A contribution to the understanding of Paulus Riedl’s workshop’s opus in Istria

Summary

Owing to the scholarly efforts of Doris Baričević and Radmila Matejčić, we are well acquainted with the body of work of the sculptor Paulus Riedl, whose artwork is well preserved in Istria and the Croatian Littoral. In recent years Damir Tulić was able to attribute several more pieces to him. This paper aims to further strengthen the attribution to his workshop of two more statues from the main altar of the parish church of St. Anthony the Abbot from Kršan – those of St. Antoninus the Bishop, and St. Stanislaus the Martyr and Bishop, based on the historical and art history analysis. More precisely, we argue that the statues should be attributed to his gifted assistant, whose modus operandi Baričević was able to identify and describe within the larger body of the master’s opus. We compare the statues to a series of works by Paulus Riedl’s workshop, and especially to the sculptures of St. Augustine and St. Hieronimus from the altar of St. Paul the Hermit from the parish church of Sveti Petar u Šumi, formerly the Paulist church of St. Peter and Paul. This comparison contextualises their origin, their original placement, as well as their placement within the wider cultural milieu that connected the County of Pazin with the area east of Mt. Učka in the early modern period, especially with the Paulist monasteries in Vinodol and Senj.