



I.N.R.I.



The sculptured decoration of the parish church at Hodowica, whence the exhibited object originates, was carved about 1758, undoubtedly according to a general design by Bernard Meretyn, an outstanding exponent of rococo architecture in the Lvov milieu. All scholars credit Johann Georg Pinsel (and his workshop, including Maciej Polejowski, later the most notable representative of the younger generation of sculptors in the Lvov school) with the authorship of the sculptures, except for Hornung, who attributed most of the Hodowica sculptures to Antoni Osiański.

The elaborate composition of the high altar consisted of a set of single figures and sculptured groups fixed against a background of illusionist architectural painting. Today only its sculpted elements exist, while the church, Meretyn's excellent work, is in a dilapidated state.

The small *Christ on the Cross* was certainly carved at the same time as the remaining elements of the church decoration and was used as a processional cross. In 1946, during the deportation of the Polish population from the territories annexed by the Soviet Union, the cross was taken from Hodowica and for more than forty years was believed to be lost. It was not until 1990 that the crucifix was identified in the Corpus Christi Church on the occasion of the Wrocław exhibition of Pinsel's sculptures from the Lvov collections.

Among Pinsel's well-known works are three other figures of the Crucified Christ: from the church at Horodenka, from the high altar at Hodowica, and from the church of Saint Martin in Lvov. Each of them was composed individually, the third being distinguished by its expressive qualities. The small sculpture from Hodowica (perhaps the *modello* of a larger composition) is the most original achievement in the whole series. It combines virtuoso command of technique with the deeply moving dramatic expression and flamboyant stylization of the arrangement of Christ's body, bringing to mind a comparison with a rocaille ornament.

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CHRIST ON THE CROSS, c. 1758

JOHANN GEORG PINSEL (D. 1761 OR 1762)

POLYCHROMED WOOD

40 CM (15 3/4 IN.)

CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI, WROCLAW

LITERATURE

Bochnak 1931, 54, 85, fig. 52; Hornung 1937; Mańkowski 1937, 102, figs. 78-79; Hornung 1976; Woznicki 1990; *Teatr i mistyka* 1993, II.62-64; Ostrowski 1993, 31, 34, fig. 113.