# Povesti o hradoch a zámkoch

# Legends of Slovak castles








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# INTRODUCTION

Project BraDraShip is based on the institutional cooperation between Gymnázium Grosslingová 18, Bratislava, Slovakia and St. Hallvard videregående skole, Drammen, Norway. BraDraShip is an acronym for BRAtislava – DRAmmen – Ship and it describes cities on the same board which are eager to fight for better education through mutual sharing of tricks and practices in teaching and learning in the spirit of BROTHERSHIP (which sounds similar to BRADRASHIP).

The main goal of this project is to improve not only teaching process but also after-school activities. In order to achieve the main goal we set up several partial goals:

- create teaching aids for both scientific and social subjects, share proved and create new methods and activities to emphasize using knowledge in real life situations,
- cooperate on assignments and tasks related to different parts of life which are attractive for our students and raise their awareness about other cultures, history and traditions of both countries.

This material was created by students in cooperation with their teachers. We recommend it to be used not only in English language classrooms in order to improve vocabulary and reading comprehension skills but also in other classes to extend students knowledge about culture and history of partner country.

# BIELY KAMEŇ



poloha: Západné Slovensko (Svätý Jur)

vznik: 1271 - 1663

majitelia: Illesházy, Pálffy

stav: zrúcanina

## Povesť o chudobnej Juranke

Bolo veľmi horúce leto a neďaleko hradu Biely kameň práve začala žatva. Úroda bola v tom roku veľmi hojná. Jedna mladá žena žala trávu a mala so sebou aj malého syna, ktorý sa hral, zatiaľ čo jeho mama pracovala. Avšak po chvíli sa žena obzrela a svojho syna nikde nevidela. Začala ho hľadať a našla ho až na hrade. Syn medzitým vbehol do trhliny do zrúcaniska hradu. Okamžite utekala za ním, ale keď vošla do trhliny, zbadala niečo veľmi nečakané. Okolo nich boli kopy zlata a drahokamov. Chudobná žena sa samozrejme nechala týmto všetkým uniesť a na svojho syna v momente zabudla. Začala si do zástery nakladať toľko zlata a drahokamov, koľko vládala. Chcela vyniesť poklady von, aby si uvoľnila ruky a mohla zobrať ďalšie. Ale keď vyšla von, otvor v skale sa zavrel a uväznil tam aj jej synčeka. Bola zúfala, celú noc syna hľadala a dokonca aj všetko zlato sa cez noc zmenilo na kamene. Zo zúfalstva sa obrátila na známeho farára, ktorý žil taktiež vo Svätom Jure. Farár si s údivom vypočul jej príbeh a poradil jej, aby počkala presne rok a aby sa presne o rok na to isté miesto vrátila. Taktiež jej ešte povedal, že sa nesmie pozerať ani doprava, ani doľava. Pokiaľ sa znova nechá zlákať zlatom a drahokammi, tak už svojho syna nikdy neuvidí. Žena mu poďakovala za radu a odišla domov. Celý rok netrpezlivo čakala na ten deň, kedy sa bude môcť vrátiť po svojho syna. Noci pre ňu boli veľmi dlhé, nemohla spávať, lebo stále myslela len naňho. A len čo znovu vyšlo slnko, vybrala sa žena k hradu. Po takej dlhej dobe sa nevedela dočkať. Nespávala, dokonca zabudla i na jedlo. Bolo leto, presne ako pred rokom. Stála pod hradom a uprene hľadela na hradné múry a netrpezlivo čakala, čo sa stane. Bolo tam ticho. Jediné, čo počula bol veselý spev vtákov, poletujúcich vzduchom. Zrazu hradná stena pukla a znova sa v nej urobila trhlina. Žena vykríkla a vyskočila od radosti. Matka sa rozbehla k hradu a vbehla do trhliny presne ako pred rokom. Avšak tentokrát ju už nezaujímalo bohatstvo, ale len jej syn. Poobzerala sa okolo seba a zahľadela sa na to isté miesto, kde pred rokom nechala svoje dieťa. A jej syn tam skutočne bol. Sedel na kameni a hral sa s drahokamom. Žena bola veľmi šťastná, že je jej syn živý a zdravý. Bol oblečnený v tých istých šatách ako keď ho naposledy videla a dokonca nebol vôbec špinavý. Zdalo sa jej, že jej syn sa ani trošku nezmenil. Chytila ho do náručia, pritisla si ho na hruď a bez obzretia sa na kopu zlata vybehla spolu s ním von z trhliny. Synček si odtiaľ na pamiatku odniesol plnú hrsť drahokamov, ktoré sa už tentokrát na kamene nezmenili. Chlapec jej doma porozprával, že sa tam mal veľmi dobre, že spával v zlatej posteli a v hodvábnych perinách. A taktiež, že sa oňho starala veľmi pekná pani. Počas celej doby ho uspávala a ustielala mu postieľku. Matka sa čudovala a nechcela veriť jeho rozprávkam, pretože žiadnu postieľku tam nevidela, ale synček jej povedal, že postieľka tam bola vždy len v noci. Potom už viac žena nevyzvedala a tešila sa z prítomnosti svojho synčeka. Žena bola šťastná, že opäť má doma to najcennejšie a tým bol jej syn. Uložila ho do postieľky a sledovala ako jej syn spí. Celú dobu sa usmieval zo sna, pretože sa mu snívalo o krásnej panej, ktorá sa oňho starala, keď bol na hrade.

# BIELY KAMEŇ



location: West Slovakia (Svätý Jur)

origin/the first written reference: 1271-1663

owners: Illesházy, Pálffy

condition: ruins

## The Legend Of A Poor Woman From Svätý Jur

It was a very hot summer day and near the castle Biely Kameň the harvest had just begun. That year the crop was very plentiful. One young woman was cropping grass and her little son was with her. He was playing not far away from his mother, while she was working. After a while the woman looked around, but she could not s;ee him. She immediately started looking for him and she found him in a castle. Meanwhile, her son ran into the little crack in the castle. She followed him but when she had entered the crack, she noticed something unexpected. There were tons of gold and jewellery around them. Of course, a very poor was crazy about it and she forgot about her little son. She started taking as much as she could. Then she carried the treasures out of the castle but when she wanted to come back the crack wasn´t there. The crack had disappeared and imprisoned her little son. The woman was very desperate, she was looking for her son the whole night and even all the gold changed into stones. Out of desperation, she visited a priest that lived in Svätý Jur as well. The priest listened to her story and gave her advice. He told her to wait one year and after that she could go back to that place. But this time she couldn´t look around and be interested in wealth again. And if she did, she would never see her son again. The woman thanked him for his advice and she went home. For the whole year she was waiting impatiently for that day to get her son back. The nights were never-ending for her. She couldn´t sleep, because all that she could think of, was her little son. And when the sun was shining bright again, she came back to the castle. After such a long time she couldn´t wait, she didn´t sleep and she forgot about the food as well. It was summer, just like a year ago. She was standing under the castle and she was waiting impatiently to see what was going to happen. There was silence surrounding her and all that she could hear were the birds flying in the air. Suddenly, the wall cracked again and a little crack appeared again. The woman was thrilled, she started jumping around and yelling out of joy. She ran into the castle just like a year ago. But this time, she didn´t care about the gold and jewellery. She looked around and then she noticed the place, where she had left her son. And he was there. He was sitting on a stone and he was playing with a shiny gem. The woman was very happy because her son was alive and healthy. He was wearing the same clothes. Actually, he was not even dirty. She felt like he didn´t change at all. She grabbed him into her arms and she pulled him close to her chest and without looking at the gold, she carried him out of the castle. Her son took a fist full of gems, but this time, they didn´t change into stones. Her son told her, that he slept in a golden bed in silk sheets and that a very pretty woman was taking care of him. His mother couldn´t believe his stories, because she did not see any bed there but she was very happy that her son was back home with her again. She put him in his bed and she was watching him sleeping. He was smiling the whole time, because he dreamt about the beautiful woman that was taking care of him, while he was in the castle.



# STARÝ ZÁMOK

poloha: Banská Štiavnica

vznik: 1546 - 1559

majitelia: neznámi

stav: zachovalý

## Kráska a červený rytier

V dávnych časoch na mieste, kde sa teraz vypína Starý zámok, stál kláštor. Ten bol obývaný statočnými rytiermi nazývanými ako Červení rytieri, ktorý ho bránili. Ich úloha bola ochraňovať ostatných od nebezpečenstva číhajúceho na každom rohu, vždy keď to bolo možné. Žilo sa im veľmi ťažko, keďže všakovakými lupičmi a zlodejmi sa to vtedy len hemžilo. Navyše museli dodržiavať veľmi prísne pravidlá a ženy mali úplne zakázané. Už len obyčajná myšlienka na ne bola považovaná za priestupok. Jedného dňa sa tam objavila mladá a krásna dievčina, dcéra lorda, ktoré potrebovala prečkať noc. Starý hlavný rytier ju privítal, ale od prvého momentu bol ohromený jej krásou. Dal jej najväčšiu izbu a rozkázal pripraviť hostinu. Lenže neskôr si uvedomil, že sa akosi stratil v jej prekrásnych očiach. Už dávno zabudnuté túžby boli prebudené. Jej nevinný pohľad bol v každom kúštičku jeho starnúceho tela a mučivú spomienku na ňu cítil ako v jeho duši, tak i srdci. Tú noc nevedel zaspať, zakaždým čo zatvoril oči túžiac aspoň po troške spánku, ju videl usmievajúc sa stáť rovno pred ním. Hlavný rytier sa zobudil bledý v tvári a unavený. Aj napriek tomu že bojoval celú noc, ráno vstával ako porazený! Už nebol tým istým mužom ako bol len včera. Vedel až priveľmi dobre, že sa rúti do záhuby, ale nebol dostatočne silný aby odolal. Už ho nič nezaujímalo, ani jeho postavenie či pravidlá. Jediná vec, na ktorej mu ešte záležalo, bola dievčina. Tá chcela ráno odísť rytier si vymyslel klamstvo aby ju prinútil zostať. Povedal jej, že neďaleko sa objavila nebezpečná skupina zbojníkov a preto by mala ešte pár dní zostať. Uspel, veď ona mu predsa verila. Ako by aj mohla podozrievať niekoho ako bol on? Deň prešiel pomaly a aj napriek jeho vyčerpaniu sa mu znova nepodarila zaspať. A znova bola v jeho snoch, ale tento raz sa už len neusmievala, tieto sny boli dosť oplzlé a podlé, veď si to viete predstaviť aj samy... A znova jeho prvé kroky viedli do jej izby, šiel jej zapriať dobré ráno. Ako j cítil tak blízko seba, zvnútra ho spaloval divoký plameň túžby a skoro sa neovládol. Klamal jej, že minulú noc lupiči zabili troch ľudí. Dievča bolo vystrašené, ale vďačné. Večer sa všetci rytieri zhromaždili a oslavovali, pijúc veľa červeného vína. Hlavný rytier sediaci medzi nimi bol nezvyčajne tichý, akosi uzatvorený do seba. Nikto si nevšimol, že jeden rytier, nováčik, chýba. Práve on poznal dievčinu ešte predtým ako vstúpil do kláštora a v tajnosti ju ešte stále miloval. Náhodou započul klamstvá hlavného rytiera a preto ho začal podozrievať, takže odišiel varovať lorda, že jeho dcéra nie je v bezpečí. Zatiaľ čo lord sa ponáhľal do kláštora, hlavný rytier sa opatrne zakrádal ku dievčininej izbe. Už spala. Všetko v ňom besnelo a mohol cítiť svoju rozbúrenú krv. Pomaličky otvoril dvere, lenže tie vydali viac hluku ako mali a zobudili dievčinu. Okamžite otvorila doširoka oči, vyskočila na nohy a začala kričať o pomoc. Pochopila čo následuje. On ju pevne chytil a držal. Na moment bolo jediným zvukom ich hlboké dýchanie. Potom sa jej nejako podarilo ho silno kopnúť a vyslobodiť sa, hneď na to vybehla von z izby na dlhú chodbu. Ako zúfalo utekala po chodbe mohla ho stále počuť za sebou ako ju naháňa. Odrazu sa hlavný rytier zastavil a chcel zakričať, ale od hrôzy nemohol. Z ničoho nič sa dievčina ocitla v železnej panne. Rýchly záblesk, krutá ostrosť čepelí a potom studené objatie smrti. Rytier si zakryl rukami oči aby nevidel všetko to šialenstvo a hrozne vykríkol. Už bolo neskoro. Po tom ako si uvedomil čo sa stalo chcel utiecť, lenže lord, ktorý práve dorazil všetko videl a skôr ako sa rytier stihol spamätať mu odťal hlavu. Potom našiel mŕtve dorezané telo jeho dcéry medzi starými kosťami a bolestivo zaplakal.



## OLD CASTLE

location: Banská Štiavnica

origin: 1546 - 1559

owners: unknown

condition: well-preserved

## The Beauty And The Red Knight

A long time ago there was a monastery standing where the Old castle is situated now. This place was protected by brave knights called the Red knights who lived there. Their task was to protect the others from dangers hidden all around. In these times there were a lot of bandits and thieves, so their lives weren't so easy. Moreover, they had to follow very strict rules and women were absolutely forbidden for them. Even a simple though about them was considered as an offense. One day a young beautiful maiden - a daughter of the lord appeared. She needed an overnight accommodation. The old main knight welcomed her and was stunned by her beauty from the very first moment. He gave her the biggest room they had and ordered to prepare a feast. Later that day the main knight realized he'd got lost in her eyes, already forgotten desires had been woken up. Her innocent glance was running throughout all his weak body and he felt an agonizing reminiscence of her in both his soul and heart. He wasn't able to fall asleep, every time he closed his eyes; she was standing right in front of him, smiling. The main knight woke up pale in face and tired. He was fighting all night but he woke up defeated! He wasn't the same man as he'd been yesterday. He knew very well he was falling into a destruction, but wasn't strong enough to resist. He didn't care about anything, neither his status nor the rules. The one thing that mattered to him was the maiden. In the morning, she wanted to leave but the main knight told her a lie to make her stay. He told her that a dangerous group of bandits had appeared nearby, so she shouldn't have left for a few days. He succeeded because she trusted him. How could she suspect someone like him? A day passed slowly and despite his exhaustion he didn't manage to fall asleep again. She was in his dreams, but this time not only smiling, these dreams were quite obscene and wicked as you can imagine... And again his first steps headed towards her room to say morning greetings. While feeling her presence so close, a wild fire was burning inside him and he almost lost control. He lied that the bandits had murdered three people last night. She was frightened, but thankful. In the evening all the knights gathered together and were celebrating something, drinking a lot of red wine. The main knight sitting among them was unusually quiet, roaming inside his own head. Nobody noticed that one knight, a newcomer, was absent. He had known the maiden before he joined the monastery and he still secretly loved her. By accident he'd heard the lies of the main knight and that's why he started to suspect him, so he'd left to warn the lord about his daughter's safety. While the lord was hurrying to the monastery, the main knight was cautiously creeping towards the maiden's room. She was already sleeping. Everything inside him raved and he was able to feel his wild blood. He opened the door. But he made more noise as he wished to and woke her up. She immediately opened her eyes wide, jumped on her feet and started to shout for help. She understood what could have happened. He caught her and held her closely. For a moment, the only sounds were their deep breaths. Then she kicked him and managed to free herself and ran out of the room to a long hall. While she was running desperately through the hall, she could hear him chasing her. Suddenly the old main knight stopped and wanted to scream but he couldn't. Out of the blue, she was caught in an iron maiden. She was feeling cruel sharpness of blades and then cold embrace of death. The knight covered his eyes not to see that madness and screamed. It was too late. After he realized what had happened he wanted to run away but the lord who had just arrived had seen the whole scene and cut his head off. Then he found her dead body among old bones and wept painfully.

# HRAD REVIŠTE



poloha: Žarnovica, Banskobystrický kraj

vznik: 13. storočie

majitelia: Dóciovci

stav: zrúcanina

## Dobrí sa vo svete nestratia

Dóciovci, pôvodom z Banátu, patrili k uhorskému šľachtickému rodu. Urban Dóci sa stal majiteľom revištského panstva i hradu. Neskôr k ich majetkom pribudli aj ďalšie hrady, čím sa zaradili medzi najbohatšie rody na území Slovenska. Keď Turci tiahli z Ostrihomu na Pohronie, zajali Ondreja Dóciho a odvliekli ho do Osmanskej ríše. Šľachticov v tureckom zajatí však nestihol bežný osud nešťastníkov. Turci vedeli, že by za nich mohli žiadať slušné výkupné. Čakali teda, že Dóciho rodina oňho prejaví záujem, a okamžite ho vykúpi. Nikto však neprichádzal. Človek by si pomyslel, že hrad bude zahalený v čiernej farbe a veľkomožná pani Dócička si oči vyplače za zajatým manželom. Bolo samozrejmosťou, že panička nebude mať pokoja v duši, dokým nezoženie mech zlatiek a nevykúpi muža z rúk Turkov. Opak bol však pravdou. Slzy jej tiekli po tvári, no z čistej radosti. Konečne jej bol osud priaznivo naklonený a splnili sa jej tajné túžby. V poslednom čase premýšľala len o tom, ako sa svojho manžela zbaví. Toľko ráz jej už prebehla myšlienka, že mu do vína zamieša výluh zo zelenej muchotrávky, alebo naňho najme zbojníkov. Teraz sa ho, akoby zázrakom, bez námahy zbavila. Muž bol síce preč, no to najdôležitejšie, majetky, zostali. Dosiahla vytúženú slobodu a konečne sa mohla venovať aj ľúbostnému životu. Hostinám a zábavám na hrade nebolo konca. Cválanie a dupot koní na hradnej ceste ani na chvíľu neutíchol. Tichý hrad ožil a Revištská pani akoby rozkvitla. Raz zabúchal na bránu posol z ďalekej tureckej krajiny. Doniesol panej od Turkov naliehavý list. Žiadali v ňom dvadsaťtisíc toliarov za vyslobodenie Dóciho. Tí sa načakajú, pomyslela si pani veľkomožná, no pred poslom sa musela pretvarovať. Kvílila pred ním o tom, aká je nešťastná, také bohatstvo ona nikdy neženie ani keby všetko predala a u všetkých sa zadlžila. V skutočnosti však vôbec netúžila, aby sa jej starý manžel vrátil zo zajatia. Mohla si vybrať hociktorého mladého junáka, na ktorého by ukázala prstom. Vypustila teda manžela z hlavy a ďalej žila veselým životom. Mohla však čakať, že to u bežného ľudu vzbudí pohoršenie. Nepáčilo sa to aj Ignácovi Petruškovi, poddanému a vychýrenému pytliakovi. Neraz mu dobrák pán Dóci pomohol. Keď ho nachytal v hore, pomohol mu naložiť jeleňa na plecia, aby doma deti nehladovali. U iných pánov by za takýto čin išiel na šibenicu. Petruška sa hneď dovtípil, čo má Dócička za lubom. Chcel sa Dócimu odvďačiť, tak zašiel sa svojím švagrom Janom Mravcom. Ten mal na pána tiež pekné spomienky, lebo mu podaroval drevo na novú chalupu. Chlapi dali hlavy dokopy a rozhodli sa, že pána Dóciho zachránia. Chodili z domu do domu a zbierali toliare na jeho vyslobodenie. Aj tí najbiednejší prispeli pre spravodlivú vec. Revištská hradná pani sa len smiala, keď sa o tej zbierke dozvedela. Potom však zistila, že im chýba už len tisíc toliarov. Zľakla sa, no aby si očistila povesť, zaplatila posledný tisíc z vlastného vrecka. Ignác s Janom neboli hlúpi a tušili, že Dócička sa im bude snažiť zmariť plány. Tri dni pred odchodom rozšírili, že Jana seklo v krížoch, a do Turecka nepôjde. On však zatiaľ cválal za hranicu, aby tam ukryl toliare. Dobre urobili, že dali na rozum a nie štastie. Pani Dócička im totiž nachystala po ceste pasce v podobe hrdlorezov. Ignác išiel so sprievodom a bol veľmi rád, keď sa za hranicami stretol s Janom. Potom putovali po Turecku až do Carihradu k pánovi Dócimu, za ktorého vysolili dvadsať tisíc toliarov. Keď sa vrátili, Dócička ho na nádvorí čakala s otvoreným náručím. On sa však rozhodol pre spravodlivú odplatu. Pristavil koč a prikázal jej, nech si naloží veci a zmizne mu navždy z očí.

# THE REVIŠTE CASTLE



location: Žarnovica, Banskobystrický kraj

origin: 13th century

owners: the Dóci family

conditions: ruins

## Good Ones Don´t Get Lost In The World

The Dóci family, originally from Banát, was a noble family in the Kingdom of Hungary. Urban Dóci became the owner of the Revište dominion and the castle. Later on, other castles were added to their property, making them one of the richest families in Slovakia. When the Turks journeyed from Esztergom to Pohronie, Ondrej Dóci was captured and dragged into the Ottoman Empire. Aristocrats captured in Turkey weren't treated the same way as the other unfortunates. The Turks knew that they could demand loads of money for them. They expected the Doci's family to show the interest and redeem him immediately. However, no one was coming. One would expect the whole castle to be covered in black colours and that Mrs. Dóci was crying her eyes out. It was taken for granted that the mistress would not live in peace until she redeemed her husband. However, the opposite was true. Tears streamed down her face but from pure joy. Finally, she was lucky and her secret desires were fulfilled. Recently, she had been thinking about doing away with him. The idea of poisoning his wine with a toadstool infusion or hiring forest robbers had come to her mind many times. Miraculously, she got rid of him without an effort. Although her husband was gone, the most important thing, possessions, remained. She gained her desired freedom and could focus on her love life. Feasts and dances in the castle were never-ending. The clatter of horses galloping on the castle road was not silenced even for a moment. The silent castle revived and Mrs. Dóci blossomed. One day, a missionary from a far country of Turkey knocked on the castle door. He brought the mistress an urgent letter from the Turks. They demanded twenty thousand thalers for the redemption of Dóci. "They'll be waiting for a long time", thought the Mistress. However, she had to dissemble in front of the missionary. She was wailing about her sadness and that she could never get so much money even if she sold everything and got into debts. In fact, she didn't want her husband to come back from Turkey at all. She could choose any young man she wanted by pointing her finger. The mistress dismissed her husband and kept on living a happy life. However, she could expect that it would scandalize the liege people. Ignác Petruška, a serf and a notorious poacher, was also displeased with her actions. The good man Dócí had helped him several times. Every time Mr. Dóci caught Ignác hunting in the hills, he helped him and loaded a deer on his back, so his children wouldn't starve. Other lords would have sent him to gallows for such an action. Petruška knew what the mistress was up to. He wanted to repay Mr. Dóci, so he went to his brother-in-law, Ján Mravec. Ján had good memories of Dóci because he had given him wood for a new cottage. Men put their heads together and decided to save Mr. Dóci. They went from house to house and raised thalers for his rescue. Even the poorest ones contributed for a good thing. The mistress started laughing when she found out about it. Later on, she heard that they needed only one last thousand thalers. She got scared but to make herself look innocent she gave them the last thousand thalers out of her own pocket. However, Ignác and Ján weren't stupid and knew that Mrs. Dóci would try to ruin their plans. Three days before the departure, they spread a rumour that Ján had a back pain and wouldn't travel to Turkey. However, he was galloping beyond the country borders to hide the thalers there. They chose well, relying on wit rather than luck. Mrs. Dóci had prepared several traps on their road in a form of thugs. Ignác, who travelled with a procession, was really pleased to meet Ján beyond the borders. After that, they travelled across Turkey to Constantinople where they paid twenty thousand thalers for Dóci's redemption. When they returned the mistress was welcoming her husband with open arms. However, Mr. Dóci decided to treat her fairly. He told her to take her things and get out of his sight forever.



# STARHRAD

poloha: Domašínský menader

pôvod: 1267 - 18. storočie

majitelia: Balassovci, Matúš Čák

stav: zrúcanina

## Povesť o Milkovi a Marienke

Hrad Starhrad sa nachádza čoby kameňom dohodil od hradu Strečno. Na oboch hradoch boli v tom čase pánmi mladí rytieri; na Starhrade Milko a na Strečne Vladimír. Obaja sa zaľúbili do tej istej dievčiny, krásnej dcéry Žilinského richtára Marienky. Marienka sa zamilovala do Milka. Sľúbili si navzájom vernosť „až kým nás smrť nerozdelí“. Ale všetko malo byť inak; keď Vladimír požiadal žilinského rychtára o ruku jeho dcéry, rychtárovi sa zapáčilo vydať ju na hrad Strečno – hrad bol väčší a v lepšom postavení ako Starhrad , takže aj jeho majiteľ bol bohatší a mocnejší. A tak rodičia prisľúbili Marienkinu ruku Vladimírovi. Marienke to veru nebolo po chuti, veď sľúbila vernosť Milkovi. Svojich rodičov si však vážila, a podriadila sa napokon voľky-nevoľky ich prianiu. Na hrade Strečno vychystali veľkú svatbu, akú by si pán Starhradu istotne nemohol dovoliť. Po svadobnej hostine, sa novomanželia odobrali do postele, a keď sa za nimi zavreli dvere komnaty, Marienka Vladimírovi povedala: „Dostal si moje telo, ale moja duša patrí Milkovi!“ Vladímír z toho veru nebol veľmi nadšený, ale dúfal, že po pár rokoch spolu, ak ho aj nebude Marienka milovať, naučí sa ho aspoň tolerovať. Dni a mesiace ubiehali, no Marienka sa naňho stále pozerala ako na zloducha. Vladimír bol z toho stále neštastnejší a neštastnejší. Keď raz v noci nemohol zaspať, uvidel ako niekto upaľuje na krásnom bielom koni od hradnej brány smerom ku Starhradu. Bolo mu jasné, že je to Marienka a aj za kým ide. On ju však stále miloval, a preto sa mu priečilo jej to zatrhnúť. Ak tak ale neurobí, Marienka ho nikdy nebude mať rada, lebo na ňu bude pár míľ ďaleko vždy čakať Milko. Vladimír upadal stále hlbšie a hlbšie do zármutku. Začal byť prchký, kričal po sluhoch a kopal ich. K večeru vždy zablúdil do hradnej pivnice, tam si nechal naraziť súdok pálenky a do postele sa vydával až nad ránom po jeho dopití. Každým dňom pil viac a viac, a postupne začala v jeho hlave klíčiť nenávisť k Milkovi. Raz si v opitosti nechal zavolať svojho najlepšieho lukostrelca, a prikázal mu aby išiel a nevracal sa inak ako s Milkovou hlavou. Ráno si to vôbec nepamätal, a preto bol zhrozený keď sa lukostrelec vrátil aj s krvavou trofejou. Marienka sa zamkla vo svojej komnate a odmietala s kýmkoľvek hovoriť. Vladimír prepadol ešte hlbšie do zúfalstva, a zároveň sa začal báť, aby nejký Milkovi príbuzní nevyhlásili krvavú pomstu. Preto sa zhrozil, keď začul, že sa nejaký cudzí rytier chodí denne modliť k Milkovmu hrobu. Preto sa jedného dňa, samozrejme v opileckej guráži, rozhodol ísť a s neznámym skoncovať. Pomaly sa prikrádal k hrobu, kde rytier kľačal s rukami zopätými k modlitbe. Vladimír už-už počul slová modlitby, vyrieknuté na rytiera zvláštne vysokým hlasom. Posledných pár krokov sa rozbehol, rozohnal sa mečom a jednou ranou odťal kľačiacemu hlavu. Keď uvidel tvár človeka, ktorého práve zabil, vydal zo seba divý nárek. To Marienka sa chodila modliť na Milkov hrob. Horko zaplakal nad jej telom, držal jej hlavu v náručí. Vtom z čistého neba priletel blesk, posol Božieho hnevu, a namieste Vladimíra spálil.



# THE STARHRAD

location: The Domašín Meander

origin: 1267 - 18th century

owners: the Balass family, Matúš Čák

condition: ruins

## A Legend of Milko and Marienka

The Starhrad Castle is located a stone's throw away from the Strečno Castle. Both castles had young knights as lords at that time; in the Starhrad Castle there was Milko and in the Strečno Castle there was Vladimir. They both fell in love with the same girl, the beautiful daughter of the mayor of Žilina, Marienka. Marienka fell in love with Milko. They promised each other fidelity "until death do us part". But nothing turned out the way it was supposed to when Vladimir asked the mayor to marry his daughter. The mayor was more than pleased to give her hand to the owner of the Strečno Castle - the castle was bigger and had a better position than the Starhrad Castle, so the owner was richer and more powerful. Her parents promised Marienka's hand to Vladimir. That was not exactly to her liking because she pledged herself to Milko. She held her parents in high esteem and finally subordinated to their request. They prepared a great wedding in the Strečno Castle and Milko certainly could not afford it. After the wedding reception the newlyweds went to the bed and when the door was closed Marienka said to Vladimir, "You got my body but my soul still belongs to Milko! " Vladimir did not like that at all but he hoped that after a few years together, even if Marienka did not love him, she could tolerate him. Days and months went by but Marienka still assumed him to be a villain. Vladimir felt more and more miserable. One night he could not sleep and he saw someone riding on a beautiful white horse from the castle gate towards the Starhrad Castle. It was clear to him that it was Marienka and also where she was heading. He still loved her, so he didn't have the strength to ban her from seeing Milko. However, he knew that if he did not do it she would never be happy with him because Milko was waiting for her a few miles away. Vladimir fell deeper into his own grief. He began to be aggressive, kicked servants and cursed them. In the evening he would always wander into the castle cellar where he ordered a brandy keg and went to bed when he couldn't drink anymore. He was drinking more and more every day and gradually began to hate Milko in his drunken head. When he was very drunk he called his best archer and commanded him to go and not return until he brought Milko's head. In the morning he did not remember his orders and therefore he was horrified when the archer returned with the bloody trophy. Marienka locked herself in her chamber and refused to talk to anyone. Vladimir fell deeper into his despair and began to worry that some of Milko's relatives might take a bloody revenge. Therefore he was terrified when he heard that a foreign knight came to pray at Milko's grave daily. One day, gathering all his drunken courage, he decided to go to the grave and get rid himself of the menace. He crept up to the grave slowly where a knight was kneeling with hands clasped in prayer. Vladimir was so close he could almost hear the words of prayer uttered by the knight in a strangely high voice. The last few steps he broke into a sprint, drew his sword and cut off the kneeling man's head with one blow. When he saw the face of the person he had just killed, he screamed in anguish. The face belonged to none other than Marienka who went to pray at Milko's grave in disguise. He wept over her body, holding her head in his arms. When lightning struck out of the blue, the bearer of God's wrath, Vladimir was burnt on the spot.



# PAJŠTÚN

poloha: Malé Karpaty, obec Borinka

prvá zmienka (zánik): 1273 (1810)

majitelia: Pálffyovci

stav: zrúcanina

## Povesť o krkavčej matke

Starý pán pajštúnskeho hradu patril medzi najvýznamnejších bojovníkov svojich čias. Mal obrovské bohatstvo, no z toho sa veľmi neradoval, keďže nemal syna, ktorému by ho mohol poručiť. Deň po dni prosil, aby sa mu konečne narodil potomok. Roky ubiehali a už to bolo vidieť na jeho vlasoch, ktoré mu postupne šediveli. No potomka sa stále nedočkal. Bol to dobrý muž a dobrý bojovník. No jeho manželka bola hrdá, neúprosná, krutá a nemilosrdná. Aj napriek tomu si žili spokojne. Protiklady sa asi skutočne priťahujú.Raz sa hradná pani vybrala do lesa, ktorý sa rozprestieral okolo hradu. Bola jar a všetko bolo veselé. Len ona sa prechádzala s prázdnotou v duši. "Prečo práve ja nemôžem mať deti?" rozmýšľala. Toto jej žiadne bohatstvo nenahradí... Obrátila sa, že sa vráti späť na hrad. Zbadala pred sebou chudobnú otrhanú ženičku nesúc tri krásne deti na rukách. Padla panej k nohám a začala ju prosiť o almužnu. Porozprávala jej svoj príbeh o tom, ako jej muž, sluha hradného pána, zomrel pri plnení povinností a ona s deťmi už tri dni nejedla. No hradná pani pohŕdavo kopla do ženy. Rozrušilo ju, že má tri deti, zatiaľčo nej sa nedarí mať ani jedno. Žobráčka pred ňu skočila a vyslovila kliatbu: " Buď naveky prekliata, a nech máš odrazu sedem detí!" Hradná pani sa zhrozene vrátila domov a prikázala sluhom ženu nájsť. No tým sa to nikdy nepodarilo.Hradná pani, túžiac po pomste, chodila na vychádzky do lesa, či tam žobráčku náhodou znovu nestretne. No po tej nebolo ani stopy. Jedného dňa sa dozvedela, že jej muž bol povolaný do vojny proti Turkovi. Deň pred jeho odchodom mu oznámila, že sa cíti byť matkou. Hradný pán sa tešil, že bude mať syna a to mu dodalo silu, ktorú potreboval v bojoch. Zatiaľčo vyhrával všetko čo sa dá, jeho žena sa chystala na radostnú udalosť. Keď prišiel ten deň, bola pri hradnej panej len jej verná slúžka. Pôrod bol ťažký, hradnej panej sa narodilo sedmoro potomkov. Všetko boli chlapci, jeden krajší ako druhý. Zdesená matka si spomenula na žobráčku a jej kliatbu. Rýchlo zavolala svoju slúžku Doru a dohodli sa, že šesť detí odnesie do lesa a pochová ich za živa. Slúžka s tým hneď súhlasila, lebo mala sľúbenú veľkú odmenu. Na druhé ráno sa Dora vybrala s košom na chrbte do lesa. Všetko šlo ako malo, až kým zbadala hradné vojsko na čele s hradným pánom, vracajúce sa z boja. Hradný pán sa jej prihovoril a spozoroval jej podozrivé správanie. Pozrel do koša a zbadal tam svoje deti. Dora mu povedala čo sa stalo a on sa rozhodol, že dá deti vychovať svojmu blízkemu priateľovi zo susedného hradu. Manželke nič nepovedal a roky žili v tajomstvách. Až raz po pätnástich rokoch to už nevydržal a dal na hrad zavolať svojho priateľa aj so svojimi synmi. Žene povedal, že vie čo urobila. Ona na kolenách prosila o odpustenie. Pán videl pokoru v jej očiach a odpustil jej. Pani si uvedomila svoje chyby a ďalej šťastne vychovávali svojich sedem synov.



# PAJŠTÚN

location: Little Carpathians near a village Borinka

the first written reference (extinction): 1273 (1810)

owners: Pálffy family

condition: ruins

## A Legend Of A Heartless Mother

There was an old man who was the baron of the Pajštún Castle. He was one of the greatest warriors of his time. He had a great fortune but he couldn't be happy about it because he had no son who could inherit it. Day after day he begged for a child. Years passed by and you could see it on his hair which started to turn grey. However, he still didn't have any child. He was a good man and a good warrior. On the other hand, his wife was high-headed, cruel and ruthless. In spite of that, they lived happily. Opposites really do attract. The baroness once went to the woods for a walk. It was spring and everything was full of life. But she was just wandering around with a hole in her soul. "Why can't I have children?" she was thinking. This hole couldn't be replaced by any fortune. She turned around to go back to the castle. Suddenly she noticed a poor scruffy woman with three beautiful children in her arms. The woman threw herself into her feet and started begging for alms. This poor woman told her that her husband, who was the baron's servant, had died and she and her children did not have anything to eat for three days. But the baroness just kicked her contemptuously. She was upset that a beggar had three children and she couldn't get a single one. The beggar jumped in front of her and she cursed her. "Be cursed forever and give birth to seven children at once!" the beggar said. The shocked baroness went back home and told the servants to find that woman. But they never did. The baroness, anxious for revenge, kept going to the woods looking for the beggar. However, there wasn't a clue where she could be. One day the baroness found out that her husband was called to the war. A day before he left, the wife told him that she was pregnant. The baron was very excited to have a son and it gave him the strength he needed in battles. Whilst he was winning everything he could, his wife was getting ready for the happy event. When the day came, the only person on the baroness' side was her faithful servant. The labor was painful; the baroness gave birth to seven children. All of them were boys and they were all beautiful. The terrified mother remembered the beggar's curse. She quickly called her servant Dora to come and they agreed that Dora would take six of the boys to the woods and bury them alive. She immediately agreed because she was promised a big reward. Next morning Dora went to the woods with a basket on her back. Everything went just great until she spotted the baron coming home. He started talking to her and noticed she was acting suspiciously. Baron looked into the basket and saw his children. Dora told him everything and he decided that his close friend will raise them. He said nothing to the baroness and they lived in secret. After fifteen years he could not live like that anymore, so he called his friend to come for a visit. He told his wife he knew what she had done. Baroness begged on her knees for forgiveness. Baron saw humility in her eyes and decided to forgive her.



## LEVICKÝ HRAD

poloha: Levice

vznik/prvá zmienka: 1274 (zánik - 1710)

majitelia: rod Levickovcov, Čákovcov, Esterháziovcov

stav: zrúcanina

## Levické biele husi

Tento príbeh sa odohral v dávnej minulosti v meste Levice počas tureckej okupácie. Na Levickom hrade žil mladý hradný pán, ktorý bol veľmi trúfalý a horko krvný človek, ktorý sa nebál nikoho a ničoho. Ani samotného tureckého Pašu, ktorý sa rýchlym cvalom blížil k Leviciam. Paša mu po poslovi poslal ultimátum, aby mu vydal hrad bez boja. Hradný pán s opovrhnutím list roztrhal a podupal pred očami posla. Poslovi povedal, aby Pašovi odkázal, že ho privíta s otvorenou náručou. Spoliehal sa na opevnenie hradu, močiare, ktoré sa nachádzajú v okolí a odvahu jeho vojakov. Ešte v ten večer obkľúčilo hrad i mesto pod ním desaťtisíc tureckých jazdcov a krutých pešiakov. Hradný pán zdupkal aj so svojou manželkou do vzdialeného Beňadiku, a tak sa velenia nad hradom ujal mladý kapitán drábov. Levičania nestratili chladnú hlavu a všemožne sa pripravovali na blížiaci sa útok. A keď už vojaci na hradbách nedokázali udržať oči otvorené, Turci potichu vyliezli na hradby a zaútočili. Levickí vojaci sa bránili ako sa len dalo: liali na Turkov vriacu smolu, vodu a hádzali kamene. No, so stovkami vojakov proti desaťtisícom pohanov nemali Levičania šancu. Po urputnom boji, predsa len Turci hrad dobyli. Paša si zavolal do hradu richtára a prikázal mu, aby mu päťdesiat najkrajších dievok donieslo päťdesiat najvykŕmenejších pečených husí, pretože Levice boli široko ďaleko vychýrené prípravou pečených husí. Levické dievčatá chceli radšej zomrieť, ako sa vydať napospas Turkom. Preto zosnovali plán, ako Pašu i jeho družinu prekabátiť. Dievčatá zobrali so sebou do hradu namiesto pečených husí, živé biele húsky a pod sukne si schovali malé dýky na svoju obranu. Cestou do hradu porozdávali tureckým strážam pečené husi a víno, aby odlákali ich pozornosť. Tak mohli ozbrojení levickí muži nepozorovateľne prekĺznuť do hradu, vyslobodiť väzňov a zmocniť sa hradu. Dievčatá na nádvorí hradu vypustili husi z košíkov. Husi začali pobehovať hore-dole a pritom gagotať. Podnapití a rozjarení Turci spolu s dievčatami začali husi naháňať. Krik, smiech a gagot prilákal na nádvorie všetkých Turkov a aj samotného Pašu. Levickí mládenci rýchlo oslobodili všetkých tureckých väzňov a spolu zaútočili na neozbrojených a zaskočených Turkov. Za chvíľu pobili Levičania všetkých pohanov na nádvorí a smelý kapitán zabil Pašu a jeho hlavu nastokol na kopiju. Keď dobehli aj ostatní Turci na pomoc a videli hlavu mŕtveho Pašu, zľakli sa a rozbehli sa kade ľahšie. Hlavy Turkov nastokli na kopije a vystavili na mestských hradbách na výstrahu nepriateľom. Ostatné turecké jednotky, ktoré sa vracali z rabovania, keď videli svojich mŕtvych na mestských hradbách, neopovážili sa vrátiť do mesta. A to ani nevedeli, že mesto zachránilo päťdesiat bielych husí a odvaha levických dievok.



## LEVICE CASTLE

location: Levice

the first written reference (extinction): 1274 (1710)

owners: Esterházy, Levický, Čák family

condition: ruins

## Levice´s White Geese

This story happened in ancient time during the Turkish occupation in a city called Levice. At the Levice castle there lived a young lord. The lord was very bold and hot-headed and he was not afraid of anybody or anything, neither the Turkish Pasha who was quickly approaching Levice. The Pasha sent a message with an ultimatum – he wanted to have the castle without fighting. The lord tore the letter with disdain and told a Pasha's bearer that he will warmly welcome the Pasha. He relied on a castle's fortification, swamps around the castle and on courage of his soldiers. Later that evening, the castle and the city bellow was surrounded by ten thousand Turkish horse riders and cruel members of the troops. The lord and his wife ran away to a village called Beňadik. So a young captain of lord's soldiers became the commander in chief. Citizens in Levice did not panic and prepared carefully for an upcoming attack. When soldiers fell asleep, the Turks climbed the walls and attacked them. The soldiers were trying to protect the city as bravely as they could: they poured boiling oil and water on the Turks and threw stones over the walls. But there was no chance to win the battle with just few hundreds of soldiers against a big Turkish army. At the end, the Turks captured the castle. The Pasha called for a mayor and told him to bring fifty most beautiful girls with fifty roasted geese because Levice was well-known for it. Girls would rather die than to be left at the mercy of the Turks. Therefore they created a plan how to fool the Pasha and his group. The girls took with them white living geese instead of the roasted ones and hid daggers under their skirts for their protection. On their way to the castle they gave the roasted geese and wine to the Turkish guards to distract their attention. So a few armed men could invisibly sneak into the castle and set the prisoners free. The girls released the geese from their baskets in the courtyard. The geese started to run and gaggle. The tipsy and joyful Turks and beautiful girls started to chase the geese. Screaming, laughing and gaggling attracted all the Turks and also the Pasha himself. The armed men set all the prisoners free very quickly. Moreover, they attacked the unarmed and surprised Turks. After a while they killed all Turks at the courtyard. The young captain killed the Pasha and spiked his head on a spear. When the rest of the Turkish army came to the courtyard and saw the Pasha's head on the spear, they panicked and ran away. The heads of dead Turks were spiked on the spears and placed onto the city walls to warn the enemies. Other Turkish units, returning from pillage, saw their brothers´ heads on the city walls and did not try to come back to Levice. And they did not even know that it was just fifty white geese and fifty courageous beautiful girls that saved the city and the castle.



# BLATNICKÝ HRAD

poloha: Veľká Fatra - 2 km od obce Blatnica

vznik/prvá zmienka (zánik): 1300 (1790)

majitelia: župan Jakcha, Justovci, Habsburgovci, Révaiovci

stav: zrúcanina

## Povesť o blatnickom meči

Turčiansky kraj oplýval kedysi hojnosťou lesnej zvery. Vedel o tom i knieža z Nitravy, ktorému tento kút zeme patril. Často navštevoval Turiec. Lovcov lákali najmä obrovské a mocné tury. Ich mäso bolo vychýrenou pochúťkou. Na Nitravu, v ktorej vládol Pribina, raz zavítal sám panovník– Mojmír. Nitranci chceli takého hosťa patrične privítať a zabaviť. Usporiadali veľkú poľovnícku výpravu hore tokom Nitry.Štvrtý deň sa družina lovcov dostala do Turčianskej kotliny. Kraj sa ihneď rozozvučal zvukmi trúb, smiechom poľovníkov, či psím štekotom. Nitrianske kniežatá si ako honcov vybrali domácich ľudí, ktorí tu roztrúsene žili v zruboch. Jedným z honcov bol šuhaj menom Blatoň. Počas lovu sa zrazu v úzkej doline objavili dva mohutné tury. Vyvalili sa z húštiny a a jeden z nich sa hnal oproti Mojmírovi a Pribinovi. Prvý svoj oštep na tura hodil Mojmír, ale netrafil. Hneď na to zamieril svoju kopiju aj Pribina. Turovi sa zabodla do čiernej šije a zvera ešte väčšmi rozzúrila. V okamihu, keď išlo už obidvom o životy, z neďalekej skaly zoskočil Blatoň. Zastal pred Mojmírom a Pribinom a oproti zvieraťu nastrčil svoju dýku. Vrazil ju tvorovi rovno do srdca. Tur padol mŕtvy.

-Ako sa Ti odmeníme za záchranu našich životov? - prehovoril Mojmír.

-Budeš mojim prvým pobočníkom! – núkal Pribina.

-Ďakujem Ti, slávny náš panovník, i Tebe šľachetný náš knieža, za uznanie. Chcem tu len ďalej žiť a raz aj zložiť svoje kosti!

-Nech je po Tvojej vôli. Zostaň tu žiť po svojom. Nie však ako náš poddaný, ale ako pán celého tohto údolia. A tak šuhaj dostal pozemok a postavil si dom. Po čase sa k Blatoňovi dostavila aj vzácna návšteva z Nitry. Keď Pribina videl, aký je Blatoň múdry a schopný hospodár, pozval ho na svoj hrad a tu ho obdaroval mečom s rukoväťou vykladanou zlatom a striebrom s takýmto rozhodnutím:

-Nesklamal si ma, Blatoň, ba navyše si ma prekvapil svojou pracovitosťou a dobrým srdcom. Preto Ťa ustanovujem pánom celého toho hornatého kraja, čo je venčený hradbou vrchov. Gazduj v ňom naďalej statočne a múdro, ale aj nebojácne a hrdinsky, ako si sa vtedy zachoval na poľovačke, keď si mne i kráľovi zachránil život! Osud tvojho života spečatil tur, preto Tvoja zem nech sa nazýva Turcom. Na temene vrchu, pod ktorým si dokázal svoju odvahu, postav hrad a tento nech ponesie tvoje meno. Bude sa nazývať hradom Blatoňovým. Blatnicou!



## BLATNICA CASTLE

location: the Big Fatra – 2 miles away from a village Blatnica

the first written reference (extinction): 1300 (1790)

owners: Jakcha, Justovci, Habsburg, Révai families

condition: ruins

## A Legend Of Blatnica Sword

Lots of wild animals lived in the woods of Turiec. The prince from Nitrava, who owned the Turiec region, knew about them. He often used to visit a Turiec valley. Giant and strong gray bovines lured hunters to those woods. Their meat was very tasty. Pribina was a ruler of Nitrava. The monarch Mojmír visited Nitrava once. People of Nitra welcomed Mojmir warmly. They organized a big hunting party near the Nitra river. On the fourth day the group of hunters got into Turiec. In every part of the countryside you could hear sounds of horns, hunters´ laugh and dogs barking. The prince of Nitrava chose some of the natives - who lived in small huts – to chase the wild animals to exhaust them. One of the runners was a handsome boy called Blatoň. While they were walking through the valley, two big bovines appeared from nowhere, one furiously running towards Mojmír and Pribina. Mojmír threw his first spear but he missed. Then Pribina threw his lance and it stabbed bovine´s black head. That only made it angrier. When they thought that it would kill them, Blatoň jumped from a nearby rock. He stood between Pribina, Mojmír and the bovine. Blatoň stabbed his dagger into a bovine´s heart and it fell on the ground dead.

- You have saved our lives! How to reward you? – asked Mojmír.

-You will be my first adjutant–Pribina said.

-Thank both of you! But there is only one thing I would appreciate the most: let me stay here. I want to live here till the end of my life.

-As you wish, my friend. Stay here. However, you will not live here as a villein but as an owner of this valley!

As promised, Blatoň got his own big property and built a house. After few months, Pribina left Nitra to visit him. When he saw how smart and busy worker Blatoň is, he invited him to stay in his castle. Pribina gave him a sword with a handle inlaid with gold and silver and said:

-You did not disappoint me, Blatoň, even so you surprised me with your hard work and a brave heart. Because of that I am appointing you the ruler of this beautiful place bounded with mountains all around. Be a good ruler here – be brave, honest, fearless, and a hero as you were during the hunting when you saved my and Mojmír´s lives.

Your destiny was changed by the bovine* - then let call this country Turiec. Build a castle on the top of the hill where you showed your bravery and name that castle after you! It will be called the castle of Blatoň. Blatnica!

*Bovine in Slovak means tur. Tur = Turiec



# HRAD KRÁSNA HÔRKA

poloha: okres Rožňava

prvá zmienka: 1333

majitelia: Bebekovci, Mariássyovci a Andrássyovci

stav: rekonštruovaný (zničený požiarom v roku 2012)

## Povesť o Bebekovi

O hrade Krásna Hôrka existuje viacero povestí. Najkrajšia a najznámejšia opisuje práve vznik tohto hradu. Podľa povesti žil v okolí Rožňavy pastier menom Bebek. Sám sa staral o množstvo svojich detí. Často krát sa stávalo, že Bebek nedokázal zarobiť dosť peňazí a tým zabezpečiť všetkým svojim deťom dostatok jedla. Aby boli deti aspoň šťastné a aby nemysleli na hlad, Bebek žartoval a spríjemňoval im spoločné chvíle. Po určitom čase sa u Bebekovcov zastavil starec, ktorý chodil k Bebekovi občas na žinčicu. Navrhol mu, že ak nezvláda uživiť všetky deti, mohol by si nejaké z nich zobrať a tým pomôcť Bebekovi. Bebek s návrhom súhlasil, no pod podmienkou, že deti musia ísť dobrovoľne. Starec deti presviedčal, lákal ich jedlom i peniazmi, no žiadne Bebeka neopustilo. Láska a dôvera u Bebekovcov starca veľmi prekvapila a tak ukázal deťom zvláštny strom, plody ktorého im zabezpečia jedlo na celé roky. Deti obrali biele i červené plody a dali ich variť do veľkého kotla ako im starec poradil. Deti volali Bebaka aby sa prišiel najesť, no ten naďalej pásol ovce. Ako však uvidel, že sa u salaša dymí, rozhodol sa nahnať ovce tým smerom. K deťom prišiel práve vtedy, keď prevalili kotol a hnevali sa na starca, že ich oklamal. Z hrnca sa im totiž vysypala hromada akéhosi žltého železa a hromada kamenia. Deti začali do hromady kopať, no Bebek ich zastavil, v žltom železe spoznal dukáty. Dobre je tak ako je, len škoda, že ste nenaoberali viac plodov, vyčítal im Bebek. Deti sa vydali hľadať ten zázračný strom, no strom aj starec zmizli bez stopy. Keď išiel Bebek skoro ráno vyhnať ovce na pašu zistil, že rozsypané kamene zvláštne žiarili. Hneď si domyslel, že nejde o obyčajné kamenie, tak ich všetky vyzbieral a zobral do koliby. Stal sa boháčom, no bol štedrý a zo svojho bohatstva doprial aj iným. Len čo našiel najväčší z diamantov vybral sa za kráľom Belom Štvrtým. Ako mu Bebek daroval drahokam, spýtal sa ho kráľ, čo zaň chce. Bebek mal odpoveď už vopred premyslenú: „Pastierom som a mám ja doma dva kŕdle. Jeden menší, taký, čo mi zavše čo-to dá a druhý, väčší, ktorému ja musím dávať.“ Kráľ si najprv myslel, že Bebek sa chce striasť horšieho kŕdľa, no ten by Bebek nedal ani za celý svet. Naopak, chcel, aby mu kráľ Belo Štvrtý dovolil na jeho zemiach postaviť košiare pre druhý kŕdeľ, o ktorý sa musí starať. Kráľ sa zasmial a dovolil mu postaviť si ich ba aj sedem. Onedlho priniesli kráľovi zvesti z Gemera, že tam Bebek stavia sedem zámkov. Král sa nahneval, akože niekto stavia zámky bez jeho vedomia. Už sedlali jazdcov, aby priniesli prísny zákaz stavať zámky a aby zbúrali aj to, čo už je postavené, no v tom sa kráľ rozpamätal na Bebekovu zvláštnu prosbu a dar. Kráľ chcel vedieť, či Bebek bol ozajstným pastierom a či kráľa nepodvádzal. Veru bol, odpovedali mu posli, a takým biednym, že mal väčší kŕdeľ detí ako kŕdeľ oviec. Belovi svitlo, že Bebek ho dostal, no keďže mal jeho slovo, môže stavať zámky, lebo ani kráľ nemôže porušiť daný sľub. Tak si Bebek postavil na kráľovskom sedem košiarov – sedem zámkov pre svoje deti. Najkrajší a najmocnejší z nich pomenovali Krásna Hôrka. Ani neskorší králi neoľutovali, že hrad stojí, neraz sa im zišiel, keď do krajiny vnikol nepriateľ. Ocenili ho aj Gemerčania, najmä však Rožňavčania, lebo neraz sa v ňom zachránili. A po dlhé stáročia chválili zakladateľa Krásnohorského hradu, pastiera Bebeka.



## KRÁSNA HÔRKA CASTLE

location: the district of Rožňava

origin: 1333

owners: Bebek, Mariássy and Andrássy families

condition: reconstructed (extensively damaged by the fire in 2012)

## A Legend of Bebek

There are a lot of legends of the castle Krásna Hôrka. The most beautiful and the best known is the legend of the origin of the castle. According to the legend a shepherd called Bebek lived near Rožňava. He took care about the children on his own. He didn't earn enough money and could not provide enough food for his children. Bebek didn't want the children to think about the hunger and therefore he used to joke and make fun. Bebek's family was visited by an old man who usually drank boiled sheep whey. The old man suggested Bebek to help him with children by taking some of them away. Bebek agreed with the old man's suggestion but he had one condition. The children had to go voluntarily. The old man was persuading, tempting them by food and money but no child wanted to leave their father. Love and trust at Bebek's place surprised the old man and he showed the children a special tree whose fruit would ensure them food for years. The children took the white and the red fruit from the tree as the old man said. They boiled the fruit in a large cauldron. The children called Bebek to eat but he was grazing sheep. When he saw the smoke coming out of the shepherd's hut he decided to bring the sheep back home. The children knocked the cauldron over and they were angry with the old man who deceived them. A pile of the yellow metal and some stones spilled out of the cauldron. The children started kicking the pile. Bebek stopped them because he found out that there were the ducats in the yellow metal. Bebek said it was a pity that the children hadn't taken more fruit. The children sought for the miraculous tree and the old man but both of them had disappeared. When Bebek went to graze sheep he found out that the stones were shining in a strange way. He realized the stones weren't ordinary and took them into the hut. He became rich but he was generous and divided his wealth among other people. When Belek found the biggest diamond he went to visit the king Béla IV. The king asked Bebek what he wanted for it. Bebek had thought his answer over: "I'm a shepherd and I have got two flocks at home. One is smaller and gives me something and the second is bigger whom I have to give something." The king thought that Bebek wanted to get rid of the worse flock but he wouldn't exchange this one, not for all the tea in China. Bebek wanted the king's permission to build a sheep pen for his flock he had to take care about. The king started to laugh and allowed him to build seven of them. Later on the king found out that someone was building seven castles. The king was angry that no one got his permission. King's riders were ready to knock down everything that had been built. When the riders were leaving the king remembered the promise he had made before. The king wanted to know if Bebek was a real shepherd and if he had lied to him. Bearers told the king that Bebek was so poor that he had more children than sheep. Béla IV promised Bebek to build the castles; the king had to keep the promise. Bebek built seven castles for his children. The most beautiful and the most powerful is called Krásna Hôrka. Kings never regretted that the castle was built because when the enemy attacked them, they were safe. Residents of Rožňava and Gemer appreciated it as well because the castle saved their lives more than once. People spoke well of the founder of the castle Krásna Hôrka, the shepherd Bebek.



# HRAD SOKOL

poloha: Košice

vznik/prvá zmienka: 1423 - 1440

majitelia: Žigmund, Sokoľ Matúš, Imrich z Pavloviec

stav: zrúcanina

## Smutná skamenelá legenda

Kde bolo tam bolo, bolo raz dievča menom Katka. Bola usilovná, dobrosrdečná a nesmierne nádherná. Nemalé množstvo mužov ju už v zápale okamihu požiadalo o ruku, ale ona odmietla každého jedného bez toho, aby ho nahnevala. Katka žila so svojou ovdovenou matkou v drobnej chalúpke. Jedného dňa si ju zavolala Katku k posteli a hovorí jej unaveným hlasom: „Dcéra moja milovaná, moje dni sú spočítané, ale tvoje sa ešte len začínajú. Keď urmiem, choď na hrad a buď hradnou slúžkou. To bude pre teba najlepšie...“ Posledný krát ju pohladkala po líci a potom zomrela. A tak sa Katka o pár dní ,stále so stopami sĺz na tvári, vybrala slúžiť na hrad. Prijali ju vďačne, pretože sa nebála roboty a bola ku každému milá. Vo svojom voľnom čase stále premýšľala, oči uprené do diaľky, červenajúc a usmievajúc sa. Bol nádherný večer. Mesiac žiaril a fúkal jemný vánok. Zrazu len tak zničoho nič sa pred ňou zjavil mladý princ. Počas posledných mesiacov si ho všimla viac krát, aký bol pohľadný. Keby len mohla... On bol rovnako udivený. Ako mohol na hrade tak dlho prehliadať takúto krásavicu? Prisadol si, začali sa rozprávať a obdivaja sa zamilovali. Ráno z nich boli milenci. V radosti prežívali svoje dni, jeden vyjadrujúc lásku tomu druhému. No žiadna pieseň o láske netrvá naveky. Princ musel odísť do vojny, no než odišiel, sľúbil že hneď keď sa vráti bude sa konať svadba a už navždy budú môcť byť svoji. Katka za ním dlho hľadela, srdce sa jej zvieralo úzkosťou. Chcela bežať za ním, ešte jeden bozk, ale on už bol priďaleko. Tri mesiace prešli a Katka bola stále sama. Jediné čo jej prinieslo šťastie bolo, že bude matkou jeho dieťaťa. Znova sa život zdal farebný a ona sa cítila znovuzrodená.
No nie všetko bolo také, aké sa zdalo. Katku si čoskoro zavolala kráľovná. A kráľovnej sa myšlienka, že by jej sa jej kráľovský syn mal čo i len zahadzovať so špinavou slúžkou, nehovoriac ani o svadbe, vôbec nepáčila. No keď sa dozvedela o dieťati, stratila všetok temperament. Začala Katku kopať a udierať. Tá znášala utrpenia v tichosti, nesúc ho za cenu života ktorý si predstavovala. Ale kráľovnin hnev bol priveľký. A keď Katka vydýchla naposledy, ešte do nej párkrát kopla a prikázala svojim sluhom aby telo pochovali niekde neďaleko cintorína. Princ sa práve vtedy vracal domov, tešiaci sa na svoju milovanú Katku viac než radujúci sa z víťazstva. Keď konečne prešiel hradnými bránami volal jej meno. No jeho hlas pomaly naberal zúfalstvo, keďže jedinou odpoveďou mu bola ozvena vlastného hlasu.Neskôr sa na hostine oslavujúcej víťazstvo ani neobjavil. Ževraj zmizol. Kráľovná obelela a bez jediného slovka sa rozbehla ku Katkinmu hrobu. Mala zlé tušenie. Na dne hrobu ležalo telo jej syna.
„Bože!“ vykríkla, „Zmilovanie! Čo som to len urobila?!“ Chytila sa za bolestivé srdce, zatackala sa a mŕtva padla do hrobu. Z hradu slabúčko doliehali zvuky osláv.



## SOKOL CASTLE

location: Košice

origin/the first written reference: 1423 - 1440

owners: Žigmund, Sokoľ Matúš, Imrich z Pavloviec

conditions: ruins

## A Gloomy Legend Turned To A Stone

Once upon a time there was a girl called Katka. She was hard-working, kind-hearted and very beautiful. She was proposed by not a small amount of men in the heat of the moment, but she refused every one without evoking anger. Katka was living in a small cottage with her widowed mother. One day her mother called Katka to her bed and said with a tired voice: "My beloved daughter, my days are numbered but yours are only beginning. When I die, go to the castle and serve as a maid. That will be the best for you..." For the last time she caressed her cheek and then she passed away. In a few days Katka left to serve in the castle, with her face still marked by the tears. She was warmly welcomed because she wasn't afraid of getting her hands dirty and was kind to everyone. In her free time she was thinking, eyes looking into the distance, blushing and smiling. It was a lovely evening. The moon was shining and a gentle breeze was blowing. Out of the blue a young prince appeared in front of her. During last months she noticed him couple of times how handsome he was. If only she could... And he was astonished as well. How could he overlook such a beauty for so long? He sat down, they started to talk and both fell in love. In the morning they were lovers. They lived their days in happiness, expressing love to each other. But no love song lasts forever. The prince was recruited to the war. But before he left, he had promised that as soon as he returned, they would get married and live together forever. Katka looked into the distance for a long time, her heart aching in anguish. She wanted to run after him, one last kiss, but he was already too far away. Three months passed and Katka was still alone. The only thing bringing happiness to her life was that she was going to be a mother of his child. Her life seemed to be colourful again and she felt reborn. But not everything was as it seemed. Katka was shortly summoned by the queen. And the queen wasn't thrilled by the idea of her royal son bothering with a dirty maid, not talking about the marriage. But when she learnt about the baby, she lost her temper. She started to kick and punch Katka. She suffered the punishment in silence because of the image of life she had imagined. But queen's rage was far too great. And when Katka breathed out for the last time, the queen kicked her few more times and called her servants to bury the body somewhere near the graveyard. At that time the prince was returning home, looking forward to his beloved Katka more than celebrating the victory. When he finally passed through the castle gates, he was shouting her name. But his voice was soon thickening because of anxiety as the only answer was the echo of his own voice. Later he didn't even show up on the feast celebrating the victory. They said he had disappeared. The queen turned pale and she ran to Katka's grave without a single word. She had a terrible suspicion. The body of her son laid at the bottom of the grave. "God!" she cried out, "Mercy! What have I done?!" She seized her aching heart, staggered and fell down dead into the grave. The sounds of celebration were softly played from the castle.



# ORAVSKÝ HRAD

poloha: Oravský Podzámok (9 km od mesta Dolný Kubín)

prvá zmienka: 1267

majitelia: magister Donč, Matej Korvín, Juraj Thurzo, Jozef Pálffy

stav: zachovalý

## Povesť o Oravskom hrade

Kedysi dávno žil na Orave jeden starý boháč Marek. Mal všetko čo si len mohol želať, ku šťastiu mu chýbal už len hrad. Na stavbu si vybral nádherné miesto na vysokom brale. Marek, ktorý bol veľmi nedočkavý, nechcel čakať dlhé veky na postavenie hradu. Rozhodol sa preto pre rýchlejší spôsob splnenia svojho cieľa, a to ako inak, uzavrieť zmluvu s diablom. Marek určil svoje požiadavky - hrad mal byť postavený za sedem dní a sedem nocí, diabol za to chcel Marekovu dušu, o ktorú si príde o sedemdesiatsedem rokov. Boháč chvíľu zvažoval diablovu požiadavku. Pekelník mu nasľuboval nádherné izby a komnaty v hrade, ktorý sa bude vypínať na brale nad riekou Orava. Marek nemohol sľúbenej predstave odolať, teda s ponukou súhlasil. Čertovi išla práca rýchlo a od ruky. Vo dne aj v noci zvláčal ťažké kamene a keďže bralo bolo vysoké, musel ich nosiť zďaleka. Taktiež si dával veľký pozor, aby sa mu stavba nezošmykla do vody. Keby sa tak stalo, celá jeho doterajšia práca by vyšla navnivoč, musel by začať odznova, prácu by nestihol a dohodu s Marekom nedodržal. Všetko sa mu však darilo a na brale sa začínal črtať Oravský hrad. Marek nečakal, že diablovi pôjde práca takto dobre a veru, keď videl na brale stáť takmer postavený hrad, preľakol sa, že čert si pre jeho dušu predsa len príde. Veď do pekla ísť nechcel. Obrátil sa teda s prosbou na Pána Boha – žiadal od neho, aby nejako čertovu prácu zdržal a tak ho od pobytu v pekle zachránil. Počas siedmej noci, keď bol hrad už takmer hotový, sa diabol začínal tešiť, ako si do pekla prinesie dušu ďalšieho nešťastníka. Už iba pár minút zostávalo do svitania, keď chcel diabol skrášliť hrad poslednými tromi balvanmi. Vtedy bola Marekova prosba k Bohu vypočutá a v momente keď pekelník ukladal posledný kameň zakikiríkal kohút. Keďže kohútie kikiríkanie ohlásilo začiatok ôsmeho dňa, diabol nesplnil stavebnú lehotu. Na Markovu dušu teda nemal nárok. Z hnevu chytil skalu a šmaril ju celou silou do vody, kde aj zostala. Mal však takú zlosť, že na skalu dupol tak silno, že sa do nej otlačil obrys jeho nohy. Ľudia ju začali volať Markova skala. Oravský hrad zostal na brale stáť, a stojí tam dodnes.



## ORAVA CASTLE

location: Oravský Podzámok (a village near Dolný Kubín)

origin/the first written reference: 1267

owners: Matthias Corvinus; George Thurzo; Pálffy

condition: well-preserved

## A Legend Of Orava Castle

A long time ago an old rich man Marek lived in Orava region. He had everything he could wish for; he only missed a castle to be entirely happy. He chose a nice place on the cliff, where his castle should be built. However, Marek was very anxious; he didn't want to wait for ages to have his castle built. So he decided for a faster option of reaching his goal and that was to make a deal with the devil. Marek expressed his request – his castle should be built in seven days and seven nights. In exchange the devil wanted Marek's soul which he would take in seventy seven years from now. The wealthy man thought about the devil's request. The devil promised him royal chambers and rooms in the castle which will be standing on the cliff above the Orava river. Marek couldn't resist this idea so he accepted the devil's request. The devil worked ably and fast. During a day and night he was bringing in lots of heavy and big stones. Seeing that the cliff was big, he had to bring the stones from far. He had to be careful because the building could fall into the water. If that happened, all his earlier work would be lost and he would have to start again. The work would be incomplete and he wouldn't keep a promise. But everything went perfect and the building on the cliff started to look like the Orava castle. Marek didn't expect that the devil could do this work that well and when he saw an almost built castle on the cliff; he started to worry that the devil would take his soul. And he didn't want to go to hell. So he asked the God to delay devil's work and save him from the hell. During the seventh night (when the castle was almost built) the devil was looking forward to having another unfortunate soul in the hell. It was just few minutes before the sunrise and the devil wanted to place three more rocks around the castle. At that moment Marek's plea was heard and when the devil tried to place the last rock, the rooster´s crow stopped him. When the rooster crowed it meant that a new day began, so it was the 8th day and the devil didn't accomplish a time-limit. He wasn't allowed to take Marek's soul. In anger he took the last rock and threw it into the river. It stayed there and the devil was so angry , he stood on the rock, and left his footprint on it. People started to call it a Mark's stone. And the Orava castle stands on the cliff up to the present.

# DOMANIŽSKÝ HRAD



poloha: Domaniža

vznik/prvá zmienka: 1268 - 1848

majitelia: gróf Draškovič mladší

stav: zničený

## Povesť o Domanižskom hrade

Príbeh sa odohráva za temných časov, keď našou zemou otriasali nájazdy známych, ale obávaných Turkov. To však nezabránilo mladému synovi grófa Draškoviča, aby sa oženil s krásnym dievčaťom Jasnou z južného Slovenska. Urobil by pre ňu čokoľvek, aby bola šťastná. Keďže boli dolnozemské panstvá grófa Draškoviča v neustálom ohrození, venoval svojmu synovi malú obec Domanižu neďaleko Považského hradu. To sa však nepáčilo Jasnej. Tá zvykla žiť veselým životom vo veľkých mestách a nechcela sa presťahovať do odľahlých hôr kvôli bezpečnosti a žiť tam ako znudená vidiecka hradná pani. Avšak manžel ju dokázal presvedčiť. Turci sa rýchlo dostávali k Domaniži. Keďže sa zvyšovalo nebezpečenstvo, rozhodol sa mladý gróf nechať postaviť hrad pre neho a jeho ženu. Miesto pre hrad zvolil sám. Vybral vyvýšené miesto s názvom Skalka, ktoré ležalo hneď oproti miestnemu kostolu. Keďže bol len vidieckym grófom, bol nútený postaviť menší a lacnejší hrad. Mal mať svoju murovanú aj drevenú časť. So stavbou pomáhala takmer celá obec a hrad bol postavený už za tri roky. Na troch poschodiach sa šírila vôňa dreva z červeného smreku, z ktorého bol vyrobený nábytok. Síce bol hrad menší než zvyčajné hrady, bol pevný a vyzeral mohutne. Jeho jedinou slabinou bola práve drevená časť, ktorá by sa dala ľahko zničiť vypálením. Ale hrad stál a konečne si mohli jeho majitelia pozvať panovníkov z okolitých oblastí na hostinu. Avšak grófova manželka stále nebola úplne spokojná. Hrad už bol dostavaný a ona sa nemala kvôli čomu sťažovať. Vymyslela si preto, že sa bojí chodiť do kostola večer, lebo by bola v nebezpečenstve prepadnutia. Mladý gróf sa preto poradil so svojim tesárom a rozhodli sa, že nechajú postaviť malý drevený most vedúci z hradu priamo do kostola. Takto by bola Jasná v bezpečí. Aj keď sa mnohým ľuďom tento bláznivý nápad nepáčil, most bol za pár týždňov postavený. Jasnú však aj most po krátkom čase prestal zaujímať a čoraz väčšmi chcela od svojho manžela odísť. To jej samozrejme nechcel dovoliť a keďže sa bál jej úteku, sám zamykal bránu a kľúče nikomu nedával. Jediné, na čo nemyslel bol práve most, ktorý teraz tvoril jedinú cestu von z hradu. A Jasná toho využila. Za kostolom ju už čakal skrytý koč, ktorým utiekla. Mladý gróf dlho čakal na jej návrat. Avšak po roku sa rozhodol tiež odísť a hrad bol po dlhú dobu opustený. Drevenú časť zničil požiar a murovanú časť dedinčania rozobrali. Kamene použili na stavbu svojich príbytkov. A tak upadol hrad aj s mladým grófom a jeho ženou do zabudnutia a už o nich nikdy nikto nepočul.

# THE DOMANIŽA CASTLE



location: Domaniža

origin/the first written reference: 1268 - 1848

owners: count Draškovič Jr.

condition: destroyed

## A Legend Of Domaniža Castle

The story happened in the dark times when famous but dreadful invasions of Turkish were destroying our land. But that didn't stop a young son of the count Draškovič to marry a gorgeous girl Jasná from southern Slovakia. He would do anything to make her happy. Because of the fact that a south land of the count Draškovič was in a continual danger, he gave to his son a small town called Domaniža which was close to the Považský castle. But Jasná didn't like that. She used to live a cheerful life in big cities and she didn't want to move to the far hills and live there as a bored country castle lady just because of their safety. But her husband managed to persuade her. The Turkish were approaching Domaniža very fast. It was very dangerous so the young count decided to build a castle for him and his wife. He chose the place. It was a raised place called Skalka which was situated opposite the local church. He was only the country count so he had to build a smaller and cheaper castle. It needed to have its bricked and wooden parts. Almost all people from the town helped to build it; the castle was built within three years. There was a smell of red spruce wood which the furniture was made from, expanding in all three floors of the castle. Even though the castle was smaller than the other ones; it was strong and looked massively. Its only weak point was its wooden part which could be destroyed by fire so easily. But the castle was built and its owners could finally invite lords from near locations for a feast. But the wife of the count wasn't fully satisfied. The castle was built and she did not have anything to complain about. So she made up a story that she's afraid of going to the church in the evening because she could be in danger of an assault. The young count and his carpenter decided to build a small wooden bridge from the castle directly to the church. So Jasná would be safe. Even though many people did not like that crazy idea, the bridge was built in a few weeks. After some time the bridge wasn't interesting for Jasná and she wanted to move out from the castle and leave her husband. Of course he didn't want to let her go. So he locked the gate and didn't give keys to anybody. The only thing he forgot was the wooden bridge - the only way out of the castle. But Jasná knew about it. Behind the church there was a hidden carriage waiting for her. The young count was waiting for a long time. But after a year he decided to move out too and the castle was abandoned for a long time. The wooden part was destroyed by fire and the bricked one was dismantled by villagers. They used stones from the castle to build their houses. So the castle, the young count, and his wife were soon forgotten and nobody heard about them anymore.

# HRAD BECKOV



poloha: blízko Nového Mesta nad Váhom (západné Slovensko)

vznik/prvá zmienka: 1208

majitelia: vojvoda Ctibor z Ctiboríc

stav: zrúcanina

## Ctibor a žobrák

Hrad Beckov stojí na vysokom útese nad našou najdlhšou riekou – Váhom. V tomto kraji Slovenska môže každý vidieť krásne ruiny z Beckova. História tohto hradu je témou viacerých zaujímavých legiend. Ľudia hovoria, že originálny názov hradu pochádza od klauna Becka – pre ktorého dal vojvoda Ctibor hrad postaviť. Ale taktiež si ľudia hovoria, že Ctibor nebol dobrý kráľ... Ľudia nemali radi vojvodu Ctibora pre mnoho dôvodov. Ctibor bol veľmi jednoduchý muž a nevykonal žiadny dobrý skutok pre svoje kráľovstvo. Mnoho ľudí si šepkalo: „On nemá srdce – a ak ho má, tak je to srdce z ocele“. Ctibor nepoznal žiadny druh lásky. Poznal len kričanie, revanie, chrochtanie a znásilňovanie žien. Kráľ Ctibor mal syna, ktorý si chcel zobrať jedno dievča z kráľovstva za ženu. Ctibor bol veľmi pyšný muž, a tak chcel počas synovej svadby spraviť z Beckova najkrajší hrad na Slovensku. Ozdobil hrad a pozval mnoho zámožných ľudí. Ctibor išiel počas svadobnej ceremónie na prechádzku a uvidel žobráka. Kráľ neznášal žobrákov – hlavne žobrákov na jeho hrade. Povedal úbohému mužovi: „Čo tu robíš? Pozval som len bohatých ľudí z ostatných kráľovstiev, pretože táto svadba musí byť najdôležitejšou udalosťou tohto roka. Vypadni! Nechcem ťa tu už viac vidieť!“ Žobrák vyzeral byť hluchý. Ctibor ho kopol a začal naňho kričať. Žobrák ho začal žiadať o nejaké jedlo: „Nejedol som už veľa dní, hladujem! Prosím, dajte mi len kúsok chleba. Potom odídem preč!“ Bol to veľmi zlý krok pre žobráka. Ctibor nakázal svojim sluhom: „Vypusťte psy!“ Ale kráľ nevedel, že sa rozprával s jedným z miestnych čarodejníkov. Keď psy dohonili tohto úbohého muža, použil jedno zo svojich mocných kúziel a... psy zaspali. Na druhé ráno sa Ctibor divil: „Kde sú moje psy? Sluhovia, nájdite ich!“ Sluhovia nenašli žiadnych psov, ale našli starého žobráka. Zviazali ho, hodili ho do vreca a doniesli späť do kráľovstva. Ctibor nerozumel, kde zmizli jeho psy. „Čo si spravil s mojimi obľúbenými psami? Zabil si ich?“ povedal žobrákovi zúrivo. Žobrák mu povedal so zákerným úsmevom: „Tvoje psy spia. A možno to bude nekonečný spánok...“ Ctibor neváhal a rozkázal zabiť žobráka zhodením zo skál. Predtým ako žobrák padol na zem, zakričal: „Budeš žiť už len jeden rok, krutý kráľ!“ Ctibor sa smial – neveril žobrákovým slovám... O jeden rok neskôr Ctibor kráčal svojím kráľovstvom a zastavil sa pri skale, kde žobrák zomrel. Ctibor bol unavený, nemal dobrý deň. Takže na sekundu zavrel oči a o chvíľu zaspal. Ctibor nevedel, že zaspal na rovnakom mieste ako na tom, kde zomrel žobrák, pretože zabil mnoho ľudí, mnoho žobrákov – nepamätal si to. Ale ako spal, prišla zmija a zabila krutého kráľa... Mnoho ľudí verí, že zmija bola duchom žobráka – čarodejníka. Ctiborova duša zostala uväznená v hrade. Buďte opatrný, ak tam chcete ísť!

## BECKOV CASTLE



location: near Nové Mesto nad Váhom, western Slovakia

origin/the first written reference: 1208

owners: the Duke Ctibor from Ctiboricz

condition: ruins

## Ctibor and the beggar

The Beckov Castle is standing on a high cliff above our longest river – Váh. Everybody can see beautiful ruins of Beckov in this part of Slovakia. The history of the castle is the subject of many interesting legends. People say that the castle was originally named after a clown Becko – for whom the Duke Ctibor had the castle built. But people also say that Ctibor wasn´t a good king... People didn´t like the Duke Ctibor for many reasons. Ctibor was a very simple man and he didn´t do any good deeds for his kingdom. Many people were whispering: "He doesn´t have any heart – and if he does, his heart has to be made of steel". Ctibor didn´t know what love was. He only knew how to scream, yell, grunt and rape the women. The king Ctibor had a son, who wanted to marry one girl from the kingdom. Ctibor was a very proud man and he wanted to make Beckov the most beautiful castle in the Slovakia during the wedding of his son. He decorated the castle and invited a lot of wealthy people. Ctibor went for a walk during a wedding ceremony and saw a beggar. The king hated beggars - especially beggars in his castle. He said to a poor man: "What are you doing here? I invited only rich people from other kingdoms because this wedding has to be the most important event of this year. Get out! I don´t want to see you here anymore!" But the beggar did not listen to him. Ctibor kicked him and started to shout at him. The beggar began to ask him for some food: "I have not eaten for many days, I am starving! Please, give me only a piece of bread. After that I will go away!" It was a very bad step for the beggar. Ctibor told his servants: "Let the dogs out!" But the king didn´t know that he was talking with one of the local wizards. When dogs caught the poor man, he used one of his powerful magic and... dogs fell asleep. The next morning Ctibor wondered: "Where are my dogs? Servants, look for them!" Servants didn´t find any dogs, but they found an old beggar. They tied him, threw him into a bag and brought back to the castle. Ctibor didn´t understand where his dogs had disappeared. "What did you do with my favourite dogs? Did you kill them?" said to the beggar foolishly. The beggar told him with an insidious smile on his face: "Your dogs are sleeping. And maybe, it will be an endless sleep...." Ctibor didn´t hesitate and ordered to kill the beggar by throwing him out of the rocks. Before the beggar hit the ground, he shouted: "You will live only one more year, you cruel king!"Ctibor was laughing – he didn´t believe beggar´s words.... One year later Ctibor was walking across his kingdom and stopped at the rock, where the beggar died. Ctibor was tired he didn´t have a good day. So he closed his eyes for a second and after a while he fell asleep. Ctibor didn´t know that he fell asleep on the same place where the beggar died, because Ctibor killed many people, many beggars – he didn´t remember it. But while he was sleeping, a viper came and killed the cruel king... Many people believe that the viper was the spirit of the beggar – the wizard. Ctibor´s soul remained imprisoned in the castle. Be careful if you want to go there!

# HRAD STREČNO



poloha: Strečno, blízko Žiliny

vznik/prvá zmienka: 1316

majitelia: Ján Zápoľský, Matúš Čák, Leopold I.

stav: zrekonštruovaný

## Margita a Besná

Kedysi veľmi dávno pod Strečnianským hradom býval istý zámožný, veľmi bohatý pán, ktorý mal prekrásnu dcéru. Tá sa volala Margita. Bola najkrajším dievčaťom v okolí, málo kto sa jej krásou mohol rovnať, okrem toho bola i pracovitá a usilovná. Jej matka umrela keď bola ešte malá a jej otec ju vychovával sám. Keď mala šestnásť rokov, zaumienil si nájsť si novú manželku, ktorá by bola aj dobrou matkou pre Margitu. To sa mu však nepodarilo. Nová pani domu, Margitina macocha, bola síce krásna, mala dlhé havranie vlasy, obliekala sa vyberaným spôsobom a zdobila sa všelijakými predmetmi z drahých kameňov a zlata, no dušu mala čiernu ako uhoľ. Margitu od prvého pohľadu nenávidela. Nechávala Margitu spávať pri koňoch namiesto jej starej izby v dome a v dome jej prideľovala tú najťažšiu prácu, ktorá by bola hodná aj chlapa, pretože dúfala, že námaha a špina zmyjú Margitinu krásu, na ktorú nová pani tak veľmi žiarlila. Okrem toho sa macoche zapáčil jeden pomocník, ktorého na statku mali a všemožne sa snažila upútať jeho pozornosť na seba. Ten však mal oči iba pre jej nenávidenú nevlastnú dcéru Margitu. Po istom čase si Margita všimla, že sa k nej tento pomocník správa inak. Keďže spolu trávili veľa času a dobre si rozumeli, aj Margita k nemu rýchlo zahorela láskou. O niečo neskôr sa rozhodli zosobášiť. Mládenec sa vybral za Margitiným otcom a požiadal ho o požehnanie. Keď sa to dozvedela macocha, veľmi sa nahnevala a chcela im svadbu stoj čo stoj prekaziť. Snažila sa o to všemožne. Posledným jej rozhodnutím bolo, že úbohú Margitu znesie zo sveta. Chcela sa jej zbaviť za každú cenu, aby mala chlapca iba pre seba a nemusela ju viac znášať v dome. Jedného dňa si macocha zavolala Margitu k sebe a prikázala jej doručiť list pre jej príbuznú, ktorá bývala v neďalekej dedine. Keďže Margita bola zvyknutá poslúchať a neodvrávať, tak iba prikývla a vydala sa na cestu doručiť list. Podlá macocha sa potajme vydala za ňou a sledovala ju. Keď bola Margita nebezpečne blízko Váhu, macocha k nej pribehla a sotila ju do vody. Margita nevedela plávať a voda bola v ten deň naozaj rozbúrená, začala sa topiť a vodný vír ju stiahol takmer doprostred Váhu. Jedinou nádejou na záchranu bol jej milý, ktorý si všimol, že macocha Margite dala ráno nezvyčajnú úlohu a vykradla sa z dvora za ňou. Vedel ako ju macocha neznáša preto ich sledoval. Hneď ako videl, čo sa s Margitou stalo, skočil za ňou do vody a vyniesol ju na breh. Jeho snaha bola však márna, pretože Margita bola už dávno utopená. Oživoval ju celú noc a nad ránom ho jeho kamaráti našli, ako pri rieke plače nad Margitiným telom. Rozpovedal im celý príbeh jej smrti. Ten ich rozzúril a vybrali sa po macochu. Keď ju našli doma, nepomohli jej ani modlitby, nárek a ani kliatby. Mládenci ju schytili a vybrali sa s ňou k Váhu a presne na mieste kde ležala mŕtva Margita ju hodili do rieky. Macochu tak isto schytil vodný vír a na chvíľu sa chlapom na brehu rieky zazdalo, že kráča po vode smerom k Margite, akoby jej ešte aj po smrti chcela ublížiť. Vtom sa však premenila na skalu. Margitu si jej rodina nemohla ani pochovať, pretože sa tiež premenila na veľkú skalu. Hovorí sa, že obe skaly dodnes stoja pri Váhu na mieste, kde sa tvoria najväčšie vodné víry, na výstrahu podlým ľuďom. Jedna je pomenovaná po Margite a druhá po jej macoche, ktorú prezývali Besná.

# STREČNO CASTLE



location: Strečno near Žilina

origin/the first written reference: 1316

owners: John Sigismund Zápolya, Matthew Csák, Leopold I

condition: reconstructed

## Margita and the Mad

Once upon a time in a county under the Strečno castle there lived a rich man who had a gorgeous daughter. Her name was Margita. She was certainly the most beautiful girl in the neighborhood. Only a few girls could be compared to her. She was known as a very hard-working and diligent young woman. Her mother died when she was a little girl and her father brought her up alone. When she was sixteen, he decided to marry again. He wanted to find a good wife who would be a good stepmother for Margita, too. Unfortunately, he failed. His new wife was really charming with long hair as black as a raven wing, always dressed to kill with lots of different expensive jewelers, but her soul was as black as a coal. She hated Margita from the first sight. She let her sleep in the stable with the horses instead of her own room in the house. Margita had to do the hardest housework which was supposed to be done by men because her stepmother believed that it would destroy her beauty. Moreover, the stepmother liked one servant at their estate and she was trying to get his attention. However, he was in love with Margita. After some time Margita noticed that the servant liked her and because they were together a lot of time, she fell in love with him too. As the time was passing by, they decided to marry. The boy asked Margita's father for the blessing. When her stepmother heard about it she wanted to destroy their wedding. She tried in many different ways, but she was not successful. Her last plan was to kill Margita. She wanted to kill her by hook or crook and to have the servant only for her. One day the stepmother told Margita to deliver the letter to her relative in the neighbourhood. Margita was not used to answer her stepmother back so she took the letter and left. The villainous stepmother chased her. When Margita was dangerously close to the Váh, the stepmother came and pushed her into the river. The river was really rough that day; Margita could not swim so she started to drown. The whirlpool pulled her off to the middle of the Váh. Her only hope was her boyfriend who had noticed the peculiar task the stepmother gave to Margita and that she started to chase her. He knew the stepmother hated Margita so he chased them secretly. Suddenly, he saw the stepmother pushing Margita into the river so he jumped in and brought her on the river bank. Unfortunately, it was too late. Margita had already been dead. He was trying to revive her all night and in the morning his friends found him weeping over his fiancé´s dead body. He told them the whole story about Margita's death. That made them furious and they went away to find the stepmother. When they found her at home neither prays, crying or curses could help her. The boys threw her into the river exactly to that place where Margita was lying. For a while it seemed that the stepmother was walking on the top of the river towards them but then she changed into the rock. Margita was not buried because after a moment she was changed to the rock too. People say that in the Váh there are still two big rocks, which are called Margita and the Mad (the stepmothers' nickname).



# HRAD HRIČOV

poloha: Hričovské Podhradie, Žilinský kraj

vznik/prvá zmienka: 9. - 17. storočie

majitelia: rod Ratoldovcov, rod Laharovcov , rod Thurzovcov

stav: zrúcanina

## Kamenný mních spred mátožného hradu Hričov

Na území Slovenska sa nachádza veľké množstvo hradov a zámkov. K veľkej väčšine sa viažu rôzne povesti. Jedna takáto povesť je známa aj o zrúcanine hradu v Žilinskom kraji. Na najsevernejšom výbežku pohoria Súľovské vrchy, neďaleko obce Hričovské Podhradie sa nachádza hrad Hričov. Hrad Hričov patrí rozlohou k najmenším hradom Slovenska. Bol postavený ako drevené hradisko vo vlastníctve nitrianskeho biskupa a neskôr bol prestavaný na kamenný hrad. Na hrade sa vystriedalo niekoľko panovníkov, často krát vlastníctvo hradu záležalo od sily panovníka. K posledným panovníkom patril František Thurzo, z rodu Thurzovcov. K tomuto panovníkovi sa viaže aj povesť Kamenný mních spred mátožného hradu Hričov, ktorá hovorí aj o príčine spustnutia hradu. Keď zomrel posledný pán z rodu pôvodných obyvateľov Hričovského zámku, rytierov Laharovcov, jeho nedostupný hrad a obrovské bohatstvo prepadlo jeho manželke, vdove. Táto starnúca vdova vládla na hrade a bola presvedčená, že na hrade dožije bez väčších problémov. Pán susednej Lietavy, František Thurzo, bol najbližším susedom vdovy na Hričove. Františkovi Thurzovi tiež zomrela manželka a keďže jeho pozemky susedili s hradom Hričov, začal si naň robiť zálusk. Spojením majetkov by sa Thurzovci stali najmocnejšími šľachticmi kraja , a preto začal navštevovať vdovu vládnucu na hrade. Netrvalo dlho a vdova neodolala jeho šarmu. V poslednej chvíli však dostala rozum a keďže bol František o niekoľko rokov mladší, namiesto svadby mu ponúkla adoptívne materstvo s dedičným právom. Tak sa stal František jej adoptívnym synom so súhlasom kráľa. Ale jemu sa to nepáčilo, pretože jeho plány sa takto veľmi oddialili, keďže vdove zostávalo ešte pár rokov života. Odhodlal sa ku kroku, zavrieť vdovu Laharovú do najtemnejšej kobky na hrade. Na ďalší deň služobníctvu oznámil, že pani zošalela a musia ju opatrovať na tajnom mieste. Postupne na hrade vymenil všetko služobníctvo a nahradil ho svojim. Pani dúfala, že sa z temnej kobky čoskoro dostane, ale s plynúcimi dňami a mesiacmi začala za svoje nešťastie obviňovať práve hrad Hričov. Jedného večera ho prekliala kliatbou kráľa Leara. Strážca vtedy započul túto kliatbu a oznámil ju služobníctvu. Odvtedy už nik nepokladal hrad za bezpečný. Raz sa pred bránami hradu objavil mních, ktorý sa nedal odbiť, aj keď ho mrzutý pán nechal vyhodiť. So slovami "Boh vidí zlo, ktoré činíš! Boh ťa potrestá!" ho obvinil pred služobníctvom z hrozného činu, ktorý vykonal panej. Vtedy ho pán František znovu vyhodil z hradu, no mních ďalej stál pred hradnou bránou. Na to ho pán prikázal zavrieť v starej hradnej veži, kde mal umrieť hladom a smädom. Vtedy Thurzo zbadal, ako sa skala pod jeho oknom začína meniť na podobizeň mnícha. Nechal skalu zničiť, no ráno sa objavila nová podobizeň mnícha, na inej skale. Vtedy začínalo služobníctvo zo strachu pána Františka opúšťať. Už ani Thurzo sa na Hričove necítil v bezpečí, nechal pani pustiť z temnej kobky, no už bolo neskoro. František sa vrátil späť na Lietavu, ale ani tam nemal pokoj. Duchovia rozohnali obyvateľov Hričova . Ďalšiu noc zámok zachvátil obrovský požiar. Napriek snahám o obnovu, nikomu sa nepodarilo zámok opraviť, ale zato skala kamenného mnícha je tam pred niekdajším vchodom dodnes. Zlí duchovia ešte aj teraz strašia zvedavcov, ktorí sa odvážia vstúpiť do rozvalín Hričovského hradu...



## HRIČOV CASTLE

location: Hričovské Podhradie, Žilina region

origin/the first written reference: 9th - 17th century

owners: Ratold family, Lahar family, Thurzo family

condition: ruins

## The Stone Friar from the Hunted Hričov Castle

Slovakia is a very rich country in terms of the number of castles. There are many legends about most of these castles. One of these legends is about a castle in Žilina region. On the north peak of a mountain range called Súľovské vrchy, not far from a town called Hričovské Podhradie is a place where a Hričov castle is located. The Hričov castle is one of the smallest castles in Slovakia. It was built as a wooden hill-fort originally owned by Nitra's bishop and then it was rebuilt to a form of a stone castle. Throughout the history the castle had many owners. Many times, the ownership of a castle depended on how strong the lords were. One of the last owners of this castle was František Thurzo, from Thurzo family. This lord is being mentioned in a legend "The Stone Friar from the Hunted Hričov Castle" which also talks about the reason why the castle got abandoned. When the last owner from the original family died, the Laharov knights, his inaccessible castle and enormous wealth were passed to his wife. The aging widow ruled the castle and was assured that she would live there until she dies without any complications. František Turzo, a lord from Lietava, was her closest neighbour. Turzo had lost his wife a while ago and because his castle was sharing the borders with Hričov, he started to think about taking the power over the neighboring castle. If he had taken power over both castles, the Thurzo family would have become the most powerful aristocrats in the region and that is why he started visiting the widow. It didn't take long and the widow could not resist his appeal. Fortunately for her, she changed her mind and because he was a lot younger than her, she suggested that she would adopt him with a right to inherit after her death. With a king's approval, he became her adoptive son. However, Thurzo was not very happy about it because the widow was not getting older so fast and his plans got postponed. He decided to lock the widow in the darkest room of the castle. On the next day, he told the servants that the lady got crazy and they had to take care of her in a secret place. Step-by-step, he replaced all the servants in the castle with his own. The lady believed that she would leave the dark room soon, but as the days and months passed, she started to blame the castle for her misfortune. One day, she cursed it with a curse of King Lear. A guard heard the curse and told the servants about it. Since that time, no one thought the castle is safe anymore. One day, a friar appeared in front of the castle, he was very persistent but the lord kicked him out. The friar blamed the lord in front of the servants from the terrible stuff he had done to the lady. "The god sees the evil actions you take! The god will punish you!" the friar shouted. The lord kicked him out again but the friar would still appear in front of the castle. The lord got him locked in an old watch tower where he was supposed to die of hunger. That was when the lord saw a stone with the friar's face on it under his window, he got the stone removed but on the next day, the friar's face appeared on a different stone. At that time, the servants started to get scared and they decided to leave their lord. Neither Thurzo himself felt safe in the castle so he let the lady free but it was too late. Thurzo went back to Lietava but the ghosts would not let him alone there either. Then the ghosts made everyone leave Hričov. On the next day the castle caught on fire. Even though there was an effort to rebuild it, no one could fix it, but the stone friar remains there in front of what used to be a gate until today. Evil ghosts still scare away curious people who enter the ruins of the Hričov castle.



## HRUŠOVSKÝ HRAD

poloha: 10 km od Jedľových Kostolian

vznik/prvá písomná zmienka: 1253

majitelia: rodina Levických, bratia Mikuláš a Ondrej, topoľčianske panstvo

stav: zrúcanina

## Živánska veža

Vo veži prebýval veliteľ zbojníkov - akýsi Nemec Grif. Nikoho neposlúchal, dokonca ani Hrušovského hradného pána, ktorému veža patrila. Ozbíjal bohatých i chudobných a bol veľmi prefíkaný. Najprefíkanejší bol ale Imro, ktorému sa podarilo aj Grifa oklamať. Pri Moravciach sa im raz podarilo odohnať zo stáda dvanásť kráv, Imro na ďalší deň dve potajomky predal novobanskému mäsiarovi. Keď sa po dvoch dňoch vrátil k svojej družine obvinil ich, že kravy zle strážili lebo im dve zmizli. Grif však ostal pokojný. Rozhodol, že ak zajtra ráno nebudú späť v ohrade, zájdu do okolitých dedinských maštalí a vyberú si to aj s úrokmi. Na druhý deň zašli do Hostia, zamierili rovno do richtárovej maštale a vyviedli dve kravy. Richtár s richtárkou ich prosili nech im ich živiteľky nechajú, veď oni im nič nezobrali. Ktorýsi treskol richtára po hlave, že sa zvalil na zem ako kus dreva. Zbojníci sa rozrehotali a pohli sa k otvorenej bráne, Grif sa ešte otočil, že povie nejakú uštipačnú poznámku, no zbadal nad richtárom skláňať sa krásnu dievčinu - richtárovu dcéru Mahulienu. Zavolal na Imra a spolu s ním sa vrátil do dvora aby ošetrili richtára. Richtárka ich nakoniec poprosila ich, či by im od druhov nemohli naspäť kravy vypýtať. Chlapi, bohužiaľ, medzitým zašli s kravami priďaleko, a tak jej navrhli, nech si po ne ide. Richtárka sa hodnú chvíľu s dcérou dohadovali. Nakoniec si ku Grifovi na koňa sadla Mahuliena. Ten ju doviedol až do Živánskej veže. Keďže sa mu veľmi páčila a chcel si ju získať, poukázoval jej všetko od pivnice až po najvyššie poschodie. Lenže ju to nezaujalo a stále sa vypytovala, čo je s otcovými kravami. Ani Grif, ani Imro jej nepovedali kde kravy sú, len sa vykrúcali. Mahuliena pochopila, že si ju tu od začiatku chceli nechať. Na tretí deň podvečer im už ubzikla. Imro zašiel do Hostia k richtárovi ako pytač pre "pána" Grifa. Doma ju nenašiel, dal ju teda hľadať po okolí. Po týždni ju náhodou zbadal u jej príbuzných. Zobral im dve kravy, Mahuliene strčil povrazy do ruky a pešo sa medzi nimi musela vrátiť na vežu. Dali ju na starosť a na výpomoc starej kuchárke, no po týždni jej zase nebolo. Mahuliena vedela, že doma a u príbuzných ju nájdu a tak išla k mame svojho milého, Štefana. Lenže Grifovci boli pred dverami skôr ako im stihla všetko povedať. Tentokrát však nielenže medzi nimi išla peši, ale ju aj bili bičom. Vo veži jej hradný kováč prikoval na pravú nohu široký železný prsteň a naň dlhú, pevnú reťaz. Cez deň jej reťaz pripevnili na hradby tak, aby mohla zísť k potoku a oprať im oblečenie. Raz začula z kríkov svoje meno, obzrie sa, zbadala tam svojho milého. Posielala ho preč, že mu môžu ublížiť, on však ostal. Sľúbil, že ju vyslobodí. Ďalší deň zbojníci odišli. Števo jej dal zápalnú šnúru nech ju zanesie ta, kde majú pušný prach. Keď sa Grifin s bandou vrátili, prikázal kováčovi sňať Mahuliene reťaz a puto z pravej nohy. Tá však nelenila a napľula mu do tváre. Zbojníci ju za trest zbili a hodili do pivnice. Okolo polnoci sa prebrala na vresk a krik opitých, bola si istá, že na ňu zabudli. Pivničné dvere boli otvorené a tak vykročila k prachárni. Dvere však otvoriť nedokázala. Pri rebríku do veže však zbadala fakľu, bežala po ňu. Keď sa vrátila, prestrčila jeden koniec šnúry po dvere a posúvala ju dovnútra, kým jej v ruke neostal len malý kúsok. Priložila k nemu fakľu a pustila ho. Už bola na spodku rebríka, keď ju výbuch odhodil na bok. Štefan ju živú našiel medzi kameňmi a vzal ju domov. O Živánsku vežu sa viac potomto zničujúcom výbuchu nikto nestaral.



## HRUŠOV CASTLE

location: 10 km away from Jedľové Kostolany

origin/the first written reference: 1253

owners: Levická family, brothers Milan and Ondrej, Topoľčany county

condition: ruins

## The Živánska Tower

The commander of thieves lived in the tower – someone called German Grif. Grif disobeyed everybody, even the lord of the Hrušovsky castle who the tower belonged to. He stole from the rich and the poor and was very cunning. But the most cunning was Imro who managed to fool Grif. Once, they managed to chase away twelve cows from a herd near Moravice and Imro sold two of them to a butcher, secretly. After returning to his retinue, he accused them that they guarded cows poorly because two of them had disappeared. Grif, however, remained calm. He decided that unless the cows are back in the pen tomorrow morning, they will go to the surrounding village stables and retaliate. The next day, they went to Hostia, headed straight to mayor's stables and took two cows. The mayor with his wife begged them to let their cows go, they didn't take anything from them. Somebody slammed the mayor's head and he tumbled down like a piece of wood. The bandits started laughing and moved to the open gate; Grif turned to tell a sarcastic joke but he saw a beautiful girl next to the mayor – it was his daughter, Mahuliena. He called for Imro and went back to aid the mayor. His wife asked them if they could get the cows back from their fellow bandits. Unfortunately, the bandits went too far with the cows so they suggested to get them back. The mayor's wife and his daughter discussed it for a while and finally Mahuliena got on a horse with Grif. He led her to the Živanska tower. Because he really liked her and wanted to impress her, he showed her everything from the basement to the top floor. But she wasn't interested and she kept asking where the father's cows were. Neither Grif nor Imro told her where the cows were, they both did not want to answer. Mahuliena realized that they wanted to keep her there from the very beginning. In the evening of the third day she ran away. Imro went to Hostia to the mayor as a suitor for the "master" Grif. He didn't find her at home, thus told others to look around. After a week, he finally saw her. Imro took two cows from them, tied a rope around Mahuliena's wrists and he forced her to come back to the tower with them on foot. An old cook took care of her but after a week, she was gone again. Mahuliena knew that they would find her at home and at her relatives' so she decided to go to Stephen's mother (Stephen was her beloved one). But the Grifins were at the door before she could say anything. That time, not only did she have to go between them on foot, but they also whipped her. At the tower, the castle's blacksmith chained a wide iron ring and a long solid chain around her right ankle. During the day, the chain was attached to the wall so she could go down to the creek and wash her clothes. Once, she heard her name from the bushes, turned around and saw her beloved Stephen. She sent him away so they couldn't hurt him but he stayed. He promised to rescue her. The bandits left the next day. Stephen gave her a detonating cord to put it where they kept gunpowder. When the bandits got back Grif commanded the blacksmith to remove Mahuliena's chain. However, she didn't hesitate and spit into Grif's face. As a punishment, they beat her and put her into a cellar. She woke up around midnight and was sure that they forgot about her as they were drunk and laughing. The cellar door was opened so she went to the armory, put the cord under the door and ignited it. She was at the bottom of the ladder when it blew up and flung her away. Stephen found her alive between the stones and took her home. After this, nobody cared about the Živánska tower.

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## Partner schools of project BraDraShip

- Gymnázium Grosslingová 18, Bratislava, Slovakia

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