

Industrial Ironworks, Science Museum London¹

This painting shows the coal mine of the Zwierzina family in Mährisch-Ostrau (today Ostrava, CZ). The mining company was founded by Josef Zwierzina (1775-1853) in 1838 and called Josef-Schacht (Josef-mine).² A painting by the German artist Jakob Alt (1789-1872) shows the mine in its early development stage (see Image 1). Josef Zwierzina and his wife Franziska (1790-1858) had seven children who inherited the company after their father's death. The heirs founded the 'Zwierzina'sche Steinkohlen-Gewerkschaft' in 1878 (see Image 6).³

The painting in the Science Museum shows the mine in/around the year 1895. In a six-volume publication about the Austrian industry published in honour of the 50th anniversary of the accession of Emperor Franz Josef I on 2th December 1848, the mine is shown from a slightly different angle (see Image 3) and a photograph published in a book about the coal mines of Mährisch-Ostrau in 1929 shows its further development (see Image 5); this book also shows the painting now in the Science Museum as an illustration of the mine in 1895 (see Image 4). The mine was operated until the late 1960s when all buildings above ground were demolished. In 1886, the company employed 340 miners, among them 28 women, who lived in houses directly at the mine.⁴ An inventory of the mine made in 1894 gives the depth of the Josef-Schacht with 403.5 meters.⁵ The painting also shows part of the 1.2 km long railway tracks from the Josef mine to the 'Kaiser Ferdinand Nordbahn', which connected the coal mines in Moravia and Silesia with the industrial centres of the time (see Image 7, the railway tracks are depicted by a bold line).⁶

Josef Zwierzina's eldest daughter, Rosa Ruzena Zwierzina (1822-1897) married Josef Wenzel Kregczy (1811-1898) in 1851. They had six children, four sons and two daughters. Their second eldest son was Edmund Kregczy. He was born in Olmütz (today Olomouc, CZ) on 16th February 1855 and died in Vienna, Austria (10th August 1916). He studied at the *Wiener Akademie* (under Hugh Charlemont and Franz Rumpler) and at the *Münchener Akademie* (under Nikolaus Gysis), painted portraits and landscapes, but then 'turned to other subjects'.⁷ According to "Biographien der Wiener Künstler und Schriftsteller" a lot of his paintings were exhibited, among others in Vienna, Munich, Hamburg, Dresden, Berlin and Breslau.⁸ He seems to have enjoyed some success as a painter in his lifetime. Several of his exhibitions in Vienna were mentioned in contemporary newspapers (for example in 1899, 1903, 1909, 1912, see below). In 1899, one of his solo exhibitions was visited by the Emperor's brother, arch-duke Ludwig Viktor. At least two times, his paintings were presented as removable pages for collectors in the *Österreichische Illustrierte Zeitschrift*.⁹ The earliest reference I found about his work as a professional artist dates to 1882, when he submitted a painting for an exhibition in the *Künstlerhaus* in Vienna.¹⁰ Newspaper articles of the 1880s and 1890s suggest that he often travelled between his home town Ostrau and Vienna. In these articles, his occupation is nearly always given as 'academic painter'. Edmund Kregczy was married and had at least one child, his daughter Maria (1900-1987).¹¹ His wife Josefine is only mentioned once in contemporary papers, when in 1888, at the age of 23, she tried to commit suicide in the couple's apartment in Vienna.¹² Kregczy's daughter Maria was a writer and published under her married name Maria Branowitzer-Rodler.¹³

¹: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/paintings/industrial-ironworks-180002>

²Wattolik, F. (1881), p. 35.

³ Wattolik, F (1881), p. 35;

⁴ Schwarz, A. (1886), p. 17.

⁵ Inventory (1894), p. 12.

⁶ https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaiser_Ferdinands-Nordbahn

⁷ Reinhard (1902), p.77. I think these 'other subjects' are a reference to the Oriental and nudes he painted.

⁸ Reinhard (1902), p. 77.

⁹ In 1912, the *Österreichische Illustrierte Zeitung* reproduced his painting 'Madonna und Jesuskind' (22nd December 1912) and in 1913 it reproduced his painting 'Magdalena' (13th July 1913).

¹⁰ <http://www.wladimir-aichelburg.at/?s=kregczy&submit=Search>

¹¹ One source mentions that Maria's brother Josef died in WWII. But I found no other reference to him or to other children of Edmund Kregczy.

¹² Neue Freie Presse 2. Oktober 1888

¹³ Branowitzer-Rodler was the name of her second husband, she was married three times.

In 1895, Edmund Kregczy exhibited two paintings of his family's coal mines as part of a charity event (to raise money for the clothing of poor miners' children). The exhibition took place in the fire brigade station in Ostrau in early September 1895.¹⁴ Also, in March 1899, Kregczy exhibited a painting called 'Skizze eines Steinkohlenwerkes' (~'Sketch of a stone coal facility/plant') in Vienna.¹⁵

Note: all biographical information (if no other reference is given) about the Zwierzina and Kregczy family were provided by one of their descendents.

Image 1: Jakob Alt (1789-1872) "Steinkohlebergwerk der Familie Zwierzina in Mährisch Ostrau", oil on canvas. Execution date unreadable. See Dorotheum (2015).



¹⁴ Ostrauer Zeitung, 8th September 1895

¹⁵ Neues Wiener Journal, 5th March 1899

Image 2: Josef-Schacht in/around 1894, Source: Práce 11th February 1894

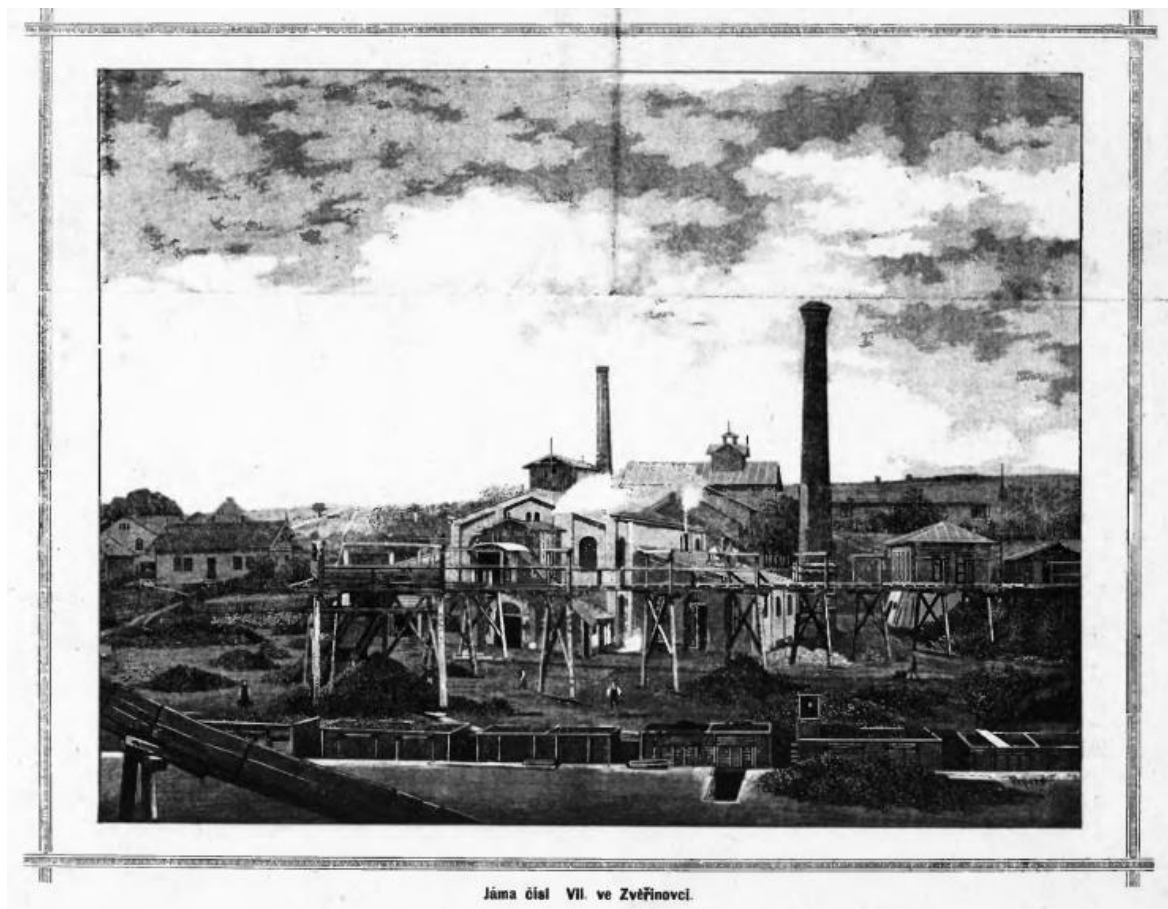


Image 3: Josef Schacht, Source: Gross-Industrie (1898)

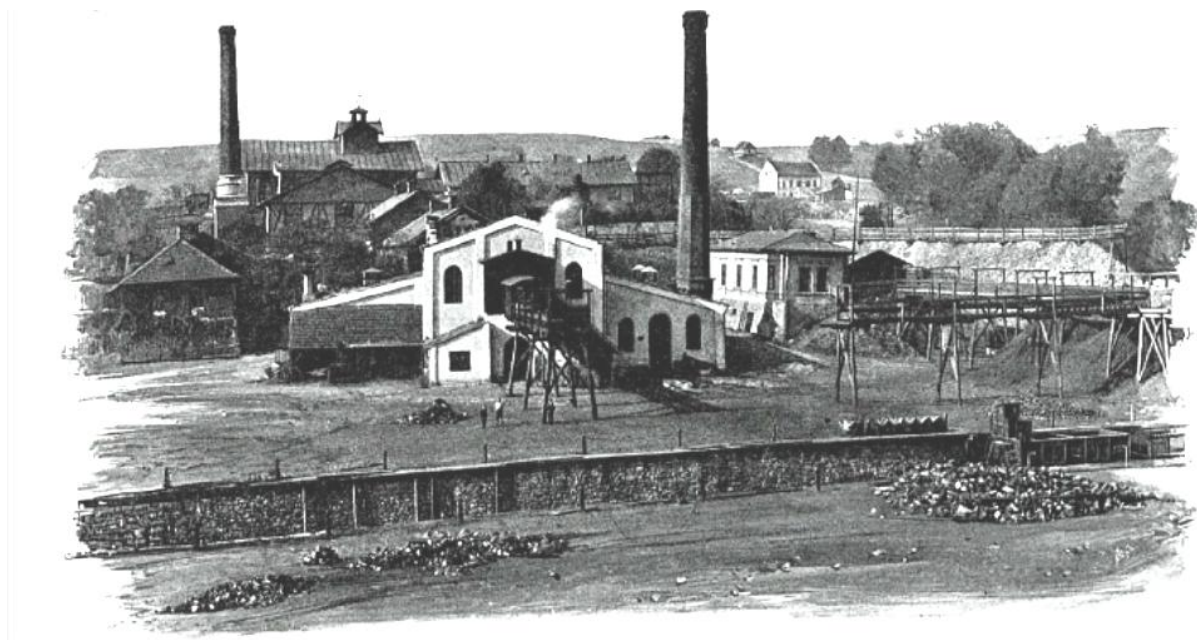


Image 4: Josef-Schacht in 1895, Source: Kohlebergbau (1929)

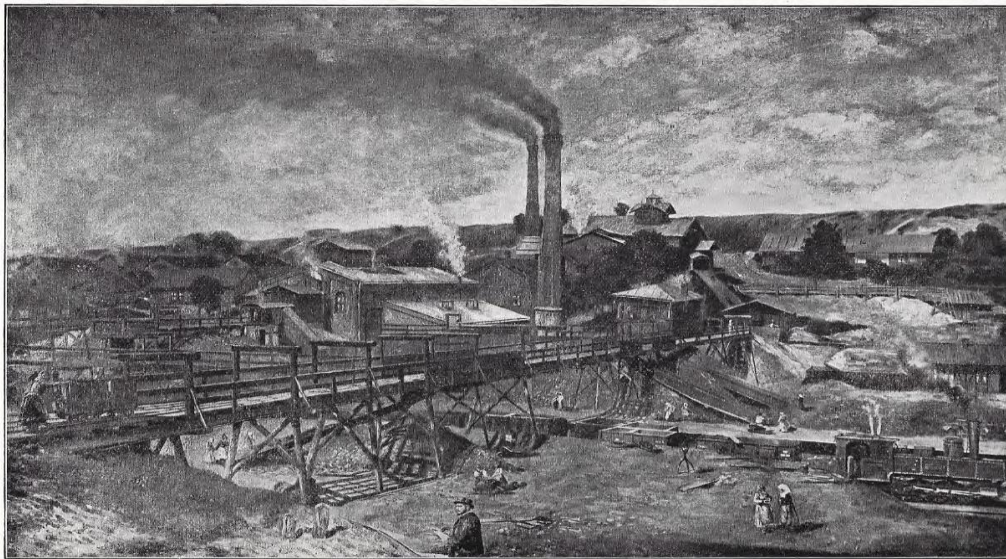


Abb. 80. Josef-Schacht in Slezská Ostrava im. J. 1895. (Nach einer Zeichnung.)

Image 5: Josef-Schacht in 1928, Source: Kohlebergbau (1929)



Abb. 81. Josef-Schacht in Slezská Ostrava im J. 1928.

Image 6: Share certificate („Kux-Schein“) for the Zwierzina mining company, Source: Tschöpe (2002)



Image 7: Left Map of 1893 (Uebersichts-Karte des Ostrau-Karviner-Steinkohlereviers), right: Google Maps. Red dot shows the approximate position of the Josef-Schacht.

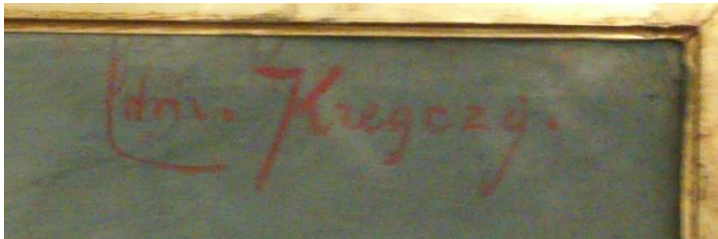


Source: Oldmapsonline.com; http://ckis.cuni.cz/F/CDNMCGA2Y11FF58CTFQAKJ8EF5JSLVXS5UDCD74MSNLPECSSGM-06528?func=find-e&=&request=1591655&find_scan_code=FOUND_SYS&pds_handle=GUEST

Examples of signatures of Edmund Kregczy:



Detail of „Industrial Ironworks“, Science Museum London



Detail of „Portrait of Rosa Franziska Sophie Kregczy“, the artist's sister. Provided by current owner of the painting.



Detail of “Bathing girls on a beach”, Source. https://live.bruun-rasmussen.dk/m/lots/BAEC2E1F76F3?auction_day_id=1002632

Some Exhibitions of Edmund Kregczy

1896: Exhibition in the Österreichische Kunstverein (Vienna). Neue Freie Presse, 22. Dezember 1896

<http://anno.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/anno?aid=nfp&datum=18961222&seite=6&zoom=33&query=%22edmund%2Bkregczy%22&provider=P02&ref=anno-search>

1899: Exhibition in k. und k. Gartenbaugesellschaft (Vienna). [http://anno.onb.ac.at/cgi-](http://anno.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/anno?aid=nfp&datum=18990312&seite=6&zoom=33&query=%22edmund%2Bkregczy%22&provider=P02&ref=anno-search)

[content/anno?aid=nfp&datum=18990312&seite=6&zoom=33&query=%22edmund%2Bkregczy%22&provider=P02&ref=anno-search](http://anno.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/anno?aid=nfp&datum=18990312&seite=6&zoom=33&query=%22edmund%2Bkregczy%22&provider=P02&ref=anno-search)

1903: Exhibition in the Gallery of Hermann Herrmann (Vienna), Neues Wiener Tagblatt (Tages-Ausgabe), 1. Mai 1903

<http://anno.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/anno?aid=nwg&datum=19030501&seite=10&zoom=33&query=%22edmund%2Bkregczy%22&provider=P03&ref=anno-search>

1907: Solo Exhibition in the Österreichische Kunstverein (Vienna). Reichspost 8. September 1912,

<http://anno.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/anno?aid=rpt&datum=19120908&seite=12&zoom=33&query=%22edmund%2Bkregczy%22&provider=P03&ref=anno-search>

1909: Exhibition in his Studio in Vienna (Unter St.-Veit). Neues Wiener Journal 31. Oktober 1909.

<http://anno.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/anno?aid=nwj&datum=19091031&seite=21&zoom=33&query=%22edmund%2Bkregczy%22&provider=P03&ref=anno-search>

Sources:

Dorotheum (2015), <https://www.dorotheum.com/auktionen/aktuelle-auktionen/kataloge/list-lots-detail/auktion/11206-kunst-antiquitaten-und-schmuck/lotID/35/lot/1894316-jacob-alt.html>

Gross-Industrie (1898) „Die Gross-Industrie Oesterreichs: Festgabe zum glorreichen fünfzigjährigen Regierungs-Jubiläum Seiner Majestät des Kaisers Franz Josef I. dargebracht von den Industriellen Oesterreichs 1898“. Band 1., Wien 1898. Verlag von Leopold Weiss.

Inventory (1894) Inventur und Schätzung der Zwierzina'schen Steinkohlen-Gewerkschaft in Mährisch-Ostrau nebst Bilanz-Abschluss per 31. Mai 1894. http://camea2.svkos.cz/search/i.jsp?pid=uuid:cee6c690-8e51-11df-bf32-0013d398622b&q=zwierzina&fq=dostupnost:%22public%22#monograph-page_uuid:cda56cf0-8e51-11df-b5d5-0013d398622b

Kohlebergbau (1929) „Der Kohlenbergbau des Ostrau-Karviner Steinkohlenreviers“, Band IV, Mährisch Ostrau 1929.

Neue Freie Presse 2nd October 1888 <http://anno.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/anno?aid=nfp&datum=18881002&query=%22kregczy%22&provider=P02&ref=anno-search>

Neues Wiener Journal, 5th March 1899, <http://anno.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/anno?aid=nwj&datum=18990305&seite=5&zoom=33&query=%22kregczy%22&provider=P02&ref=anno-search>

Ostrauer Zeitung, 8th September 1895. Accessed via <http://camea2.svkos.cz/search/>.

Práce 11.2.1894, accessed via <http://camea2.svkos.cz/search/>.

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http://hathi.library.illinois.edu/feed/packages/BrittleBooks/Needs%20Remediation/Ship43/Ship43_ObjectIDfolders/1763511v1/v00001/i00000/anon0001deustv00001i00000.pdf

Schwarz, A. (1886) Führer durch den Industrie-Bezirk von Mähr.-Ostrau und Umgebung. (Witkowitz, Prziwos, Poln.-Ostrau und Hruschau) sowie die Nachbarstädte Friedek, Mistek und Neutitschein, Seite 17.

Tschöpe (2002) Auction catalogue, Lot 15, http://www.tschoepe.de/auktion49/katalog/A49_Los152bis158.pdf

Wattolik, F. (1881) Beiträge zur Geschichte der Stadt M.-Ostrau. Source:
<http://camea2.svkos.cz/search/i.jsp?pid=uuid:7b87f090-896d-11dd-bbb6-0013d398622b&q=wattolik>

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