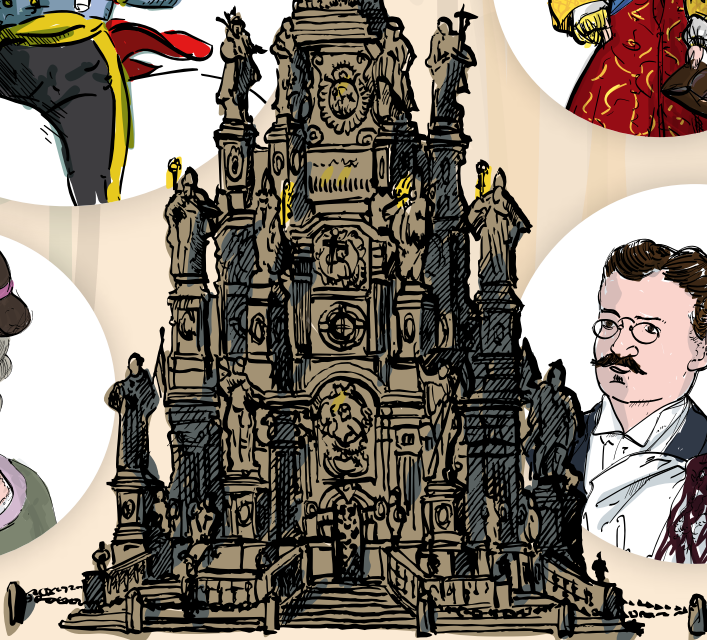
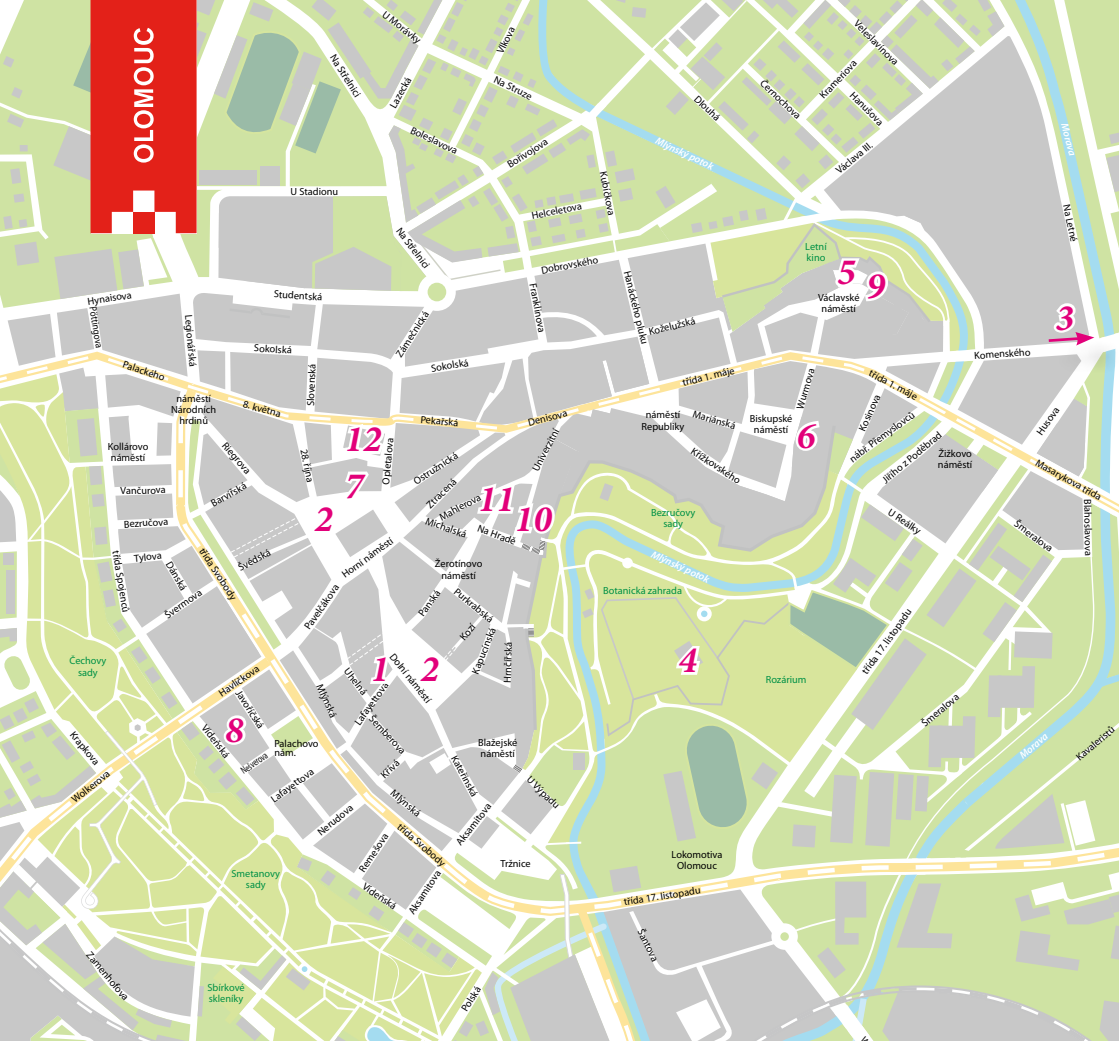


Olomouc Stories





on the front page – story no. 2: A Dream of a Magnificent Column Comes True

2

The Holy Trinity Column

The colossal, 32-metre-high column is unique in Europe in terms of size and sculptural decoration. The three-story sandstone monument is crowned by a sculpture of the Holy Trinity with the Archangel Michael and decorated with gilded copper sculptures. It is the only one of its kind to have an inner chapel. The master stonemason Václav Rindler inserted Baroque symbolism into the column, invisible at first glance, drawing on the ancient and mediaeval magic of numbers, where the number 3 and its multiples played a central role. The original grey-white paint with dark veining was intended to imitate marble.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World Heritage

Dear Visitors, Welcome to our beautiful Olomouc!



Today's world brings an immeasurable flow of information that rains down on us from all sides. We try to choose that which is important and interesting. It is beyond human ability to navigate a way through it all, but an extensive knowledge of history is a major topic. Only the most passionate will know it inside out. How can we make history more accessible? This is why stories are perfect. We all love them.

All it takes are a few interesting facts for the story to capture our attention and to burn itself into our memory. Our stories connected to Olomouc are intricate and surprising, permeated with love, anguish and significant or tragic circumstances. All are captivating.

Accompany us through our city and immerse yourself in the stories of those who left an indelible mark on Olomouc. Turn the page, the story begins...

*Prepared for you by
Markéta Záleská*

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Little Wolfi Recovers from a Deadly Disease in Olomouc

1



In the spring of 1767, a smallpox epidemic broke out in Vienna. The Salzburg conductor Leopold Mozart decided to leave the town with his wife and two children, with whom he had been touring Europe for several years. Little Wolfgang Amadeus and his sister Maria Anna (Nannerl), who was five years older, amazed everyone by showing off their extraordinary musical talents. Wolfgang had been composing since the age of five and, like Nannerl, was an accomplished pianist. The Mozarts were supposed to play at the wedding of one of Maria Theresa's daughters in Vienna. However, the young bride succumbed to smallpox. So, the family hurried to Moravia. Concerts in Brno could not be arranged, so they made their way to Olomouc.

They arrived at Olomouc Fortress on 26 October 1767. The carriage stopped in front of the Black Eagle Inn. Eleven-year-old Wolfi was already showing symptoms of smallpox and his sister was not feeling well either. Little Mozart was stricken with fever and became delirious overnight. They only stayed at the Inn for two days. The rooms were uncomfortable, damp and could not be heated. Leopold Mozart was worried and urgently turned to Count Podstatzky, Dean of the Olomouc Cathedral Chapter, whom he had met in Salzburg. Without hesitation, the Dean accommodated the Mozart family in his residence at the Chapter Deanery, where the Archdiocesan Museum is located today. Thanks to his hospitality and expert medical care, Wolfi and his sister recovered from their serious illness without any consequences. Nannerl later recalled this stay and mentioned that Wolfgang had problems with his eyes during the illness and for a long time afterwards.

The lively boy quickly became bored and welcomed any distraction. He learnt card tricks and took fencing lessons. In Olomouc, Wolfgang composed his Symphony No. 6 in F major and a composition for the daughter of Dr Josef Wolff, who was

caring for him and Nannerl. On the day before Christmas Eve 1767, the Mozarts left for Brno, where they were to give a concert. Who knows how things would have turned out if the Mozarts had been in a different place and the circumstances had not been so favourable for them! Thanks to his recovery in Olomouc, the brilliant musician was able to develop his talent and compose his countless future masterpieces. The Mozarteum Hall in the Archdiocesan Museum is named after him. Mozart's stay in Olomouc is also commemorated by a memorial plaque.

Hauenschild Palace

The name of the Renaissance palace is associated with the important Hauenschild merchant family. The ornate façade is dominated by a cylindrical double-storey bay window with mythological reliefs inspired by Ovid's Metamorphoses. The spacious hall with Renaissance vaults has been preserved. One of the original owners of the house, Ester Sturnus, was accused of witchcraft during the witch hunts. The building also served as the Black Eagle Inn, with a picture of a black eagle previously displayed on the house sign. Between 1744 and 1768, theatrical performances took place in this building, which today is a popular venue for gourmets, especially for lovers of local specialities.



A Dream of a Magnificent Column Comes True

2



The Holy Trinity Column impresses with its monumentality, location, sculptural decoration, and spiritual dimension. If the original creator, who devoted a large part of his life to this work, could see it today in all its splendour, he would certainly be overwhelmed with emotion. The Holy Trinity Column is a unique work of High Baroque Art. Thanks to its extraordinary character, it was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000.

Throughout the monarchy, master stonemason Václav Render was granted imperial privilege to carry out the work based on his own designs. His workshop had a good reputation and was one of the largest in Moravia. Among other things, Render is the creator of the altar of St Paula in the Church of St Maurice, the portal of St Mary of the Snows Church and is also associated with Olomouc fountains. He also participated in the construction of the pilgrimage church on Holy Hill (Svatý Kopeček), Hradisko Monastery and other buildings in the city and surroundings.

In 1715, when the Plague was ravaging the town, construction of a Plague Column began, according to Render's design. However, he had an even more ambitious vision of a column that would be unrivalled in height and decorative splendour. In January 1716, he sent a letter to the Town Hall, outlining his dream. After approval, firstly the Hercules Fountain had to be relocated from the site where the column was to be built. However, the Town Council refused to pay for the move. Undeterred, Render invested his own money in the project. He did not live to see the completion of the column, dying a bachelor and childless in 1733 at the age of 64. He had completed his life's work up to the height of the first floor, the Chapel and part of the sculptural decoration. His estate was used for further construction works, which were repeatedly postponed. After a few years, the towering torso of the stone colossus started to arouse the displeasure of the townspeople, so that the Town Council finally decided to complete the column in 1744.

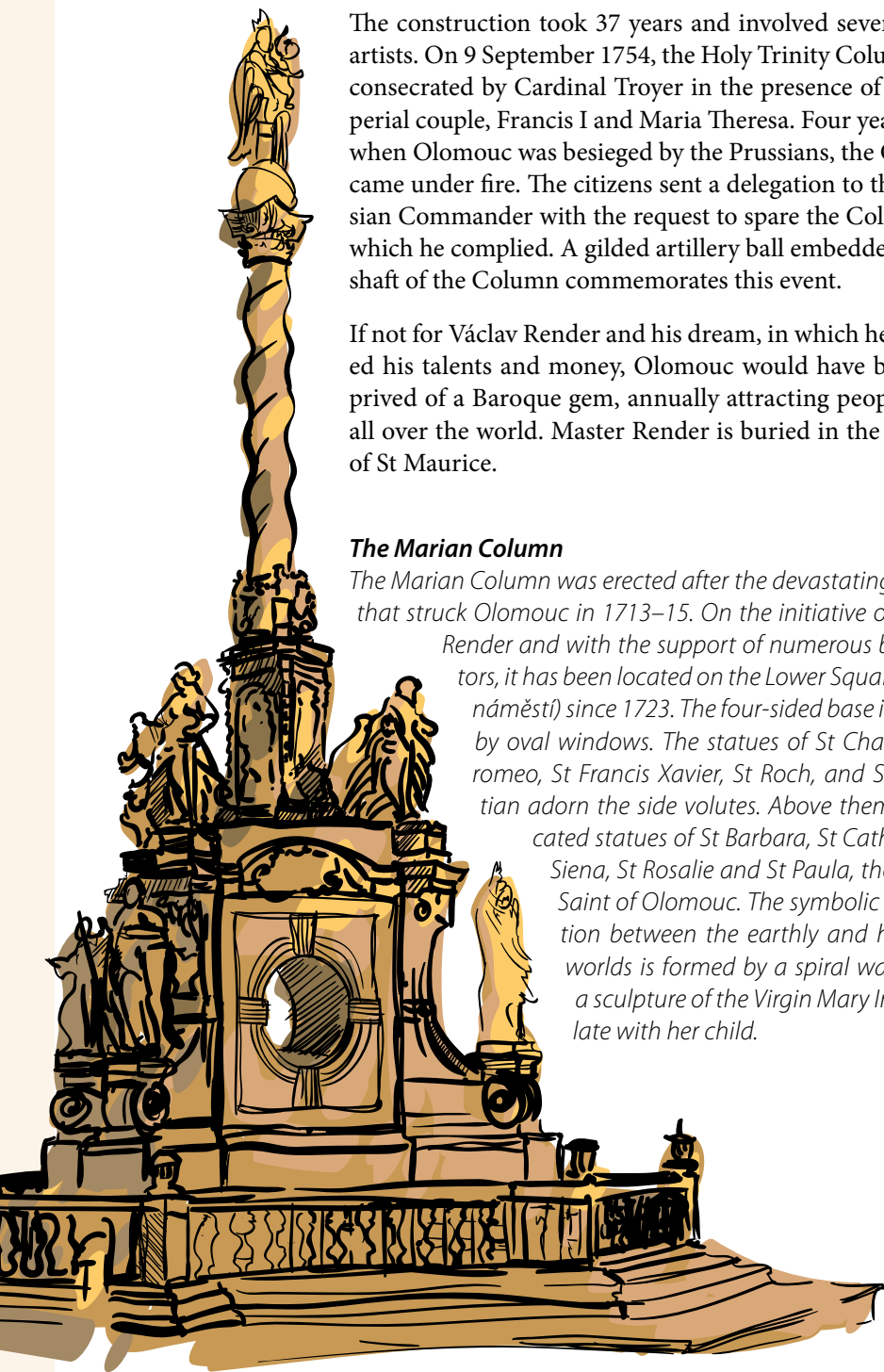


The construction took 37 years and involved several local artists. On 9 September 1754, the Holy Trinity Column was consecrated by Cardinal Troyer in the presence of the imperial couple, Francis I and Maria Theresa. Four years later, when Olomouc was besieged by the Prussians, the Column came under fire. The citizens sent a delegation to the Prussian Commander with the request to spare the Column, to which he complied. A gilded artillery ball embedded in the shaft of the Column commemorates this event.

If not for Václav Render and his dream, in which he invested his talents and money, Olomouc would have been deprived of a Baroque gem, annually attracting people from all over the world. Master Render is buried in the Church of St Maurice.

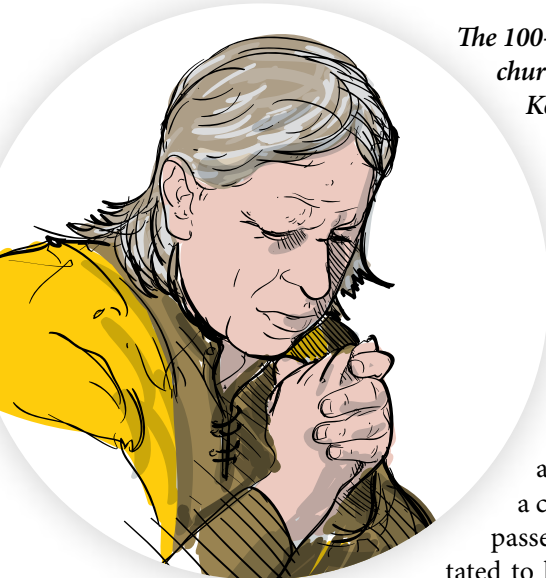
The Marian Column

The Marian Column was erected after the devastating Plague that struck Olomouc in 1713–15. On the initiative of Václav Render and with the support of numerous benefactors, it has been located on the Lower Square (Dolní náměstí) since 1723. The four-sided base is broken by oval windows. The statues of St Charles Borromeo, St Francis Xavier, St Roch, and St Sebastian adorn the side volutes. Above them are located statues of St Barbara, St Catherine of Siena, St Rosalie and St Paula, the Patron Saint of Olomouc. The symbolic connection between the earthly and heavenly worlds is formed by a spiral wave, with a sculpture of the Virgin Mary Immaculate with her child.



Merchant Andřýsek Hears a Voice from Heaven

3



The 100-metre-tall yellowish façade of the Baroque church arises proudly like a banner on Svatý Kopeček (Holy Hill) near Olomouc. The Premonstratensians had it built in a unique landscape composition, resonating with the nearby Hradisko Monastery. The majestic church is one of the most important European pilgrimage sites, with an impressive spiritual tradition and atmosphere.

Jan Andřýsek, an Olomouc merchant, had wanted to do something good for a long time and so he promised to build a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Time passed, his wine trade flourished, but he hesitated to keep his promise. The Virgin Mary with the baby Jesus in her arms appeared to him twice in a dream to remind him of his promise. At the end of February 1629, he rode aimlessly out of the town, with his horse making its way up a snow-covered wooded hillside. In the subsequent violent snowstorm, the merchant covered his face and immersed himself in prayer. Suddenly it stopped snowing, Andřýsek looked up and realised with surprise that he was standing on the site that the Virgin Mary had revealed to him. He thus had a Chapel built there, with the consent of the Premonstratensians who owned the land. Miracles have taken place on this site since its foundation. Fifteen years later, during the Swedish occupation, the Chapel was burnt down, but the venerated miraculous image was saved. It was at this time that the sorrowful Virgin Mary appeared to Andřýsek for the third time. At his suggestion, the Premonstratensians rebuilt the Chapel.

However, the small church was no longer adequate, so it was decided to build a temple dedicated to the Visitation of the Virgin Mary. Jan Andřýsek did not live to see its consecration in 1679. The entire construction was completed in the middle of the 18th century. In 1732, 100 000 people took part in the magnificent two-day celebrations of the centenary of the founding of the pilgrimage site. In the evening, the entire hilltop was aglow, the name of the Virgin Mary and the pillars were illuminated on a triumphal gate, to be seen as far as the neighbouring

village of Samotiški. The next day, the miraculous image of Our Lady was decorated with golden Roman crowns, an honour that was not bestowed on many churches at the time.

In 1748, Empress Maria Theresa visited Holy Hill, accompanied by her husband. The church representatives asked whether an escape route could be built from Holy Hill to Hradisko Monastery. Maria Theresa supported this proposal. Pierre de Rochepine, the French master builder who had overseen the construction of Olomouc Fortress, had plans drawn up, but ultimately ruled out the construction of the 6.5-kilometre-long corridor.

Basilica of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary

The single-nave church, whose foundation stone was laid in 1669, is the work of imperial architect Giovanni Pietro Tencalla. It was designed by Domenico Martinelli and built as a residence with formal halls and a cloister. The Chapel of St Anne is attributed to Jan Santini. The Baroque interior features frescoes by Jan Kryštof Handke and other artists, as well as a valuable organ. Pope John Paul II elevated the church to a Minor Basilica in April 1995.



The Fortress Built by Maria Theresa

4



Empress Maria Theresa visited Olomouc twice and made a great impression on the townspeople, always receiving a warm welcome, and being known here as “Mama”. A town gate and an armoury were named after her. Her decision to turn the town into an important border fortress was of decisive importance for Olomouc. Town life was influenced for a long time by the permanent presence of the military garrison.

Maria Theresa ascended the throne on 20 October 1740 at the age of 23. From the beginning of her reign, she had to deal with Prussian expansionist policy. On 12 February 1736, she married the love of her life, Francis I.

When she became Empress, the monarchy was drowning in debt. Starting in 1749, Maria Theresa introduced reforms to reorganise and modernise state administration. In 40 years, she transformed the feudal Empire into a modern, prosperous state with a strong army.

She first visited Olomouc with her husband in 1748. They came to check on the progress of the construction of the modern fortress, which they had ordered six years before. At that time, extensive earthworks were still underway. They also visited the camps of the Russian troops who had been sent to support the threatened Empire. The imperial couple stayed at the Archbishop’s Palace, where audiences were held. They watched a performance of a musical drama at Hradisko Monastery and Maria Theresa attended mass at the tomb of Jan Sarkander. On the last day, they met crowds of believers on Holy Hill.

Their second official visit to Olomouc took place from 6 – 9 September 1754. The gate through which the monarch and her husband entered Olomouc was named Theresian Gate (Terezká brána). The war with Prussia was imminent and it was necessary to check how Olomouc, already surrounded by ramparts and bastions at that time, was prepared for war.

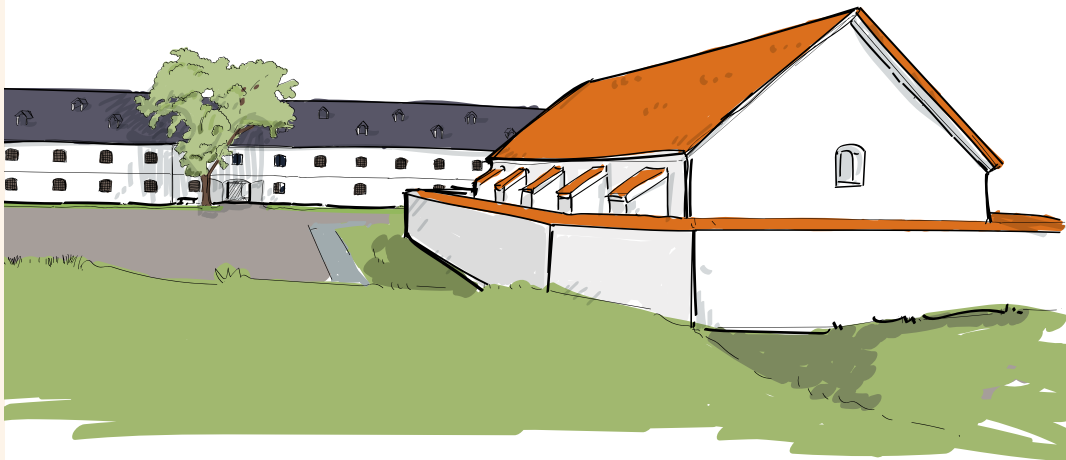
On 9 September, the imperial couple attended the consecration of the newly completed Holy Trinity Column.

Shortly afterwards, Olomouc Fortress was put to the test. It was besieged by the Prussians from May to July 1758, but the ingeniously constructed fortress held out. When Maria Theresa was informed about this, she elevated the brave Generals and 16 members of the Town Council to noble status and granted the loyal Olomouc citizens the privilege of adding the initials F.M.T. (Franciscus – Maria Theresa) to the town's coat of arms. She also paid for the damage caused by the siege and ordered the payment of 800 guildens for the annual exercises of the Olomouc sharpshooters.

The citizens had Maria Theresa immortalised on the Astronomical clock at the Town Hall. Her portrait was created by Jan Kryštof Handke. A portrait of her grandson later replaced her for several decades, but her portrait was recreated at the end of the 19th century at the request of the Town Council and placed on the same spot.

Crown Fortress

This historical site is the last intact remnant of the bastion fortifications from the time of Maria Theresa. The front part is surrounded by a crown wall, while the other parts border the Botanical Garden and Rosarium. The Baroque Powder House houses a small Museum on the history of the Olomouc fortifications, with a large plaster model depicting the fortifications in the mid-18th century. Fort Science, a science centre of Palacký University, is located in the former artillery warehouse.





When the Czech King Wenceslas III arrived in Olomouc in July 1306, he had no idea that this would be his last journey. Olomouc Castle is still famous today, among other things, for being the site where the life of the last male descendant of the Přemyslid dynasty was extinguished by an assassin. The murder, whose circumstances have still not been fully explained, attracts history buffs and mystery lovers.

When Wenceslas's father, Wenceslas II, died, he left the Bohemian, Polish and Hungarian lands to his 16-year-old son. The three royal crowns were a thorn in the side of many. In Poland and Hungary, some made claims to them, and the Habsburgs did not approve either. The young King also had to contend with large debts. Although there were doubts about his ability to rule, as he was said to have a great weakness for fun and women, he was blessed with natural intelligence and a certain political talent. Although he renounced Hungary, he wanted to defend his claim to the Polish crown. He raised the necessary amount of money and set off for Poland, stopping en route in Olomouc, when he was not yet 17 years old.

We can only guess what really happened on 4 August 1306. Wenceslas III was staying at the Cathedral Deanery. Exhausted by the summer heat, he was resting in an open arcade. The murderer took advantage of this and stabbed him to death. Shortly afterwards, the Thuringian Knight Konrad von Botenstein ran out with a bloody dagger in his hand. The guards killed him without questioning him. Nobody wondered whether he was the real murderer. Both Władysław Lokietek, who claimed the Polish throne, and Albert of Habsburg had good reason to get rid of Wenceslas. Suspicion also fell on the Bohemian nobility, as the King used to give them royal castles in a drunken stupor and later demanded them back again. No one will ever know who committed the murder. The last Přemyslid King, Wenceslas III, was buried in St Wenceslas Cathedral, from where his sister Elisabeth later transferred his remains to Zbraslav Monastery.

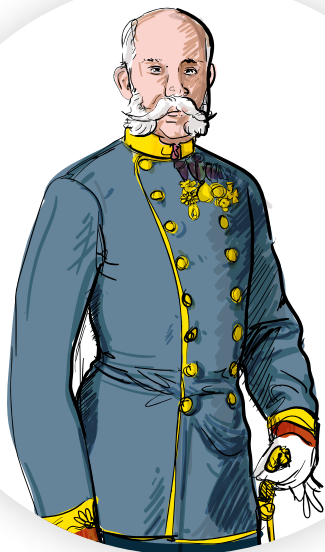
Cathedral Hill

This historically significant site was the seat of Moravian princes. It includes the remains of the Romanesque Bishop's Palace built in the 12th century by Bishop Zdík, the originally Gothic St Wenceslas Cathedral, rebuilt in the 19th century in the Neo-Gothic style, where the relics of St Jan Sarkander and St Paula are kept, and the Chapter Deanery, which was rebuilt from the original Přemyslid Castle. Today it houses the unique Archdiocesan Museum with valuable works of art, including the accessible Chapel of St Barbara. The Late Gothic Chapel of St Anne, rebuilt in Mannerist style, was built between the former Castle Tower and the Cathedral, and served as an election venue for Olomouc Bishops and Archbishops until 1916.



Franz Joseph Ascends to the Throne in Our City

6



In 1848, a revolutionary wave swept across Europe. The imperial family fled from turbulent Vienna. It is obvious why they chose Olomouc as a temporary asylum. The townspeople showed loyalty to the ruling dynasty and the Fortress was a guarantee of safety. Moreover, the Archbishop's residence and the Canons' houses could comfortably accommodate dozens of noblemen. The move to Olomouc was subject to the strictest secrecy.

On 14 October, the town representatives gathered at Theresian Gate to pay tribute to the important guests. The imperial procession was announced by bell ringing and volleys from the Fortress guns. The carriage of Emperor Ferdinand I was followed by the carriage of his brother Franz Karl and his sons on horseback, including the 18-year-old Franz Joseph. Hanakian peasants also joined the procession.

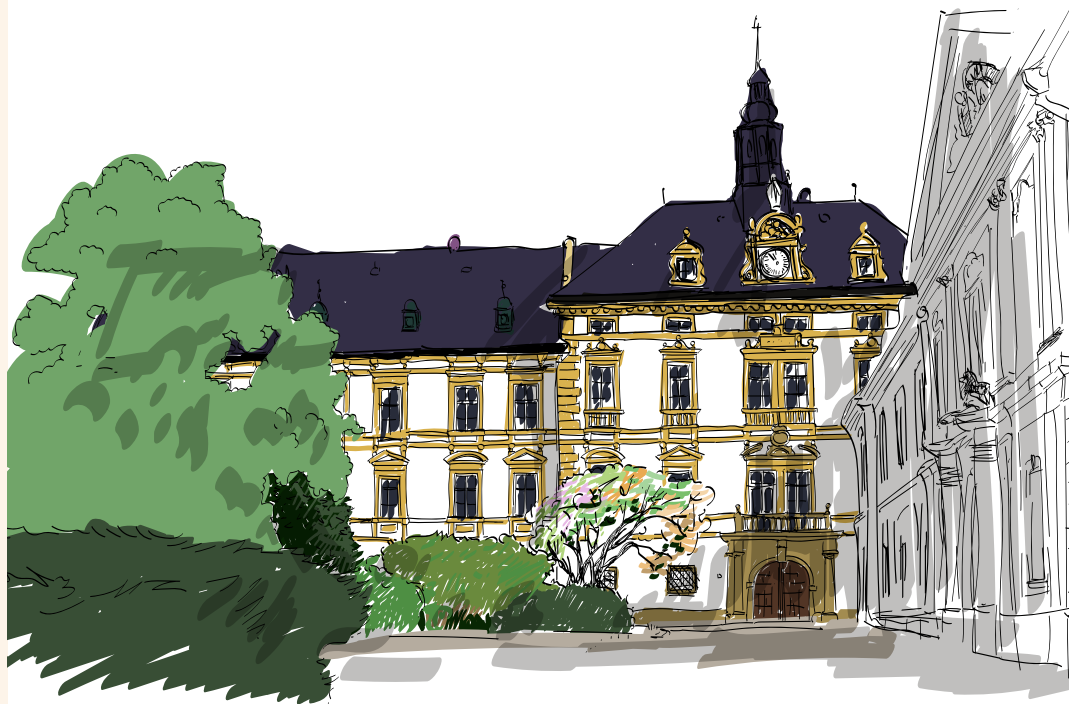
Olomouc became the temporary capital of the Habsburg monarchy for almost seven months. The imperial couple lived in the Archbishop's Palace and attended daily church services in St Wenceslas Cathedral. The programme also included regular audiences and walks in the alleys under the Fortress walls. Archduke Franz Joseph had been familiar with the role assigned to him for some time and had all the prerequisites for it. He had received a thorough education and military training, was an excellent horseman, enjoyed good health and spoke several languages, including Czech. Despite being a Habsburg, he was good-looking, possessed sharp judgement and had already visited Olomouc for a month in 1846.

On 2 December, the meeting of the newly appointed government and members of the dynasty took place in the Throne Hall of the Archbishop's Palace. Emperor Ferdinand I announced his resignation and his brother's renunciation of the right of succession in favour of his son Franz Joseph. Olomouc was festively illuminated in the evening and a torchlight procession passed through the town. In the following

months, Franz Joseph I devoted himself to his duties as ruler. He remained in Olomouc until 4 May 1849. Before his departure, he took part in the traditional shooting festivities. In May 1851, the Emperor returned to Olomouc to take part in major military manoeuvres. It was not to be his last visit to the town where his long imperial reign had begun. The people of Olomouc were very proud of this and decided to erect a monument to him. On 2 December 1898, the 50th anniversary of his accession to the throne, it was unveiled in front of the Town Hall. The three-metre-high bronze statue depicted Emperor Ferdinand I blessing his people with his right hand raised.

Archbishop's Palace

The residence of the Archbishops of Olomouc is one of the most magnificent Baroque palaces in the city. Originally a Renaissance building, it was rebuilt in the Baroque style in the 17th century under Bishop Karl II von Liechtenstein-Kastelkorn, according to the plans of Filiberto Luchese and Giovanni Pietro Tencalla. Accessible formal halls are located in the west wing of the first floor. In 1805, before the Battle of Austerlitz, Russian Tsar Alexander I and Austrian Emperor Francis II discussed the advance against Napoleon with their Generals in the Reception Hall. A plaque in the Throne Hall commemorates the accession to the throne of Franz Joseph I. The Punctuation of Olomouc peace treaty between Austria and Prussia was concluded here in 1850.



Field Marshal Radetzky gets his Second Wind in Olomouc

7



One of the most famous military leaders, Josef Wenzel Radetzky von Radetz, whose military career lasted 72 years, was relegated to Olomouc after long-term efforts to reform the Austrian Army. It was expected that he would live out his remaining years until retirement in Olomouc. However, things soon changed, and he was needed again. He moved to Italy, where, even at his advanced age, he was again able to capitalise on his exceptional military skills.

Josef Wenzel Radetzky was born into a Count's family at Chateau Třebnice in 1766. After graduating from the Theresian Academy in Vienna, he joined the Army at the age of 18, where he quickly made a career for himself. He fought against the Turks, alongside Commander Laudon in revolutionary France, northern Italy, and Germany, and drew up plans for the Battle of Leipzig, in which Napoleon was defeated. From 1809, he oversaw the reorganisation of the Austrian Army as Chief of General Staff. Three years later, however, he resigned as most of his proposals were rejected. Nevertheless, he stubbornly returned to them over time, causing resentment even in the highest circles.

In 1829, he found himself as Commander of Olomouc Fortress “as a punishment”. This was still one of the most important strategic points of the Habsburg monarchy at the time. At the age of 63, he did not confine himself to the fulfilment of ordinary duties, but also campaigned for several improvements to the Fortress, for example, by having its unhealthy wetlands drained. During his time in Olomouc, Franz Alley (Františkova alej) was laid out, the basis of present-day Smetana Park. A photo of the Radetzky lime tree, which he had planted on the grounds of Crown Fortress, has survived to this day. It is said that he planted a garden in one of the Fortress trenches, which he liked to tend in his spare time. After he was called up for military service in Italy in 1831, the Emperor had to pay off large debts for the

expensive banquets Radetzky had held in Olomouc. He originally planned to write his memoirs in Olomouc but did not have the time to do so.

In 1848, Radetzky was made an Honorary Citizen of Olomouc. And how did the famous military Commander, who never forgot his mother tongue, react? He replied that he wished to spend the rest of his life in Olomouc. In 1850, at a time of tension between Austria and Prussia, he contributed to the conclusion of the Punctuation of Olomouc. A year later, he took part in major manoeuvres in Olomouc in the presence of the Austrian Emperor and Russian Tsar. Radetzky survived 17 military campaigns in his career, albeit with many wounds. However, it was the polished floor of his palace in Milan that proved fatal. He died from complications of a fracture in January 1858 at the age of 92.

In May 1892, a memorial plaque was unveiled at Edelmann Palace to commemorate his stay in Olomouc. In the past, what is Kosinova Street today was named after the famous Field Marshal. His black lacquered desk can be seen in the collections of the Regional Museum.

Edelmann Palace

The Renaissance palace, with splendid relief decoration of scenes from the Old and New Testaments, was built in 1572–1586 for leading citizen and nobleman, Václav Edelmann, by combining two mediaeval houses. This double-storey palace bears the coat of arms of the Edelmann family and portraits of Václav and his son in its richly decorated portal.



Unprecedented Proof of Love



Much has been written about her husband. And rightly so. General Marquis de Lafayette made his mark on the history of France and the United States. A street and a hotel in Olomouc bear his name. But it is Adrienne we're interested in. She married de Lafayette when she was not even 15 years old. He was the love of her life, with her love literally knowing no bounds. What she did for him was extraordinary.

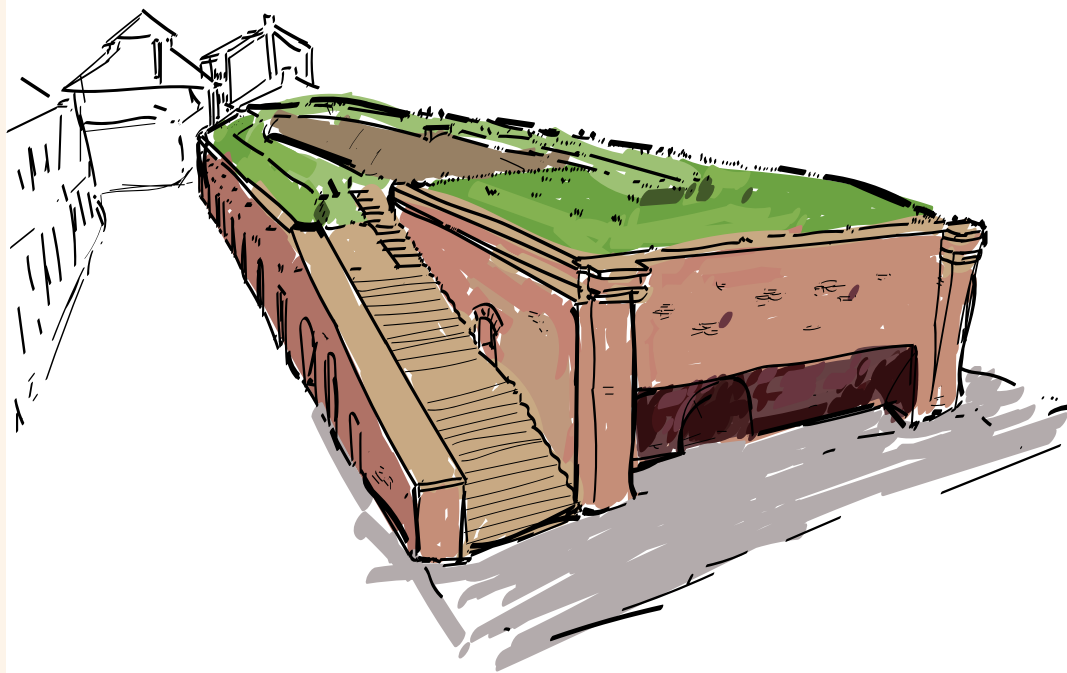
Adrienne came from an old aristocratic family. Her marriage to Lafayette was arranged, but happy. She loved her husband and shared his views. He was not at home much, so they rarely spent time together. When revolutionary events in France descended into terror, Lafayette was branded a traitor, captured by Prussian troops, and handed over to the Austrians, who blamed him for the murder of the Royal Family. In May 1794, he was imprisoned in Olomouc Fortress. He attempted unsuccessfully to escape from prison (which is now the Archives of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic). Today a memorial plaque commemorates his detention. He was temporarily placed in solitary confinement in the Water Barracks, where the hostile, damp environment took its toll on his health.

Adrienne narrowly escaped the guillotine in France. She had no news of her husband for a long time. When she learnt where he was, she embarked on a dangerous journey into enemy territory. She obtained an audience with Emperor Francis II in Vienna, where she asked to be allowed to share the prison with her husband. Surprised, the Emperor agreed, on condition that she would not receive any privileges there. Adrienne arrived in Olomouc on 15 October 1795 with her teenage daughters, Anastasia, and Virginia. Lafayette must have been deeply moved by the devotion of his wife, whose courage and intelligence he had always respected. The prison regime was very strict. They were not allowed out into the open air; the smell of the latrines permeated the cells and flies and mosquitoes swarmed

everywhere. Adrienne was a support for her husband, and he grew stronger under her beneficial influence. She tried to encourage her loved ones, despite her deteriorating health. After some time, when it was possible to send letters, she tried to arrange for their release. Several friends and prominent persons interceded on her behalf. Napoleon, who had come to power in the meantime, delayed his decision for a long time. They were finally freed on 19 September 1797. Their suffering in Olomouc deepened their relationship. Adrienne died at the age of 48 in 1807. Her husband outlived her by 27 years.

Water Barracks

The original part of the bastion fortifications was built in the mid-18th century at the instigation of Empress Maria Theresa. The preserved part with the former mill is only a fraction of the original, almost kilometre-long facility, which was called the Water Barracks because a water canal flowed around it until 1952. It consisted of barracks for the accommodation of troops, horses, and equipment. Part of the dungeons served as a garrison prison, where General Lafayette was held. Today the building houses cafés, bars, and restaurants.



Rudolf Leaves his Heart in Olomouc

9



Of the ruling families, those who ascended the throne were the most well-known. Women mainly tried to marry advantageously and only a few of them took on the duties of a ruler. The male siblings of the heirs to the throne usually pursued a military career or became priests. Some have been forgotten over time, others are still famous today for their brave deeds. Cardinal-Archbishop of Olomouc, Archduke Rudolf of Austria, is one of those who lived their earthly life to the fullest. He left his mark in Olomouc, where he felt at home.

The grandson of Maria Theresa and the youngest son of Emperor Leopold II was born in Tuscany in 1788. Two years later, the whole family moved to Vienna, where his father ascended the throne. Orphaned at the age of 4, Rudolf and his siblings were taken in by their brother, the newly elected Emperor Francis II. Due to health problems, Rudolf did not become a soldier as expected, but began studying Theology at the age of 16. He also showed musical talent from an early age. His teacher was Ludwig van Beethoven, with whom he had a lifelong friendship. His glorious inauguration ceremony in Olomouc took place a year later. Beethoven dedicated his *Missa Solemnis* to him on this occasion.

Rudolf took care of his Archdiocese very responsibly. During his tenure, Olomouc flourished. He was a man of great insight, a visionary, protector, promoter of the Czech language, patron, and art lover – simply an extraordinary personality of great spirit. The list of his merits is long, e.g. we owe the construction of Olomouc Theatre to him. He also composed music and organised concerts. Rudolf Alley in Smetana Park, which he founded on the outskirts of the former fortifications as the basis of a city park, still bears his name today. Thanks to the intercession with his brother, the Emperor, the local Lyceum was promoted to a University – Francis University – in 1827 and Olomouc gained in prestige. He also campaigned for the beatification of Jan Sarkander.

When Rudolf died suddenly in 1831, he was buried in the Imperial Crypt in Vienna. In his will, he stipulated that his heart should be buried in St Wenceslas Cathedral. The Latin words on the memorial plaque testify to his great personal attachment to Olomouc. Wall portraits of Rudolf can be seen in the Archdiocesan Museum and the Archbishop's Palace.

St Wenceslas Cathedral

The Cathedral of St Wenceslas, called simply Dóm (duomo) by the locals, with its double-tower face is an integral part of the city skyline. The third tower is the highest church tower in Moravia. The originally Romanesque Basilica was built at the beginning of the 12th century by Prince Svatopluk and consecrated in 1131 by Bishop Jindřich Zdik. In the 13th and 14th centuries, after several fires, it was rebuilt as a Gothic triple-naved structure. Later, the Renaissance St Stanislaus Chapel was added on the southern side. Under the Presbytery, the double-storey crypt is accessible – its upper storey serves as an exhibition space. The coffins of Olomouc Bishops and the heart of Archbishop Rudolf can be seen on the lower floor. A shrine with relics of St Jan Sarkander is placed on the altar. Between 1883 and 1891, the Cathedral underwent a Neo-Gothic reconstruction, designed by Gustav Meretta.



Love Story in the Art Nouveau Period

10



They say, “follow your heart”. Ideally, a strong romantic connection should be complemented by a shared sense of harmony in various aspects of life. Otto and Eugenie lived such an almost fairytale-like story. Their marriage produced four children and an artistic legacy that we still admire today. However, there was no happy ending.

Otto Primavesi came from a family from Lombardy, Italy, that settled in Olomouc at the end of the 18th century and engaged in trading and banking. Otto was employed in the textile and sugar industries. In Olomouc Theatre, he met a young actress, Eugenie Butschek, who performed under the stage name of Mäda. The beautiful Eugenie gave up her promising acting career to marry the wealthy businessman in 1894. The couple shared a love of art and, in 1904, decided to build a villa that was exceptional in its conception and location. No expense was spared. In just two years, an asymmetrical building with a mansard roof was built, equipped with numerous bay windows and turrets, combining Viennese and English Art Nouveau influences.

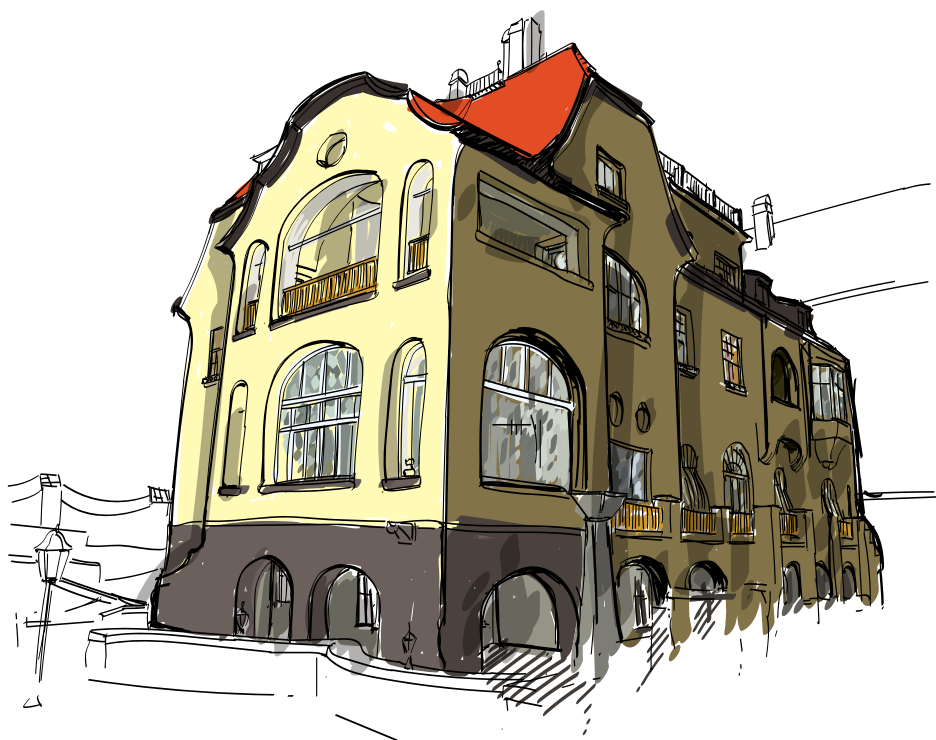
The architects Franz von Krauss and Josef Tölk designed this impressive masterpiece with a central double storey living hall and a staircase leading to a gallery. The state-of-the-art technical facilities connected to its own power plant included central heating, a central vacuum system, and a ventilation system. As generous cultural patrons and art collectors, the Primavesi couple adorned their home with many works of art from the Wiener Werkstätte workshop, such as those by painter Gustav Klimt and sculptor Anton Hanak. Klimt is the artist who created the world-famous portraits of Eugenie and her daughter Mäda.

The Primavesi couple were very sociable, and the comfortable house with its homely atmosphere hosted many visitors, such as Josef Hoffmann, who was involved in the later redesign of the villa. Eugenie held costume parties with exquisite delicacies, for which the terrace garden with its lilac and jasmine bushes was also used.

She pampered her guests and knew their whims, which she wrote down in her diary. Otto eventually became involved in high politics and took over the Wiener Werkstätte in 1913. The desire to constantly subsidise the workshop was one of the main reasons why the family ran into financial difficulties. To save the Wiener Werkstätte, they moved to Vienna and sold the villa and most of their paintings. But high-quality, original products could no longer compete with cheaper mass production. The family found itself bankrupt and the couple separated after 30 years together. A year later, the desperate Otto took his own life. Eugenie, who died in Vienna at the age of 87, could only dwell on her memories of happier times filled with love and art.

Villa Primavesi

This is one of the most important Viennese Art Nouveau buildings in Central Europe. In 1923, it was acquired from the Primavesi family by a group of sugar factories, which later sold it to Dr František Koutný. He converted the villa into a private sanatorium. After his death, it was bought by Dr Robert Pospíšil. After nationalisation, it was used as a medical facility. The villa was revitalised by Pavla Honzиковá, a granddaughter of the last owner. The main entrance is framed by a beautiful mosaic. The ground-floor hall with a fireplace is decorated with a stained-glass window depicting Olomouc in 1706. Among other things, there is a functioning fountain and a dining room with a conservatory. A cosy café is in the basement.



Even Torture Could Not Break Him

11



The story of Catholic Priest Jan Sarkander takes place in difficult times, accompanied by religious tensions and military conflict. His dramatic life journey reflects this time.

It was the path of a pious man who remained true to his faith despite cruel torture. The final stage of his life, associated with Olomouc, ended with his martyrdom. He was canonised 375 years later.

The Moravian Saint Jan Sarkander is known as the martyr of the Seal of Confession. Born in Poland, he moved with his mother to Moravia after his father's death.

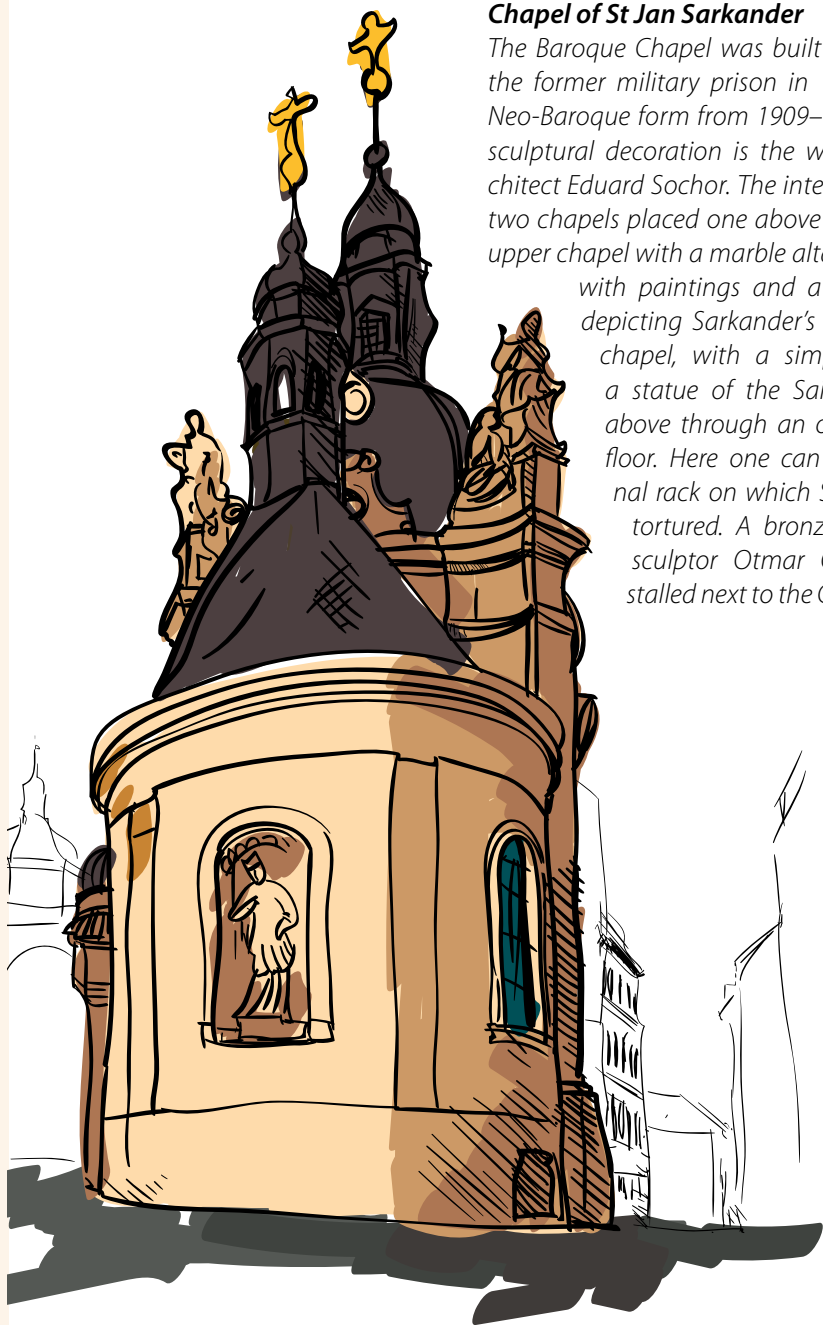
The talented boy attended the Jesuit School in Olomouc and later the Jesuit Academy in Prague, where he graduated with a Master's degree in Philosophy and Liberal Arts. However, his desire to serve as a priest was very strong. After studying Theology, he was ordained as a Priest at the age of 33. He worked in several parishes and settled in Holešov in 1616. He was zealous in his faith and often got into arguments with parishioners who accused him of religious delusion. In 1620, he was arrested and accused by Protestants of being in league with the enemy Catholic Army, which marched through Moravia to help the Emperor in Vienna and, above all, plundered the property of Protestants.

Sarkander was cruelly tortured in the town prison, where the Sarkander Chapel is now located. However, he confessed nothing, not even what his master, Ladislav Popel von Lobkowicz, had revealed to him in his confession. He died on 17 March 1620, as a result of inhumane torture. A funeral procession through the town was prohibited. Sarkander was buried in the Chapel of St Lawrence at the Church of Our Lady. News of his death spread and gradually a strong popular cult of worship for him developed, with even crowned heads worshipping his relics. His grave was visited twice by Empress Maria Theresa. After the dissolution of the Church of Our Lady, his relics were transferred to St Michael's

Church. Today, some relics are also kept in St Wenceslas Cathedral. Jan Sarkander was beatified in 1859 and was canonised on 21 May 1995 in Olomouc by Pope John Paul II.

Chapel of St Jan Sarkander

The Baroque Chapel was built on the site of the former military prison in 1672–1673. Its Neo-Baroque form from 1909–1912 with rich sculptural decoration is the work of the architect Eduard Sochor. The interior consists of two chapels placed one above the other. The upper chapel with a marble altar is decorated with paintings and a ceiling fresco depicting Sarkander's life. The lower chapel, with a simple altar and a statue of the Saint, is lit from above through an opening in the floor. Here one can see the original rack on which Sarkander was tortured. A bronze fountain by sculptor Otmar Oliva was installed next to the Chapel in 2007.



Olomouc Never Forgets its Patron Saint

12



People cling to the saints with hope, not only in moments of personal distress, but also in times of danger and illness. Manifestations of great veneration for St Paula in Olomouc are mainly associated with the Baroque period. The Plague epidemics sweeping through Europe were decimating and terrifying. The people of Olomouc often turned to the Saint in fervent prayer, and their prayers were answered. This close spiritual connection led to Paula being declared the Patron Saint of the city.

Saint Paula lived during the time of Roman Emperor Diocletian, who persecuted Christians severely. Her entire family converted to Christianity and were put to death for this. Paula and her mother were stoned to death sometime in the early 4th century. Paula's relics rested in the Roman catacombs until 1622 when, after a ceremonial disinterment, they were entrusted to the Society of Jesus. Her relics were then brought to Olomouc and deposited in the Jesuit College. At that time, the Plague was raging in the town, killing 7 000 people. Town officials organised a procession with the relics and a miracle occurred – it was the end of the Plague. Out of gratitude, the Town Council declared St Paula the official Patron Saint in 1623 and decided that every year a solemn procession would be held in her honour.

The last major Plague epidemic in our country raged between 1714 and 1716. The situation in Olomouc was critical. The town was placed under quarantine in June 1715 and guarded by the Army. The Plague claimed 3 000 victims. On 25 August 1715, the largest supplication procession to St Paula took place. And once again the plea was answered. Shortly afterwards, master stonemason Václav Render came up with a proposal to build the Marian Column with a depiction of St Paula. He is also the creator of the Holy Trinity Column that commemorates the devastating Plague. The veneration of St Paula was not limited to Plague events. She has been called upon to help with other disasters too.

Processions were also led to the Basilica on Holy Hill, where one of the side chapels is dedicated to her.

The oldest reliquary in the form of a glass temple intended for the crowned skull of the Saint was made in the mid-17th century. Later, further relics were placed in two silver-decorated wooden chests in a gilded decorative display case. The relics were placed in the Jesuit Church of Our Lady of the Snows in its Chapel of St Paula, which was decorated with frescoes by Jan Kryštof Handke, depicting her baptism and martyrdom. In 1786, her relics were taken from there to St Wenceslas Cathedral. The people of Olomouc still remember their Patron Saint to this day. In her honour, a costumed procession is held every year as part of the City Fest at the beginning of June.

Church of St Maurice

The parish church from the beginning of the 15th century, distinctive for its two asymmetric prismatic towers and highly arched triple nave, is one of the most valuable Late Gothic buildings in Moravia. The stellar and rib vaulting follow the tradition of the cathedral builder, Peter Parler. The Renaissance tomb of the noble Edelmann family was added in the 16th century. During a Baroque renovation in 1745, an organ was installed, one of the largest in Central Europe. The 1719 Baroque marble altar of St Paula by Václav Render, with a sculptural decoration by Filip Sattler, has been preserved.





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Mozart in Quarantine

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