

STRESZCZENIE ROZPRAWY DOKTORSKIEJ**Residences of the Mniszech family in the Saxon era.
History and ideological content of the architecture**

Residences played an important role in manifestation of political ambitions, social and financial status of magnate families. The doctoral dissertation aims at analysing the seats of the Mniszech family at the Saxon times. In the last decade, we have witnessed intensification of research on interdependence of political ambitions, the form and ideological meaning of ordered works of art, thanks to which studies presenting the abovementioned phenomena have been produced on the example of, among others, the Radziwiłł and Jabłonowski families. The work devoted to the Mniszechs is a part of the trend, becoming a voice in the discourse of art historians, enriching the current state of knowledge.

Analyses cover seats with various spatial systems and architectural types. They are studied in times, when they belonged to representatives of two generations: Joseph (deceased 1747), Jan Karol (deceased 1759) and Jerzy August (deceased 1778). Their lives were the culmination of the political power of Mniszech family, conditioned by the situation prevailing in the country at the Wettin times. Intellectual horizons of that magnates also deserve a detailed discussion. They are revealed in preserved correspondence, accounts of foreign diplomatic missions, visiting the court of Augustus II and his successor and in relation to art. Research on architecture created on the initiative of the Mniszechs makes it possible to address issues related to lives and activity of engineers and architects, both poorly recognized and completely absent in Polish scientific literature. Among the major authors of the projects was Andreas Gärtner, who designed the new version of the residential complex in Dukla. Reconstruction of architectural forms from the 18th century and ideological significance of buildings are primarily conditioned by source materials from archives in Lviv, Kiev, Warsaw, Wrocław and Dresden.

An important part of that dissertation is preparation of reconstruction of architectural forms, restoration of functional and ideological arrangement and decor in Saxon era – for example of the residences in Laszki Murowane, Wiśniowiec, Dęblin, Dukla, Gdańsk, and Jaworów. Theoretical research conclusions ought to be confronted with the existing structure. In my dissertation various research methods are used. They are characteristic for art history (development of iconographic materials, comparative and stylistic analyses, determining provenance of artworks and sources of artistic inspiration) and architecture (research and architectural measurements, technical expertise), and i.a. archaeology (determination of the original walls outline, material dating), conservation of architectural monuments (expertise, analysis of a conservation status and interpretation of documentation of renovation work), cultural studies (analysis of cultural history), literary studies (analysis of documents from the period, letters), history (analysis of family history, policy of Saxon times, a role of royal marshals in functioning of the state) and archive studies (source analysis).

Power of the family in the Saxon era was created by Józef Wandalin Mniszech, brought up together with the prince Jakub Sobieski. During the reign of Augustus II, he became one of the most important and wealthiest figures in the Commonwealth. He showed interest in culture, art and architecture, which was reflected in employment of outstanding artists and construction or reconstruction of residences, for example in Laszki Murowane, where despite introduction of a large-scale garden composition and rich interior design. A leader of the political party called “Kamaryla”, Jerzy August Mniszech, was, among others, an initiator of creation of the palace at Długie Ogrody Street in Gdańsk, a city important for the country politics and economy. Finally, Jan Karol Mniszech was the owner of palace complex in Wiśniowiec, taken over as a result of marriage to Katarzyna Mniszech née Zamoyski. It is possible to identify unique mechanism of presentation of Mniszechs’ social status in interior decorations or iconography of painting which were presented in palaces – for example: references to the legend of origin and symbolism of the coat of arms, emphasizing connections with the Sobieski family, references to the family ancestor, Tsaritsa Maryna Mniszech, and her husband, False Dmitry).

Another issue that should be discussed is the comparison of Mniszechs’ cultural activity with other significant families, including Jabłonowski, Radziwiłł, Pac, Tarło, Wielopolski, Wiśniowiecki or Branicki.

Looking at residences through the prism of owners' personality, political functions and intellectual horizons is equally important for showing a role of residential architecture in conscious creation of owners' image. Development of Mniszechs' political career is a part of the phenomenon associated with marshal families being closely related to the monarch's environment, having significant and direct influence on the policy of the Polish-Saxon state union. Taking over offices of Great and Court Marshals of the Crown or of Lithuania by representatives of successive generations influenced specificity of particular families and mechanisms of transferring aspirations to the ground of residential architecture.

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