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## **AMPELOGRAPHIC PRESENTATION OF THE SORTS OF VINES, WHICH WERE CREATED BY THE BROTHERS VINZENZ AND CONRAD KREUZER**

Vinzenz (1808-1888) and Conrad (1810-1861) Kreuzer were artists of the Graz Biedermeier. They lived more or less quiet lives and occupied themselves drawing veduten, still life and landscapes. They created many pictures of Graz and some places in Slovenia, for example Rogaška Slatina.

Drawings, graphics and coloured pictures sometimes also served as teaching resources. They had to be clearly documented, but the authors as a rule remained anonymous. Bunches of grapes, leaves, tendrils and berries that were depicted by the brothers Kreuzer are in all their plenitude a reflection of attentive observation and consistent copying. Moreover, such creations are not supposed to belong in the firmament of art. Therefore pictures of varieties of vines have great documentary value, as among them are many vines that are no longer to be found in Slovenia. They are precious ampelographic documents that bear witness to the variety of types of vines found in Štajerska more than 150 years ago, the same time that was also active in Štajerska. Archduke Johannes strove for the development of Štajerska viticulture, which symbolically bound both brothers and the renowned Hapsburg duke.

In 1730 the great ampelograph Franz Xaver Trummer visited the vineyards of Štajerska, catalogued the local varieties of vines and classified them according to the method of classification developed by the noblemen Babo and Metzger. Over a long period of twenty years the Kreuzer brothers, under Trummer's guidance, painted pictures of the different varieties of Štajerska vines.

In the year 1872 the Kmetijska družba za Štajersko (Agricultural Society of Štajerska) donated the collection of pictures to the newly founded Štajerska provincial fruit growing-viticulture school in Maribor. The collection was made up of a supposed 175 or even 185 illustrations, probably as a supplement to Trummer's extensive ampelography, which was published in Graz in 1841. At that time Trummer compiled a comprehensive report about his work, and as he travelled predominantly through the Slovene part of Štajerska also he included in his report the Slovene synonymies for vine varieties. Twenty seven of Kreuzer's originals later served as a sampler for printing the Ampelographic Atlas, published in Vienna in 1873 and edited by the brothers Herman and Rudolph Goethe; the first brother was the principal of the previously mentioned fruit growing-viticulture school in Maribor, and the second was the principal of the imperial fruit growing school in Brumath near Strasbourg. It is not known precisely what happened to the collection of ampelographic pictures after that time. Stormy periods followed and here we must not overlook the destruction of our vineyards by Grape Phylloxera and two World Wars. There were also changes to the provincial fruit growing-viticulture school.

In 1923 the paintings, which had already begun to rot, were discovered by chance behind one of the cupboards in the school library by Ivo Zupanič. There were 132 sheets of paper of ampelographic originals. Aware of their great value, as he noted in his diary, Ivo Zupanič had the pictures immediately coated with paper and properly stored. The missing pictures disappeared over the next decades for various reasons. For a long time the gouache collection was cared for by Kmetijsko-gozdarski zavod Maribor (Agricultural –Forestry Institute Maribor), which in its 110 year period of activity was a constituent part of the fruit growing – viticulture school. As a good trustee the institute received European financial support in 1997 for the printing of a book presenting pictures of vine varieties by the Kreuzer brothers. In the year 2005 the Maribor Tourist Board joined the project “The Wine and Cultural Path of Archduke Johann”, which was to complete the restoration and protection of the original 126 pictures. When this project is complete the pictures will be handed into the care of the Pokrajinski muzej Maribor (Regional Museum Maribor).