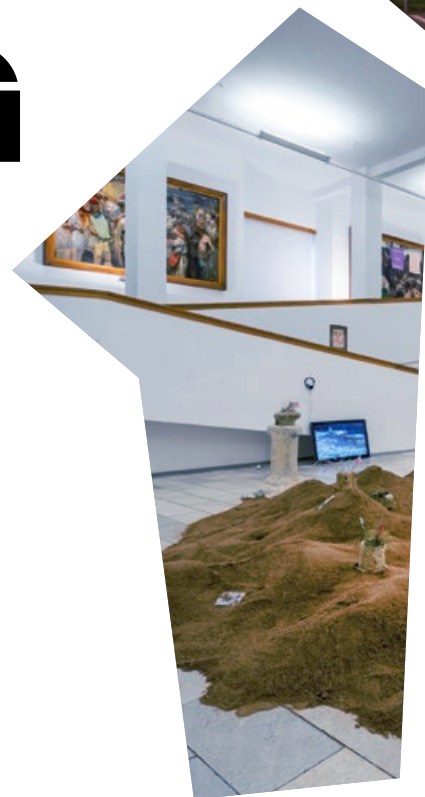




TRAVELLING IN SEARCH OF CULTURE AND ART

**CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS ESTABLISHED
AND CO-FUNDED BY THE HRADEC KRALOVE REGION**



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**CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS ESTABLISHED AND CO-FUNDED
BY THE HRADEC KRALOVE REGION**

**Hradec Králové
Region**



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Organisations Co-funded by the Hradec Kralove Region

1 → Gallery of Modern Art in Hradec Kralove

2 → Gallery of Fine Art in Nachod

2a → Mala Gallery

3 → Observatory and Planetarium in Hradec Kralove

4 → Observatory in Upice

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10 → Regional Museum and Gallery in Jicin

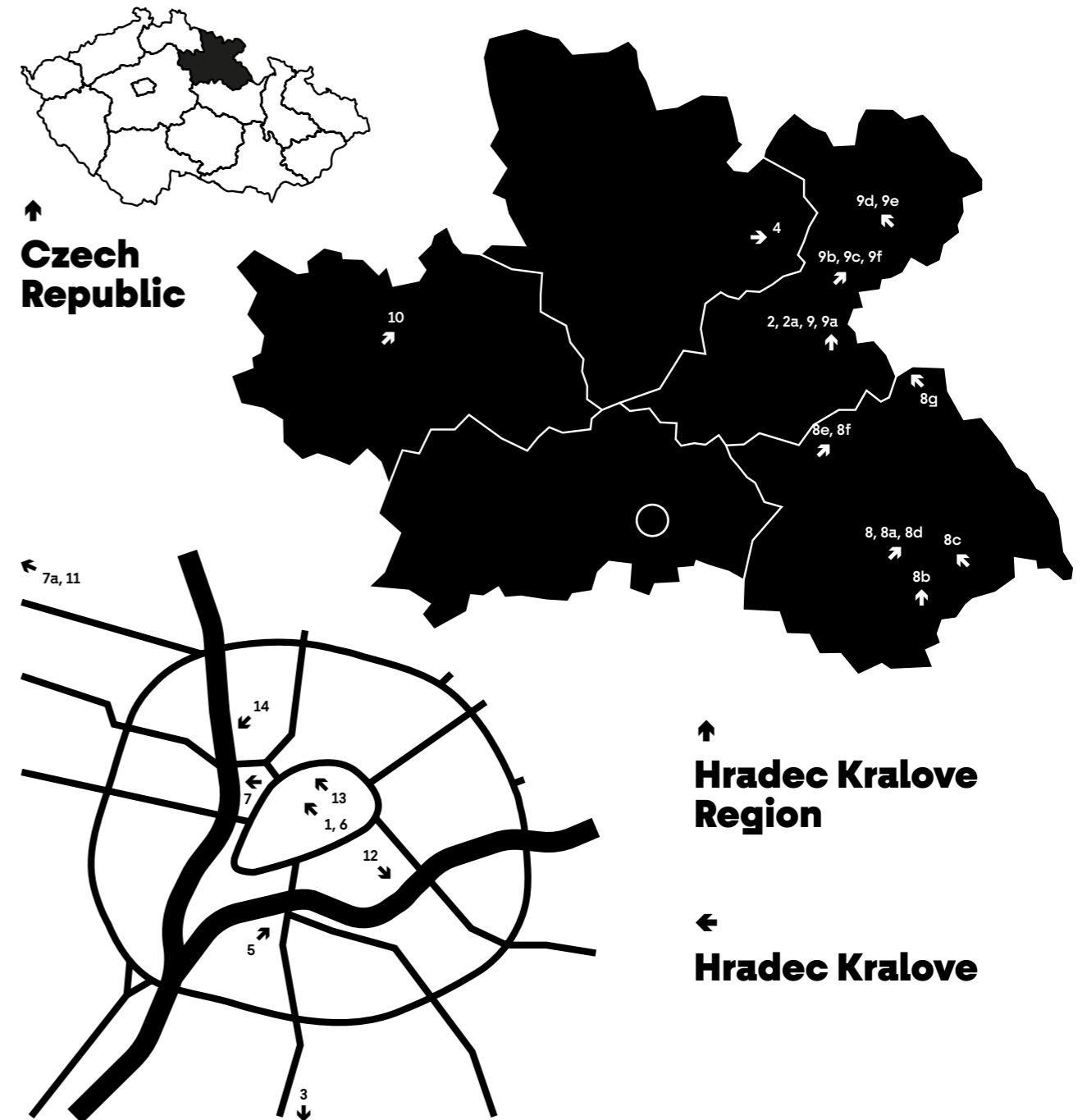
Public Benefit Corporations

11 → The Archaeology Park in Vsestary

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ORGANISATIONS CO-FUNDED BY THE HRADEC KRALOVE REGION

GALLERIES •

Gallery of Modern Art in Hradec Kralove

Gallery of Fine Art in Nachod

OBSERVATORIES ••

Observatory and Planetarium in Hradec Kralove

Observatory in Upice

LIBRARIES •••

Research Library in Hradec Kralove

CREATIVE AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ••••

Community Arts Centre

MUSEUMS •••••

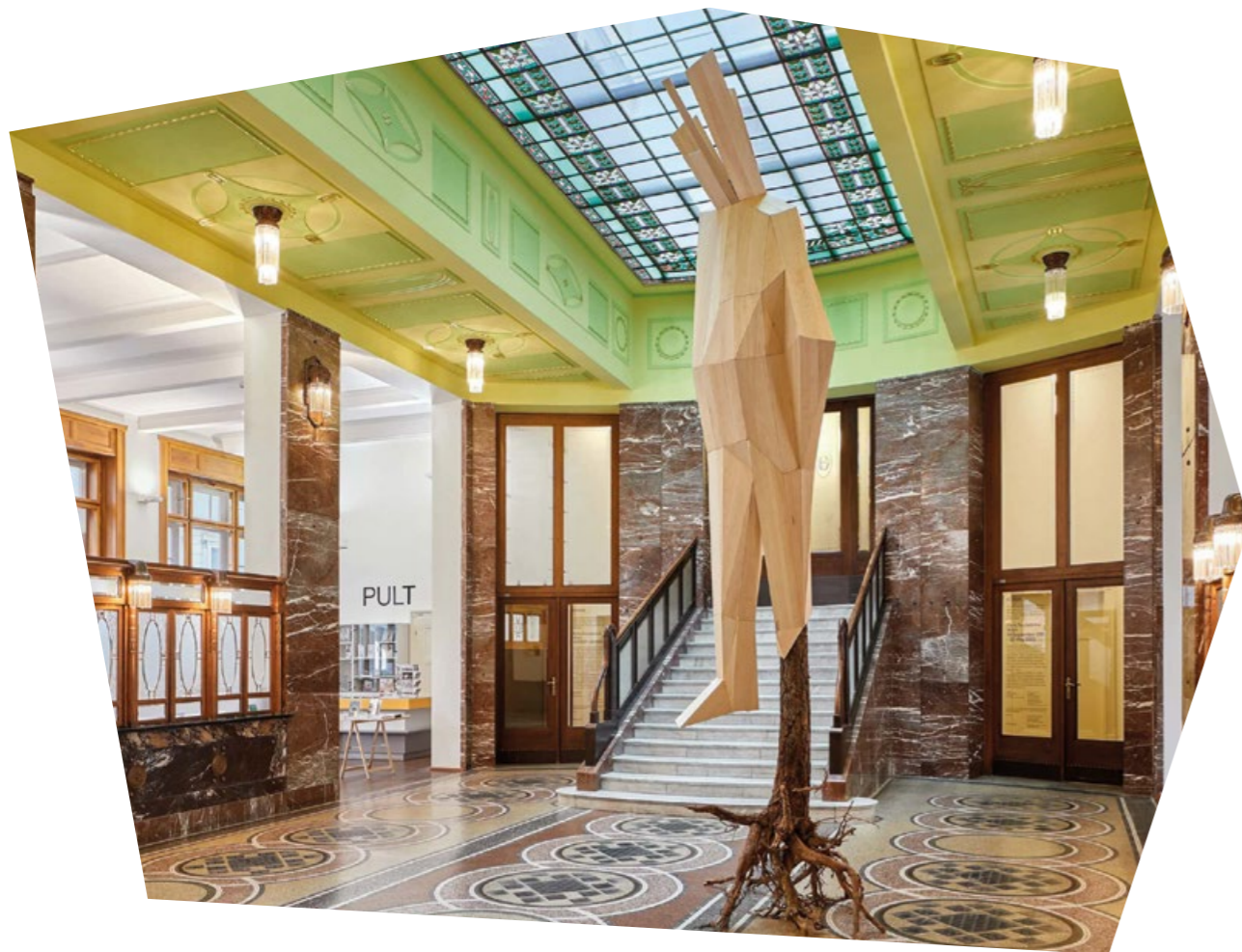
Museum of Eastern Bohemia in Hradec Kralove

Museum and Gallery of the Orlicke Mts. in Rychnov nad Kneznou

Museum of the Nachod Region

Regional Museum and Gallery in Jicin

GALLERY OF MODERN ART IN HRADEC KRALOVE



GMU

Official name: Galerie moderního umění v Hradci Králové
Address: Velké náměstí 139/140, 500 03 Hradec Králové
Website: www.galeriehk.cz/?lang=en
Director: MgA. František Zachoval



Introduction

The Gallery of Modern Art in Hradec Králové (GMU) moved several times since its foundation before it came to settle in the former Credit and Savings Institute, designed by prominent Czech architect Osvald Polivka. The building underwent extensive reconstruction in 2014–2016, which removed the unseemly alterations made in the past, and all the works of art and artistic decor inside and outside the building were restored. As the name implies, the gallery specialises in modern Czech art, from the early 20th century to contemporary works. Since 2020, the GMU's latest exhibition concept has been presented in new exhibition halls, called the Space, White Cube, Black Cube, and Foyer, whose architecture is designed to accommodate various forms of creative art. The permanent exhibition, *Transformations of Image / Images of Transformations*, was also renewed after four years in 2020. The new unconventional exhibitions entitled *The Last Century – Twenty Artists* and *The Last Fifty Years* are the culmination of the many years of academic and research activity carried out by the GMU's curators. This strategy is intended to present various forms of art to the general public through a diverse range of projects. The innovated dramaturgy closely follows the links between the emerging local trends and approaches, and the current creative aspects with a nationwide impact. In 2021 the gallery acquired the Karel Tutsch Collection containing more than 800 works. This collection is a unique set documenting art collecting since the 1980s and 1990s and includes rudimentary works of Czech art from the period between Modernism and Post-modernism.

František Zachoval

Locations

Since 2008 the GMU has curated a series of sculptures entitled *Story of Misery and Hope of Men*, located in the meadows between Stanovice and Zirec, near the Baroque Kuks Hospital.

Organisation

The gallery's statutory body is the director. It has the departments of curation, academic research, public education, PR and accompanying programmes, finance, and public operations.

Collections

Since its establishment in 1953, the GMU has created, and regularly expanded, its collection of modern Czech fine art in six separate categories – paintings, sculptures, drawings, art prints, photographs, and moving pictures. Over the decades, the GMU's curators have succeeded in amassing an excellent collection of art works with many unique pieces mostly of Czech provenance, covering all the major art movements and trends of the 20th century. Works by artists linked to East Bohemia, such as Bohumil Kubista, Ladislav Zivř, Otto Gutfreund, Josef Vachal and others, form an important part of this collection. The Czech Modernism period occupies a specific place within the collection, emphasising imaginative art and its transformations including those of social criticism, namely Poetism, Surrealism, Art Informel, Czech grotesque painting, etc. A new collection was founded in 2019, called Moving Image Collection, in response to the absence of a comprehensive collection of this genre of art in the Czech Republic, and charts its history from the experimental trends of the 1970s to the present day. The term “moving image” encompasses various interdisciplinary approaches including work with film, video art, slide projection and video installation. A Collection of Central and Eastern Europe was established in 2019, too, to include works by artists from this region dating from the year 2000 until the present day. The GMU's exhibits are presented in exhibitions of other institutions as inter-gallery loans not only in the Czech Republic but also abroad. The most eagerly anticipated exhibition in the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow in 2019, for instance, was opened on the 175th anniversary of the birth of Ilya Efimovich Repin

(1844–1930). For this exhibition, the GMU made a loan of his painting entitled *Religious Procession in an Oak Forest* that had only been exhibited once in Russia, in 1891.

Academic Research

Since 2019, the Gallery has emphasised its own basic research as part of its principal aim, and its popularisation through public educational programmes, exhibition projects and publications. It also gains new knowledge through expanding, profiling and cataloguing its collections. It thereby carries out research in art history focused on the basic principles of the phenomena and facts in the creative arts.

The academic research department, which collaborates on the research with the gallery's curators, also coordinates the GMU's publishing programme and the sessions of its Editorial Board. This department is also classified as a “research and knowledge-dissemination organisation” as per Art. 2 par. 83, 84 and 93 of Commission Regulation (EU) 651/2014.

Editorial and Publishing Programme

The gallery ceased to publish small catalogues in 2019 in favour of more extensive, professionally focused publications in a unified edition, now prepared in coordination with external experts. The history of a specific part of the GMU's collections was published for the first time (*Bishop Josef Doubrava, Art Lover and Patron*, by editor Petra Prikazska). Other publications include one for the exhibition on the depiction of the landscape of the Orlicke Mts. over the last two centuries (*Landscape Hidden Inside the World – Pictures of the Orlicke Mountains*, with texts by Klara Zarecka and Vlastislav Tokos). At the end of 2020, the GMU published two extensive catalogues for the newly opened permanent exhibitions that strive to portray their topics in a less traditional way, thus attaining superregional importance. The authors are the curators of both long-term exhibitions: *The Last Fifty Years* catalogue was conceived by Tomas Pospiszyl, a leading theorist of contemporary Czech art. The publication presents the multifarious nature of contemporary art by topic rather than in chronological order, emphasising the diversity of the artistic language of particular artists, including the young generation. The other catalogue, entitled *The Last Century – Twenty Artists*, presents early 20th-century Czech fine



art and also differs from the traditional chronological layout, presenting instead works by twenty distinctive artists. It was edited by Petra Prikazska. Both catalogues were published with funding from the Ministry of Culture. In 2021, research was focused on the work of Milan Langer (1944–2017), an important multimedia and visual artist linked to the East Bohemian Region. The collective monograph presents his multi-layered and extensive work previously unjustly overlooked both by the general public and the professional community. The publication entitled *Original? The Art of Imitating Art* was made for the exhibition and conference held by the GMU, and is not designed solely for exhibition visitors, but for anyone interested in learning more about the phenomenon of art forgery. Artists' books include a publication entitled *Scent of Success* by contemporary artist Matyas Chochola as a complement to his exhibition project, and *An Attempt at Regaining Reality* by Alena Kotzmannova, who created ten “chapters” called *Attempts* in 2009–2019 that present photographs, prints, and objects arranged in meaningful sequences. The graphic design of the book was made by Mikulas Machacek of studio-zetzetz, and its co-publisher is Eastern Front, based in London. This series of publications is concluded by *If I Had No Body I Could have Been Everywhere* by the painter Bronislava Orlicka. Striking indigo figures in various situations accompany readers throughout the book which, together with a clean graphic design by Stepan Marek, provides a comprehensive overview of the author's work. Popularising literature is a brand-new type of publication for the GMU. The very first book in this category was *The Art of Understanding the Gallery of Modern Art*, an unprecedented work on this subject and a great contribution to popularising the gallery's educational work.

Educational Programme

The education department offers programmes linked to the permanent exhibition, as well as workshops to accompany current exhibitions. This is intended to make the gallery appeal to visitors from an early age as a natural place for meeting, learning, communication, cooperation and creativity, and to provide an opportunity for them to build a relationship with art and aesthetics, broaden their minds, and learn to reflect upon their impressions. The programmes focus on all areas

of sensual perception and offer the chance to encounter various different forms of visual expression. The current range of programmes covers a wide span of ages, from parents with children from three years of age, through school groups of all levels and teachers, to adults and pensioners. The education department offers a space for cooperation, creative learning and expression in the form of creative studios, and also provides space for children and teenagers from 6 to 18 years of age during the spring, summer and autumn holidays. It is also involved in long-term inter-institutional cooperation on Family Pass and Senior Pass projects.

Leisure Groups, Clubs, Civil Associations

In recent years, the GMU has begun to work more closely with various clubs and associations, especially the Senior Citizens of the Czech Republic, for which the education department and the curation department prepare series of lectures, creative workshops and courses.

Lectures and Debates

As part of the programmes to accompany its exhibitions, the GMU holds conferences, lectures and debates with artists and external experts in the relevant topics.

Public Services

Besides its disciplinary focus and related activities, the GMU is open to the general public, including the hire of premises for various purposes. It offers its facilities to a large number of cultural events in which it participates, for instance Open Pocket, Jazz Goes to Town, audiovisual performances as part of the MENU concert series in 2019; and movie screenings and concerts in 2020. It hosted the assembly of Council of Galleries of the Czech Republic in 2021, which is a professional union of Czech galleries, along with the conference held as part of the *Original? The Art of Imitating Art* exhibition focused on various aspects of art forgery.



Library

The gallery's library consists of three extensive collections with a total of almost 12 thousand books. The first collection comprises encyclopaedias and monographs on the theory and history of art and on the work of specific artists. The second collection contains periodicals on the fine arts and architecture. The third, most extensive collection comprises exhibition catalogues which are a valuable source of information for experts and students. The gallery's new concept strives to popularise the GMU's library for the widest possible range of readers, especially students of the University of Hradec Kralove. Since 2022, a larger part of the library is available for public access in the GMU's foyer, where *Decorative Panneau* by painter Jan Preisler is also displayed.

Participation in Conferences

The GMU staff regularly attend Czech and international symposiums, conferences, colloquia and debates, both as audience members and lecturers.

Extraordinary Activities, Projects, News and Points of Interest

The gallery tries to make itself visible from the widest possible cultural perspective. Besides curatorship and education, it also offers numerous accompanying activities, from lectures and guided tours of exhibitions, to concerts and movie screenings. It aims to create a cosy space full of art, from the basement to the top floor. As an organisation, it has also been involved in the activities of other associations in Hradec Kralove, such as Experience the City Differently (Community Arts Centre), Jazz Goes to Town (kontrapunkt, z. u.) and Cinema 2.0 (Bio Central). It also tries to be active outside its own premises, and has participated in events such as the University's Book Fair, where it presented its own publications to students. It offers regular workshops for children as well as adults and pensioners.

Membership of Professional Organisations

The GMU is a member of the Council of Galleries of the Czech Republic.

GALLERY OF FINE ART IN NACHOD



Official name: Galerie výtvarného umění v Náchodě

Address: Smiřických 272, 547 01 Náchod

Website: www.gvun.cz

Director: MgA. Alexander Peroutka, Ph.D.

GVUN

Introduction

The Gallery of Fine Art in Nachod (GVUN) was founded as a district gallery in January 1966. In 1983, it took up residence for good in the riding hall of a Baroque chateau that had been refurbished to meet the gallery's needs. The timeless exhibition spaces it acquired as a result were designed by architect Josef Wagner. The modern, monumental barrier-free interior is one of the most impressive in the Czech Republic. The riding hall lies in the grounds of Nachod state castle, in a beautiful natural setting that is ideal for walks and contemplation.

Since it was first established, the GVUN's work on building its collections and its exhibition, publishing and accompanying programmes have been focused more on eastern art, originally from Eastern Europe. The GVUN's collections and long-term programme focus are assets that increase in value over time. The programme concept and the building up of the gallery's collections are of evident regional importance, but they also have an international aspect. The creative tension between the regions and centres of today's cultural and social life is a major topic and a stimulus for our professional work, curatorship, educational and other activities. We are fully equipped for comprehensive work with the current themes in today's art scene, and with contemporary, modern and historical art. Our gallery is situated in the dynamic border region. In 2022, its main as well as accompanying programme went beyond the traditional spaces of the riding hall, appearing in another space in the centre of the town of Nachod, where the gallery was located until 2002. We have been establishing contacts with institutions with a similar exhibition, programme and professional concept in the Czech Republic and abroad. This lively cooperation in the perspective of the present and its current artistic, cultural and social topics motivates us, and expands the scope of our activities for the future.

Alexander Peroutka





Organisation

The GVUN's activities have expanded outside the confines of the riding hall of Nachod Castle since 2022. This should be welcomed by the general public and also allow the performance of visual art projects, such as exhibitions and art residencies, as well as the accompanying programme and research in formats that are up-to-date and also allow greater interaction with the public. This change has influenced our programme scope and space, and extended our reach. It has led to the creation of a dynamic gallery that is continuously reshaping, responding to the latest trends in the art world. On the one hand, we strive to ensure the long-lasting continuity of our programme, work and space, while on the other we want to emphasise the significance and potential of our work within this context at the regional, national and international level.

Collections

The collections of the Nachod gallery comprise several subcollections: Czech and Slovak art – paintings, drawings, art prints, photographs, sculpture, textile, glass and pottery; 19th- and early 20th-century Russian painting that also covers the Russian

emigration of the early 20th century – paintings, drawings, art prints, sculpture, including 1970s and 1980s painting and art prints and 17th- to 20th-century icons; 1970s to 1990s art of the Baltic States – paintings, drawings, art prints, sculpture; 1960s to 1990s Polish art: paintings, drawings, art prints, sculpture, collage; late-20th century Bulgarian art – paintings; European art – 16th- to 20th-century Italian, German, Austrian, Spanish and French art – paintings, art prints.

Educational Programme, Lectures and Debates

When preparing the accompanying programme, the GVUN primarily responds to the latest issues in the museum's operation and the ongoing exhibitions. New media and film are also becoming an integral part of our programme. We emphasise architecture and urban planning as another form of visual art and its context in relation to the place, geography and region. Inter-generational dialogue, too, is an important topic for the accompanying programmes, seen both from the perspective of our continuity and that of contemporary topics in the art world and society.

Public Services

The gallery as an official custodian provides services to experts as well as the wider public in compliance with the relevant regulations. It enables experts to study items in the collection and use the specialised library, and provides artists with the information they require. The gallery also responds to special inquiries from the general public. It renders services that meet the cultural, educational and informational needs. The gallery's staff draw on their expertise elsewhere, too, such as on purchasing committees and advisory boards in other institutions; they provide professional methodological assistance in the administration and use of municipal fine art collections, and courses for amateur artists.

Library

The GVUN's specialised library is continuously expanding with the acquisition of the latest publications that relate to our work, collection, programme, research, and the contemporary critique and theory of modern and contemporary art. Work is carried out as planned to provide public access to the library.

Editorial and Publishing Programme

The GVUN's editorial and publishing programme is almost solely related to its exhibitions and collections. Publications which vary in their extent and print run are published for exhibitions, and emphasis is placed on their potential use by other entities. The GVUN also publishes academic collection catalogues that serve to fully document and promote its collections. All of the gallery's publications are duly announced and retrievable in the national catalogues.

Participation in Conferences

Conferences are one of the many accompanying programmes and are also part of the expert work done by the staff, namely curators. They are held within the programme of the GVUN or other related institutions. Our task is to be a pro-active and respected participant in the current broader professional dialogue between artists and also institutions.

Membership of Professional Organisations

The GVUN is a member of the Council of Galleries of the Czech Republic.

OBSERVATORY AND PLANETARIUM IN HRADEC KRALOVÉ



Official name: Hvězdárna a planetárium v Hradci Králové

Address: Zámeček 456/30, 500 08 Hradec Králové

Website: www.astrohk.cz

Director: Mgr. Miroslav Krejčí



Introduction

The Observatory and Planetarium in Hradec Kralove (HPHK) is a specialised cultural awareness and educational institution focused on the natural sciences. Its principal aim is to give the general public, especially young people, an insight into astronomy and the related natural and technical sciences, and thus help to educate and improve cultural awareness.

Situated on the southern outskirts of East Bohemia's principal city in one of the nicest places between Novy Hradec Kralove and Zamecek, the observatory has been open to the public for more than six decades. Its location on a ridge offers views of the southern valley with the lakes Datlik and Roudnicka, to the southwest and west far into the plains of the Elbe Basin and beyond Kutna Hora and Cesky Brod, but especially upwards, to far more distant areas where interesting objects can be observed in the day and night sky.

The observatory with its specialised equipment and the original planetarium from the 1960s allow cultural and educational events to be held for the general public, children, schools and groups of visitors as part of their leisure and tourism activities. The HPHK offers structured evening programmes, day and night sky observations, children's programmes, lectures, debates, observations of important phenomena, themed exhibitions, events held outside the observatory and other activities. Primary school pupils and grammar school students can become members of the young astronomers' group.

The site was considerably expanded in 2014–2015 through a subsidy from the EU structural funds, under the Research and Development for Innovation operating programme. A new digital planetarium was built and fitted out, replacing the original small opto-mechanical planetarium, the oldest in the country, and educational shows were purchased from abroad.

This greatly improved the visual presentation of what is going on in the sky. Besides day and night sky imaging, the digital system allows visitors to see the closer as well as very remote environment of planet Earth. This means they can fly next to a cometary nucleus or above a detailed surface of Pluto, a planet which is 4.7 bn. kilometres away. In the planetarium, they can take a virtual tour of the interstellar reaches of our galaxy and even see as far as the most distant parts of the observable universe.

Imagery obtained through measurements and observations using ground instruments as well as from satellites in the remote parts of the solar system can be seen here just a few hours after the processed data is released. The results of mankind's effort and progress in furthering our knowledge of nature and the universe are presented in an appealing way and almost immediately.

Over the many years of uninterrupted work, the observatory has become a place that offers visitors an opportunity to learn, educate, contemplate, view the world in a different context, or merely enjoy some pleasant leisure time.

Miroslav Krejčí

Organisation

The director is the organisation's statutory representative. The observatory has three departments: Culture and Education, Finance and Administration, and Technical. Each has its head who manages and is responsible for the department. The average head count is 18.

Public Activities

The HPHK offers a wide range of cultural and educational programmes for the general public.

Programmes for children accompanied by adults are given every Saturday. They are suitable for children aged 5 and over, and comprise an astronomical tale and views of the current night sky in the digital planetarium. They continue in the observatory with a tour of the telescopes in the southern dome, and observations of the Sun if the weather is fine. The visitors then look at the sky or the surroundings of the observatory through small telescopes from the viewing terrace.

There are evening programmes on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays for adults, students and older pupils. They start in the digital planetarium's projection hall and show areas of the starry sky in the form of commented full-dome projections, with information about interesting bodies visible in the current sky, news in the field of astronomy and astronautics, an enjoyable virtual tour through time and space with images of real objects captured during research and observations conducted by ground and cosmic observatories, and also the observatory's own images shot with its own equipment. The programme further includes full-dome screenings of professional educational shows from abroad, dubbed in Czech. When the programme in the hall ends, the visitors are free to see the digital planetarium's interactive exhibitions.

Programmes that include observations of the sky are also more suitable for adults, students and older pupils. They are held in the observatory every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, and in good conditions offer visitors the opportunity to use specialised technology to view celestial bodies in the day and night sky, namely the Sun, the Moon, the planets of the solar system, interesting constellations, relics of cosmic processes, stars, objects in the distant universe, and more. Professional

guidance is given during the observation. When the weather is bad, projections of the sky are screened in the small historical Zeiss opto-mechanical planetarium or in the observatory's lecture hall.

Two nature trails have been opened near the observatory for visitors as well as hikers: the Planetary Trail and the Galactic Trail. Each stop presents information about the size and properties of the body or constellation on display, and also helps to give an idea of the immense distances between them.

Many activities are also organised outside the observatory, usually in the Hradec Kralove region. There are children's open air school programmes that can be adapted to suit the given situation. Depending on the specific conditions, we use images from a portable slide projector, interactive models and portable optical instruments to make observing the sky out in the countryside an enjoyable experience.

On suitable occasions, and often in collaboration with other entities, the observatory organises events focused on popularising astronomy, astronautics and the related natural sciences, observations and information about current phenomena in the sky, the relationship between man and the universe, and provides practical information on observation instruments and devices.

Educational Programme

The range of educational programmes about the Earth and the universe is primarily aimed at pupils and students of all types of schools. The wide variety of programmes in the observatory and the digital planetarium is designed for audiences ranging from pre-school age to adults at the university of the third age. They are intended to complement and expand on the curriculum, especially in nature-focused subjects and activities.

The school programmes include observations with special equipment in the dome and from the viewing terrace, a guided tour using interactive exhibits and models, various experiments, projections in the lecture hall, sessions using light panels in the foyer and other programme-specific activities.

Programmes held in the digital planetarium include high-quality projections of the sky, animated sequences and images



of various cosmic bodies captured during the latest scientific research. The programmes are complemented with high-quality professional shows dubbed into Czech and shown as full-dome projections.

The capability of the projection system, the contents and form make the process of learning an unusual experience for pupils and students even now, when they are inundated with state-of-the-art electronic gadgetry and audio-visual technologies.

The lively interactive programmes and serious presentation of scientific research results in the setting of the observatory and digital planetarium provide a good opportunity to discuss topics and contexts that perhaps wouldn't occur to youngsters elsewhere, and offer a platform to get them pro-actively involved in the educational process.

Teachers can choose a suitable programme for any age group, from kindergartens to universities. Amongst other things, a visit to the observatory and planetarium can inspire pupils and students to take a deeper interest in the topics taught at school, offer an opportunity to review and extend the students'

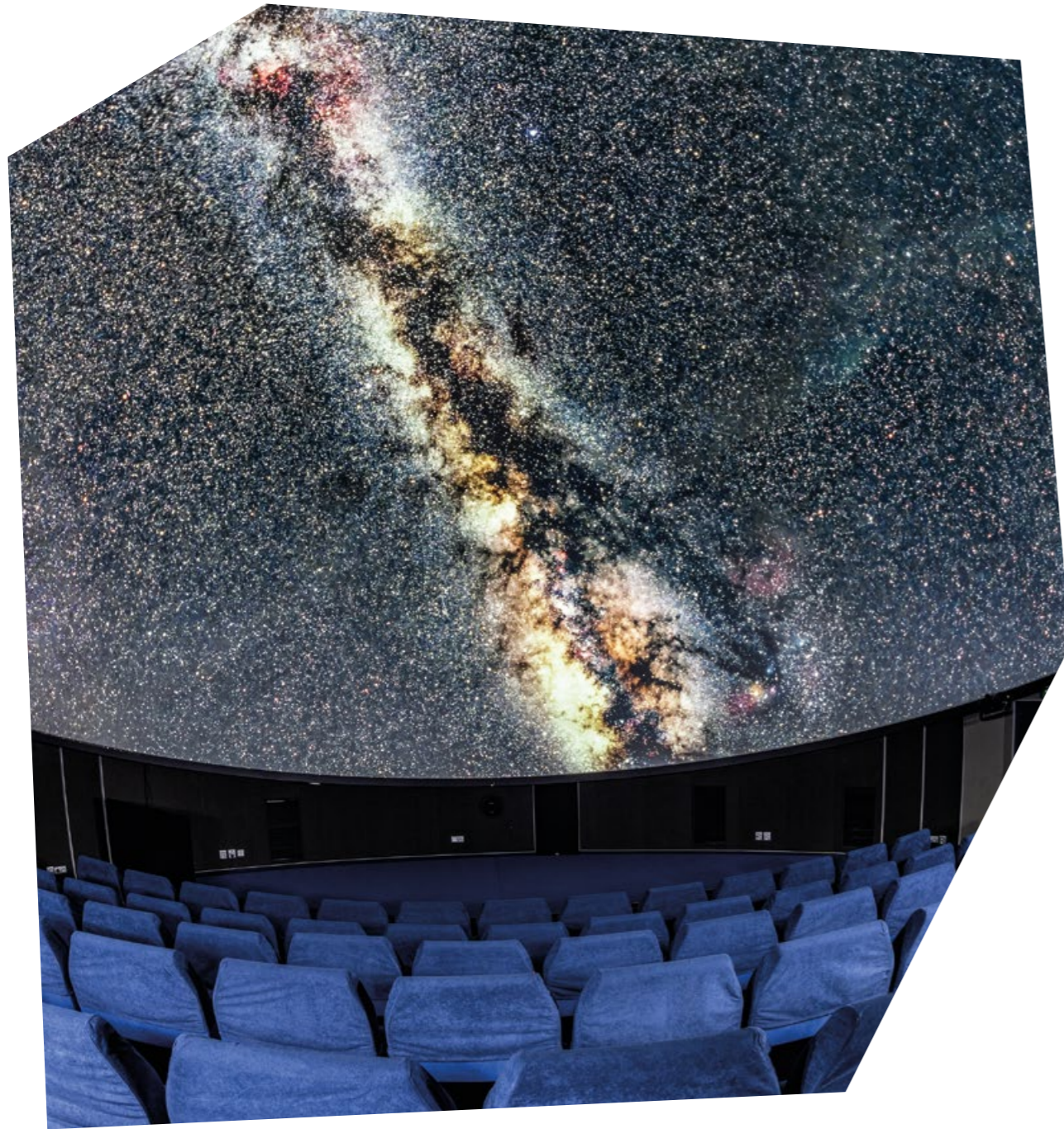
knowledge, and increase the appeal of studying the natural and technical sciences.

Groups of visitors that require individual care, such as the visually or hearing impaired, people with mental or other disabilities, or youngsters and adults from social care institutes and other care facilities, are offered special programmes that respect their specific abilities and needs.

In cooperation with the organisers of educational events and contests with a focus on the natural sciences, we prepare special programmes for the participants and contestants. We provide systematic consultation for students involved in natural science contests and other specialised activities during their studies.

Leisure Groups, Clubs, Civil Associations

Primary and grammar school pupils and students with a deeper interest in astronomy and astronautics can take the opportunity to learn more in the young astronomers' group. They can use the equipment, facilities and space of the observatory and



the digital planetarium, the observation building and the observatory's grounds. The Astronomical Society of Hradec Kralove regularly holds meetings in the observatory and its members are allowed to use the equipment in the observation building to watch the sky.

Lectures and Debates

We organise specialised events focused on current astronomy, astronautics and other topics related to the natural sciences. They are held in the observatory's lecture hall or the projection hall of the digital planetarium, and are in the form of projections, lectures and debates with experts and interesting personalities.

Public Services

Besides regular programmes, we offer individuals, state authorities, other observatories, young astronomers' clubs, amateur astronomers and others professional information and methodological and advisory assistance by responding to telephone, e-mail, written or verbal inquiries regarding phenomena in the sky, sunrises and sunsets, the phases of the Moon, the visibility of planets, time zones, light smog, public lighting and other topics.

Editorial and Publishing Programme

We disseminate information about astronomy and the related scientific disciplines through the mass media, our own website, social networks, internet media, a bi-monthly entitled *Povetron* which we publish in cooperation with the Astronomical Society of Hradec Kralove, and our monthly *Mesicnik* information bulletin.

We print and sell publications and aids for astronomy and astronautics that visitors can buy on our programmes. With each astronomical aid purchased we also provide professional advice on how to handle and use it correctly.

Participation in Conferences

The observatory's staff participate in professional events in the Czech Republic and abroad focused on digital planetarium technologies and projection systems, where they discuss their experience using them, progress and new trends in the development of imaging systems.

As an important source of information to help us select suitable high-quality features that accompany our programmes, we attend the worldwide shows dedicated to the specific full-dome format.

Extraordinary Activities, Projects, News and Points of Interest

When unexpected astronomic or other phenomena occur in the sky, we organise special events and public viewings in the observatory and digital planetarium or in other locations connected to the phenomenon.

Membership of Professional Organisations

We are one of the founding members of the Czech Association of Science Centres, and work with other members to share experience, prepare programmes, assist in the maintenance and production of exhibits, and the presentation of the centres' activities to the general public, professionals and state authorities through the media.

As a member of the Association of Observatories and Planetariums, we cooperate with Czech organisations having a similar focus, and participate in events organised by the Association.

OBSERVATORY IN UPICE



Official name: Hvězdárna v Úpici
Address: U Lipek 160, 542 32 Úpice
Website: www.obsupice.cz
Director: Ing. Marcel Bělík



Introduction

The Upice Observatory is a specialised cultural and educational institution focused on natural sciences, located in Upice. It was founded in 1959. Its principal aim is to acquaint the general public with knowledge of astronomy and the related natural and technical sciences, participate in scientific research work, especially regarding the Sun and the Earth (and its environment), and thus help to educate and improve cultural awareness. The observatory's telescopes can be used to observe objects in the night sky, from more visible ones, such as the Moon and the planets, as well as more remote celestial bodies, including minor planets and comets. With our computerised telescopes, we offer visitors the chance to view objects that were previously very difficult to observe. Unlike more densely built-up areas, the observatory's location in Upice has a clear view of the night sky. By day, it offers observation of the solar photosphere with sunspots and a view of the Sun in the H-alpha spectral line in which some interesting solar activity can be seen, such as protuberances, eruptions and active areas. The modern portable telescopes allow views of the skies by day and at night away from the observatory.

The usual astronomical observations are complemented with observations of celestial phenomena using radio astronomy techniques, especially solar activity, meteors and phenomena in the Earth's upper atmosphere. Besides regular everyday views of the sky, the observatory offers observations focused on current astronomical phenomena, as well as those accompanying cultural and astronomical events.

Its special equipment means the observatory can also bring the universe closer for physically disabled visitors, including the visually impaired.

Marcel Bělík



Organisation

The observatory has three departments: the Director's department, Popularisation, and Academic department. The Director's department handles the administrative and technical sides of the observatory. The Popularisation department works with schools, manages the editorial and promotional work, holds lectures and excursions, runs groups for young astronomers, publishes periodicals and issues methodological instructions for volunteers.

Solar Section

The Solar Section specialises mainly in solar observations, solar activities and the relationship between the Sun and the Earth. The Sun is observed every day using various methods, and the results of these observations are not only published but also used in scientific research. This activity includes the observation, processing and interpretation of total eclipses.

Stellar Observations and Interstellar Matter Section

This section observes variable stars and interstellar bodies – comets, minor planets and meteors. The observation results are published in the relevant astronomical databases and used for research in the relevant discipline.

Radio Astronomy Section

This section has expanded its scope in recent years, from the observation of solar radio phenomena to other celestial bodies, especially meteors. This section also develops new observation methods and constructs receiver systems.

Educational Programme and Public Services

The observatory's activities are divided into two main spheres, namely popularisation work and academic work. Astronomy is popularised through presentations for the general public and education in the form of school lectures, young astronomers' groups, and visits to schools and other institutions.

The popularisation and educational programme includes the following:

- Public observations
- Excursions
- Field observations
- Programme for the disabled
- Specialised youth events
- Young astronomers' groups
- Astronomers' Club
- Lectures in the observatory and other places
- Experiential programmes and specialised activities
- Events combining music and astronomy
- Exhibitions
- Competitions

The scientific work includes especially the following:

- Solar observations in visible light, H-alpha lines, Call-K lines and radio astronomy
- Testing of optical devices
- Optical and radio observations of meteors
- Research into solar corona
- Geomagnetic field measurements
- Meteorological measurements
- Seismic measurements
- Research into variable stars
- Research into small solar system bodies (comets, minor planets)

Leisure Groups, Clubs, Civil Associations

The observatory organises the Young Astronomers' Club, mostly made up of pupils and students from East Bohemia with an interest in astronomy. The club members receive learning materials, astronomical information leaflets, astronomical maps, observation guides, instructions on how to make simple astronomical and meteorological instruments, workbooks and some specialised publications. Members can receive SMS 'astro-alerts' that keep them up to date with current astronomical phenomena.

The observatory organises an average of five group meetings per year. Some meetings are held at the observatory, others at leisure centres in Nachod, Cervený Kostelec, Ceska Skalice and Broumov. There are usually more than 20 children attending each session.

Lectures and Debates

The observatory organises various lectures for experts or the general public, as part of observation programmes and conferences, or series of public lectures. They can be held at the observatory or in other places.

Editorial and Publishing Programme

The observatory publishes various articles in the local, district and national press and popular science journals. It also provides information through TV and radio broadcasts. Every year, proceedings are published from the seminar entitled Man in His Earthly and Cosmic Environment, held by the observatory in cooperation with other invited guests. Scientific results are presented, for instance, at the aforementioned seminar as well as at the Solar Seminar of the Slovak Central Observatory in Hurbanovo. Articles are also published in foreign academic journals, namely *Solar Physics*, *Astronomy and Astrophysics*, *Minor Planet Electric Circ*, *Icarus* and others.

Information from the observatory is also regularly published on the website of the Czech Astronomical Society and the media server of the Czech Academy of Sciences, where the observatory especially presents descriptions of its winning photographs

in the Czech Astrophotography of the Month contest. The observatory occasionally also posts on other internet portals.

The Upice Observatory uses its website as its main information channel. It also has a Facebook profile where it publishes up-to-date astronomical information and its programme, news and other photographs, and uses it to respond to inquiries and provide consultation and advice for stargazers.

Its measurements are published online on selected websites: www.obsupice.cz (daily solar observations, radio observations, meteors, seismic and meteorological observations), www.rmob.org and www.bolidozor.org (radio meteors), <http://www.asu.cas.cz/~sunwatch/new> (daily solar observations) and others.

Participation in Conferences

The observatory's staff regularly participate in their own seminar "Man in His Earthly and Cosmic Environment" and in the Solar Seminar held by the Slovak Central Observatory in Hurbanovo. They occasionally attend expert seminars, focusing mostly on solar research, variable stars and other topics.

Membership of Professional Organisations

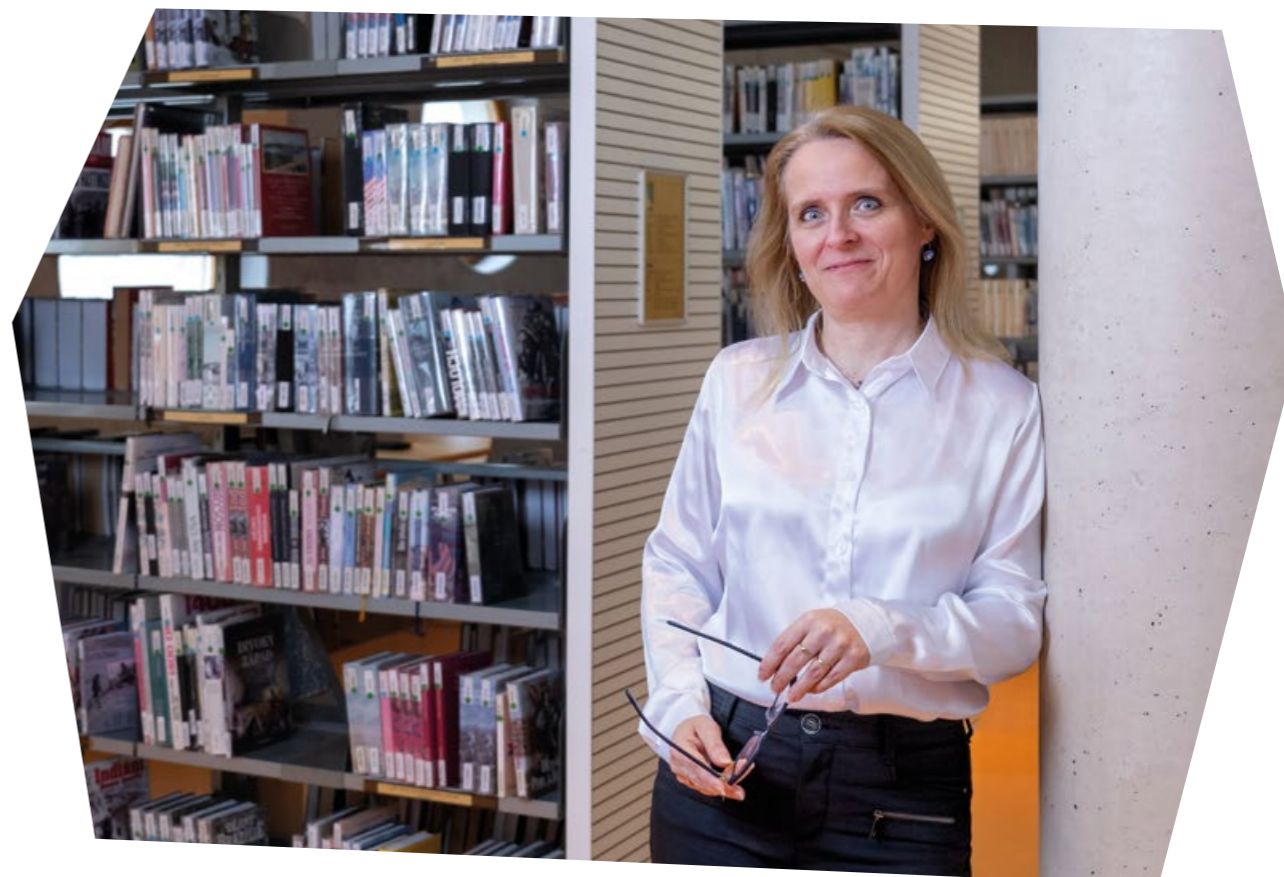
The Observatory in Upice works closely with many professional organisations. It is a member of the Association of Observatories and Planetariums, and its director is the association's chairman. He is also the chairman of the East Bohemian branch of the Czech Astronomical Society.



RESEARCH LIBRARY IN HRADEC KRALOVE



Official name: Studijní a vědecká knihovna v Hradci Králové
Address: Hradecká 1250, 500 03 Hradec Králové
Website: www.svkhk.cz
Director: Mgr. Daniela Ridlová



Introduction

The Research Library in Hradec Kralove (SVK HK) has served the citizens of the Hradec Kralove Region (until 2001 East Bohemian Region) since 1949. It was established as a state research library. Its primary aim was to educate, raise awareness and promote personal development. Initially it did so by offering academic, professional and popular literature. After 1995 it began organising educational events for the general public as well as students and pupils. As a memory institution, it acquires, stores and provides access to its historical collection as well as the latest literature, now comprising 1.45 mil. volumes. It has an extensive collection of regional literature and guarantees access to contemporary press through a database of records,

articles and virtual collections of digitised documents in the digital library. It renders services to a broad range of users, not just academicians and students. It offers programmes for senior citizens and the general public. Users have unlimited access to lectures, debates, authors' readings, exhibitions, academic and popularising literature, as well as high-quality Czech and foreign fiction. It has long collaborated with the State Research Library in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia. A visit to the library is not only a must while studying, but also an opportunity to make meaningful use of one's leisure time.

Mgr. Daniela Ridlová



Public Services

The library provides loans from its own collection and as inter-library loans. More than 180 thousand volumes of the latest academic and popularising literature and fiction are freely available off the shelf. As a repository of compulsory periodicals the library offers more than 4 thousand newspapers, magazines and journals for perusal on the premises. It also offers reprographic services – printing, photocopying and scanning. In addition, it provides information services in response to verbal, telephone and written inquiries, consultancy on the collection, recommends relevant sources of information and prepares on-demand retrievals. A vast number of electronic sources of information is available and accessible through licensed databases. The Bookport online library has been available to readers since late 2020. The library builds a number of regional databases. Those most often used include the digital library, which contains the complete texts of regional monographs and periodicals from the collections of libraries in the Hradec Kralove Region. Free internet is available on computers for public use and through a wireless network. Visitors can use study boxes to read in peace, while for parents with babies there are children's

corners, a diaper changing table and a breastfeeding corner. Disabled visitors can have books delivered to their home and the hearing-impaired can use the so-called Silent Line.

Services for Other Libraries

It is highly important for the development of almost 400 libraries in the region to have a good system of regional libraries to guarantee accessibility to quality library and information services everywhere. This comprises selected services subsidised from the regional budget and provided by authorised libraries, especially advisory and consultancy services, on-site methodical visits, librarian training, the production and distribution of exchangeable library collections, and assistance in revising and updating the libraries' stock. The SVK HK acts as the regional coordinator. In appreciation of the librarians' work, an annual celebratory meeting is held at which the Hradec Kralove Region's Librarian of the Year honour is awarded. The Hradec Kralove Region's Library of the Year contest has recently been introduced, with a financial prize awarded to the winner. The best libraries are nominated for the national contest.

Educational Programme

Individual work with visitors is carried out in the library on a daily basis. The librarians show users how to search in various sources of information: catalogues, databases, traditional documents and on the internet. They also regularly organise group training, workshops and other educational events, aiming to improve informational and media literacy amongst the general public. Memory training sessions are worth a special mention, as they are highly popular not only with pensioners but recently also students. As regards cooperation with schools, there is growing interest in informational education lessons and workshops combining group work and critical thinking methods. Educational events for adults and young people place emphasis on online security and fact-checking.

Lectures, Debates, Exhibitions

The library holds some 60 lectures and debates year, for which various materials and retrievals are prepared. They are mostly focused on philosophy, history, the social sciences, or literary science. Lectures in the creative arts as well as travelogues are highly popular. As part of the Great Book Thursday event, the library presents new books and organises debates with the authors. The library building, a fine piece of architecture itself, houses three exhibition halls hosting an average of 30 exhibitions per year. The U Privozu gallery is a more than adequate exhibition space that not only holds prestigious exhibitions, such as Czech Press Photo, but is also used by art school students. Since 2019 the library has used HKPoint, the municipal ticket and booking system. Tickets can be bought in the library, as well as in information centres and online.

Editorial and Publishing Programme

The library also specialises in electronic books that readers can share from websites under a Creative Commons licence. It issues printed and electronic versions of the U nas bulletin, and an electronic statistical yearbook entitled Public Libraries of the Hradec Kralove Region, with an annex for small libraries in villages. A non-periodical bulletin called *Obcasnik X* has been published since 2007, presenting information about the library's work. In 2019 the library published a book entitled

Research Library in Hradec Kralove, 1949–2017: A Chronicle to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the library's foundation.

Participation and Organisation of Conferences

The library's representatives attend the national "Libraries of the Present" conference every year. The library also regularly holds the Hradec Kralove Library Conference, and has twice organised a national conference on staffing in libraries. In 2018 it organised a panel entitled The Library – A Public Matter, where the future of libraries was discussed by prominent political, cultural and social figures.

Extraordinary Activities, Projects, News and Points of Interest

The library implements projects from the VISK programme operated by the Ministry of Culture every year. Participation in national projects enables the efficient purchase of electronic sources of information and provides access to them for the needs of science, research and education. One example of a project implemented in cooperation with the Hradec Kralove Region is the Improved Security of Collections and Comprehensive Solution for the Storage and Backup of Digital Documents in the SVK HK (IROP 3.1). The library continues to operate the Regional Digitisation Unit, acquired in 2014 as part of the Digitisation and Storage programme.

Since 2008, the library has cooperated with the Daneta private school, which works with handicapped children with combined disabilities, and hosts the now traditional concert of the Danetacek choir.

Membership of Professional Organisations

The library is a member of the Association of Libraries of the Czech Republic (SDRUK CR) and Union of Librarians and Information Workers (SKIP). The director is a member of the Central Library Council, an advisory body to the Minister of Culture. The library is represented in many nationwide professional working groups in the above organisations and the National Library of the Czech Republic.

COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE



Official name: Centrum uměleckých aktivit, příspěvková organizace

Address: Tomkova 139/22, 500 03 Hradec Králové

Website: www.cuahk.cz

Director: Mgr. Martina Erbsová



centrum
uměleckých
aktivit

Introduction

The principal aim of the Community Arts Centre (CUA) is to promote artistic and creative initiatives and to give people within the community a chance to express themselves through art. All year round, the Centre organises and co-organises programmes, educational events and presentations in the field of theatre, film, photography, the fine arts, choral singing, and folklore for young people, adults and senior citizens.

We offer rooms, facilities and excellent equipment for photography and audiovisual work. We also encourage amateur artists, and support their exchange of experience.

Art education is an important part of our work. We hold professional seminars with renowned lecturers and prominent figures in the art world. We are focused not only on the artists but also other parts of the artistic and cultural sector, and on the creative public.

The CUA has helped support and promote the cultural activities of the citizens of the Hradec Kralove Region, and partnerships with other cultural organisations, for more than 30 years now.

Martina Erbsová



Organisation

The CUA has eight permanent staff members including the director. They comprise the director, art and education specialists and coordinators, office manager and the PR specialist. Many external lecturers and professionals are invited to hold art courses, workshops, and seminars.

Educational Programmes

Photography

We accompany photographers from when they first take up the camera through to their systematic extra-curricular studies at the Hradec Kralove Conservatory of Amateur Photography. The discipline is constantly evolving and we strive to give new photographers the skills they need to use all the essential gear.

Film

We hold practical courses covering the process of producing audiovisual work and filmmaking techniques. A fully equipped studio and cutting room are available. We provide consultation and feedback to non-commercial creators. We also put amateur filmmakers in contact with professionals.

Theatre Actors

We offer an educational series covering the rudiments of acting, directing, dramaturgy, set design, theatre production and other artistic disciplines, with extension modules as a follow-up. We aim to provide long-term systematic studies as well as short-term one-off workshops and seminars.

Arts Management

We have prepared a series of educational arts management seminars and workshops for cultural promoters as well as other staff from cultural institutions and organisations in the region. The workshops also serve as a discussion and networking platform where organisations can share their experience, issues, ideas and projects.

Creative Courses for the Public

Anyone interested in developing their creativity can attend events such as a cartoon workshop or creative writing course, as well as art classes from beginners to advanced.

Leisure Groups, Clubs, Civil Associations, Shows

For a long time now, we have been working to identify the needs of amateur artists together with the civil associations from the Hradec Kralove Region that helped the foundation of the Centre. These include the Free Association of East Bohemian Theatre Actors and the Free Association of East Bohemian Photographers.

Theatre Shows, Children's Art Shows

We are proud of our shows as they already have a long tradition and an excellent atmosphere, and amateur theatre groups show a great deal of interest in them. They primarily include the shows in Cerveny Kostelec, Theatre Spring in Miletin and the Audimafor Show of Young Experimental Theatre and Poetic Theatre.

Film Shows

Every spring we organise a presentation of films made by amateur filmmakers at the Czech Vision (formerly Czech Video Saloon) show in Cerveny Kostelec. We also organise Cinema Open, a festival of audio-visual production and education. We are involved in the film section of the Nachod Prima Season student production festival, and the Rychnovska 8 international amateur contest in Rychnov nad Kneznou, held in September.

Photo Exhibitions

We introduce the latest trends in photography and give amateur photographers an opportunity to present their work. Every year we organise some 20 exhibitions in Hradec Kralove and the entire East Bohemian Region. Every autumn we prepare a national exhibition showcasing as yet unpublished work, called Premiere, and every three years we hold the Saloon of East Bohemian Photography.

Public Services

Looking for the ideal space for your artwork or exhibition? Need filmmaking equipment but can't afford it? Or perhaps you want individual consultations to help you on your artistic journey? Contact the CUA and use our photo and film studio, cutting room, or get some advice on arts management. We offer a photo/film studio, creative studio, lecture hall, darkroom, and a library with a study room. Both floors of our headquarters are equipped with a professional exhibition system.



Library and Study Room

Our library holds publications on the creative arts and photography. In 2021 we opened up the study room for amateur films and recordings of theatre festivals. It is open during ordinary working hours and by prior arrangement.

Editorial and Publishing Programme

We publish two specialised bulletins in cooperation with the Free Association of East Bohemian Theatre Actors (VSVD) and the Free Association of East Bohemian Photographers (VSFV), which come out twice a year.

Theatre Assembly

This bulletin has been published since 1991 and is a primary source of up-to-date information about the work of East Bohemian theatre actors including alternative and children's creative work. It contains the dates for the pre-festival viewings for the entire East Bohemian Region, as well as the rules for viewings in every discipline and their assessment and critique. It also includes essays on the current amateur theatre topics and information about the VSVD members. The bulletin also promotes the work of professional theatres in East Bohemia.

Fotoimpuls

This bulletin for amateur photographers has been published since 1995 and contains information on events relating to amateur photography in the region as well as elsewhere. We inform amateur photographers and other enthusiasts of

upcoming events and also publish reviews of past events. The bulletin is published twice a year in black-and-white A4 format with approx. 56 pages and a print run of 200. It is distributed amongst professionals as well as anyone interested in East Bohemian amateur photography and film.

Extraordinary Events, Projects, News

The most extensive project we hold is Open Studios Days, which involves creative artists, sculptors, craftsmen, galleries and studios throughout the region inviting the public to visit their workshops. Each September we join in the Prague-based Auto*Mat initiative called Experience the City Differently, a street meeting of neighbours in the historical centre of Hradec Kralove.

Membership of Professional Organisations

Our staff are expert members of the expert boards of the National Information Centre for Culture (NIPOS) for the area of film, photography, theatre and dance, and of the Commission for the Annual Award of the Ministry of Culture for creative disciplines (non-professional film). Since 2020 we have also been a member of the Association for Film and Audiovisual Education.

MUSEUM OF EASTERN BOHEMIA IN HRADEC KRALOVE



Official name: Muzeum východních Čech v Hradci Králové

Address: Eliščíno nábřeží 465, 500 03 Hradec Králové

Website: www.muzeumhk.cz

Director: doc. Mgr. Petr Grulich, Ph.D.

MUSEUM
MUSEUM OF EASTERN BOHEMIA
IN HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ

Introduction

The Museum of Eastern Bohemia in Hradec Kralove (MVC) was established in 1880. It now acts as the umbrella museum for the whole region and its ever-growing collection of some 2.5 mil. items makes it one of the biggest in the Czech Republic. It provides extensive professional guidance for the region as a whole as well as all the other museums in the Hradec Kralove Region. It is also the region's official archaeological organisation. Besides its permanent exhibitions, the MVC holds up to twenty themed exhibitions a year, along with many cultural and social events. It is also a registered scientific research organisation, and its staff publish articles in academic journals and draw on basic and applied research grants. The MVC has a publishing programme for books and academic journals, and organises conferences and seminars. Its international cooperation involves partners from all across Europe.

The MVC is on the verge of a major expansion. It seeks to open further extensive exhibition premises in the Gayer Barracks in Hradec Kralove, planned as the site of the unique Eastern Bohemian *MuseumsQuartier*. Another location of importance for the development of the museum is Jaromer-Josefov, where the MVC plans to launch some new and fascinating repository and exhibition projects. The work of the Museum of Eastern Bohemia is based on three interconnected pillars: expanding its collections, scientific work, and a modern exhibition concept. The MVC wants to be not only a serious memory institution but also an appealing place that is enjoyable and informative for the general public and, last but not least, also an interesting partner for other institutions in an interdisciplinary context.

Petr Grulich



Locations

The main building of the MVC in Hradec Kralove, built in the Art Nouveau style, houses the headquarters and is the principal exhibition place.

The expert workplaces, central repository, study rooms and repositories open to public are based in the eastern building of the Gayer Barracks in Hradec Kralove.

Other workplaces and a repository can be found in Stezery, near Hradec Kralove.

Preparations are under way to convert the western building of the Gayer Barracks into the key exhibition space and the seat of the museum's expert workplaces.

In addition to the locations above, the MVC has repositories and storage facilities in Jaromer-Josefov and several other locations in the region.

The 1866 War Museum is an independent branch of the MVC, based in Chlum, near Hradec Kralove. It is a military history museum focused on the Austro-Prussian war and its historical impact.

Organisation

The MVC has a primary staff of approx. 100 and some 80 other part-time staff spanning more than 40 professions. It has the following divisions:

- Director's Office
- Department for collections and scientific research
- Department of exhibitions and curation

Two deputy directors are the heads of departments. The departments are further divided into 11 sections, each with its own head, and two independent sections.

Collections

The MVC is the custodian of some 2.5 mil. items. Its collection is divided into several themed subcollections covering the historical sciences (political, economic, school and cultural history), archaeology (from the early days of human civilization to the 20th century) and the natural sciences (palaeontology, geology, botany, zoology, entomology, mycology, etc.). The collection continues to expand to document life in the whole Hradec Kralove Region in all its diversity.

Exhibition Programme

A large permanent exhibition is on display in the museum's main historical building in Hradec Kralove, entitled *Journey of a City*. It presents the history of Hradec Kralove from the earliest times to how we see it today. The main building also houses some 10–15 temporary exhibitions each year, some of which last several weeks, others several months or a few years. The MVC prides itself on the quality of its exhibitions' graphic design.

The main office in Gayer Barracks is preparing four open repositories that aim to make the museum's work appealing to visitors and show that its activities are far broader in scope than they might think. The 1866 War Museum has a provisional permanent exhibition, which is soon to be fully refurbished. Temporary exhibitions are prepared on a regular basis.

Other exhibition rooms are to be built in the Gayer Barracks (the planned natural sciences and creative archaeology centre, as well as the Hradec fortress exhibition under the Jan Gayer Car Park), and in several places in Jaromer-Josefov.

Besides the above, the MVC also holds open-air and travelling exhibitions.

Digital exhibitions play an important role in the museum's exhibition programme. The MVC utilises various simultaneous virtual attractions, from virtual exhibitions, GIS stories, to ordinary digital exhibitions. They are viewed by thousands of people per year.

Educational and Pedagogical Programme

Throughout the year, the MVC offers a number of educational and experiential programmes for schools, children's and youth groups, families with children and the general public. These include:

- Interactive programmes for schools offering a broad range of activities for kindergartens, primary and grammar schools, from lessons in the museum to various sophisticated activities.
- Summer camps for schoolchildren.
- One-off or periodical activities in the children's studio in the main building or in the Children's Playroom in the 1866 War Museum. These premises are also designed for individual children's entertainment.



– Open-air programmes for children and young people, either as part of other events or separately.

The children's digital extension to the permanent exhibition on the history of Hradec Kralove, now in preparation, will be designed for primary schools.

The Museum Advent Market is a very specific educational event with a tradition dating back more than 30 years. It is not just a simple crafts fair, but an activity for which folk craftsmen – the bearers of tradition – are selected, often also the winners of important national and international awards in traditional folk culture.

Leisure Groups, Clubs, Civil Associations

The MVC organises several long-term leisure activities for children and adults:

- The Mycological Club, run by the Regional Mycological Advisory Centre, already enjoys a great renown. Its members are both self-taught experts as well as mushrooming enthusiasts.

– The museum also traditionally holds leisure groups for children and youngsters which have taken on various forms in the past.

In addition to these, the MVC cooperates with many other associations and clubs on a regular basis. It is worth noting, for instance, its cooperation with the Senior Citizens' Club. The Museum also works closely with a number of military history clubs, military associations and volunteers, such as the 1866 War Monuments Committee, the Hradec Kralove Town Guard, the Czechoslovak Legionnaires Community, and others. They jointly organise public events, lectures, exhibitions, and also keep a geodatabase.

Lectures and Debates

To mark various occasions, the MVC holds dozens of lectures and debates, and also academic and popularising conferences and workshops for the general public. These are hosted by scientists and experts from the MVC staff and also regional, national, European and global experts.

Public Services, Expert Work and Support for Other Museums

The range of public services rendered by the MVC is broad. To name but a few:

- Archaeological services: In addition to rescue and scheduled surveys and excavations, there are legal requirements that the museum fulfils, such as issuing statements, assessments and studies for the general public and authorities.
- Regional cooperation for metal detectorists (the Find But Not Destroy programme) as a regional educational and prevention system coordinated by the MVC at the regional level.
- Expert services, namely legal assessments, cooperation with, and the issue of other statements for, the general public and authorities across all the disciplines covered by the MVC.
- Regional Mycological Advisory Centre, which helps mushroom pickers to identify what they find and regional healthcare facilities to keep people informed and safe.
- Ethnographical work, namely the documentation of folk crafts and folk culture phenomena as well as the everyday life of rural people and city-dwellers in past decades, for public administration purposes.
- Regional conservation workshops and the regional digitising centre as facilities founded by the MVC and available to all museums, galleries and similar institutions in the region, irrespective of their founder.
- The Creative Museum Science Centre, which connects schools, companies, public media, associations and NGOs with the memory institutions in the region for interdisciplinary cooperation, especially in the field of the media, exhibitions and other creative work.
- Research, library and inquiry services.
- The historical building is also used for weddings, social events, fashion shows, conferences, seminars and other events for a broad range of clients.

Library

The MVC library is a public library with a specialised collection that reflects the disciplines covered by the MVC. The library renders public information services. It has almost 100 thousand books and 700 journals. Readers have access to an online catalogue and a database in the central study room. All the library services are on-site only.

The general public can use the MVC's central study room in the Gayer Barracks, where they can peruse both the museum's collections and library books. These services include retrievals and on-demand inquiries.

Editorial and Publishing Programme, Academic Work

The MVC is the publisher of three reviewed specialised journals: *East Bohemian Archaeology*, *Acta Musei Reginaehradecensis series A*, and *Kralovehradecko*. Along with these, it also publishes many academic or popularising books.

The academic outputs of the MVC classify as university level. The staff publish their academic results in the Czech RIV system and in the worldwide Web of Science, including impacted quartiles. This comprises dozens of published articles every year.

The MVC staff regularly attend academic conferences and the museum is involved in basic and applied research grant projects. The Museum also runs its own internal grant programme. Some staff are members of the academic councils of universities and museums.

The MVC's international activities are carried out within the Erasmus+ programme, for which the MVC is accredited, and also through many bilateral and multilateral links across the whole of Europe.

Extraordinary Activities, Projects, News and Points of Interest

The MVC is a dynamic institution that presents new projects, interesting topics and ideas every few weeks. So, it's not easy to pick out the main ones.



The MVC, for instance, is the key beneficiary of the prestigious NAKI III grant. Along with the Czech Academy of Sciences and the University of Hradec Kralove, in 2023–2027 it is scheduled to carry out academic research into spa in East Bohemia and elsewhere as a historical phenomenon that shaped the landscape. The key development project for the MVC is the completion of the museum campus in the Gayer Barracks in Hradec Kralove, similar to the Viennese *MuseumQuartier*. Along with the museum's headquarters, there will be a museum of history and the natural sciences that will also offer other attractive public services. This will give the regional capital a wholly unique facility for cultural life and education.

A similar project, the Crafts Laboratory in Jaromer, could one day become the MVC's unique science centre.

Membership of Professional Organisations

The MVC is a member of the Czech section of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and of the Association of Museums and Galleries of the Czech Republic. Its employees are members of professional organisations and the museum is also a member of other organisations and dozens of expert groups and commissions.

MUSEUM AND GALLERY OF THE ORLICKE MTS. IN RYCHNOV NAD KNEZNOU



Official name: Muzeum a galerie Orlických hor v Rychnově nad Kněžnou

Address: Jiráskova 2, 516 01 Rychnov nad Kněžnou

Website: www.moh.cz

Director: Mgr. Tomáš Zelenka



Introduction

The branches and exhibitions of the Museum and Gallery of the Orlicke Mts. in Rychnov nad Kneznou (MGOH) cover the whole region, spanning from Opocno to Olesnice v Orlických horach in the west and to Rokytnice v Orlických horach in the east. Its collections present a wealth of interesting information about the history of the region as well as its natural beauty, and the often world-renowned skills of the local artisans.

Nowadays, the MGOH is a modern museum and an institution that plays a range of social roles. Its principal aim is to create and expand the collections that document the region's condition and history. The most important aspect of this is to preserve the collections in the best possible condition for future generations. The museum uses specialised repositories where the items are stored in a controlled environment, as well as its own conservation workshop which seeks to keep the items in the best possible state. The museum also engages in essential research tasks. This primarily means rescue surveys on most of the construction sites in the region and basic research, especially in botany and history. The research results are used by the museum's staff in preparing new permanent exhibitions, temporary exhibitions and lectures. The museum is also a source of secondary education for the general public, with its own public library that especially comprises books whose contents or author are related to the Orlicke Mts. They are available in the readers' room as well as for home loans. The museum also plays an important role in the field of culture, and often organises various cultural events for the general public that include exhibitions, lectures, concerts and creative workshops.

Tomáš Zelenka





MGOH Branches

Opcno No. 55 – the oldest burgher house in Opcno hosts an exhibition on the history of Opcno and the great role the town played during the establishment of the Czech state. It is mentioned in the first written records even earlier than Hradec Kralove.

Opcno Monastery – since 2022 the MGOH has run the Capuchin Monastery in Opcno. With its adjacent garden, it is an ideal place to rest, take some time out and contemplate. This early Baroque complex, built by Bernardo Minelli and funded by Ludwig Colloredo, is a typical example of 17th-century Capuchin architecture. The complex was renovated after a fire in 1733, and the cloister and Chapel of Virgin Mary were added in 1761.

Olesnice v Orlických horách – one of the most unique exhibits of the MGOH's collections, Utz's mechanical nativity scene, can be seen in the village council building. It was built as a smaller copy of the Probst's renowned nativity scene in Trebechovice. It has a more elaborate mechanism, making the movement of the figurines more refined.

Rychnov nad Knežnou – the MGOH's headquarters are located on the second floor of the former Kolowrat Chateau, along with the collections, offices, main exhibition rooms and the Orlicke Mts. Gallery. The main exhibition rooms house a permanent

exhibition on the Rychnov region. The gallery presents a permanent exhibition of painting in the Orlicke Mts. and other themed exhibitions. There is also a synagogue in the town, offering an exhibition on Judaism in the Orlicke Mts., as well as a memorial to Karel Polacek, a well-known writer.

Lace Museum in Vamberk – while automobiles are now the region's main export commodity, East Bohemia was once famous worldwide especially for bobbin lacing. The local lace quickly became renowned throughout the world, and Vamberk was the "capital". The town still has a lace-making school. The museum exhibition presents the history and present of bobbin lacing. Museum visitors have the chance to try making their own lace.

Rokytnice v Orlických horách – the mid-19th century historical granary now houses an exhibition showing how man's life was closely linked with the mountains. It is the only local exhibition on the Orlicke Mts. and is designed to suit families with children as well as individual visitors. It includes a number of interactive and fun exhibits. The Crafts Workshop, designed for youngsters, gives children the chance to try out the types of work that their grandfathers did to earn a living.

Organisation

The organisational chart of the MGOH is based on the museum's basic functions and the need to manage several exhibitions in different towns. Its branches are the primary organisational units, each with its own head. Besides these, the MGOH has a collection care department which supervises the repositories, administers loans and is in charge of the conservation and restoration of the collection. The academic research department is the largest in terms of staffing, and controls the specialised sections – archaeology, history and botany. The last unit is the finance and facility management department, which is particularly responsible for accounting, HR and asset management.

Collections

The foundations of the MGOH's collections were laid more than a hundred years ago, at the time the first museums were emerging in East Bohemia. Just like in many other regions, the first museum-like collections founded here were influenced by the 1891 Jubilee Exhibition and the Czech-Slavic Ethnographic Exhibition of 1895, and would later become the collections of town and municipal museums. Over time, the collections of these museums in the Rychnov district were merged during the restructuring of the museum network, to form the collections of the Museum of the Orlicke Mts., which became the MGOH we see today. Its extensive collections are therefore made up of several tens of thousands of items. Besides the general collections typical for regional museums, there is a wholly unique collection of bobbin lacing, an industry closely linked especially to the town of Vamberk. Other exceptional collections comprise old prints – cantastoria, reverse glass paintings, a collection of graphic art by the prominent painter and ethnographer Josef Korejz Blatinsky, and the ornithological collection of the taxidermist Karel Plachetka. The MGOH's collections are continuously expanding through acquisitions, donations and items it obtains itself. Its archaeological collection is the quickest to expand at present.

Educational Programme

Education is one of the MGOH's important tasks. Besides general educational activities such as organising exhibitions, the museum has recently focused more on cooperation with schools and strives to inspire young people. The educational staff prepare programmes for schools, children's camps and similar groups. The themes of some of these programmes are linked to the museum's temporary exhibitions, while others are conceived as long-term and accompany the permanent exhibitions. An overview of all these activities is published every year in a catalogue for schools, with the programmes designed with the pupils' ages and the school term in mind. The new and developing concept of the museum's educational programme is based on mobile lectures. Some programmes are no longer bound to a specific exhibition but can be held in schools or other suitable places. Complementary educational programmes for the general public comprise creative workshops, guided tours of exhibitions, excursions and debates, held in all of the museum's exhibitions.

Lectures and Debates

Lectures and debates are traditional and regular features in the MGOH's programme. Visitors have a choice of academic lectures, debates with interesting personalities, and travelogues. One exceptional series of lectures is called Academic Thursdays in the Synagogue and focuses on the popularisation of science. These lectures are given in the Rychnov synagogue, thereby symbolically reinstating one of its original roles, i.e. as a place of education. The museum seeks to engage prominent scientists and leading Czech science promoters for these lectures. The other, somewhat less traditional type of lectures are Botanical Walks, with the landscape of the Orlicke Mts. and the broader Podorlicko region taking the place of the lecture hall. These are regular field excursions led by the museum's botanist, who presents some of the region's more interesting and otherwise important plants in selected sites.



Public Services

The range of services rendered to the general public is typical for a regional museum. It particularly includes the research service, allowing private researchers to study the museum's collections. The museum's expert staff provide consultancy in their respective disciplines. The archaeological service in the whole Rychnov nad Kneznou district is the most visible of these. The museum's archaeologists supervise important field works which are sometimes followed by rescue surveys, and issue expert assessments and statements.

Library

The MGOH library is a specialised library that is open to the public. Its collection of several thousand books mainly includes old prints and books whose contents or author relate to the Orlicke Mts. and the Podorlicko region. The library also acquires academic publications in selected sciences, especially history, for the needs of its expert staff.

Editorial and Publishing Programme

Academic articles are one of the key outcomes of the museum staff's research activity. They are published in various journals and proceedings, often highly specialised. Most of the academic papers published by the museum are on the subject of botany. Besides this, the museum also occasionally publishes more extensive publications or proceedings. As regards periodicals, the museum publishes the Orlicke Mts. and Podorlicko annual journal, which presents the results of amateur as well as academic research.

Participation in Conferences

Participation in conferences and expert seminars is part of the work of the museum's expert staff. Together with the Villa Nova association from Uhrinov, the MGOH organises the regular seminar entitled Reconstruction and Presentation of Archaeological Sites. It is a three-day meeting of amateurs and experts in Destne v Orlických horách. Lectures, workshops and informal debates serve as a means for them to share experience especially in experimental archaeology.

Membership of Professional Organisations

The MGOH's staff are members of various expert commissions and advisory bodies. As an institution, the museum is a member of the Association of Museums and Galleries of the Czech Republic.

MUSEUM OF THE NACHOD REGION



Official name: Muzeum Náchodska
Address: Masarykovo náměstí 1, 547 01 Náchod
Website: www.muzeumnachodska.cz
Director: Mgr. Oldřich Schejbal



Introduction

The Museum of the Nachod Region boasts a long tradition dating as far back as 1879, which makes it one of the oldest Czech museums. Over time, it has amassed almost 80 thousand collection items and 16 thousand books, and treats them all as the region's treasures.

I see the Museum of the Nachod Region as a network of branches that capture the memory of the region and make it an experience available to all local residents as well as visitors, as well as a reputable partner for local governments, organisations, associations and active individuals, and an essential part of the prestigious Hradec Kralove Region brand.

The Nachod Region, or Nachodsko, is a geographical and cultural gateway on the boundary of the two different worlds it connects. The Museum of the Nachod Region hosts eight exhibitions at four different sites. Its logo is one of the legacies of the previous management that I am proud to preserve and follow up on. The logo shows four gates arranged into a four-pointed star, with each point representing one of the museum's sites. I also see the symbol of the gate as an invitation to visit this museum, which seeks to be a modern institution for as broad a visitor base as possible. The gates of the Museum of the Nachod Region are wide open for everyone!

Oldřich Schejbal



Branches

The museum hosts eight exhibitions at four sites. The permanent exhibition in Brouckuv House in Nachod is focused on the history of the town and its environs. It also aptly presents the history of the whole region and its inhabitants from prehistoric times to the early 21st century. A grand project is now being planned to restore this house and revert it to how it looked around the year 1900. A new permanent exhibition will be designed in the future.

The Dobrosov Fortress, now a National Cultural Monument, is part of the interwar border fortification system designed to protect the valleys near Nachod, and was reopened in 2022 after an extensive three-year reconstruction project. There is now a new visitor centre with an interactive exhibition, where visitors can watch a film about the fort or enjoy the underground premises with their modern lighting system.

Three branches are in Hronov: The birthplace of the writer Alois Jirasek, the Jiraskovo Museum, and now also the Former Capek Paper Mill. The birthplace of the writer Alois Jirasek is a timbered house, a fine example of rural architecture. The Alois Jirasek Museum is a modern piece of architecture, housed in a remarkable theatre building, also named after Hronov's most well-known native. The recently inaugurated exhibition in Capek's Mill is dedicated to famous figures from Hronov including the Capek siblings, well-known writers who spent their childhood in their grandparents' mill.

The old Drevenka school is situated in Police nad Metuji, in a timbered building dating back to 1785. The exhibition includes a school classroom and the teacher's apartment. The Benedictine Monastery in the same town houses another of the museum's exhibitions, the abbot's apartment and two audiovisual exhibitions. A new exhibition was inaugurated in early 2023, focusing on folk religion in the Kladske Pomezí region and the history of Police nad Metuji.

The Exhibition Hall in Nachod, housed in the Neo-Renaissance former mutual savings bank, is used for temporary exhibitions. The Old Town Hall, the seat of most of the museum's offices and that of the director, includes a library and study room. Various lectures and workshops are also held here.

Collections

The extensive collections of the Museum of the Nachod Region were built up both by the museum itself and as the result of an administrative merger of several municipal museums – on top of the existing branches, these also included the museums in Cervený Kostelec and Nove Mesto nad Metuji. There is an archaeological sub-collection dating back to 1879 – the oldest subcollection in the museum, an ethnographic collection with almost three hundred reverse glass paintings, historical furniture, militaria, a numismatic collection, a collection of seals and signets, historical textiles and clothes, various pottery, porcelain and glass objects, collections of crafts and the history of technology, fine arts, photographs, manuscripts and documents. Other items relate to how our ancestors spent their leisure time and childhood.

Educational Programme

The new educational programmes are designed to appeal to a wide range of visitors. The museum also strives to offer activities to attract new groups of potential visitors.

The educational programmes most frequently attended are currently Prehistory (held in Nachod) and How They Used to Live and Learn (in Police nad Metuji).

Leisure Groups, Clubs, Civil Associations

The Museum of the Nachod Region seeks to be a reputable partner for various interest organisations, associations, clubs and individuals. It offers its premises to some of them for short-term events and helps to prepare them, including the Studio of Painters and Graphic Artists of Nachod, the Nachod Photo Club, and the “Made in Hronov” association. In cooperation with the Guild of Handmaking Maidens, an association that seeks to preserve old crafts, the museum holds events in the old Drevenka school in Police nad Metuji. The Dobrosov Military History Association runs the “N-S 78 Poland” site, a part of Czechoslovakia's interwar fortification system, open to the public on selected state holidays.

Since 1998, the Young Historian's Club at the Decko Leisure Centre in Nachod has been led by a museum worker. Some of its participants have already become professional archaeologists and historians.

Lectures and Debates

Every month except the summer holidays, the museum holds Museum Sessions, which are lectures and debates on various topics relating to history, the natural sciences and current events. During the year the museum prepares several creative workshops, such as Easter in the Museum and Christmas in the Museum. Workshops focused on various techniques and products are also held in Hronov and Police nad Metuji. The museum staff give lectures, for instance at the Leisure Time University in Police nad Metuji and Nachod Library. In cooperation with the Czech Agricultural University and the town of Hronov, the museum organises virtual lectures for the University of the Third Age.

Public Services

The museum's archaeologist carries out archaeological surveys, supervision and related archaeological conservation services for the district of Nachod. The collection items and archival materials are accessible for private researchers in the museum's study room. The museum staff respond to many researcher inquiries by e-mail or telephone. Some collections are also presented online on the museum's website.

Library

The library of the Museum of the Nachod Region is accessible on-site for the general public. It offers documents of a regional character, especially in the fields of history, natural and cultural heritage, works by important writers linked to the region, historical prints, manuscripts and documents that relate to the museum's expert work, mostly history, archaeology, numismatics, ethnography, crafts, architecture, fine and applied arts and museum science. The library's catalogue is available online.

Editorial and Publishing Programme

The museum is the publisher of a periodical (*Nachod Museum Newspapers*) and one-off publications mostly relating to the region's history.



Participation in Conferences

The museum's expert staff regularly attend disciplinary conferences focused on historical topics, conservation, restoration, archaeology, education and public relations.

Extraordinary Activities, Projects, News and Points of Interest

The museum's location in the border region offers ideal conditions for cooperation with Polish partners. Joint projects have been implemented with the Muzeum Ziemi Klodzkiej and the Muzeum Kultury Ludowej Pogorza Sudeckiego.

The museum now hosts, or is preparing, a number of new exhibitions. After three years of reconstruction, the Dobrosov Fortress was opened for visitors in 2022. A brand-new visitor centre with an interactive exhibition was built. A more conservative, yet modern exhibition was prepared for the Former Capek Paper Mill in Hronov, where prominent figures from Hronov are presented in the form of street art. A new exhibition was inaugurated in 2023 in the monastery in Police nad Metuji. The museum is also working on a new educational strategy which should be followed by a new public development strategy and PR work.

Membership of Professional Organisations

The museum is a member of the Association of Museums and Galleries of the Czech Republic. The staff are individual members of organisations and boards relating to their specialisation – the International Centre for Archival Research, East Bohemian Archaeological Commission, etc.

REGIONAL MUSEUM AND GALLERY IN JICIN



Official name: Regionální muzeum a galerie v Jičíně
Address: Valdštejnovo nám. 1, 506 01, Jičín
Website: www.muzeumhry.cz/en
Director: PhDr. Michal Babík



Introduction

The regional Museum and Gallery in Jicin is a regional ethnographic museum. It has been open constantly since its establishment in the mid-1880s, even though it has had to move several times. It finally settled in the Jicin palace in 1948. It includes a gallery, which was initially the independent Jicin Gallery of Fine Arts from 1965 to 1986.

The institution is active in the Jicin region and seeks to serve its regional purpose in many different ways – by providing archaeological services, working with towns and villages, publishing and organising an exhibition programme and, last but not least, offering educational activities with an impact on the broader region.

In the new millennium, it has profiled itself as an interactive museum, describing itself as a “museum of play”. This concept is primarily reflected in the permanent exhibition, which does more than just provide brief information, offering a wealth of interactive features. The concept of play is multi-faceted: the museum aims to make games seen in a broader light, as playing with information, perception and discovery. The concept is therefore reflected in the dramaturgy of short-term exhibitions, the educational programme, and also promotional activities.

Michal Babík





Headquarters

The headquarters are in the Jicin palace, which also houses the permanent exhibition, directorate, offices, staff workshops, repositories and the gallery, which is used for short-term museum as well as gallery exhibitions.

Branches

The premises in Robousy, near Jicin, comprise a former rectory building and a new repository, built in 2020–2021. The repository is the central storage facility for the museum's collections and also houses the archaeological laboratory.

Organisation

The museum currently has more than 20 full-time employees. Besides the finance and exhibition departments, it has an archaeological office and the departments of the historian, ethnographer, natural scientist, art historian and librarian. The expert staff further comprises a museum educator and two conservationists, specialising in metal and wood.

Activities

Besides its permanent exhibitions, the museum usually holds 11 temporary exhibitions each year. They are mostly dedicated to various regional themes and artists.

Various other activities are designed to present or popularise regional topics and take on the form of lectures, debates, educational programmes, guided tours of exhibitions and a publishing programme. The museum is also the official provider of archaeological surveys for the district of Jicin.

Collections

The museum keeps more than 120 thousand items in several sub-collections: archaeology, history, the natural sciences and photography. The museum is also pro-actively involved in the administration of collections of nearby towns and villages.

Educational Programme

The educational programme is broad in scope and involves cooperation with kindergartens, primary and grammar schools throughout the entire Jicin region. This involves guided tours of exhibitions, lectures, creative workshops and other activities. Educational series for schools are of exceptional importance and have had a long tradition. They aim to give children an insight into the history, culture and nature of Jicin, as well as the museum itself.

Cooperation with Other Institutions

The Jicin museum actively collaborates with many public and non-profit organisations, primarily including municipal and regional museums in the Hradec Kralove Region, the town of Jicin and the State District Actives of Jicin. The cooperation with the Pekar Society of the Bohemian Paradise has had a long tradition.

Public Services

The museum hosts a permanent exhibition and temporary exhibitions. Guided tours of the Wallenstein palace and the historical centre of the town are available in the high season. Various public events are held that are linked to the museum's expert work, such as Birdsong Day, International Archaeology Day, International Architecture Day, Café Museum and others.

Library

The museum also includes a library and study room. Besides specialised books, the library holds more than 5000 regional items, as well as some manuscripts, old prints and a collection of religious and secular songs. The catalogue is accessible online.

Editorial and Publishing Programme

The museum is the publisher of *Museum News*, a periodical focused on the history, culture and nature of one specific village in the region of Jicin in each issue. Together with the Museum of the Bohemian Paradise in Turnov and the State District Archives in Semily, the museum is also involved in the publication of the yearbook called *From the Bohemian Paradise and the Krkonose Foothills*. Besides these periodicals, the museum also publishes monographs, exhibition catalogues and various editions every year.

Promotional Programme

In recent years, the museum has been making an exceptional series of short promotional videos that help raise awareness of its brand. The museum has already won several awards at the MUSAIONfilm festival in Uherske Hradiste for these videos, and was also awarded at a European museum film festival in Paris. In the spirit of the museum of play, the museum strives to make its promotional activities creative and inventive, too.

Extraordinary Activities, Projects, News and Points of Interest

The museum has hosted some extraordinarily successful events in recent years, especially the highly successful exhibition of the Forman Brothers' Theatre – *Imaginary Stables*, held in the gallery in 2018 and making creative use of the former stables as well as developing specific forms of imagination.

The museum has recently launched work on its new permanent exhibition. It is also preparing a comic-book story on the history of the Jicin region as an important long-term project.

Membership of Professional Organisations

The museum is a member of the Association of Museums and Galleries of the Czech Republic and its director is the chairman of the Hradec Kralove regional section of the Association. Its employees are members of other associations and commissions. The museum is also a member of the International Committee of Museums (ICOM).



PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATIONS

ARCHAEOLOGY

The Archaeology Park in Vsestary

THEATRES

The Drak Theatre and the International Institute of Figural Theatre

The Klicpera Theatre

MUSIC

The Hradec Kralove Philharmonic Orchestra

THE ARCHAEOLOGY PARK IN VSESTARY



Introduction

The Prehistoric Archaeology Park in Vsestary is a dream come true in presenting prehistoric times. People tend to read less today, which is why an exhibition was created which strives to present the prehistoric era without too much jargon but in a way that is as illustrative as possible, with an extraordinary model of the landscape, replicas of tools free of the patina of the ages, in an open-air museum and especially with an emphasis on the archaeological experiment visitors encounter here. This includes making pottery vessels, casting bronze and fashioning stone tools. Many of our projects are wholly original and provide a hands-on and authentic insight into prehistorical times. The Archaeology Park does not shy away from augmented reality, but I believe that people keep coming here because of what they can really touch and feel.

The Archaeology Park mainly consists of an outdoor and indoor part. The open-air museum comprises various types of prehistoric houses (a pit-house, posthole house, timbered house) and examples of workshops (a blacksmith's, potter's and bronze-worker's workshop, pottery kilns), as well as forms of burials and gatherings and ritual sites (a rondel, cultic tree). The roofed excavation site gives an insight into the sources on which archaeologists draw their conclusions. Most of the models of weapons and tools are presented in the indoor part of the exhibition, the three storeys of which represent the basic worlds of the natural nations – the underworld, the earth and the sky. They portray the life

of prehistoric people and present a general overview of the prehistoric age and the sources of our knowledge of it. The building also includes an exhibition hall that presents the results of our stone-working experiments, as well as the findings of the archaeological survey and excavations that preceded the construction of the motorway between Hradec Králové and Jaromer, the most extensive field work project in the whole of the Hradec Králové region.

The Archaeology Park strives to attract two target groups – the general public and school excursions. However, one cannot work without the other. Pupils come time and time again – with their parents, grandparents or friends. We are glad they do, as the realistic exhibition design makes it interesting for visitors of all ages. An important role is played by the Archaeology Park's staff, who provide a quick overview of the exhibition or offer additional information. I taught many of today's teachers who come with their pupils, and many people have heard about our projects in the media. Nevertheless, it is important to come here and see them in place, a "prehistorical" setting. The outdoor and indoor exhibitions are designed to leave a lasting impression, something visitors remember for some time after they leave. That insistent feeling that the lives of our ancestors were not in vain, that we can still learn something from them, today perhaps even far more than ever before, and that we should be glad for the times we live in. And that means a lot.

Radomír Tichý



Official name: Archeopark Všešary, o. p. s.

Address: Všešary 238, 503 12 Všešary (near Hradec Králové)

Website: www.archeoparkvsešary.cz

Director: doc. PhDr. Radomír Tichý, Ph.D.

Organisation

The Archaeology Park has a director and four other employees.

Collections

The Archaeology Park's collections comprise replicas of prehistoric artefacts and (re)constructions of prehistoric dwellings.

Educational Programme

These programmes are primarily targeted at school excursions. They help the teacher to introduce the topic of prehistory in an authentic setting. When booking, the teachers select the main topic of the session to help build on the classroom lessons. The programme includes hands-on and visual components to make the information easier to remember. Excursions are held on weekdays from April to June and from September to December.

Leisure Groups, Clubs, Civil Associations

The Association of Experimental Archaeology was established in 1993 as an association of enthusiasts in archaeological experiment projects.

Public Services

The Archaeology Park is open at weekends from spring to autumn, and every day except Mondays in July and August for the other target group, the general public. In the past, the programme used to include an event called Live Archaeology Days. In recent years, however, it has proven less than ideal to set a fixed schedule for visitors. That is why less extensive permanent programmes have been set up, following the rule that there should not be a single day without live demonstrations for visitors.

Conferences

We attend a seminar entitled Reconstruction of Archaeological Sites in Destne v Orlických horách every year.

Membership of Professional Organisations

Our Archaeology Park is one of the founding members of the European Association of Archeoparks, EXARC.



Extraordinary Activities, Projects, News and Points of Interest

Some projects extend beyond the Archaeology Park in Vsestary, as they have to be held elsewhere. A good example of this is the series of Monoxylon expeditions, i.e. experimental sailing on the Mediterranean in a boat fashioned from a hollowed-out log. While the results are published in books and in the media, the Archaeology Park gives you the chance to see the real boats on which we sailed hundreds of kilometres across the seas. Three expeditions have taken place so far, and it is possible that there will be others. There's still certainly still a lot to learn.

There is another project set outside the Archaeology Park, when we collect raw materials to craft cut stone tools from various locations around the country. Neolithic and Chalcolithic axes, adzes and axe-hammers make up a substantial proportion of the items in our museums' collections, but we are trying to gain a better understanding of how they were made and used, and thus also why they were so prestigious in the prehistoric community. For this purpose, we make whetstones, hand-axes, scrapers and bores, and we polish, drill and cut tools in the same way as in the Upper and Late Stone Age. The first, expert part of this experiment is designed only for professionals, while the other part is open to the general public.



THE DRAK THEATRE AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FIGURAL THEATRE



Official name: Divadlo Drak a Mezinárodní institut figurálního divadla, o. p. s.
Address: Hradební 632, 500 03 Hradec Králové
Website: www.draktheatre.cz/en
Director: MgA. Tomáš Jarkovský



Introduction

The Drak ("Dragon") is a traditional Hradec Kralove-based theatre whose creative work has always stemmed not only from the tradition of (East) Bohemian puppetry but also from the authors' original work for children and adults built on imagination and fresh inventiveness. Throughout its history, the Drak Theatre has often pioneered new methods and creative processes, and has received many awards at home and abroad. During the sixty years of its existence, its performances have been seen by audiences in more 650 towns and villages in 38 countries spanning five continents (Europe, Asia, Australia, North and South America). These countries have a total population of 1 571 275 thousand, which is some 21% of the world's population who speak 34 different official languages. They occupy 59 425 774 sq. km, or some 12% of the Earth's surface or 40% of its land mass. The total of distances of their capitals from Hradec Kralove is 119 155 km, or approximately three times the length of the Equator, or 200 thousand times the distance between the Drak Theatre and the theatre dormitory in Tomkova St. or the Na Hrade restaurant.

The theatre specialises in performances that are designed for children and young people and treat their audiences with respect, do not patronise them or pander to them, but instead engage them in an open partnership dialogue. We are proud heirs of the puppet tradition, and therefore believe that it is one of our principal duties to keep this legacy alive and inspiring, thereby ensuring the further development of puppetry. But at the same time we feel part of the alternative theatre movement, and alternative trends are a lasting source of inspiration for our

work. This is how we want to address the widest children's and young audiences, including specific groups such as teenagers. We also accept broader responsibility for the discipline of puppetry as a whole, and therefore besides our own creative work, we collaborate with educational institutions (KALD DAMU, KVD DAMU, JAMU and others) and independent ensembles. We organise internships for students, and offer independent ensembles opportunities as part of our art residency programme. Our key activities regarding art schools also include the Gaudeamus Theatrum, i.e. regular international meetings of art school students, in cooperation with the KALD DAMU, and a project entitled Klinika (The Clinic).

The sophisticated concept of our exhibition and educational programmes is also intended to give our audiences and visitors an opportunity outside the world of the theatre and offer space and guidance for their own creative self-fulfilment. Another of our aims is to pro-actively initiate dialogue with members of public who are parents and especially teachers, and offer and join them in seeking various ways in which the Drak Theatre as an open cultural institution can support their counselling and educational efforts.

As an institution, we also play an important international role. We intend to further develop our international relations through active involvement in festivals and theatres abroad as well as by co-organising the festival Regions – the Hradec Kralove International Theatre Festival.

Tomáš Jarkovský



Locations

The Drak Theatre has two permanent stages. The main one with the traditional Italian (portal-and-curtain) design is in the original historical building and has 164 seats. The building opposite, called Labyrint, was opened in 2010 and features a studio stage, conceived as a variable black box theatre, with a capacity of around 80 seats depending on the performance-specific layout. The theatre also has its own circus tent that can be blacked out. The Labyrint includes a two-storey exhibition space, first floor of which houses a permanent exhibition called The Story of the Drak, 1958–2018, while the second floor is home to a series of temporary exhibitions, along with the interactive Theatre Laboratory and facilities for the lecturing department.

The Drak Theatre also performs a considerable number of shows throughout the whole of the Czech Republic and abroad.

Organisation

The Drak Theatre is a full-fledged repertoire theatre with its own artistic ensemble and complete organisational and technical facilities, with the director as the statutory body. It has three departments: art and equipment, finance and facility management, and marketing and production.

Within the theatre's internal organisational structure, the International Institute of Figural Theatre is the organiser of activities relating to various forms of education, and puts on experimental art projects, exhibitions, internships and art residencies. As a sideline, it runs the Amatka guesthouse.

Collections

The Drak Theatre has an extensive archive, a lavish array of stage props and a valuable collection of puppets from its historical performances.

Educational Programme

The theatre's lecturing department was established in 2014. Its principal aim is to seek new ways of combining art and education, and especially raising awareness amongst its audiences, from children to adults. The lecturing programme includes various forms of support or creative and learning programmes for teachers, school groups and the general public.

Detailed methodological instructions are available for every show and exhibition and are designed to aid teachers in their lessons. We offer a comprehensive range of workshops, some of which are directly linked to the theatre's repertoire while others seek to present more general topics relating to drama, and arts and creative work as such in the broader context. There are various creative programmes available to the general public, as both regular and one-off events. The regular events that attract the highest numbers of visitors are a series of creative afternoons called Nedelani, as well as Dracteni, the summer adventure Following the Story of Drak, Theatre Night, Museum Night, Literature Night and others. A lecturing programme always accompanies every exhibition held in the Labyrint.

In summer, Drak organises a series of children's summer camps. A children's theatre ensemble is led by the theatre staff all year round.

Conferences

The Drak Theatre is a regular guest at many international festivals here and abroad. Our staff attend and lecture at conferences on puppet theatre, theatre for children and young people, and alternative theatre. The theatre also hosts conferences and panels, especially in connection with extensive long-term projects such as the Regions festival, the Gaudeamus Theatrum students' meeting, and Klinika.

Extraordinary Activities, Projects, News and Points of Interest

The Regions – Hradec Kralove International Theatre Festival (formerly known as the Theatre of European Regions and Open Air Programme) is one of Hradec Kralove's leading cultural events and the largest theatre show in the Czech Republic. The Drak Theatre organises it together with the Klicpera Theatre and the

“kontrapunkt” NGO. The festival showcases some exceptional theatre experiences at the end of the theatre season. Its dramaturgy presents a cross-section of the contemporary Czech theatre scene, from amateur ensembles, through students’ performances and independent professional ensembles, to performances staged by renowned Czech theatres. Besides this, it presents original performances each year that are acclaimed on the international scene, with their staging in Hradec Kralove often being the first in the Czech Republic.

The international meeting of art university students, Gaudeamus Theatrum, held by the Drak Theatre in cooperation with the DAMU Department of Alternative and Puppet Theatre, is an extraordinary event that now has a strong tradition. It has long played a major role in presenting Czech theatre abroad, establishing new links with the emerging generation of authors and sharing theatre experience and new approaches in alternative and puppet theatre in the international context. Every year the meeting is attended by students of dramatic art universities, such as JAMU in Brno, VSMU in Bratislava, the State University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart (Germany), the Department of Puppet-Theatre Arts in Białystok (Poland), the Aleksander Zelwerowicz National Academy of Dramatic Art in Warsaw, University of Art in Targu-Mures (Romania), and the School of Visual Theatre in Jerusalem.

“Klinika” is a joint project of the Drak Theatre and the DAMU Department of Drama in Education. Its aim is to develop and verify in practice a new type of school facility for students of artistic disciplines. The project was inspired by clinical facilities for pedagogical or medical faculties. In this project, the Drak Theatre provides all-year support for the students as well as practical stimuli for their studies. It offers topics for their seminar or graduation theses whose practical parts can be completed in the theatre itself. The project culminates every year in the Clinical Week at the Drak, where students and their teachers learn about theatre practice and the theatre’s various sections, and attend themed lectures and workshops.

A programme of internships and art residencies is prepared for art school students. It is also open to independent alternative theatre ensembles.

We organise a “welcome new babies” event together with the Municipal Council of Hradec Kralove.

We also provide space and equipment for other important events, such as the AUDIMAFOR amateur theatre shows, the East Bohemian Puppet Show and Children’s Theatre (in cooperation with the Community Arts Centre), the Entrée for Dance festival (with HKVS), Jazz Goes to Town (kontrapunkt), the Inter-regional “Otevreno” show (European Centre of Pantomime for the Deaf), the Prkna music theatre festival for student ensembles (Hudebni mladez CR) and others. We work closely with the Amatka Family Centre, which is based in our premises.

Membership of Professional Organisations

The Drak Theatre is a member of the international organisations UNIMA (International Puppetry Association) and ASSITEJ (International Association of Theatre and Performing Arts for Children and Young People), as well as the Czech Association of Professional Theatres and Association of Theatre Lecturers. The Labyrint is a member of the international network Hands on! International Association of Children in Museum, and the Czech Association of Museums and Galleries.



THE KLICPERA THEATRE



Introduction

The Klicpera Theatre in Hradec Kralove is a highly respected professional theatre with a tradition that goes back more than 130 years. It is named after Vaclav Kliment Klicpera, a dramatist who worked in Hradec Kralove. The theatre has had a professional ensemble since 1949, and its heyday came after 1989 when it was declared Czech Theatre of the Year four times in a prestigious poll held by the Endowment for the Alfred Radok Awards.

The Klicpera Theatre is a founder of the Regions festival, now held for more than 30 years and considered the greatest theatre show in the Czech Republic. Another traditional event is Waiting for Vaclav, held every autumn.

The theatre's foyer houses the U Klicperu Gallery which prepares a series of exhibitions by painters, graphic artists and sculptors for every theatre season. The Klicpera Theatre is highly popular not only on its home stage. Its dramaturgy appeals to a wide range of audiences. It often gives performances at prestigious festivals in the Czech Republic and abroad as a representative of Czech theatre culture. The ensemble prepares six to seven premieres a year.

Why should you visit the Klicpera Theatre? Unlike film or TV, the theatre is a unique spectator experience. The genuine magic of theatre lies in the synergy between the actors on the stage and the audience. Come and see for yourself. We're looking forward to meeting you in the Klicpera Theatre!

Eva Mikulková

Official name: Klicperovo divadlo, o. p. s.
Address: Dlouhá 99/9, 500 03 Hradec Králové
Website: www.klicperovodivadlo.cz
Director: Ing. Eva Mikulková



Locations

The ensemble uses four halls – the main one, to seat 382 people, and the more intimate “Attic”, with 50 seats in the main building, the summer venue with 300 seats, and Studio Beseda with 130 seats in another building. The finance department is in a separate location and is where tickets are sold and small-scale debates and press conferences can be held. The theatre also runs its own costume hire for the public.

Organisation

Liker some other cultural institutions in Hradec Kralove, the Klicpera Theatre has the status of a public benefit corporation. It has a director with four deputies, who are in charge of the artistic leadership, equipment and art production, finance and facility management, and PR and promotion, and work closely together. The key document for the theatre is the dramaturgical plan (premiere schedule), prepared by the artistic leader and the dramaturges. This determines the budget for the shows and the production plan, as the theatre produces all of its sets and costumes in its own workshops. The everyday running of the theatre is defined primarily by the rehearsals and performances schedule, prepared by the secretary of the artistic ensemble in cooperation with the sales department.

Collections

The Klicpera Theatre primarily uses its large stock of stage props, including costumes, props, furniture and sceneries. This helps to reduce the costs of new shows and also serves as a source of historical or unusual objects that would otherwise be very hard or costly to get. The theatre also keeps a collection of photographs of its shows from 1949, when the professional ensemble was set up, to the present day.

Educational Programme

The Klicpera Theatre is proud to continue the important work of educating new generations of students. Regular visits to the theatre give them a wide cultural insight and familiarise them with pivotal works of Czech and world literature that are, and always will be part of the Klicpera Theatre’s dramaturgical concept. Cooperation with schools has a clear aim – to work

together to educate new generations of audiences for whom attending a theatre performance, just like a concert or an exhibition, will be a natural part of their social life.

The Klicpera Theatre also enables drama students of art schools to perform on the theatre’s stages during the Regions festival.

Public Services

The Klicpera Theatre is essentially a “public corporation medium”, and its aim is to maintain as wide range of audiences as possible, spanning all social and sociological echelons. Its motto is therefore “Your theatre is here for you”, conveying the idea of being as open as possible. The Klicpera Theatre strives to offer a show to appeal to every spectator.

A modern theatre should not restrict itself to mere theatre shows, and the Klicpera Theatre therefore also “opens up to the street”, i.e. for audiences who do not come to see its performances. The theatre attracts these visitors with regular exhibitions in the foyer, behind-the-scenes tours, and concerts. It also runs a costume hire shop.

Editorial and Publishing Programme

The Klicpera Theatre hosts six to seven premieres every theatre season. A printed programme is published for every premiere in the form of a 16-page brochure, containing the dramaturgical introduction to the show. These leaflets can be bought before every performance for 19 CZK.

During the pandemic, the publishing programme was also moved online, and a new feature called Sweat&Greasepaint is published as audio podcasts with occasional bonus videos. These podcasts, featuring a range of interesting guests, seek to present some of the topics dealt with in the Klicpera Theatre’s shows.

Extraordinary Activities, Projects, News, Points of Interest

The Klicpera Theatre is an organiser of two great festivals, important in the Czech as well as international context and with a long tradition. The Regions festival, held in June (formerly the Theatre of European Regions), is a unique event in Central Europe. The Waiting for Vaclav festival, held in the autumn, is an



opportunity to see the best shows from the previous season in theatres in the Czech Republic and Slovakia in a short space of time. Both festivals are important cultural events for the entire region and in the coming seasons will serve their main purpose – the chance for people from different cultures to meet and share various opinions on a democratic platform, which is what theatre undoubtedly is.

Besides these festivals, the theatre also supports other important events and projects. A happening held in the early evening of 17 November in front of the main building and indoors to commemorate the events of 1939 and 1989 has now become a tradition.

Another important event is the Theatre Night, which the Klicpera theatre has participated in since it was first held in the Czech Republic. It is part of the European Theatre Night project launched in 2008 as the Noc kazalista show in Croatia. The idea of a joint celebration of theatres has expanded over

time into more than a dozen European countries, and in the Czech Republic it is the greatest project as part of European Theatre Night.

Membership of Professional Organisations

The Klicpera Theatre is a member of the Association of Professional Theatres, which seeks to foster mutual cooperation and enable assistance between all of its members. The Association provides space for statutory representatives to consult one another, share information on the work of the member theatres and exchange experience.

THE HRADEC KRALOVE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA



Official name: Filharmonie Hradec Králové, o. p. s.
Address: Eliščíno nábřeží 777, 500 03 Hradec Králové
Website: www.fhk.cz
Director: Bc. Vladimír Šrámek



Introduction

The Hradec Kralove Philharmonic Orchestra (FHK) was established in 1978 as the Hradec Kralove City Orchestra, and was renamed one year later as the Symphony Orchestra Hradec Kralove and in 1987 as the State Symphony Orchestra Hradec Kralove. Upon the establishment of the Czech Republic (1 January 1993) it was renamed the Hradec Kralove Philharmonic Orchestra, pointing to a historical continuity spanning through the Sokol Movement Philharmonic Orchestra in Hradec Kralove (1921–1965) as far back as the Philharmonic Union from 1887. The period of its major artistic development is linked to Professor Frantisek Vajnar, who was the orchestra's principal conductor continuously from 1991 to 2001, after which he was appointed conductor of honour. From 2001 to 2012, the principal conductor was Ondrej Kukal, followed by Andreas Sebastian Weiser from 2012 to 2018. Since the 2018/2019 season, the orchestra has been led by renowned Swiss conductor Kaspar Zehnder.

The Hradec Kralove Philharmonic Orchestra has performed on the stages of some of Europe's finest concert halls (Großer Musikvereinssaal in Vienna, Gewandhaus in Leipzig, Victoria Hall in Geneva, Queen Elizabeth Hall in Antwerp, Tonhalle in Düsseldorf, Neue Flora in Hamburg, KKL in Lucerne) and has also given performances in Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Holland, Poland, Austria, Spain and Switzerland.

Selected concerts are aired by Czech Television, TV Noe and Czech Radio. Proof of the quality of the orchestra's work can be

seen in the many CD recordings it has made for record labels in the Czech Republic and abroad, as well as for Czech Radio. The FHK appears at some major festivals (the Prague Spring, Smetana's Litomyšl International Opera Festival, International Music Festival Janacek's Hukvaldy, International Music Festival Cesky Krumlov and others).

Since 2005, the Hradec Kralove Philharmonic Orchestra and the Vltava station of Czech Radio have organised a unique festival entitled the Hradec Kralove Music Forum, in which the orchestra performed the Czech premieres of works by Schnittke, Penderecki, Henze, Kancheli, Gubaidulina, Corigliano, Tan Dun, Part and other composers. All the Music Forum's concerts are broadcast live by Czech Radio Vltava.

The FHK has long striven to attract younger audiences, merging musical genres and holding crossover concerts. Why should you see the FHK perform? Because it's a unique opportunity to experience the captivating sound of a symphony orchestra and immerse oneself in the incomparable atmosphere created by live contact between the composer, musician, instrument and audience. It is an exceptional opportunity to see that music is a crucial and integral part of life...

Vladimír Šrámek

Master Organ

The construction of a new master organ was already planned during the reconstruction of the new modern hall of the FHK, completed in 2005. The inauguration concert of the new organ was given in 2018. Since then, the master concert organ has offered a unique musical space that meets all the needs of concerts, shows and recordings and can be used in all music-related activities. The organ in the FHK hall allows the performance of the full range of organ compositions, including those which involve a large symphony orchestra and also other than primarily spiritual music. The instrument has a divided case on both sides of the stage portals to integrate it into the modern stage rather than dominating it. This means that staged music forms can also be performed.

Educational Programme

One of the FHK's principal tasks and aims is to offer an educational programme that gives young audiences an insight into the world of classical music. The Hradec Kralove Philharmonic Orchestra holds morning performances especially for school groups. They open with an introductory word, or are introduced by the conductor, presenter, etc. For many years now the FHK has enjoyed some very fruitful cooperation with the excellent classical music promoter and chief editor of the D-dur station of Czech Radio, Lukas Hurnik. With him, the FHK has prepared a series of 12 educational shows with a Bernstein-style take on selected compositions, entitled Classical Music Inside and Out. Lukas Hurnik breaks down and analyses well-known compositions and highlights what makes them interesting, and then presents them in their entirety to audiences that already know something about them.

The Hradec Kralove Philharmonic Orchestra also works with primary and secondary schools and invites students and pupils for tours of the building during rehearsals and preparations for concerts, and gives them the chance to attend general rehearsals. The FHK has made several enjoyable DVD recordings entitled *Get to Know Leos Janacek*. These can be used in music classes at schools.

In 2021 the FHK together with the Drak Theatre, the Klicpera Theatre, the Gallery of Modern Art, the Museum of Eastern

Bohemia and the Bio Central cinema took part in the Hradec Cultural Quest, a summer game designed to acquaint visitors with various cultural institutions in the city. The Open Days are intended for the general public.

Lectures and Debates

Those with the "white label" subscription are offered the chance to choose a debate with a music expert. This debate is always held before the concert in the FHK café. The debates have been held since 2005, are visited by at least 50 people, and are highly popular. No wonder, as Lukas Hurnik and his guests are always able to hold their audience's attention.

Younger visitors and their parents or grandparents are welcome at the Saturday afternoon concerts as "orange label" subscribers.

Public Services

The principal aim of the Hradec Kralove Philharmonic Orchestra is to develop live cultural and music heritage and make it accessible to the general public. The FHK also offers its hall in the renovated building to other agencies, companies and schools for concerts, theatre and other performances.

Sheet Music Archives

The orchestra uses its sheet music archives, now comprising almost 3000 compositions. It also uses an inter-orchestra archival loan service as part of cooperation between professional orchestras in the Czech Republic, but nevertheless has to use external publishers in order to keep its dramaturgy interesting and comply with the law.

Extraordinary Activities, Projects, News and Points of Interest

The Hradec Kralove Music Forum festival has been held since 2005 in cooperation with the Czech Radio – Vltava station. It aims to provide a prestigious collection of late 20th-century and early 21st-century compositions. The festival has already made a name for itself on the Czech music scene and is becoming increasingly popular abroad. The outstanding concerts are broadcast live by Czech Radio, or acquired by the European Broadcasting Union for its network. The festival dramaturgy is based primarily on large orchestral compositions



by contemporary composers from around the world. The music is accompanied with state-of-the-art technologies, from light design and animated sequences to video projections and contemporary dance. The festival involves cooperation with university art departments.

The Hradec Kralove Philharmonic Orchestra also helps to organise, together with the Faculty of Pedagogy of the University of Hradec Kralove and the Post Bellum association, a project called "Not Barred – Modern History in Music, Words and Pictures". The main theme of the project is as follows: Liberty and democracy are not to be taken for granted, as we can see in the world around us. Some people still strive to gain the illegitimate power to decide the fates of others. There are superficial demagogues who make promises that can't be kept, self-declared Messiahs of order who will remedy all the world's

wrongs, and authoritarian leaders with a desire to rule with a firm hand for "the good of us all".

This project aims to remind us of our historical experience and fate, and confront them with today's reality to make us better aware of how fragile and vulnerable democracy can be.

Membership of Professional Organisations

The FHK is a member of ASOPS – the Czech Association of Symphony Orchestras and Choirs.

Travelling in Search of Culture and Art

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