



*The arcades of the castle in Opočno*

The Capuchin monastery was founded by L. Colloredo from Wallsee in 1673. The building from the early baroque period was built under the direction of Italian builder B. Minelli in 1676-78. The monastery buildings with a cloister and the Chapel of the Virgin Mary are connected to the church.

### **Vysoký Újezd nad Dědinou**

The village is situated between Opočno and Třebouchovice pod Orebem. We can find a Romanesque St. Jacob' Church there which was built most likely at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It was established as a part of a residence.

### **Klášter nad Dědinou**

The Cistercian monastery Svaté pole was established in the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. In 1420 it was destroyed by the Hussites and only insignificant parts of the local farmyard remained. The current John the Baptist Church was built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Rychnov nad Kněžnou**

The baroque castle which was built under the direction of J. B. Santini at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century is considered to be the leading dominant of the city. Also the gallery and the gothic Holy Trinity Church from 1594 – 1602 are interesting for tourists. The new frontage was created by J. B. Santini in 1713. The church was substantially damaged at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century due to a great fire. Afterwards it was repaired during 1838-43. The neo-gothic nave was connected to the main frontage. Not far from the church there is a prismatic belfry with one of the biggest bells in the Czech Republic, which is named Kryštof. It was made by J. Benešovský from Moravská Třebová.

*The castle in Rychnov nad Kněžnou (view from the palace garden)*



*Well preserved gravestones in the Jewish graveyard in Pobřeží*

There is a numerous group of the Jewry in Rychnov nad Kněžnou. Therefore there is a huge number of synagogues in the region. In the Rychnov's synagogue you can see a memorial of Karel Poláček, the famous Czech writer, who was born in the town. It is also possible to visit a lot of Jewish cemeteries, we especially recommend the cemetery near the village **Podbřeží** and the castle **Skalka** situated in the poetic valley Zlatý potok..

### **Liberk**

Liberk is a little village close to Rychnov nad Kněžnou. First of all it is known thanks to the valuable wooden St. Peter and Paul's Church that was built in the place where the original church had existed until it was destroyed togeth-



*Liberk – St. Peter and Paul's Church (during the Christmas time)*





er with the medieval castle Richmberk, of which there are some tiny remains. A new sanctuary was built in 1691-1692 which is now a very valuable sight of both folk and architectural interest. The interior is furnished in the baroque style from 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century with the sculptures of the Liberk's native F. J. Prokop (1740-1814). Prokop worked almost all his life in Vienna as a sculptor.

### Neratov

If we are in this region, we should undoubtedly visit a small border village called Neratov, where Earl Jan K. Nos-  
tic-Rhienec helped to build the monumental Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in accordance with the project of G. B. Alliprandi. However C. A. Rheina is considered to be the author of the church. The church burnt down in 1945, then the damaged roof was provisionally repaired, but in 1952 the whole arch crashed down again. Since then the church has started to decay. In present days the condition of the building starts to improve. The object is provided with the unusual roof. The interior still reminds without the inner spectacular decoration, but right because of this, the church is considered to be original.



*The baroque church in Neratov*

### Potštejn

Above the road from Rychnov nad Kněžnou to Ústí nad Orlicí there was established a wide castle that ruin draw our attention even nowadays. It was a mighty gothic building that originated in the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century during the rule of the family of Půtic. Today we can see the reminders from the late gothic period and the early renaissance period – walls, gates, the palace rebuilt to the chapel during the period of the rule of the family of Pernštejn, it means from the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In the settlement round the castle we can find a small, delightful late baroque castle, built in 1749-55 owing to help of the family of Harbuval-Chamaré. Afterwards there were several inappropriate reconstructions and also several privatizations in the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but fortunately the current owners make an effort to return the castle's appearance to its original shape.



*The castle Potštejn*



*The pilgrim place Homole*

### Homole

The Homole village is located near the castle Potštejn near by the Lhota village. It is an interesting place especially because of the early baroque Virgin Mary's Church that was built owing to Terezie Eleonora Ugarte. Gradually the pilgrim area with two chapels was established there. The access stairway to the Homole hill is considered to be the unique historical and architectural monument. It consists of 153 stone stairs and 16 resting places. The stairway was decorated by the sculptures that were unfortunately extensively damaged and plundered by the thieves in the 90s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Doudleby nad Orlicí

The local renaissance castle from the 16<sup>th</sup> century is decorated by sgraffiti and it was used during making the Bathory movie.

### Kostelec nad Orlicí

The empire style New castle with a beautiful English park and a small but interesting museum is undoubtedly worth visiting.

### Častolovice

The late renaissance castle Častolovice was built close to the castle in Kostelec nad Orlicí in 1588 – 1644. The water tower stood there originally. The castle was repaired several times. The rooms are equipped in different architectural styles and it tries to create a period atmosphere of the castle life. You can enjoy the large collection of the paintings, several portraits of the Czech kings and important representatives of the family of Šternberk. Furthermore we can visit an English park with the exotic trees and plants and the fold with white fallow deer.



*The castle in Častolovice*



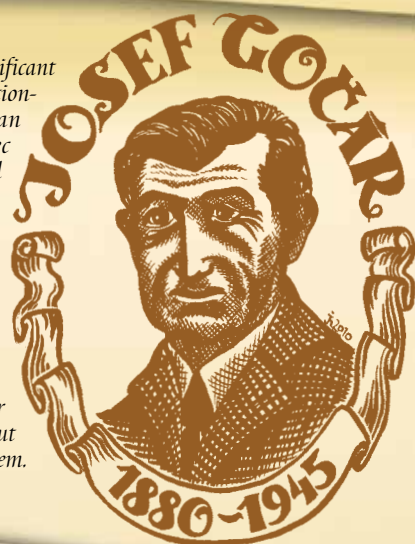
# Hradec Králové region



*Grammar school of J. K. Tyl  
with the sculpture of "The Winner" by Jan Štursa*

## Josef Gočár

(1880 – 1945), a significant Czech architect, functionalist, author of urban conception of Hradec Králové. He designed for example the famous building Dům u Černé matky boží in Prague. He had an impact on the current face of Hradec Králové. Not only did he design buildings such as the grammar school of J. K. Tyl, but also the bypass system.



## Hradec Králové

If we leave Častolovice, we continue along the way I/11 to the hillock above the confluence of Labe and Orlice rivers. It is just the place, where a dowry town Hradec Králové was established in the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. At first there was an old fortified settlement, one of the oldest ones in Bohemia. The first written mention of Hradec Králové comes from 1225. We can find there a large number of the architectural monuments especially in the historical centre of the

city such as the gothic Cathedral of the Holy Spirit (1307, reconstructions: 1864-74) or the museum at the riverbank, built under the direction of J. Kotěra (1906-12).

One of the most important buildings in Hradec Králové is the White tower on the Great Square, which was built next to the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. It was made by white sand-



*Cathedral of the Holy Spirit and the White Tower in the Great Square in Hradec Králové*



stone from Hořice. The White tower is not a church tower but it works as a watchtower. The foundation stone was laid on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1574. The tower is 71,5 m high and it is narrowed at the top. Southwards it is diverted by 36 cm from the axis.

The interesting thing is that the tower bell Augustin is the second biggest one in Bohemia. It is 169 cm high and its weight is 9.8 tones. The Augustin bell was made by a bell master Ondřej Žáček in 1509, so it is 65 years older than the tower itself. Its journey to the right place was admirable. The scaffolding was built across the whole square from the current Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary (the church did not exist at that time) to the belfry. The bell was put into the tower on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1581. In 1606 the tower was hit by a lightning and the bell still remains damaged. There is an inscription on the bell which begins with the words: "To the honour of the Almighty God..."

Let us introduce now the Great Square. We pass by the bishopric and the baroque Jesuit dormitory all the way to the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary that was designed by Carlo Lurago in the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. On the opposite side there is a grey building of the Art Nouveau style Credit institute hidden between the other buildings. Cur-



*The Museum of Eastern Bohemia in Hradec Králové - designed by architect J. Kotěra*

rently it is a seat of the Gallery of Modern Art. The building was designed by architect O. Polívka in 1911-12. There are the bronze allegories of The Trade and The Harvest by L. Šaloun placed on the frontage. Indoors you can find an entrance hall on the ground floor and a stucco decorations and stained glasses on the first floor. The ground floor is adapted for organizing the short-term expositions. Other four floors are used for the exposition of the Czech fine art of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Chlum u Hradce Králové**

The significant historical event, which had an impact to the Czech history, is connected with Královéhradecký region. Chlum u Hradce Králové was a scene of one of the greatest battles in the 19<sup>th</sup> century exactly it was on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1866. More than 436 000 soldiers supposedly fought there and approximately 44 300 Austrians and Czechs and 9 200 Prussians were killed. A large number of the memorials were established there at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to commemorate the battle.

### **Hrádek u Nechanic**

The little castle near Hradec Králové was built as the representative residence of



*The castle Hrádek at Nechanice*

F. A. Harrach in 1841-54 in the romantic English gothic style. The interior filled with the rich historical furniture shows us an aristocrat way of living in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The castle is surrounded by a wide English park which has been built since 1844.

Not far from the Nechanice you can visit the Měník village with the small St. Václav and Stanislav's Church from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Originally it was built in the gothic style and afterwards it was rebuilt in the baroque style. The wooden belfry which is located next to the church has two bells. The other belfry is situated in the Loučná Hora and it was built next to the wooden baroque St. George's Church.



*The wooden polygonal belfry in Měník*

### **Smířice**

While travelling around Hradec Králové, we should visit Smířice as well. The baroque castle with two floors is off limits





*The wooden St. George's Church and the octagonal belfry at Loučná Hora*

to the public, but we can approach the Chapel of Epiphany, built in 1699-1711. The 49 m high quadrilateral tower adjoins the chapel. It was completed in 1705 and at the top of the tower there is placed an eight-point star. The bell in the tower is called Edigius, its weight is 1.4 tones and it was made by a bell founder J. Ptáček from Kutná Hora in 1519. Next to the church there is situated a sculptural group of St. John of Nepomuk from 1730 that originally was in front of the castle. The author is thought to be one of the followers of M. B. Braun. Furthermore you can see two magnificent paintings by Petr Brandl in the interior of the church. Till now we do not know who designed the building, but there are two possibilities – either K. Dientzenhoffer or J. B. Santini. The plan of the church does not exist (it was probably destroyed during one of the plenty fires that struck Smiřice) and the experts say that we can recognize there some architectural components that are typical for both the architects. In any case the church is considered to be a valuable baroque building.

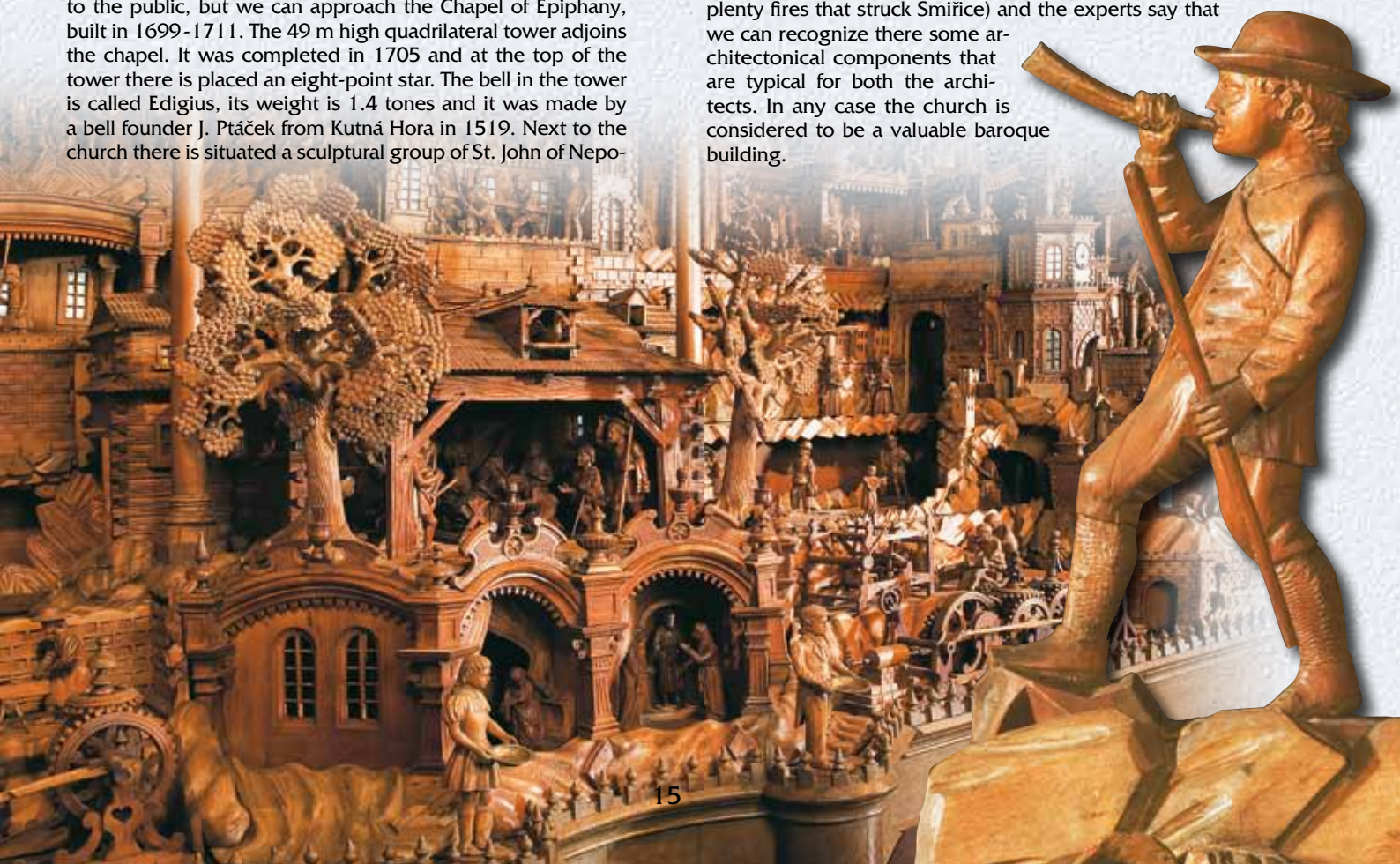
### **Třebechovice pod Orebem**

While travelling around Hradec Králové, we should visit Smiřice as well. The baroque castle with two floors is off limits to the public, but we can approach the Chapel of Epiphany, built in 1699-1711. The 49 m high quadrilateral tower adjoins the chapel. It was completed in 1705 and at the top of the tower there is placed an eight-point star. The bell in the tower is called Edigius, its weight is 1.4 tones and it was made by a bell founder J. Ptáček from Kutná Hora in 1519. Next to the church there is situated a sculptural group of St. John of Nepo-



*The Chapel of Epiphany in Smiřice*

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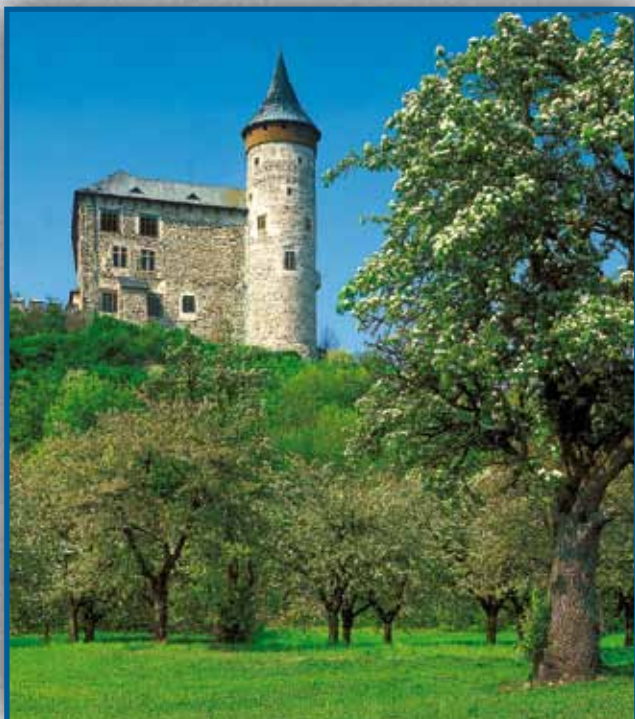


# Pardubice and Chrudim region



*The renaissance castle in Pardubice*

Let us leave the Královehradecký region and hit the road to Pardubice. On our left hand we can see a noticeable dominant of the region – the Hussite castle Kunětická hora. The high peak towering above the wide flat land was chosen by the Hussite governor Diviš Bořek from Miletíněk to build there the castle. Its today's shape comes from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The family of Pernštejn wanted to possess the comfortable renaissance residence, which was also planned as the base in case of danger.



*The castle Kunětická hora*

## **Ing. Jan Kašpar**

(1883 – 1927), a native from Pardubice, the first Czech airman. He started his career as a constructor of the Laurin & Klement's company, but soon he went from automobiles over to airplanes. The first flights were with the machine Bleriot, but since 1911 he managed the first long distance flights from Pardubice to Prague and from Mělník to Prague.



## **Pardubice**

The most important historical and architectural monuments in the region are undoubtedly connected with the old family of Pernštejn. Pardubice was established before 1340, when the town is firstly mentioned as the new city. The owner then was Arnošt of Hostyně, the father of archbishop Arnošt of Pardubice. Previously there was situated a water castle at the confluence of the Labe and Chrudimka rivers. After 1491 the castle was rebuilt by Vilém of Pernštejn into





*The Pernštejn square in Pardubice*

the fortress with four round rondels. The fortification has remained well preserved until now without significant changes. Therefore it is considered to be a unique example of the military strength construction from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In 1519-23 the gothic castle was converted to the renaissance castle. We can visit also the archdeacon Church of Saint Bartholomew (from the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century) that hides the mighty sandstone tomb covered with the marble gravestone with the sculpture of Vojtěch of Pernštejn. The main dominant of the landmark preservation area is the Green Gate, formerly called Prague Gate. The gothic gate was built in 1570 and the renaissance extension comes from 1538 when the tower was made higher.

## Holice

Almost every bigger town in the region has its own museum that reminds its significance and history. Some of them are also dedicated to the important natives. In Holice you can find a memorial of Dr. Emil Holub and the Museum of Africa where are placed the exhibits from Holub's journeys to southern and central Africa. He travelled there three times and he first formed the detailed map of the surroundings of the Victoria Falls (his work was also published in English language in Grahamstown in 1879).



*The memorial of Dr. Emil Holub and the Museum of Africa in Holice*

## Lázně Bohdaneč

The city is situated about 10 km north-westward from Pardubice. The sensitive connection of the nature and the mod-



*The Pavilion by Josef Gočár in Lázně Bohdaneč*

ern buildings is apparent there. The first mention comes from 1264, but the spa was founded in 1869 by Dr. Jan Veselý. The city was given the spa status in 1963. The complex of the spa buildings and sanatoriums is connected with a colonnade. Especially the cubist spa pavilion is well-known. It was designed by architect J. Gočár.

## Chrudim

Chrudim is primarily known because of the Puppet Museum and the native Josef Ressel, the inventor of the screw-propeller. The city was established during the reign of King Přemysl Otakar II and since the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century it has been a Bohemian dowry town. The typical silhouette is created by the dominant of the city which is the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. The neo-gothic reconstruction of the cathedral was designed by architect F. Schmoranz. The main Ressel's square is bordered by the ancient civic renaissance houses and in the middle of the square there is placed the baroque plague column. The specific view of the city is created also thanks to the old

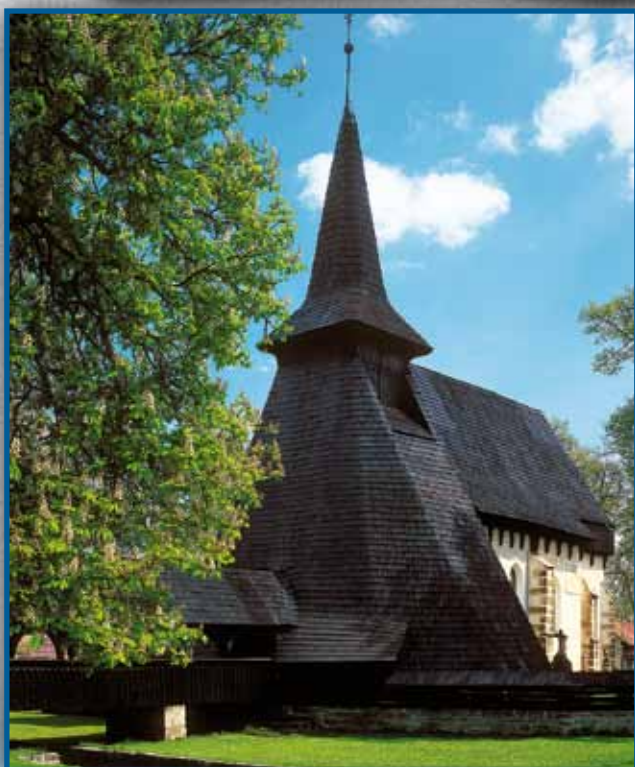


*The Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and the baroque plague column in Chrudim*



### Josef Ressel

(1793 – 1857), a native of Chrudim, the inventor of the ship propeller, wine and oil screw press, ball bearing without lubrication, mechanism for steam extraction of tannin dye, pneumatic tube mail. He amended compass and designed a steam car.



St. Bartholomew's Church in Kočí

baroque town hall in the northern part of the main square. Within the side street leading from the square there you can visit a noticeable renaissance building Mydlářovský House. It is famous especially for the arcades and the triple tower called the observatory. Nowadays the house is a seat of the Puppet Museum.

Very close to the city there is situated the village **Kočí**. It is mentioned because of the unique monument of the rural engineering the Church of Saint Bartholomew. The church was built in 1397 thanks to queen Žofie (the wife of Václav IV.). The building is surrounded by a moat which is spanned by a wooden bridge. The church and the belfry make a unique building complex that is often used by artists to create their paintings.



The palace garden in Slatiňany

### Slatiňany

If you love to visit ruins, we have a lot of choices in this region. For example the former castle **Lichnice** located near Třemošice and towers above the Lovětínská ravine. It was a residence of the aristocratic family of Lichtenburk. Another ruin **Oheb** rises over the Chrudimka river and reminds the period of the marauding knights from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Not far from Skuteč there is the Předhradí village. When approaching Předhradí the high tower of the gothic castle **Rychmburk** catches our attention. It was one of the few safe residences for the Catholic aristocracy in the East Bohemia during the Hussite wars. Furthermore there are several smaller ruins in the Pardubice region, for example the fort **Svojšice** or the former castles **Žumberk** and **Rabštejnec**.

The ruin of Lichnice





## Svitavy region



*The square in Svítavy*

### Polička

Nearly in the south of the region you can visit a dowry town Polička, the landmark preservation area with the preserved town walls. It is a birthplace of Bohuslav Martinů. The St. Jacob's Cathedral is considered to be the dominant building of the city. It was established in 1853-65 and designed by engineer A. Vach from Pardubice and builder

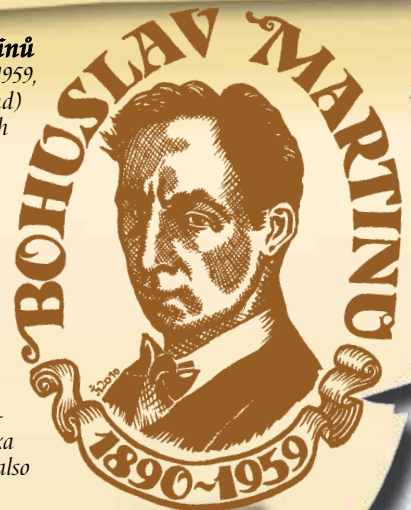
F. Schmoranz from Chrudim in the neo-gothic style. The original baroque church was destroyed by a fire.



*The houses of workmen under the town walls in Polička*

### Bohuslav Martinů

(1890 Polička – 1959, Liestal, Switzerland) was a famous Czech composer known all over the world. He was inspired by impressionism, neoclassicism, expressionism and jazz until he found his own compositional way. He was born in a shoemaker's family at a tower of the St. Jacob's Cathedral in Polička in the a room where he also spent his childhood.



### Svojanov

Just a few kilometres far to the south, right at the former border between the Czech kingdom and the Moravian margrave, the castle Svojanov was built there in the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Svojanov was involved between the strategic castles that had to remain in the property of the Czech king. Nowadays the original gothic cylindrical tower is the most valuable architectonical monument of the castle.



*The entrance gate of the castle Svojanov*



## Svitavy

The town is situated at the border of the Bohemia and the Moravia is regarded as one of the oldest ones in the region. The first settlement was established there in the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century close to the significant trade routes. It was founded by the Premonstratensian monks from Litomyšl and they named it after the local river Svítava. A little bit later the German settlers came there and they established a new village with the St. Mary's Church on the right river-bank. The two villages gradually became one. The Olomouc bishopric and the Litomyšl monastery started to dispute over the ownership of the area around Svítavy. Finally in 1256 the area was declared to be the Olomouc bishopric's property. Instead of the old town hall we can remind the House U Mouřenína, the Church of the Virgin Mary (originally the Roman church), the Langer's villa or the Ottendorfer's house (The Red Library) as the notable monuments.

## Moravská Třebová

Moravská Třebová is located only a few kilometres to the south from Svítavy. The town is called "The Athens of Moravia" owing to its extraordinary architectural and historical process during the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Moravská Třebová was established probably in the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The first mention is included in the document from 1270. The castle in Moravská Třebová is considered to be one of the most important renaissance monuments in the Central Europe. The first modern renaissance elements in Bohemia appeared in 1492 right there thanks to Ladislav Velen from Boskovice. The building burnt down in 1840 and only a frontage, cellars and the part of the eastern wing remained. The current castle was built in the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century during the rule of Ladislav Velen from Žerotín. Its northern wing is lavishly decorated with arcades.

## Litomyšl

Our next destination is Litomyšl. Already since the 12<sup>th</sup> century the town has been regarded as the significant cultural and ecclesiastical centre at the Bohemian-Moravian border. The area was controlled by the Premonstratensian monastery which was changed then to the bishopric that came to an end during the Hussite period. The current face of the city and the castle was formed under the family of Pernštejn direction, especially thanks to King Vratislav II the Gorgeous. The castle was built as a comfortable renaissance residence.

*The castle in Moravská Třebová*



*The monastery garden in Litomyšl*

sance residence. The repaired renaissance complex with the unique baroque stage has been involved in the list of UNESCO since 1999. The baroque complex of the Piarist dormitory and the Church of the Found of the Saint Cross (built in 1616-1730 according to the project of G. B. Alliprandi and F. M. Kaňka) are the other dominants of the city as well.

## Luže

When leaving Litomyšl it is necessary to visit the town Luže as well. Not far from there was built the castle Košumberk, the former residence of the aristocrat family of Slavata, firstly reminded in 1318. Nowadays you can see only the gothic-renaissance ruin there, which is the property of Luže.

