

ABSTRACT

„PORTA COELI“ CONVENT IN PŘEDKLÁŠTEŘÍ U TIŠNOVA AND WEST PORTAL OF ITS CONVENT CHURCH

The Tišnov convent *Porta coeli* („gateway to heaven“) was probably founded in 1232 by the Czech Queen Konstancie, daughter of the Hungarian King Béla III and widow of the Czech King Przemysl Otakar I, who was greatly supported by her sons – the Czech King Wenceslas I and Moravian Margrave Przemysl. Of the church notables it was particularly Robert, bishop of Olomouc, who rendered his support during the construction of the convent. The building progressed quickly, sponsored by the prominent figures of the Przemyslid state.

Earliest core of the convent was constituted by the convent church and convent buildings, cloister and chapter house, enclosing wall with a moat and defensive towers, a residential building by the entrance gate and St Kateřina’s Chapel in the northwestern part of the courtyard (torn down just before the convent was closed by the Emperor Joseph II in 1782), which was finished at very earliest stage.

Most important buildings of the medieval convent were built in the years 1232 – 1240. The early Gothic complex of buildings which survives basically intact today, ranks among the most valuable architectural works built in the Czech state in the second quarter of the 13th century.

The convent church on the ground of Latin cross is the three-nave structure with a transverse nave, a presbytery with pentagonal end and two chapels. Basilica is vaulted with groin-ribbed vaults. Presbytery is vaulted with six-segmented vault. In presbytery are tracery windows. In southern front of the transverse nave and on the western front’s axis are situated large circular rose windows. Church is dedicated to Assumption of the Virgin Mary.

Response to the northern French cathedral Gothic in central European environment is demonstrated by the western portal with its beautiful stone decoration in a style which apparently departs from the philosophy of Cistercian architecture. The portal’s magnificent decoration appears to honour of the royal origins of founders (church became the final resting place for Queen Konstancie and her son Przemysl). The whole portal is drawn up in keeping with the medieval symbolism of *civitas dei* (the community of God led by Jesus Christ as the highest ruler). The portal may just be interpreted as the reminder of the Last Judgement (donors wish to secure to themselves eternal salvation through the church’s construction).

In the middle of the tympanum over the church entrance is Jesus, enthroned in his glory, at the sides are two figures of the intercessors - the Virgin Mary and St John the Baptist - and two crowned kneeling figures laying a symbolic model of the church at Christ's feet. Woman at right side is Queen Konstancie, man figure is probably Przemysl Otakar I. The whole portal is richly decorated by floral and zoomorphic motifs, the lower part of the portal is adorned by figural ornaments of the twelve apostles and two lions. Consoles with rib inclinations appear to testify to the church's entrance once having been roofed over; however, the hall's foundations have not so far been discovered.

The Porta coeli convent and its convent church west-side portal belong to the most considerable medieval architectural and sculptural work.

Keywords: convent, cistercian Order, portal, tympanum, apostles.

ÚDAJE O POČTU ZNAKŮ

stránek	82
odstavců	716
řádků	2 213
slov	17 913
znaků bez mezer	100 213
znaků s mezerami	117 760