

RESUME

Augustin Němejc is an important painter from the Region of West Bohemia from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries.

He was born in Nepomuk on 15 March as the last of five children. His father owned a butcher's shop and a small amount of land. From as far back as his early childhood Augustin Němejc showed a gift for painting. He went through primary and secondary school in his home town of Nepomuk and after this, his father sent him for apprenticeship with a watch-making master in Pilsen. His father did so despite knowing that Augustin wanted to be a painter. After his apprenticeship he set off on his grand tour. He walked the whole of the Czech Republic. He even made a long journey to Italy in 1881 where among other things, he visited Venice and Padua. He was not idle during his travels and filled his sketch-book with all kinds of drawings of the things he had seen. Augustin's father died around this time. After his return home, Němejc thus inherited a little money and some land.

In 1883 he decided to study at the Prague Academy and was accepted after submitting his work there. He studied at the Academy under Professors Sequens and Lhota, exclusively according to the painters of antiquity. Studies here mainly concerned artistic training, which did not develop the talents of the students. For this reason, Němejc left after a year to visit his friend, Luděk Marold in Munich. He was also accepted at the Academy there and studied under the guidance of Professor Alexander Wagner. He stayed in Munich for three years. At the end of his studies in Munich he won an order for a curtain for the Nepomuk Amateur Association. The theme of the curtain was "Lumír sings to the Muses". With a view to the fact that the Association did not in the end have the 150 florins Augustin was asking for, the curtain ended up in the theatre on Zelená Hora. It was purchased by Princess Auersperg. Thanks to her, Němejc also gained work for Alfred Prince of Windischgrätz at the chateau in Tachov. This provided a livelihood for the artist from 1886 to 1888.

In 1889 he settled for good in Pilsen. He established a studio and workshop there in which he studied and drew ordinary people from his surrounding environment. He became more and more interested in nationalistic topics. His picture, "Love in Vain" dates from 1890, awarded with second prize in the Prague Jubilee Exhibition. Thanks to this success, Němejc gained a scholarship to study in Paris. He spent 1892 there,

mainly in the company of Vojtěch Hynais in whose studio he worked. After his return from Paris he celebrated some successes with his lunettes for the newly built Arts and Crafts Museum in Pilsen. Němejc's most important order came in 1900. This concerned a curtain for the new City Theatre. The theme for this curtain was "The City of Pilsen welcomes Art at the threshold of the new theatre". He worked on the curtain in Prague. The curtain won great acclaim by both experts and the general public and thanks to this, Němejc was nominated on 30 November 1910 as a corresponding member fourth class of the Czech Academy of Sciences and Arts. The curtain was revealed at a ceremony in 1902. Němejc returned to Pilsen in 1906. From 1907 on he was active as a professor of drawing at the City Lyceum for Girls in Pilsen. He taught here until 1925.

Augustin Němejc died on 16 August 1938 in Pilsen.

He dedicated his life and above all his work to the region of his birth. His studies of folk costumes and life in the Pilsen Region as well as his rendering of places that no longer exist today are a permanent asset for the region, which he so loved.