

The Fullness-of-Life Academy Association Krakow, Poland



Newsletter III/2013

November 2013

## Dear All at Frankfurter Verband

We would like to open this issue of our newsletter with a big "Thank you" to Antje and Edeltraud who helped us during their stay in Kraków in October.



The ladies participated in our English classes, answered questions and talked extensively about volunteering in Germany and about Frankfurt in their two fantastic presentations. What is more, during their excursions they visited beautiful places not only in but also around Kraków, the places which foreign tourists tend to leave out of their sightseeing lists for example Dębno and Kalwaria Zebrzydowska. Antje and Edeltraud's accounts inspired us to write about some of the places they visited. This issue features texts about: the history of the Jagiellonian University, the life of Wisława Szymborska, museums and UNESCO sites in and around Kraków.

There will also be a surprise!

Ewa finally decided to screw up her courage and write something in German, that's the spirit!

I hope you will enjoy this issue of the newsletter.

Take care,

Ola



Lifelong Learning Programme  
Grundtvig



Education and Culture DG

Grundtvig Senior Volunteering Project  
"Frankfurt and Krakow invite seniors"  
August 1, 2012 – July 31, 2014

---

# UNESCO WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES IN KRAKÓW AND AROUND

In 1972 UNESCO created the **World Cultural Heritage List**.



In 1978 the Kraków's **Old Town** as a whole was included in the list. The Old Town is one of the few places where the entire medieval city has remained to our times. The main places worth visiting are: the Royal Route which starts at the Barbican, passes through St. Florian's Gate and takes you to the Main Market Square with its marvelous buildings, such as the St. Mary's church with its medieval altar, the Cloth Hall and the City Hall tower. One of the oldest and smallest churches in Poland stands on the Main Market Square. Its name is St. Adalbert church and it was built in the 10<sup>th</sup> century on the site of a pagan shrine. The Royal Route takes you to Wawel Hill with the castle and cathedral.



Lifelong  
Learning  
Programme

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein

---

Other UNESCO World Cultural Heritage sites are scattered around Kraków.



One of them is the **Salt Mine in Wieliczka**, a town of about 20 000 people situated about 13 km to the southeast of Kraków. Last September the Salt Mine celebrated the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being on the UNESCO List. The first shafts were built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when the Kraków Academy was founded, the professors' salaries came from the money earned by the Salt Mine. Another **Salt Mine is situated in Bochnia**, which is the older of the two mines. Now, the Salt Mines host various cultural events but they are also health resorts.

**Auschwitz Birkenau**, one of the German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camps is another site from the UNESCO List. The Camp was inscribed onto the List in 1979. In the statement of significance put on the <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/31> website we can read: "The camps are a vivid testimony to the murderous nature of the anti-Semitic and racist Nazi policy that brought about the annihilation of more than 1.2 million people in the crematoria."

Another UNESCO site which can be found close to Kraków is **Kalwaria Zebrzydowska**: the Mannerist Architectural and Park Landscape Complex and Pilgrimage Park. The place was commissioned by Mikołaj Zebrzydowski, a Voivode of Kraków. The work started in 1600. The first place was the Chapel of Crucifixion and a small hermitage on the slope of Żar Mountain.

With time Zebrzydowski commissioned more chapels similar to those of Jerusalem. This way the whole complex was created.



Kalwaria Zebrzydowska has been on the UNESCO list since 1999. In the justification we can read: “Kalwaria Zebrzydowska is an outstanding example of this type of large-scale landscape design, which incorporates natural beauty with spiritual objectives and the principles of Baroque park design.”

The last of the entries on the List are the Wooden Churches of Southern Małopolska. They are situated in the proximity of Kraków.. They were inscribed onto the List in 2003 because they “bear exceptional testimony to the tradition of church building from the Middle Ages. They have also been preserved in the context of the vernacular village and landscape setting, and related to the liturgical and cult functions of the Roman Catholic Church in a relatively closed region in central Europe”. Some of the churches in southern Little Poland (Małopolska) are: the Church of the Archangel Michael (Binarowa), the Church of All Saints (Blizne), the Church of the Archangel Michael (Dębno), the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Archangel Michael (Haczow), the Church of St Leonard (Lipnica Murowana), the Church of St Philip and St James the Apostles (Sękowa).

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>

Maryla Kacprzycka



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme  
Grundtvig

Grundtvig Senior Volunteering Project  
"Frankfurt and Krakow invite seniors"  
August 1, 2012 – July 31, 2014

# Museums in Kraków

## The National Museum

This museum was established in 1879. From 1950 the museum belongs to the city of Kraków. The construction of the Museum's contemporary New Main Building located at 3 Maja Street started in 1934, it was fully completed only in 1992, after the collapse of the Soviet Union.



The Gallery of the Twentieth Century Polish Art is one of the largest galleries of painting and sculpture from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century on in Poland, with most celebrated artwork by Jacek Malczewski, Leon Wyczółkowski, Włodzimierz Tetmajer, and extensive collections of works by Stanisław Wyspiański, and also, works by artists of the interwar and postwar period: the Polish cubists, expressionists, colorists, and the avant-garde of the 1930s and representatives of New Directions from the 1960s.

Decorative arts and crafts are exhibited in the Decorative Arts and Crafts Gallery, with gold, silver and precious stone artifacts ranging from the twelfth to the eighteenth century; copper, pewter and iron objects, such as bowls and wrought iron chests; old furniture, musical instruments, clocks, ceramics and glass, notably stained glass from the churches of Kraków.

The Museum has one of Poland's largest collections of Polish and Oriental antique rugs and carpets, as well as a collection of sixteenth to twentieth century costumes.



Lifelong  
Learning  
Programme

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein

## The Cloth Hall, Market Square



It is a gallery of Polish painting and sculpture from 1764 to the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century. This gallery is the oldest part of the National Museum in Kraków. At the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century Henryk Siemiradzki donated to the city his famous painting “The Living Torches of Nero”. This example was followed by numerous artists and art collectors. The Cloth Hall was renovated recently.



The permanent exhibitions contain Polish sculptures and paintings from Bacciarelli and landscapes of many distinguished artists. We all know Jan Matejko’s -“The Prussian Homage”, “Kościuszko in the Battle of Raclawice”, “Wernyhora” and some portraits. There are a lot of paintings by Grottger, Gottlieb, Rodakowski, Malczewski like the “Portrait of Helena Modrzejewska” and Kossak, Brandt, Gerson, Chełmoński. Many people know “The Four-in-Hand”, “The Storm” by Chełmoński, “Jewish Holiday” by Gieryski and also paintings by Olga Boznańska, Malczewski, Podkowiński. This gallery is the top tourist attraction in Kraków.

Bogusia Obrocka

# The Jagiellonian University



The University of Kraków was founded in 1364 by King Casimir the Great and it was modelled on Universities of Bologna and Padua. At that time it was called Studium Generale. In 1397, thanks to Queen Jadwiga's efforts, the Kraków Academy obtained the right to start the faculty of theology. The Academy was not only a place for learned discussions and theological disputes but its representatives also participated in the country's political life. In 1400 King Jagiełło donated a townhouse and located the Krakow Academy at the corner of Jagiellońska and St. Anna streets. At the end of the 15th century a beautiful late Gothic courtyard with arcades and galleries was finished, the inner court was given its present shape. On the ground floor were lecture halls known as lectoria, while the first floor accommodated: library, common room, assembly room and a treasury.

It's Collegium Maius.



Now, Collegium Maius is home to the Museum of the Jagiellonian University, which collects mainly precious gifts from monarchs, clergy and professors. The most admired piece is a set of astronomical and chemical instruments and globes (one of them, produced in 1510 by Jan of Stobnica, is the first to depict the American continent) and apparatus for gas liquefying and other extraordinary exhibits. The building is used for official functions such as scientific conferences, sessions of the Senate and meetings of outstanding guests.





The golden age of the university in the fifteenth century and its role in the world can be proved by the fact that 44% of students were from abroad. In the second half of the sixteenth century Reformation rejected the Alma Mater and censorship was introduced by the rector, which eliminated the heretical literature from the university. Students and professors who supported the Reformation left its walls.

In the seventeenth century the Academy was involved in a dispute with the Jesuits, who attempted to control novelty. In this time the Academy lost its international importance and it also witnessed Swedish invasion and the plundering of the city.

The the eighteenth century the Academy was in crisis, however at the same time it started teaching German and French, introduced the lectures on Polish law, geography and military engineering. Through the National Education Commission and its future rector Hugo Kołłątaj new organizational structures were created. They included: an astronomical observatory, a botanical garden, clinics and laboratories and Polish was used as the language of instruction.

Professors were educated abroad in the spirit of the Enlightenment. As a result of Hugo Kołłątaj's reforms in 1778, the Academy was officially renamed as the Main Crown School. At the time lectures were transferred from Collegium Maius to the new building of Collegium Physicum at 6 St. Anna Street.

The third partition of Poland in 1795 threatened the existence of the Main Crown School. Fortunately, the intervention of two eminent professors in Vienna saved it from liquidation. As a result of the partitions, a part of Poland was annexed by the Austrian Empire.

In 1817 the School entered into a second golden period in its history. In 1818 it changed its name again and became Jagiellonian University. Schools of: chemistry, medicine, mathematics, classical philology, civil law, Roman law were established. In the 1890s the first women-students appeared at the faculty of pharmacy. Later women began to study at other departments and in 1918 they began to study at the faculty of law.

In the years 1883 -1887 near Collegium Maius, close to Kraków's green belt, Planty, Collegium Novum was built. It's the main seat of the offices of the rector, deans of all faculties and professors. There are also administration offices and lecture halls. The main assembly hall, decorated with portraits of outstanding professors, hosts the inauguration ceremony of every new academic year.

After the First World War and gaining independence for Poland, during the Second Republic -the University was expanded by adding: new hospitals, new library buildings. Pedagogical Studies and Slavic Studies, Physical Education, School of Linguistics and Department of Antiquity were set up. The Second World War interrupted the activities of the University.

During the Second World War, the University suffered great losses. 144 University professors and 21 professors of the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy were arrested and sent to concentration camps. The University was closed and the equipment dismantled and taken away.

During the war, a number of academic staff led secret teaching. It is estimated that nearly 800 students participated in secret classes organized by the University lecturers.



A month after the war as early as February 1945 the University opened its doors, but in 1948 the period of Stalinist totalitarianism entered the walls of the University and interfered with the organization and teaching. To celebrate 600 years of the University, in the sixties, the University built new buildings: astronomical observatory, the Institutes of: Physics, Biology, Zoology, Geology, and Modern Languages. The Jagiellonian Library expanded. In 1989 Collegium Medicum returned to the University. The 650<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the University was celebrated with the third expansion of the University campus. The Natural Sciences Research Center, Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology are situated there.

Marylka Pająk

# WISŁAWA SZYMBORSKA

## Kraków's Nobel Prize in Literature

Wisława Szymborska was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1923 in Prowent / now part of the town of Kórnik/. Her family moved to Toruń in 1921, and in 1931 to Kraków, where she lived and worked until her death in 2012.

When II World War broke out in 1939 she continued her education in underground classes. From 1942 she worked as a railroad employee and managed to avoid being deported to Germany as a forced labourer.

In 1945 she began studying Polish literature at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. Her first poem "Looking for words" was published in March 1945 in a daily newspaper.



In 1948 she married poet Adam Włodek, whom she divorced in 1954. At that time she was working as a secretary for educational magazine as well as an illustrator.

Her first book was published in 1949 but did not pass censorship as it ... "Did not meet socialist requirements"... Her early work supported socialist themes, and she became a member of the ruling Polish United Worker's Party. Like many communist intellectuals she did not officially leave the party until 1966, she began to establish contacts with dissidents.

1953 Szymborska joined the staff of the literary review magazine "Literary Life" where she worked until 1981. Many of her essays from this period were later published in book form.

From 1981 to 1983 she was an editor of the Kraków- based monthly periodical "Out Loud".

In the 1980s she intensified her oppositional activities, contributing to the periodical Arka under the pseudonym "Stańczykówna" as well as the Paris – based Culture.

The final collection published while Szymborska was still alive – "Colon"- was chosen as the best book of 2006 by readers of Poland's "Gazeta Wyborcza". She also translated French literature into Polish, in particular Baroque poetry. In Germany Szymborska was associated with her translator Karl Dedecius, who popularized her works there.

Szymborska was described as a "Mozart of Poetry".



**In 1996 she was awarded NOBEL PRIZE in Literature for poetry.**

Her work has been translated into English and many European languages, as well as into Arabic, Hebrew, Japanese and Chinese.

Wisława Szymborska died 1 February 2012 at home in Kraków aged 88. Her personal assistant Michal Rusinek confirmed the information and said that she "died peacefully, in her sleep".

She had been working on a new poetry right until her death, though she was unable to arrange her final efforts for a book in the way she would have wanted. Szymborska frequently employed literary devices such as ironic precision, paradox, contradiction and understatement to illuminate philosophical themes and obsessions. Although her poetry was influenced by her experiences, it is relevant across time and culture.

She wrote from unusual points of view, such as a cat in the newly empty apartment of its dead owner. Her reputation rests on a relatively small body of work, fewer than 350 poems. When asked why she had published so few poems, she said: "I have a trash can in my home".



Her major works are for example: Enough, Here, Colon, Moment, 100 Poems-100 Happinesses, The End and the Beginning, Non Required Reading, People on the Bridge, A Large Number, Could Have, No End of Fun and so on.

Wisława Szymborska received many other Prizes and awards: The City of Kraków Prize for Literature (1954), The Polish Ministry of Culture Prize (1964), The Goethe Prize (1991), The Herder Prize (1995), Honorary Doctor of Adam Mickiewicz University Poznań (1995), The Polish Pen Club Prize (1996), **NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE (1996)**, Order of White Eagle (2011).

Basia Śladowska



# Denkmäler von Krakau

In Krakau gibt es viele Denkmäler von Schriftstellern, Dichtern, Künstlern und einer Vielzahl anderer Prominenten. Unten finden Sie eine Beschreibung einiger davon, zusammen mit Angaben zu ihrer Lage in Krakau.



Ein Denkmal von **Aleksander Fredro** befindet sich vor dem Juliusz-Słowacki-Theater. Fredro gilt als einer der besten und bedeutendsten Komödienautoren polnischer Romantik. Seine bekanntesten Werke sind: „Mädchenschwüre“, „Damen und Husaren“, „Herr Jowialski“, „Die Rache“ uvm.

Ein Denkmal von **Adam Mickiewicz** ist auf dem Marktplatz in Krakau vor der Marienkirche zu finden. Die Figur des Dichters ist auf einem mehrstufigen Podest aufgestellt und an ihren Füßen befinden sich vier allegorische Gruppen, die jeweils das Vaterland, die Wissenschaft, die Mut und die Poesie symbolisieren. Die Statue entstand zum 100. Geburtstag des Nationaldichters, zu dessen bedeutendsten Werken „Pan Tadeusz oder Der letzte Einritt in Litauen“, die „Krimische Sonette“, „Totenfeier“, sowie zahlreiche Gedichtssammlungen gehören.



Ein Denkmal für **Joseph Dietl** steht an dem Allerheiligen-Platz in Krakau, vor dem Hauptgebäude des Krakauer Magistrats. Dietl war seinerzeit Bürgermeister von Krakau sowie Rektor der Jagiellonen-Universität. Das Denkmal wurde zu seinem 60. Todestag errichtet.



**Das Grunwalddenkmal** befindet sich am Jan-Matejko-Platz und gegenüber von Barbakan. Es ist ein Reiterstandbild des Königs Władysław Jagiełło. Es wurde von dem Komponisten und Politiker Ignacy Paderewski gestiftet und im Jahr 1910, zum 500. Jahrestag der Schlacht bei Tannenberg, feierlich eingeweiht. Zwischen 1939 und 1940 wurde das Denkmal schrittweise demontiert und sein Sockel letztendlich gesprengt. 1976 wurde es wieder aufgebaut.

Ein Denkmal für **Nicolaus Copernicus** wurde in dem Krakauer Planty-Park, in der Nähe von Collegium Novum im Jahre 1899, zum 500. Jahrestag des Wiederbeginns der Jagiellonen-Universität, errichtet. Die Statue ist auf einem Sockel aufgestellt, an dem vier Gedenktafel in lateinischer Sprache als Andenken an den großen Astronomen dienen.



Das Monument von **Tadeusz Kościuszko** auf dem Wawel ist dem Nationalhelden gewidmet. Es stand seit 1921 Jahr auf dem Wawel, und wurde 1940 während des Krieges zerstört. Im Jahr 1960 wurde es umgebaut und als ein Geschenk der Bewohner von Dresden wieder an seinen Platz gestellt.

Ewa Kielan