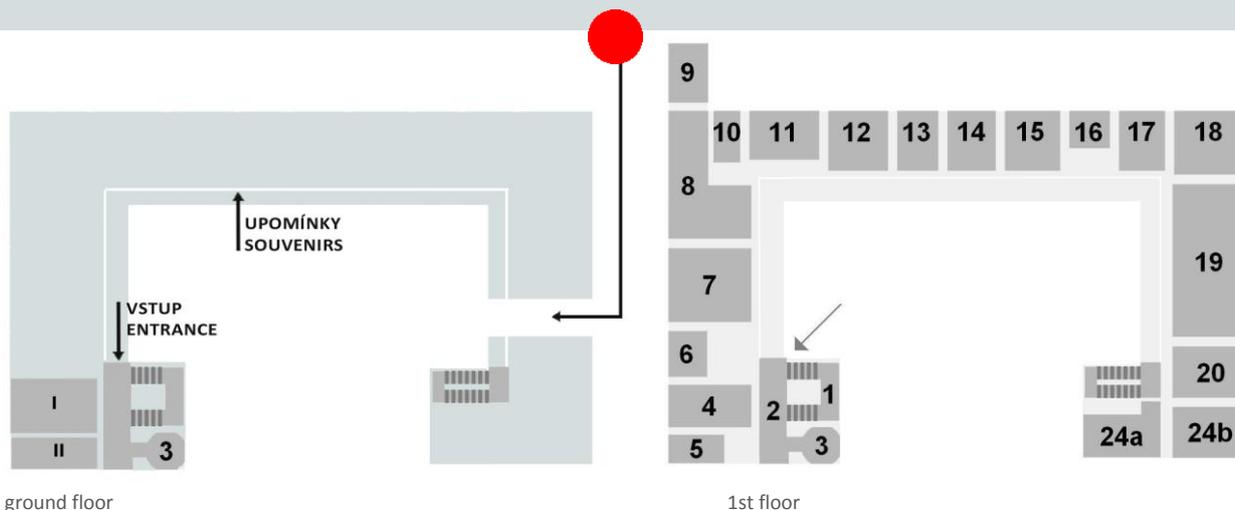


# OPOČNO STATE CASTLE

A brief description of the exhibits



## ETHNOGRAPHIC HALL (I, II)

The items in the ethnographic hall were collected by one of the last owners of the Opočno Castle Joseph II. Colloredo-Mannsfeld. The first part of the hall is devoted to African exhibits from the area of southern Nile and today's Sudan. These items were acquired by the owner of the castle during hunting safaris in 1901 and 1902. They include e.g. African game trophies, art works and items of daily use of the native people (Bakota tribe, Guro tribe, Dan tribe etc.). The items from the Mahdi Revolt are dominated by a flag with an Arabic text celebrating Allah and the leader of the rebels, Mahdi. The other part of the collections consists of exhibits from North America. They were acquired in 1904 and 1905. They include clothing of Plain Indians, ceramics and basketry works of the Pueblo tribes, hunting equipment and models of boats and totems made by Native Americans from the west coast of North America.

## STAIRCASE (1), 1ST FLOOR CORRIDOR (2), CHAPEL (3)

On the walls above the staircase to the 1st floor you can see firearms from 16th – 19th century, or a painting capturing Opočno in the Baroque era. The corridor is furnished with furniture and portraits. The painting directly across from the staircase depicts the last owner of the Opočno Castle from the Trčka dynasty of Lípa, Adam Erdman, who was killed together with Albrecht von Wallenstein in 1634. On the large portrait by the arcade, you can see Rudolf Colloredo, the first owner of the castle from the Colloredo dynasty. The Colloredos (later Colloredo-Mannsfelds) lived in the castle until 1941. Opposite the entrance to the arcade, there is an entrance to the oratory of the Baroque St. Anne's Chapel.

## STUDY (4), MEN'S BEDROOM (5)

The current appearance of the study interior is from the early 20th century. When entering the study, notice the two paintings: on the left-hand side, it is a large panel painting called *Epitaph of Žerotín* painted in memory of the death of the son of Jan Jetřich of Žerotín. It is a work of a Central European painter made in 1575. Opposite this painting, there is a painting called *Twelve-year-old Jesus in a Cathedral*. Its author is a successor of the famous Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch. Commodes from the 17th century, originally from Italy, are exhibited along both sides of the door. A Venetian mirror is hung between the windows and to the left there is the entrance to the men's bedroom furnished with furniture from the Romantic period.

## SMOKING LOUNGE (6)

The smoking lounge no longer serves its original purpose. Currently, collections of historic glass and porcelain are displayed in this room. Venetian glass made in 16th – 19th century is displayed in the display case next to the entrance door. It is a specific type of sodium glass which has been manufactured on the Murano Island from the 13th century. In the large cabinet, there are excellent works of Czech Baroque glass artists and large Saxon welcoming cups called *vilkums*. In other display cases you can see imperial porcelain from Viennese and Austerlitz manufactory.

## DINING ROOM (7)

The dining room served as a representation space. The large canvases along the walls depict representatives of the Habsburg dynasty, for whom the Colloredo-Mannsfelds served as soldiers and diplomats. Above the table set with Meissen porcelain, there is a massive Czech crystal lustre. This type of lustres was first seen at the coronation of Charles VI. Habsburg at the Prague Castle in 1723.

## REPRESENTATION LOUNGE (8), GAME ROOM (9), BATHROOM (10)

The stucco decoration of the representation lounge was finished by French craftsmen in 1911. The displayed furniture of French origin is dominated by a wonderful commode in the style of André-Charles Boulle from the 19th century richly decorated with marquetry. The space of the lounge is dominated by a painting gallery of the Colloredo-Mannsfeld dynasty. The castle representation areas were one of the centres of European politics: in 1813 the Russian Tsar Alexander met here with the Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm III. and the Austrian Chancellor Metternich to discuss the threat of Napoleon's invasion.

In the back of the room you can peak into the game room furnished with colonial furniture. After the ethnographic hall, this is another area where you can see game trophies, this time from North America (Kodiak bear, wapiti etc.).

The bathroom is from the early 20th century. A skilfully made painting on the walls is a very convincing imitation of marble.

### CHANGING ROOM (11)

With its function, the changing room supplemented the adjacent women's bedroom. Next to the displays of historical clothes, you can see a tapestry from Flanders workshops or still lifes from Gabriel Salci and Carl von Röttenbach.

### WOMEN'S BEDROOM (12)

The furniture in the room, including the area of the dominating canopy bed, dates back to the time around 1850. The artistic style of that time period is called "second Rococo". The style uniformity of the room is reinforced by the type of decoration which is unified on the wallpaper, the bedspread and the canopy. You can see a portrait of Joseph II. Colloredo-Mansfeld by the window.

### GUEST ROOMS (13-17)

The furnishing of the former guest rooms will introduce you to the main phases of the development of furniture from the 16th century to the first half of the 19th century. After one Renaissance and two Baroque rooms there is a Classical and Empire room. The Spanish Renaissance cabinet decorated with ivory (Room 13) and the Viennese cabinet with small paintings and inlays (Room 17) are also worth noticing.

### GALLERIES (18, 19)

The displayed collection of paintings has been in the Opočno Castle since 1895. Before that it was possible to see it in Döbling, Austria, in Prague and in Vienna. The catalogue of paintings from 1929 lists a total of 471 items. Particularly valuable works are located in the second gallery hall. On the stand in the front part of the room, you can see a painting called *Madonna with Child and Young John the Baptist*, the author of which is a Florentine painter Andrea del Sarto. This painting was finished in 1520. Large canvases located along the walls come from the Gonzaga Palace in Mantua from where it was acquired by Rudolf Colloredo as booty from the Thirty Years' War. Important artists represented in Opočno are Giacomo del Po, Andrea Vaccaro and others.

### LIBRARY (20)

The first mention of Opočno books can be found in a report written during a stock-taking of the assets of the confiscated dynasty of Trčka of Líba (1635). However, the Colloredos are considered the founders of the library. In 1747, they owned 1,853 volumes and today there are 10,000 volumes in the entire collection. An important part of the library consists of legal (e.g. Justinian Code from 1542), philosophical, religious, historical and geographical works. In the display case, you can see the incunabula *Liber Cronicarum* published in 1493 by Hartmann Schedel of Nürnberg. Next to it, there is the first edition of Encyclopaedia of Diderot from 1765.

Staircase to the ground floor and the 2nd floor.

### ORIENTAL ARMOURY (21)

The Opočno armoury is one of the largest and most important collections of its kind in the Czech Republic. The tour starts with the exhibition of arms and armour of non-European cultures. It includes Turkish, Caucasian, Iranian, Indian, Indonesian, Chinese and Japanese exhibits. In the middle of the room there is display a collection of swords, daggers and spears from Burma and Thailand. The bronze drum in the corner of the room was used by members of the Dong Son culture during rainmaking ceremonies. Its age is estimated at 2,000 years.

### HUNTING HALL (22)

Hunting is closely linked to Opočno. A local game preserve was founded by the Trčkas of Líba before 1598. The oldest exhibits in the hunting hall include hunting spears, some of which are from the period of late Gothic.

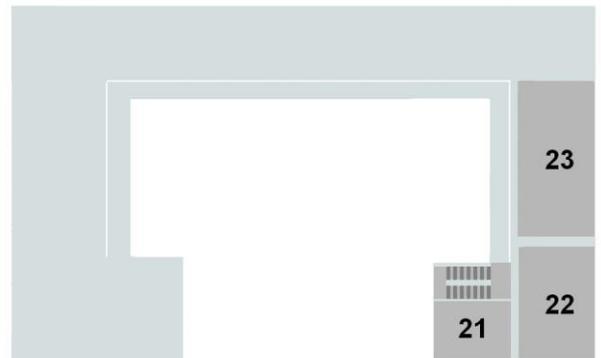
There are also some valuable exhibits in the collection of hunting fangs. Hunting arms displayed in the display case were made by Czech gunsmiths J. Procházka (Opočno), A. V. Lebeda (Prague), A. Ch. Kehlner Neveu (Prague) and J. Michael (Kuks). The collections also contain works of gunsmiths J. A. Kuchenreiter, L. Cominazzo, M. Wenger and others. Renaissance crossbow inlaid with bone of German origin and horse trappings decorated with silver belong to the carriage in the castle carriageway.

### KNIGHT HALL (23)

A collection of European militaria is concentrated in the large hall of the armoury. In the black cabinets, there are firearms. These pieces are slim inlaid hunting rifles called *těšínsky* (named after the Czech town of Těšín) and works of outstanding gunsmiths G. Zellner and P. Poser. The collection of weapons also includes works of other famous masters like Merate, Siebenburger, Deutsch, Hernandez, Ayala and others. Protective armour from the 16th and the 17th century is represented in the collection mainly by originals and only rarely by items from the Romantic period. On the horse, you can see Renaissance Maximilian armour. This rich and varied collection of pole weapons and helmets is dominated by simple military exhibits. Swords and rapiers were manufactured in famous sword-cutter centres such as Toledo, Solingen etc. The large painting on the wall depicts the pedigree of the Colloredo dynasty. By the window, next to the painting, you can see an exhibit representing the Ancient history – a Roman infantry helmet.

### SUITE OF THE KINSKÝ FAMILY (24)

The rooms furnished in the style of the first half of the 19th century with a painting of European importance by G. B. Chiari.



**Detailed information about the castle collections and history can be found in specialized materials that are available in the souvenir shop.**

Národní památkový ústav, územní památková správa na Sychrově

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