

## **Historic-topographical albums from 17<sup>th</sup> century by Joannes Weichard Valvasor and the book-privilege for his book *Theatrum mortis humanae tripartitum***

Joannes Weichard Valvasor, born in Ljubljana (1641-1693), was working in many fields of research – history, geography, ethnography, cartography and techniques. He published several historic-topographical albums on South Eastern Alpine region, places which nowadays lie in Slovenia, Austria, Italy and Croatia. Valvasor's descriptions are explained with comparisons from other places in Europe, he visited on his journeys. For his treatises on intermittent Lake of Cerknica, he became a member of the Royal Society in London 322 years ago (elected in December 1687).

In the paper will be presented also the documents preserved in *Haus- Hof- und Staatsarchiv* in Vienna. They are connected with Valvasor's belletrist and art work *Theatrum mortis humanae tripartitum* (1682) published in the time of plague in Europe. The church authorities gave it the “*approbatio*” and in 1681 it was granted the book-privilege by Emperor Leopold the First. The interesting thing about this book-privilege is that the author asked for it, which was not a common practice in 17th century. The other thing that makes it so special is that it is the oldest book-privilege sent to someone in Slovenia – it was addressed at Valvasor's castle Bogenšperk.