

## Memorial of the Loss of springs

Object no. 27 | Lázeňská ulice, Teplice

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The effects of local healing springs were known two thousand years ago as the Roman coins found in the Old spring and the Celtic jewellery discovered in the Giant spring near Duchcov prove. The base for this oldest spa was set by Volf from Vřesovice in the 16<sup>th</sup> century who had the oldest spa buildings built around the springs. The golden times started for Teplice in the 18<sup>th</sup> century thanks to the noble family of Clary-Aldringens. The balneology was flourishing and gained fame all over Europe and Teplice received the nickname of "little Paris". Its healing methods were progressive – rehabilitative physical exercises, electrotherapy, carbonate thermal baths and many others.

The reckless coal mining in the surrounding area caused vast damage to the flourishing spa which nearly meant the doom for the town. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 1879, at six o'clock in the morning; news that the Old spring had disappeared spread all over the town. The reason was immediately clear, sixty hours ago, a water outbreak had happened in the Döllinger mine near Duchcov where a large part of the shaft was flooded and 25 miners died. This outbreak breached the underground water table and caused the level of Teplice's spring to drop by 26 metres. Panic broke out; people started to withdraw their deposits in savings banks and it seemed that the spas were over. The most eminent mining specialists and geologists came to Teplice and managed the spring rescue works. Their rediscovery on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March was helped by an American drilling derrick; the catastrophe was averted. But the town paid a high price in lost reputation, Karlovy Vary and Mariánské Lázně seized their opportunity and gained Teplice's clients for themselves. The springs have had to be pumped since then and what is worse – Teplice's spas have never regained the fame it achieved when the celebrities from all over Europe came and met here.

All healing springs are slightly radioactive and they are used for treatment of locomotion, vassal and nervous systems illnesses. The main springs are the Old spring, Stone spring, Mountain spring and the Spring of Hynie. The Old Spring is the hottest spring; it is 42.5 °C and flows out in the shaft under the Deans Church from where it is pumped to the Beethoven Spa House.