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WOLSZTYN

historical monuments



## MARCIN ROŻEK (1885-1944)

**He was born on 8th November 1885 in Kosieczyn near Zbąszyń. He started his education in Zbąszyń and in 1893, after his family moved to Wolsztyn, he continued learning there.**

He began his career in sculpture in a stonemasonry and stucco workshop in Poznań. He came back to Poznań in 1913, after studies in Berlin, Munich and Paris. He opened his own workshop three years later. He took part in the Wielkopolska (Greater Poland) Uprising. After Poland regained its independence, he co created the Decorative Arts School (Szkoła Sztuk Zdobniczych) in Poznań (later the Academy of Fine Arts and now University of Arts). In 1933 he moved to Wolsztyn, to the house which he designed and built himself.

In 1942 he was arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned in Fort VII in Poznań. In 1943 he was convicted of the refusal to make a bust of Adolf Hitler and sent to the concentration camp in Auschwitz (Oświęcim). He died there in 1944.

The artist left numerous works (some are placed in the National Museum in Poznań). Here are the most renowned statues: Fryderyk Chopin's (the original work placed in the White Hall in the City Administration Office in Poznań and its copy in the Chopin's Park in Poznań), Stanisław Moniuszko's statue in Poznań, Bolesław Chrobry's statue in Gniezno (destroyed during the war and reconstructed by Jerzy Sobociński in 1985), the Sower's statue in Luboń and Karol Marcinkowski's sarcophagus in St. Adalbert's Church in Poznań.



## MARCIN ROŻEK MUSEUM

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**The Museum of Marcin Rożek, a professor of the Decorative Arts School in Poznań, an author of many renowned statues and monuments is located in the villa at number 34, 5 Stycznia Street, which was designed and built by the artist. He moved here in 1934.**

It is a multi-storey, stone house. Both facades are adorned with symbolic and allegoric sculptures and reliefs, among others an owl – a symbol of knowledge and wisdom. In the back of the building, there are the artist's studios – one for painting and one for sculpting – both with a magnificent view on the lake. The front part is a residential area.

Today, the first floor is devoted to the artist. Among stylish furniture from his epoch one can admire the artist's sculptures and paintings as well as documents, photographs and numerous memorabilia. The staircase is decorated with a painting "Piaśt Welcoming the Guests". Among the museum exhibits there is even...a log of a tree. The log is quite unique because it is adorned with the original reliefs of Faun and Medusa created by Rożek on the oak tree in the park around the Mycilescy palace (today the Municipal Park).

Numerous works by Marcin Rożek decorate a charming garden, which approaches the lake. Some of the sculptures are placed under pergolas, along the wall. On the pillars, there are the busts of Rożek's favourite figures - Karol Kurpiński and Trajan, Michelangelo and Socrates, Adam Mickiewicz and Ludwig van Beethoven. The garden was recreated on the basis of the iconography from the 30s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, so the times when the creator lived in the house.



## ROBERT KOCH (1843-1910)

**Wolsztyn area was a starting point for the carrier of one of the first laureates of the Nobel Prize in medicine - a German doctor, Robert Koch (born on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1843 in Clausthal).**

Robert Koch was a graduate from Göttingen University. He took up his first job in Rakoniewice in 1869. He was 26 at that time. Three years later, in 1872, Robert took a post of a commune doctor in a nearby Wolsztyn. It was here where he began his research on etiology of anthrax. He had no access to a laboratory and did his studies in a corner of his surgery. He had a silent partner. It was a Polish pharmacist Józef Knechtel. His wife Emma was also of a great help.

Robert Koch presented the results of his research at the conference of the German Medical Society in Wrocław in 1876. This event helped him to move to Berlin in 1880, where he started working for the Imperial Health Department and began his studies on tuberculosis bacteria, which brought him the Nobel Prize in 1905. In Wolsztyn, Koch worked out a key technique for bacterial colonies. It was a method of growing bacteria on solid nutrients and a method of staining them with the use of aniline compounds.

In appreciation of his medical achievements, the Friends of Science Society (Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk) in Poznań granted Koch an honorary membership in 1890.

Robert Koch died in Baden Baden on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1910.



## ROBERT KOCH MUSEUM

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**Robert Koch, a microbiologist who discovered causative agents of tuberculosis and anthrax, the 1905 Nobel Prize laureate; in the 70s of the 19<sup>th</sup> century he was a district general practitioner in Wolsztyn.**

The house in English neo-gothic style, where the famous scientist worked and lived, was turned into a museum devoted to his memory.

Although the museum originated in 1996 on the initiative of the Polish-German Foundation and the Robert Koch Scientific Association, it has been continuing the traditions of the Robert Koch Memory Chamber which has been operating since 1958.

In two ground floor rooms of the building constructed in 1842-1846 by the foundation of an English woman, Mary Pearce, numerous memorabilia connected with the famous scientist are displayed. They come from the times when Koch was a district doctor in Wolsztyn (1872-1880) and are connected also with other places, where he lived and worked. Photographs, copies of documents (also the Nobel Prize Diploma) and laboratory equipment placed among old furniture perfectly recreate the times when the scientist worked and lived.



## WEST-WIELKOPOLSKA FOLK BUILDINGS HERITAGE PARK

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The construction and the layout of a multi-street village have been recreated in the 3.5 ha territory, on the west bank of Lake Wolsztyńskie. There are 15 interiors (dwelling space, utility rooms, craftsmen's workshops and agriculture industry rooms) open for tourists. The heritage park presents also small architecture (a bread oven, a pigeon house, dog houses). By these means, the whole village society is represented in the heritage park, a poor bailiff, a middle-class farmer, a publican and wealthy Dutch and German settlers (Olędrzy). The entire arrangement, together with greenery (gardens, trees, cultivation areas), is supposed to portray the character of the west-Wielkopolska village from the turn of the 19/20<sup>th</sup> century.

A house of a middle-class peasant from Reclinek, dated back to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century is one of the most interesting homesteads here. In one building covered with straw and reed there are dwelling rooms, a barn, a pigsty and a coach house. The public house from Nowey Solec is over 300 years old (1706). The post mill overlooking the heritage park is even older. It dates back to 1603 and was moved here from Wroniawy.

The heritage park is a venue for numerous folk events which present regional cuisine, bread baking and work of craftsmen from the previous epochs.



phot. Aleksander Żukowski

## THE CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY IN WOLSZTYN

Although the notes about the first parish church in Wolsztyn date back to the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century, the contemporary temple of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady was erected in the second part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, founded by the owners of Wolsztyn domain – Rogoźno castellan Rafał Gajewski and his wife Katarzyna. It was presumably built according to the design of a Czech architect, Antoni Höhne.

The front façade of the church is decorated with, among others, a sculpture of Mother of God by Edward Przymuszała. On the sides there are epitaphs commemorating the benefactors of the church who are buried in Wolsztyn parish church undergrounds.

The Church of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady is a late baroque, three-aisle church with a northern tower and rococo interior decoration. The main altar is filled with a picture of the patron saint from the turn of 16/17<sup>th</sup> century, adorned with a silver plated cover dated back to the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The picture is often called a jewel of the temple. The picture has an altar cover with a painted image of the Marriage of the Virgin inspired by a famous picture by Rafael. The vaults are adorned with polychromes painted by Jakub Byszkowski. The decorations are deeply rooted in the Bible and present the titles of the church and are connected with the altars above which they are painted. These works of art gave the church a name of “the temple covered with sky”.

## ENGINE HOUSE

phot. Photographic competition "Steam locomotive impressions"



## ENGINE HOUSE

The steam locomotive shed in Wolsztyn was constructed in 1907. It is the last operating shed in Europe. Its original buildings and machines (an engine house, a water tower, an ash pit, a coal bunker, a railway turntable 20.5m in diameter and a water crane) still exist.

At present the steam locomotive shed is functioning as a cultural institution. It owns about 20 steam engines of different series. The oldest locomotive is a German construction TKb-b4 from 1912, assembled in Berlin in Borsig Company. There are many others, the last Polish series steam engine – Ty51 produced in H. Cegielski Company in Poznań in 1957 as well as old carriages and handcars, equipment and rail accessories. "Beautiful Helen" (Piękna Helena) from 1937, produced in Fablok company in Chrzanów, is the most famous steam locomotive here. It reached the speed of 130 kmph.

The steam locomotive shed is the last place in the world where steam engines are still used to operate regular train services. It is here where one can see a working steam locomotive functioning exactly as it used to many years ago. Wolsztyn steam engines are also used for tourist purposes. Numerous vintage trains trips are organized by Wolsztyn Steam Locomotive Shed.

The steam locomotive shed is available for tourists. Every year, at the beginning of May it organizes a **Steam Locomotives Parade**. This unique show draws attention of tourists and rail enthusiasts from all over the world.

## OLDEST STEAM LOCOMOTIVE

The oldest locomotive is a German construction **TKb-b4** from 1912, assembled in Berlin in Borsig Company. It is a fireless locomotive commonly known as "a parasite". It was constructed for industrial purposes in places with high risk of fire (chemical factories, refineries, sawmills). After 1945 until the end of 1970s the fire engine operated in Szczecin Steelworks.

## OLDEST POLISH LOCOMOTIVE.

The oldest Polish steam engine **Ok22-31** was built in Chrzanów in 1929. It was modeled on the German construction P8, Polish series Ok1.

## FASTEST LOCOMOTIVE

A famous "**Beautiful Helen**" (**Piękna Helena**), **Pm 36-2** is the fastest steam locomotive in Wolsztyn. In 1936 a fast experimental train Pm36 was designed in Chrzanów. The next year two engines were built; one with an aerodynamic cover of Pm36-1 type (awarded a gold medal in international fairs in Paris) and the other one of Pm 36-2 type without a cover. Only the second one survived the war.

## HEAVIEST LOCOMOTIVE

The heaviest locomotive **Ty51** weights almost 190 t. The steam engine is very well equipped, among others with Trofimoff valves (a device to balance the pressure at both sides of a steam engine piston) and stoker – and an automatic coal feeder. The locomotive Ty 51 was built in 1957 in H. Cegielski's Company. It was operating until 1988 in Rzepin and came to Wolsztyn in 1989.

## LONGEST LOCOMOTIVE

The **Pt47-65** locomotive with the length of 24 m is the longest one in Wolsztyn. The shortest one, Tkt48 has a length of 14.2 m and is a steam engine used for fast trains. Four axles and the power of 2000 KM allow reaching a speed of 110 kph. It is equipped with an automatic coal feeder and a tender with a capacity of 27m<sup>3</sup>.



phot. Photographic competition "Steam locomotive impressions"



## PARK AND PALACE COMPLEX

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**The northern part of the town, at Lake Wolsztyńskie is a location for a park with an old tree stand. In the centre of the park one can find a palace dated back to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, which was created on the basis of the walls of a former building from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.**

The first palace in neo-renaissance style was erected in 1857 for Apolinary Gajewski, the contemporaneous proprietor of Wolsztyn. In 1890 the town became a property of the Mycielscy family. The new palace was constructed in 1911 in the so called national style, designed by Roger Sławski for Stefan Mycielski.

The building burnt in 1945 and was reconstructed in the 60s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The palace is surrounded by an English style park. At present, it is the Municipal Park with the area of 18 ha. The regular form with hornbeam and lime alleys was introduced by the then owners of the manor, the Gajewscy family in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. The following proprietors added new plantings, placing overseas trees and ornamental shrubs but leaving the layout in the original form. The park is crossed by walking paths. Many of them are original but some were created as a result of the tourist infrastructure introduction.

In the area of the park one can find canoe pier, guarded beach and an outdoor stage, which is a venue for numerous spring and summer artistic events.

### CHURCH OF LORD'S ASCENSION

It is a post evangelic church. It was built 1830-32 and the final shape was given by Karl Friedrich Schinkel. The main altar in the classicist style is filled with the painting of Lord's Ascension by Edward Gillem.



### TOWN HALL

This three-storey building with a rectangular ground plan was built in 1835 and extended in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century. Situated in the central part of the market square, it is a location for municipal government. A statue to Wielkopolska Insurgent from 2014 stands in front of the Town Hall.



### "SYNAGOGUE" AT 17 POZNAŃSKA STREET

The synagogue was erected in 1839-1840 and reconstructed at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. After the World War II, the devastated by Germans building was rebuilt and turned into a cinema. Unfortunately, the fire in 2009 destroyed the construction so heavily that it had to be disassembled. Today one can admire a new building with a façade stylized into a former synagogue.



### CHORZEMIN

The village, located 3 km north-west of Wolsztyn, belonged to the Cistercians from Odra for five centuries (1287-1796). At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it became a property of the Daumas, a German family. The palace, which preserved until now, was built around 1910 for the then owner of the estate, Alfred Dauma. It is a neo-gothic building of red brick, with a vast and abundantly decorated façade and an octagonal tower at a side. The palace is surrounded by a landscape park with old monumental trees (among others a Caucasian oak) and is currently a private property.



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### GOŚCIESZYN

The history of the village (located 7 km from Wolsztyn, in Wielichowo direction) goes back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The Kurnatowski family was the last owner of the estate from 1900 to 1939. They left a monumental park complex with a neo gothic palace, built for Zygmunt Kurnatowski 1904-1911, as a central point. The palace is a one-storey building with towers in the face part, one of which is a five-storey clock tower with a view terrace. In front of the palace there is a vast courtyard with symmetrically located former stables and a riding arena. The palace is surrounded by a landscape park (12.5ha) with old, monumental plane trees, ash trees, oaks and elms. The whole estate is bordered with a crenellated fence. For over 50 years, until 2011 the palace was an orphanage.



phot. Aleksander Zukowski

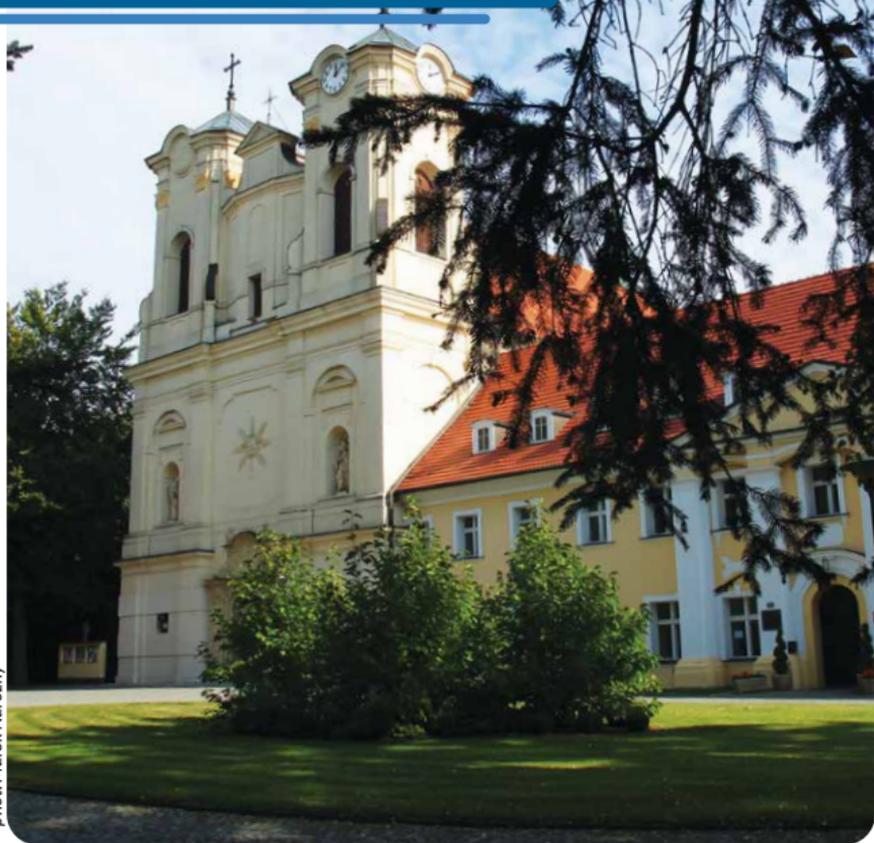
## WRONIAWY

In the western part of a village (located 7 km from Wolsztyn, in Wschowa direction), there is a 19<sup>th</sup> century palace. It was built after 1820, for Stanisław Plater, a geographer, a historian and a writer, the author of, among others, *Geography of Eastern Europe* (Geografia wschodniej części Europy) and *Atlas of the Polish History* (Atlas historyczny Polski). At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the palace was rebuilt in neo baroque style by Maksymilian Goldschmidt-Rothschild who became the owner of the Wroniawy manor before 1905. The building was destroyed during World War II and rebuilt in the 50s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today it is a location for a Holiday House for Children.

The three-storey palace was built on a similar to rectangular plan. It consists of the main body covered with a mansard roof (flat in the central part) and a transverse western part. A tower topped with a dome roof adjoins the palace from the east. In the interior, there are preserved staircases, the main one of white marble and the side one of oak with a curved railing, as well as tiled stoves and ceramic fireplaces. The palace is surrounded by a landscape park (12.18 ha) with old, monumental plane trees.



phot. Jerzy Hlrowski



## OBRA

**A part of Wielkopolsko-Lubuska Loop of the Cistercian Route runs in the vicinity of Wolsztyn. The post Cistercian monastery complex in Obra, which is a part of the loop, is situated in Wolsztyn commune.**

The Cistercians occupy a very special position in the history of Wolsztyn region. Their activities in the fields of religion, culture and economy highly influenced the development of the region. A lot is left in Obra; St. James Church, an abbot's house, the John's of Nepomuk statue and the St. Valentine Church in the centre of the village.

The Cistercians came to Obra from Łekno near Wągrowiec about 1240. The contemporary St. James the Bigger Church was constructed in 1722-57, according to the design of Jan Catenazzi. It is a one-nave temple with two short towers in the façade – a pearl of late baroque architecture. The furnishing is in rococo and early classicist style. The interior is covered with the polychromes by Stanisław Brzozowski. The main altar is adorned with a painting "Assumption of Mary" by Szymon Czechowicz. Between the pillars, there are the sculptures of St. Benedicts and St. Bernard. The altar is topped with a sculpture of St. James, the patron of the church. Gold plated, rococo stalls and the side altars, among others, God's Mother "Tota Pulchra" (All Beautiful) and God's Mother of Consolation with numerous votive offerings draw attention of visitors.



phot. Marek Narożny

The monastery adjoins the church from the south. A well preserved vestry with rococo furnishing can be found in the eastern wing. Today, a former chapter house plays a role of a theatre hall and a refectory – a dining room.

The Cistercians were present in Obra until 1835, till the time of the monastery dissolution by Prussians. In 1852-54 the abbey was inhabited by the Jesuits and in 1904-1924 it was a home for retired priests. In 1926 the post Cistercian buildings were granted to the Oblates. The monks returned to Obra after World War II. The monastery is still a location for the Major Seminary of Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (affiliated at the Theological Faculty of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań). The old monastery was extended by a new seminary building, which houses, among others a seminary chapel, a great hall, the Missionary Museum and the Treasury.

## PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH OBRA MONASTERY

**Eugeniusz de Mazenod (1782-1861)** – was a French priest and a bishop from Marseille. In 1995 he became a saint of the Catholic Church. He was a founder of Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, whose general he remained till the end of his life. The congregation's activities are connected with missions. The Oblates, who initially operated in Provence (France), created their houses in different regions of the world. They have been active in Poland since 1920 and they are located in 21 monastery houses.

**Karol Antoniewicz (1807-1852)** – was a Jesuit, a missionary, an evangelist and a poet. After death of his wife and five children he entered a monastery. He appeared to be a charismatic folk evangelist. Antoniewicz was also the author of numerous literature pieces; stories, letters and poetry as well as religious songs, for example "Chwalcie łąki umajone" (Praise the Flowery Meadows) and "W krzyżu cierpienie, w krzyżu zbawienie" (Suffering in Cross, Redemption in Cross).

# Wolsztyn



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