Summary

Geographical depictions of present-day Slovenia date back to ancient times, when the first cartographic representations and descriptions emerged of the lands of the Northern Adriatic. Greek sources (**Hecataeus of Miletus**, **Scylax**, **Pseudo-Scymnus**) are very limited and are dominated by descriptions of coastal areas. There is also a lot of mythological material woven into descriptions, for example, the myth of the Argonauts travelling on the Danube across the present-day Slovenian territory to the Adriatic. There are more records and cartographic depictions from the time of the Roman occupation and penetration into the East, when the territory gained greater strategic significance. It is shown on **Ptolemy's** map of Europe as well as on the *Tabula Peutingeriana*, and is described in several sections of **Strabo's** *Geographica*. The most detailed descriptions can be found in **Pliny the Elder's** *Historia Naturalis* which provides details about the peoples who inhabited the territory along the Northern Adriatic, lists the most important places together with the distances between them, and also describes the navigable rivers and their character.

Few geographical descriptions and maps of the territory along the Northern Adriatic emerge from the Middle Ages. The centre of gravity when it came to the development of geography shifted to the Muslim world, whereas scholars in Europe largely referenced ancient sources. At the time the predominant form of cartographic representations of the world were so-called O-T maps of

which a particularly elaborate version, the *Ebstorf Map* of the world from the 13th-century, features what is probably the first reference to Koroška region as "Carinthia". Even earlier, in the 12th century, **Guido Pisanus** drew a map of the western Roman Empire, on which the inscription "Carantanos" appears over the territory of present-day Slovenia. This is likely the first cartographic representation that gives a name to the Slovenian territory. Another scholar in the 12th century was **Herman of Carinthia** (Hermanus de Carinthia) who studied contemporary Islamic science and collaborated in translating of Arabic works into Latin.

At the beginning of the modern era the number of cartographic depictions of the present-day Slovenian lands along with the density and reliability of topographic information increased considerably. In Izola, cartographer and horographer **Pietro Coppo** worked for most of his life. His map of Istria and the neighbouring regions, dated 1525, served as the most detailed depiction of the peninsula until the mid-18th century. Apart from the map of Istria, Coppo also produced more than 20 maps of the world and its parts, as well as descriptions of Istria and the world as it was known at the time. In the 16th century, present-day Slovenia was depicted on maps by the Venetian **Bolognino Zaltieri** and Austrian cartographer **Wolfgang Lazius**, and it also featured in atlases released by **Ortelius**, **Mercator**, **Hondius** and others. Two important maps from the 17th century include one of Styria region (Štajerska in Slovene) by Austrian topographer and cartographer **Georg Matthäus Vischer** and another of Carniola region (Kranjska in Slovene) by the local polymath **Johann Weikhard Freiherr von Valvasor** (Janez Vajkard Valvasor in Slovene). In the 18th century, the first thematic and very precise military maps were drawn up of the Slovenian lands, while one of the greatest accomplishments was the map of Carniola region produced in 1744 by **Janez Dizma Florjančič**.

Descriptions of Slovenian regions and its specific features are found in foreign cosmographies and domestic chorographies and topographies, including in **Sebastian Münster's** *Cosmographia* (1544). Between the 15th and 18th centuries, out of all present-day Slovenian regions, the coastal parts were most frequently chronicled, since they were included in descriptions of Istria, which at the time fell under the Venetian Republic. The most important and comprehensive work, providing a multifaceted depiction of much of the present-day

Slovenian territory, is **Vajkard Valvasor's** chorographie *The Glory of the Duchy of Carniola* (*Die Ehre Def Herzogthums Crain*) from 1689. A century after Valvasor, **Hacquet Balthazar** detailed the natural conditions of Carniola region and the neighbouring regions, paying particular attention to karst features. Given the modernity of approaches utilised and quality of his work, Hacquet is considered to be a predecessor and founder of karstology.

A number of people who lived in or else originated from present-day Slovenia contributed to the progress of European science and an improved knowledge of the world in their time. In 1549, **Žiga Herberstein** (Sigismund von Herberstein) from Vipava published a book, *Notes on Muscovite Affairs* (*Rerum Moscoviticarum Comentarii*), in which he thoroughly introduced Europe to Russia, that at the time people knew very little about. Similarly, **Benedikt Kuripečič**, in his description of the route from Ljubljana to Constantinople (1531), compiled important information on the natural and social conditions in parts of the Balkan Peninsula captured by the Turks. Between the 17th and 19th centuries, there were also a number of missionaries from Slovenia who helped expand what was known of the world. **Marko Anton Kappus** worked alongside others exploring California at the turn of the 17th into the 18th century. Half a century later, **Ferdinand Augustine Haller von Hallerstein**, who became a court astronomer in Beijing, informed Europeans on the situation in China. Contributing to the exploration of the continental interiors in the 19th century, **Irenaeus Friderik Baraga** worked around the Great Lakes in North America, **Ignacij Knoblehar** and his colleague **Martin Dovjak** explored along the White Nile in Africa and **Janez Klančnik** was the first European to visit the middle of the Congo basin.

During the 19th century, in the most developed regions geography underwent a transition from a hitherto dominant descriptive approach to a scientific discussion of problems, while in Slovenia local studies, travel journals, chronicles and similar topics were classed as geographic works. With the exception of a few individuals, most notably Alexander G. Supan who in fact pursued a scientific career outside of Slovenia, geography in its new form virtually did not feature in Slovenia. This is not surprising, since in Slovenia there was no university or other organization, such as a geographical society, that would systematically build up scientific geography and follow modern trends. School

geography reached a somewhat higher standard following the introduction of textbooks by **Vincencij Fereri Klun**, **Blaž Kocen** (the latter was also an excellent cartographer) as well as **Fran Orožen** and **Janez Jesenko**. Jesenko wrote very high-quality geographical textbooks, which took into account the latest findings in the discipline and also represented the birth of Slovenian scientific geographical terminology.

The curators of the Ljubljana museum **Dragotin Dežman** and **Henrik Freyer** laid the foundations for Slovene studies, which flourished after 1848 as the Slovenian national movement that campaigned for the unification of all regions inhabited by Slovenes into a single political unit gained traction. An important member of this movement was **Peter Kozler**, who produced a map and detailed geographical description of the territory inhabited by Slovenes. Work on the geographical presentation of Slovenian regions was continued by the **Slovenska matica society** (Slovenska matica) through the publication of *The Slovene Lands* (*Slovenska zemlja*) collection, in which Austrian administrative regions inhabited by Slovenes were described from a geographical, historical, cultural and economic point of view. The Slovenska matica society was an association (founded in 1863), which was responsible for the education of the Slovene nation and publication of popular and scientific books. The society was the leading scientific institution, complete with its own "geography section", until the founding of the University of Ljubljana in 1919 and the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts in 1939.

Standing out among Slovenian geographers, **Alexandre Georg Supan** achieved global prominence in geography at the turn of the 19th into the 20th century. Even as a teacher in Ljubljana he kept up with contemporary trends in geography, which, in the second half of the 19th century, under the influence of Darwinism, focused primarily on physical geography and environmental determinism. Drawing on these ideas Supan wrote a German language textbook for secondary schools. He began his scientific-research journey with geomorphological and climatological studies, and wrote oceanographic discussions, then with his regional geographical monograph on the Austro-Hungarian empire he rose to a leading position among German geographers. For almost 25 years he was the editor of the renowned journal *Petermanns geographische Mitteilungen*, and his life's work was the book *Basics of Physical Geography* (*Grundzüge der Physischen Erdkunde*), while his most original

work was the *Guidelines of General Political Geography: the Natural Sciences of the State* (*Leitlinen der Allgemeinen politischen Geographie: Naturlehre des Staates*). Of the geographers who worked in Slovenia, the most prominent signs of modern geographical streams of thought can be found not just in the work of Jesenko but also in the works of **Simon Rutar** and **Ferdinand Seidl**.

The academic path of geography in Slovenia began with the establishment of the University of Ljubljana in 1919, when two pillars were envisaged for it: physical geography and human geography. Due to a lack of adequately educated Slovenian staff, the Dalmatian **Artur Gavazzi** was named the first full professor of geography in 1920. Gavazzi started work in 1920, when the **Geographical Institute** (Geografski inštitut) was established as part of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana, the predecessor of today's Department of Geography. Gavazzi took care of the technical requirements of the study programme, organised and equipped rooms, managed the library and a collection of maps, and established the physical-geographical laboratory. He linked the work of the Geographical Institute with that of the Institute of Meteorology and Geodynamics where he was the director; in 1921 it became part of the University of Ljubljana. Geography studies were based on the model of the Austrian study system. In 1922, the first students and graduates of geography founded the **Slovenian Geographical Society** (Geografsko društvo Slovenije), which became the central professional organization of Slovenian geographers, and in 1925 began publishing the *Geographical Bulletin* (*Geografski vestnik*), the oldest Slovenian professional geographical publication.

After Gavazzi moved to Zagreb, **Anton Melik** was elected in his place in 1927 and together with **Svetozar Ilešič** between 1933 and the end of the 1960s oversaw the study programme and scientific orientation of Slovenian geography. Under Melik geography at the University of Ljubljana caught up with modern international geographic currents of the day and at the same time established itself as a discipline of national importance. Melik wrote a monumental geographical monograph on Slovenia encompassing five books. Furthermore, Melik and Ilešič drove advances in teaching and research activities, and interest in studying geography also increased. Student seminars and intensive field exercises were introduced. Scientific research focused particularly on geomorphological, population and agro-geographical studies of Slovenian regions.

After the Second World War, Slovenian geography experienced further opportunities for organizational and academic development as well as expansion of subject matter, however until the beginning of the 1960s Melik and Ilešič for the most part carried out the bulk of teaching work, publication of textbooks, scientific research and numerous important socio-political functions alone. In 1946, Melik backed the establishment of the **Geographical Institute** within the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Geografski inštitut pri Slovenski akademiji znanosti in umetnosti) and the **Geographical Museum** (Geografski muzej), while he also supported the founding of the **Karst Research Institute** (Inštitut za raziskovanje krasa). The staffing situation improved after 1959, when a third lecturer's post was filled by **Vladimir Klemenčič**, and several assistant positions were also approved and staffed. In 1961 the Geographical Institute was renamed the **Department of Geography** (Oddelek za geografijo) and in the years that followed staff levels were bolstered. Geography studies were organized into two-discipline and at two-stages. Within the framework of what was in principle a single geography study programme, internal streams and specialisations began to develop that sought to prepare graduates for employment not just in schools but for other needs as well (spatial planning, tourism, environmental protection). In 1966 the Department of Geography also began to offer postgraduate studies.

In the 1960s, geography in Ljubljana became established within Yugoslav framework as well as at the international level. Due to the rapid transformation of Slovene landscapes in the 1970s and 80s as well as increased specialization of pedagogical and research work, scientific research expanded into new areas: karst geography, functional climatological, hydrological and biogeographic research, natural disaster studies, rural and urban research following deagrarization, urbanization, industrialization and the growth of tourism, research on ethnically mixed areas, etc. In this period the discipline began to shift slowly from the traditional frameworks focused on regional geography and pay more attention to challenges facing landscapes in an industrialized society, the impacts of Slovenia's transit position, Slovenia's openness to the economically developed part of Europe and the problems facing border regions. Given the negative impacts of industrialization and urbanization a great deal of attention was given to ecological problems and environmental protection.

As a result of Department staff members' international contacts and interactions with various geography schools in Europe and beyond, a diversity of concepts entered the pedagogical and scientific work of faculty members. In terms of research methodology, quantitative methods were increasingly utilised in research and pedagogical processes that went hand in hand with the introduction of computers and software, in particular geographical information systems. Staff growth and development, progress within the discipline and labour market demands led to comprehensive restructuring of the study programme. In addition to a pedagogical, a non-pedagogical studies major was also introduced, which in the 1990s developed into a stand-alone programme. Within it five majors were formed: karst geography, protection of the geographical environment, geography of tourism, political geography and spatial planning. At the end of the 1990s the two-discipline non-pedagogical programme was discontinued and at the same time the A and B majors were made equivalent. It was possible to study geography as a two-discipline pedagogical programme or else as a stand-alone non-pedagogical programme.

Until the end of the 1980s the research work carried out by department personnel was conducted in close cooperation with what today is the Anton Melik Geographical Institute at the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Geografski inštitut Antona Melika ZRC SAZU), and for as long as it existed, also with the Geographical Institute at the University of Ljubljana (Inštitut za geografijo UL). The research achievements of department staff were generally presented in publications produced by these two institutions or else in the *Geographical Bulletin* (*Geografski vestnik*). Responding to a growing need to publish, in 1985 the Department of Geography at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, decided to issue its own scientific journal *Dela*, which is still regularly published. After Slovenia gained independence and especially after it joined the European Union, radical changes took place in research policy as well as in terms of how research and teaching work was evaluated. To facilitate its research activities the Department joined the Scientific Research Institute of the Faculty of Arts (Znanstveni inštitut Filozofske fakultete). It assists in managing research activities that are carried out through a range of mechanisms including: departmental programme research groups, basic research projects, international projects and commercial projects. In order to improve

conditions for research and become more competitive, in 2002 the Department established its own **Research Center** (Raziskovalni center), then in 2009 also started publishing a collection of monographs *GeograFF* and in 2010 a digital version called *E-GeograFF*.

The geography study programmes at the University of Ljubljana underwent significant changes after 2005 as preparations were made for the reorganization of studies according to the Bologna guidelines. The Department began offering Bologna programmes at the stage-one (undergraduate) cycle in the 2008/2009 academic year and at the stage-two (masters) cycle in the 2011/2012 academic year. It has four accredited study programmes, two each at the stage-one and stage-two cycles, whereas at the third (doctoral) cycle geography as a scientific discipline is included in the humanities and social sciences interdisciplinary doctoral degree. At the stage-one single and combined university study programmes in geography are offered, while at the stage-two there is a master's study programme in geography as well as a combined geography and teacher education master's programme. The stage-two master's study programme has five specialisations: two main majors or A modules (environmental and physical geography, regional planning and rural-urban studies); and three minors or B modules (political geography, geography of tourism and leisure, applied geoinformatics). Students choose one major (A) and one minor (B). The combined geography and teacher education master's programme has no specified modules.

Since 1990 the number of people studying geography have grown. Annually, about 100 students enrol in geography: 50 in the stand-alone programme and 50 in the two-discipline studies programme. Generations of students have developed vibrant extracurricular activities, including forming the **Slovenian Association of Young Geographers** (Društvo mladih geografov Slovenije), which organizes research camps, travel lectures, excursions, student exchanges and participation in student professional meetings abroad. The Association also publishes the *GEOmix* newsletter. Since the year 2000 the Department has awarded the best student graduating thesis with the Department of Geography Award (Priznanje Oddelka za geografijo).

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