

TWO PHOTOGRAPHS RELATIVE TO THE HISTORY OF ODONATOLOGY IN SLOVENIA

The photographs here reproduced were kindly given to me in 1959 by the late Alfonz (Alfons) [Ritter von] Gspan, then a Research Associate at the Slovene Museum of Natural History, Ljubljana. I am not aware of an earlier publication of Figure 1. Figure 2 has been published by V. PETKOVŠEK (1953, *Biol. Vest.* 2: 153-155), from a copy deposited in the archives of the Department of Botany, University of Ljubljana.

**Figure 1.** — Dated February, 1913. It shows a group of entomologically interested members of the Museum Society of Carniola ("Muséalverein für Krain"/"Muzejsko društvo za Kranjsko", Ljubljana, 1864-1919), apparently attending a meeting, at which a talk was given "On the variations and aberrations in Lepidoptera". From left to right: Ivan Tavčar, Ivan Splihal, Dr Pavel Grošelj, Davorin Sinkovič, Dr Gvidon Sa-

jovic, Ivan Hafner, Alfonz [von] Gspan and Franc Dobovšek.

**Dr G. Sajovic** (born: 14 August 1893, Kranj, deceased: 24 July 1920), a professional biologist, associated with the Carniolian Museum in Ljubljana (now Slovene Museum of Natural History), has briefly reported (1915) in the Museum periodical, *Carniola* 6(3): 131-140, on A. SCHWEIGHOFER's monograph on central European and Styrian dragonflies (Pt 1: *Jber. Staats-Gymn. Marburg* 1895: 3-26, 1 pl. excl.; Pt 2: *Jber. II. Staats-Gymn. Graz* 1905: 3-44; Pt 3: *ibid.* 1906: 5-33) and emphasised the inadequate status of exploration of the odonate fauna of Carniola, i.e. the present central Slovenia. It was almost certainly this remark that has triggered some odonate collecting of various local entomologists, such as e.g. J. Stussiner and Dr J. Staudacher, whose material is deposited in the Slovene Museum of Natural History.

**Figure 2.** — Dated 26 April 1913. From left to right: Alfonz Paulin (Director of the Botanic Gardens, Ljubljana), Dr A. Högl (medical practitioner in Ljubljana and amateur botanist) and Alfonz [von] Gspan, in the Rob Gorge nr Velike Lašče, Lower Carniola, Slovenia.

**A. [von] Gspan** (born: 30 March 1878, Dole nr Kostanjevica, Slovenia; deceased: 31 March 1963, Ljubljana), a botanist, entomologist and land surveyor, was among the greatest coleopterologists in Slovenia. As he told me, his father, **Julius [von] Gspan** (1848-1888), a native from Innsbruck, Austria, Notary Public in Kostanjevica, Slovenia, was one of the few early, passionate odonate collectors in Slovenia, and brought together an appreciable collection of material from Lower Carniola. After his early death, the collection has been sold to a certain Mr Radel from the town of Žužemberk, then a student at Krško. During his young years, Alfonz [von] Gspan retained his father's interest in dragonflies. In 1905 he tried to recover his father's collection which, by then, was in a poor condition and it was subsequently lost. — Aside of the well known F.J. Schmidt (1791-1878), the [von] Gspans were the sole noteworthy 19th century odonate collectors in central Slovenia. They did not publish in the field of odonatology and their collections did not survive, therefore their odonatalogical activities remained largely unnoticed.

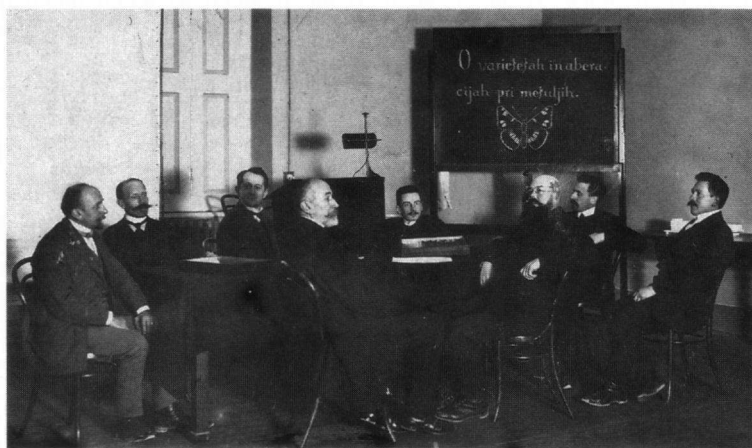


Fig. 1. For explanation see text.



Fig. 2. For explanation see text.

Brief references to these are given in *OA* 8212 (*Odonatologica* 21[1992]: 259) and in I. GEIS-TER's Editorial in *Enviæ* 1[1994]: i).

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