

Wax-craft used to be a special craft which concerns processing of beeswax. Waxchandlers manufactured many sorts of candles – Passion candles, Christmas candles, many kinds of souvenirs, devotional articles, oblations, fancy goods, flowers or statuettes from beeswax, moreover, they produced soaps, perfumary etc. Wax-craft expanded in Příbram during the 17th and 18th centuries through the proximity of very famous Holly Mountain, a pilgrimage place with the Baroque basilica and the wooden statue of Virgin Maria which took its origin in the 14th century. However, first written documents about this kind of craft in Příbram come from the year 1703 and they are connected with the first wax-chandler Jakub Brod. The period of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries is the best known part of Příbram's wax-craft history. The interest of wax-chandlers was concentrated on pilgrimage goods, nevertheless it's possible to presuppose this trend earlier, too.

It is interesting to study the ways of production in wax-chandler's workshop on the basis of Anna Čížková (died in 2004), whose father Augustin Čížek was one of the last waxchandlers in Příbram. In order to penetrate into wax-craft problemacy well, we have to study preserved subjects and implements dealing with this craft. A rich collection of these subjects is deposited in the Mining Museum in Příbram. The collection contains more than 380 subjects dealing with the craft, 206 of them are implements which were used in the waxchandler's workshop. The most interesting are wax oblations, a three-dimensional votive presents made of wax. Most of them are votive presents in a shape of humans and animals. They were sold in Příbram – Holly Mountain until the fifties of 20th century. The cooperation with the artist Alena Čáková, who is the holder of a creative workshop in Příbram, has been contributive to these studies, too. ...