

# National Museum in Kielce



## National Museum in Kielce - Cracow Bishops' Palace

The Cracow bishops' palace was founded by bishop Jakub Zadzik and it was built between 1637-41 by Tomasz Poncinio, an Italian mason. It stands in place of an old larch manor-house.

The palace was surrounded by a wall with a powder tower. From the west there was a representative "Italian garden" with a greenhouse, an orangery and many unique trees, bushes and flowers. In 2002-2003 the garden was reconstructed.

In the early 18th century side wings were added to the palace, joined with the main building by arcaded loggia. Over the one which also serves as an entrance to the palace there is the crest of the founder Korab, the Waza eagle, and three crowns – the Cracow chapter crest. The palace was designed with a triple rule: the front is divided into three parts, three arcades of the entrance loggia, three Venetian windows above the loggia, three windows on each story – the ground floor, the first floor and the attic. The palace was housing bishops till 1789 and then it was given to the authorities. In 1816-26 in the northern wing there was an Academic-Mining School founded by Stanislaw Staszic. Between the wars there was the Kielce Voivodeship Office, during the II WW - the occupant's army authorities, and since 1945 - the Voivodeship National Council. Starting 1 January 1971 the palace has been housing the Świętokrzyskie Museum, at present regarded as the National Museum, where a Museum of Interior and a Polish Painting Gallery were opened during the 9th anniversary of Kielce.

In the entrance loggia there are plaques devoted to Pope's John Paul II visit to Kielce on 3 June 1991, and another commemorating Marshal's J. Piłsudski stay in Kielce in 1914. The loggia leads to two entrances: to elegant rooms on the first floor and to the ground floor where there is an exhibition of old European and



Eastern armament and a sanctuary devoted to Marshal Józef Piłsudski. On the ground floor the most representative room is an Upper Dining Room also called a Portrait Room. There is a very interesting larch ceiling showing allegorical scenes and a border under the ceiling consisting of 35 portraits of the Cracow bishops. There are also preserved three portals made of Chinese marble. In this room there are ceremonies and meetings of great importance to the city, and also chamber concerts.

The Polish Painting Gallery is located in the northern wing of the palace. The works of art collected here make the gallery one of the best ten galleries of this kind in the country. Some of the authors of the paintings are: T. Axentowicz, O. Boznańska, J. Chelmoński, A. Grottger, St. Wyspiański and others.

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## Henryk Sienkiewicz Museum in Oblęgorek

The palace in Oblęgorek together with the land estate was given to Henryk Sienkiewicz by the public in 1900 for the 25th anniversary of his creative work. On top of the palace there is a figure of a typical Polish soldier with characteristic wings which refers to the writer's works. Sienkiewicz was amazed with Oblęgorek but he used it only as his summer residency. While here, small parts of his works were created, among others "In the Desert and Wilderness". The last time Sienkiewicz stayed in Oblęgorek was in 1914. After the II WW the estate was partitioned for the peasantry and the writer's family was left with the palace and 49 hectares of the land.



Soon after, Sienkiewicz's children offered to change the palace into a Sienkiewicz Museum. The museum was opened to the public on 26 October 1958. The ground floor was left as was. There is an office, a living room, a dining room, a roasting-room and a bedroom. On the first floor, which was used by the writer's children and guests, at present there is a biographic-literary exhibition with Sienkiewicz's works translated into many languages, his letters and souvenirs which the author of the Trilogy was given in recognition from institutions and individual people.

### Henryk Sienkiewicz Museum – section of National Museum in Kielce

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## Stefan Żeromski School Years Museum in Kielce

The museum is located in the building of the first high school in the city. It was erected in 1727 from the initiative of Cracow bishop Konstanty Felicjan Szaniawski. There was a Practical University whose student was Adolf Dygasiński, and a Male High School where Stefan Żeromski attended between 1874-86. The last school in this building was Stefan Żeromski High School. When the school was moved to a new building in 1961, an Educational Library and a museum were located here. The museum is in the former classrooms, the hall and the staircase. The most valuable exhibits are the writer's handwritings, his letters and inscriptions on his books. There are also copies of Żeromski's school certificates, illustrations to his works, a collection of old photos and a reconstruction of the school equipment from the writer's times. Among the exhibits there is a phonograph record with the writer's voice from 1924 and a ceiling beam from now nonexistent Żeromski's family house in Ciekoty.



### Stefan Żeromski School Years Museum - section of National Museum in Kielce

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