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HISTORY OF BUILDING AND OBJECTS OF ART OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MINDSZENT

(Abstract)

A Benedictine Abbey was founded at the beginning of the 13th c. in Tapolca at Miskolc. One of its estates of about ten „holds“ was in Mindszent at Miskolc. As an altar foundation of the church on Miskolc-Avas a chapel was built there at the end of the 15th c. The reformation caused some catholic families move from Miskolc in the vicinity of this chapel. According to recent histories the chapel has ceased among the Reformed in the end of the 16th c., while the building itself has been ruined. A new edifice, the forerunner of the present Mindszent Church, was erected on its place at the beginning of the 18th c. The authors prove, with the help of new data and documents, that the present Mindszent Church is not a pure baroque edifice from the 18th c. but originated from the gradual extension of the 15th c. chapel.

In the first half of the paper the authors describe the history of the chapel in the 15th–17th cc., then, relying on the registers, reconstruct the building processes at the beginning of the 18th c. They prove that the 18th c. outer appearance of the church was gained not between 1728 and 1744, as considered so far and as it is stated on the tablet above the main entrance of the church, but in 1706 (fig. 1–4.). This was the most flourishing decade in the economic history of the Abbey. All the great economic and trade building operations were carried out in Mindszent at that time. The settlement, counting some hundred dwellers, strengthened economically and as a result of the counter-reformation it got independent of Miskolc in 1724. The settlement had independent administrative life led by a mayor until 1880. By that time Miskolc had developed all around Mindszent thus it had to be absorbed totally into the town.

In the second, larger part of the study the authors give the description of the objects of art. They do not always refer to the register of the objects of art from the 18th–19th cc., though it is at their disposal. They considered objects, first of all, which were used or kept in the church in 1979. Furthermore they

selected pieces with historical or applied art value. The description touches upon the features of the church, its outer (fig. 4.) and inner appearance (fig. 5.). From among the installment they deal with the high altar, the framework (fig. 6.), the canon tablet (fig. 7.), the candlesicks, the candelabras and the side altar. They pay special attention to the benches made in 1744, decorated with coats of arms of Sándor Máriássy, abbot in Tapolca (fig. 8–9.). The finest pieces are the silver-gilt repoussé chalices (fig. 10–12.), all made in Hungary in the second half of the 18th c. The silver christening equipment from the beginning of the 19th c. is also among the finest pieces (fig. 13.). The bells of the church are described in details, too. They had originally been made at the beginning of the 18th c., but were later re-cast. Now the church has three bells in the right tower.

The authors end the study with the summary of the results and state, that the Mindszent Church is a grandiose and elegant piece of art in Miskolc both from architectural and artistic aspect.

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