

## Přepisování historické krajiny: Auerspergská kulturní krajina ve Žlebech

## Rewriting a Historic Landscape: The Auerspergs' Cultural Landscape in Zleby

## Robert Šimůnek

Žleby (80 km ESE of Prague) is located in a unique natural context – at the crown of a hill that stands above a bend in the Doubrava River which, already in the 13th century, was dominated by the castle (today's château is its continuation), with a forecastle area below on the north side, and next to it a small town protected by the river. The river also represented the limit of the town's territorial expansion; part of the area (mainly to the north of the Parish Church) was already lying in a flood zone. Therefore, this small town could only expand into the surrounding hills to the north (Buda) or towards the south. The cultural landscape around Žleby is depicted on the First Military Survey Map dating back to the years 1780-1783 and Žleby itself in Antonín Matoušek's prospectus from 1805, twenty year later. At the time, the Žleby estate was owned by the Auerspergs, who acquired it in the mid-18th century and subsequently held on to it until the year 1942.

This is a long enough time to provoke the question: "can we actually speak about the Auerspergs' cultural landscape in Žleby?" Undoubtedly we can. During the time in which they were locally active here, not only was the castle radically reconstructed and the castle park established on its grounds (adjacent to the game park), but they also pursued economic activities. Next to the center of Žleby there were three farmsteads, one to the north of the Castle (to which the Parish Church's Cemetery was transferred), and another two towards the south – shown on the Map of the Stable Cadastre (1838). Vincenc (Čeněk) Karel Auersperg (1812-1867) was a very significant figure. He initiated the romantic reconstruction of the castle, the appearance of which today is almost the same as it was during the years 1849 to 1868, and Žleby are thus one of the most important examples of Czech Castle Romanticism of the 19th century. He also made significant contributions to the town that lay below the Castle that had been founded, based on a privilege from October 29th 1853. The nobility's care of the town was also reflected in the repairs that were made to the roads leading to and from the town (in 1848 and 1861); the entire second half of the 19th century appears to have been a golden age of construction and development in Žleby.

When studying the subject of historic cultural landscapes, construction always comes to the fore, whereas destruction remains in the background. But the one is inextricably linked to the other. The Auerspergs fundamentally altered the appearance of both Žleby Castle itself and also of its surroundings (part of the urban housing area fell victim to the establishment of the park). During the Auerspergs' reign, economic activity was expanding, which had an effect on the image of the town (farmyards, sugar refinery), while, with the advent of the railroad in the early 1880s, the communication network was also expanding. The Auerspergs also made alterations to the sacred landscape located to the west of Žleby – they demolished the baroque Church of St. Anne and replaced it with a new building. The Gothic church of St. Mark was also partially demolished (ca. 1830) until there was nothing left except the Presbytery, which is still preserved to this day. Another exceptionally large courtyard was added near the Baroque Markovice farm just a few hundred meters to the west on the route to Cáslav.

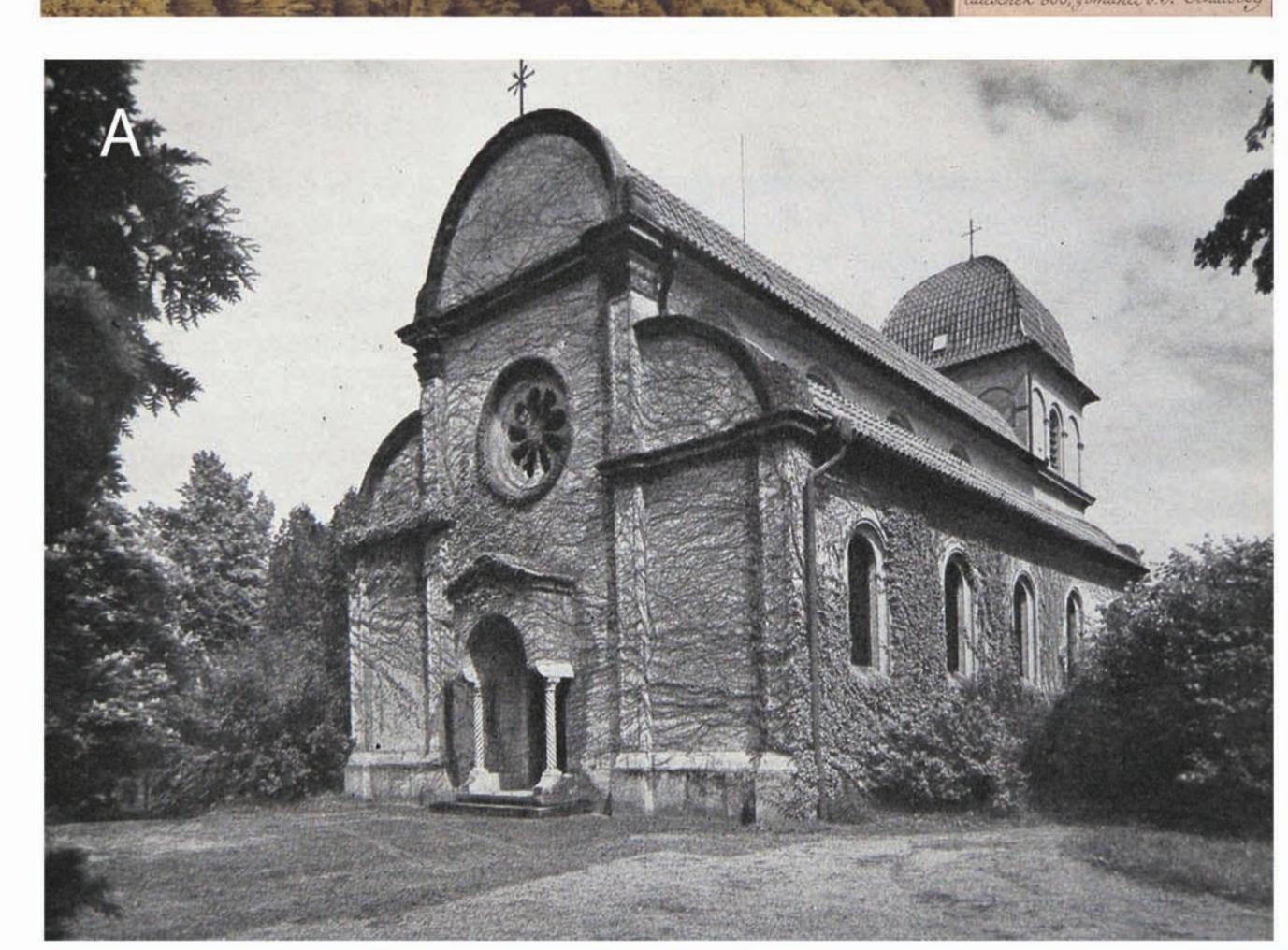
Žleby (80 km VJV od Prahy) jsou rozloženy v jedinečném přírodním rámci – temeno návrší nad ohybem Doubravy ovládl již ve 13. století hrad (na nějž navazuje dnešní zámek), v nižší poloze k severu se rozložilo předhradí, na něž navazovalo městečko chráněné řekou. Ta byla současně limitem jeho územní expanze, navíc část plochy (především severně od farního kostela) již ležela v záplavovém pásmu. Městečko se tak mohlo rozrůstat pouze do okolních svahů směrem k severu (Buda) a k jihu. Kulturní krajinu okolo Žleb zachycuje mapa I. vojenského mapování z let 1780–1783 a samotné Žleby potom o dvacet let mladší prospekt Antonína Matouška z roku 1805. Žlebské panství bylo v té době v majetku Auerspergů; získali je v polovině 18. století a drželi do roku 1942.

Doba dost dlouhá na to, abychom si položili otázku: "můžeme hovořit o auerspergské kulturní krajině ve Žlebech?" Nepochybně ano. Období jejich zdejšího působení je spjato nejen s radikální přestavbou žlebského zámku a zřízením okolního zámeckého parku (navazujícího na oboru), ale i s hospodářskými aktivitami. V těsném sousedství jádra Žleb se objevují tři hospodářské dvory, jeden severně od zámku (k němuž byl přenesen od farního kostela hřbitov), další dva pak jižně – tento stav je zachycen na mapě stabilního katastru (1838). Velmi výraznou postavou byl Vincenc (Čeněk) Karel Auersperg (1812–1867), iniciátor romantické přestavby zámku, jejíž podoba z let 1849–1868 se téměř intaktně dochovala podnes a Žleby tak představují jeden z nejvýznamnějších monumentů českého hradního romantimu 19. století. Zasloužil se ovšem i o podhradní městečko – privilegiem z 29. října 1853 se stalo městem, péče vrchnosti o město se projevila i v úpravách komunikací vedoucích do / z města (1848, 1861), a celkově se 2. polovina 19. století jeví jako období stavebního rozvoje Žleb.

Při studiu problematiky historických kulturních krajin se do popředí dostává moment konstrukční, zatímco moment destrukční je v pozadí. Přitom jedno s druhým neoddělitelně souviselo. Auerspergové zásadně proměnili vzhled žlebského zámku i jeho okolí (založení parku padla za oběť část městské domovní zástavby), za jejich vlády přibývají hospodářské provozy, uplatňující se v obrazu města (hospodářské dvory, cukrovar), komunikační síť rozšířila na počátku 80. let 19. století železnice. Auerspergové modifikovali i sakrální krajinu na západ od Žleb – barokní kostel sv. Anny zbořili a nahradili novostavbou, gotický kostel sv. Marka byl postupně ubouráván (kolem 1830), až zbyl jen presbytář, podnes dochovaný. K baroknímu markovickému dvoru při cestě do Čáslavi přibyl jen pár set metrů západně další mimořádně rozlehlý dvůr.









Upper figure: Section 146 of the First Military Survey (rectified in 1780-1783) captures the natural context of Žleby on a creek of the Doubrava River and also the urban planning scheme of the Castle and the town below the Castle and the expansion of the scattered settlements towards both the north and the south; several mills (two of which belong to the Castle and one to the Municipality) are captured on the Doubrava River near Žleby, while to the east there is a game park - a vast forest preserve with a network of paths that intersect at an angle.

The road to the west on the way to Čáslav passes by the farmyard and, behind it, next to the chapel, an alley branches off from it both to the southwest towards the Horky farmstead and to the west in the direction of St. Anne's Church. Nearby are Markovice, a former medieval village, of which only St. Mark's Church and two farmyards close by

Source: Staatsarchiv-Kriegsarchiv Wien; the Geoinformatics Laboratory, FE UJEP.

Lower figure: Antonín Matoušek's prospectus from 1805 (copied by Jan Antonín Venuto in 1809) offers a wide panoramic view of Žleby from the north, roughly from the area of today's Jiráskova cesta (Jirásek path). In the foreground, a loop of the Doubrava River is captured with a wooden bridge going across it (in 1884-1885 it was replaced by a stone bridge); the rugged terrain reflects the character of the landscape alongside the deep valley of the Doubrava, but there is also a degree of stylization of the context of the landscape. Also incorporated in this scenery are the town and the Castle, dominated by the centrally located Parish Church of the Nativity of Mary and, adjacent to it, the Auerspergs' ancestral necropolis from the period after 1775 (it was modified to its present classicist form in 1822), and the Castle and its surroundings as they looked prior to their radical romantic modification (between 1849 and 1868).

Captured to the right of the Castle is a farmstead – its location, and also its spatial relationships within the vista, are both only in outline; in any case, it is one of the two farmyards that are located on the southwestern foreland of Žleby on the road leading from Čáslav (today only one courtyard is preserved; the other farmyard, on the road to Zehuby,

was demolished at the beginning of the 21st century). Source: Österreichische Nationalbibliothek Wien; Inv. No. E27653C.

The Baroque farmstead alongside the Čáslav – Žleby road is located approximately 200 m north of St. Mark's Church, the last remnant of the medieval village of Markovice (ca. 2 250 m from Žleby). The premises as they are preserved today are baroque, but they may have been built above an earlier farmstead – there was a farmstead in Markovice already in the late Middle Ages; it is mentioned as belonging to Žleby in 1497.

The "Markovice Farmstead" and the "meadow below the old vineyard" are mentioned in 1556. If all this were true, the Markovice farmstead would be the oldest representative of a series of historic farmyards located in the vicinity of Žleby.

Photo: Robert Šimůnek.

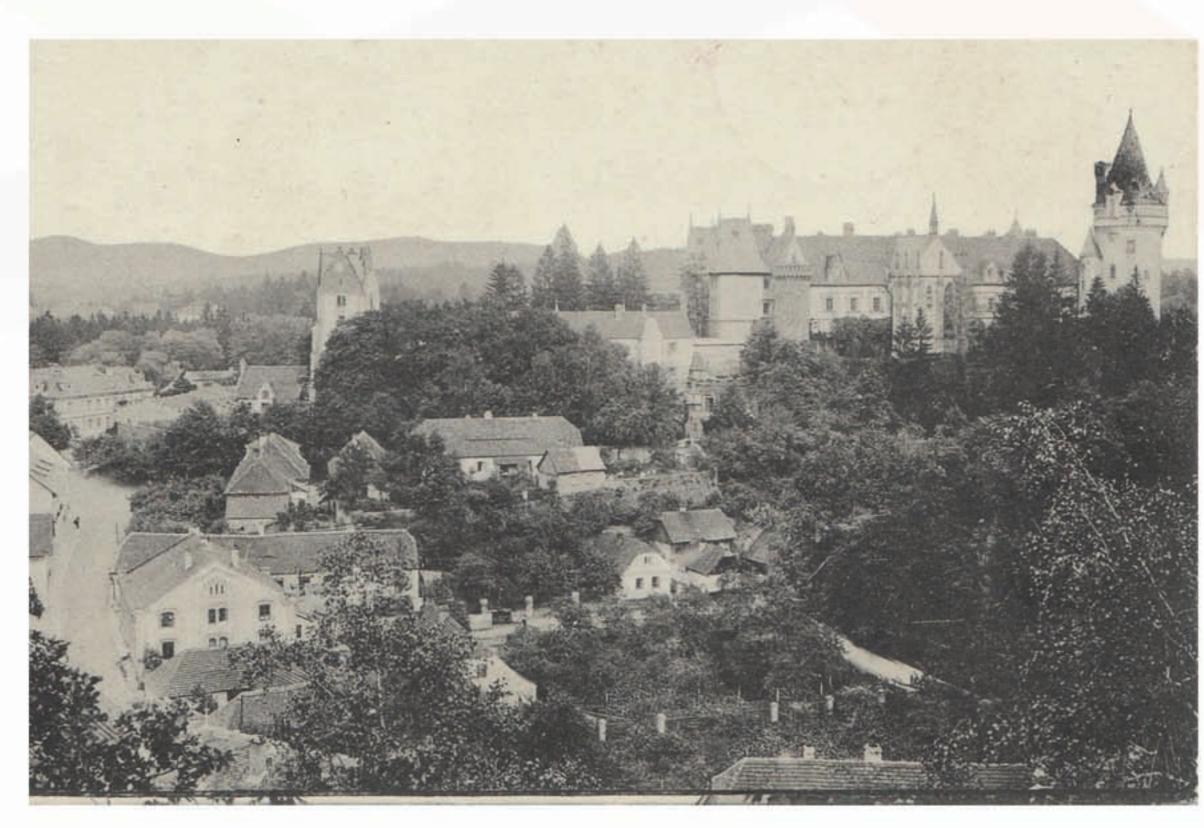


Left figures: St. Anna's Church, shown on the map of the First Military Survey, was founded in 1692 by the then owner of the Žleby Estate, Jan Baptista of Kaiserstein; it was conceived as an ancestral necropolis and, as such, it was connected with Žleby by a road that was lined with trees.

The Auerspergs completely demolished the chapel and replaced it with their own ancestral necropolis in 1912, the central portion of which is shown A. Even this necropolis no longer exists, however. It was demolished in the 1980s because of the expansion of the quarry (the origins of which can be traced back to the Auersperg period), while a remnant of the status that was documented in the 18th century can be traced to a small chapel on the western edge of Žleby alongside the road to Čáslav, from which an alley branches off. Today, however, this alley ends at the edge of the quarry (B).



A double view of Žleby on postcards from the years 1916 and 1921 reflects the uniqueness of the landscape context of Žleby, photogenic from virtually any

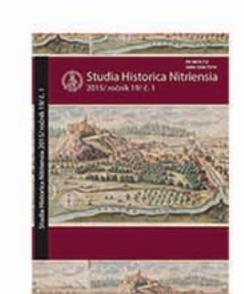




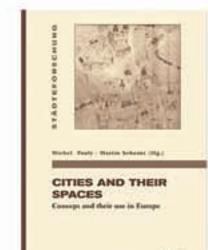
A view of Žleby from the west (1923-1926) – like all the other Žleby panoramas, it culminates at the castle; in the front part in this case there is a double symbol of progress: (1) a railway station (on the Čáslav – Závratec/Třemošnice line that was built from 1881 to 1882 in two phases), from where trains have to continue in the opposite direction in order to make detours from the west and from the north to avoid the extremely rugged terrain in Žleby that was formed by the multiple creeks of Doubrava and (2) the sugar refinery, established in 1851 literally beneath the castle, quite deliberately in a spatial (and therefore also visual) relationship to the castle.

The industrial enterprise, as the attribute of a good manager, was established in a truly fitting location – the sugar factory was located just a few hundred meters from the future railway station, to which it was connected by a sidetrack.





ŠIMŮNEK, R. (2015): Kulturní krajina na starých vyobrazeních. Studia historica Nitriensia, 19, 1, pp. 3-19.



ŠIMŮNEK, R. (2013): Town and its vicinity as spaces for sacral representation, Bohemia 1350-1600. In: Pauly, M., Scheutz, M. (eds.): Cities and Their Spaces: Concepts and Their Use in Europe. Böhlau, Köln, pp. 239-254.

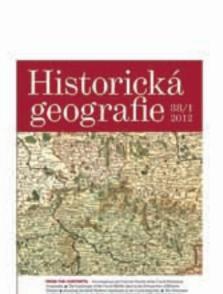
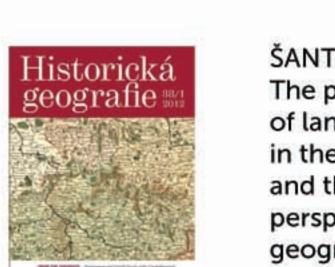


Photo: Robert Šimůnek.

VYSKOČIL, A. (2012): The tale of the landscape in the Czech lands in the 19th century. Historická geografie, 38, 1, pp. 119-142.



ŠANTRŮČKOVÁ M. (2012): The principles and development of landscape parks in the Czech Republic and their study from the perspective of historical geography. Historická geografie, 38, 1, pp. 99-118.