

PRESS RELEASE

On 3 October 2018
the City of Prague Museum
received

The National Heritage Institute Award for Heritage Care, the Discovery/Find of the Year Category

The City of Prague Museum was awarded a silver plaque for their discovery of Valentine Gate and a medieval fortification wall in Na Kocandě House in the fifth year of the National Heritage Institute Awards, *Patrimonium pro futuro*. The museum received the award in the category *Discovery/Find of the Year*. A professional jury appointed the winners of the best heritage care undertakings in four categories; the prize winner of the award *Gratitude of Monuments* was chosen by the public via an Internet poll.

‘By awarding *Patrimonium pro futuro*, we seek to highlight the merits in heritage care and appreciate those who contributed to it. Furthermore, we want to present examples of best practices to the public because we believe that owners, investors, and creators of these undertakings deserve appreciation,’ said Nad’a Goryczková, Director General of the National Heritage Institute.

The jury granted awards in the form of silver plaques for four categories – renewal of a monument, restoration, discovery/find of the year, and presentation of values and conservation. The castle owners Petr and Radka Turek were awarded for the restoration of the castle chapel in Návárov, and the City of Prague Museum received an award for the discovery of Valentine Gate and a medieval fortification wall in Na Kocandě House. The city of Cheb and Nadační fond Historický Cheb (Historic Cheb Foundation) won the category of the presentation of values for creating a tour ‘Under the Roofs of Cheb Houses, Crossing the Centuries’. Eliška and Igor Valda were awarded for the rescue of the Třebešice Palace compound. Professor Miloš Stehlík received an award for the heritage care personality for his lifelong contribution to cultural heritage care. The city of Chodov received a special prize awarded by the Director General of the National Heritage Institute, a bronze plaque, for the renewal of and restoration work in the Church of Saint Lawrence in Chodov. The second bronze plaque was awarded to Pavel David for the rescue of the Renaissance fort of the Kobyalkas of Kobylí in Podolí who also won the public Internet poll and received the *Gratitude of Monuments* prize.

The Director General of the National Heritage Institute further commented: ‘Thanks should be extended not only to the awardees but also to all the nominees whose implemented projects shall inspire other owners of cultural sites. Through *Patrimonium pro futuro* awards, the National Heritage Institute would like to express their support to all who dedicate their efforts, time, and finances to the care of our cultural heritage.

The award ceremony concluded a half-year evaluation of events and projects that were implemented or completed in 2017. This spring, the National Heritage Institute experts, who guarantee heritage care in regions, nominated one to two good examples of renewal, rescue, presentation, and/or find for each region – 21 nominations altogether.

Comprised of the experts of the National Heritage Institute and other collaborating institutions, the assessment committee evaluated and proposed the individual category winners to the general director at a joint meeting. The prizes awarded in Jindřichův Hradec Castle on 3 October 2018 included a diploma and commemorative plaque; the winner determined by the public poll received a diploma and a Bohemian glass plaque. In addition to medals, the winners of individual categories will receive a subscription to the expert magazine *The Heritage Care News* and an annual family pass for buildings administered by the National Heritage Care. The profiles of all the nominees may be viewed on [the National Heritage Institute website](#).

The award in the category Discovery/Find of the Year (appreciating a significant find/discovery of an unknown structure or object, archaeological find, attribution of a work of art, etc.) was granted to the City of Prague Museum, the Archaeology Collection Department represented by the archaeologist Petr Starec, for the discovery of Valentinská Gate and medieval fortification walls in Na Kocandě House. In connection with the house reconstruction, remains of the fortification walls and gate from the 13th century were uncovered. The unique discovery provides new information about Old Town fortifications. Moreover, the outstanding documentation of the find must be highlighted; it will be presented to the public only for exceptional occasions. After the expected running of the 13th century Old Town fortification wall was delineated in the cellars, a fortification wall line of about 26.5 m was uncovered in 2016. In 2017, a gate was discovered in the northern part of the cellar which enabled localisation of the passage through the gate. To date, the gate was known only based on written records as Saint Valentine’s Gate.

The City of Prague Museum informed the public about the finds of Valentine Gate and the medieval fortification walls in Na Kocandě House earlier at: <http://www.muzeumprahy.cz/tiskovy-servis/>.

Contact information:

www.muzeumprahy.cz



Mgr. Olga Šámalová
Deputy Director, Public Relations Department
media@muzeumprahy.cz
T+ 420 221 012 939, M+ 420 725 847 820

Mgr. Marika Hankiewiczová
Public Relations Department
media@muzeumprahy.cz
T+ 420 221 012 933, M+ 420 601 571 807