

Call for papers
International conference entitled
The Sobieskis in memory – objects, places, forms and meanings
Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów, 5–7 November, 2024

Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów invites you to discuss the figure of Jan (John) III Sobieski constituting a "place of memory" (*lieu de memoire*) and to talk about forms of commemorating the ruler and his family in the timespan between the 18th and the 21st century.

Acting within the framework imposed by the political and social system of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, in the course of his reign, Jan III (1674–1696) pursued a deliberate and effective image-promoting propaganda policy, especially so after 1683. It led to the dissemination of the King's image and accomplishments through numerous paintings, engravings, pamphlet prints, literary works, public events and the accompanying occasional iconography. Following the King's death, the figure of the "victor from Vienna" was recalled on line with current needs and objectives; the ruler and his achievements were commemorated in different forms and scales, legends were written down, and eventually, new meanings were given to places and objects associated with Sobieski.

The objective of the conference is to initiate a discussion in a broader circle and to try to find answers to the following questions: What were the reasons for invoking Jan Sobieski in subsequent centuries and what goals were they to serve? How do we explain that his figure has become a depository of specific traits, values and meanings, of cultural patterns that are still alive and valid today, or – should they perhaps be renegotiated? Is our ideal image of Jan III inherited from the visions shaped in the 19th century? Alternatively, is the ideal image we adhere to a direct result of the King's own self-depiction policy? Are we capable of looking at the iconic figure from the Polish history through contemporary trends and theoretical discourse in humanities?

Suggested topics:

- Sobieski as a "place of memory" – local, Polish and European perspectives;
- anniversaries of the relief of Vienna and commemoration of Jan III in-between successive anniversaries – meaning, social reception and scholarly discourse;
- early forms of commemorating King Jan III – initiatives by Marie Casimire, the Sobieski Princes, the Radziwiłłs and the Stuarts; family and national commemoration;
- Sobieski-related memorabilia (Lat. *Sobiesciana*), from the 18th to the 21st century – objects and places connected with the ruler and his family; works of art and artistic craftsmanship, musical and literary works, cartoons, films, plays, folk and mass art products; objects and their meanings;

We invite you to submit proposals for papers, including a title and an abstract (of 1800 characters) by 30 April 2024 to the following address: konferencja@muzeum-wilanow.pl

Duration of speeches: 20 mins; conference languages: Polish and English

Information on acceptance of submitted papers: 3rd June 2024

The conference is free of charge. The organiser does not cover travel and accommodation costs.

The organiser is planning to release a publication of conference papers.