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LJUBLJANSKA ŠKOFIJA
V VIZITACIJAH
RINALDA SCARLICHIA
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SUMMARY

Visitation records of the Bishop of Ljubljana, Rinaldo Scarlichi, from the period between 1631 and 1632 are valuable sources portraying the then Ljubljana diocese. The document has been preserved in manuscript, on 30 by 20 cm pages bound into a volume with leather covers, and is kept in the Archdiocese Archives in Ljubljana. The volume consists of two parts: the first depicts Kranjsko (Carniola) and a part of Koroško (Carinthia), and the second Štajersko (Styria) and the adjacent areas of Koroško (Carinthia). The visitation report is written in Latin, the official language of the Church, but from the linguistic point of view the text is not always consistent. The report follows a uniform pattern: 1. inspection of the state of the church, 2. Bishop's ordinations, 3. possessions of the church, 4. days of mass and benefices. The transcription also takes into consideration later textual additions, mostly written by Bishop Buchheim when he was inspecting whether Scarlichi's ordainments were carried out.

Encouraged by the Council of Trent, which propagated visitations as an important step towards the improvement of unstable conditions in the Church, Rinaldo Scarlichi set off on general visitations of his dioceses soon after his arrival in the Ljubljana diocese in 1631. He revealed the aim of his visitations in a pastoral epistle, which for the benefit of wider public was written in Latin and in Slovene; the visitation was to bear plentiful pastoral fruit, re-establish clerical discipline, encourage piety and improve the lives of believers by abolishing the remnants of Protestantism, sorcery and superstition. The Bishop personally visited only the major and easily accessible churches; to more remote places he usually sent his deputy — auditor Maximus Rigus. In the Ljubljana region the visitations were completed between May and October 1631, and in Gornji Grad between November 1631 and March 1632.

Bishop Scarlichi's visitation records constitute the first general and systematic report about all the dioceses, vicariates, curacies and succursal churches in the Ljubljana diocese, and they clearly illustrate its size and the organizational structure of the Church at the time. Altogether 550 church houses are listed, and their inventories and alterations to the buildings and furnishing are described. These texts are therefore a valuable archive source for general and Church history, and they shed light on questions regarding society, economy and the history of art, however within the boundaries outlined by the nature of the visitations and their contents. The above-mentioned records have been taken into consideration in various studies of art periods and fields, but the material has not yet been systematically treated.