

Muzeum Pałacu Króla Jana III w Wilanowie

Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów

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tel.: (+48) 22 54 42 850 (pon.–pt., godz. 9–16 / Mon.–Fri., 9 a.m.–4 p.m.)

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**Ministerstwo
Kultury
i Dziedzictwa
Narodowego.**

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of Culture and National Heritage funds



Narodowe Historyczne Archiwum
Białorusi w Mińsku

Research on the Radziwiłł Archive from Nieśwież (fond 694)

in the framework of research co-operation between
the Museum of King Jan's Palace at Wilanów and
the National Historical Archives of Belarus in Minsk



Nesvizh, Radziwiłł Palace, 1906–1927, National Library

The Museum of King Jan's Palace at Wilanów has for many years been conducting scholarly research and undertaking popular-science activities focused on the Sobieski family. In the framework of the research co-operation agreement with the National Historical Archives of Belarus in Minsk (NGAB) and with the aid of funding obtained from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Museum of King Jan's Palace at Wilanów has now undertaken to conduct a systematic research of the contents of the Radziwiłł Archive in Minsk with the aim to find the sobiesciana which it may contain.



Jakub Ludwik Sobieski,
French painter. Museum of
King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów

The Minsk Archive collection contains a vast part of the Radziwiłł Archive from Nieśwież [Nesvizh] (fond 694), which includes the Sobieski family archive from Żólkiew [Zhovkva]. The history of these archival materials is complex indeed. After the death of Crown Prince Jakub's daughter, Marie Charlotte de Bouillon, in 1740, the Sobieski estates passed to Michał Kazimierz "Rybeńko" Radziwiłł. In this way, the Żólkiew archive of the Sobieski family came to be in

Nieśwież, where it then became entirely dispersed in the mass of the Radziwiłł documentation. The NGAB holds the Nieśwież section of the Radziwiłł Archive, which had not been transported to Warsaw before the Second World War. After 17th September 1939, it was taken over by the Soviet authorities and conveyed to the Archive in Minsk. Currently the NGAB contains over 24,000 archival units belonging to this enormous collection.

Owing to the financing obtained from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Polish researchers can now request digital copies of selected documents and conduct preliminary research on their basis. The acquisition, inventorying and describing of the Sobieski legacy will make it possible to create at the Wilanów Museum a database indispensable to the ongoing research on the Sobieski era and to editorial work. The database will also further the popularisation of knowledge concerning the Commonwealth of Poland and Lithuania in the 17th and 18th centuries.



Karolina Sobieska Duchess
of Bouillon, unknown painter.
Museum of King Jan III's
Palace at Wilanów