

This work is dealing with personality and work of Celda Klouček, a sculptor and ornamentalist living at the turn of 20th century. Celda Klouček was born 6th December 1855 in Senomaty near Rakovník. Advised by his patron Müller, he decided to accept a position with ornamentalist sculptor Otto Lessing in Berlin, where he got his first professional training. Klouček turned out to be an excellent sculptor, especially in ornamental construction work. The contracts were diverse and he learned to work with many different materials. In 1879 he enrolled in professor Otto König special course at Arts and Crafts School in Vienna. After three years, he became a reader at Arts and Crafts School in Frankfurt am Main. In 1888, he opened his atelier at Arts and Crafts School in Prague. He was teaching here for twenty-eight years. Many recognized artists emerged from his atelier, all of them adhering to Klouček's emphasis on clarity of composition and simplicity of the ornament. Klouček's work evolved from ornamental creations on house exteriors in neo-Renaissance and neo-baroque style to naturalism, and finally to Art Nouveau, in which he created his master pieces: Wohanka house portal (1898), Museum of Western Bohemia in Pilsen (1900-1901), Prague Credit bank (1902), Blecha house (1904), and Order of the Cross monastery (1911-1912). He cooperated with the most esteemed architects working in Bohemia: Friedrich Ohmann, Josef Škadek and Matej Blecha. He applied his decor also on commercial art, which played a major role at the World Exhibition in Paris in 1900. This fact is leading us to Klouček's other activities. He was not only a popular teacher and exceptional artist in ornamental sculpture, but he also participated in many competitions (competition for the fountain in front of Rudolfinum) and exhibitions. This fact was related to his works presentation, as well as his three design albums, published in Prague and in Vienna.