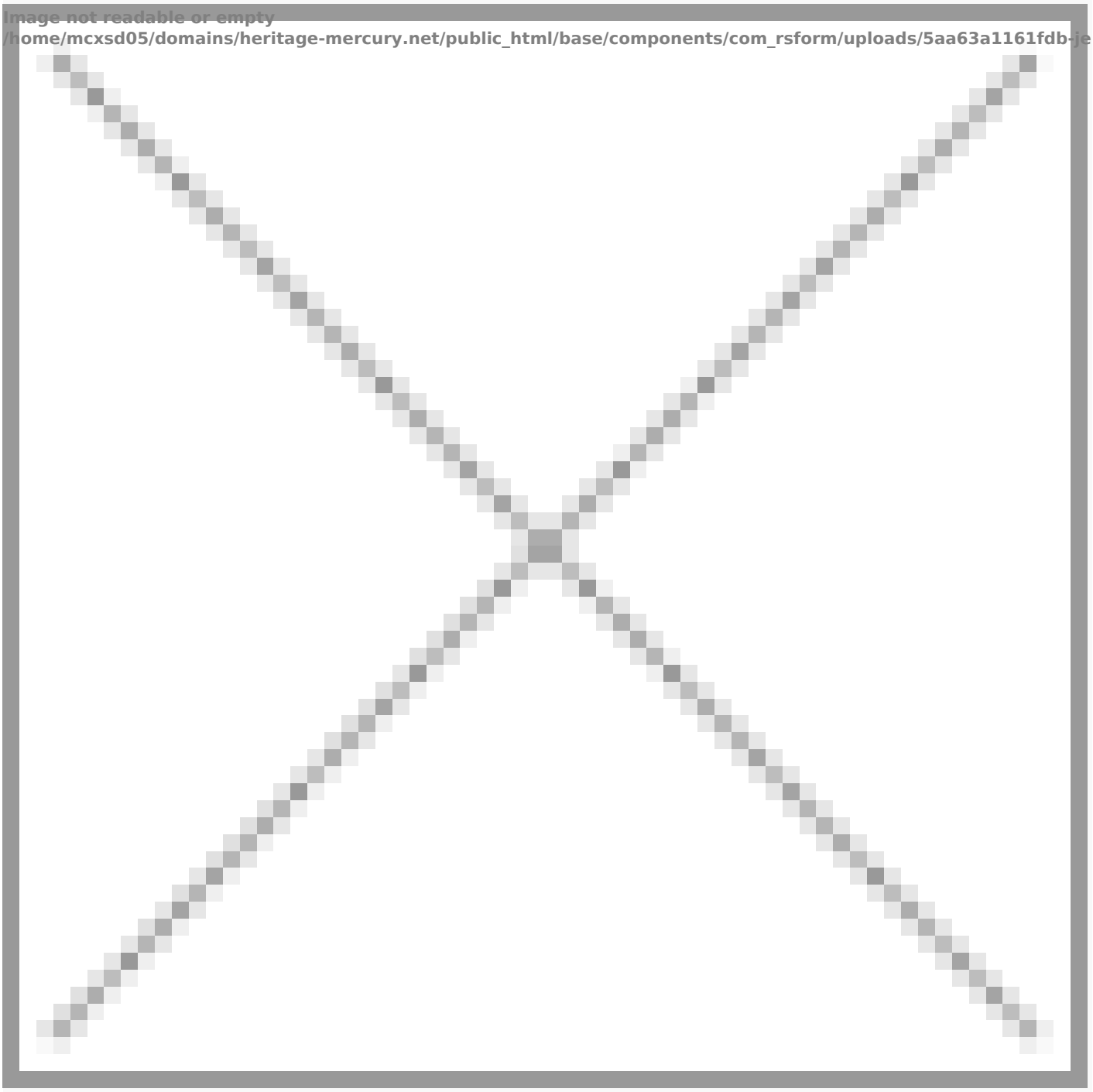
Name 1	STEEL FLASKS (COLLECTION)
Name 2	/
ID number	002.285.Idrija
Manager / Administrator	Idrija Mercury Heritage Management Center, Bazoviška 2, SI-5280 Idrija
Ownership	Public
Owner	Republic of Slovenia
Local / Original ID Number	/
Type of Object	Mine

DESCRIPTION

Short description	The collection consists of 10 steel flasks, all produced in the same way. They have elongated a cylindrical shape and the bottom curves in. The top of the steel flasks is domed and curved, and it ends with a narrow opening which has a short threaded neck welded on. The neck still has traces of sealing patina. The neck of the steel flask is closed by a screw (plug) with a countersunk screw thread. The upper part of the plug is square, with a narrow hole screwed through it, which served for installation of the hook for carrying the steel flask. The top surface of the plug has engraved indistinct mark. All the joints of the steel flasks are welded. Between the upper surface and neck, a tab with a hole is welded on, which served for the seal insertion. The steel flasks have traces of rust.
Measures	Diameter 12 cm, height 32 cm.
Materials	Steel.
Dating	1960s
Author / Producer	Electro-mechanical plant of the Idrija Mercury Mine.

Picture attachments



Original use	The finished process of ore smelting was followed by the process of condensation. Its final product was mercury, which was rarely clean and smooth. Therefore, it needed to be cleaned. After that, it was put in steel flasks with the purpose of storing and transporting. Before that, they needed to be sealed properly, screwed with a plug and marked with a seal. Then they were turned upside down to check the sealing. The weight of every tenth steel flask was controlled. The latter are simultaneously represented the unit for the sale of mercury. From the end of the 19th century on, the steel flasks were stored within the area of a new Smelting Plant. From here on it was transported from Idrija on the established commercial routes. The Idrija Mine sold a total of 2.9 million steel flasks (34.48 kg each). In the most productive periods, 20,000 steel flasks were filled per year.
Present use	The steel flasks (10 in total) are being preserved, secured and presented as important mining heritage of Idrija with exceptional universal values. They are a part of the CUDHg smelting collection. Visitors can view them within the permanent museum display “From Ore to Mercury Drops” in the renovated venue of the Hg Smelting Plant. Within the exhibition, the steel flasks are placed in the segment of storage and transport and present one of the methods of storing mercury for trading needs.
Original location	The Smelting Plant of the Idrija Mercury Mine
Present location	Hg Smelting Plant (From Ore to Mercury Drops), Arkova 50, SI-5280 Idrija.

STATE OF CONSERVATION

History of conservation:	The steel flasks are fully preserved with all original parts. Additional interventions are not necessary. Security of the

premises is ensured.	
Present state	good
Necessary activities:	Regular seasonal maintenance.

DOCUMENTATION

Addresses / collections / links etc. where further in-depth information is accessible:	- CUDHg Inventory Book.
Submitted	Mestni muzej Idrija
Submitted by	Miha Kosmač
Date Submitted	12. 3. 2018
Date Edited	Never