Abstract

The present work relates to the transfer of the inspirational elements used in St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague focusing on the hanging bolts in the sacristy of the cathedral.

Two architects, Matthias of Arras and Peter Parler, participated in the construction of St. Vitus Cathedral in the 14th. Century

Both of these builders were inspired by the most important buildings of contemporary Europe and the experience they gained was incorporated in the Prague cathedral. Through thorough research of the life of Matthias of Arras I am able to describe this builder as a unique personality who used a bold modern style for the construction of Prague cathedral and laid the foundation for cathedral architecture in Bohemia. Subsequent analysis of selected buildings constructed in the south of France during the 13th. and the first half of the 14th. centuries reveals many features which exhibit common characteristics with elements used on St. Vitus Cathedral, thus indicating the sources of inspiration for Prague cathedral.

Both builders work meets in a space called „Old Sacristy“ decorated with two unique pendant bosses. Thanks to exhaustive investigation it has been clarified that these bosses originated from southern France and Alsace. It has also been possible to chart their transmission throughout Europe and to outline several ways of interpreting their development.

This work is supplemented with an overview tracing the functioning of the cathedral workshop and analysis of medieval construction of a pendant boss.

Keywords
Middle Ages, cathedral, architecture, Avignon, Alsace, cathedral building site, builder, pendant boss, Peter Parler, Matthias of Arras, France, Charles IV