



Oak

Object No. 3 | Moravské Square

You are in the Moravské Square, whose area is one of the largest in Brno. In past it was called Lažanský, by Earl Lažanský. In 1946 it was renamed to Red Square and till today there is a statue of Red army soldier. In front of you two majestic oaks grow, perimeter of each is about four meters.

Oak, *Quercus robur* in Latin, boasts of impressive crown in age formed strong knoty branches. Crown supports a strong strain with cracked bark. Summer oak thrive in the lowlands and uplands from western Europe to the Urals, also in North Africa and Asia. It grows in almost any type of soil including sandy and moist loamy soils. He has deep roots that can form connections with groundwater, that's why it is more often struck by lightning than other trees. It is extremely resistant to wind. Strong, flexible and heavy wood of the tree is used for example for furniture and in the production of wine barrels. Oak bark is used to treat various skin diseases and rashes.

In Europe oak was traditionally considered as tree for justice, fertility, and in some cultures was associated with the emergence of life or death. It appears in mythology Germans, Slavs, Greeks and Romans. For many Nordic nations acorns were an important part of the diet. Oak can produce up to five thousand seeds per year. Acorn has thus naturally become a symbol of fertility. Today, oak is the German national tree and the twig is illustrated on some German coins.