

LEONBERGERJEVA PESEM O CERKNIŠKEM KRAŠKEM JEZERU IZ LETA 1537  
LEONBERGER'S 1537 POEM ON THE CERKNICA KARST LAKE

Trevor R. SHAW

Ph.D., O.B.E., Old Rectory Shoscombe Bath BA 2, 8NB, UK  
Associate Researcher of the Institut of Karst Research ZRC SAZU, 66230 Postojna  
prof. dr. Old Rectory Shoscombe Bath BA 2, 8NB, Velika Britanija  
Zunanji sodelavec Inštituta za raziskovanje krasa ZRC SAZU, 66230 Postojna

## IZVLEČEK

Leonbergerjeva pesem v latinščini o Cerkniskem polju iz l. 1537 je njegov prvi opis - presihajoče jezero dobiva vodo iz podzemlja, poleti na njem kmetujejo, pozimi pa na istem mestu ribarijo. Omenjene so obrambe pred Turki. Med Leonbergerjevimi razlagami poplavnih voda najdemo tudi domnevo, da voda pod zemljo priteka iz Jadrana.

## UVOD

Pesem, ki jo je napisal Georg Leonberger in je bila objavljena leta 1537, je prvi znani opis presihajočega kraškega jezera pri Cerknici v Sloveniji. Starejša od nje je samo zelo kratka omemba "močvirja imenovanega Lugeum" grškega geografa Straba (*Geografija*, knjiga 7, poglavje 5) v zadnjih letih pred Kristusom. Pričujoči spis vsebuje to skoraj povsem neznano pesem in prinaša celovit angleški prevod, delo Jamesa Macqueena in profesorja Nialla Rudda z Univerze v Bristolu.

Pred nedavnim spisom (Shaw, 1992a), ki opozarja na njene specifične kraške aspekte, je edini, ki pesem omenja, odkar je bil leta 1574 zabeležen Gesnerjev prepis, Korošec (1970), ki je videl le iztrgane strani v knjižnici Narodnega muzeja v Ljubljani. Ker ni poznal njihovega izvora, je ni mogel datirati in je napačno sklepal, da "jo lahko postavimo v drugo polovico ali konec 17. stoletja".

Vsako zimo in večji del leta pokriva jezero do dveh tretjin 38 km<sup>2</sup> velikega Cerkniskega polja; vsako poletje skoraj celotno jezero presahne. Tak pojav samo 30 km od starodavnega mesta Ljubljana in ob stari trgovski poti od Jadrana proti povodju Donave je seveda od nekdanj zbuja pozornost.

Pred 17. stoletjem so bila objavljena poročila pretežno opisna. Najpopolnejše in najbolj znano je poročilo

## ABSTRACT

Leonberger's Latin poem of 1537 on the Cerknica polje provides the earliest account of it and its seasonal lake supplied from underground, with farming taking place in the dry season and fishing in the same place in winter. Defences against the Turks are mentioned. Leonberger's explanations for the flooding water include its coming underground from the Adriatic.

## INTRODUCTION

A poem written by Georg Leonberger and published in 1537 is the earliest known description of the intermittent karst lake at Cerknica in Slovenia. Only the very brief mention of the "marsh called Lugeum" by the Greek geographer Strabo (*Geography*, bk. 7, ch. 5), in the last years BC, predates it. The present paper introduces this almost unknown poem and provides a complete English translation by James Macqueen and Professor Niall Rudd of the University of Bristol.

Until a recent paper (Shaw, 1992a) drawing attention to the specifically karst aspects of the poem, the only known reference to it since Gesner's copy was noted in 1574 is that of Korošec (1970) who saw only the torn-out pages containing the poem which exist in the library of the National Museum in Ljubljana. Being unaware of their source he was unable to date it and concluded, wrongly, that it "could be dated in the second half or at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century".

Every winter and for much of the year the lake occupies up to two-thirds of the floor of the 38 km<sup>2</sup> polje of Cerknica; and each summer almost the whole lake becomes dry. Such a phenomenon, only 30 km away from the ancient city of Ljubljana and on the old

Georga Wernhera (1551), ki opisuje, kako hitro pritekajo in odteka voda, in ki predpostavlja povezavo z jamami in podzemnimi tokovi. Opisna pesem v 34 vrsticah, ki jo je napisal Nikodemus Frischlin med 1582 in 1584, je znana, ker je bila natisnjena v Valvazorjevi knjigi (1689, 2:450). Nekaj kasnejših spisov o jezeru, ki skušajo pojasniti njegovo obnašanje, je obdelanih v nadaljevanju tega spisa. Leonbergerjev opis je torej, razen Strabove omembe, najstarejši znani.

AVTOR

Doslej smo mislili (npr. Shaw 1992a), da je bil Leonberger doktor zdravilstva. Popolni indeks nemških biografskih del (Gorzny 1986) navaja zanj en sam vir, v njem avtor (Kobolt 1795) piše:

Leonberger (Georg), doktor zdravilstva, rojen v Ratisbonu (sedaj Regensburg), živel v 16. stoletju. Razen njegovih spisov o njem nisem uspel najti drugih podatkov.

Toda devetindvajset let kasneje je bil objavljen zvezek dodatkov in popravkov tega leksikona (Kobolt 1824), v katerem je Leonberger opisan kot Rechtsgelehrter (pravnik). Študiral je na Univerzi v Bologni, vpisal je pravne študije in posebej kanonsko (cerkveno) pravo; Kopernik je tam študiral ob koncu predhodnega stoletja. Leonberger je bil v njihove sezname vnesen leta 1539 (Knod 1899, str. 298). Dne 7. marca 1553 je postal "decanus" v "Collegia Ecclesia S. Florini Confluentiae" (Cerkveni

AMOENISSIMAE

IVXTA ANQVE FERTILIS.

SIBAE IN CONVALLIBVS SITAE REGIVN-

culae Circenizae descriptio, auctore in-

genuo & studiofo adulescente Geor-

gio Leonbergero Ratisbonensi.



Vt uideas animo non usam lumine terram,

Vt doceas alios lauderis pectore docto.

Circenitiū undosam regionē carmine pandā,

Nomine quod Carni populi dixerē priores,

Hoc liceat totū mihi carmine ferre per orbē,

Cosmographo ignotum ueterum monumenta uitorum

Voluerit putesis intactum nomine factis.

Nobile nunc fama multis memoratur in oris

Dives opum, bellisq; potens, uberrima gleba.

Hos licet ad fines ingentes cernere terras,

Carniolam, Sclauos, Styros, & Dalmata regna.

Styria Circenitiū disiungens ruribus arua,

Finit qua uallis rapidum decliuis ad Austrum]

Suscipit intrantes Alpes Aquilonis ad axes.

Pannoniam cernit dextexum folis ad ortus.

Istud pariter geminas conuallis in oras,

Quas tamen extremus connectit terminus unus.

Hinc atq; inde sinus riguis longissimus agris,

Hinc uastae rupes caenis, rigidique minantur

In nubes scopuli, quorum sub uertice late

Pingula rura, sacros fontes, & flumina nota

Accola miratur dulcis dirissimus agris,

Miratur populus armis opibusq; superbos.

cc 2 Religione

Tractus  
Circenitiae  
da, et in lon  
gūtia mi  
liaria Ger  
mania ha  
bet, i latis  
sequimili  
etc.

HIPPOCRATIS

COI MEDICINAE ET MEDI-

CORVM OMNIVM PRINCIPIS APHO-

rismorum & sententiarum Medicarum libri septem,

in eum ordinem, in quem ante hac nunq̄ disposuit

quisq̄, digesti. Iuxta quem facile quiuisset materiam

quancūq; medicam quam inquirere cupierit ex

templo inueniet: adiecta insuper enarratione

sententiarum singularum perq̄ famili-

ari atq; compendiosa.

Accedunt ad haec quaedam alia eiusdem Hippocratis,  
quorum inscriptiones uerba pagina docebit.

Dactu & auspicijs Ioannis Agricolae Ammonij Me-  
dicinarum professoris.

ΝΙΚΟΜΗΔΗΣ ΕΙΣ ΙΠΠΟΚΡΑΤΗΝ.

Ἰπποκράτης φάσκει ἐν μεγάροις καὶ σάκτῳ ἀγῶν  
ἔθνη, καὶ κινῶν τὰ ἀνθρώπων αἰῶδες.

Latine.

Lux erat Hippocrates hominum, populostq; referuans.  
Rarior ad Stygias uenit & umbra domos.

M. D. XXXVII.

Sl./Fig.2. Hippocrates Aphorisms.

trade route from the Adriatic to the Danube basin, naturally attracted attention from an early date.

Before the 17<sup>th</sup> century, published accounts were mainly descriptive. That of Georg Wernher (1551) is the fullest and best-known, describing the rapidity of the water's arrival and retreat and postulating connection with caves and underground streams. A descriptive poem of 34 lines written by Nikodemus Frischlin about 1582-84 is known because it was printed in Valvasor's book (1689, 2:450). Some subsequent writings on the lake, which attempt to explain its behaviour, are considered in a later section of this paper. Thus Leonberger's description is the earliest known, apart from Strabo's reference to it.

THE AUTHOR

Until recently it was thought (e.g. Shaw 1992a) that Leonberger had been a medical doctor. The comprehensive index of German biographical publications (Gorzny 1986) lists only one source for him, and in this the author (Kobolt 1795) writes:

"Leonberger (Georg) a medical doctor who was born at Ratisbon (now Regensburg) and lived in the 16th century. Apart from his writings I have not been able to find any more information about him."

Twenty-nine years later, however, a volume of additions and corrections to this lexicon appeared (Kobolt 1824) in which Leonberger is described as a Rechtsgelehrter (lawyer). He trained at the University of Bologna, noted for law studies and particularly canon (church) law; Copernicus

Sl./Fig.1. Illustration masters

kolegij Svetega Florijana v Koblenzu). Protestantska cerkev Svetega Florijana tam še vedno obstaja. Očitno je bil višji profesor ali dekan prava v kolegiju, ki je bil nekdanj v zvezi s to cerkvijo. Umrli je 7. julija 1560 (Brower in Masen 1855).

Kdaj je bil Leonberger rojen, ni znano. Že leta 1532 je zabeležen kot "famulus" (določen kot pomočnik, posebno učenjakov) Henryja iz Pfeffenhausna pri Ingolstadt ali blizu njega (Knod 1899, str. 684). To bi bil položaj za mladega moža, star bi bil lahko torej 20 let ali morda manj. Datum njegovega rojstva bi bil potemtakaem okoli 1512.

Očitno je, da je bil Leonberger v času, ko je napisal svojo pesem o Cerkniskem jezeru, kar mlad, saj še ni bil pričel svojih pravniških študij. Če je bil resnično rojen leta 1512, bi bil takrat star 25 let. Edino njegovo drugo poznano delo je o Vergilu, leta 1542, leta 1539 pa je uredil tudi knjigo o grškem zdravniku Galenu.

### PESEM

Naslov pesmi (sl. 1) je "Amoenissimae iuxta anque fertilissimae in convallibus sitae regiunculae Cirknizae descriptio" ("Opis najlepšega in najrodovitnejšega predela Cerknice, ki se nahaja v zaprti kotlini"). Njen latinski tekst v 226 vrsticah obsega zadnjih osem, nenumeriranih strani, ki sledijo glavnemu tekstu leta 1537 objavljene izdaje Hippokratovih *Aforizmov* (sl. 2).

En izvod je na seznamu vsebine knjižnice naravoslovca Conrada Gesnerja (1574), toda zdi se, da Valvasor zanj ni vedel. Samo dejstvo, da ni omenjena v njegovi vplivni knjigi iz leta 1689, morda razlaga, zakaj je bila odtlej skoraj povsem prezrta.

Ne skušam naštetih vseh znanih izvodov pesmi. Poleg že omenjenih iztrganih strani v Ljubljani in izvoda v Britanski knjižnici, po katerem sem delal, vemo za obstoj dveh izvodov v Oxfordu in treh v ZDA. Nedvomno je v Evropi še več izvodov.

Če upoštevamo zgolj njeno leposlovno vrednost, je pesem precej revna, zanimiva je iz drugih razlogov, posebno zaradi podatkov o gibanju in opravih kmetov in ribičev. Leonberger omeni dejstvo, da se voda dviga iz podzemnih prehodov in ponovno izgine vanje, naposled poda nekaj razlag za poplavljanje.

### VSEBINA PESMI

Po 33 vrsticah uvoda pisec opisuje dogodke in opravila na jezeru, kakor si sledijo iz enega letnega časa v naslednjega. Bistveni poudarki Leonbergerjevega nekako diskurzivnega teksta so povzeti spodaj; ko je primerno, so opremljeni z opombami. Njegove ideje o izvoru poplavljaljoče vode kasneje obravnavam v posebnem delu.

#### (Uvod)

Glavna pot skozi Cerknico vodi severno proti Alpam. Druga pot vodi vzhodno proti Panonski nižini.

had studied there at the end of the previous century. Leonberger was entered in their records in 1539 (Knod 1899, p. 298). On 7 March 1553 he became "decanus" at the "College of Saint Florinus in Koblenz). St. Florinus protestant church still exists there. Evidently he was a senior lecturer or dean of law at the college formerly associated with that church. He died on 7 July 1560 (Brower and Masen 1855).

When Leonberger was born is not known. As early as 1532 he was recorded as being a 'famulus' (defined as an attendant, especially on a scholar) of Henry of Pfeffenhausen at or near Ingolstadt (Knod 1899, p. 684). This would have been a position for a young man, so he might have been about 20 years old or perhaps less. That would make his date of birth around 1512.

It is evident that Leonberger was still quite a young man when he wrote his Cerknica poem, for he had not yet commenced his legal studies. If he was indeed born in 1512, he would have been 25 at the time. His only other known writing was on Virgil in 1542 and he also edited a book by Galen, the Greek physician, in 1539.

### THE POEM

The title of the poem (Fig. 1) is "Amoenissimae iuxta anque fertilissimae in convallibus sitae regiunculae Cirknizae descriptio" ("A description of the most beautiful and fertile district of Cerknica, situated in an enclosed basin"). Its Latin text of 226 lines occupies the last eight, unnumbered, pages after the main text of the 1537 Latin edition of Hippocrates's *Aphorisms* (Fig. 2).

A copy was listed among the contents of the library of the naturalist Conrad Gesner (1574), but it was apparently not known to Valvasor. The very fact that it was not mentioned in his influential book of 1689 probably explains its having been almost ignored since.

I have not attempted to list all known copies of the poem. Apart from the separated pages in Ljubljana already mentioned, and the British Library copy from which I worked, two copies are known to exist in Oxford and three in USA. No doubt there are several more in Europe.

In terms of literary merit the poem is a poor one, but it is full of interest for other reasons, particularly for the information it gives about the movements and activities of the farmers and fishermen. The fact the waters rise from underground passages and disappear into them again is mentioned, and finally some explanations of the flooding are given.

### THE CONTENT OF THE POEM

After 33 lines of introduction, the events and activities occurring at the lake are described season by season. The main points in Leonberger's somewhat discursive text are summarized below, with comment where appropriate. His ideas on the source of the flood water are discussed separately later.

**(Poletje)**

Na okoliških gričih so pašniki za ovce.

Živali, ki jih najdemo na ravnih površinah polja, so krave (za mleko) in ovce (za mleko in volno) in koze.

Travo kosijo s kosami. Krave poleti pasejo, torej je trava za seno.

Pridelek koruze je dober. Valvasor (1687) natančneje opredeli, da je bilo to v njegovem času proso.

Oranje ni nujno, uporabljajo zgolj motiko (kopačo s širokim rezilom). Najverjetneje sta razloga za to blato in rodovitnost, ki jo povzroča poplavna voda. Werhner (1551) pravi, da je ta del jezerske kotanje tako rodovit, da lahko pridelek požanjejo le dvajset dni po tem, ko so ga posejali.

Pridelujejo med.

**(Jesen)**

Jesen prinese orehe, hruške in jabolka. Sliv ne omenja

Voda privre prav izpod temeljev koč, ki so bile tam zgrajene. To bi lahko nakazovalo, da so na poplavljenih območjih vsako poletje zgradili začasne koče, ki jih je voda jeseni odplavila. Po drugi strani pa bi se Leonber-

**(Introduction)**

The main route through Cerknica runs north to the Alps. Another route goes east to the Pannonian plain.

**(Summer)**

Ewes pasture in the hills round about.

Animals kept on the flat bed of the polje are cows (for milk), sheep (for milk and wool) and goats.

Grass is cut with scythes. As the cows graze in summer, this must be for hay.

There is a good crop of corn. Valvasor (1687) specifies that in his time this was millet.

Ploughing is not necessary; only the mattock (a broad-bladed pick) is used. Presumably the silt and the fertility from the flood water is the reason for this. Werhner (1551) says that part of the lake bed is so fertile that it can be reaped 20 days after sowing.

Honey is produced.

**(Autumn)**

Autumn produces chestnuts, pears and apples. No mention of plums.



Sl./Fig.3.

gerjevo poročilo lahko navezovalo na škodo zaradi izjemno visoke vode. Kranjc (1986) poroča, da take poplave, ki ponavadi dosežejo 552,5 nadmorske višine, v primerjavi s 550 metri običajnih poplav povzročajo škodo. Ob najvišjih vodah je vas Dolenje Jezero popolnoma poplavljen, prav tako deli Dolenje vasi. Če so bile kočje iz 16. stoletja krhke lesene zgradbe, je prav mogoče, da so bile "izkoreninjene".

Jezerska voda prihaja iz razširjenih strug in iz podzemnih prehodov. Ne omenja hitrosti poplavljanja, kasnejši pisci temu namenjajo precej prostora.

Divji prašiči in srnjad bežijo pred poplavami.

Kmetje "se čudijo živim mejam, ograjam in ribam pod vodo". Ta opazka spominja na slavno Wernherjevo izjavo (1551): "Prav tam, kjer so možje nedavno ribarili, lahko zdaj požanjete pridelek, celo posejete za naslednjega, ga prodate, ob obratu leta pa lahko greste spet ribarit."

Kmetje se preselijo na višja območja ("griči") s "svojimi čredami, hlevi in vsem" in s svojim zrnjem. To najbrž pomeni, da se preselijo iz začasnih koč v sedanja naselja prav nad poplavnim nivojem (npr. Dolenje Jezero) ali v višje ležeče vasi na robu polja. Možno pa je tudi, da so imeli kmete s polja za nomade, ki niso bili dobrodošli v vaseh, torej so bili prisiljeni zimo preživeti višje na pobočjih gričev.

#### (Zima)

Iz svojih zimskih prebivališč gledajo na "utrjene položaje visoko zgoraj" - "utrjene citadele na višavah" ..., (z) vrati, stolpi in narejenimi cestami..., (in) oboroženimi vojaki" ki varujejo kmete pred turško nevarnostjo. V času, ko je bila pesem objavljena, so bili turški vpadi v Evropo na višku. Zasedli so Budimpešto in večino osrednje Madžarske in v 15. in 16. stoletju večkrat zaporedno napadli slovenska ozemlja. Staro naselje na Babnem polju je bilo leta 1528 popolnoma uničeno, približno v tem času pa je bila begunjska cerkev nad Cerknico utrjena kot tabor z zidovi in stolpi. Omembe vredno je, da se je v naslednjih stoletjih (1663-64 in 1683) proti Turkom boril Valvasor, čeprav ne na območju današnje Slovenije (Reisp, 1987: 13,14).

Tudi "domačini z veliko vnemo gradijo obrambne zidove". To nakazuje obrambne objekte na nižjem zemljišču kot "utrjene citadele", mogoče kot tabori okrog cerkev v vaseh. Utrdbe okrog cerkve v mestu Cerknica so bile zgrajene med 1472 in 1482.

Za ribarjenje uporabljajo mreže, možje gredo na jezero tudi v čolnih. To pomeni, da so ribiške mreže polagali z bregov jezera. Možno je, da gre pri tem za nekaj zmede glede skupnega lova rib, ko je voda odtekla, ki ga opisujejo Wernher (1551) in kasnejši avtorji, ni pa omenjen v tej pesmi.

Lovijo divje svinje in srnjad. Brown (1669) dodaja zajce in Valvasor (1687) medvede.

The flood "uproots from their very foundations the cottages which have been built there". This may indicate that temporary huts were built in the regularly flooded areas each summer and were washed away every autumn. Alternatively, Leonberger may have been referring to the damage done by exceptionally high flood levels. Kranjc (1986) states that such floods, which usually reach 552,5 m above sea level compared with 550 m of the usual floods, cause damage. In the highest floods the village of Dolenje Jezero becomes completely flooded and so do parts of Dolenja Vas. If the 16th century cottages were flimsy wooden structures, they might well have been "uprooted".

The lake water comes from enlarged streams and from underground passages. No mention is made of the rapidity of flooding, of which much is made by later writers.

Wild boar and deer move away from the floods.

The farmers "marvel at hedges, fences and fish under the water". This observation is reminiscent of the famous statement of Wernher (1551): "where not long ago men were fishing, you may now bring in a harvest, and even sow for the next one, and trade in the produce; and at the turn of the year go fishing again".

The farmers move to higher land ("the hills"), with "their herds, stalls and all" and their grain. This must mean that they move from the temporary huts to the present villages just above the normal flood level (e. g. Dolenje Jezero), or to higher villages at the side of the polje. Alternatively, perhaps the farmers of the plain were regarded as wanderers, not welcome in the villages, and forced therefore to spend the winter higher on the hillsides.

#### (Winter)

From their winter quarters they look "at fortified strongholds high above" - "fortified citadels in the heights ..., (with) gates, tower and made-up roads ..., (and) with armed soldiers" protecting the farmers from fear of the Turks. At the time the poem was published the Turkish incursion into Europe was at its greatest. Budapest and most of central Hungary were occupied by them and Slovenia was repeatedly invaded in the 15th and 16th centuries. The old settlement of Babno Polje was completely destroyed in 1528, and about this period the church of Begunje, above Cerknica, was fortified as a tabor with walls and towers. It is notable that in the following century Valvasor fought against the Turks in 1663-64 and 1683, though not in what is now Slovenia (Reisp, 1987: 13, 14).

Also "the local people build warlike walls with great energy". This implies some defences on lower ground than the "fortified citadels" above, perhaps like the tabors around churches in the villages. The fortifications round the church in the town of Cerknica were built between 1472 and 1482.

Fishing is done with nets, and also men go out in boats. This suggests that the nets were spread from shore. There may be some confusion here with the communal fishing

**(Pomlad)**

Voda se umakne v šestem mesecu poplav. Noben dejanski mesec ni naveden, kot junij pri Brownu (1669) in junij ali julij, pa celo tako pozno kot avgust pri Valvazorju (1687).

"Vode odnašajo dolinsko zemljo s sabo" in jo odlagajo, kar povzroča rodovitnost, ki omogoča hitro rast pridelka, ki so jo opazili Wernher in ostali.

Voda "izginja skozi skrite vdolbine", to je skozi podzemne odprtine, iz katerih je privrela jeseni.

Ribe ostanejo na suhi zemlji.

Kmetje in njihove živali se vrnejo na planoto, mladi možje igrajo igre na ravnini.

Tako pesem opisuje mnoge od nenavadnih značilnosti presihajočega jezera in vpliv le-teh na prebivalstvo in njihovo kmetijstvo. Ni nenavadno, da ne podaja natančnejših informacij, ki jih vsebujejo bolj znanstvena Wernherjeva (1551), Brownova (1669; 1673; 1674) in Valvazorjeva (1687; 1689) poročila. Ne zmeni se za pomembno dejstvo, da voda ponikne na dnu kotanj v tleh, ne omeni jih in ne opiše; hitrost poplavljanja in sušenja zemljišča nista omenjeni, ne opiše vrst rib, ki jih lovijo v jezeru, niti ne pove, da se pojavijo z vodo, ki pride iz podzemlja. Vsi ti podatki so bili objavljeni v naslednjih stoletjih in očitno je, da ta precej površna pesem ni nameravala govoriti o njih.

Vseeno je presenetljivo, da pesem niti ne omenja, da so vaščani ob za to določenem času na organiziran način brodili v umikajočo se vodo, da bi ujeli goste koncentracije rib, ki so se nakopičile tam. Možno pa je tudi, da ta običaj v Leonbergerjevem času še ni bil v navadi, čeprav je treba reči, da bi bilo to izjemno neverjetno, saj je Wernher le 14 let kasneje (1551) poročal o navadi, da ko se voda umika, ribe lovijo cele vaške skupnosti, moški in ženske, dokler ni kotanja skoraj gola, nekaj rib, pravi, nasolijo za izvoz.

Dejstvo, da je Leonberger izpustil organizirano ribarjenje, daje misliti, da Cerknice ni poznal dobro in je mogoče napisal pesem po zgolj enem obisku (ne v času ribarjenja) ali celo po poročilih, ki so mu jih posredovali drugi. Če je temu tako, je možno, da so nekatera najbolj čudna "dejstva", ki jih navaja, izkoreninjanje hiš in selitve kmetov na griče, na primer, zmotna.

**OBNAŠANJE KRAŠKEGA JEZERA**

Pojavljanje jezera v določenih letnih časih, dejstvo, da leži v kotanji brez površinskega odtoka vode, njegovo napajanje tako iz podzemnih prehodov kot iz površinskih tokov, ponovni odtok v podzemne prehode, vse to izhaja iz dejstva, da leži na kraškem terenu s topnim in razpokanim apnenecem pod seboj in poleg sebe.

Razlog za poplavljanje ni nič drugega kot vzdigovanje krajevne vodne površine zaradi dežja, toda razsežno območje bolj ali manj ploskega polja, poplavljenega ob

done as the water receded, described by Wernher (1551) and later authors but not mentioned at all in this poem.

Wild boar and deer are hunted. Brown (1669) adds hares, and Valvasor (1687) bears.

**(Spring)**

The water withdraws in the sixth month of flooding. No actual month is given, as June by Brown (1669) and June or July, or even as late as August, by Valvasor (1687).

The waters "roll the valley-soil along" and deposit it, thus causing the fertility which allows the rapid growth of crops noted by Wernher and others.

The water "disappears though hidden recesses", i.e. though the underground passages from which it rose in autumn.

Fishes are abandoned on dry land.

Farmers and their animals return to the plain; young men play games on the level ground.

Thus the poem describes many of the unusual characteristics of the seasonal lake and the effect that these have on the population and their farming. Not unnaturally, it does not provide the more specific information contained in the subsequent more scientific accounts by Wernher (1551), Brown (1669; 1673; 1674) and Valvasor (1687; 1689). It ignores the important fact that the water sinks in the bottom of depressions in the ground and it does not name or describe these; the rapidity of the flooding and draining is not mentioned; the kinds of fish caught are not described and the fact that they emerge with the water from underground is not stated. All this information was published in the following century and it was clearly not the intention of this rather slight poem to cover them.

Nevertheless it is surprising that no mention is made of the organized way in which the villagers, at an authorized period, waded into the retreating waters to catch the dense concentrations of fish there. Unless, that is, such a practice had not developed in Leonberger's time. This is exceedingly unlikely, though, for only 14 years later Wernher (1551) wrote that fish were caught by entire village communities, men and women, as the water receded until stocks were almost denuded; some fish, he said, were salt-cured for export.

Leonberger's omission of this organized fishing suggests that he did not know Cerknica well and perhaps wrote his poem after only one visit (not at the time of the fishing), or even as a result of reports from others. If this was so, some of the more puzzling 'facts' that he records, such as the uprooting of cottages and the farmers moving to the hills, may be erroneous.

**THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE KARST LAKE**

The seasonal appearance of the lake, its presence in a basin with no surface outlet for the water, its supply from underground passages as well as surface streams, and its draining away into these passages are all due to its presence

istem času, prikaže dogodek v dramatični luči. Ni čudno, da je vzbudilo pozornost popotnikov.

Samo na kratko bomo obravnavali Leonbergerjeve poskuse, da bi razložil obnašanje jezera. Samo nekaj let kasneje je Wernher predlagal, da bi se jezero lahko povezalo z duplinami za skladiščenje v skalah. Kasneje, od Kirchnerja (1665) dalje, srečamo vrsto poskusov, da bi razložili obnašanje jezera, pogosto s pomočjo vrste podvodnih rezervoarjev in sifonov. Zapletene teorije Valvasorja (1687; 1689), Steinberga (1758) in sodobnejšega Gruberja (1781) so bile zbrane in primerjane drugod (Shaw, 1984).

Leonbergerjeva pesem se nanaša na "čudovito jezero, ki se dviga iz dolinskega dna" in nato voda izgine skozi skrite vdolbine, skrivne prostore, o katerih prebivalci ne vedo ničesar, prostore, ki so domači le vodnim nimfam. Poleg pozivanja vodnih nimf, naj govorijo (kajti one poznajo razlog in smer gibanja vod), Leonberger poskusno ponudi štiri možne razlage.

a) Poplave temeljijo v padanju Jadranskega morja v podzemlje, narašča z vročo in se umika z mrzlo vodo. To idejo obravnavam v nadaljevanju.

b) Voda iz zemlje privre zaradi vročine. Ni jasno, zakaj naj bi se to dogajalo jeseni, ne poleti.

c) Vodo vleče kvišku nebo, tako kot obiaki dvigajo paro/vlago iz stoječih vod.

d) Razlog je neopredeljena nebeška sila.

Leonbergerjeva domneva, da bi poplavljanje lahko povzročala voda iz Jadranskega morja, si zasluži nekaj pripomb. Z znanjem in znanstvenimi idejami izpred več kot 450 let ta v nobenem primeru ni bila smešna. Da bi domnevo lahko postavili v časovni kontekst, bi bilo treba opozoriti na dvoje.

Prvič: ena od mnogih razlag izvora vrelic, ki so se pojavljale v 16. stoletju, je vsebovala pronicanje morske vode skozi zemljo, spotoma naj bi se sol izfiltrirala (Shaw, 1992b). Drugič: zemljevidi tistega časa ne označujejo nadmorske višine. Zalteriusov zemljevid iz leta 1569, reproduciran na sl. 3, tako kaže griče in drevesa, ki se dvigajo iz navidezno ravne planote, le-ta poteka od morja v notranjost. Čeprav bi nekdo, ki živi v Cerknici, o pravi nadmorski višini (550 m) lahko sklepal iz zimskih temperatur, bi bil obiskovalec na potovanju po hribih in dolinah bolj odvisen od zemljevidov.

#### ZAHVALE

Profesorju Ruddu in g. Macqueenu sem hvaležen, da sta mi v tem spisu dovolila objaviti svoj prevod Leonbergerjeve pesmi.

Prav tako se zahvaljujem Dr. Michaelu Druckerju, direktorju Državne knjižnice (Staatliche Bibliothek) v Regensburgu, ki sta mi povedala, da je bil Leonberger pravnik, in me opozorila na dodatno biografsko gradivo.

in karst terrain, with soluble and fissured limestone beneath and beside it.

The reason for the flooding is no more than the rising of the local water table due to rainfall, but the large area of more or less level polje floor flooding at one time makes the effect dramatic. No wonder it caught the attention of travellers.

Leonberger's attempts to explain its behaviour will be considered shortly. Only a few years later Wernher (1551) suggested that the lake might connect with "storage cavities in the rocks". Then, from Kircher (1665) on attempts were made to explain the behaviour of the lake, often by means of series of underground reservoirs and siphons. The complicated theories of Valvasor (1687; 1689) and Steinberg (1758), and the more up-to-date one of Gruber (1781) have been summarized and compared elsewhere (Shaw, 1984).

Leonberger's poem refers to "the marvellous lake rising from the valley bottom" and to "the winding passage-ways and the watery channels". Then the "water disappears through hidden recesses, hiding-places of which the inhabitants know nothing, places familiar only to the water-nymphs".

Apart from appealing to these water-nymphs to speak (for they "know the cause, and the movements of the waters"), Leonberger does tentatively offer four alternative explanations:

(a) The floods result from water from the Adriatic Sea flowing underground, increasing with cold and receding with warm weather. This idea is discussed further below.

(b) Heat produces the water from the ground. It is not clear why this should occur in autumn, not summer.

(c) The sky raises the water, as clouds raise moisture from standing water.

(d) Unspecified divine power is responsible.

Leonberger's suggestion that water from the Adriatic might cause the flooding deserves some comment. With the knowledge and scientific ideas of 450 years ago, this way by no means ridiculous. Two points should be made, to put the suggestion in the context of the period.

Firstly, one of the several explanations for the origin of springs current in the 16th century included seepage of sea water through the land, filtering out the salt en route (Shaw, 1992b). Secondly, contemporary maps do not give indication of overall altitude. Thus the 1569 map by Zalterius reproduced in Fig. 3 shows hills and trees rising from an apparently flat plain running inland from the sea. Although someone living at Cerknica would suspect the true altitude (550 m) from the winter temperatures, a visitor would depend more on maps and on his impressions of uphill and downhill when travelling.

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## RIASSUNTO

La poesia in latino di Leonberger del 1537 è la prima descrizione del campo di Cerknica - il lago intermittente viene alimentato dal sottosuolo, d'estate il suo letto viene coltivato mentre d'inverno vi si pratica la pesca. Sono menzionate le difese contro i turchi. Tra le spiegazioni sull'origine delle acque che alimentano il lago, Leonberger avanza pure l'ipotesi che provenissero dall'Adriatico.

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**OPIS V KOTLINI LEŽEČEGA CERKNIŠKEGA POLJA,  
RAVNO TAKO PREČUDOVITEGA KAKOR ZELO  
RODOVITNEGA.**

SPESNIL PLEMENITI IN PRIZADEVNI MLADI MOŽ  
GEORGIJ LEONBERGER IZ REGENSBURGA.

**A DESCRIPTION OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND  
FERTILE DISTRICT OF CERKNICA, SITUATED IN AN  
ENCLOSED BASIN,**

WRITTEN BY GEORG LEONBERGER OF RATISBON,  
A MOST UPRIGHT AND ZEALOUS YOUNG MAN.

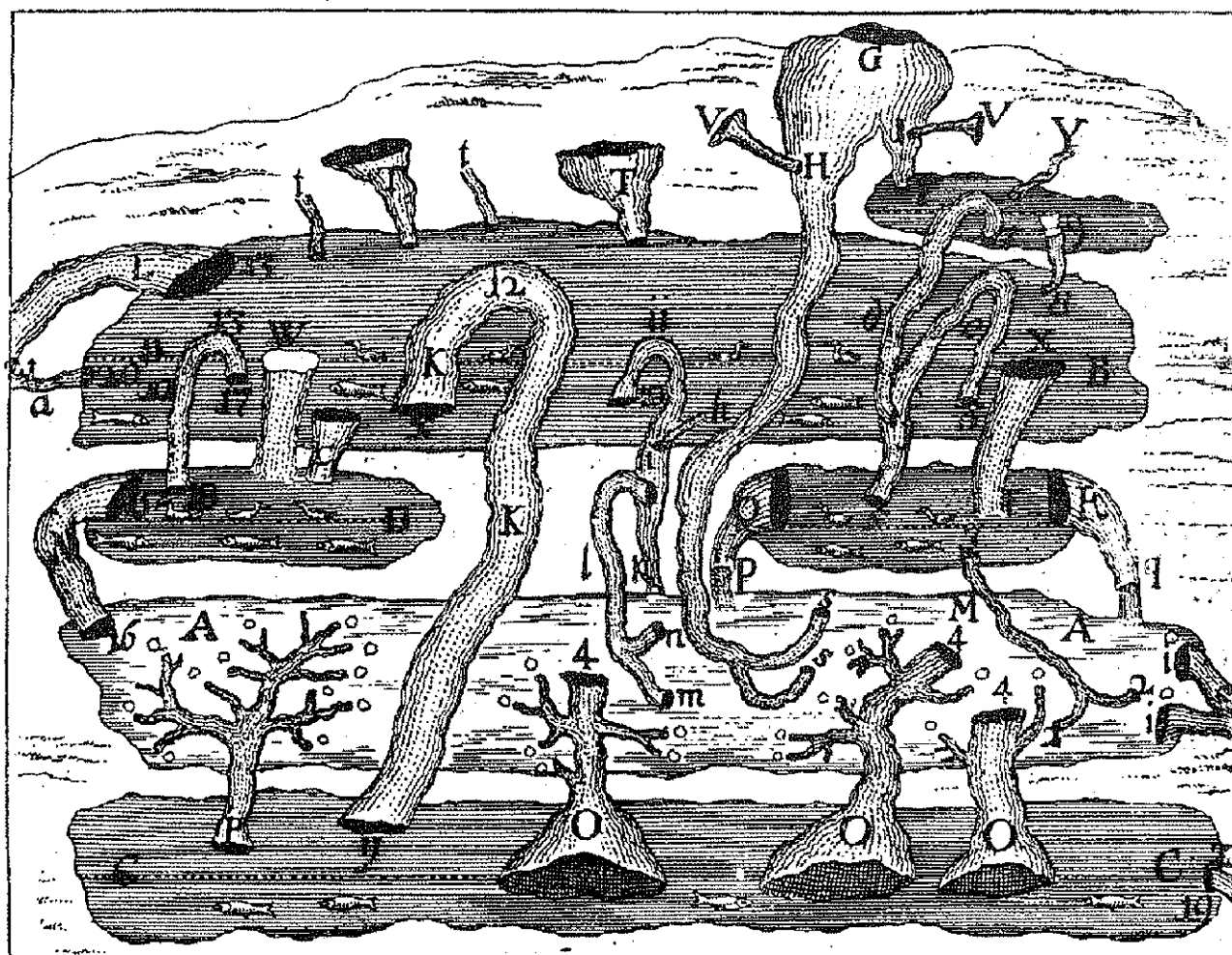
Da bi v duhu zagledal deželo, ki je s svojimi očmi še nisi videl, in da bi o njej poučil še druge ter si tako prislužil hvalo zaradi učenega duha, bom v pesmi govoril o cerkniškem vodnatem polju in uporabljal ime, s kakršnim so ga poimenovali prejšnji prebivalci Karni. Naj mi bo dovoljeno, da to ime s pesmijo poneseš po celem svetu, ime, nepoznano opisovalcu sveta, ki se je ukvarjal s pismenimi poročili starih mož; ime, ki ga slava v prejšnjih stoletjih ni povzdignila. Zdaj pa ga, znanega in znamenitega, omenjajo v mnogih deželah kot bogato območje, močno v vojnah in zelo rodovitne prsti. Ob teh mejah lahko zreš na prostrane pokrajine: na Karniolo, Slovane, Stirijce in na dalmatinska kraljestva. Stirija, ki ločuje svojo orno zemljo od cerkniških polj, se končuje tam, kjer strma dolina, ki se spušča proti jugu, prestreže Alpe, ki zavijejo proti severu. Panonijo vidi, kdor se obrne proti vzhodu. V oni smeri se kotlina razdeli na dva pasova, ki ju na koncu vendar spet združi ena meja. Z obeh strani zreš na zelo široke planjave z navlaženimi njivami. Od tod vidiš prostrane globeli; proti oblakom grozijo kvišku štrleči vrhovi, pod katerimi se daleč in na široko raztezajo rodovitna zemlja, sveti izviri in prijazne reke, ki jih kmet, ki ima obilo prijetnih njiv, občuduje. Občuduje ljudstva, odlična v vojaštvu in delu, ki so bila pred davnim časom uvedena v vero očetov. Ti potomci nameravajo vztrajati v pravi veri, dokler bo Filip, friziški knez, znan po plemenitosti, vladar, mimo katerega ni večjega pravičnika, škof, kakršnega po bogaboječnosti še ni bilo, in človek, od katerega ni na svetu nihče odličnejši, vladal večnemu kraljestvu, popuščal in zategoval vajeti, držal deželo v popolni oblasti, dajal možem postave in zakone ter nagrade pravičnim. O, srečni vladar, ki poseduješ rodovitno polje, od katerega imajo naši ljudje izdatnejši dobiček in srečne domove! Kakšna množica drobnice! Tisoč ovac se pase po gorah, vsepovsod po poljih vidiš dobro rejene črede govedi, kozji zarod, ki trga travo na poljih in planjavah in se skoraj brez pastirjev potepa po pašnikih. Kmet pase volnate ovce in molze njihova vime-na; pastir se čudi nabrekli mimenom krav. Ko kmet gleda svoje kraljestvo, občuduje polno klasje; začuden je nad žetvami, nad blagimi jesenskimi sadeži, nad kostanji in orehi ter nad potoki svežega mleka. Najade so ljudem podarile jesen, polno jabolk in hiblejskega medu ter poobedke Cererinih hrušk. Tu bogati rog izobilja vse prinaša bolj radodarno, čeprav kmetje ne obdelujejo zemlje s plugom in orač biku ne nadeva jarma. Lemež se oglajen navadno ne blešči v brazdi in dobro rejeni bik se ne boji na steni obešenega pluga. Vendar tej nezorani zemlji ne manjka hvaležnosti, saj kmet z motikami drobi

So that you may see in your mind a land which you have not seen in the light of day, so that you can tell others and be praised for your learning, I will reveal in song the watery region of Cerknica, using the name which its former inhabitants, the Carni, gave to it. May I be allowed to carry this name by my song through all the world, a name unknown to geographers, untouched by fame in former centuries, to judge from my inspection of the records of earlier men. Now, well known by its reputation, it is spoken of in many lands, rich in wealth, powerful in war and very fertile in its soil. One can see extensive lands stretching to these boundaries; Carneola, the Slavs, the Styrians and the lands of Dalmatia. Styria, separating its plough lands from the country of Cerknica, forms its boundary where a valley sloping to the gusty south receives those who are entering the Alps on their way to the north. A side-route to the east opens onto Pannonia. An enclosed valley divides it into two regions; However a single boundary-line unites them at the end. On either side the valley is lengthy, with well-watered fields. Here you can see huge rocks, and harsh crags rise threateningly to the clouds, beneath whose peaks those who live there, very rich in pleasant land, look in wonder on productive fields spread far and wide, sacred springs and familiar streams, and look in wonder on peoples proud in arms and in wealth, who since distant times have been engaged in the religion of their fathers. And their descendants still continue in the true religion, as long as Philip, Bishop of Frisingen, famed for his noble qualities and a ruler than whom no other is more just, nor has there been a bishop greater in piety, nor will one ever reign on earth by his everlasting commands, controls the reins and holds the lands with total authority, and dispenses laws and justice, and rewards to men who lead upright lives. O happy ruler, who possess such happy farm-land, from which our people gain more bounteous profit and blessed homes! How rich in flocks it is! A thousand ewe-lambs wander in the mountains, and everywhere in the plains happy herds of cattle are seen, and goats wander with scarcely a goat-herd through the pastures, grazing the plain and the grass of the countryside, while the fields feed wool-bearing flocks, whose udders the people milk. The herdsman is amazed at the swollen udders of the cows, and the local farmer, looking at his kingdom, marvels at his ears of corn and marvels at his harvest, the ripe fruits of autumn, the chestnuts, and the streams of fresh milk. The Naiads have granted to men autumn rich with fruits and Hylbaean honey, and the pears of Ceres as a second course. Here the rich horn of plenty produces all things more freely, while the farmers work the land without the need for a plough,

grudasto prst. Napeljal je dovolj potokov in vodnih jarkov, tako da bi tedaj, ko izsušeno polje buhti od posušene trave, ublažil žareče poljane z izdatno količino vode. Po neizmernih gorah se vali velika reka, z vodo namaka polja in se končuje v mirnem tolmunu. Umetno izpeljan jarek vode moči ljubke griče; tamkaj stoji samotna vodna kotanja. V oddaljeni dolini je še ena reka, ki teče skozi tihe vrtove; okrog nje prebivajo številni rodovi in ljudstva. Semkaj, kjer je kmet zaščitil redke izvire z drobnim trstjem, kjer bežeča reka šumi po travi, prihajajo junci po poljih pit vodo. Še druga reka od daleč pogleduje na to; njena ljubka, bistra voda teče neugnano od tam po skalah, obraslih z mahom. Vendar naposled vsa rumena od obilnega peska ponikne. Žitno polje nato polagoma porumeni od bogatega klasja; kmetje ga požanjejo in z žitom napolnijo kašče.

Zdaj bom v pesmi opeval dobo jeseni: poplavo v položni dolini; vodovje, ki se vsako leto pojavi v Cerknici; valove, ki se odbijajo na neznani obali; vsega občudovanja vredno jezero, ki vzraste z dna doline. Najade in nimfe, božanstva, ki ste v pomoč pesnikom, govorite (saj namreč poznate vzrok in plimovanje vodovja), vodi-

and the ploughmen dispenses with the yoke for his ox. The ploughshare is not accustomed to shine, polished by the furrow, nor does the sleek bull fear the plough, which hangs unused on the wall. Yet no return is lacking from this unploughed land, though the farmer merely breaks up the sluggish clods with a mattock. And he lets the river and its flowing streams onto the crops, so that when the grass is parched and the dried-up land is burning hot, then he may cool the burning fields by spreading large amounts of water. A very large river glides through the vast mountains, irrigates the plain with its waters, and come to an end in a calm pool. An artificial channel of water moistens the pleasant hills; there is a secluded lake, and in a remote valley there is another quiet river which flows into gardens. Around this countless numbers of peoples and communities live. Hither too young cattle come through the countryside to drink, where the local people have covered the shallow springs with slender reeds, and where the river murmurs as it flows through the grass. There too another river with its pleasant waters looks over this one; from there it flows in its course, running over mossy rocks. At last it empties itself, yellow with much



Notranji ustroj in vodne poti Cerkniškega jezera po J.V. Valvazorju, *Slava vojvodine Kranjske*, 1689.

te me po zavutih skrivnih prehodih, po vodnih jarkih; pokažite mi pot, pokažite mi dviganje in upadanje vodovja ter valove, ki se kar naprej razbijajo ob obali, vsakokrat ko zlati Fojbos z rdečkasto svetlobo razsvetli ozvezdje Device in hiti proti ozvezdju Tehtnice, ko krajšemu dnevu stopi nasproti daljša noč. Rodovitna jesen izliva plodove iz prebogatega roga. Povsod pod drevesi ležijo na tla padla sladka jabolka. Nad čim torej morajo možje bedeti? V čem je zemlja neizprosna? V jesenskih mesecih privre na dan penasta reka, ki prestopa bregove; z vrtničasto vodo podre nasproti postavljene nasipe in v temne oblake vklene kotlino in kmetije. Z vodo, ki bruha iz zemlje, že napaja vedno žejni pesek; blatni rogoz se prepoji z bistro vodo. Hitri tok izje votle jame, prekrije polja, lahko strnišče in plešoče bilke ter poruši koče, zgrajene na gorskih vznožjih. Jarki se polnijo, reke, ki tečejo v globoki strugi, naraščajo: prestopajo bregove, se razlivajo po prisojnih ornica in udarjajo ob porušene nasipe vse do vznožja gore. Razlite reke bobneče drvijo po golih brazdah. Ravno take čase (saj imamo navado majhne reči primerjati z velikimi) sta videla Devkalion in njegova žena Pira, ko med morjem in kopnim ni bilo nobene meje. Tako voda vsepovsod prekriva polja in njive v dolini: kamorkoli pogledaš, vidiš le goro in nebo, vsepovsod pa široko vodno poljano. Ta zaseda grič, oni sedi na ukrivljenih čolnih; tretji vesla tam, kjer je prej z motiko obdeloval polje. Pod gorskimi slemenji se merjasec, škripajoč z zobmi, hiti umikat valovom; jelen sredi vodovja išče zemljo, na katero bi lahko stopil. Poplava od obrežja odganja pregnane kmete; bežijo v gore in kličejo svoja božanstva; z vsem srcem in pripravljeni s pripomočki se lotijo dela: iz hlevov gonijo črede, nekateri rešujejo pridelek, drugi si nalagajo bremena in tečejo tja, kamor jim kaže steza; spet drugi vztrajno z rameni potiskajo tovore moke. Nekateri grajajo zamudnike, drugi zbirajo razkropljene množice; nekateri spodbujajo tovariše, utrujene zaradi k tlom tiščočega bremena. Barbarški krik se dviga od bučeče bitke. Tisti, ki so prej stali v globoki vodi, so se že povzpeli na gore; od zgoraj gledajo na utrjene trdnjave. Čudijo se gmotam jezera in velikanski množini voda. Čudijo se plotovom, ograjam in ribam pod vodo. In prav tam, kjer so kmetje kosili travo s koso, polagajo božanske nimfe nereide svoja telesa.

Ljudje medtem pod goro uživajo poletni pridobljen živež ter se veseli med sabo družijo ob pojedinah. Privablja jih radostna zima in jih rešuje žalosti. Dokler leži globok sneg, dokler reke bljuvajo kose ledu, je srce osvobojeno strahu in ljudje se mastijo ob obilnih pojedinah. Ko si potolažijo lakoto z gostijami in s tolsto divjачino, občudujejo plodove, pospravljene še ob toplem soncu. Obsojajo nedelavnost in hvalijo Cererine darove. Delo na soncu zaposluje tudi čebele na cvetovih rosnega polja, ko obletavajo rastoče rastline. Živijo od rosnih kapelj in sladkega nektarja, napolnjujejo celice v satovju

soil, and there the harvest gradually grows yellow with plump ears of corn. The grain is winnowed and fills the granaries with produce.

Now I shall tell in song of the season of autumn, the flooding of the sloping valley and the lake of Cerknica which appears every year, the waves that break on a shore that does not know them, and the marvellous lake rising from the valley bottom. O nymphs of the waters, present deities of poets, speak (for you know the cause, and the movements of the waters). Lead me through the winding passage-ways and the watery channels, show me the route, show me the rise and fall of the water, and the waves breaking again and again on the shore, when golden Phoebus with his dawn light traverses the constellation of the Virgin and hurries towards the constellation of the Scales, when daylight is shorter, and its delay keeps back long nights. The season of fruitfulness pours forth its produce from her rich horn. Everywhere honey-sweet apples lie strewn under the tree. What should men watch out for then? What great mercilessness of the earth should they expect when in the months of autumn the foaming river flows out in spate, and with its whirling waters overwhelms great boulders which stand in its path, and as the rain-clouds gather overhead it takes possession of the valley and the farms? Now it pours out its water and nourishes the thirsty soil. The muddy sedge is drenched with clear water, and the swift wave, fed by underground passages, covers the fields and the light corn-stalks and the flying straw, and uproots from their very foundations the cottages which have been built there. The ditches are filled, the trenches and deep-channelled rivers swell. They overflow their banks, spread over the sunny lands, break down the dykes and strike as far as the foothills of the mountains. Spreading far and wide they rush with a roar through the open furrows, and (we often compare great things with small) just as Deucalion with his wife Pyrrha saw an age in which sea and land were no different, so when the lake occupies the plain and the acres of the valley, wherever you turn your eyes there is mountain, sky, and on all sides - sea. One man takes possession of a hill, another sits in a curved boat. Another rows himself where recently he tilled the land with a mattock. Beneath the mountain ridges the wild boar, gnashing its teeth, rushes away from the waves; the stag seeks ground where it can find firm footing amid the waters. The flooding drives away the farmers and keeps them from their lands. They flee to the hills, and appeal to them as though they were their gods. Eagerly they set to work, prepared in mind and resources. They drag away their herds, stalls and all. Some rescue the harvest; others take up burdens and flee wherever the path leads; other with all their strength push loads of grain with their shoulders. Others curse delays and bring together the broad columns of refugees; others encourage their friends, weary with the oppressive weight of their burdens. A barbarous cry rises from the breathless struggle. Now those who found themselves in deeper water were climbing the

in kopicijo gosti med. Kar vrvi od mnogovrstnega dela, medtem ko gradijo Dedalovo palačo; tako velika je ljubezen do polja in tolikšne so časti v pridelovanju medu. Ko pa polja zmrzujejo zaradi zimskega mraza, se site medu bodrijo, da zapustijo poljane. Brenčoč iščejo domovanje ter si odpočijejo svoje ude in telesa: za vse pride počitek in konec naporov. Ko vidiš, da voda oblega in obkroža gore, ljudje, marljivi kakor čebele, z velikim pogumom postavljajo Marsove nasipe; kakor stolpi visoke skale grozijo, da bodo padle v dolino. Če bi od zgoraj pogledal na utrjene trdnjave, bi opazil vrata, stolpe in mrežo cest; opazil bi močna obzidja z oboroženimi možmi: ti varujejo kmete grozljive nevarnosti pred Turki. Tako živijo med skalami, dokler jih poplava v dolgih zimskih mesecih zadržuje in dokler vodna gmota obtežuje zemljo in nebo. Nekateri lovijo neme ribe v zavite mreže. Nekateri zvijajo jadra, drugi poganjajo čolne z obale. Nekateri lovijo divje prašiče, drugi trope hitrih jelenov. Toda, veliki kralj, kakšen je smoter teh naporov? Se usoda tem možem, ki so pretrpeli toliko nesreč, ne bo spremenila? Bo, bo: to je zadnji napor, to je konec dolge poti, ki traja vse dotlej, dokler še opazujejo veliko ozvezdje Bika. Tedaj Fojbos s sončnim ognjem očisti nebo. Pet negotovih mesecev gledajo, kako leno jezero negibno miruje, v šestem mesecu pa se začne umikati z zemlje. Daleč je videti griče, kako se ponovno razkrivajo in kako se vali zemljin pesek; kjer se voda umika, tam se vzdiguje zemlja; naposled se polje le osvobodi vodnega toka. Voda izgine skozi tajna skrivališča, ki jih kmet ne pozna, pač pa so poznana Tetidinim nimfam. Tekoče reke usihajo, travniki so se napojili dovolj vode. Spremenjene reke že počivajo v svojih strugah, vsepovsod ob obali pa odlagajo gole ribe. Že že je konec, reke pojemajo in se zopet vračajo v blagi padec: ter se v celoti umirjajo. Blagi južni veter že mrmraje ključce kmete na rodovitna polja, že jim prigovarja, naj pohitijo in sestopijo z vrhov.

Tako naposled dospejo do kopne zemlje in stopijo nanjo. Močno si želijo preiskati kraje in pozdravljajo deželo. Mnogo živali se potika po neznanih poljih in veselijo se, da je kotlina privzela novo obliko. Na vse strani vneto vihrajo plemeniti mladeniči in vrvijo okoli, ker bi si radi ogledali okolico; hitijo, da bi se igrali na polju. Tudi oslabeledi starci štopicajo z vrha. Zdaj, ko je mraz pojenjal, kmetje obiskujejo svoje tovariše. Tedaj se čudijo prihodu neizmerne množice znancev, zbrane v snegu mladeničem, materam, možem; veseli so, da bodo spet poprijeli za poletno delo.

Medtem ko reke tečejo po običajnih strugah, ko vabi milina pomladnega sonca, se sprašujem, zakaj narava poleti utaji vse izvire; zakaj s prihajajočim mrazom iz njih izbruhne voda med medle vetrove; od kod plane stoječa voda in kam odteče spomladi? In vas, najade, sprašujem, katero staro prebivališče ob tujih obalah ste vendar zapustile in prišle semkaj? Recite in razkrijte skrivnostne

hills, and looking at fortified strongholds high above. They marvel at the extent of the sea and the huge weight of water; they marvel at hedges, fences and fish under the water. And where recently the farmers cut the grass with their scythes, now the divine water-nymphs lay their bodies.

Meanwhile they enjoy a summer-like life in the shelter of the mountain, and happily visit each other for meals, and jovial winter attracts them and dissolves their cares. While the snow lies deep, while the rivers throw up lumps of ice, they let fear go from their heart, and now eat their fill of rich banquets. And after their hunger has been satisfied with feasting and fat venison, they gaze in wonder at the produce scraped together when the sun was hot. They condemn inactivity, and praise the gifts of Ceres. Just as hard work in the sun keeps bees busy among the flowers throughout the dewy countryside, while they cling to the growing plants and live on the dewdrops and sweet nectar, and swell their cells and pack sticky honey; the varied work is all aglow as they make their skilfully built houses; so great is their love of the plain and their glory in producing honey. But when the fields are frozen under the influence of winter cold, having fed themselves they urge each other at last to leave the plains. Buzzing, they seek their homes and take care of their limbs and bodies. A single quiet comes to all, and an end to their labours. So too, when you see that waves surround and besiege the hills, the local people build warlike walls with great energy, and turreted rocks threaten a fall in the valley below. If you were to look at the fortified citadels in the heights, you would see gates, towers and made-up roads; you would see walls strong with armed soldiers. They free the farmers from the uncertain fear of Turkey. This then is how they live among the rocks while in the long months of winter the flood covers the land and the weather torments them. Some catch silent fishes in the folds of nets; some too unfurl their sails, while others push out boats from the shore. Others hunt wild boar, others herds of swift deer.

But what end do you grant at last to their labours, great king? And does fortune never change for men who have been afflicted by so many troubles? This is the end of their labour, this is the limit of their long path; (it lasts) until he observes the Bull behind the great disc of the sun. Then the fire of Phoebus clears and purifies the air. Through five months of uncertainty they see that the sluggish waters form a lake in the valley, but that in the sixth they withdraw from the land. They are seen to reveal higher ground far off, and roll the valley-soil along. And now as the water-level sinks, dry land appears, and at length the plain cleanses itself of its watery stream. The water disappears through hidden recesses, hiding-places of which the inhabitants know nothing, places familiar only to the water-nymphs. The flowing streams are blocked; the meadows have had their fill of water. Now the rivers, changing their banks, have calmed down, and on all sides abandon fishes, exposed on dry

vzroke narave in vse, karkoli je skrito: množino voda, ki tolikšna napolni jame, in iz katerega izvira dere vodno jezero!

Naj stopim pod orna polja z večino tistih razlag, ki sem jih slišal! Dosti več od tega, kar mi je znano, ne bom sporočil: ali Jadransko morje teče po notranjosti strme gore in naleti na prehod skozi razpokane skale ter tako preiskuje pot in išče prostost (kajti jezero se dviga ob mrazu, upada pa, kadar se vrača toplota); ali jezero ustvarijo hlapi iz tal, ali oblačno nebo nabira moči iz vlage stoječega močvirja; ali je slednjič božanska moč vzvišenega Boga tolikšna, da pod njim kot vodnikom takšna zmožnost narave ostaja skrivnostna.

Mnogih stvari s svojimi sposobnostmi niso raziskali niti predniki. Kdo je vreden, da pod jamami raziskuje tok Alfeja, če ni že Aretuza zavrnila tvojih starih ljubezni? Kdo je vreden, da pozna skrivnostne izvire egipčanskega Nila? Kdo bi hotel na Evboji raziskovati ob obali vedno znova nastajajoče valove Evripa in odkrivati njihovo raznolično upadanje? Muhasta narava se ali prek majhnosti povzdigne ali človeškim očem in vidu odreka pogled na to ali nepoznani kraji s košatim trnjem preprečujejo dostop.

Če moreš in če si upaš domačinom karkoli bolje razložiti in si pri tem več stare umetnosti Modrosti, razlagalec naravnih pojavov in raziskovalec krajev, te moja Muza naproša, da poješ o takšnih novih stvareh, ki bodo zaslužile občudovanje prihodnjih stoletij, in o tem, kar je bilo dolgo prikrito. Javno objavi nadvse prijetno znanje in si prizadevaj sporočiti nam naravne vzroke stvari z dovtetnim duhom; raziskuj naravne pojave ter bolje opiši vse značilnosti cerkniške doline: kje leži, s kakšnim podnebjem zajema rodovitno zemljo in pod katerim ozvezdjem neizmerna neba leži. Spoznaval

land. Now at last there proves to be an end to the flooding; now all the rivers are peaceful, and resume their quiet gliding and return to calm. Now the gentle south wind, murmuring, calls people to the rich ploughlands; now it urges them to hurry along and descend from the crags. So at last they enter and take possession of dry land. Eagerly they explore the area and greet the countryside. Herds of animals wander through the plains so long unknown to them, and are delighted that the valley is taking on new form. On all sides fine young men spread out and rush around, eager to see the area, and hasten to play games on the level ground. Weary old men too come down from the heights, and now that the cold is past, farmers go to visit their friends. And here they are amazed that a huge group of comrades, gathered in the snow, youths, mothers and men, has streamed down to the valley. They are happy to resume their summer labours.

Meanwhile, while the rivers run within their usual channels, while the mildness of the spring sun recommends it, we ask why nature does not produce any springs in summer, and at the approach of winter lets them out to the empty breezes, and from where the standing waters rise, and to where they go down in spring. And I ask you, water-nymphs, what ancient dwelling-place, set on a foreign shore, you have left to come here. Speak, and reveal to me the hidden causes of nature, and all that lies hidden, and what great mass of water occupies the caverns, and from what source the lake-waters emerge. Although many things occur to me which according to hearsay go on beneath our fields, I will describe only the few things which are but imperfectly known to us. Either the Adriatic Sea flows through the entrails of the steep mountain, thrusting its course through rock which is full of fissures, and thus explores its path and seeks for its freedom (for it increases with cold and recedes when warm weather comes); or heat produces it from the ground; or the sky gathers up its force as clouds (do) from the moist dew of standing water; or the divine power of the most high God is so great, under whose guidance so great a power of nature lies concealed and hidden from our eyes, as do many things undiscovered by the talents of our ancestors. Who can explore the course of the Alpheus through its underground caverns - unless your old love, Arethusa, were to be brought back? Who can discover the hidden sources of the Egyptian Nile? Who would be willing to investigate the tides of Euripus, rising by turns on the coast of Euboea, and their recurrent ebb? Either nature, wandering, re-emerges through a few apertures(?), or she denies this information to human eyes and sight, or places undiscovered because of thorny bushes prevent us from finding the truth. If you, whoever you are, are able, and have the courage, to provide a better account to the local inhabitants, not without knowledge of the ancient art of Wisdom, an expounder of nature and an investigator of places, my Muse begs you to sing for the

CHOROGRAPH. REGIONIS CERCKNIZAE.

Contendas, quæ sit rerum natura requiras,  
 Cercknizæ melius describas omnia uallis,  
 Quo sita sit, pinguem teneat quo climate terram,  
 Quo locus immensus iaceat sub sydere cœli.  
 Et uarios hominum mores, & noueris urbes.  
 Vt te Phœbus amet magis, ut te numina fontis  
 Pierij mînentur, iter cursumq; secudent.  
 Ex alijs discas, nobis narrantibus illa,  
 Sudatum factis est, pro quo sit gratia CHRISTO.  
 Nos minus alta damus, placido sit litore circum  
 Labimur, & uento laxamus uela minori.

FINIS DESCRIPTIONIS  
 CERCKNIZAE.

GLORIA CHRISTO.

boš mesta in različne navade ljudi. Naj te Fojbos bolj ljubi, naj te pierijska božanstva izvirov občudujejo, naj ti osrečijo pot po kopnem in morju! Drugi naj te učijo!

Jaz pa, ki sem pripovedoval o tem, sem pretil dovolj znoja, za kar se zahvaljujem Kristusu. Ponujam nekaj manj vzvišenega: ker je obala mirna, bom odjadral naokrog in prepustil jadra šibkejšemu vetru.

Konec opisa Cerknice  
Slava Kristusu

(prevod: Pavel Češarek)

amazement of ages yet to come of such new-found problems and of matters which have long lain hidden. May you bring before the public for their instruction matters that are most pleasing to us, and strive to disclose, through your capable mind, the causes of things, and enquire what is the nature of things, and describe better all the features of the valley of Cerknica, where it lies, in what clime it holds its rich land, under what star of boundless heaven the place lies. And may you have got to know the different customs of its people, and their cities, and may Phoebus love you more, and may the deities of the Pierian Spring wonder at you, and favour your journey and your course. May you learn from others as I tell these things to you.

Enough sweat has been expended, for which may Christ be thanked. Now I offer less lofty information; I glide on, provided the shore-waters are calm all around, and loosen my sails to a lesser wind.

End of the description of Cerknica.

Glory to Christ...