

## Summary

This study deals with Josef Herscher, a sculptor of the late baroque period, who worked in West Bohemia. The first notice about his presence there comes from 1720, other after during the next years till 1756 when Herscher died. During that time ruled in Manětín Marie Gabriela Lažanská, who wanted to increase the fame of the city. In 1719 died another sculptor, Štěpán Borovec, who had worked in Manětín before Josef Herscher. He is the author of e.g. The Trinity Statue on the main square. It is said, that the statue was finished by Borovec's son Václav Borovec. We assume, that Václav Borovec could have helped Josef Herscher in his workroom and could have been one of Herscher's journeymen. Štěpán Borovec studied in Prague in the workroom of Jan Brokof. We know from the teaching-paper, that he was educated there.

Statues of Saints by Josef Herscher have many common features with these by Ferdinand Maxmilián Brokof. This study compares them with St. Elizabeth, St. John of Nepomuk, Holy Virgin and many others. It seems, Josef Herscher knew the production of Brokof's workroom from the beginning of the 18th century to the late twenties of this century. He used the whole composition of particular statues as so as small details from their faces or gesticulation, which he adapted according to his own opinion. His Saints have full volumes, draperies have deep gathers, which are not as deep as in production of Brokof's workroom but are made according to the same pattern. Due to many similarities in work of Ferdinand Maxmilián Brokof and Josef Herscher, we think, that Herscher was educated in the Brokof's workroom and was in contact with it during the first two decades of 18th century.

In reference to the statues of moralities on the main square in front of the castle we think, that they could serve as example the graphic production in Martin Engelbrecht's book with this topic, which was printed in the first decade of 18th century in Augsburg and was used by Matyáš Bernard Braun in Kukul too. These statues are very flat from their back side.

The study speaks about another sculptor too, who acted in neighbourhood of Manětín. There is a short comparison of his work with work of Lazar Widemann, who was a contemporary of Josef Herscher and made his statues for the kin of Vrtbovský. But there are not as many similarities in work as it could seem at first sight.

A part of this study is the catalogue of works made by Josef Herscher and his son Václav Ondřej Herscher. To each heading is connected a picture of the appropriate statue.