

The House 'At the Golden Sun'

Object no. 26 | Lázeňská ulice, Teplice

Ludwig van Beethoven stayed at the house 'at the golden sun' in Lázeňská street in 1812; he wrote two of his nine symphonies here the letters to Immortal Beloved here.

Beethoven's short stay deserves further comments:

Beethoven was probably born on 16th November 1770 in Bonn. From the age of 22 he lived in Vienna where he studied the composing of the best composers of his time – Haydn and Salieri, the emperor's court composer. Beethoven's works quickly found sponsors among the rich noblemen and the fact that the composer could work as a free artist was not very usual at the time. During his Vienna stay, at the age of 25, problems with hearing started to appear. He suffered from a serious form of tinnitus, an ringing in the inner ear – and the problems kept getting worse. The rumour says he used a special rod attached to the soundboard on a piano that he could bite so he could better perceive the sound vibrations. In 1811 he decided to leave for Teplice as a famous spa possibly with the belief that his disorder would get better.

He came to Teplice for a second time on 6th June 1812. More than health he was interested in an unknown woman. We do not know her name or her social status, but Beethoven himself called her his Immortal Beloved and he wrote her several letters – possibly to Karlovy Vary. This platonic but intensive love probably inspired him to compose the Seventh Symphony. Also he probably wrote his Eighth Symphony in the House at the Golden Sun.

The most known moment of Beethoven's stay in Teplice is his and Goethe's meeting with the Emperor's family in the Chateaux garden. This episode, probably only a legend, significantly describes the position of a famous artist in society in those days.

Beethoven went deaf completely in 1816. Despite his deafness he continued composing for several ongoing years; among others we wrote his Ninth Symphony with Ode to Joy. He lived in an absolute silence for eleven years, he died in Wien on 26th March 1827.

Teplice's stay did not play an important role in the life of this genius, unlike Goethe, he never returned to Teplice. The North Bohemian Philharmonics have been holding the Ludwig van Beethoven music festival since 1964.