

The Lapidarium in Hustopeče nad Bečvou

In 2010–2011, on the basis of an agreement between the councillors of the small town of Hustopeče nad Bečvou and the representatives of the country's historic heritage, the Lapidarium of the Renaissance arcades came into existence in the cellars of the town's Renaissance castle. Originally, these arcades decorated the courtyard of the castle and they were replaced by replicas in the 1970s. The purpose of this complete exhibition was to preserve the original remnants of the arcades and to please the eye of the public and professionals. Texts describing the exhibition have been placed on illuminated boards which inform visitors about the castle's history and the origins of Hustopeče nad Bečvou. They also display the layout of the exhibition and reveal the initial positioning of the fragments and their historical relations. Visitors to the Lapidarium can not only see the fragments and the remnants of the original Renaissance arcades but also learn about the heraldic descriptions of the particular parts of the arcades. In addition to this, the visitors acquire knowledge about what some reliefs and ornaments symbolise. The setting-up of the exhibition has striven to provide a dignified setting for the stone fragments and to achieve the most intensive visual effects and illusions. Visitors to the Lapidarium should be given the opportunity to view the castle's history and to enjoy the positive energy created by the atmosphere of the cellar. To intensify the entire impression the exhibition has been completed with esoteric musical motifs synchronised in a studio with songs and sounds. This musical project has received the poetic name of `Singing Arcades` and, as a result, it creates an atmospheric and ambient sound in particular parts of the castle. This musical theme is connected with an invented story of the Earl Jan Nepomucký Podstatský of Prusínovice, who actually lived in the castle in the 18th century. According to historical sources he was fond of entertainment, horses, and hunting. In the first part of the musical project the nobleman returns to the castle from hunting, accompanied by the sound of a fanfare of trumpets. He wants to amuse himself more; he jumps off his horse and enters the rooms above the cellar. The arcades welcome their master with music and songs. The earl takes a walk and listens to the direction from which the music is coming. Then he takes a small drum and beats the rhythm and bells and cymbals ring. In the last part of the arcades the voices of angels call back the Earl of Prusínovice.

The impression of the exposition is emotionally accentuated by five compositions being played, which are repeated three times. The five compositions correspond to five wings. According to historical sources we know that the Earl Podstatský of Prusínovice initiated the decoration of the wall which is around the Church of Feasts of the Cross with Baroque statues of martyrs and saints. Two torsos of the original statues are placed in the front part of the Lapidarium. The exposition of these statues and stone elements of the Renaissance Arcades, supported by the audio background, create a mutual relationship between the visual and spiritual worlds in order to preserve the genius loci of this cellar space.

On 4th April 2012 the creation of the Lapidarium received an award at the Moravian Theatre in Olomouc. An award for exceptional achievement in cultural protection and promotion in 2011 was given to the Mayor of Hustopeče nad Bečvou, Ing. Julia Vozáková, and to the founder of the project, Mgr. Marek Ludmila, an academic sculptor.

-We would like to invite you to visit the Lapidarium-