

SUMMARY

The authors of this book wish to contribute to the knowledge and popularity of the stove trade and tile stoves. After a period of decline, this craft has experienced a significant boom in the last three decades. The craft of Stove Maker has been revived in apprenticeship education, retraining courses in this field have been implemented and the Guild of Stoves of the Czech Republic has been founded. The increase in interest in tiled stoves and in the technology of their production is also reflected in the professional sphere. In addition to the traditional attention of archaeologists, especially related to medieval pottery and stove-making and research into Gothic or Renaissance tiles, interest has been growing in modern stove-making and products. An important milestone was reached in 2017 with the publication of the book *The World of Tile Stoves* by the staff of the Regional Museum in Most. The authors mainly focused their attention on Gothic and Renaissance stove-making, but did not neglect findings relating to historic stove tiles and stove-making in northwestern Bohemia in more recent periods, including the interconnection of the stove industry within European countries. The book you are holding in your hands follows on from this publication in a sense.

The result of four years of cooperation of art historians, archaeologists, stove makers, stove restorers and archivists is a contribution to the history of heating with tiled stoves in southern Bohemia, especially in castles and chateaux. It is an attempt to summarize our basic knowledge about tile production technology, artistic and technical solutions, stylistic design and the construction of tiled stoves throughout history. For the first time, a facultative catalogue provides an insight into the richness of the shapes and colours of historic tiled stoves in the interiors of South Bohemian castles and chateaux.

Its first section includes four specialist articles relating to the history of tiled stoves in southern Bohemia. Jiří Havlice discusses medieval and Renaissance stove-making in southern Bohemia on the basis of partially unpublished archaeological research. In the chapter entitled *Tiled Stoves in South Bohemian Castles and Chateaux over the Centuries*, Ludmila Ourodová-Hronková describes the professionally neglected transformations of radiators in the state castles and chateaux of Rožmberk, Český Krumlov, Třeboň, Jindřichův Hradec and Červená Lhota. It focuses on historical records about their purchase, repair and fall into disuse. It also mentions exceptional tiled stoves in privately owned castles (Bechyně and Orlík). The text should be understood primarily as a set of notes on the transformation of heaters from the 16th to the beginning of the 20th century and the method of heating selected South Bohemian castles, which can be compiled on the basis of archival documents (especially preserved accounts and letters, drawings of stoves, which were used to create still extant stoves), as well as historical building, restoration and other current surveys. In the *Stoves in Schwarzenberg Provenance Sources* chapter, Michal Morawetz recalls the informative value of archival documents, which have not only preserved reports about stoves and stove companies, but also about how castle owners thought about heating, how they chose stoves and their suppliers, or whether they had specific projects, drawings or swatches. Two unique stoves from Hluboká chateau, which were decorated with rare Delft tiles from the middle of the 17th century, are presented in the chapter by Ludmila Ourodová-Hronková.

The second section of the book focuses on the technology of tile processing and the construction of tile stoves from the Middle Ages to the beginning of the 20th century. In cooperation with a dozen stove makers and stove restorers, it has been possible to test the processes of various technologies employed in the decorating, glazing and production of stove tiles. The technical construction of fireplaces from the Middle Ages to the present is described in the chapter entitled *Fireplaces over the Centuries* by Vít Pešek and Libor Soukup. Petr Volf recalls the technology used in the production of a medieval chamber tile. In their article, Ludmila Ourodová-Hronková and Jana Pešková recapitulate our knowledge about the art-historical and technological aspects of the production of tiled stoves. Martin Ebel's *Furnology or Finding the Way to Economical Heating up to the Beginning of the 19th Century in Contemporary Samples* chapter outlines the technical development of heating. Jitka Pokorná presents current methods of production of ceramic tiles and their use in the construction of tile stoves. The *Restoration of Historic Tiled Stoves*

in the Past and Present chapter was compiled by Radka Bukovjanová and Sylva Antony Čekalová. Martin Hložek introduces basic analytical methods in material surveys of tile production. At the end of this section, two examples of newly made as faithful to the originals as possible copies of historic tiled stoves which have been installed in the interiors of the Kestřany fortress and Vimperk chateau are presented.

While preparing this book, it was not possible to leave out its connection to the assemblage of historic tiled stoves from South Bohemian castles and chateaux. The most comprehensive collections of them have been preserved to this day in aristocratic residences, which are now administered by the state. There are about two hundred and fifty standing stoves and several dozen dismantled stoves, stored in castle depositories. With a few exceptions, the South Bohemian ensemble is not artistically dazzling; unlike other Czech and Moravian regions, e.g. majolica stoves have not been preserved here. The vast majority of stoves are simpler in their shapes, colours and decoration. The preservation of Gothic, Renaissance or Baroque stoves is somewhat exceptional and mostly occurs where they have not been treated as basic household equipment over a long period, but rather as aesthetic objects. However, due to changes in fashion, even this aspect has not always been sufficient to protect artistically valuable stoves from destruction. Most of them have been repaired or completely reconstructed at least once, preserving more or less of the original tiles in the process.

The book does not aim to cover all aspects of the technology, history or development of stove-making in southern Bohemia. It is more of a set of sondages on this topic. The contributions published here are completely new in some cases. Some summarize many years of practical experience, whereas others draw more on the sources and literature. In order to make the composition of the topics in the book more comprehensive, the book also includes contributions by Petr Volf and Martin Ebl, which have already been published in professional journals in a slightly modified form.

The book came into being within the Program of Applied Research and Development of National Cultural Identity (NAKI) Traditional Craft Technologies for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Lifestyle (DG18PO20VV030) that was carried out from 2018 to 2022. An exhibition of the same name was organized within the framework of this project.

The book Tiled Stoves in Southern Bohemia opens up many as yet unresolved topics in the history and technology of stove-making in southern Bohemia, and thus seeks to stimulate further research at the fruitful interface of social and technical disciplines.