**The Ethnological Cultural Heritage of Dolenjska**

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Cultural heritage is a comprehensive concept, and breaking it down into individual fields of heritage by professional discipline (archaeology, history, art, ethnology and so forth) in institutions such as museums, which preserve movable cultural heritage, and by institutes for the protection of cultural heritage, which work to ensure the protection of immovable cultural heritage, is merely the result of specialisation and a professional approach. The Dolenjska Museum has been in operation in Novo mesto since 1950, and the Novo mesto unit of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage since 1983.

This paper is therefore intended to present certain exhibits and areas that are part of the ethnological collection of the Dolenjska Museum (Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto), which only acquired its first permanent exhibition in 1986. The emphasis will be on certain objects that bear significant witness to the material, social and non-material heritage of the Dolenjska region, and also on some rare preserved items from the 19th and 20th centuries, which are notable not for their aesthetic value but for their extraordinary testimonial value. These include for instance: a wicker trap for catching fish and crayfish in the River Krka, a wooden mould for honey pastries with the signature of the maker, Novo mesto pastry maker Matija Kutnar, a manuscript of poems by folk poet and musician Ivan Rupnik Može, a Shrove Carnival camel, a ceramic wine carafe by Dragotin Rudež with a toast and the signature of the potter, a wooden carved door with the inscription God Save Slovenians!, a beehive panel in the shape of a French soldier and more.

We will also mention some private collections created after the Second World War, and especially in the last 25 years.