Summary

PIOTR OSZCZANOWSKI / On two sculptures from the beginning of Renaissance in Wroclaw. On the margin of Andreas Walther's artistic work

The following article is dedicated to two valuable sculptures that were created in the early Renaissance, i.e. the first half of 16th century, in Wroclaw. The first one is a sandstone plaque with a sculpted and painted coat of arms of Wroclaw placed under the clock on the western wall of the Town Hall [fig. 1]. In the bottom right corner and in the front of the engaged column base it has a relief of a cartouche with the AW monogram, which undoubtedly refers to the author of the work [fig. 2]. This relief belongs to the earliest ones that depict a new and improved coat of arms which Wroclaw received in 1530 from the emperor Charles V. Although on the band placed in the relief we can find the date 1534 (MDXXXII), still from the archive sources we know that no sooner than on 18 October or on 18 December 1536 it was placed on the Town Hall tower. This currently undoubted realisation by Monogrammist AW has become a pretext to analyse again the œuvre of this sculptor and to make attempts to identify him with Andreas Walther, an artist active in Wroclaw in the second third of 16th century.

The second art work is a monument that has been defined for many years as a tombstone of “knight Haynold” or “one of the members of the Haunold family”, or “an anonymous representative of the Haunold family”. The monument is placed on the eastern wall of the Domslosys Chapel in St. Elizabeth [fig. 6]. Until now this presentation of a kneeling in front of a knight crucifix has been dated consequently at ca. 1550. The analysis of the so-called Maximilian armour, which is worn by the knight, allows a statement that in the case of this sculpture we deal with an art work from the beginnings of the 1530s. And this, in turn, enable us to propose an identification of a person presented in the tomb. He may be the president of the City Council and the district head (Landeshauptmann) of the Duchy of Wroclaw, Achatius (vel Achaz) von Haunold (b. after 1478, d. 6 January 1532). He became famous as an outstanding representative of the first generation of Wroclaw followers of Doctor Martin Luther’s teaching and a military leader (Heerführer) of the Silesian army, which supported Vienna defenders in 1529. Haunold belonged to a group of the ennobled patriciate of Wroclaw (so called Landadel), he was also praised the dignity of emperor’s councillor and eques auratus. Undoubtedly he had knightly and nobleman’s ambitions – it was confirmed by reaching the Czech noble state in 1523.

Stylistic forms of this tomb allow us to identify this monument as a work executed by the Wroclaw sculptor who was also an author of Peter Rindfleisch’s epitaph (ca. 1535) in St. Elizabeth Church among others.