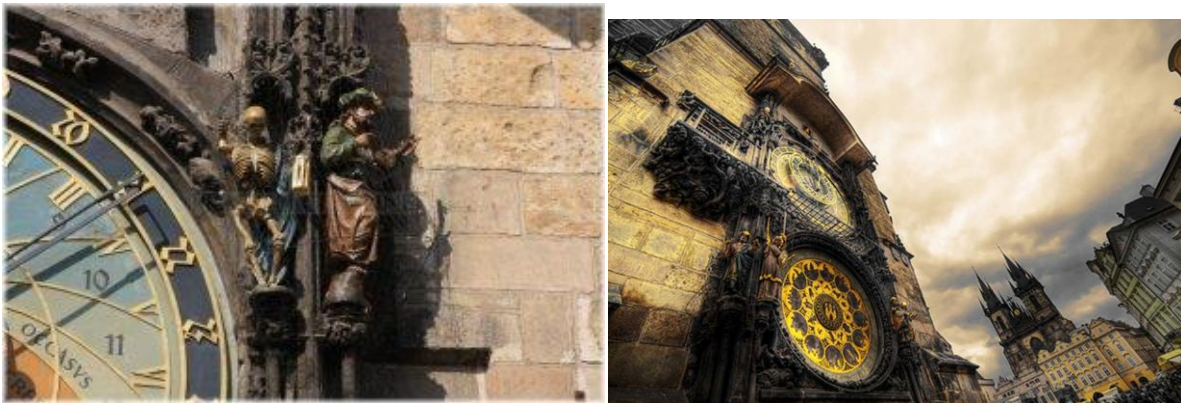




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Legend of Master Hanuš

The Old Town Astronomical Clock has been often exciting emotions in people – positive or negative, based on them legends have come into existence. The most familiar legend is related to Master Hanuš, one of the most significant clockmakers. This legend does not acknowledge Mikuláš of Kadaň as the author of Orloj but namely Master Hanuš.

Based on the legend Master Hanuš was chosen by the councillors of Prague to construct a unique time measuring device at [Staroměstská radnice](#) that would have many other functions besides measuring time. Hanuš did what he had promised. After he had introduced his perfect machine to the councillors they got scared. They wanted the machine to stay unique and they worried that the clockmaker could make a similar machine for another town. So they were thinking how to get rid of him. One night a group of people broke into the master's house and they blinded him with a piece of iron. Hanuš knew very well who was behind that and therefore he asked one of his pupils to accompany him to the very heart of the astronomical clock. The pupil did what he was told and Hanuš, despite his blindness, stopped the clockwork. Based on the legend it took more than a century before the astronomical clock was in operation again.



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Statues of the apostles

The both little windows open in the upper part above the dial and in them the apostles who have nothing to do with the time determination gradually are coming up. There are twelve apostles in total and they come up in couples from the left to the right window in this sequence: Saint James and Saint Peter, Saint Andrew and Saint Matthias, Saint Thaddaeus and Saint Philip, Saint Thomas and Saint Paul, Saint John and Saint Simon and finally Saint Barnabas and Saint Bartholomew.

However, the statues of the saints are not quite original. Those were destroyed during the fire of the Old Town Hall in 1945. The current apostles were made in 1945 by the sculptor and puppeteer Vojtěch Sucharda. Each apostle is holding an object in his hand. For instance, St. Peter is holding a key, St. Paul a book, St. Thomas a spear and St. John is carrying a chalice.

Other figures of the astronomical clock

Besides the movable apostles in the windows above the dial the Old Town Astronomical Clock also contains some more figures. You will find a gilded statue of the rooster in the upper part of the tower which starts to crow after all the apostles exchange in the windows. There are more statues located in the left part. You can view the Vanity with a mirror moving his head admiring his face. The neighbouring statue represents the Greed shaking his purse and waving his stick.

There is a statue of the Death placed on the opposite side of the dial tolling the funeral bell and turning the hourglass of life. Next to the Death the Turk, the symbol of vice and pleasure, is standing. In the lower part of the astronomical clock you will find the immobile statues – the statues of the Philosopher and Archangel Michael on the left and on the opposite side the statues of the Astronomer and Chronicler.

EXERCISES

A: Read the text and find the words whose definitions are given

1. A skilled practitioner of a particular art or activity.
2. Ascertain the size, amount, or degree of (something) by using an instrument or device marked in standard units.....
3. Being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else
4. Enter or open (a place, vehicle, or container) forcibly, especially for the purposes of theft
5. An important early Christian teacher or pioneering missionary
6. slowly; by degrees.....



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7. A weapon with a pointed tip, typically of steel, and a long shaft, used for thrusting or throwing.
8. The wine cup used in the Christian Eucharist.....
9. Have or hold (someone or something) within.....
10. Excessive pride in or admiration of one's own appearance or achievements.....
11. Depict (a particular subject) in a work of art.....
12. A ceremony or service held shortly after a person's death, usually including the person's burial or cremation.....
13. A timing device with two connected glass bulbs containing sand that takes an hour to pass from the upper to the lower bulb.....
14. Immoral or wicked behaviour.....

B: Read the text and answer the questions

1. Where is the Astronomical Clock?
2. What was the difference of the Astronomical Clock from the other clocks?
3. Why did the the councillors of Prague want to get rid of Master Hanuš?.....
4. How many figures of apostles are there?
5. Are the statues of the saints totally original? Why?

C) TRUE or FALSE

1. Apostles come up from the right to the left window
2. Statues of Apostles are used to measure the time
3. The rooster in the upper part of the tower starts to crow after all the apostles exchange in the windows
4. Statue of Turk symbolizes vanity
5. All statues are mobile

D) MATCH THE CLOSEST WORDS

A	B
1 vanity	A increasingly
2 represent	B uncommon
3 gradually	C selfishness
4 unique	D burial
5 funeral	E describe