RESTORATION PROBLEMS OF STONE FACADES IN HUNGARY *

The Venetian Chart demands the authentic material to be used. I, myself, was often glad to see respect and love for historic buildings or rational professional consideration.

In Hungary, there are roughly 300 thousand sqare metres of carved frontal stone surfaces, statues and ornamentations that amount to approx. 2% of the total facings. In addition to this, there are more than 61 thousand Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance stone fragments, which may be found in various collections, anastylosis-like assortments related to monument reconstructions or in form of theoretical reconstructions.

As a consequence of the turbulent Hungarian history, our stone façades were mainly produced in the last 200—250 years. The buildings are determinants of our present architectural environment. Trends in architecture during this period represent the changing social climate. Castles, country houses, local and national administrative institutes, museums, libraries universities, schools, bridges, hotels, banks, council houses and factories came into beeing at that time.

The technical and constitutional circumstances of building affairs. changed a lot in that period:

— quarryng based on lease of land was launched and become common,

— at the end of the 19th century, Hungarian stone quarries were registered at the initiative of the Academy of Sciences,

— stone processing became an independent industry,

— German and later on, Italian stone carvers settled down in Hungary,

— guild systems were first controlled by the government an underwent many reforms and were finally abolished in 1872,

— building material manufactures, local small-scale industry and the related enterprising system were established,

— board of housing and public construction were organized: Town Embellishment Committee in 1808, which was replaced by the Board of Public works in 1870 and

— theoretically deliberated reconstructions and material protection has its roots in the 19th century.

The 18th and 19th century buildings are characteristic examples of stone façade reconstruction of the period commencing after the 2nd World war and they demonstrate:

— partial and

— complete stone replacement,

— reconstruction examples and

— up-to-date surface protection.

The overwhelming majority of stone façades in Hungary are made of non frost-resistant and higly hygroscopic, so-called soft limestone, thus they are threatened not only by the widely known damaging effect of urbanization but by the 40—50 frost cycles typical in Hungary as well.

The stone used is the typical limestone coming from the stone quarries neighbouring Budapest. The frequent application of this stone may be attributed to the constructive prosperity of the 19th century and the abundance of this type of stone in Hungary, as well as to the fact that this material may be easily, that is cheaply carved.

The decay of stone structures, structural faults promoting destruction and consequences of stone structure functions that all depend on

— the stone quality,

— the orientation of the construction,

— defects of packing material, the faults of drainpipes and discharge of water etc.

To sum up, it may be stated that stone façade reconstruction of Hungarian monuments features the fact that the stone material does not stand the wefther, even without the efects of urbanization. As a consequence of this, sometimes, one should compromise with the stone replacement, beside using the modern cleaning methods and conservation methods.

E. KOVÁCS

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