



## STANISLAUS LESZCZYŃSKI



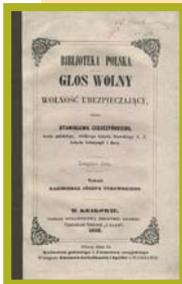
- 1677** He was born in Lvov, father - Rafał, the owner of Leszno, grand Crown treasurer and general starost of Wielkopolska, mother - Anna nee Jablonowska, daughter of Ruthenian voivode and grand Crown hetman. He grew up in Leszno and Rydzyna where he pursued his architectural passions together with his father. He was educated in the gymnasium in Leszno.
- 1695-1696** Educational trip abroad to the Czech State, Austria, Italy, Paris, the Netherlands, Germany.
- 1696** Starost of Odolanów, member of parliament.
- 1697-1699** Crown Cupbearer.
- 1698** Marries Katarzyna Opalińska.
- 1699** King Augustus II appoints him as the Poznań voivode, member of the Polish Senate.
- 1699** Birth of daughter, Anna.
- 1703** Birth of daughter, Maria; death of father, Stanisław.
- 1704** Elected the King of Poland with support of the King of Sweden.
- 1705** Coronation together with his wife in the Warsaw cathedral.
- 1707** Russian army burns down Leszno and the castle in Rydzyna during the domestic war between supporters of King Stanislaus and King Augustus II.
- 1709** Charles XII defeated in the battle of Poltava, King Stanislaus is deprived of support and influence. He first finds shelter in Szczecin and then in Sweden.
- 1712** Stanislaus renounces the rights to the Polish Crown, his estates - including Leszno - are taken over by Augustus II.
- 1712-1714** Sojourn in Turkey with Charles XII.
- 1714-1719** Political emigration as the Duke Representative in the Duchy of Zweibrücken owned by Charles XII.
- 1719-1725** Sojourn in Alsatian Wissemburg (France).
- 1725** Daughter Maria marries the King of France, Louis XV - cathedral in Strasbourg; Stanislaus receives the Chambord castle in the Loire Valley and a small allowance from his son-in-law.
- 1727** Death of Stanislaus' mother, Anna Jablonowska.
- 1733** After the death of Augustus II, Stanislaus Leszczyński secretly returns to Warsaw and is elected king with the support of France.
- 1733** Armed intervention of Russia forces Stanislaus to find shelter in Gdańsk. Augustus III is elected king.
- 1734** As a result of the siege of Gdańsk by Russian troops, Stanislaus, in disguise, flees to Królewiec through Kwidzyn, Pisz, Węgorzewo. He seeks support from Prussia, France, Sweden and Turkey.
- 1736** Stanislaus renounces the throne. He regains his estate in Poland and receives the Duchy of Lorraine and Bar retaining the royal title.
- 1736** Arrival in Lorraine.
- 1738** Selling estates in Poland including Leszno and Rydzyna to Duke Józef Sułkowski.
- 1743** His literary work is published - "Freedom of speech ensuring freedom" first in the French language and then in Polish.
- 1766** He dies in Lunéville as a result of accidental burns. He is buried in Nancy.

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

### "Freedom of speech ensuring freedom."

In the last period of his life, Stanislaus Leszczyński was actively engaged in literary and philosophical activity. He wrote a lot and his political and social views were in those times original and progressive. He was the author of one of the most interesting political treatises in the 18th century - a brochure published in 1749 which had great influence on Polish political thinkers entitled "Głos wolny wolność ubezpieczający" ["Freedom of speech ensuring freedom."]. Leszczyński postulated to grant personal freedom to peasants and to change the then existing corvee system into a rental system. He wanted to see the development of cities, industry and trade, he was in favour of limiting the liberum veto, a clear system of royal elections, better central power and bigger army.



### King in disguise



Biographers of Stanislaus Leszczyński emphasize one of his particular personality traits; he was so open-minded that he could easily adapt to any conditions. He felt at ease in the Palace of Versailles as well as in a roadside inn. Legendary are his wanderings around Europe in the disguise of a merchant

or peasant. In 1733 Stanislaus made an attempt to enter Poland, which was under the control of the Russian, Austrian and Prussian armies and spies, in order to regain the throne. Leszczyński's son-in-law, Louis XV pompously sent ships with Leszczyński on board to the Baltic sea. Protectors of Augustus II the Strong were elated since access to the Baltic sea was guarded by Denmark, Russia's ally and getting to Poland in this way was virtually impossible. To great surprise of his political adversaries, as the French fleet was only approaching Copenhagen, Leszczyński proudly entered the Holy Cross Church in Warsaw. As it turned out, there was Leszczyński's lookalike on the ship while Leszczyński himself travelled to Warsaw in great discomfort in the disguise of a merchant's assistant. Soon the military intervention of Russia forced Leszczyński to seek shelter in Gdańsk. During the siege of the city, when capitulation was inevitable, Stanislaus escaped from the city, this time in the disguise of a peasant.



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## TRAILS IN THE LESZNO AREA

### PRZEMĘT 5



St. John the Baptist Parish Church, former Cistercian, built in the years 1651-1690 and 1758-1759. The construction was supervised by Giorgio and Giacomo Catenazzi. Inside you can admire lavishly decorated stalls, the abbot throne, confessionals and pews with opulent sculptural, figural and floral decorations made from black oak.

### ŚMIGIEL 6



St. Wit's Affiliate Church - a church with a framework structure filled with stones and bricks, built in 1769. You can admire the main altar, which is a late Gothic sculptured triptych dating from 1506 in a frame from 1645. In the middle section there is a scene of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and in the side sections there is the scene of Visitation, Homage of the Three Kings, Annunciation and the Birth of Christ.

Windmills - the legend says that there were 100 windmills in the town which is situated in a hilly area. The windmills that we can see today were brought from Broniowo and Kluczewo. They were reconstructed in 1978-80.

### BRONIKOWO 7



St. Francis of Assisi Parish Church - a temple of a log construction built in 1739 from larch wood. Inside there are Baroque altars and paintings dating from late 17th century.

### KRZYCKO WIELKIE 8

Baroque corner annexe manor house built in mid 18th century for the Kotwicz-Krzycki family. The building with shingled roof presents the most popular type of village residence of a moderately rich nobleman in Baroque times. At present the manor house is a private property and it can only be watched from the street.

### ŚWIĘCIECHOWA 9

This locality was founded along a former trade route from Głogów to Poznań. From the 11th to 19th century it belonged to the Benedictines from Lubiń. In the 13th century the monks founded the first parish church, St. Jacob's Church. The church in its present shape was constructed in the 15th/16th century and was thoroughly rebuilt in the 18th century. Inside you can admire Baroque murals on the vaults of side chapels. You should also see the complex of Baroque altars and the organ prospectus. In the outer wall of the church there are sandstone epitaphs dating from the 17th and 18th centuries.

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## TRAILS IN THE LESZNO AREA

### 2 WSCHOWA

A charming town with origins in the Middle Ages. The Bernardine Order in Wschowa established in 1456 was one of the oldest in Poland. The monastery buildings burnt down in 1558. Thanks to the support of several wealthy patrons and sponsors Krzysztof Bonadura Senior built a new monastery in the years 1638-1639. The church was then named after St. Joseph the Betrothed. In the 1740s renovating works were carried out to make the church more beautiful. A new main altar was built and a floor, windows and pews were made. At that time the church was decorated with polychromy made by a painter from Głogów, Joachim Eggenfeldner together with a monk painter, Walenty Żebrowski. In the chancel vault we can see the Holy Trinity worshipped by angelic hosts. In the middle of the main nave vault there is a scene of the wedding of St. Joseph and Mary. If you have some more time you should see St. Stanislaus' Parish Church. This church was built in the 14th century. After another fire it was reconstructed in 1685 and then converted in 1720-26 according to designs by Pompeo Ferrari.

Gravestone collection in the street of a former Evangelical cemetery. The beautiful gravestones originate from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. This is the oldest such collection within the town walls.

### 3 TRZEBINY



A palace built for a wealthy Wielkopolska family, the Gurowskis, in the years 1680-1690. It was probably designed by an Italian architect, Giacomo Catenazzi who then resided in the area. In 1860 the residence was thoroughly rebuilt for Ferdinand von Lessen to form an inner yard. The palace was built on the layout of a tetragon and it is flanked by four low towers. In the palace there is an archaeological exhibition. The landscape park dating from late 19th century was set up in the place of the then existing (in 1834) Italian garden. At present the palace houses the Wielkopolska Centre of Studies and Protection of Cultural Environment.

### 4 WŁOSZAKOWICE



This village was owned by Katarzyna nee Opalińska, Stanislaus Leszczyński's wife in early 18th century. During the times of the Opaliński family, in early 17th century, a palace was built according to designs by Krzysztof Bonadura Senior. In late 1730s the village was bought by Aleksander Józef Sułkowski. He commissioned the construction of a very interesting late Baroque hunting palace with an experimental layout. It was built on the layout of an equilateral triangle with reflex angles. On the ground floor smaller rooms are located along the outer walls and inside there is a large two-storey dance hall. The "Terrena Hall" on the ground floor was probably used for Masonic ceremonies. A. J. Sułkowski was one of the first Polish Masons.

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## LESZNO

The town of King Stanislaus, centuries of religious tolerance, scholars and beautiful Baroque buildings. It owes its rich history to its owners, the Leszczyński and Sułkowski families who were open-minded, tolerant, resourceful and prudent as well as to its inhabitants who were hard-working and curious of the world. The town was founded on basis of the charter dated 1547 who was obtained by Przemęt castellan, Rafał Leszczyński from King Sigismund the Old. Leszno was to be the heart and pearl in the crown of the estates of the family who had entered the world of political activity.

Leszno has its "golden age" in the first half of the 17th century. Thanks to the consent of the owners various religious refugees settled here: the Unity of Brethren from Moravia, Lutherans from Silesia, Jews, Scots, Italians, and Hungarians. They all formed a colour-



ful, multilingual and multicultural community. This had great impact on the development of the town and its significance in Protestant communities of Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries. Creative variety and prevailing peace gave rise to important scientific and cultural initiatives and led to economic prosperity. The most well-known inhabitants were: John Amos Comenius - the last bishop of the Unity of Brethren and a distinguished educationalist, Jan Jonston - a scholar and doctor, Anna Memorata and Johann Heermann - poets as well as a big group of doctors with scholarly ambitions and influential rabbis in the 18th century. There were schools including the gymnasium of the Unity of Brethren and printing houses. The Leszczyński family invited Italian architects to create their masterpiece buildings in the form of churches and manor houses in the region. Many young people studied at German, Dutch and Swiss universities. Merchants sold their goods all over Europe. Leszno was an important economic centre: it was famous for milling and cloth making. Luxurious products such as carriages and wigs were also made here. This atmosphere of openness, religious tolerance, variety of beliefs, views, traditions and cultures accompanied Stanislaus Leszczyński in his childhood and youth. Stanislaus Leszczyński was a complex and interesting figure: enlightened nobleman, a man of tolerance but also very religious, a magnate shaped in an environment strongly influenced by the burghers aware of the need to reconstruct the society. The successive owners of the town, the Sułkowskis continued to build on what the Leszczyńskis had created.

The preserved urban layout of Leszno is important evidence of those times and artistic taste as well culture of its founders - both the owners as well as the inhabitants. Within the town accentuated by relicts of embankments surrounding it, there is the most beautiful Baroque-Classical town hall in Wielkopolska, impressive Baroque collegiate church, grand synagogue, post-Evangelical churches and the residence of the owners.

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## LESZNO

## 1 SUŁKOWSKIS' PALACE



In its present form it is a Baroque residence that was constructed in the place of a former Renaissance palace and another building built in late 17th century by an Italian architect, Pompeo Ferrari. The contemporary form of the palace was created in mid 18th century when it was reconstructed after successive fires. The silhouette of the building naturally fits into the surroundings consisting of a park and ponds being a relict of a former mediaeval moat. The interior of the palace has lost almost all of its original character; only a few details of the former architectural furnishings have remained.

## 2 SYNAGOGUE

THE JEWISH QUARTER - it was founded in 1626 and was situated within the embankments in the north-western part of the town, near the residence of its owners - the Leszczyńskis. In the 17th century, besides the synagogue itself, the synagogue complex included the ritual bath (mikveh), Talmud school, common house, bakery of matzah, kosher butchery, hospital and several smaller guild and private synagogues.

The biggest and probably the oldest high synagogue of the most important Jewish community in Wielkopolska in the 18th and early 19th centuries.



The present building consists of the 18th-century Baroque main skeleton and a bulk of towers built in 1905 according to designs by Wrocław architects, the Ehrlichs. In its new architectural shape it was constructed in the style of Vienna Secession and the Tempe type layout. It was a one-room prayer hall with a bimah (rostrum) pushed close to aron ha-kodesh (cabinet for Torah), interior amphitheatre emporas for women, equipped with a high class organ, ventilation and central heating. The tower annex topped with an onion-shaped dome with a spire and a sphere and the Star of David provided enough room for weekly synagogue, rabbis' rooms and the organ. The synagogue was used by the Jewish community in Leszno until 1939. At present it houses the art gallery of the Regional Museum in Leszno, in one of the rooms there is a permanent exhibition entitled "Jews in Leszno". The interior décor has been preserved: polychromy with beautiful floral decorations of the walls and radiating nimbus decorating the ventilator in the dome of the deep barrel vault.

*Opening hours: Tuesday: 9a.m. to 5p.m., Wednesday - Friday: 10a.m. to 2p.m., Monday: closed*

## 3 H. TINT'S HOUSE

In 13 Walowa street, it is a high, 5-storey (including two storeys in the roof part) tenement house built in early 20th century for a Jewish merchant, Heymann Tint according to a design by Curt Dressler. Above the entrance you can see the preserved cartouche with the owner's initials. Tint was one of the wealthiest merchants in Leszno.

## 4 HOUSE OF LEARNING (BET HA-MIDRASH)

In 4 Średnia street. Besides the synagogue, it is the oldest historical building within the original Jewish quarter. It is Baroque, built in mid 18th century. It served as a school of Talmud, a place for studying holy books and house of prayer. During the inter-war period its function changed and it was used for accommodation.

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TRAILS  
IN THE LESZNO AREA

## OSIECZNA 7



Monastery church - late Baroque, built in the years 1729-1733 and 1784-1787 thanks to Jan from Bnin Opaliński's foundation according to the design by Pompeo Ferrari. Rococo furnishings (pulpit, altars, confessionals) were made by Antoni Schultz from Rawicz in the years 1784-1787.



The Borek family castle dates from the 15th century but it lost its original character due to numerous alterations. The most important construction works significantly contributing to its architectural shape were carried out in the years 1598-1601, 1605 and the last one in 1890-1908. At present the castle consists of three irregular wings surrounding an open bailey. When admiring this grand building you should pay attention to the manneristic portal with the coat of arms of Nałęcz and letters A (ndrzej) and C (zarnkowski) as well as stone plaques in the walls of the eastern wing dating from the 16th century. The plaques present the Nałęcz coat of arms and letters AC as well as an inscription commemorating the completion of construction works by Andrzej Czarnkowski in 1601. Another plaque presents a Latin inscription commemorating the reconstruction by Jan Opaliński in 1665. The legend has it that there is an underground passage leading from the castle under the lake to its other side. In the early 19th century father Rogaliński exorcised the ghost of the unfaithful wife of the master of the palace. When the master left for war to defend their homeland, the wife cheated on her husband with a doctor from Italy.

Windmills - on a hill along the road to Leszno there are three historical windmills. The oldest one standing in the centre dates from 1763. The others were built in the 19th century.

## WESTERN TRAIL

## SICINY 1



St. Martin's Parish Church, former Cistercian, Baroque, built in the 18th century. It was designed by Martin Frantz. Opulent interiors consist of carved altars made by F. Mangold and polychromy made by Philip Bantum. This is the best example of Baroque churches with preserved polychromy and furnishings from that period. Next to the church there is a building of the former abbey palace built around mid 18th century. In the hall on the first floor there is a fresco by Bantum presenting a scene of founding the church and palace by Duke Henry II. The village belonged to Cistercians from Lubiąż since the Middle Ages.

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## TRAILS IN THE LESZNO AREA

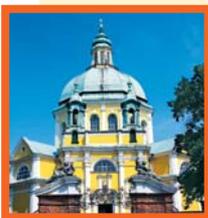
### 3 OPOROWO



Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary Parish Church. It is a framework structure temple built in 1640 thanks to Stanisław from Brin Śmigieński's foundation. The church was thoroughly renovated in 1870. You can admire opulent Baroque interiors consisting of

altars and a hanging candlestick decorated with the sculpture of the Blessed Virgin Mary Immaculately Conceived standing on a dragon. A manor house situated in the eastern part of the village consists of the residential part and grange complex. Such layout was typical for most land estates in the 19th and early 20th century. The residential part situated in a landscape park consists of a manor house, annex and administrator's house. The 19th century manor house was transformed and extended for the Morawski family by Roger Sławski, one of the best architects in Wielkopolska at that time.

### 4 GOSTYŃ-GŁOGÓWKO



One of the most beautifully situated Baroque church and monastery built in the years 1675-1728 for St. Philip Nereus Oratory Congregation. The church design was inspired by a Venetian temple - Santa Maria della Salute. The construction was supervised by Giacomo and Giorgio Catenazzi. The canopy of the dome was constructed by Pompeo Ferrari. The interior of the canopy is decorated with

frescoes dating from 1746, made by Georg Wilhelm Neunhertz, which present scenes from the life of St. Philip Nereus. In the church you can admire a painting of the Virgin Mary and the Holy Child painted on a wooden board with the background landscape of Gostyń and a church in Święta Góra (Holy Hill). In the town itself you should also see St. Margaret's Church in Gothic style.

### 5 LUBIŃ



One of the oldest monasteries in Wielkopolska. The Benedictine's monastery church was built in Romanesque style, extended in Gothic style and further converted in Baroque style in the early 13th century. Inside we can admire illusionistic Baroque polychromy presenting biblical and allegorical scenes and Baroque stalls which were probably made by the sculptor - Jan Jerzy Urbański. If you have some spare

time you should also see the Romanesque-Gothic St. Leonard's Church.

### 6 CICHOWO

When visiting Lubiąż you should also see the film heritage park in Cichowo situated a few kilometres to the north-east. It consists of buildings that were used as scenery for Andrzej Wajda's film entitled "Pan Tadeusz".

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## LESZNO

### MARKET SQUARE 5



Most of the buildings in the market square were constructed in the years 1870-1914. The fire in 1790 consumed most of the structures, only a few Baroque tenement houses with characteristic gable facades have remained. In the northern frontage there are two noteworthy buildings standing next to each other: tenement house no. 15 from the turn of 17th and 18th centuries whose façade is topped with an obelisk with a crescent and a house who is believed to have belonged to Jan Jonston (1603-1675) - an eminent doctor and scholar. Since 1788 a pharmacy has continuously functioned in this house. Above the entrance there is the house emblem, "The Swan" and at the entrance there are metal rings for tying horses. On the eastern frontage there is the oldest building in the market square: tenement house no. 29 with arcades, probably erected in 1634.

### TOWN HALL 6



The Leszno town hall in its present architectural shape is a Baroque-Classical building, considered to be one of the most beautiful in Poland. It was reconstructed several times with relics in the walls of the original town hall from 1639. Successive constructors and architects of the town hall were Marcin Woide, Giorgio Catenazzi, Pompeo Ferrari and probably Dominic Merlini - the royal architect of Stanislaus August, mainly known as the creator of the "Royal Łazienki" in Warsaw. The eastern frontage of the town hall is decorated with cartouches of the town owner's emblem. At present the building serves representational, conference and exhibition functions and in the basement there is a café.

### ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH 7



The building was constructed in the place of the oldest Leszno church which had burnt down in 1656. It was reconstructed after 1680 according to the design by Giacomo Catenazzi and furnished in early 18th century. It is considered to be the most outstanding construction of this architect who was invited to Leszno by the Leszczyńskis. The façade of the church is one of the most distinguished double-tower facades of late 17th century. The church is the family mausoleum of the Leszczyńskis. Gravestones of Bogusław and Rafał Leszczyński, probably made by Giu-

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**LESZNO**

sepe Simon Belotti or Pompeo Ferrari, were endowed by King Stanislaus Leszczyński around 1707-1709. Rich sculptural and stucco decoration with various symbols, allegory and attributes present the mightiness of the family, family connections of the Leszczyńskis and positions held by representatives of the family. You should also see the paintings of an eminent Baroque artist, Szymon Czechowicz; the sculpture of St. John Nepomucen opposite the pulpit and the high altar with a painting by Michelangelo Palloni, a Florence artist connected with the royal court.

**8 LEO BAECK'S HOUSE**

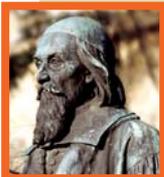
In 34 Chrobrego street. 19th-century tenement house where the most well-known Leszno Jew was born - Leo Baeck (1873-1956), one of the most distinguished Jewish philosophers of the 20th century.

**9 FORMER GYMNASIUM**

The building was constructed according to the design by Catenazzi around 1714 in the place of the former Unity of Brethren's gymnasium, which was well known in early 17th century. The building housed a school until 1845. On the opposite side of the church yard there is the so called bell-ringer's house from the 18th century.

**10 ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Built in the years 1652-1654 by the Unity of Brethren. The building alludes to late Gothic style. The uniform brick construction is accentuated with the Gruszczyńskis' Baroque chapel (constructed by Pompeo Ferrari in 1711) adjoining the western wall. On the buttress on the southern side there is a sundial dated 1653. On the northern wall there are epitaphs of the deceased children of Karol Gotfryd Woide, a clergyman of the Unity and a pastor in London and librarian's assistant in the British Museum.

**11 JOHN AMOS COMENIUS' MONUMENT**

It was made by Alfred Reichel and presented in 1898, originally it stood in front of St. John's Church.

**12 ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL**

It was founded in 1688 and was run by the Lutheran community. On the front elevation there is a low relief presenting St. George killing a dragon - the patron and founder of the hospital, Georg Stolz.

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**TRAILS  
IN THE LESZNO AREA**

The Leszno region abounds in various historical buildings: palaces, manor houses, churches, monasteries, windmills. We propose two tourist trails that will reveal the beauty and variety of architecture in this region.

**EASTERN TRAIL****RYDZYNA 1**

The most beautiful Baroque castle in Wielkopolska built in the years 1685-1695 for the voivode - Rafał Leszczyński. This most powerful magnate in Wielkopolska wanted to create the centre of his estates in Rydzyna on a scale comparable to other mansions of this type in Poland. The castle was designed by Simon Belotti, an architect of the royal court.



Parts of the medieval walls were incorporated into the construction of the castle. Consecutive extensions in the 18th century were made by Pompeo Ferrari, Karl Martin Frantz and probably Dominic Merlini. Ferrari, who was educated in the Roman St. Lucas Academy, was invited to Rydzyna by Rafał Leszczyński. The next owner of the castle, Aleksander Józef Sułkowski commissioned vault paintings in the ballroom from Georg Wilhelm Neunhertz, a Silesian artist. In 1945 the interior of the castle was consumed by fire and what we can see today is almost a complete reconstruction. The castle is surrounded by a scenic park axially adjoining the Baroque town. This rare and charming example of urban design, which has remained unchanged since the times of the Leszczyńskis and Sułkowskis, is one of the few such designs preserved in Poland. In the late 18th century King Stanislaus Leszczyński spent his childhood and youth here. It was in Rydzyna and Leszno that the future King of Poland and Duke of Lorraine and Bar learnt how to be a patron of the arts.

"Józef" windmill, which houses the Museum of Agriculture and Milling. In the past there were about thirty windmills around Rydzyna

**PAWŁOWICE 2**

A classicistic palace complex built for Maksymilian Mielżyński in the years 1779 - 1783. It was designed by Karl Gotthard Langhans, an architect of many famous structures including the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. In the interior the stuccowork designed by Johann Christian Kamsetzer has been preserved. The ballroom on the first floor is especially beautiful, decorated with twenty-four freestanding columns. The architectural décor is complemented with three hanging candlesticks with cut and blown glass ornaments made in the late 18th century. In the "silk living-room" adjoining the ballroom you can admire original stuccowork on the ceiling, Louis XVI style furniture, fireplace made from white marble with a low relief of Leda made by Giovachino Stagii. The walls of this room are upholstered with embroidered French silk fabric dating from about 1790.



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

### Nancy

The checkered life of the Polish king found its happy ending in Nancy - the capital of Lorraine. Leszczyński, who was known for his love for art and architecture, hired numerous builders and artists to renovate, rebuild and modernize the city to win the hearts of the initially hostile people of Lorraine. The Polish king became so popular among his subjects and their descendants that today, not only the main street in Nancy is named after him, but also schools, hospitals, hotels, restaurants and even dishes and liqueurs. The square that Leszczyński built in the capital of Lorraine, which is named after him, is considered to be one of the most beautiful squares in Europe. In 1983 the Stanislaus Square in Nancy was inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List.



### Court in Luneville

Voltaire who was a guest in Leszczyński's palace wrote that, "one could hardly notice the difference between Versailles and Luneville". "His court was charming, all the people there were on very familiar terms, they were kind and polite. (...) King Stanislaus surrounded himself with people who could be characters in some charming operetta. He had a mistress, one of the most beautiful women in Europe whose fame had not taken away any of her sweetness or wit - she was Marquise de Boufflers. Stanislaus also had a confessor, a Jesuit, father Menou (...) the king's heart belonged to those two people while the Jesuit cost him more than the mistress. (...) They both were in constant conflict and after a mass the King had to make a lot of effort to sort out arguments between the mistress and the confessor (...) The King also had a midget. He was so small that they sometimes put him in a pate and while cutting the pate the tiny man was freed and he walked with his tiny feet among glasses and plates. He could say what he wanted and he sometimes flew into a fit of anger; his screams and swearing amused the courtiers greatly. Once he got lost in a meadow; the grass was like a forest to him. That is how Stanislaus' court looked like. Everything there was kind-hearted. (...) When two distinguished persons [i.e. Voltaire and Emilie du Chatelet] arrived at the court in Luneville, everybody was elated - except the confessor."

*J. Orioux, Voltaire ou la royauté de l'esprit, Warszawa 1986, s.335-338.*

### Madeleines

Leszczyński was the patron of many arts including the art of cooking, which he devoted himself to with great passion. Madeleines are his original contribution to French cuisine. In Commercy, he taught Madeleine Pulmier how to bake this cookie. The taste of madeleines "which look as though they had been moulded in the fluted scallop of a pilgrim's shell" was described by Marcel Proust in his "In Search of Lost Time".

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## LESZNO

### THE HOLY CROSS CHURCH 13

A fourth church built in this place by the Lutheran community in Leszno. The first wooden church was erected in 1635. The present building from the turn of 18th and 19th centuries was designed by Pompeo Ferrari with a tower from the 20th century built according to a 19th-century design by M. Frantz. In early 18th century the church was considered to be the most beautiful example of Lutheran sacred architecture in Wielkopolska and was the model for similar buildings in Poznań and Rawicz, among others. Simple Classicistic furnishings date from the turn of 18th and 19th centuries. The original furnishings have remained until today except for the two-storey emporas around the side walls that were pulled down in the 1980s and the altar painting.



### COLLECTION OF GRAVESTONE SCULPTURES 14

It was set up in the years 1956-1960 to gather some of the gravestones and obelisks moved from the Protestant cemeteries that had been closed down. Carved sandstone slabs date from the 17th - 19th century and commemorate wealthy burghers and members of their families: clergymen, merchants, craftsmen. The most noteworthy are, among others: the epitaph of Adam Samuel Hartmann, the teacher of King Stanislaus Leszczyński, the full-figure gravestone of a blacksmith with symbols of his work, children's epitaphs and the tombstone commemorating Elias Muller with theological and biblical contents situated on the southern church wall.



### REGIONAL MUSEUM IN LESZNO 15

It is situated in the 18th-century pastor's house of the Holy Cross Church. It houses collections connected with the history of the town, folk culture of the region and paintings. The most important collections include: a set of coffin portraits from the second half of the 18th century presenting patrons of St. John's church and the biggest and oldest collection of portraits of kings of the Leszno marksmen's society (early 18th century - mid 20th century) in Poland. Another valuable collection are portraits of the Leszczyński and Sułkowski families - owners of the town including Stanislaus Leszczyński and representational and full-figure painting of Maria Leszczyńska, the daughter of Stanislaus, wife of Louis XV. You should also see the collection of paintings presenting the Polish village life from the turn of 19th and 20th centuries.



**Opening hours of the museum:** Tuesday: 9a.m. to 5p.m., Wednesday - Friday: 9a.m. to 2p.m., Saturday - Sunday: 10a.m. to 2p.m., Mondays: closed

