

The Leszno Region - a Right **R**oyal Welcome!



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**THE LESZNO REGION
- A RIGHT ROYAL WELCOME**

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"Qui Leszczynskoikum genus ignorant, Polonium ignorant." ("One who does not know the Leszczyński family, does not know Poland.")



Stanislaus Leszczyński was one of the most outstanding rulers of Poland. He was intelligent with broad education and various interests, he believed in progressive views. He could have been an excellent king but the international situation was not favourable for Poland in the 18th century and even though Stanislaus Leszczyński was elected king of Poland twice, both of his reigns (especially the second one) were short and ended in forced emigration.

Stanislaus, the Benefactor

After being sent to exile a new period in Leszczyński's life began. He devoted himself to his various passions; charity work, patronage in culture and science. His court was visited by the most distinguished scholars of the then Europe including Montesquieu and Voltaire. Leszczyński was engaged in literary work, he painted and was a passionate hunter. He was well known for his eloquence, open-mindedness, intelligence and thoughtful attitude towards his subjects. Caring about his subjects and organizing charity events won him the liking and affectionate devotion of initially skeptical inhabitants of Lorraine, which was reflected in the nickname used by Lorrainians - the Benefactor.

Maria Leszczyńska



The beloved daughter of Stanislaus whom he lovingly called Maruchna, Maryneczka, Mareczka [diminutive forms of Maria], Little Heart, Sweetie Pie, Honey all her life. At the age of 22, she married the King of France, Louis XV to Leszczyński's great surprise. Stanislaus, who wanted to marry his daughter to Duke Louis Henri Bourbon - an ugly, one-eyed and humpbacked, 11 years older than Maria, boorish but very wealthy widower, on hearing the news that Maria was to become the queen of France... fainted from emotion.

"King Stanislaus' advice given to his daughter, Maria on her departure to France":

- Your virtue will demonstrate that you are worthy of the throne.
- Remember that vainglory is most dangerous and the most important are the humble.
- Be yourself because you are so kind-hearted.
- My experience has taught me that the love of your subjects is most valuable.
- Try to understand the nature of the French.
- Be a wife more than a queen.
- Religion is your support - never an instrument.
- Do not forget us, who will miss You greatly.

