

Painter František Jakub Prokyš and his sacral works

There were two historians of art who were profoundly interested in painter František Jakub Prokyš. The first one František Matouš prepared an intensive study before World War II, but he did not finish it. Pavel Zadražil was the second and he wrote his diploma about this subject in 1985. Prokyš is mentioned in some other books as well.

We hardly know anything about František Jakub Prokyš's childhood and his teenage. He was probably born in the town of Slaný in 1713. The first proper information about him is from Borovany, where he worked in 1746 for the Augustinian's monastery. Prokyš painted frescos in the church and in the new built chapel and made some pendent pictures. In the year 1748 Prokyš worked for the Augustinian's monastery in Třeboň and in a short time he moved from the north Bohemia to Třeboň.

Living in Třeboň was a good time for him, because he got married and two of his children were born there. He began to work for local princely family of Schwarzenberg in Český Krumlov. And in 1760 he was solvent enough to buy a house on the České Budějovice's square.

His best work was done during the 60's and 70's. In České Budějovice he decorated walls and vault in the Holy Trinity's church. For the Dominicans he painted the picture of Our Lady of the rosaries and for the Capuchins the church canvas of Saint Anna. He returned to Třeboň to ornate the Saint Vít's chapel with lovely wall painting and two altar's pictures of saint Vít and saint Barbora.

A sad occurrence afflicted the painter in 1764, when his wife died and he stayed alone with two children. But already in 1767 he got married again with a very young girl and their first daughter was born early after the wedding.

Prokyš still worked hard, for dean's church in Netolice he painted the big picture of Assumption Virgin. The same theme can be seen canvas on the altar in the Franciscan church in Bechyně. His last known work was the second picture for the Dominican's church in České Budějovice wich depicts Saint Anna in 1780.

František Jakub Prokyš died after an illness probably aged 78 in České Budějovice on 25. October 1791.

He was an influential painter in south Bohemia. His works are usually very well preserved on the original places and some of them have not been yet discovered.

Painting– baroque– rococo– 18. century–south Bohemia

Počet znaků: 130 552