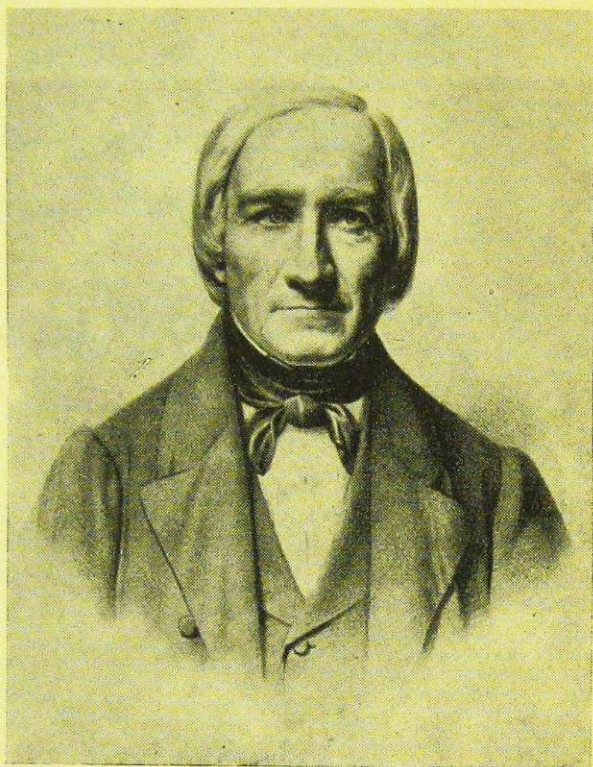


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JOSEPH RESSEL

1793-1857



JOSEPH RESSEL

(Designed on the basis of J. Cassin's model)

JOSEPH RESSEL

1793—1857

INVENTOR OF THE VESSEL SCREW
FORESTER AND ECONOMIST

1957

LJUBLJANA

TECHNICAL MUSEUM OF SLOVENIA

INTRODUCTION

Why do we Slovenes — and all Yugoslavs — wish to commemorate the centennial anniversary of Ressel's death also by the publication of this small book?

Joseph Ressel, born on the 29th June 1793 at Chrudim in Eastern Bohemia, was not of Slovene extraction, and we Slovenes are clearly not entitled to claim him as our compatriot; yet, we have reasons enough to celebrate the man in this year 1957, and to render him our thanks properly.

His interesting course of life led him as early as in the year 1817 to his first post at Pleterje, in Slovenia, and the whole period of his official activity went by on Slovene (and partly on Croat) soil, except a few years of service in the Venetian Arsenal; however, during those years he had also to repair to our parts. His first wife was a Croat of Bakar; after she had died, he married a Slovene of Višnja gora; so, both his wives were Yugoslav, and to them it is incontestably due that he came into contact with the wants and wishes of our people; and Ressel endeavoured to satisfy them both by his professional activity — forestry — and by some inventions that he devoted to the dwellers of the bare and rocky Slovene, Croatian and Serb region called "Kras" (Karst); on the other hand, his first and his second wife had to make plenty of pecuniary sacrifices to finance — with his small salary — his several inventions, which cost him much, but did not bring him any profit although they were useful from the beginning or later on. He was not able to find any personality of wealth or influence to help the realization of his inventions; on the contrary, he met difficulties and opposition because of his inventions. Ressel contrived them, and tried to convert them into fact for the most

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