

ARTISTS AND CRAFTSMEN IN AUGSBURG FROM THE SUDETEN LANDS

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Augsburg's reputation as a center of the arts and handicrafts exercised a strong attraction on artists and craftsmen throughout Europe. Despite the great obstacles to their settling there posed by guild regulations, important artistic personalities from the Bohemian lands were also unable to resist this attraction.

The most important of them was Gottfried Bernhard Göz (1708—1774), from Welehrad in Moravia, whose many-faceted activity, ranging from drawings and engravings to oil paintings and frescoes, branched out from Augsburg to cover all of the southern German-speaking area. Among his most important works were the frescoes in the church in Birnau on Lake

Constance. Göz was awarded imperial distinctions for his engravings. Among others who were active in Augsburg were the miniature painters W. A. Fischer and B. Huber from Eger, the two card-painters H. Joja from Prague and T. Fetscher from Zlabings (in Moravia), and, for a shorter period, the painter Felix Besold from Prague.

Artists from the Sudeten lands also made a name for themselves in a field in which Augsburg for centuries was leading in Europe. Among the most important practitioners of profane goldsmith art were Heinrich Manlich from Troppau (whose father was a native of Augsburg), and his son Heinrich. The most outstanding figure in the field of sacred goldsmith art in Augsburg was Johann Zeckel from Woikowitz in southern Moravia, whose masterpiece is a monstrance, preserved in Ingolstadt, which depicts the victory of Juan d'Austria over the Turkish fleet in the Battle of Lepanto. Zeckel's sons and grandsons also worked as goldsmiths in Augsburg.

In addition to a sculptor (W. Koschuschek from Poschkowitz), a glazier (J. Korzinek from Neuern) and the two Prague musicians Z. Hürsch and Fr. Dominick, special mention should be made of the organ-builder Johann von Doubraw. He was commissioned by Jakob Fugger the Rich to build the organ for St. Anna in Augsburg. A number of printers from the Bohemian lands also worked in Augsburg.

Since numerous Augsburgers settled in the Sudeten lands as well, one can indeed speak of a genuine cultural interchange.