

– dvorska kapela? No, gdje je odgovarajući dvor? Možda bi odgovor bilo raskrižje Križevac – Čazma – Zagreb, kasnije i Bjelovar te mitnica, pa otuda i kapela, i naselje i župa. A *Sabnicza* je tada bila cijeli taj kraj uz potok istog imena, pa *Sabnicza* nije morala biti niti ime tog naselja. Čudi, zatim, slaba kvaliteta temelja i zidanja, koji su prouzročili ruševnost crkve i potrebu za njezinim obnavljanjem.

Čini se da je župnik Fabijan tek ponovio tlocrt starije građevine, crkve romaničkog tlocrta, s nekim značajkama gotike – slijepim nišama i prozorom (prozorima), završenim šiljastim lukovima. Opet je to bila skromna građevina – konačno, župnikovo prizivanje na papinski oprost za pomoć pri zidanju i obnovi govori o slabim izvorima financiranja. Ova crkva, građena sredinom 15. st., mogla je u brodu imati samo dva prozora te jedan u svetištu – vjerojatno na još romaničkoj apsidi. Pročelja sa sjeverne i južne strane broda bila su ukrašena slijepim nišama, gotičkih stilskih usmjerenja. Već sama uporaba opeke i slijepih niša govori o jeftinijoj gradnji, iako uporaba opeke kao građevnog materijala nije u čazmanskome kraju novost. Pa i izvedba sedilije u južnom zidu broda djelo je zidara, a ne klesara: očito da u ovoj fazi gradnje kamen nije niti bio u uporabi.

Tu smo sad kod – moguće – još jedne faze gradnje crkve Sv. Ivana *de Sabnicza*: je li se nakon izvedbe broda ipak željelo imati veće svetište nego što je bila romanička apsida? Crkva je mogla biti u uporabi, a novo je – kvadratno – svetište, koje predlaže Z. Balog, tek u pripremi? Uskoro, početkom 16. st. dolazi do povećanja broda, koje može staviti gradnju novog svetišta u drugi plan, a izvedeno je ono, koje vidimo na katastarskom planu iz 1866. godine.

Promotrimo opću povijesnu i graditeljsku situaciju u Sabniczi i okolici početkom 16. st.: gradi se velika franjevačka crkva sa samostanom u Kloštar Ivaniću, grade se i mnoge nove župne crkve. U povodu izbora Ivana Zapolje za hrvatskog kralja 1527. godine na Slavonskome saboru u Dubravi podiže se i utvrda u Dubravi s dvije nove župne crkve. Uz to, osmanlijska je ugroza blizu, grade se i mnogi novi kašteli, počevši od utvrda oko zagrebačke katedrale, Čazme, Zeline, Hrastovice, Križevaca itd. Zaista, u takvoj značajnoj građevnoj aktivnosti u neposrednoj okolici Sabnicze ne treba čuditi da se uključuje i crkva Sv. Ivana! A na gradilištima spomenutih crkava i utvrda početkom 16. st. rade i majstori iz Ivanića i Gradeca, kao i na gradilištu sisačke utvrde dvadesetak godina kasnije.

Tih su godina uslijedile osmanlijske provale, ali i neprijateljstva dvaju izabranih kraljeva, Ferdinanda Habsburškog i Ivana Zapolje, skupa sa njihovim saveznicima u našim krajevima. Tada su stradala imanja i biskupa, i Kaptola, i okolnoga plemstva. Sve je to moglo usporiti, pa i privremeno prekinuti gradnje žabničke crkve.

I konačno, provala Ulama-bega 1552. godine, osvajanje Virovitice i Čazme, spaljivanje Dubrave i okolnih naselja očito onemogućava život u čazmanskome kraju, a to je moglo pogoditi i Sveti Ivan i njegovu župnu crkvu.

Prema kraju 16. i početkom 17. stoljeća organiziranje Vojne krajine s nadkapetanijom u Križevcima znači i obnavljanje života, pri čemu je križevački kapetan bio patron crkve Sv. Ivana *de Sabnicza*, a crkva obnovljena. Ovo obnavljanje je opet bilo skromno, da bi početkom 18. st. počela jača, potpuno barokna obnova ove, a i drugih crkava u okolici, zahvaljujući daljnjem oslobođenju Slavonije.

Summary

Parish Church of St. John the Baptist in Sveti Ivan Žabno

Keywords: sacral architecture, Gothic period, St. John the Baptist Church, Sveti Ivan Žabno

St. John's Church in Sabnicza was originally a humble edifice, probably with a Romanesque layout, built after the Mongolian invasion, that is in the second half of the 13th century. It might have been built by the Prefect and Deputy Ban Jakša (*Iaxa*), although it is more probable that this was the work of his successors. The parish church was held in high esteem, which is demonstrated by the fact that the adjacent settlement was more often called Saint John (Sveti Ivan) than Saint John *de Sabnicza* (or *Sabnicza*). In fact, it seems that in the beginning the location did not have a name, opening up the possibility that St. John's Church was in fact a court chapel. But where was the corresponding court? The answer might possibly be the crossroads Križevci – Čazma – Zagreb, later also Bjelovar and the tollhouse, which explains the chapel, settlement and parish. At that time *Sabnicza* was the name of the whole area near the homonymous brook, which means that it need not have been the name of that settlement. In addition, the quality of the foundation and construction, which caused the church's dilapidation and need for its reconstruction, was surprisingly poor.

It seems that the Parish Priest Fabijan closely followed the Romanesque layout of the older edifice, adding some Gothic features – blind niches and a window (windows), as well as pointed arches. It was, as before, a humble edifice and the parish priest's appeal for papal forgiveness in relation to requiring help on the building and reconstruction points to the fact that sources of financing were scarce. This church, which

was erected in the mid-15th century, probably had only two windows in the nave and one in the sanctuary – probably in the still Romanesque apse. The northern and southern façades of the nave were decorated with Gothic-style blind niches. Cheaper construction is demonstrated by the usage of bricks and blind niches, even though using bricks as building material was not unheard of in the area around Čazma. It is obvious that stone was not used in this stage of construction since the sedilia in the southern wall of the nave were constructed by a bricklayer, and not a stonemason.

The Church of St. John ‘de Sabnicza’ possibly had another stage of construction. Was there a wish to have a larger sanctuary than the one offered by the Romanesque apse? Is it possible that church was in use, while the new square sanctuary – as proposed by Z. Balog – was being prepared? Soon after – in the beginning of the 16th century – the nave was enlarged, which might have deemphasized the construction of a new sanctuary and the one evident in the cadastral plan from 1866 was constructed.

Let us give an overview of the general historical and building situation in *Sabnicza* and its surroundings in the beginning of the 16th century: a large Franciscan church with a monastery was built in Kloštar Ivanić, as well as many other new parish churches. A fort with two new parish churches was built in Dubrava for the election of the Croatian king in 1527. In addition, many new forts – starting with the forts around the Zagreb Cathedral, Čazma, Zelina, Hrastovica, Križevci, etc. – were built due to the proximity of the Ottoman threat. Thus, the work on the Church of St. John should not be considered as surprising

in light of the significant construction activities in the vicinity of Sabnicza! Skilled workmen from Ivanić and Gradec were plying their trade at the building sites of the mentioned churches and forts in the beginning of the 16th century, as was the case during the construction of the Sisak fort almost twenty years later. Those years, which were marked by Ottoman attacks and hostilities between the two elected kings Archduke Ferdinand I. and John Zápolya and their allies in our region, saw the destruction of the estates of bishops, noblemen and the cathedral chapter. All this could have slowed down and even temporarily halt the construction of the church in Žabno. Finally, the attack of Ulama-beg in 1522, the fall of Virovitica and Čazma and the incineration of Dubrava and its surrounding settlements obviously thwarted life in the area around Čazma, which might have had an impact on Sveti Ivan and its parish church.

The organization of the Slavonian Military Frontier, as well as the establishment of the Chief Captaincy in Križevci, during the end of the 16th and beginning of the 17th century brought about the normalization of life and reconstruction of the Church of St. John ‘de Sabnicza’, the advowson of which was taken over by the Križevci captain. This reconstruction was modest as well, while in the 18th century a stronger and complete reconstruction in the Baroque style of this church and others in the area begun thanks to the further liberation of Slavonia.

Traces of different building phases of deterioration and restoration were discovered during the last alterations and restorations undertaken thirty years ago. Despite its specificities, the architecture itself corresponds to the design of sacral objects in this part of Croatia.