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THE COLLECTION OF THE BRICKS AND THE FLOOR TILES FROM THE JAVORNÍK

Abstract

The samples of the architectural details are the parts of depository in Ostrava from the year 2015. They are historical bricks and ceramic floor tiles from the buildings in the town Javorník (Czech Republic). The objects were dated and determined as a part of the buildings, which they are from. For these objects were prescribed the conditions to convenient placing.

Keywords

Burnt brick, brick stamps, ceramic floor tile, town Javorník, court of law, church



Obr. 1 a 2: Jihovýchodní fronta náměstí v Javorníku s budovou čp. 7, foto, 2015, Budova čp. 7 v Javorníku od severu, foto, 2015

1 INTRODUCTION

The samples of bricks included in the depository of building details come from the building of the former land court in Javorník (No 7) and St. Cross cemetery church in Javorník-Ves. An architectural/historical survey was drawn up for the building of the former land court in the years 2014 and 2015. [1, 2]. Selected, standalone building details were taken from the house attic. The bricks used before as a flooring were treated with grooving and duty stamps of letters which had to be interpreted in the context of the current knowledge.

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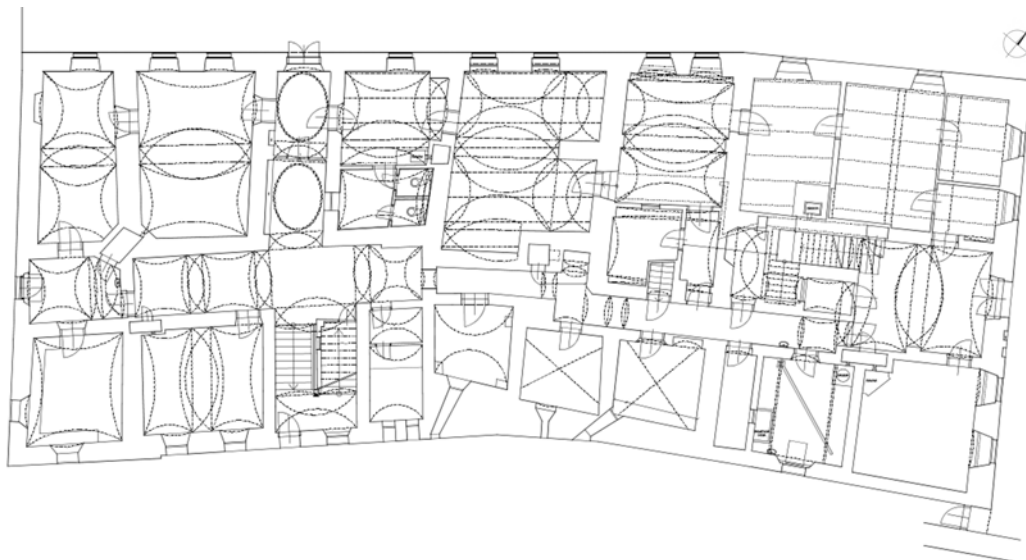


Fig. 3: J. Zapletal, ground-floor plan of the Building at No 7 in Javorník, sketch, 2008.

Archaeological research took place in St. Cross Church in 2015 [3], during which more samples of bricks and floor tiles were taken to be interpreted in the context of the knowledge obtained from the archaeological research and the architectural/historical survey. [4]



Fig. 4: House at No 7 on the cadastral map of Javorník, 2014. Taken from www.cuzk.cz

The aim of the paper is to describe and classify the historical building details, newly stored in the depository, to interpret them in the context of the development of the buildings origin and to show how the predictive value of building details grows in dependence on the knowledge of history of buildings of their origin.

2 HISTORICAL BUILDINGS IN JAVORNÍK, FROM WHERE SAMPLES OF BURNT BRICKS AND FLOOR TILES WERE TAKEN

To classify building details more precisely it is necessary to know details of the architectural development of specific buildings from which architectural elements come. Both buildings are situated in Javorník, which developed for a long time as a serfdom town of the Vratislav bishops at the Jánský vrch manor. The production of bricks and ceramic building elements in Javorník was recorded for a certain time and, from the nearby surroundings, the brickworks in the neighbouring Vidnava (*Weydenau*) is known, and it was administered as an independent manor, but it belonged to the same manorial nobility – the Vratislav bishops (later archbishops).

2.1 Former Land Court in Javorník

The building at No 7 in Javorník is situated in the south-eastern front of the square created with a light irregularity. Today the house is situated longitudinally and it actually makes up the substantial part of this square front. The house of a not very representative appearance was outside the interest of researchers for a long time and as late as in 2007 it was declared a cultural monument.

During the research, the result of which was an architectural/historical survey, [1, 2], it appeared that the present-day building, which makes up almost one entire front of the square, consists of **three crosswise arranged burgher houses** unified with a neo-classicist facade, by all appearance of **renaissance origin** in two north-eastern cases. In the 18th century, the building served as a **clerks' hostel**, from where the bishop's service court was administered. That is why the building is designated as *Amtshaus* in German-written literature. [7]

After the fire in Javorník in 1825, the burnt-out building was reconstructed by bishop Emanuel Schimonsky and he had a land court established there. An investigation made the monarchy administration cancel that land court and, in the second half of the 19th century, a district court was situated there.

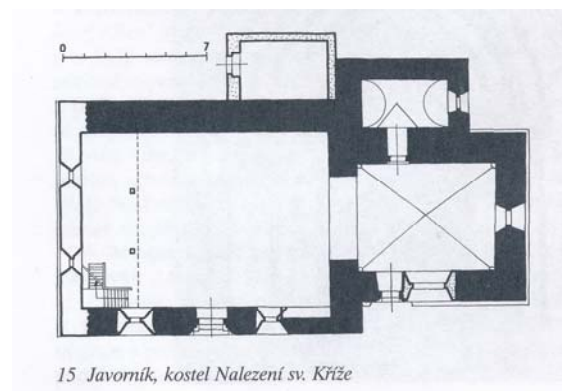


Fig. 4 and 5: St. Cross Church in Javorník-Ves, ground-plan taken from *Umělecké památky Moravy a Slezska II* (*Artistic Monuments of Moravia and Silesia II*), and photo, 2006.

2.2 St. Cross Cemetery Church in Javorník-Ves

The St. Cross Church probably dates back to the period around the half of the 13th century. In 1579, another St. Helena's patronium is mentioned. The building conversion of the church took place in 1582. Dendro-chronologically, the roof frame is dated to 1631. Several coats of paint of gothic and renaissance origins were preserved in the church interior. [6, 11]



Fig. 6: The brick structured by drawing lines by fingers from the Building at No 7 in Javorník, photo, 2015 (Inv. No A220)

In 2015, wall paints of medieval origin were uncovered in the church interior and archaeological research took place. [3]



Fig. 7: The brick marked with a duty stamp from the Building at No 7 in Javorník, photo, 2015. (Inv. No A221)

3 BRICKS AND FLOOR TILES FROM JAVONÍK IN THE COLLECTIONS OF FAST OSTRAVA

3.1 The brick from the attic of the former land court in Javorník (Inv. No A220)

A raw burnt brick has been found in the attic of the building of the former land court in Javorník. Its dimensions are 29 x 14.5 x 7.4 cm and, on one of the longer sides, it is structured with deep grooves formed by commonly drawing lines by fingers in the shape of a slow arch. Other similar bricks are parts of the attic floor.

3.2 The brick from the attic of the former land court in Javorník (Inv. No A221)

Apart from the bricks structured by drawing lines by fingers in the attic of the building of the former land court, also standalone bricks marked with duty stamps were found in the floor. A raw burnt brick with dimensions 28.5 x 14 x 8.5 cm was included in FAST's (*Faculty of Civil Engineering*) collections under Inv. No A221. On its longer side, the brick is marked with an embossed duty stamp comprised of three letters. The relief is considerably outworn and the letters are not clearly legible. They may be letters E C (G? D?) and W (M?).

3.3 The floor tile from the attic of the former land court in Javorník (Inv. No A222)

Another ceramic element from the attic of the former land court in Javorník is a raw square floor tile with dimensions 25.8 x 25.8 x 5.6 cm. One of the wider sides of the floor tile, which served as a walkway side, is largely soiled.

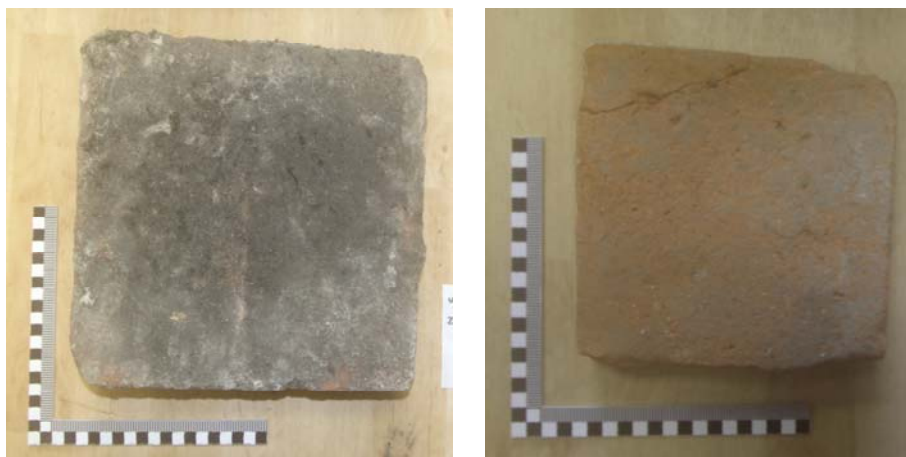


Fig. 8 and 9: The floor tile from the Building at No 7 in Javorník, ceramics, photo, 2015 (Inv. No A222) and the floor tile from St. Cross Church in Javorník, photo, 2015 (Inv. No A226)

3.4 The brick from St. Cross Church in Javorník (Inv. No A224)

The raw burnt brick with dimensions 24.2 x 11.8 x 6 cm comes from St. Cross Church in Javorník. On one of its longer sides it is structured by low-relief grooves which were crated by drawing lines by fingers led with a slight irregularity.

3.5 The brick from St. Cross Church in Javorník (Inv. No A225)

Another brick which has been included in FAST's collections from St. Cross Church in Javorník-Ves is a raw burnt brick with dimensions 23.8 x 11.8 x 6 (6.8 with a plaster layer). The brick in light orange colour was a part of the grave brickwork in the church presbytery. Layers of plaster remained on two sides of the brick.



Fig. 10: The brick structured by drawing lines by fingers from the cemetery church in Javorník, photo, 2015 (Inv. No. A224)

3.6 The floor tile from St. Cross Church in Javorník (Inv. No A226)

The raw ceramic floor tile of squared shape with dimensions 19 x 20 x 4.3 cm comes from St. Cross Church. The floor tile was obviously in the construction. One of its sides shows traces of use – one corner is thinned by stepping and another one is damaged by a crack, probably caused during burning.



Fig. 10: The brick structured by drawing lines by fingers from the cemetery church in Javorník, photo, 2015 (Inv. No. A224)

4 REGULATION OF BRICK-MAKING IN THE MONITORED AREA

The time and other classification of bricks (and floor tiles) may be achieved by monitoring of the customs related to the production and surface treatments of bricks, especially to the marking of some pieces. [12, 15]

The marking of bricks by duty stamps is a rather archaic matter. Largely spread is the general awareness of the marking of bricks from the Roman Empire period and their relation to military construction engineering. [4] Also, marks appear sporadically on brickware from the end of the Middle Ages; [13, 14] with regard to the general instruction, first in the form of pictorial symbols. A great development of marking took place in the 17th and then in the 18th centuries, at the beginning rather in order to distinguish legal production from unauthorized producers without the right of burning more easily. The initials often refer to the names and degrees of the brickworks owners. [7]



Fig. 13 and 14: The tile paving in the attic of the Building at No 7 in Javorník comprised of bricks and ceramic squares, photo, 2015. The brick paving in the attic; some of the bricks are structured by drawing lines by fingers, photo, 2015.

As regards the **dimensions**, the Habsburg monarchs regulated **brick-making in the modern times**. For Vienna, the dimensions (and the prices of products) were determined by the order of Emperor Leopold I dated 6th September 1686. All measures were specified in Lower Austrian inches (1 inch = 2.634 cm). Wall bricks (11.5 x 5.25 x 2.33 inches) and arch bricks (9.75 x 6.5 x 3 inches) were distinguished by dimensions. Later, the dimensions of bricks were slightly adjusted twice – in 1715 by a patent of Emperor Charles IV and in 1773. The first directive with effect for the entire

monarchy was issued in Vienna 31.03.1788. At that time, the dimensions of wall bricks should have been 12 x 6 x 3 inches and those of arch bricks 9.5 x 7.5 x 3 inches, as it was determined for the model, i.e. the mould before burning. [8]

The official **dimensions of floor tiles** changed more. In 1688, the dimensions of floor tiles should have been 10 x 6 x 1.5 inches, in 1715 up to 10 x 6 x 1.5 inches. According to the regulation for the entire monarchy, floor tiles should have been at least 2 inches thick, i.e. dimensions ca. 12 x ca. 12 x ≥2 inches. [8] The mentioned regulations which regulated the production of brickware should be understood as a basic orientation; specific dimensions of products could be subject to the local customs and also the distance to administrative centres surely played its role.



Fig. 13 and 14: The floor paving in the attic of the Building at No 7 in Javorník comprised of bricks and ceramic squares, photo, 2015. The floor paving in the attic; some of the bricks are structured by drawing lines by fingers, photo, 2015.

5 CONCLUSION

Although we often connect bricks structured on the longer surface side with medieval production, in this case these are bricks dating back probably from the second half of the 18th century, used during conversions of the house for the purpose of clerical administration. The dating is even more conclusive in the context of another bishop's building in Javorník – specifically Jánský Vrch Chateau, where their use in the tower attic floor is dated on the basis of constructional sequences with the trusses, dated dendro-chronologically. [10]

The dating of the stamped bricks from the Building at No 7 in Javorník is much more problematic, because the letters are not clearly legible. Letter E may mean bishop's goods. The last letter W? could probably refer to Vidnava, where the brickworks is documented by written sources.

Dating by dimensions is rather for the purpose of orientation, because the dimensions of brickware were unified as late as the advanced modern times and, in addition, it is not clear from some conversions whether they regulate the dimensions of material in the mould before burning or the finished product. As regards the dimensions of the floor tile from the land court (Inv. No A222), they are nearer to the parameters ordered in 1788.

As regards the storage and the next use of the bricks and floor tiles in connection with the depository operation, it is useful to leave the items in the condition in which they were found. The brick with layers of plaster should not be cleaned, but deposited in authentic condition as a proof of the building element existing for a certain time in the construction.

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