

of this Slovenian custom, a custom which lasted for over 1000 years.

To show the importance of this ceremony to the Slovenian people, the Slovenian government under Prime Minister Janez Janša decided to depict the Prince's Stone on the national side of the Slovenian 2 cent Euro.



#### References:

*Prince's Stone, Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*

*Carmichael, Cathie & James Gow.2000. Slovenia and the Slovenes: a Small State in the New Europe, Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.*

*Luthar,Oto. 2005 Slovenia: History between Myths and Reality, Slovene Studies,*

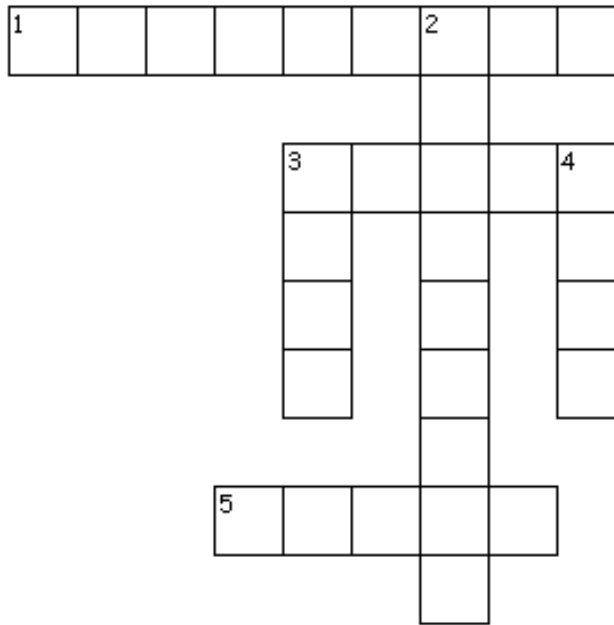
*Angelique vban Engelen (2005) Ancient Slavic Democracy Amounted to some Magnificent Drama.*

*Lausche, Frank, November 28, 1967*

*Speech to U.S. Senate*

*Razglednica spomin na zadnje- (picture)*

*Library of Slovenia*



#### Across

1. American president who was influenced by the ceremony (9)

3. The Slovenian lands ritual of the Prince's \_\_\_\_\_ (5)

5. A stone column from an ancient \_\_\_\_\_ town (5)

#### Down

2. The language spoken for the ritual (9)

3. A gesture that is a symbol of the power of the office (4)

4. The Slovenian coin with the image of the ritual (4)

Puzzle answers available at  
[twincitiesslovenians.org/puzzle.html](http://twincitiesslovenians.org/puzzle.html)



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## CEREMONIES & RITUALS

### SLOVENIAN ROOTS OF A DEMOCRATIC TRADITION

What does an ancient Roman stone column have in common with an American president and the Declaration of Independence? Answer: THE RITUAL OF THE PRINCE'S STONE.



*Photographed by Johann Jaritz*

As a symbol of sovereignty (self government), this ritual had origins in pre feudal society in what was to become a part of today's SLOVENIA. What evolved in 580 AD from a powerful social group of FREE PEASANTS, in that part of Europe, was a change in leadership - from native leaders to noble "dukes". As a concession to the native people, a CEREMONY was produced that allowed vocal input from the peasants. To show their sovereignty, the people used stone ruins of an ancient Roman town to display during the ceremony. So evolved the RITUAL OF THE PRINCE'S STONE. In general this is the story:

The free peasants would choose among themselves, or by succession, a leader, called a “Peasant Prince”- someone who was HONEST, JUST, AND TRUSTWORTHY. This person would sit atop the Prince’s Stone, awaiting the arrival of the new prospective duke and his entourage. The duke, dressed in peasant clothing, including a grey coat and Slovenian hat, would stand in front of the stone. The ceremony would be in native Slovenian language, not the current language of the empire. The peasant sitting on the stone cried out in Slovenian:

*”kdo stopi naprej tako pogumno?”*  
*or Who comes forward so boldly?*

The PEOPLE answered: It is the duke.

The PEASANT asked again: *Can he be a judge?*

*Is he concerned with the well being of the country?*

*Was he born a free man?*

*Does he observe the true religion? ...*

The PEOPLE answered: He is and he will be. Then the PEASANT slapped the duke gently as a symbol of the power of the office. Then the duke stepped upon the stone and turned full circle so as to face virtually in all directions. All had to sing praises to God for the gift of a new ruler. Finally, the ruler had to be placed on horseback and conducted around the Stone three times. Showing his sword, he promised the people to be a fair judge, preserve the peace and keep the promises he made. The duke then proceeds to the emperor in this same dress and hat, and presents himself as the new leader over the people in that location.



*“Razglednica Spomin na zadnje ustolicenje  
 koroskih knezov “*

This image depicts the ritual of the Prince’s Stone and was painted by Josef Ferdinand Fromiller.

A French lawyer, Jean Bodin, described the ceremony in his book, “The Republic” published in Paris in 1576. He described the “Ritual of the Prince’s Stone” as one of the oldest traditions of European democratic self rule.

A 1580 copy of Bodin’s book was part of Thomas Jefferson’s personal library and on pages 289-290, where the ceremony is described, there are numerous personal notations made by Jefferson. A professor Joseph Felicijan of St. John College of Cleveland discovered that Jefferson had

initialed two pages. On one page was Bodin’s definition and characterization of a “tyrant” which was quite similar in concept to phrases used in the Declaration of Independence. On the other page was a description of the installation of the Dukes of Carinthia, the ritual which has been described in that part of what was now Slovenia. Jefferson specifically noted the differences between a king and a tyrant: a king was generous, and cared about his people; a tyrant was only interested in his own welfare. This influence was thought by many as a driving force in Jefferson’s writing of the Declaration of Independence.

On November 28th 1967, U.S. Senator Frank Lausche addressed his colleagues in the U.S. Senate referencing the 585th anniversary (1999) of the day, when the well known and celebrated Slovenian custom, “Installation of Slovene Duke of Carinthia” took place for the last time. Senator Lausche stated:

*The Slovenians believed that the power to govern rested with the people who were to be governed, not those who were governing. They believed that their rulers should be men of the people, of all the people. They believed that the true qualities of those in government should be competency and concern. They believed that their leaders had a solemn duty to the people to be righteous. And we Americans believe the same principles today.*

Perhaps Jefferson’s convictions were confirmed when he read Bodin’s description