KOLESARSKA POT / CYCLING ROUTE

BICIKLISTINJA / The Female Cyclist

posvečena Zofki Kveder / dedicated to Zofka Kveder

Hrib - Loški Potok

Jugovzhodna Slovenija
Southeastern Slovenia

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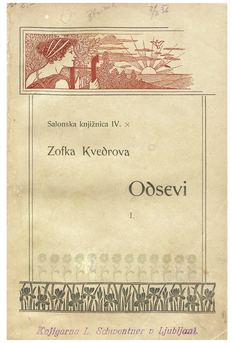
Zofka Kveder po prvi svetovni vojni
(vir: Narodna in univerzitetna knjižnica)
Zofka Kveder after World War I
(source: National and University Library)



Naslovnica knjige Odsevi (1902), v kateri je Zofka Kveder opisala tudi Loški Potok
(vir: Digitalna knjižnica Slovenije).
Cover of Odsevi (1902), in which Kveder also described Loški Potok (source: Digital Library of Slovenia)

Najrajše imam tisti kraj …

Slovenska pisateljica, dramatičarka, esejistka, prevajalka, urednica in kulturna posrednica Zofka Kveder je bila rojena 22. aprila 1878 v Ljubljani.
Po zgodnjih otroških letih, preživetih v rojstnem kraju, Ložu in na Blokah, in po večletnem šolanju v Ljubljani se je leta 1893 vrnila domov k družini, ki je tedaj živela v Dragi, a se je že naslednje leto preselila v Retje v Loškem Potoku. Tu je pomagala očetu pri tajniških in gostilniških opravilih in ob tem pronicljivo spoznavala potoško življenje in ljudi. Zaradi težkih družinskih razmer je konec leta 1896 praktično zbežala v svojo prvo službo v Kočevje, se v maju 1897 vrnila domov, nato pa čez nekaj mesecev odšla na delo v Ljubljano. Od tam naprej jo je življenjska pot kot vsestransko kulturnico in borko za ženske pravice vodila po številnih evropskih mestih (Trst, Bern, München, Praga, Zagreb), domov v Loški Potok pa se je vračala le na redke priložnostne obiske. Umrla je v Zagrebu 21. novembra 1926.

Čeprav je bil čas Zofkinega stalnega bivanja v Loškem Potoku odmerjen le na slaba tri mladostna leta, pa je kraj v njenem srcu pustil neizbrisen pečat. V pismu pesniku, publicistu, jezikoslovcu in prevajalcu dr. Antonu Debeljaku, rojenem 1887 v Loškem Potoku, je leta 1908 zapisala: "Pozdravite mi loškopotoške kraje, Tabor in vse hribe naokoli. Najrajše imam tisti kraj od vseh krajev, kar sem jih videla. Pust in trpek kraj je, ali jaz se ga rada spominjam."

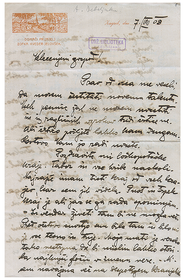
Njena navezanost na Loški Potok pa se kaže tudi v pisateljskem ustvarjanju. Že v prva literarna besedila je vključevala zgodbe in usode podeželskih ljudi, še posebno žensk, saj je bil njihov položaj zelo težek. Motivi, vaški posebneži in kraji, povezani z Loškim Potokom, so dobro prepoznavni v zbirkah *Odsevi* in *Iz naših krajev* (med štirimi pripovedmi v tej zbirki zasedajo vodilno mesto *Hrvatarji*), povestih *Na kmetih* in *Moja prijateljica* ter v drami *Amerikanci*.

Občina Loški Potok je leta 2014 postavila park kulturnikov in vanj umestila doprsni kip Zofke Kveder kot spomin na njeno tesno povezanost z Loškim Potokom.

Razglednica vasi Hrib pred letom 1907 (vir: Muzej Ribnica)
Postcard of the village of Hrib from before 1907 (source: Museum of Ribnica)

Razglednica Nove vasi iz leta 1902
(vir: Digitalna knjižnica Slovenije)
1902 Postcard of Nova Vas that shows a female cyclist (source: Digital Library of Slovenia)

Zofka Kveder kot mlada emancipiranka okoli leta 1900 (vir: Narodna in univerzitetna knjižnica)
Photograph of Zofka Kveder, a young, emancipated woman, from around 1900 (source: National and University Library)



Pismo Antonu Debeljaku
(vir: Narodna in univerzitetna knjižnica)
Letter to Anton Debeljak (source: National and University Library)

Biciklistinja

"Ling, ling, ling ...!!!"

Tako se začne zgodba Biciklistinja, ki jo je Zofka Kveder napisala leta 1898. V njej je prikazala žensko kolesarjenje, ki je bilo konec 19. in v začetku 20. stoletja znamenje ženske emancipacije. A za varuhe tradicije so bile kolesarice ali biciklistinje, kot so jih tedaj imenovali, trn v peti, ker so ženske na ta način brez spremstva odkrivale svet. Sporna je bila tudi podoba, ki so jo ugledali mimoidoči, ko se je na kolesu mimo njih peljala ženska.

Slovenski pesnik Anton Aškerc, ki se je skril za psevdonim Antikolesarjevič, je tako izrazil pomisleke:

> "Ženska nam že na konju ne ugaja več, še manj pa na kolesu! Ko Vam krilo takisto visi na obeh straneh kolesa in vihra v vetru, ko se Vam stresajo in trepečejo tisti široki rokavi - ali mislite, da je to estetično lepo? Ženska obleka je narejena tako, da dela pri hoji estetično ugodne gube, da kolikor toliko kaže - boljše rečeno - izdaje ali nam daje slutiti plastično lepoto telesnih oblik. Kako pa naj doseza ta estetični namen Vaša obleka, kadar se vozite na kolesu?! Pri tem morate tudi v poštev jemati eventualne ‚katastrofe'. Če pade moški s kolesa - prava reč! Malce oblati, opraši in morebiti tudi pobije se - toda njegova obleka ostane pač v naravni legi na njegovem životu. Kaj pa, če pade dama s kolesa! Če pridejo njena krila v najfatalnejši nered, če se na cesti razgali večji del nog, nego bi se smelo zgoditi ..."

Aškerc s svojimi pogledi ni mogel ustaviti napredka in razglednica kolesarke iz Nove vasi iz leta 1902 priča o tem, da je tudi žensko kolesarjenje postajalo del vsakdana. Tudi Zofka Kveder si je želela kolesariti, kakor razkrivajo njene besede v enem izmed pisem:

> "No, le čakajte, kadar pridem zopet domov! Tako hitro ne bo in bicikla menda tudi ne bo, a zato bomo še bolj veseli. Kaj ne, Ti? – Sicer se pa v treh letih prikobacam lahko tudi do bicikla."

I love that area the most...

Zofka Kveder was a Slovenian author, playwright, essayist, translator, editor, and cultural ambassador who was born on April 22, 1878, in Ljubljana.

After spending her early childhood years in her hometown of Lož, and later in Bloke, and after her years of schooling in Ljubljana, she came back to her family and home in 1893. They had been living in Draga, but moved to Retje in Loški Potok the next year. In Retje she helped her father with secretarial and innkeeping duties, while gaining sharp insight into the life and people of Loški Potok. Kveder's difficult circumstances caused her virtually to flee to her first job, in Kočevje, at the end of 1896. She returned home in May of 1897, and then left for a job in Ljubljana a few months later. From then on her life as both a general cultural figure and a fighter for women's rights led her to numerous European cities (Bern, Munich, Prague, Trieste, Zagreb), and only rarely did she come Trieste, to visit Loški Potok. She died in Zagreb on November 21, 1926.

Although Zofka Kveder spent only three or so years as a resident of Loški Potok in her youth, the area left its mark on her heart. In a 1908 letter to the poet, publicist, linguist, and translator Dr. Anton Debeljak, who was born in 1887 in Loški Potok, she wrote, "Give my regards to Loški Potok, Tabor, and all the surrounding hills. Of all the places I have been, I love that area the most. It may be barren and rugged, but I remember it fondly."

Kveder's affinity for Loški Potok also comes through in her writing. From the very outset of her writing career, she wrote stories that included the fates of ordinary, rural people and the unequal position of women in society. The motifs of Loški Potok and its environs, and characters from Loški Potok are particularly recognizable in her story collections *Odsevi (Reflections)* and *Iz naših krajev (From Our Lands)* (among which the story *Hrvatarji* occupies a leading position), in the novellas *Na kmetih (On the Farms)* and *Moja prijateljica (My Female Friend)*, and in the play *Amerikanci (Americans)*.

In 2014, the municipality of Loški Potok established a park of cultural figures, ensconcing a bust of Zofka Kveder in it as a reminder of her close connection with the area.

The Female Cyclist

"Ring, ring, ring...!!!"

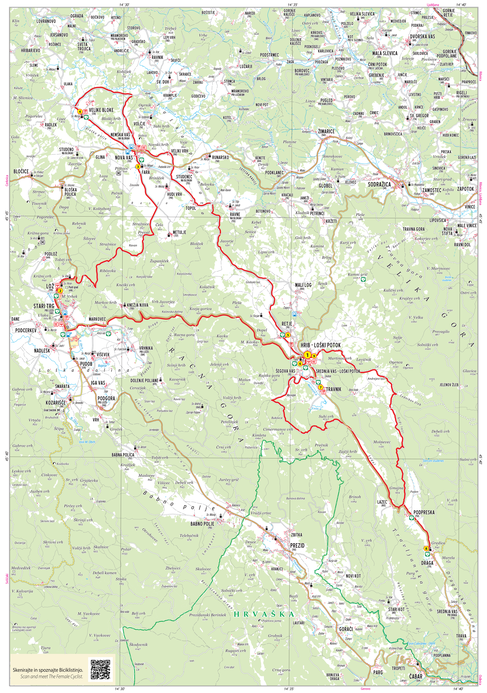
That is how Zofka Kveder's 1898 story *The Female Cyclist* begins. There she depicted women cycling, which at the turn of the 20th century was a sign of female emancipation. However, female cyclists, or "biciklistinje" as they were called in Slovenian back then, were a thorn in the side of those who guarded tradition – women could now discover the world unchaperoned. The image that passers-by saw when a woman rode past them on a bicycle was also a matter for concern.

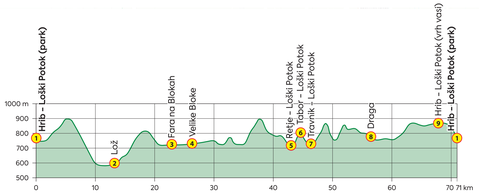
The Slovenian poet Anton Aškerc, who wrote under the pseudonym "Antikolesarjevič" or "Anti-cyclist," expressed his misgivings:

> "We don't like to see women riding on horses, much less on bicycles! When the skirts hang down on both sides of the bicycle and flap in the wind, when those baggy sleeves shake and tremble – do you think that's aesthetically pleasing? Women's attire is made to exhibit pleasing folds when you are walking, to show as much as possible – or to put it better – to reveal or to give a hint of the shapely beauty of the body. How can your attire live up to its aesthetic aims when you are perched on a bicycle? You also have to consider potential 'disasters.' If a man falls off his bicycle – What of it?! Perhaps he gets a bit dirty, suffers some scrapes and bruises – but his clothes will remain in their natural position over his body. But if a lady falls off her bicycle! If her skirts become fatally tangled, more of her legs are exposed on the road than is seemly…"

But Aškerc's views could not block the path of progress. A 1902 postcard of a female cyclist from Nova Vas shows that cycling was becoming part of everyday life for women too. Zofka Kveder also wanted to cycle, as we see in one of her letters:

> "Well, just wait until I get back home again!
> It won't be any time soon, and there probably won't be a bicycle either, but the waiting will make us even happier. Don't you agree? In any case, I'll be able to afford a bicycle in three years."





Naslednja točka je Lož, ki je oddaljen 13 km.
The next stop is Lož, which is 13 kilometres away.

Najprimernejše obdobje za kolesarjenje je med 1. majem in 30. septembrom. Makadamski deli kolesarske trase potekajo pretežno skozi senčne gozdove neokrnjene narave, v katerih sem in tja lahko opazite katero izmed tu živečih gozdnih živali, na nekaterih krajših odsekih pa lahko ostanete tudi brez signala za vaš mobilni telefon.

The ideal time for riding along this path is from May 1 to September 30. The gravel sections of the route run mainly through shady forests of unspoiled nature where you can occasionally spot some of the forest wildlife that lives here. On some shorter sections you may even find yourself lacking a mobile phone service.

javna agencija za znanstveno-raziskovalno in inovacijsko dejavnost Republike Slovenije
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OBČINA BLOKE
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Women Writers Route
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Avtorstvo besedil in izbor slikovnega gradiva / *Text and selection of images:* Katja Mihurko, Bogdana Mohar, Vlado Mohar
Prevod besedil v angleščino / *Translation into English:* Jason Blake
Oblikovanje tabel / *Sign Design:* Barbara Kobilar
Informacijske table so nastale v projektu občanske znanosti Kolesarska pot Biciklistinja (OK-0322), ki ga je financirala Javna agencija za znanstvenoraziskovalno in inovacijsko dejavnost Republike Slovenije. / *The information signs were created as part of the citizen science project Biciklistinja Cycling Route (OK-0322), funded by the Public Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation of the Republic of Slovenia.*
Postavitev in izdelavo tabel so financirali: Občina Loški Potok, Občina Bloke in Javni zavod Snežnik. / *These signs were funded by: The Municipality of Loški Potok, the Municipality of Bloke, and the Snežnik Public Institution.*

Kolesarjenje po kolesarski poti je na lastno odgovornost.
Cycling on the bike path is at your own risk.

PARKS