

ALEXANDER - VON HUMBOLDT



information



Languages

Alexander von Humboldt in Arz mountain

Focus on Arzberg

During Alexander von Humboldt's time, the most profitable mines in the Bayreuth Fürstentum were located in Arzberg, which belonged to the Wunsiedel Mining Authority. Iron ore has been mined underground in around 20 mines here, some since the Middle Ages. During his inspection trip in 1792, Humboldt paid particular attention to the Arzberg district.



Fig. Illustration of Arzberg in Humboldt's time

A mountain school for Arzberg

Due to the poor training of many miners, accidents often occurred. To remedy this, Humboldt decided to found a mountain school in Arzberg. This was realized in 1796 with the Steiger Johann Casper as teacher. School lessons took place in the winter months from November to April. Five subjects were taught: spelling and spelling, mining arithmetic, general knowledge of the earth, patriotic mining laws and genders of patriotic mining.

„Little John“

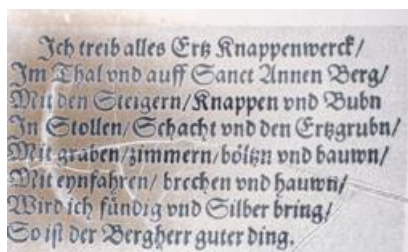


Fig. Poem about iron ore

During his time in Arzberg, Humboldt worked as a senior miner in the local mine, which is now known as “Little Johannes”. By solving many problems (e.g. water, gases, danger of collapse), Alexander von Humboldt made a major contribution to ensuring that iron ore could be mined there until the beginning of the 20th century. At this point, the iron ore deposit had been exhausted to a depth of 75 meters.

The Second World War gave Arzberg mining another brief revival.

In 1937 the “Little Johannes” colliery building was demolished and rebuilt. Now they dug up to a depth of 80 meters before the little Johannes was finally shut down in 1941.

Mining in Arzberg was not comparable to the last large iron ore mines in the Upper Palatinate or the huge coal mines in the Ruhr area. Little Johannes was nevertheless of great importance for the development of Arzberg and its population.

To commemorate Alexander-von-Humboldt's stay as chief mountain master from 1792 to 1796, circular hiking trail 6 was created and named after him. The circular route is 7 km long and leads past important mining sites and Humboldt's life in Arzberg.



Fig.: Entrance to the “Little Johannes” mine