

SLAVÍN CHATEAU

A stronghold called Kostelec, about which there is no information before the year 1542, lay approximately where the chateau now lies. From the beginning of the 16th century Kostelec was owned by the Holans of Jiljov, one member of which is mentioned on the year 1532. Ten years later the brothers Jan (John), Václav (Wenceslas) and Jindřich (Henry) Holan confessed after a fire that they own the Kostelec stronghold with a court, a mill, together with a part of the Želíz village, inheriting all of it from their father. However, shortly after that through Aleš Knobloch from Pirnstorf the manor got into the hands of a wealthy Belvic family from Nostice and it was united with Liběchov. In the year 1615 the Kostelec stronghold was inherited by Jan Kryštof Belvic, who was sentenced to vassalage for participating in the estate resistance against the emperor. Eventually, in the year 1630 he sold the stronghold to Jiří Malovec from Chýnov and both Kostelec and Tupadly were permanently united with Liběchovu. During the Thirty years' war the stronghold was probably destroyed, and being unattended it gradually disintegrated and perished (except for the court).

Only during the 19th century begins a new age for this place, with the Weiths of Libochovice. Antonín Weith canceled also the then-existing court and in its place, on a high promontory above the Liběchovka creek, initiated in the year 1840 a construction of the Slavín chateau. Inside the building twenty four statues of significant Czechs were supposed to be placed. Slavín was supposed to become an equivoise to the German Wallhalla. A. Weith ordered the statues at the famous Ludwig Schwanthaler in Munich, who delivered eight of them between the years 1847 and 1867. The statues, however, never reached their destination. Weith's financial troubles together with his later diversion from the Czech patriots caused the construction to continue very slowly, eventually having been abrupted. Out of four intended four towers only one remained. It is a central octagonal building constructed in a pseudo-Romanesque style with a prismatic tower with a battlement, decorated with an oriental, so-called Moresque decorating. Despite everything, Weith meant to finish the construction, but his death in the year 1853 prevented him from doing so. The area remained unfinished, in spite of the annexation from the year 1873.

The statues of Libuše and Přemysl, Přemysl Otakar II. and Václav I., Eliška Přemyslovna, Jiří of Poděbrady, Arnošt of Pardubice and Bohuslav Hasištejnský of Lobkovice stand today in a larger-than-life size, made of refined metallic material in the entry columnar hall in the National Museum in Prague.

In Tupadly a romantic idea of historic patriotism had developed, gradually having been elaborated by A. Weith in the "U ještěra" (in the year 1841), "Klácelka" (in the year 1845) and especially "Blaník" (in the years 1845-50) caves. Apart from the visual artists Josef Navrátil and Václav Levý, who carried it out, A. Weith was focused especially on the philosopher Bernarda Bolzana.

After selling the Liběchovice manor Slavín remained for some time in possession of the Weith family, later on a school nurses institution was established here and a chapel was added. In times of the socialist regime a land research institution was placed on the premises. It was especially Mr. Mašek, one of the last owners, who began an extensive reconstruction, leaving it unfinished in the time of his death. Nowadays the chateau is owned by a private owner and it serves as the Samadhi meditation center.

The extensive complex of several buildings consists in the chateau residence building itself (a one-story building from the year 1850 with extensive cellars), a villa (from the year 1930), an agricultural building (a walled object with a wooden building added), a warehouse (a two-story agricultural building from the 17th century), a tower and a garden house.

The one-hectare part surrounds the building. Out of six kinds of conifers the spruce tree is of great interest and out of 27 deciduous trees the interesting trees include the copper beech, maple and knotweed.