

FRANCE PREŠEREN

THE POET

France Prešeren is our greatest poet. His poems are very popular and Slovenian people know many of them by heart. One of his poems with the title Zdravljica is today our national anthem.

He was born in Vrba, a small village in Gorenjska, on 3 Dec. 1800. His house where he was called »Pri Ribičevih«. He attended school in Ribnica and Ljubljana. His parents were poor, so his uncle who didn't have children of his own supported him during the school year. After secondary school his parents wanted him to become a priest, but France decided to study law in Vienna. He stayed in Vienna for seven years. In this time he wrote his first poems. He started his first job in Ljubljana in 1828. His best friend was Matija Čop, who was very well educated and they often talked together about literature and poetry. In these years Prešeren had already developed his artistic talent. In 1833 he met Julija Primic and fell in love with her at first sight. After he wrote some of his most beautiful love poems. Unfortunately, Julija didn't love him. Two years before his death, he became a solicitor and opened his office in Kranj. He died in Kranj at the age of 49.

I would like to mention just some of his most important poems: Povodni mož, Sonetje nesreče, Gazela, Kam, O Vrba,... He used different poetic forms, but his sonnets were real masterpieces. In Sonetni venec he connected the sonnets so that the last line of one sonnet is also the first line of the next one.

On 8 Feb. »the day of his death« we celebrate a cultural festival.