

SUMMARY

Church of St Mauritius

The Bachelor's thesis on the Church of St Mauritius pursues the history of the Sušice region and the associated reign of the Counts of Bogen, the medieval communications in South-West Bohemia, history of the village of Mouřenec, description, architectonic and historical study of the Church of St Mauritius, as well as ground-plan disposition analogies to the church of St Mauritius in Bavaria and Upper Austria.

The Counts of Bogen significantly influenced the history of the Czech Kingdom and mainly the history of the Sušice region. This noble family was close-knit with the Premyslide dynasty, both by marriages and assistance in armed conflicts. During their rule until their die-out in 1242, the Counts of Bogen built up a considerable territory that became one of the most important basis for the territory ruled by the Wittelsbachs.

We can learn more about the Šumava paths since the 11th century, from where origin the first verified records. According to these written records, the oldest paths across the Šumava Mountains are the St Vintíř Path and the Golden Path. These historical paths connected Bohemia with the Danubian regions around Regensburg (St Vintíř Path) and around Passau (Golden Path).

The Church of St Mauritius is situated on a perch above the Otava River near the village of Annín, 4 km to east from Harmanice in neighbourhoods of the town of Sušice. The Church of St. Mauritius is a single-aisle building with a choir, a choir tower and a semicircular apsis. The original Romanesque aisle had almost square shape and was lower comparing to its contemporary situation. The entrance to the aisle was originally through the south portal, which became a passage to the chapel later in the Baroque period. The portal is rectangularly stepped-off and closed with semicircular archivolt, where the inner one is articulated with the cored concave curls with flat springings.

We can see various types of single-aisle churches in the South and South-West Bohemia. In the majority, they are churches with a rectangular aisle and a quadratic choir. The disposition of the church of St Mauritius in Mouřenec is completely extraordinary, as it is a single-aisle church with a choir tower and an apsis. This type of church occurs in Bohemia only rarely, with only several examples in the South and South-West Bohemia (churches in Horní Stropnice and Kostelec u Tábora).

The most widespread ground-plan disposition in Central Europe is composed of a rectangular aisle, a choir, a semicircular apsis and a tower heading to the west. The ground-plan disposition with a choir tower has not been common to this extent. The ground-plan disposition of the Church of St Mauritius has origins in the neighbouring Bavaria and Danubian regions, where we can find the closest analogies.

The immediate analogy presenting explanation to the ground-plan of the Church of St Mauritius is the Church of St Andrew in Prüfening, which has a single aisle, flat ceiling, a choir, a choir tower and a semicircular apsis in the east. Further examples include the Church of St Michal in Kelheim, the Church of St James in Neunburg vorm Wald or the Church of St James in Trossenfurth.

Key words:

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Romanesque

Counts of Bogen

analogy of ground-plan disposition

portal with the cored concave curls