

SUMMARY

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ON THE STYLISTIC SOURCES

AND DATING OF PORTALS IN THE AUSTIN

FRIARS' CHURCH OF SAINT CATHERINE

IN CRACOW'S KAZIMIERZ AND THEIR

RELATIONSHIP WITH PORTALS IN THE PARISH

CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH AT KOŠICE

Close formal affinities between the ornamented portals in the south aisle and porch of Saint Catherine's church of the Hermits of Saint Augustine in Cracow's Kazimierz and the three nave portals of the parish church of Saint Elizabeth in the city of Košice in Upper Hungary were discovered by August Essenwein as early as over 150 years ago. Undoubtedly, the above works are the most original and simply the most important portals from the end of the fourteenth and the beginning of the fifteenth century in this part of East Central Europe. The enormous extent of their artistic influence is best attested by the fact that they started two independent regional groups of portals: with stepped heads in Lesser Poland and with fanciful ornamented heads in Hungary (especially in Transylvania).

Since Essenwein's times, the problem of the relationship between the portals in Cracow and Košice has intrigued many generations of, especially Polish, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian and British, art historians. The present paper is an attempt to provide a definitive answer to the questions about the relative and absolute chronology of the portals under discussion and their artistic relationship. A *sine qua non* of this task is to present new observations on the architecture of the south aisle and porch of the Kazimierz Austin Friars church, which have been less thoroughly researched than the huge Košice parish church. Thanks to these new observations and an analysis of written documentary materials, it can be unequivocally stated that it is the Cracow portals that are slightly older, and they must have been among the most important sources of inspiration for the architect who had continued the construction of the Košice parish church since the beginning of the fifteenth century. The chronological precedence of the portals in Kazimierz is based primarily on an observation that the church's southern part must have been completed in the very first years of the fifteenth century at the latest, when the chapel of Ścibor from Ściborzyce, adjacent to it from the west, was erected. The porch along with its portals had been very likely completed about a decade earlier, that is, long before the works on analogous elements in the Košice parish church were started.

The final part of the paper indicates stylistic sources of the highly unusual composition of the Kazimierz portals, which combine the then most recent Parlerian motifs with inspirations derived from older, but very fanciful,

portals that had appeared in the architecture of Austria, Bohemia and Silesia from the thirteenth century. It was very likely these features that contributed to the uniqueness of a design that later inspired the master who built the Košice parish church.