Name 1	STEEL FLASKS FOR MERCURY (COLLECTION)
Name 2	/
ID number	002.286.Idrija
Manager / Administrator	Idrija Municipal Museum, Prelovčeva 9, SI-5280 Idrija.
Ownership	Public
Owner	Municipality of Idrija, Mestni trg 1, SI-5280 Idrija
Local / Original ID Number	510:IDR;RZ-117, RZ-318, RZ-372–RZ-379, RZ-498–RZ-529
Type of Object	Mine, Transport - other transport, Smelting

DESCRIPTION

Short description	The collection consists of 42 steel flasks for mercury. Older steel flasks are mostly in the shape of a bottle, where the upper part is formed in a bottle neck. Newer ones are mostly in a cylindrical shape with flat bottom. Its rim is domed and curved. Steel flasks are of different dimensions and are made of different materials. The upper neck part has a bore or a welded tab with a hole for seal insertion. Some are missing a screw (“plug”). The latter is often designed with a screw thread on the bottom. The upper side has a bore designed as a hook or a special shaped handle.
Measures	42 steel flasks of different dimensions.

Materials	Cast iron, steel, plastic, paper.
Dating	The end 19th century, 20th century; the beginning of the 21st century; some objects’ creation time is unknown.
Author / Producer	Electro-mechanical plant of the Idrija Mercury Mine Idrija (mechanical workshop), Almadén; Some objects’ manufacturer information is not known.

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 for mercury are being preserved, secured and presented as an important monument of Idrija mining heritage with exceptional universal values. Idrija Municipal Museum stores 42 steel flasks in total, which are a part of the mining collection. Visitors can view them within two permanent exhibitions “Five Centuries of the Mercury Mine and the Town of Idrija” and “Tracing Mercury: Idrija-Almadén”. The steel flasks stored at the depot can be used for temporal museum exhibitions. All steel flasks can also be used for different types of mercury heritage promotions. Those, produced in the mechanical workshop or in the electro-mechanical plant of the Mercury Mine Idrija, are especially valuable.
Original location	The Smelting Plant of the Idrija Mercury Mine.
Present location	Idrija Municipal Museum, Gewerkenegg Castle (both permanent exhibitions); Idrija Municipal Museum, Prelovčeva 2 depot.

STATE OF CONSERVATION

History of conservation:	The described objects are mostly well preserved with all original parts (only a few are missing a plug). All items were conserved, before 1995 or before 2016, during the time of preparations for the opening of both permanent museum exhibitions. The objects, which are stored in the depot, were conserved in the Goriška Museum in 2008. Additional interventions are not necessary. Security of the premises is taken care of.
Present state	good
Necessary activities:	Regular seasonal maintenance.

DOCUMENTATION

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