by the so-called wild transfer, during which the German inhabitants were driven out to the Austrian territory. Local people, as well as people from far inland began to move into the desolate town.

Another decline of Slavonice came after the year 1945. In 1953 the town was incorporated into the border zone, which resulted in the devastation of valuable relics and the isolation of the town. At the turn of 1958 and 1959, Slavonice was set apart from the border zone thanks to the modulation of the overall political situation and its unique historical value. In the year 1961 Slavonice became a municipal conservation area. The restoration of historical monuments began, combined with town enlargement: the construction of new blocks of flats, a health centre, a culture house, primary school etc.

However, a significant cultural development began only after the year 1989. Since then the town has been transforming itself into an attraction for tourists, not only for its unique historical monuments, but also its specific atmosphere and cultural life.

The historical centre of Slavonice is of an extraordinary value. The extent disposition of the buildings, the authenticity of structures, namely vaults and sgraffito plasters on the front faces and indoor decoration of the houses is completely unique.

Above all the cellar vaults are of world-wide importance – these were preserved in six of the houses; some of these are the creation of the local master Leopold Esterreicher, whose vaults are among the most sophisticated and original concerning their shape.

More than twenty houses in Slavonice have their front facades decorated by sgraffito. Letter sgraffiti are numerous, often combined with decorative or illusive frames of entrances. Another





large group is formed by figural sgraffiti, portraying for example important personages, or cycles illustrating Biblical texts, made by patterns of the period. As far as quantity and content intensity are concerned, the sgraffiti of Slavonice are unrivalled throughout the Czech Republic.

The singularity of Slavonice lies in the fact that the sgraffito facades of buildings and interiors were created at the same time as the cellar vaults. Usually, the vaults are older, from a period when sgraffito was not used yet. North of the Alps, Slavonice are one of the few places where sgraffito were used that early; the oldest front facades comes from the year 1574.

The exceptional value of Slavonice is based on both the value of individual houses and the number of renaissance houses in the historical centre. As for this number, Slavonice are unrivalled not only in the Czech Republic, but also other countries of middle Europe.

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Slavonice

Rennaissance Gate of Czech Canada

History written by centuries

















