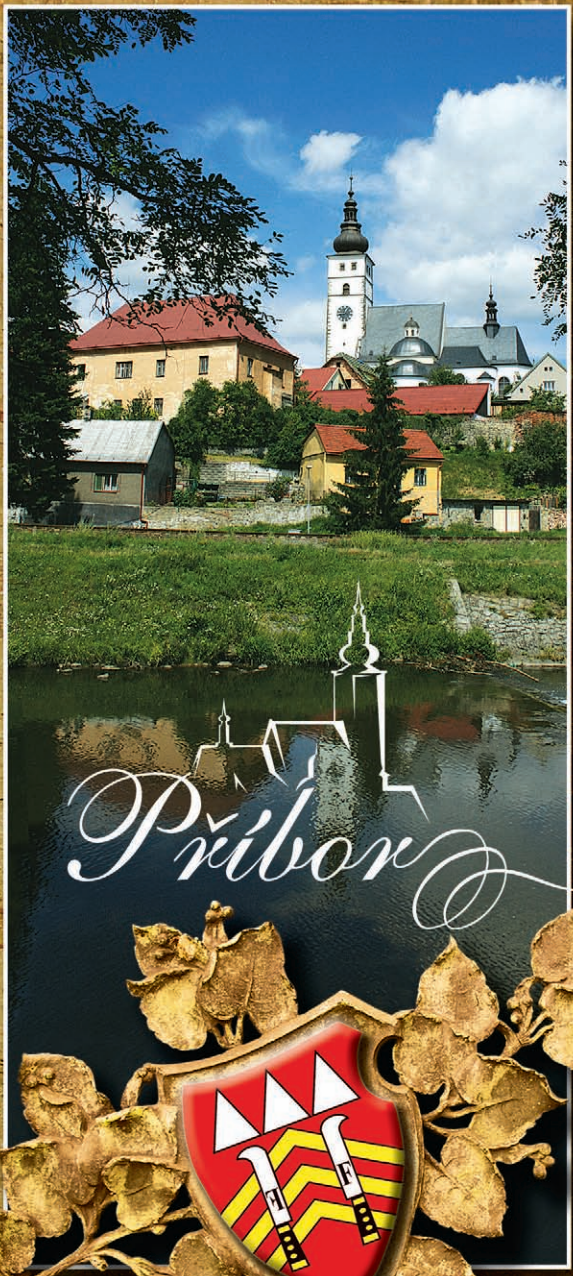
Příbor

Sigm. Freud

Příbor is one of the oldest towns and cities in Northeast Moravia. Its historical core was declared an Urban Monument Reserve (UMR) in April 1989. It lies on both banks of the River Lubina. From three sides it is surrounded by beautiful scenery of the foothills of the Beskydy Mountains with a view of Štramberk Tower (Trúba), Hukvaldy Castle and Radhošť Mountain. This charming locality and UMR provide interesting panoramas, chamber and picturesque nooks, rare architectural details, or unique examples of Gothic, Baroque, Secession and Functionalistic architecture.

The town has rich history. The first written notice about Příbor (Vriburch later also Freiberg and Przybor) dates back to 1251 and it is recorded in a document of Margrave of Moravia, later King of Bohemia, Přemysl Otakar II. The document mentions Count Frank, son of Arnold of Hückeswagen (who is by historians considered to be the founder of the town) as Frank, the Count of Příbor – the founder of monastery and parish Church of Nativity of Virgin Mary.

The town has been an important economic and cultural centre since the very beginning. Even in 14th century it outnumbered other towns in an amount of tradesmen – Příbor was an administrative and economic centre of broad surroundings. At the end of 16th century tradesmen started to associate in guilds, the most important of which for centuries was the drapers' guild.

From the second half of 15th century the town belonged to the Olomouc bishopric and its bishops were inclined towards the town, especially Cardinal Francis of Dietrichstein, who improved the town's Coat-of-Arms and granted the town a number of privileges and rights. His Coat-of-Arms is still situated on the house number 6 of Sigmund Freud Square, at which he lived during his stays in the town.

The town did not escape either fires of the Thirty Years' War or natural disasters and plagues of the peace era; not even those could bring the town to its knees.

An important chapter in the history of Příbor is education. In 1541 we can already find the first written notice about Příbor's school, which was in 16th century attended by St. Jan Sarkander. A great asset in this area was the establishment of Piaristic college and grammar school in 1694. The arrival of the Piarists in Příbor caused a rapid bloom of education, and secondary education could be acquired even by students from lower social classes. By the establishment of The Czech Teachers Institute in 1875 the town became the education centre of Northeast Moravia. During its existence up to 1938 many great pedagogues and specialist in education and culture graduated here. Příbor was rightly called Litomyšl of Moravia.

Příbor is a birthplace and workplace of many important personalities, who brought Příbor fame. The world-famous is the founder of psychoanalysis, an honorary freeman of Příbor, Dr. Sigmund Freud. He spent only first three years of his life in Příbor, but memories of that time accompanied the great scholar all his life. Příbor does not forget its native either. On 25th October 1931, on the natal house of S. Freud there was unveiled a memorial plaque on Freud's 750th birth anniversary. In 1969 Příbor unveiled Freud's monument by an academic sculptor F. Navrátil and it is situated behind the town-hall building. In 2006, the year of Sigmund Freud's 150th birth anniversary, his natal house underwent a complete reconstruction and was inaugurated.

St. John Sarkander lived here with his mother and he also attended a parish school. The future Archbishop Antonín Cyril Stojan studied at lower grammar school and then he worked in Příbor as a chaplain for eleven years. Řehoř Volný, a historian and founder of Moravian history recording, was born here as well as philosopher and national enlightener Bonifác Buzek, academic sculptor František Juráň, writer Josef Kresta and others.

The most important registered national landmarks of the town are: **Piaristic College** – It was founded on 5. 2. 1694 by Charles II. of Liechtenstein. It was built in 1694 –1700 according to a plan of Kroměříž monastic architect Giovanni Pietro Tencalla and, according to its foundation date, it is the eleventh Piaristic college in our country. Nowadays there is a museum in the college and it houses a permanent exhibition dedicated to life and work of Sigmund Freud.

St. Valentine's Church – It was built in 1596, first as wooden. It was rebuilt into its present Baroque appearance in 1760 – 1766. The high altar is decorated with a silver-plated relief from about 1596 and it depicts a scene from the life of St. Valentine. The church is a first-class registered national landmark. The church is traditionally connected with February St. Valentine's fair. For its acoustically excellent interior it is annually used for St. Wenceslas Music Festival and other concerts of ecclesiastical and classical music.

Parish Church of Nativity of Virgin Mary – It origins in the 12th century (on one of the ceiling beams there was found a date 1178). The nave and the presbytery bear Gothic and Renaissance features; chapels are Baroque. The tower up to the top of the cross is 54 meters tall. In 1609 there was mounted an astronomical clock (tower clock) on the tower. The present appearance of the clock dates from 1784. The church was repaired several times and it underwent its last large reconstruction in 2003–2004. Nowadays there are held regular services and also frequent concerts of ecclesiastical and organ music.

St. Francis Serafín's Church – It was built in 1622 on a hillock above present-day Místecká Street. It is surrounded by an old cemetery, in which many great Příbor's personalities were buried. Inside the church there are held exhibitions during European Heritage Days.

St. Cross Church – Originally wooden church was built in 1516 and after fires it was rebuilt as a stone building in 1778. It gradually underwent various reconstructions. The last one took place in 1994. The high altar is an example of folk carving from about 1750. In the interior of the church there is an epitaph written in Old Czech. By the church there is a cross with a dedicatory inscription from 1802. The church and the cross are registered national landmarks.

The centre of old Příbor is a picturesque square of nearly square plan with its sides over 90 m long. In the middle of the square there can be found the Marian Sculpture from 1713 (a sculptural group of Virgin Mary with Infant Jesus and with St. Roch and St. Florian) and a fountain, which already existed there in the second half of 16th century. However, the present-day fountain is younger; it dates back to 1899.

What also deserves attention are burgher houses in the square and Masaryk Grammar School building with sculptures by František Úprka.

The town can be proud of its long-time brass music tradition. At present there exist the Swing Orchestra and the Youth Brass Orchestra with majorettes, who develop town's good reputation not only in the Czech Republic, but also abroad.

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The town is a member of the Association of Historical Settlements in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia; in the contest of the best implementation of the Urban Monument Reserves (UMR) and Urban Monument Zones (UMZ) Regeneration Programme in 2002 the town was the first within Moravian-Silesian Region and one of the three best evaluated towns of the Czech Republic.

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