

# Newsletter

September 2014 nr 11

## **N.E.S.T. WORKING MEETING for teachers**

### **POLAND 2014**

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# September 29th

## KRZCZONÓW

The history of the settlement of Krzczonow dates back to ancient times. It is proved by archeological finds such as over 2000-year-old flint axes or knives and earthenware. The other evidence is a "pagan barrow" which is known nowadays as "Swedish mounds". It is believed that they were made in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. The first mention of Krzczonow appeared in 1136 in Pope's Innocent II Bull. The Bull didn't say the location of the village but it explained the origin of the name of the village. As for the etymology of the name it was observed some analogies in geographical locations of four villages called "Krzczonow" in Poland. All of them are situated over rising springs. Moreover, all four villages were located on the borders of Cracow Diocese. That area was influenced in the 10<sup>th</sup> century by the Czech dynasty of Premyslid. That is why the name "Krzczonow" was derived from Old Czech "krscon" which had meant "a spring".

The first written mention of Krzczonow of Lublin was from 1291 and it came from Wenceslaus II's privilege. According to this legal document, Krzczonow and its vicinity was given to Sandomierz lords. In 1354 Krzczonow was taken from Piotr Pszonka and given to Lublin Castellan. In other words, Krzczonow became a royal village since then till the partition of Poland in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1358 king Casimir the Great located Krzczonow on the German law and granted the village with a coat of arms – a shield with two crossed keys with their bits directed down and Casimir's crown over the keys.

In 1413 king Ladislaus (Władysław) Jagiełło confirmed the location of Krzczonow. The villagers served in Stephen Batory's peasant infantry (piechota wybraniecka). The king Stephen Batory valued Krzczonow soldiers and in his appreciation he granted the village parish with a bell. In 1915 Russian

troops took three bells from the local church – among them there was the royal one. The name Krzczonow-Sołtysy is connected with the reign of Stephen Batory. It was derived from the term "sołtysi łanowi" – peasants who were granted with land and released from the duty of work for the head of the district (starosta). Their special rights were confirmed later by other Polish kings – Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki and August III. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century Krzczonow and neighbouring villages suffered severely from Swedish, Cossack and Tatar raids. In February 1656 Polish royal troops together with peasant's guerilla defeated a large unit of Swedish troops. The battle



took place between Krzczonow-Sołtysy and Zuków. Not a single Swedish soldier survived the fight and their corpses remained on the battlefield till May. They stank so much that the place was called "stinking" and it is known so until today. The parson persuaded the locals to bury the corpses for fear of an epidemic outbreak. The soldiers

were buried in the battle site and the officers were transported to Krzczonow. However, as the infidels they were not buried in the local graveyard but in the ancient "pagan barrows". That is why this place is defined as "Swedish mounds". During the Swedish Deluge in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the villagers fought in the guerilla against the forces of Transylvanian Prince – George Rakocsy who invaded Poland together with the Swedish army. In 1673 peasant dragoons from Krzczonow fought against the Turks in the battle of Chocim.

Krzczonow was a royal village but the king leased it to local landlords who so exploited peasants that it resulted in several mutinies against the gentry. World War I brought some hope for national independence. Krzczonow inhabitants joined the units of Polish Legions. In 1937 local peasants took part in national protest against Sanation regime. In the years 1939-1944 the locals actively fought against the Nazi occupational forces. Such armed forces as Home Army and Peasants' Battallions (Bataliony Chłopskie) were created in the area of the Krzczonow Commune. They gathered all social groups: clerks, teachers or peasants. Local women played active during the World War II – they were grouped in People's Association of Women.

They harboured hiding Russian POWs and Jews, fugitives from Majdanek concentration camp and helped wounded partisans. Women were also engaged in organizing Underground Education as they instilled national values and patriotic attitudes into young people.



Krczonow is the seat of communal authorities and the cultural and service centre for the other villages. The commune has well-developed communications routes which facilitates the connections with other villages, communal seats and the capital of the district and the province. There are 27 villages in the Commune of Krzczonow. The Commune covers the area of 128 square kilometres and it is in the central part of the Gielczew Upland, 33 kilometres from Lublin. The Commune is situated in the southwestern part of Lublin Province.

## PSZCZELA WOLA



It is a village located about 18 kilometres south of Lublin. It is famous for its Apiarian (Beekeeping) Technical School. The school was founded in 1944 and it is the only apiarian high school in Poland and

Europe.



## HONEY and MEAD

The Province of Lublin is famous for beekeeping and, therefore, it is often associated with apiarian products - honey and mead (an alcoholic beverage created by fermenting honey with water, and in adulterated form with various fruits, spices, grains or hops). One of the examples of Polish meads may be "półtorak". It is a Polish product with protected designation of origin by the European Union. The name originates from the proportion of the water, 1/2 unit, and honey, 1 unit, hence "1 and 1/2" or in the Polish language "Półtorak." Addition of juices as substitute for water during the brewing of this honey wine is allowed as are spices; however, no preservatives or artificial products can be added. The strength of alcohol is usually 16% or 32 proof.



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

# September 30th

## BARANÓW SANDOMIERSKI

The Baranów Sandomierski Castle is a Mannerist castle located in the town of Baranów Sandomierski in the Subcarpathian Province, south-eastern Poland. It is one of the most important Mannerist structures in the country. The castle is commonly known as the "little Wawel" (Wawel is the main Polish royal castle in Kraków). Originally, a residency of the Lubomirski family, it now serves as a historical museum, hotel and conference centre.

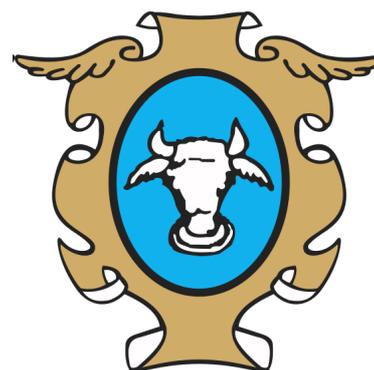
The castle was built around the years 1591–1606 in the style of Poland's Mannerism with richly decorated attics, side towers and arcade courtyard for Andrzej and Rafał Leszczyński (1526–1592) of the Wieniawa coat of arms. It is believed to be the work of a famous Italian architect, Santi Gucci, the court artist of king Stephen Báthory. In about 1620 the castle was surrounded by bastion fortifications and in 1625 its chambers were adorned with early Baroque decorations executed by the eminent stucco decorator Giovanni Battista Falconi. By the end of the 17th century, the castle came into the possession of the Lubomirski family through marriage. Prince Józef Karol Lubomirski wedded its owner, Princess Teofila Ludwika Zasławska in 1683, and rebuilt her principal residence by way of commissioning the royal Dutch-Polish architect Tylman van Gameren (Tylman Gamerski) from the court of Jan III Sobieski, who converted the castle,



added the western wing gallery and embellished the interiors with profuse late-baroque stucco decorations. The gallery housed their collection of art. Notably, almost two centuries later, all works of art were destroyed in massive fires, first in 1848 (with the entire library) under Krasicki family and finally in 1898 under Dolańskis. The castle in Baranów Sandomierski passed successively into the



possession of families: Wiśniowiecki, Sanguszko, Lubomirski, Małachowski, Potocki and Krasicki. In 1867 it was acquired by Feliks Dolański. The structure was restored by subsequent owner Stanisław Dolański after a fire in 1898. Under the direction of Kraków architect Tadeusz Stryjeński some changes were carried out in the layout. During this reconstruction one of the chambers on the ground floor was adopted as chapel and decorated in art nouveau style. Stained-glass windows by Józef Mehoffer and an altar with a painting of Jacek Malczewski Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception were major features of the interior. The castle remained in the possession of the Dolański family till the outbreak of World War II. Due to war damages the castle was renovated by the State in the years 1959–1969, under the guidance of professor Alfred Majewski.



## SANDOMIERZ

Sandomierz – a city in the Swietokrzyskie Province located on the seven hills that's why it's often called "Small Rome". There are some theories concerning the city's name derivation. One says that Sandomierz means "San domierza (do Wisły)" [The San River comes (to the Vistula)]. Another source claims that Sandomierz is, in fact, a modern version of the Old Polish name Sędomir.



Sandomierz is one of the oldest and historically most important cities in Poland. The beginnings of settlement within the boundaries of the city and its adjoining area date back to the foremost times, which can be certified by numerous archaeological discoveries made within the city and its surrounding area. The first traces of human presence in this area originate in the earlier period of the Stone Age – the Neolithic era (5200 B.C. - 1700 B.C.). However, the main development of the city appeared mainly in the period of the early Middle Ages. The development was possible, among others, due to the very attractive and convenient position of Sandomierz on



important commercial trade routes - on the border point of three geographical regions: the Sandomierz Uplands, the Sandomierz Valley and the Lublin Uplands. In XI c., Sandomierz, alongside Krakow and Wroclaw, was classified by the chronicler Gaul

the Anonymous as one of the main castles in the



state - "sedes regni principales." The high rank of the city was confirmed in the last will of Prince Boleslaw the Crooked-mouth (Boleslaw Krzywousty), according to which Sandomierz became the capital of a regional principedom governed successively, among others, by such princes as: Henry of Sandomierz (Henryk Sandomierski), Boleslaw the Curly-haired (Boleslaw Kędzierzawy), Casimir the Just (Kazimierz Sprawiedliwy), Leszek the White (Leszek Biały), Boleslaw the Shy (Boleslaw Wstydliwy). This regional division did not immediately influence the development of the city. However, the development was disturbed by a series of Tartar invasions in the XIII century. Almost all wooden buildings, which dominated in the city at that time, ceased to exist. After the defeats the stream of colonization was transferred to less accessible hills such as: Collegiate Hill, St Peter's Hill and Municipal Hill, where, due to the decision of Prince Leszek the Black (Leszek Czarny) in the year 1286, the second official founding of the city was confirmed under the Magdeburg Law. The first official founding of the city on the old-town hills took place before the year 1241, or perhaps just before the year 1226.



# October 1st

## LUBLIN

It is the ninth largest city in Poland. It is the capital of Lublin Voivodeship (province) with a population of 349,103. Lublin is the largest Polish city east of the Vistula River. It was recently a candidate for the title of "2016 European Capital of Culture". Lublin is about 170 km southeast of the capital, Warsaw. The earliest, most significant settlement began in the 6th century. It is likely that the surrounding hills, site of the present day Old Town, were settled at this time. In the 10th and 11th centuries, the settlement became an important trade centre. The location of Lublin at the eastern borders of the Polish lands

gave it military significance. The oldest historical document mentioning Lublin dates from 1198.

The city was a target of attacks by Tatars, Ruthenes, Yotvingians, and Lithuanians and was destroyed several times. It received a city charter in 1317. Casimir the Great, appreciating the site's strategic importance, built a masonry castle in 1341 and encircled the city with defensive walls. In 1392, the city received an important trade privilege from king Władysław Jagiełło, and with the coming of the peace between Poland and Lithuania developed into a trade centre. In 1474 the area around Lublin formed the Lublin Voivodeship, the third voivodeship of Lesser Poland. During the 15th century and 16th century the town grew rapidly. The largest trade fairs of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth were held in Lublin. During the 16th century the noble parliaments were held in Lublin several times. On June 26, 1569, one of the most important proclaimed the Union of Lublin, which united Poland and Lithuania. One of Poland's most important Jewish communities was also established in Lublin around this time. Jews established a widely respected yeshiva, Jewish hospital, synagogue, cemetery, and education center (kahal) and built the Grodzka Gate (known as the Jewish Gate) in the historic district. In the 17th century, the town declined due to a Russo-Ukrainian invasion in 1655 and a Swedish invasion during the Northern Wars. After the third of the Partitions of Poland in 1795 Lublin was located in the Austrian empire, then since 1809 in the Duchy of Warsaw, and then since 1815 in the Congress Poland under Russian rule. Russian rule ended in 1915,



when the city was occupied by German and Austro-Hungarian armies. In 1918, the first government of independent Poland operated in Lublin for a short time. In the interwar years, the city continued to modernize and its population grew; important industrial enterprises were established, including the first aviation factory in Poland. After the 1939 German invasion of Poland the city found itself in the General Government. During the German occupation the city's population was a target of severe Nazi oppression focusing on Jews. The city served as a headquarters for Operation Reinhardt, the main German effort to exterminate the Jews in occupied Poland. The remainder were moved to facilities around Majdanek, a large concentration camp established at the outskirts of the city.

On 24 July 1944, the city was taken by the Soviet Army and became the temporary capital of a Soviet-controlled communist Polish

Committee of National Liberation established in the city, which was to serve as basis for a puppet government. The capital was moved to Warsaw in January 1945. In the postwar years Lublin continued to grow, tripling its population and greatly expanding in area. A considerable scientific and research base was established around the newly founded Maria Curie-Skłodowska University. A large automobile factory (FSC) was established in the city.

In July 1980, the workers of Lublin and nearby Świdnik began the first in the wave of mass strikes aimed against the Communist regime, which eventually led to the emergence of the Solidarity movement.

**Lublin Airport** is located in Świdnik, about 10 km (6.2 miles) SE of Lublin. The runway is 2500 m long, able to handle large airliners. The airport is able to handle 2 million passengers per year.

Lublin is one of only four towns in Poland to have **trolleybuses** (the others are Gdynia, Sopot, and Tychy)



# October 2nd

## KAZIMIERZ DOLNY

It is a small town in Central Poland, on the right (eastern) bank of the Vistula river in Puławy County, Lublin Voivodeship. It is a considerable tourist attraction as one of the most beautifully situated little towns in Poland. It enjoyed its greatest prosperity in the 16th and the first half of the 17th century, due to the trade in grain conducted along the Vistula. Since the 19th century it has become a popular holiday destination, attracting artists and summer residents.

Kazimierz Dolny is an art center in Poland. Many painters retreat to this small town to paint and sell their work. Galleries can be found in almost every street, offering for sale sculptures, stained-glass, and fine-art paintings. In the market, folk art is for sale at unbeatable prices.

The history of Kazimierz Dolny dates back to the 11th century, when on one of the local hills there was a Benedictine settlement called Wietrzna Góra. In 1181, Prince Casimir II the Just handed the settlement to Norbertine nuns from Kraków's district of Zwierzyniec. The nuns changed its name to Kazimierz, in honor of the prince. For the first time, the name Kazimierz appears in chronicles in 1249. Later on, the adjective Dolny (Lower) was added, to distinguish the town from the Jewish town Kazimierz - now a district of Kraków. In the early 14th century, the village became a royal possession, and King Władysław Łokietek founded here a parish church in 1325.

The foundation of the town is attributed to Łokietek's son, King Kazimierz Wielki, who granted it



town rights in the first half of the 14th century. Later on, King Władysław Jagiello modernized Kazimierz Dolny, creating a modern town, with a market square and streets. At that time, the decision was taken not to build any houses on northern side of the market square, so as not to obstruct the view of the church and the castle.

In 1501 Kazimierz Dolny became the home of a starosta, and the town was passed over to the noble Firlej family, remaining in its hands until 1644. The Firlejs twice rebuilt the town and the castle, after the fires of 1561 and 1585. They cared about privileged status of Kazimierz Dolny, as a merchant town, located along the busy waterway of the Vistula. In 1628, Franciscan monks settled in Kazimierz, building a monastery and expanding the church.

The golden age of Kazimierz Dolny ended in February 1656 (see Deluge, when Swedish troops under King Charles X Gustav burned and ransacked the town. The

number of inhabitants declined, and King John III Sobieski tried to improve the situation, by allowing in 1677 Armenian, Greek and Jewish merchants to settle in Kazimierz Dolny. Meanwhile, the profitable Vistula river trade came to an end, as there was no demand for Polish grains in Western Europe. In the late 18th century, as a result of the Partitions of Poland, Kazimierz

Dolny was cut from the port of Gdańsk and turned into a secondart - importance town.

Since late 19th century, rich residents of Lublin and Warsaw became interested in the picturesque village. Spas and villas were constructed, and in 1927, already in the Second Polish Republic, Kazimierz Dolny once again became a town. Partly destroyed in World War II, it was rebuilt, and on September 8, 1994, the center of the town was officially recognized as historical monument.

# October 2nd

## KOZŁÓWKA

The village of Kozłówka lies in the northern part of the Lublin Province. Kozłówka is characterized by quiet and beautiful scenery especially by Kozłowiecki Landscape Park. The palace complex comprises 15 buildings and a park. There is a beautiful garden behind the palace.

The founder of the palace was the Voivode of Chełmno - Michał Bieliński - a member of a family that became significant in the times of Saxon kings rule in Poland. After Michał and Tekla Bieliński's death, their elder son Franciszek (a Grand Royal Notary) inherited the Kozłówka. In 1795 he arranged a theatre there. In 1799 he sold Kozłówka estate to Aleksander Zamoyski. The Zamoyskis were one of the most important aristocratic families in Poland. In 1836 Count Jan Zamoyski took care of the estate. He bought new furniture and paintings to the palace but he did not live there permanently. In 1870 he made a gift of Kozłówka to his son Konstanty who, after having spent many years in France, was marrying Aniela Potocka. The Count collected a number of paintings (e.g. by Matejko, Bacciarelli, Lampi). After the childless death of Konstanty Zamoyski in 1923, the Kozłówka entailed estate was inherited by his first cousin Adam. He lived mainly in Warsaw, visiting Kozłówka only a few times a year. The heir of Count Adam Zamoyski, who died in 1940, was his son Aleksander. During the German occupation many people hid in Kozłówka from Nazi police (among others Stefan Wyszyński - later the Primate of Poland). In 1944 Aleksander's wife, Jadwiga Zamoyski, in fear of approaching front, took the most precious objects to Warsaw. And they were lost during the Warsaw Uprising. Meanwhile, Kozłówka was freed by the Polish Home Army on July 23, 1944. Two days later Polish soldiers were disarmed by Soviet soldiers.

Despite all the dramatic events, the palace with

the majority of collections suffered almost no loss during World War II. In 1944 the palace in Kozłówka became state property. At the beginning of November 1944, the first museum was organized there. The present collections are mostly based on Konstanty Zamoyski's collections (13,300 items out of the total - 17,900). About one thousand paintings and engravings survived there. The picture gallery is dominated by portraits of the Zamoyski family. There are worthy paintings by Giovanni Paolo Pannini, Johann Oswald Harms, Franciszek Smuglewicz and Leopold Horowitz. There survived a lot of pieces of furniture from the 18th or 19th centuries. Among the musical instruments, there are two rare 19th century mechanical instruments: an Italian pianomelodicon and an American pianola. The palace library numbers over 7,300 volumes, including 620 old prints.

In 1992 by the courtesy of Adam Zamoyski, son of the last lord, the museum was given the name: The Zamoyski Museum in Kozłówka. No other residence of any other aristocratic family has survived in such good state of repair.



### THE GALLERY OF SOCREALISM

The Gallery is situated in the former coach house. It was opened in 1994 and it is the only Polish and European Socrealism Art Gallery. Socialist realism is the doctrine introduced in the 1930s in the Soviet Union. It reduced art to a tool of communist ideology and propaganda. After World War II, the ideology was imposed on Polish artists. It was the only obligatory trend in art in the years 1949-1955. The Gallery presents about 300 works out of art from 1,600 socrealism art items (paintings, drawings, sculptures, graphics, posters etc.). It is a live collection - constantly complemented with new acquisitions.