

1.03 Kratki znanstveni prispevek

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Idrijski vodnjak z rudarjem¹

IZVLEČEK

Članek obravnava t. i. Korletov vodnjak v Idriji, predvsem njegov litoželezni del, ki je bil izdelan v Auerspergovski livarni v Dvoru pri Žužemberku. Pri izdelkih umetniškega liva iz 19. stoletja se vedno znova zastavlja vprašanje, kateri so bili uliti po skicah v prodajnih katalogih drugih železarn in kateri po osnutkih v tovarni zaposlenih umetnikov in inženirjev, kajti praksa je bila, da so livarne svoje izdelke pogosto kopirale po vzoru drugih, si izposojale ali kupovale modele itd. V konkretnem primeru se je Auerspergova livarna naslonila na list iz kataloga Salmove livarne v Blanskem, s katero so bili lastniki tako v poslovnih kot tudi sorodstvenih zvezah.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

lito železo, livarne, livarna Dvor (Hof), Salmova livarna, vodnjak, Idrija, Dvor pri Žužemberku, Višnja Gora, Blansko, Auerspergi, Salm-Reifferscheidt, Franc Ksaver Zajec, Jakob Kokalj, Valvasor, idrijski rudnik živega srebra

ABSTRACT

FOUNTAIN WITH THE MINER IN IDRİJA

The article deals with the so-called Karel's fountain in Idrija, especially with its cast iron part, which was made in the Auersperg Foundry at Dvor near Žužemberk. In connection with the nineteenth-century artistic castings a question arises as to which of them were shaped according to sketches in the sales catalogues of other ironworks and which were designed by the engineers and artists employed in the factory itself. Namely, it was quite customary for foundries to copy other products, rent or buy models, etc. In the case of the Idrija fountain, Auersperg's foundry relied on the drawing in the catalogue of Salm's foundry in Blansko, Moravia. The owners of the two foundries were connected through business as well as family ties.

KEY WORDS

cast iron, foundries, Dvor (Hof) foundry, Salm's foundry, fountain, Idrija, Dvor near Žužemberk, Višnja Gora, Blansko, the Auerspergs, Salm-Reifferscheidt, Franc Ksaver Zajec, Jakob Kokalj, Valvasor, Idrija Mercury Mine

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S U M M A R Y

Fountain with the miner in Idrija

Idrija boasts an interesting fountain which was set up in 1868 by the then Idrija's Mayor Karol Höchtl (Hochtl), after whom it was also named – Karel's fountain. It consists of the lower stone part and the upper cast iron part. The lower part made of Hotavlje limestone was most likely the work of stonemason Jakob Kokalj (born 1857) from Gorenji Novaki near Cerklno. Given the year of Kokalj's birth, the fountain's stone part is clearly not the original one. The article primarily focuses on the cast iron part, which was made in the foundry at Dvor near Žužemberk. Originally, this part represented a complete work in itself that most probably stood on bare ground or a base, just as may still be observed today in the essentially very similar and somewhat more recent Valvasor's fountain in Višnja Gora (1872), which was likewise cast in the foundry at Dvor. The central parts of both fountains are designed in the shape of a pillar (Germ. *Brunnenständer, Druckständer*) – more accurately, an octagonal pillar – with taps. The fountain in Višnja Gora has two taps and the one in Idrija four, shaped like stylized fish heads growing out of consoles designed as perforated *Acanthus*' leaves. The pillars are crowned with a wide leaf wreath each; on

top of the fountain in Idrija is the statue of a standing miner and the fountain in Višnja Gora is topped with the statue of Johann Weikhard Valvasor.

Auersperg's ironworks at Dvor started operating in 1796 and ceased production in 1891. It was one of the most important foundries in the Habsburg Monarchy. Its "fine castings of beautiful and above all exquisitely tasteful forms" earned it the highest awards, as well as marked the beginnings of industrial design in Slovenia. Valvasor's statue on top of the fountain in Višnja Gora was cast using the model of Franc Ksaver Zajec, the first Slovenian sculptor to hold an academic degree. Zajec may have just as well also made the miner's statue on top of the fountain from the same foundry for Idrija – where he spent the years 1843–1847 and the tumultuous period of the March Revolution as an apprentice in the workshop of Luka Čeferin. Namely, with its strictly frontal pose, the rather rigid Biedermeier figure is very reminiscent of his products.

As evident from the drawings in the pillar foun-

tains catalogue of Salm's foundry in Blansko, Moravia, Auersperg's establishment made the fountains for Idrija and Višnja Gora by closely relying on the models of the above-mentioned foundry. However, this is not so surprising, as the two establishments were connected through business as well as familial ties. The history of Blansko is closely linked to iron and production of artistic castings, which were exported across the whole of the Habsburg Monarchy. In 1766, the local ironworks was bought by the noble family of the Counts of Salm-Reifferscheid. The greatest merit for its booming business is ascribed to Hugo Franz, who took over the establishment in 1806. It was his maternal grandfather, Prince Karl Josef Auersperg from Kočevje, who asked for a concession in 1795 to found the ironworks at Dvor. Ignaz von Pantz, already appointed director in Hugo Franz Salm's foundry, later came to Dvor on the invitation of Prince Auersperg and took over the running of the local iron foundry as well.