

HRÁDEK U NECHANIC – ARCHITECTURE AND ITS INSPIRATORY SOURCES

Chateau Hrádek u Nechanic was built by František Arnošt, the count of Harrach (1799–1884) as a new representative residence of the county family and also as a Harrach's earldom administrative centre. The foundation-stone of the carcass was layed in the year 1839 and the ceremonial laying foundation of the chapel took place two years later. The construction was officially completed in the year 1857 but works in interiors were practically proceeding during the whole second half of the 19th century.

Subject of this work is architecture of the chateau Hrádek u Nechanic and its inspiratory sources. We talk about first large aristocratic building in the whole Habsburg Imperium that was in such an integral resemblance influenced by the english *Gothic Revival* phenomenon – an architecture, an interiors culture and a lifestyle. As an author of building plans is despite many obscurities considered Edward Buckton Lamb (1806–1869). It makes from count František Arnošt of Harrach propably the only one developer in the Habsburg Imperium who gave an order of a project for his chateau directly to an english architect. During the construction were made changes and adjustments by the vienesse architect Karl Fischer who took also a control of bulding.

At the beginning of my work I attempted to create a comprehensive summary of the most important literature and other sources to this subject matter.

The following chapter is devoted to the aristokratic mansions in the time of Romantic Historism. Here I tried to explain terminology used in this work. Onward are described inspiration sources of Neogothic extension to the Bohemian Countries during the 18th century including the view of the first buldings raised in this style in our territory. The last part of this chapter is composed from the description of three buildings of the highest importance which appearance was dramatically influenced by the english *Gothic Revival*, and their mutual comparison.

The fifth chapter follows Harrach's family history and its activities in Bohemia with a special attention given to the founder of the chateau Hrádek - František Arnošt, the count of Harrach. His personality is tied together also with the next chapter describing visitations in Great Britain that the count of Harrach realized in the years 1825 and 1838-1839. At this journeys he was impressed not only by the economic and industrial expansion of the British

Empire but a lifestyle and the English aristocracy culture as well. That experience later showed itself up in his business activities and in the building of the family mansion.

The seventh chapter deals with an author of chateau building plans which is nowadays one of the most disputed points in the whole subject. In terms of this part I introduced the personality of Edward Buckton Lamb, an almost unknown architect in our milieu.

The last chapter devoted to the chateau building itself is divided into five parts. Here is described the process of place selection, laying foundation, course of building, appearance of exteriors, interiors features and the park.