

Clothed Skeleton Found in Mine

by Christian Auer



I live in Austria, a country with a long mining tradition and many thousands of abandoned mines waiting to be explored. I have done just that for more than 20 years now. Old mines beginning with the 15th century up to mines from WW2. I know mines 500 years old where you can crawl mile after mile, where you see the workings and resting places of the old miners, where you believe them sitting just around the corner! I've got a large working tool collection from such mines.

Well, normally we are a team of three friends but luckily I missed this one tour. So my two friends went to explore a completely unknown small lead mine at the Obir mining region, Carinthia, Austria. The mine was closed about 1860. Although there was a large entrance the mine itself was very narrow. One of my friends climbed up to a higher adit but fell down from about 2m with a loud cry. On the upper adit there was a skeleton sitting! Again that's a true story and if you don't believe me, check out the picture.

The skeleton had still a rotten hat and shoes on. Next to it there was a pipe and an empty bottle. So my friends ran down the mountain and informed the local police. They went up with them and brought the bones down. Investigations started and they really found out what happened!

They found a news paper from 1890. An article described the disappearance of a young noble man. Well, the skeleton from a person 2 meters tall and with good teeth (not normal at that time!) was exactly that noble man. They also found out that he lost very much money in gambling. He committed suicide but in a place where nobody could find him. So nobody could claim the money from his family because nobody knew he was dead! He went to that 30 years abandoned mine, sat down, smoked his last pipe and drank a poison from that bottle my friends found... and died there!