

THE INTERNATIONAL ROUND-TABLE "MARTEL AND THE SLOVENE KARST 1893-1993" (POSTOJNA, NOVEMBER 12 - 13, 1993)

Hundred years ago, in the autumn of 1893, the world famous speleologist Edouard A. Martel came to explore the Dinaric Karst within the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. He visited a great deal of this karst, but trully important explorations he carried out in Carniola, in the Postojnska jama cave system.

To honour and to recall memories of these events, to reassess the Martel's work in our karst from the modern point of view and to review the significance of our karst in older French literature, the Karst Research Institute ZRC SAZU under the patronage of the Speleological Association of Slovenia and in the coperation with the Museum of Notranjska, organized this round table.

25 experts from five countries (Austria, France, Italy, Great Britain, Slovenia) have taken part; among them must be mentioned in particular Dr. Karl Mais, the director of the Speleological Institute, Vienna, Dr. T. R. Shaw, the author of a comprehensive book History of Speleology, and the representatives of France, Mr. D. Lopez, consul and Mr. J. Granon, the attach for science. In the last moment several eminent participants renounced their arrival, among them unfortunately D. Andr, connoisseur and collector of the material of Martel's biography and correspondence, who sent an interesting set of slides about Martel which were shown to the participants.

Due to short daylight the work was a bit unusually disposed: during the day the field work and late in the afternoon and in the evening the discussion part of the meeting. There have been presented seven main papers, four of them treating the Martel's work on the slovene karst (A. Kranjc, A. Mihevc, D. Rojšek, S. Šebela) and three Martel's activity and his significance with an accent on his work in the Dinaric karst (A. Kranjc, K. Mais, T.R. Shaw). These papers served as the basis for interesting and detailed discussion for which there was no lack of time as usually and which is the essential advantage of the round tables. The field work followed "the Martel's traces" in Postojnska jama, Otoška jama, Pivka jama, Črna jama and Magdalena jama and in Škocjanske jame.

For the organization there were no special financial means neither a cotisation was foreseen this is why the material support of Postojnska jama, Škocjanske jame and the Postojna commune was so welcome. Of course, the organiser still has difficult and responsible task to publish the presented papers and, as usually, we rely on financial support of the Ministry for Science and Technology.

Andrej Kranjc