

## Headsman's House

*Headsman's House.* The building of a Renaissance town house (the first written reference is from 1607, however the house is certainly older) is the only preserved building of this type in Trenčín. The town house with a circular courtyard gallery includes residential premises, an economic and production part and a "black kitchen". The Headsman's House is historically and also according to the town tradition associated with the execution of justice and prison. It is not entirely clear whether this connection is justified. At the end of the XIX century a catchpoll lived in this house and for some time there was also a prison there. Some authors state that in the XVI-XVII centuries it actually served as a dwelling for the headsman.

### Expositions:

The „**Master of justice - the headsman**“ exhibition is devoted to the world around the public executioner in the XVI-XVIII centuries. The only artefacts used by the executioner in the exercise of his trade are the exhibited original execution swords from the XVI century. The exhibition includes also a precious artefact - a richly decorated chest of the municipal council of Trenčín from the XVIII century. The figures of allegories of virtues and vices captured on the sides of it are accompanied by moral scriptures. All of them encouraged the members of the town council who handled the money and valuables in the chest, to act morally and warned them against vices such as loose morals or excessive eagerness for wealth.

The second exhibition „**Craft, guilds and guild establishment**“ shows the work of guilds in Trenčín and its surroundings. Activities of guilds in towns are recorded on the territory of present Slovakia since the early XIV century until the decay of the system of guilds in 1872. The collection includes a set of 15 different guild seals from XVII-XIX centuries. The exhibited guild chests were highly respected by the members of this establishment and seals, money and guild rules, the so-called Articles, as the basis for the establishment of a guild, were kept in them. Guild summoning tablets convened a meeting of the members of a guild in case of a session or death of a member.

The exhibition „**The townspeople, how they lived...**“ shows the housing and everyday life of townspeople in the period after 1850 up to the inter-war period (1930s). A part of the exhibition presents hygiene and leisure of the inhabitants of towns. A made bed and lingerie from the XIX and XX centuries are complemented by copper bed warmers. Toilet parts of the room with sanitary equipment were a part of the rooms where people lived until separate bathrooms and toilets appeared. An atypical artefact was the medical aid for bloodletting. The inter-war period is represented by a hand-embroidered satin robe for men and a preserved beauty travel suitcase for ladies with its full content.