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IMAGE OF A 17TH CENTURY MINE
IN THE CHURCH OF PEACE IN ŚWIDNICA (POLAND)

*mining iconography,
The Church of Peace in Świdnica*

In the Church of Peace in Świdnica, amongst many religious pictures and texts, there is an image of a mine and its miners at work. An attempt to interpret this finding has been made both in terms of the history of mining technology, as well as, possibly related, biblical texts. A realistic cross-section of a mine is shown in the picture. Two miners are working in the underground section of the mine with two others operating a windlass on the surface; one other miner is washing the excavated ore in the water from a spring. Evidently the picture has biblical roots – it is an illustration for the excerpt from the Book of Job, 28, 1–11. Chapter 28 bears the title of *A Poem to Wisdom* where, following the description of a mine and ore findings a question is posed: *But where shall wisdom be found?* The end of the chapter reveals the answer: *Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.*