark still stood (source: ASTs: map of the Reambulation land cadastral survey of the cadastral municipality of Prebeneg from 1872, based on 1819).

Continuing from the agreement in Gorica, we give the description of the section of the border above the village of Črni Kal, at the point where the border returns on the top of the Kraški rob plateau and then runs along the Kraški rob to the Church of St Marija Snežna, where it makes a right angle and continues inland to the hill Debeli hrib (area b in Figure 2):

...you will come above Carsa at point 10, which the Austrians call Nadiegliza and the Venetians Igliza. Then cross the disputed area (differencie) along a straight line 620 pertikas long to reach stone numbered 2, marked with crosses and called Prosscoria. From here, follow a straight line to number 5 at a location called Flandia Dolina. From here, draw an average straight line 544 pertikas long to Foibanere (Tabia nera) at the number 9, then follow a straight line 336 pertikas long to the number 12 at a location called Debeli Crip. Then go over the second peak, which the Austrians call Nadgorice and the Venetians call Mali Crip, to number 30. Continue over the following peaks, which the Venetians call Gorize, to the number 48, which the Austrians call Veliki Verch.

The place names from the second group were interpreted in Bradara (2017) as follows: *Carsa* is Kras, *Igliza* is unknown (Figure 9), *Tabia nera* is thought to be Na jame, *Debeli Crip* is Debeli hrib, *Nadgorice* is Nadgorica, and *Mali Crip* is Mali hrib.

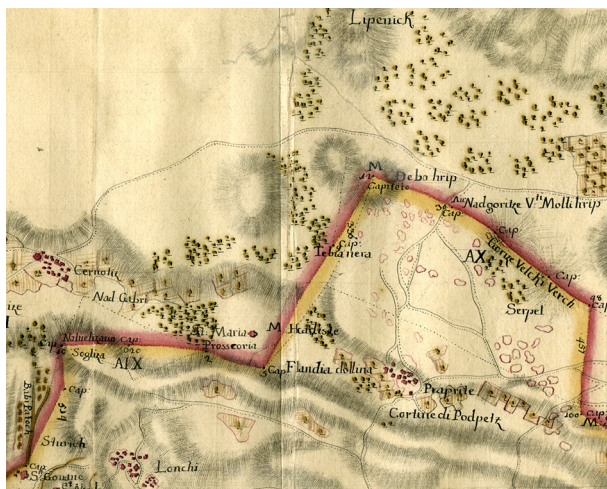


Figure 9: Detail of the area in question from Vincenzo Dini's 18th-century map of the border between the Venetian Republic and the Habsburg Monarchy – area b in Figure 2 (map source: ASTs, DFAP, c. 327).

The location of Igliza (in Figure 9, *Sogliza*) (Eng. Small Needle) could be interpreted as the present-day names of the hilltops Škrbina (Eng. Stub) or even Marčev hrib, both being the hilltops of the Kraški rob plateau. Unfortunately, the toponym *Dizhliza*, which is similar to *Iglica*, appears for the last time on the map of the first military survey of the Habsburg Monarchy from 1784–1785. Later, on the map of the Franciscan land cadastral survey from 1819⁷, the entire area of today's hilltop of Marčev hrib is named Na Kribi. This name, in the variant Na hribi (Eng. On Hill), can also be found on the map of the third military survey of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy from 1869–1887⁸. In the variant Za hribam (Eng. Behind Hill), it can be found on the map of the first military survey of the Habsburg Monarchy immediately after the name Dizlica. Today, the name Hrib (Eng. Hill) is located on an old national topographic map on a scale of 1:5000 (TTN5) immediately after the Marčev hrib to the east and represents a gently rolling area of Kraški rob plateau. From this, we can conclude that *Iglica* most likely represents the old name for the small hilltop of Marčev hrib.

The border between the cadastral municipalities of Črni Kal (No 2600) and Črnotiče (No 2599) has, since the time of the Franciscan land cadastral survey, descended slightly eastward below the Kraški rob plateau just before the castle of Črni Kal and returned to the Kraški rob plateau a few hundred metres east of the hilltop of Marčev hrib. However, the boundary between the common lands of two villages has run along the upper edge of the Kraški rob plateau since the time of the Franciscan land cadastral survey. In nature, this is marked by an old at the top circular-shaped boundary stone with inscriptions, which will be described in detail later (Figure 18a).

The location of *Prosscoria* can be interpreted, if we look more closely at Figure 9 and TTN5, as a location on the western slope of the hill Gradišče below the Church of Marija Snežna (*Maria Prosscoria*), where

⁷ ASTs source: <https://a4view.archiviodistatotrieste.it/patrimonio/55de1e13-90fd-4d03-8841-7e4a132b780f447-b-05-mappa-catastale-del-comune-di-s-sergio-foglio-iv-sezione-v-1819-sec-xix-primo-quarto>

⁸ Source Arcanum Maps: <https://maps.arcanum.com/en/map/thirdsurvey25000/?bbox=1542864.6870821042%2C5706802.267182566%2C1550130.9820834638%2C5709291.247916102&map-list=1&layers=129>

the former border line breaks slightly. *Flandia Dolina* is a small valley between the hills of Gradišče and Stena, the latter being again a gentle peak on the edge of Kraški rob plateau. Older locals also refer to this location as Bəzəviščen bori (Kerševan, 2016). This is where the border turns at a right angle, now heading almost to the northwest (Figure 10a). If we compare Figures 1 and 2, we can interpret the location of *Flandia Dolina* as location E and *Tabia nera* as location F. On the first military survey map of the Habsburg Monarchy (1784–1785), the location of *Tabia nera* with a boundary mark is called Na jami (Eng. On Cave). Today this location is represented by a deep doline called V jami (Eng. In Cave), which has on its upper western side a smaller entrance to the abyss or vertical cave⁹ (Figure 10b). This can also be linked to the detailed description of point F on the old map from Figure 1 – *Foiba Cernaiana*, which can be translated to Black Cave. Location V jami is located very close to a topographical name Na konfinu, meaning in the coastal dialect either that a boundary mark once stood here¹⁰ or, which is more likely in the Podgorski Kras area, that some kind of boundary once ran here¹¹.



Figure 10: Two former Venetian locations: a) *Flandia Dolina* – a drystone wall corner with larger stones without inscriptions, b) V jami – entrance to a cave in the middle and a deep doline surrounded by a drystone wall on the left (photo: M. Triglav Čekada, 2024).

2.3 Former points of dispute (differentie) in the area under consideration

Bertoša (1986) and Darovec (1990) mention as the first area under dispute in the Koper region from the 16th century the village of Gabrovica and pastures on its border. Then they name as very problematic the areas following two border roads, the first named Brstenik leading from Kastelec to Črnotiče (marked B in Figure 7), and the second called Tivnik, which is perpendicular to Brstenik and leads across Tivnik to Črnik Kal¹². Both roads had a double function of being at the same time the most important transport routes for goods from Istria to the interior, as well as a border line. There were thus on both sides of the road ambushes and attempts to steal the cargo being moved by porters and mule drivers

⁹ The cave in front of doline V jami is not yet inscribed in the Slovenian Cave Register.

¹⁰ On the Per Konfini field by the Lokev–Bazovica road, there is a very tall boundary marker numbered XXIII of the Švarceneg estate with Trieste, described in more detail in Triglav Čekada et al. (2022a). The name of this area is preserved only on archival land cadastral maps, but not on TTN5.

¹¹ In the Podgorski Kras area, the term konfin more often refers to a border rather than a specific boundary mark (Darovec, 2005). Thus, the old saying by the people who live around the border "We are neither Čiči nor Brčini, we are just on the konfini" (Vilfan, 1957; Kerševan, 2016; Rožanc Darovec, 2005). The term also gave the name to the Slavnik Mountaineering Society's mountaineering diary (Dobrila and Bratož, 2023).

¹² The map showing the two main trade routes from Koper to Kranjska via Črni Kal and Rakitovec is drawn in Darovec (2005).

from the other side, and the boundary marks erected along these roads were also regularly destroyed. The next disputed area is the Brstenik spring, which was used to water livestock from both sides of the border and was therefore an undivided plot of land and a constant source of quarrels. At the same time, another spring located in Podpeč on the border also caused many disputes, although it was intended to be used equally by both sides.

A good 200 years later, in the middle of the 18th century, the severe disputes at all these points of contention had still not subsided, with issues remaining on the border above Gabrovica village and around the Brstenik road. The people of Podgora were still quarrelling with those from Podpeč, stealing each other's livestock, destroying crops and boundary marks, and occasionally even committing documented murders. In addition, new disputes between the villages of Rožar and Črni Kal flared up (Bertoša, 1986).

3 RESULTS OF THE FIELD SURVEY

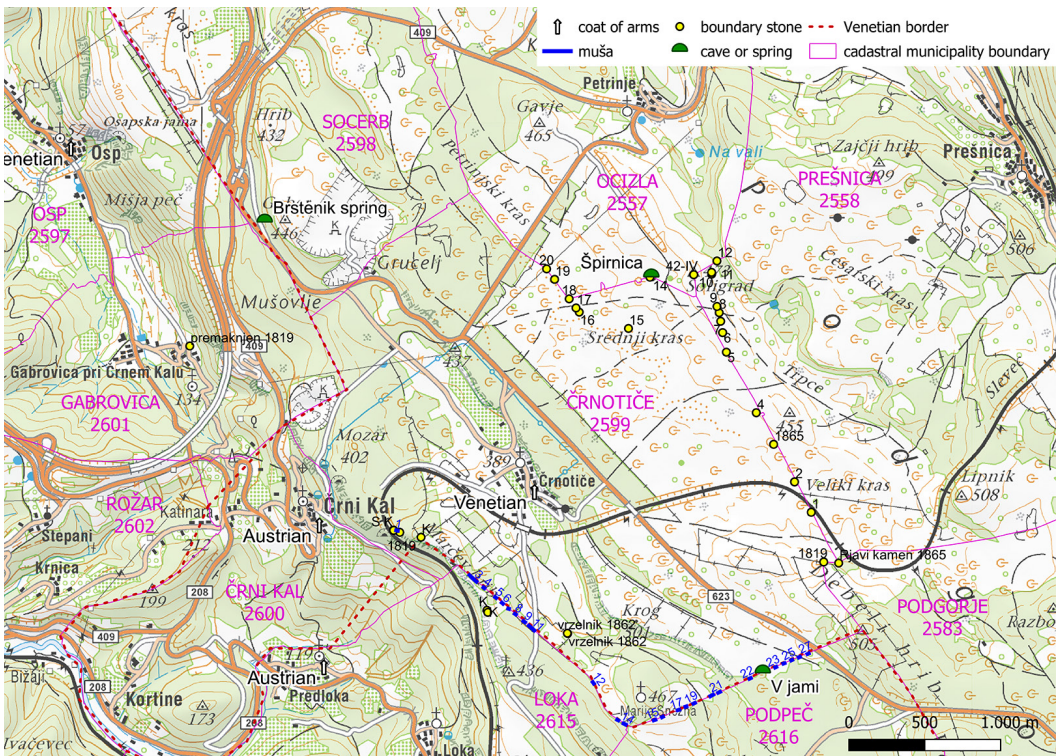


Figure 11: The locations verified in the field (Map source: DTK50, Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia).

3.1 Special boundary mark structures called muše

In the field, we measured the locations of 27 elongated piles of stones, which locals had previously shown to one of the co-authors, Bratož – Ježek, claiming that they could be a special type of Venetian boundary mark structure called muše (Table 1, Figure 11). The coordinates should be considered approximate, measured with an accuracy of one metre, as it is very difficult to identify the exact starting or ending

point of such boundary mark structures in nature, especially where it starts or ends in the remains of a drystone wall.



Figure 12: Typical examples of boundary mark structures called *muše* on the boundaries of the cadastral municipality of Črnotiče: a) No 6, b) 15, c) 17, d) 19, e) 23, and f) 26 (photo: M. Triglav Čekada, 2024).

In nature, we can identify these special boundary mark structures as long piles of smaller stones being between 20 and just under 10 metres long. Today, they are two to three metres wide, and in the middle, the pile of stones can be a metre or even more high. Not all of them are equally prominent, as they have been subject to decay for a long time (Figure 12). No 1, 26, and 27 are the most difficult to recognise in the field, as today they simply look like similarly sized stones scattered in an elongated line where one

would not expect them (Figure 12f). Many of them are found in the remains of former drystone walls, which may be based on boundary drystone walls dating back to the time of the Venetian Republic (Bradara, 2017). Almost all of them are located on the still valid boundary between the cadastral municipalities of Črnotiče, Loka (No 2615) and Podpeč (No 2616). The only exception is No 1, which is located on the western slope of the Marčev hrib hill, on the former common land boundary, which dates back to at least the time of the Franciscan land cadastral survey. All, except No 1, follow the former Venetian border. Since in the previous chapter we were unable to confirm with certainty that the location of the former Venetian name Iglica is at the hilltops of Marčev hrib or Škrbina, this matter stays open for the future research, when it may become clearer whether the special boundary mark structure No 1 once also marked the former Venetian border.

Figure 13 shows two special examples of boundary mark structures called *muše*: No 12 Pod lisično, inside which the remains of a rectangular wall can be seen, and No 22, located 90 m before the doline V jami and beginning with a semicircular shape. The one at Pod lisično is located near the former site of a Venetian stone pillar called a *Proscoria*. The semicircular shape of No 22 resembles a World War II shelter for soldiers. Here we should note that during this conflict and at various locations on the Kraški rob plateau, the Germans dug defensive trenches, underground bunkers, and other defensive structures (Beltram, 1990).



Figure 13: Special examples of boundary mark structures called *muše*: a) No 12 Pod lisično – see the square wall inside it; b) No 22 in front of the doline V jami, note the semi-circular form at the beginning of this boundary mark structure (photo: M. Triglav Čekada, 2024).

Table 1: Basic data on boundary mark structures called *muše* measured in the field. Field names are taken from an old national topographic map on a scale of 1:5000 (TTN5).

Serial no.	Location name according to TTN5	Length (m)	Start coordinates (D96)		End coordinates (D96)	
			E (m)	N(m)	E (m)	N(m)
1	western slope of Marčev hrib	10	413033	46097	413042	46094
2	Hrib	29	413515	45802	413536	45782
3	Hrib	34	413536	45782	413561	45760
4	Hrib	7	413608	45720	413614	45716

Serial no.	Location name according to TTN5	Length (m)	Start coordinates (D96)		End coordinates (D96)	
			E (m)	N(m)	E (m)	N(m)
5	Šamovce	6	413686	45655	413691	45651
6	Šamovce	9	413730	45619	413737	45613
7	Šamovce	5	413775	45578	413772	45580
8	Šamovce	7	413815	45546	413821	45542
9	Šamovce	11	413872	45497	413881	45491
10	Šamovce	15	413907	45467	413919	45457
11	Šamovce	12	41393	45445	413943	45437
12	Pod lisično	11	414329	45094	414335	45086
13	between Gradišče (St Marija Snežna) and Stena	9	414490	44847	414497	44843
14	between Gradišče (St Marija Snežna) and Stena	14	414532	44821	41455	44815
15	between Gradišče and Pleče	10	414731	44843	414740	44847
16	between Gradišče and Pleče	6	414785	44864	414790	44867
17	between Zagradišče and Pleče	10	414889	44910	414898	44913
18	between Zagradišče and Pleče	7	414939	44932	414946	44935
19	between Zagradišče and Pleče	10	414992	44953	415001	44957
20	between Zagradišče and Na konfinu	20	415104	45002	415122	45012
21	between Zagradišče and Na konfinu	14	415155	45025	415168	45032
22	near doline V jami	9	415361	45118	415370	45122
23	between Parti and Štefance	8	415531	45193	415538	45196
24	between Parti and Štefance	7	415585	45218	415592	45219
25	between Parti and Štefance	6	415637	45239	415643	45242
26	Krmčevka	9	415687	45258	415694	45261
27	Krmčevka	9	415744	45281	415752	45284

3.2 Potential Venetian boundary mark at Krapnik and other boundary marks along the north-eastern border of the cadastral municipality of Črnotiče

Near the north-eastern border of the cadastral municipality of Črnotiče, there are 22 boundary marks of the former common lands of villages, which are today also known as agricultural communities, 13 of which are located on the borders of the cadastral municipalities and nine on the borders of land plots.

The first two boundary marks are located under the hill Debeli hrib in an area named Krapnik. The first of these, dating to the year 1865, marks the tripoint between the cadastral municipalities of Podgorje, Črnotiče, and Prešnica, and is located in a smaller overgrown valley, which is named *Stirnizza* or *Rjavo Čamen u Štirni* on old land cadastral maps (Figure 15a). The name can be translated to “brown stone at spring” and is easily explained by the presence of water in this small valley, which in the past enabled grazing sheep to shelter there, but today everything is overgrown by vegetation and only a muddy puddle where wild pigs bathe has remained. The boundary stone is a natural rock of a darker colour, i.e. brown, 102 cm high with a cross-section at the base of 70×55 cm. On the side facing towards the top of Debeli hrib, there is a carved 28×13 cm square made without a template with the year 1865 inside.

On the same side, but more to the right, some poorly visible fan-shaped lines (Figure 15a) can be seen, which are very reminiscent to the remains of the wings of the Venetian lion, similar to those carved into the natural rock near the village of Golobi above Livek (Kozorog and Triglav Čekada, 2025) and the natural rock called Baba, near the village of Draguzeti in Istria, Croatia, that was mentioned earlier (Bertoša et al., 2010; Bradara, 2017). This assumption is further supported by the decayed circular shape with slightly visible longitudinal crossbars on the back of the stone, facing away from Debeli hrib, which could have once represented the coat of arms of the Austrians (Figure 14b). Could this boundary mark have stood on top of the gentle hilltop of Debeli hrib during the Venetian Republic, or did the Venetian border once run 500 m further north? Either way, this boundary mark must have already stood in this valley during the Franciscan land cadastral survey, as its name can be seen in the maps from this period (Figure 15a), while the year when they demarcated the common lands boundaries was carved on it later. Based on which side of the boundary mark the probable Venetian (south) and Austrian (north) coats of arms are placed, it is evident that the boundary stone has not been moved, as the coats of arms are facing in the correct directions.



Figure 14: Potential Venetian boundary mark at Krapnik named on the Franciscan land cadastral maps as *Rjavo Čamen u Štirni*: a) on the left part of the front side is a square with the year 1865, on the right side are fan-shaped lines, b) on the back side there is a round shape with indicated transverse lines (photo: M. Triglav Čekada, 2023).

Another boundary mark from the area around Krapnik is a typical example of such a mark for cadastral municipalities or districts from the time of the Franciscan land cadastral survey (Figure 16a). It is located in a drystone wall at the sharp bend of the boundary between the cadastral municipalities of Črnotiče and Podgorje. It is 92 cm high and has a cross-section of 25×42 cm (in Figure 11 it is labelled 1819). It is similar to the boundary stone below Marčev hill and the boundary stones around Socerb and in the Glinščica Valley (Triglav Čekada and Bratož – Ježek, 2024), as it is carved from limestone, with a semi-

circular shape at the top, and has the year and village names carved into it using a template. On each side, it bears the year 1819 and the inscription GEMAINDE PODGORIE / GEMEINDE CERNOTICI.



Figure 15: Old land cadastral survey maps: a) Krapnik from 1819 (eZKN: 2583_2880_0026), b) Špirnca cave from 1819 (ASTs¹³).

If we follow the border between the cadastral municipalities of Črnotiče and Prešnica from the valley near Rjavi kamen in Krapnik towards the northwest, then after a good 370 m, on the area named Za goricami, just before crossing the railway line, we find the first boundary mark made of sandstone without any inscriptions (Figure 11, boundary mark No 1). Across the railway line, 230 m from the first sandstone boundary mark, there is another one made from sandstone and without any inscriptions, with only a small hole drilled at the top. After 280 m, we come to a small doline, just before we pass by the abandoned grass runway of the former local Črnotiči airport on the eastern side. Here a natural rock outcrop from limestone stands with the year 1865 carved on one of its sides and a cross carved on top. An additional small hole is drilled in the middle of this cross (Figure 16b). Parallel to the end of the runway, next to another small doline, we find another boundary mark carved from sandstone (No 4), without inscriptions and just a small hole drilled on the top. After about 450 m, we come to a small grove where we find a partly disintegrated sandstone boundary stone without any inscriptions (No 5). Here we must turn away from the cadastral municipality boundary and now follow the boundary of the land plots once dividing common lands, which runs slightly more to the north. If you follow this land plot boundary to the cross-section of the Prešnica and Ocizla (No 2557) cadastral municipality boundaries, i.e. to the location named Pri štali under Soligrad, which lies on the slope below the top of the gentle hill Soligrad¹⁴ and above the wooded area named Trpce, we find another six sandstone boundary stones without inscriptions. On the cross-section between the cadastral municipalities another boundary mark made from limestone is incorporated into a drystone wall with a cross carved on its south side (Figures 11, boundary stones Nos 6-11). This land plot boundary is already drawn on the Franciscan land cadastral map, therefore it can be concluded that this is an old common land boundary. By studying the Land Registry's historical records of property ownership this can be verified. Today, the boundary of the cadastral municipality here also represents the boundary between the common lands of the villages of Prešnica and Črni Kal. The common land of Črni Kal is located within the cadastral municipality of

¹³ ASTs source: <https://a4view.archiviodistatotrieste.it/patrimonio/8b677944-7c7d-4329-a87d-3e929c366dd6/314-a-10-mappa-catastale-del-comune-di-ocizla-foglio-x-sezione-x-1819-1872>

¹⁴ This name originates from the place where sheep or goats were once given salt (Rožanc Darovec, 2005).

Črnotiče. An interesting folk tradition has been preserved about how the Črni Kal village got its common land here, being located in the wider area named Trpce¹⁵ (Vilfan, 1972; Kerševan, 2016).

Given that all the sandstone boundary marks from the location of Krapnik to Pri Štali under Soligrad are of the same shape (Figure 16c), we can reasonably conclude that they were erected at the same time as the boundary of common lands was demarcated. Based on one uprooted boundary mark (No 6 in Figure 11), which is 95 cm long, and the others that are still standing and are between 50 and 75 cm high, we can conclude that the boundary marks which are still standing have between 20 and 30 cm of the stone in the ground. The average cross-section of such a boundary mark is between 23×25 cm and 37×34 cm, and all have a slightly rounded top.



Figure 16: Different types of boundary marks on the north-eastern border of the cadastral municipality of Črnotiči: a) carved boundary mark with inscriptions in Krapnik from 1819; b) limestone boundary mark with the year 1865 below Črnotiči airport; c) above the area named Trpce: a roughly carved boundary stone without inscriptions made of sandstone (No. 7 in Figure 12); and d) Soligrad: on the left, an Italian concrete trigonometric pillar and, on the right, an uprooted boundary stone made from sandstone (photo: M. Triglav Čekada, 2023).

At the top of the gentle hill of Soligrad (473 m) there stands an Italian-type concrete trigonometric pillar¹⁶ of trigonometric point Bo. 42-IV-18. It is 56 cm high and has a square cross-section of 40×38 cm, close to it an uprooted sandstone boundary stone can be seen that is 95 cm long and with a cross-section

¹⁵ According to a folk tradition of the Črnotiče and neighbouring villages, there was once a county in Trpce. In the end, only one lady remained there. She asked the people of Črnotiče to give her a horse so she could leave, but they refused. In contrast, the people of Črni Kal gave her a blind mare and in return she gave them Trpce (Vilfan, 1972). According to a more recent version (Kerševan, 2016), this lady was a princess who wanted to return home to Italy. The people of Črni Kal gave her a mare that was blind in one eye and received Trpce in return.

¹⁶ More about Italian-type trigonometric pillars from the interwar period can be found in Triglav Čekada et al. (2022b).

of 50×24 cm (Figure 16d). Around it, there are the remains of defensive trenches from World War II, as this was the location of the second branch of the defensive line that ran from the village of Črnotiče across the Podgorski Kras towards the village of Vodice (Beltram, 1990).

The next sandstone boundary mark is located on the southwestern side of the larger entrance pit to the Špirnica cave¹⁷ (Figure 17a). The entrance pit alone already represented the boundary point between the cadastral municipalities of Ocizla and Črnotiče at the time of the Franciscan land cadastral survey in 1819, as its name can be found on map No 10 of the cadastral municipality of Ocizla (Figure 15b) and later it was also written on land cadastral maps from the Italian and the post-war periods (source: eZKN¹⁸).



Figure 17: Other boundary marks: a) sandstone boundary mark in front of the Špirnica boundary cave, b) a roughly carved limestone boundary mark without inscriptions at a location named Pri kaliču (No. 17 in Figure 11) (photo: M. Triglav Čekada, 2023).

The next series of at least five limestone and one uprooted sandstone boundary marks can be found on the field known as Pri kaliču. They present an old land plot boundary, which is already drawn on the Franciscan land cadastral map from 1819 (boundary markers Nos 15 to 20 in Figure 11). The individual boundary stones have a smooth, rectangular surface on one side, on which we did not recognise any inscriptions during our field survey (Figure 17b). This land plot boundary begins with boundary mark No 5 and joins the corner of the cadastral municipalities of Ocizla and Črnotiče at boundary mark No 18. Among those carved boundary stones, there are also smaller piles of individual natural stones or just individual natural stones up to 30 cm high turned upright. These were also used as a special type of boundary mark in the Primorska region in the past and are referred to as *škrle* by Renčelj (2002) or *skrle* by Belingar (2015).

Boundary mark No 19 marks the boundary of the land plot which runs almost exactly in a straight line from east to west. It passes through the Špirnica cave and ends at the hilltop of Soligrad.

3.3 Other boundary marks near the Kraški rob plateau

Near the first boundary mark structure called *muše* in front of the hill of Marčev hrib there is an old carved limestone boundary mark, 53 cm high and 38×12 cm in cross-section, dating to 1819 and bearing

¹⁷ The Špirnica cave is listed under the number 1399 in the Slovenian Cave Registry.

¹⁸ eZKN: map no. 2557_2880_0010.djvu from the Italian period and 2557_2880_0021.djvu from the post-war period.

the inscription GEMEINDE CERNOTICH / DORF CERNICAL (Figure 18a). It is located below the path just above the cliff edge of the Kraški rob plateau.

If we continue along the mountain trail from the first boundary mark structure down towards the railway, just before we turn onto the steep bends, we find two smaller boundary stones made from concrete and with a cross-section 15×15 cm, one with the letter S on top and the other with K (picture 18b). If we follow the mountain trail in the opposite direction, i.e. uphill towards the hilltop of Marčev hrib, we soon come across another boundary mark made from concrete with the letter K on top. Just before Šamovce there are two more, also with the letter K on the top (Figure 18d). The last three are located in the remains of a former narrow stone fence, which begins with an old carved boundary mark from 1819 (see the map TTN5). The first three are located on still valid boundaries of land plots. The last two, the ones near Šamovce, no longer serve this purpose today. We found this type of boundary marks accidentally during our field survey, but more of them probably still remain in or around the area we examined in nature.



Figure 18: Different types of boundary marks on the southwestern side of the cadastral municipality of Črnotiči: a) limestone boundary mark from 1819 near special boundary mark structure No 1, b) a smaller boundary mark made from concrete with the letter S on top located under special boundary mark structure No 1, c) drystone wall gap stones with the years 1862 carved into them on the Srkavce hayfield, and d) a smaller concrete boundary mark with the letter K on top on Marčev hrib (photo: M. Triglav Čekada, 2024).

Near the topographic location Ravna under Črnotiče, on the hayfield named Srkavce, there are two interesting drystone wall gap stones. They are located about 40 m south of the main walking trail from

Črnotiče to the hill of Gradišče or the Church of St Marija Snežna. The first drystone wall gap stone is 130 cm high and the second 150 cm (Figure 18c). They are made from two natural stones set upright with the year 1862 carved into them. They still serve as boundary marks of land plots. Premrl (2024a) found out that a self-taught stonemason named Luka Škorja from Črnotiči constructed this drystone wall, as well as carved the years into the drystone wall gap stones.

4 DISCUSSION

Near the present-day border of the cadastral municipality of Črnotiče there are several noteworthy old boundary marks from the time of the Franciscan land cadastral survey, from those with inscriptions carved into them by a template, to carved boundary stones made of limestone or sandstone bearing no inscriptions. The latter were most likely erected in 1865, as there are two boundary stones with this date among them. The first is located in a small valley at Krapnik, it is named *Rjavi kamen u štirni* on the Franciscan land cadastral map and today represents the tripoint of the cadastral municipalities of Črnotiče, Podgorje, and Prešnica. The presence of poorly preserved fan-shaped carved lines on it suggests that it may have functioned as a genuine Venetian boundary marker in the past. Furthermore, the presence of two caves (V jami and Špirnica) along this border, which represent a special type of natural boundary marker, indicate that boundary caves have been preserved in Slovenia as well, not only in the immediate vicinity of the Slovenian-Italian border above Boljunc on the Italian side (Triglav Čekada and Bratož – Ježek, 2024).

We have also presented a special type of boundary mark structure, which can only be found on the former Venetian border. These are elongated piles of stones, which the locals call *muše* (Medvešček, 1992; Vilfan, 1996; Kocjančič and Bratož – Ježek, 1997; Darovec and Mihelčič, 2024). They should not be mistaken for round piles of stones found within land plots, which locals call *grublje* (Belingar, 2015; Ciglič, 2005; Vilfan, 1972), as the latter were merely rubble dumps for ubiquitous stones and most of them did not serve as boundary marks. According to Medvešček (1992), the locals themselves erected those special boundary structures on the Venetian border in order to prevent anyone else from changing the course of the border. Given the centuries-long disputes that took place on the former Venetian border in the Karst region due to undivided land plots or poorly defined borders (Bertoša, 1983; 1985; 1986; Darovec, 1990; Bradara, 2017), which we have also briefly described in this paper, such proactive behaviour on the part of the locals would certainly be understandable. This would also mean that the local maintenance of the special boundary structures continued even after the abolition of the Venetian Republic, which would explain why they have been preserved to this day. Field measurements of 27 special boundary structures revealed that 26 are located on the border of the cadastral municipality of Črnotiče, while one, located on the western slope of Marčev hrib, is located on the former common land border. Therefore, surveyors can use them in their measurements as a special type of line boundary marker, i.e. a boundary mark with a similar function to that of a drystone wall. Since, according to the literature (Darovec and Mihelčič, 2024), these markers have also been preserved elsewhere along the entire former Venetian border in Slovenian Istria, they certainly deserve to be considered in our work.



Figure 19: Relocated boundary mark in the village of Gabrovica from the time of the Franciscan land cadastral survey (photo: M. Triglav Čekada, 2024).

Unlike classic old carved boundary stones, these special boundary structures have another advantage: due to their size, it is highly improbable that anyone will move them or take them to their yard or local museum. This happens all too often with boundary stones bearing inscriptions that were erected during the Franciscan land survey. For example, a boundary marker with the inscription CRNOTICI / PETRINJE once stood in front of the Grucelj quarry office, while another with the inscription COMUNE DI GABROVIZA / GEMEINDE CERNICAL can now be found in the village of Gabrovica (Figure 19a). Based on the matching inscriptions and height, this is most likely a boundary mark that was "rescued" by locals from a forest fire in 2013 (Dolenc, 2013). Therefore, the inventory of old boundary marks that we have compiled in this paper is important not only for geodesy, but also from a cultural and historical perspective, as this will ensure that our descendants will one day know where such boundary marks stood in the past.

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Ostanki beneške meje na mejah katastrskih občin na Kraškem robu okoli Črnotič

OSNOVNE INFORMACIJE O ČLANKU

GLEJ STRAN 459

1 UVOD

Beneška republika je do leta 1797 pokrivala tudi del današnje Slovenije. Del nekdanje meje je tekel po današnjem Bovškem in Tolminskem in del po Istri (Coradazzi in Spinato, 1993; Kozorog in Triglav Čekada, 2025). Meja v Istri je ostala bolj kot ne nespremenjena od leta 1523 do propada Beneške republike leta 1797 (Rutar, 1896). Na njej pa so kljub temu še dolgo obstajala območja nerazdeljenih oziroma spornih parcel, imenovanih *differentie*, kjer naj bi imele pravico do uporabe obe strani, kar je v praksi povzročilo mnogotere, tudi krvave ter zelo dolgotrajne spore. Mejo naj bi v tem obdobju vseskozi označevali z novimi mejniki, saj so ob vsakem ponovnem terenskem pregledu ugotovili, da je bila večina starih mejnikov medtem že uničena. Ne samo to, pomrli so tudi stari možje, ki so kaj vedeli o poteku meje na terenu (Bertoša, 1983; 1985; 1986; Darovec, 1990; Bertoša et al., 2009; Bradara et al., 2013; Bradara, 2017). Redni terenski obhodi in pregledi meje so bili večinoma enostranski (Bertoša, 1986; Bradara, 2017). Zato je bilo poznavanje poteka meje za domačine lahko tudi zelo nevarno. Tako je ohranjen dokument z začetka 18. stoletja, v katerem je opisano, kako je kmet mejnike in potek meje na lastni parceli, ki jo je užival, pokazal nasprotni strani ter si s tem prislužil ječo (Bertoša, 1986).

V času Beneške republike so v Istri kot mejnike uporabljali vse od: v naravi lahko razpoznavnih topografskih danosti, kot so grape, vrhovi, drevesa (topoli, hrasti), najstarejših preprostih serifnih križev, vklesanih v naravno prisotne skale ali klesane kamne, vklesanih križev z dodanimi črkami, vklesanih podkev, vklesanih grbov v naravno prisotne skale ali klesane kamne, zidanih stebrov z dvema klesanima ploščama na vsaki strani, na katerih sta bila grba, izkopanih jarkov, suhih zidov ali samo podolgovatih kupov kamenja (Bertoša, 2016; Bradara et al., 2013; Bradara, 2017). Slednji so v slovenski Istri poimenovani *muše* (Medvešek, 1992; Vilfan, 1957, 1996; Kocjančič in Bratož-Ježek, 1997; Darovec in Mihelič, 2024). Po nekaterih razlagah je poimenovanje izpeljanka iz domače popačenke za oslico, ki ji rečejo *muša* (npr. Kerševan, 2016). Oslica je lahko povezana z enim od nekdanjih načinov tovorjenja blaga po črnokalskem klancu – s karavanami oslovodcev, ki so jih imenovali *mussolati*, medtem ko so nosači, ki so jih imenovali *spalanti*, blago nosili na hrbtih (Bertoša, 1986). Poimenovanje je bilo nekoč tako poznano, da je celo dalo ime ledini, ki je na nekdanji beneški meji (Darovec in Mihelič, 2024). Ledinsko ime Mušovlje je izpisano na TTN5 in tudi DTK50 ob današnji meji katastrskih občin Gabrovica in Socerb, to je danes predel med kamnolomoma Tivnik in Grucelj v Črnem Kalu. Tod je nekoč tekla tudi glavna cesta čez Kraški rob, po kateri so tovorili blago iz Istre v notranjost (Darovec, 1990).

Do danes so se muše v slovenski Istri ohranile vsaj na nekdanji beneški meji med Ospom in Socerbo, na mejah katastrskih občin Podgorje (šifra katastrske občine 2583) in Podpeč (šifra 2616) ter na pobočju Kojnika (Kocjančič in Bratož-Ježek, 1997; Darovec in Mihelič, 2024). Muše so okrog 20 metrov dolgi

kupi kamenja, ki so bili visoki do enega metra ter široki od dva do tri metre. Danes jih brez domačina zelo težko ločimo od razpadajočih suhih zidov, ki jih je tod veliko. Muša je lahko tudi del samega suhega zida in je videti kot dodatno utrjen suhi zid. V članku bomo predstavili na terenu preverjene lokacije muš ter nekaterih drugih starih mejnikov, ki danes stojijo v bližini meje katastrske občine Črnotiče (s šifro 2599). Soavtorju Bratožu – Ježku so jih v preteklih desetletjih pokazali starejši domačini, v letih 2023 in 2024 pa sva jih ponovno skupaj obiskala in izmerila njihove lokacije.

V času franciscejske zemljiškokatastrske izmere, ki so jo na Kraškem robu izvajali v letih 1818–1819, so na podlagi beneške meje opredelili in izmerili meje katastrskih občin, ki so ohranile veljavo do danes (Novak, 2020; Bradara in Kuzmanović, 2020; Triglav Čekada in Bratož-Ježek, 2024). Zato na originalnih lokacijah ohranjeni beneški mejniki, kamor sodijo tudi muše, lahko še vedno označujejo upravno veljavne meje.

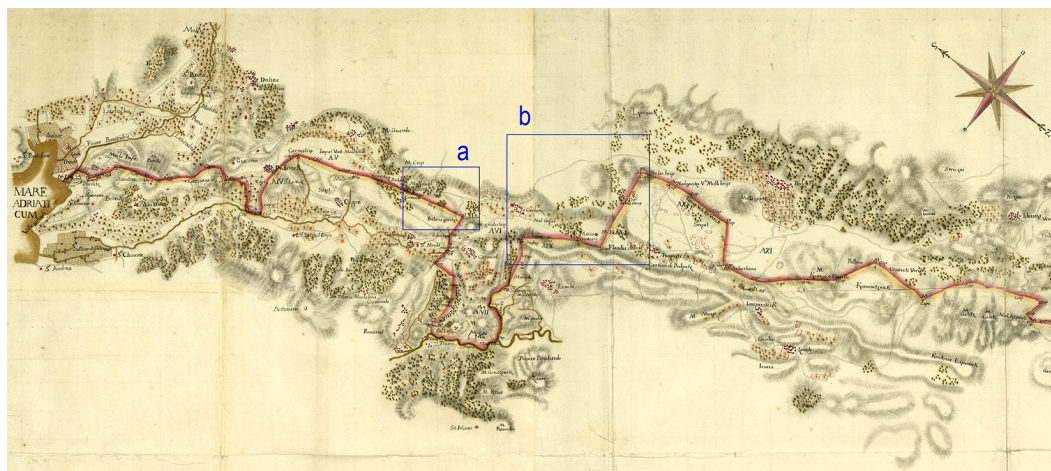
2 BENEŠKA MEJA IN MEJNIKI NAD ČRNIM KALOM SKOZI ČAS

Nekdanja beneška meja je vstopila v današnjo Slovenijo v Istri na severu iz Italije malo nad vasjo Osp, iz nje pa izstopila na Hrvaško na vrhu hriba Kosmačič (736 m). Celotni meji v Istri lahko sledimo na GIS-portalu Arheološkega muzeja Istra iz Pulja (AMI GISportal, 2025), naša interpretacija je na sliki 11. V tem članku se bomo osredotočili na območji med Črnim Kalom in Črnotičami, ki je na stari topografski risbi meje iz 17. in 18. stoletja (slika 1) prikazano od točke A do točke F. Na karti istrske beneške meje iz 18. stoletja (slika 2) sta podrobneje obravnavani območji označeni s kvadratom. Podrobneje prikazana izseka te karte sta na slikah 5 in 9.



Slika 1: Topografska risba Kraškega roba z vrisano mejno črto med beneškimi in avstrijskimi deželami v 17. in 18. stoletju, ki prikazuje mejo med Mačkoljami (Caresana), ki so danes v Italiji, in Črnotičami (vir: ASVe¹, DRI, f. 19, c.1).

¹ Beneški državni arhiv (Archivio di Stato di Venezia).



Slika 2: Izsek iz karte Vincenza Dinija, ki prikazuje mejo med Beneško republiko in Vojvodino Kranjsko v Istri, od Miljskega zaliva do Rakitovca, 18. stoletje (vir karte: ASTs², DFAP, c. 327). Modra kvadrata označujeta naši obravnavani območji: a) nad vasjo Gabrovica okoli izvira Brstenik in b) pod vasjo Črnotiče okoli cerkve sv. Marije Snežne.

2.1 Različne vrste beneških mejnikov z grbi

Ker so beneške mejnike redno uničevali, da bi zakrili potek meje, jih veliko najdemo premaknjenih na drugotne lokacije. Tako v slovenski Istri najdemo več premaknjenih ostankov nekdanjih pravokotnih apnenčastih plošč dimenzij 49×49 cm z grbom beneškega leva ali avstrijskega ščita iz leta 1755 (Premrl, 2024a; 2024b), ki so bili nekdanj vgrajeni v zidane mejne stebre (njihove današnje lokacije smo prikazali tudi na sliki 11): a) beneški lev na naslovu Črnotiče 29, vzdan okoli leta 1980 levo od vhodnega portala, pred tem naj bi plošča zelo dolgo služila kot pokrov odtočnega kanala, b) na dva dela razbit beneški lev na naslovu Osp 43 (slika 3a), ki so ga kaki dve desetletji nazaj vgradili v podporni zid, pred tem pa so dela posamezno uporabili kot zidaka za staro hišo, ob podiranju katere ju niso našli hkrati, zato so ju tudi vgradili ločeno; c) avstrijski grb na hiši Črni kal 51 in d) avstrijski grb na notranji strani pokopališkega zidu cerkve sv. Janeza Krstnika v Predloki (slika 3b), kamor so ga premaknili ob obnovi tlaka cerkve leta 1892 (Župančič, 2007). Dva beneška leva sta še v Pokrajinskem muzeju Koper (Bradara, 2017). V letih 1755–1757 so po celotni istrski meji postavili 104 take zidane stebre. Pri tleh so imeli presek med 100×100 cm in 120×130 cm ter so bili piramidasto zaključeni. Na vsakem sta bili pritrjeni po dve pravokotni klesani apnenčasti plošči: na prednji strani z beneškim levom in na zadnji z avstrijskim ščitom. V Istri se ni ohranil nobeden zidan steber iz tega obdobja, ponekod so vidni le njihovi temelji (Bradara, 2017; Bradara in Kuzmanović, 2020). Nam najbližje najdemo ohranjene malo mlajše zidane beneške mejne stebre iz leta 1791 v beneški laguni (Caniato, 2021).

Ponekod na nekdanji beneški meji so se ohranili še grbi, vklesani v živo skalo, ali grbi, vklesani v mejnike nepravilnih oblik. Tik nad današnjo severno slovensko mejo, skoraj na sredini med Rabeljskim jezerom in Nevejskim sedlom, v bližini križišča glavne ceste in potoka s pomenljivim imenom Rio Confine, naj bi se ohranila dva beneška leva iz leta 1757, vklesana v žive skale (Coradazzi in Spinato, 1993). Ob terenskem

² Tržaški državni arhiv (Archivio di Stato di Trieste).



Slika 3: Deli ohranjenih beneških plošč iz leta 1755, ki nista več na originalnih lokacijah: a) razpolovljen beneški grb, vgrajen v zid na Ospu 43; b) celoten avstrijski grb na notranji strani cerkvenega zidu sv. Janeza Krstnika v Predloki (foto: M. Triglav Čekada, 2024).



Slika 4: Beneški lev (a) in avstrijski grb (b) iz leta 1757, vklesana v živo skalo, ki je 60 metrov severno nad glavno cesto med Rabeljskim jezerom in Nevejskim sedlom v Italiji ob potoku Rio Confine (foto: M. Triglav Čekada, 2023).

pregledu leta 2023 smo našli le severnega, ki je zelo lepo opremljen z informativno tablo (slika 4). Tod je pozneje potekala tudi meja dežel ter kasneje tudi držav, zato je na vrhu skale še državni mejnik med Avstro-Ogrsko in Italijo z letnico 1887. V Sloveniji se je ohranil mejnik z obema grboma, vklesanima

v živo skalo, iz leta 1753 pri naselju Golobi nad Livkom³ (Kozorog, 2008; Kozorog in Triglav Čekada, 2025; Coradazzi in Spinato, 1993). V hrvaški Istri se je ohranil 70 centimetrov visok mejnik nepravilnih oblik, imenovan Baba, ki je na tromeji katastrskih občin Sv. Lovreč – Dvigrad – Kringa. Tudi ta ima vklesana oba grba, vsakega na svoji strani (Bertoša et al., 2010; Bradara, 2017). Lokacija tega mejnika naj bi bila omenjena že v Istarskem razvodu (Bradara, 2017), ki opisuje obhod po delu beneške meje v današnji hrvaški Istri iz leta 1275 (Bratulić, 1978). V hrvaški Istri so Bradara et al. (2013) našli še večje število od 100 do 190 centimetrov visokih klesanih mejnikov trapezoidne oblike s krožnim gornjim delom, na katerih je prav tako vklesan beneški grb, vendar žal nimajo letnice. Prav tako jih precej več ni ohranjenih na originalnih lokacijah.

2.2 Potek nekdanje meje na obravnavanem območju

Potek beneške meje za obravnavani območji smo povzeli iz Sporazuma v Gorici, ki je bil podpisan 26. 12. 1754 ter ratificiran z obeh strani v letu 1755. Sporazum je v hrvaškem in italijanskem jeziku objavljen v Bradara (2017). Tu bomo povzeli le odseke, ki opisujejo naši testni območji. V opisu meje so z zaporedno številko oštevilčene in hkrati z ledinskim imenom opisane lokacije, kjer so takrat postavili zidane mejne stebre, na izrezih stare karte (sliki 5 in 7) so te lokacije označene s *Capitelo* ali *Cap.*, kar je italijanska okrajšava za steber. Vrhovi hribov pa so označeni s črko M (it. *monte*).

Po Sporazumu v Gorici povzet opis odseka meje nad Črnim Kalom, preden meja zavije pravokotno navzdol pod Kraški rob (na sliki 2 območje a):

»Od številke 11. do točke 14., ki se nahaja na cesti pred izvirom, imenovanim Brestenich, naj se potegne povprečna črta, ki bo razdelila prečno ta del spornega terena, ta črta naj bo dolga 1160 pertik⁴. Naveden izvir se bo tako razdelil na dva dela, tako da bo polovica vode pripadala beneški in polovica avstrijski strani. Okoli nje in proti cesti naj ostane približno 20 pertik skupne zemlje, ki bo služila za dostop obema občinama, ki bosta tja gnali napajati živino.

Od točke, označene s številko 14., gre meja po cesti, imenovani Brestenich, vse do polja, ki je označeno s črko B in ki pripada cerkvi svetega Križa iz Castelleza ter bo ostalo beneško. Po koncu polja naj se potegne dolžino 664 pertik po isti cesti vse do točke na cesti, imenovane Cranzi, ki gre do Cernicala in ta točka bo gledala naravnost na Babbínagoriza, kjer je nameščena točka številka 17. in omenjena cesta bo ostala avstrijska.«

V Bradara (2017) interpretirajo ledinska imena iz tega opisa kot: *Brestenich* je izvir Berstenik, *Castelleza* je Kastelec, *Cranci* so Kranjci, *Cernical* je Črni Kal, *Babbínagorica* je Babina gorica. Darovec (1990) izvir Brestenich imenuje Brstenik, kot naj bi ga imenovali domačini iz Črnega Kala in Črnotič, domačini iz Kaštela pa so mu rekli *Pr' kostelšče staje*. Če primerjamo stari karti s slik 1 in 5, lahko hitro ugotovimo, da se točka B nahaja v neposredni bližini izvira, ki ga na sliki 1 hitro prepoznamo po topografskem znaku dveh povezanih črnih krogov na lokaciji, označeni s črko A, na sliki 5 pa po imenu *Wirstenic*. Na risbi beneške meje med Socerbom in izvirom Brstenik na sliki 7 je izvir izrisan kot manjše jezerce in označen s točko A, v podpisu je poimenovan *Bristinich*. V podpisu tudi izvemo, da je skica meje na sliki 7 novejšega nastanka kot prejšnji dve, saj tu trdijo, da je sam izvir Brstenik oziroma točka A že tromejnik beneških vasi Gabrovica ter Osp in avstrijskega Kastelca. Na karti prve vojaške izmere habsburškega imperija iz

³ V Register kulturne dediščine je vpisan pod številko 1-00325.

⁴ Pertik je stara dolžinska enota.

let 1784–1785⁵ je tu izrisan mejnik z imenom *Berstenik*, na karti franciscejske in reambulančne izmere katastrske občine Prebeneg (danes Socerb)⁶ katere osnova je iz 1819 pa *Quelle Prestenig*. Danes se tro-meja katastrskih občin Osp (s šifro 2597), Gabrovica (s šifro 2601) in Socerb (s šifro 2598) sicer nahaja kakšnih sto metrov nižje.



Slika 5: Detajl obravnavanega območja s karte meje med Beneško republiko in Vojvodino Kranjsko iz 18. stoletja – na sliki 2 območje a (vir karte: ASTs, DFAP, c. 327).



Slika 6: Izvir Brstenik je tik nad ostanki stare ceste pod kamnolomom Grucelj oziroma pod nekdanjim vrhom hriba Gaber (foto: M. Triglav Čekada, 2024).

⁵ *Vir Arcanum Maps*: <https://maps.arcanum.com/en/maps/firstsurvey-inner-austria/?bbox=1541346.4391224459%2C5709824.045495721%2C1548612.7341238055%2C5712313.026229257&map-list=1&layers=138>.

⁶ *Vir ASTs*: <https://a4view.archiviodistatortrieste.it/patrimonio/bafd7675-af61-4348-a273-b95fd18a78de/675-a-07-mappa-catastale-del-comune-di-prebenigo-foglio-vii-1819-1872>.



Slika 7: Skica beneške meje na območju Socerba, Prebenega, Gabrovice in Kastelca: A) izvir Brstenik, B) mejna cesta (vir: ASVe, Provveditori alla Camera dei Confini, b. 234, c. 6).

Če pogledamo novejšje karte, je izvir Brstenik na TTN5 sicer označen, vendar nima imena. Voda iz izvira Brstenik ponikne pod cesto, potem jo ponovno srečamo v grapi nad ledino Zabreg. Ta grapa še danes predstavlja mejo katastrskih občin Osp in Gabovica. Sam izvir Brstenik je dal ime tudi stari mejni cesti, ki je potekala pod njim iz Kastelca proti Črnotičam – cesta je označena s črkami B na risbi na sliki 7.

Z geodetskega vidika je zanimiv še beneški mejnik na pol poti med izvirom Brstenik in vrhom ledine Babina Gorica (slika 5), danes nad ledino Mušovlje, to je v točki, kjer se danes stikajo meje katastrskih občin Gabrovica, Socerb in Črnotiče. Vsaj še v času franciscejske zemljiškokatastrske izmere, ki so jo tod izvajali v letih 1818–1819, je tu tromejo katastrskih občin označeval star beneški mejnik – *Alt Venizianischer Confin* (slika 8). Danes ga ni več, na tem kraju najdemo le stik suhih zidov. Mejnik bi le z veliko domišljije lahko povezali z mejnikom, poimenovanim *Crucele*, ki na izseku stare karte beneške meje (slika 5) stoji malo vzhodneje od izvira Brstenik.

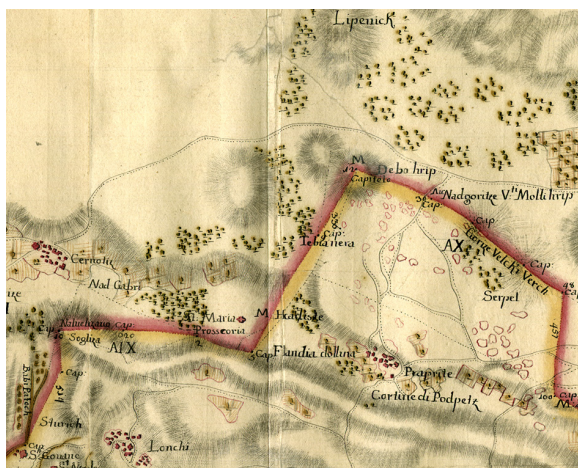


Slika 8: Tromeja katastrskih občin Gabrovica, Socerb in Črnotiče, danes nad ledino Mušovlje, kjer je vsaj še v času franciscejske zemljiškokatastrske izmere stal star beneški mejnik (vir ASTs: karta reambulančne izmere katastrske občine Prebeneg iz leta 1872, osnova je iz 1819).

Nadaljujemo s po Sporazumu v Gorici povzetim opisom odseka meje nad Črnim Kalom, na mestu, kjer se meja vrne na Kraški rob ter potem poteka po njem vse do cerkve sv. Marije Snežne, kjer se pravokotno lomi in gre naprej v notranjost na Debeli hrib (območje b na sliki 2):

»... pridete nad Carsa na točko 10., ki jo Avstrijci imenujejo Nadiegliza, Benečani Igliza. Nato prečkajte sporno območje (differencie) po ravni črti dolžine 620 pertika, da pridete do kamna številka 2, označenega s križi, imenovanega Prosscoria. Od tu po ravni črti do številke 5 na lokaciji, imenovani Flandia Dolina. Od tu potegnemo povprečno ravno črto dolžine 544 pertika do Foibanere (Tabia nera) na številki 9, potem v ravni črti dolžine 336 pertika do številke 12 na lokaciji Debeli Crip. Zatem gremo prek drugega vrha, ki ga Avstrijci imenujejo Nadgorice, Benečani pa Mali Crip, do številke 30. Nadaljujemo preko sledečih vrhov, ki jih Benečani imenujejo Gorize, vse do številke 48, ki jo Avstrijci imenujejo Veliki Verch.«

Ledinska imena iz drugega sklopa so v Bradara (2017) interpretirali kot: Carsa je Kras, Igliza – njene lokacije niso znali določiti, lokacija na stari karti beneške meje (slika 9), označena kot *Tabia nera* – naj bi predstavljala ledino Na jame, *Debeli Crip* je Debeli hrib, *Nadgorice* je Nadgorica, *Mali Crip* pa Mali hrib.



Slika 9: Detalj obravnavanega območja s karte meje med Beneško republiko in Vojvodino Kranjsko iz 18. stoletja – na sliki 2 območje b (vir karte: ASTs, DFAP, c. 327).

Lokacijo *Igliza* (na sliki 9 *Soglizza*) bi se dalo interpretirati tudi kot današnji poimenovanji vrhov s Kraškega roba Škrbina ali celo vrh Marčevega hriba. Žal se toponim *Dizhliza*, ki je podoben Iglizi, nazadnje pojavi na karti prve vojaške izmere habsburškega imperija iz let 1784–1785. Celotno območje današnjega Marčevega hriba je na karti franciscejske izmere iz leta 1819⁷ imenovano Na Kribi, to ime v varianti Na hribi najdemo še na karti tretje vojaške izmere Avstro-Ogrske iz let 1869–1887⁸. V varianti Za hribam ga najdemo na karti prve vojaške izmere takoj za imenom Dizlica. Danes se ledina Hrib nahaja na TTN5, takoj za Marčevim hribom. Iz zgornjega lahko sklepamo, da je Igliza najverjetneje kar staro poimenovanje za vrh Marčevega hriba.

Meja katastrskih občin Črni Kal (s šifro 2600) in Črnotiče (s šifro 2599) se sicer že od časa franciscejske izmere naprej na vzhodu malo pred Črnokalskim gradom spusti pod Kraški rob ter se nekaj sto metrov

⁷ Vir ASTs: <https://a4view.archiviodistatodistrieste.it/patrimonio/55de1e13-90fd-4d03-8841-7e4a132b780f/447-b-05-mappa-catastale-del-comune-di-sergio-foglio-iv-sezione-v-1819-sec-xix-primo-quarto>.

⁸ Vir Arcanum Maps: <https://maps.arcanum.com/en/map/tbirdsurvey25000/?bbox=1542864.6870821042%2C5706802.267182566%2C1550130.920834638%2C5709291.247916102&map-list=1&layers=129>.

vzhodneje od vrha Marčevega hriba spet vrne na plato Kraškega roba. Vendar tod po zgornjem robu planote že od časa franciscijske izmere naprej poteka meja parcel dveh srenj. V naravi to označuje star klesani polkrožno zaključen mejnik z napisi, ki ga bomo podrobneje opisali kasneje (slika 18a).

Če podrobneje pogledamo sliko 9 in TTN5, lahko lokacijo *Prosscoria* interpretiramo kot lokacijo na zahodnem pobočju hriba Gradišče, torej na pobočju Gradišča pod cerkvijo Marije Snežne, kjer se nekdanja mejna črta nekoliko lomi. *Flandia Dolina* predstavlja dolinico med hriboma Gradišče in Steno, ki je eden izmed položnih vrhov Kraškega roba. Starejši domačini lokaciji pravijo tudi Bəzəviščen bori (Kerševan, 2016). Tu se je meja lomila pravokotno, saj se je obrnila skoraj proti severozahodu (slika 10a). Če primerjamo sliki 1 in 2, lahko lokacijo *Flandia Dolina* interpretiramo kot lokacijo E in *Tabia nera* kot lokacijo F. Na karti prve vojaške izmere habsburškega imperija (1784–1785) se tam lokacija *Tabia nera* z mejnikom imenuje Na jami. Ledina V jami je še danes globoka vrtača, ki ima na vrhnji zahodni strani tudi manjši vhod v brezno⁹ (slika 10b). To se da povezati s podrobnim opisom točke F na stari karti meje s slike 1: *Foiba Cernaiana*, ki jo lahko interpretiramo kot črno jamo. Ledina V jami danes stoji zelo blizu ledine s pomenljivim imenom Na konfinu, ki lahko v primorskem narečju pomeni, da je tu nekoč stal mejnik¹⁰ ali, kar je na Podgorskem krasu še verjetneje, da je tod nekdanj potekala meja¹¹.



Slika 10: Današnja podoba nekdanjih beneških lokacij: a) *Flandia Dolina* – lom suhih zidov z večjimi kamni, na katerih ni ostankov napisov; b) V jami – vhod v brezno na sredini in s suhim zidom obzidana globoka vrtača levo (foto: M. Triglav Čekada, 2024).

2.3 Nekdanje sporne točke (*differentie*) na obravnavanem območju

Bertoša (1986) in Darovec (1990) za 16. stoletje omenjata kot prvo sporno lokacijo na koprskem območju vas Gabrovico in njene obmejne pašnike. Zelo problematični sta bili tudi mejni cesti Brstenik, ki je vodila iz Kastelca v Črnotiče (na sliki 7 označena z B), in nanjo pravokotna cesta, imenovana Tivnik, ki je vodila čez Tivnik v Črnik Kal¹². Obe cesti sta bili hkrati mejni črti in najpomembnejši transportni žili za prehod blaga iz Istre v notranjost, zato sta ob njihju obe strani postavljali zasede ter kradli tovor nosačev

⁹ Jama pred vrtačo V jami v Katastru jam ni opisana.

¹⁰ Na ledini Per Konfini ob cesti Lokev–Bazovica stoji zelo visok mejnik, oštevilčen s številko XXIII Švarceneškega gospostva s Trstom, podrobneje opisan v Triglav Čekada et al. (2022a). Ime te ledine je ohranjeno le na arhivskih zemljiškokatastrskih načrtih, ne pa na TTN5.

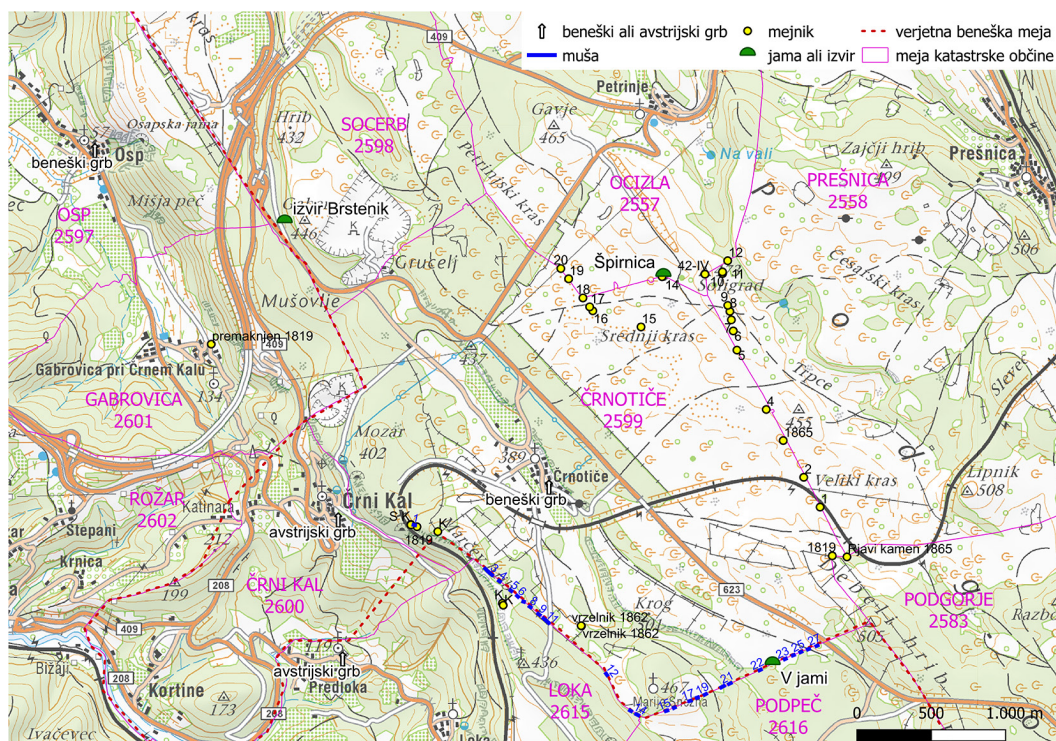
¹¹ Termin »na konfinu« na območju Podgorskega krasa velikokrat pomeni predvsem mejo in ne posameznega mejnika (Darovec, 2005). Tako je star rek o meji »Nismo Čiči ne Brčini, smo jušto na konfini« (Višjan, 1957; Kerševan, 2016; Rožanc Darovec, 2005) dal naslov tudi dnevniku Planinskega društva Slavnik (Dobrila in Bratož, 2023).

¹² Izris dveh glavnih trgovskih cest iz Kopra na Kranjsko čez Črni Kal ter čez Rakitovec je v Darovec (2005).

ali mulovodcev. Prav tako sta obe strani redno uničevali mejnike, ki so stali ob obeh cestah. Podobno kot je bil tod izvir Brstenik namenjen napajanju živine z obeh strani mejne črte, torej nerazdeljena parcela ter zato stalen povod za prepire, so imeli tudi v Podpeči lokev, ki je stala na sami meji ter je bila namenjena obema stranema in prav tako izvor stalnih sporov.

Dobrih dvesto let kasneje, v sredini 18. stoletja, se huda kri na vseh teh spornih točkah ni polegla. Tako naj bi imeli še vedno probleme na meji nad Gabrovico okoli ceste Brstenik. Tudi Podgorci so se še vedno prepirali s Podpečani, si izmenično kradli živino, uničevali posevke in mejnike, občasno pa je tod prišlo tudi do dokumentiranih ubojev. Dodatno so se razvneli še spori med vasema Rožar in Črni Kal (Bertoša, 1986).

3 REZULTATI TERENSKEGA PREGLEDA



Slika 11: Karta na terenu preverjenih lokacij (vir podlage: DTK50, GURS).

3.1 Muše

Na terenu smo izmerili lokacije 27 podolgovatih kupov kamenja, ki so jih domačini v preteklosti pokazali soavtorju Bratožu – Ježku, in trdili, da bi lahko bili ostanki beneških muš (preglednica 1, slika 11). Koordinate moramo obravnavati kot približek, izmerjen na en meter natančno, saj je v naravi samo točko začetka ali konca muše zelo težko prepoznati, še posebej tam, kjer se muša začne v ostankih suhega zidu.

V naravi muše prepoznamo kot širše podolgovate kupe kamenja, dolge od 20 do nekaj manj kot 10 metrov, danes so široke od dva do tri metre in v sredinskem delu se kup kamenja lahko dvigne do enega metra ali več. Vse niso enako izrazite, saj so že dolgo podvržene razpadanju (slika 12). Na terenu najslabše

razpoznamo muše št. 1, 26 in 27, saj so danes videti le kot kamenje neobičajno enakih velikosti, ki je na nepričakovanih mestih raztrošeno v podolgovato črto (slika 12f). Veliko muš najdemo v ostankih nekdanjih suhih zidov, ki lahko tod temeljijo na mejnih suhih zidovih še iz časa Beneške republike (Bradara, 2017). Skoraj vse so na še danes veljavni meji katastrskih občin Črnotiče z Loko (s šifro 2615) in Podpečjo (s šifro 2616). Izjema je le prva muša na zahodnem pobočju Marčevega hriba na nekdanji srenjski parcelni meji, ki izvira še vsaj iz časa franciscejske zemljiškokatastrske izmere. Vse razen prve vsekakor sledijo tudi nekdanji beneški meji. Ker v prejšnjem poglavju nismo mogli z gotovostjo potrditi, da je lokacija nekdanjega beneškega ledinskega imena Iglica na vrhu Marčevega hriba ali vrhu Škrbina, ostane odprta tudi možnost, da se bo v prihodnosti pokazalo, da tudi prva muša stoji na nekdanji beneški meji.



Slika 12: Tipični primeri muš na mejah katastrske občine Črnotiče: a) št. 6, b) 15, c) 17, d) 19, e) 23 in f) 26 (foto: M. Triglav Čekada, 2024).

Na sliki 13 sta še dva posebna primera muš: muša št. 12 Pod lisično, v kateri najdemo ostanek pravokotnega zidca, ter muša št. 22, ki je 90 metrov pred vrtačo V jami ter se začne s polkrožno obliko. Muša Pod lisično se sicer nahaja v bližini nekdanje lokacije beneškega zidanega stebra, imenovanega *Proscoria*. Polkrožna oblika pri muši št. 22 pa je bolj podobna grudobranu iz vojnih obdobj. Zavedati se moramo, da so med drugo svetovno vojno na Kraškem robu Nemci kopali obrambne jarke, podzemne bunkerje in druge obrambne objekte (Beltram, 1990).



Slika 13: Posebna primera muš: a) Pod lisičino – kvadratni zidec znotraj muše št. 12; b) pred vrtačo V jami – polkrožni začetek muše št. 22 (foto: M. Triglav Čekada, 2024).

Preglednica 1: Osnovni podatki o mušah, izmerjenih na terenu. Imena ledin so privzeta iz TTN5.

Zaporedna številka muše	Ledina po TTN5	Dolžina (m)	Koordinate začetek (D96)		Koordinate konec (D96)	
			E (m)	N(m)	E (m)	N(m)
1	zahodno pobočje Marčevega hriba	10	413033	46097	413042	46094
2	Hrib	29	413515	45802	413536	45782
3	Hrib	34	413536	45782	413561	45760
4	Hrib	7	413608	45720	413614	45716
5	Šamovce	6	413686	45655	413691	45651
6	Šamovce	9	413730	45619	413737	45613
7	Šamovce	5	413775	45578	413772	45580
8	Šamovce	7	413815	45546	413821	45542
9	Šamovce	11	413872	45497	413881	45491
10	Šamovce	15	413907	45467	413919	45457
11	Šamovce	12	413933	45445	413943	45437
12	Pod lisično	11	414329	45094	414335	45086
13	med Gradiščem (Sv. Marija Snežna) in Steno	9	414490	44847	414497	44843
14	med Gradiščem (Sv. Marija Snežna) in Steno	14	414532	44821	414545	44815
15	med Gradiščem in Plečami	10	414731	44843	414740	44847

Zaporedna številka muše	Ledina po TTN5	Dolžina (m)	Koordinate začetek (D96)		Koordinate konec (D96)	
			E (m)	N(m)	E (m)	N(m)
16	med Gradiščem in Plečami	6	414785	44864	414790	44867
17	med Zagradiščem in Plečami	10	414889	44910	414898	44913
18	med Zagradiščem in Plečami	7	414939	44932	414946	44935
19	med Zagradiščem in Plečami	10	414992	44953	415001	44957
20	med Zagradiščem in Na konfinu	20	415104	45002	415122	45012
21	med Zagradiščem in Na konfinu	14	415155	45025	415168	45032
22	v bližini V jami	9	415361	45118	415370	45122
23	med Parti in Štefancami	8	415531	45193	415538	45196
24	med Parti in Štefancami	7	415585	45218	415592	45219
25	med Parti in Štefancami	6	415637	45239	415643	45242
26	Krmčevka	9	415687	45258	415694	45261
27	Krmčevka	9	415744	45281	415752	45284

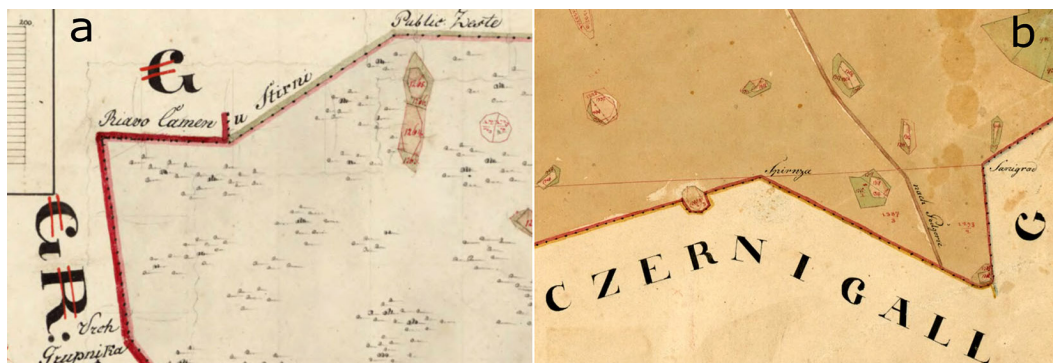
3.2 Potencialni beneški mejnik iz Krapnika ter drugi mejniki ob severovzhodni meji katastrske občine Črnotiče

V bližini severovzhodne meje katastrske občine Črnotiče najdemo še 22 mejnikov srenj oziroma agrarnih skupnosti, od katerih jih 13 danes stoji na meji katastrske občine ter 9 samo na mejah parcel.



Slika 14: Potencialni beneški mejnik v Krapniku, lokacija je na franciscejskih načrtih imenovana Rjavo Čamen u Štirni: a) v kvadratu letnica 1865, nad njo črte; b) okrogla oblika z nakazanimi prečnimi črtami (foto: M. Triglav Čekada, 2023).

Prva dva najdemo pod Debelim hribom na ledini, imenovani Krapnik. Prvi z letnico 1865 označuje tromejo med katastrskimi občinami Črnotiče, Podgorje (s šifro 2583) in Prešnica (s šifro 2558) in je v zaraščeni dolinici, ki je na starih zemljiškokatastrskih načrtih poimenovana *Stirnezza* ali *Rjavo Čamen u Štirni* (slika 15a). Ime enostavno razložimo s prisotnostjo naravne vode, ki je omogočala, da so tu некоč imeli ovčje staje, danes pa tu najdemo le blatno lužo, v kateri se kopljejo divje svinje. Mejniki predstavljata naravna skala temnejše barve, torej iz rjavega kamna, visoka 102 cm in s presekom pri tleh 70×55 cm. Na strani, obrnjeni k Debelemu hribu, najdemo brez šablone vklesan kvadrat 28×13 cm z letnico 1865. Ob strani so vklesane še pahljačaste črte (slika 15a), ki zelo spominjajo na ostanke kril beneškega leva, kot sta vklesana v naravno skalo v bližini naselja Golobi nad Livkom (Kozorog in Triglav Čekada, 2025) ter naravno skalo, imenovano Baba, pri naselju Draguzeti v hrvaški Istri (Bertoša et al., 2010; Bradara, 2017). Sum še okrepi razpadla krožna oblika z rahlo nakazanimi vzdolžnimi prečkami na zadnji strani kamna, ki gleda stran od Debelega hriba in bi lahko nekdaj predstavljala grb avstrijskega cesarstva (slika 14b). Bi lahko ta mejnik enkrat v času Beneške republike stal na vrhu položnega Debelega hriba ali pa je nekdaj beneška meja potekala 500 metrov bolj proti severu? Vendar je mejnik moral v tej dolinici stati že v času franciscejske izmere, kar lahko sklepamo po ohranjenem imenu z načrtov iz tega obdobja (slika 15a), letnico urejanja srenjskih mej pa so doklesali kasneje. Da ga verjetno niso premikali, lahko sklepamo tudi po tem, na kateri strani mejnika je verjetni beneški (jug) in verjetni avstrijski grb (sever), saj sta oba pravilno usmerjena.



Slika 15: Stari načrti zemljiškokatastrske izmere: a) Krapnik iz 1819 (eZKN: 2583_2880_0026); b) jama Špirnca iz 1819 (ASTs¹³).

Drug mejnik iz Krapnika je tipičen predstavnik mejnikov katastrskih občin ali srenj iz časa franciscejske zemljiškokatastrske izmere (slika 16a). Stoji v suhem zidu na ostrem lomu meje katastrske občine Črnotiče in Podgorje ter je visok 92 cm in ima presek 25×42 cm (na sliki 11 je označen s številko 1819). Podoben je mejniku izpod Marčevega hriba ter mejnikom okoli Socerba in iz doline Glinščice (Triglav Čekada in Bratož-Ježek, 2024), saj je klesan iz apnenca, polkrožno zaključen ter ima s šablono vklesane letnice in imena vasi. Na vsaki strani ima letnico 1819 ter napisa GEMAINDE PODGORIE/ GEMEINDE CERNOTICI.

Če iz dolinice pri Rjavem kamnu v Krapniku sledimo meji katastrskih občin Črnotiče in Prešnica proti severozahodu, po dobrih 370 metrih, na ledini Za goricami, tik preden prečimo železniško progo, srečamo prvi mejnik iz peščenjaka brez napisov (slika 11, mejnik št. 1). Čez progo oziroma 230 metrov od prvega mejnika iz peščenjaka naletimo na drugega, prav tako izdelanega iz peščenjaka in brez napisov, na vrhu ima izvrtano le

¹³ Vir ASTs: <https://a4view.archiviodistatotrieste.it/patrimonio/8b677944-7c7d-4329-a87d-3e929c366dd6/314-a-10-mappa-catastale-del-comune-di-ocisla-foglio-x-sezione-x-1819-1872>.

manjšo luknjico. Po 280 metrih pridemo do manjše vrtače, tik preden po vzhodni strani obidemo opuščeno travnato letališko stezo letališča Črnotiči, kjer ob njenem jugovzhodnem robu najdemo naravno skalo iz apnenca z vklesano letnico 1865 na strani in na vrhu z vklesanim križem in izvrtano luknjico na sredini križa (slika 16b). Vzporedno s koncem letališke steze ob naslednji manjši vrtači najdemo naslednji mejnik iz peščenjaka (št. 4), ki ima prav tako izvrtano manjšo luknjico na vrhu. Po slabih 450 metrih pridemo v manjši gozdiček, kjer najdemo razpadel mejnik iz peščenjaka brez napisov (št. 5). Tu se moramo odcepiti od meje katastrskih občin na mejo parcel oziroma srenj, ki gre nekoliko bolj proti severu. Če sledimo tej parcelni meji do meje katastrskih občin Prešnica in Ocizla (s šifro 2557), torej do ledine *Pri štali pod Soligradom*, to je po pobočju pod vrhom položnega hriba Soligrad¹⁴ in nad gozdnato ledino Trpce, bomo našli še šest mejnikov iz peščenjaka brez napisov ter na koncu na sami meji katastrskih občin enega apnenčastega, vzidanega v suhi zid in z vklesanim križem na južni strani (slika 11, mejniki št. 6–11). Ta parcelna meja je označena že na načrtu franciscejske izmere, zato lahko upravičeno sklepamo, da gre za staro srenjsko mejo. To nam potrdi vpogled v zemljiško knjigo. Danes meja katastrskih občin poteka tudi po meji med srenjama oziroma agrarnima skupnostma Prešnica ter Črni Kal, ki je v katastrski občini Črnotiče. O tem, kako naj bi tukaj, to je na širšem področju ledine Trpci, črnokalska srenja prišla do svoje zemlje, se je ohranilo zanimivo ljudsko izročilo¹⁵ (Vilfan, 1972; Kerševan, 2016).



Slika 16: Različne vrste mejnikov na severovzhodni meji katastrske občine Črnotiči: a) klesan mejnik z napisom v Krapniku iz leta 1819; b) apnenčast mejnik srenje z letnico 1865 pod letališčem Črnotiči; c) nad ledino Trpce: grobo klesan mejnik srenje brez napisov iz peščenjaka (št. 7 na sliki 12) in d) Soligrad: levo italijanski betonski trigonometrični steber in desno izruvan mejnik srenje iz peščenjaka (foto: M. Triglav Čekada, 2023).

¹⁴ Ta je najverjetneje dobil ime po prostoru, na katerem so nekoč ovcam ali kozam dajali sol (Rožanc Darovec, 2005).

¹⁵ Po izročilu iz Črnotič in sosednjih vasi naj bi bila v Trpcah nekoč grofija. Nazadnje je tam ostala le še ena gospa. Ta je prosila Črnotce, naj ji za odhod dajo kobilo, a ji je niso hoteli dati. Črnokalci pa so ji dali slepo kobilo in so zato zanj od grofice dobili Trpce (Vilfan, 1972). Po novejši različici (Kerševan, 2016) je bila ta gospa princeska, ki je želela priti nazaj domov nekam v Italijo, Črnokalci so ji dali kobilo, ki je bila slepa na eno oko, in v zameno dobili Trpce.

Glede na to, da so vsi mejniki iz peščenjaka od Rjavega kamna v Krapniku do ledine Pri štali pod Soligradom enakih oblik (slika 16c), lahko upravičeno sklepamo, da so jih postavili ob urejanju srenjske meje. Po enem izrivanem mejniku (št. 6 na sliki 11), ki je dolg 95 centimetrov, ter ostalih, ki še stojijo in so visoki od 50 do 75 centimetrov, lahko sklepamo, da je pri še stoječih mejnikih od 20 do 30 centimetrov mejnika v zemlji. Povprečni presek takega mejnika je med 23×25 cm in 37×34 cm. Vsi imajo rahlo zaobljen vrh.

Na vrhu položnega hriba Soligrad (473 m), kjer je ohranjen italijanski betonski trigonometrični steber¹⁶ višine 56 cm ter kvadratnega preseka 40×38 cm trigonometrične točke št. 42-IV-18, najdemo v njegovi neposredni bližini še izrivan mejnik iz peščenjaka dolžine 95 cm in preseka 50×24 cm (slika 16d). Okoli njega najdemo še ostanke obrambnih jarkov iz druge svetovne vojne, saj je tod tedaj tekel drugi krak obrambne linije iz Črnotič čez Podgorski kras proti Vodicam (Beltram, 1990).

Naslednji mejnik iz peščenjaka je na jugozahodni strani večjega vhodnega brezna v jamo Špirnica¹⁷ (slika 17a). Samo vhodno brezno je označevalo lom meje katastrskih občin Ocizla in Črnotiče že v času franciscejske izmere v letu 1819, saj njegovo ime najdemo izpisano na načrtu št. 10 katastrske občine Ocizla (slika 15b), kasneje je izpisano še na načrtih iz italijanskega ter poveljnega obdobja (vir: eZKN¹⁸).



Slika 17: Druge oznake mej: a) mejnik iz peščenjaka pred mejno jamo Špirnica; b) ledina Pri kaliču grobo klesan mejnik srenje brez napisov iz apnenca (št. 17 na sliki 11) (foto: M. Triglav Čekada, 2023).

Naslednjo serijo vsaj petih apnenčastih in enega izrivanega mejnika iz peščenjaka najdemo na ledini Pri kaliču na stari parcelni meji, ki je izrisana že na načrtu franciscejske izmere iz leta 1819 (mejniki št. 15 do 20 na sliki 11). Posamezni parcelni mejniki imajo na eni strani gladko izklesano pravokotno ploskev, na kateri pa ob terenskem pregledu nismo razpoznali napisov (slika 17b). Parcelna meja se začne z mejnikom št. 5 in se pridruži vogalu meje katastrskih občin Ocizla in Črnotiče z mejnikom št. 18. Med izmerjenimi mejniki najdemo ponekod še manjše kupe kamenja ali posamezne pokonci postavljene naravne apnenčaste kamne, visoke do 30 centimetrov, ki jih Renčelj (2002) imenuje škrle, Belingarjeva (2015) pa skrle, in ki prav tako označujejo to parcelno mejo.

Mejnik št. 19 povezuje še parcelno mejo, ki teče skoraj točno v ravni liniji v smeri vzhod–zahod ter gre skozi jamo Špirnico in se konča na Soligradu.

¹⁶ Več o italijanskih trigonometričnih stebrh iz medvojne obdobja je v Triglav Čekada et al. (2022b).

¹⁷ Brezno Špirnica ima v Katastru jam katastrsko številko 1399.

¹⁸ eZKN: načrt št. 2557_2880_0010.djvu iz italijanskega obdobja in 2557_2880_0021.djvu iz poveljnega obdobja.

3.3 Drugi mejniki v bližini Kraškega roba

V bližini prve muše pred Marčevim hribom najdemo še star klesan srenjski mejnik iz apnenca višine 53 cm, preseka 38×12 cm z letnico 1819 in napisoma GEMEINDE CERNOTICH / DORF CERNICAL (slika 18a). Stoji pod potjo tik nad prepadnim robom Kraškega roba.

Če nadaljujemo po planinski poti od prve muše navzdol proti železniškemu useku, tik preden zavijemo na strme okljuke, najdemo še dva manjša betonska mejnika preseka 15×15 cm, eden ima na vrhu črko S in drugi K (slika 18b). Če sledimo planinski poti v drugo smer, to je navzgor proti vrhu Marčevega hriba, najdemo kmalu po tem, ko pridemo na odprto, še en betonski mejnik s črko K na vrhu. Tik pred ledino Šamovce sta še dva, prav tako z napisom K na vrhu (slika 18d). Zadnji trije so v ostankih nekdanje ožje kamnite ograje, ki se prične s starim klesanim mejnikom iz leta 1819 (glej TTN5). Prvi trije so na še vedno veljavnih parcelnih mejah. Zadnja dva v bližini ledine Šamovce te funkcije danes nimata več. Ta tip mejnikov smo slučajno našli med terenskim pregledom, verjetno se jih je v naravi ohranilo še več.

V bližini ledine Ravna pod Črnotičami, na senožeti Srkavce, sta z geodetskega vidika zanimiva še vrzelnika suhega zidu, visoka 130 in 150 centimetrov (slika 18c). To sta pokonci postavljena naravna kamna, na njihju sta vklesani letnici 1862 in še danes predstavljata mejnika parcel. Premrl (2024a) je ugotovil, da je suhi zid postavil ter letnici v vrzelnika vklesal kamnosek samouk Luka Škorja iz Črnotič. Vrzelnika sta dobih 40 metrov južneje od glavne poti iz Črnotič na Gradišče oziroma cerkev sv. Marije Snežne.



Slika 18: Različne vrste mejnikov na jugozahodni strani katastrske občine Črnotiče: a) apnenčast mejnik srenje iz leta 1819 v bližini muše št. 1; b) manjši betonski mejnik s črko S v bližini muše št. 1; c) vrzelnika z vklesanima letnicama 1862 na senožeti Srkavce; d) manjši betonski mejnik s črko K na vrhu Marčevega hriba (foto: M. Triglav Čekada, 2024).

4 RAZPRAVA

V bližini današnje meje katastrske občine Črnotiči najdemo ohranjene zanimive stare mejnike – od klesanih mejnikov katastrskih občin ali srenj iz časa franciscejske zemljiškokatastrske izmere, ki imajo s šablono vklesane napise, do klesanih mejnikov iz apnenca ali peščenjaka brez napisov. Slednji so bili najverjetneje postavljeni leta 1865, saj med njimi najdemo še dva mejnika s to letnico. Prvi je v dolinici na ledini Krapnik, ki je na načrtu iz franciscejske izmere imenovana Rjavi kamen v štirni in danes označuje tromejo katastrskih občin Črnotiče, Podgorje in Prešnica ter bi glede na slabo ohranjene vklesane črte lahko nekdaj predstavljal tudi pravi beneški mejnik. Nadalje najdemo na tej meji tudi brezni (V jami in Špirnica), ki pomenita poseben tip naravnih mejnikov, torej so se mejne jame ohranile tudi v Sloveniji, ne samo streljaj čez slovensko-italijansko mejo nad Boljuncem (Triglav Čekada in Bratož - Ježek, 2024).



Slika 19: Premaknjen mejnik v naselju Gabrovica iz časa franciscejske izmere (foto: M. Triglav Čekada, 2024).

Predstavili smo še eno vrsto mejnikov katastrskih občin, ki jih najdemo samo na nekdanji beneški meji. To so podolgovati kupi kamenja, ki jih domačini imenujejo muše (Medvešček, 1992; Vilfan, 1996, Kocjančič in Bratož - Ježek, 1997; Darovec in Mihelčič, 2024). Ne smemo jih zamenjati z okroglimi kupi kamenja, ki jih najdemo tudi znotraj parcel in jih domačini imenujejo grublje (Belingar, 2015; Ciglič, 2005; Vilfan, 1972), saj so bile slednje le odlagališča vsepovsod prisotnega kamenja in večina nima funkcije mejnikov. Po Medveščku (1992) naj bi muše na beneško mejo postavljali kar domačini sami v želji, da jim ne bi kdo spremenil poteka meje. Glede na večstoletne spore, ki so se na nekdanji beneški meji na Kraškem robu dogajali zaradi nerazdeljenih parcel oziroma slabo definiranih mej (Bertoša, 1983; 1985; 1986; Darovec, 1990; Bradara, 2017) in smo jih na kratko opisali tudi v tem v članku, bi bilo tako samoiniciativno obnašanje domačinov vsekakor razumljivo. To bi pomenilo tudi, da je lokalno vzdrževanje muš potekalo tudi še po ukinitvi Beneške republike in bi pojasnilo, zakaj so se ohranile vse

do danes. S terensko izmero 27 muš smo ugotovili, da jih je 26 na meji katastrske občine Črnotiče, ena, ki leži na zahodnem pobočju Marčevega hriba, pa je na nekdanji srenjski meji. Zato jih geodeti lahko pri svojih izmerah uporabimo kot poseben tip dolžinskega mejnika, torej mejnika s podobno funkcijo, kot jo ima suhi zid. Ker so se muše glede na literaturo (Darovec in Mihelčič, 2024) ohranile tudi drugod po celotni nekdanji beneški meji, si vsekakor zaslužijo, da jih pri svojem delu upoštevamo.

Muše imajo v primerjavi s klasičnimi starimi klesanimi mejniki še eno prednost: zaradi njihove velikosti jih ne bo nihče premikal in odpeljal na svoje dvorišče ali v lokalni muzej. To se vse prevečkrat rado zgodi z mejniki, opremljenimi z napisi, ki so bili postavljeni v času franciscejske izmere. Tako naj bi nekoč tak prestavljen mejnik z napisom CRNOTICI / PETRINJE stal pred upravno stavbo kamnoloma Grucelj, drugega z napisom COMUNE DI GABROVIZA / GEMEINDE CERNICAL pa danes najdemo v Gabrovici (slika 19). Glede na ujemajoče se napise in njegovo višino gre v tem primeru najverjetneje za mejnik, ki so ga domačini »reševali« pred požarom leta 2013 (Dolenc, 2013). Tako lahko zatrdimo, da je popis starih mejnih znamenj, ki smo ga izdelali v tem članku, pomemben ne samo za geodezijo, ampak tudi iz kulturnozgodovinskega vidika, da bodo naši zanamci nekoč vedeli, kje so taki mejniki stali v preteklosti.

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