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BAROQUE FURNITURE IN SLOVAKIA

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ABSTRACT

The article's objective is to bring the selected types of Baroque furniture displayed as a part of European Culture Heritage in Slovak museums' collections to the attention of the professional community.

Baroque is a period of an artistic style, which arose in the second half of the sixteenth century in Italy, and it bloomed in the second half of the eighteenth century. The style eventually expanded throughout Europe. Characteristics of Baroque are garnishes, pretentiousness, irregularity, dynamics, complexity, conjunction of lines and forms, and disharmony of details.

The furniture making was adjusted to the form and typological Baroque design of the mansions' interiors. New technological practices of furniture making and decoration were developed. Thanks to the knowledge of veneer making and the transoceanic import of various wood species, intarsiate technique developed, which replaced the traditional carved decor in in some time periods. The carving itself became richer and more dynamic. Early-renaissance's shallow relief decorations gradually crossed into richer plasticity, and the selection of the boule materials expanded, e.g. ivory, turtleshell, porcelain, gems, and metals.

In the term of typology, the shifting from hutch to cabinet making is apparent, as well as the shifting from common desk to writing desk making, often with cabinet body. Chest of drawers, commodes, escritaires, and jewel boxes are oftentimes used in the interiors. The rest of the furniture, e.g. desks, chairs, and stalls, are very similar to the Renaissance furniture, but the forms of the leg lines and elbow-rests are more dynamic, and the upholstery was richer. The upholstery uses manycoloured gobelins.

The pictures capture selected Baroque furniture found in the Slovak museums' collections.

Keywords: historical furniture, baroque, Slovakia

RENAISSANCE FURNITURE IN SLOVAKIA

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ABSTRACT

Renaissance is an epoch in cultural and spiritual development in Western and Central Europe concurrent with religious reformation and consequential to antique. It prevailed in Italy from 14th until 16th century; it prevailed in the rest of the countries from the end of the 15th century until 16th century (aftermath in 17th century), and in Slovakia until 1650.

The development of making and typology of the furniture was greatly influenced by the transition to building of palaces and mansions. Their large, air areas, conceived under the influence of old Roman residential buildings, as well as the life style of the residents directly anticipated new furnishing. Renaissance furniture is characterized by an ideal balance of the utility and the aesthetic components along with the balance of functional and tectonic side while the materials are fully respected. These basic principles are pursued in the making of renaissance furniture, also in territories outside of Italy, influenced by attributes of the individual nations.

The first indications of Renaissance art in Slovakia appeared relatively soon. They were related to the ideals of second half of the 15th century, mainly because of the Italian oriented politics of Matej Korvin, who considerably roused the development of the Renaissance art, whether it was architecture or visual arts appearing as randomly imported items, found in our at the time Gothic style influenced country.

With the above mentioned randomly imported items are included pieces of furniture imported from Italy, for example, wedding hutches, so called cassone. Despite the end of the Renaissance period in Italy around 1580, the rest of Europe is influenced by its impacts much longer. The distinguishing mark is the furniture making in the territory of mediaeval Ugarian, especially in the area of Spis-Saris, because of the establishment of relatively isolated center apparently derivable from Tuscan furniture production of Quattrocento in the first half of the sixteenth century.

The pictures capture selected characteristic Renaissance furniture components from Slovak museums' collections in Kezmarok, Markusovce, and Betliar.

Keywords: historical furniture, renaissance, Slovakia

ROCOCO FURNITURE IN SLOVAKIA
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ABSTRACT

The article's objective is to bring the selected types of Rococo furniture displayed as a part of European Culture Heritage in Slovak museums' collections to the attention of the professional community.

Rococo is a period-style of late Baroque period. It is dated between 1700 – 1790, during the reign of Ludovít XV and Ludovít XVI in France. The style expanded mostly to Western Europe. During this time period, large and spacious baroque mansions are replaced with smaller and lesser residences, where it is attempted to achieve the same roominess effects achieved in the large baroque buildings. They are decorated with many stuccos, mirrors, and the furniture is adapted in its size and decor to the smaller rooms of the residences. The individual pieces of the furniture are supposed to have an effect of an art work instead of a functional object. Therefore, the symmetry of the ornaments is often broken.

In technical terms, the furniture making required exceptional knowledge, because besides the traditional baroque techniques and technologies, different, especially Eastern decorative components, techniques and technologies were used. Fine, uneven, and curvy designs encouraged the development of woods gluing technique.

The pictures capture selected characteristics of Rococo furniture types from Slovak museums' collections.

Keywords: historical furniture, rococo, Slovakia

CHINESE HISTORICAL FURNITURE

SEAT, TABLE, BED AND STORAGE FURNITURE

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ABSTRACT

Contribution aims to present in the form of pictures the selected types of Chinese antique furniture of Ming and Qing dynasty on base and by analyzing exhibition of the National Museum in Shanghai by the team of authors, that was documented in September 2013.

China is wellknown admired ancient civilizations, which in the context of a contribution can be characterized as country or a nation with a huge history of woodworking . Historic Chinese furniture is a part of world cultural heritage as was considered. The rarest and most exclusive pieces were made during the reign of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). This furniture became known as chinese business article since the late of 16th century, it was imported through sea routes to Europe. Its original apparently influences European furniture makers of the late Baroque and Rococo period.

The basic material for its production were local wood like pine, elm, bamboo... Most were valued plants related rosewood or sandalwood - Nanma, tielimu, jichimu, jumu, zitan, huanghuali.

Concepts form the basis of shaped frames were made of solid wood of different cross section profiles of piedroit fillings, or without, all bound together into spatial functional scaffolds. Corner joints were jointed frames miter nontransversal pin and mortising. Trim frame is attached using tongue and groove in the frame freely, allowing its slight shrinkage or swelling without visible changes in shape of panel.

For this furniture is characterized a timeless simplicity, the basis of pure forms and simple elegant lines. Chinese maker mold design in context with the convenience of the user and this is reflected in all types of furniture. Each element of Chinese furniture has a specific purpose, namely the location of the function at a given time. Important role in the decoration art-design details has played a symbolism. Its motives are often hidden desire of happiness, health, prosperity, longevity and fertility.

Keywords: historical furniture, China, seats furniture, tables, beds, storage furniture

CLASSICISTIC FURNITURE IN SLOVAKIA

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ABSTRACT

The article's objective is to bring the selected types of Classicism furniture displayed as a part of European Culture Heritage in Slovak museums' collections to the attention of the professional community.

Classicism is a form of an artistic period, which developed the classic antique and renaissance art from the beginning of the seventeenth century until the beginning of the nineteenth century. Classicism considerably influenced furniture making. After playful, asymmetric, decorative Rococo, the design and the form of the furniture softened and sized down. Classicism arose in France; however, it soon expanded to England because of the efforts of Adam, Hepplewhite, Chippendale, and Sheraton. Gradually, Classicism expanded to Germany, and it is also where the center of furniture making transferred from Paris.

The best known furniture maker from this time period is Georges Jacob, who made the furniture for the French Kingdom in the second half of the eighteenth century. Classicistic sectional ordered as a wedding gift by Maria Teresia for her daughter is currently in St. Anton's mansion. It is one of the most interesting and most valuable furniture exhibits in Slovakia. Chairs made by an English furniture maker George Hepplewhite introduced in this article are also part of the interior of the St. Anton's mansion.

The pictures capture selected Classicistic furniture components from Slovak museums' collections in St. Anton, Betliar, and Kezmarok.

Keywords: historical furniture, Classicism, Slovakia,