

Transboundary european World Heritage – a topic for UNESCO Project Schools

Short biographies of the three witnesses to the history and technology of mining at the cultural landscape Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří

under the main topics: Technology, History, World Heritage/Sustainability:

preparation for the interviews, to be conducted and filmed by students at the German- Czech student workshop at the Markus-Röhling Stolln from 24-26 June 2019

Topic: History

1. Franz Beyer

70 years old, is a former miner of the tin mine Ehrenfriedersdorf / Annaberg and its former chief of the mine rescue . As an retired worker, he relaxes from the long years of hard mining-work.

Mr Beyer experienced the different mining eras in the cultural landscape Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří mining region. He knows a lot about working in the mines from the time immediately following the Second World War, of the former GDR until the reunification with its achievements and aftereffects in the 1990s. He is the ideal person to answer all questions regarding the life and work of the miners during this period. Additionally, he can tell us about the technological, historical, political and cultural evolutions in the Ore Mountain throughout these times.

Short biography:

- He studied engineering and was trained as a miner.
- In the mine Ehrenfriedersdorf / Annaberg he became head of the mine rescue.
- His work was dedicated to rescue and to salvage injured miners.
- He is a "real miner" as Marc Schwan of the association "Altbergbau e.V. Besucherbergwerk Markus-Röhling Stolln, Annaberg-Buchholz" names his colleague and friend.
- His work based on the helpfulness and solidarity of the miners.
- He is very familiar with their everyday dangers and challenges.

Background information:

The mine rescue service is a relief organization, which helps with mining accidents. It is a kind of fire brigade of the mining company. The tasks of the mine rescue service include the rescue of injured miners, the fight against fires in the mine and the preservation of property.

Sources:

Oral report by Marc Schwan

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mine_rescue

<https://www.coalservices.com.au/mining/mines-rescue/>



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Topic: Technology

2. Igor Grund

50 years old, is a former worker of the Brigade Wismut and member of the association "Alt-bergbau".

Mr Grund has experienced the development of mining in the Ore Mountain under the influence of Wismut SDAG. His knowledge dates back to the 1960s, when his father already worked for the uranium mining of the Wismut. He is the right person, to tell us, how the Wismut has influenced the technological, political and social developments in the former GDR and how this was changed by renovating their old mines after the reunification. He can also answer questions to all the professional challenges, he had to face as a miner after the end of the active mining period.

Short biography:

- He was trained as a miner (German translation: Hauer)
- Like his father, he worked for the mining company Wismut SDAG. There he worked in uranium mining of the former GDR.
- He experienced first-hand how mining in the Ore Mountain came to an end and how Wismut was converted into a renovation company in 1991 after the reunification.
- As a result of the radical social and technical changes of the reunification throughout Germany and to avoid his own unemployment, he shifted into several different job careers.

Background information:

Wismut was a German-Soviet mining company and the fourth largest producer of uranium worldwide. The uranium served the Soviet nuclear industry. After 1991, Wismut GmbH started to rehabilitate and recultivate its abandoned resources.

Sources:

Oral report by Marc Schwan

<https://www.wismut.de/en/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wismut_\(mining_company\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wismut_(mining_company))



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Topic: World Heritage/Sustainability

3. Marc Schwan

57 years old, is the first chairman of the association Altbergbau "Markus-Röhling-Stolln" Frohnau e.V., visitor center Markus-Röhling Stolln.

Mr. Schwan while not a miner has actively worked since the 1990s to keep alive the tradition of the mining history, technology and culture of the Ore Mountain. From these experiences he created his own job as the first chairman of the association "Altbergbau e.V." He is the right person, to report on how the abandoned Markus-Röhling Tunnel changed into an inspiring visitor mine for tourists from all over the world. He can also answer questions about the measures taken to preserve the Tunnel for future generations.

Short biography:

- He worked in a range of professions.
- In the former GDR, he was a forest worker, gravedigger and intensively engaged in the political work during the unification.
- After the unification he mainly took over volunteer duties.
- In 1990, the first ideas to revive the mining in the Ore Mountain came into being.
- Together with former miners, he developed the concept of the visitor mine Markus-Röhling-Stolln, which opened in 1994.
- He is responsible for the tour program in the mine and inspires the visitors of all generations for the technology and the history of the Tunnel.

Background information:

The visitor mine "Markus-Röhling Stolln" was opened in 1994. In 2006 the members of Altbergbau e.V. reconstructed the water wheel, true to the original. 9 meters high and fully functional, it is one of the main attractions for the visitors of the mine. In 2018, Markus-Röhling-Stolln counted its 800.000 visitors. (Please find further details on the timetable of Markus-Röhling Stolln).

Sources:

Oral report by Marc Schwan

<https://worldheritage-education.eu/resources/History%20of%20the%20Markus-R%C3%B6hling%20Tunnel.pdf>

<https://www.roehling-stolln.de/>