



**GRAČANI
HERITAGE
COLLECTION**

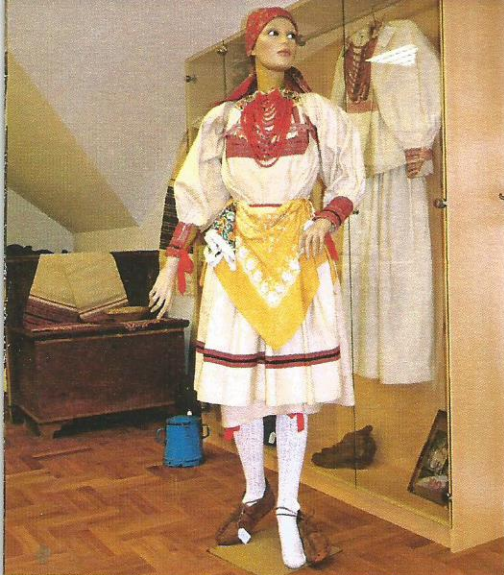


In 2007, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the HSPD "Podgorac" (Croatian Peasant Choral Society) of Gračani - Zagreb, Croatia, a museum exhibiting the heritage collection of their ancestors was instituted. The museum is located in the Old Primary School built in 1904 and proudly houses artifacts which speak of the life of our forefathers. The museum is of great value not only for Gračani but also Zagreb in general.



There are 247 exhibits which belong to the ethnographic and historic heritage of Gračani, used by our ancestors in everyday life and for various purposes.

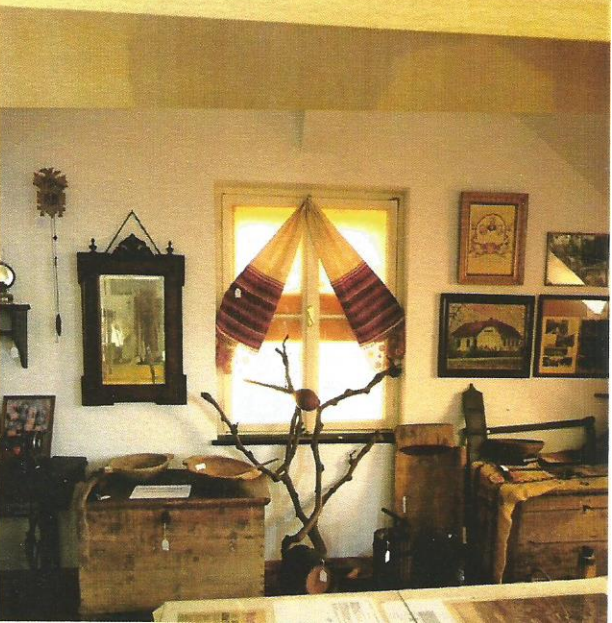
Situated at the foot of the Medvednica mountain, Gračani is surrounded by gentle hills and rests in a picturesque valley. The mountain streams Gračanec, Pustodol, Bliznec and Topličica pass through Gračani. First mentioned in the historical records from the 14th century, registered births from the village of Gračani (Gradschan, Grachani) were recorded in 1663.



At that period in time, Zagreb existed as two city centres, namely Kaptol (inhabited by clergy and housing the Zagreb Cathedral) and Gradec (inhabited by craftsmen and merchants). The inhabitants of Gračani were the largest settlement and also subjects of the free royal town of Gradec even though ownership was claimed by both Gradec and Kaptol. The inhabitants of Gračani were best known for the skills in farming, namely fruit, vegetables and grape vines.

Boasting a population of 7,200 residents, in 1950 Gračani became a district of Zagreb.

Christianity has always influenced the people and life style of Gračani thereby playing a vital role in its history and culture. Because of this influence, Gračani boasts of having three parishes within its jurisdiction, namely, the churches of St. Michael (1622), Saints Peter and Paul in Bešići (1979) and the parish of the Mother of God of Sljeme - The Queen of Croats (1932), resting 1000 metres above sea level distinguishing it amongst all other churches in Croatia.



Gračani Heritage Collection

- * contains items of the local ethnographic, cultural and historic heritage
- * presents a typical daily life in Gračani during the 19th and 20th centuries
- * is listed in the Register of Cultural Goods of the Republic of Croatia



"This Collection will be a permanent testimony and a memory of past times, especially of the forgotten way of life in Gračani. It will remain for future generations as an insight into the lives of our ancestors and the way they used to live - so we don't forget them."

Mirko Banek



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