



# SLOVENIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS

SLOVENSKA AKADEMIJA  
ZNANOSTI IN UMETNOSTI



Academia Operosorum (1693)

APES  
ACADEMICÆ  
OPEROSORUM  
LABACENSIVM,

SIVE

INSTITVTVM, LEGES, SCOPVS, NO-  
MINA, ET SYMBOIA NOVÆ ACADEMIÆ SUB  
APVM SYMBOIO

LABACI ADVNATÆ,

*Orbi Literario Exhibita*

*Cum*

Oratione inaugurali in primo Conventu publico

*Ad*

PROCERES ÆMONÆ  
DICTA.

Brevis in volatilibus est Apis, & initium dulcoris habet fru-  
ctus illius. Ecel. 11. v. 3.

*Cum licentia Superiorum.*

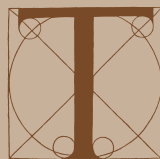
---

L A B A C I,

Ex Typographo Mayriano Incliti Ducatus Carniolie.

*Apes academicae operosorum*  
(1701 – front page)

## Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts through Time



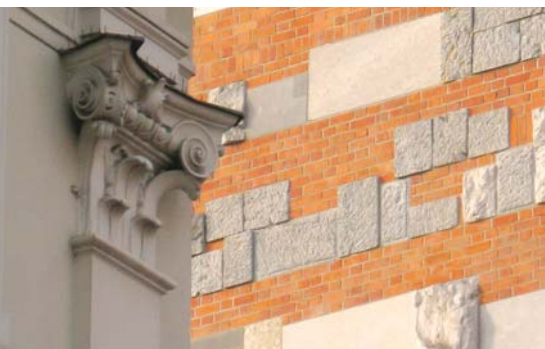
The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA) in its present-day structure was founded in 1938. Nonetheless, it boasts a respectable tradition. In 1693 its predecessor, the Academia Operosorum, was founded in Ljubljana, with a fellowship of the most eminent Carniolan ecclesiastical and secular intellectuals, noblemen and bourgeoisie. Its activities ceased around 1725. In 1779 it was reinstated, but only relatively briefly. From the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards, Slovenia did not have an academy, although the idea of it always persisted. The second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was marked by serious endeavours to establish the Academy once more. These efforts only materialised in 1938 when the first eighteen full members were nominated. The Ljubljana-based Academy continued its activities during World War II, and was again effectively renamed in 1943 as »The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts.« The original four sections were extended to five and later to six sections, and new associated institutes and institutions were established.

From 1955 to 1958, all natural sciences and technical institutes became independent. The Academy only retained institutes covering the humanities, social sciences, and partly, natural sciences. In 1981, these institutes independently merged into the Scientific Research Centre (SRC) of the Academy. It currently encompasses 18 institutes. With over 300 researchers, it is one of the biggest Slovenian research institutions. In cooperation with the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, the Academy Scientific Research Centre conducts a joint research programme »Investigations into the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Slovenian Nation« and Academy members actively participate in the expert and managing bodies of the Academy Scientific Research Centre institutes. From its foundation to the present day, the Academy has outlived various political systems and



*Philologist Rajko Nahtigal  
(1877–1958) –  
the first Academy President, 1939–1942  
(bust by Academy Member  
Boris Kalin, 1959)*

progressed through different developmental stages. The 1994 Act on the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts grants the Academy autonomy and freedom of democratic conduct.



## ***Supreme National Institution of Sciences and Arts***

---

The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts unites scientists and artists elected members for their outstanding scientific or artistic achievements. Its activities are governed by a special Act.

The Academy cultivates, encourages and promotes sciences and arts, while contributing through its activities, to the development of scientific thought, as well as artistic creativity, particularly by:

- Addressing the fundamental issues of sciences and arts;
- Participating in the establishment of policies concerning research activities and artistic creation;
- Providing appraisals, proposals and opinions on the state, development and promotion of sciences and arts, organisation of research activities and artistic creation;
- Organising research activities in cooperation with universities and research institutes, with special emphasis on topics related to the understanding of the Slovenian national natural and cultural heritage, the development of the Slovenian language and culture;
- Developing international cooperation in the fields of sciences and arts.

# Organisation of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts

## Structure

**The Assembly** is a managing body composed of all its full and associate members.

**The Presidency** comprises the Academy President, two Vice-Presidents (one for the natural, technical and biomedical sciences, and one for the humanities, social sciences and arts), Secretary General, six Section Secretaries and three full Academy members, elected to the Presidency by the Assembly and in accordance with the Act on the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

**The Executive Board** (comprising the Academy President, both Vice-Presidents and Secretary General), manages current Academy affairs.



*Academy members attending the ceremonial awarding of the Golden Order for Exceptional Merits to the Academy, by the President of the Republic of Slovenia in 2013. (Photo by D. Novakovič, STA)*





## *Members and Sections*

The Academy is comprised of no more than 90 full and associate members. The limitation refers to members under the age of 75. The Academy also has foreign corresponding members. Members work in sections:

- **I. Section of Historical and Social Sciences**, which is comprised of two subsections: the Subsection of Historical Sciences and Subsection of Social Sciences;
- **II. Section of Philological and Literary Sciences**;
- **III. Section of Mathematical, Physical, Chemical and Technical Sciences**. The Section is divided into two subsections: Subsection of Mathematical, Physical and Chemical Sciences and Subsection of Technical Sciences;
- **IV. Section of Natural Sciences**;
- **V. Section of Arts**;
- **VI. Section of Medical Sciences**.

Sections are headed by Section Secretaries. Sections discuss the fundamental questions of scientific disciplines or the arts in their respective fields of expertise, cooperate in the formation of policies concerning education and development of sciences and arts, provide appraisals, opinions and proposals on the state and programmes of development of sciences and arts, organise debates, scientific symposia, conferences, round table discussions and edit related printed publications. The Sections also nominate councils, commissions and committees for treatment of specific topics within their fields of expertise.

Academy members are active in their respective professional areas. Each field of research or art genre is closely connected with national and foreign universities, institutes and research institutions. Many members of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts are internationally reputed scientists, researchers and artists, members of other academies and international professional associations.

They also appear as authors of relevant scientific articles, books, monographs and texts published in national and international periodicals, or authors of important art creations.



*Festive assembly on the election of new Academy members in 2015  
(Photo by N. Tejić/STA)*

The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts also regularly consults with its research counsellors and advisors for the fields of education, art history, architecture and urbanism, environmental protection, national minorities and Slovenians living abroad, research of cultural activities of Slovenian expatriates, medical gerontology and intergenerational symbiosis.

## ***Scientific and Art Events***

---

### ***Conferences, Round Tables, Lectures***

Perhaps the most important aspect of any academy is the organisation of conferences, round tables and symposia. Academic conferences cover relevant scientific and art topics and, due to the autonomy academies enjoy, rise above limited interests of e.g. universities, institutes, professional associations and societies. Academic conference conclusions serve as advice to politicians in the fields of culture, science, education and environmental protection. Academy members share conference conclusions with the general public via the Academy website and the national media.

As is the case with other academies, the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts organises numerous high profile conferences, both independently and in cooperation with other reputable institutions. It also hosts a significant number



*Conference on Children's rights*

of national and international lecturers, book presentations and exhibitions.

The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts particularly focuses on the internationalisation of Slovenian universities and related use of Slovenian and English as teaching languages in higher education. Recurring topics of conferences, hosted by the Academy, include the protection of Slovenian natural and cultural heritage, raising awareness on the consequences of climate changes and current problems related to forests and wood. The Academy also cooperates on the preparation of the national smart specialisation strategy, striving to focus on topics in which Slovenia excels, both in science as well as industry and the economy. The Academy frequently hosts younger audiences, particularly when organising events related to computer, artificial intelligence and Internet-related perils. The public is also interested in attending conferences, lectures and round tables on the present-day state of humanism and the humanities, children's rights and ageing.

*Lecture of Nobel Laureate in Physiology of Medicine,  
Prof. Dr. Harald zur Hausen*

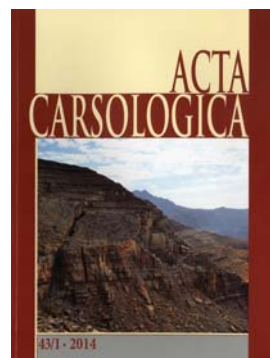
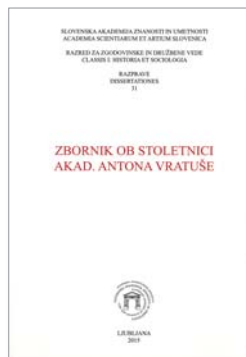
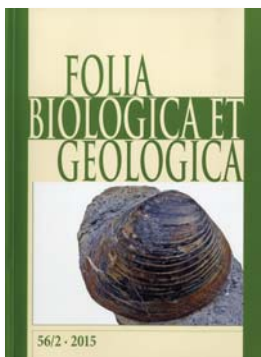


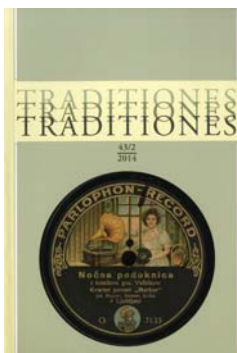


## Academy Publications

The Academy annually issues its Yearbook to provide up to date information on its organisation and activities of both, the Academy as well as its individual members.

It also issues occasional publications. The most recent publications of the latter type include *Biografski zbornik ob 75-letnici SAZU* (Proceedings on 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts), detailing the work of all its living members. The afore-mentioned proceedings were accompanied by a CD, featuring concert music pieces composed by Academy members - composers, performed at the ceremony, commemorating this respectable jubilee, Volume I. of the *Zgodovina Slovenske akademije znanosti in umetnosti* (History of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts), treating the efforts for its establishment



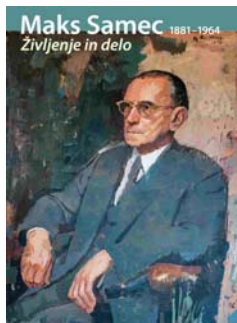
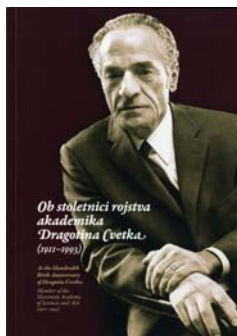


and the first years after its creation (by Željko Oset) and *Ljubljana kot novi Rim* (Ljubljana as new Rome), on the role and importance of the Academy predecessor, Academia Operosorum (by Luka Vidmar).

The Academy regularly publishes periodicals such as *Folia Biologica et Geologica*, and occasional folios in the series *Razprave/Dissertationes*, edited by individual sections.

It also appears as co-publisher, either with the Academy Scientific Research Centre (published in this combination are the periodicals *Acta Archeologica*, *Acta Geographica Slovenica*, *Acta Carsologica* and *Traditiones*) or with other publishers.

The Academy also issues occasional editions accompanying symposia and scientific gatherings. An example of this is a collection of papers from a series of conferences entitled *Znanje kot vrednota: izobraževanje za 21. stoletje* (*Knowledge as a Value: Educating for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*), concerning teaching biology, physics, chemistry and mathematics, as well as technical sciences. Sometimes individual books, brochures, separates or commemorative proceedings, devoted to individual Academy members, are published to accompany symposia or special occasions.





*Iconotheca Valvasoriana*, collection of prints by Janez Vajkard Valvasor, is composed of seventeen volumes with 7.752 facsimiled and scientifically appraised prints and drawings by European masters from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century. It has so far been presented to reputable institutions and individuals, including the Royal Society of London, the European Union in Brussels, Albertina in Vienna, the Beijing University Library, the Vatican Library and the Uppsala Library.

Two Academy foundations: the Dr. Bruno Breschi Foundation and the Janez Vajkard Valvasor Foundation also publish various materials. Thus, the first foundation provided for the publication of works by Baroque authors and Catholic preachers Janez Svetokriški (Joannes Baptista à Sancta Cruce Vippacensi), and Rogerij of Ljubljana, philologist Marko Pohlin, linguist Karel Štrekelj's *Zgodovina slovenskega slovstva*, (History of Slovenian Literature) etc. The second foundation introduces to the general public complicated reprints of works by Janez Vajkard Valvasor (Johann Weikhard von Valvasor), polymath and Member of the Royal Society of London (1641 - 1693) and his contemporaries. Among others, it published Valvasor's collection of prints *Iconotheca Valvasoriana* and *Topografija Koroške* (*Topographia Archiducatus Carinthiae*).



Some Academy publications, e.g. the SASA Yearbook, *Folia biologica et geologica*, *Acta Carsologica*, *Acta Geographica*, some *Treatises* etc. are also available online.

Digitalised Academy publications include *Slovenski biografski leksikon* (1925 - 1991) (Slovenian Biographical Lexicon), which has outgrown the possibilities of printed editions, and is regularly updated with the New Slovenian Biographical Lexicon. Together with the Littoral Slovenian Biographical Lexicon, they form the web-portal *Slovenska biografija* (<http://www.slovenska biografija.si>), which is a part of the international biographical portal Biographie-Portal (<http://www.biographie-portal.eu>), with some recently added pages in the Slovenian language.

---

## ***International Cooperation***

The Academy Department for International Relations and Scientific Coordination oversees activities related to scientific and artistic cooperation with other academies and inter-academy associations throughout the world. International agreements are primarily intended for young scientists in order to provide them with the opportunity to get an insight into the international scientific scene and establish relevant connections with scientific institutions abroad. The Academy has, so far, signed agreements on international scientific cooperation with 40 foreign academies, primarily in Europe: the British Academy –



*The Academy extended its bilateral agreement with the Indian National Academy of Sciences in 2012.*

National Academy for the Humanities and Social Sciences, The Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Swiss Academy of Sciences, the academies of the Western Balkans, as well as a number of academies in other regions, e.g. the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Korean Academy of Sciences, and the Indian National Academy of Sciences. Multilaterally, the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts is a member of several international organisations: European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities (ALLEA), International Human Rights Network (IHRN), International Academy Panel - global network of science academies (IAP), International Academy Union (UAI), Network of Central and Eastern European academies (CEEN), European Academies Science Academies Council (EASAC) and the association Thesaurus Linguae Latinae.

*The Academy Library  
is located at Novi trg 5,  
opposite the SASA  
main building.  
(Photo by: Wikipedia)*



## ***Special Academy Units and Academy Bodies***

---

### ***The Library***

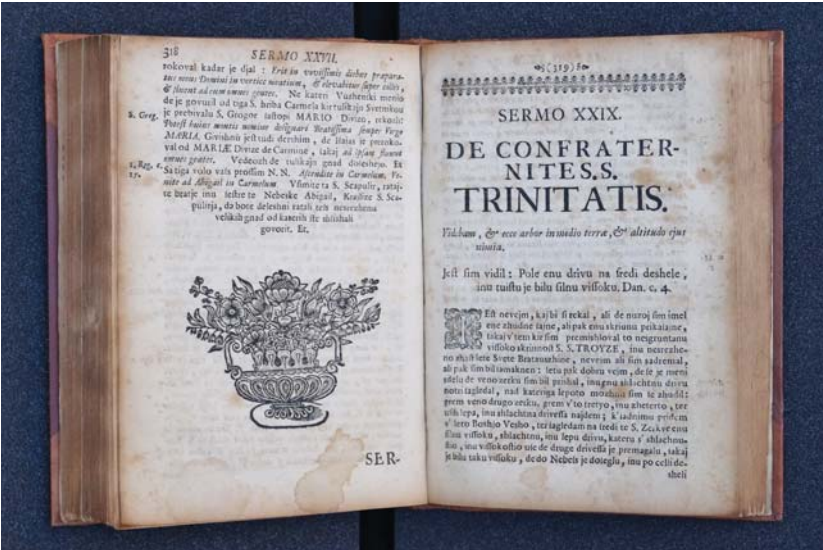
The Academy library is a specialised scientific library, intended for the use of its main institution and external visitors. It was established in 1938, when it was given the legacy of playwright, journalist, author and critic Adolf Robida, with some precious monographs, including three



polymath Hieronim Megiser, philologists: Marko Pohlin, Jurij Japelj (Georg Japel) and Ožbalt Gutsman, playwright and historian Anton Tomaž Linhart, and poets Valentin Vodnik and France Prešeren. With other legacies, donated in the following years, the library was enriched with additional precious material in the form of manuscripts and books. The library acts as custodian of the collections by Academy members - historians Franc and Milko Kos, incl. the incunabula by Enea Silvio Piccolomini (Pope Pius II) *In Europam* (1491), also containing a description of the installation of Carinthian princes; and the legacies of linguist Fran Ramovš, and literary historians France Kidrič and Marja Boršnik, rich in manuscripts, private correspondence and other documents.

With a body of over half a million books, periodicals, manuscripts, pictorial and other non-literary materials, the Academy Library is, presently, one of Slovenia's biggest libraries. Its body of books (mostly in foreign languages) touches upon almost every field of science. A very vivid and well-established book-exchange system with over 1.600

*Janez Svetokriški, Sacrum Promptuarium diversos pro diversis occurrentibus sacris ministeriis praedicabiles continens sermones. Pars quarta, Labaci, 1700 (SAZU TR 88)*



# De sancto Andre

## Sermo Primus.

**D**u isto cōfixus sum cruce  
ij. Notate charissimi. et  
beatus Augu. sup verb  
q̄ xp̄s dimisit lectū suū:  
discipulis suis quicūq; e  
quiescere cū christo iace  
in isto lecto et moriat̄ in cruce. Certe ho  
ctus Andreas cū magno desiderio qu

*Johannes de Werdena, Sermones Dormi secure  
de sanctis, Nurnberge, 1489 (SAZU TR 308)*

scientific and cultural institutions from almost 100 countries is one of its most distinctive features.

The Library centrally processes materials for the core unit as well as 17 specialised libraries of the Academy Scientific Research Centre institutes, with which it shares the older part of the library fund.

The Library is a part of the Central Specialised Humanistic Information Centre (OSICH), especially in regard to evaluation of bibliographic units in the COBISS.SI system, and advisory services. It actively follows modern digitalisation trends. It has set up a web portal system *Slovenska biografija* (Slovenian Biography), which is a part of the international database *Biographie-Portal*, which it continually upgrades with new IT improvements.

In addition to the Academy Library and the Department for International Relations and Scientific Coordination, the **Office of Prof. Dr. France Bernik**, Honorary Academy Member and former SASA President (1992 - 2002),

continues research activities and prepares academic publications from the field of literary sciences.

The following committees, councils and commissions, in which independent experts cooperate with SASA members, have been established at the Academy:

### ***Council for Environmental Protection***

considers current environmental issues in Slovenia and abroad, with an emphasis on the role of science and raising public awareness; it works on the preparation of strategies, programmes and plans concerning environmental protection.

### ***Council for Energetics***

is concerned with strategies for Slovenian energetics development, and issues opinions in regard to the role of the Academy in the field of energy.

### ***Council for Slovenian Spatial Culture and Identity***

issues independent expert opinions and evaluations concerning major interventions in the architectural or urbanist heritage, raising awareness of the Slovenians of the importance of Slovenian architectural and urbanist heritage.

### ***Committee for Ethnic Minorities Studies***

monitors the situation and position of Slovenians living abroad as well as national minorities in Slovenia; the research is performed together with other competent institutes and bodies in the Republic of Slovenia.

### ***The Human Rights Commission***

cooperates with the International Human Rights Network (IHRN) with academies from other countries and institutes, supporting scientists, whose basic human rights have been violated because of their peaceful expression of opinion; it addresses polite protest letters to governments of individual states.

### ***The Orthography Commission***

prepares proposals for the modernisation of orthographic rules in concordance with currently valid orthographic rules and written tradition, accounting for the linguistic changes



in modern Slovenian, and oversees their adoption in daily linguistic practice.

### *Commission for Statutory Issues*

prepares expert opinions and performs tasks specified by the Academy Statutes, studies relevant statutory and legal issues (e.g. reorganisation of Academy Sections or amendments to Academy electoral procedures).

### *Commission for Printing and Publications*

oversees the Academy's publishing activities and thus participates in the preservation and enrichment of the body of printed scientific and art publications.

The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts also manages a donor's fund, intended for students of mathematics, physics and the natural sciences embarking on the Doctoral Studies.



*The new edition of the  
Dictionary of Standard  
Slovenian*

As Co-founder of the Academy Scientific Research Centre, the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts participates with its institutes in the execution and co-financing of the long-term project **Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Slovenian Nation**. Within the project, materials to support fundamental as well as applied research are continually and systematically collected. The results of humanist research have proven useful in the conservation and preservation of natural and cultural heritage and in providing solutions to many actual dilemmas. Thus, the project boasts many important achievements, including the compilation of dictionaries of standard and specialised Slovenian language, the nurturing, preservation and management of authentic components of Slovenian natural and cultural heritage, and numerous studies and strategies to facilitate a responsible approach to Slovenian natural, cultural and intangible heritage (e.g. studies about the influence of different factors on the environment, life and health). Therewith, the Academy and the Scientific Research Centre responsibly realise the legally set objectives for the development of Slovenian language and culture.



Central building of the Scientific Research  
Centre in the Slovenian Academy of Sciences  
and Arts building at Novi trg 2



## Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts

Novi trg 3

p. p. 323

1000 Ljubljana

Telephone: + 386 (0)1 47 06 100

Fax: + 386 (0)1 42 53 423

E-mail: [sazu@sazu.si](mailto:sazu@sazu.si)

Website: [www.sazu.si](http://www.sazu.si)