



Vojtěch Lauš

## Beauty Hidden in Iron

Blacksmithing is a craft of manufacturing iron, steel or other kinds of metal in hot state. The practical activity of blacksmiths is called forging. Blacksmithing is the most important kind of human activity. The ability to work with iron was one of the criteria to evaluate Ancient civilizations.

Iron products are made by traditional handforging in fire and thus all of them come into existence as originals.

Mr. Lauš has been a blacksmith since his young age. He attended the secondary school of artistic smithcraft and locksmithing and continued his apprenticeship in the artistic college. During his schooltime he represented the school in many blacksmithing competitions. His biggest success has been the third place in the competition Mladý těšanský kovář in 2004.

Mr. Lauš insists on all his products being originals and his forged decorations are never the same. He always tries to offer new, original and stylish stuff to every customer. He regularly takes part in international blacksmithing competitions Hefaistos at the castle Helfštýn in Lipník nad Bečvou and Brtnická Kovadlina in the Chateau of Brtnice near Jihlava.

**The following products have been certified "the Quality of Hlinecko":**

- Artistic smithcraft products

KOVOART  
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Blacksmithing belongs to the oldest and the most wide-spread crafts. Old village smithies make precious evidence of long-gone life and culture in the given settlement. The tradition of blacksmiths dates back quite a few centuries. The oldest record about blacksmiths from Vojtěchov comes from 1698 when two blacksmiths Matěj Bouška and Matěj Jelínek operated there. There were three smithies in the village. In the oldest one (from 1793) Mr. Sytař was working and he made a fire engine for the village. The smithy was pulled down at the end of the 19th century. In 1887 the village authorities had a firebrigade stockhouse and a smithy built and leased them for hire, both were also pulled down later.

The third smithy in Vojtěchov used to be on the ground floor of the house no. 43. The last blacksmith worked here until 1960. Though the original building is still preserved there is only a furnace left of all the equipment. These days the house is used by Mr. Lauš and his company Kovoart and the production has been moved to the first floor of the house.

Mr. Lauš's products are tailored according to needs of the customers for both interior and exterior. First, there is a hand-drawn design. When agreed by the client, the production can start with the purchase of material, measuring dimensions, cutting and heating the pieces up to the temperature of 1100 °C and consequently shaping and hammering them to the required form on the forge or with the powerhammer. When making decorative products the final phase is to coat them with beeswax, garnish and paint. Bigger objects also require galvanizing. After that the product is ready for the ordered assembly or a sale.