

FINAL WORD

Cultural monuments are the topic of the second book, *Mikulov s tužkou v ruce (Mikulov with a Pencil in Hand)*. The introduction recalls the importance of the Dietrichsteins, namely Cardinal Franz von Dietrichstein, who profoundly influenced the appearance of the town and its surroundings. The walk begins with a climb up Sv. Kopeček (*Holy Hill*). We view the chapels of the restored Way of the Cross, the Church of St. Sebastian and the Bell Tower. Thereafter, we enter the sacred space of Mikulov's churches. Knowledge of the monuments and their history helps us to understand and appreciate the works of art of painters and sculptors, many of whose names are famous. For other artists, there are only the ruins to speak for them. We reflect on the meritorious and often criticised work of restorers and conservationists that can sometimes produce contradictory results. However, when looking at the pitiful condition of Franz Anton Maulbertsch's fresco in the Church of St. John the Baptist, our hearts are touched and we hesitate no longer. This treasure perhaps most of all deserves professional intervention.

We set out again into the streets, searching for lesser monuments. We find chapels, statues and memorials. We contemplate in the silence of Mikulov's cemeteries. Here, too, we can admire the remarkable gravestones and memorials.

The most mysterious is the Jewish cemetery that connects us with a culture that was forcibly erased from Mikulov. In the next part of the walk, we pass through the former Jewish ghetto, finding that the houses, which now wear new coats, do not try to hide their Jewish origin, but, on the contrary, proudly display it. Most of the monuments that Mikulov boasts of have survived almost 300 years. Many even for longer. It is up to us to preserve them for future generations.

Monuments retain the memory of nations. They are a source for understanding the outside world, symbols of the unity of generations, nationalities, various classes of the population. They are our wealth.