

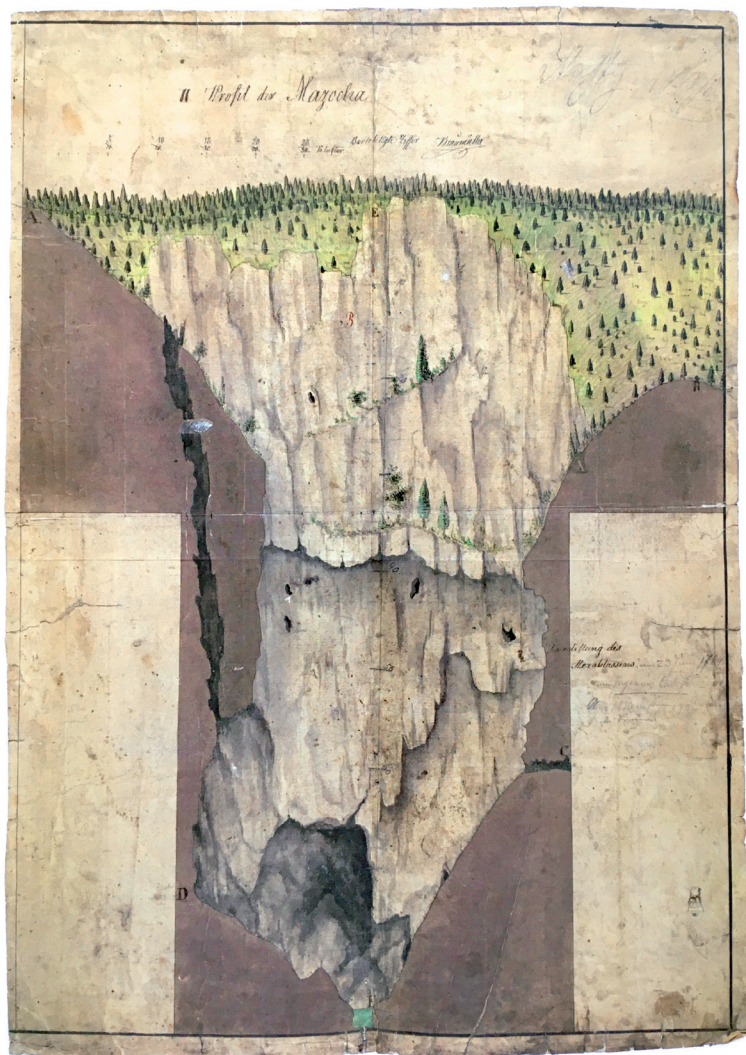
Macocha Abyss 1723 – 2023

We remind a 300 years' anniversary of the unique event that happened in 1723. 300 years ago, the first person, provincial of the Minorite monastery in Brno, Lazarus Schopper, descended to the bottom of the Macocha Abyss, the deepest known abyss in the world at the time. He set off into the 138-meter-deep pit on a hemp rope. He gave a comprehensive and quite accurate description of the abyss upon his return. This event, in its time completely unique act, essentially started the interest in exploring the caves in the Moravian Karst. He has been followed by dozens of other daredevils, including prominent karst researchers Jindřich Wankel and Karel Absolon, but his primacy remains an extraordinary event.

We will remind it by the reconstruction of this historic descent, which will take place on Saturday, **September 23rd, 2023, from 3 p.m.** A replica of a mining gate from that time will be installed on the bottom bridge of the abyss, and a strong hemp rope, similar to the rope used to lower miners into the shafts in the nearby Rudice Village, will be unwound over the pulley. A follower of a brave monk will be lowered into the Macocha Abyss and then pulled back to the surface after exploring the bottom of the abyss.

The reconstruction will be organized as part of the 5th international meeting of cavers in the Moravian Karst and the 2nd annual international conference, which is organized on the same occasion by the Czech Speleological Society with partners, under the common name **“Karst, Caves and People 2023”**.

The participants of both events will thus have an unique opportunity to see the descent into the Macocha Abyss in the contemporary realities of the early 18th century and to get an idea of the circumstances of Lazarus Shopper's heroic act.



Map description:
Historically the first map
of the Macocha Abyss by
Carl Rudzinski from 1784

Karst, Caves
and People



1723 – 2023



Lazarus Schopper