

HISTORY OF THE CASTLE IN OLECKO. THE CASTLE AND ITS LEGENDS.

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PREFACE

As part of the Poland-Russia Cross-Border Cooperation Program 2014-2020, a project entitled: "15 secondsof history throughthe eyes of youth. Castles, barracks and legends" was implemented in the years 2019-2022. Its authors were teachers from the Technical School Complex in Olecko, and formally it was implemented by the Olecko District, Technical School Complex in Olecko and the Active People Association "Castle" in cooperation with the College of Environmental Engineering in Gusiew, branch in Oziersk (Darkehmen) in the Kaliningrad District.



This publication describing the historical and legendary history of "Castle in Olecko" is one of the results of the above-mentioned project.

When we say: "Olecko Castle", we usually mean the present neo-Gothic building from the end of the 19th century. Less often, these words are associated with a wooden hunting lodge dating back to the times of the Teutonic Order, or a brick building - the seat of the starosts from the feudal period of Ducal Prussia. The most impressive building was erected here in the mid-17th century, but it was destroyed during the Swedish Deluge. Its surviving part with three towers which became the symbol of Marggrabowa fell into ruin at the beginning of the 19th century. (Note 1. The publication uses the name Marggrabowa referring to the beginnings of the town's founding in 1560 and appearing in the town borough charter. Similarly, in line with the city's history, the name Treuburg appears from 1928 and Olecko from 1945. The castle and castle hill are called Oletzko.) The nineteenth century is the time of fashion for modernizing cities and dismantling what is old in order to build new, better facilities. This fashion sealed the fate of the picturesque ruins of the old castle, on the site of which the building that exists to this day was erected.

This is the building at Castle Square in Olecko, where the Technical School Complex is located.

In 2007, the Active People Association "Castle" was established to support the school, acting for the benefit of culture, education, sport and recreation. The Association conducts activities related to the protection of cultural heritage, regional identity and contemporary culture, and supports the comprehensive development of ZST youth and teachers as well as the local community in terms of education, upbringing, non-formal education, career counselling, development of interests and leisure time management, equalization of educational opportunities, social and civic activation. The seat of the Association is the third floor of the Olecko castle, where a historical and regional museum was created (household items from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries from the Masuria region and the Suwałki region; what was left by the armies fighting in this area), as well as a viewingpoint and gallery - in the castle tower. One of the most interesting exhibits is the Plebiscite Stone - a memorial monument from 1928 commemorating the Plebiscite in Masuria in 1920.

Image page 4 Where to put it? Let's make a plebiscite., drawing by W. Rukść

Throughout the years of its operation, the Association has organized and developed many numismatic exhibitions (in cooperation with the Polish Numismatic Society in Elk and Suwałki and the District Museum in Suwałki) using private collections, including: "Money in the Olecko Region" (within the 450th anniversary of the city), "The Gold of Byzantium", "It was not the Phoenicians who invented money", "4000 years of Chinese coinage", "Coins of the Teutonic Order and the Prussia". Numerous historical exhibitions were also arranged, such as: "Back to the past. The history of the castle, school, city", "Post, postcard, photography - Olecko yesterday and today", "Olecko District in documents 1945-1946", "Solidarity and martial law in the Olecko region". Many

meetings with history were also prepared - "Faces of Masuria: Lutherans"; "Faces of Masuria: Old Believers", "The Pyramid in Rapa" and artistic events - "Vilnius in the photographs of Jan Bułhak" (from the collection of the Masurian Community in Giżycko), "Proust regained" - an exhibition of photographs by Ewa Kozłowska. The Association also organizes cyclical events: "Castle Runs with Klio" as part of the European Heritage Days in Warmia and Mazury (September) and the "Night of Museums" (May).

In 2014, The Association, represented by the then presidents - Jarosław Wierzbiński and Małgorzata Kozłowska, signed a partnership agreement with the Association of Treburians in Oppladen (represented by Ingrid Meyer-Huwe and Gabriele Janssen), which associates pre-war residents of Olecko and their descendants.

To cooperate in this publication we invited history enthusiasts from Olecko, for whom The building "Castle", or the place where it is located, is not insensible. The book contains texts, iconographic material, maps, photographs, and historical studies of the following people: **Zdzisław Bereśniewicz** (numismatist, a passionate historian, collector and lover of the Olecko region), **Marek Góryński**, PhD (historian, specialist in military history, former director of the ZST in Olecko), **Piotr Jasiukiewicz** (designer, coming from Białystok, he started his adventure with Olecko "seriously" in the winter 2003/2004 after moving to his wife's homeland; a graduate of the Białystok University of Technology, who tries to combine passions and interests with professional work), **Ewa Kozłowska** (photographer, poet, French translator, author of books: "Short stories" and "Olecko 1945-2018", producer of many projects, articles and photo exhibitions in Poland and abroad, a regular at the Paris "Autumn Salon"), **Józef Kunicki** (geographer, passionate about landscape, history and architecture of the region, originator of many Olecko internet portals, author of many studies on the history of the region), **Marek Nowicki** (enthusiast of Olecko history, numismatist, philatelist, collector of old postcards, president of the Polish Numismatic Association, Suwałki - Branch in Ełk), **Waldemar Rukść** (cartoonist, satirist, a member and founder of the Association of Polish Caricature Artists).

I would like to thank all those mentioned on behalf of the Active People Association "Castle".

Katarzyna Małgorzata Kaczor

President of the Active People Association "Castle"

Image page 5 Easy, It's only coins exhibition. drawing by W. Rukść

THE HISTORY OF THE OLECKO CASTLE UNTIL 1945

The Castle Square

In the border forest, called the Great Forest (Grosse Wildnis), in the place where the Lega River flows out of the Oleckie Wielkie Lake, there is a hill surrounded by waters. In this place, which was convenient for defence, there was probably the Yotvingian settlement. (Note 2. The Yotvingians are an extinct Baltic people belonging to the Prussian tribes. They lived in the so-called Jaćwież(Sudowia), an area located between the Biebrza River in the south, the Neman River in the east and north, limited from the west by the middle course of the Szeszupa River and areas east of the Śniardwy and



Mamry lakes. The Yotvingians came along with other Baltic tribes from the middle rivers of the Dnieper, Pripyat and Protava around the 6th century. ³ Petrus von Dusburg - chronicler of the Teutonic Order living at the turn of the 13th and 14th centuries, author of the chronicle *Chronicon terrae Prussiae* (1326) describing the history of the Teutonic Order from its foundation to the present day for the author.)

The remains of the settlement are marked on the 18th century map as *Alte Burganlage*.

Image page 6

On the map of Olecko from the 18th century, in Christian Grigat's book "Die Geschichte des Kreises Treuburg", the buildings and the outline of earthen fortifications, the site of the old fortified settlement (alte Burganlage) and the prince's manor are marked.

After the conquest of these lands in the 13th century by the Teutonic Order, it was a deserted and wild land for many years, until the beginning of the 16th century. No wonder then that in his chronicle Peter of Dusburg wrote: *"Et sic terra Sudove usque in praesentem diem remanet desolata"* ("And so the land of Yotvingia remains uninhabited to this day").

The forest was depopulated, but it was visited by hunters, fishermen, tar makers and honey hunters who were able to profit from its abundant resources. At the end of the 14th century, one of the roads led from the castle in Lec (Giżycko) to Lithuania through the area of today's Olecko District. (Note 3. Krzysztof Kwiatkowski, PhD, in the article "Pochód przez wielką dziczą..." presents the topic as follows: Here is an exemplary road from today's Giżycko (then Loetzen) to Merez (Merkine) on the Neman (approx. 200 km), which was covered in a week. On the first day it was necessary to travel 4 miles (1 mile = 6780 m) from the Teutonic watchtower in Loetzen to Widminnen (Wydminy), on the second day 3 miles to Litigalnosee (Lake Litygajno), and on the third day 2 miles to Biergsee. Only here was the first supply of hay for horses. On the fourth day, it was covered 2 miles to the Jarke River (Jarka), to reach Lixdunen (4 miles) on the fifth day, where the second hay yard was located. On the sixth day they marched 3 miles to Assern (Jeziory), on the seventh also 3 miles to the Seynyn (Sejny) area, where the last fodder station stood. From here there was only a long jump across the wilderness to Merez (8 miles). The area between Lake Bierk (Note 4. Lake Birek (Biergsee) - a water reservoir north of the village of Mazury (heavily overgrown), which next to Lixdunen (Note 5. Lixdunen - the name of the village that no longer exists in the southern post-Yotvingian territories, probably located in the vicinity of Suwałki (Wiśniewski J., *The History of Settlement from the 15th to the 18th Century*) was the place where food was stored for the way back and was described as "mountainous", which undoubtedly the name "Szeskie Wzgórze" (located in the northern part of the Olecko District) meant. One branch of this road to the east ran between the lakes Oleckie Małe and Oleckie Wielkie. This travelling route also played an important role later, because it connected Polish cities with Baltic ports, and the place where this trade route crossed the Lega River and ran between Olecko lakes, was to become Marggrabowa - the seat of the first town established in the border zone of the forest.

At that time, a hunting lodge (Jagdbude) called Bude Oletzky was built in the forest on the eastern shore of the Oleckie Wielkie Lake. This small building was made of wood, it probably had a brick basement - similarly to the building at Łażno Lake (Note 6. Łażno Lake (Haschner See) - a lake located in the Borecka Forest, west of Olecko.). The preserved traces on the ground in the field area allow today to locate this place in Moźne. Although until the beginning of the 20th century the local people called the hill: Góra Zamkowa (Castle Hill) and Dworczyńska (Mannor Place), the research did not confirm any traces of human activity on it.

Image page 7

Presumed traces of a hunting lodge on Lake Oleckie Wielkie. WMTS digital terrain model - ISOK project. <http://mapy.geoportal.gov.pl>

According to chronicle reports, in September **1544**, prince Albrecht Hohenzollern (Markgraf Albrecht der Ältere von Brandenburg (1490-1568) travelled around the eastern periphery of the principality in order to control the course of settlement in the border area. Perhaps it was when he stayed in a hunting lodge on Oleckie Wielkie Lake and admired the picturesque surroundings that the plan to establish a town in this place was born in his mind. At the time when prince Albrecht visited these areas, the princely starosts who had direct supervision over the settlement of this Straduny forest were: Kaspar von Aulack (1529), Michał von Eysack (from 1545 to 1550) and Krzysztof von Glaubitz (from 1550 r.).

Image page 8

"Bude Oletzky" on the pre-location sketch of the area for the future city (around October 1559), in: Berlin-Dahlem, Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Etats-Ministerium EM 103g H.A. Olecko (Grenzsachen 1533-1608), 434

According to the historian Hennenberger (Note 7. Caspar Hennenberger (1529-1600) German Lutheran pastor, historian and cartographer. Thanks to numerous inventory and measurement journeys in Prussia, in 1576 he published a woodcut map of Prussia in Königsberg, which was a model for cartographers until the mid-18th century. He also wrote two chronicles: Kurtze und wahrhaftige Beschreibung des Landes zu Preußen (1584) and Erclerung der preußischen größeren Landtafel oder Mappen (1595), Olecko foundation (Note 8. There are several theories as to the origin of the name Olecko. According to R. Demby: "Olecko" belongs to the category of topographic names. Its core is contained in the name of Lake Olecko and the river Lega, which was certified in documents from the 13th century as "Oleg" (then Lega, Leczka, German Leegenflies). It has an old word-formation basis, derived from the Proto-Indo-European basis. Old Proto-Indo-European elements "-el", "ol-" with various formants denoting water became a pan-European hydronymic material (Oława, Elza, Alontas). The name of the river is certainly derived from the name of the "Oleck" lake and, finally, the name of the hunting lodge and farm situated by the lake. It was created with the use of the suffix "-sko", which often formed the names of rivers in Polish (eg Biała - Bielsko). The



etymology of "Olecko" should therefore be found in the name of the river Lega, because it has the so-called transferred name. (Demby R., Olecko.Czasy, ludzie, zdarzenia) is connected with the meeting in the hunting lodge of the Polish king Sigismund II Augustus and his vassal - prince Albrecht (Albrecht's mother - Sophia Jagiellon was the sister of Sigismund I the Old, the father of Sigismund II Augustus). In memory of the meeting, the rulers decided to establish two cities on both sides of the border. The one on Lithuanian side was named after the king's name-Augustów, and another one, on the Prussian side, was named after Albrecht's title - margrave with the added Polish suffix - Marggrabowa. Jan Karol Sembrzycki (Note 9. Jan Karol Sembrzycki (1856 Marggrabowa - 1919 Klaipeda) - Masurian national and educational activist, editor of the periodical "Tygodnik Mazur", publisher, folklorist, regional historian. In search of the national identity of Masuria, he combined Polish and German elements, remaining closer to Polish or German culture at various stages of his life. He was a pharmacist by profession.). in his work from 1889 "Przyczynki do charakterystyki Mazurów pruskich" quotes the Masurian legend: *"Once upon a time, Prince Albrecht participated in hunting in the local immense forests. He chased a magnificent deer, but this one injured the hunter. Lonely in the forest, the prince found help and shelter in a hermit's hut. In memory of the happy rescue, the ruler decided to found a town, and the church was decorated with an elaborate chandelier in the shape of a deer head – 8-point buck (antlers with eight branches on each of the main beams), also called in the 17th and 18th centuries Melusine. Even in the nineteenth century, the place of the prince's shelter in a hermit's hut was supposed to be indicated by an old cherry tree "*. In fact, in the church in Marggrabowa, at the end of the 18th century, there was a magnificent candlestick in the shape of a deer head, but it is not known how much it had in common with the legend.

The first mention of the plan of establishing a new town in Straduny Starosty is in the memorial of **7th October 1559** entitled "Memorial des Heinrich Croszel and Christoff Szafstedt". Heinrich Croszel was employed in Klaipeda (Memel) Starosty and Christoff Szafstedt in Tapiau Starosty (Gvardeysk in Kaliningrad District). Both officials were instructed to travel to the Straduny area with the surveyors to make various measurements and carry out a thorough fieldwork. They were to check the colonization possibilities of this part of the forest in the Straduny Starosty and measure the area for the future town. They chose a place located on Olecko Wielkie Lake. The sketches they made (kept in the library in Berlin) show the outline of the lake and the place where the town was supposed to be. (Note 10. Czygan S., Erinnerung an die Stadgruendung, "Treuburger Heimatbrief", Nr 40 (Winter 2000)

Tutlies A., Heiteres und Ernstes aus Oletzko: ein Landkreis in Ostpreussen, Norderstedt: Books on Demand Gmbh, 2007.).

Contrary to other towns that developed from earlier rural settlements, Olecko was founded in **1560** in the forest on the so-called "in cruda radice", that is, it was built from scratch on a cleared area. 100 voloks (1 volok of Chełmno = approx. 16.8 ha) were allocated for the new town, and 40 voloks for the prince's manor. The first vogt - allocator was Adam Wojdowski, (Note 11. There are many spelling forms of this surname in the documents: Wojnowski, Woynoffski, Wojdowski, Woydowski, Dowidofsky. He was a nobleman from Mazovia, encouraged by the opportunities offered by the location of Marggrabowa. (Bogdan D. in: "Dzieje Olecka") and the mayor was Stanisław Milewski (Stanislaus Milewski / Stentzel Mileffski).

Until 1560, the prince's starost was in office in Straduny. In 1564 the starosty was formally transferred to the newly founded town of Marggrabowa - to the Oletzko castle. The Straduny Castle, however, was used for a long time by the starost, who was alternately titled the starost of Olecko or Straduny.

In 1578 the administrative district around Marggrabowa was renamed "Oletzko". The princely administrative counselor Kaspar von Nostitz (1500-1588) mentioned in the description of the economy of individual starosties in "Haushaltungsbuch des Furstentums Preussen" from 1578 that the construction of a princely manor was started on Oleckie Wielkie Lake, for which the best lands in the area had been selected before the town was founded. And since the law of grain milling, which brought high profits, was the regalia of the ruler, it is not surprising that a mill was quickly built in the castle wola settlement. It was on the same side of the river as the castle.

Image page 9

Oletzko, hunting lodges, a manor and the seat of the starost.

Image page 10

Kaspar von Nostitz also mentions the town of Marggrabowa, adding that it was formerly known as the village of Oletzko.

The area with the manor house, farm buildings and the population living there formed the so-called jurydyka, i.e. an area excluded from the competence of municipal authorities. The hill was surrounded on three sides by natural borders, a lake and a river, and only its south-eastern border required additional protection with an earth rampart and a palisade. At the end of the 16th century, eleven free peasants from the starosty area were obliged to protect this land. However, guarding free peasants turned out to be too heavy duty for them, and on 18th March 1596, they handed over a letter to the starost, in which they asked to be released from the obligation, because they neglected their own farms. The prince agreed to this proposal, recognizing that the country was not currently in danger.

The manor house with a farm located next to the city served not only for its better defence, but also by growing over the villages, it became a stimulator of settlement changes and was the centre of economic, agricultural, production and craft life. In the days of prince Albrecht, the prince's domain in the Olecko / Straduny district consisted mainly of rental villages (whose inhabitants were obliged to pay rent for the land lease) and corvée villages (whose inhabitants had to provide people and horse carriages to build roads and bridges) and from about seventy farms, as well as several dozen sheepfolds, numerous mills and fish ponds.

Caspar Hennenberg in the oldest historical and geographical work from 1595 on the past of Prussia "Erclerung der Preussischen grössern Landtaffel" mentions two hunting lodges (Jagdbude), which are located in the then Straduny starosty: Haschnen (Łaźno) and Oletzko (Olecko). The author states that the hunting lodges are located on the Lithuanian (eastern) side of the lake.

Image page 10



Caspar Henneberger. Erclerung der preussischen grössern Landtafel oder Mappen... Königsberg: Osterberger, 1595.

Image page 11

Caspar Henneberger's information about Oletzko Amphoff (starosty court) and the new town of Marggrabowa. Previously, he referred to them as the Jagdbuden (Jagdpuden) hunting lodges. In Elk the castle (Schloss) is mentioned and in Olecko and Straduny only Amphhoff.

Image page 11

Caspar Henneberger. Grosse Landtafel von Preussen: In 9 Blättern (1. Ausg. vom Jahre 1576); von neuem in d. Größe d. Originals hrsgedurch d. königl. physik.-ökonom. Ges. zu Königsberg i. Pr. im Jahre 1863.

In **1619**, the starostyoffice was permanently moved from Straduny to Marggrabowa - the Oletzko castle (Note 12. Treuburg. Ein Grenzkreis in Ostpreussen. Red. K. Krech).

In the later register of buildings and monuments in East Prussia it was noted that the princely starost Krzysztof Albrecht von Schönauich started in **1654** the construction of a magnificent castle on Oleckie Wielkie Lake - the seat of the princely starosts. In 1656, the town and the castle were plundered and devastated during the Tatar invasion. Ultimately, the construction of the new magnificent castle was completed in **1657**.

From the starosty in Straduny to the manor and the castle, there was a road along the western shore of Oleckie Wielkie Lake. This road was the first and the oldest street in Marggrabowa. On the city plan from the 16th century it is called Zamkowa (Schlossstraße – Castle Street). The rest of it leading south was called Wieliczowska (Wielitzken Straße). On both sides of the street, on the next plots, there were craftsmen (blacksmiths, potters, saddlers, etc.). Houses were erected along the street between Oleckie Wielkie Lake and marshy meadows to the south, which were later drained. Such areas were called "Holländerei" and in Polish Oladras (Note 13. Originally, the Olęders were settlers from Friesland and the Netherlands, most often of the Mennonite confession, who in the 16th and 17th centuries established villages in Prussia, along the Vistula and its tributaries, in Kujawy, Mazovia and Greater Poland. They had the ability to meliorate and represented high agricultural culture. They kept their personal freedom, their own religion and beliefs. Later (until the mid-nineteenth century), the Olęders were defined as settlers of various nationalities who enjoyed certain privileges under the law applied by Friesian and Dutch colonists, e.g. personal freedom, long-term or perpetual lease of land, the possibility of transferring land to heirs. (PWN Encyclopedia). For this reason, the street was later called Holländer Straße (Dutch). After 1945, it was renamed Mazurska.

Image page 12

Castle in Olecko on the plan from the 18th century. From the book: Grigat Ch., Die Geschichte des Kreises Treuburg, 1938.

In 1748, August Hermann Lucanus (Note 14. August Hermann Lucanus (1691-1773), the author of a historical monograph from 1748 Preussens uralter und heutiger Zustand.) saw the castle and described it in the following words: "It is located at the end of the city, it is spacious with three towers.

There is a clock on the central tower ... The upper chambers of the castle offer a vast view of the surrounding area ... On the guard side there is an administrative building with the manor house and farm buildings ”.

Image page 12

Supposed view of the castle from the north - illustration made by J. Kunicki.

We learn about the appearance of the object from an article by Carl Wunsch (Note 15. Carl Wunsch - the 20th century author of numerous publications on the architecture and art of East Prussia Conrad Burck - builder of many objects in East Prussia in the 17th century), which was published in 1944 in the journal *Mitteilungen des Vereins für die Geschichte von Ost- und Westpreussen* plan of the castle from 1650 by Conrad Burck. There are two plans on it: the ground floor and the first floor. In the ground floor plan, we can see a square internal courtyard measuring 36.23 m x 37.80 m. In the outer corners there are four round towers with a diameter of 5.04 m. The main wing of the castle was situated on the north-eastern side, overlooking the Oleckie Wielkie Lake. The northern part was erected over the cellars of the building that existed there in the times of the Teutonic Knights. On the ground floor there was the starost's apartment, which was accessed through a large hall, from which four entrances led to the dining room, kitchen and two types of living rooms: private unheated - "Kammer" and heated with stoves - "Stube". In the north-east wing, in the rooms adjacent to the starost's apartment, but with a separate entrance from the courtyard, there were the most important official rooms of the castle, namely the grain writer's office and the starost's chancery office. Opposite wings of the castle (eastern and western) were crossed by a wide passage on both sides. The entrance to the bakery was through a small hall situated on the side of the inner courtyard. There was a brewery adjacent to the bakery with another separate entrance from the courtyard. From the brewery, it was possible to go further to two utility rooms located in the south-west corner of the castle: a fermentation chamber and a malt house. In the southern wing there were in turn: a room for servants, a starost's stable for twelve horses, a stable for visiting guests for eighteen horses, a coach house and guest rooms. In the south-eastern corner there was a large room, the so-called Hofstube, which could be accessed through the hall from the courtyard.

Image page 13

*Ground floor plan. The illustration comes from the book "Treuburg. Ein Greinzkreis in Ostpreussen" edited by K. Krech. 1. Vault, 2. Warehouse, 3. Small room, 4. Room, 5. Dining room, 6. Hall, 7. Economic chancery, 8. Starost's office, 9. Drive, 10. Court room, 11. Coach house, 12. Stable for 18 horses for guests, 13. Stable for 12 horses for the starost, 14. Room for servants, 15. Malt house, 16. Fermentation chamber, 17. Brewery, 18. Hall, 19. Bakery (Demby R., *W Straduńskiej puszczy*, p. 57).*

The upper floor, largely constituting the elector's apartments, was accessed by internal stairs placed in an octagonal tower from the inside of the courtyard. The north-east and north-west wings were connected. The main stairs led up to a large hall, on its left side was the entrance to a large hall, and on the right side to larger and smaller heated and unheated living rooms overlooking the lake and the courtyard. In the north-east corner there was the upper floor of the land writer's chancery and grain writer's chancery. Further up the floor, in the



east wing, there are stove-heated rooms for guests and accompanying guests, and between them, small unheated rooms. Along the entire length of the southern wing of the upper storey there was a malt warehouse, as well as malt drying rooms. In the south-eastern corner there was a large, heated utility room "Hofkammer".

Image page 14

First floor plan. The illustration comes from the book "Treuburg. Ein Greinzkreis in Ostpreussen" edited by K. Krech. 1. Warehouse, 2. Chamber, 3. Hall, 4. Room, 5. Chancery, 6. Starost's office, 7. Large room, 8. Feed warehouse, 9-10. Guest and utility rooms. (Demby R., W Straduńskiej puszczy, p. 57).

In **1752**, the royal stud (Königliche Landgestüt) was placed in the castle buildings, which probably did not use all the castle rooms.

On 10th December **1756**, many castle rooms were empty, because Johann Friedrich Domhardt (1712-1781), the director of the Lithuanian Administrative Office, suggested that the employees of the school under construction should stay in the castle for some time.

In the evening of 20th May **1776**, around 11 p.m., the fire of the tower of the church in Olecko started from a lightning strike. The beginning of the fire was not noticed by anyone, and it was not until three in the morning that the fire was noticed by a burgher named Hintz, who was guarding the castle that night.

In the 18th century, the Olecko castle began to decline, which was probably related to changes in public administration and the liquidation of the office of princely starosts. The last princely starost in Olecko was the cavalry general Christoph Carl von Buelow in the years 1773-1788 (Note 16. In 1764, the clock was even removed from the castle tower and sold to Bialla (Biała Piska), see: E. Kozłowska, p 102 Ester Elisabeth Gräfendorf nee von Hausen allocated her and her deceased husband's property to a girls' orphanage. The orphanage was opened in 1813, and from 1825 it was located on the castle hill. Initially, there were six girls in the institute, and then ten girls who left the orphanage after Confirmation (14 years old). The institute was run by the local parish priest, in accordance with the testator's will. It existed until the 1880s, and the Gräfendorf Foundation until 1945 (S. Czygan, Das Gräfendorf - von Hausensche Stift in Marggrabowa).

At the beginning of the 19th century, another administrative reform was carried out in Prussia, as a result of which Marggrabowa became the seat of a new district - Landrat. At that time, the process of gradual enfranchisement of peasants began in the Prussian countryside, and the indebted government sold state property to private owners and parvenus. The same fate awaited the Olecko castle.

In **1822** the castle burned down completely and was not rebuilt. The area on which it was located on the left side of the Lega River was included within the city limits, therefore the existing jurydyka was liquidated and the office of the royal stud was cancelled.

In **1825**, the entire property, together with the farm buildings of the former border estate, i.e. the jurydyka, was issued for sale for 2,000 thalers. The Prussian king, Frederick William III, generously allocated 1000 thalers of this amount to the foundation of the widow, Mrs Elizabeth von Gräfendorf, who in her will of **1807** allocated all her property to the seat of the Gräfendorf Foundation (Orphanage for Girls - **Graefendorffschen Waisen** -

Madchen-Erziehung Anstalt), and appointed pastor Jan Andreas Frenzl from Gąski as the executor of her will.

In the "Encyklopedyi powszechnej z ilustracjami i mapami" by S. Orgelbrand from 1864 we read: "Olecko - an old castle in East Prussia, near the town of Marggrabowa".

On **15th February 1884**, a fire broke out and the Gräfendorf Foundation buildings were completely destroyed.

In the years **1873-1892**, Vicar Ballnus' (Note 17. Friedrich August Ballnus (1807 Marggrabowa - 1871 Ciche), Evangelical Vicar, "regarded as an energetic, intelligent and reliable man in action". Next to F.O.H. Gerssa was considered the most competent Masurian clergyman. He combined pastoral duties with public activity. He founded the Landwirtschaftlicher Verein für den Kreis Oletzko (Olecko District Agricultural Society), led to the founding of the Kirchspielsparkasse (parish relief and loan fund), and led to the founding of a local orphanage (Oletkoer Waisen-Erziehungsverein). (Jasiński G., Słownik duchownych ewangelickich...). Orphanage was placed in the buildings in Castle Square.

The institute was headed by a manager (Hausvater), the girls were looked after by the members of the Patriotic Women's Union and by two ladies Meyherr and Messling. Children were educated at the elementary school level and stayed at the institute until confirmation. The Ballnus House was able to look after 60 orphans. In 1873, there were 28 boys and 27 girls at the institute.

Initially, the Ballnus House was run by deacon Koch from Duisburg, and the teachers were: among others deacon Lindemuth, Mslwannowius, Eduard Bork, Heinriette Baron, Rudolf Meyer. Koch was the manager of the Ballnus House until 1879, when he was dismissed and sentenced to long prison terms after revealing unacceptable behaviour towards his students. He was succeeded by deacon Schmalgemeyer who came from the Rhineland. Institute as a result of the scandal Koch was in financial crisis, lasting until the end of the 1980s. On 21st October 1892, the Ballnus Orphanage was moved to Gołdapska Street (Note 18. Jasiński G., Dom Sierot im. Friedricha Ballnusa w Olecku - przykład zakładu opiekuńczego na Mazurach w XIX wieku, „Komunikaty Mazursko-Warmińskie”, 2001, nr 1, 33-46.).

In **1897**, in the northern part of the Castle Square, a neo-Gothic district starostybuilding was erected. In addition - in 1911 - residential buildings for the employees of the starosty were built.

During World War I, from 16th November **1914** to 11th February 1915, the building housed the headquarters of the 10th Russian Army. After the withdrawal of the Russians from East Prussia, on 6th March 1915, the Headquarters of the 10th German Army (Das Hauptquartier des X Armeeoberkommando) was transferred to Marggrabowa. The commander of the 10th Army was

General (Generalfeldmarschall) Hermann von Eichhorn (Note 19. The path leading around the Oleckie Wielkie Lake - "Squirrel path" is named after General Eichhorn.), and the chief of staff was Colonel Emil Hell. The military occupied the building of the Starosty District in Castle Square and the former residential buildings of the Starosty employees. Eichhorn's quarters were Villa Schiborr (next to the Catholicchurch) in Castle Street. General



Paul von Hindenburg, Ludendorff's chief of staff and Frederick August III, the last king of Saxony, also stayed in the headquarters in Marggrabowa. The staff of the 10th Army stationed in Olecko until 8th August 1915. In the summer of 1915, the Germans carried out a series of military operations on the Eastern Front, as a result of which the front line was moved far east, and the Headquarters of the 10th German Army was located in Vilnius on 29th September 1915.

Image page 16

Postcards from 1915 showing the visit of the King of Saxony, Frederick August III with Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg in the starosty building in 1915, the reverse shows the name of the publishing house Dytfeld Marggrabowa, from the archives of Z. Bereśniewicz.

After World War I, the buildings were again taken over by the district administration. In **1928**, the town of Marggrabowa was renamed Treuburg in recognition of its loyalty when voting for belonging to the German state during the 1920 Plebiscite. In **1931**, Kreis Oletzko (Olecko District) takes the name of Kreis Treuburg (Treuburg District).

From August to December **1945**, the 36th battalion of sappers from the 5th Masurian Sapper Brigade was quartered in the building of the former County Office in Olecko (3 Castle Street). The battalion cleared the section of the Rospuda River and the lake area, from the village of Raczki, through Bakalarzewo to Filipów.

Then, from 1948, the building was the seat of the **14th** Training Center. From 1951 to 1959 there was a boarding here. From 1959, the building was intended for teaching purposes of the Vocational School. From the school year 1978/79 The school changed its name to the Vocational School Complex in Olecko, and from 1993/94 to the Technical School Complex in Olecko.

Currently, the building of the former starosty is one of the most interesting buildings in Olecko. It is worth paying attention to its architectural style. It is an interesting example of a neo-Gothic public building with characteristic lancet arches in the shutters and a groin vault in the entrance to the building. There are fragments of earth fortifications of the former castle nearby.

Until **1945**, in 2 Castle Square, there was a building District Council that was destroyed as a result of the war (the wall from the river side was demolished). The building was rebuilt in 1952 as a one-storey building. Carpentry workshops were located here, and then the workshops of the construction department of the vocational school. In the years 1986-1990 it was modernized and extended to the present size and became the second didactic building of the school. To this day, in front of the entrance, there are two decorative spheres with chains, preserved from the original building.

Image page 17

The building District Council in the Castle Square. Illustration from the archive of Z. Bereśniewicz dated 1927.

Author of the study: Józef Kunicki, Olecko 2021

Footnotes and comments: **Katarzyna Małgorzata Kaczor - APA "Castle"**

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Image page 20

*A fragment of the Olecko plan from the second half of the 19th century. The map shows the date October 1865, but it is possible that later changes were made to it. You can see the plan of the preserved ruins of the castle from the 17th century and the building on the other side of the road that has survived to this day. Currently, it houses the mechanical workshops of the Technical School Complex in Olecko. The State Archives in Suwałki, Branch in Etłk, group no. 98 Cadastral Office in Olecko 1861-1944, reference number 1378. **The documents were found by Marek Góryński, PhD***

Image page 21

*A fragment of the Olecko plan from the beginning of the 20th century. The map shows the date: March 1923, but it is possible that later changes were made to it. All the buildings on the opposite side of the road in Castle Square are already visible, but there is still no balcony attached to the "Castle" and two outbuildings. The State Archives in Suwałki, Branch in Etłk, group no.98. The Cadastral Office in Olecko 1861-1944, reference number 1381. **The documents were found by Marek Góryński, PhD***

Image page 21

*Outline of the plot at Plac Zamkowy 3 in Olecko from February 1903. The map shows the new building of the starosty "Castle", but without the added balcony and only 1 outbuilding. The line of the slope is also marked - the bastions of the 17th century castle. The State Archives in Suwałki, Branch in Etłk, group no.98. The Cadastral Office in Olecko 1861-1944, reference number 1380. **The documents were found by Marek Góryński, PhD***

Image page 22

A fragment of the Olecko plan from the beginning of the 20th century. The map shows the date of February 1903, but it is possible that later changes were made to it. There is a new building of the starosty - "Castle", but without the added balcony and outbuildings. The State

Archives in Suwałki, Branch in Elk, group no.98. The Cadastral Office in Olecko 1861-1944, reference number 1379. **The documents were found by Marek Góryński, PhD**

Image page 23

*A fragment of the Olecko plan from the Second World War. Buildings are marked in red on the map. The map does not contain all changes in the development. There was no balcony attached to the "Castle." As you can see, the buildings on the castle peninsula were not as dense as in other parts of the city. State Archives in Suwałki, Branch in Elk, group no.98. Cadastral Office in Olecko 1861-1944, reference number 1441. **The documents were found by Marek Góryński, PhD***

THE HISTORY OF THE OLECKO CASTLE AFTER 1945

As a result of the decisions of the Yalta Conference (February 4-11, 1945) and the Potsdam Conference (July 17 - August 2, 1945), the territories of East Prussia fell to Poland. The arrival of new settlers to Olecko in 1945 was preceded by an exodus of people living in Marggrabowa / Treuburg, fleeing the approaching Red Army. The Russians entered the abandoned city on 23rd January 1945 and left it in September 1945. The first inhabitants had a lot of trouble with the names of the city and the district, which finally in 1946 received the name Olecko.

Image page 24

Fragment of the Olecko plan with plot numbers marked on it. The plan was drawn up after World War II on the basis of German plans. In the background, there are buildings that were almost completely destroyed after the war. The outlines of the bastions of the 17th-century castle are also visible.

The State Archives in Suwałki, Branch in Elk, unit no. 263 Poviats Geodesy Office in Olecko 1949-1959, reference number 85, sheet 270.

On 11th November 1946, the Public Secondary Vocational School, headed by Wiktor Jankowski, was opened in the building at 2 Castle Street. At that time, the building of the former starosty called the "Castle" did not suffer too much as a result of warfare, looting or the activities of the Red Army. The destruction of the building in 1947 was estimated at only 25%, similar to the farm buildings adjacent to the Castle. Other large buildings in Castle Square, most of them destroyed in 80% or more, were not so lucky. Even in 1947, in the inventory lists, the Castle was listed as a building not occupied with a possible use as office space. This would be the most reasonable as it would not take too much adaptation work. Even before the war, the building was equipped with an electricity, water supply, sewerage and central heating (Note 1. State Archives in Suwałki, branch in Elk, group no.134, reference number 527, sheets 5, 13.). In July of that year, the District Educational Commission (District National Council) proposed to organize a new primary school in the Castle. At this

point, it turned out that there were other ideas for using this building. For this reason, the Presidium of the District of the National Council on 23rd August 1947 made a request to the City National Council to give the Castle for educational purposes (Note 2. Ibid., Fond no. 135, reference number 31, sheets 9, 10.).

The reconstruction of Olecko was slowed down by the lack of an adequate number of craftsmen and skilled workers (Note 3. This problem is reflected in many documents. It was discussed at a conference on local government investment works included in the District Investment Plan for 1949 of 16th July 1949. State Archives in Suwałki, Branch in Elk, group no. 135, reference number 261, k. 1-3; reference number 59, sheets 23, 31.). It was unlikely that the appropriate staff of professionals would be recruited to Olecko, so the authorities decided to organize another vocational school. On 28th April 1948, the District National Council passed a resolution to submit a request to the Ministry of Reconstruction (Note 4. Ibid., Reference number 15, sheet 6.7; reference number 59, sheet 23. The handover of the building was an important issue, as the Ministry of Reconstruction and the Provincial Reconstruction Department in Białystok planned to establish a two-year school of building crafts in Olecko, which could be admitted to people who were at least 18 years old and had completed 7 years of primary school, or those who had passed the appropriate exam in Polish language and arithmetic. (Note 4a, Ibid., Fond no. 135, reference number 78, sheet 13.) to establish a secondary school of building crafts in Olecko and decided to place it in a building in 3 Castle Square, i.e. the Castle. The result of these efforts was the establishment of the 14th State Vocational Training Centre of the Ministry of Reconstruction. The change of use of the building involved carrying out adaptation and renovation works and the purchase of the necessary equipment, for which PLN 5 million of a loan from the State Investment Plan for 1949 was spent. A commission was established, consisting of Oleg Nowicki - director of the centre, Henryk Hryniewski - accountant, Władysław Siemaszko - economic clerk, Jan Grodzki - teacher and Alojzy

Lewicki - district architect, as a technical inspector. At a meeting on 10th May 1949, the committee identified the most urgent needs for which the granted loans should be spent. Of this amount, only 1 million zloty was to be received by private entrepreneurs for the modernization of the lighting, water and sewage systems and renovation of central heating. Some of the construction works were to be performed by students as part of practical classes, so only the purchase of materials and tools was assumed. They wanted to spend a significant part of the amount on the purchase of a mechanical carpentry workshop, equipped with a sharper, circular saws, band saws and a turning shop. Moreover, they wanted to buy 20 sets of carpentry tools (for 40 students - carpenters) and equipment for 30 students of the bricklaying group, including a concrete mixer and cranes (lifting blocks). There were also plans to purchase other teaching aids, equipment for a boarding school and a canteen, as well as office equipment and furniture. Some equipment expenses were not approved by the ministry (Note 5. Ibid., Fond no. 134, reference number 550, sheets 6, 7.). The condition of the building was not as good as originally stated. Already in August, students had to move a part of the tile to remove damp patches. It turned out that sheet metal work is necessary, as some of the funnels, drain gutters and washers on the cornices were rusted and needed to be replaced (Note 6. Ibid., Fond no. 134, reference number 550, sheet 32.). Most of the commissioned



works were to be performed by the Licensed Installation Workshop Stanisław Czyżewski - until 25th October 1949. Despite the help of craftsmen and Leopold Gawkowski, who did the stove fitters, and Witold Kołpak, who made the sheet metal work, it was not possible to complete the work within the prescribed period, and the renovation lasted until the end of December. This was partly due to the need to strengthen the structure in 2 rooms on the 1st floor intended for washrooms. After removing the floor plates, it turned out that the 4 wooden beams are 50% rotten and should be replaced, and in the room below, an I-beam joist should be installed (Note 7. Ibid., Fond no. 134, reference number 550, sheets 41, 43, 46, 47, 48.). However, the works were not perfectly done. Many faults have been reported, especially in the plumbing. The workshop agreed that the defects should be repaired by Michał Niemczynowski, for which he was to receive 10,000 PLN. zloty. The commission, which accepted the works at the end of February 1950, stated that only 2 defects had not been removed, but applied for a final settlement with the Czyżewski's company (Note 8. Ibid., Fond no. 134, reference number 550, sheets 46, 49, 57. The commission stated that Niemczynowski had done the work properly. However, he could not install one sink because it was broken and he did not install one urinal in the basement. It was proposed that the new sink should be supplied by Czyżewski's company.).

In 1950, further renovation works were planned in the Castle for the amount of PLN 1,200,000, but taking into account the increase in the prices of building materials, the application was requested by 1.5 million. At the request of 14th Centre from 28th November 1949, the District National Council, at the meeting on 29th December 1949, adopted a resolution on the transferring of real estate in 4 Castle Square to the Centre and gave a positive opinion on the transferring of property marked as No 5 and 7 (Note 9. Ibid., Fond no. 134, reference number 550, sheet 56; complex no. 135, reference number 15, card. 76, 77. The property in 4 Castle Square was owned by the local government (currently a plot with a new school building, without a gym), while properties no. 5 and 7 (now the large ZST pitch and the estate behind the pitch) belonged to a construction cooperative before the war, so after the war it was not directly managed by the District authorities. There is no plot no. 7 in Castle Square on the maps, which is probably a mistake, as two plots 5 and 7 were marked with number 5 after the war. (Note 9a. Ibid, complex 263, sheet 270). The authorities of the Centre, planning the development of the school, wanted to rebuild the building in 4 Castle Square (now the so-called school to distinguish it from the Castle school building), which was 80% destroyed. It was estimated that it will cost about 30 million zloty. However, there was no decision to grant loans, and renovation works were continued on their own (Note 10. Ibid., Fond no. 134, reference number 550, sheets 56, 59.). They also requested the District authorities to transfer more land in Castle Square. The District Department, in the resolution No 79 of 18th April 1950, gave a positive opinion on the transferring of the property number 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 to the Centre (officially the Ministry of Construction), with the condition that students of the Secondary Vocational School will be able to use this area and facilities. These proposals were approved by

the District National Council at its meeting on 24th April 1950. This decision meant that almost all the plots under the former castle had one owner and manager (Note 11. Ibid., Fond no. 135, reference number 15, sheet 99; reference number 24, k. 15. In Castle Square, only properties No. 1 (now a cafe and part of the amphitheatre) and 2 (currently the gym of the ZST in Olecko) were not owned by the 14th Centre. (Note 11a. Ibid., Fond no. 263, reference number 85, sheet 270.).

The liquidation of the Ministry of Reconstruction, and then the Ministry of Construction, meant that the schools run by these bodies were to be transferred to the educational authorities. It was decided that the 14th State Vocational Training Centre of the Ministry of Reconstruction (Construction) in Olecko will be included in the Secondary Metal and Construction School of the Central Vocational Training Office in Olecko, which was located in Castle Street. From 1st September 1951, the students of the Centre became students of the vocational school, but the facilities and equipment were not officially handed over until December 1951. Most of the Centre's teachers were employed at the school. Director Oleg Nowicki was entrusted with the duties of the director of the Vocational School of Metal and Construction in Olecko (he held them only from 1st September 1951 to the end of February 1952). His current deputy, Stanisław Troczyński, became the deputy headmaster of the school (he held this position until his death in 1967). The head of the boarding school - Zbigniew Jaworski, was called up to the army (Note 12. M. Góryński, Historia ZST w Olecku, Olecko 2016, p. 3, 4. The names of schools have changed due to the reform. Secondary vocational schools were transformed into vocational schools. The reform of the vocational education system of 1951 introduced vocational training schools as the lowest forms of preparation for professional work; vocational schools preparing skilled workers; technical and higher-level vocational schools, preparing staff with secondary - full vocational education. Schools for young people who completed the 9th and 10th grade of general secondary school, as well as a vocational school were also established. There were also an evening technical secondary school for workers and an weekend technical secondary school for workers, as well as master schools for skilled workers with apprenticeships; B. Moraczewska Szkolnictwo polskie w latach 1945–1975 z uwzględnieniem miasta Włocławka, Włocławek 2010; <http://www.kpbc.ukw.edu.pl/Content/52703/szkolnictwo.pdf>, p. 62.).

Unfortunately, hardly any books of renovations (facilities) that were at the disposal of the vocational school have survived. Therefore, it is not possible to accurately reproduce renovation and adaptation works carried out in particular periods. The relations of retired teachers and former students as well as fragmentary information from the protocols of teachers' councils and personal files indicate that there were a lot of these changes. The documents of the supervising institutions are not very helpful here, because the school had construction faculties and mechanical workshops, so most of the repairs were carried out on their own, as part of practical classes. After the conversion of the Castle building into the 14th Centre, it housed classrooms, administrative and office rooms, sanitary facilities, a boarding house, a kitchen with a canteen and apartments for some employees. After the 14th Center was incorporated into a vocational school, the dormitory was moved to the buildings in Zamkowa Street, where the students from this school used to live. The purpose of the Castle (Note 13. The so-called the teachers "block was also built with the use of students" work. Relations of Piotr Gorlo, director of Technical School Complex in Olecko and teachers: Halina Klaus, Małgorzata Siennicka, Alicja Kosak and Józef Zieliński.) did not change until the mid-1970s. At that time, the flats in the teachers' block were put into use,



which resulted in the liquidation of some of the living quarters in the Castle. At the turn of the 1970s and 1980s, a concept for the reconstruction of the Vocational School Complex in Olecko was developed, which assumed that only teaching rooms, social and administrative rooms would remain in the Castle. The kitchen and canteen were to be moved to adapted rooms in a small boarding house. The students' housing needs were to be provided in a new facility added to a large boarding. The free-standing post-workshop pavilion (now the so-called new school) was to be converted into a sports hall with back-up facilities. It was planned to locate the boiler room next to the recently built teachers' block. An important element of the development of the castle peninsula was to establish the base for the Provincial Defence Training Camp. It was planned to erect an amphitheatre, a marina, a hangar pavilion with a dressing room, a campsite and an assembly square (Note 14. Technical School Complex files in Olecko, Technical and economic assumptions of sanitary installations in the Vocational School Complex in Olecko, Project No. 18TPP, author Danuta Gebauer, 1981; Area development plan and architectural concepts for the modernization of the buildings of the Vocational School Complex, ed. Zenon Filipczuk, 1981.

Plan for the expansion of the Vocational School Complex boarding school. Construction, comp. Krystyna Kordowska, Józef Luto from March 20, 1977.). These plans changed in the following years.

Until the mid-1980s, in the basement, on the courtyard side, there were: a canteen, a cloakroom and kitchen utility rooms (Note 15. For the canteen, rooms no.3, 4, 5, 6, cloakroom no.7, 8, and warehouses no. 1 and 2 were used. Floor plan of the Castle cellars made for the renovation of the electrical installation in 1948. The relation of Halina Klaus, Alicja Kosak and Małgorzata Siennicka. Director Piotr Gorlo remembered that rooms no. 7 and 8 were the back of the kitchen - probably there was a potato peeling plant there.). On the lake side there was a boiler room, a kitchen, kitchen (Note 16. The boiler room was located in room number 13, bathrooms - 10, 11, 12, 17, kitchen - 15 and kitchen facilities in 14 and) and bathroom facilities (Note 17. Floorplan of the Castle cellars made for the renovation of the electrical installation in 1948. The relation of Halina Klaus, Alicja Kosak and Małgorzata Siennicka (teachers do not remember that there was a bathroom in room 17, as it is according to the entries in the floor plan). Alicja Kosak remembered that in room 16 dirty dishes were returned, and in room 17 there was a potato peeling plant. Małgorzata Siennicka remembered that from room 14 or 15 there was a window in the wall (to room 4) for serving meals. The room no. 14 was divided with a partition wall, and the entrances from the boiler room were bricked up. Area development plan and architectural concepts for the modernization of the buildings of the Vocational School Complex, ed. Zenon Filipczuk, 1981.). At the end of the 1980s, after the canteen and kitchen had moved out, the basement rooms were used as cloakrooms, storage rooms and school archives. According to the plan from 1981, the layout of the Rosom was to be significantly changed. It was planned to brick up most of the passages between the rooms, erect partitions in rooms 3, 4, 5, 6 and punch new passages between these rooms so that a double corridor would be created, these plans were not implemented. On the side of the lake, partitions were to be erected in the former kitchen (rooms no. 14, 15), Hus creating a passage, which was partially completed only in 1993/1994. There were also bathrooms (Note 18. The redevelopment plans have not been fully implemented. The partition wall between rooms 11 and 12 in the men's bathroom was pulled down

before 1980. Technical School Complex files in Olecko, Technical and economic assumptions of sanitary installations in the Vocational School Complex in Olecko, Project No. 18TPP, author Danuta Gebauer, 1981. Area development plan and architectural concepts for the modernization of the buildings of the Complex of Vocational Schools, ed. Zenon Filipczuk, 1981. The relation of Piotr Gorlo, Halina Klaus, Alicja Kosak, Małgorzata Siennicka and Józef Zieliński.).

The layout of the rooms on the ground floor was changed even before the development plans were prepared at the turn of the 1970s and 1980s and has survived to this day. From the side of the courtyard, in room 23 there was a Polish language classroom, 24 - the teachers' room, then the Memorial Room, 25 - the technology classroom. In room 23, the wall from the corridor side was pulled down. There was the director's office, next to it in room no 27 - the secretary's office, and in 28 and 29 - the office of the deputy director. From the lake side, the partition wall between rooms 34 and 35 was demolished, creating a history and knowledge about Poland classroom. Rooms 36 and 37 were connected in the same way, but in room 36 it was also necessary to erect a partition wall from the corridor. There was a mechanical engineering workshop. The library was located in room 39, which was separated from the corridor by a partition wall. Rooms 40, 41 were initially intended for scouting and sports storage, then the library was moved there, and room 39 was turned into a hall by dismantling the partition wall from the corridorside. At the end of the 1970s, the library was moved to the rooms previously occupied by the management, but this was not the last change. (Note 19. The accounts of Piotr Gorlo, director of Technical School Complex in Olecko and teachers: Halina Klaus, Małgorzata Siennicka, Alicja Kosak and Józef Zieliński show frequent changes in the purpose of individual rooms. Unfortunately, due to frequent changes, these relations are not consistent. Files of the Technical School Complex in Olecko, Program and Spatial Study - Architectural and Construction Part, of the Vocational School Complex in Olecko, ed. Zenon Filipczuk.). Eventually, the library ended up in a renovated, small boarding house. (Note 20. Currently, room 23 - 3z (Russian), 24 - 4z (religion), 25 - 5z (Polish), 26 - 6z (English) 27, 28, 29 - 7z and 8z (office of the practical training manager), 34 and 35 - 9z (history), 36 and 37 - 10z (theoretical vocational subjects in the construction industry), 39 - hall, 40 and 41 - 11z (teachers' room).

On the first floor, room 42, first there was a Russian language classroom, and then a technical drawing classroom. Rooms 43 and 44 were intended for mathematics, which were connected by dismantling the wall, while a partition wall was erected to create a corridor. Partition walls in room 45 were demolished. In the project from the 1980s, room 44 was intended for the hall, dismantling the partition walls erected after the war. Ultimately, however, the hall was built from room 45, but only in 1993/1994. The dentist's surgery was placed in 46 and the nurse's one in 47. In Rosom 50, 51 and 52, there was the apartment that was the longest for director Zbigniew Kisielski. After his move to the teachers "block in the 1970s, a teachers" room was set up there, and then the management's offices, secretariat and accounting were moved. The physics laboratory was located in room 53, and its facilities in 54. Accounting used rooms 55 and 55a, and then a



teacher's room was located here (Note 21. Accounts of Piotr Gorlo, director of Vocational School Complex in Olecko and teachers: Halina Klaus, Małgorzata Siennicka, Alicja Kosak and Józef Zieliński; Files of the Technical School Complex in Olecko, Program and Spatial Study - Architectural and Construction Part, of the Vocational School Complex in Olecko, ed. Zenon Filipczuk, 1980.). In the attic, in rooms 59, 60, 62 and 65, there are flats for school staff and teachers. They lived there, among others the janitor Teofil Maciejewski and the janitor Piotr Perkowski, teachers Antoni Guziejko, Józef Kudaj, Henryk Selwocki and Stefan Zakrzewski. A darkroom for a photographic club was organized in room 61. The remaining space was treated as storage. The reconstruction plans assumed that the apartments would be liquidated, several partition walls would be erected to be used as utility storages, school archives, administrative room, dentist's and internist's surgeries (Note 22. Accounts of Piotr Gorlo, director of Vocational School Complex in Olecko and teachers: Halina Klaus, Małgorzata Siennicka, Alicja Kosak and Józef Zieliński; Files of the Technical School Complex in Olecko, Program and Spatial Study - Architectural and Construction Part, of the Vocational School Complex in Olecko, ed. Zenon Filipczuk, 1980. Accounts of Halina Klaus. Files of the Vocational School Complex in Olecko, Design decision. Castle. Olecko, 3 Castle Square, ed. Jan Grochowski.).

The housing conditions of the Vocational School Complex, despite having several buildings, were insufficient. The expanding school lacked space. It was so crowded in the Castle that it was customary for the students on duty to pave the way for teachers going to their classrooms. The classrooms were also not too large for the size of the school classes at that time. The condition of the structural elements was assessed as good, but with many reservations. A leaky roof and rusty flashing damaged some structural elements of the roof. The wooden ceiling above the 1st floor was insulated with clay mixed with straw. High moisture caused damage to some of the ceiling beams. It looked especially bad above the mathematics classroom. The condition of the wooden ceiling above the ground floor, which was insulated with sawdust, was much better. The ceiling above the cellars (a ceramic brick vault based on steel beams) was in the best condition and only needed to be painted. The condition of the concrete staircase from the side of the tower was considered good, in contrast to the wooden staircase located at the small entrance to the building. Partial dampness of the walls, especially at the balcony, and damage to the cornices caused by leaking gutters were also noticed. The condition of the chimney tops was considered tragic.

Due to the need to renovate the wooden ceilings, the plans assumed that above the ground floor, first floor and partly in the attic, they would be changed to Klein ceilings. The concrete staircase would also be rebuilt, and the wooden staircase would be replaced with a new, concrete one (Note 23. Files of the Vocational School Complex in Olecko, Program and Spatial Study - Architectural and Construction Part, of the Vocational School Complex in Olecko, ed. Zenon Filipczuk, 1980.). The renovation of the Castle was not to be carried out until the third and final stage of the reconstruction. First, the dormitory building was adapted to accommodate a canteen, then a boiler room and a gym were to be built, and then the next investments described above were to be implemented (Note 24. Files of the Technical School Complex in Olecko, Copies of arrangements for the implementation plan of the area development and conceptual designs of building facilities of the Vocational

School Complex in Olecko, ed. Zenon Filipczuk, 1981.). The scope of the planned renovation of the Castle required the building to be excluded from use. So there was a problem where to move the school. The solution was to change the purpose of the post-workshop building, which was originally supposed to be a sports hall. The crisis of the 1980s prevented the implementation of extensive plans for the modernization of the ZSZ. A cheaper solution was to rebuild the former workshops at 2 Castle Square into an educational building, especially since a boiler room was to be installed in its part, which would supply all school facilities. Therefore, there was no need to build a central boiler room, planned next to the teachers' block. The reconstruction took a long time. It was only on 1st September 1991 that the students began their education in a new didactic building (the so-called new school). All classrooms, offices and surgeries were transferred to it from the Castle. The Castle building was not used since then, and what is worse, it was not heated (Note 25. Chronicle No. 13 of the Technical School Complex in Olecko. There were even rumors that the Castle was not needed by the school and would probably be handed over to Mostostal Siedlce for recreational purposes. Halina Klaus's relation.).

During the construction of the "new school", preparations for the major renovation of the Castle began. It was necessary to develop new documentation (Note 26. Letter from Vocational School No. s-23/89 of 3rd January 1989 to The Studio for Conservation of Cultural Property in Białystok regarding the major renovation of the "Castle" teaching building; Letter of The Studio for Conservation of Cultural Property in Białystok No. KPP-213/90 of 14th December 1990 on the documentation for the renovation of the educational building "Castle" in Olecko. Accounts of Piotr Gorlo, director of Technical School Complex in Olecko and teachers: Halina Klaus and Józef Zieliński; Files of the Technical School Complex in Olecko, Program and Spatial Study - Architectural and Construction Part, of the Vocational School Complex in Olecko, ed. Zenon Filipczuk, 1980. Financial documents of Technical School Complex in Olecko.). Unfortunately, during the transformation period, financial issues were insurmountable, and the unused and unheated building fell into disrepair. In order to prevent further degradation of the Castle, it was decided to significantly reduce the scope of the renovation and successively launch new teaching laboratories, which the school needed so much due to the population boom. On 1st September 1993, the students sat in the school desks in the Castle again, but only on the ground floor, and the renovation works continued. The financial resources were not very large, so a significant part of the construction works were carried out by students as part of practical classes and the Masurian Teachers' University, which used the school's premises. In 1994, 1,461,694,700 zloty was spent on renovation (after denomination - 146,169 zloty), of which almost 600 million zloty for water and sewage, central heating and electricity installations. Despite such great financial difficulties, it was possible to adapt almost all the rooms. The former boiler room in the basement was converted into a teaching room (no 09z) with back-up facilities (former kitchen facilities). The former kitchen was converted into a classroom (no 06z), which required a partition wall to create a corridor. Three more studios (05z, 04z, 03z) were built in the former canteen rooms, which was possible after the old passages were walled up and new door openings were carved out. On the 1st floor, the partition walls in the former director's apartment were demolished, creating a machine parts workshop (114z), the



passage to the former large room was bricked up, and new ones were knocked out from the corridor side, and the accounts were placed there. From the former room 45, after dismantling the partition walls, a hall was created, and the old mathematics (now 112z) was extended with a corridor (partition walls erected after the war were pulled down) creating a large room needed for lectures at the Masurian Teachers' University. Thus, the passage from one side of the building to the other was eliminated. This is only possible through the room 112z, where the entrance door is on both sides of the corridor. The attic was adapted to the administrative rooms of Masurian Teachers' University and lecture halls, which required placing partition walls from the side of the small entrance (former room 57). From the side of the tower, in the former room 65, a partition wall was pulled down to form a hall, and then a small room was separated from the bay window. In the former administrative and office rooms of Masurian Teachers' University, there is now a museum of the Active People Association o "Castle". The Mazurian University also adapted the outbuildings at the Castle into a library and a senate auditorium (currently Technical School Complex vocational workshops in Olecko) and a warehouse building at Plac Zamkowy 6, which is probably the oldest building in Olecko, into lecture halls (now mechanical workshops of Technical School Complex) (Note 27. Accounts of Piotr Gorlo, director of Technical School Complex in Olecko and teachers: Halina Klaus and Józef Zieliński; Files of the Technical School Complex in Olecko, Program and Spatial Study - Architectural and Construction Part, of the Vocational School Complex in Olecko, ed. Zenon Filipczuk, 1980. Financial documents of Technical School Complex in Olecko.).

The closure of the Masurian University and the decreasing number of students significantly relieved the Castle. There was no need to conduct classes in "basement chambers" anymore. However, further work was needed. In 2003, the roof was renovated and the old tiles were replaced with a new ceramic ones. In the following years, the most damaged windows were replaced, the band around the foundations, wooden stairs on the tower and a small staircase were renovated, some of the rotting structural elements of the tower were replaced, and the historic small entrance door was renovated. The repair of the facade has begun. The largest cracks on the side of the lake were rebuilt, and it was also necessary to make a new ceiling on the balcony. The arch of the small balcony was repaired. The rooms inside and the classrooms are gradually renovated. The castle is a beautiful historic building, but to preserve it for posterity requires great determination and financial resources. The financial troubles of the 1980s and 1990s paradoxically allowed the original structure of the castle to be preserved. Perhaps it would not have had such a spirit if a major renovation was carried out, wooden ceilings and staircases were changed.

Author: Marek Góryński, PhD, 2020

Image page 30

The entrance to the building 2 Castle Square, The archive of TSC

Image page 31

Floor plan of the basement of the "Castle" made for the renovation of the electrical installation from 1948.

State Archives in Suwałki, Branch in Elk, group no. 134 Oleckie County Office 1945-1950, call number 550, k. 50.

Image page 31

Floor plan of the "Castle" ground floor made for the renovation of the electrical installation in 1948. State Archives in Suwałki, Branch in Elk, group no. 134 Oleckie County Office 1945-1950, call number 550, k. 50.

Image page 32

Until 1945, "Castle" was probably slightly rebuilt, incl. the entrance to the building from the side of the square was removed (here part of room 23), a balcony was added and the stoves were removed. Floor plan of the "Castle" floor made for the renovation of the electrical installation in 1948. State Archives in Suwałki, Branch in Elk, group no. 134 Oleckie County Office 1945-1950, call number 550, k. 52.

Image page 32

Floor plan of the attic of the "Castle" made for the renovation of the electrical installation in 1948. State Archives in Suwałki, Branch in Elk, group no. 134 Oleckie County Office 1945-1950, call number 550, k. 52.

Image page 33

The current arrangement of the rooms on the ground floor in the "Castle" (Evacuation plan of the Technical School Complex in Olecko) State Archives in Suwałki, Branch in Elk, group no. 134 Oleckie County Office 1945-1950, call number 550, k. 53.

Image page 33

The current arrangement of the rooms on the first floor in the "Castle" (Evacuation plan of the Technical School Complex in Olecko) State Archives in Suwałki, Branch in Elk, group no. 134 Oleckie County Office 1945-1950, call number 550, k. 53.

LEGENDS AND STORIES

Prehistory of Masuria

Through the centuries of the formation of the Masurian community, the local inhabitants were not able to find answers to the questions about the early beginnings of local settlement. Even the formation of the varied postglacial landscape was a mystery. Masurians referred to the Divine creation, telling that God, when he had begun to gladly look at the earth he had created, suddenly saw a hole in its surface, which could not be filled with "material". Therefore, with his divine hands, he reached for the farthest ends of the Earth, and from every corner he took a bit of the local wealth - the high mountains provided boulders and smaller stones, deserts and steppes - sands, etc. God's hands many times drew the water that filled Masurian lakes, and the Creator did not forget about the trees, which he moved to many places, creating numerous forests. Places rich in natural deposits had to share their treasures: peat, lime and iron ores. In the end, the hole was filled and the world gained Masuria - a beautiful land, the fruit of God's special care, but also ... God's oblivion.



*Image
page 34*

View from the lake on the starosty building. Postcard sent from Marggrabowa in 1927, pub. F.W. Czygan, collection of M. Nowicki.

The mystery of the Oleckie Wielkie Lake

In the old days, two feuding families lived at Oleckie Wielkie Lake, one lived in the castle in Marggrabowa, the other in a house on the opposite side of the lake. In the castle lived a beautiful and rich maid, while in the cottage - a handsome young beau. Young people fell in love, but their parents did not agree to the wedding. Desperate young lovers planned to take their own lives. One winter day, the beau from the manor took horses and a sleigh from his father, and he and his bride decided to die together in the depths of the lake. The maid took gold jewellery from the house and packed it into a chest. The lovers rode a sleigh onto the surface of the lake. In the place where the river flowed through the lake, the ice broke and the sleigh with lovers and horses drowned in the icy water. In the aftermath of this tragedy, the feuding families reconciled at the coffins of their children. However, from that tragic day, a chest with gold began to appear on the lake. Some daredevils wanted to get it out, but anyone who approached it immediately drowned. Since then, as old people claim, young lovers have drawn one person into their underwater wedding procession every year. The proof that this is so is the fact that there has not yet been a year when someone did not drown in the Lake.

Written by Hannelore Muraczewska

Olecko Castle

At the beginning of the 19th century, in the burnt Olecko castle, there were supposed to be on the wall in one room, irremovable traces of blood, which were supposed to come from the fratricidal murder.

From the castle, in the place where the Lega River flows out of the lake, there was supposed to be an underground passage leading to the other bank; a similar passage was supposed to lead from the castle to the old vicariate (today's Jeziorna Street on the right side behind the stone bridge) and from there to the church. The sinkhole running along the road from the gardens to the Denzer barn (i.e. the north-west side of the castle, on the river and lake side) is also referred to as a collapsed underground passage. There are also stories about such underground passages under the lake in the Ełk Castle.

Image page 35

View of the city from the lake side (from the left: houses of the starosty employees, the starosty, the Catholic church, the Lega river). A postcard written on Thursday, 6th November 1914 in Darkhemmen (Ozersk) and sent by field mail to Altona (Hamburg), pub. F. W. Czygan Marggrabowa, Archives of M. Nowicki

The tunnel under the lake

There were rumours among the local population that in the old days there existed a secret underground passage leading from Olecko castle under the Oleckie Wielkie Lake and leading out in the forest behind the lake, in the place where there was a hunting lodge. On 2nd January

1910, an official from Marggrabowa Papendick approached the "Prussia" Historical Society in Königsberg, who recalled the circulating stories about the underground tunnel and suggested that some of its remains, e.g. the entrance and exit, were still preserved. Papendick inquired as to whether research should be carried out in the bulge of the terrain, and expressed the assumption that it would not incur great costs. He also suggested that we start by gathering information from the elderly living in the city first. Three days later, another letter on this matter was sent to the "Prussia" Historical Society. Well, probably some senior official, to whom Papendick's letter was first sent, explained that when informing about underground corridors one should always use common sense and be very critical, because there is no old castle, church or monastery about which the people would not tell stories about underground passages. In most cases, however, this information turned out to be false. In the case of a local castle, it is doubtful that such a passage was under the lake and led across a wide plain. Ultimately, the letter stressed that the stories should nevertheless be examined within reasonable financial limits. Finally, it was proposed that Papendick first gather accurate information from the oldest inhabitants of the city, and then excavate or survey the area by probing. It does not seem, however, that this matter was of interest to the Historical Society in Königsberg or the local authorities, because a year later, on 11th June 1911, the Historical Society received a letter in which the sender asked for a reply to the letter of 5th January 1910 and asked if the matter of investigating the underground passage in Marggrabowa found some continuation. Alas, it was the last surviving letter in this interesting case.

The pond, which was created by the grubbing

On the grounds of the Gräfendorf Foundation, below the castle, there is a small pond separated from Oleckie Wielkie Lake only a few steps wide. There used to be a forest in this place. After cutting the forest, digging up the roots, water gushed out of one of the holes created by it with such force that it formed this pond. Today, the scene of the municipal "Podzamcze Amphitheatre" is located in this place.

Image page 36

The photo shows a view of the place described above. Photo. J. Kunicki

Water lady from the lake in Olecko

In the Oleckie Wielkie Lake, there was a water lady with the figure of a woman up to the waist, and a figure of a fish from the waist, which was seen jumping out of the lake three times. Each time, jumping over the surface of the water, the siren clapped her hands three times and called loudly. According to this legend, for anyone who sees her, it is meant to be a lifetime of happiness.

Treasures at the bottom of the lake

According to some sources, from August 1914, at the bottom of the Oleckie Wielkie Lake, an armoured municipal safe was to rest, but so far no diver has found any traces of it.



The case of a German plane from World War II, which landed on the frozen surface of the lake, looks similar.

A German transport ship with valuable cargo on board was to sink in 1944. Interestingly, there are assumptions that this secret cargo could have been the legendary Amber Room. Although the story of the wreck seems to be another local town legend, it does not prevent the daredevils from continuing to explore the depths of the lake. After all, you never know what the waters of a 45-meter deep lake actually hide.

Image page 37

View from the lake side of the starosty building and residential buildings of the starosty employees. Postcard sent on August 1, 1920 from Marggrabowa to Berlin, publ. Stengel & Co, Dresden, Archives of M. Nowicki

The legends were collected and edited by: Józef Kunicki based on oral stories and legends by Jan Karol Sembrzycki (Sembrzycki J., Ueber masurische Sagen, "Altpreussische Monatsschrift", Oktober-Dezember, Bd. 23. Ferd. Beyer's Buchhandlung, Königsberg, 1886)

The White Lady and the Hohenzollerns

A white lady haunts the castle in Olecko. She haunts, even if it is no longer formally a castle, neither the first wooden hunting lodge, nor a castle built in 1654, but only the seat of the Starosty built in 1897, and today a school, perhaps it does not matter. A folk legend about a rich man's daughter, unhappily in love with a poor fisherman, is attributed to the half-jokingly, half-seriously stories of the white lady in the castle. And if you look closely at this legend, try to see something else in it, accept the fact that for a white lady, what matters most is a specific location, not a specific building, and go back to the times when a hunting lodge stood here, where it all started?

Image page 38

Yotvingian stronghold; No smoking. Drawing by W. RukŚĆ

The folk stories about the white lady probably have their basis in Arthurian legends and refer directly to the knights of the Round Table. The oldest ones come from the 7th century. The myth of the white lady alludes to the theme of Guinevere, her kidnapping and imprisonment in the castle tower because of unhappy love. Folk messages may also be based in Greek mythology and the figure of Persephone, the daughter of Zeus, kidnapped by Hades, or in Irish mythology, and refer to the figure of a banshee - a woman who most often announces bad news, always dressed in white, with light, long hair. Initially, the whereabouts of white ladies became forests and moors, and even caves, or places near water. However, the most interesting message for the legend of Olecko is the one that appeared at the beginning of the 16th century, and also related to the Hohenzollern family, who had already, in the 14th century, their white lady in the castle in Plassenburg in Kulmbach (Bavaria), and it was Kunigunde von Orlamünde, known in history as the White Lady of the Hohenzollerns. She announced the impending death or misfortune, although her past alluded to the legend of unhappy love. Perhaps it belonged to the pioneers of change in legends and myths,

as in the sixteenth century, the story of a white lady officially took on a new form: first of all began to appear representatives of the great aristocratic families, affected by struggles for new territories and power. He appeared in castles, and there also became the guardian of treasures, the deliverer of good or bad news, she could protect rulers and bring good news (then she appeared in white gloves) or herald the imminent end of their rule and death (wearing black gloves). In the 16th century, historically close to us Albrecht Hohenzollern - the founder of Marggrabowa in 1560 and a representative of the great family - perhaps became the addressee of such messages many times. With all the baggage of his family experiences, revelations and legends, in 1525 Albrecht won Ducal Prussia as a result of secularization. In these troubled times, he enjoyed being in our Natangian region, where he hunted and made decisions. He stayed then, not elsewhere, but precisely in the hunting lodge in Olecko, where he met with, among others, Sigismund I the Old, king of Poland (from whom he sought support). And it seems obvious that Albrecht became the progenitor of Olecko legend (as he became the founder of the city), because he initially won the struggle for power in the acquired territory (he suppressed the peasant uprising in Sambia), unfortunately, in the following years, the intensifying religious and political conflicts weakened his health and power. And if it was in Albrecht's time that the white ladies officially moved from forests and moors to castles, one can certainly hope that at the turn of these turbulent times, one of them visited Olecko castle and Albrecht himself. So could it not be that the white lady from the Olecko castle was a provider of information? Did she not once provide Albrecht, worried about her fate with some news and instructions, thereby giving him a sense of security (or a solution to difficult issues), or maybe it deprived him of hope? Or maybe, what is interesting, she was (and still is) the guardian of the treasury?

Scientists say that relationships with supernatural forces reflect social relationships with all their diversity and are a reflection of human cognition, consciousness and identity, human fears. Along with the transformation of social relations, contacts with ghosts change, and perhaps this is how, along with social changes, the white lady from the court later moved to a folk legend, when people had already forgotten about Albrecht and his dilemmas, and yet the atmosphere of an incomprehensible event and mystery remained. Paranormal phenomena have always accompanied man, they are associated with learning, for example, the laws of nature, and when something is still unavailable to human knowledge, they fill this gap. Man tries to describe the world and the laws that occur in it, because this is how the brain works, and therefore to rationally and irrationally find a sequence of causes and effects. So it was earlier and as it is now, hence the legends, myths and folk messages. It is also worth remembering that in the 16th century in Poland, Barbara Radziwiłłówna, whose life and death were legends (related to Jan Twardowski), was one of the intriguing figures. She had a relationship with Sigismund I the Old, and above all with his son, and her husband, who liked to surround himself with various shades of magicians. Certainly these facts and her legend were known to Albrecht, who was also concerned by succession and intrigues and who was also influenced by ambiguous figures (e.g. Johann Funck and Paul Skalich). Albrecht Hohenzollern died in Tapiawa (today Gwardiejsk) on 20th March 1568. His wife, Anna Maria, daughter of Eric I the Elder, also died on the same day. They both died of the bubonic plague. Albrecht was practically deprived of power at the end of his life. His son Albert Frederick Hohenzollern showed



symptoms of mental illness and he ended up this
line of the Prussian Hohenzollerns. The white lady,
however, remained in the same place and perhaps further
through legend she fulfils her role in the process of social change and cognition. Since 1945, she was
seen in today's castle probably four times. The last time last
week ...

(29th November 2016)

The author of the legend: Ewa Kozłowska

Image page 39

I told them the White Lady haunted here; Drawing by W. RukśĆ

The legend of the White Lady at the Castle

The legend was created as part of the project "Become Castleteam because it's worth it" during the implementation of the "Friendly School" program. The authors of the text are students of the Technical School Complex in Olecko: Monika Dziobkowska, Artur Prokop, Piotr Bartosiński - second grade students of the IT technical school in the 2007/2008 school year.

The legend of the White Lady at the Castle

By the river, by the wood
There little castle stood.

The story starts in the castle surrounded by water
About Margrave Albrecht and his beautiful daughter.
Her father was rich, Mary was
her name.

And Chris was a poor fisherman.

Her figure gorges, hair curly shining
like gold
It was very long, the longest in the world.
Her sight was bright, eyes- two
forget-me-nots
And little freckles on her nose.
Everyone said she was very pretty.
And Chris was handsome and witty.

Dark future for poor and unhappy girl
Her father was looking for a
husband for her

He must be wealthy and rich,
he said.

But she was wayward and bad.

He was looking and looking, what time waste
Because none was in his daughter's taste

And it wasn't enough
She was already in love.
Preferred the boy that was
poor

She didn't obey the rule.

Chris was very wise and strong
Mary though her heart can't be wrong.
She saw him frequently, he was
fishing near

She didn't want money, but love
that was real.

Secret meetings, secret kisses on the lake shore
Moonlight witness, the hide –
hawthorn.
What should they do? There was no hope.
They gave each other a pledge, decided to elope.

Margrave was still looking for prince or duke
Mary loved Chris and didn't
want even look.
"What's wrong with her", but at last he found the reason
Then he got very angry and the castle tower became her prison.

"No parties, no walks, for everything you got ban
If you don't want a rich husband,
there will be none"
He locked the door, he put a
guard with a sword There's no
hope for the girl my Good
Lord.

Unhappy couple, unhappy Mary and Chris
What should they do in a situation like this?
Chris thought two days and found the way out
He is hero, he would manage,
there was no doubt.

It happened on the night they wanted to marry
There was a storm that could get anyone scary.
Chris took a boat, he borrowed it from his
friend
He crossed the lake, to the wall he
went.



There was a high tree and the window above
Mission impossible, but he wanted to rescue
his love.

He climbed it but fell and in
water disappeared.

Mary saw it and cried "He is
dead".

"I don't want to live" she shouted "I
don't want loneliness"

She jumped to the water to follow him But alas the
tree caught her ruffled dress.

Hanging on the branch she
cursed the lake "Every year this
water one man will take"

"I'm so unhappy" she
wept jerking her dress.

The she fell down and died in the black waves.

Today there's a school where the old castle was.

And nobody drowns in the lake, of course.

She is walking down the corridor sighing in despair.

There are people who saw a ghost, we are sure it is her.

Image page 40

A drawing of the White Lady by Marcin Pskowski - a student of the 1st grade of IT technical school in the school year 2007/2008

How the clock from the castle in Marggrabowa was sold to Bialla

Ryszard Demby in the publication "Olecko. Czasy, ludzie, zdarzenia" briefly presents the last fate of the castle in Marggrabowa:

"In the 18th century, the Olecko castle began to decline, and after the office of princely starosts was liquidated - as a result of the public administration reform carried out in Prussia - it was transferred to the state stud. In 1822 the castle burned down completely and was not rebuilt. At the end of the 19th century, the ruins of the castle were removed, and in 1897 a new building of the starosty was erected in the place."

Today, this building houses the Technical School Complex.

However, before the castle ceased to exist, something happened that connected it historically with Bialla (today's Biała Piska). As a result of administrative reforms, the castle in Marggrabowa began to fall into ruin. At the same time, Bialla, located several dozen kilometres from Marggrabowa, began building a new church. It was in 1756 and construction was completed in 1763. A year later, the clock from the castle in Marggrabowa was dismantled and, which is already confirmed by the facts, mounted

on the church tower in Bialla. Thus Olecko castle has survived to the present day, or at least its substitute.

From 1732 to 1764, Bialla dealt with time in a rather interesting way. Sometimes better, more often worse, probably, until a man named Count Finckenstein, noticing the need and asked for support, gave Bialla a room clock. It was not a typical gift, and Bialla dealt with the time problem in a rather unusual way. The clock was placed in the vicarage and served the entire city. When specific hours approached, a designated person would climb the city bell tower, built specifically for this purpose at the town hall, and ring the residents for order and punctuality. However, there was no big clock in the city. In 1764, the solution to the burning problem came from Marggrabowa, as there was a working clock on the castle that was falling into ruin, and it was ready to be taken. The inhabitants of Bialla decided to sell the received room clock in order to be able to buy the one from Marggrabowa. So it happened. After a successful transaction, watchmaker Johan Malnitz from Stalluponen (today it is Nesterov in the Kaliningrad District) installed a clock from Marggrabowa on the church tower in Bialla. The three clock faces were made of wood by the carpenter Jakob Behlke, and a man named Górski painted these dials with gold paint on the hour digits. Thus, Bialla finally got its first city clock on the church tower. A clock mechanism activated a bell engraved with "Gloria Soli Deo".

Image page 42

The clock mechanism from the Olecko castle, which is located in the Regional Chamber in Biała Piska. Photo by Ewa Kozłowska

The clock from Marggrabowa was purchased for 187 thalers and 12 groshen. Interestingly, the old chronicles give divergent information. "Dzieje Olecka" presents this transaction as a donation to Bialla, and the chronicles of the city of Bialla clearly state the specific amount that the residents had to pay for the clock, because it was also associated with the sale of the clock donated to the residents by Count Finckenstein. Whether the messages at that time were inaccurate, or whether some of the then monkey business can be discovered on the example of this transaction, remains a matter of speculation. An interesting fact is that at that time the government in the town of Marggrabowa was held by Daniel Surminski, and the parish priest in Bialla was Johan Christian Surminski, born in Marggrabowa. Is it a coincidence?

A few facts about this clock, presented by the company "Czas na Wysokości", which deals with tower clocks, are interesting, and its name also stimulates the imagination. Time in the tower of the castle in Marggrabowa, and thus also later in the tower of the church in Białej, was measured by only one hand. At that time, the hours were the most important, which seems unreal from the perspective of a present full of rush. The clock was probably forged in a specially prepared and specialized forge (the signature has been preserved on the clock, but unfortunately it is illegible). It was made of forged iron bars connected together with forged wedges, it consisted of three mechanisms: a clockwork (das Gehwerk) and two striking mechanisms (die Schlagwerke: das Studenschlagwerk and das Viertelschlagwerk). The clock was probably equipped with a spindle escapement with a pendulum or a hook escapement. This technique was used from the beginnings of medieval watchmaking to the beginning of the 19th century. The clock mechanism, what is left of it today, is incomplete.

Undoubtedly, the most important issue is the fact that the clock from Marggrabowa Castle still exists. Little is known about its early history, but then in Bialla it



measured time for another 150 years, and even later it survived for decades standing (dismantled) on the church tower. Thanks to the efforts of two enthusiasts from Biała Piska: Jacek Bućko - director of the Municipal and Communal Cultural Center in Biała Piska and Maria Dorota Węcek - a senior artistic instructor, passionate and lover of history, it was given another chance today. The clock connects the past with the present in uninterrupted existence. Currently, it is displayed in the Municipal and Communal Cultural Center in Biała Piska. Cleaned with reverence and preserved by Szymon Konopka and Walenty Wiśniewski, it is an element that also reconnects the history of two cities, Olecko and Biała Piska. For the clock it is a time of rest, however, with some financial outlay, it could probably measure the time even further for the inhabitants of Biała Piska, and who knows, maybe also for the inhabitants of Olecko, but for how much it would have to be bought at the moment? For 187 thalers and 12 groshes, or maybe more, and what would be the equivalent of this sum in Polish zloty?

Elaboration and photos: **Ewa Kozłowska**

Image page 43

The clock mechanism from the Olecko castle, which is located in the Regional Chamber in Biała Piska. Photo by Ewa Kozłowska

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE CASTLE

Starosts of Olecko

Until the beginning of the eighteenth century a decisive role in the local administration of the Duchy of Prussia acted starosts appointed by the Prince. The starosts' competences were very broad, ranging from settling court cases, dealing with tax, economic and financial matters of princely domains, exercising supervision over cities (churches, hospitals, schools), law enforcement and military matters, and influencing the election of city officials. The establishment of Marggrabowa was preceded by a settlement action led by the starost of Straduny, Paul Schwartz, progressing from the south towards the northern part of the starosty. During the location of Marggrabowa, Christoph von Glaubitz (1551-1560) was the starost of Straduny and at the same time Olecko, and in the following years Lorenz von Halle (1561-1568). From 1565, the Olecko castle became the main seat of the starosty.

List of incumbent starosts:

- **Christoph von Glaubitz** 1551-1560. One of his sons married Barbara von Nostiz in 1605, who got Golubieas a dowry. The following villages were founded: Zatyki, Wojnasy, Świętajno, Dobki, Stożne, Czukty, Jurki, Orzechówek, and Dudki.
- **Lorenz von Halle** 1561-1568. During his tenure, he was already called the Starost of Olecko.
- **Heinrich von Kracht** 1570-1581
- **Peter von Podewils** 1587-1590 (1601). In 1595 he was called the tenant of the Olecko starosty.
- **Rufus von Glaubitz** 1590-1596

- **Sebastian von Lehndorff** 1601-1603, 1610. Lord of the Sztynort estate. His son Albert gained the goods of Chełchy and Doliv.
- **Balthasar von Fuchs** 1613-1624
- **Hans Albrecht von Perbandt** 1625-1628
- **Christoph Joachim von Packmohr** 1632 - 1636
- **Siegmund von Wallenrodt** 1645
- **Wolf von Creyzen** 1645-1653
- **Christoph Albrecht von Schönaich** 1653 - 1656. In 1654, he began the construction of a new castle building, designed by Conrad Burck. He died during the Tatar invasion in 1656.
- **Christian Ludwig von Kalkstein** 1656 - 1660. Ambiguous figure. Colonel Kalkstein ravaged Olecko so much that prince Bogusław Radziwiłł, who was the governor of Prussia, started an investigation against him in 1659, as a result of which, in August 1660, Kalkstein was dismissed due to a brutal abuse of power. He was a representative of the anti-Brandenburg opposition, for which he died in 1670. As a curiosity, it should be added that Kalkstein was the prototype of the figure of Colonel Dowgird from the movie of the cloak genre "Black Clouds" from 1973, dir. Krzysztof Konic. During his tenure, the starosty moved to a new building.
- **Heinrich von Wallenrodt** 1658-1659
- **von Pröck, governor of the starosty** 1665
- **Hans Albrecht von Königsegg (Königseck)** 1670-1677
- **Georg Heinrich von Perbandt** 1684-1688
- **Friedrich Wilhelm von Lesgewang (Lessgewang)** 1688-1695
- **Friedrich von Tettau** 1701-1711. Later he became the "real secret minister of war" in Königsberg (Königsberg).

The following starosts did not perform their functions alone, but through their representatives:

- **Graf Christoph von Dohna - Schlodien** 1713
- **Graf Alexander von Dönhoff** 1723
- **Friedrich von Egel** 1723-1734. He was a general, he was born on 18th June 1654 in Tylża, died on 25th August 1735 in Fischhausen (Primorsk in the Kaliningrad District).
- **Graf Carl Friedrich von Posadowski** 1736-1747. He was appointed by Allerhöchste Cabinetsordre (type of regulation of the ruler) of 12.03.1736. Born on 2nd August 1694 in Lampersdorf (Mikowice), Oleśnica District, died on 7th April 1747 in Wrietzen. He was a Major General, Knight of the Pour le Mérite, Military Merit Order and the Order of the Black Eagle. Under the Allerhöchste Cabinetsordre on 27th April 1747, after the death of Count von Posadowski, to the office was appointed.
- **count Reimar Julius von Schwerin** 1747-1754

Representatives / alternates of the above-mentioned officials:

- **Andreas von Lesgewang** 1703-1704
- **Baron von Heydeck** 1712-1713



- **Johann Christoph von Hirsch** 1723

- **Carl von Rappen** 1736

- **Johann Georg von Lossow** 1740

- **Thimotheus von Brauchitsch** 1741

In 1752 the name of the administrative unit "Hauptamt" (head office) was replaced by "Landratsamt" (starosty). The War and Domain Kammer received new organs in the district councils. Each starost in matters of war and domains was at the head of the district. However, administrative changes took place slowly. The old order continued until the 19th century. On 30th April 1815, King Frederick William issued a decree on a new division of the country and introduced a new administrative division, placing the starosts at the head of the districts. Earlier, the War and Domain Kammer in Königsberg, Gumbinnen (Gusiew) and Marienwerder (Kwidzyń) were renamed "governments". Olecko District belonged to the Gumbinnen (Gusiew) district.

- **Ewald Georg von Kleist** 1754-1768

- **Johann Wenzel von Zastrow** 1768-1773

- **Christoph Carl von Bülow** 1773-1788

- **Carl Heinrich von der Mülbe** 1795-1797

- **Carl Heinrich von Morstein** 1801-1837.

He was the first starost after the new division into districts, the owner of the Gut estate. Married to Frederike née Buddenbrock. He died in Marggrabowa on November 11, 1842, at the age of 85.

- **von Salzwedel der Ältere** 1830-1833. The temporary administration, then taken over by his son Gustaw Reinhold Ludwig von Wienskowski called von Salzwedel 1834-1841

- **Karl Ludwig Otto von Lenski** 1842-1852. After his departure, temporary referendary.

- **Wahl** 1850-1853

- **von Küster** 1853-1859. He fell ill with depression and was replaced by assessors until he retired

- **Wedel - Schwerin** 1857-1859

- **Steinberg** 1859-1860. He was the owner of knightly estates in Drozdowo and a district deputy.

- **Julius Theodor Frenzel** 1860-1874. First, he was a government assessor and from 27th April 1861, starost

- **Bruno Walter Philipp Jordan Fornet** 1874-1877 transferred as the starost to Prussich Eylau (Bagrationowsk in the Kalinigrad District), Königsberg regency (Królewiec)

- **Oberger. Abrecht** -in place of 1877-1878

- **Rudolf Theodor Möhrs** 01.05.1878-1879

- **Karl Emil Rudolf Richard Volprecht** 27.06.1879-1887

- **Wilhelm Meister** 19th March 1888-April 1894

- **Hugo Wilhelm Emil Braemer** 6.12.1894 - September 1919. During his tenure, the starost moved to a new building in 1897. He went

into temporary retirement and died in Berlin in 1939 at the age of 80.

- **Bruno Wachsmann** 27.2.1919-1933. Was dismissed from office by the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Reich, he spent six months in jail, then was deprived of the status of civil servant.
- **Paul Walzer** (temporarily) 1921-1933
- **von Winterfeld Assessor** (temporarily) 1933-1934
- **Walter Karl Albert Tubenthal** 1934-1945. Born 11/09/1870. From 1940, he was also the Landrat of the Suwałki District. In June 1950, he was photographed with Alfred Eichmann (German-Austrian Nazi officer, war criminal, convicted of genocide in 1962 in Israel. Principal coordinator and executor of the "Final Solution to the Jewish Question" plan) during his escape on a ship bound from Genoa to Argentina. In 1957, Tubenthal returned from Argentina to Germany, to Hamburg, where he died in 1987.

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Notgeld in the Olecko region

War and the economic crisis are practically two inseparable phenomena. Countries allocating larger amounts of money to the armaments sector generally reduce production in other areas, including coins, because the precious metal is needed to produce weapons or its financing. This was the case in Germany during the First World War. The Germans, however, quickly found a solution. Three days after the outbreak of the war, on 31st July 1914, the local Bremen brewery issued the first vouchers to replace the coins that were quickly disappearing from circulation. In the footsteps of the brewery followed numerous companies, cities and districts. This is how Notgeld was born. It was small, low-value substitute money, used in everyday life (high-value money was still issued by the Reichsbank). From 1922, along with the progressive inflation, the denominations of substitute money began to rise, from a few marks to several billion marks. After the currency reform of 1924, Notgeld ceased to be issued.

Image page 47

Banknotes of 10, 25, 50 pfennig (100 pfennigs = 1 mark) issued on the occasion of victory in the Plebiscite (Plebiscite of July 11, 1920)

10 pfennig:

Banknotes from the collection of Z. Bereśniewicz

Obverse: Nun danket alle Gott!



Reverse: Stadtgeld d. (der) Stadt Marggrabowa

Zur an Erinnerung an die siegr. (siegreich)
Volksabstim (Volksabstimmung) 11.07.1920 Der Magistrat:
Mackleburg, Vonberg, Mehl, Sebuleit
Flemming Wiskott A. G. Glogau

Obverse: "Behold, give God thanksgiving" - is a
fragment of the Bach cantata **Reverse:** The money of the city of
Marggrabowa

In memory of the winning plebiscite on 11th July 1920.
Office: Mackleburg (mayor), Vonberg (councilor, brewery owner),
Mehl (farmer, district councilor shot by Russian soldiers in 1945), Sebuleit
(city councilor)
Flemming Wiskott A.G. Glogau (from Głogów) printed substitute money for the whole of
Germany.

Image page 48

25 pfennig:

Banknotes from the collection of Z. Bereśniewicz

Obverse: Was Du ererbt von Deinen Vätern, erwirb es, um es zu
besitzen.

Reverse: Stadtgeld d. Stadt Marggrabowa /
Zur Erinnerung an die siegr. (siegreich) Volksabstimmung
11.07.1920 Flemming Wiskott A. G. Glogau

Obverse: What have you inherited from your fathers, own it - quote
from Goethe's Faust.

Reverse: The money of the city of Marggrabowa.

In memory of the winning plebiscite on 11th July 1920.
Valid for one month after public announcement
Flemming Wiskott A. G. Glogau (from Głogów) printed substitute money for all of Germany.

Image page 48

50 pfennig:

Banknotes from the collection of Z. Bereśniewicz

Obverse: Ans Vaterland, an steure, schließ dich an, Das halte fest mit
deinem ganzen Herzen.

Die Stadt stimmte nur deutsch! Treu seinen Vätern! Loben den Herren

Reverse:

Gegründet 1. Jan. 1560

Stadtgeld d. Stadt Marggrabowa

Zur Erinnerung an die siegr. (siegreich) Volksabstimmung 11.7.1920

At the mention of winning the plebiscite Flemming Wiskott A.G. Glogau

Obverse: Join the motherland, to the dear,

Hold on with all your heart - quote from "William Tell"
by Schiller

The city voted only in German

Faithful to our fathers / ancestors

On the bell there is a quote from Bach Cantata No. 137: Loben
den Herren - Preach the name of the Lord

Reverse: Founded on 1st January 1560 The money of the city of Marggrabowa

At the mention of winning the plebiscite

Valid for one month after public announcement

Flemming Wiskott A.G. Glogau (from Głogów) printed substitute money for all of Germany

Cardboard substitute money issued during World War I by the district office with a nominal value of 0.50 marks, 1 mark, 5 marks. On the obverse there are seals informing about the realization of the banknote (ENTWERTET), on the reverse there is a stamp of the starosty and a handwritten number of the banknote.

Image page 49

Banknotes from the collection of Z. Bereśniewicz

Image page 50

Banknotes from the collection of Z. Bereśniewicz

„Inhaber dieser Karte hat an die Kreiskommunalkasse des Kreises Oletzko eine Forderung von (1 Mark) der Betrag wird bei Rückgabe dieser Karte gezahlt.

Die Kreiskommunalkasse Marggrabowa”

“The holder of this card may request a withdrawal of the amount (0.50 marks, 1 mark, 5 marks) at the district Oletzko cash desk. The amount will be paid when the card is returned.

District Municipal Cash Marggrabowa”

Banknote of 100 marks issued by the Starosty on 22nd October 1922. On the reverse side, there is a building of the "castle" - the starosty. Banknote without numbers and another with numbers showing hyperinflation. The stamp on the 100-mark banknote shows the value of the 100,000 marks banknote.

Stamps that change the denomination of a banknote were often used during wars or crises related to very high inflation. Money depreciated so quickly that the issuing institutions were unable to keep up with the printing of new banknotes with higher denominations adjusted to the prices. One way to quickly supplement the money was to put the stamp, especially if there were issues of notes or tickets that had not been put into circulation. Then the risk of counterfeiting stamps was minimized. This procedure was also used to temporarily provide the market with lower denominations during the money changeover. This was the case in Poland in 1924, when the zloty was introduced. At that time, some of the mark banknotes were used to



produce the so-called handout tickets. Denominations of 500 thousand and 10 million Polish marks were cut in half and overprinted with a new denomination of 1 grosh and 5 groshes.

Image page 51

Banknotes from the collection of Z. Bereśniewicz

Banknote of 500 marks issued by the Starosty on 22nd October 1922. On the reverse side, there is a building of the "castle" - the starosty. Banknote without numbers and another with numbers showing hyperinflation. The stamp on the 500-mark banknote shows the value of the 500,000 marks banknote.

Image page 52

Banknotes from the collection of Z. Bereśniewicz

1000 marks banknote issued by the Starosty on 22nd October 1922. Banknote without numbers and another one with numbers. On the reverse, there is a building of the "castle" - the starosty.

Image page 52

Banknotes from the collection of Z. Bereśniewicz

Banknote of 1,000,000 marks - one-sided, issued by the Starosty on 23rd August 1923.

Image page 53

Banknotes from the collection of Z. Bereśniewicz

Banknote of 5,000,000 marks - one-sided, issued by the Starosty on 23rd August 1923.

Image page 53

Banknotes from the collection of Z. Bereśniewicz

500,000,000 Mark banknote - one-sided, printed on 20th October 1923.

Image page 53

Banknotes from the collection of Z. Bereśniewicz

5,000,000,000 Mark banknote - one-sided, printed on 23rd October 1923.

Image page 54

Banknotes from the collection of Z. Bereśniewicz

Banknotes of 10, 25 and 50 pfennig gold and 1 mark issued on 15th November 1923. Onesided printed banknotes, issued after the denomination, which crossed out as many as 12 zeros.

At the bottom, on the obverse, the footer of F. W. Czygan printing house from Olecko is visible.

Image page 54

Banknotes from the collection of Z. Bereśniewicz

Another interesting example of a coin token with the number 784 on the obverse, issued by Sparkasse des Kreis Oletzko (Savings Bank of the Olecko District). You could pay with it in local restaurants or company stores.

Image page 55

(collection of Z. Bereśniewicz, photo: E. Kozłowska)

Similar tokens were issued, among others, by the Leffkowitz mineral water and lemonade factory, located in the Market Square - today Plac Wolności (for such a token you could get 3 bottles of lemonade or mineral water).

Image page 55

(collection of Z. Bereśniewicz, photo: E. Kozłowska)

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Castle Street - starosty houses

Right next to the starosty building - the castle overlooking the lake, until 1945 there were two residential buildings intended for the employees of the starosty.

Image page 56

*A fragment of the Olecko plan from the 1930s. The map shows the date of 1934. Three farm buildings and an outline of the added balcony are already visible at the "Castle". There are also two tenement houses on the right - residential buildings for the County Office employees. State Archives in Suwałki Branch in Elk, team no. 98 Cadastral Office in Olecko 1861-1944, reference number 1416 **Documents found by: Marek Góryński, PhD***

Image page 56

View of the Castle Square and the starosty buildings from the church tower at the market square. The illustration comes from the book "Treuburg. Ein Greinzkreis in Ostpreussen", edited by K. Krech.

After World War II, the destroyed buildings were demolished, the place was tidied up and allocated to the sports field of the vocational school and the area of the defense training camp.

Image page 57

An illustration from the archive of Z. Bereśniewicz and a photo by J. Kunicki showing the same fragment of the area.



In 2012, during the excavation for the fiber optical cable line between the castle building and the so-called "new school", a dozen or so fragments of historical material were discovered. It was quite surprising, because the trench was only a few dozen centimeters deep. At that time, among others, there were found fragments of pot tiles, dated to the early modern period. The use of this type of tiles was discontinued at the end of the 16th century, so they probably came from stoves of buildings that were erected on the castle peninsula before the construction of the castle in 1654. The oldest artifact was a fragment of a vessel, dated at the end of the 15th or the first half of the 16th century. The remaining exposed fragments of dishes and tiles (Dutch tile, pantile, dimensions 435x260x17mm - dimensions are larger than standard ones) probably come from a later period, as well as 4 unused hufnagels - nails for horseshoes (Note 1 Jerzy Siemaszko, Julia Siemaszko, Conservation documentation of the archaeological supervision of earthworks carried out during the construction of the optical fiber cable line in Olecko, 2 Castle Square. Suwałki 2012. Archive of the Technical School Complex in Olecko).

Image page 58

Photo of the castle tile: J. Kunicki

Postcards from the castle

Postcards appeared in the world in the first half of the 19th century. Initially, on the front of the card there was a picture - a view on which the message was written, while the reverse was intended for address data. It was not until 1907 that a new type of cards was introduced - with a vertical line on the reverse separating the address space from the space for a message. Here are some postcards showing the castle building over the years.

Image page 59

View of the starosty building and other buildings. A postcard sent from Marggrabowa to Berlin on 4th February 1902, pub. F. W. Czygan Marggrabowa, Archives of M. Nowicki.

Image page 59

The castle hill, 18th December 1904 - published by F.W. Czygan Marggrabowa, archives of M. Nowicki.

Image page 60

A postcard showing the starosty building with the main entrance to the building, in the place where today is room No 3z (Russian language class). Reinicke & Rubin Publishing House, Magdeburg 1908, Archives of M. Nowicki.

Image page 60

Postcard posted in Marggrabowa on 12th December 1909 and sent to Berlin, issued by the Deutsche Automaten Gesellschaft publishing house in Cologne. Archive of Z. Bereśniewicz.

The sender, who was an inhabitant of the castle hill, sketched and described in detail the location of individual buildings.

Here is the description:

- 1 *My house is situated between the employee's house and the stable. There is a nice garden between the employee's house and the stable, and my house in front of it.*
- 2 *Bridge on the river.*
- 3 *Dear clover! Did you get my letter? Such a long letter will soon be answered !! Yesterday a maid came to Straßburg at a special request.*
- 4 *This avenue leads down to the river below my window.*

Image page 61

View of the castle hill, where behind the starosty building there are tenement houses intended for officials' flats and the "long bridge" on the Lega River (Marggrabowa 1915), a postcard issued by Richard Dytfeld Marggrabowa publishing house, Archives of M. Nowicki.

Image page 61

View of the castle hill and construction or renovation of the "long bridge" on the Lega river, Marggrabowa 1916, archive of Z. Bereśniewicz.

Image page 62

A postcard showing the hill with the starosty building and the Graefendorf Foundation (seat of the Educational Institution for Orphan Girls), ed. F. W. Czygan, Marggrabowa. Archive of M. Nowicki.

Image page 62

View of the castle from the marina, although goats were still grazing there at that time. The steamboat stop (Emma Inatowitz Publishing House, photo: Fleischer, Marggrabowa). Visible roofs of buildings next to the castle, the archives of M. Nowicki.

Image page 63

View of the starosty building from the windows of the marina. On the obverse the name of the city - Treuburg, publishing house Richard Dytfeld Treuburg, archives of M. Nowicki.

Image page 63

Another view of the starosty from the marina. The sailor at the marina is Czygan, owner of a printing house and local newspaper - Oletzker Zeitung, publishing house F.W. Czygan, Treuburg, card sent from Treuburg to Berlin on 5th January 1937, M. Nowicki's archive.

Image page 64

View of the Oleckie Wielkie Lake from the windows of the Olecko castle. Archive of Z. Bereśniewicz.

Image page 64

A postcard sent from Olecko in 1949 by a participant in a scout camp stationed in Zajdy. The sender describes poor housing in the area and complains about supplies. The postage stamp shows Bolesław Bierut, archive of Z. Bereśniewicz, photo. E. Kochanowski (he ran a photography studio in Olecko).

Image page 65

School building (Technical School Complex in Olecko) - postcard used in school documentation. On the reverse, the seal of the 14th State Vocational Training Center in Olecko and the seal of the school principal (Oleg Nowicki). Archive of Technical School Complex in Olecko.

Image page 65



A postcard from the 1990s, when the Masurian Teachers' University was located in the castle. Archive of M. Nowicki.

THE CASTLE DIFFERENTLY

A model of the castle in Olecko, scale 1:100

The castle in Olecko, erected in the years 1654-1656, was destroyed during the Swedish Deluge. Only the northern part was rebuilt with three towers associated with the coat of arms of the city. The ruins were removed at the end of the 19th century and replaced with a new building that we can admire today.

There is no preserved illustration of the object. Only the horizontal plans of the two floors are available, and there is little information about the appearance (see page 41) or the clock on the tower (page 13, 14). The design was modelled on Skokloster Castle near Stockholm and other *palazzo in fortezza* castles typical of the time.

Image page 66

Photo from the Archives of the Technical School Complex and Starosty in Olecko

The model of the castle is one of the results of the project "15 seconds of history through the eyes of young people. Castles, barracks and legends" and was made in 2021 by Yurgen Zholonkovski after consultation with Marek Góryński, PhD and Zdzisław Bereśniewicz.

A model of the castle in Olecko, scale 1:75

"Castle" - the building of the Starosty in Olecko was erected in the years 1896-1897 on the site of a 17th century fortress. This is an example of a neo-gothic public building.

Image page 67

Photo from the Archives of the Technical School Complex and Starosty in Olecko

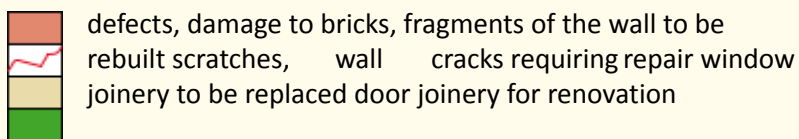
The model of the castle was made in 2021 by Yurgen Zholonkovski, the condition of the building for the year 2019.

Both exhibits have been made available in the historical and regional museum restored by the project, run by the Active People Association "Castle".

And here is a modern graphic view of the Olecko castle along with the basic scope of renovation works carried out in 2020-2022 from the project "15 seconds of history through the eyes of young people. Castles, barracks and legends".

Image page 67

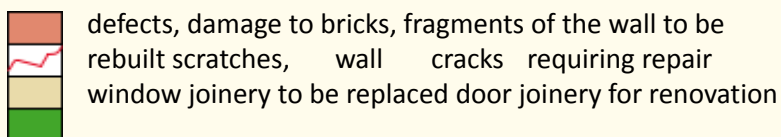
Legend:



Drawing by Piotr Jasiukiewicz (south-west facade).

Image page 68

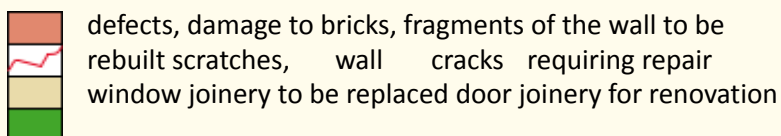
Legend:



Drawing by Piotr Jasiukiewicz (south-eastern facade).

Image page 68

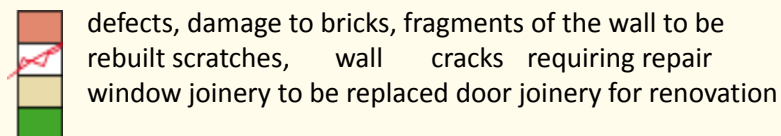
Legend:



Drawing by Piotr Jasiukiewicz (north-eastern facade, from the lake side).

Image page 69

Legend:



Drawing by Piotr Jasiukiewicz (north-eastern facade, from the lake side).

A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE PROJECT

In 2018, efforts were made to obtain funds from the Poland-Russia Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020. Prepared by teachers cooperation project with a school in Oziersk, called "15 seconds of history through the eyes of young people. Castles, barracks and legends" received funding. Olecko District received over PLN 1.6 million for renovation works in the Olecko Castle. On the Polish side, the coordinator of the project was Halina Bogdańska from the Olecko District.

In the years 2020-2022, a comprehensive replacement of the window joinery, renovation of the historic door at the entrance to the tower, flashing, guttering, repair and impregnation of the facade and partial interior renovation were carried out. It was decided that in the building will be renovated: attic rooms used by the Active People Association "Castle" for the historical and regional museum, corridors, staircases and the auditorium hall in room 112z used for the organization of events addressed to the entire community of Olecko and tourists.

Image page 70




Photo from the Archives of the Technical School Complex and Starosty in Olecko

As part of the interior renovation, the lighting and electrical installations, which in many parts were from the late 1940s, were partially replaced. Two bathrooms were also renovated, plasters in the museum part of the attic, in the hall, corridors and some floors were repaired.

The auditorium also gained new furniture and audiovisual equipment, the museum received showcases, and a permanent exhibition presenting the history of this place was created in the castle tower. Projectors to enable the display of images on the facade of the castle were also purchased. The above-mentioned activities also made it possible to organize the temporary exhibition "The Coin of Everyday Life of the Roman Empire in the East" and to organize a new cyclical event "Ghostbusters in the castle".

Image page 70

Photo from the Archives of the Technical School Complex and Starosty in Olecko

Unfortunately, the infectious COVID-19 pandemic during the project period resulted in limitations, including distance learning in schools and closing borders. That is why some of the activities related to international youth exchange were transferred to the virtual space.

Such a large renovation project deserves to be remembered for as long as possible. So the time capsule was bricked up, in which there were placed, among others, information about the project "15 seconds of history through the eyes of young people. Castles, barracks and legends", press clippings and circulation coins of recent issues. We hope that in the future the inhabitants of Olecko will find this capsule and will be able to continue the story of castles, barracks and legends.

Image page 71

Photo from the Archives of the Technical School Complex and Starosty in Olecko

"The History of the Castle in Olecko. The Castle and its Legends" is a publication that tries to bring the reader closer to the history of this extraordinary place. The mysterious hill surrounded by the Oleckie Wielkie Lake on one side and the Lega River on the other, was used from the beginning of the founding of the town of Marggrabowa - Treuburg - Olecko as one of the most important buildings, which from 1565 (and permanently from 1619) was for almost 400 years the seat of the Starosty. After the Second World War the building of the castle became the seat of a vocational school, and it is to this day.

The castle in Olecko is shrouded in legends, tamed by successive generations, and subsequent generations also tame its history. This place was always impressive and so representative that it was also printed on money and postcards. The castle experienced wars, battles, diseases and pandemics, and the city itself, changing its name many times, became depopulated, but followed by subsequent waves of settlement. However, the castle was still standing and is now part of the

experiences and memories of the next generation of
graduates of the Technical School Complex in Olecko.

Perhaps the passage of time will reveal more of its secrets ...

Image page 72

View of Olecko Castle and Podzamcze Amphitheater. (2019) Photo M. Niewiarowski.