

Abstract

The aim of this study is to offer a description and evaluation of the ceremonial carriages collections preserved in museums across Bohemia and Moravia, and to put them in the context of European artistic and artisan production in the 16th – 18th century. The study provides an overall account of the development of carriage from technical, as well as art history angle, together with the necessary overview of the issues of courtly hierarchies, ceremonials and visual demonstrations of the modern aristocracy, leading ultimately to the transformation of a simple personal mode of transport into a pompous work of art. Many important Baroque artists took part in carriage construction and decoration, and this study attempts to ascertain the extent of their contribution in this area. By presenting a descriptive summary of the history of the ceremonial carriages found in the collections in Bohemia and Moravia, and providing a comparison study with such carriages from other European countries, we can assert their position within the context of Europe-wide museum collections, as well as provide the opportunity for foreign scholars to take the Czech collections into account in their research.