

Pewter

Pewter branch foundry dedicated to product items with tin, one of the oldest crafts in Prussia. Pewter maker from the fourteenth century, the next century, manufactured household, church and public utility (the seats of urban or guilds), before the nineteenth century, not ousted them gradually Factory production faience, porcelain, glass and other metal alloys.

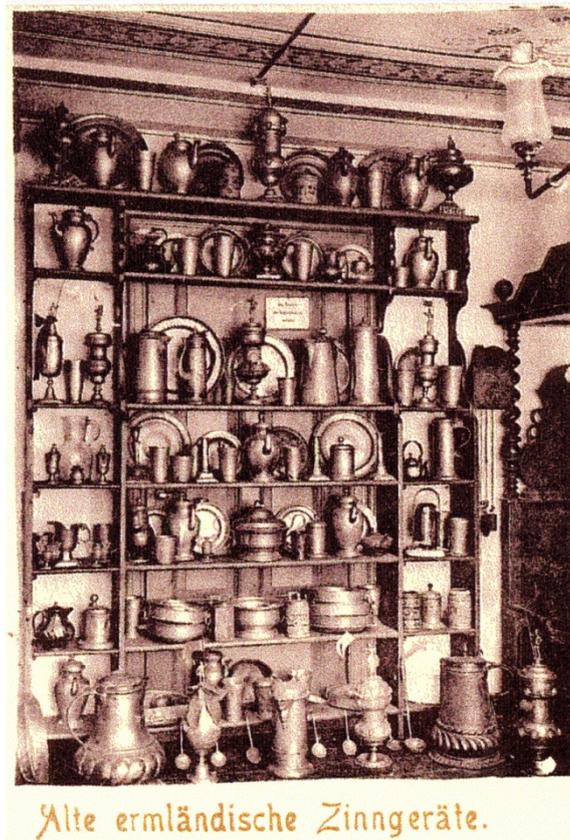
Despite the large number of workshops and thus a large production, to our times. It survived relatively little historic objects of tin. This is due to instability of the metal - fragile and susceptible to damage and easy to remelting, as well as its sensitivity to low temperatures - below 13.2 ° C Product Tin overlap gray coating, the so-called. leprosy tin, which leads to the gradual degradation.

From the fourteenth to the seventeenth century tin metal remained costly and collection made of the subjects were treated as a kind of capital investment, so craftsmen worked on the needs of wealthy houses, churches, monasteries and town halls (in widespread use of the vessels were wooden or clay). From this period of historical monuments tin survived relatively little, and exhibits from the XIV-XVI centuries, particularly from State of the Teutonic Knights, a rarity even in the resources of European museums. More survived objects from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries - at that time, pewter, brought often to the role of everyday equipment, had already lost its rank object hoarding.

The basic technique pewter was cast in molds and decoration - engraving or a relief obtained by means of casting. A method of labeling products from tin Ages governed by the guild and the characters pewter so. Punc provide information about the artist, the place of performance and quality alloy (part of objects made by workshops operating outside the guild organization was not labeled).

The products on display come from the centers pewter former Prussian Kings and Princes (after 1772 years East and West Prussia). The area were rich Hanseatic city Braniewo, Elbląg, Gdańsk, and Königsberg, Toruń, with a rapidly acting, large features pewters. In addition to these centers pewter maker the guild acted in smaller centers: Bartoszyce, Dobre Miasto, Kętrzyn, Malbork, Pasłęk, Polesku, Reszel, Świętej Siewierce, Szkotach k.Gdańsk, Tczew, Tylża, Wystruci, Zaroślak k. Gdańsk. Not everywhere there were local features, for

example craftsmen Pasłęka were associated in a guild Elbląg. Products Prussian guild masters were customers throughout Poland, and even the royal court (eg. the seven royal tin sarcophagi in the basement Wawel Cathedral identified as made in Gdańsk workshops).



Museum of Warmia Braniewo, a collection of tin (today dispersed, only single objects in the collections of the Museum of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, in the exhibition at the castle in Lidzbark Warmińsko-State), a fragment of postcards from the years 1910 to 1920, the Museum archives Nicholas Copernicus in Frombork.

The turbulent history of these lands, especially the destruction of the last war and the changes that the made after 1945 have led not only to a loss when it comes to resource tin monuments in museums, churches and in private hands but also caused the destruction of or dispersion archives, no rally today know more about pewter on the area. The basic, but also incomplete work source (drawn up on the basis of partly existing even before the last war source materials) is still developing Erwin Hintze, Die Deutschen und ihre Marken Zinngiesser, Volume III - Norddeutsche Zinngiesser. Meanwhile, the museum exhibition and collection catalogs are the most important information about the history of the local pewter raising awareness about unusual, and still insufficient appreciated craft.

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