

KŁODZKO FORTRESS - A MONUMENT OF HISTORY? THE ROLE OF MONUMENT PROTECTION IN THE CONTEXT OF AND REGARDING POLITICS

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ABSTRACT: Kłodzko Fortress - an undisputed witness of the stormy Silesian wars between the two powers: Austria and Prussia, whose course changed the map of 18th-century Europe, but above all the building which is a unique example of modern military architecture in Europe, where the architectural solutions of several fortification schools intersect, preserved to this day and making the Kłodzko fortress a kind of encyclopedia of fortifications - remains outside the list of monuments recognized as Monuments of History. The efforts undertaken in 2009 to include the fortress on this list of prestigious monuments did not bring the expected result, and the past decade has provided many valuable conclusions on the role and scope of protection of monuments in relation to both local and central politics. This article is an attempt at a synthetic presentation of the case of the Kłodzko Fortress in connection with a renewed attempt to obtain the title of a Monument of History. It is also an echo of the voices focusing on the strictly Polish heritage that emerged during the conference *Monuments of History - protection, management, promotion*.

KEY WORDS: Kłodzko Fortress, fortifications, military architecture, Silesian wars

Kłodzko Fortress - the core of the Kłodzko Valley

Kłodzko Fortress is a monumental complex of modern-era fortifications with a total area of about 52 ha (Fig. 1). It includes the Main Fortress¹ (located on the Castle Hill in the immediate vicinity of the town square, on the site of the pre-existing castle, and previously wooden castle, Fig. 2), the auxiliary fort Owcza Góra² (on the opposite bank of the Nysa Kłodzka river, Fig. 3), as well as the former Ząbkowickie Suburb³ situated between these forts with efficient technical and supply facilities (Fig. 4). The Kłodzko Fortress, together with the Frédérician fortresses in Głogów, Świdnica, Wrocław, Srebrna Góra, Nysa and Koźle, is an element of the only great 18th-

¹ Entry into the register of monuments no. 691 of 10.05.1960.

² Entry into the register of monuments no. 143/A/02/1-17 of 02.12.2002.

³ Currently, Łukasynskiego Street. Entry in the register of monuments as a part of the historical center of the city under No. 370 of 25.11.1956.

century European defense line in Poland, and one of the few in Europe. This line marks the border and hot spots of the bloody conflict between the Habsburg Austria, which was losing its hegemony, and the Hohenzollern Prussia, which was growing in strength. As history has shown, the decisions of the Silesian Wars radically changed the map of Europe at that time and introduced a new, lasting balance of power.

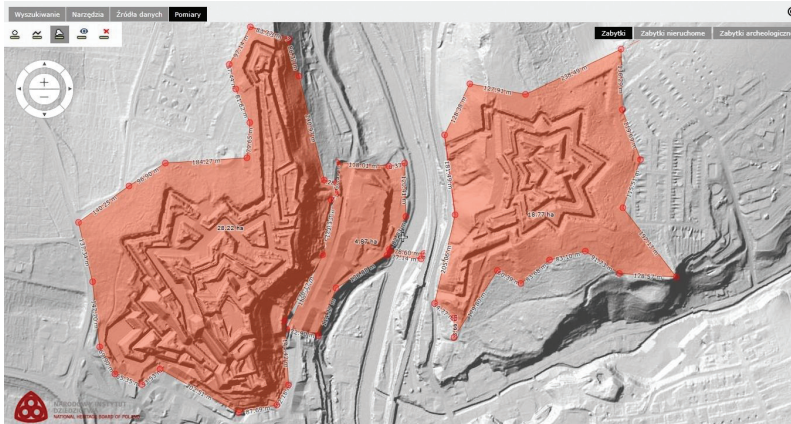


Fig. 1 The area of the Forte Cultural Park - Kłodzko Fortress. From the left: Main Fortress, former Ząbkowice Suburb and Fort Owcza Góra (source: National Heritage Institute, access: 21.09.2017)



Fig. 2The Shadow Fortress from the bird's eye view West - East orientation (photo: G. Basiński)



Fig. 3 View from the bird's eye view from the west on Fort Owcza Góra (photo: G. Basiński)



Fig. 4 The view on the Main Fortress and the former Ząbkowice Suburb with barracks and granaries. In the foreground there is a former bridge over the Nysa Kłodzka River (photo: M. Solska)

As an object of autonomous values, the Kłodzko Fortress stands out for its integrity and unique attributes, which makes it a unique monument of modern-era European *architectura militaris*, which has been shaped by such renowned fortification builders as: the Austrian Valentin von Säbisch (fortificator of the city of Säbisch), the founder of the Kłodzko Fortress, the founder of the Kłodzko Group, the founder of the Kłodzko Group, the founder of the Kłodzko Group. The fortifications were designed by Italian architect Jakub Carove, Dutch engineer and a general in the Prussian army Gerhard Cornelius von Wallrave, Prussian colonel and engineer Friedrich Christian von Wrede, Piedmont fortificator Franz Ignatz Pinto and Prussian colonel Ludwig von Regeler.

The fortress was built⁴ gradually on top of earlier buildings, including a civil authority center (a stronghold town from 981, and a 12-century castle rebuilt several times) as well as a religious cult center (from the mid-14th century a monastery complex of Augustinian monks). The tense situation between the Silesian Piasts and the Czech princes, concerning the reign in Silesia and the Kłodzko Land, as well as Kłodzko's active contacts with Prague and Cracow, resulted in a multicultural history with a clear Polish motif.

The long-term process of erecting the Main Fortress up to its present form lasted from 1622 to the beginning of the 20th century. The construction, expansion and numerous modifications of the complex on Góra Zamkowa (Castle Hill) illustrate the turbulent history of Kłodzko, and are also a record of the evolution of the art of warfare and defense. The dynamics of the architectural transformation of the fortifications reflect fact that Kłodzko belonged to successive rulers and was threatened by the enemies of that time:

1) 1622 r. - During the Czech rebellion, Kłodzko together with the Lower and Upper Castle on the Castle Hill became a point of several years' resistance against Austria. In order to defend the castle against an attack from the north, the Crownwork was built to connect the three bastions.

2) 1627-1740 - after capturing the town and the castle, the Austrians began fortification works on the Castle Hill for fear of attack from the Swedes. In the course of the works, the castle was surrounded by two fortification rings from the west (first the Lower Castle was incorporated into the internal defense circuit Crownwork - Bell-Bastion - Alarm Bastion, giving the Fortress a citadel character, later the Tumski Half-Bastion, Tumski Curtain and Eagle Half-Bastion were erected and connected with the city walls), and from the north (Polny and Jabłonka Rawelins in front of the curtains of the Crownwork). The northern bastion part of the Fortress, based on the solutions of the Italian and Dutch schools, was strengthened by the counter-mine pavements under the northern foreground.

3) 1742 r. - After the Prussians took over the rule, the fortress was extended and modernized by the order of Frederick II who wanted to strengthen the Kłodzko fortress in

⁴ The history of the town and the Kłodzko Fortress was elaborated on the basis of...: *Kłodzko history of the town*, edited by Gładkiewicz R., Kłodzko 1998, Bukal G., *Twierdza Kłodzka 1620-1900*, KAiU t. 31, from 3-4/86 p. 279-322 and Małachowicz E., *Kłodzko Fortress*, *Zeszyty Muzeum Ziemi Kłodzkiej*, vol.2: 1987, pp. 3-30.

order to keep the remaining Silesian possessions⁵. Great Pincers (between the Upper Castle and the Crownwork) were created, as well as pincer sconces on the eastern slope and at the southern entrance to the castle. The western front was reinforced with lunettes and High Redan (i.e. the arms square), and the northern one with a strongly protruding Crane lunette and a new moat in front of the Crownwork, forming a star-shaped mantle, which was extended as far as the Eagle bastion on the western slope of Castle Mountain. Under the northern foreground, the network of corridors was expanded into a complex system of mine and counter-mine pavements, comprising six systems on several levels.

- 1744-1751 the most important undertaking performed by the builders of the Fortress was completed, constituting an outstanding example of an old Prussian fortification school: on the eastern bank of the Nysa Kłodzka River, a huge auxiliary fort Owcza Góra was built, whose task was to strengthen the Main Fortress by securing the eastern and northern foreground of the Kłodzko River and to block the road to Wrocław. The complex is a homogenous and independent fort on a with a six-pointed star plan, composed of two crowns: the Low Crown in a pincer system based on the Mainz-Würzburg⁶ layout and the casemated High Crown, connected by shoulders with partially casemated lunettes and fortified with a redoubt-keep.
- At the same time, a hospital, barracks with stables, two huge granaries and a water-lock bridge were built within the fortified suburbs of Ząbkowice. The function of damming up water was to provide additional protection for the eastern suburb of Kłodzko through artificial flooding.
- 1770-1774 - the archaic High Castle was replaced by a specialized three-storey Keep with a bastion outline, which made the Main Fortress an integrated defense complex. The works south of the Keep were modified: the Tower Bastion, the High Bastion and the Elephant Hill, which provided mutual fire support and full control over the city and the crossing on Nysa Kłodzka.
- 1873 - an underground postern under the eastern slope of the fortress was created, which provided the fortresses with fast supplies from the Ząbkowice Suburbs thanks to a system of wagons pulled into the fortress area by means of a horse mill.

4) Beginning of the 20th century. - The latest modifications increasing the defense of the Fortress are shelters and battle stations, built within the Keep crown. They coincided in time with the demolition of the city walls and gates, as a result of which Kłodzko ceased to be a cramped garrison town and began to expand into villa districts.

Summing up the architectural values of the Kłodzko Fortress, the following features should be considered as carriers of the exceptional value of the monument:

⁵ Małachowicz M., *Fortyfikacje przełęczu Sudetów* [in:] *Nowożytnie fortyfikacje Śląska, Twierdze Kłodzko i Srebrna Góra*, publishing series of Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Fortyfikacji "Fortyfikacji europejskim dziedzictwem kultury", vol. XII, Warsaw 2000, p. 83.

⁶ On characteristic for Walrave tick-bastion systems of works and their combinations on so-called Izabela Kozłowska recalls in her doctoral dissertation entitled 'scratch of Mainz-Würzburg' "*Szczecińskie fortyfikacje nowożytnie, rola fortyfikacji nowożytnych w kształtowaniu układu przestrzennego miasta Szczecina oraz wpływ analizy historycznej na współczesne działania projektowe i zakres ochrony konserwatorskiej*", Szczecin 2007, p. 165; http://www.pbc.gda.pl/content/8063/phd_kozlowska_izabela.pdf (access: 29.11.2019).

- 1) the fortification complex dominating in the urban space serving as a reminder of the former character of Kłodzko as a garrison town (Fig. 5);
- 2) the layering of modern-era fortification solutions, originating from Dutch, Prussian and Italian schools of *architectura militaris*;
- 3) the novelty of some solutions in the development of the Prussian art of fortification.



Fig. 5 A bird's eye view from the west on the complex of Kłodzko fortifications. In the foreground the Main Fortress, in the background the Fort Owcza Góra (photo: G. Basiński)

Kłodzko Fortress - heritage without an heir or an heir without a mission?

Despite these historical and architectural values, the Kłodzko Fortress still has not been recognized as a Monument of History.

The monument had a chance to receive this award in 2009 thanks to the efforts of the owner - Municipality of Kłodzko⁷, but the application was rejected because the area of Kłodzko was too large and not authentic in its entirety⁸. Within the area applied for - besides the justified area of the Kłodzko Fortress Culture Park established in 2005⁹ - there are also: the Old Town (until the end of the 19th century surrounded by the city walls) with the Piasek Island¹⁰, adjoining

⁷ The Municipality of Kłodzko became the owner of the Kłodzko Fortress in 2007 after several years of efforts (see: <http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/IZ4.nsf/main/7504FD36> access: 29.05.2019).

⁸ According to the information obtained from the Development Department of the Municipal Office in Kłodzko.

⁹ Resolution No. XLIII/355/2005 of the Kłodzko City Council of 27 October 2005 on the creation of the Kłodzko Fortress Culture Park - in the Municipality of Kłodzko. The area of the FCC included both fortifications and the former Ząbkowice Suburb located between them.

¹⁰ Constituting the historical urban layout of the city of Kłodzko (entry in the register of monuments under no. 370 of 25.11.1956).

the KFCP on the south, and the part of the city adjacent to the city walls from the south and west, constituting a fragment of the district established at the turn of the 20th century, whose boundary is marked in the application by the main thoroughfare of the city, i.e. T. Kościuszki Street.

In the opinion of the author, the applicant's idea to submit an application for the area of the KFCP extended by the area of the Old Town and a fragment of the district with eclectic tenement houses from the 19th and 20th centuries is difficult to justify. It should be noted that the Old Town with its historical urban layout was entered into the register of monuments in 1956, when it still constituted an original complex, fragmentarily disturbed by the collapse of individual tenement houses within the oldest streets of the city (Czeska Str, Armii Krajowej Street and Łukasińskiego Street). Meanwhile, the building disaster which began in the mid-1950s within a decade wiped out several dozen Renaissance and Baroque tenement houses, which were replaced by concrete blocks of flats typical of the 1960s and 1970s. The last pseudo-reconstruction of lost quarters concerned the northern frontage of the market square, which in the 1990s was ineptly "reconstructed" with the oversized, inexpertly styled tenement houses, which strongly disturbed the original urban landscape and its dominant features in the form of the Fortress massif and the soaring Renaissance tower of the town hall.

The lack of authenticity and homogeneity of large parts of the Old Town is a fundamental accusation against the 2009 proposal, but it was equally odd to include a part of the eclectic tenement houses and bourgeois villas in the proposed area, which does not coincide with the boundaries of all the fortifications in Kłodzko¹¹. The peculiarity of the proposed urban area: heterogeneous, devoid of authenticity in too many quarters, artificially divided and, above all, not corresponding to the preserved line of fortifications, indicates the determination of the applicant to include on the list of Monuments of History not specifically Kłodzko Fortress but a significant part of the town of Kłodzko together with the Fortress, which was supposed to serve a sort of guarantee of achieving the expected result. This critical assessment of the owner's intentions towards the monument at that time is not unfounded. Starting from the unrealized declarations made by the mayor of Kłodzko at the time of the takeover of the Fortress by the Municipality of Kłodzko in 2007¹², through perturbations related to the implementation of the resolution establishing the Kłodzko Fortress Cultural Park, and ending with the questionable lease of the auxiliary fort Owcza Góra - the past decade shows at least lack of understanding by the owner of the rank of the monument, and the resulting lack of mission to protect the

¹¹ Rental tenement houses and villas built in a similar period and representing the same style are also located south of the present-day T. Kościuszki Street, which is the boundary of the proposed area. The proper range of the district is determined by the obverse Chopin street, stretched between the meander of the Nysa Kłodzka stream from the east and penitentiary buildings from the west. In the author's opinion, the border points for a possible (!) extension of the proposed area should be the elements of fortification fortifications extending to the southern and eastern foreground of the city.

¹² <http://www.walbrzych.info/pl/wiadomosci,News,2396,twierdza-zdobyta.html> (accessed June 2, 2019).

monument, let alone sustainable adaptation¹³.

The establishment in 2005 of Kłodzko Fortress Cultural Park could have been a proof of the high awareness of the then city authorities of the importance of the monument and the necessity of multifaceted protection of the fortification complex, however, the process of implementing this idea is an expression of the authorities' completely negligent approach to the subject¹⁴. This is clearly illustrated by the fact that the management of the Fortress is inconsistent with the content of the resolution: instead of creating a management unit of the KFPC with a competent manager selected in a competition, the management of the Main Fortress and the Owcza Góra Fortress was entrusted to various institutions which did not guarantee adequate protection of the monument: at the beginning of 2006 the tourist part of the Main Fortress was entrusted to Sports and Recreation Center (OSIR), in the period from April 2007 to September 2010. OSIR managed the entire area of the Main Fortress and Fort Owcza Góra. Subsequently, the area was leased for 30 years to the municipal company ZAMG Sp. z o.o. in order to carry out the investment project - the construction of a cable car line (!) connecting both forts. Finally, in March 2014 the entire Fort Owcza Góra and part of the Kłodzko Fortress were leased for 40 years to Wadex Inwest Sp. z o.o. (with a share capital of PLN 50,000), also for the purpose of cable car line construction and development of the facility¹⁵. The very idea of building a gondola railway between the forts - without undertaking more serious conservation works within the fortifications and the questionable felling of trees in the Owcza Góra fort - evokes reflections on the priorities of the owner of the facility.

What is more, the uniqueness and tourist attractiveness of the cable car line is not a sufficient argument for the implementation of this concept (which anyway interferes with the historic fortress landscape). The entrance to the Main Fortress by the railway would be equally attractive for tourists, and at the same time undoubtedly unique, by restoring the transport route through of the original postern from 1873 under the eastern slope. The author's belief that the owner's priorities were neither the mission of protecting monuments nor the programme

¹³ The term "sustainable adaptation" has been taken over from Łukasz Pardela and Katarzyna Pałubska: Pardela Ł., Pałubska K., *Krajobraz w zrównoważonej adaptacji zabytkowych fortyfikacji (...)*, [in:] *Ochrona wartości w procesie adaptacji zabytków*, collective work ed. B. Szmygina, Warsaw 2015, pp. 221-228.

¹⁴ On the subject of the complex circumstances of the establishment and implementation of FPK - Kłodzko Fortress, as well as the current functioning of the Kłodzko Fortress within the Park's structure, in October 2017 the author delivered a paper during the International Scientific Conference *15 years of the Fortress Cultural Park in Srebrna Góra. Protection and management of historic defensive architecture complexes* (<http://www.icomopoland.org/pl/>; archive-up-to-date/201-International-conference-science-science-15-year-old-fortecznego-park-kulturowego-silver-mountain-protection-and-andfrosting-historical-team-architecture-defense.html, (access: 20.04.2019); post-conference materials are in preparation.

¹⁵ About the complicated and dynamic action of leasing Owcza Góra to the parent company Wadex S.A. and then to the subsidiary company Wadex Invest, as well as about the allegations of the Mayor Michał Piszka concerning illegal logging and destruction of the monument, resulting in the termination of the lease in March 2015, among others: Awizeń M., *Wadex Invest and Fort Owcza Góra*, [in:] <http://nowa.mojabrama.pl/wadex-invest-i-fort-owcza-gora> (access: 25.04.2019), as well as Śledź A., *Wadex Company sued Kłodzko in court for PLN 10 million* [in:] <http://www.gazetawroclawska.pl/strefa-biznesu/firma/a/spolka-wadex-pozwala-Klodzko-do-sadu-o-10-mln-zlotych,10168754/> (access: 25.04.2019).

of their sustainable adaptation is confirmed by the controversial and caricatural concept of developing Fort Owcza Góra by its former leaseholder (Wadex Invest Sp. z o.o.). It contradicts the postulates contained in the *Venice Charter* (focused on preserving the heritage of the past for future generations), and it illustrates the ignorance for the principles of protection of the monument and the lack of respect and understanding of its heritage¹⁶.

The complex of negative attributes, which the owner of the Kłodzko Fortress showed within a few years from obtaining the title of ownership, also cast a shadow on the Main Fortress itself. In 2011 the Great Pincers were "renovated" by adapting them to their exhibition and conference functions. The list of offences against the monument includes, among others: The list of offences in relation to the monument includes, among others: the ripping out the original mechanism of the horse mill located in the foundations inside the casemate activating the railway in the postern under the eastern slope, and replacement of the original brick floor in the *opus spicatum* system with a clinker tile laid in stretcher bond pattern, plastering the original brick walls of the casemate with a thick structural plaster reflecting the movement of the plastering trowel. Finally, the crown of the work was demolished during the insulation works by permanently destruction of the plant cover and incorrect profiling of the dyke. As a result, rainwater with clay mud flows down the newly-renovated walls, while at the same time clogging the drainage channels.

Perhaps it would be possible to avoid the above mistakes - reprehensible from the point of view of a conservator and art historian - if the owner of the monument, in accordance with the resolution establishing the Polish Cultural Centre, used a tool for monitoring the historic complex¹⁷. Meanwhile, the city authorities' omissions in the field of protection of monuments were not limited only to the area of the Fortress Culture Park - in 2011, by the decision of the Mayor of Kłodzko, the position of the Municipal Conservator of Monuments was liquidated.

The doubtful quality of the renovations, not taking into account the historical and original tissue of the building and questioning the reliable approach of the owner of the monument to the Kłodzko Fortress, requires looking for systemic solutions which on the one hand guarantee that the fortifications in Kłodzko are properly protected and on the other hand constitute the prestige of the building. The significance of the Monument of History title could give the Kłodzko Fortress a proper status and immunity, keeping ignorant local decision-makers at bay.

¹⁶ Bienkowski B., *Zwycięska wizja fort "Owacza Góra"*, [in:] <http://dkl24.pl/pl/a/926/zwycieska-wizja-fortu---owacza-gora---.html> (accessed: 25.01.2018).

¹⁷ In the period from July 2008 to the end of 2011, active monitoring was carried out by one of the members of the Scientific and Consultative Council, Mirosław Rzytkie, as part of the implementation of Resolution No. XLIII/355/2005, however, his reports were not responded to by the City Hall, and the (rather inconvenient) activity of the monitor resulted in his informal dismissal from office; from May 2012 to November 2013, monitoring was entrusted to Kamila Pietkiewicz, and in 2014. The mayor completely eliminated the monitoring of the KFCP.

Kłodzko Fortress - an unwanted heritage?

According to the description available on the website of the National Heritage Institute¹⁸, the list of Monuments of History "includes objects of special material and non-material value and of significance for the cultural heritage of our country". Considering the undisputed architectural values of the Kłodzko Fortress, the presence of this fortification among other outstanding monuments of Poland is strongly justified. Polish motifs in the multicultural history of the Kłodzko Fortress add to its value in the context of honoring the place of remembrance or historical figures. Most of these themes concern national liberation and martyrdom of Poles: Wojciech Kętrzyński served a one-year sentence here during the January Uprising (1864-65), while during the Second World War Władysław Planetorz was executed here (1944), and 1500 Polish workers who were relocated from Łódź together with the AEG factory were forced to work in a labour camp organized on the territory of the Fortress, making radio technical parts for submarines and V-2 rockets. No less important for the history of Poland is the figure of St. Wojciech, the patron saint of Poland and son of Sławnik, who was the first documented ruler of Kłodzko, reigning from Castle Hill in 981¹⁹.

Despite this aspect of the Kłodzko Fortress value, the "national tone" that has prevailed in recent years on the cultural level causes concerns about the objective view, both of the condition of the monuments included within the borders of the present-day Republic of Poland, as well as about fair curatorship justified by their state, historical and artistic values. The author's fears of ignoring the needs of Western Poland's monuments were based on the main assumptions of the policy of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage for the years 2017-2020, presented by Minister Jarosław Sellin in May 2017 at the General Meeting of Delegates of the Association of Polish Museum Workers²⁰ which focused on two themes: war crimes, martyrdom and heroism of the Polish nation²¹ and a specific apotheosis of Poland by recalling its victories and the former power²². It is significant that among the many initiatives mentioned by Minister Sellin, which were undertaken by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the westernmost museum institution whose activities were taken under the organizational and financial supervision of the Ministry, was the Central Museum of Prisoners of War in Łambinowice-Opole. If this approach turned out to be binding also for the protection of monuments, there would be no place for the

¹⁸ https://www.nid.pl/pl/Informacje_ogolne/Zabytki_w_Polsce/Pomniki_historii/ (accessed May 31, 2019).

¹⁹ This year, actions have been taken to include Kłodzko and Kłodzko Fortress in the International St. Adalbert's Route next year: <https://gazetawroclawska.pl/na-dolnym-slasku-powstaje-szlaksw-wojciecha/ar/10156092> (access 2.06.2019).

²⁰ The author took part in the Congress, and the information quoted here comes from her own note drawn up on the basis of a speech by Minister J. Sellin.

²¹ Illustrated by the theme of the extermination of Jews (the new organization of the Treblinka museum, plans to develop the organizational structures of the museum in Sobibór and work on the Płaszów camp) along with the commemoration of the people involved in rescuing Jews (plans to establish the Museum of the Righteous near Auschwitz), as well as by the theme of Siberian Golgotha (plans to establish a thematic museum in Białystok).

²² The implementation of these ideas manifested itself in the "Independence" project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of regaining independence, and in 2019, a celebration of the 450th anniversary of the Lublin Union and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was planned.

Kłodzko Fortress.

Although in the field of ministerial subsidies for the protection of monuments in the past year there was a noticeable attentiveness towards the Lower Silesian Voivodship²³, the voices of some of the participants in the conference on History Monuments make us keep this enthusiasm in check.

The signals which resounded and which may cause concern to the caretakers of monuments in the western part of Poland, indicated the need to protect monuments associated with persons particularly important for the history and identity of Poles, as well as monuments bearing witness to the national heritage in the areas of the former Republic of Poland, which within the new territorial borders are doomed to progressive degradation.

Although it is difficult to deny these arguments, their resonance during the conference suggests that a part of the conservation community does not support the nomination for the title of Monument of History of monuments which do not directly concern the history of Poland. Such an attitude would threaten the Kłodzko Fortress, which should be evaluated in a broader context, quoted for example in the paraphrase of Professor Piotr Molski's statements: *both domestic and foreign fortifications, primarily French, Russian and Soviet, Prussian, German and Austrian (...) constitute a material record of the turbulent history of Poland, a symbol of the survival and preservation of our national identity, but also a permanent trace of the evolution of the fortification art of the great powers, considered a European cultural heritage*²⁴. Edmund Małachowicz, who considers these fortifications as the most "European" from the point of view of the authorship of the concept and evolution of engineering thought, also mentions the European significance of the heritage of Frédérician fortresses, which dominate in the fortress landscape of Poland's western provinces²⁵.

Also for monuments in western Poland, which are already on the list of Monuments of History, the implementation of such a strategy would entail the risk of lack of effective financial support in view of the limited budget of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, which in no way corresponds to the real demand. For the Kłodzko Fortress, as a candidate for inclusion on the list of Monuments of History, no less disturbing proposal are the votes on the reformulation of the definition of Monuments of History, or the introduction of the selection of candidates and limiting the granting of this title, which would translate into raising its prestige.

If this concept was guided solely by responsible creation of a brand of a monument bearing the title of a Monument of History, unique in many respects in comparison to other similar objects, Kłodzko Fortress, due to its values and by use of objective criteria, would have a chance to

²³ In the autumn call for proposals 2018, in the top ten of the monuments with the largest grant, four Lower Silesian monuments were included, occupying high positions: 1, 2, 5 and 6. [http://www.mkidn.gov.pl/media/po2019/results_/20190514_Karta_publicacji_Ochrona_zabytkow_2019_I_nabor_\(with_slaves\).pdf](http://www.mkidn.gov.pl/media/po2019/results_/20190514_Karta_publicacji_Ochrona_zabytkow_2019_I_nabor_(with_slaves).pdf), (accessed: 5.06.2019).

²⁴ Molski P., *Ochrona i zagospodarowanie wybranych zespołów fortyfikacji nowych w Polsce*, "Prace Naukowe Politechniki Warszawskiej. Series Architecture", 2007, no. 3, pp. 3-132.

²⁵ Małachowicz E., *Nowożytnie fortyfikacji Śląska europejskim dziedzictwem kultury*, [in:] *Nowożytnie fortyfikacje Śląska (...)*, p. 8.

receive this prestigious title. However, the title of the Monument of History gives the monument additional points in the process of obtaining funding from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage²⁶, which may be a particular motivation to undertake efforts to include a monument on the list of Monuments of History. Thus, the system of evaluation of monuments, aimed at increasing the scope of protection of the most valuable objects, may turn out to be inefficient: there is a risk that in view of the limited budget of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the expansion of the list will not be decided by an objective analysis of the historical, scientific and artistic values of the monument, but by the financial interest of the current Monuments of History, for which the next objects awarded the title will provide competition.

Monument of History as a prestige and guarantee of effective protection

Issues raised during the conference on Monuments of History were considered by the author primarily in the light of Kłodzko Fortress case, for which there have been renewed efforts for its inclusion on the list of Monuments of History. Reflections accompanying the individual papers and discussions boil down to the following remarks and postulates:

1) Evaluation of the monument on the basis of its universal value.

In the description of the concept of the Monument of History, the criterion of the universal value of the monument as a cultural heritage, not limited and not determined by a purely national context, should be clearly heard. The Polish "Monument of History" does not mean "Monument of Polish History" - a title given to exceptional monuments in Poland does not indicate their "national aspect". On the other hand, the definition saying that this term refers to an *immovable monument of particular importance for the culture of our country*, promotes the verification of the monument in terms of its national values, which in the face of the increasingly common discourse closes Kłodzko Fortress in a simplified and unreliable context. It is obvious that the overriding characteristic of a monument is its universal value as a cultural heritage, while the location of a monument in the territory of the present-day Republic of Poland is an additional attribute in the form of a geographical and historical context. The universal value of heritage in the scale of Europe is distinguished by unique and recognizable monuments entered on the list of Monuments of History which do not present strictly Polish heritage and which at the time of their creation or functioning did not derive from the culture of our country: Srebrna Góra Fortress (entry in 2004), Evangelical Churches of Peace in Świdnica and Jawor (2017), Museum of Papermaking in Duszniki (2011), Centennial Hall in Wrocław (2005).

The criterion applied to the above objects should be formalized in order to ensure a substantive process of verification of subsequent candidates for the title of the Monument of History. All selection criteria should be objective, i.e. based on the analysis of historical, architectural, artistic and scientific value, as well as on the assessment of the state of preservation. These criteria could be inspired by the UNESCO World Heritage's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) criteria.

²⁶ Out of four Lower Silesian monuments which received some of the highest grants in the autumn 2019 call for proposals, as many as three have a status of a Monument of History.

2) Funding

There is no doubt that the budget for the protection of historical monuments should be significantly increased, and there should be a possibility to settle the awarded grants over a period longer than one year. Conservation works on monuments require time which is considerably reduced by weather conditions and administrative requirements (e.g. public procurement). The necessity to settle the subsidy within a calendar year exposes the monuments to erratic or ostensible and cosmetic conservation. Moreover, the distribution of financial resources to individual regions should not be limited to the rank of the subsidized heritage (e.g. Cracow), but should additionally take into account the state of preservation of monuments, the possibility of obtaining funds from other sources, the impact of subsidies on further independent functioning of the facility through sustainable adaptation, etc.

3) The role of the conservator and the rank of the title of the Monument of History in the process of effective protection of the monument.

In view of the slowness or disdainful attitude of the authorities, or their selective and biased approach to heritage, often used for political purposes, the competences of the Monument Conservator should be extended and equipped with the necessary tools (positions, higher salaries, etc.) that would allow the office to be held with due responsibility and diligence. It is the conservators who shoulder the burden of protecting the monument against the decision-making attempts of the ignorant who are periodically in power.

The title of the Monument of History itself should not only be a commitment of the General Conservator and the Minister of Culture and National Heritage to protect the monument with appropriate protection and financial resources. The Monument of History should provide the property with immunity from the rash policies of the authorities (for which legal solutions together with a system of penalties are necessary). In turn, for the local community, the Monument of History should be a source of pride, on the basis of which the residents will identify themselves with the object and co-create its *genius loci*²⁷.

The reflection on whether the Kłodzko Fortress is an unwanted heritage makes it all the more imperative to ensure its proper protection.

However, if the state could not protect it, then who would?

²⁷ Lewicka M. L., *Kulturowe i społeczne wartości mazowieckich zamków w Liwie i Iłży*, [in:] *Zamki w ruinie - zasady postępowania konserwatorskiego*, collective work, ed. B. Szmygin i P. Molski, Warsaw - Lublin 2012, pp. 169-170.

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