



Historical and ecclesiastical monuments of the Glacensis Euroregion

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Introduction

The Glacensis Euroregion is situated in the north-eastern Bohemia and the Lower Silesian Dukedom. A huge impact of the important European events is apparent here. Each historical turn and event left traces for the following generations.

The described area is full of the historical and ecclesiastical monuments. You may ask why connect both types of the monuments? The answer is simple. Every human society has its own religion, its own belief. Some of them venerate a godhood, for example primitive nations, or the Greeks or the Romans. Then there are the monotheistic religions as Christianity, Judaism, Islam, which worship one god in many ways and forms. The forms are different, such as the Indian totems, altars, ecclesiastical buildings, small chapels, churches, temples, cathedrals and huge monastic complexes. The Christian religion has dominated in the Glacensis Euroregion for ages. The biggest impact has the Roman Catholic Church and it is also an owner of the biggest part of the ecclesiastical monuments. This fact is determined by the cultural and historical process in the Central Europe. The most amazing buildings were constructed to worship the gods. The technical knowledge is combined there with artistic superior skills. Let us now guide you through the Glacensis Euroregion and present you with certain architectonical monuments. And let us honour the artistry and the faultless work of our ancestors whose masterpieces have survived for ages.

It is impossible to introduce all the monuments that can be found in such an extensive region. There is a church or at least a chapel virtually in every village. Therefore let us try to select the most interesting ones. With regard to the extent of the text, we cannot describe all the border fortifications built in the 1930s in spite of the large number of the well-known fortresses, for example Stachelberg, Dobrošov, Hanička, Bouda, Cihelna etc. These are the witnesses of the tragic period of the Czech history and you can find more information about them in relevant literature.

When we were preparing the publication, we thought about the way of coordinating the objects. At first we wanted to arrange them in accordance with historical styles but it would not be appropriate because of “jumping” from one part of the region to another. Finally the “tourist” method won. It means that we also included accommodation in certain parts of the region. We do believe that this way will be useful for you and the trip-scheduling will be easier.



Dear readers, we wish you a lot of beautiful experiences on your trips or at least marvellous Krkonošské hory and Podkrkonoší.

If we ask a question how people lived in our region during its first colonization, we can find the answer near the town of Deštné in Orlické mountains. The heart of the experimental archaeological centre was established there in the **Uhřínov** village and also a wide open-air museum is placed there on the area of 7 hectares. It takes back to the country life in the

13th and 14th century. There are imitations of farm buildings, potter's workshop and oven. Also the farm animals are raised there and the period farming products are grown there. We can visit the ruin of the virtually unknown castle **Hlodný** not far from here. It was founded also in the period of the first colonization.



About the name Sudetenland

If you are travelling along the Polish side of Orlické hory or Krkonoše, you may be surprised with a frequent use of the name Sudetenland for an area of the north Bohemian border mountain range (from Lužické hory to Jeseníky). Even in the Czech professional literature you can find Orlické hory either in the Krkonoše-jesenická subprovince (previously geomorphologic systems) or in the Sudeten subprovince – north mountain range along the Czech-German and the Czech-Polish border, from the Šluknov headland to Jeseníky. The name Sudetenland has a historical meaning in the Czech society, not a geographical meaning. The German minority called Sudeten Germans lived there in the region, afterwards they were led by the Sudeten German Party and they stood out against the new-emerged Czechoslovakia as early as since 1918. This policy caused tragic events in 1938 and 1939 and later in 1939-45. The geographical term Sudetenland has no negative historical implicit meaning in Poland, so it is commonly used.

The origin of the name Sudetenland is not exactly known, but the specialists are convinced that originally it was a Celtic word. The grammatical base of the word Sudéta is "sud", which means boar and the suffix is "éta", which means the forest. Thus the original meaning is "the boar forest". Already the antique geographers used this term in their works. In 150 AD (we can also find the data from year 130) the geographer Claudius Ptolemaios used the terminology "Sudéta ore" for the area of Krušné hory and the adjoining mountain chain. Hyphegesis uses the name "Sudéta Montés" in his work Geographika. In accordance to the Celtic impact from the 2nd and 1st centuries BC we can assume that the terms were used by the inhabitants who settled there until the Ptolemaios period.

The name "Sudeten system" is common in orographic division of the Czechoslovakia by prof. Hromádka in 1945 and it is also mentioned in the publications of V. Häufler, J. Korčák and V. Král in 1960.

Nowadays both of the terms – Krkonoše-jesenická subprovince and Sudeten subprovince – are involved in the special literature.

Our "travel" starts in the northern part of the Glacensis Euroregion. Let us take you to Krkonošské hory and Podkrkonoší.

Trutnov region and Podkrkonoší



Braun's gallery of the Virtues and Vices

and decorated by M. B. Braun. Nowadays the Špork's castle is not complete, only stairs, kitchen and some of the small buildings survived. The term "castle" is incorrectly used for the former baroque hospital, former pharmacy, park and the Špork's tomb, which is open

Matthias Bernard Braun

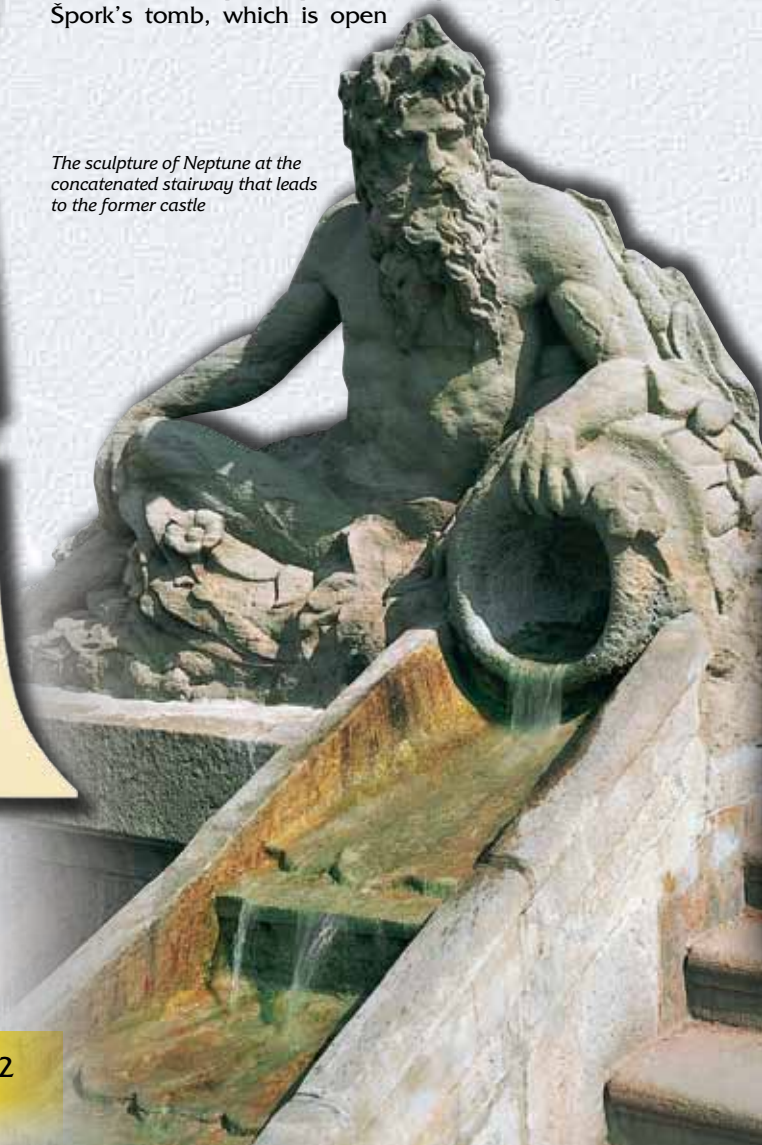
(1684 – 1738), was a sculptor and carver active in the Czech lands, one of the most prominent late baroque style sculptors in the area. He studied sculpture art in Salzburg. Afterwards he travelled throughout Europe, he visited Venice, Bologna, Roma. Therefore the Venetian influence is obvious in his work. Incidentally he was inspired by the masterpieces of Gian Lorenzo Bernini or Michelangelo Buonarroti.

Braun is considered to be one of the most significant representatives of the late baroque sculpture.

Thanks to his patron earl František Antonín Špork, Braun created the famous allegories of Virtues and Vices situated in front of the Kuks Hospital. There are other notable sculptures in the near natural area called Bethlehem.



The sculpture of Neptune at the concatenated stairway that leads to the former castle



Kuks

Kuks is a national monument, a baroque complex of the former spa, castle and hospital with the Church of the Holy Trinity which is situated near Dvůr Králové nad Labem. It was founded at the end of the 17th century by Earl František Antonín Špork. The complex was built by G. B. Alliprandi



The baroque pharmacy in the hospital

occasionally, for example during the Theatrum Kuks Festival. The twelve sandstone allegories of the Virtues and Vices as well as the sculpture Religion by M. B. Braun are certainly the most notable part of the decoration. More Braun's sculptures and reliefs are placed in the near New forest about 3 km far from Kuks. They are carved into the sandstone rocks and the whole complex is called Bethlehem.



Braun's Bethlehem - the sculpture of pilgrim Juan Garin

Trutnov

The town was probably founded in the 13th century (1250) – the first mention was in 1260. The centre of current Trutnov has an oval shape, previously it was surrounded by the city walls. The dominant monument of the city is a church



The Krakonoš's fountain and the old town hall in the square in Trutnov

and a town hall. Its current shape comes from the 19th century, when it was rebuilt after the great fire of the city in 1861. The church and the town hall are situated at the main square. Nowadays there is the Museum of Podkrkonoše in the former castle. Some of the buildings in the centre of Trutnov were declared the city ancient monuments, such as the old building of the town hall, the Krakonoš's fountain with the impressive sculpture of the ruler of Krkonoše, the column of the Holy Trinity from 1704, the sculpture of emperor Josef II, which was placed in the original position in 2009.

Žacléř

The former miner's town is firstly mentioned in the 14th century. The location of the town was profitable for agriculture, trade and industry development. The paper industry, glass and porcelain manufacture were established there in the 16th century. The city was considered to be a centre of the black coal mining which was found there in 1570. The mining industry declined in the 19th century and afterwards it was completely finished. The castle is the dominant building of the city. The original gothic castle was firstly mentioned in 1334. Then there is a Church of the Holy Trinity near the Rýchorské square. The initial renaissance building from the 16th century was rebuilt several times in the baroque style. In the square there is situated the classicist town hall from the beginning of the 19th century. In addition, the empire style buildings on the square are considered to be the notable architectural monuments, with arcades on the ground floor.



The Column of Virgin Mary in the square in Žacléř, the author is J. F. Pacák

St. Lawrence's Chapel at Sněžka

The chapel is placed at the Polish side of Sněžka and it is the oldest building there. It was built thanks to Silesian aristocrat Kryštof Leopold Schaffgotsch, the owner of the Horní Mařov domain and the wide estates in Krkonoše. He started



St. Lawrence's Chapel at Sněžka



to build the chapel at Sněžka in 1653 at the impulse of the Cistercians from Krzeszów, but the construction was interrupted because of Earl Černín, who was convinced that Sněžka is his property. The disagreement about the ownership between Earl Černín and Schaffgotsch lasted almost eleven years and finally the court decided to adjudge Sněžka to Earl Schaffgotsch.

The construction of the chapel was restored in 1664 and lasted another seventeen years. The new chapel was consecrated on 10th August 1681.

Špindlerův Mlýn

The history of Špindlerův mlýn is not very long. The first village was established there in the 18th century. It was placed near the gold and silvery mines, so the inhabitants of the village were mostly the miners. The most notable monument is the classicist St. Peter and Paul's Church, which was built in



St. Peter and Paul's Chapel in Špindlerův Mlýn

1802 – 07. There is a wooden prismatic spire at the front gable. The death bell was carried there from the original St. Peter and Paul's Chapel. Its unusual high tone is caused by the use of the local silver in the bell metal. The borough called St. Peter is older than Špindlerův Mlýn itself. We can find a pitman chapel there from 1516, also named St. Peter's Chapel. The biggest prosperity of the local mines was noted at the end of the 16th century and at the beginning of the 17th century, when the whole area was under the rule of Kryštof of Gendorf. The mining was interrupted in 1730 and afterwards it was restored several times, then finally finished in 1950s.

Špindlerův Mlýn is currently known especially as the recreational centre, full of the interesting accommodation buildings. Some of them were even established at the end of the 19th century.

Hostinné

Hostinné is known especially because of the large number of the important architectonical monuments.

When we look around the square for the first time, our inter-

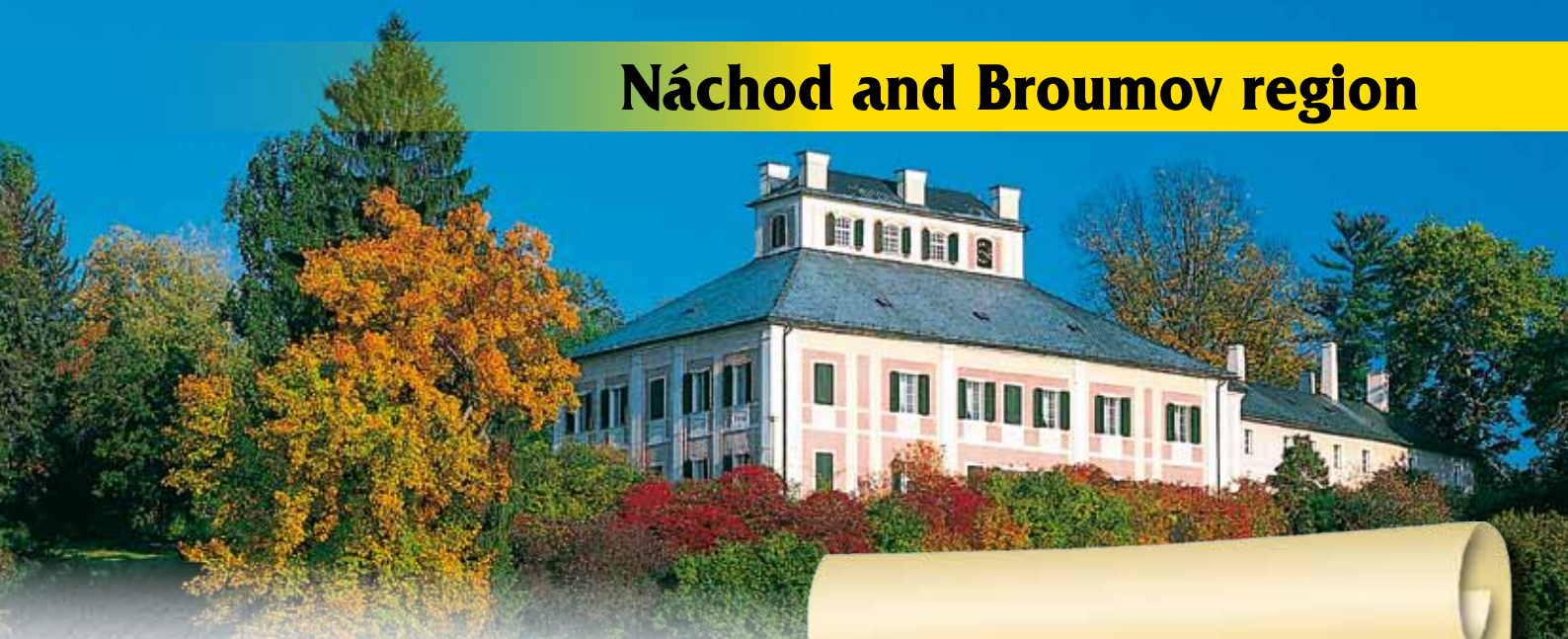
*Pláně and Kozí hřbetý
with Medvědí in the background*

est is held by a renaissance building of a town hall on the western side. It was built on the bases of two gothic buildings. The first mention about the town hall comes from the 15th century. In 1525 the renaissance tower was joined to the town hall. After the great fire in 1610 it was rebuilt by an Italian renaissance architect C. Valmadi and decorated with sgraffiti. At the front there are placed two 4,80 m high sculptures of the Roman giants. They have stood there since 1641. The tower clock was installed in the upper part of the tower in 1789. The town hall changed its shape several times. The last and the most significant reconstruction accomplished in 1912, when the sgraffiti were restored. During the visit of the city, we surely cannot overlook early baroque plague column on the square (built in 1678) or a memorial of emperor Josef II made by an academic sculptor J. Leisek from Vienna. Furthermore there is a Franciscan monastery with a unique collection of the plaster castings of antique sculptures from 1912 or a provost Church of the Holy Trinity, which is the oldest stone building in the city. The first mention of the church comes from 1270 when it was consecrated. The church tower is 53 m high and has two bells from 1599 and 1612.



The renaissance town hall and the baroque plague column in Hostinné

Náchod and Broumov region



The castle in Ratibořice

Ratibořice

The complex of the castle in Ratibořice is an important historical and cultural monument of the Náchod region. The first written mention about the residence in Ratibořice comes from 1388. The significant turning point is the year 1800, when Kateřina Frederika Vilemína Benigna, the Countess of Sagan (1781-1839), the oldest daughter of Count Petr Biron, inherited the Náchod domain after her father's death. She was a beautiful, rich and smart countess. She made Ratibořice her summer house. The castle was rebuilt in 1825-26 in the classicist style and empire style. A natural park was founded around the castle and gradually spread along the whole valley of the river Úpa. The countess invited there a huge number of important people, for example the Austrian chancellor Duke Klemens Metternich or the Russian emperor Alexander I. In 1813 she offered the Ratibořice castle for the secret conference about the strategy against the emperor Napoleon Bonaparte to the diplomatists from Prussia, Russia and Austria. The Countess of Sagan is also known as "the lady countess" from The Grandmother by Czech national writer Božena Němcová.

The Grandmother's valley

After visiting the castle we recommend walking through the park along the road, which connects the castle grounds with the Grandmother's valley. If we visit the Ruder's mill-house, which is one of the setting places of The Grandmother, we are immediately taken back to the 19th century. We can see the historical technical equipment and the miller's house there.

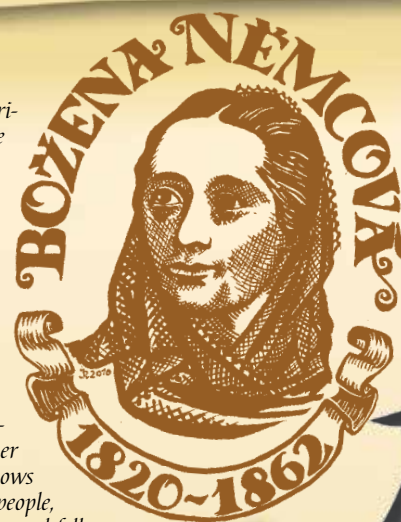


Old Bleachery

Božena Němcová

(1817(20)? – 1862),

a prominent Czech writer. The castle and the Grandmother's valley are visited namely thanks to the work of the Czech national writer Božena Němcová. Her novel The Grandmother presents an idealized picture of the writer's childhood and early youth that she spent with her parents, siblings and her grandmother in Ratibořice. The novel shows us the life of the country people, their daily worries, delights and folk habits.



Not far from the mill there is situated a sculptural group of the grandmother and her grandchildren, created by Czech sculptor Otto Gutfreund in 1922.

If we go far along the flow of the mill raceway, we can find the Old Bleachery there, the main setting of the novel. Božena Němcová used the Old Bleachery for the plot of the novel because the Countess of Sagan had the original house pulled down, where Němcová spent her childhood. The grandmother's room is furnished with the folk furniture and with the things of the daily use right according to the writer's narration. Only few steps far from there you can see the Viktorka's weir on the river Úpa.

If you want to experience an interesting tour, we recommend visiting the castle in Ratibořice and the Old Bleachery in June. Then there is a possibility to meet the Countess of Sagan in the castle or a miller who shows us the mill-house on his own and at the Old Bleachery we can meet the grandmother with her granddaughter. Naturally they are the actors in the period costumes, but it is really interesting for a family visit or a school trip.





The castle in Nové Město nad Metují

Náchod

If we arrive in Náchod by any road we can always see the castle, situated on the rocky hill above the city. Originally it was the early gothic castle, built in the middle of the 13th century. The first mention comes from 1254. The castle was rebuilt in the end of the 16th century to the renaissance castle. The owners were aristocrats of the family of Piccolomini. In this period the castle was widened and rebuilt in the baroque style. The last owners were the members of the family of Schaumburg-Lippe until 1945. The valuable collections of the Flemish tapestries and paintings are placed in the castle. Also there is a library and a gallery. In the French park you can find a large number of exotic trees.



The Náchod castle with a view of Krkonoše

The gothic St. Laurence's Church is a dominant of the historical square with two typical towers with wooden boarding and wooden cupolas, built in the beginning of the 14th century. Firstly it was mentioned in 1335. In 1570 the church burnt down and in 1570-78 in the period of Albrecht of Smiřice it was rebuilt by the architect Vlach Baltazar. The gothic chancel with the cross-shaped arch (built in 1391-92) may draw your attention as well as the position of both the towers, which are located asymmetrically to the line of the church.

The Art Nouveau style theatre, the Art deco style town library as well as the John the Baptist Church at the local churchyard are certainly precious architectonical buildings.

Nové Město nad Metují

Nové Město nad Metují is located southwards from Náchod. It is a landmark preservation area, which is known especially for its renaissance square and buildings with arcades. The castle in the western corner of the square belongs into the landmark preservation area as well. It was founded as a part of the city by Jan Černický of Kácov in 1501. In the middle of the 16th century the castle and the square were rebuilt in the renaissance style, then in the middle of the 17th century the castle was converted again in the baroque style by Carlo Lurago. The last major reconstructions were made by architects D. Jurkovič and P. Janák at the beginning of the 20th century.

Several rooms including the furniture are decorated in the Art Nouveau style. The beautiful and vast park around the castle was designed by architect D. Jurkovič as well as the castle. In the garden in front of the castle you can recognize baroque dwarfs created by the noted sculptor Matyáš Bernard Braun.

As an interesting paradox we can refer to a discovery from Nové Město nad Metují. Perhaps no other city in the Czech Republic has such an exact first mention of its establishment. There is an inscription written by Jan Černický from 10th August 1510 about the lay of the foundation stone of Nové Hradiště Město nad Metují. Despite the reference, there were traces of the settlement from 10th or 9th centuries BC discovered during an archaeological research in the square. Archaeologists found for example forged bronze axe-sledge from the Lusatian culture (nowadays you can see it in the town museum in Nové Město nad Metují).



Slavoňov

Slavoňov is a small village located about 4 km southwards from Nové Město nad Metují with its reference in 1369. The dominant monument of the village is the wooden John the Baptist Church, which was built in 1553 as an alternative to the original gothic St. Martin's Church from 1350. The building is a valuable example of the wooden folk architecture. The inner original decoration of the church is especially precious – ornaments and figural paintings. The renovation and restoration works in 1970-73 were very demanding. We must not leave out the baroque baptistery and the classicist pulpit as well.



The renaissance town hall with boarding is situated next to the church surrounded by a churchyard (Slavoňov)

Jaroměř

Jaroměř was founded in the middle of the 13th century and it is situated between the cities Náchod and Hradec Králové. It has been a dowry town since 1307. The St. Nicholas' Church that was built in the gothic style at the end of the 14th century



The Josefov fortress

dominates the town's skyline. The reconstruction was made by famous Czech architects J. Mocker, J. Čermák and K. Hilbert and lasted in the period of 1904-07. The city is decorated by the sculptures of Matyáš Bernard Braun, R. Thény or the Pacák brothers. When in Jaroměř it is necessary to visit the fortification system of the Josefov fortress, including the casemates. It is an interesting fact that the fortress Josefov (originally called Ples), which was built near Jaroměř in 1780-85 to defend the city against Prussian army, did not really defend it because the enemy army simply passed around.

Broumov region

The Broumov region originated during the history at the area along the state border between Krkonoše and Orlické hory and it is named after its centre Broumov. The area was deserted until the end of the 12th century. Afterwards the whole area was colonized by Benedictines from the Břevnov monastery. At first they founded Police nad Metují, where we can even at present see the impressively decorated portal of the church. In the middle of the 13th century they also spread to the Broumov region, which was still a royal property at that time.

Benedictines faked a part of the text of the document and finally they gained possession of the Broumov region (the area behind mountains called Rocks) by King Přemysl Otakar II. The Benedictines controlled the whole region, therefore its history was connected with the Vaclav monastery's history in Břevnov.

Broumov became the monastery in the 17th century. Its current shape is the result of the baroque reconstruction of the original provost building in the period of 1728-1733. The author of the reconstruction was an important Czech baroque builder, K. I. Dientzenhofer and it was decorated by well-known Czech artists: B. Spinetti (stukes), J. P. Molitor, A. F. Scheffler (paint-

ers), J. K. Kovář, J. Hager (frescos), J. Brokof, G. Bösewetter (plastic art). In present days there is situated a historical museum of the Broumov region in the monastery complex. Other valuable monuments of the town are St. Peter and Paul's parish Church (from the 14th century, originally gothic, then rebuilt in the baroque style), St. Václav's Church (from 1729) and wooden Church of the Virgin Mary at the cemetery, the only building that remained the original medieval house. It was built probably in 1449-1950 and it is one of the oldest wooden monuments in Bohemia.

This wooden building is interesting thanks to its simplicity and unique decorations. The oldest painting is located in the chancel place, where the fragments of Latin documents and animal themes were found. According to the oldness of the paintings (from 1400) specialists think that it could be a part of the decoration of the original small church, which stood there before the fire broke out.

The Benedictine monks highly supported the architectonical baroque activities not only in Broumov but also in the whole area of the Broumov domain. At the end of the 17th century a huge baroque reconstruction began in Martínkovice, where the parish church was rebuilt in conformity with the project of M. Allie. Other reconstructions of the parish churches continued from the middle of the 18th century according to the Dientzenhoffer's plans, for example in Bezděkov, Božanov, Heřmánkovice, Otovice, Ruprechtice, Šonov, Verneřovice and Vižňov. Then also the reconstruction of the monastery church, the town hall in Polička, the summer castle in Meziměstí, St. Václav's Church in Broumov and the pilgrim chapel at Hvězda near Broumov were made thanks to Dientzenhoffer's project. The impressive baroque buildings, including their decorations, became the inspiration of the rural builders, thus a specific type of the folk buildings appeared. It is called Broumov stone farmhouse.



The Broumov brick farmhouse in Machov

The Broumov monastery with rich sculpture decoration



Rychnov region and the Eagle mountains



The square in Dobruška with the sculpture of F. V. Hek - Věk

Dobruška

If we approach the Rychnov region from Náchod, the first town in the region is Dobruška. The first mention dates back to 1320. The visitors are fascinated especially by the renaissance town hall from the middle of the 16th century with 45metres high tower. The St. Václav provost Cathedral is the dominant of the historical centre of the town. It was designed by M. Rossi. First of all the impressive front has to be mentioned here, which is currently one of the most valuable architectonical monuments in the city. The town museum in Dobruška reminds of the Jewish parish. In the vault of the museum there is a unique Jewish ritual bath of "mikve".



St. Spirit's Church near Dobruška

The Church of the Holy Spirit is situated close to Dobruška. It was originally a gothic church which was rebuilt several times, for example there was a renaissance reconstruction in 1530, the others followed in 1761, 1896 and 1957. Television watchers may recognise this church because of the TV serial called F. L. Věk.

František Vladislav Hek (1769 – 1847)

A Czech patriot, writer, composer, publicist a national revivalist. His life was an inspiration for the novel of Alois Jirásek named F. L. Věk. Speaking of Hek, we cannot forget his native house near the Dobruška square.



Opočno

Opočno is proven to exist in the Kosmos' chronicle in 1068 so it is the oldest city in the region. The castle in Opočno is mentioned there in connection with the disputes of the election of Prague bishop in the near Dobenín village. However the town had not existed at that time yet, only a fortified settlement stood there, mainly defending the town. Probably in the 14th century the medieval gothic castle was established there. Yet Opočno is still among the oldest settlements that are confirmed in writing.

The renaissance castle was built by Vilém Trčka of Líba in 1560-69. Originally there was a castle of the Přemyslid dynasty. The castle was rebuilt in the baroque style in the 17th century, but the external renaissance shape was maintained. There are unique collections of weapons, a library and a wide castle gallery in the historical interiors of the castle. The park and a game-preserve belong to the castle complex as well.