

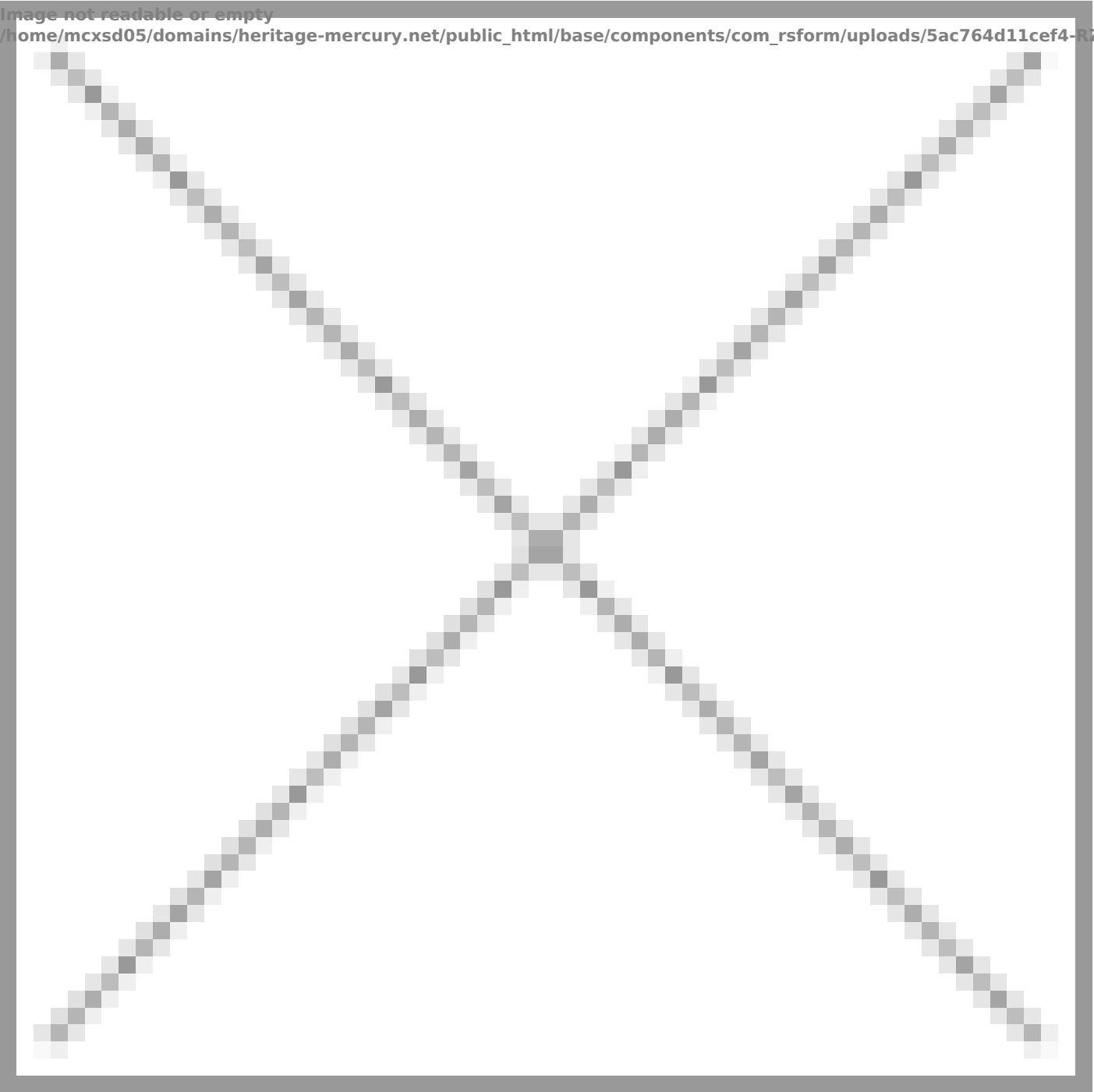
Name 1	MORTAR (SET)
Name 2	/
ID number	002.298.Idrija
Manager / Administrator	Idrija Municipal Museum, Prelovčeva 9, SI-5280 Idrija.
Ownership	Public
Owner	Municipality of Idrija, Mestni trg 1, SI-5280 Idrija
Local / Original ID Number	510:IDR;RZ-492
Type of Object	Mine, Smelting

DESCRIPTION

Short description	The set consists of a wooden stand for the mortar, the cast iron mortar and the pestle. The mortar has an irregular cylindrical shape. It is forged and very heavy. The top is a wider opening with a U-shaped edge. The pestle is round and has a thickened semicircular bottom part.
Measures	Mortar: Length 91.5 cm, width 91 cm, height 58.5 cm; Pestle: length 110.8 cm, width 7.7 cm, height 7.7 cm.
Materials	Cast iron, wood.
Dating	The time of creation is unknown.

Author / Producer	Manufacturer information is not known.
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Picture
attachments



Original use	Cinnabar is mercury sulfide – HgS. This is a compound of divalent mercury and sulfur. The pestle and mortar were used mostly in the process of obtaining natural cinnabar. Very rich and clean cinnabar ore was first crushed into smaller pieces, which were then ground. Later, they used it in a process of synthetic obtaining of cinnabar. Cinnabar was obtained with mercury and sulfur synthesis under precisely determined conditions. It has a nice red colour with a wider range of shades. In Idrija, cinnabar was obtained from the beginning of mining until 1922, with an interruption between 1658 and 1782. During all that time, 8,800 tons of mercury was obtained, which is 6.6 % of the total amount of mercury obtained in Idrija.
Present use	The mortar is being preserved, secured and presented as important mining heritage of Idrija with exceptional universal values. It is a part of the mining collection of the Idrija Municipal Museum. It is stored in the depot and can be used for temporary museum exhibitions or for other types of mercury heritage promotions.
Original location	The Cinnabar Factory of the Idrija Mercury Mine.
Present location	Idrija Municipal Museum, Prelovčeva 2 depot.

STATE OF CONSERVATION

History of conservation:	The object is properly preserved. 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;
- Kavčič, Ivica. Živo srebro: Zgodovina idrijskega žgalništva.
Založba Bogataj, Idrija, 2008.

Submitted

Mestni muzej Idrija

Submitted by

Miha Kosmač

Date Submitted

13. 3. 2018

Date Edited

Never
