



FOR TRAVELLERS

Discover the beauty of Mazovien nature and architecture

Castles, palaces and manor houses of Mazovia

Compilation:

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Cover design and graphics:

PANCZAKIEWICZ ART.DESIGN / Paweł Panczakiewicz
www.panczakiewicz.pl

Editing:

Pracownia Usług Edytorskich "Logos"

Publisher:

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Print:

**Publication fully funded by the Self-government
of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship**

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ISBN 978-83-62082-27-8

Warsaw 2010

Mazovia.
heart of Poland



Castles, palaces and manor houses of
Mazovia



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CASTLES, PALACES AND MANOR HOUSES OF MAZOVIA

This book contains descriptions of 25 historic buildings - castles of Mazovian dukes, bishops' castles, baroque, classical and neo-Gothic palaces, as well as mansions and nobleman's manor houses. It is very pleasing that so many palaces and manor houses in Mazovia are cared for by companies and institutions, as well as private individuals, who very often restore the damaged monuments of the Mazovian land at their own expense. Most of the buildings are now bustling conference centres or hotels. In this publication you will find an as complete as possible history of the chosen monuments, as well as information how, where and when you can spend some time in the places where history and the present are not in conflict, but co-exist in perfect harmony.

The publisher has chosen the buildings taking into consideration not only their monumental value, but also their contemporary utility. Dozens of Warsaw's palaces have been purposefully omitted. The reason is simple: there are already many publications about them (including W. Głębocki: *Palaces of Warsaw*, Warsaw 1991; T. Jaroszewski: *Palaces of Warsaw*, Warsaw-Radom 1998). The present book promotes also the less-known, but not less valuable monuments. These castles, palaces and manor houses are only a fraction of what Mazovia can offer. We would like to invite you to take a tour to such places.



CHLEWISKA

SZYDŁOWIEC SURROUNDINGS - 140 KM TO THE SOUTH OF WARSAW

Manor House Sp. z o.o.

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The Manor House park and palace complex is located in Chlewiska near Szydłowiec, at the foot of Świętokrzyskie Mountains, 140 km to the south of Warsaw. In the ten-hectare ancient park with two ponds there are two historical buildings - the 17th century Odrowąż Palace and the 19th century Stables.

The 19th century Stables offer 55 accommodation places, including:

- single rooms - 2
- double rooms - 19
- triple rooms - 5

13 extra beds are possible in the Stables.

The 17th century palace offers 38 accommodation places, including:

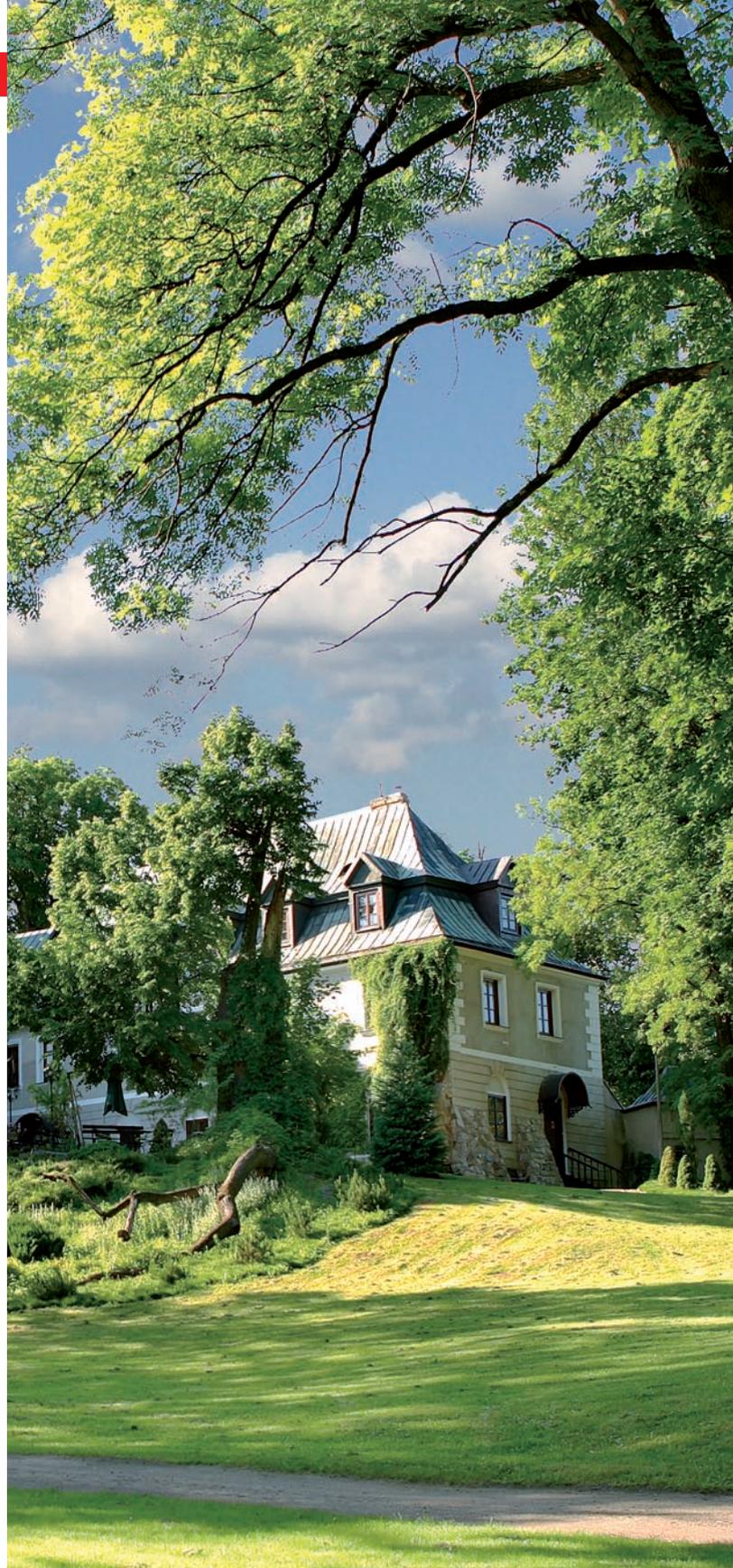
- single rooms - 3
- double rooms - 11
- triple rooms - 1
- suites (30 m²) - 3
- Odrowąż Suite (80 m²)

Chlewiska is situated in the southern part of the Mazowieckie voivodeship, in the Iłża Foothills, on the Szabasówka river (a little tributary of the Radomka). In the centre of Chlewiska, in a historic park with ancient trees and small ponds, on a small rise, there are the buildings of the former manor house of the Chlewicki family (who, apart from the Szydłowiecki family, represented a collateral line of the Odrowąż family). Presently, the monument houses a private leisure centre. The hotel guests may enter the centre premises only with the owners' consent.

The history

The origins of Chlewiska go back to the early Middle Ages. It is suggested that the palace hill hides the remnants of two defensive buildings. In this place Piotr Dunin erected a fortified manor house in about 1141. He also founded the church in Chlewiska, as well as seventy other churches in the Kingdom. The Dunin family resided in Chlewiska until the 15th century. Later on Chlewiska became the property of the Odrowąż family. One of the family branches took its name after this place and since then it was called the Chlewicki family. At the end of the 15th century or at the beginning of the 16th century the Chlewicki family founded a knight's castle. Unfortunately, this building complex has also not survived. In 1605 Wawrzyniec Chlewicki reconstructed the stronghold; the fact is commemorated with a plaque placed on the wall of one of the buildings. The complex was frequently rebuilt in the 18th and 19th centuries. The relicts of the ancient vaults prove the Gothic character of the castle. Until recently, in the steep northern slope of the hill, you could see the frame of the walls of the dungeon (on a square plan) partially arched with brick. On this side there was also an entrance to the stone vaults which are connected with the dungeon.

The Palace in Chlewiska ►



At the end of the 17th century the Chlewice estate was purchased by the Sołtyk family. In the 19th century the Sołtykowie sold it to Count Pustowski, who later on handed it over to Count Broel-Plater.

For the next one hundred years the palace belonged to many other persons, to finally become the property of Manor House, a company from Radomsko, in 1999. Immediately after the purchase of the estate, its owners, Grażyna and Przemysław Wrona, reconstructed the palace and adapted it to the needs of a hotel. Today the manorial palace complex is a perfect example of combining monumental values with utility.



The interior of the palace

Far from city noise, the Chlewiska estate offers very favourable conditions for conferences, conventions, training courses and social events. For these purposes there are 7 multifunctional halls with conference equipment. The Manor House offers accommodation in two historical buildings, at a distance of 150 m from each other, in 41 rooms and 4 suites. The stylish interior is decorated with renovated furniture, which perfectly harmonises with the preserved parts of the rafter framing, giving a unique atmosphere to the palace. Each room has a comfortable bathroom with a shower. The stylish inn with fireplaces in the 19th century stable serves traditional Polish dishes; meat barbequed on the roofed patio is an additional attraction. In the feast hall with entresol, Old Polish feasts – on which smoked boned ham and roasted pig are served - are organised for groups. Mulled wines and meads (in the palace dungeons) are a characteristic special attraction. Receptions are organised in the palace halls - the ballroom or the banquet hall.

For horse and horse riding enthusiasts Manor House offers riding lessons with an instructor, cross-country rides, horseback tours, as well as britzka and sleigh rides. Fishing in the palace ponds is permitted. Outdoor events can be organised for larger groups.



The inn

CIECHANÓW

CIECHANÓW - 90 KM TO THE NORTH OF WARSAW

Ciechanów – a poviát town located on the border of the Mława Hills (Wzniesienia Mławskie) and Ciechanów Upland (Wysoczyzna Ciechanowska) – is one of the oldest towns in Mazovia. A convenient transport connection to Warsaw, Płock and Pułusk makes Ciechanów an important economic and tourist centre of the region. The castle of Mazovian dukes, situated on the outskirts of the town at ul. Zamkowa, on the Łydynia river, constitutes one of the most important attractions of Ciechanów.

The history

The origins of Ciechanów go back to prehistoric times. Life concentrated around the fortified town situated on Farska Mountain (today incorporated into Ciechanów). Its origins date back to the pre-Piast period (the 7th century). Perhaps beside the then fortified town there was a temple of Swarożyc – the Slavic god of sun.

Probably the warriors of King Bolesław Chrobry captured the town of Ciechanów during the conquest of Mazovia at the end of the 10th century. They did not destroy it, but developed it, which was around 1010. The new town was strongly fortified with wooden-earth embankments, covered with well-fitted large stones bound with clay. The proper fortified town (1.7 ha) was surrounded by two fortified settlements – to the east and to the north. The area of the entire complex amounted to 6 ha, so it was comparable to the area of the largest fortified towns in contemporary Poland (for example Cracow Okół had 8.5 ha).

This form of the town remained unchanged until the mid- 14th century, when Duke Janusz the Elder transferred Ciechanów to a new place (about 1 km to the north), near the brick castle being built at that time.

Presumably, the building of the castle was started by Duke Janusz the Elder at the beginning of the 1420's. Before the builders began their work, they had to handle the marshy ground on which the castle was to be erected. The marshes and waters of the Łydynia river provided fa-



Museum of Mazovian Gentry

(Muzeum Szlachty Mazowieckiej)

06-400 Ciechanów

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Museum exhibitions:
tel. +48 (023) 672-55-87

The castle of Mazovian dukes:
ul. Zamkowa
tel. +48 (023) 672-40-64

Non-museum attractions:

- Knights' Tournament – the 13th century knight manoeuvres on the Castle of Mazovian dukes (at the end of July) include: siege manoeuvres, archery tournament, infantry tournament, skirmish games of men-at-arms, the battle.
- The Return of Light Cavalrymen of the Guard (Powrót Szwoleżerów Gwardii) – a historic outdoor show, organised for the past four years in the middle of August. The event takes place concurrently in Ciechanów and Opinogóra. It is performed by enthusiasts of the Napoleonic period. The show is accompanied by an old crafts fair and an exhibition of artillery equipment.
- Summer Concerts of Ancient Music – are held in the temporary exhibitions hall in the reconstructed Gothic vault.
- The roofed stage on the castle courtyard – the area of 180 m² allows for closed or public events.

avourable conditions for defenders, but hindered the builders' work. To prevent the walls washing away and the foundations sliding, the builders had to bring plenty of gravel, bricks and even tree trunks. Only on such an "island" could they erect the square of walls, two towers and the Duke's house. After several years of using the stronghold, it turned out that it was necessary to modernise it.

Most probably the numerous changes in the building were influenced by the architectural solutions of the Teutonic Knights' castles. The curtain walls and the towers were made higher; the location of the gate was changed. The level of the courtyard was raised by about 1.5 m. The Duke's house was also enlarged. In 1473 a tremendous fire consumed the town and the castle. The partially burnt walls were quickly reconstructed, while the mass of the castle – modernised.

The fire, which consumed almost all the wooden structures of the castle, was an indirect cause of its next rebuilding.

In the 16th century in Ciechanów treasury there were splendid, embroidered with gold and precious stones,

robes of the Duke and his family, embroidered shoes, valuable swords, sheaths, horse trappings, rings, necklaces, etc. The culture and wealth of the castle had an overwhelming influence on the burghers and the entire town.

The images of the coats of arms above the castle gate

From the left – the Ciechanów coat of arms. The figure of St. Peter refers to the dedication of the church, presumably erected in the first half of the 11th century. According to a local tradition, the church was built in the place of a pagan temple.

In the middle – the Sforza coat of arms. In 1547 Ciechanów was included into the widow's dowry of Queen Bona, the daughter of Giano Galeazzo Sforza, Duke of Milan, and Isabella di Aragona. The Queen frequently stayed at the castle; she finally left it in 1556.

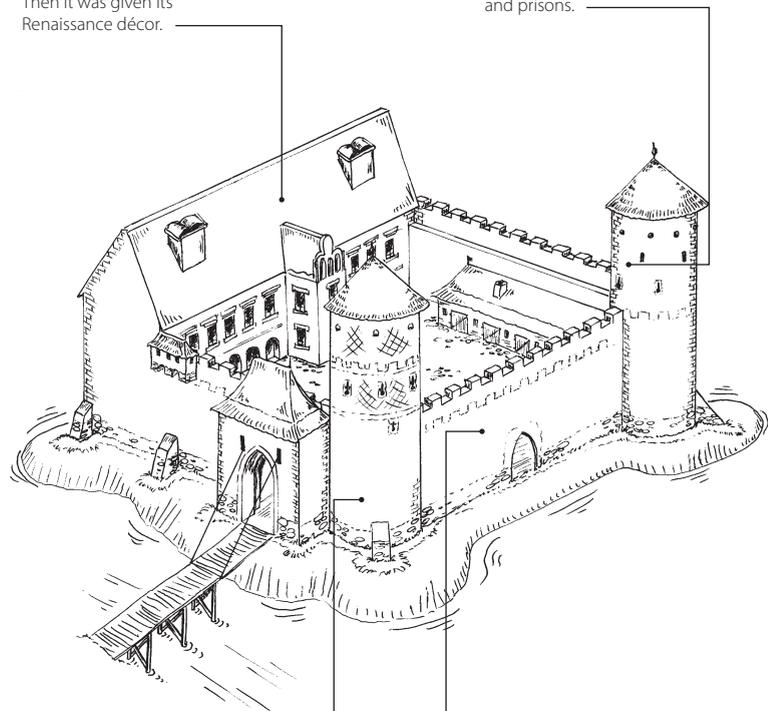
On the right – the Crown's coat of arms. The image of an eagle – the symbol of the Polish Kingdom – reminds us of the fact that, despite three centuries of emancipation of Mazovian dukes from the Polish kings, Mazovia was an integral part of Poland.



The reconstruction of the castle complex to its 15th century design.

The Great House
Developed in the mid-15th century. Then it was given its Renaissance décor.

The eastern tower
Its individual storeys served as courts of law and prisons.



Carriage porch
The oldest castle gate was in the southern curtain wall. In the 15th century it was bricked up and the carriage porch was located in the western curtain wall.

The western tower
The tower housed the castle armoury and its vault – the prison.





Culture Centre

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(the management)

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(the castle)

Czersk castle, situated on the riverside embankment, is a charming place – both for resting combined with visiting the ruins, and for outdoor events on the vast courtyard. Every year the following events are organised there: Royal Gardens of Queen Bona (in June), European Heritage Days, picnics, festivities. Companies and institutions can set up a stage, simple constructions, etc. on the castle courtyard.

CZERSK

ABOUT 30 KM TO THE SOUTH OF WARSAW

The castle in Czersk, situated on a steep escarpment above the Vistula river valley, less than 3 km from Góra Kalwaria, is frequently visited by Warsaw inhabitants. From the end of the 14th century until the times of the Swedish invasion of 1655, when it was devastated, the castle controlled the important trade route running at its foot, which led from the south and east towards the north, along the Vistula. Today – kept as a permanent ruin – it is a great tourist attraction and a meeting place of enthusiasts of the Middle Ages.

The oldest trace of a settlement on the nearby hills dates back to the turn of the 6th century. In the 11th century a town was established on the castle hill and surrounded by embankments of ice-apron construction. The fact is confirmed by Duke Trojdenowicz's document of 1350, sustaining the bishop villages' obligation to build ice-aprons on Czersk town, devastated during the Lithuanian invasion.

During the reign of Duke Konrad of Mazovia (Konrad Mazowiecki), the town witnessed numerous important events. It was there that Konrad's rivals for ruling Cracow – Henry the Bearded (Henryk Brodaty) and Bolesław the Chaste (Bolesław Wstydlivy) – were kept prisoners. In the town there was a brick chapel (presumably Romanesque – presently its foundations are visible as a result of archaeological work), which in the mid- 13th century became the collegiate church. The town fortifications turned out to be too weak to protect it against the frequent – in the 14th century - raids of the Lithuanians, who attacked after crossing the Vistula. During that time Czersk was the capital of the duchy.

It was perhaps due to the destruction of the town in the 1380's that Duke Janusz I the Elder ordered the building of the castle. The work was finished probably as early as the end of the 14th century. At the same time, a new fortified seat of the Duke was being built

The four-sided gate tower ►

in Warsaw. In 1406 the ruler officially transferred the capital from Czersk to Warsaw.

In the 15th century the castle fortifications were modernised - the cylindrical towers were raised and the gate tower was erected.

In 1526 – after the incorporation of Mazovia into the Crown – the castle became the property of Polish kings. The most serious damage to it was caused during the Swedish invasion of 1655. The restoration of the castle was begun as early as in the 18th century.





DŁUŻEW

THE SURROUNDINGS OF MIŃSK MAZOWIECKI – ABOUT 40 KM
TO THE EAST OF WARSAW

Artists' Retreat of the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts

(Dom Pracy Twórczej Akademii
Sztuk Pięknych w Warszawie)

tel. +48 (025) 799-25-83,
799-25-85

The beauty of nature, the
landscape park and the clean
waters of the Świder river make

Dłużew a wonderful resting
place. In the manor house there
are accommodation rooms and
a dining room.

Dłużew, a small settlement, lies several kilometres to the south of Mińsk Mazowiecki. The manor house, picturesquely situated on the Świder river, is – according to art historians – an important link in the development of the so called manor style.

The history

The manor house in Dłużew was erected from 1901 to 1902 to the design of Jan Heurich the younger for Stanisław Dłużewski (the Dłużewski family was one of the first to enfranchise peasants in the time of the January Uprising in this part of Mazovia). At first Stanisław Dłużewski, the lover of Podhale architecture, wanted to build a wooden mansion. The design of such manor house was provided by Stanisław Witkiewicz. However, it was not accomplished, because the gathered building material was consumed by a fire. Discouraged from building a wooden house, Dłużewski founded a brick mansion, resembling Mazovian gentry's manor houses. The building is laid out on a rectangular plan, with a basement, only partly two-storey.

After the death of Stanisław the estate became the property of his two daughters - Maria Rzewuska and Zofia Kańska. In 1937 Zofia bought the second part of it from her sister, and thus became the owner of the entire Dłużew estate. She owned it until the Second World War. After 1946 the estate was nationalised and parcelled out.

Since 1978 the mansion has housed the Artists' Retreat of the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts.

The renovated former manor house of the Dłużewski family
Presently, the manor house is a workplace
for artists and students of fine arts





The Regional Museum in Iłża

ul. Błazińska 1
tel.: +48 (048) 616-29-29

Admission to the castle premises is free. However, visitors can enter the Gothic tower, from which a wonderful view over the town and Iłża Foreland (Przedgórze Iłżeckie) can be admired, only after prior arrangement with the employees of the Regional Museum. The tower is open in the spring-autumn season (from May to October) – Monday to Friday: 8.00 am to 3.00 pm; Saturday 10.00 am to 2.00 pm; Sunday 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm.

Each year in the ruins of the vast lower castle a Knights' Tournament takes place. The date of the tournament is set every year (usually it falls in May). On the same place also other outdoor events are organised, such as rock concerts (August) or Days of the Middle Ages (knights fighting, craft shows and medieval fashion shows).

IŁŻA

RADOM SURROUNDINGS – ABOUT 120 KM
TO THE SOUTH OF WARSAW

Iłża is situated in Radom powiat, on the road linking Radom and Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski. Approaching Iłża, in the distance you can see the top of the limestone tower of the 14th century bishops' castle. The castle has fallen into picturesque ruins. It is one of the most stunning medieval seats in Mazovia. The castle was frequently rebuilt and developed. The oldest part of the stronghold is the well-preserved tower.

The history

At the end of the 13th century Tatars destroyed the oldest defensive town of Iłża. Therefore the bishops' seat was moved to the present castle hill. At that time the fortifications of similar type were also erected. Some researchers assume that the building of the brick castle tower was started at the same time.

Without settling the question of the tower erection date, it seems that in the first quarter of the 14th century the town was still wooden. The building of a brick castle was started by Jan Grot, Bishop of Cracow, in 1328. It is assumed that the first stage of work lasted until 1347. In the same year the castle was put to the first test. During the dispute with King Casimir the Great (Kazimierz Wielki) over the tithe, the bishop took refuge in Iłża castle. The royal army laid siege to the castle, but did not manage to capture the stronghold. Despite the fact that the building of the castle had not been finished, the curtain walls and the tower provided the bishop's garrison with adequate shelter.

In the 14th century there was only the present upper castle, surrounded by field stone walls. From the east, in the corner, stood the dungeon tower. Perhaps the second, lower, four-sided tower, served as a carriage porch. The approach to the castle was via a draw bridge, which might have run parallel to the western wall curtain, which gave the garrison full control over it. The inner layout of build-

The view over the castle hill ►



ings is unknown – they were probably located along the walls.

In the 15th century the castle complex was developed. The settlement outside the northern curtain walls of the castle was then surrounded by walls. The length of the new walls was determined by the natural shape of the hill - over 400 m; in comparison, the length of the upper castle walls was 150 m. Thus the second element enlarged the Iłża stronghold. The lower castle walls were reinforced with several towers. The outlines of three of them are still visible. They were round, designed for the use of firearms, open from the inside. Along the curtain walls stood outbuildings.

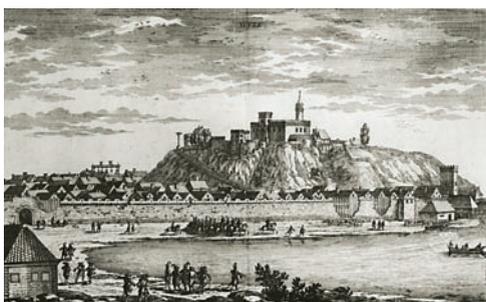
The entrance to the castle was via the lower castle, from the east, through the gate in the bulwark bastion. In the

16th century the modern fortifications of the lower castle made Iłża castle one of the strongest strongholds of the region.

Thanks to the chronicles by Jan Długosz we know when the castle was built. After the death of Bishop Jan Grot, the consecutive bishops of Cracow took care of the building. However, they did not stay there permanently. On their behalf the bishops' starost administered the castle and exercised higher legal authority over the town.

Thanks to Bishop Florian of Mokrsko, the castle and the town were connected by common fortifications during the erection of the town walls.

At the beginning of the 16th century the castle was consumed by a fire, which struck the town and the strong-



The view over the town and the castle in Iłża in 1657 (the drawing by E. J. Dahlberg from S. Pufendorf's work *De rebus a Carolo Gustavo Sueciae rege gestis...*, Nuremberg 1696).

The Iłża castle tower

The stone, cylindrical tower, situated in the eastern part of the upper castle. This is the oldest and the best preserved element of the castle complex, presumably dating back to the times of Bishop Jan Grot, who ordered the building of the brick castle in the 1320's.

hold. Bishop Jan Konarski undertook to reconstruct it.

Around 1560 another bishop, Filip Padniewski, rebuilt the castle interior in Renaissance style. At that time the castle and its towers were topped with Renaissance attics, visible on the drawing by Eryk Dahlberg from the mid- 17th century.

In 1655 the castle was burnt down by the Swedes. Consecutive bishops - Andrzej Trzebicki, Andrzej Załuski and Kajetan Soltyk – were continuously renovating their deteriorating seat. During the period of Austrian occupation the building housed a military hospital. After the fire in the mid- 19th century the castle fell into ruin.





**House of Conventions
and Conferences
of the Polish
Academy of Sciences**

(Dom Zjazdów i Konferencji PAN)

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The park and palace complex in Jabłonna invites all who look for quietness, excellent service, historical interior and a romantic atmosphere, as well as active leisure. Everyone who comes here is fascinated with its unique atmosphere.

At the disposal of guests there are 9 spacious, stately conference halls of different sizes, with necessary technical equipment. The guest rooms (7 suites, 6 single rooms and 13 double rooms) are located in the historic building near the palace. Their furnishings, modeled after 18th century originals, superbly emphasize the interior character and refer to the period of the Duchy of Warsaw.

In the palace basement there is a restaurant for up to 120 persons. It offers a wide choice of delicious Polish dishes, doing its best to please even the most sophisticated tastes.

In restaurants, palace room, as well as outdoors, ceremonial

JABŁONNA

ABOUT 15 KM TO THE NORTH EAST OF WARSAW

The 18th century palace in Jabłonna lies only 20 km to the north of Warsaw centre, and is surrounded by a vast, English-style landscape park. It houses the training and leisure centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences - the House of Conventions and Conferences (Dom Zjazdów i Konferencji).

The stately palace halls, stylishly furnished guest rooms, restaurant serving delicious Polish dishes and the beautiful riverside environment make favourable conditions for conferences, symposia, training courses, occasional parties and outdoor events.

The history

Since the Middle Ages Jabłonna belonged to Płock's bishops, who in the 15th century founded there a summer residence. In 1773 Jabłonna was bought from the Płock chapter by the brother of King Stanisław August – Michał Poniatowski, the Płock bishop of those days and the later primate of Poland. Intending to convert the estate into an elegant palace and park complex, in 1774 he ordered the design of the new seat from Dominik Merelini, a royal architect. The complex was to consist of three buildings - the centrally situated one-storey little palace - the house of the owner, and two side, three-storey pavilions. The left pavilion was called Royal, as it served as the apartment of Stanisław August. The right pavilion was intended for guests, and the two-storey outhouse adjacent to it – for the primate's courtiers and office staff.

The English-style landscape park was established in the 1770's and 1780's to the design of Szymon Bogumił Zug. Zug erected also numerous pavilions, of which a grotto, orangery and Chinese pavilion have survived. The centrally situated palace combined classical austerity with the baroque picturesqueness of the front elevation, enlivened with a four-sided tower topped with a ball. The round ballroom, much higher than other rooms, was in the centre of the interior structure. The entrance to it was via a rectangular vestibule, to the left of which were stairs leading up to the tower, while to the right was an antechamber. On both

sides of the ballroom there were two rooms – the dining room on the right and the winter garden on the left. Suites of bedrooms and dressing rooms were located in the outermost parts of the building.

In summer the rooms in the palace basement served as social meeting places. In 1794 Jabłonna was inherited by Duke Józef Poniatowski, the primate's nephew, who from 1798 to 1806 frequently stayed on the estate. His personal suite was on the ground floor of the right outhouse. After the tragic death of Duke Józef during the battle of Lipsk (1813), his sister Teresa Tyszkiewicz obtained Jabłonna as a life hold. In 1822 the estate became the property of Anna, née Tyszkiewicz, first married name Potocki, second married name Dunin-Wąsowicz. Anna, who was a collector and talented graphic artist, at once started to convert the estate into the centre of Duke Józef cult. She erected a triumphal arch with an inscription "to Poniatowski" ("Poniatowskiemu"), gathered memorabilia of the duke, and after some time set a plaque in the northern wall with the following inscription: *Having carefully adorned the hero's retreat, without disturbing the mementos, I hand it over to the descendants. 1837/A. D.W.*

In 1837 a gate with two granite columns, brought from Malbork castle, was placed at the entrance to the park. At the gate small houses for porters, with an inscription SALVE, were built. In the same year the palace was rebuilt to the design of Henryk Marconi. On both sides of the central break new rooms were added – a dressing room and bedroom on the right, while on the left – a pantry and a corner room. The central part of the elevation was separated by Ionic pilasters, in the side wings niches with decorative sculptures were made, and from the park side iron verandas were erected. In the interior only the ballroom was not changed. The winter garden room was rebuilt in Moresque style. The bedroom and dressing room on the right side were integrated and converted into a large library room. Outside, from the north, a column pergola, in which lapidarium was established, was added to the palace. Among the preserved sculpture fragments there is a Roman medallion with the bust of Cesar Nerva and a low relief depicting a bearded man's bust, made by Baccio Bandinelli (16th century). Also the park was converted in the times of Anna Dunin-Wąsowicz – the stand of trees was formed into large clusters, while the courtyard in front of the palace was

dinners, banquets, barbecue feasts, picnics and other occasional receptions are organised. Every month in the round ballroom free concerts of the "Palace meetings with music" series are held. The Orangery houses a Gallery of Contemporary Art - under the patronage of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw – which displays works of the most outstanding Polish artists.

In their leisure time guests can stroll in the historic landscape park. Along its alleys runs the educational trail presenting 58 monuments of nature.



Duke Józef Poniatowski

hedged with trees and bushes. New outbuildings and huge stables with coach houses were also built to the design of Henryk Marconi. Jabłonna was the Potocki family's property until 1945. In 1944 the palace was burnt down by the German army. In 1953 Jabłonna was taken over by the Polish Academy of Sciences, which created there a conference and leisure centre (the palace was reconstructed to the design of Mieczysław Kuźma, while the park – to the design of Gerard Ciołek). During the reconstruction of the palace, the central part was restored to the state from the end of the 18th century; however, the side wings were not changed. The parts added in the first half of the 19th century were also left – only their elevations were changed. The decoration of cast iron was removed from the Moresque Room, restoring it and other rooms to a classical style. The interior furnishings were assembled after 1945. The stately rooms were furnished with furniture from the end of the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century.



The stately ballroom with floor inlaid with wood



Spacious Fireplace Room







**Centre of the
Chancellery of the
Prime Minister
Service**

(Centrum Obsługi Kancelarii Prezesa
Rady Ministrów)

"Jadwisin" Holiday Centre
05-140 Serock
tel.: +48 (022) 782-65-41,
782-75-08
faks: +48 (022) 782-67-31
e-mail: jadwisin@owjadwisin.pl
www.owjadwisin.pl

The palace has 40 accommodation places - single, double and triple rooms and one suite - as well as three conference halls for 20 up to 150 persons.

Stylish furnishings, vast forest parks and the surrounding silence make Jadwisin palace a perfect place for conferences, training courses and scientific symposia. Its guests come here to spend their holidays, arrange a wedding reception or a New Years Eve's party.

JADWISIN

ABOUT 30 KM TO THE NORTH OF WARSAW

Jadwisin is a small village with scattered buildings lying on the road leading from Warsaw through Zegrze to Pultusk. On the right side of the road, just behind Stasi Las villa, deep in a forest, hides one of the most interesting palace and park complexes near Warsaw.

The palace was erected from 1896 to 1898 for Maciej and Jadwiga née Krasieńska, the Radziwiłł Duke and Duchess. After the wedding, which took place in 1867, the couple lived for many years in nearby Zegrze estate, with an area of about 4,500 ha; which was the dowry of Jadwiga Krasieńska.

The Radziwiłłs were given the land of the present Jadwisin in exchange for Zegrze, being the subject of compulsory purchase, in which in the 1880's a fortress complex was built. The attractive location upon the Narew river determined the decision to erect there a new mansion. They chose a place between Zegrze and Serock, on a high bank of the river which today merges with the wide waters of the Zegrzyński Lake.

The palace was designed by the French architect Francis Arveuf, the creator of – among other buildings - the Palace at ul. Foksal in Warsaw. He gave the residence a so called "French costume", referring to the French renaissance style. The building is remarkable for its irregular layout with numerous masses arranged asymmetrically and breaks topped with triangle gables. The palace, partly one- and partly two-storey with a dwelling loft, is built on a field stone foundation, and the outer walls are covered with red ceramic tiles.

A two-storey, square tower has been added to the front of the palace. The entire building is covered with a mansard roof with wooden dormers covered with fish scale sheet metal. The interior of the residence is distinguished by its entrance hall, the lower part of which is flagged with white and black marble. The second-storey rooms are accessible via three flights of wooden stairs, supported by decorative pillars, with balusters and richly profiled balus-

The palace in Jadwisin - the view from the west ►

trades. From the palace basement (toward the north) runs an underground arched corridor, which once led to storehouses and an ice house. It is rumoured that it led to a park pavilion or a romantic grotto as well.

The palace complex also includes the stables made of brick and field stone,

and the coach house with the servant's room. In front of the palace there is an oval drive from which a 1,200 m long track leads through a forest to the entrance gate.

Jadwisin residence has been integrated into the park's greenery. The 7.5 ha park is in regular style. The partly





The frontage of the palace in Jadwisin

geometric, partly landscape layout borders a natural park with forest tracks (remnants of the former Serock Forest), which by the directive of the Minister of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry of 14th June 1996 was acknowledged as a nature reserve and named Jadwisin. The greenery complex around the palace – including the park and the reserve surrounding it – covers an area of about 100 ha.

The partly devastated park was reconstructed between 1958 and 1960; its present layout - with baroque and English-style parts - is similar to the original one. The design of it is based on the landscape diversity, with small hills, tracks and ravines.

The palace, which until 1939 had been the property of the Radziwiłł family, after the war was used by the Ministry of Education, and since 1960 served the Office of the Council of Ministers – both as a leisure centre and as a summer camp for Polish children living abroad. Presently it is one of the holiday centres belonging to the Centre of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister Service (Centrum Obsługi Kancelarii Prezesa Rady Ministrów).



Art Nouveau décor of the hall in the Radziwiłł family's palace in Jadwisin gives the residence its warmth and charm

LESZNO

ABOUT 30 KM TO THE WEST OF WARSAW

The Training and Consultation Centre of Bank BGŻ S.A. in Leszno (near Błonie) is housed in an 18th century baroque palace surrounded by a vast landscape park, situated in beautiful surroundings on the southern edge of the Kampinos Forest, by the former Royal Route leading from Sochaczew to Warsaw.

The history

At the turn of the 18th century the Leszno surroundings belonged to the Łuszczewski family bearing the Korczak coat of arms, who was very influential in Mazovia. Presumably, the palace was erected at the beginning of the 18th century. One of the most famous members of the family was Jan Paweł Łuszczewski, the secretary of the Four Year Sejm and Minister of Internal Affairs of the Duchy of Warsaw. He was a deputy in the Four Year Sejm for the Sochaczew district and an eager supporter of the May 3rd Constitution. However, his descendants more gladly stayed in Warsaw, where they settled for good in the second half of the 19th century. From the Łuszczewski family the estate was purchased by the Szymanowski family, and after 1830 – the Piotrowski family. In 1894 near the palace a sugar factory was open, which still functions (its chimneys are blots on the landscape around the palace).

At the end of the 19th century the palace was taken over by the Berson family. In the 1920's it was inhabited by Michał Berson – a merchant, banker, historian, art collector and the owner of a bank in Warsaw.

After the Second World War and the agricultural reform the building was taken over by the State Treasury. In the 1950's the palace was rebuilt; especially its interior layout was changed. The restoration of the severely damaged and devastated building was started at the beginning of the 1990's. Presently it houses the Main Centre of Human Resources Development of Bank BGŻ S.A. (Centralny Ośrodek Doskonalenia Kadr Banku Gospodarki Żywnościowej).

The late baroque palace in Leszno is a two-storey building on a rectangle plan, eleven-axial, with three-storey three-axi-



**BGŻ S.A.
Training and
Consultation Centre**
(Centrum Szkoleniowo-
Konsultacyjne)

05-084 Leszno, ul. Fabryczna 1
tel.: +48 (022) 725-80-71,
725-85-47
faks: +48 (022) 725-80-72

The comfortable accommodation base is for up to 130 guests. There are 54 double rooms, 8 single rooms and 11 one- or two-level suites with beautiful views over the park. Fireplace, Green and Banquet Rooms provide discretion and comfort. In each room there is satellite television, telephone and luxuriously furnished bathroom.

The Training and Consultation Centre of Bank BGŻ S.A. is perfect for symposia, training courses, conferences, occasional parties, as well as socialising outdoor meetings (picnics) and events and parties to the idea and needs of customers.

The guests are provided with full board, served in an elegant dining room (the local specialty is barbecued fish from the palace pond). In the evenings you can go to a cosy café, where you can have a good time to the sounds of music.

al break in the centre of the front elevation and two two-axial side breaks. The interior layout is two-sectional (the effect of conversion in the 1950's). To one

of the side breaks a wing was added, perpendicular to the main mass; it disturbs the symmetry of the building, but increases the usable space.



Liw

WĘGRÓW SURROUNDINGS - 70 KM TO THE EAST OF WARSAW

The ruins of the duke's castle situated on the left bank of the Liwiec river picturesquely harmonize with the landscape of the west of Mazovia. Liw has a convenient transport connection to Warsaw.

The history

As early as at the beginning of the 14th century there was a Mazovian town in this place, which guarded the crossing over the Liwiec. Lithuanian raids, which intensified especially in the 14th century, made Liw a place of strategic importance. Despite the union of Krewo and the choice of Władysław Jagiełło as the King of Poland, Mazovian dukes – demonstrating their independence – started to fortify Mazovia. At that time Duke Janusz I the Elder also started to build the stronghold in Liw.

The castle was raised on a small headland, surrounded from three sides by marshes and from the east – by the river. It was one of the smallest duke's castle in Mazovia. The building was finished as late as in the 1420's. Then master Niclos (the same architect who erected the castle in Ciechanów) presented the duke with the final accounts. The Gothic building covered a small area of less than 1000 m², and was designed almost exclusively for military use. The little House of Duke served as the seat of burgrave, who took care of the castle during the duke's absence. The inaccessibility of the land and instability of the Liwiec river made it impossible to develop the castle by adding a settlement in front of the castle walls.

During the late Middle Ages only the gate tower was rebuilt. It was reconstructed from 1942 to 1944 by Polish archaeologist Otton Warpechowski, who convinced the Nazis that the castle had been built by the Teutonic Knights and therefore – as a monument to the Germanic glory – had to be saved. The carriage porch, slits for the chains that used to hold the drawbridge, embrasures for hand weapons and guns give the castle a completely authentic appearance.



Armoury Museum at the Castle in Liw

(Muzeum Zbrojownia na Zamku w Liwie)

ul. Batorego 2
07-121 Liw
tel./faks: + 48 (025) 792-57-17

Atrakcje pozamuzealne:

- "Duchess Ann's Ring" Knights Tournament (the exact date is set every year two months before the event). The programme includes: a battle, individual knight fights, dance shows, concerts.
- Archaeological Festivities at the castle of Liw. They take place every year around 1st June. This is an educational-entertainment event, aimed mainly at children and teenagers. The programme includes: presentation of old crafts, archaeological workshops, displays of weaponry and attires of ancient epochs.
- Music and poetry-music concerts (there is a piano in the museum).
- The Knights Hall (Sala Rycerska) is let for conferences, presentations and training courses.
- The museum rooms are let for photography sessions.
- The ground outside the castle walls is let for outdoor events.

In the little, modern palace near the Gothic gate tower there is a rich collection of militaria, ranging from medieval swords and daggers to combat

knives of the Second World War. It is worth seeing a model of Liw castle in its 15th century state, which is in one of the palace rooms.



ŁAZIENKI KRÓLEWSKIE



Łazienki Królewskie Museum

(Muzeum Łazienki Królewskie)

ul. Agrykoli 1
00-460 Warszawa
tel. +48 (022) 621-82-12
faks. +48 (022) 629-69-45

The Łazienki palace and park complex in Warsaw is considered to be one of the most beautiful complexes of its type in the capital. Łazienki Królewskie in Warsaw used to be the summer residence of King Stanisław August Poniatowski. The almost 80-hectare park - with an ancient stand of trees, numerous water reservoirs and buildings of the highest artistic quality - is an expression of the aesthetic tastes of the last king of Poland. Today Łazienki is a vast park with picturesque alleys, channels and small ponds, adorned with numerous excellent sculptures. Historic buildings are scattered around the park and its alleys. The Palace on the Water, which used to be the bath house of Grand Marshal of the Crown Stanisław Herakliusz Lubomirski, is the most important of them. Thanks to the last Polish king, Stanisław August Poniatowski, it became one of the most beautiful palaces in Warsaw. It was after this 17th century bath house that the place at the foot of Ujazdów Castle (Zamek Ujazdowski) started to be called Łazienki (Polish for "baths") as early as during the reign of Stanisław August. Today, visiting this unique place, you can admire, apart from the Palace on the Water, such buildings as: Mysłowice Palace (Pałac Mysłowicki), Grand Outbuilding (Wielka Oficyna), Old Guardhouse (Stara Kordegarda) - and newer ones: Old Orangery, New Orangery, as well as a splendid Amphitheatre. The first group of monuments is associated with King Stanisław, who turned Łazienki into his summer residence.

The beauty of the park was appreciated as early as in the 19th century, during the Partitions, when new buildings were established without harm to the beauty of the classical palace and park complex. The history of Łazienki is inextricably linked with the history of Warsaw and Poland: from the times of Mazovian dukes, through the periods when the park belonged to mighty families and Polish kings, then to the Russian tsars (1817), government (after 1918), and German invaders, to the times when Łazienki Królewskie Museum was established in 1960. Today Łazienki is a cultural and artistic showpiece of the catal.

Since 1959 (from May to September) at the monument to Chopin, free Chopin Concerts (Koncerty Chopinowskie z udziałem wybitnych wykonawców) are held, in which outstanding pianists take part. The concerts take place every Sunday at 12.00 am and 4.00 pm. For the two last years during Chopiniana Festival (Festiwal Chopiniana) piano marathons are organised. In Łazienki, Chopin recitals can also be listened to in the Old Orangery, the Palace on the Water, Mysłowice Palace and Stanisław's Theatre.

The history

Centuries ago the land on which Łazienki was established belonged to Jazdów estate (later called Ujazdów) bordering Warsaw. At the foot of the Vistula escarpment stretched the so called Zwierzyniec, in which Mazovian dukes hunted small game. Next to it, in the second half of the 16th century, Queen Bona established Italian gardens. In 1578 Jan Kochanowski's Dismissal of the Greek Envoys was premiered in Ujazdów castle during the wedding of Jan Zamoyski. About 1683 – 1689, to the order of S. H. Lubomirski, Tylman of Gameren erected a baroque Baths pavilion in the centre of Zwierzyniec, and to the north of it - a pavilion called Ermitage. In 1720 the palace was leased by the Lubomirski family to the King. Augustus II the Strong wanted to make a splendid royal residence of it.

In the last year of Augustus III's reign, Teodor Lubomirski's widow, Elżbieta, and their son Kacper Lubomirski, finally sold Ujazdów to Stanisław Poniatowski, who at that time was still only Great Master of the Pantry of Lithuania. On 13th January 1766 Stanisław August, already King, purchased the estate for PLN 1,100,000.

An enormous sum of money was spent on the development of the palace and as early as in 1769 Stanisław August moved in. However, the renovation work was never finished. The young King was a big spender, fascinated by newer and newer ideas. The work on the garden and buildings was continued until the last years of his reign.

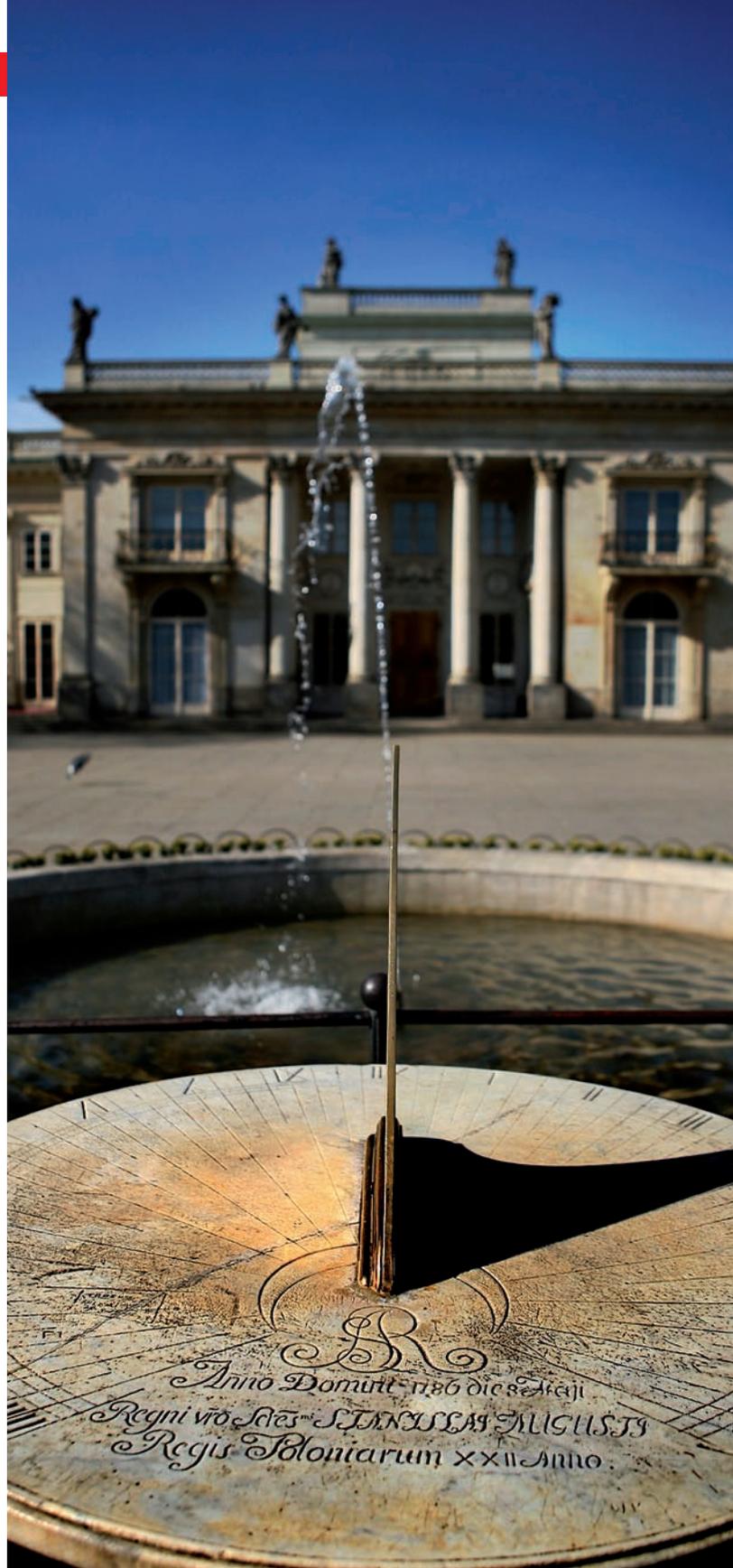
The reconstruction of the palace was the first stage of the King's grand

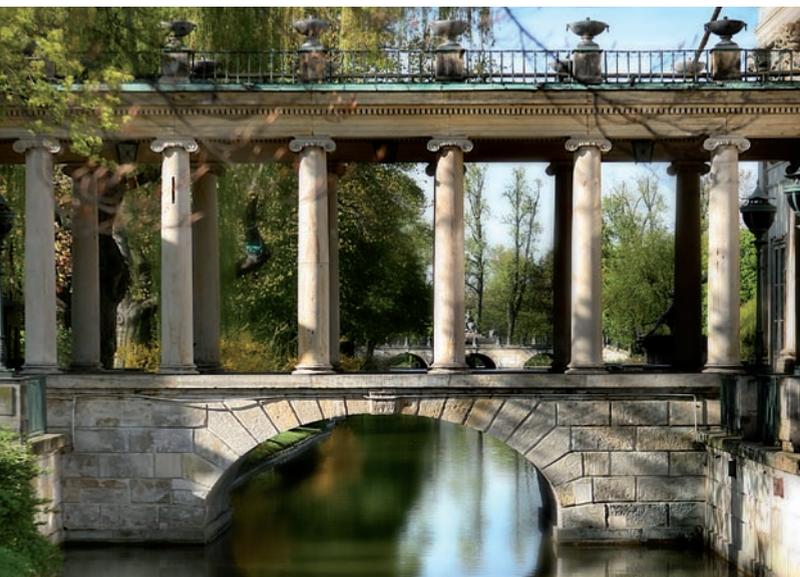
investment – the establishment of a palace and park complex. Concurrently with its reconstruction, work in other parts of Zwierzyniec was being conducted. New buildings were erected - the White House and Myślewiec Palace. The White House was built to the west of the Palace. It was laid out as a square, in the style of a classical villa from the second half of the 18th century.

Also at that time the Water Tower and Grand Outbuilding were built. Later on "le Trou-Madame" – a special little building for the then fashionable game of that name, resembling billiards – and the Turkish House (which has not survived) were erected.

When the living pavilions were ready, the Łazienki designers started to think about theatres. At first "le Trou-Madame" building was to serve this purpose. It was called the Little Theatre. Soon it turned out to be too small and was abandoned. The Theatre was transferred to the newly erected building called the Orangery. It was open on 6th September 1788 and intended for the King and his court. In the same year the building of a splendid amphitheatre with a semi-circled auditorium was started; its stage was located on an island. The first ceremonial performance was given on 7th September 1791.

The park is an integral part of Łazienki. During the reign of Stanisław August, rotten alders were felled and replaced with various broadleaved and coniferous trees. The land was drained; the wet and marshy places were raised. Trees were planted in clusters and along alleys, new lanes





and paths were marked out. The scale of the investment is proved by the work reports – in 1777 one thousand standard trees were planted, in 1778 oaks and walnut trees were planted, and 764 maples and lime-trees were added along alleys! The park was cut through with numerous channels, linked with the Piaseczyński Channel. Łazienki Palace is surrounded by two ponds. Picturesque alleys for pedestrians were marked out in the park. The main road in the very heart of Łazienki linked the Palace with the White House and Belvedere. It was a road “planted with orange trees and Egyptian acacia”.

Łazienki after Stanisław August's death

In February 1798 Stanisław August Poniatowski, the last king of Poland, died. He was interested in his beloved

Łazienki till his last days. The artists and Marcello Bacciarelli, the general director of royal buildings, who supervised them, remained in Warsaw. The painters (Plersch, Tokarski, Wall and Vogel), sculptors (Lebrun, Poinck, Monaldi, Staggi) and architects (Merlini, Gresmayer, Kamsetzer and Kubiccki) gradually left Łazienki.

Łazienki, not so long ago bursting with life, became a kind of a museum, a monument intended only for visiting. It was visited by Russian and Prussian generals, and the Prussian emperor's family.

After the fall of the Duchy of Warsaw and establishment of the Congress Kingdom, Łazienki was bought by Tsar Alexander I in 1817. It was the property of the Russian partitioner for over 100 years. In the Grand Outbuilding the Cadet School was located, from which on a November Night of 1830 the plot-

ters set off to Belvedere. After the fall of the uprising (1831) the school was liquidated. The buildings of the Grand Outbuilding, White House Myślewiec Palace, Ermitage and Orangerie were taken over by tsarist officials. The wooden Turkish House and Chinese Bridge were pulled down.

The emperor's gardeners changed the course of park alleys and channels. In 1855 a collection of orange trees was brought from Nieborów. In 1870 a new Orangerie was built for this collection. Since then – for distinction – the former Orangerie was called the Old Orangerie.

Tsar Alexander I did not live in Łazienki. Nicholas I and Alexander II stayed here several times. Noble guests were entertained in Łazienki, including the Duke of Wellington and other English, Prussian, and Austrian dukes. In 1897 the king of Siam stayed here, in 1889 – the king of Romania, and in 1900 – the shah of Persia. During the absence of the noble guests the park was a walking place for Warsaw inhabitants.

In the first days of the town's occupation, as early as in September 1939, the German authorities took over Łazienki. The Germans closed the palace and park to the Polish public. The palace collections were

plundered. At the end of December 1944 the palace was set fire to by the Germans. In the remaining walls they drilled hundreds of holes for sticks of dynamite. Fortunately, they did not accomplish the plan to completely destroy the palace. Many buildings were damaged as a result of artillery fire. Fires consumed part of the interior. In the park about one fourth of the trees were destroyed.

After liberation, in March 1945, care for Łazienki was provided by a special “Stanisław August Department”, established at the Warsaw Reconstruction Office. Debris was searched through; sculptures and architectural details were dug out. The restoration of the entire park and palace complex was immediately started. In 1960 Łazienki Królewskie Museum was established. From the first years of the museum's existence, Professor Marek Kwiatkowski, who has been its director for a long time, threw his lot in with Łazienki. Today Łazienki throbs with cultural life and is one of the greatest tourist attractions of Warsaw. Presently, the work of King Stanisław August Poniatowski can be admired by visitors who visit the museum rooms, listen to concerts and lectures, or walk with delight along the park alleys.



The Museum of Romanticism in Opinogóra

(Muzeum Romantyzmu w Opinogórze)

ul. Zygmunta Krasińskiego 9
06-406 Opinogóra
tel./ faks: +48 (023) 671-20-25
e-mail:
mr@muzeumromantyzmu.pl

Conferences for 50 persons and small meetings, board meetings, etc. for 30 persons may be held in the Museum.

In the immediate vicinity of the museum complex there is Parkowa restaurant and a hotel.

The restaurant is open from 12.00 am to 10.00 pm, the hotel is open 24 hours. Information and booking:

Parkowa restaurant
06-406 Opinogóra
ul. Krasińskiego 5
tel. +48 (023) 671-72-31

OPINOGÓRA

CIECHANÓW SURROUNDINGS – ABOUT 100 KM
TO THE NORTH OF WARSAW

About 8 km to the east of Ciechanów, in a charming landscape park, there is the picturesquely situated Museum of Romanticism in Opinogóra. The museum is housed in the former palace complex of the Krasiński family, including the palace and the Castle, which was initiated by Maria Krasińska, née Radziwiłł, the mother of Zygmunt Krasiński.

The history

Opinogóra was mentioned for the first time in a document in 1185, when Mazovian Voivode, Count Żyro, gave Opinogóra back to the convent of Norbertines from Płock. It is recorded under the name of "Opinogote". In a document of the 15th century it is called "Opinagóra" and is composed of Upper (Górna) Opinagóra and Lower (Dolna) Opinagóra. The Upper part belonged to Borzym, while the Lower – first to the Boleścic family from Chamsk village, and then to the Prawdzic family from Góldno. In 1421 Borzym exchanged the Upper Opinogóra with Mazovian Duke Janusz I for another village and thus it was incorporated into the Duke's domain. The Duke built there a hunting manor house, in which in 1454 Mazovian Duke Bolesław died.

After the incorporation of Mazovia into the Crown Opinogóra became royal property, and as a non-town starosty was given to persons who rendered great service to the throne. Jan Kazimierz (1607 – 1669) – a royal courtier, Grand Treasurer of the Crown, Płock Voivode, and castellan of Warsaw, Płock and Ciechanów - was the first Krasiński to whom the King gave Opinogóra in 1659.

In 1752 the estate was finally divided into three parts and Opinogóra, according to the record from 1752, was received by Michał Heronim Krasiński (1712 – 1784). He was a marshal of the Bar Confederation. Michał Krasiński founded a new branch of the family, called the Opinogóra branch.

Opinogóra was the property of the Krasiński family until the period of the Partitions of Poland, when the estate was included into Prussian domain, and Melchior Neumann became its lessee.



In December 1806 the French army entered Mazovia. Opinogóra was given to Jean Bernadotte (1763 – 1844), the marshal of France and Duke Ponte Corvo. At that time the settlement name was changed into French Opinogóra (Opinogóra Francuska). However, the marshal's rule did not last long. In September 1810 he was invited to assume the throne in Sweden and in November was crowned as Charles XIV John.

By the decree of 20th May 1811 the emperor reinstated the Krasieński family's rights to this estate, conferring at the same time the title of Count on General Wincent Krasieński. Tsar Alexander I approved the conferment, but the authorities of the Kingdom of Poland only acknowledged Krasieński's right as late as in 1818. The General was worried by the changes in the political arena and the attitude of his son, who was not interested in the economy. Therefore he insistently tried to persuade the Petersburg court to make Opinogóra an estate in tail. He managed it as late as 1844. The statute of the estate in tail guaranteed the integrity of Opinogóra and provided that it was to remain in the hands of the Krasieński family, inherited by the eldest son.

The first Opinogóra heir in tail was Zygmunt Krasieński (1812 – 1859). However, he did not enjoy the estate very long, as he died on 23rd February 1859, three months after his father's death. The next heir in tail was Zygmunt's son, Władysław. After Władysław's death Opinogóra was inherited by his son, Adam Krasieński, at that time under age. For several years the estate was managed by his mother – Róża Krasieńska,

née Potocka. Under her management Opinogóra flourished. Adam Krasieński died heirless in 1909, which meant that the Opinogóra branch came to an end.

According to the statute the estate was taken over by the quartermaster branch from Radziejowice. The first heir in tail from this branch was Józef Krasieński. He did not involve himself in Opinogóra matters and, actually, from the very beginning the estate was managed by his son Edward.

During the First World War Opinogóra was damaged. After the war Count Edward did not renovate the castle. He put all the effort into building the Library and Museum of the Entail of Count Krasieński Family in Warsaw (Biblioteki i Muzeum Ordynacji Domu Hrabów Krasieńskich). In order to do that he even sold his family estate in Radziejowice. Count Edward Krasieński died in Dachau on 7th December 1940.

In January 1945 the Russian army entered Opinogóra. In the same year the agricultural reform was carried out in Opinogóra. The farm workers and small farmers were given 21 plots and on the remaining land a state farm (Państwowe Gospodarstwo Rolne) was established.

During the early post-war years the look of Opinogóra did not change much. The plan to rebuild the neo-Gothic castle – for cultural purposes – was drawn up as late as in the 1950's, to the initiative of Ciechanów Region Lovers' Society (Towarzystwo Miłośników Ziemi Ciechanowskiej). The restoration work was started in 1958 and finished in 1961 – on 20th

May the Museum of Romanticism was open in the renovated castle.

In 1970 the arcaded house was rebuilt. In 1989 the monument to Zygmunt Krasieński was unveiled and in 1990 the reconstructed manor outbuilding was included into the museum complex.

The Museum of Romanticism has two open exhibitions (in the Castle and in the Outbuilding). Since 1970, on every second Sunday in the month, music and poetry concerts are held there.

Opinogóra palace, situated behind the old manor house, served in the

summers as a house for guests invited by the Krasieński family. It was a perfect place for work and leisure. Its lofty tower and battlemented wall along the forecourt make it appear a defensive building; therefore it is called the Castle.

In the Castle and palace there are rich collections displaying the history of the palace complex and the Krasieński family. The exhibition begins with a fabric of 1722, showing the genealogical tree of the Krasieński family. The White Room, the Red Room, the Room under the Tower, Napoleonic Room are all also open to visitors.



Centre of the Polish Sculpture in Orońsko

(Centrum Rzeźby Polskiej w Orońsku)

ul. Topolowa 1
26-505 Orońsko
tel./faks +48 (48) 618-40-27,
618-45-16
e-mail:
sekretariat@rzezba-oronsko.pl
www.rzezba-oronsko.pl

Opening hours:

1st April to 31st October:

Tuesday - Friday:
8.00 am to 4.00 pm

Saturday - Sunday:
10.00 am to 6.00 pm

1st November to 31st March:

Tuesday - Friday:
8.00 am to 3.00 pm

Saturday - Sunday:
10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Park exhibition:

Every day
7.00 am to 9.00 pm

Offices, ateliers:

Monday - Friday:
7.00 am to 3.00 pm

The Sculptors' Workshop

Centre organises university outdoor classes and artist workshops. There are 6 ateliers with an area of 64 m² with dwelling annexes and a sculpture yard with an area of 5200 m², with artificial lighting, supplied with electricity, compressed air and water.

OROŃSKO

SZYDŁOWIEC SURROUNDINGS – ABOUT 120 KM
TO THE SOUTH OF WARSAW

Orońsko lies in the south of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship. It is the seat of the district situated within Szydłowiec powiat. The greatest tourist attraction of the village is the 19th century palace and park complex. Once the property of the outstanding painter Józef Brandt, presently – the Centre of Polish Sculpture: a unique culture centre – a workplace for sculptors.

The history

The history of the estate in Orońsko dates back to the 15th century. At that time a large village was mentioned for the first time in the chronicles of Jan Długosz. With the passage of time the estate changed hands. It belonged to the Odrowąż, Radziwiłł and Sapieha families.

In 1834 the indebted Orońsko estate, which at that time was the property of the Kingdom of Poland, was bought by Franciszek Ksawery Christiani and his wife Amelia, née Hibl. This outstanding engineer, the director of the General Directorate for Roads and Bridges of the Kingdom of Poland (Dyrekcja Generalnej Dróg i Mostów Królestwa Polskiego) and the builder of the Warsaw-Brześć and Warsaw-Cracow routes, decided to modernise the estate and turn it into a comfortable village residence. After Christiani's death in 1842, Orońsko was inherited by his wife Amelia and their daughter, Amelia Pruszk. They continued the modernization of the manor buildings. The most important investment was erection of a brick palace, which was to replace the old manor house. The architect Francis Maria Lanci was presumably the author of the design.

The estate, sold in 1866, fell again into the hands of the Christiani's descendants in 1869. It was purchased by Helena Pruszk, née Wojciechowska, the wife of Aleksander Pruszk – Franciszek Ksawery Christiani's grandson, who after the premature death of her husband married Józef Brandt in 1877, the most famous master of the Orońsko estate.

Józef Brandt's palace ►

Since that time the Brandt family regularly stayed in Orońsko from spring to autumn, while in Munich - the European centre of artistic thought, where many Polish artists gathered – they spent their winters. Brandt himself arrived to Munich in 1863, having gained various artistic experiences, for example during his earlier stay in Paris. Before he became – by his marriage - the Lord of Orońsko, he had already painted several works highly appreciated on the international arena. During his stays in Orońsko Brandt held social meetings with young novice painters. Hence the name Free Orońsko Academy (Wolna Akademia Orońska) which went down in history.

During the First World War the estate was destroyed and its masters were displaced. Brandt died in Radom in 1915. Put to auction, the estate was purchased in 1934 by the last master of Orońsko, Andrzej Daszewski, the painter's grandson. German invaders took up the palace in 1942. After the war the estate was taken over by the State Treasury.

Centre of Polish Sculpture (Centrum Rzeźby Polskiej)

The dilapidated, although acknowledged as a monument, palace and park complex in Orońsko was brought

Specialist workshops:

- metal processing workshop: milling, welding, blacksmith's shop, sculpture tool making;
- foundry: mould preparation, bronze casting by two methods: of lost wax or sand (for silt);
- ceramic workshop: ceramic mould shaping and firing;
- carpenter workshop: manual and machine processing of wood.

The Museum of Contemporary Sculpture organises exhibits of contemporary art, gathers and describes collections of Polish and foreign sculpture.

The Education Department organises: museum lessons, educational stays and workshops, socializing programmes, theme festivities.



Publishing Department:

- periodicals: Sculpture quarterly "Orońsko", annual "Polish Sculpture", "Orońsko Seminars";
- compact publications: exhibition catalogues, monographs on Polish sculptors.
Services concerning:
- graphic design of publications;
 - typesetting for print

Documentation Department:

- hard copy and electronic documentation of Polish sculptors' activity;
- specialist publications and periodicals;
- photographic and film documentation.

Sculptor's House:

- 24 accommodation places – single, double and triple rooms with bathrooms;
 - canteen;
 - Cafe Art café;
- free manned car park.

Organization of:

- occasional parties,
- banquets, company parties,
- conventions, conferences,
 - chamber concerts,
 - outdoor events.

The offered photographic services include weddings, First Communion's and advertising shoots.

back to life in 1965. At that time an exhibition of outdoor works, created during the First Sculptors' Meeting (I Spotkania Rzeźbiarskie), was set up in the picturesque palace park. In 1969 sculpture ateliers were open to artists in the former stables. The sculptors' workplace centre was managed by the Sculpture Lovers' Society (Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Rzeźby), which stimulated the centre from its beginning, and the Main Board of the Association of Polish Artists and Designers (Zarząd Główny Związku Polskich Artystów Plastyków).

Since 1981 the Centre of the Polish Sculpture in Orońsko has been a government unit, established by the then Ministry of Culture and Art. At that time started a long period of investment which was to restore the building complex, situated in 13 ha park, to its former splendour. Brandt's palace, as well as the chapel, granary and coach house, was thoroughly renovated. The ancient stand of trees has been successively reconstructed, picturesque water flows with two ponds were restored, and new alleys were marked out. The orangery was built from scratch, on the basis of old drawings. The most imposing edifice is the Museum of Contemporary Sculpture, open in 1992 to the public – it is a multifunctional building, housing a large exhibition hall, storerooms for sculpture collections, and sculpture ateliers.

Presently, the Centre of the Polish Sculpture in Orońsko is an international sculpture centre. Each year over 200 artists from Poland and abroad - for various purposes - come to Orońsko. In Orońsko outdoor workshops take place and several temporary exhibitions are displayed.

Museum of Contemporary Sculpture ►





OSUCHÓW

MSZCZONÓW SURROUNDINGS - 50 KM TO THE SOUTH WEST
OF WARSAW

The Main Training Centre of the Social Insurance Institution

(Centralny Ośrodek Szkoleniowy Zakładu Ubezpieczeń Społecznych)

tel.: + 48 (046) 857-44-17
(secretary), 887-44-78

(reception),
857-44-12

faks: + 48 (046) 857-44-16

In 1995 the palace and park complex in Osuchów was awarded by the Minister of Culture and Art. In 1993 and in 1994 Social Insurance Institution took the first place in the contest "The Best User of a Monument Building" ("Najlepszy użytkownik obiektu zabytkowego"). In 1998 the palace and park complex received a silver medal from the Minister of Culture and Art for "protection of historical landscape gardens" ("za ochronę zabytkowych założeń ogrodowych"). The reconstruction of the palace is a contribution of the Social Insurance Institution to national heritage.

The Main Training Centre of the Social Insurance Institution located in the palace has 120 accommodation places, didactic facilities for training courses and meetings, and catering facilities.

In the Centre training courses for employees, meetings and conferences are held. When there are no training courses, ZUS's employees and their families can spend weekends in the Osuchów centre. The guests can make use

The palace and park complex in Osuchów is less than one hours drive from Warsaw. It is surrounded by a wood complex, with characteristic microclimate and a clean environment. The total area is 20 ha. The building, taken over for renovation and reconstruction, was destined to be a training centre of the Social Insurance Institution (ZUS). Because of financial restrictions the restoration took over ten years; it was carried out under the close scrutiny of the Voivodeship Conservation Officer. Presently the centre provides excellent conditions – both inside the palace and in the historical park – for meetings, conferences and conventions.

The history

The oldest mention of Osuchów has been found in the chronicles of Jan Długosz and concerns the stay of King Władysław Jagiełło in this village in December 1410. In the 15th century Osuchów, together with the wooden manor house and the nearby land, belonged to the Radziejowski family. The park was established at the turn of the 18th century.

The neoclassical palace (in place of the wooden manor house) was erected in the second half of the 19th century by Feliks Wołoski. From 1893 to 1899 it was the property of Feliks's daughter – Jadwiga Aleksandra Jasielska. Around 1899 the estate and the palace and park complex were purchased by Michał Tyszkiewicz as a dowry for his daughter Joanna Janina, the wife of Edward Broel-Plater. From 1918 to 1927 two side annexes and a portico with a terrace were added to the palace, and its interior was modified. In 1928 after the death of Joanna Plater the palace was inherited by Izabela Plater, who was its owner until 1944. By the decree of the agricultural reform the palace and park complex was taken over by the State Treasury. Consecutively, it housed a primary school, post office and private apartments.

In 1982 the Minister of Culture and Art handed over the palace and park complex in Osuchów to the Social Insur-

ance Institution for restoration and use. The taken over building complex included: the palace to be restored, the ruins of the former kitchen building and the stables, the dilapidated historical park with ancient oaks, lime-trees, larches and elms, a pond complex, and green areas. Both the palace and the historical park have been thoroughly renovated.

of the culture and didactics as well as the sports and recreation facilities. They have access both to the historic rooms and the modern lecture halls.

In the ancient park there is a symbolic stone commemorating King Władysław Jagiełło's stay in Osuchów in 1410.





House of Polonia in Pułtusk

(Dom Polonii w Pułtusku)

Hotel ***, Restaurants and Conference Centre

06-100 Pułtusk – Castle
(Zamek)

tel.: (023) 692-90-00

faks: (023) 692-05-24

e-mail:

info@dopolonii.pultusk.pl

www.dopolonii.pultusk.pl

The House of Polonia offers 88 accommodation places in the Renaissance castle (suites, single and double rooms), 25 places in the nearby stronghold (Kasztel) and 25 places in the Water Hostel, situated at the foot of the castle on the river (single and double rooms, including 5 rooms with fireplaces). Furthermore, in the castle park there is a free standing Gardener's House with two double rooms in enfilade, fireplace and a bathroom, and the Hunting Suite for two persons in the historic building that used to be called "Kennel" ("Psiarnia").

In the castle there are three restaurants for guests – Karmazynowa, Turkusowa and Pod Złotym Jeleniem – as well as a night club and café. In summer, in Water Hostel's be-flowered gardens with view over the Narew river, dishes and snacks are served at tables under umbrellas and tents.

In keeping with Old Polish tradition, guests can taste the castle fruit liquors, wine and

PUŁTUSK

ABOUT 60 KM TO THE NORTH OF WARSAW

The historic 15th century castle, situated on the edge of the White Forest on the Narew river, only 60 km to the north of the centre of Warsaw, houses a modern hotel-catering-conference complex, called the House of Polonia. It tempts guests with numerous attractions, but above all, with delicious Polish cuisine.

The history

Płock bishops started building the castle at the end of the 14th century. Historical sources confirm that the first castle was a wooden structure. Only the four-sided tower, the remnants of which were discovered by archaeologists in the west wing of the building, was a brick element. In 1368, during the raid of Lithuanian Duke Kiejstut on Mazovia, the castle was burnt. In his chronicles Jan Długosz reported: *The castle, persistently defended by starosts and those of the neighbourhood who had fled to it in panic, was set to fire by [Lithuanians] who had put piles of tarry wood along the curtain walls. Soon the fire spread through the whole town, and the people shut in it, not able to stand the fire, were burnt together with the castle.*

Thanks to the union of Krewo, formed between the Crown and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania on 14th August 1385, the threat from the east disappeared. Perhaps at that time it was decided in Płock to rebuild the town of Pułtusk. The previous embankments were gradually levelled. In their place defensive walls were erected. At first a one-section dwelling building, so called Small House, was added to the tower from the north east. The courtyard within the defensive walls was paved with pebbles and bricks.

In the mid- 15th century there was another development. The main two-storey one-section building, called the Grand

The view over the castle

At the bottom of the photograph: the rotunda of the chapel devoted to St. Magdalene. The temple was built in the 16th century in place of the former medieval cemetery, near which the remnants of the oldest, wooden church (of the 12th century) have been found.

House, was erected from the west (that is to the south of the tower). The outbuildings were widely scattered near the east curtain wall. The moat from the town side linking the channels of the Narew still existed. In this way the Gothic stronghold, functioning until the end of the 15th century, was created.

In 1523 Bishop Rafał Leszczyński started to rebuild the castle in the Renaissance style. The work was continued by his successors – Bishops Andrzej Krzycki and Piotr Myszkowski. Consecutive owners added new elements. Bishop Henryk Firlej renovated the bridge; Stanisław Łubieński adorned the castle chapel. Below the castle stretched beautiful gardens.

The development of the town and the existence of the bishops' residence were disrupted by the Swedish invasion. Swedes captured the town and the castle was garrisoned by the army. Protestant soldiers did not spare the seat of Catholic bishops - the castle was burnt. It was only thanks to Bishops Załuskis – Andrzej Chryzostom and Ludwik Bartłomiej – that the castle regained its former splendour. The artists brought by them adorned the rooms with new coffer ceilings, intarsia, stuccoes and tiles. Following the example of other residences (for example in Łowicz

draught beer to the music of various bands. Such tasting is an additional attraction to conventions, conferences and symposia, apart from fighting with medieval weapons, duels between noblemen clad in 17th century costumes, recitals of ballads and romances, and performances of gypsy duets. On the castle premises visitors can see cannons firing cannons. These shows are usually preceded by firework displays.

The House of Polonia offers diplomatic and occasional receptions for up to 250 guests (at a common table), as well as all-night balls for 450 persons in the castle restaurants and rooms or for 300 in the Manez Hall.

Conferences can be also held in the free-standing building: Manez can hold 500 participants, Gardener's House – 40 persons, the concert hall – 120 persons.



and in Piortków), the castle was furnished with a rich collection of portraits of Mazovian dukes and Płock bishops.

At the end of the 18th century the residence was developed under the patronage of Bishop Hilary Szembek. At that time the one-storey eastern wing was added, and the entrance wing was given a new classical elevation and a rusticated gate break (in the present shape). In this way the entire building was shaped as a horse-shoe open to the south.

After the secularisation of church properties, when the estate was taken over by the Russian partitioner, the castle served - among other things - as a hospital. In 1919 it was almost of no utility. After renovations the castle housed municipal offices.

Presently, the thoroughly renovated building is a hotel and conference centre of the Polonia Association. On the ground floor of the western wing temporary exhibitions are held. Mementoes of the history of the town and the castle are displayed in the Regional Museum.



The tower

It is the only remnant of the town fortifications of the 16th century. The late Gothic fortifications were devastated in the 19th century.

RADZIEJOWICE

MSZCZONÓW SURROUNDINGS - 40 KM TO THE WEST OF WARSAW



Radziejowice, situated on the gently undulating terrain of Mszczonów Upland (Wypiętrze Mszczonowskie) on the winding Pisia Gągolina river, enchants with its picturesque location. The palace and park complex includes: a classical palace, neo-Gothic Castle, Larch Manor House, Swiss House, the former blacksmith's shop and several-dozen-hectare park with ponds. The complex serves as an artists' retreat, as well as a place for conventions, conferences and symposia. The atmosphere of the historic interior and the beauty of the surrounding greenery favours both work and leisure.

The history

From the 15th century the nearby land belonged to the Radziejowski family, who exactly in Radziejowice founded the oldest family seat. The Radziejowice estate was their property until 1705, when it was taken over by the Prażmowski family. Since 1776 it belonged to the Ossoliński family and from 1782 to 1945 – to the Krasieński family. The most outstanding member of the Radziejowski family was the last one, Michał – a primate, as well as the owner of palaces in Warsaw and Nieborów. In the 17th century the palace hosted, among others, magnates and clergy members as well as kings: Sigismund III Vasa, Ladislaus IV and John III Sobieski. The Prażmowski family, related to the Radziejowski family, was also one of very important magnate families in Poland. In the 19th century the Radziejowice were visited by Henryk Sienkiewicz, Lucjan Rydel, Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz and Józef Chełmoński.

During the Second World War the palace housed a hospital for German soldiers. After the war the palace and park complex was expropriated and became the property of the State Treasury. From 1956 to 1964 it was thoroughly restored, with retention of the baroque-classical décor of the interior. Since that time it has been an active centre, hosting culture-related persons.

It is visited by writers, journalists, film-makers, musicians and visual artists, as well as people sensitive to the beauty

Artists' Retreat in Radziejowice

(Dom Pracy Twórczej w Radziejowicach)

ul. Sienkiewicza 4
96-325 Radziejowice
tel. + 48 (046) 857-71-75
faks + 48 (046) 857-71-13
e-mail:
palac@palacradziejowice.pl

The Artists' Retreat invites guests to the palace and park complex in Radziejowice and offers conference and accommodation facilities. It has – in three buildings – high standard suites and guest rooms for 50 persons (bathroom, telephone, TV-set, radio, refrigerator).

The palace and the Castle:

- 4 historic suites for three persons
- 4 suites (with a living room) for two and three persons
- 2 double rooms
- 2 single rooms

Larch Manor House:

- 2 triple rooms
- 5 double rooms
- 5 single rooms

Swiss House:

- 1 triple room
- 2 double rooms
- 1 single room

The conference rooms with necessary technical equipment include:

- the conference hall in the Old Blacksmith's Shop for about 50 persons
- the concert hall in the palace for about 70 persons
 - palace rooms for 10 to 20 persons.

The catering services are of high quality.

The Artists' Retreat in Radziejowice organises also banquets and outdoor events with the possibility of catering, classical or popular music concerts, and other attractions.

of nature, with which the comfortable historic palace complex perfectly harmonises.

The monument and its collections

The permanent and largest in Poland exhibition of Józef Chełomoński's works and the collection of memorabilia of this great painter are the museum attractions of Radziejowice palace. Józef Chełomoński, who lived for 25 years in the nearby village of Kuklówka, used to be a frequent visitor to Radziejowice, and his works reflect the beauty of the Mazovian landscape.

The palace owes its present shape to architect Jakub Kubicki, who – to the order of Kazimierz Krasieński - rebuilt the old baroque residence of the Radziejowski family at the turn of the 18th century in classical style. Presently the palace houses museum rooms, a temporary exhibition gallery and guest suites.

The Castle is the oldest structure of the former complex; some parts of its walls date back to the 16th century. At the end of the 18th century it was a picturesque ruin. The Castle owes its present, 19th century looks to Jakub Kubicki. In the building there is a kitchen and two historic suites.

The manor house with the characteristic, typical for a gentry's residence, classical mass was erected at the turn of the 18th century. It was the main building of the farm and the seat of the estate bailiff. Presently it houses 12 guest rooms and a small living room with a piano, in which small meetings can be held.

The English-style landscape park surrounding the palace and the layout of the garden around the manor house date back to the first half of the 19th century.



Primate of Poland
- Michał Radziejowski



◀ The view over the palace and the Castle from the park





STARAWIEŚ

WĘGRÓW SURROUNDINGS – ABOUT 80 KM
TO THE EAST OF WARSAW

Starawieś is located in the eastern part of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship, in Węgrów poviát. The picturesquely flowing Liwiec river and the beauty of the landscape make Starawieś palace – although situated in the centre of the settlement – one of the most beautifully located, and one of the most valuable palaces in Mazovia.

After the Second World War the palace remained for a long time devastated. It was thoroughly restored and rebuilt as a leisure centre for the Polish National Bank's employees.

The history

The oldest palace complex in Starawieś was erected in the second half of the 17th century. The baroque palace building was initiated by Bogusław Radziwiłł, Grand Equerry of Lithuania. This very well known figure in the history of Poland is infamous for the betrayal of King John Casimir and collaboration with the Swedish invaders. The great magnate in Lithuania and Podlasie developed, among other buildings, the castle in Tykocin (presently being restored).

The building was finished in 1661. Only three years later the palace and the estate became the property of the Krasieński family. Starawieś belonged to them until 1762, when Barbara Krasieńska brought the estate as a dowry to Michał Świdziński, the castellan of Radom.

At the beginning of the 19th century it was taken over by the Ossoliński family, then by the Jezierski family. In 1840 Duke Sergiusz Golicyn, married to Countess Maria Jezierska, became the owner of Starawieś. To his initiative the palace was thoroughly rebuilt. At that time the elevations were altered into neo-Gothic style. The third storey was added. When the work on the elevations – which took place at the turn of the 1850's under the supervision of architect Paweł Podczaszyński - was finished, the palace interior was altered. The style in which it was furnished is called English Gothic.



Bogusław Radziwiłł

In 1871 a great fire consumed part of the interior décor, but it was quickly restored. At the end of the 19th century Starawieś was purchased by the Krasieński family. The palace belonged to them until 1912, when history turned full circle and the estate once again became the property of the Radziwiłł family. It remained in their hands until 1944.

The palace in Starawieś enraptures with its grandeur and elaborate details. The building is erected to the plan of

the letter "T", with a centrally situated break. In the south eastern corner rises an octagonal tower.

The beauty of the palace complex is also visible in the excellent interior décor. As J. Baranowski wrote, Podczaszyński modelled it on the interior of the castle in Bramhall in Cheshire and of Wakehurst palace in Sussex. It is a pity that the palace is not accessible to persons from outside the Polish National Bank.





Museum of Anna and Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz in Stawisko

(Muzeum im. Anny i Jarosława Iwaszkiewiczów w Stawisku)

05-807 Podkowa Leśna
ul. Golebia 1
tel./faks: +48 (022) 758-93-63,
729-14-21
www.stawisko.pl

In the historic rooms symposia, conferences and small meetings take place. Among unique and stylish furniture, in a splendid library, both conference and banquet tables can be put. On bright days outdoor events can be organised in the park, near the museum building.

STAWISKO

ABOUT 27 KM TO THE SOUTH WEST OF WARSAW

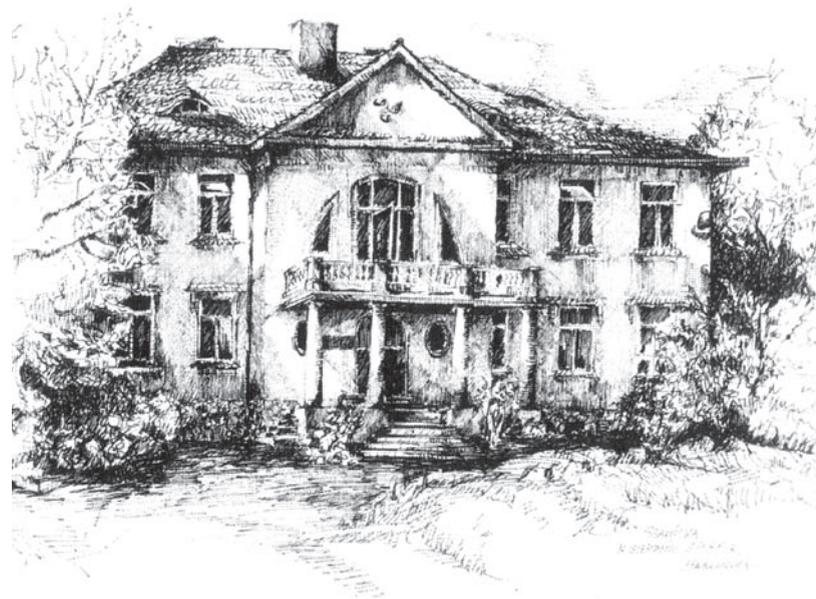
The Iwaszkiewicz's house, museum and meeting place for culture-related people – the house which still evokes the atmosphere of the creative work of its former owners.

Stawisko was for over 50 years the centre of Iwaszkiewicz's world. There his life plans were carried out. In this house his daughters and grandchildren grew up, and his sisters, aunts, assistants, residents, guests and even occupation refugees lived. The fifty-year long history of this house would be a very interesting and representative fraction of the history of modern Polish culture, if it was written down in detail. Presently it houses a museum – but even today visitors can feel the atmosphere of this homestead, as its host called it with the modesty of Polish nobility.

The history

"Stawisko" is the name given by Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz and his wife Anna to the estate located near Podkowa Leśna, allotted from the vast lands of Anna's father, Stanisław Wilhelm Lilpop. The house in Stawisko was erected in 1928 in the heart of a vast farm (over 45 ha). It belonged to the Iwaszkiewicz family until Jarosław's death in 1980. This is how the writer himself described Stawisko: *...It has been my home and a shelter for many people for 40 years. The difficulty of maintenance – especially in present times – of a huge house and the impossibility of serving and heating it are compensated by the beautiful location of the house, its snug atmosphere, the surrounding forest and the whole charm of the Mazovian landscape, so valuable in the ugly surroundings of Warsaw.*

The history of the mansion is inextricably linked with its hosts. Anna – very sensitive to art, especially to literature, and conversant with music, came from a wealthy family of industrialists who arrived to Poland from Graz in the second half of the 18th century. Jarosław was of noble birth; his ancestors arrived to Warsaw from the Ukraine. He was a poet, prose writer, playwright, essayist and translator. He co-founded the "Skamander" group of poets with J. Tuwim,



J. Lechoń, A. Stonimski, K. Wierzyński. One year after his marriage to Anna (1923) he was appointed secretary to the Speaker of the Sejm – M. Rataj. From 1932 to 1935 Jarosław was the secretary to the Polish diplomatic mission in Denmark.

In the pre-war period the house in Stawisko was a meeting place for various artists, not only those of the "Skamander" group. The guests included S. Baliński and K. Szymanowski. At that time Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz wrote his best short stories: *The Birch Wood (Brzezina)*, *The Maids from Wilko (Panny z Wilka)* and poems from the volume *Summer 1932 (Lato 1932)*.

The German occupation (1939–1945) was a noteworthy period in the short history of Stawisko. At that time the Iwaszkiewicz's house was a retreat for numerous refugees from Warsaw,

including Cz. Miłosz, S. Dygat, K. K. Baczyński, L. Schiller and W. Lutosławski. The hosts and their guests organised literary and music soirées and symposia. After the Warsaw Uprising also W. Tatarkiewicz and J. Waldorf took shelter in Stawisko. It was difficult to maintain such a large number of guests, so the Iwaszkiewicz had to sell a significant part of their estate.

After the war Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz was already a well-known and respected figure. He was many times a deputy in the Sejm of the People's Republic of Poland, chaired the Association of Polish Writers (Związek Literatów Polskich) and held numerous public functions. The Jaroszewicz lived in Stawisko for over half a century. At the end of 1979 Anna died. Jarosław died only three months later, on 2nd March 1980.

After Iwaskiewicz's death Stawisko – according to his will – was taken over by the Ministry of Culture and Art to be converted into the Museum of Anna and Jarosław Iwaskiewicz.

The Museum was opened in mid 1984. The museum covers the former estate of the Iwaskiewiczz: the house and about 18 ha of park and orchard. In the house visitors can see rich collections related to its owners. The library of almost 25,000 volumes, collections of publications, records and photographs, as well as the splendid literary and archives, make a perfect workshop for biographers or 20th century historians.

Thanks to the commitment of Oskar Koszutski, the Museum custodian, Stawisko is one of the outstanding museums of sub-Warsaw towns despite its' modest funds. The historic house is open to visitors. Individual rooms have retained the unique atmosphere of a wealthy Polish house from almost half a century ago.



Anna and Jarosław Iwaskiewicz, the painting by S. I. Witkiewicz, 1922



Jarosław Iwaskiewicz's study

The main palace building ►

STERDYŃ

SIEDLCE SURROUNDINGS - 70 KM TO THE EAST OF WARSAW



For many years after the war Sterdyń, a small settlement lying in Siedlce Upland (Wysoczyzna Siedlecka) on the Buczynka – the left tributary of the Bug, was hiding a real gem. The reconstruction of the palace was first attempted by the Polish Composers' Association (Związek Kompozytorów Polskich) and Culture Facilitators' Association (Stowarzyszenie Animatorów Kultury). In 1996, thanks to the group led by Jan Pacewicz, the thorough restoration of the Ossolińskis' palace was started. Today the restored palace brings back the glory of Sterdyń – the days when it was owned by one of the most wealthy magnate families of the Republic of Poland in the 17th century.

Zespół Pałacowy Ossolińskich Sterdyń Sp. z o.o.

ul. Kościelna 43, 08-320 Sterdyń
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The seat
of the management:

Zespół Pałacowy Ossolińskich
Sterdyni Sp. z o.o.
ul. Kokołbrzeska 2
02-023 Warszawa

The complex has 69 rooms in four buildings. In the main palace building there are perfectly restored multi-purpose rooms (which can be used e.g. for conferences) with beautiful stylish paintings and a large conference hall, as well as 8 guest rooms, including 4 suites. In the arched basement of the palace there is the Mead Room (Miodopitnia). Two stylish outbuildings with 24 rooms are adjacent to the palace. Each of them has a spacious drawing room with a fireplace; the basement of the right outbuilding houses a pub and billiards room.

At the back of the palace stands the Granary with 37 double rooms in folk style, and an inn.

The palace:
8 rooms (including 4 suites), conference hall, restaurant, Purple Room (Sala Purpurowa), Empire Room (Sala Empirowa), Portrait Room (Sala Portretowa), Theatre Hall (Sala Teatralna), library room, Terrace Room (Sala Tarasowa), Fireplace Room (Sala Kominkowa), Mead Room (Miodopitnia).

The history

The first mention of Sterdyn dates back to 1446. The first recorded owner of the settlement was Piotr Kiszka of the Dąbrowa coat of arms.

Then Sterdyn was inherited by his son Mikołaj, who in 1580 was also the owner of the town of Ciecchanowiec, among other estates. The Sterdyn estate remained in the hands of the Kiszka family until 1622. In the mid- 17th century it was taken over by the Ossoliński family.

In 1673 Zbigniew Ossoliński gave the estate to his son Jerzy, a warrant officer of the Nur lands. Jerzy's rule lasted fifteen years and was a period of stabilisation for Sterdyn. At that time the palace was thoroughly rebuilt in its present shape.

The last member of the Ossoliński family who owned Sterdyn, Stanisław, finished building the church and decided on the final spatial layout of Sterdyn residence, as well as rebuilt the palace in the classical style. In 1809 his daughter Emilia married Józef Wawrzyniec Krasieński of the Ślepowron coat of arms. Among the frequent guests of the Krasieńskis was the well-known and highly regarded architect Jakub Kubicki. It was to him that Ossolinski commissioned the alteration of Sterdyn palace. In 1847, after Józef Wawrzyniec Krasieński's death, Paulina, née Krasieńska, the wife of Ludwik Górski of Bożawola coat of arms, became the exclusive owner of Sterdyn.

Ludwik Górski was a very industrious man and turned out to be an excellent master. During his rule the Sterdyn estate began to flourish. Around 1850 the park surrounding the palace was re-arranged in the English style. By the time of the agricultural reform the palace and park complex had remained in the hands of the Krasieński family.

After the war the palace housed a secondary school and – for a short time – a labour ward. Therefore many inhabitants of Sterdyn give the palace as their birthplace.

The Ossolińskis' palace is situated in the old bed of the Bug river. The restored buildings, the English-style park adjacent to them and fish ponds arouse the admiration of visitors. The whole impression is completed by the interior, which has retained the atmosphere of the past. The 18th

Portrait Room (Sala Portretowa) ►

century polychromy in stately rooms has been very carefully restored. And it was very nearly all ruined. Fortunately, it did not happen.

Today visitors can admire the seminar and banquet halls, club room and experience the unique atmosphere of the restaurant, in which the old, oak sideboards have been preserved. The visitors' attention is drawn by polychromy on the walls. In the arched basement of the palace there is a snug Mead Room (Miodopitnia), which gives off the smell of fine liquors. One could say - the place flowing with milk and mead.

The suites and guest rooms (apart from the palace ones) are in the outbuildings adjacent to the building. In each of the outbuildings there is a spacious drawing room with a fireplace. In the basement of the left outbuilding hides a stylish pub.

Also, it is worth mentioning that the renovated granary near the palace has 37 rooms. Its basement houses a stylish inn with a large hearth. The entire granary with hand-painted stained-glass windows and original wooden beams is in folk style. The owners plan also to open a fitness club and build horse stables on the ground adjacent to the palace.

The left outbuilding:

13 rooms, drawing room with a fireplace.

The right outbuilding:

11 rooms (including suites), drawing room with a fireplace, pub.

The Granary:

37 double rooms (in each room there are two one-person beds), 2 rooms for four persons and bathrooms with showers. The rooms are in folk style.

In the main palace building there is a conference centre.

The palace complex has six stylish small conference rooms equipped with flipchart, screen and overhead projector, as well as one large darkened conference hall, also equipped with flipchart, screen (3 x 3 m) and overhead projector, as well as permanent internet connection and amplification equipment. Various training courses for company employees, especially



of Adventure Team Building type (integration, motivation, leadership, communication, synergy, and mission) are run in Sterdynia. The palace offers a team of professional trainers, psychologists and outdoor course trainers. In the unique environment of the old bed of the Bug river and the Bug River Valley Landscape Park various outdoor events are organised – from picnics with recreation programmes to extreme sports, off-road rallies (cars, quads, hovercraft), scenario games, sports contests, cross-country treks, canoeing.

The Ossoliński's palace complex boasts also some exquisite dishes which can please even the most sophisticated taste. The palace is famous for typical Polish and Old Polish cuisine; however, its top class chefs are able to create the most elaborate dishes. Game, fish and fruit of forest dishes are specialties of the palace restaurant.

The palace's hosts offer numerous attractions to their guests. The stay in this place will cheer up any visitor – during work, leisure time or conference-socialising events.

SUCHA

SIEDLCE SURROUNDINGS - 70 KM TO THE EAST OF WARSAW



Museum of Wooden Architecture of the Siedlce Region

(Muzeum Architektury Drewnianej Regionu Siedleckiego)

tel. +48 (025) 793-52-22,
621-82-21

The entire complex is the property of Professor Marek Kwiatkowski, the director of Royal Łazienki Park (Łazienki Królewskie) in Warsaw. The manor house is open to the public. Meetings, conventions, etc. are also held in it. In its vicinity there are diverse wooden buildings dating from the 18th to 20th centuries, brought from the Siedlce region. They form the open-air ethnographic museum open to visitors.

One of the distinguished buildings is a classical manor house from Rudzienko of 1825. The spacious interiors allow for groups of up to one hundred persons. Another building - prepared for groups - is an inn from Skrzew with modern kitchen facilities, offering catering services. In the historic garden festivities and picnics can be held.

Sucha village lies on the eastern edge of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship. In the historic park, among numerous ponds, you will find a complex of wooden buildings, gathered around the former manor house of the Cieszkowski family. These buildings have been collected by Maria and Marek Kwiatkowski for many years; in this way they have saved many valuable and unique monuments from destruction and collapse. Most of the buildings were brought to Sucha in parts, assembled anew and renovated. The passion and commitment of the two outstanding researchers and conservators of Polish monuments are an example of selfless initiative to save the forgotten and desolate mementoes of the past of the borderland between Mazovia and Podlasie. The manor house of the Cieszkowski family is the centre of the "estate". You can start there when visiting the museum.

The history

The larch manor house in Sucha was erected in 1743 in place of an earlier one. The building was initiated by Ignacy Cieszkowski. At that time a baroque one-storey mansion with corner annexes and high roof was built. The interior layout of the manor house was altered at the turn of the 19th century. During the renovation work, rich ornamentation was discovered on the wooden ceilings of the side studies.

In 1787 Sucha was visited by King Stanisław August Poniatowski. 27 years later Count August Cieszkowski – a philosopher, economist, social and political activist, and the main representative of the so called national philosophy - was born in the manor house. Among his friends was Zygmunt Krasiński, who was greatly influenced by his views. August Cieszkowski used to describe himself as a "progressive conservative".

After August's death Sucha was inherited by his son, August as well. The last of the Cieszkowski family, being childless, adopted four male members of well-known

landowning families who were friends with him and his father. Finally Sucha estate fell to Felicjan Dembiński, who since that time took also the name Cieszkowski.

In 1945 the estate and the manor house fell victim to the agricultural reform. The land was parcelled out and the mansion was inhabited by the

employees of a state farm (Państwowe Gospodarstwo Rolne).

In 1988 the manor house was a complete ruin. Photographs from this period are displayed in the museum. It was only thanks to the efforts of the Kwiatkowskis that the former manor house was gradually made useful for the public.



SZYDŁOWIEC

RADOM SURROUNDINGS – ABOUT 100 KM
TO THE SOUTH OF WARSAW



In the western part of the town, on an artificially widened island surrounded by a wide moat, rise the walls of the castle that used to be the residence of the Szydłowiecki family. It has retained the charm of a knight's seat, which in the 17th century was the pride of one of the most powerful magnate families in the Republic of Poland.

The history

In the Middle Ages the nearby land belonged to the mighty family of Odrowąż. Among the members of this noble family were many bishops, castellans and starosts. Andrzej Pieniążek of Odrowąż was the first owner of the castle recorded in source documents. In 1362 he used the title of *haeres... de Schydłowicz* (lord of Szydłowiec). At that time emerged the branch of this family, which took their name after their seat in Szydłowiec. It is supposed that the foundations of the present castle hide the remnants of a wooden-earth mansion.

Presumably it was Stanisław Szydłowiecki, the castellan of Radom and since 1467 – major-domo and tutor to king's sons, who initiated building the Gothic castle. Under layers of plaster covering the castle, research workers have found many traces dating back to the 15th century. Some fragments of the original window openings are still visible in the southern wall of the oldest dwelling building. The four-sided gate tower, situated in the west of the complex, is probably from the 15th

century as well. The entrance to the castle must have been via a wooden draw bridge, now non-existent. Opposite the entrance and the tower, on the other side of the present street, stretched the castle gardens and a small farm.

The castle, although the main seat of the Szydłowiecki family – one of the most eminent in the Republic of Poland – was a relatively modest building until the end of the 15th century. Its look was altered by Mikołaj, the youngest son of Stanisław, since 1515 the Grand Treasurer of the Crown. In order to record his own achievements as well as the achievements of other members of the family, he initiated publication of a panegyric entitled *Liber geneosus illustris familiae Schidłowicie*. This work says, among other things, that *Mikołaj... erected a castle, from its foundation all of burnt brick, appropriately to the rank of his family, lovely both outside and inside. Its chambers, porticos and various paintings were made so beautiful, that everything glowed wonderfully...* Certainly, travels with the royal court made Mikołaj sen-

sitive to the new, Renaissance style in architecture. The first stage of work was mainly to build dwelling structures along three sides of the curtain walls. In this way a three-winged palace came into being.

The stateliest was the eastern wing. The eastern wall, facing the moat, was adorned with a stunning observation balcony – older than that of the Wawel Castle! From there stretched a nice view over a small park and the Szydłowieckis' private town. The dimensions of the dwelling building were 55 x 14 m.

In winter 1531 Mikołaj Szydłowiecki died. His three children from marriage to Anna, née Tęczyńska, were already dead. Mikołaj's brother, Chancellor Krzysztof, had died without male issue. The entire property of the Szydłowiecki family was inherited by Krzysztof's daughters. In 1547 Elżbieta married Mikołaj Radziwiłł, nicknamed The Black - voivode and Grand Marshal of Lithuania. Probably Mikołaj and Elżbieta never stayed in Szydłowiec castle for a long time; therefore it was usually uninhabited. It was in the Radziwiłł family's hands until the 1820's. During this period only minor renovation work was carried out. Mikołaj Radziwiłł and his wife Maria, née Gawdzińska, were the last members of this branch of the family.

In 1821 the residence was bought by Anna Sapieha, née Zamojska, from the Radziwiłł family. Seven years later she sold the castle and the town of Szydłowiec to the government of the Kingdom of Poland.

In the 19th century the castle served as a brewery. It became a private property as late as at the beginning of the 20th century. After 1945 it was taken over by the State. From 1951 to 1952 it was reconstructed and renovated. Presently, in the eastern wing there is a Museum of Folk Instruments, where there are also architectural details of the castle from the period when it was owned by the Szydłowiecki and the Radziwiłł families.





Conference Centre in Ślężany

(Dom Konferencyjny w Ślężanach)
tel./faks: +48 (029) 757-94-50

The Conference Centre in Ślężany is a perfect place for professional training courses, discussions, conferences, negotiations, socialising and social meetings; combined with leisure.

The Conference Centre has: a dining room for 32 persons, sauna, tennis court, volleyball and badminton court, garden fireplace with barbecue grill and facilities for mushroom drying and fish smoking. In the park stands an additional auxiliary building, in which there are 4 double guest rooms.

From the north of the complex, towards the river descends an escarpment, at which there is a harbour with moored water sports equipment (boats, pedal boat). Fishing in the river is also permitted.

ŚLĘŻANY

ABOUT 40 KM TO THE EAST OF WARSAW

Ślężany is only 40 km from the centre of Warsaw, which, combined with the virtues of the place, makes it perfect for discussions, negotiations and socialising meetings. The tastefully furnished interior creates an atmosphere suitable for conversation.

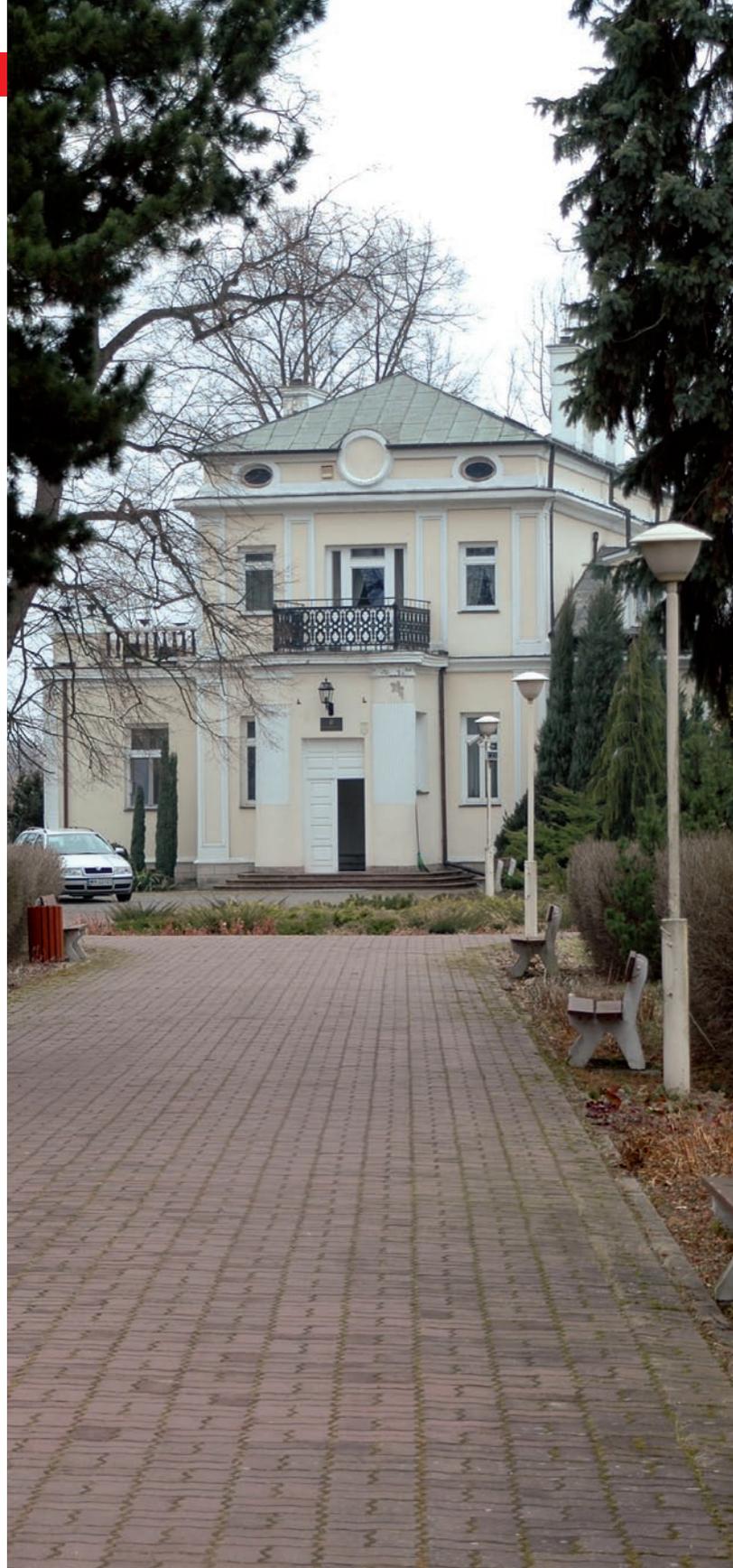
The beautiful 16th century palace in Ślężany, restored by Bank PKO BP, houses a conference centre. The palace with elegant, stylish rooms is located on a high escarpment on the Bug river, in a romantic park, which was restored based on the remnants of the ancient forest. The vast park, close vicinity of the river and several kilometres distance from the nearest town – Radzymin, make Ślężany a real oasis of peace and quiet. From the gate to the entrance of the palace, through the over 2.5 hectare park, runs a chestnut alley.

The conference centre offers: 16 rooms with satellite television and internal telephones, 2 conference halls (for 20 and 32 persons) with terraces facing the river, lounge with fireplace and a small sitting room, studies and resting rooms. There is also a cosy room with a terrace facing the old bed of the Bug river. The stately rooms are furnished with stylized furniture. The lounge with fireplace is linked with a study-library. The walls and the ceilings are finished with reconstructed stuccos.

In the main hall, dating back to the 16th century, there are spiral, cast-iron stairs, richly decorated with floral ornaments. Its ceiling is supported by two columns and two pilasters with Corinthian capitals.

The palace in Ślężany is characterised by its regularity. The restoration and renovation – to the initiative of the present owners – was carried out with accuracy and attention to detail.

The palace and the park adjacent to it are entered in the register of monuments.





Training and Rehabilitation Centre of Agricultural Social Insurance Fund in Teresin

(Ośrodek Szkoleniowo-Rehabilitacyjny KRUS w Teresinie)

al. Druckiego-Lubeckiego 1
96-515 Teresin
tel.: +48 (046) 861-38-61,
861-38-50,
faks: +48 (046) 861-30-62
e-mail: osrteresin@kki.net.pl;
osrteresin@krus.gov.pl

The centre is the perfect place for training courses, conferences, various outdoor events and occasional parties. The cosy atmosphere of this 19th century residence and delicious cuisine are unforgettable. The centre has 65 accommodation places in 29 rooms (double and triple rooms and a suite). In each room there is satellite television, telephone and a spacious bathroom.

Conferences

The stylish interior houses 4 conference halls for 160 persons in total. When necessary, the following technical equipment can be provided in the halls: overhead projector, stationery, flipcharts, portable screen, video/TV-set, wireless microphone and appropriate amplification equipment. It is also possible to darken the halls. Internet access is available.

Snacks and drinks during the training courses – coffee, tea, juices, mineral waters, homemade biscuits and cakes.

TERESIN

SOCHACZEW SURROUNDINGS – ABOUT 50 KM
TO THE WEST OF WARSAW

The palace in Teresin, located in a vast historic park, is considered to be one of the most beautiful landowner's residences in Poland.

In 1993 the palace and the park became the property of the Farmers' Social Insurance Fund (Fundusz Składkowy Ubezpieczenia Społecznego Rolników). Thoroughly restored and renovated, it serves as a training and rehabilitation centre, mainly for farmers. The centre also organises conferences, seminars, occasional parties, banquets, etc.

The history

Teresin lies on the land which until the 16th century belonged to the Mazovian dukes. After the death of the last duke the land was incorporated into the Crown. The economic boom of this region began in the first half of the 19th century, when a sugar factory was opened in Szymanów. It belonged to a Warsaw company of bankers and industrialists, which included members of such eminent families as the Radziwiłł and the Epstein. The village of Teresin was named after Duke Radziwiłł's daughter – Teresa. At that time the palace in Teresin was built for the Epstein family. It was designed and erected by a well-known Warsaw architect, Adam Loewe. Unfortunately, we do not know what that palace looked like, because only an outbuilding added to it has survived.

To the order of Mieczysław Epstein, the co-founder and the main shareholder of the Discount Bank in Warsaw, from 1860 to 1900 the palace was pulled down and replaced with a new, eclectic palace. The new building, dominated by the neo-rococo style, was designed by the French architect Francois Arveuf. The present palace was erected on the basement of the earlier building.

In 1909 the palace and Teresin estate was purchased by Duke Władysław Drucki-Lubecki. He preferred the newly bought Teresin to his other residences, therefore he frequently stayed there.

The history of the palace in Teresin resembles a thriller and is related to Duke Władysław, who on 12th April 1913 was

murdered in Teresin park, and neither the perpetrator was found, nor the motives of this crime were explained. After his father's death, the palace and the estate were inherited by Duke Jan Drucki-Lubecki. Just before the Second World War he sold part of the land to one of the nearby landowners, and gave the rest of the estate to the order of Franciscans; with time the sanctuary of Niepokalanów, the guardian of which was St. Maximilian Kolbe, was created there. The palace survived the German occupation almost untouched thanks to the fact that it served the Luftwaffe officers as a place for resting, hunting and informal meetings.

After the war the palace was used for various purposes. It housed the Agricultural Training Centre (Ośrodek Szkolenia Rolniczego); for some time it served as a school and a place for summer camps, to become once again a training centre for farming cooperatives. Presently, it is the seat of the Training and Rehabilitation Centre of Agricultural Social Insurance Fund in Teresin (Ośrodek Szkoleniowo-Rehabilitacyjny KRUS w Teresinie).

The palace in Teresin

The building is laid out as an elongated rectangle, with very differentiated design. Two three-storey towers embed-



Rehabilitation

The main diseases treated in the centre include the diseases of the locomotor and nervous systems, rheumatoid diseases, post-traumatic conditions, post-operation spinal curvature, neuralgia and inflammation of nerves. The guests are offered physiotherapy treatments, including magnetotherapy, light therapy, kriotherapy, electrotherapy, ultrasound, kinesiotherapy and massage.



ded in the side elevation and topped with baroque cupolas are a visual dominant. The mansard roof is covered with fish scale zinc sheet metal. Round dormers are an interesting feature. In the middle of the roof there is a belvedere with an attic balustrade, which partly hides a high hipped skylight from view. All elevations are enriched with stuccos in the shape of stylised cartouches, voluted consoles and flower-fruit garlands.

In front of the palace there is a semi-circular ramp; in the side elevation – another element of décor: two sandstone sculptures of lions, lying on the offset wall of the entrance steps.

The palace is linked with the outbuilding (erected in the third quarter of the 19th century in Italian villa style) by a roofed gallery supported by low arcades.

The interior decor of the palace has been in large measure destroyed. Its former splendour has been retained in the old staircase, three tiled stoves and a splendid, wooden fireplace, above which hangs the painting "Still Life" dating back to the turn of the 18th century. It is the work of an unknown French school painter.

In the former palace orangery there is a frieze carved in stucco by Stanisław Lewandowski, a Warsaw sculptor fash-

ionable in the 19th century. The work depicts activities typical of various professions. When viewed from left to the right, it shows the old, Latin motto, presumably motivating Mieczysław Epstein - *Per aspera ad astra*.

The park

The palace in Teresin is surrounded by a picturesque landscape park. It consists of many coniferous and broad-leaved tree species, such as: sessile oak, Scots pine, horse chestnut, Norway spruce, poplar, aspen, small-leaved lime, maple, juniper, birch. Apart from these species, the oldest tree-stand includes: 80 to 140 year old pines, a 140 year old American tulip tree, an 800 year old eastern white pine and 250 to 300 year old splendid sessile oaks.



One of the four conference rooms



A guest room



TRĘBKİ NOWE

ZAKROCZYM SURROUNDINGS - 45 KM TO THE NORTH OF WARSAW

Jaworowy Dwór

Trębki Nowe 100 A
05-170 Zakroczym
tel./faks: +48 (022) 785-22-97,
785-33-01, 785-33-02
tel. kom. 0 601 622 780
e-mail: szok@szok.com.pl;
infojaworowydwor.pl
www.szok.com.pl;
www.jaworowydwor.pl

The manor house has been open to the public for meetings and conferences, as well as training courses for companies and institutions. The interior of the mansion is adorned with furniture and historical objects carefully gathered by its owners. The rooms for conferences and training courses are professionally equipped. The manor house is

Jaworowy Dwór is a historic, 18th century Polish manor house, surrounded by an ancient park. Its name is derived from the surname of its first owners.

The history

The mansion was built in the first half of the 18th century, in the classical style of Polish gentry's manor houses, by the Jaworski family bearing the Oksza coat of arms with a white hatchet on a red shield.

The Jaworski family, as did most patriotic noble families, took an active part in the national uprisings of the 19th century. Several members of the family fell during the battle for independence. Others emigrated, in order to avoid the Russian persecution. The unrest of the uprising period left its mark on the manor buildings as well; later on, during their restoration, traces of fires were discovered. Since then the position of the family and their financial situation gradually deteriorated.

At the beginning of the 20th century the Jaworski family's estate was parcelled out, and the manor house – bought

jointly by the local farmers. In 1929, by the decision of Płońsk starost, the manor house, together with 8.4 acres of the land, was purchased by the State Treasury, and since 1930 it was used as a retirement home.

In 1942 the manor house was taken over by the Germans. Until 1944 it housed the Hitler Youth school, and then a military storehouse of the Wehrmacht.

In 1945, in the rescued manor house, a primary school for local children was open. The school functioned in it until 1972. The lack of funds for renovation and continuously deteriorating condition of the mansion made the authorities transfer the school. By the decision of the Zakroczym District Council the ruined building was to be pulled down.

Until 1984 the historic manor house and park complex was left without care, almost falling into a complete ruin.

In 1984 the manor house was purchased by the present owners, Bożena and Marek Szok. Owing to their efforts the building has been entered into the register of monuments. Since then the manor house was restored to its original shape under the scrutiny of the Conservation Officer. The restoration ended in 1993.

surrounded by a perfectly laid out park, in which there is a pond and historic windmills.

Apart from the manor house, the guests can celebrate their feasts in a wooden "Cottage" furnished in a rustic style. An open air swimming pool, sauna, tennis court, billiards tables, and bicycles are also at their disposal.

We recommend the manor cuisine, which – as befits Old Polish tradition – offers delicious home-made dumplings and apple pies. The dishes are exquisite and tasty. The warm, family atmosphere and excellent food make Jaworowy Dwór perfect for those who look for peace and quiet to work or to rest. The manor house and the historic windmills have accommodation places for 40 to 50 persons.



◀ The manor house in Trębki Nowe



The feast hall



Wilanów Palace Museum

(Muzeum Pałac w Wilanowie)

ul. S. K. Potockiego 10/16
02-958 Warszawa
tel.: (022) 842-81-01
(head office)

faks: (022) 842-31-16

www.wilanow-palac.art.pl

e-mail:

muzeum@wilanow-palac.art.pl

The palace can host elegant receptions, symposia or concerts. For this purpose the

White Room and the Suite of Marshal-Dowager Isabella Lubomska - the Hallway and the Drawing Room - are made available. The rooms, located in the southern wing of the palace, have 18th century décor. It is possible to organise there, for

WILANÓW

Situated at the southern corner of Warsaw, surrounded by the greenery of the ancient park, Wilanów palace is one of the greatest tourist attractions of Warsaw. In the 45-hectare park you will see several gardens in various styles: a two-level baroque garden, little neo-Renaissance rose garden, English-style landscape garden and English-Chinese landscape park. Also, it is worth visiting the museum in the palace, seeing the former rooms of King John III Sobieski and admiring the gallery of Polish paintings.

The history

On 23rd April 1677 King John III Sobieski purchased Wilanów estate (at that time lying far from the hub of Warsaw) from Stanisław Krzycki, the chamberlain of Kalisz. His contemporaries believed that the King, paying PLN 43,000, paid too much for the estate because it was in a pitiful condition. Despite this, exactly there did Jan Sobieski see his future residence in his mind's eye.

The choice of the place was as controversial as the King's appointment of Alexander Locci - his secretary and artistic adviser - as the main builder. This Polonised Italian was an amateur engineer. In spite of it he presented an exceptional design to the King, and the King accepted it without hesitation. The first stage of work began as early as in May 1677. At first a small one-storey building was erected, resembling other Old Polish manor houses. Four years later a decision was made to turn the modest seat of the ruler into a stately residence. Outstanding architects from Italy and France arrived to Wilanów. Michelangelo Palloni was responsible for adorning the walls and ceilings. The monumental paintings depicting the history of Psyche are his work. The royal court attracted various craftsmen, including carpenters, clothiers, woodcarvers, gilders and locksmiths, from all over Poland. To the order of the King special artistic envoys looked all over the world for works of art, which they brought to Wilanów. These works came not only from Europe, but also from countries of the Orient. Oriental carpets and Gobelin tapestries, curtains and furniture upholstery were brought from Lvov. Many valuable objects were the gifts of envoys and diplomats who visited Warsaw. As early as in

example, a concert combined with a cocktail party for up to 100 persons, a dinner at tables for up to 70 persons, or a "standing" party for up to 150 persons. Catering is provided by chosen restaurants of reliable service quality.

Detailed information:

Public Service Department,
tel. +48 (022) 842-25-09
e-mail: dop@muzeum-wilanow.pl

Visiting conditions:

The palace is visited in groups of up to 25 persons in the company of an authorised guide, after prior booking. The museum provides guides speaking Polish and foreign languages, including English, German, French, Spanish, Italian and Russian. The park can be visited individually or



with a guide (the guide service should be booked in advance). Tour groups should book tickets for visiting the palace at least one month in advance, via internet: rezerwacja@muzeum-wilanow.pl or by calling the following number: tel./fax (022) 842-07-95.

In individual cases, after prior arrangement, the palace and exhibitions can be visited (for a fee) by groups during evening hours; the visit can be combined for example with a concert or lectures. Detailed information is available in the Museum's Public Service Department by calling (022) 842-25-09 or via internet: dop@muzeum-wilanow.pl.

the 1680's visitors to Wilanów compared the sub-Warsaw palace to the residence of French kings in Versailles near Paris.

After the King's death (in June 1696) the palace was inherited by young princes – Alexander and Konstancy. Due to financial problems Wilanów estate was taken over by Elżbieta Sieniawska, the wife of the Crown Great Hetman. She took care of the palace, and her court architect was in charge of keeping it in good condition.

In 1733 the palace was devastated by the Russian army, which unceremoniously plundered the palace. In such pitiful condition it fell into the hands of Stanisław Kostka Potocki and his wife Aleksandra Lubomirska.

Count Potocki decided to open the residence of the king – the vanquisher of Turks - to the public. He brought the palace back to its former splendour; he devoted some of the rooms to the memory of John III Sobieski. It was once again filled with works of art and rich collections. Among them there were many paintings by Rubens, van Dyck, Rembrand, Canaletto and Velázquez.

W czasie I wojny światowej we wnętrzach pałacu urządzono szpital wojskowy i sztab. Dawna siedziba królewska szybko popadała w ruinę. Ówczesny właściciel

ciel – hrabia Adam Branicki – zmuszony był wyprzedawać część bogactw zbiorów.

In 1939, to the order of Hans Frank, the German invaders started to plunder Polish national property on a mass scale. The German soldiers smeared 18th century stools with margarine, spilt soup over gilded tables, covered themselves with rococo Gobelin tapestries, and finally took everything of any value from the palace. Until 1945

only 20% of the interior furnishings survived.

After the liberation of Warsaw the former residence of King John III Sobieski was taken over by the State. The reconstruction of the devastated building and the struggle to regain the plundered property were started. As late as in 1962 the first visitors could enter the palace rooms. Today it is one of the greatest tourist and cultural attractions of Warsaw.





ŻELAZOWA WOLA

SOCHACZEW SURROUNDINGS – ABOUT 55 KM
TO THE WEST OF WARSAW

Żelazowa Wola - Birth Place of Frederic Chopin

(Żelazowa Wola - Dom urodzenia
Fryderyka Chopina)

Department of Frederic Chopin Museum

(Oddział Muzeum Fryderyka
Chopina)

96-503 Sochaczew
tel. +48 (046) 863-33-00
faks: +48 (046) 863-40-76

Frederic Chopin Museum in the Fryderyk Cho- pin National Institute

(Muzeum Fryderyka Chopina
w Narodowym Instytucie
Fryderyka Chopina)

Ostrogskis' Castle (Zamek
Ostrogskich)
ul. Okólnik 1

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Located about 50 km from Warsaw, Żelazowa Wola – with a beautiful park and manor house in which the composer Frederic Chopin was born – is visited by crowds of guests from Poland and abroad. It is a special place, still resounding with Chopin's music – the place where he was born, which he willingly visited, where he composed and relaxed.

The history

Presently, Żelazowa Wola is a small village, picturesquely situated on the Utrata river. The oldest mentions of it come from the 16th century. In the 19th century the local estate belonged to the Skarbek family. The composer's father Nicolas Chopin, a Polonised French, was employed here as a teacher and tutor to children. He lived with his wife Justyna, née Krzyżanowska, in a small manor house, at that time merely an outbuilding of the splendid palace of the Skarbek family. Here on 1st march 1810 Frederic was born.

Time has not spared Count's palace, by the Chopins' outbuilding, several times saved from falling into ruin, still harmonises with the surrounding picturesque park.

In 1834 the Skarbek family lost Żelazowa Wola. Since that time it frequently changed hands. At the end of the 19th century a committee was set up, thanks to which the estate was purchased from the private owners and the composer's museum was established in it. The committee achieved this as late as in 1928 - the outbuilding was bought and the conversion of the building into a museum was started. At that time a park was established near the manor house. The museum was finally open to the public as late as after the war.

The house furnishings include furniture, decorative fabrics, etchings and musical instruments of the period in which Frederic Chopin composed.

Every year since 1954 Chopin Concerts are held in Żelazowa Wola. The artist's music resounds every Sunday from May to the end of September. In July and August Chopin recitals - under the name of the Stage of the Youth

(Estrada Młodych) - are organised also on Saturdays. The Saturday concerts are a form of promotion of the most talented Polish young people, while in

Sunday recitals the most outstanding Polish and foreign pianists take part – mainly the winners of International Chopin Competitions.



