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Preliminary report concerning the find of Early Gothic architectural remains at no. 433/I (Prague-Old Town, Michalská 14)

ANNOTATION

The preliminary evaluation of two architectonic pieces, a richly moulded early Gothic cantilever-like fragment (f.e. a corbel stone) and another small fragment. The fragments are decorated by a diamond motif and can be dated to the mid or slightly earlier 13th century. They probably belonged to house furnishings and as such give evidence for the quality of the vernacular early Gothic architecture at The Old Town of Prague.

SUMMARY

This short note describes a stone fragment of a richly moulded Early Gothic cantilever type, along with another, smaller moulded fragment. They were both inserted in a secondary infilling of a Early Gothic gateway within the Gothic core of house no. 433/I in Prague 1. The moulding is characteristically shaped with a diamond motif. The fragments can be dated to a period around the first half of the 13th century. Originally the mouldings may have been part of the decorative stonework of the house – the cantilever possibly being part of an earlier chambered wing or a hanging storey. The house was later substantially rebuilt in the high Gothic period.

Fig. 1. The site of house no. 433/I in the Old Town of Prague (depicted in cadastre map).

Fig. 2. Prague 1-The Old Town, Michalska no. 433/I. The site of the Early Gothic fragments, which were reused in an infill of a portal at the southern side of the gateway.

Fig. 3. Prague-The Old Town, Michalska no. 433/I. An Early Gothic architectural fragment decorated with a diamond motif.

Fig. 4. Prague-The Old Town, Michalska no. 433/I. An Early Gothic corbel type fragment (a cantilever) with toruses and diamond shaped decoration on its face.

Fig. 5. Prague-The Old Town, Michalska no. 433/I. A section of the moulding of the Early Gothic corbel type fragment – a corbel or cantilever.

Fig. 6. Prague-The Old Town, Michalska no. 433/I. The face of the corbel type architectural fragment.

English by Linda and Patrick Foster