

ALEXANDER - VON HUMBOLDT



information



Languages

Alexander von Humboldt in Arzberg

General information

Humboldt worked as a senior miner in the Fichtel Mountains from 1792 to 1796. During this time he was given the task by the Prussian state of reviving mining in Upper Franconia. In order to implement his plan, he lived part of the time in Arzberg and got the mining industry back up and running there. He really enjoyed his time in this city: "I live on the high mountains in Arzberg, a village in the Fichtelgebirge. The deposits are so interesting that I can visit them several times throughout the year. I am reeling from joy." (A.-v.-Humboldt)

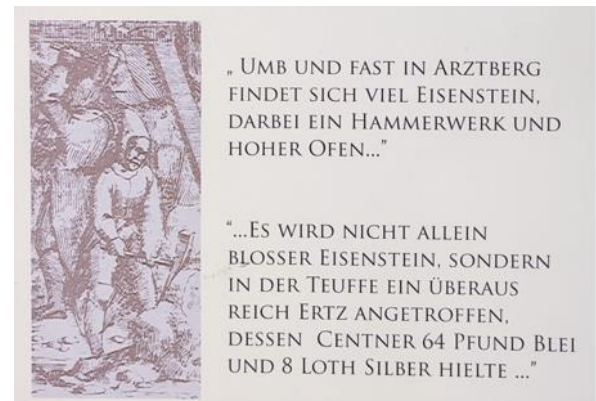


Fig. Poem about ore mining in Arzberg

Marketing the ore

Around a third of the iron ore mined in Arzberg was sent to Bohemia, the Palatinate and Saxony, which brought money to Arzberg.

During Humboldt's time (1792 - 1796) other mines were operated in the western area, all of which bear typical names and names of patron saints such as: "Morgenstern", "Silberkammer", "Sophienglück" or "Merry Society".

Nail factory



Fig. Nail machine behind glass on Humboldtweg in Arzberg

One of the most important crafts in relation to iron processing was that of nailsmiths. The Künzel family practiced this craft in Arzberg. Erhard Künzel was a trained Elsen dealer and had Germany's first nailing machine built in 1905. This had a production capacity of a maximum of 50 nails per minute. The performance of a modern nail machine today is 3,500 nails per minute.

Memories of mining

In Arzberg today you can still find many memories of Humboldt and mining. If you walk along the Alexander von Humboldt circular path, you will come across, among other things, a boulder from Arzberg. This consists of iron spar (Fe CO_3) and calcite (Ca CO_3) and is reddish-gray in color. The ore also contains 4% manganese. It is similar to the ore in Amberg and that in Styria.

The town of Arzberg owes its town name to its iron ore deposits and their mining. Over time, Erzberg and Artzberg became Arzberg.



Fig. Foundling in Arzberg