

ABSTRACT

Fajta, M. 2015: Phenomenon of water in mining – gold panning, findings of ore mills in Slovakia. [Master's thesis]

Water has always been closely associated with the mining and processing of precious metals. Either it served as a secondary source from which gold was gained by gold-washing, or as a tool for further processing of primary mined ore. Thesis is divided into two sections which describe both of these options.

In the first part, thesis deals with gold-panning. It describes sources for the history study of gold-panning in Slovakia and it presents current state of research. On the basis of historical knowledge from "De Re Metallica libri XII." (G. Agricola 1556) are presented the different types of chutes, which are used for gold-washing. This section also includes excursion about mining archaeology and excursion about origin and appearance of gold in Slovakia. The second part describes different steps in the processing of primary mined ores. Since there was no archaeological research of medieval facilities for processing ores in Slovakia, in the paper are presented examples of two researches of mining facilities from Czech Republic.

In the chapters describing processing of ores is the biggest attention devoted to ore mills. The most common evidence for the existence of such mills are millstones. Their massiveness and their deep engraved lines differ them from medieval stones used to grind grain. The last chapters are devoted to description and interpretation of millstones from collections of the Slovak Mining Museum. The complete list of these millstones is included in the catalogue. Among the stones there are differences in shapes and in materials from which they were made. An interesting pieces are stones from small ore mills, which were probably used to grind ore samples.

Key words:

Slovakia –Middle Ages – gold – gold panning – ore mills