

Bernhard Grueber (1806-1882) was invited to Prague in 1845 to become professor of Architecture at the local Academy of Arts. Being an experienced Bavarian architect from Munich, from the art centre of those times, he was expected to establish a high-quality school of architecture. This school had been founded not long before and his task was to bring up a new generation of creative personalities. Munich romanticism was supposed to become an alternative to Austrian state utilitarianism.

Grueber was expected to enhance the vernacular architecture to the position of real art. But the conditions did not incline towards that. After the revolution of 1848 the emancipated Bohemian national movement did not support the production of the German artist. The task to revive vernacular art was entrusted to Bohemian artists. Neither German romanticism was found worth succession. And what more, Grueber provoked emotions of the Czech National Revival supporters with his art-historian works, where he emphasizes the common dependence of Czech art on German models. At the end he had to return to his native Bavaria in 1873. But paradoxically the young generation of architects of the end of 19th century, in their effort of finding the new true national style, drew from the same ideological source as the cursed architect: from romanticism.

This diploma work first shortly describes the ideological ground of Grueber's production in the thinking of German romanticism and the influence of his art education, which he gained in the specific Munich cultural environment (the romantic conception of art and artist's personality, the school of Friedrich von Gärtner, the connection of classical and national-medieval traditions in the new artistic production, a narrow closure between architecture and history, the concern about Gothic style perceived like a German style).

In following part of this work introduces Grueber's architectural production.