

The Manor House of Draškovič

The history of the manor house of the Draškovič family in Čachtice dates back to 1668. Originally a late Renaissance manor house it was built at the initiative of the Croatian nobleman Nikola Draškovič, whose name it also bears. In the literature it is often mentioned under the name "Forgáčovec", referring to other magnate owners. The Forgach family owned the manor longest - more than 140 years and rebuilt it into a fairly large representative residence. In the XIX and early XX century the manor served as a dosshouse for poor population, which had fatal effects on its condition. Under the former regime the building underwent major reconstruction and in the 1960s a museum was established there. The manor house is now one of the branches of Trenčín Museum in Trenčín.

The first part of the exhibition "*Cruelty hidden in lace*" through replicas of period clothing gives an idea of the aristocratic women's fashion from the time of *Elizabeth Báthory*. The dress made of splendid materials such as silk, velvet and satin is a true copy of the one worn by Elizabeth Báthory on her most famous painting. In addition, you can see there a set of paintings of nobleman and copies of paintings of Elizabeth Báthory, her husband Francis Nádasdy or palatine George Thurzó. The room dominated by the portrait of Elizabeth Báthory by the regional artist Miroslav Ďurža through the exhibited documents presents the personality of infamous Elizabeth Báthory, remembered at home and abroad as the "*Bloody Lady*".

Another part of the exhibition illustrates *the history of Čachtice*. There is an exhibition of numerous archaeological finds, but the exhibits of traditional culture - folk costumes and craft products, represented mainly by Hutterite ceramics or military or religious objects also gain attention.

The final part of the exhibition is devoted to the association "*Tatrín*" founded in 1844 by the leaders of the Slovak national movement of the XIX century around L. Štúr as an educational and literary society for spreading education and culture. The last fourth meeting ("sednica") of "Tatrín" took place at the manse in Čachtice in August 1847. It was attended by the then elite of the Slovak political life, including the leaders Ľudovít Štúr, Michal Miloslav Hodža and Jozef Miloslav Hurban.

At the entrance of the building there is an altar slab of pink marble, originally mounted in the chapel in the west wing of the manor house in 1717, made by the order of Bishop Paul Forgach.