

John Anthony Quitainer (1709-1765), a significant representative of the Prague sculptors who were producing their work after the year 1730, exerted a profound effect on the style development of the late Baroque plastics in Bohemia. He was born in Prague in 1709, in a family of a sculptor, Ondřej Filip Quitainer, who originally came from Frýdlant and later settled in Prague's Lesser Town where he founded a sculptor studio. In 1718 he acquired the Lesser Town burgher-ship. John Anthony served his time of apprenticeship in his father's workshop. At the age of fourteen he participated in the process of decorating the interior of Černínský Palace. When his father died in 1729, John Anthony took over the workshop, the ownership of which he first shared with his step mother, Maria Teresia Quitainer. In the first half of the 18th century, John Anthony Quitainer became one of the most sought after sculptors in Prague.

The majority of orders he accepted came dominantly from holy orders. He had decorated the interiors of monastery churches for Augustinians, Carmelites and Dominicans. The most important order, nonetheless, came from the Premonstratensian order at the Strahov Monastery. There he created a unique and monumental sculpture collection, among which we can find carved decorations and stone sculptures, situated at the front of the church, in the monastery area and in its surroundings. During the thirty years of Quitainer's active production, his work went through a development of style and attitude caused by the gradual maturation of an original artistic personality, who could – in an inventive way – contribute to the new impulses of the sculpture expression in the first half of the 18th century. In the beginning, his work was influenced by the peak and late work of his father and that of Ferdinand Maximilian Brokof. The early work of John Anthony Quitainer falls in the 1730's.