

Medieval Lovran

Modern Lovran (from the end of 19th century to the present day) is incomparable with the medieval town of Lovran, crouched inside defences with little, narrow paved streets, joined one-floor houses and fanciful chimneys, narrow steps and miniature windows. This is where people used oil-lamps for lighting, cooked Swedish turnip, polenta and fried fish. In those days you could smell salty fish and labourers' sweat, stable-dung and young wine all over the town.

While men were out at sea or in fields, women were the heart of the family, keepers of the fireplace with their hair combed in two rolls, tightened behind their ears. They kept the family together and raised children, sat on the door-step knitting and talking to each other. Many of them were wives of captains and sailors, or their mothers, daughters and sisters, often looking at Vela Vrata waiting for their beloved ones to come back home, after voyages that lasted for some years.

Until the 19th century it wasn't possible to enter the Old Town because of the thick, tall stone-wall embracing it, the door on the entrance locked up from evening to morning.

In medieval Lovran the local language of inhabitants was Croatian and it was used for communication with local superiors and clergy, but communication with state superiors was in German and Italian because Lovran belonged to Pazin County which was ruled by Habsburg Monarchy and nearby was its border with the Venetian Republic.

Life in medieval Lovran was sometimes rhapsodic and happy in peace and wealth, but more often very hard and suffering, bearing illnesses, poverty, robberies, arsons, wars. In such hard times many people from the wider Lovran area found safe shelter inside its walls, as well as words of comfort, humble meals and peaceful sleep.

Devastation of Lovran

For long centuries, the Venetian Republic tried to lay its paws on Lovran. All attempts were unsuccessful but sometimes the Lovran people could feel the destructive power of the Venetian lion. In the 16th and 17th centuries when Serenissima was at war with the Habsburg Monarchy, Venetians were attacking Lovran intensively and violently and three times destroyed and ravaged it (in 1509, 1599 and 1614). Lovran wasn't safe from Senj's surprise attacks either, or from the French who attacked from the sea with artillery and conquered it.

Wall-Stone in memory of Fridrich Saski

On the entrance to Liberty Square are two wall-stones with engraved text in Latin and Italian describing the visit of King Fridrich II August to Lovran on June 11th 1845. The King was passionate about the botanic world and chose Ucka Mountain for his research.