

CISTERCIAN LANDSCAPE OF STIČNA ABBNEY



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Sara Primec

Tadej Trnovšek

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Cultural Landscape Inventory of Stična Abbey within the Cisterscapes project – Cistercian landscapes connecting Europe

Contracting authority: Landkreis Bamberg
Ludwigstraße 23
96052 Bamberg

Contractor: Muzej krščanstva na Slovenskem
Stična 17
1295 Ivančna Gorica

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1 Introduction

In 2019, the Museum of Christianity in Slovenia joined the international project Cisterscapes – Cistercian Landscape Connecting Europe. The project explores the cultural landscape that formed over the centuries under the influence of Cistercian monasteries.

The Stična Monastery is the oldest still functioning monastery in Slovenia. It was founded in 1136. Over the centuries, the Cistercian monks made a strong impression on the surrounding landscape, and their influence is still visible today in the wide area around the monastery.

The present study is the result of six-months of research conducted by the team of the Museum of Christianity in Slovenia. The basis for exploring the cultural landscape of the Stična Monastery was the Stična land registers from the 16th century and the Josephine military cadastre from 1783–1784. With the support of the main sources, references and information provided by local history researchers, a catalogue of possible elements of the cultural landscape was created which is organised by places.

The next phase was followed by field research, documenting and photographing the elements in their current state and, in particular, the collection of new data from local sources.

This resulted in more than 100 identified elements of the cultural landscape created throughout history under the influence of the monks of Stična. The elements will be included in a common database of all European partners of the Cisterscapes project, representing the cultural landscape of 18 Cistercian monasteries in six European countries.

The study starts with a presentation of the geographical image of the area where the estate of the Stična Monastery was located over the centuries. It is followed by an overview of the history of the monastery itself, as it is directly related to the history and formation of the cultural landscape. The main part presents the results of the research, divided into areas where the influence of the Cistercians on the cultural landscape was most pronounced.

The last part is a catalogue of 35 representative elements of the cultural landscape of the Stična Monastery with more detailed descriptions.

The research within the Cisterscapes project provided us with a thorough insight into the activities and influence of the Stična Monastery from its founding to its dissolution in 1784. In addition, it represents a wonderful inventory of cultural heritage in the wider Lower Carniola region.

2 Natural area

2.1 Topography

The Stična Monastery and most of its estates are located in the area of today's Dolenjska, which is historically known as Lower Carniola.

Dolenjska is a province in the southeast of Slovenia. Geographically, it stretches from the Ljubljana Basin to the Gorjanci mountains, which represents the border with Croatia. In the east it is bordered by the Sava, the largest Slovenian river, and in the west, the border runs from the Bloke Plateau to the Kolpa River.



Photo 1: Stična Abbey with surroundings (photo: Branko Petauer)

The area belongs to the macro-region of the Dinaric karst, which is characterised by numerous karst phenomena. The surface is mostly hilly, with many karst fields and plains lying along watercourses between the hills.

The largest watercourse in Dolenjska is the Krka River, which originates in Suha krajina, flows further to the southeast, then turns northeast, flowing through Novo mesto and the Krško Valley into the Sava River at Brežice.

Dolenjska is characterised by rounded hills and gentle ridges covered with thick layers of red and brown soil. The soil offers favourable conditions for the development of agriculture, so the

forests on the lower slopes and in the valleys were cut down to create fields and meadows. As a result, the valley of Dolenjska is cultivated and densely populated.

The vine grows well on the sunny slopes of the hills.¹

2.2 Geomorfology and soils

The majority of Dolenjska is covered with carbonate rocks – Triassic dolomites and limestones. As the surface is formed from water-soluble rocks, most of the rainwater flows into the subsoil. On the surface of the limestone karst, we can find many traces of limestone dissolution and the formation of interesting surface karst formations.

Similar processes occur underground, where karst water transforms cracks into water tunnels by dissolving limestone, creating new paths, while former water tunnels become dry karst caves and abysses.

Where the perforated karst surface caves in, collapse dolines occur. New caves are created, where the water again seeks its way underground. Depressions, dolines and abysses are most often seen in karst fields surrounded by karstic plateaus.

The higher parts of Dolenjska in the north are formed from Triassic dolomite. Impermeable rocks prevail at the junction of the Alpine and Dinaric areas. There are many springs, which later form larger and smaller streams. They run across the dolomite in deep and narrow valleys towards the valley basin.

Valley basins run in the typical Dinaric north-southeast direction. The base here consists of Cretaceous limestones. Large areas in the valley basins are covered with brownish-red clay,



Photo 2: Suha krajina (photo: MKS)

which begins in the area of the Grosuplje Basin and stretches east all the way to the Novo mesto Basin. The clay formed as a remnant of limestone dissolution and was carried to the plain by running water. At the edges, bedrock is often seen on the surface.

On both sides of the upper Krka, there is Suha krajina, where the

¹ KRIŽ 2009, 17–20.

terrain is comprised of permeable limestones. In Suha krajina, the surface running water has moved to the karst interior, making a more uniform relief. The only major watercourse is the Krka River, with many karst springs flowing into it.

The groundwater has created numerous water caves beneath the karst surface. Some of them are located directly along the river Krka.

The area by the Radulja Stream gorge features the well-known cave of Spodnja Klevevška jama. The cave has several springs of thermal water with a temperature of 25°C, which makes it the only natural cave spa in Slovenia. Thermal springs, which emerge on the surface at the earth faults, are another special feature of Dolenjska.



Photo 3: Globodol karst field (photo: MKS)

One of the most beautiful examples of the karst field is Globodolsko polje. The smallest karst field in Slovenia has no constant surface currents and is covered with a thick layer of karst clay. Sometimes, solitary rocks stand out in the field, and there are several caves at the edges.²

² GABROVEC 1994, 48–50.

2.3 Hydrology

Although most of the area is karstic, Dolenjska is very rich in water resources. Many surface waters remain on the surface due to their low position and rock base.

The main watercourse of Dolenjska is the Krka River, which originates in Suha krajina and winds 94 km until it flows into the Sava River. In the early course, it creates a picturesque and,



Photo 4: The Krka River (photo: MKS)

in some places, canyon-like valley, where many mills and sawmills operated in the past. In the lower part, its flow slows down and the landscape becomes flatter, which often results in flooding.

The Krka is the only Slovenian river that yields tufa, a variety of

limestone. As tufa can be easily reshaped, it used to be a popular building material in the past. A set of tufa thresholds is located mainly in the upper stream, while in the middle stream, it is found in the form of extensive underwater thresholds.

The Višnjica and Temenica are the main tributaries of the Krka River in its upper course.³

In the Pliocene, the Temenica had a larger river basin and a different flow than today. Its headwaters were found in the plateaus above Višnja Gora, and after that, it ran past Ivančna Gorica towards Mirna. The Pliocene Temenica formed a wide limestone valley, which can still be noticed today in the form of the mercury remains and as the accumulation clay-gravel terraces.

Later, the Temenica was divided into several streams, which flow independently to the south and southeast towards the Krka. With its water power, the Krka attracted some parts of the old Temenica river basin. Today, the Višnjica and Stiški potok merge at Ivančna Gorica, flowing further south through Muljava into the Krka.

³ KRIŽ 2009, 21–22.

The current Temenica also changes direction and flows into the Krka River via Trebnje and Mirna Peč. On its way, it encounters permeable ground twice and sinks only to resurface again.

The once uniform Temenica valley was divided into several provincial units by the newly created streams: Stiški kot, Šentviška kotlina, the valley of the middle part of Temenica around Trebnje, and the hilly world in the basin of the Cedilnica, which flows today into the Mirna River.

The valleys are covered with impermeable clay, so watercourses often flood after heavy rains. When it rains, new smaller streams are formed, which cut their riverbeds through the clay to the nearest sinkhole. The resulting dry valleys were used by people for forest and field paths.⁴

2.4 Climate and vegetation

The climate of Dolenjska is moderately continental. The average temperatures of the coldest month are below 0°C, while summers are quite hot. Temperatures are characterised by a daily and seasonal course. The highest daily temperatures are usually recorded around 2 pm. The largest differences between the minimum and maximum temperatures and seasonal temperature fluctuations occur in eastern Slovenia. The average annual temperature in Dolenjska is 12°C.

The annual rainfall rate stands at about 1,400 mm. The amount of precipitation increases in autumn and decreases in spring. Most of the rainwater is brought by summer showers and storms, while the winter months are the driest. In winter, the total snowfall depth is between 60 and 100 cm.

The varied terrain and underlying rock formations offer excellent conditions for the development and growth of large forest areas.

Mixed forests grow mainly in the higher parts of the Dolenjska hills and mountains. Most of the lowland world is cultivated. The most common tree species are beech, spruce and oak. Common oak mostly thrives on the edge of the karst fields.⁵



Photo 5: Marsh Tulip (photo: Wikipedia)

⁴ GABROVEC 1994, 48–50.

⁵ KRIŽ 2009, 23.

Many protected wetland plant species grow in the moist and swampy meadows of the valley floodplains. One of the most beautiful among them is the marsh tulip.

The swampy world of the karst fields is also rich in rare animal species. It is home to many butterflies, dragonflies and frogs. Birds that are most commonly seen in the area include the heron and stork, while the most beautiful among them is the kingfisher.



Photo 6: Human fish or proteus (photo: Wikipedia)

The fauna is most diverse in the karst underground. The underground streams and springs in the Krka upper part are home to the 'human fish', i.e. olm or proteus, which is an aquatic salamander and an endemic species of the karst underground.

The Krka River is noted for the richness of its fish population. As many as 38 species of fish inhabit the river, while otters and beavers have

also been spotted. Crayfish can be found in small naturally preserved streams, while the floodplain meadows along the Temenica River are home to the European pond turtle.

Forests are a refuge for large carnivores such as bears, wolves and lynxes. Deer and stags can often be seen amidst the trees. The small forest animals in the area include the common hedgehog, squirrel, weasel, ferret and badger.⁶

⁶ KRIŽ 2009, 25–27.

3 History of the cultural landscape

3.1 Pre- and Protohistory, Middle Ages until the time the monastery was founded

The region of Dolenjska or Lower Carniola was, with its transitional position, always under the influence of various Steppe peoples to the East and of Alpine peoples. Over the millennia, Lower Carniola underwent great expansion both in the size of population as well as economic growth. The material remains bear witness to the fact that the local population imported not only artefacts but also ideas. Traces of human presence dating from the Old Stone Age are negligible, with scant and rare finds. The same is true of the New Stone Age and Copper Age, when people were living in permanent settlements which remained few in number. It is only in the Late Bronze Age, at the beginning of the 1st millennium BC, that the population grew, and this is reflected in the number of archaeological sites that have been discovered.⁷



Photo 7: Bronze armor, 7th century BC
(photo: estična)

Lower Carniola thrived especially in the Early Iron Age (8th–4th century BC), when the size of the population greatly increased, whilst the rich and easily accessible iron ore deposits allowed great economic growth and wealth for the population, which attained an absolute zenith in art and mortuary ritual. The situation was also similar in the Late Iron Age (4th–1st century BC) during the period of the Celtic occupation, but the importance of the region had already started to decline.

Stična (the Vir hillfort) was among the largest Iron Age centres of Lower Carniola. The prehistoric settlement, originally named Cvinger, was surrounded by walls of up to 6 metres high and a prodigious dyke. More than 2 km in length, the remains of the walls are still prominently in evidence almost everywhere. The Late Iron Age in Stična, more specifically the 3rd century BC, is generally marked by the Celtic occupation.⁸

⁷ KRIŽ 2009, 41–42.

⁸ KRIŽ 2009, 87–90.

The end of the 1st century BC saw the occupation of Lower Carniola by the Romans. They incorporated the region into the province of Illyricum and later into the province of Upper Pannonia. The region lived a classical, isolated rural life with modest urban centres. The important communications route, which connected the Capital of the Empire with the Eastern provinces, ran through central Lower Carniola, bringing innovations and connections to the rest of Europe. The 3rd century brought the first fundamental changes. The prosperity and peace secured by the Roman Empire with its effective, victorious army was shaken. Internal dissension was exacerbated by the incursions of various peoples who lived beyond the frontiers of the Empire and were tempted by the wealth of Italy. The period of invasions by Germans, Goths and Langobards ended with the arrival of the Slavs, who settled in the region, which had been deserted by the native population. The second half of the 1st millennium was therefore a period of complete cultural and economic stagnation, but at the same time it witnessed the rise of Christianity and a settlement pattern which has survived with small changes up to the present day.⁹

The movement of the Hunnic tribes from the Far East resulted in a great migration of peoples in the period from the 5th to the 8th century, including the Slavs, who occupied an extensive area from the Black Sea and the Baltics to the Alps. Today's territory of Slovenia was populated by Slavs over a period of many decades, but they were already present there from the 7th century onwards. The south-eastern Alpine region was largely deserted due to raids by various nomadic groups. There were only rare upland settlements of the native population still in existence in the 7th century. The native population gradually assimilated the Slavic newcomers, so that it was no longer possible to distinguish between them by the 8th century. Settlement was relatively sparse, and the size of the population was relatively small. The small population was yet further drastically reduced by the Hungarian raids in the 9th and 10th centuries.¹⁰

By the year 800, the Frankish kingdom grew into a mighty Christian state through many wars. In the south-east, the expansion of the Frankish kingdom began in the late 8th century. In 788, the Franks annexed Istria and Carantania and, by 803, their state had additionally expanded to Carniola and the territory up to the middle Danube and the middle Sava river basin. The territory of Lower Carniola was annexed to the Friuli region, which was supervised by a governor called a "krajíšnik", based in Čedad (Italian name: Cividale del Friuli). It was the

⁹ KRIŽ 2009, 42.

¹⁰ KRIŽ 2009, 193.

beginning of the Christianisation of the pagan population and feudalisation. During the Carolingian era, agricultural land began to be more intensively cultivated.

In the second half of the 10th century and in the 11th century, the Slovenian territory, with the exception of Prekmurje, was a part of the German Empire. The Freising Manuscripts, texts written in the old Slovenian language before the end of the 10th century, testify that Christianity was accepted by the majority of the Slavic population in the eastern Alpine area. During the high and late Middle Ages, the territory of the present-day Slovenia was a part of Christian Europe, as it emerged after the division of the Frankish Empire and the end of the Hungarian invasions. With the consolidation of the German medieval empire, a new social and economic order emerged – the feudal system. The formation of land lordships was also the beginning of planned colonisation of the countryside, especially flat forested areas. From the 10th to the 12th centuries, many new villages developed, some of them populated by immigrants from the neighbouring lands. In the Middle Ages, the nearest transit road on the Ljubljana–Zagreb route and further on towards Hungary ran past Stična.

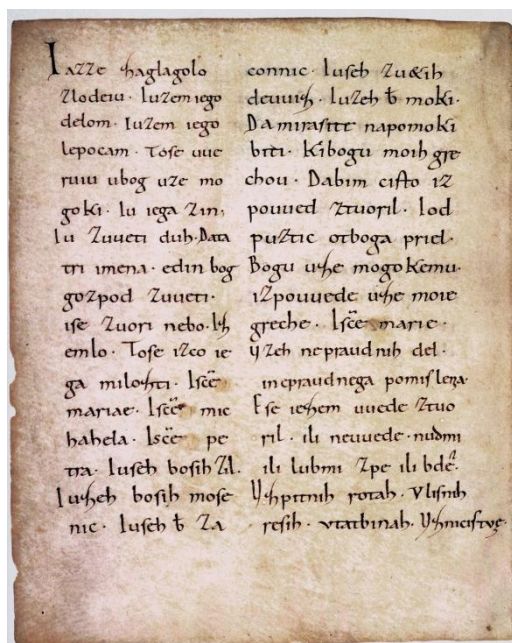


Photo 8: The Freising Manuscripts
(photo: Wikipedia)

3.2 Foundation of the monastery

Until the founding of the Stična Monastery (1136), there had not been a monastery in Carniola. In this respect, the Patriarchate of Aquileia, which exercised ecclesiastical authority over the entire Slovenian territory south of the Drava River, was far behind the Salzburg ecclesiastical province, which already had a number of Benedictine abbeys for males and females in Carinthia and Styria. The Patriarch of Aquileia, Pellegrinus I (Patriarch in 1131–1136), thus set himself the goal to consolidate spiritual power and establish a strong spiritual seat in Carniola, where he also had extensive secular authority. Shortly after assuming the office of Patriarch in Aquileia, he was gifted some land by the lords of Višnjegorski (brothers Henry, Dietrich and Mainham) to establish a monastery at a place called Sitik, which complied with the Cistercian rules for the location of a monastery.

Before the beginning of religious life in Stična, some previously assigned monks may have settled in nearby Šentvid as early as 1132, and from there arranged everything necessary for their settlement at the chosen location, where the monastery was ready to receive the entire

convent in 1135. There is no consensus in the literature as to where the abbot and the first monks came from. Most often it is recorded that the first Abbot Vincencij was a professor at the Morimond monastery and that he may have come to Stična through Ebrach and Rein, while the monks who came to Stična from Rein were probably also from Morimond.

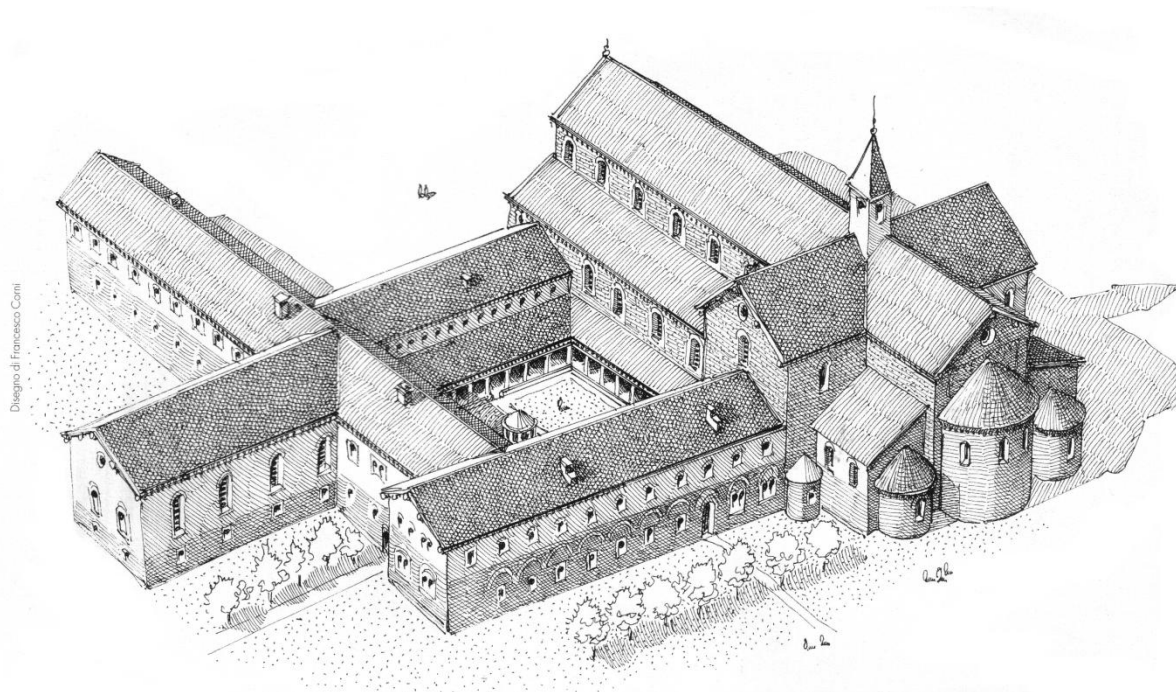


Photo 9: Stična in 12th century (photo: MKS)

Cementarius Michael may have also come to Stična as early as 1132. He probably supervised the construction works. According to the tradition of their order, the monks moved into the monastery on 8 July 1135. On 24 September 1136, Patriarch Pellegrinus I of Aquileia issued the founding document, which represented the final legal act of the monastery's foundation. The document attached the Stična Monastery to the parent abbey in Rein near Graz. On 8 July 1156, the Patriarch personally consecrated the monastery church, which is still one of the largest church buildings in Slovenia.¹¹

3.3 First flowering period

In the first centuries of its existence, the monastery enjoyed great freedoms and privileges, playing an important spiritual, cultural, economic, pastoral and educational role. The monastery mainly expanded its possessions with donations from important noble families. Many of them were buried in the monastery.

¹¹ MLINARIČ 1995, 33–80.

The confirmatory documents of the Aquileian patriarchs from the 12th and 13th centuries show that the monastery owned extensive property, especially in the area of Lower Carniola, on the other side of the Sava River and in Upper Styria. In March 1215, Pope Innocent III. issued a charter of privilege with which he confirmed all the rights and property of the Stična Monastery. The confirmatory document of the Patriarch of Aquileia Betold Andeški (1218–1251) from 1250 is one of the most important Stična documents as it records all the property that the monastery had received by that time. Among the most important benefactors of the monastery, we find the provincial lord and duke of Carinthia Bernard Spanheim and his son Ulrik III, the Istrian border counts Bertold and Henrik and the latter's wife Zofija Višnjegorska. Most deeds of gift were connected with the benefactor's wish that the monks would pray for them, their ancestors and descendants, and perform special rites on the prescribed days of the year. Some benefactors wanted to be buried by the monks in the monastery. The famous Virida Visconti, the wife of the Austrian Duke Leopold III, who lived for many years in Pristava near the monastery, was also buried in the Stična Monastery. Although the grants brought huge estates and annual income to the Stična Monastery, they were also a burden, as it was difficult to perform all the prescribed rites due to the small number of monks.¹²

At the end of the 13th century, the monastery began consolidating its estates. Remote estates that were more difficult to manage were exchanged for estates closer to the monastery. The oldest preserved land register for the Stična estate, dating from the year 1505, already provides a good insight into the estate structure of the abbey. Its estates were located in the Lower Carniola, parts of the Inner and Upper Carniola. The monastery also owned land in Bavaria and Styria, but this was not recorded in the preserved land registers.

The estate was divided into eight offices. The Pitana office represented the basic property of the monastery, i.e. that which was annexed to the monastery at the time of its establishment. The Pitana office was the only one not geographically centred and, according to the oldest grants, was scattered around the monastery, Trebnje, Litija, Vrhnika, Domžale and Ljubljana.

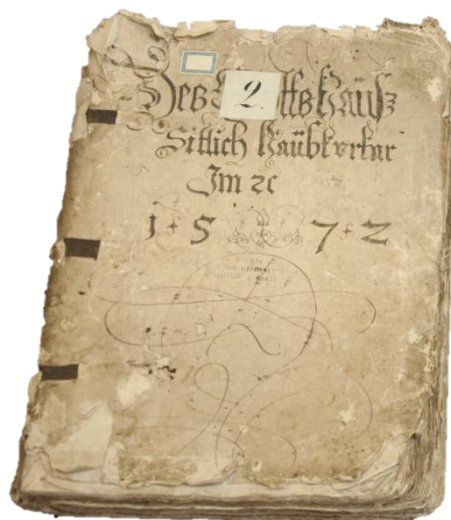


Photo 10: Stična land register from 1572
(photo: MKS)

¹² MLINARIČ 1998, 42–43.

The smallest Stična office in the vicinity of Postojna counted only seven villages located to the west of the monastery up to Postojna. The offices around Velike Lašče, Trebnje, Temenica, Muljava and the Hribovski office were geographically connected to individual areas of the Lower Carniola. The surroundings of the monastery itself were a part of the House Office. This included oxgangs along the Stiški potok Stream and in the vicinity of Šentvid near Stična.

The monastery estate was extensive, and the yield of the oxgangs represented the main revenue of the monastery. The monastery estate was meticulously managed. The supreme caretaker of the monastery estate was the chief, whose duties included overseeing the finances and managing all the monastery land in the abbot's name. At a lower level, the Stična estate was managed by caretakers who were responsible for the operations of each office. The offices were further divided into parishes comprising one or more villages. Parishes were led by mayors, usually chosen from the ranks of elder respected and trusted farmers.¹³

From the 13th century onwards, the Cistercian order also allowed their members to engage in spiritual pastoral care, which had been initially strictly forbidden by religious statutes and general chapters. With these permits, the Stična Monastery acquired several parishes in the following centuries, thus further consolidating the extensive church property in Lower Carniola and Styria. The monastery increased its reputation and income due to the establishment of new parishes. In these locations they were required to take care of the able priests and the parish buildings. By the end of the 14th century, the parish of Šempeter in the Savinja Valley, the parish of Šentvid pri Stični and the parish of Sv. Jurij in Dobrnič were governed by the Stična Monastery.¹⁴

3.4 Beginning of the end

From the end of the 14th century, the Stična Monastery, like most other monasteries, fell into stagnation and a slow decline in religious and economic life. Between the last decade of the 14th century and the first decade of the 15th century, the monastery experienced one of the most turbulent periods in its history. This was the time of the wasteful Abbot Albert Lindeški, who caused much damage to the monastery. In 1405, he even had to renounce his abbot's honour, due to his inappropriate behaviour and management of the monastery.

The Turks, who ravaged the monastery in 1471 and 1475, greatly contributed to the extensive decline from the mid-15th century. They also destroyed the property and land of the Stična subjects several times. To provide the best possible protection against the Turkish

¹³ TRNOVŠEK 2017, 12–28.

¹⁴ MLINARIČ 1998, 44.

devastation, the abbots had to deal with deprivation and fortify the monastery at the same time.¹⁵

3.5 Decline of the monastery

From the end of the 15th century, the Stična Monastery experienced a deep spiritual crisis which had far-reaching religious and economic consequences. The decline of economic life was largely due to the demands of the provincial prince, and in 1526, the monks had to give away a large part of their valuables, sell a part of their property in 1529, contribute funds towards their protection from the Turks and continue such defence funding every year. As the monastery had no money, the abbots were forced to lease the land or borrow money, for which they had to pledge property and annual income. The economic power of the monastery was steadily weakened. In addition to the high duties to be paid to the province and the provincial prince, the monastery was also economically weakened by some abbots who treated the monastery's income as their own and spent it on living an extravagant existence.¹⁶

3.6 Reconstruction

The Catholic religious renewal and the abolition of the Reformation as approved at the Council of Trent (1545–1563) also influenced the religious life of the Stična monks. During the time of Abbot Lavrencij Zupan (1580–1600), a new religious movement spread in the area of the Stična estate and parishes, so he sought to stop the rise of Lutheranism from the very beginning of his tenure. The secular and ecclesiastical authorities sent visitors to determine the situation in the Stična Monastery and its associated parishes. The most famous were the visitations in 1581, 1593 and 1608.¹⁷

3.7 Second flowering period

Janez Krstnik Salvago (John the Baptist Salvago), who was ordered by Rome to visit Stična in 1608, was quite satisfied with the situation in the Stična Monastery, as the abbey was headed by a man who proved to be one of the most capable Stična abbots. This was Jakob Reinprecht, who managed the Stična Monastery in the years 1603–1626. He had previously been a Rhine professor and the abbot of the Kostanjevica abbey until 1603. He oversaw a monastic growth, achieving an increase in the number of monks from seven in 1603 to eleven in 1608. In the same year, he bought the manor of Preddvor near Kranj from the Vetrinje monastery. He was best known for the building projects that took place during his tenure.

¹⁵ MLINARIČ 1998, 46.

¹⁶ MLINARIČ 1998, 47–48.

¹⁷ MLINARIČ 1998, 48–49.



Photo 12: Abbot Jakob Reinprecht
(photo: MKS)

Under his leadership, the monastery church was rebuilt in the Baroque style, newly painted and furnished, and received a new bell tower. The Church of Mary on Trška gora above Bajnof was also completely renovated.

During the time of Abbot Matej Majerle (1626–1628), riots broke out on the monastery's estates. They were allegedly provoked by the abbot himself due to his harsh behaviour towards tenant farmers. The revolt finally flared up under his successor and expanded during the general peasant unrest in 1635, lasting with interruptions until 1660.

Visible traces in the Stična Monastery were left by the Abbot Maksimiljan Mottoch (1661–1680), who proved to be an excellent master, as he was also the manager of the wine mansion at Bajnof, which was rebuilt at his behest. During his time, the number of monks in the monastery increased to about twenty-five. He also took care of the library and prepared a crypt for the monks in the church. During his period, several churches were constructed or rebuilt and furnished in the Baroque style. In 1663, the parish of Trebnje was fully incorporated into the monastery. In 1668, he also bought the parish of Saint Michael in Mengeš with the vicariates: Saint Peter and Paul in Zagorje, Saint Andrew in Vače, Saint Margaret in Dol and Saint Mary in Čemšenik.



Photo 11: Stična Abbey in 17th century (photo: Wikipedia)

Abbot Anton Baron Gallenfels (1688–1719) made several purchases of castles and estates for the monastery, putting it in great debt. In 1693, he bought the Klevevž manor, which he sold to the Kostanjevica monastery in 1719. His successor, Alexander Engelhaus (1719–1734), inherited a large debt of 200,000 guilders from the previous abbot. Creditors used to knock on the monastery's door day after day. Consequently, Emperor Charles VI appointed a special commission to supervise the monastery's economic situation and oversee the repayment of debts.¹⁸

3.8 Dissolution during the Josephine reform

Until the dissolution, the monastery avoided further debts, but repayment of the existing ones was rather slow. Abbot Viljem Kovačič (1734–1764) was quite successful in stabilising the economic situation of the monastery. Despite debts, as well as the financial demands of the provincial prince, he successfully undertook the repair of the monastery buildings, which had not been properly maintained for several decades due to large debts, and had the monastery church converted to a mature Baroque style. The abbot purchased new equipment for the church and had new altars erected and a new organ installed.

The last abbot of Stična before the dissolution of the monastery was Francis Xavier Taufferer (1764–1784). In his time, the spirit of rationalism and Josephinism did not stop at the monastery gates, and some monks became outspoken supporters of new ideas that were not in favour of monasticism.

The Stična Monastery was dissolved in October 1784 on the initiative of Emperor Joseph II. At the time of the dissolution, twenty-five monks, one hospitant and an abbot lived in the monastery. All the monks who performed a service at the monastery were required to swear that they would hand over all the property to the dissolution commission. After this they had to leave the monastery. They left for other monasteries or took over pastoral places in the near and far vicinity. The last abbot of Stična, Baron Francis Xavier Taufferer, received an annual pension of 2,000 guilders, living as a private individual partly at his home castle of Turn near Višnja gora and partly in Ljubljana, where he died in 1789.¹⁹

The commission first collected the funds, after which they began to prepare the records of the confiscated monastery's property. The monastery buildings and estates in Stična also included the Čretež and Bajnof estates, a house in Ljubljana and numerous, mainly mass institutions and rights (66 institutions, 9 houses, manors and homesteads, 311 farms, 225

¹⁸ MLINARIČ 1998, 50–53.

¹⁹ MLINARIČ 1998, 53–55.

tithes from farms, vineyards, 5 mills and considerable properties of monastic parishes). The total value amounted to 302,449 guilders, 30 kreutzers and 3 pfennigs.²⁰

3.9 Period afterwards

The monastery and its farm buildings with nearby fields and forests became part of the religious fund in the state administration. The latter transformed the former monastery property into the state lordship of Stična. Since the profitable purpose of the monastery and farm buildings was not initially established, state offices and officials were housed in them. The following institutions were located in the monastery premises: Stična district court, tax office, forester's office, post office, Stična parish office and a savings bank. Families of officials and servants, a district judge and a Stična school councillor lived in different parts of the monastery. A few smaller farm buildings, an old rectory, a sacristy, and a garden house were offered for rent, and the whole estate was leased by small farmers. Due to low rental incomes, the management of the religious fund failed to properly maintain the buildings, which were steadily deteriorating at the time.²¹

Towards the end of the 19th century, it was in the interest of the religious fund to sell the former monastery. The purchase was considered by the Mehrerau Abbot Augustin Stöckli, who later bought the monastery for a purchase price of 160,000 guilders and a deposit of 14,000 guilders in April 1898. In August of the same year, a whole railway carriage of household equipment and books from Mehrerau arrived at Stična. On 27 September 1898, the first monks from Mehrerau came to Stična. In November of the same year, the parish of Stična with the Church of the Sorrowful Mother of God was officially annexed to the monastery. After four and a half years of negotiations, the Stična Cistercian Monastery, abolished in 1784, was revived and legally protected. For a complete return to its former status all that was needed was an act to elevate the Stična priory to an independent abbey. On 23 April 1903, the existing prior, Gerard Maier, was confirmed as the new abbot of Stična.²²

²⁰ PATZELT 1998, 63–64.

²¹ PATZELT 1998, 65–68.

²² PATZELT 1998, 86–97.

4 Formative influence factors and elements of the Cistercian monastic landscape

4.1 Monastery complex

At the initiative of the patriarch of Aquileia, Pellegrinus I, the first monks arrived in Stična in 1132 and began the construction of the monastery. They started constructing the cloister and the church, together with all other buildings that were necessary to start the monastic life in the new outpost.

In 1135, the cloister was completed to the extent where the monks could begin their religious life. The founding charter of the monastery was officially issued the following year by Patriarch Pellegrinus I. The construction of the monastery church continued under the supervision of the French builder Michael until 1156.

In its Romanesque-time beginnings, the monastery consisted only of the cloister and the church.

Cloister

The cloister forms a square surrounding a garden. The four corridors that form the square were designed in the 12th century. The Romanesque entrance to the cloister was located on the east side, near the stream, at the place of the current chapter hall. On the north side, the cloister leans against the monastery church. On the south side is the refectory, while the west fraternal corridor once bordered on the common bedrooms of the brothers.

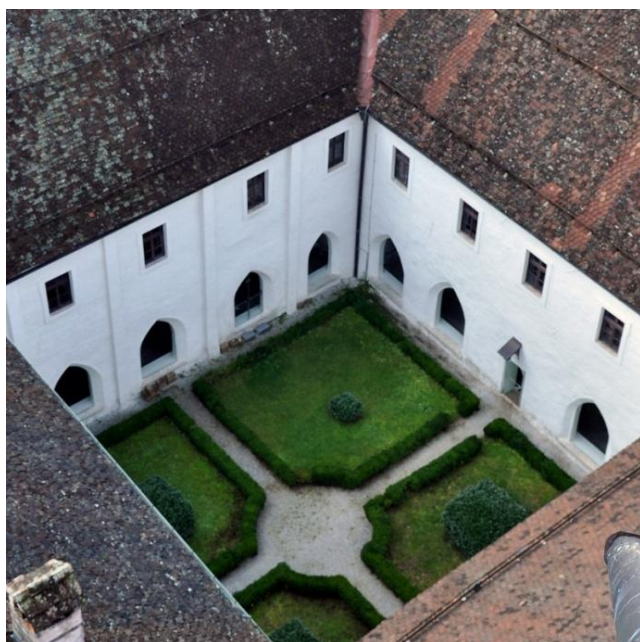


Photo 13: Cloister of Stična Abbey (photo: MKS)

Around 1260, the cloister was given its Gothic appearance with characteristic pointed windows and ribbed arches finished with capstones. The first paintings, which are still partially preserved, date from the Gothic period.

In the eastern branch of the cloister, a Romanesque double window has been preserved which once connected the room with the chapter hall. The northern branch has two wall recesses for storing manuscripts that were used by the monks in their prayers. The so-called armarium, the first form of a monastery library, might

have been located in the vicinity. At the junction of the northern and eastern branches, frescoes by Janez Ljubljanski (John of Ljubljana) from the 15th century, representing the symbols of the Evangelists and the Annunciation of Mary, have been preserved. Other paintings are a century older and the work of an unknown artist.



Photo 14: Cloister from the inside (photo: MKS)

At the current entrance to the church is a figural tombstone of Count Pankracij of Turjak, dating from the end of the 15th century.

The Stična cloister is one of the most beautiful Gothic cloisters in Slovenia.²³

Church of the Sorrowful Mother of God

The Romanesque three-nave basilica with a transept dates from the 12th century and is, together with the cloister, the fundamental and oldest part of the monastery.

The original Romanesque church had three longitudinal and one transverse naves, closed in the east by semicircular apses. The foundations of the apses are still preserved. The main nave with a higher wooden ceiling rose above both side naves. The so-called floor of light in the main nave consisted of a series of characteristic Romanesque semicircular windows.

During the Baroque period, in the 17th and 18th centuries, the church received a large masonry bell tower and a single roof. The Romanesque apses at the side chapels were replaced with flat walls, and a high presbytery with supports was added to the main nave. The ceiling was vaulted, and the entire interior was replaced.

When the monastery was dissolved in 1784, the church became the parish church of the parish of Stična.

²³ ZADNIKAR 2001, 42–44, 138–148.

Several elements of different architectural and artistic styles have been preserved in the church. Beneath the baroque exterior lies a Romanesque basis. A completely preserved Romanesque floor of light is still visible in the church attic.

Preserved under the "old sacristy" are the foundations of the Gothic chapel, in which the Counts of Turjak had a family tomb between the 14th and 17th centuries. On the south wall under the singing emporium, a fresco with the year 1482 is still visible, and is today the only example of a stylistically pure Renaissance in Slovenia.

Other furnishings and paintings are Baroque, the most famous of which represents the Stations of the Cross painted by Fortunato Bergant in 1766. The most recent attraction of the church is the tabernacle, which was designed in 1954 by the Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik.²⁴



Photo 15: Monastery Church (photo: MKS)

In the 12th century, an even smaller chapel of St. Catherine was built to the north of the church, where the monastery's benefactors were initially buried. Today, only the foundations of the former Romanesque church have been preserved. Another Romanesque chapel – the chapel of Saint Paul was located at the entrance to the monastery but has not been preserved. It was intended for pilgrims.

As the power and influence of the monastery grew over the centuries, the monastery complex developed. What was, effectively, a small town with many ecclesiastical and commercial buildings slowly emerged around the Romanesque core. The required self-sufficiency of the monastery soon after its establishment led to the erection of a mill north of the monastery

²⁴ ZADNIKAR 2001, 32–41, 72–130.

complex. A laundry house was also built in the 12th century, the original purpose of which is unknown.

In the 15th century, the constant threat of Turkish attacks forced the monks to surround the entire monastery with walls. The main entrance to the monastery was the entrance tower in the northeast, where a drawbridge was built across the Stiški potok Stream. A newly built fortress at the southern defensive wall designed to safeguard against Turkish incursions also offered protection to the inhabitants of the monastery from the Turks.

In the 16th and 17th centuries, a new representative building of the Old Prelature, in which important visitors to the monastery could be accommodated, was built right next to the main entrance tower.

In the 17th century, a small bakery building was erected in the northern courtyard between the laundry house and the mill, and a large granary grew on the southwest side of the monastery.

In the 18th century, just before the dissolution of the monastery, the present Abbot's Chapel was completed, closing the southern wing of the eastern monastery courtyard.

After the resettlement in 1898, the economic development of the monastery continued. The monks had a sawmill and their own power plant, from which they supplied the entire monastery with electricity.

Monastery mill

In the north courtyard, the largest building is a two-story rectangular mill. Supposedly, the mill was built as early as the Romanesque period, but later underwent several reconstructions. From the north, a branch of the Stiški potok Stream was artificially brought to the mill, feeding the monastery ponds, and driving the mill wheels.

Over the centuries, the mill underwent many stylistic changes. In the Middle Ages, the monks



Photo 16: Monastery mill (photo: MKS)

had a smithy on the ground floor on the west side, which is still marked by the low arched rooms on the pillars. After the closure of the monastery at the end of the 18th century, the mill served private interests. Until the end of the 19th century, it was driven by mill wheels on the north side, where the traces of the concrete bed of the Stiški potok Stream are still visible. The mill operated until 2000.

The exterior of the medieval mill has been completely preserved, while the interior has been redesigned for the needs of the Parish Home.²⁵

Laundry house

This two-storey house is one of the oldest residential buildings in Slovenia. The lower part of the house shows the features of the Romanesque period, from which it is concluded that it was built at the same time or soon after the construction of the monastery. We do not know its original purpose, and it may have been inhabited by a monastery caretaker. After the dissolution of the monastery, there was a Sexton's house in the building, and from 1939 to 2002, it was inhabited by the sisters, who had a laundry as well as an ironing and sewing room on the ground floor. The school sisters also helped in the convent kitchen, baking the communion, and working in the parish.



Photo 17: The north courtyard with Laundry house (photo: MKS)

On the main façade of the building facing the church are stone-cut, richly decorated windows dating from the 17th century. The southwest corner of the house is marked by two stone blocks which are said to date back to Roman times.²⁶

The monastery walls

During the Turkish invasions, Stična experienced as many as three attacks in which the monastery was looted and partially burned. In order to protect themselves from further attacks, the monks surrounded the monastery with a wall at the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries.

On average, the wall is 5 metres high and 2 metres wide. The wall on the west side runs almost straight all the way to the northwest tower. At the tower, the wall bends again and runs diagonally towards the northeast. Today, the northern side of the walls is only partially preserved, as a large portion was demolished, and new buildings were erected in its place. This originally ran all the way to the entrance tower, which is located by the stream.

²⁵ ZADNIKAR 2001, 250.

²⁶ ZADNIKAR 2001, 248.

The construction of the walls probably began soon after the first Turkish invasion in 1471, undoubtedly after the second attack in 1475. The sources report that in 1496, Abbot Martin initiated the fortification of the monastery. The following year, Emperor Maximilian I ordered the Viceroy of Carniola, Wilhelm Auersperg, not to interfere with the abbot regarding the construction of the walls and fortification of the abbey. In 1516, the abbot's chair was taken by Abbot Urban, who continued the construction of the walls. It can be concluded that the works were completed sometime before 1519, when the construction of the anti-Turkish fortress was also completed.²⁷



Photo 18: Anti-turkish fortress (photo: MKS)

Anti-Turkish fortress

The anti-Turkish fortress was finished in 1519 under Abbot Urban Paradižič. It is located along the southwest part of the monastery walls and today it leans against the later built monastery granary.

The rectangular fortress was fortified at the corners with round towers, which surrounded the

central rectangular defensive tower. Three charcoal towers on the east side of the monastery granary have been preserved until the present day. In place of the fourth tower, a building called "Nazareth" has stood since 1937.²⁸

Entrance tower

The entrance tower is located on the north side of the eastern wing of the monastery. Until the 18th century, it was the sole possible entrance to the monastery complex, which had been completely surrounded with walls since the time of the Turkish invasions. A drawbridge led across the stream to the tower. Gun ports are visible in the interior.

The entrance tower was built as a part of the anti-Turkish walls. Until the 18th century, it was the main port of the Stična Monastery. On the upper level of the tower was located the residential part, where the Jesuits and other important visitors were accommodated during their visits.

²⁷ ZADNIKAR 2001, 254–258.

On the ground floor, the ceiling shows the oldest figural stuccoes in Slovenia, marked with the year 1620. On the barrel-vault ceiling, four Latin church fathers are depicted and framed in relief: Saint Gregory, Saint Augustine, Saint Jerome and Saint Ambrose. Each is shown with his own attributes and an attributed Latin name.



Photo 19: Figural stuccoes in the Entrance tower (photo: MKS)

On the south wall is a depiction of a crucifixion, and the north wall shows a scene of lifting the cross. On the west side, above the entrance, was a larger composition, of which only the landscape at the top is visible today. To the left and right of the entrance, the damaged remains of two guards who were added to the stucco later can be seen. The most interesting is the scene of the last judgement, which is located above the exit on the east wall. In the middle, Christ is depicted as a judge. At the bottom left is a large procession of the saved, being led by angels to heaven. On the right is a scene of hell in which the devil is pushing a Protestant preacher into the dragon's throat. With this strong motif, the artist took biblical events and applied them to a then-current situation, intertwining them with the events of the Reformation in Slovenia.

The front side of the entrance tower was once richly decorated. Above the entrance were embossed the angels Gabriel, Michael and Raphael, and below were several coats of arms, which have not been preserved.²⁹

Bakery

A simple one-story rectangular building in the north courtyard once served as a bakery and Sexton's house. Later, servants lived there, so the building is also called the Servant House.

The building was altered and enlarged several times over the centuries. Older stone windows show the stone-cutting methods characteristic of the 17th century.

²⁸ ZADNIKAR 2001, 257.

²⁹ MIKUŽ 1978, 282; ZADNIKAR 2001, 232–244.

The former bakery was given its present appearance in the 18th century. Since 1998, the building has hosted the restoration workshop of the Museum of Christianity in Slovenia.³⁰

The granary

The monastery granary or storehouse is a large rectangular building in the southwest part of the monastery complex. It was built by Abbot Ludvik Baron Raumschüssel in 1683.

The building was conceived as a farmhouse and so was built to be utilitarian and unadorned by special artistic flourishes. Each of the three floors is a single space, divided in the middle by rectangular columns surmounted by cross-ridged arches.³¹

Abbot's Chapel

The abbot's chapel is a rectangular storey building dating from the 18th century. It is located in the southern part of the eastern courtyard.

This representative building has a wide double staircase and a ceremonial hall on the upper level. The building was added at the end of the 18th century but, due to the



Photo 20: Abbot's Chapel in eastern courtyard (photo: MKS)

dissolution of the monastery, never served its original purpose. The building shows a distinct stylistic difference between the Baroque design and the representative work completed during the Rococo period.

After 20th century renovation, the hall acquired a sacral character and a new name: "Abbot's Chapel".³²

4.2 Hydraulic system in the monastery area

As with all medieval monasteries, a water supply was essential for Stična. The monastery is located along the Stiški potok Stream, which originates in the hilly environs of the Leskovac-

³⁰ ZADNIKAR 2001, 250.

³¹ ZADNIKAR 2001, 251–253.

³² ZADNIKAR 2001, 210–215.

Metnajska Plateau north of the monastery. The stream flows right next to the front of the eastern part of the monastery complex.



Stična potok Stream

Approximately 500 metres above the monastery, an artificially constructed water channel branches off from the main bed of the Stiški potok Stream. It brings the water to the monastery mill and flows past the former walls back to the original riverbed.³³

An artificially excavated water channel drove the wheels of the monastery mill. The monastery mill dates back to the 12th century. Since the building is quite far from the main bed of the stream, it can be concluded that the artificial water channel was constructed at the same time as the mill.

Photo 21: Regulated water channel (photo: MKS)

Running water in the monastery

In the cloister, opposite the Romanesque entrance to the dining room, there was a lavatory. It was equipped with a well of running water, as the rule dictated that all monks should wash their hands before eating.

In 1938, in the monastery cemetery situated in front of the western façade of the church, five earthenware water pipes, laid in a direction running from northwest to southeast, were excavated at a depth of 40 cm. Archaeologists have concluded that these are medieval pipes. During the excavation of a canal for a new central heating system in 2008, more earthenware pipes were found in the cloister garden.

The water was thus probably carried through brick pipes from the artificial branch of the stream at the mill, past the church and under the western branch of the cloister to the well.³⁴

During excavations in 1906, wooden pipes were also found in the area between the mill and the church. All these findings confirm that the monks in the monastery secured their access to running water.

³³ Josephine Military Cadastre from 1783–1784.

³⁴ ZADNIKAR 1988, 38.

Stična ponds

As can be seen from the Josephine Military Cadastre from the years 1784–1785, water from an artificial riverbed fed two smaller ponds north of the monastery. They were probably destroyed during the dissolution.³⁵

The plans from 1843 and 1862 name the area between the water branch and the natural bed of the Stična potok Stream "Teichwiese", which means dried fish meadow.³⁶

Defensive water channel

During the Turkish invasions, when the monastery was surrounded by walls, a water channel was dug for additional defence. It was filled with water from the artificially regulated bed of the Stiški potok Stream.

Today, traces of the former water channel are clearly visible on the west side of the



Photo 22: Former defensive water channel (photo: MKS)

monastery, where the ground surface along the wall is visibly depressed, while later the terrain begins to rise. Today, the ditch is partially buried, dry and overgrown.

Marof

Marof was the most important grange of the Stična Monastery, located only a kilometre away from Stična. The Lidar data shows that the bed of the Stiški potok Stream used to run along the eastern edge of the Stiška dolina Valley. Archaeological excavations also discovered the dry bed of the stream. Since the grange was located on the west side, the monks moved the entire riverbed.

The Josephine Cadastre from the years 1784–1785 shows that, before the dissolution of the monastery, there were also four larger ponds on the grange, which were fed by the water of the Stiški potok Stream.

³⁵ Josephine Military Cadastre from 1783–1784.

³⁶ GREBENC 1982, 299.

4.3 Granges

The monastery had a considerable number of granges on its extensive estate. The economic activity of the granges was directly intended for the supply of the monastery.

In the immediate vicinity of the abbey is the best-preserved grange: Marof.



Photo 23: Marof Grange (photo: MKS)

There are also the buildings of

the former mansion and a large stables building. The mansion is a simple rectangular building with a pyramidal roof, dating probably from the 18th century. There were prisons here during World War II, and a folk school for a few years after the war. In the early 1950s, the ground floor was occupied by the offices of the newly established Stična Farm. Nowadays, the building is in a poor condition. On the ground floor, the ceramic floor is still preserved, like the one seen in the dining room of the Stična Monastery. On the landing of the floor, red square brick paving stones supposedly dating from the 18th century are visible and these can also be found on the upper level of the monastery's Old Prelature.

To the left of the mansion, there is a large building, which formerly served as stables. Today, the U-shaped building serves as a multi-apartment dwelling.

There are a few other places and settlements on the monastery property that can be recognised as former granges from their names ("pristava" is the Slovenian word for grange): Pristava nad Stično, Pristavlja vas, Pristava pri Trebnjem, Pristavica pri Velikem Gabru. Unfortunately, the farm buildings were not preserved, nor was the typical structural design of the fields.

4.4 Agriculture and farming

The oldest preserved land registers of the Stična Monastery date back to the 16th century. Four land registers from 1505, 1544, 1558 and 1572 offer a fine overview of estates, farms and agricultural activities in the 16th century.

At that time, the monastery owned 1,073 subordinated farms.³⁷ Of particular interest are the records of in-kind levies, from which it can be established which cereals were grown and which animals were bred in the Middle Ages.

Wheat and oats were the basic types of grain handed over by subjects as a rent in kind. Wheat was contributed by 27 % of oxgangs. Depending on the size and profitability of the farms, they each contributed from one to eight pails. Oats were delivered by 35% of all the oxgangs, from one half of a pail to twelve pails. Farmers also delivered rye, millet and barley.

Flax yarn was also recorded among the tributes, which indicates that flax was grown on the farms as well.³⁸

33% of Stična oxgangs also contributed a piglet and a lamb every year. Only ten subjects from the village of Luče had to hand over "meadow lambs". They tried to earn extra money by breeding sheep.

The monastery was also paid a fee for pig farming, which was practised by 19% of the oxgangs. In addition to the farm, six Stična oxgangs also had butcheries, for which a meat fee had to be paid.

By far the most widespread farming activity, however, was the breeding of hens. Hens were delivered by 76% of the oxgangs and eggs by 67% of the oxgangs. Stična subjects contributed from one to eight hens per oxgang and 15, 20 or even 30 eggs. In the land register from 1505, two subjects are mentioned twice as "egg carriers". 55% of all the oxgangs delivered chickens, while capons were contributed by eleven sources.³⁹

4.5 Viticulture, orchardry and other special practices

Data on special types of farming practices introduced by the Stična monks on their estates is very scarce. Most information can be gleaned from the oldest preserved land registers.

Throughout the history of the Stična Monastery, viticulture has been a very important economic sector. Upon its founding, the Bajnof wine-growing area near Novo mesto was already annexed to the monastery.

The extent of wine production on the Bajnof estate is partly evident from the previously mentioned oldest preserved land registers, wherein transport of wine and/or grape must is constantly mentioned. It seems that the monastery estate of Bajnof or the nearby village of Tomažja vas served as a logistics centre for transporting and storing wine.

³⁷ TRNOVŠEK 2017, 30.

³⁸ TRNOVŠEK 2017, 40–43.

³⁹ TRNOVŠEK 2017, 50–53.



Photo 24: Bajnof vineyards (photo: MKS)

The nearest vineyard was located on the eastern slope above the monastery, and the name Nograd serves as a reminder of this.

On the monastery property in the immediate vicinity of the monastery, orchards are mentioned several times in the cadastres from the 18th century. One of them was also located in the larger Prelate's Garden, south of

the monastery, according to the records of the Josephine Cadastre. Above the monastery rises the hill called Pungart, whose name once again reminds of the former fruit business.

Unfortunately, there is a lack of data on the varieties of fruit grown by the Cistercians in Stična.

4.6 Pond farming

The rules forbade the Cistercians, at least initially, to eat the meat of four-legged animals. Even later, when the rules of the order allowed consumption of meat, fish still prevailed on the menu of the monks.

Fishing mostly took place in nearby streams and rivers. As early as 1159, Emperor Frederick I granted the monastery permission to fish in Lake Cerknica, and later confirmed privileges also included a fishing permit for all the waters of Carniola and Mark (today's Lower Carniola).⁴⁰ In the documents from the 17th century, there is evidence of disputes over fishing in the rivers Temenica and Krka.⁴¹

The Cistercians constructed four sets of ponds in the vicinity of the monastery for the purpose of aquaculture.

⁴⁰ UMEK 1974, 167.

⁴¹ UMEK 1976, 217.



Photo 25: Ponds near Stična Abbey (source: Josephine Military Cadastre 1783–1784)

Two smaller ponds were located right next to the monastery, between the main and artificial riverbeds of the Stiški potok Stream. Although the ponds are no longer in evidence, the name "dry pond" has been retained for this area.

Ponds of Marof

Four larger ponds were located at Marof, a kilometre away from Stična. The Josephine Cadastre from 1784–1785 records that there were three ponds on the eastern and one on the western side of the Stična potok Stream. After the dissolution of the monastery, these ponds were also abandoned. They were restored in the late 1920s, but in a slightly different layout and extent. The ponds were located on the east side of the stream, in the north-south direction. Carp and trout were mainly bred there. There was a fishing guard's residential brick house by the first pond.

The Črnelo ponds

According to locals, the ponds were dug by monks more than 200 years ago. The bed of the Mali breg Stream was moved lower to the south, where the stream was dammed, and three overflow ponds were dug. The dam of one of them is still visible.

After the dissolution of the monastery, the ponds were filled up as people needed as much land as possible for cultivation and mowing.

In the 1950s, the Črnelo Zvezda football club was founded in Črnelo. No one wanted to give the club land for their football field, so they set it up at the location of one of the ponds. Since the ground there was swampy, there was no dispute.



Photo 27: Veliko Črnelo ponds (source: Josephine Military Cadastre 1783–1784)



Photo 26: Dam of former Veliko Črnelo ponds (photo: MKS)

Ponds near Mala Stara vas village

The Josephine Cadastre shows that two longer and narrower ponds were also located in the valley between Mala Stara vas village and Zgornje Duplice, where the Breg Stream flows.

The land register from 1505 mentions three fishermen from Mala Stara vas who probably took care of these ponds.

The so-called lower pond was bought by the Stična Monastery in 1320 from the Trebnje lordship. The lower pond was about one kilometre long and 80 metres wide. After the dissolution of the monastery, the embankments were demolished, and the pond was turned into swampy meadows.

When the monks returned to Stična in 1898, they also acquired a former pond and sold it to the surrounding farmers.

4.7 Silviculture

Forestry was without doubt one of the most important activities on the monastery estate. The monastery building itself was extensive, which meant a great need for wood. Wood served for construction purposes, as material for making equipment and tools, and it was certainly used for heating.

Today, it is difficult to reconstruct where exactly the forests of the Stična Monastery were located. We know with certainty only those at the Bojanji vrh and Veliki Boršt hills above Stična, which are still owned by the monastery.

Several other forest names appear in the documents, but they are difficult to locate. They are most often mentioned due to disputes between Stična and other landowners regarding borders, beechnut and wood cutting. A document from 1671 allows Janez Tomaž Kunst, hospital master of the Imperial Hospital in Ljubljana, to cut firewood for the needs of the hospital in the forests of Besnica and Reka.⁴²

4.8 Trade and traffic

The monks of Stična were also engaged in trade. The Stična town mansion was located on the main shopping street between the port on the Ljubljanica river and the Lower Carniola and served primarily as a warehouse for monastery goods awaiting sale.

Wine transport from Tomaž vas to Stična



Photo 28: Tomažja vas (photo: MKS)

Transport was one of the forms of forced labour that had to be endured by Stična subjects. It had to be done or paid for by 67% of all subjected oxgangs. The Stična subjects mostly transported barrels from the wine-growing areas of the Stična domain.

In land registers, the transport of barrels between the village

of Tomažja vas and Stična is most often mentioned. The village of Tomažja vas, situated near the most important wine-growing estate, Bajnof, probably served as a centre and collection point for barrels of wine and grape must. From there, the Stična subjects transported them to Stična.

In addition to the transport of grape must and wine, hay was also transported to Ljubljana on behalf of the monastery. Obligations recorded in land registers also include the transport of fat, chickens, eggs, and fish.⁴³

⁴² UMEK 1974, 179.

⁴³ TRNOVŠEK 2017, 48.

Transport of salt from Trieste to Stična

"Luxury" goods were imported from Trieste. The subjects from Strmica near Vrhnika transported salt and groceries from Trieste four times a year, whereby they also had to load Malvasia in Vipava and transport it to Stična.⁴⁴

The transport of salt from the coast was considered a welcome privilege, from which the monastery was exempt regarding tolls and other levies. An older privilege, approved in 1390, stipulated that monks did not pay anything for twelve loads of salt per year in Reka and near Senožeče. In Senožeče, they even received a mark and a half of Aquileian money from the income of the local customs house.⁴⁵

4.9 Mining

In the Lower Carniola, iron ore was once widely collected and mined. Unfortunately, we do not have any documents to prove that the monks of Stična were also engaged in mining. From the end of the 17th century, there are known deposits from where the ore was brought to the ironworks along the Krka River. Among them are ore sites located on the Stična estate. In the vicinity of Višnja Gora, Šmarje, Polica, Šentvid and Stična itself, farmers collected or dug ore at times when they did not have much agricultural work, and then transported it to the ironworks.⁴⁶

4.10 Mills

The most important activity in the area of the Stična estate was milling. In the 16th century, the monastery owned as many as 49 mills.⁴⁷ Many have survived to the present day. In all the mills, it can be noticed that the watercourses were regulated for the requirements of milling. In some places the riverbed was moved, providing a bigger fall for the water, or an additional water channel or artificial accumulation lake was dug, where water was stored to provide a stronger force for turning the mill wheel.

Middle Mill

North of the monastery, in the valley along the Stiški potok Stream, there were as many as seven mills. The largest of them was the Middle Mill.

The mill house is built on 3 m deep foundations that reach to the living rock. At the back, four apertures are visible where the mill wheels were located. Above the house is an embankment

⁴⁴ TRNOVŠEK 2017, 49.

⁴⁵ MLINARIČ 1995, 180.

⁴⁶ MÜLLER 1994, 16.

along which water flowed and propelled four wheels and stamp mills with six stamp mill holders. On average, 15 measuring baskets of various cereals were ground in the mill.

200 metres above the mill was an accumulation lake from where water was brought to the mill. Today, there is only a swampy meadow on the site of the former lake.

It is first mentioned in the 16th century in the land registers of the Stična Monastery. The mill was also depicted in the Josephine Cadastre at the end of the 18th century. After the dissolution of the monastery in the middle of the 19th

century, the mill was bought by Nace Lampret from the Religious Fund, and later the mill changed owners many times. The current owner, Aleš Lunder, bought the mill in poor condition in 1999 and converted it into a residential house.

The Romanesque portal was still preserved in the basement before the renovation. Apart from the wooden platform, no other traces of the mill remain in the house.



Photo 29: Middle mill (photo: MKS)

Plankar's Mill

Plankar's Mill is first mentioned in the Stična land registers from the 16th century. According to the locals, the estate is called "pri Pintarčku", because prior to the First World War the mill belonged to the Pintar family for several generations.

According to the legend, the miller Valentin saved the abbot during a Turkish attack on the monastery, so the abbot freed him in gratitude. The family became quite wealthy, and among the people they were regarded almost as nobility. Unfortunately, the Pintars later became poor, sold the mill, and went to America. The story of Valentin Bazilij "Tonček iz Potoka" (Tony from the Stream), published in 1949, also tells the story of the Pintar family.

The Stiški potok Stream was also regulated for the needs of the mill. Two riverbeds led to Plankar's Mill. 250 metres above Plankar's Mill, the Stiški potok Stream was split into two

⁴⁷ TRNOVŠEK 2017, 31.

branches. An early artificial riverbed led along the upper side of the valley all the way to the mill, where water flowed over movable troughs past the dam over the mill wheels. Once past the mill, the water flowed back into the original riverbed. From the upper stream, water was also channelled into the kitchen, so the residents of the mill could have running water at their disposal at all times.



Photo 30: Plankar's mill at the beginning of 20th century (photo: MKS)

The water propelled four millstones and stamp mills. Five specially constructed apertures for mill spindles are still visible in the north wall. In terms of mill facilities, water power, equipment and capacity, this mill was among the largest in the upper valley of the Stiški potok Stream.

Barley and millet were ground in the stamp mills. The other was "brown stone" because pig feed, mostly common corn, was ground there. The third stone ground only wheat for white flour. The fourth stone was for buckwheat. The last stone was called "ajzer", and rye was ground on it. The "brown stone" was toothed because it was designed for rough grinding. Such teeth were called "škri". The stone with a smooth surface was painted black. Where the colour on the flat parts was more intense, it had to be further trimmed with special "spikes". The stones were differently toothed in accordance with the type of grain they were used to grind.

The Brinje Mill

The Brinje Mill in Grosuplje is one of the largest mills owned by the Stična Monastery. Three mill wheels with blades drove stones for white, bread and feed flour. The fourth wheel was driven by a spindle with four stamp mills. Under favourable conditions, a maximum of four measuring buckets of grain were ground, and one measuring bucket of porridge was produced.

The mill was built in the middle of the 16th century by Mr. Lambert from Boštanj. Later, a mansion was built nearby which changed hands amongst several noble owners. In 1735, the Stična abbot Vilhelm replaced the Stična vassal from Stara vas with the vassal Andrej Albin

from the mill below Brinje. As a result, for some time this profitable mill belonged to the Stična Monastery.⁴⁸

The lower brickwork part of the mill is more than three hundred years old. A print by Janez Vajkard Valvasor (German name: Johann Weichard Valvasor) from the 17th century shows that the mill had a wooden part with a porch, and it was surrounded by several smaller farm buildings.



Photo 31: Brinje mill in Valvasor's print (source: Wikipedia)

In the 20th century, the mill included an estate with fields, meadows and a forest.

The Boštanj family artificially regulated the Grosupeljščica riverbed up to the mill, a course which led to the right edge of the valley to acquire sufficient fall. In 1970, the water was diverted into a new regulated riverbed that ran almost in the same course as the old Suha struga riverbed. The mill thus ceased to operate.

Andrejko's mill or Mevčev mill

Along the Krka River, which had greater water power, there are much larger mills. One of the best preserved is Andrejko's or Mevčev Mill in Grintovec near Zagradec.

The mill is already mentioned in land registers from the 16th century and is also recorded in the Josephine Cadastre at the end of the 18th century.⁴⁹ The parents of the current owner bought the mill in 1937. It operated until 1966.

⁴⁸ UMEK 1974, 172.

The large building has six spindle apertures in the lower part. There are six troughs along the mill through which water flowed and drove millstones and stamp mills.

From the ground floor, where the mill was located, old stone stairs lead to the first floor. The miller and his family used to live there. The lower part of the building is older, and original, while the upper floor was a later addition. The remaining buildings were later built higher on the hill. The later residential house was connected to the mill building with an arched bridge.

4.11 Religious landscape

Prior to the founding of the Stična Monastery, there was no major religious centre in the Upper Carniola. Church life was organised in the pre-parishes.

Upon its founding, the monastery became a central religious institution. During the Middle Ages, the monastery did not just acquire wealth and possessions, but also expanded its influence in the religious field. According to the custom of the time, Stična secured the largest number of parishes due to its material needs, as most of the parish income remained in the abbey. In return, the monastery was required to take care of the clergy and the maintenance of the parish buildings.

The first parish was acquired by the monastery in 1256 – the parish of Saint Peter in the Savinja Valley. In 1389, the nearby parish of Šentvid near Stična was incorporated into the monastery. Soon, even more parishes were annexed to the monastery: in 1399 Saint George in Dobrnič, in 1454 Saint Andrew in Bela Cerkev, in 1497, after many years of efforts, the pre-parish Saint Mary in Šmarje, in 1617 Saint Mary in Trebnje, in 1633 Saint Andrew in Sora and in 1668 Saint Mihael in Mengeš.

The church territory thus included parishes in the Lower Carniola and Styria, and from the 17th century, an additional two parishes in the Upper Carniola.⁵⁰

In 1493, the Novo mesto parish was established, and its provosts also became archdeacons for the Lower Carniola. As they also owned the rights to the parishes of the Stična Monastery, the issue of the establishment of a special Stična archdeaconry emerged at the end of the 16th century. Disputes between the provosts and Stična continued until 1691, when Rome and Aquileia confirmed the establishment of a new archdeaconry. The abbot of Stična was thus also the archdeacon of the assigned parishes, but each abbot had to apply for confirmation of his position.⁵¹

⁴⁹ TRNOVŠEK 2017, 113.

⁵⁰ MLINARIČ 1998, 44.

⁵¹ MLINARIČ 1998, 51.

Most parishes were managed by secular priests and, from the 16th century onwards, the nearby parishes, at least, were governed by Stična monks. The monastery principals kept a watchful eye on church life in their parishes. They regularly made visitations and convened annual spring synod that all the monastic clergy were required to attend.

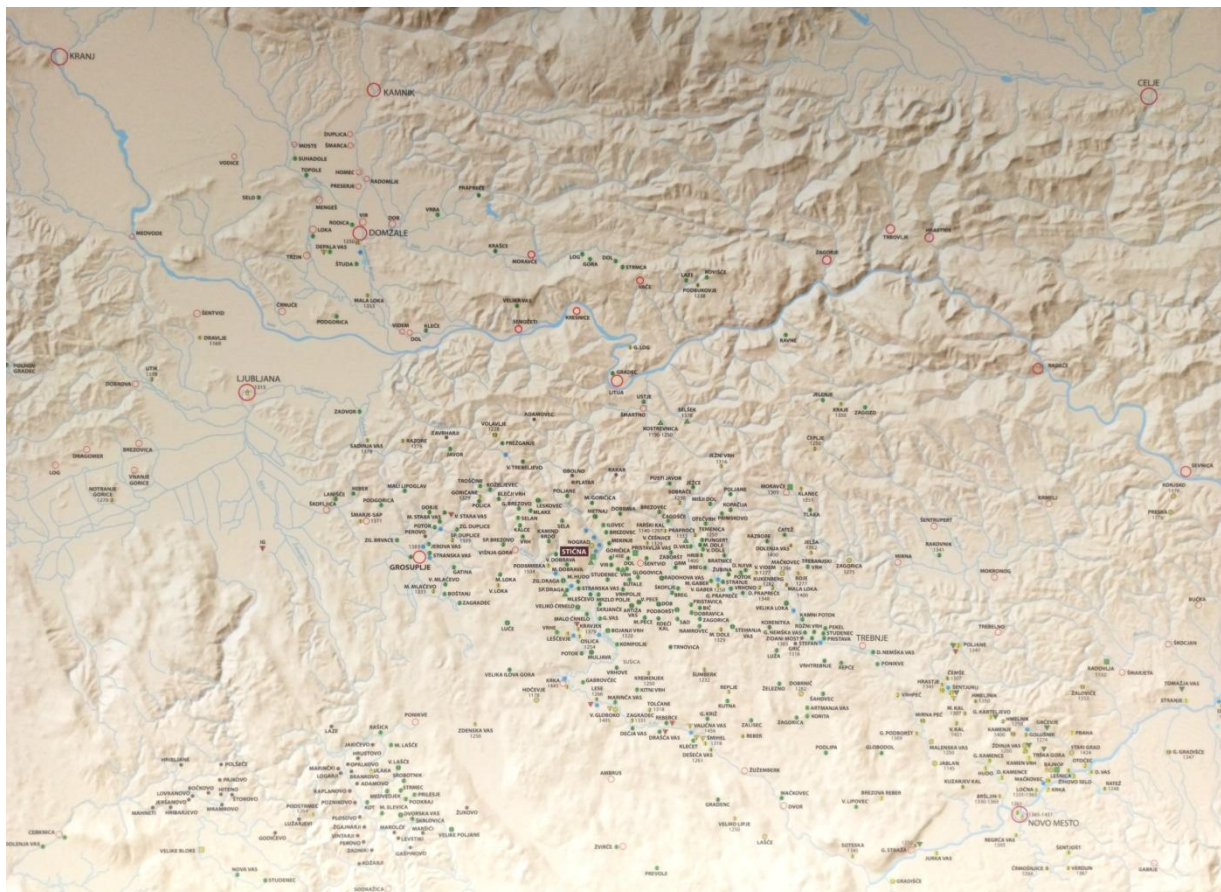


Photo 32: Parishes of Stična in 17th century (photo: MKS)

They also supervised many parish and branch churches. A report from 1667 shows that the monastery had 7 main parishes and 15 vicariates, with 225 branches in addition to the parish churches.⁵² In the 15th century, several branch churches were decorated on behalf of the monastery by the fresco painter Janez Ljubljanski. The Baroque period is also special as the abbots of Stična financed the reconstruction of many associated churches in the Baroque style.

The parish church of Saint Vid in Šentvid

The church of Saint Vid was first mentioned in 1136 in connection with a grant to the Stična Monastery. The chronicler Pavel Pucelj states that the first monks from the Rhine arrived in

⁵² MLINARIČ 1995, 839.

Šentvid as early as 1132 to lead the construction of the monastery. The church of Saint Vid is therefore older than the Stična Monastery basilica, but we do not know how far back its building history goes. Šentvid was one of the more extensive pre-parishes. In 1389, it was incorporated into the Stična Monastery, together with its 80 chapels.

The old Romanesque church is preserved in the south and north naves, while to the east and west the church was later redesigned and extended. The original flat Romanesque ceiling was replaced by a newer vault.

The Romanesque nave was 23 metres long and about 8 metres high. It had an arched semicircular apse, typical of the churches being built in the territory of the Patriarchate of Aquileia at that time. In the south wall of the nave, the Romanesque portal is still visible, but is quite low, as the embankment around the church has risen.

In the 17th century, the church was redesigned in Baroque style. It was extended and vaulted, a new main altar was erected, and the bell tower was slightly remodelled and given a new bell.

The entrance porch leans against a pillar with a Romanesque capital, which



Photo 33: Church of Saint Vid (photo: MKS)

was transferred from the capital hall of the Stična Monastery. Above the porch, two coats of arms are placed next to each other. The first is Mary's monogram, and the second is the coat of arms of the Stična Abbot Jakob Reinprecht with the year 1625, which was immortalised during the Baroque reconstruction of the church.⁵³

Church of Saint Lambert at Pristava

The church of Saint Lambert at Pristava was first mentioned in documents in 1643. On the north wall of the presbytery is a more difficult-to-read inscription in which 1497 is mentioned as the year of consecration. The current church dates from the end of the 15th century, but the castle chapel almost certainly stood on the site before that time.

⁵³ MIKUŽ 1978, 350–360.



Photo 34: Branch Church in Pristava (photo: MKS)

Next to the present church, to the northwest, are the overgrown ruins of the former Virida Sforza-Visconti Castle. Virida was the wife of the Austrian Duke Leopold III. After his death, Virida withdrew to Pristava, where she lived until her death in 1414. She was a great benefactor of the Stična Monastery and was buried in the Stična basilica in honour

of her donations. The church and the ruins of Virida of Austria Castle are also mentioned by Valvasor in the 17th century. In the 18th century, the church was repaired and received a new roof. The main altar is dedicated to Saint Lambert, and the two side altars to Saint Barbara and Saint Martin. The presbytery has a star shape with figured and pyramidal consoles. The capstones are formed into circles, stars and shields. The Baroque altar was constructed at the end of the 17th century.⁵⁴

Church of Saint Lucy in Mišji Dol

The current Baroque church of Saint Lucy was built in the 17th century on the site of an older one. It is a simple single-nave church with a flat presbytery. The entrance porch is located next to the bell tower, which is built into the nave.

The church has three Baroque altars and a pulpit with images of the four evangelists. On the Baroque altar, which bears the year 1759, above the main niche and its statue of Saint Lucy are two adjacent coats of arms: that of the Stična Monastery on the left and that of Abbot Anton Gallenfelsa (1688–1719) on the right.

A distinctive feature is the portable painted organ dating from 1688, which is one of the oldest of its kind in Europe.

The church of Saint Lucy was a pilgrimage church where people came to pray for healthy eyesight. The locals remember that people came in mass processions. There were so many of

⁵⁴ MIKUŽ 1978, 453–458.

them that holy masses were held in front of the church. The entrance porch thus has an external altar with the image of Saint Lucy, and on the right is Saint Cecilia.

In the presbytery of the church is a beautifully preserved grateful votive painting from 1668. Next to it are several other images that the pilgrims brought as thanksgiving for their healing.⁵⁵

Church of the Assumption of Mary in Muljava

The Church of the Assumption of Mary has a richly painted presbytery and triumphal arch. The frescoes are the work of Janez Ljubljanski, a fresco painter of the 15th century who also painted the cloister of the Stična Monastery. There are many indications that the monastery was his patron, as Janez of Ljubljana provided paintings for many branch churches in the Stična church territory.

An investigation under the roof revealed that there are even older ornamental paintings under the frescoes of Janez Ljubljanski which can be dated back to the first half of the 15th century.

The church itself is first mentioned in sources at the end of the 16th century, when Abbot Lawrence consecrated



Photo 35: Frescoes of Janez Ljubljanski in Muljava (photo: MKS)

the altar of Saint Mark. In the 17th century, the bell tower was rebuilt, new bells were bought, and the church also received a new Baroque altar. The year 1692 at the main entrance refers to a major renovation of the church. The church probably acquired a new vault at that time. In the 18th century, the organ was repaired, and the bell tower was renovated. At the end of the century, the inventory of the churches on Muljava lists three altars, a good organ and three bells.

In the middle of the 19th century, the church received a choir. The frescoes were whitewashed, and two rectangular windows were built into the south and north walls of the presbytery. In 1894, during the "regotisation", a Gothic window was built into the southern wall of the presbytery, destroying the frescoes. The window was probably built by Janez Lubljanski himself.

⁵⁵ <https://gisportal.gov.si> (october 2020)

The systematic discovery of frescoes began in 1921, and they were all fully accounted for by 1923. The remains of partially preserved frescoes are located in the south and north walls of the main nave. One of the frescoes in the south wall depicts God the Father, an angel with clasped hands below Him, and on the right is a kneeling abbot of Stična named Urh. On the north wall is a scene of three kings bowing to Mary with a child in her arms. The west wall reveals a scene of the Last Judgement in accordance with a typical iconographic design – Jesus in the middle, Jerusalem on the left with a scene of the Resurrection, and hell on the right, with secular and ecclesiastical dignitaries among the doomed.

The triumphal arch is painted on both sides, but the frescoes on the nave side are rather poorly preserved. On the inner presbytery wall, to the left, is Saint Margaret, and on the right a dragon, which the saint is subduing.

The presbytery has a Gothic vault with pyramidal consoles. The ribs are closed in three round capstones.

On the north wall of the presbytery is a scene of Jesus on the Mount of Olives, while the next fresco depicts a kneeling figure. The third part has been destroyed, while the fourth part represents a scene of the mocking of Christ.

The south wall begins with the scene of Christ carrying the cross, and the Annunciation below it. In the next segment, Christ is laid in the tomb. The lower fresco has been partially destroyed; on the left is a scene of the murder of innocent children, and on the right a scene of the Exodus from Egypt. The Resurrection of Christ is depicted in the last segment.

Above the altar in the arch is Christ with the ruler's apple in his hand. The symbols of the evangelists with inscriptions can be found next to this.

Janez Ljubljanski's signature with the year 1465 can be found in the last part of the presbytery.⁵⁶

Church of Saint Petra on Kamni Vrh above Ambrus

The church of Saint Petra is located on a 500 m high lookout hill called Stražarjev vrh. The church was probably built in the 15th century, as is evident from the Gothic pointed portal on the south side of the nave and other Gothic elements. In the 15th century, the branch church belonged to the parish of Krka, which was incorporated into the Stična Monastery.

⁵⁶ MIKUŽ 1986, 424–430.

The presbytery has a cross-ribbed arch. The ribs terminate in indistinct brackets. They meet at the capstone in the form of a simple unadorned round plate. There are three narrow pointed windows in the presbytery. The church dates from the first half of the 15th century, and the shape of the ribs in the presbytery, which is typical of early Gothic style, indicates a possible older construction.

The church of Saint Petra is another beautiful monument with paintings by Janez Ljubljanski on behalf of the Stična Monastery.

The exterior is simple – above the side portal on the south wall of the nave there is only a fresco of Saint Petra and the inscription "Hic Deum".

In complete contrast to the modest exterior is the interior of the church. The presbytery and the triumphal arch wall are completely covered with frescoes by Janez Ljubljanski. The frescoes, dated 1459, are the last known and one of the best works of this master found in Slovenia.



Photo 36: Frescoes of Janez Ljubljanski in Kamni Vrh (photo: MKS)

The Gothic ribs divide the vault in the presbytery into seven fields. The symbols of evangelists are depicted in two fields. The Christ of the Saviour is painted in the field of the finished wall, and an angel kneels beside him in the adjacent field. The other fields are filled with plant ornamentation. Near the Saviour, on the acanthus leaf, there is supposed to be a self-portrait of Janez Ljubljanski himself.

At the triangular finished top of the east wall, Mary with her child is depicted and, in the other fields, Saint Margaret, Saint Catherine, Saint Barbara and Saint Dorothea.

The apostles are depicted in the central segment of the presbytery, which is equal to the height of the windows. A curtain is painted in the lower part under the windows.

The eastern, nave side of the triumphal arch depicts the Annunciation in typical medieval iconography. Below are the figures of Saint Margaret and Saint John the Baptist. The inside of the triumphal arch represents Saint Ursula and Saint Helen surrounded with plant ornamentation.

On the west, presbyterial side of the triumphal arch are preserved fragments of an unknown female figure in a Gothic frame, Abel with an angel in the background, and in a Gothic barrier on the south side is Saint Jakob.

The interior of the three Gothic windows in the presbytery are also decorated with plant ornamentation. A fragment painted on the northern inner side of the triumphal arch wall shows that the presbytery was already painted prior to the work of Janez Ljubljanski.

In the second half of the 17th century, the Baroque period brought a new flat wooden ceiling to the church. The cassette ceiling is adorned with painted passionfruit and carved rosettes. In the 17th century, a bell tower was added to the church. All the equipment is also in Baroque style. The main altar, dedicated to Saint Peter, bears the year 1660. It is a fine example of earlier golden altars. The south side altar is dedicated to Saint Lawrence and is dated 1709. The north side altar, dated 1710, shows a picture of Saint Apollonia in a rich Baroque frame.

The whole is complemented with a wooden Baroque pulpit with images of the four evangelists.⁵⁷

4.12 Settlement structures, types of land use, village & town

In the 12th century, the area of today's Slovenia was sparsely populated. The Cistercians thus settled in an area where smaller villages and individual farms were located. There were no major cities. The area was, to a greater or lesser extent, controlled by local noble families. A larger settlement in the immediate vicinity of the monastery was Višnja Gora, where the Counts of Višnja Gora had their seat. Ljubljana established itself as the centre of the Upper Carniola only in the middle of the 13th century, when the Carinthian Duke Speinheim established the centre of his estate there.

⁵⁷ http://www.eheritage.si/DDC/DDC_014_017_ROIHIMJDIGGGSVYPGTIQEDUQEORQPA.pdf (october 2020)

In its early centuries, the monastery was awarded quite a few grants, which specifically mention farms, mills, meadows, forests, etc. The area was already cultivated and inhabited to such an extent that the Cistercians themselves did not establish entire villages. The only area that indicates a planned settlement foundation is Globodolsko polje, which has three villages in an arrangement typical of the 12th century. As this was a remote area that was territorially a part of the Stična estate, it can be concluded that monks were also involved in the planned settlement.

The Cistercians generally took over the existing settlement structures on their property and probably just adapted them to their needs. In the 14th century, they bought a house in Ljubljana, which was over the centuries transformed into their city outpost, primarily serving commercial purposes. For holidays, they retreated to their annual residence in Mišji Dol.

Stična Town Mansion

In 1315, the Ljubljana beekeeper Martin Ternach allegedly sold his garden, which was adjacent to the Stična house, to an abbot. The sources state that in 1321, the Stična Monastery bought a house in Ljubljana. Abbot Ulrik of Stična later bought two more houses on the Old Square in the 15th century. In the 17th century, an early Baroque mansion was built on the site of the original three houses owned by the monastery. According to some sources, this mansion was built by Abbot Jakob Reinprecht as his residence, while others claim that it was built later.

The building was mainly an economic institution or outpost where crops from Stična were stored for sale. The rooms in the mansion were also intended for the abbot, guests and provincial councillors.

After the dissolution of the monastery, the Stična Mansion was assigned to a religious fund. From 1830 to the end of the century, the house was the seat of the provincial and district courts. Today, the Music Academy occupies the premises of the Stična Mansion.

Stična Street took its name from the Stična Mansion. It was formerly an important road to the Lower Carniola. It connected Gornji trg with Krnica at Ljubljanica, where cargo was transferred from ships to wagons in the port.

The Stična Mansion is considered to be the first example of an early Baroque building in Ljubljana. It is designed in the form of a sprawling house. The front façade with a double door and the original triangular front dates from approximately 1700, when the building was supposedly restored. The mansion underwent major renovations of the interior, as evidenced

by the enlarged windows on the ground floor and the new balcony on the first floor, which were completed in the 19th century.⁵⁸

Summer residence in Mišji Dol

There is an older building in Mišji Dol, with the house name "at the Selans". The current owner says that the year 1798 used to be visible on the façade, but the house may be older.

The house served as the annual residence of the Stična monks. Later, God's



Photo 37: Summer residence in Mišji Dol (photo: MKS)

path to the pilgrimage church of Saint Lucy led past the house. The village took its name from the monks who stayed there during holiday periods: Menišji dol.

Gorenji, Srednji and Dolenji Globodol

Gorenji, Srednji and Dolenji Globodol are located in Globodolsko polje. This small and remote karst field is surrounded by forest-covered hills. The whole valley is quite remote and, given the structure and design of all three villages, it was probably a planned settlement.

The stone single-storey houses are set perpendicular to the central village path. Behind the houses, wooden outbuildings are lined up along the length of long, narrow plots. It is a typical layout of a village dating from the second half of the 12th century.⁵⁹

4.13 Territorial elements and elements of legal policy

In the Middle Ages, the landowner had a patrimonial jurisdiction over his subjects in minor criminal and property matters. Such judiciary developed on the basis of the immunities and privileges granted to the landowners by the princely authorities. The right of lower judiciary was granted to the Stična Monastery.

The oldest surviving document is from 1322, when the Czech and Polish King Henry conferred the judiciary privilege on the Stična Monastery. In 1360, Duke Rudolf IV of Austria, Styria and

⁵⁸ SUHADOLNIK 2003, 20–21.

⁵⁹ <https://gisportal.gov.si> (october 2020)

Carinthia confirmed the privileges from 1256, by which the Austrian Duke Ulrik granted the monastery the right to lower judiciary, exempting it at the same time from all duties and levies.⁶⁰

The Stična Monastery did not interfere beyond its lower judiciary power.

In nearby Višnja Gora, a market court had been held since the 15th century. When Višnja Gora received city rights in 1478, the judiciary was also strengthened. The charter from the 17th century testifies that the judges of Višnja Gora also intervened in monastic affairs. In 1663, the former town judge of Višnja Gora acknowledged, together with his successors, that the Stična abbot was the first instance in the judiciary over the monastery's subjects.⁶¹

4.14 Orientation and free time

Above the monastery is the slope of Nograd, which the monks still like to visit today. Next to a large wooden cross is a vantage point that offers a beautiful view over the monastery and the entire Stična district. Nobody knows whether the monks visited the same place as early as the Middle Ages.



Photo 38: Gradiček mansion (photo: MKS)

However, it can be claimed with certainty that Gradiček served as a place in which to spend free time. This larger one-storey building is located only one hundred metres east of the monastery, on a small hill. In front of Gradiček stands a large old linden tree.

The building itself is not architecturally rich. The façade shows that the building was extended in length, while the northern part was probably a later addition. The southern wing and its arcaded corridors at the back of the building date from the Baroque period, but the foundations of the building are older.

According to oral tradition and some written sources, this was a representative and summer mansion of the Stična abbots, in which they received guests who were not allowed to enter

⁶⁰ UMEK 1974, 167.

⁶¹ UMEK 1974, 178.

the monastery. The abbots also withdrew there when they wanted to escape the closed monastic atmosphere and have more freedom.

In 1388, a document was issued in the predecessor of the present settlement that called the building a "summer monastery". The monastery bursar also wrote in 1518 in German that it is a "holiday mansion". In a document from 1593, an Aquileian visitor describes it as the "upper monastery". Unfortunately, we do not know how Gradiček looked at that time, but it is obvious that the building always served as a holiday facility for the Stična abbots.⁶²



Photo 39: Stična Abbey (photo: Branko Petauer)

⁶² ZADNIKAR 2001, 284.

5 Summary

The Stična Monastery is the oldest still functioning monastery in Slovenia. In 1136, the Patriarch of Aquileia Pellegrinus I signed the founding charter of the first monastic outpost in the Upper Carniola. Immediately upon its founding, the patriarch granted the monastery enough property and income to allow it to thrive. Later, the patriarch and other noble benefactors from the ranks of the Carniolan nobility donated even more estates to the monastery. By the middle of the 12th century, the abbey already possessed several estates in the Lower Carniola, Bela Krajina, Inner Carniola and even in the vicinity of Bodendorf, near Murau in the Upper Styria.

Throughout the Middle Ages, the estates of the monastery only grew with the donations of the Aquileian patriarchs, the lords of Višnja Gora, the counts of Andechs and Ortenburg, the Sponheim family, the lords of Svibno and Turjak, and others. The Stična Cistercian Monastery soon developed from its modest beginnings into one of the wealthiest monasteries in this part of Europe.

At the end of the 13th century, the monastery began consolidating its estates. The influence of the Stična Monastery had an impact on its surroundings, both near and far, as its estates were located in the Lower Carniola, and parts of the Inner and Upper Carniola. The estate was divided into eight offices as it is seen in the land registers from 16th century.

In order to increase the profitability of their property, the Stična monks also introduced various innovations through a carefully designed structure. It was the Cistercians who introduced the use of the iron plough to cultivate the fields in Slovenia during the Middle Ages.

Through their native monastery, the Stična Cistercians were connected with Western Europe, and they brought European trends, ideas and innovations in various areas to Slovenian soil. This is primarily visible in architecture, as throughout the centuries new styles entered Slovenia through sacral architecture. The Stična Monastery is still the most beautiful and magnificent example of Romanesque architecture in our country.

The monastery also took care of the maintenance and renovation of local churches belonging to the Stična church territory. In the 15th century, the greatest Gothic artist, Janez Ljubljanski, worked under the monastery's patronage, decorating the cloister and several churches with frescoes. The Baroque period was also conspicuous here, as the abbots of Stična financed the complete renovation of the parish and branch churches in their domain.

In terms of the economy, the Stična estates were mainly famous for milling. In the 16th century, the monastery owned as many as 49 mills. Riverbed regulation was often carried out in order to achieve better use of the water flows. Oral tradition still remembers that the riverbed by the mill on the Sušica Stream was diverted there by the Stična monks. There is no

doubt that the Cistercians, with their advanced knowledge, helped their subjects towards better management in all areas.

Another important activity of the monastery was viticulture. The largest wine-growing area covered the Bajnof office near Novo mesto. In 1643, Bajnof included over 200 farms, 18 tenant farms and 3 mills. The centre of the office was the mansion, from where the office was run only by the most able monks and officials. The viticultural tradition of Bajnof and its wine cellar is still alive today.

Most traces of the Cistercians are hidden in the immediate vicinity of the monastery. Three pond systems were artificially excavated for fish farming purposes. Although the ponds have not been preserved, they are still present as the names of places and the remains of the dams. Four ponds were excavated a kilometre from the monastery on Marof, where the largest monastery farm unit was located. A small mansion and a large complex of stables have been preserved there. Farm units were important as they directly supplied the monastery.

Along the paths to Stična are many chapels and road signs, which for centuries have reminded passers-by that they are approaching the most important monastery in Carniola.

A study of the cultural landscape of the Stična Monastery shows that the influence of the Cistercians exceeded both geographical and temporal boundaries. The monastery exerted a profound influence on all aspects of medieval life, leaving visible traces in the cultural heritage and landscape that have endured until the present day.

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