

KRONIKA

11. INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MONTANE HISTORY: MINING AND ART III - TECHNICAL WORKS

On 26-29 September 2012, in the attractive surroundings of the Tyrolean mining towns, the International Mining History Congress took place again, this time thematically following on from the previous two editions devoted to art, or topics related to it, thus for the third time introducing a series devoted to the issue of mining in relation to art in all its existing forms. This year's congress was devoted to technical works, or "arts" (*Technische Künste*), and specifically to individual branches of mining and metallurgical technology such as drainage, ventilation, mine surveying, mining transport, testing, metallurgy and others. The opening of the congress took place on 26 September at the town hall in the ancient town of Schwaz, which this year was the main venue for the congress and where the participants were accommodated in the Benedictine abbey of St. Georgenberg-Fiecht. In addition to the obligatory introduction of the speakers, there was also an introductory overview lecture by Peter Memik on technical works in Tyrolean mining, and at the same time the collection from last year's edition was presented. The programme started with the first block of lectures on 27 September at the town hall in Schwaz, which started with a presentation by Horst Weinek from Eisenerz, Austria, on water wheels, especially from the point of view of mining law. Franz Patocka from Vienna gave a linguistic commentary on the historical German terminology of salt mining. Wolfgang Partsch from Vienna dealt with technical works as the subject of mining songs. Peter Gstrein from Innsbruck presented the topic of mining in Hötting near Innsbruck and Martin Schwarz from Schwaz dealt with the ruined frescoes from this site and the attempt to restore them.

The second block continued at the metallurgical plant in Brixlegg and within this block Uwe Meyerdirks from Tübingen, Germany, spoke about mining and metallurgical technology in the mining region of the Black Forest and Vogesen. This was followed by a lecture by Peter Konečný, historian of science and employee of the "State Central Mining Archive in Banská Štiavnica", entitled "*From Testing to Metallurgical Chemistry*". In it he dealt with the formation of scientific expertise on the example of efforts to improve the quality of Hungarian copper in the 1860s. The afternoon session was closed by Robert Stibich from the local metallurgical works, who presented the old tradition of copper smelting in Brixlegg dating back to the Middle Ages. As a direct continuation of his lecture, he gave an excursion to the copper smelter in full operation. The participants of the congress thus had the opportunity to directly see the electrolysis of copper as well as the rue phases of copper compaction. It should be remembered that Montanwerke Brixlegg is a shareholder in its subsidiary - Kovohuty Krompachy.

The second day of the congress was held in the South Tyrolean town of Sterzing (tal. Vipiteno), which is already located in Italy. The first block began with a paper by Miroslav Lacko from the Historical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava on water pumping machines and water management in the Smolník mining district in the 18th century. Andreas Haasis-Bemer from Freiburg (Germany) dealt with water pumping machines in 16th century mining, Jens Kugler from Freiberg, Germany, with water pumping machines in Saxony, but also in other Central European mining districts, and Axel Rührich, also from Freiburg, with the issue of ventilation in pre-industrial mining. Harald Kofler from Gossensass (Italy) dealt with Anton Schilling's ventilation plant. The afternoon session had already taken place at the Schneeberg Mining Museum in Ridnaun, right on the premises of this remarkable mining open-air museum. Here, Stefan Niederhagemann from the German Mining Museum in Bochum gave a lecture on the technical development of mining transport, Angela Kießling from Freiberg on the development of technical drawing, Hermann Schölzhorn (Ridnaun, Italy) on mining surveying and Andreas Rainer, a staff member of this mining museum open-air museum, on the methods of transporting ores on the Schneeberg. The last lecture was again followed by an interesting excursion to the local mining museum, which is located in one of the

highest mining sites in Europe - at Schneeberg. Transportation exploato-

The extraction of these products was particularly demanding due to the complicated natural conditions, as the deposits were located at an altitude of 2 000 - 2 650 m above sea level.

The last Deicongress was held in the Tyrolean town of Hall, the mother of coinage and t'upbousoli. The block of lectures was opened by Wolfgang Wedrac from Leoben, Austria, who dealt with the issue of mining surveying. Alexander Zanesco (Hall), in his paper, presented the latest results of archaeological research on prehistoric salt production in the area. Wilhelm Brauneder from Vienna gave a paper on mining and iron transport from a legal perspective. Jens Pfeifer from Freiberg (Germany) discussed the development of the sinking machines in the Freiberg mining district and Ulrich Stanjek (Osthofen, Germany) dealt with the development of early mining transport in art. The lecture block finally ended with a final discussion on the open problems of the individual papers. The participants of the congress received from the organizers Wolfgang Ingenhaeff and Johann Bair of the University of Innsbruck a compendium of the studies from the previous year as well as a new monograph by Harald Kofler, *Silver and Lead - Mining in the Sterzing Area in the 15th and 16th Centuries*. According to the organisers, the next edition of the congress will focus on the theme of *Mining - vocations and education*, but the topic of *Mining and war* is also being considered.

Miroslav Lacko

PROFILE OF A HISTORY GRADUATE

In 2012, in addition to the events regularly organized by individual sections, clubs and circles of the Slovak Historical Society, the Committee of the Slovak Historical Society at the Slovak Academy of Sciences decided to organize a joint event that would address the problems of the entire Slovak historical community. As practice has shown for a long time - whether in the field of history as a science or in the teaching of history - the problem of preparing history graduates at practically all levels of study is becoming more and more acute. This is not only because of (and as a result of) several educational reforms, but also because of the old "painful" question of to what extent graduates of history and related disciplines are prepared for practice and what are the perceptions and expectations of the knowledge and skills they are expected to acquire.

The organizers of the conference, the Slovak Historical Society, the Institute of History of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Prešov in Prešov and the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, aimed to name the basic problems, discuss them and propose possible solutions. The discussions, which took place in the premises of the Institute of History in Prešov on 21-23 November 2012, were planned from the beginning as an open discussion. It is gratifying that this intention of the organizers was successful. The contributions of the individual speakers in the conference programme had the character of impulse papers, or introductions to the discussion, in which a number of critical evaluations and suggestions for improvement of the situation were made. Especially beneficial was the mutual exchange of views and experiences of representatives of individual institutes and departments in Slovakia where history is taught (only the Department of History of the University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava did not accept the invitation) - since the last time a similar meeting and discussion took place was about 10 years ago.

The conference programme was divided into three problem areas, which covered the basic characteristics and levels of professional training in the work of a future historian: 1. Knowledge and skills; 2. Profile of an ab-solvent; 3. How is it with the neighbours?

Impulsive papers by Dušan Škvama, Roman Holec, Rastislav Kožiak and Juraj Šuch opened the urgent problem of insufficient theoretical and methodological preparation of students and graduates. Despite the fact that all departments teach (in some modifications) *Introduction to the Study of History* and, within it, the History of Historiography, graduates do not have the necessary knowledge and skills in these areas. Several participants in the discussion stated that it would be necessary to compile teaching texts on the history of historiography, or a new high-quality textbook on the introduction to

the study of historiography. However, as the following discussions on the following blocks showed, the problem lies mainly in the way of teaching - instead of the stăle prevailing memorization of the fac-