Royal castle in Leczyca



seat there.

but he rejected it.

for those who committed lighter offences. Inside, there were iron rings which were used to bond prisoners' hands or necks. Today, there is a viewing point on the top of

on the entry axis, there is a so-called gunpowder magazine. A two-storey royal residential building had a shape of a long rectangle. The hallway divided it into two parts an official southern part with one or two halls on each floor, and a two-bay northern he buildings in the courtyard were made of wood. Today, along the western wall, there is a Renaissance-style "new house" built in the 1660s upon the initiative of local



Knight's castle in Besiekiery



There are ruins of a late-Gothic knight's castle from about 1500 in the village. It was built thanks to the effort of Mikołaj Sokołowski, the stolnik of the Brześć land and castellan of the Dobrzyń land. The castle was erected on an artificial mound surrounded by the pond which served as a most connected to the Orłówka river.

The quadrilateral (38x40m) castle was made of brick on stone foundations. Originally, it consisted of an enceinte, a residential building and a gatehouse. In 1653, Jan Szczawiński, the castellan and voivode of Brześć Kujawski had the castle rebuilt in Baroque style. Over the gatehouse, an octagonal tower was erected, utility buildings were built on both sides, and arcade cloisters were added. Many of these elements have

recommended to pay special attention to the Baroque details made of stone. In the 17th century, the castle started to fall into ruin. Today, the revitalised remnants of the castle are available to tourists, and a knight tournament is organised every year in the courtyard.

been preserved to this day. Visitors are

There is a legend which explains the origin of the name of the castle. It says that Boruta devil, the "lord" of the Łęczyca castle, made a bet with the owner of the estate they argued if it was possible to built the castle without the use of an axe (bez siekierv = without an axe).



Knight's castle in Sobota



The neo-Gothic form of the 19th century

palace of the Zawisza family alludes to the medieval history of Sobota. Archaeological research shows that in the building there are relics of the 15th century hexagonal brick wall (wall length 6.5 m) with corner buttresses. They are remnants of the castle-residence with a tower which used to belong to the Doliwita Sobocki family. In the mid-16th century, a Renaissance fortified manor house was built on the basis of the Gothic building, and the original character of the castle became the thing of the past. The present two-storey neo-Gothic palace was erected as a rectangular building with an octagonal tower with a battlement in the north-eastern corner of the complex. The palace, also referred to as a castle, is surrounded by a park of old trees. The castle was renovated in 1975-76 and it was transformed into a residential

building. Today, it is in the hands of private owners. Sobota boasts the fact that in 1655. during the Swedish deluge, Stefan Czarniecki wo a battle there. It was one of very few victories in our region.





ocated in the central part of the Piast country, near an important trade route, Łęczyca played a very significant role in medieval Poland, and it was the capital of one of the seven duchies. At the turn of the 11th and 12th centuries, Leczyca was a castellary settlement, since the 13th century it was a capital of the duchy, and since the 14th century of the voivodeship. It was also a seat of land courts and gord authorities. he Gothic royal castle on an earth mound in the south-eastern corner of the defen sive settlement of Leczyca was the most important place there. It was probably built upon the initiative of king Casimir III the Great. The 3000 m2 building was a relatively arge one in those times. The castle was erected near the place where the Wróblina iver joins one of the the Bzura river arms. As the place was wet, the courtyard was built five metres higher. It was a quadrilateral fortification (43x44x59x63 m) with cur-tain walls, and only a moat to divide it from the rest of the town. The main tower situated in the south-western corner of the fortification is its dominant feature. The bottom section of the tower is a 9.5 m square, and its upper part is octagonal. It is called the gentry tower, as according to the record of 1443 noblemen sen enced for major crimes were locked in it. The dungeon was in the lowest level of the ower, there were no windows, and prisoners would get only bread and water which was pulled down to them at the end of a rope. The upper part of the tower was a prison

ne tower (and the tower is accessed via a walkway on the enceinte he castle entry faced the town, and there was a drawbridge leading to a quadrilateral gate tower set in the western part of the curtain wall. Along the eastern part of the wall. part, with three chambers on each storey.

starosta Jan Lutomierski and a close friend of King Sigismund II Augustus.



Knight's Castle in Bakowa



Between the 14th and 15th centuries, Bąkowa Góra was the centre of the land 0 villages) which was in the hands of the knights' family, "Zadora" coat of arms. Today, there is a small ruin of a stronghold in Bakowa Góra, which is most often referred to as a castle. However, detailed research shows that it was rather a fortified manor house most probably it was a donjon, i.e. a fortified esidential tower. The building was erected in the 15th century upon the initiative of Zbigniew Bak the Older, or his son Zbigniew Bak the Younger, who beonged to a group of the closest assistants of King Władysław II Jagiełło. Local stone was used as a building material. What has been preserved to this day is a bottom section of the 15th-century rectangular building (14x30 m) with two avant corpses on the axis of longer walls. There were five rooms in the manor house, with a central main chamber, two rooms on its sides, and

ing. Some architectonic details suggest that the building was either recon structed or built anew in the late Renaissance period. In the late 17th century, the manor house was already abandoned, and started falling into ruin. Since 2005, the "castle" has been in pri-/ate hands.



Royal castle in Sieradz



King Bolesław II the Generous, it became the seat of the castellany authorties. Until the mid-13th century it was part of the Leczyca Province, then it became the capital of an independent duchy, then of the land, and in the 14th century the voivodeship of Sieradz was

Nładysław II Jagiełło, the castle connouse and a wooden court building. Destroved during the Swedish deluge. However, over the following years it fell was partially destroved during World





two rooms in avant corpses. The thickness of walls (3 m) means that there were three or four storeys of the build-







Sieradz is one of the oldest settlements of central Poland. During the reign of

The original castellan's settlement was ocated to the east of the old town, in the oodplain of the Zeglina river, and it was a wood and earth fortification. Under the eign of Leszek II the Black, in 1264-278, it was significantly reconstructed. The ramparts were reinforced, and la brick rotunda was erected to serve as a chapel. Then, upon the initiative of King Casimir III the Great, a brick castle was

In its heyday under the reign of King sisted of a 220 m enceinte, a quadrilateral gate building from the 15th century, an octagonal tower, the main the castle was rebuilt in about 1670 into ruin, and was finally pulled down in 1800. The area of the castle settlement War II. The Castle Hill with the castle foundations is the only past of the fortifi-













Castles of the Łódź region The history of our region dates back to the beginnings of Polish statehood. Over the years, this area has been developing and various objects of human material culture have appeared here and witnessed numerous important events in the history of our nation. Today, these sites

are great tourist attractions. Castles are the most impressive ones, and there are still many of them which are not widely known. The tour we have set for you will let you become familiar with almost thirty castles of our region. Both amateurs and fervent tourists will surely find something interesting here. The route is designed as a loop which will lead you through nearly all the localities with castles. It is addressed mainly to those who travel by car, but there are some sections available for

Castles became a part of the Polish landscape when the art of bricklay-

ing started to develop. At first, stone rotundas were built in gords (me-

dieval Slavonic fortified settlements) to serve the function of castle

chapels. In the mid-13th century, brick towers, i.e. basic elements of

castles were erected, and with time, large brick fortifications started to

appear. A castle complex consisted of buildings surrounded with en-

ceinte (enclosing wall). Apart from the tower(s), its basic elements were

the gate, the chapel, the house owner's residence, and outbuildings.

Tower strongholds were the first type of castles, they were soon re-

placed with castles with baszta towers. As artillery developed, a new

system of defence came into use, with basteja towers which provided

came into use. Later, fort systems of defence were introduced.

fications, so they are not included in the route.

cultural heritage of this area.

effective protection from firearms, and in the mid-16th century bastions

Defence was the primary function of castles, but towards the end of the

Middle Ages, they became more elegant, and started to be used as resi-

dences. There were also fortified manor houses (e.g. in Działoszyn and

Pabianice), popularly referred to as castles, but in fact they are not forti-

There were about 30 castles over the years within the borders of the

present Łódź voivodeship. It is a rather impressive number, if we take

into account the area of our region and its geographical location. Some

of them have managed to preserve their beauty to this day, although they

have undergone some modifications in the course of time (Byki,

Łeczyca, Opoczno, Oporów, Piotrków Trybunalski, Uniejów). There are

Góra, Besiekiery, Bolesławiec, Drzewica, Inowłódz, Łowicz, Majkowice,

Rawa Mazowiecka, Wojsławice). A few castles have been destroyed and

there are only some minor relics hidden in the buildings which replaced

them or underground (Gorzkowice, Majkowice "Surdega" castle.

Nowa Brzeźnica, Przedbórz, Sieradz, Sobota, Ujazd, Wieluń, Wieruszów,

Wolbórz). Moreover, there are a few castles which we know only from

historical accounts, as there is no trace of them in the landscape

A trip along the castle route of the Łódź region will surely be a great way

to spend your free time here and a perfect opportunity to learn about the

(Brzeziny, Skierniewice, Stryków, Toplin, Zameczek near Opoczno).

cycling tourists, too.

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Piotr Machlański

local selt-goverment units, authors Marschal's Office of the Lodzkie Region, -solor9

www.rsip.lodzkie.pl www.geoportal.lodzkie.pl Solna street 14, 91-423 Łódź Regional Geodetic and Cartographic Resources, on the basis of the Tourist Atlas of the Lodzkie Region Cartographic sources:

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Museum of Łęczyca 99-100 Leczyca, 1 Zamkowa Str., tel. +48 24 721 24 49, www.muzeumleczyca.pl There are a few exhibitions, including an extensive presentation of the castle history and local folklore. The museum is famous for the largest collection of demonic sculptures which present Boruta devil, the legendary lord of the castle. The Museum is also active as a research and educational institution. Every year, at the end of August, the castle courtyard regains its former liveliness and becomes a scene for one of the largest knight tournaments in Poland.

The 17th and 18th centuries were the time of collapse for the castle. In the 19th cen-

tury, the stronghold was used as a warehouse. Today, the Museum of Łeczyca has its

⇒ After the Battle of Grunwald in 1410, the captured komturs of the Teutonic Knights were imprisoned here. In 1420, King Władysław II Jagiełło was offered the Czech crown, Area of the second seco wife Elisabeth lived here for nearly ten years. ⇒ The newly elected King Sigismund III Vasa was officially welcomed in the castle. > According to a legend, as King Casimir III the Great and his retinue were travelling to Łęczyca, they got lost in the nearby forest. The royal carriage got stuck in marsh, and no courtier was strong enough to pull it out. Suddenly, a tall, broad-shouldered man called Boruta appeared and freed the carriage with almost no effort. Grateful, the king promised

that after his death, his saviour would become the lord of the newly-built castle. Yet, the monarch did not know who Boruta really was. And so the new lord of Łęczyca, Boruta devil, has been strolling along the dungeons of the castle on cloudy days since the 14h



castle in Drzewica

Gothic, but Renaissance elements were

(37x43 m) erected on the east-west axis.

in Bólesławiec



Bolesławiec is one of the oldest towns in Drzewica had its heyday at the turn of the the historic area of the Wieluń region. 15th and 16th centuries, when Maciej Already in the 13th century, it was a dy- Drzewicki, the archbishop of Gniezno and namically developing settlement, which the primate of Poland, was its owner. In was directly related to its location at the 1527-1535, he initiated construction of crossing of important trade routes that a grand mansion, which today is a "perconnected Mazovia with Silesia and manent ruin". Originally, the building was

ravia with Ruthenia. The first stronghold was erected upon the added later. initiative of Duke Boleslaw the Pious. The The castle was built to the south of the castle was built on a hill, among the market, on the floodplain of the Drzemeadows on the western bank of the wiczka river. It is a rectangular building At first, the building was surrounded by a Local sandstone was used as a building

Prosna river.

made of wood.

are exhibited.

170-metre long, 7-metre thick wall. There material, and bricks were used for was also a gate tower in the wall, in the window arches and gables pre-served in southern part of the courtyard. Inside, the residential building as well as in the there were residential and utility buildings eastern avant corps. Double gables with a brick chimney on the In about 1390 the castle was expanded southern and northern walls are upon the initiative of Duke Władysław of a distinctive feature of the residence. In Opole. In the northern part of the court- the south-eastern part of the courtyard, vard, a 22-metre octagonal tower was there is a building called chapel, with an erected, and two more buildings avant corps protruded beyond the facade. 10.5x14m each) were added to the Inside, relics of 18th-century paintings eastern part of the castle. Kasper have been preserved. There is also Doenhoff, a royal starosta, was the ini- impressive stonework around doors and tiator of further works as a result of which windows. n 1625-1628 the castle became The castle burnt down almost completely a Baroque residence. The building was in a 1814 fire. partially burnt during the Swedish del- At present, it is in private hands, avail-

uge, and it was completely destroyed in able to tourists. Keys to the gate are in the the 18th-century Great Northern War. neighbouring building. Today, the castle is protected as a "permanent ruin". The tower, remnants of the atehouse and the partially reconstructed enceinte have been preserved. It is worth mentioning that archbishop Maciei There is a museum chamber in the castle Drzewiecki brought a relic (a skull of John ul. Młyńska 4, 98-430 Bolesławiec, tel.: Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople +48 627 836 054), in which items from his journey to Rome in w 1534. It was excavated during archaeological works locked in a richly ornamented reliquary in the local parish church of Saint Luke the Evan-

was hidden so well, that it has not been found to this dav. In 1709, King Stanisław I Leszczyński visited Bolesławiec. The monarch stayed in the wooden nill next to the castle.





Piotr Tłuk of Stryków from 1474 and the voivodeship. the only visible remnant of the Gothic provided additional security.

and stretched along the western wall for Most probably, this was a gate building. pelong to a private owner.



17th-century Kasper Denhoff's residence. The castle erected by King Casimir III the The oldest castle settlement consisted of Great in 1350-1351 used to be one of the a main house, an enceinte, a gate building most impressive buildings in the town. It in the northern part of the settlement, and was located in the south-eastern part of a wooden house. The southern wall of the Wieluń as an important element of the residential building is now the northern fortification system. A moat and a pond, wall of the 19th-century palace, and it is connected to the nearby springs,

The castle was seriously damaged The castle house was a rectangular Swedes in 1656. In 1673, it was rebuilt by (10x10x22x23 m), one-bay, two-storey Hieronim Olszewski, the starosta o building with two rooms, and it was cov- Wieluń. It was an irregular quadrilateral ered with a pitched roof. Gable walls were fortification with an enceinte. In 1791, the expanded in the northern direction and castle and most of the town burnt in a fire. ney were connected with the enceinte. At the beginning of the 19th century, The western part of the curtain wall (26 m) a cloth factory was opened in the part of ran northwards, and the angle it made the castle which survived the fire. In 1840, against the residential building was a classicist palace was erected on the obtuse, which made the courtyard bigger. basis of the existing buildings. It has he eastern wall, in turn, ran northwards become the seat of the Wielun poviat. for the first nine meters, which was The relics of walls and basements and the perpendicular in relation to the house remnants of the moat are the only thinhs acade, and then it diverted westwards that have left of the Gothic castle. 22 metres. The northern part of the activities and stretched along the western wall for ⇒ In 1588, Habsburg archduke Maximilian III of Austria, a candidate to the Polish crown after

ement was closed by a 21-metre wall. Stephen Bathory's death, resided in the castle. A 8x9.5 metre building was attached to the Elected by part of Polish aristocracy, he is said western (exterior) part of this wall, with a to have written the following words on a glass cylindrical tower (diameter 5 m) in the south-western corner of this building. with a diamond ring: "veni, venian et non tardabo" (I have come, I will come, and I shall not be delayed). His situation changed completely after the lost battle of Byczyna. Hetman Jan Zamoyski, the leader of Polish gentry, a strong At present, the palace and the castle area opponent of Hagsburg's candidacy, welcomed" Maximilian to the Wieluń castle, this time as a prisoner. The Habsburg archduke was kept in custody until he gave up all his claims regarding the Polish throne.



As he founded the town in 1365, King Casimir III the Great started to build the royal castle which was to serve as a local centre of state administration, represented by a starosta. The castle was to defend the Sandomierz land, in which Opoczno was situated, against the invasion of Tatars and Lithuanians. It was an element of town fortification in the southern part of Opoczno, and the fact that it was erected at the Drzewiczka river gave it an additional defensive advantage. The original Gothic stronghold was rectangular, and its main tower dominated over the western part of the settlement. The gate was situated in the south-eastern section of the fortification. In the 15th century, the castle burnt down in a town fire, and it got abandoned. At the

beginning of the 17th century, it was partially reconstructed. According to the record from 1629, the castle had a "gentry" tower without stairs, several rooms, a chancery, and burgrave's apartments. The castle was destroyed in the Swedish deluge (1655-1660). It remained a ruin until the 19th century (see the drawing above), and in 1874-1875 the preserved foundations and wall fragments were used in the reconstruction of the castle. In 1927, neo-Renaissance attics and the main entry portal were added, but unfortunately these modifications have totally changed the former shape of the castle. Today, it is a two-storey building with two wings connected with each other. In the western part of one wing, there is a gate with a pass-through entryway, barrel-vaulted ceiling, lunettes and arcade openings. Its northern side is decorated with the Odrowąż

coat of arms, and over the southern side of the gate passage, there is a balcony with a decorative balustrade. There are two entry portals, one of them is in the northern part of the south-western wing, whereas the other one is on the western wall of the other wing. A neo-Renaissance attic is the main adornment of the castle. In several rooms, there are relics of gothic walls from the times of King Casimir III the Great. **Regional Museum in Opoczno** 26-300 Opoczno, 1 Plac Zamkowy, tel. +48 44 755 23 19, www.muzeumopoczno.pl Among the rich collection of the Museum, there are exhibits which illustrate the history of the town and its castle, household tools and devices, as well as handmade products

which prove that the folklore of Opoczno is still alive (wonderful striped fabrics, rich embroidery, detailed cutouts). The most interesting of numerous legends related to Dpoczno tells the story of love between a local Jewish girl. sterka, and King Casimir III the Great (see the drawing). One day, when the girl was picking up herbs in the forest. an angry aurochs attacked her. Terrified, Esterka saw the nimal fall down in front of her in the very last moment. It was

shot by a brave hunter, who introduced himself as a king's courtier. He fell in love with the girl. After some time, it turned out that it was King Casimir ȟimself. The monarch had a house built for his beloved girl, and there was a secr passage which connected it to the castle.



In the Middle Ages, Inowłódz was like a In the time between the 12th century watchtower on the border of three Pol-ish and the partitions of Poland, Łowicz was regions: Lesser Poland, Masovia and the administrative centre for the Łęczyca Province. In the mid-14th century, demesne that belonged to the archbisha castle and town fortification was built ops of Gniezno, which was called the here. The castle was outside the town, in Duchy of Łowicz. In 1355, upon the inithe swampy meadows among the tiative of archbishop Jarosław Bogoria eanders of the Pilica river

The castle was erected of local brown- started in the place of a former gord stone. Originally, there were two towers an The archbishop's castle was erected at octagonal one situated in the north-eastern the Bzura river. Originally, it consisted o corner, and another one in the southern two parallel buildings, the residential part of the curtain wall. Inside there were one and the one for trade and services, two buildings in the shape of an "L". The a gate tower, and the wall which engate was on the eastern wall, and it was closed the western side of the courtaccessed via a wooden bridge over a 20- yard. The total area of the castle was metre moat. In outer walls of the castle 1200 m here were windows. On higher storeys, In the Renaissance, the crude castle there were bedrooms and official halls. The was rebuilt, and it gained a lot more castle has been rebuilt several times, lightness characteristic of a residence. It according to current trends and styles. The was surrounded by a moat connected to Swedish deluge brought an end to the the Bzura river. In the 17th century, the nevdav of the stronghold. n 2012, the castle was revitalized, and its with bastions in the corners. The castle oldest shape from the time of King Casimir was burnt during the Swedish deluge. III the Great was reconstructed. The In 1787, primate Michał Poniatowski set permanent ruin with partially usable rooms up a manufacture of canvas in some of serve cultural and tourist purposes. A the castle buildings, and in 1792 a print-

⇒ Dungeons of the castle were used as "guest bedrooms" for the komturs of the Teutonic Knights form the Thirteen Years' War (1454-1466), served as a burial ground for soldiers. At Legend has it that they stretched as far as to the present. the ruins are in private hands aint Gilles church, the oldest one in the Łódź and visitors have limited access to the > Queen Bona Sforza is said to have been courtyard (1 Zamkowa street, 97-215 frequent visitor to Inowlódz. She set up one of Inowlodz, tel. +48 44 726 01 34). he first vegetable gardens in Poland at the foot of he castle hill. > On 9 September 1655, Polish soldiers led by Stefan Czarniecki attacked the Swedish army Poland until 1795 as many as 12 of them have

museum room is also planned there.





Skotnicki, the construction of a casti

building was surrounded with ramparts ing house was opened there (Ignacy Krasicki was its secretary). After the 1794 fire, the castle was partially demol-

The castle in Łowicz was the favourite an most impressive residence of the primates of which tried to cross the Pilica river, and they won. been buried in the local cathedral. The castle was often visited by distinguished guests, including monarchs: igismund III Vasa, Sigismund II Augustus tephen Bathory, and John II Casimir Vasa. II 1795-1801, Ignacy Krasicki, the leading poet and fable writer of Polish Enlightement, stayed

Knight's castle in Wieruszów



n the castle

The original fortification was probably founded by Bolesław the Pious in the late 13th century. It was rebuilt or constructed anew in 1430, upon the initiative of the Wierusz

The castle was meant to be "big and strong". It was further expanded in the mid-16th century, upon the initiative of Jan Tomicki. The fortification was transformed into a brick castlemanor house. It was a square building with semicircular corner towers, surounded with a moat. Over the following centuries, it was gradually falling into ruin, and at the beginning of the 19th century it was replaced by a brick palace (see the drawing). The residence in Wieruszów was destroyed during the Greater Poland Jprising in June 1919, and it was pulled down completely in the 1960s. oday, only the stones and bricks of the early modern manor house and the founda tions and stairs of the 19th-century palace are visible in the place where the original tronghold of Wieruszów was located. On 8 February 1573, the Tomicki family was visited by Henry III of France, as he was on his way to his coronation in Cracow.

Castles which are present in historical records only Knight's castle in Brzeziny

Records from 1547 mention the residence of the Lasocki family, who were owners of the town at that time. Yet, it is uncertain whether it was a castle or a manor house. The term used, "castrum", suggests that it was a castle. An expertise would give a definite answer, but it cannot be conducted as the remnants of the building have not been found yet. The 16th-17th-century brick walls excavated in the late 1970s during archaeological works near the Holy Spirit church seem to be the only trace. It is possible that they were relics of the Lasockis' stronghold. In the 16th century, the town was famous for its elegant fabrics in 1572, the funeral chapel of King Sigismund II Augustus was decorated with black cloth from Brzeziny. **Royal castle in Brzeźnica** (today Nowa Brzeźnica)

Under the reign of King Casimir III the Great, there were plans to built a brick castle in the place of a small wooden fortification mentioned in the records from 1345. It has never been finished, as the construction works were interrupted by the monarch's death in 1370. Only the earthwork aimed at building a rampart and a moat, and probably the foundations of a residential building, was done. Archaeological research may reveal more information about this castle-manor house. Today, only the relics of moats are visible in the castle area (they are ponds now). Brzeźnica was a birthplace (1415) of Jan Długosz. Polish historian and diplomat, author of numerous important historic studies related to the Middle Ages in Poland. Archbishop's castle in Skierniewice

Fast development of the town in the Middle Ages led to building a primate's residence here. The castle was erected in the place of today's park-and-palace complex of the archbishops of Gniezno. According to the historical record from 1549, it was a brick two-tower building situated on the island on the Łupia river. It was pulled down in the 17th century, during the construction works of the new archbishop's residence.





hewn stones (see quoins). There is a dark iron spot ornament on the wall. Although it is already over five centuries old, the castle still amazes visitors with its magnificent Gothic and Renaissance features. **Oporów Castle Museum**, 99-322 Oporów, tel. +48 24 285 91 22, www.zamekoporow.pl

the region are organised in the castle. ▷ Legend has it that a beautiful daughter of the castellan of Oporów fell in love with

o the underground corridor and free her.



by Jan Długosz in his "Annals". the remnants of the Renaissance fortified lateral. There are a few interesting archibeen pre-served until this day. Renaissance window framing. The manor house was destroyed by Polish strongholds of the 16th century Great Northern Wall. At present, the ruin, the Swedish deluge.





years, it fell into decline, and was finally pulled down. T only remnant of the castle (present Swiętokrzyska street is a small, almost unno-ticeable mound surrounded b the traces of the moat and a plate with a coat of arms, found in 1901, set in the elevation of a house at no.2 Modrzewskiego street. It is shows the "Doliwa" coat of arms, three roses and an inscription "found and renovated on 26 May 1901" (see a photo). The castle, which was the most elegant residence of the bishops of Kujawy, was often visited by monarchs and other state and church notables. In June 1410, King

suggested reforms in Poland. Knight's castle in Zameczek near Opoczno

castle was situated on the hill by the Drzewiczka river. It had a wall and four towers, surrounded with a moat and a rampart. It was most probably a watchtower on the border of Lesser Poland. The fortification was destroyed in 1655, during the Swedish Deluge. A two-storey tower was preserved until the beginning of the 20th century. Now, the remnants of the castle are hidden under the water of fish-breeding ponds.



200 people died in this battle. gelist. During the Swedish deluge, the treasure

Archbishop's castle in Oporów



element of the castle) and a probably unfinished residential building erected along the eastern wall. Eventually, a two-storey, one-bay house was built (8.5x23.5 m), and it was connected with the northern tower by the western wing with a gate. Curtain walls on the northern and eastern side had battlements with walkways for the guards. A romantic tower (a half-ellipse at the bottom, and a hexagon from the first floor up) is a particularly charming element of the castle. It was both a military building (in the Renaissance period it was adapted for firearms use), and a sacred one, as it used to house a castle chapel. The stronghold was built of red Gothic brick and of special

The Museum has a permanent exhibition of interiors from the period. There are also particularly precious architectural elements, including the Gothic portal at the entry to the former chapel in the tower, the ribbed vault of the chapel with a keystone on which the Sulima coat of arms is presented, the original Gothic stellar vault in the bedroom, and larch ceilings with the 17th century polychrome in the halls on the first floor. In the carefully renovated chambers, for instance the Knights' Hall, the armoury, the dining room, the bedroom and the treasury, very important collections of paintings and sculp tures are presented, along with richly ornamented furniture, military items and handicraft products. The castle is also a venue for concerts, theatre performances, and other official events. Moreover, the lessons on art, old Polish habits and the history of

a monk from the nearby convent. The couple used to meet in the dungeon which connected the castle with the monastery. One day, the passage collapsed over the girl as she was running along the underground corridor, which put a sad end to secret dates. There is a huge stone which symbolizes justice and fairness in the place of this tragedy. Near the stone, groans of the girl coming from the underground are heard on rainy and windy days. People say that the White Lady of Oporów will moan until some-one finds the entry



In the 14th century, Majkowice belonged Rawa Mazowiecka was one of the most to the knight family of Nagodzic-Jelitczyk. important settlements in Masovia. In the The most prominent member of this family period of fragmentation, it was in the was Florian Szarv, the hero of the Battle of Masovian part, and remained under the Płowce in 1331, whose life was described rule of Masovian dukes until 1462, i.e. until King Casimir IV Jagiellon incorpo-The ruin as we know it today comprises rated Masovia to the Crown. In 1313, kawa became the capital of the duc manor house of the Maikowski family from The 14th-century local castle, after which the first half of the 16th century, which was only a ruin has remained, was located in also called a castle. The house had the eastern part of the town, in the fork of express Renaissance features. Built of the Rawka and Rylska rivers. It was built brick and stone, it consisted of a residen- upon the initiative of Siemowit IV, the tial building (irregular rectangle 15x13 m), Duke of Masovia (deceased in 1426). It two avant corpses, a courtyard and a cor- was a regular quadrilateral (64x66 m) ner baszta tower. This three-storey tower stronghold. In the south-western corner of is the most interesting part of the castle the fortification, an octagonal main tower its bottom section is circular, the first was erected, which was adapted to storey is octagonal, and then it is quadri- artillery defence in the 16th century. It has tectonic details in the tower, such as In 1507, the castle was partially burnt embrasures and elements of Reconstruction works lasted until 1519, and as a result, one of the most powerful

Swedes in 1702, during the socalled was erected. The castle was damaged in overgrown with bushes, is in private At present, it is a "permanent ruin" with the reconstructed main tower and a fragment of the enceinte with wall walks for guards. t is beautifully illuminated during the The castle's host is the Museum of Rawa wooden fortified residential tower situated on (26 Łowicka street, 96-200 Rawa Maz., the mound among the meadows was the first tel. +48 781 700 503), which presents



The sources from 1505 say that a small knight's fortification was located here. Records from 1659 refer to it as a castle. At the end of the 17th century or a bit later, the settlement was abandoned. One of the hypotheses assumes that it was a manor house on a mound this can be verified only by archaeological research. The exact location of the fortification was not identified until late 20th century it is situated to the oplin was first mentioned in historical records in 1299, when King Władysław the Short issued there a "castrum in Scomlyno" document. It was one of royal residences.



Nładysław I Jagiełło organised a council of war there. In 1409, 1410, 1414 and 1422 Wolbórz was the site in which the army gathered on its way to confront the Teutonic - Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski, born in 1503, was one of the most famous citizens of Wolbórz. He was the leading thinker of Polish Renaissance, the author of "On the improvement of the Commonwealth", the widely read and praised book in which he Another famous person related to Wolbórz was Jędrzej Kitowicz, a historian and diarist. He was the administrator of the Wolbórz demesne and the collegiate church cantor. Zameczek was initially referred to as Domujowice. There used to be a small fortification on its border, mentioned by the sources from 1453. Built of local sandstone, the

'castrum" or "arx".

Royal Castle in Piotrków Trybunalski



www.muzeumpiotrkow.pl

a moat, in the eastern suburb of the town, called Wielka Wieś, on the left bank of the Strawa river. The residence probably replaced the older wooden building from the 13th or 14th century, mentioned in the records from 1510. It was erected in 1512-1519 according to the design of the leading builder of Polish Renaissance. Benedykt of andomierz. The castle had a form of a residential and defensive tower known already in the Middle Ages, which received a residential character typical for Renaissance. The square (18x20m) three-storey building with a high basement was built of bricks. Gothic-Renaissance window openings and richly decorated portals were framed with hewn stone. Floors were made of red marble. The ground floor was used for non-residential purposes, the royal apartment was on the first floor, and it consisted of a hall, a chamber and a grand hallway, whereas on the top floor there was a "palatium-stubam superiorem" grand hall. The ceilings of each subsequent floor are nigher than in the one below.

Museum in Piotrków Trybunalski 4 Plac Zamkowy , 97-300 Piotrków Trybunalski, tel. +48 44 646 52 72,

The most precious collections include: prehistory of the Piotrków region, history of the town and the castle, guide to Polish kings and dukes by an anonymous author from the late 18th century, firearms and hand-to-hand weapons, and religious art.

⇒ In 1493, two chambers of Polish parliament were formed in Piotrków Trybunalski. ⇒ In 1406 - 1492, 58 gatherings and meetings of knights were organised in Piotrków, and in 1493 to 1567 two chambers of the sejm gathered 38 times, and 29 Synods of Bishops took place there. ⇒ In 1578-1792 Piotrków was the seat of the Crown Tribual

Byki knight's castle in Piotrków Trybunalski

A wonderful Renaissance residence of the noble Bykowski family, "Gryf" coat of arms, has been preserved in the old village of Byki (today within the borders of Piotrków rybunalski). In the 15th-16th century, Byki was the centre of the demesne of several illages which were in the hands of this family. Beautifully situated in a large park of old rees, this palace-castle is a one-storey rectangular brick building with a two-storey avant corpse at the gate and two three-storey towers. The central gate baszta tower (7x12 m) and the building to the south of it are the oldest elements of the castle they come from the former residence of the Bykowski family from the 15th century. Magni icent Renaissance portals and ornamentation of windows in the central part of the old baszta tower, the avant corpse and the northern entry near the north-eastern tower are particularly impressive. Today, the Regional Centre of Agricultural Progress has its seat here



The local castle, often referred to by Between the mid-17th century and 1725. scholars as a fortified manorhouse, was Gorzkowice was under the rule of the probably built in the mid-16th century Koniecpolski, and later the Walewski upon the initiative of local land owner Piotr families. The former ones are credited for Vezyk. This nearly square (21x23x22x23 commissioning the construction of a local m) estate originally consisted of a two- or castle in the early 17th century. However, three-storey residential building (10x20 most probably it was never finished. m) leaning on the enceinte and a court- A relatively small residence was planne vard located in the northern part, surroun-modelled on "palazzo di forteca ded by a wall on three sides. In the mansions which were popular in the eastern wall, there was a gate with a door Western Europe of that time. They for pedestrians. On the northern wall of combined a modern form of a axisthe gateway, a baszta tower (half- oriented building which could also serve a cylindrical in the lower storey) was added. defensive function. A 90x120 m mound and it filled the north-eastern corner of the and the foundations of the house were ortification. It protected the entryway, and built. It was situated in the gate wall, and was most likely a castle chapel. There there were four rooms in both bays. The were prob-ably walkways on top of the corners were reinforced with but-tresses.

and the remnants of the curtain wall have position over the Prutka river valley and its been preserved to this day. The ruin is in private hands and it is used the landscape point of view) site the only as a site for recreation, especially for the one of this kind in the Łódź voivodeship enthusiasts of fishing.





walls. Only the walls of a two-room house The location gave the castle a dominant crossing. At present, this interesting (from has been revitalised. The "Kopied (mound) sports and leisure centre which is located on the mound was chosen in 2012 as the best development of public space revitalised with the use of the EU unding in the Łódź voivodeship.

According to a legend, in the 17th century the astle belonged to Mrs Walewska, a beautiful widow. She had many suitors, among them Mr Sadowski, a former royal colonel serving in the hostile Swedish army during the siege of the Jasna Góra monastery, Mrs Walewska's love from voung vears. Ås a patriot. Walewska eclined his advances. The suitor arrived armoured, and threatened that he would burn the residence down and kidnap her to Sweden nless she married him. When Sadowski's etinue was_entering the gate, there was an explosion. To avoid marrying the traitor, Mrs lewska set fire to the arms depot in the tower and blew it (and herself) up. Swedish soldiers also died, but Mr Sadowski survived this plosion and he never came to terms.

Dictionary of basic architecture terms

Arcades - a succession of arches supported by columns or piers Attic - a low wall above the roof which looks like the facade was extended upwards. It consists of a frieze, which conceals the roof pitch, and a decorative comb. Bastion - an element of modern fortifications. A pentagonal structure made of earth or brick, adjacent to two curtain walls in a quadrilateral or pentagonal fortification. Its task was to protect ne foreground, the adjacent sections of the curtain wall and the neighbouring bastions. Baszta tower - a high building protruded from the curtain wall in the direction of the foreground ts task was to protect the foreground and the nearest section of the wall. Bergfried - a free-standing tower, the point of ultimate defence in the case of the enemy preaking into the castle. It also served as a watch tower. Blind (opening) - a shallow recess in the wall which imitates a window or arcade Curia see: fortified manor house. **Donion** - a medieval fortified tower, seat of a feudal lord which served both residential and

litary purposes. It dominated over the landscape to symbolize its owner's power Fortified manor house - a small fortified residential building which was used for defensive purposes if need arose. It was usually a two-storey building with thick brick walls. Some sources efer to fortified manors as "Curia" or "Fortalitium". Fortalitium see: fortified manor house. **Moat** - an artificial trench usually filled with water, located in front of the first line of defence

Frieze - a long and narrow ornamental horizontal stretch of a wall in the building facade. Allure walk-walk castle way - a passageway in the form of a wooden platform on the crown of the curtain wall of the castle, which used to connect its individual elements. Gord - a fortified settlement, built in strategic sites. It was shaped as an oval or quadrilateral surrounded by ramparts made of earth and wood, with a palisade. The ramparts were usually uilt of boxes filled with earth and stones, and then clayed. **zbica** - a wooden log structure with loopholes, which used to be an element of the fortification on the crown of a rampart. The term was also frequently used to denote the overhanging room with a roof in the top part of the tower. **Dome** - a semi-spherical roof supported on the ring-shaped or octagonal wall

Battlement top part of - a defensive wall in which gaps (crenels) and solid widths (merlons) occur at intervals. Crenels allow for discharge of arrows or other missiles, whereas merlons ovide protection. **Corbel** - a supporting element of the structure. Curtain wall - a defensive wall surrounding a castle whose wings are defended by baszta Loggia - an arcade gallery in the form of a balcony. uneta - a part of a barrel vault in which a window opening is usually located. **Pediment** - a richly ornamented framework above the window.

uttressing reinforcing the wall of a medieval settlement by supporting it with buttresse "Pallazzo in forteca" - a modern building in which a defensive function is added to an axisriented residence ilasters - flattened columns applied to the face of a wall. **Portal** - an ornamented entry to a church, often decorated with columns, pilasters and carvings Portico - a porch structure leading to the main, supported by columns

Rotunda - a sacral building with a circular ground plan. Avant corps - a part of a building which protrudes from the facade of the building, usually over its full height grafitto - a technique of facade decor, produced by applying layers of plaster in two and then scratching the outer laver to obtain an outline drawing and reveal the colour of the Barrel vault - an architectural term describing a semi-cylindrical ceiling.

Keyhole embrasures keyhole-shaped openings in the wall which allowed for weapons to be

ired out from the fortification. **Pinnacles** - spire-like ornamental elements of Gothic architecture. **Tower** - a tall fortified building, stand-alone or an element of a fortified settlement. Its base may be quadrilateral, circular or polygonal. It allowed for effective defence and attacking the enemy from its top. Apart from its defensive function it was often used as a residential building or a

Castle - a fortified residence of a feudal lord (monarch, bishop, nobleman). Unlike wooden settlements, it was built of durable materials, such as brick or stone. It was an architectural complex consisting of walls, baszta towers, a gatehouse with a draw-bridge over a moat and some other buildings surrounding the internal courtyard. Historical accounts usually refer to it as



spot which is additionally protected by swampy meadows and oxbow lakes. Today, it is one of the best-preserved defensive buildings in our voivodeship. It has features of several architectonic styles, which is a result of a few reconstructions which have aken place since the Middle Ages. This quadrilateral building has three residential wings: the western one, the southern one with an entry gate, and the eastern one which ends with a 25 m cylindrical tower situated in the middle of the eastern wall. In the north, there is a Gothic curtain wall. It is worth mentioning that for many years the stronghold protected the treasures of the Church of Gniezno during wars. Until the beginning of the 16th century, the castle protected the church goods as many as ten times. During the Thirteen Years' War, which started in 1454, the treasure was locked in a few chests. It consisted of such precious items as six richly ornamented chasubles, several expensive copes and dalmatics donated by monarchs, monstrances, liturgical chalices, a thurible, precious stones, pastorial staffs, golden nuggets, pieces of silver, liturgical books, and most important in the Middle Ages

Gereon of Koeln, hand and ring of Saint Stanislaus of Szczepanów, and the relics of eleven thousand virginal handmaidens, who accompanied Saint Ursula). At present, there is a hotel and a restaurant in the castle, and it is a direct neighbour of the Unieiów Baths" complex. ⇒ Legend has it that if you stroll in the castle park on a cloudy night, you may meet







The 15th-century castle settlement is Przedbórz is a small town founded before located to the north-east of the former 1136 as a centre of monarch's demesne, town centre, on the hill in the Ner flood- situated by a convenient crossing of the plain, near the mouth of the Wrząca river. Pilica river. The rulers of Poland used to It was probably founded by the Zaremba come here to get some rest and they took family from Kalinów. It was a quadrilateral part in big game hunting in the nearby (26x35 m) fortification without a tower. There was a main house with a gate in the southern part of the settlement, an The royal hunting residence was erected auxiliary building situated by the western in the mid-14th century to the north-west section of the northern curtain, and an of the town. enceinte surrounding the whole complex. The castle consisted of a residential The remnants of the castle house set building, called "the great house" (13x31 against the unplastered southern wing of m) and a guadrilateral tower (5x5 m) the Franciscan-Reformers' monastery When it was reconstructed in the 15th which was built here later have been century, an enceinte was added to preserved to this day. In the eastern part of surround the buildings and some wooden the facade, there is an ogival gate outbuildings were erected in the passage with two doors, and window courtyard which was situated in the

openings (bricked in the later period), southern part of the settlement. From Detailed brickwork is worth particular 1570, the castle was rented by starostas. attention, especially diamond - and cross- The residence was de-stroyed during the shaped patterns made of face bricks Swedish deluge. In the 19th century, local which are laid in accordance with the socalled Polish bond layout. At present, the ruins. At present, there are residentia castle belongs to the Salesians, who have a monastery and the Salesian School of buttress which was originally attached to Music there. In one room, there is also a the north-eastern part of the enceinte, a museum exhibition which presents the fragment of the gatetower wall and barrelnistory of the castle, the monastery, vaulted basements under the hill, at 11 Lutomiersk and its surroundings. The Podzamcze and 2 Konecka str. exhibits include items excavated during archaeological works.



International Knights' Tournament in the castle of



Medieval Fair (Juni) The event takes place at the castle of the Archbishops of Gniezno. The audience can watch knights' fights, 🌌 participate in medieval games, admire the archery tournament and Italian art of dancing with flags, as well as the craftsmanship of reconstruction groups and enthusiasts fascinated with medieval culture. During the fair, stalls filled with goods from the period and craftsmen's stands create historical atmosphere. nformation: www.inowlodz.pl

The show will surely attract enthusiasts of the Middle Ages and knighthood, who will surely experience an unforgettable adventure here. There are knight jousts, arching pageants, medieval dance presentations, early musiconcerts, and the fair booths offer delicious dishes nandmade products, such as beautiful jew-ellerv. clothes and elements of knight outfit or weaponry.

and see what the life of knights looked like long ago. You can also see a trebuchet, i.e. a medieval siege engine, in action it could fling stones even at a 100-metre distance. During the event, the keys to the town gates are handed to the knight brother-hood which takes over the ule of the town for the time of the tournament. nformation: www.uniejow.pl Medieval Fair (August)

The main events take place in the castle of Casimir the Great and its outskirts. The organizers, dressed up in medieval costumes tell stories about customs connected with the locustic rituals. They also spread knowledge about the history of Inowlodz and local monuments. Many attractions await tourists: reconstructed stalls, excellent Slavic cuisine, court dance workshops, garland wreath workshops, drum workshops, archery tournament and many others. The whole event is accompanied by joyful medieval music.

Knight tournament in Besiekiery (August) Tournament of fraternities of knights for whom the his torical past is still alive. Every year, they face various challenges involving such weapons as spears of bows. There is also a show presenting how the castle was conquered, and a historical picnic. Information: www.grabow.com.pl, www.konfraternia.com

Information: www.unieiow.pl











inhabitants pulled down the remaining buildings on the castle hill. What has remained of the former stronghold is a

> In 1239, a meeting of province rulers was organised in Przedbórz. Bolesław V the Chaste, the Duke of Sandomierz, his mother Duchess ymisława of Luck, Konrad I of Masovia, and his son Siemowit decided to incorporate the astellanies of the Duchy of Łęczyca which were ocated bevond the Pilica river (Żarnóv alogoszcz and Skrzynno) to the Duchy of andomierz, i.e. to Lesser Póland. ⇔ On 29 July 1423, King Władysław II Jagiełło conferred civic rights to the village of Łodzia which now is the capital of the Łódz oivodeship. The ceremony took place in the