

Imperial visits of the Habsburgs in the collection fund of the Slovak Mining Museum in Banská Štiavnica

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The members of the Habsburg royal family visited Banská Štiavnica several times. As Banská Štiavnica belonged to a number of significant mining towns in the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy, emperors paid attention to its development and progress in mining. The imperial visits were always connected with pompous arrangements for the emperors and their entourage. Since then many collection items have been preserved and are displayed in the Kammerhof of the Slovak Mining Museum in Banská Štiavnica. The article contains the list of all collections items exhibited in the museum.

Contents

Banská Štiavnica – the centre of precious metal mining	54
Collection items from the visit in 1751	55
Collection items from the visit in 1764	59
Collection item from the visit in 1852	61
Commemorative tablets in the hereditary shaft Glanzenberg	63
Acknowledgements	64
References	64

Banská Štiavnica – the centre of precious metal mining

Precious metal extraction and processing, particularly of gold and silver, in the central Slovakia mining area was considered to be an important branch of industry in the Austrian Monarchy. It used to be a source of income of the royal treasury and, naturally, it deserved great attention from the rulers. From 1424 to the middle of the 16th century it formed a dowry of Hungarian queens. Ferdinand I Habsburg took over control of this industry from his sister Marie, a long process of mining management centralization began, as well as a process of state penetration into the sphere of precious metal processing. The process included publication of the Maximilian Mining Code in 1578 and establishment of the Main Chamber Earl Office in Banská Štiavnica at the end of the 16th century, which was subordinate to the Mining Chamber in Vienna. Development of mining towns in central Slovakia depended on the level of mining, development of mining science, technique, and later, mining education. Banská Štiavnica, like Kremnica or Banská Bystrica, played a significant role in all mentioned

branches. The towns extended their influence in the fields of industry and culture. Gradually, they became centres of spiritual and artistic life. From this point of view, the 18th century was considered a golden era, the era of the greatest development, which lasted until the middle of the 19th century with some brief interruptions.

Collection items from the visit in 1751

In order to get to know the mining regions better and with a deep interest in natural science German Emperor and co-ruler Franz Stephan von Lothringen, husband of Maria Theresia, and his entourage visited Banská Štiavnica and Kremnica, as well as some other mining centres in the neighbourhood like Štiavnické Bane, Svätý Anton and Žarnovica from 3 to 13 June 1751. Several written documents from the visits are preserved in the State Central Mining Archive and in the State Archive in Banská Bystrica, the branch in Banská Štiavnica, as well as dozens of collection items of the Slovak Mining Museum in Banská Štiavnica.

Jozef Dollenstein: portrait of Maria Theresia in life-size with coronation jewels (oil, on canvas, un-signed, 210 2 130 cm, original frame, 1751). The picture was donated to the museum in 1932 from the meeting hall in the Kammerhof in Banská Štiavnica (registration number UH-907, number of acquisition NA/2137/68). This and next two portraits were painted at request of Court Chamber Chairman Charles Ferdinand Königsegg von Rothenfelds in Vienna because of imperial visit from 3 to 13 June 1751. Nowadays, it is in the permanent exhibition of baroque art (Zedinger, 2000; Kowalska & Čelková, 2001).

Ján Jozef Dollenstein: portrait of Emperor Franz Joseph von Lothringen in life-size with coronation jewels (oil, on canvas, initials I.D. on the handle of an armchair, 210 2 130 cm, original frame, 1751, a pendant, registration number UH 908; Fig. 1).

Ján Joseph Dollenstein: portrait of Court Chamber Chairman in Vienna for mining and minting – Charles Ferdinand Königsegg von Rothenfelds (oil, on canvas, 230 2 130 cm, original frame, authors signature in the left lower corner on the ledge of pilaster: "J.J. Dollenstein pinxit 1751", registration number UH-909) (Čelková, 1994).

Austrian painter – a court replica: portrait of young Maria Theresia with coronation jewels (oil, on canvas, un-signed, 105 2 74.5 cm, without original frame, registration number 915). Nowadays, permanently exhibited in the exhibition of imperial visits on the 1st floor of the Kammerhof building. The portrait of significant art quality from the time of Maria Theresia's coronation to become a Hungarian queen, after 1742.

Unknown painter: pendant, portrait of Emperor Franz Joseph von Lothringen (oil, on canvas, 105 2 74.5 cm, without original frame, un-signed, the middle of the 18th century). Nowadays in the permanent exhibitions of imperial visits in the 1st floor of the Kammerhof.

Copy of a picture by Matteo Gabriello: Franz II Duke of Tuscany (catalogue number 4.06; see Zedinger, 2000, p. 74; Florence Palazzo Pitti Gallery Palatina, number of inventory 2678, about 1737, 79 2 65, registration number 918, NA 2152/68).

Home painter: portrait of Maria Theresia (oil, on canvas, unsigned, 72 2 58 cm, original black frame with gold ledge, bought for collections of the Town museum in 1929 from the heritage of Mining Academy principal in Banská Štiavnica professor

Štefan Farbaky. The portrait might have originated from the house of Mining Academy. Registration number 1689, NA 2105/68).

Home painter: pendant, portrait of Emperor Franz Stephan von Lothringen (oil, on canvas, original frame, 75 2 45 cm, unsigned; transferred from the town hall house in Banská Štiavnica in 1927 to collections of the Town museum; registration number 993, NA 2288/68).

Viennese painter: portrait of Empress Maria Theresia (oil, on canvas, unsigned, 97 2 73 cm, without frame, the middle of the 18th century; the work was transferred from the town hall in Banská Štiavnica to collections of the Town museum in 1931; registration number 1725).

Viennese painter – a replica: pendant, portrait of Emperor Franz Joseph von Lothringen (oil, on canvas, unsigned, 111 2 88 cm, without frame; registration number 1818). An official portrait of the emperor in a steel armour, long grey wig with a medal of The Golden Fleece. The picture was transferred from the town hall in Banská Štiavnica in 1931 to collections of the Town museum.

Viennese painter: portrait of Empress Maria Theresia in mourning (oil, on canvas, 62 2 45 cm, unsigned, after 1765, registration number 1716). The picture was obtained in 1929 from the heritage of Mining Academy principal professor Štefan Farbaky. The picture is exhibited in the permanent exhibition of the Mining Academy in the Kammerhof.

Unknown Austrian painter: portrait of main Chamber Earl Franz von Sternbach (1750-1757 in duty), (oil, on canvas, 1751, unsigned, 105 2 90 cm, registration number 887). It originates from the meeting hall in the Kammerhof. An official portrait of the Chamber Earl displayed to waistline in precious brown uniform with rich embroidery, sitting by the table with ore and minerals and in his hand with mining map of seven mining towns territory. In the left upper corner there is a family coat of arm with German sign: "Illustr. D. Franciscus Xav. Libe: Baro/á Sternbach, Stok, Luttach, Anger:/Burg = Sonegg. Sup. In Montanis/Camergrafius."

Johan Gottlieb Kramer (1716-1771): portrait of Vice-Chamber Earl Bartholome Ludwig von Hechengarten, (oil, on canvas, 106 2 87 cm, painter's signature on the pilaster "J.G. Kramer pinxit." "Bartolome. /Ludvig/Edler v. Hehengarten/des keyl. Romis:/Reichs und S: Stephani ord:/Ritter"; registration number 901).



Fig. 1. Dollenstein, J.J. 1751: portrait of Emperor Franz Stephen Lothringen (oil on canvas).



Fig. 2. Schmidt, A. 1751: design for the gate of glory for Emperor Franz von Lothringen and Maria Theresia (paper, aquarel).

Johan Gottlieb Kramer (1716-1771): portrait of Vice-Chamber Earl Bartholome Ludwig von Hehengarten in the court overcoat of Saint Stephan Order, (oil, on canvas, 105 2 95 cm, registration number 886). In the right part of the drapery and on the pilaster there is a German signature, the same painter's signature and notice, a coat of arm of the Hehengartens as well as a notice "J.G. Krammer pinxit", in the left upper corner there is a family coat of arm, about 1751.

Fridrich Gedohn: Main Chamber Earl Ignác Kempf ab Angret, (oil, on canvas, 1751, author's signature at the back "F. Gedohn, Kays. König. Hofkammer mahler pinx. 1751" In the lower part of the picture on the ledge there is a coat of arm and a notice: „Jg. Kempf ab Angret S.C.R.M./Cam. Aul. Cae/at Collegy/in Monet/et Mont: et: ins./aul.Ref.vs/insi: L.R:M:C:I:/H.Supr: Camergrafius ac per/pet Comisarius Ano M:D:C:C:L:I." 105 2 90 cm, registration number 881). The Chamber Earl was an official and a member of the Court Chamber and the Council of mining and minting in Vienna, a main Chamber Earl from 1st September 1750 to 1st of December 1751, a superintendent of Hungarian mining towns and significant celebrity during imperial visit in Banská Štiavnica.

Wood polychromatic relief frame of ellipse shape with rich rococo decoration, roses, with a top of Hermes head (gilded, 152 2 75 cm, originally from German church in Banská Štiavnica, the picture of Virgin Mary is absent, registration number 1833, NA 11405-registration number I. 551).

Upper relief extension in the shape or archivolt, above the altar picture (lime tree, high wood carving, rococo decoration, gilded, silvered, length 202 cm, height 65 cm, registration number 2360, NA 5410/68). It originates from the church of Saint Catharine, brought to the Town Museum in 1923 in Banská Štiavnica.

Unknown painter: (A. Schmidt?): Hell – Christ on the Olive Mount, oil, on canvas, 74 2 114 cm, middle of the 18th century, registration number 931). Obtained by remittance in 1935 from Roman-Catholic church – German church in Banská Štiavnica.

Anton Schmidt (1706 Vienna – 1773 Banská Štiavnica): draft of triumphal arch for Banská Štiavnica (paper, on canvas, drawing by India ink, coloured by watercolour, 64.9 2 48 cm, author's signature "Schmidt dell", 1751, registration number UH 1070).

Anton Schmidt: draft of triumphal arch for Banská Štiavnica (paper, line drawing, coloured by watercolour, 86 2 63 cm, registration number UH 1071, author's signature in the left down corner: "Anton Schmidt del et pinxit 1751").

Anton Schmidt: draft of triumphal arch for Imperial pair Maria Theresia and Emperor Franz Joseph von Lothringen (paper, line drawing coloured with watercolour, 64.5 2 47.5 cm, registration number UH 1072; Fig. 2).

Unknown carver: bust of Maria Theresia and Franz Joseph von Lothringen (wood-carving polychromatic and gilded, 48 2 31 cm, middle of the 18th century, registration numbers 1563 and 1564).

Dionýz Ignác Stanetti (1710 Dolní Benešov – 1767 Kremnica) and his company: fragments of main altar extension of Virgin Mary from the German church in Banská Štiavnica (lime wood, polychromatic, silver-plated and gilded, about 178 2 35 cm, thickness 5 cm, registration number UH 1830, NA 5408/68/1-4).

Town flag with coat of arm of Banská Štiavnica and date 1751 (blue brocade with silver tassels, 75 2 75 cm, registration number SH 1038). At the back side there is a sign of Hungary embroidered.

Juraj Himmelreich: ceremonial mining overcoat for Emperor Franz von Lothringen (red-gold brocade with Chinese decoration, length 95 cm, width 70 cm, registration number SH 891).

Franz Xaver Haussegger: cap (green velvet for mining overcoat, height 14.5 cm, diameter 19 cm, registration number 2430).

Unknown master: mining apron "ošliador" (black leather with copper brooch on the belt, length 85 cm, registration number N 2484).

Unknown master: mining axe "fokoš", (wood handle, pewter axe, height 65 cm, width 20 cm).

Minerals from central Slovakia mining towns. Banská Štiavnica, the Slovak Mining Museum, (registration numbers G-21298, 20655, 20779, 21602, 20485, 21872, 20654, 23594, 21117, 24414, 25164, 12711, 12715, 24054: quartz, amethyst, galena, gold, silver, limestone, barite, etc.).

With 250th anniversary of the imperial visit an international conference named "Gold and Silver Route of Emperor Franz Joseph von Lothringen in Central Slovakia Mining Towns" was held in Banská Štiavnica from 6 to 9 June 2001, which dealt with contacts of mining towns with the centre of the Habsburg Monarchy.

At the conference 22 lectures were presented including 4 from Austria and 1 from the Czech Republic. The exhibition took place in the Gallery of Jozef Kollár from 6 June to 30 September 2001, displaying 135 originals and 15 digital copies from Austrian museums and galleries. The exhibition was linked to an event in the Austrian castle Schallaburg named "Lothringens Erbe" (Lothringens' coat of arms) from 28 April to 28 October 2000. The events were advertised in Austria and Slovakia.

Collection items from the visit in 1764

Imperial visitation of central Slovakia mining towns extended in Banská Bystrica was repeated from 20-31 July 1764 by children of rulers pair – prospective Emperor Joseph II, duke Leopold and Saxon duke and son-in-law Albert. Also from this visit many items are preserved, especially The Gold Book of Mining, an original document from the visit, but also several collection items (Vozár, 1983; Kašiarová, 1997):

Viennese painter: Baron Jozef Mechtl von Engelsberg (oil, on canvas, 100 2 78 cm, without signature, middle of the 18th century, registration number UH 883. Portraits are displayed in the meeting hall of the Kammerhof in Banská Štiavnica).

Viennese painter: Main Chamber Earl Johann Franz von Lauern (1749-1750) (oil, on canvas, 106 2 91 cm, unsigned, about 1764, registration number UH 2349).

Banská Štiavnica painter: Matej Zipser, mining geometer and surveyor (oil, on canvas, 127 2 109 cm, unsigned, 1768, UH 882).

Andrej Zallinger: Chamber Earl Jozef Colloredo (1778-1790), (oil, on canvas, 96 2 79 cm, unsigned, UH 880).

Vienna court replica: Roman King Joseph II with medal of Maria Theresia (oil, on canvas, 102 2 81 cm, unsigned, 1764, UH 885).

Banská Štiavnica painter: Imperial Royal Advisor Johann Amadeus Stampfer, principal of Mining Academy in Banská Štiavnica in 1764-177 (oil, on canvas, 102 2 78 cm, unsigned, middle of the 18th century, UH 892).

Banská Štiavnica painter: Franz Xaver Schöner, mining surveyor and author of mining maps in Banská Štiavnica (oil, on canvas, 96 2 77 cm, unsigned, end of the 18th century, UH 904).

Juraj Gotz – Vavrinc Dando: model of Holy Trinity sculpture in Banská Štiavnica (woodcarving, polychrome, height 142 cm, without signature, 1756, UH 1091).

Juraj Himelreich: mining overcoat of Roman King Joseph II, in which he went into hereditary shaft Glanzenberg in Banská Štiavnica together with Leopold and Albert (pink-gold silk, black velvet, length 106 cm, width 66 cm, unsigned, 1764, SH 892).

Juraj Himelreich: mining overcoat of Duke Leopold (pink-gold brocade with damask plant decoration, green silk, length 100 cm, width 66 cm, unsigned, 1764, SH 926).

Juraj Himelreich: mining overcoat of Saxon Duke Albert (same material, length 101 cm, width 60 cm, unsigned, 1764, SH 927).

Mining overcoat of Joseph II during his second visit of Banská Štiavnica in 1783, where he stopped in his journey to Poland (pink-gold material, light blue silk, length 106 cm, width 66 cm, unsigned, 1783, SH 928).

Caps to ceremonial mining overcoats (green velvet, silk, height 19 cm, diameter 18 cm, unsigned, 1764, N 2440, N 2430, N 3235, SH 970).

Mining apron "ošliador" to mining uniform (black leather, belt with brooch of mining symbols, length 42 cm, unsigned, 1764, N 2484, N 2452).

Mining apron "ošliador" to mining overcoats (black velvet lined with silk, length 42 cm, unsigned, 1764, N 2453, N 2458).

Mining stick "fokoš", a part of official mining uniform (black wood handle, pewter relief, bronze-plated, length 65 cm, top 20 cm, unsigned, N 1910, N 1918, N 1903, N 1924, N 3718).

Memorable little hammers of Leopold and Albert for extraction of Banská Štiavnica ore (surface of hammers is silver-plated, handle of mahogany wood, 1st hammer: length of handle 34 cm, top 16 cm, 2nd hammer: length of hammer 27 cm, top 16 cm, 1764, UH 2337, UH 2338, two pieces; text: ALBERTUS. AUGUSTUS. POL. PRIN. REG. DUX. SAX. 1764 PETRUS. LEOPOLDUS. ARCHIDUX. AUSTRIAE. 1764; family coat of arms on the back side).

Pouch – handbag for coins of chamber earls (knitted from silver wire, jewel work of silversmith, signature N.P: Banská Štiavnica, end of the 18th century, length 19 cm, width 15 cm, weight 162.1 g, UH 2575) (Slotta & Labuda, 1997).

Matej Donner: premium study medals awarded by Maria Theresia to students of the Mining Academy for subjects: mining surveys, minting, testing and mining (diameter 4.3 cm, 1745-64, NUM 5853 5854 5855, 5856).

Copper frame with Lothringen Tuscan coat of arms (copper plate, height 160 cm, width 130 cm, weight 100 kg, unsigned, 1764). It originates from the Holy Trinity sculpture in Banská Štiavnica.

Copper frame with a symbol of the Mining Chamber (copper plate, height 160 cm, width 130 cm, weight 100 kg, unsigned, 1764).

Copper frame with a Banská Štiavnica coat of arms (copper plate, height 160 cm, width 130 cm, weight 100 kg, unsigned, 1764).

In 1994-1996 three remarkable exhibitions took place in Banská Štiavnica, Bratislava and Vienna named "His Majesty arrives....", which displayed all collection

items linked to visit in the museums and the Slovak Institute in Vienna.

Joseph II, already Roman Emperor, arrived in Banská Štiavnica for the second time on 6 and 7 July 1783. He visited the town during a journey lasting several weeks in Croatia, Transylvania, Bukovina, Belarus and Halič. He came also to Banská Štiavnica. His visit was much less pompous than 19 years earlier. The emperor decided to visit the town unexpectedly, he stayed in the Holy Trinity square – the inn “U Jeleňa” (nowadays the gallery). The emperor was shown round the town, the Holy Trinity Column, he gave audiences. On the second day of his visit he visited the Main Chamber Earl Office, which was also a seat of the Mining Academy and chamber earl Jozef von Colloredo was its principal. The emperor saw the collection of minerals, and in Belházys house he observed practical chemistry work. A ceremonial coat, much more beautiful than 19 years before and decorated with golden threads, and green cap were sewed for him. Today it is exhibited in the Kammerhof, registration number SH 928.

Another member of an imperial family who visited Banská Štiavnica was duke Maximilian, the youngest son of Maria Theresia, an elector in Cologne on Rhine. He visited the town during his journey in Hungary, which he started on April 15 from Vienna. He stayed in Banská Štiavnica from 13 to 16 June 1777. Main arrangers were again a president of the Court Chamber in Vienna and a Main Chamber Earl in Banská Štiavnica together with mining management in Kremnica, Banská Bystrica and Vindšachta. In Banská Štiavnica he visited the hereditary shaft Glanzenberg, where there was installed a commemorative plate with a text. Further, he watched shredders, ore washing, production of lead smelter, visited testing laboratory, chemistry laboratories and offices, treasury and accountant office in the Kammerhof. In Vindšachta he went down into the water shaft, he watched an incinerator, ore separation hall and storage area. Then he was shown activity of water pumping device in the Bíber shaft, one day he devoted to study of fire engines and factory production. A ceremonial back mining coat was sewed, richly decorated hammer and gopher were brought from Vienna. Unfortunately, they are not preserved. The duke stayed in Hellenbach's house according to suggestion of mining trainee Adam Durmer and for state expenses the commemorative plate of Duke Maximilian was set by the plates of prince Joseph and Leopold on the facade of the house.

Collection items from the visit in 1852

The last important imperial visit was held on 7 and 8 July 1852 by young Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph I, who alone visited Banská Štiavnica, Štiavnické Bane, Svätý Anton and Kremnica during his round tour when he got acquainted with industry and mining in monarchy centres. Some precious collections were preserved also from this visit.

Carl Schneck: coronation portrait of Emperor Franz Joseph I (oil painting on canvas, 110 2 90 cm, 1852, registration number UH 927).

Picture: portrait of Emperor Franz Joseph I in uniform with medals (oil painting on canvas, unsigned, probably same painter, 1852, 116 2 95 cm. Both portraits originate from Chamber court during imperial visitation of Banská Štiavnica, registration number UH 926).

A. Fernhorn: bust of Emperor Franz Joseph I (cast steel, 30.5 2 18.5 cm, 1862,



Fig. 3. Ceremonial mining uniform of Franz Jozeph I and his lady entourage, 1852 (black velvet, silk).

Graphic group portrait: Emperor Franz Joseph I with family (coloured lithography, paper, 39.5 2 52 cm, unsigned, about 1910, registration number UH 429, number of printing No 2328 / Austrian graphic/text: OESTERREICHISCHE KAISERFAMILIE. A KIRÁLYI CSALAD. CÍŠAŘSKÁ RODINA RAKOUSKÁ. CESARSKÁ RODZINA).

Black mining uniform of emperor Franz Joseph I (Fig. 3; dark brown velvet with white furring and long black trousers of silk satin. The coat has twisted laces in shoulder parts, black buttons of cut glass, length 94 cm, trousers length 118 cm, registration number 2414).

Women mining overcoats of ladies entourage (grey silk or grey-black stripes, length to the ground, shaped in waistline with buttons in all length, a hood on the back, lined with pink folded ribbon with pink buttons, made by Jähne, Vienna, length 130 cm, width 45 cm (in waistline), registration numbers N 3209, 3208).

Commemorative tablet to 25th anniversary of wedding of Franz Joseph I and

registration number UH 1145).

F. Martwich (Vienna) – J. Wendland (Berlin): portrait of Empress Elizabeth (Sisy) (paper, lithography, 1867, 72 2 57.5 cm, registration number UH 2308, text: Verlag v Eigenthum von Werner Grosse in Berlin Elisabeth – Kaiserin von Österreich – Königin von Ungarn).

Shooting target: birth of throne successor Rudolph Habsburg (wood, oil, text: Salve vetis espetite! Zur Feier der Glücklichen Entbindung Ihrer Majetät der Kaiserin. Schemnitz den 29. August 1858. Measures: 63 2 74 cm, registration number UH 62. Targets originate from the town shooting range and they were given to the town museum in 1965).

Shooting target: centralization – Austrian-Hungarian alignment (wood, oil, 52 2 66 cm, text: Jos. Paudler/customer/Den 15' Sept. 1867. Centralisation).

József Ovály: coronation portrait of Emperor Franz Joseph I (oil painting on

canvas, 1899, Budapest, 240 2 140 cm, original wood frame with acanthus leaves on the top, with Hungarian crown. The old emperor displayed in red Hungarian Hussar uniform by a table with coronation jewels. Registration number UH 2222. It originates from the district house in Šahy, transmitted in 1925).

Gyorgy Vastagh: Pendant, coronation portrait of Austrian Empress and Hungarian Queen Elisabeth, (oil painting on canvas, 1899, same gilded frame with a crown, 240 2 140 cm. The empress wears Hungarian folk costume with diadem. Registration number UH 2225. It originates from the district house in Šahy, transmitted to Banská Štiavnica in 1925).

Graphic group portrait: Emperor Franz Joseph I with family (coloured lithography, paper, 39.5 2 52 cm, unsigned, about 1910, registration number UH 429, number of printing No 2328 / Austrian graphic/text: OESTERREICHISCHE KAISERFAMILIE. A KIRÁLYI CSALAD. CÍŠAŘSKÁ RODINA RAKOUSKÁ. CESARSKÁ RODZINA).

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Women mining overcoats of ladies entourage (grey silk or grey-black stripes, length to the ground, shaped in waistline with buttons in all length, a hood on the back, lined with pink folded ribbon with pink buttons, made by Jähne, Vienna, length 130 cm, width 45 cm (in waistline), registration numbers N 3209, 3208).

Commemorative tablet to 25th anniversary of wedding of Franz Joseph I and

Elisabeth (cast steel, 24 April 1879, registration number UH 602, measures 80 2 60 cm).

Jakub Trauer: mining insignias (silver hollow plate in the shape of gopher and hammer belonging to the Mining fraternity treasury in Banská Hodruša with carved date 1852, which was presented to the emperor. Measures: hammer 17.5 2 4.8 cm, length 38.5 cm, diameter 3.8 cm, registration number NH 3744, signature of fraternity).

Commemorative tablets in the hereditary shaft Glanzenberg

Commemorative tablets were installed in the hereditary shaft Glanzenberg in the memory of imperial visits in Banská Štiavnica. The hereditary shaft Glanzenberg enters in the centre of Banská Štiavnica in 554 m above sea level and it used to drain water from mines under the hill Glanzenberg (the Old town) and from the oldest mines in this area established on the Špitáľ vein, which came to the surface in this territory. The first written notes come from the 16th century, when the town faced mine decline for problems with drainage of ground water. In 1561, the Viennese Court Chamber announced no care of flooding the mines as they already found another source of cheap lead. Lead and silver were main products of Glanzenberg shafts. Later only hereditary shaft Glanzenberg was kept working on town and state expenses, as well as expenses of a factory Horná Bíber's shaft. As they led by the main road in a shallow depth. The first part ended by the shaft Kaufhaus on the square opposite the church of Saint Catharine in the centre of Banská Štiavnica. The shaft's depth was 8 m. Further the shaft was divided along the veins. The shaft was used again in 1730, when Main Chamber Earl Jozef Andrej Wenzel von Sternbach (1723-1734) found ore of very high quality there. The hereditary shaft itself is interesting also because it is connected with so called imperial steps with Holy Trinity shaft situated deeper. Due to its advantageous position it became famous as it was visited by other emperors and historical tradition linked last and recent centuries when on 6th June 2001 in honour of visitation of president of Slovakia R. Schuster and on 29th may 2002 in honour of prince Albert Grimaldi from Monaco and on 7th July 2002 with 150th anniversary of Franz Joseph I visit a commemorative plates were installed at the entrance of the Glanzenberg shaft.

Commemorative plates installed in the Glanzenber shaft

1. Stone plate with anniversary of Franz Stephan Lothringen, who went into the shaft on 7 June 1751, sandstone, measures 67 2 50 2 5 cm, text: FRANCISCUS I. ROMANORUM HIC PERSONALITER EXSTITIT DIE 7:JUNII ANNO 1751.
2. Stone plate installed with anniversary of princes visit on 20 July 1764, natural stone, measures: 90 2 80 2 10 cm, text: JOSEPHUS II. ROMANORUM REX, CUM FRATRE SERENISSIMO ARCHIDUCE LEOPOLDO, DUCE SERENISSIMO SAXONIAE ALBERTO, PERSONALITER HIC EXSTITERUN XX. JULII ANNO MDCCLXIV.
3. Stone plate installed with anniversary of Austrian pro-magister Maximilian on 13 June 1777, measures 88 2 50 2 10 cm, text: MIXIMILIANUS AUSTRIACUS PROMAGISTER TEUTONICUS VIDIT, PROBAVIT, FODIT DIE 13. JUNI 1777. All the plates are displayed in the space under "imperial steps".
4. Stone plate installed with anniversary of royal officer Joseph, a son of Emperor

Leopold II from 17 August 1822, measures 65 x 27 x 210 cm, text: CONIGE CUM TEMERA PRO REX JOSEPHERE COR DOR MUNYADUMI INGRESSUS GRATTA FODINA UIOS DIE 17. AUGUSTI 1822.

5. Stone plate installed on 24 June 2002 with 150th anniversary of emperor's visit Franz Joseph I on 7 July 1852, granite, measures 68 x 50 x 2.5 cm, text: MEMORIAE FRENCISCI JOSEPHI I., IMPERATORIS AUSTRIAE AT REGIS HUNGARIAE, QUI FODINAM GLANZENBERG DIE VII. JILII ANNO MDCCCLII TRNSIVIT. ANNO DIMINI MMII.

Collection items from the time of imperial visits of the Habsburgs belong to the Slovak Mining Museum in Banská Štiavnica, to the most significant and precious art-historical and technical collections, a part of them is open to public in exhibitions in the chamber court Kammerhof, the gallery and historical exhibition in the Old castle in Banská Štiavnica.

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