

## **Town Statues Walk – interesting facts**

### **1. Dragon**

The dragon hangs on the tower of the Old Town Hall as a reminder of the legend of Trutnov's origin. Every year at the beginning of May at the end of the city festivities called "They are carrying him!" the dragon is pulled up and hung on the tower wall of the Old Town Hall, where it will remain until September when the feast of St. Michal the dragon-fighter takes place.

The dragon statue was designed by Tereza Komárková, a local artist and the winner of the Cultural Prize of the City of Trutnov for 2011.

### **2. Krakonoš**

The statue of Krakonoš is located in the middle of the square in a granite fountain on a sandstone rock. The lord of the mountains is depicted here in a very classical German style. The original zinc statue from 1892 was created in Berlin in the foundry of A. Castner according to the design of J. Kirchner, the professor of the Trutnov High School. The current bronze replica was produced by Jindřich Janeček in Vamberk workshop.

### **3. Column of the Holy Trinity**

The eleven-meter Baroque column dates from 1704 and this date is hidden in a cryptogram - in the Latin version of the inscription, the capital letters are highlighted as Roman numerals. The column was built by Jan Jiří Najdík, a citizen of Trutnov. The inscriptions on the column are in Czech, German, and Latin, while the Czech version is considered a curiosity as Trutnov was a German-speaking town in those days. On the pedestal of the column there are statues of Saints Jáchym, Anna, Mary and John of Nepomuk, and a little lower on the railing there are statues of Saints Zacharias, Elizabeth, John the Baptist and Joseph.

### **4. The stone from Amazonia**

The stone recalls one of the first Europeans to travel the entire Amazon river and the author of the first detailed map of the river, Father Samuel Fritz, a native of Trutnov (\* 9.4.1654). The stone was brought by a delegation of city representatives to Peru in 2000.

### **5. Josef II.**

Emperor Josef II. visited Trutnov personally twice. His bronze statue from 1886 was the work of the Viennese sculptor Pöninger and was dismantled in the 1920s. Today you can find it in the Podkrkonoší Museum. A bronze copy cast in the Horní Kalná foundry was placed back to Krakonoš Square in 2009.

### **6. Holy Family Sculpture**

The Baroque sculptural from 1730 used to be located on the outskirts of the Lhota village near Trutnov, from where it was moved to its current location in the 1970s. It was bought to Trutnov by an unknown patron from the Žireč estate without its original pedestal. The purchase was carried out during the Jesuit order property sale due to the Jesuit order abolishment by Emperor Joseph II. The authorship is attributed to the workshop of the Pacák brothers, who also worked at Kuks.

### **7. Lion**

The work of the important contemporary artist Michal Gabriel, who described his work: "It is cut from stainless steel plates and assembled on the principle of 3D printing." Thanks to this technology, the lion sculpture responds to the surrounding weather conditions and glows a bright silver colour at times and other times it almost disappears.

## **8. Dragon in Dragon Alley**

The dragon statue occupies a central place in the mythological beginnings of the town. In three languages the memorial reads "You cruel and disgraceful monster, you are the blessing of this city and you will always be." The symbolism of the individual parts of the monument is described on the panel in Dragon Alley. The author is local artist Paulina Skavova.

## **9. Group of cheetahs**

The beasts, the cheetahs are the expressions visitors use to call this lively sculptural group. The author is one of the most prominent personalities of the Czech art scene, the academic sculptor Michal Gabriel. The "fur" of the seven bronze cheetahs is made of walnut shells.

## **10. St. Jan Nepomucký's martyrdom**

The Baroque sculpture from 1730 is located on the site of the former Millrace (Mlýnský náhon), which is resembled today by a modern water feature. The artwork was created in the workshop of Jiří Pacák, a contemporary of Matyáš Bernard Braun (author of sculptures at the hospital Kuks). This sculptural group also originally came from the Jesuit property in Žireč estate and was bought to Trutnov after the abolishing of the order.

## **11. Bust of Wilhelm Kieseletter**

It looks over the Barvířská Street from a green building just behind the steeply rising T junction called Na Kopečku. It is placed here as a permanent reminder of the headquarters of the Trautenauer Echo newspaper and especially its chief editor.

## **12. St. Florian**

The patron saint of firefighters and the protector against fires stands in the niche at the corner of nearby yellow house, as a permanent reminder of many catastrophic fires that have affected Trutnov in the past, most recently in 1861.

## **13. Fountain with a sculpture of a dragon**

The dragon sculpture used to be a fountain ornament on today's Krakonoš Square since 1793. It was replaced in 1892 by the existing fountain with Krakonoš. Since then, the dragon has lived in various places in the city park. During the reconstruction in the mid-90s of the 20th century it has been placed in the centre of the fountain. The author of the original sculpture was the sculptor Josef May, but his work was not completed until after his death.

## **14. Uffo Horn Memorial**

The memorial was unveiled in the upper part of the park in 1889 and commemorates an important Trutnov personality - the poet, playwright, liberal and revolutionary of 1848, who, although German by nationality, declared himself Czech throughout his life and honoured Czech history. The bronze bust is designed by the Viennese sculptor Tilgner.

## **15. Dance of Death**

One of the most important monuments to soldiers killed in the First World War was crafted by the German sculptor Emil Schwantner, who had his studio in Trutnov. The monument was originally unveiled on September 11, 1932 in honour of the memory of 334 Trutnov men who fell in the Great War. During World War II, however, it was melted down for war purposes. A restored replica by the sculptor Paulina Skavová from Trutnov was installed on 9 September 2017.