

Anton Janša



Andrej Šalehar¹

Anton Janša, prvi učitelj čebelarstva

»Abhandlung² ... je stara knjiga, zelo stara knjiga: to je razprava ne o nadziranju rojev, ampak o rojenju in pisec ne ve, da bi bila po njeni objavi napisana še kakšna boljša ali popolnejša knjiga o tej temi.«

– Dr. Fraser (1951, 2008)

Cesarica Marija Terezija je leta 1769 na Dunaju ustanovila čebelarsko šolo in za prvega čebelarskega učitelja ter potovalnega učitelja za čebelarstvo je 6. aprila 1770 imenovala Antona Janšo (1734-1773), preprostega kranjskega mladeniča, ki je tam obiskoval bakrorezno risarsko šolo. Čebelarska šola je bila v Augartnu, od leta 1775 do 1782 pa na Belvederju.

Anton Janša je bil doma na Breznici na Gorenjskem v Sloveniji, v okolju, kjer je bilo čebelarjenje zelo razvito. Janšev čebelarski nauk temelji na dobrem poznavanju čebel in na znanju gorenjskih čebelarjev. Sam je zapisal, da so ga čebele s svojim redom in pridnostjo pritegnile, da jih je opazoval in spoznaval njihove skrivnosti. Na osnovi svojih spoznanj je dopolnjeval postopke gojenja in oskrbovanja čebel po gorenjskem načinu čebelarjenja, ki je tako postopoma preraslo v Janšev čebelarski nauk. Učil je, da se čebel ne sme moriti in učil je voziti čebele na pašo. Ovrigel je nauk, da so troti vodonosci, in učil, da se matica oprashi s troti v zraku, kar so poznali kot prvi na svetu že stari gorenjski čebelarji. Čebelaril je v lesenih gorenjskih panjih. Je izumitelj čebelarskih pripomočkov, vrša. Osnova njegovega dobičkonosnega čebelarjenja (nauka) je nadzorovanje rojenja, pomlajevanje družin in da se ne mori čebel – kratko, v dobrem ravnanju s čebelami.

Janša je spomladi leta 1770 za učne namene sam nabavil 16 panjev, da bi poslušalcem lahko pokazal praktična rokovanja pri čebelarjenju. Leta 1771 je imel v šolskem čebelnjaku že 66 panjev, v letu 1772 pa okoli 300 panjev. V zapuščinskem zapisniku po Janševi smrti je zapisano, da je Janša zapustil 194 panjev. Janša naj bi 16 lesenih gorenjskih panjev s čebelami pripeljal s seboj iz domače Breznice. Kranjske čebele iz Gorenjske naj bi bile potem-takem na čebelarski šoli v Augartnu.

Na čebelarški šoli v Augartnu je od aprila do septembra potekal brezplačni pouk. Teoretični del je bil vsak dan od 18.00 do 19.00, medtem ko je bil Janša čez dan na razpolago za vprašanja, nasvete in praktične predstavitve. Proti jeseni, konec meseca julija oz. v začetku avgusta, se je šola skupaj s čebelami preselila na Moravsko polje, približno tri ure hoda od Dunaja pri Gerasdorfu, na ajdovo pašo, kar v tem okolju do Janše ni bilo poznano – to so poimenovali Janšev oz. kranjski način.

Janša in njegovo čebelarjenje sta bila pritegnila veliko medijske pozornosti. Med drugim je *Realzeitung* 4. marca 1771 zapisal: »Vojvodina Kranjska je že nekaj let v čebelarstvu pred drugimi c. kr. dednimi deželami.«



Anton Janša uči v Augartnu (*Ilustrirani Slovenec*, 1925)
 »Ne morim čebel, da bi dobil medu in voska, temveč jih ohranim čvrste in zdrave, da mi prihodnje leto zopet nabirajo med.« (Anton Janša, *Popolni nauk o čebelarstvu*, tekst iz § 174).«

V nemškem jeziku je napisal dve čebelarški knjigi oz. učbenika:

• **Razprava o rojenju čebel** (*Abhandlung vom Schwärmen der Bienen*, 1771)
 Ponatisi: 1774, 1775 (?), 1925.

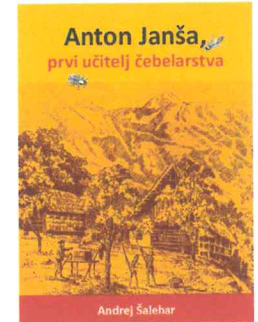
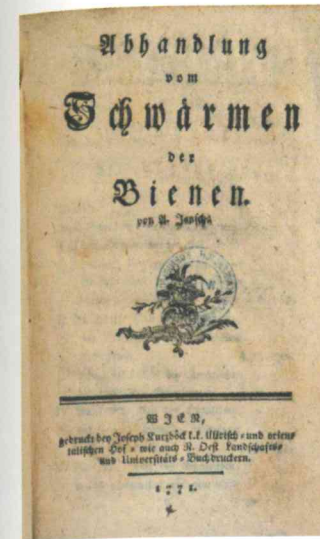
Prevodi: v poljski, madžarski, češki, angleški in slovenski jezik (1776, 1906).

• **Popolni nauk o čebelarstvu** (*Vollständige Lehre von der Bienenzucht*, 1775). Knjigo je dve leti po Janševi smrti po rokopisu, ki ga je zapustil, izdal Janšev učenec in novi učitelj čebelarstva Jožef Münzber.

Ponatisi: 1777, 1790, 1807, 1900, 1994

Prevodi v slovenski jezik: 1792, 1906

Izdaje v slovenskem jeziku: 1792, 1906, 1922, 1994, 2004, 2016



Naslovnica knjige Andreja Šaleharja z naslovom Anton Janša, prvi učitelj čebelarstva (Založba Buča, 2019, 173 strani).

Naslovnici Janševih knjig

Dunajski dvor je po šest izvodov obeh Janševih knjig razposlal v vse vojvodine Habsburške monarhije. Knjigi veljata za bisera v svetovni klasični čebelarški literaturi.

Čebelarški patent Marije Terezije (1775) je uzakonil načela čebelarjenja, ki sta jih razvila Anton Janša in Peter Pavel Glavar. V dodanem *Navodilu za čebelarske mojstre* (1775) je na čebelarskih šolah predpisan Janšev čebelarški nauk, ki ima svoje temeljno izhodišče v nenapisanem čebelarskem znanju in izkušnjah gorenjskega kmeta. Janša je svoje znanje in praktične izkušnje posredoval številnim učencem in tako spodbudil ter prispeval k razvoju modernega svetovnega čebelarstva. Svetovni dan čebel je na rojstni (krstni) dan Antona Janše, ki je 20. maja 1734.

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² *Abhandlung vom Schwärmen der Bienen* (1771) je bila prva Janševa knjiga.

Dr. Andrej Šalehar

Zgodovinar, ki se ukvarja z intelektualno zgodovino in razvojem idej skozi čas. Posebej ga zanimajo razsvetljenstvo, politična misel in družbeni premiki. Dejaven je pri raziskovanju zgodovinskih virov in njihovem umeščanju v širši kontekst. Še posebej se posveča slovenskemu čebelarstvu.



Anton Janša se je rodil v Breznici na Gorenjskem leta 1734. Bil je začetnik modernega čebelarstva in eden najboljših poznavalcev čebel. Deloval je kot prvi učitelj čebelarstva na cesarskem dvoru. Cesarica Marija Terezija je po njegovi smrti izdala odlok, po katerem so morali vsi čebelarski učitelji učiti po njegovih knjigah. Umrl je na Dunaju leta 1773.

Anton Janša was born in Breznica in the Gorenjska region in 1734. He was a pioneer of modern beekeeping and one of the best apiarist. He worked as the first teacher of apiculture at the Habsburg court in Vienna. After his death, Empress Maria Theresa issued a decree requiring all beekeeping teachers to teach according to his books. He died in Vienna in 1773.



Andrej Šalehar¹

Anton Janša: The First Teacher of Beekeeping

»Abhandlung² ... is an old book, a very old book: it is a treatise not on controlling swarming but on swarming itself, and the author is unaware that after its publication, no better or more comprehensive book on this topic would be written.«

– Dr. Fraser (1951, 2008)

In 1769, Empress Maria Theresa established a beekeeping school in Vienna, appointing Anton Janša (1734–1773) as the first instructor of beekeeping and traveling teacher of apiculture on April 6, 1770. Janša, a humble young man from Carniola, was attending the engraving school in Vienna at the time. The beekeeping school was initially located in Augarten and moved to Belvedere between 1775 and 1782.

Anton Janša hailed from Breznica in Upper Carniola, Slovenia, a region with a rich tradition of beekeeping. His teachings were rooted in deep knowledge of bees and the expertise of Carniolan beekeepers. Janša himself wrote that he was drawn to bees by their orderliness and diligence, prompting him to observe and uncover their secrets. Based on his findings, he refined the methods of breeding and managing bees according to Carniolan practices, which gradually evolved into what became known as Janša's beekeeping doctrine. He advocated for humane beekeeping practices, emphasizing that bees should not be killed and promoting the practice of moving hives to pastures. He debunked the belief that drones (male bees) fetched water and demonstrated that queens mate with drones in flight, a fact already known to Carniolan beekeepers. Janša worked with traditional wooden Carniolan hives and invented several beekeeping tools, including a type of hive trap.

The cornerstone of his profitable beekeeping approach was controlling swarming, rejuvenating colonies, and avoiding harm to bees – essentially practicing gentle and sustainable beekeeping.

In the spring of 1770, Janša acquired 16 hives for instructional purposes, allowing students to witness practical demonstrations. By 1771 the school

apiary had expanded to 66 hives and by 1772 it housed approximately 300. Upon Janša's death, an inventory recorded 194 hives in his possession. It is believed that Janša brought 16 wooden Carniolan hives from his native Breznica, introducing Carniolan bees to the Augarten beekeeping school. At the Augarten school, free lessons were offered from April to September, with theoretical classes held daily from 6.00 PM to 7.00 PM. During the day, Janša was available for questions, advice and practical demonstrations. Towards the end of summer, typically in late July or early August, the school and its bees moved to the Moravian Fields near Gerasdorf, about three hours from Vienna, to take advantage of buckwheat pastures. This practice, introduced by Janša, became known as the »Janša method« or the »Carniolan method«.

Janša's innovative beekeeping methods garnered significant media attention. On March 4, 1771, *Realzeitung* reported: »The Duchy of Carniola has for several years been ahead of other imperial and royal hereditary lands in beekeeping.«



Anton Janša emphasized humane practices, stating:
»I do not kill bees to harvest honey and wax, but rather keep them strong and healthy so they can collect honey for me again next year.« (Anton Janša, *A Complete Guide to Beekeeping*, §174).

Janša's Beekeeping Publications

Anton Janša authored two seminal works on beekeeping in German:

- *Abhandlung vom Schwärmen der Bienen* (A Treatise on the Swarming of Bees, 1771)

Reprinted: 1774, 1775 (?), 1925

Translated into Polish, Hungarian, Czech, English and Slovenian
(1776, 1906)

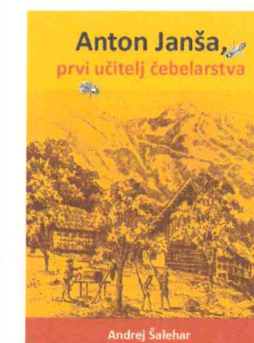
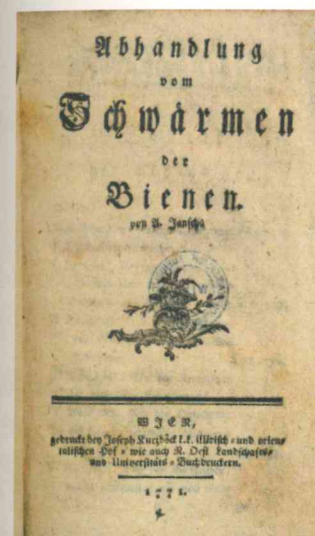
- *Vollständige Lehre von der Bienenzucht* (A Complete Guide to Beekeeping, 1775)

Published posthumously by Janša's student and successor,
Joseph Münzberg.

Reprinted: 1777, 1790, 1807, 1900, 1994

Translated into Slovenian: 1792, 1906

Slovenian editions: 1792, 1906, 1922, 1994, 2004, 2016



Cover of Andrej Šalehar's book, *Anton Janša: The First Teacher of Beekeeping* (Buča Publishing, 2019, 173 pages).

The covers of Janša's books

The Viennese court distributed six copies of each book to all duchies within the Habsburg Monarchy. These works are considered masterpieces of classical beekeeping literature.

Maria Theresa's Beekeeping Decree

In 1775, Empress Maria Theresa issued the Beekeeping Decree, which codified the principles of beekeeping developed by Anton Janša and Peter Pavel Glavar. Accompanying the decree was the *Beekeeping Masters' Manual* (1775), which mandated the teaching of Janša's doctrine in beekeeping schools. His teachings were deeply rooted in the traditional knowledge and practices of Carniolan farmers.

Janša's contributions significantly influenced the development of modern global beekeeping. His legacy is commemorated annually on May 20, his birth (baptismal) date, celebrated as World Bee Day.

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² *Abhandlung vom Schwärmen der Bienen* (1771) was Janša's first book.

Dr. Andrej Šalehar

A historian specializing in intellectual history and the development of ideas over time. He is particularly interested in the Enlightenment, political thought and social movements. Active in researching historical sources and placing them in a broader context, he has a particular focus on Slovenian beekeeping.

