

Synopsis

The work covers the first two periods of life of the art historian Zdeněk Wirth.

Wirth was one of the most influential figures of Czech cultural history of the first half of 20th century. He significantly influenced domestic art history, he became one of the most active trendsetters as regards Modern Style in architecture in Bohemia, and, last but not least, he had merit in a distinct strengthening of position of the club-based and state care of historical monuments. In the period between the two World Wars Wirth was able, due to his high position, exercise influence over other areas of Czechoslovak culture and science - history, archival science, librarianship, museums, art education, international cultural contacts, theatre, cinema.

Wide range of his activities enabled not to discuss only questions related directly to his personality, but, at the same time, to consider overall development of domestic care of historical monuments in the period in question. Taking into account Wirth's scientific and organizational activities, the work examines also intellectual development of art historical sphere in our milieu then, functioning of art historical clubs and organizations, editor's office practice of selected art historical periodicals, theoretical foundations of domestic conservationists and activities of state institutions handling monument preservation, including behind-the-scenes discussions concerning important monument preservation cases.

The work contains Wirth's bibliography of published articles and books.