

3) Dwarfs

Unusual in their subject-matter and comical tone, the three sculptural caricatures came to the lapidarium from two chateaus demolished due to coal mining. The High-Baroque caricature of an aristocrat is from Ahníkov, while the two Late-Renaissance sculptures of a nobleman and a peasant originally adorned the chateau in Prunéřov.



4) Christ on the Mount of Olives

Most sculptures on display in the courtyard date to the Baroque period. They are usually associated with Catholicism, a denomination characterized by the worship of saints and the Virgin Mary. The largest sculptural group exhibited here is Christ on the Mount of Olives, a high-quality artwork from the period of Early Baroque. It originally adjoined an outer wall of Chomutov's Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Church.



www.muzeumchomutov.cz



OBLASTNÍ MUZEUM V CHOMUTOVĚ

Opening hours:

Monday → closed
Tuesday – Friday → 9 am – 5 pm
Saturday → 1 pm – 5 pm
July, August and Advent → also Sunday 1 pm – 5 pm

Opening hours for holidays and special events see
www.muzeumchomutov.cz

Museum buildings:

- Main building, 86 Palackého Street
- Astronomical Tower, 86 Palackého Street
- Town Hall, nám. 1. máje 1
- Church of St. Catherine, nám. 1. máje 1

Throughout the year, the church and the tower can only be visited with a guide. In July and August, the church is free to enter during opening hours.

Entrance fee:

For current fees see www.muzeumchomutov.cz

The museum offers:

- Permanent and temporary exhibitions in all buildings
- Publications and promotional products for sale in the main building and the town hall
- Lectures, cultural and social events, open doors
- Guided tours of the town centre
- Natural history and archaeology excursions, Astronomical Society events
- Accompanying programs for exhibitions
- Educational programs for schools and other groups
- Workshops and handicraft activities

For full offer and details see www.muzeumchomutov.cz

Oblastní muzeum v Chomutově

Palackého 86, 430 01 Chomutov

☎ +420 775 870 668

✉ sekretariat@muzeumchomutov.cz

f [muzeumchomutov](https://www.muzeumchomutov.cz)

📷 [muzeumchomutov.cz](https://www.muzeumchomutov.cz)

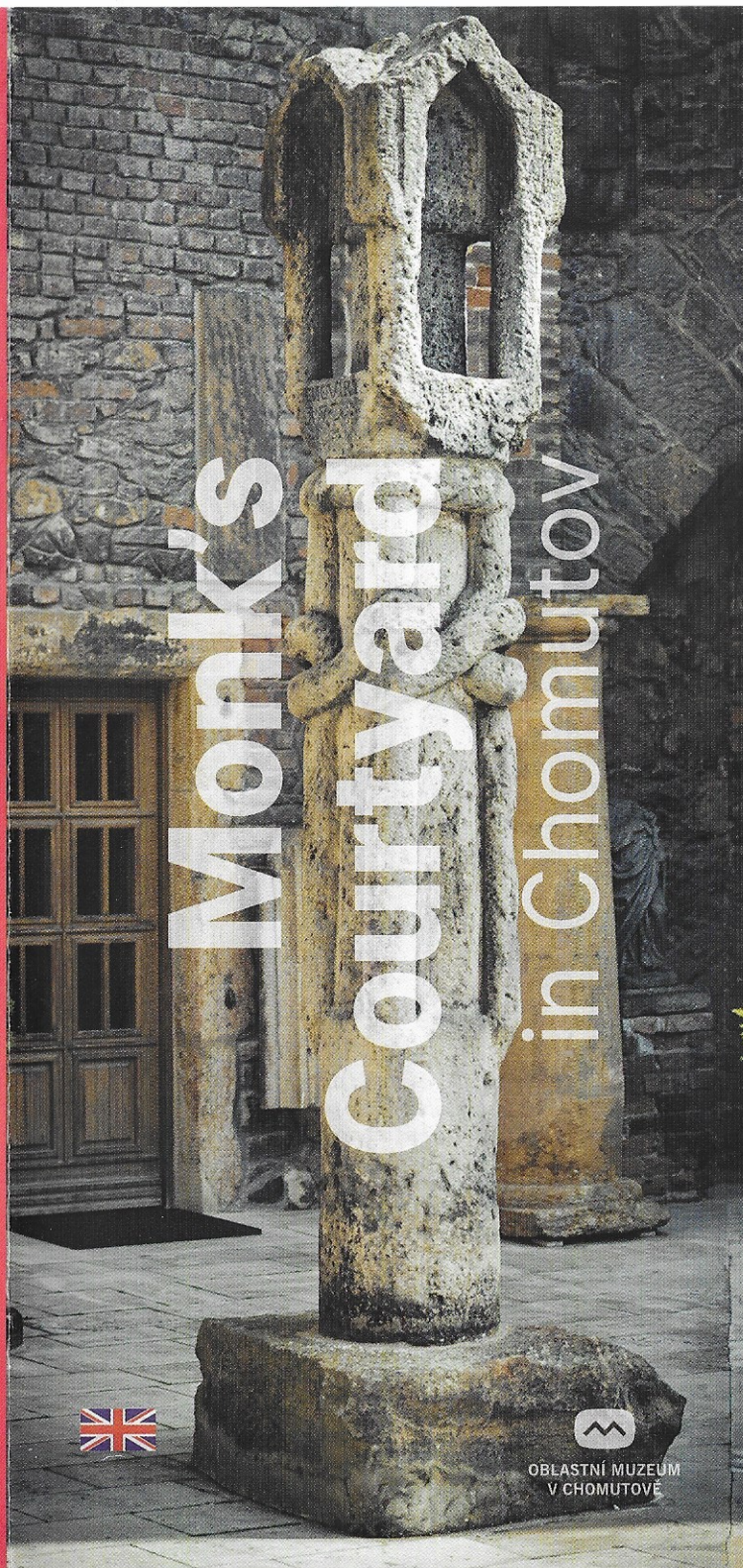
www.muzeumchomutov.cz



OBLASTNÍ MUZEUM
V CHOMUTOVĚ

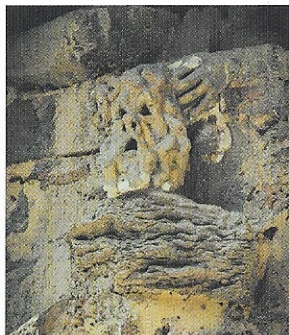
© Oblastní muzeum v Chomutově, 2022

Photo: Roman Dušek and the collection of Regional Museum in Chomutov

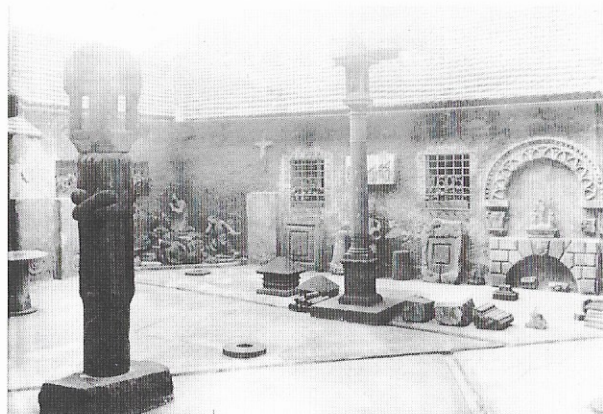


THE MONK LEGEND

The Chomutov museum has been using spaces in the town hall building for a hundred years. In 1924, a lapidarium exhibiting a collection of artworks in stone and architectural fragments was established in its inner courtyard. This romantic spot is known as the "Monk's Courtyard." Legend has it that in the 16th century, a monk was immured within its walls and his ghost would appear whenever the town was in grave danger.

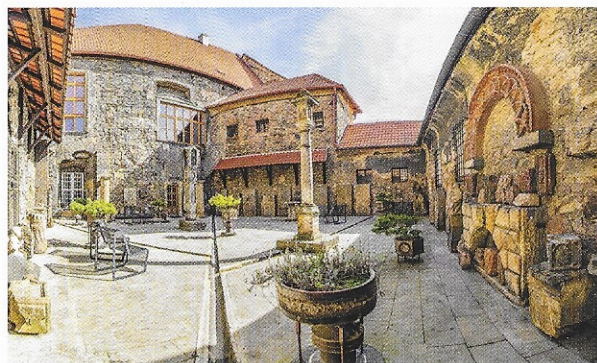


The stucco head of a monk on the western wall is a reminder of this legend.



ARCHITECTURE OF THE COURTYARD

The courtyard at its present ground level was not built until 1811. In this period, a barrel-vaulted room was added to the town hall's main floor to be used by the local brewery. The present open-air Monk's Courtyard was constructed above this vaulted room. However, its modern origin does not take away from the charming atmosphere. It is enclosed by four walls, on which we may observe the various phases of the building's architectural development spanning over several centuries. The courtyard can be accessed via a wooden staircase within the exhibition of Gothic sculpture and painting on the elevated ground floor above the old part of the basement. The architectural history of the town hall building began in the 13th century, when a Gothic commandery (fortified monastery) of the Teutonic Knights was erected here. At the end of the 15th century, the commandery was converted into a chateau. It has served as the town hall since the beginning of the 17th century.



LAPIDARIUM

The lapidarium in the courtyard features stone sculptures, way-side shrines, tombstones and architectural elements from the Chomutov and Kadaň regions. The collection also includes utilitarian objects such as wine presses, cannonballs, border stones and a millstone. The artifacts come from diverse epochs from Early Gothic to the 20th century. The exact place of origin is unknown for many of the objects from the museum's old collection. A number of stone fragments were made in the local mason lodge in Černovice near Chomutov. The lapidarium exhibition continues in the Church of St. Catherine (the remainder of the collection is kept in storage).

The artifacts in the courtyard come from both existing and defunct villages and in some cases, they are the last witnesses of long vanished settlements. In the second half of the 20th century, many towns and villages in our region disappeared due to coal mining, dam construction and the displacement of the German population. In the 1960s and 1970s, the museum received objects from institutions no longer open to the public, such as the Červený hrádek Castle and museums in Přísečnice and Kadaň. The lapidarium also contains recent findings from archaeological excavations in the centre of Chomutov.



SELECTED ARTIFACTS FROM THE LAPIDARIUM

1) Wayside shrine of Vše study

As they enter the courtyard, visitors are likely to notice the monumental column-shaped wayside shrine of Vše study near Chomutov featuring a striking Gothic ornament – the so-called knot design (photo on the front page). Scholarly literature had originally dated the shrine to the Early Gothic period but it is more likely from the 16th century.

2) Tombstones and Terracotta Objects

The tombstones attached to the courtyard's walls date from the Late Gothic to the Baroque periods. Of special interest is the plain slab with an inscription on it, dated to 1511. This is the epitaph of Bonuše Calta of Kamenná Hora, whose husband Beneš of Veitmile renovated the Chomutov chateau in the Meissen-inspired Late-Gothic style. The Renaissance modifications to the chateau were also valuable in terms of architectural style, as evidenced by parts of a portal and architectural elements made of burnt clay (terracotta).

