

Grm School of Agriculture

by Mitja Simič



The oldest known photograph of Grm Castle before the arrival of the agricultural school in 1886 (1)



An inscription of the year 1886 on the stone doorway of the castle's main entrance (2)

In 1886, thirteen years after its founding, the first agricultural school in the now historical region of Carniola moved its premises from the village of Slap in Vipavska dolina valley to Grm Castle. An inscription of the year 1886 can be seen on the stone doorway of the castle's main entrance.

At the founding of the agricultural school in 1873, Rihard Dolenc was appointed its first principal. He kept his position even after the school moved to Grm, and remained principal until his retirement in 1907. As one of the leading agricultural experts of his time, he published a number of expert articles and publications.



Rihard Dolenc (1849–1919), (3)

In 1921, the school's administration was entrusted to Bohuslav Skalicky, who was appointed its fourth principal in 1924. Skalicky kept his role for only two years, as he died in 1926. A Czech by birth, he was educated in the present-day Czech Republic and Austria and came to the Slovene lands in 1895 as the lead manager of vineyard renovation and later a winery supervisor. He was a leading expert in viticulture, winery and pomology and had a profound impact on winemaking in Dolenjska, which had been left in ruins after the European phylloxera epidemic. Skalicky was responsible for raising the quality of Dolenjska-made wines, above all *cviček*, and in 1909, organised a notable exhibition of the wines of Dolenjska in Prague. He published numerous books, the most decisive among them being *Kletarstvo* ("Winery"), published in 1924, which remained the authoritative text in the field for many years to come. Today, the street leading to Grm Castle is named *Skalickega ulica* in his honour.



Bohuslav Skalicky (1872–1926), (2)



A classroom with pupils and teachers in 1926, (2)

Initially, the Grm School of Agriculture offered a two year curriculum and only admitted boys. Most were boarding students and thus also lived at the castle. The school began admitting girls only after the Second World War. At the beginning of the 60s, the school extended its curriculum to four years and the number of students quickly rose to over 100. In the 70s, when additional study programmes were introduced, the students already numbered over 200. The last entire school year at Grm Castle was 1982/83, when the number of students passed 280. In 1983, the school moved to a new building at Bajnhof under the vineyard hill of Trška gora, where it was able to further expand both in scale and programme scope.

C. Učni red.
Učni red za zimski tečaj od 1. novembra do konca aprila

dnevi	I. tečaj				II. tečaj					
	ure	dogodbo	ure	popoldne	dnevi	ure	dogodbo	ure	popoldne	
ponedeljek	7-8	poljedelarstvo	1-3	šola	7-8	šola in vinogradarstvo	1-3	šola	7-8	šola
	8-9	gozdarstvo	6-8	zoološkarstvo	8-9	zemljinarstvo	6-7	šola	8-9	šola
torek	7-8	šola	6-7	šola	7-8	zemljinarstvo	6-8	šola in vinogradarstvo	6-7	šola
	8-9	šola	6-7	šola	8-9	šola	6-7	šola	8-9	šola
sreda	7-8	šola	6-7	šola	7-8	šola	6-7	šola	7-8	šola
	8-9	šola	6-7	šola	8-9	šola	6-7	šola	8-9	šola
četek	7-8	šola	6-7	šola	7-8	šola	6-7	šola	7-8	šola
	8-9	šola	6-7	šola	8-9	šola	6-7	šola	8-9	šola
petek	7-8	šola	6-7	šola	7-8	šola	6-7	šola	7-8	šola
	8-9	šola	6-7	šola	8-9	šola	6-7	šola	8-9	šola
sobota	10-11	šola	1-2	šola	10-11	šola	1-2	šola	10-11	šola
	11-12	šola	1-2	šola	11-12	šola	1-2	šola	11-12	šola
nedelja	8-9	šola	1-2	šola	8-9	šola	1-2	šola	8-9	šola
	9-10	šola	1-2	šola	9-10	šola	1-2	šola	9-10	šola

*) Resnikina ni obiljaten produkt.

The Grm School of Agriculture's winter course schedule from 1888 (4)

The school grounds encompassed vast properties around Grm Castle, stretching over the Grm hill as far as the village of Gotna vas and the Težka voda creek in the south and in the direction of Kandija in the north. Additionally, the school also owned vineyards on Trška gora and some woodland. In 1964, the school's property extended over 218 ha of farmland. The school grounds at Grm were renowned for being well maintained and the school always kept up to date with the latest developments and practices in all branches of agriculture (crop and livestock farming, fruit cultivation, winegrowing, and horticulture).



The map of Grm School of Agriculture's grounds around Grm Castle in 1893 (5)



The school wine cellar in 1925 (1)



A 1906 drawing by M. Kambič of the castle's main façade and the park (2)



A detail on the main entrance door (2)

Today, the castle's main entrance door, decorated with stylised representations of farm produce and tools in a symbolic nod to agricultural endeavour, is the foremost reminder of the agricultural school's legacy at the castle.



The south façade of Grm Castle with the orchard (4)