

CONFERENCES

The church of Christ's Crib (Kripplein Christi) in Wschowa at the time of the confessionalization process in Central European countries at the turn of the 16th and 17th centuries. Wschowa (Poland), October 21-22, 2010



On 21st and 22nd October 2010 an international conference was held in the royal castle in Wschowa, situated at the borderland of Greater Poland and Silesia. The conference was dedicated to miscellaneous topics related to modern culture in the 16th and the 17th centuries and focused on the broader aspects - concerning Poland and Europe - and on the more local dimensions. The conference was organized by the Society of Culture of the Wschowa Land with the cooperation of the Polish Society for Reformation Studies and the Department of History of Renaissance and Reformation Art at the University of Wrocław.

The problems raised in the 21 papers delivered revolved mainly around the questions of faith and history. Issues related to Protestantism were strongly represented due to the fact that Wschowa was in the 16th and in the 17th century an important Lutheran centre in Poland which, together with bigger cities of Gdańsk and Toruń and the well-known and neighbouring Leszno, played a significant role in the lives of the followers of this religion. Wschowa maintained its contacts with Poland and Silesia. Wschowa and Leszno and later the rest of the aforementioned cities gave shelter to fugitives from Silesia during the Thirty Years' War as the lands which belonged to the Polish crown were in a relatively peaceful period and the heretics enjoyed more religious freedom than in the war-torn European countries. Leszno was at the time the most important centre of printing in Greater Poland as far as the activity of the local Protestants is concerned. At the beginning of the 17th century, a Protestant church of Christ's Crib (Kripplein Christi) was built in Wschowa. The church has been preserved until the present day and has been subject to restoration. There is also preserved next to the church an old town Protestant cemetery with around two hundred graves and epitaphs of Protestant families, including that of the famous Wschowa pastor Walerian Herberger (1562-1627).

The conference had an interdisciplinary character and brought together historians, art historians, cultural anthropologists, literary scholars, library scientists, archaeologists, theologians, and biblical scholars from universities, libraries and museums of Brzeg, Kutno, Leszno, Słupsk, Poznań, Opole, Toruń, Wrocław, Wschowa and Zielona Góra. Among the participants were professor Jan Harasimowicz, PhD, Rev. Jan Turkiel, PhD, and professor Tomasz Jaworski, PhD. The papers were also delivered by guests from Germany: Christian-Erdman Schot, PhD, a theologian, member of various cultural organizations, including Bundespfarrer der Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V (JUH), the chairman of the Verein für Schlesische Kirchengeschichte e.V (VSKG), member of Historische Kommission für Schlesien, and also Martin Sprungala, PhD, a historian, member of the historical commission of the history of Germans in Poland, the founder of the Deutscher Geschichtsverein des Posener Landes e.V., the federal referent of culture of the Museum of Wisła and Warta, the founder of the Deutscher Geschichtsverein des Posener Landes e.V.

The conference that took place in 2010 was not the first one organised in Wschowa. The first conference was held in 2008 and was entitled *The Wschowa Land During the Period of Starost Hieronim Radomicki's Office* whereas the previous one, held in 2009, was called *The Funerary Culture of the Wschowa Land*.

The papers delivered at the 2010 conference will be published in October 2011 and presented at the next, this time the fourth, session in Wschowa. So far the materials from the previous conferences have been published: *The Funerary Culture of the Wschowa Land*, Paweł Klint, Marta Małkus, and Kamila Szymańska, eds., Wschowa 2010; *The Wschowa Land During the Period of Starost Hieronim Radomicki's Office*, Paweł Klint, Marta Małkus, and Kamila Szymańska eds., Wschowa-Leszno 2009.

More information available at the address:

http://historiasztuki.uni.wroc.pl/konferencje/2010_kripplein_christi.html

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