## Geological and mining heritage: Croatian historical mining sites: [poster]

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## Other document types / Ostale vrste dokumenata

Publication year / Godina izdavanja: 2020

Permanent link / Trajna poveznica: https://urn.nsk.hr/urn:nbn:hr:169:912821

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Download date / Datum preuzimanja: 2024-04-25



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## GEOLOGICAL AND MINING HERITAGE Croatian historical mining sites











limonite and siderite with sulphide phenomena (galenite, pyrite, chalcopyrite, chalcosite, tetrahedrite and bornite)

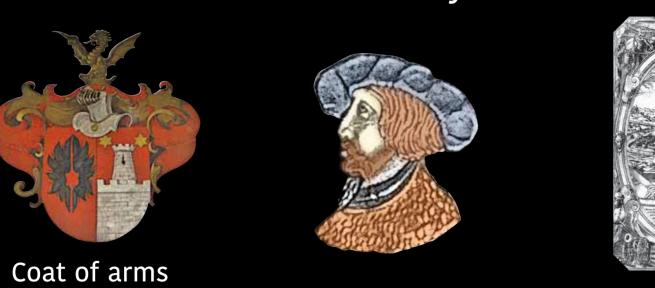


Metals: Ag, Pb, Cu, Fe

--- Mining takes place as early as Roman and Illyrian times (Fe)

of Zrinski family

--- **1347** Zrin was awarded to family of Bribir counts who established Zrinski family



--- 3. 3. 1463 Petar Zrinski was allowed to mine metals by the King Matthias Corvin (Pb, Ag)

Nikola III Zrinski



--- 1488 the fortress of Gvozdansko was built

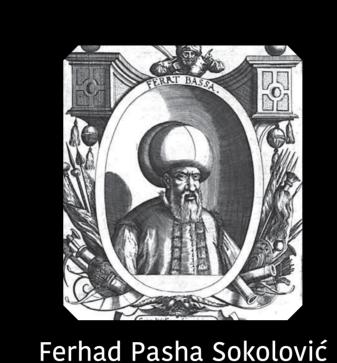
**1524** a mint workshop started to emit silver coins



Silver coins from Gvozdansko - talies (Archaeological museum in Zagreb, replicas inv. E21714, Photo: Igor Krajcar)

--- **1530** the mint and mines were leased to Leonard Gruber Samoborski and Mark Stettner Ljubljanski

--- 13. 1. 1578 the Gvozdansko fortress fell under the onslaught of the Ottoman Empire

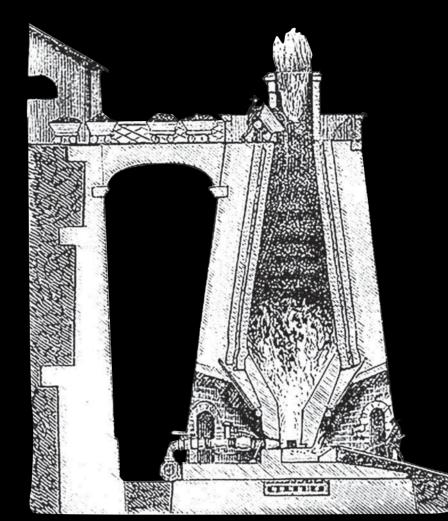


...and then **Ferhad-Pasha** changed tactics and decided on a nighttime attack...just as the onslaught was about to begin, all the torches went out. Fearing the possible trap, he aborted the attack until the next morning. On Monday, the 13th of January 1578.. everything was still. When they entered the main yard, they saw dead bodies of defenders. The harrowing sight impacted Ferhad-Pasha so greatly that he allowed the burrial of the dead according to Christian customs..."

(Kekez: Pad Gvozdanskog 1578. g.)

**1707** mining was revived (Ag and Cu), later on the "August" mine" was opened in the Gradski potok and it was the largest copper mine in Austrian-Hungarian Empire

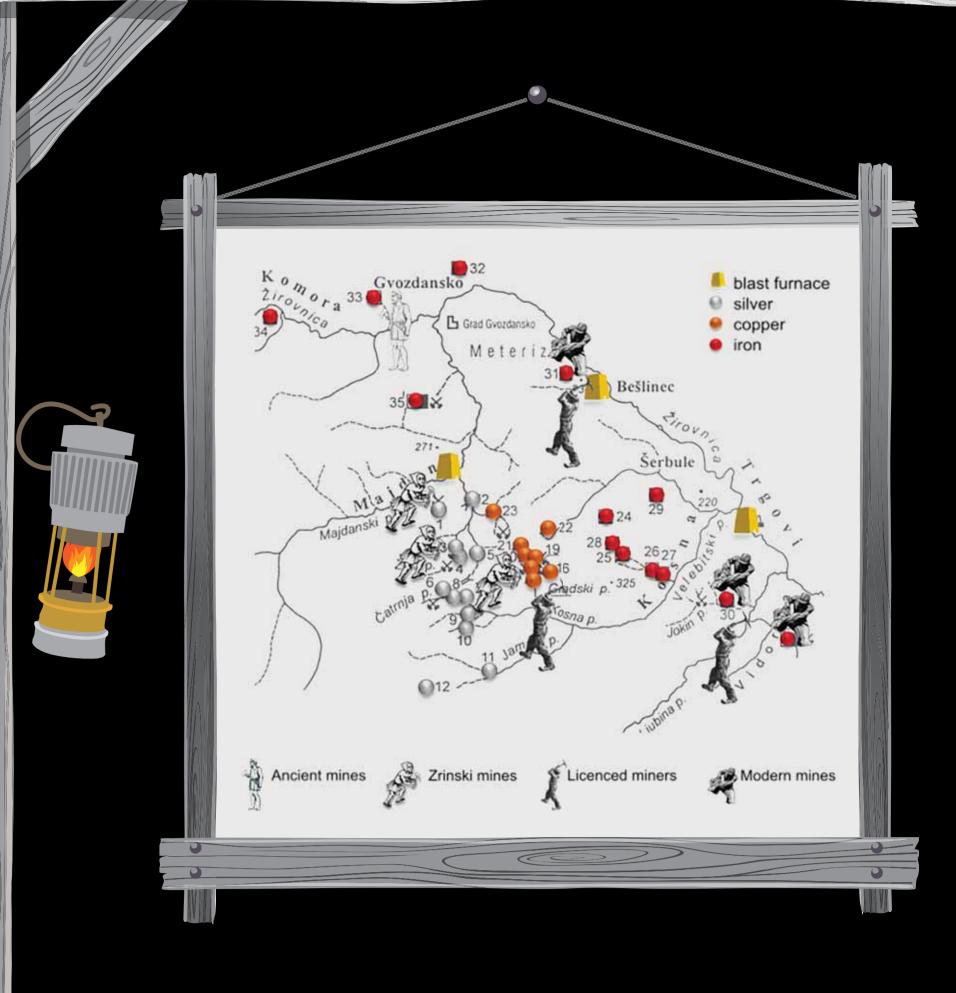
--- **1726** the Imperial Mining Office was located here



Household Cyclopedia 1906

The Bešlinac blast furnace - the state of art of its time





--- **1966** the last mine was closed

About 350 meters

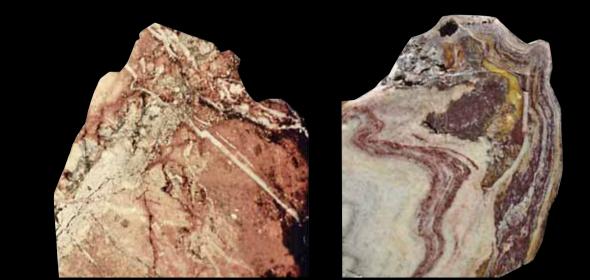
long shafts are open

to visitors as a mining

museum in nature.



hematite, siderite, chalcopyrite Industrial mineral: gypsum



Metals: Cu, Fe

It is assumed that the mine existed in Roman times



Queen and Empress Barbara Celjska (1381-1451), "The Black Queen", the second wife of the Croatian-Hungarian King Sigismund of Luxembourg, practiced alchemy in the basements of her castle in Samobor. She allegedly produced silver and then gold by transmutation of copper from her mines in Rude.

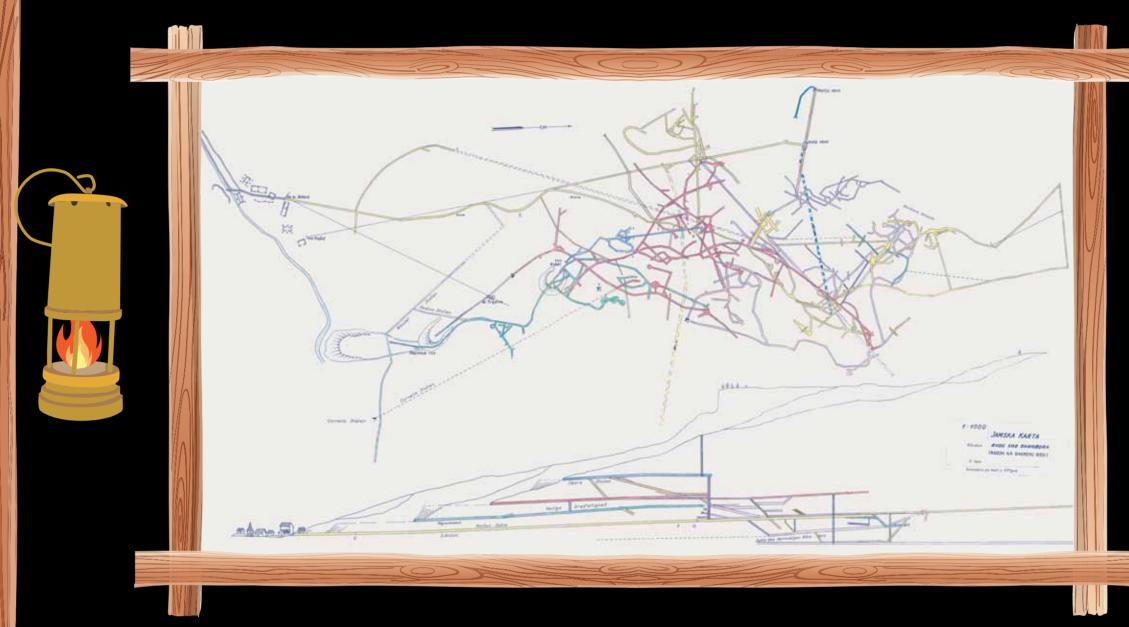
Nikola IV Zrinski

--- **1481** first record of Copper mining

- --- **1530** Leonard Gruber Samoborski mined copper here, and operated in Gvozdansko as well
- --- **1582 Ungnad** opened a new shaft, two additional furnaces, two copper forges and employed about 200 people, mostly
- -- **1591** the first known miners' strike in Croatian countries broke out
- -- **1587** the Erdödy family possesed the mine
- -- **1653** the mine was taken over by the Auersperger family
- --- **1698** Croatian nobles and Milan Androk established a Mining Society that managed the mines

1714 the Auersperger family owned the mine once more

--- **1763** the Erdödy family continued to operate the mine --- **1777** a precise tunnel map, still credible and unique, was drawn



--- **1785** first description of **Rude** mine by **Andrija Pribila** was published

--- **1788** Samobor was the seat of the Mining Substitution Court, a branch of the Mining District Court of Schemnitz (today Banská Štiavnica), run by a mining master (Bergmeister)

**1851** the copper ceases to be mined; iron ore and gypsum were excavated

- A legend has it that the first miners were the Dwarves – Bergmans a small bearded man dressed in green with yellow skin <sup>5</sup> and snake eyes. They were last seen in the late 19th century digging for gold and other valuable metals.
- **1952 1956** last research was conducted reporting the copper and iron ore quantities not feasible
- --- **2002** recovery of two artificially connected shafts Sveto Trojstvo and Kokel after the initiative from **prof. dr. sc. Boris Šinkovec**, the **KUD** Oštrc and locals





Greblica or Miner's cake, was often the

only meal of the miners, a salty thin

cake with cheese and walnuts or cheese

and green leafy vegetables.

Named after a tool for cleaning ashes in

old stone ovens.

Photos: R. Ibrišević One of the oldest European copper and iron ore mines. During the 16th century the copper production was twice the size of the total copper production in England and four times the total production in Norway, and it reached one third of the total production of the famous Swedish mine in Falun.

**Industrial mineral:** pyritic bauxite



**Product:** alum, green vitriol, sulfuric acid, Prussian blue, "terra rosa per pittori"

around 1566 first mining operation started

- --- **1646** first notes on history of vitriol extraction underneath the Sovinjak
- --- **1780** Pietro Turini found and described the ore as a Pyrite Aluminoso-Vetriolica and Giovanni Arduino, professor of mineralogy, chemistry and metallurgy, performed first analysis
- --- **1781** in Koper Turini applied the extraction process proposed by Arduino
- --- **1784** mine Minjera and a factory of alum in Sovinjak was opened, the labor force was imported



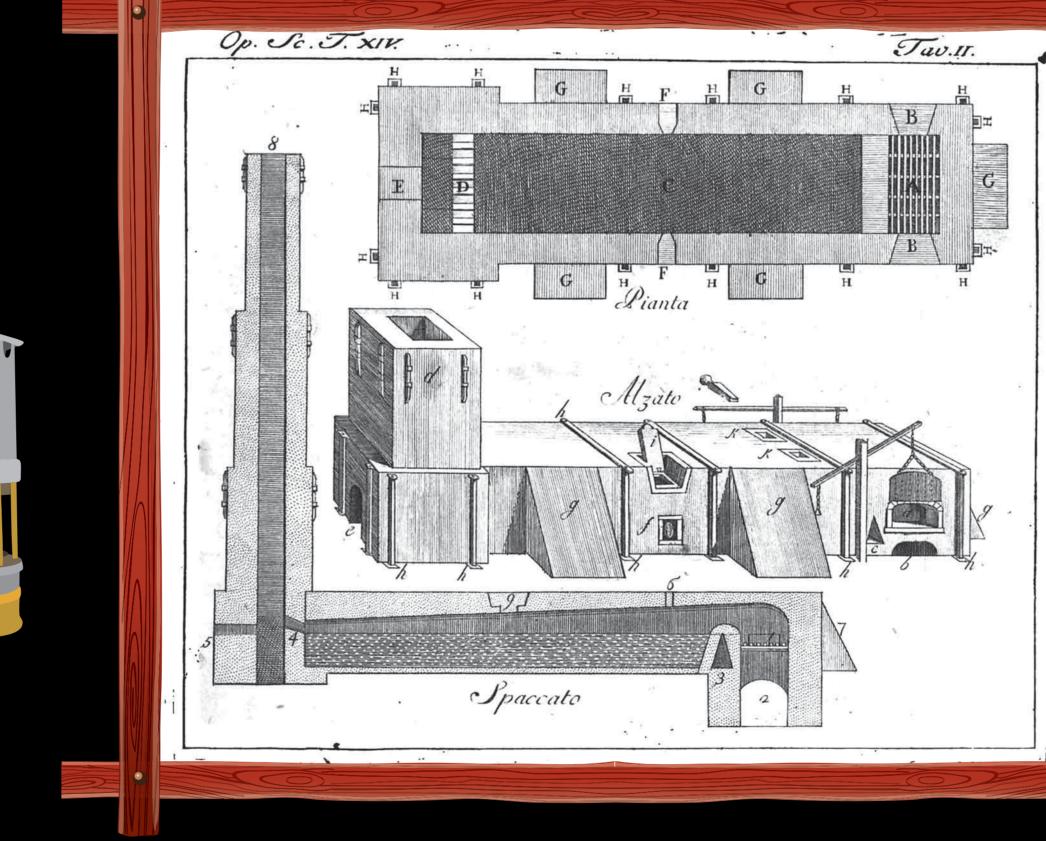
In 1791 (30 years before Bertheir's analysis of bauxite from Les Beaux) Sovinjak's bauxite is analized qualitatively and quantitatively by professor Arduino.

--- 1797 Istria joined the Austro-Hungarian Empire, export-import operations were obstructed and Minjera was cut-off of several vital privileges



**Excavation** was performed by underground mining, shafts still carries the traces of blasting.

Workers were equipped by density-meters (Beaume's scale) and used them for quality control of the processed solutions.



Turini 1782 encouraged professor Arduino to find alternative for lead cauldrons used during alum precipitation. In 1790 forno a riverbero an "horizontal furnace" was designed and built in Sovinjak. Results were excellent, the consumption of firewood considerably lowered and the purity of alum improved. Based on these results Eccelentissimi Deputati Alle Miniere prohibited the use of cauldrons.

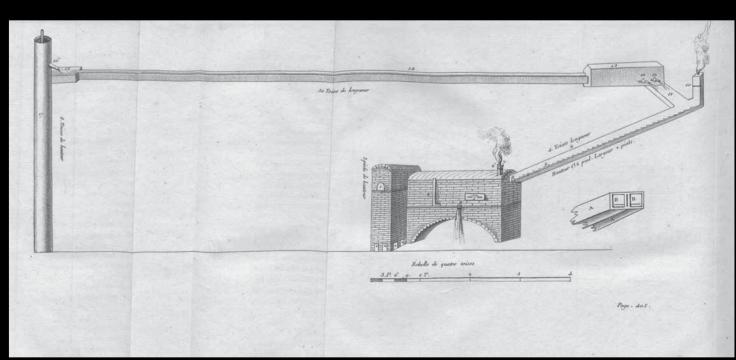
- 1801 Giusepe Maria Socquet wrote Sur l'aluminière d'Alun natuerl de Souvignaco en Istria, proince ex-Veneto, et sur les procedes particuliers employés pour son et extraction et sa purification describing in detail the production in Minjera

--- 1808 Pietro Turini published his memoirs Della preparazione dell'allume nella Miniera di San Pietro nel diartimeno dell'Istria recognized as the first elaborative work on bauxite processing

--- **1823** Minjera declared bankruptcy and in 1863, after a robbery and murder of the factory director Antonio Deperis, the factory was closed



In the most successful times, factory employed about 70 workers (40 miners) and used the services of 350 carriers.



Factory used a unique mechanism for pumping the liquid discharge from leaching which was described by Socquet as an ingenious and innovative process.

**Oswald Heer** (1809-1883)

-Swiss paleobotanist and

in Croatien"

-studied fossilised insects of

-published series of books "Die

von Oeningen und von Radoboj

(1847, 1849, 1853 and 1867).

Insektenfauna der Tertiärgebilde

**Industrial mineral:** sulphur in marl



Product: sulphur



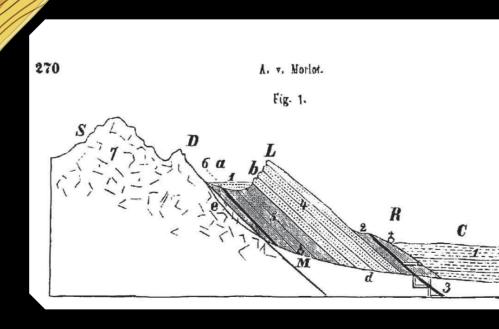
In 1811, a farmer named Ambrose was digging a basement for his vineyard cottage. He started a fire in the pit to burn some branches. To his own surprise, he noticed that not only the trees were burning, but the ground was burning as well. So he brought a chunk of the earth to a priest. Unfortunately, his discovery resulted in the confiscation of his land.

-- **1805** Waldstein-Kitaibel's first notes on sulfur in Zagorije

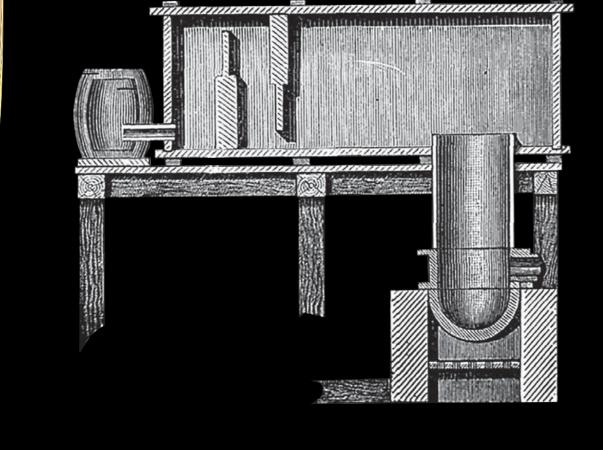
- -- **1811** Imperial mine of sulfur was opened
- --- **1816** the Mining Substitution Court was transfered here from Rude due to the war

- **1865** mine was sold to Sonnenberg, Pulzer and Moses

- --- **1833** primary school in Radoboj was established by miners
- --- **1917** sulfur extraction was stopped



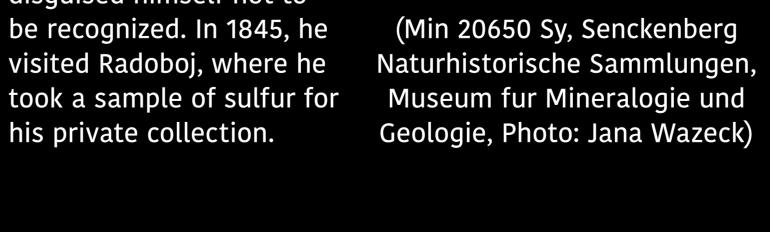
Geological profile after Morlot (1850)



A **Radoboj machine** was a device based on sublimation designed and constructed for cleaning sulfur from marl. (Kišpatić, 1880.)



Friedrich August II, King of Saxony (1797-1854) paid great attention to the natural Sciences. During his trips he often disguised himself not to be recognized. In 1845, he visited Radoboj, where he took a sample of sulfur for





The Great Exhibition of the Works of

Industry of All Nations in 1851

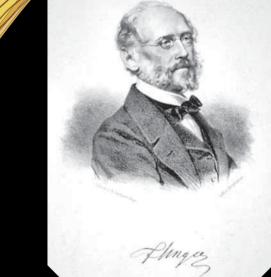
of All Nations and in 1864 in Zagreb at the First Dalmatian-Croatian-Slavonian economic exhibition where it was awarded a silver medal.

Sulfur from Radoboj has been exhibited

at major exhibitions, in 1851 in London at

the Great Exhibition of Works of Industry



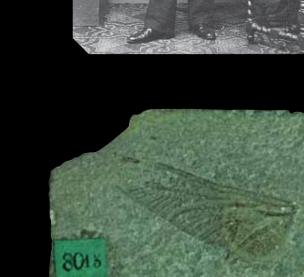


-Austrian palaeobotanist -studied Radoboj fossilised flora for 30 years -published "Die fossile flora von Radoboj" in

Franz Unger (1800-1870)



Flabellaria



Lithemis lejeunecarpenitieri **FRASER** (University Liège collection)



Cystoseirites palaeococcus



(Universalmuseum Joanneum, Geology & Palaeontology, Graz, Austria)

Quercus

Bibio giganteus UNGER

(Croatian Natural History

Museum)