



# *Godinje*

## *Exceptional Rural Heritage of Skadar Lake*



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Exceptional Rural Heritage of Skadar Lake  
Second edition

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The book you are holding in your hands is the second edition of the publication "Godinje 2004-an Architectural Workshop" that resulted from the workshop organized by NGOs Expeditio and Godinje in the village of Godinje on 4-23 May 2004.

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# CONTENTS

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Lake skadar .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Crmnica .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Godinje .....</b>	<b>16</b>
Historical Data .....	16
Interesting Historical Facts .....	20
Godinje then and now, from the perspective of the purpose of areas, and its production potential .....	25
<b>The Leković house grouping.....</b>	<b>26</b>
Chronology.....	29
Road communication .....	29
Passages and links ("secret" lines of communication).....	31
Typical houses .....	33
Construction and materials .....	35
Spatial organisation inside the houses .....	36
Typical elements .....	41
Alcoves (panjege) .....	42
Ventilation openings .....	44
Gunports.....	45
Hearth .....	46
Oven - "pepeljak" or "pepelnik" .....	48
<b>The Balšić Court .....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Architectural Workshop Godinje 2004.....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Bibliography .....</b>	<b>59</b>

## INTRODUCTION

The rural heritage of Montenegro represents an important and exceptionally valuable segment of the country's overall cultural heritage. The extraordinary natural and cultural diversity that is found on the territory of Montenegro has been uniquely reflected in its traditional construction activity and rural areas.

Unfortunately, rural heritage in Montenegro has not yet been evaluated in an adequate way. Although some rural areas have been recognized by the heritage protection service, and by experts and local communities as segments of cultural heritage, there are very

few examples of individual objects of rural architecture and rural areas that are protected by the law. Detailed and systematic researches of rural areas are equally rare. Awareness of the exceptional values of rural heritage is not developed, and rural heritage is not sufficiently recognized as an area with high potential for development, except among a small group of experts, local communities and individuals.

The village of Godinje on Skadar Lake is one of the most valuable and attractive rural areas in Montenegro. It has been recognized as such by professional services dealing with cultural heritage protection. However, detailed research of the village, based on technical documentation related to the village were not developed, and guidelines for its protection

*Traditional architecture of Skadar Lake, a group of houses in the village of Poseljani*



and development did not exist. The potential of this area was subsequently recognized by the local community and the non-governmental association “Godinje” which initiated a number of activities in order to revitalize the village.

In order to conduct architectural research and develop the required documentation and a database for the village Godinje, and to launch a pilot project for the research and valorisation of rural heritage and raise awareness of its values and potentials, a student Architectural Workshop Godinje 2004 was held in Godinje in 2004. The workshop, whose participants were students of architecture, was run by the NGO Expeditio team, while the initiative was developed by the local association “Godinje”.

The material collected during this workshop was edited and presented in the publication “Godinje 2004: an Architectural Workshop”, which was published in 2005.

The complete material prepared during the Architectural Workshop of 2004 was given to the Administration for the Protection of Cultural Property in 2015, when they began the process of establishing the cultural value of the village. In 2019, according to the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage, “the cultural-heritage area of Lekovići in Godinje” was given the status as an immovable cultural property of national importance and was protected as a cultural and historical area, i.e. a rural settlement. Therefore, following Vranjina, Godinje became the second protected rural area in Montenegro.

The present book “Godinje” is based on the publication from 2005, which compiled the material collected during the Architectural Workshop Godinje 2004.



*Skadar Lake, with rowboats, the construction of which has been recognized as intangible cultural heritage*

*Traditional rural area of Godinje*



## GODINJE - EXCEPTIONAL RURAL HERITAGE OF SKADAR LAKE



*Montenegro on the map of Europe*



*Position of Skadar Lake on the map of Montenegro*



*Skadar Lake*

# LAKE SKADAR

Lake Skadar, whose total surface fluctuates between 370 km<sup>2</sup> and 540 km<sup>2</sup>, is the largest lake in the Balkans. It is located in the south-east region of Montenegro, at 6-9 m above sea level. The average depth of the lake is 5 m - 6 m, while its deepest points are below sea level, which is why the lake is considered a cryptodepression. The deepest points of the lake are the underwater springs known as "oka" (eyes). The most impressive such point is Raduš, the deepest depression, 60 m deep. The southern coast is jagged, steep and rocky, with a plethora of small islands, points and bays, unlike the northern coast, characterised by the gentle slopes of the Zeta Plain, with its floodplains and reeds.

The lake is particularly impressive for its unique synthesis of natural ambience and cultural heritage, which renders the area a remarkable cultural landscape. The layers of rich cultural heritage include numerous archaeological sites, sacral architecture, fortifications and rural



*The northwestern part of Skadar Lake, with the Lesendro Fortress in the foreground*

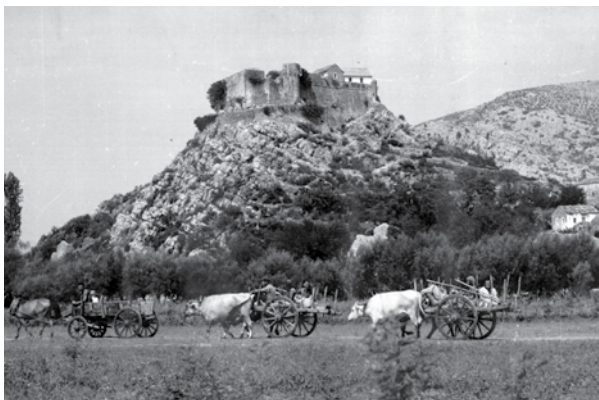


*The southwestern part of Skadar Lake with the Godinej Bay in the foreground*

ensembles. Medieval monasteries built on the scattered islands are particularly captivating.

The island Grmožur is tucked in the Godinje Bay of Lučica. The remains of a fortification with a prison complex, erected during the Ottoman invasion in the mid-19th century now serve as a nesting area for rare bird species.

Lake Skadar was declared a national park in 1983, and it was subsequently enlisted in the Ramsar list of Wetlands of International Importance - primarily due to the fact that various bird species inhabit the area. Since 2001, with the adoption of the Spatial Plan by the Parliament of the then Republic of Montenegro, all types of bird hunting have been banned.



*Žabljak Crnojevića (a historical photograph from the album of Prof. Dr Mirko Kovačević)*

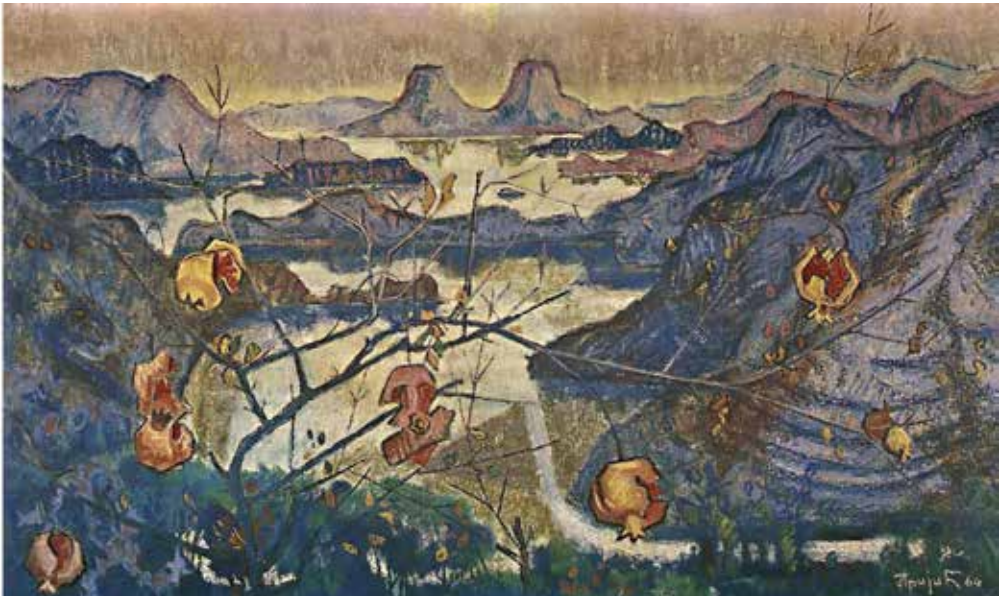


*Dodoši village on the shore of Skadar Lake*

Thus far, a total of 281 bird species have been spotted in the area of Lake Skadar. In 1999, the number of birds that spent the winter at the lake exceeded 250.000. Consequently, the lake is considered one of the most renowned bird wintering ranges in Europe. The most significant bird species inhabiting Lake Skadar are the following nesting birds: the Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), the pygmy cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*), the black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), the squacco heron (*Ardeola ralloides*), the great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), the great egret (*Egretta alba*), the grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), the common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), the great bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), the great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), and the whiskered tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*). Birdwatching at the lake attracts tourists from all over the world.



*The pelicans (Pelecanus crispus) on Skadar Lake*



*A landscape on Skadar Lake, Aleksandar Aco Pijević (1964)*

The lake is also known as a habitat for many fish species. The carp, the common bleak and the chub are the most economically important species. Certain species of sea fish (twait shad, eel, mullet) occur in the spring and summer, migrating into the lake via the river Bojana.



*The common tern (Sterna hirundo)*



*A water lily on Skadar Lake*

*The gray heron (Ardea cinerea) and the mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) on Skadar Lake*



## CRMNICA

During the Ottoman rule, which started in the mid-14th century, and lasted for 500 years, the territory of Montenegro was limited to four areas or nahije (sub-districts): Katunska, Riječka, Lješanska and Crmnička. Crmnička nahija or Crmnica, as it is known today, is the southernmost of the four regions, stretching over the area from the southern coast of Lake Skadar to mounts Sozina and Pepić, which stand as a split between this region and the sea.

The toponym Crmnička nahija or Crmnica appears in the Chronicles of the Priest of Duklja, dating back to the 12th century. The safest assumption to be made regarding the etymology of the toponym Crmnica is that it was named after church land, scattered all over



*The vineyards of Crmnica*

*The view of Crmnica from the lake*



the region, or by the river Crmnica, whose waters would turn red during the rain season, due to the colouration of the soil.

At present, Crmnica consists of 22 villages, known for the well-preserved original structures and the specific traditional architecture. The architectural heritage of Crmnica is very rich; in addition to rural ensembles, numerous monasteries, churches and fortresses, marking different periods in the history of the region, contribute to the exceptional value of the region.

Crmnica is best known as a winegrowing and winemaking region. There are indications that winegrowing was prevalent in this area even in the era of ancient Roman settlements, but wine production only expanded under the dynasty Petrović in the 19th century. Subsequently, during WWI and WWII, production plummeted, only to be revived a couple of years ago.

The natural and economic potential of Crmnica is enormous, primarily as a result of its direct contact with Lake Skadar, and the vicinity of the Adriatic, as well as its rich history, architectural heritage and preserved tradition.

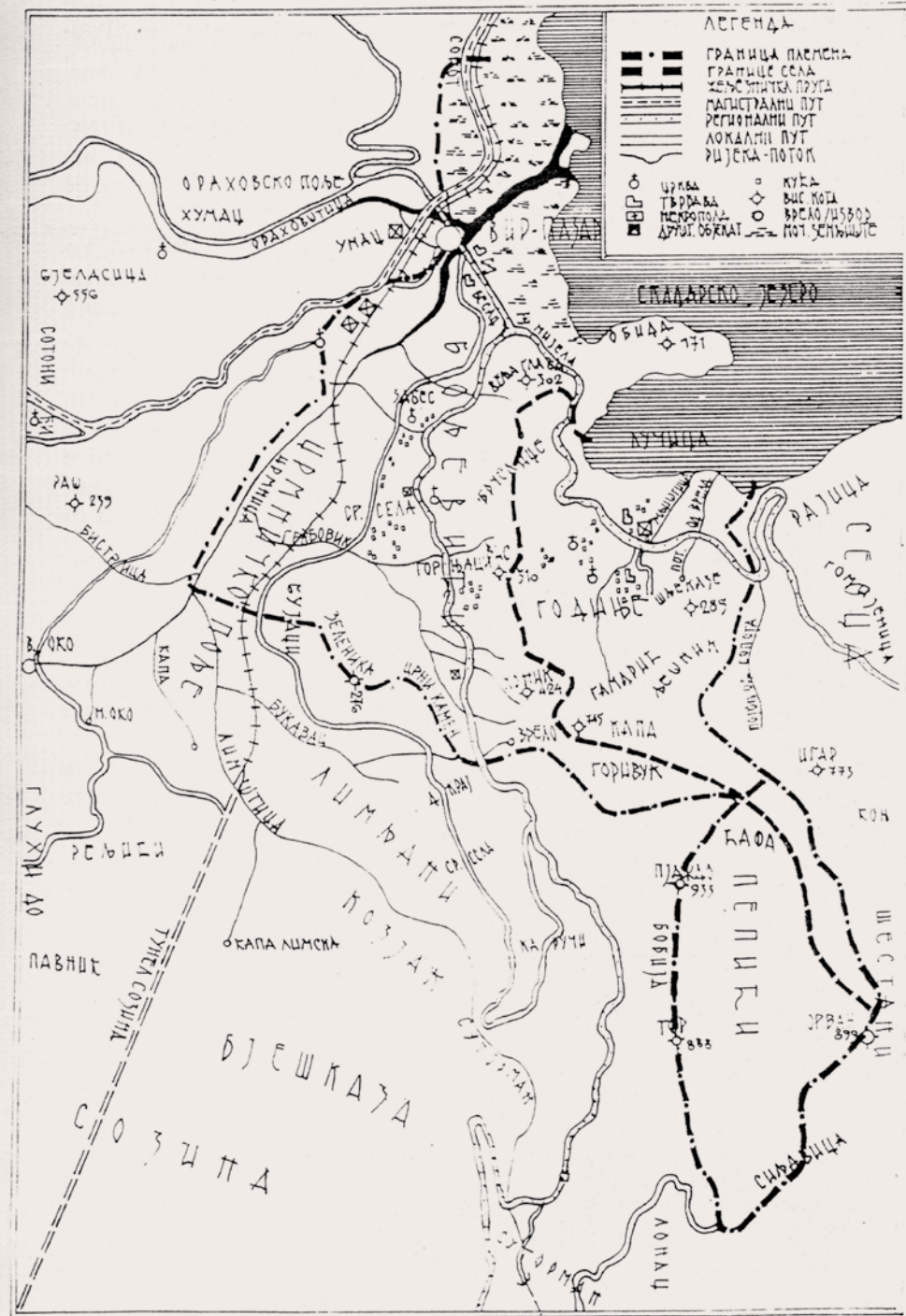


*The field of Crmnica*

*The view of Skadar Lake and Crmnica from Žabljak Crnojevića*



# КАРТА ПЛЕМЕНИ БОЛЬВИЦА



*The Map of the Boljević tribe in Crmnica nabija (region)*



*Skadar Lake, the view of Rijeka Crnojevića, Vranjina and the slopes of Ru mija*

