

1. Introduction

King John III went down in Polish tradition as one of the greatest lovers of gardens and trees among all monarchs reigning in the Commonwealth of Poland and Lithuania. Already during his youthful Grand Tour, which he completed between 1646 and 1648 with his brother Marek, he visited numerous outstanding garden settings in Europe.¹ In the German principalities, these were, among others, the Lustgarten at the summer palace of the dukes of Brunswick at Schloss Hessen and the residence of the archbishops of Bremen at Schloss Bremervörde with its ornamental and vegetable garden. In the Netherlands, he admired above all the urban greenery of Utrecht, Rotterdam, Delft and The Hague, but also the princely palace gardens maintained at the time in the style of French Renaissance. These included Huis ten Bosch, the country estate of the princes of the Orange dynasty at Huis ter Nieuwburg, Huis Honselaarsdijk, and the main residence of the dukes of Brabant at Paleis op de Coudenberg. In Leiden, he visited the famous botanical garden known for extensive collection of plants and naturals. In France, he admired the grandiose settings of the Parisian royal palaces: Palais du Louvre, Palais des Tuileries, Palais du Luxembourg and Palais-Royale. The account of the young travellers' protector, Sebastian Gawarecki, also mentions the impressive terraced gardens of Château de Saint-Germain-en-Laye, designed by the illustrious architects Etienne Duperac and Claude Mollet, as well as Château de Saint-Cloud – the palace of the archbishop of Paris, its gardens and fountains designed by the Florentine engineer Tommaso Francini. Jan and Marek Sobieski also made their way to the oldest French botanical garden, Jardin du Roy at Montpellier, founded by Pierre Richer de Belleval in 1593. In England, they visited the gardens and menageries of Whitehall Palace and Hampton Court in London.

The experiences of the voyage had certainly influenced King John III's later decisions when he was shaping the gardens at his own residences, which oscillated between French and Dutch models.² This can be seen most clearly in Żótkiew (today: Zhovkva) and Wilanów. He also took special care of Jaworów (Yavoriv), Podhorce (Pidhirtsi), Olesko, Złoczów (Zolochiv) and Kukizów, which were built towards the end

MATERIAL FOR STUDYING THE GARDEN MYTHS OF KING JOHN III FROM THE NINETEENTH TO THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

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1 S. Gawarecki, *Diariusz drogi. Podróż Jana i Marka Sobieskich po Europie 1646–1648*, ed. M. Kunicki-Goldfinger (Warszawa, 2013), pp. 94–247.

2 K. Targosz, *Jana Sobieskiego nauki i peregrynacje* (Wrocław, 1985), p. 53; *Dzieje architektury w Polsce*, ed. J. Marcinek (Kraków, 2003), pp. 163–164.

of his life.³ He rebuilt and restored the royal summer palace in Łobzów near Cracow.⁴ He took great care to maintain his gardens and was keen to use them for rest, recreation and to welcome visitors, as is evidenced by numerous references in letters and diaries of his time.⁵ During the construction of the summer residence at Wilanów, he was the main decision-maker in matters concerning the furnishings of the entire establishment, from the general concepts prepared by Augustin Locci to the selection of details such as sculptures and vases.⁶ A description by Bishop Paweł Sapięcha in 1694 attests to the rather high species diversity of the royal gardens.⁷ In the ornamental Italian plots, tuberous lilies (*Lilium bulbiferum* L.) with red flowers and roses (*Rosa* L.) were grown, and the remaining space was decorated with exotic plants: the Lebanese cedar (*Cedrus libani* A. Rich), the common fig tree (*Ficus carica* L.), the common almond tree (*Prunus dulcis* [Mill.] D.A. Webb), as well as white (*Morus alba* L.) or black (*Morus nigra* L.) mulberry trees. The orangery located to the south of the palace was used to store citrons (*Citrus medica* L.), lemons (*Citrus × limon* [L.] Osbeck) and oranges (*Citrus* sp.). On the beds of the food garden, melons (*Cucumis melo* L.) and artichokes (*Cynara cardunculus* L.) were grown, as well as numerous species of fruit trees and shrubs, such as common pear (*Pyrus communis* L.), domestic apple tree (*Malus domestica* Borkh.), common cherry (*Prunus cerasus* L.), domestic plum (*Prunus domestica* L.) or Hungarian plum (*Prunus domestica* L. subsp. *oeconomica* var. *pruneliana*), grape vine (*Vitis*

3 *Dzieje architektury w Polsce*, pp. 163–164; M. Ujma, *Latyfundium Jana Sobieskiego 1652–1696* (Opole, 2005), pp. 39–55; ead., ‘Polityczna i kulturalna rola rezydencji Jana III Sobieskiego’, *Dobrzyckie Studia Ziemiańskie*, 2010, no. 1, pp. 162–177.

4 M. Siewniak, A. Mitkowska, *Tezaurus sztuki ogrodowej* (Wrocław, 2021), p. 264; J. Bogdanowski, ‘Ogród w Łobzowie na tle krakowskich ogrodów królewskich’, in: *Królewskie ogrody w Polsce. Materiały sesji naukowej (Warszawa, 10–11 maja 2001)*, ed. M. Szafrńska (Warszawa, 2001), pp. 35–59.

5 K. Targosz, *Jan III Sobieski mecenasem nauk i uczonych* (Warszawa, 2012), p. 344; J.C. Faggiuoli, ‘Djariusz podróży do Polski wyjęty z pamiętników Jana Chrzyciela Faggiuoli 1690–1691’, ed. W. Kulczycki, *Czas. Dodatek Miesięczny*, vol. 11, 1858, no. 2, p. 287.

6 A. Czołowski, *Urządzenie pałacu wilanowskiego za Jana III* (Lwów, 1937), p. 7; J. Starzyński, *Wilanów. Dzieje budowy pałacu za Jana III* (Warszawa, 1976), pp. 87–108; M. Wardzyński, ‘Holenderskie i flamandzkie importy rzeźbiarskie dla króla Jana III w Wilanowie (1679–1696). Mechanizmy zamówień – artyści i dzieła – wzory’, in: *Jan III Sobieski. Historia. Dziedzictwo. Pamięć. Materiały z międzynarodowej konferencji naukowej „Jan III Sobieski – polski bohater narodowy i zwycięzca spod Wiednia. Historia. Pamięć. Dziedzictwo” (Wiedeń, 19–20 września 2017)*, eds B. Dybaś, A. Ziemińska, (Warszawa, 2021), pp. 115–140.

7 Central Archives of Historical Records (Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych, hereinafter: AGAD), The Radziwiłł Warsaw Archive, sect. 2.2, sign. 60, Sapięchy Pawła. Rękopisy spraw krajowych i domowych z lat 1694–1703, fols 125–128.

vinifera L.), common peach (*Prunus persica* [L.] Batsch) or common apricot (*Prunus armeniaca* L.).⁸

King John III's gardening interests were also reflected in his library in Żółkiew. The catalogue, which survives in part, contains many works on agriculture and farming, horticulture and botany.⁹ The first group includes the works of the Italian naturalist Pietro de Crescenzi, the Dutch jurist Willem Goes and the French agronomist Olivier de Serres.¹⁰ Another important item was the *Oekonomika ziemiańska generalna* by Jakub Kazimierz Haur: a compendium of agricultural knowledge dedicated to King John III.¹¹ Horticultural works include French-language treatises by Nicolas de Bonnefons, Abbé Gobelin and Claude Mollet, chief gardener to three kings of France.¹² In the field of botany, the works of the Italian naturalist Ulysses Aldrovandi, the Danzig botanist Jakub Breyne and the Polish-Scottish naturalist Jan Jonston¹³ stand out. King John III's library even contained a guide to Versailles by Jean-François Félibien des Avaux.¹⁴

An important part of the image of King John III's gardening passions is formed by folk traditions, as well as stories, legends, tales and anecdotes, in which he is credited with, among others, planting a countless number of trees, importing poplars from the Ottoman Empire or even employing Turkish captives to build the gardens of the Wilanów

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- 8 J. Kuśmierski, *Kolekcja cytrusów króla Jana III*, www.wilanow-palac.pl/kolekcja_cyt-rusow_krola_jana_iii.html (accessed 15 Jan. 2023); id., *Opis ogrodu wilanowskiego biskupa Pawła Sapiehy z 1694 r.*, www.wilanow-palac.pl/opis_ogrodu_wilanowskiego_biskupa_pawla_sapiehy_z_1694_roku.html (accessed 15 Feb. 2023).
 - 9 I. Komasa, *Jan III Sobieski – miłośnik ksiąg* (Wrocław, 1982), pp. 111–114, 170–180; S. Flanczewska, 'Zainteresowania intelektualne i bibliofilskie króla Jana III Sobieskiego', *Biuletyn Biblioteki UMCS*, vol. 30/31, 1982/1983 (1985), pp. 7–44; Targosz, *Jan III Sobieski*, pp. 363–374.
 - 10 P. de Crescenzi, *Opus ruralium commodorum libri X* (Basel, 1548); O. de Serres, *Le théâtre d'agriculture et ménage des champs* (Paris, 1600); W. Goesius, *Rei agrariae Auctores legesque variae* (Amsterdam, 1674).
 - 11 J.K. Haur, *Oekonomika ziemiańska generalna* (Kraków, 1675).
 - 12 N. de Bonnefons, *Le jardinier françois, qui enseigne à cultiver les arbres et herbes potagères : avec la manière de conserver les fruits et faire toutes sortes de confitures ... et massepans* (Paris, 1654); A. Gobelin, *Le jardinier royal, qui enseigne la maniere de planter, cultiver, & dresser toutes sortes d'arbres* (Paris, 1661); C. Mollet, *Théâtre des plans et jardinages* (Paris, 1652).
 - 13 U. Aldrovandi, *Dendrologiæ natvralis scilicet arborvm historiae libri dvo* (Bolonja, 1668); J. Breyne, *Jacobi Breyonii Gedanensis Exoticarum aliarumque Minus Cognitarum Plantarum Centuria Prima cum Figuris Æneis Summo studio elaboratis* (Gdańsk, 1678); J. Jonston, *Dendrographias sive historiae naturalis de arboribus et fructibus tam nostri, quam peregrini orbis libri decem figuris aeneis adornati* (Frankfurt am Main, 1662).
 - 14 J.-F. Félibien des Avaux, *Description sommaire de Versailles ancienne et nouvelle* (Paris, 1683).

palace.¹⁵ As a rule, they were handed down orally from generation to generation, often presenting a subjective interpretation of history, with no chronology or order to the topics. Their content was also transformed depending on the region of the country, the current political situation or the level of historical awareness. Much of this was recorded in the nineteenth and early twentieth century through numerous works by novelists and poets, but also through scholarly publications by eminent historians, ethnographers, gardeners and botanists. They all created a kind of ‘garden mythology’ of King John III, which has not been studied more widely until now. The main aim of the present paper is to collect and systematise the most important motifs in the nineteenth- and early twentieth-century literature related to King John III’s gardening activities. Specific research issues also included identifying and verifying the origins of the myth of John III considered as the gardener king and identifying existing natural monuments (solitaires, groups of trees and avenues) in contemporary Poland commemorating the royal couple or the victory at the Battle of Vienna. Particular attention was given to themes concerning the Wilanów gardens, i.e. the historical collection of hothouse plants and the history of the involvement of Turkish captives in the construction of the residence.

2. Materials and methods

The research included a study part carried out as part of archival and library searches carried out between 2017 and 2023. The review of literature on history, ethnology, botany, linguistics and art of the nineteenth and early twentieth century covered the collections of the library at Museum of King Jan III’s Palace at Wilanów, National Library and the University of Warsaw Library. Taxonomic information was obtained from the following on-line international botanical indexes: the International Plant Names Index,¹⁶ Plants of the World Online (the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew)¹⁷ and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).¹⁸ The characteristics of the natural monuments listed in Appendix 1 were prepared on the basis of data from the Geoservice of the General Directorate

15 J. Śliźniński, ‘Jan III Sobieski i odsiecz wiedeńska w folklorze narodów słowiańskich’, *Literatura Ludowa. Dwumiesięcznik Naukowo-Literacki*, vol. 20, 1976, no. 4–5, pp. 43–55; id., *Jan III Sobieski w literaturze narodów Europy* (Warszawa, 1979), p. 171; J. Hajduk-Nijakowska, *Nie wszystko bajka. Polskie ludowe podania historyczne* (Warszawa, 1986), pp. 15, 29; D. Walawender-Musz, Ł. Frączek, ‘Wokół drzewa Króla JMci. Sobieski na łonie przyrody’, *Studia Wilanowskie*, vol. 21, 2014, pp. 117–132.

16 International Plant Names Index (IPNI), www.ipni.org/ (accessed 15 Jan. 2023).

17 Plants of the World Online (POWO), plantsoftheworldonline.org/ (accessed 15 Jan. 2023).

18 Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), <https://www.gbif.org/> (accessed 15 Jan. 2023).

for Environmental Protection¹⁹ and the Central Register of Nature Protection Forms.²⁰ This was supplemented by a compilation of additional information on the location, surroundings or stories relating to the figures of King John III and Queen Marie Casimire and obtained from studies as well as archival and printed sources.

3. Results

3.1. John III as a gardener king

John III began to be called a gardener king above all thanks to his numerous residences, which survived in relatively good condition until the nineteenth century. The most frequently mentioned were Jaworów, Podhorce, Wilanów and Żółkiew. These became the reference point for legends and stories about the monarch's love of gardens. Eustachy Antoni Iwanowski was one of the first historians to attribute the rank of 'royal art' to horticulture and to John III, the title of a gardener king:

[...] The gardens could be called royal art in our country. The more outstanding domestic gardens were introduced by the kings. [...] After a number of foreign kings, the new Piast, John III, after his victories, crowned with laurels, arranged the garden himself and worked in it guided by his own inspiration. The First Piast [Casimir the Great] was both a king and a beekeeper. This Piast, the new king and great leader, was a gardener.²¹

According to the historian, it was, among others, the gardens of the Wilanów palace that propagated the French style in Poland. The writer Lucjan Siemiński described the monarch in a similar way in his work on gardens. According to him, the 'landlord king' adorned all his estates with beautiful avenues of chestnut and lime trees, and the trade in plum fruits and walnuts flourished in the surrounding villages. The Wilanów garden, in turn, was intended to stimulate a love of gardening in Poland.²² The educator Lucjan Tatomir, in his work on places associated with King John III published on the occasion of the two-hundredth anniversary of the relief of Vienna, emphasised that the monarch had been a great lover of gardening, flowers, rare shrubs and trees, which he often ordered to be brought from abroad. He allegedly installed gardens and laid out tree-lined avenues on his estates in Jaworów, Olesko and Żółkiew personally, and his passion became permanently inscribed in the 'memory of the populace'.²³

19 Geoserwis Generalnej Dyrekcji Ochrony Środowiska, geoserwis.gdos.gov.pl/mapy/ (accessed 15 Jan. 2023).

20 Centralny Rejestr Form Ochrony Przyrody, crfop.gdos.gov.pl/CRFOP/# (accessed 15 Jan. 2023).

21 E.A. Iwanowski, *O ogrodach w Polsce* (Poznań, 1860), p. 313.

22 H.L. Siemiński, *Dziela Lucjana Siemińskiego. Portrety literackie*, vol. 3 (Warszawa, 1881), pp. 96–152.

23 L. Tatomir, *Ślady króla Jana III w kraju naszym. 106 miejscowości w Galicyi, zostających w związku z żywotem dziejowym i domowym Jana Sobieskiego* (Lwów, 1883), pp. 4, 13, 19, 20, 26, 45, 47–48.

The nineteenth-century belief in the monarch's fondness for gardens *à la française* was so widespread and deeply ingrained that stories were often created that had no support in factual evidence or historical chronology. In his work on the history of horticulture, Edmund Jankowski wrote that the young Sobieski had been a musketeer of the Sun King, and during his visit to France he may have had 'ample opportunity' to meet André Le Nôtre himself and become acquainted with his gardens. He could also visit the famous Potager du Roi vegetable garden founded by Jean-Baptiste de La Quintinie, director of the royal gardens.²⁴ The architect Kazimierz Kleczkowski, in turn, regarded the free composition of the Wilanów gardens as an expression of the monarch's straightforward character, in opposition to the geometrised French style identified with Louis XIV:

The diversity of the flora and its horticultural layout gives the Wilanów park a more lasting beauty than the geometric works of the architect Le Nôtre: the gardens at Versailles and Jardin des Tuileries in Paris. The ruthless symmetry of the French gardens, in which rigid straight lines and circular semicircles, cone-shaped trees, alternating like fields in a chessboard, are an appropriate decoration for the proud, despotic and ruthless role of Louis XIV, qualities directly opposed to the character of John III. The natural, freely growing trees, planted by the king's hand, are like symbols of his kind-heartedness and the simplicity of his manner; the artificial, mannerist shapes of the flora and architecture of the Wilanów palace are like a retinue of Queen Marie Casimire's whimsical humour.²⁵

Another garden historian, Józef Drège, claimed that King John III and his wife decorated the grotto beneath the upper terrace with minerals and shells with their own hands.²⁶ The figure of the gardener king also became the motif of one of Wojciech Gerson's paintings from 1868, depicting Sobieski planting trees in Wilanów (Fig. 1).²⁷

- 24 E. Jankowski, *Dzieje ogrodnictwa w Polsce w zarysie* (Warszawa, 1923), p. 53; M. Siewniak, A. Mitkowska, *Tezaurus sztuki ogrodowej*, p. 264. The only documented trip of the future King Jan Sobieski to France took place between 1646 and 1647, when André Le Nôtre was just beginning his career at the court of Louis XIV. Potager du Roi was only founded by Jean-Baptiste de La Quintinie between 1678 and 1683.
- 25 K. Kleczkowski, 'Estetyka Wilanowa. Ogród i pałac w Wilanowie', *Ateneum. Pismo Naukowe i Literackie*, vol. 69, 1893, no. 1, pp. 574–580.
- 26 J. Drège, 'Ogrody w Polsce', in: *Wielka encyklopedia powszechna ilustrowana*, series 2, vol. 3–4: *Nike–Oko* (Warszawa, 1904), pp. 906–958.
- 27 Oil painting on canvas with dimensions of 58.0 × 46.0 cm was part of an ensemble of four compositions. After their exhibition at the Academy of Fine Arts in St Petersburg, Wojciech Gerson was awarded the title of an academician. It was then presented at the Vienna Universal Exhibition in 1873. The painting had been acquired by the Warsaw collector Feliks Jan Gebethner, and from 1929 belonged to the Kraków collection of Countess Teresa Łubieńska. The work is based on a watercolour painted by Wojciech Gerson in 1858, once owned by the monastery of the Franciscans of Primitive Observance in Kraków. Both works were lost during the Second World War; after *Wojciech Gerson, 1831–1901. Katalog wystawy monograficznej*, ed. J. Zielińska (Warszawa, 1978), pp. 76, 141.



Fig. 1

Victor Angerer, *Sobieski Planting Trees in Wilanów*, heliogravure of a painting by Wojciech Gerson, 1884, Provincial and City Public Library in Rzeszów

3.2. *The Sobieski trees*

The myth of the gardener king was complemented by a separate group of stories related to the trees growing in Sobieski's residences, planted along the route of the marching Polish troops heading to the relief of Vienna or to commemorate the great victory there. Their historical value was highlighted already in the late eighteenth century. The Polish poet Franciszek Karpiński wrote in his eulogy in honour of the ruler:

We still walk between the same walls, the footprints of the great Sobieski have hardly faded away, and along our roads stand the trees of his days! Everything seems to call out to us, and everything admonishes us.²⁸

The trees associated with Sobieski were mainly aged, substantial trees of native species such as the English oak (*Quercus robur* L.), the small-leaved lime tree (*Tilia cordata* Mill.) and the black poplar (*Populus nigra* L.), popularly known as the Vistula poplar. Such memorial trees were mentioned as early as the nineteenth century in descriptions of the gardens of the Wilanów palace, Hetman Stanisław Jabłonowski's castle in Mariampol

28 F. Karpiński, 'Mowa na pochwałę Jana Sobieskiego, króla polskiego, z okoliczności obchodu setnego roku zwycięstwa jego pod Wiedniem, do młodzieży szkolnej', in: id., *Dzieła* (Warszawa, 1830), p. 303, first publ.: *Zabawki wierszem i prozą*, vol. 4 (Warszawa, 1783), subsequent publ. in the collection *Mowy wybrane*, vol. 2 (Wilno, 1784).



ŻÓŁKIEW. Aleja modrzewiowa na »Haraju« sadzona przez króla Jana III.

Fig. 2

Larch avenue to Mount Haray in Żółkiew planted by King John III, 1930–1939, National Library

(Marijampolė) and Queen Marie Casimire's palace in Wysock.²⁹ A walnut tree (*Juglans regia* L.) planted by King John III during his visit to his son Jakub in 1687 was said to grow on one of the terraces of the castle in Podhorce,³⁰ and in Żółkiew, there was an avenue of European larches (*Larix decidua* Mill.) leading to Mount Haray (Fig. 2). However, it was the centuries-old poplars and lime trees growing in the gardens of the Wilanów palace that attracted particular attention. Poems and stories were composed about them;³¹ they were described in tourist guides and diaries as unusual natural curiosities.³² Commemorative photos were taken under the monumental Wilanów poplars (Fig. 3) and the children used to stand in a circle around their wide trunks, holding hands.³³

By the end of 2022, within the contemporary Polish borders there were 23 monumental solitaires, two groups of trees and four avenues associated with King John III and Queen Marie Casimire.³⁴ It should be noted that only the trees in Wysock and Osłonino-Rzucewo had allegedly been planted by the monarch himself. In the case of ten sites, it was indicated that they were to be on the route of troops marching to the Battle of Vienna or back to Jaworów. This was the case of the following objects: Lime Tree Avenue in Konopiski, Sobieski Avenue in Breń, the 'Sobieski' oak in Janowiec Wielkopolski, the 'Sobieski' oak in Sobieszyn,

29 S. Jaszowski, 'Wyimki z historii drzew', *Rozmaitości. Pismo dodatkowe do Gazety Lwowskiej*, no. 47, 23 Nov. 1827, pp. 389–391; H. Skimborowicz, W. Gerson, *Willanów. Album. Zbiór widoków i pamiątek oraz kopje z obrazów Galeryi Willanowskiej, wykonane w drzewie w Drzeworytni Warszawskiej z dodaniem opisów...* (Warszawa, 1877), pp. 89; L.H. Siemieński, *Dziela Lucyana Siemieńskiego. Varia z literatury, historii, archeologii i przyrody*, vol. 1 (Warszawa, 1881), pp. 118; S. Tarnowski, *Wspomnienie o Janie III Sobieskim, królu polskim. Na pamiątkę obchodu dwóchsetnej rocznicy zwyżstwa Jana Sobieskiego nad Turkami pod Wiedniem* (Kraków, 1883), pp. 43, 68, 79.

30 Drège, *Ogrody w Polsce*.

31 'Topola Króla Jana Sobieskiego', *Przyjacieli Domowy. Pismo Zbiorowe dla Gospodarzy*, no. 34, 1865, p. 134; J. Grajner, 'Topola. Z poematu „Nasze drzewa”', *Przyjacieli Dzieci*, vol. 41, 9/22 June 1901, no. 25, p. 890; W. Karoli, 'Kraj w pieśni. XXXVII. Warszawa', *Przyjacieli Dzieci*, vol. 43, 11/24 Oct. 1903, no. 43, p. 679; *Kurjer Warszawski*, 26 Aug. 1909, no. 235, p. 3.

32 M. Orłowicz, *Krótki ilustrowany przewodnik po Warszawie: z 96 ilustracjami w tekście, planem miasta i mapą okolicy* (Warszawa, 1922), p. 170; A.W. Englert, J. Kaden-Bandrowski, *Jesteśmy w Warszawie. Przewodnik literacki po stolicy* (Warszawa, 1938), p. 79; W. Berent, *Zmierzch wodzów. Opowieści biograficzne* (Warszawa, 1939), p. 114; J. Galewski, L.B. Grzeniewski, *Warszawa zapamiętana. Ostatnie lata XIX stulecia* (Warszawa, 1961), p. 84; R. Bartny, *Zgoda na gniew. Wybór opowiadań* (Warszawa, 1974), p. 94; G. z Güntherów Puzynina, *W Wilnie i w dworach litewskich. Pamiętnik z lat 1815–1843*, eds A. Czartkowski, H. Mościcki (Kraków, 1990), p. 81.

33 K. Burke, *Jedziemy do Polski. Szlakiem wycieczki Harcerstwa Związku Narodowego Polskiego do Polski w lecie 1936 roku* (Chicago, 1936), p. 108–109; National Film Archive's Digital Repository, sign. MF.598, 240. *rocznica śmierci króla Jana III Sobieskiego*, 1936, repozytorium.fn.org.pl/?q=en/node/4211 (accessed 15 Jun. 2023).

34 See Appendix I. List of natural monuments (solitaires, tree groups and alleys) in Poland associated with King Jan III and Queen Marie Casimire.



WILANÓW. TOPOLZA KRÓLA JANA III

Fig. 3

Wilanów. The Poplar of King John III, early twentieth century, Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów

the 'Sobieski' oak in Mołodycz, oak in Łukawiec, Sobieski's oak trees in the Budomierz forestry, Sobieski's lime tree in Stanica, Sobieski's pine in Żołyńa, Sobieski's elm ('Sobieski's brzost') in Sucha Beskidzka. None of the stories attributed to them are corroborated, as the sites are not located on the historic route taken by King John III.

The largest number of monuments, as many as thirteen, are associated with the commemoration of the victory at Vienna: the 'Bartek' oak in Bartków, the 'John III Sobieski' oak in Kończyce Wielkie, the 'Sobieski' oak in Legionowo, the 'Sobieski' oak in Nowa Wieś, Sobieski's oak in Bieruń, Sobieski's oak in Sandomierz, Sobieski's oak in Ustroń, the 'Marysieńka' lime tree in Dobczyce, the 'Marysieńka' lime tree in Samborsko, the 'Sobieski' lime tree in Ruda Śląska-Rudzka Kuźnica, the 'John III Sobieski' plane tree in Bytom-Miechowice, Sobieski's lime tree in Tarnowskie Góry-Stare Tarnowice, Sobieski's oak in Racibórz (Łęczok). Four of the identified objects bear the names of the royal couple given in modern times to commemorate them. These are King John's lime tree growing on the grounds of the Wilanów palace gardens, King John's ash tree and Marysieńka's oak tree on the grounds of the historic Kolibki manor and landscape complex in Gdynia, which had once belonged to the Sobieski family, and the Queen Marysieńka Avenue in Krasnobród.

There are many other natural sites not covered by forms of protection, including lime trees in Chęciny (Holy Cross Voivodeship), Dziurdziów (Subcarpathian Voivodeship), Kalwaria Paclawska (Subcarpathian

Voivodeship), Koszęcin (Silesian Voivodeship), Mysłowice (Silesian Voivodeship), Ruda Śląska (Silesian Voivodeship), Stare Kościeliska (Mazovian Voivodeship) and Żarki (Lesser Poland Voivodeship), as well as Sobieski's oak in Wolica Ługowa (Subcarpathian Voivodeship). On the occasion of the three-hundred and thirtieth anniversary of the victory in the Battle of Vienna in 2013, special educational and promotional activities were carried out, which included continuing the tradition of Sobieski's trees. One of them was a walking expedition on the trail of the Polish army from Cracow to the Kahlenberg hill near Vienna under the motto *Victoria in Unitate* (Victory in Unity). Participants covered a 520 km route and planted lime trees – as this was King John III's favourite tree³⁵ – in the towns they passed through. The National Heritage Institute and the General Directorate for Environmental Protection carried out a public campaign to find 'Sobieski's trees', associated with the relief of Vienna and the figure of the king.³⁶

Cultivation of the pyramidal Afghan poplar, also called Uzbekistan poplar (*Populus usbekistanica* 'Afghanica' Kom.), was popularised in Poland thanks to numerous contacts with the Ottoman Empire. Due to its origin, in the Commonwealth of Poland and Lithuania, this tree was called *kawak* (Turkish: *kavak*), Turkish poplar or Wallachian poplar,³⁷ and its importation was attributed to King John III. The king also intended to popularise the cultivation of white cedars (*Thuja occidentalis* L.) or, according to other sources, biotas (*Platycladus orientalis* (L.) Franco) and chestnut trees (*Aesculus hippocastanum* L.).³⁸ This information was first reported by Count Stanisław Wodzicki in his dissertation read out on 15 June 1817 at a meeting of the Cracow Scientific Society: 'He was the one who brought Italian poplars, under the Turkish name of *kavaks*, to our land from Turkey. In his

35 *Marsz szlakiem odsieczy wiedeńskiej Jana III Sobieskiego*, dzieje.pl/rozmaitosci/marsz-szlakiem-odsieczy-wiedenskiej-jana-iii-sobieskiego (accessed 7 July 2023).

36 *Drzewa Sobieskiego. Na odsiecz dębom, lipom i innym drzewom*, www.lasy.gov.pl/pl/informacje/aktualnosci/drzewa-sobieskiego-na-odsiecz-debom-lipom-i-innym-drzewom201d-wspolna-akcja-nid-i-gdos (accessed 15 Jan. 2023). The map with trees is available at the Geoservice of the General Directorate for Environmental Protection, geoserwis.gdos.gov.pl/mapy/?openedTab=nid_tab&openedTabSelection=0 (accessed 15 Jan. 2023).

37 M. Szubert, *Opisanie drzew i krzewów leśnych Królestwa Polskiego* (Warszawa, 1827), p. 100; J. Jundziłł, *Opisanie roślin w Litwie, na Wołyniu, Podolu i Ukrainie dziko rosnących, iako i oswojonych podług wyd. szesnastego układu roślin Linneusza* (Wilno, 1830), p. 163; *Sywan: zbiór nauki i urzędzeń leśnych i łowieckich*, vol. 11, 1835, no. 1–2, p. 52; A. Potujański, *Leśnictwo polskie*, part 1: *Botanika leśna* (Warszawa, 1861), p. 75; W. Bugała, 'Topola włoska i topola afgańska', *Rocznik Dendrologiczny*, vol. 23, 1969, pp. 39–62; *Topole: Populus L.*, ed. S. Białobok (Poznań, 1973), pp. 68–69.

38 W. Seneta, *Żelazowa Wola. Przewodnik* (Warszawa, 1975), p. 42; Jankowski, *Dzieje ogrodnictwa w Polsce*, p. 53; Siewniak, Mitkowska, *Tezaurus sztuki ogrodowej*, p. 240.

estates, he planted thuyas, which were incorrectly called cypresses'.³⁹ Wodzicki later repeated this information in his monumental work on horticulture.⁴⁰ He was quoted quite uncritically by subsequent authors of articles and theoretical works. Franciszek Ksawery Giżycki wrote:

John III was a particular lover of gardens. We owe him the popularisation of pyramidal poplars, which were imported from Turkey, in Poland. On the estates belonging to the House of Sobieski, gardens of considerable size, maintained in the style of this historic period, were established everywhere. Some of the rarer trees remain in these gardens, including western thuyas, which have grown to an enormous size and are known to the local inhabitants under the name of cypresses [...].⁴¹

Many eminent botanists, horticulturalists and historians of the nineteenth and twentieth century, such as Jakub Ignacy Waga, Eustachy Antoni Iwanowski (Helleniusz), Józef Rostafiński, Jan Biegański, Ludwik Karczmarski, Zygmunt Glogier and Edmund Jankowski wrote about bringing the aforementioned tree species to the Commonwealth in the period of King John III's reign or personally by the king himself.⁴² Such information even appeared in encyclopaedic works⁴³. It was challenged for the first time by Rostafiński in a lecture on Italian poplar given on 29 March 1911 at a meeting of the Committee on the History of Medicine, Mathematical and Natural Sciences of the

39 S. Wodzicki, 'O wpływie oświaty ludów na ogrody, a nawzajem o wpływie ogrodów na obyczaj i szczęście domowe', *Rocznik Towarzystwa Naukowego z Uniwersytetem Krakowskim Połączonym*, vol. 3, 1818, pp. 68–91.

40 S. Wodzicki, *O chodowaniu, użytku, mnożeniu i poznawaniu Drzew, Krzewów, Roślin i Ziół celniejszych: ku ozdobie Ogrodów przy zastosowaniu do naszey strefy. Dzieło Miłośnikom Ogrodów poświęcone...*, vol. 1 (Warszawa, 1818), pp. 14–15.

41 F.K. Giżycki, *O przyozdobieniu siedlisk wiejskich. Rzecz zastosowana do Polski* (Warszawa, 1827), p. 129; F.K. Giżycki, *Ogrodnictwo zastosowane do potrzeb ziemianina polskiego* (Lwów, 1845), p. 287.

42 'O ogrodnictwie w Polsce', *Rozmaitości* no. 66 (133), 13 June 1820, pp. 261–264; J. Waga, *Flora polska jawnokwiatowych rodzajów czyli botaniczne opisy tak dzikich jako i hodowanych pod otwartym niebem jawnokwiatowych Królestwa Polskiego roślin, uporządkowane według zasad sztucznego układu a poprzedzone ogólnem wyobrażeniem o znaczniejszych przyrodzonych pokrewieństwach roślinnego królestwa*, vol. 2 (Warszawa, 1848), p. 668; Iwanowski, *O ogrodach w Polsce*, p. 913; J. Rostafiński, *Florae Polonicae prodromus. Uebersicht der bis jetzt im Königreich Polen beobachteten Phanerogamen* (Berlin, 1873); 'O ogrodnictwie w Polsce', *Dzwonek. Pismo Ludowe*, vol. 15, 2 Oct. 1875, no. 19, pp. 213–217; J. Biegański, 'Topole', *Ogrodnik Polski*, no. 19, 1882, pp. 441–443; L. Karczmarski, 'Rzut oka na ogrody', *Ogrodnik Polski*, no. 23, 1897, pp. 533–535; Z. Glogier, *Encyklopedia staropolska*, vol. 3: K–P (Warszawa, 1978 [1902]), p. 285; 'Sprawa obsadzenia drzewami dróg i alei w Polsce', *Ogrodnik. Dwutygodnik poświęcony sprawom ogrodnictwa polskiego*, vol. 10, 1920, p. 102; Jankowski, *Dzieje ogrodnictwa w Polsce*, p. 157; E. Jankowski, *Dzieje ogrodnictwa*, vol. 1: *Do końca w. XVIII* (Kraków, 1938), p. 275.

43 F. Berdau, 'Topola', in: *Encyklopedia Powszechna*, vol. 25: *Tarnogrodzka konfederacja–Ula* (Warszawa, 1867), p. 376–377.

Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cracow.⁴⁴ However, the mystery of the tree's origin was only solved in modern times by the Polish dendrologist Władysław Bugała, who was the first to distinguish between the Italian poplar (*Populus nigra* f. *italica* (Münchh.) A. Andersen) and the Afghan poplar. The first was imported from Lombardy not earlier than the second half of the eighteenth century, while the second came from Asia via the Ottoman Empire to southern Ukraine most likely during the reign of King John III, which became the source of the legend.⁴⁵ It should also be noted that Afghan poplar has a fairly low frost hardiness and could not be grown in the northern part of the Commonwealth. Władysław Bugała's theory was confirmed by another prominent botanist Stefan Białobok.⁴⁶

3.3. Wilanów orangery plants

An important part of the garden mythology related to Sobieski was the collection of exotic plants at Wilanów. According to various nineteenth-century sources, individual specimens of trees and shrubs from the king's time were said to be preserved in the Orangery and Fig House there. One of the magnificent bay laurels (*Laurus nobilis* L.) was even decorated with a special hoop funded by Count Stanisław Kostka Potocki in 1805 (Fig. 4). A commemorative inscription is engraved in its central field:

THE LAUREL OF JOHN III, / HIT BY A CANNONBALL / DURING THE
SIEGE / OF WARSAW / MDCCXCIV [1794].

The side fields contain lines from the poem *Na laur w Wilanowie* (*On the Wilanów Laurel*)⁴⁷ by the count's collaborator Józef Lipiński:

THIS TREE OF CONQUERORS CONSECRATED TO FAME / AND
HIDDEN IN THE HERO'S DEMESNE / WHEN ITS FATHERLAND
PERISHED / WAS STRUCK BY A THUNDERBOLT TOGETHER WITH
IT / THIS BLOW FAILED TO DESTROY THIS MARK OF GLORY; / THE
UNWITHERED LAUREL, THOUGH SEEMED DEAD FOR A TIME /
GROWS STRONGER, SPREADS YOUNG TWIGS / AND HERALDS
THE FUTURE WREATHS.

It was probably this tree that was the source of branches sent by Countess Aleksandra Potocka née Lubomirska to crown the six volumes of Samuel Bogumił Linde's *Słownik języka polskiego* (a dictionary of the Polish

44 *Sprawozdania z Czynności i Posiedzeń Akademii Umiejętności w Krakowie*, vol. 16, 1911, no. 4, pp. 23–24, 29; J. Rostański, 'O topoli włoskiej w Polsce', *Kosmos*, vol. 38, 1913, no. 10–12, pp. 1649–1656.

45 Bugała, *Topola włoska i topola afgańska*.

46 *Topole: Populus L.*, pp. 68–69.

47 The Czartoryski Library – Branch of the National Museum in Cracow, sign. rkps 1962, J. Lipiński, *Na laur w Wilanowie*, fol. 27.



Fig. 4

The hoop for the laurel of King John III, 1805, Museum of King Jan III's Palace in Wilanów

language) during a banquet organised by the Society of the Friends of Science on 5 March 1815 in the 'Angielski' Hotel in Warsaw.⁴⁸

Various publications from the second half of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century reported on trees and shrubs preserved in Wilanów allegedly associated with the royal couple, such as the three-hundred-year-old pomegranate trees (*Punica granatum* L.) ordered to be brought to Wilanów by Marie Casimire,⁴⁹ paper mulberry trees (*Broussonetia papyrifera* (L.) L'Hér. ex Vent.) planted by King John III, or the magnificent orange trees (*Citrus* L.) and vines (*Vitis* L.) of his time.⁵⁰ Continuing the idea of commemorating the monarch, Aleksandra and

48 A. Kraushar, *Towarzystwo Królewskie Przyjaciół Nauk 1800–1832. Monografia historyczna osnuta na źródłach archiwalnych*, book 2: *Czasy Księstwa Warszawskiego 1807–1815*, vol. 2 (Kraków–Warszawa, 1902), pp. 105–106; K. Gutowska-Dudek, 'Obręcz na wawrzyn Jana III Sobieskiego', in: *Tron Pamiątek ku czci „Najjaśniejszego, Niezwycięzonego Jana III Sobieskiego Króla Polskiego” w trzeshsetlecie śmierci 1696–1996*, eds J. Mielezsko, A. Kwiatkowska (Warszawa, 1996), pp. 171; K. Gutowska-Dudek, 'Obręcz na wawrzyn Jana III Sobieskiego', in: *Kolekcja wilanowska*, ed. J. Mielezsko (Warszawa, 2005), pp. 370–371.

49 'Willanów', *Przyjaciel Dzieci*, vol. 1, 1861, no. 14, pp. 108–110.

50 H. Skimborowicz, W. Gerson, *Willanów*, p. 91; 'Wiadomości bieżące', *Kurier Warszawski*, no. 235, 1909, pp. 1–2; G. Ciołek, 'Ogród w Wilanowie. Badania i zagadnienia konserwatorskie', *Biuletyn Historii Sztuki i Kultury*, vol. 9, 1947, no. 1–2, pp. 86–137.

August Potocki planned to decorate the Wilanów orangery with Latin sentences referring to his reign:

Transtulit huc Oriens laurus, palmasque virentes, / Ut seri carpant hinc laurea
serta Nepotes.

[The East moved laurels and green palms here, / So that later descendants
would take laurel wreaths from here].

or

Hic virides laurus, et palmas gloria plantat / Ut seri carpant victricia sarta
nepotes.

[Glory planted here green laurels and palms, / So that later descendants would
take wreaths of victory from here].⁵¹

3.4. Turkish captives in Wilanów

The last of the garden myths concerning King John III tells of the involvement of Turkish prisoners of war in the construction of the Wilanów gardens. This story was quoted as early as the first half of the nineteenth century by Tomasz Świącicki, Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz and Kajetan Jax-Marcinkowski.⁵² Polish novelist Adam Amilkar Kosiński even used it as one of the themes in his historical story about the loyalty of Polish soldiers.⁵³ As he wrote, King John III ordered that Turkish gardeners be spared and brought in to build his summer residence, illustrating this with the fate of a certain *tschaush*,⁵⁴ who was captured by one Pomi- anowski after admitting that he knew gardening and that he had once established a kiosk of cypress trees by the sultan's palace. The story of the involvement of Turkish prisoners of war in the construction of

51 Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów, mat.żr.211, Notaty Jana Morawińskiego. Wypisy z Archiwum wilanowskiego sporządzone przed 1945 r., part I, fol. 12. The planned inscriptions most probably came from A.C. Załuski, *Epistolae historico-familiares: Acta Johannis Tertii usque ad obitum ejus exclusivè Continens*, vol. 1 (Braniewo, 1710), p. 796, or J.K. Rubinkowski, *Janina Zwycięskich Tryumfów dzielami y Heroicznym Męstwem Jana III. Krola Polskiego na Marsowym Polu Nayiasniejszy Po przelomaney Otomańskiej y Tatarskiej potencji, Nieśmiertelnym wiekom...* (Poznań, 1739), pp. 334–335.

52 T. Świącicki, *Opis starożytnéy Polski*, vol. 1 (Warszawa, 1816), p. 281; J.U. Niemcewicz, *Śpiewy historyczne z muzyką, rycinami i krótkim dodatkiem zbioru historii polskiej* (Warszawa, 1816), pp. 419–420; K. Jaxa-Marcinkowski, *Rzeki polskie. Poema*, in: *Pomniki sławy narodowéy opiewające... napisane w roku 1821...* (Warszawa, 1826), pp. 21–22; J.U. Niemcewicz, 'Jan z Tęczyna. Powieść historyczna', in: *Dziela poetyczne, wierszem i prozą J.U. Niemcewicza*, vol. 7, ed. J.N. Bobrowicz (Leipzig, 1838), p. 33.

53 A.A. Kosiński, *Pamiętniki szlachcica z czasów Jana Sobieskiego*, Biblioteka Warszawska series, vol. 3 (Warszawa, 1846), pp. 524–550.

54 *Tschaush* (Pol. *czauusz*, from Tur. *çavuş*) – a Turkish court official, a messenger or a runner, after *Słownik polszczyzny XVI wieku*, vol. 4: *Cz–Dężyty* (Wrocław–Warszawa–Kraków, 1969), p. 106; M.A. Trotz, *Nowy dykcyonarz to iest Mownik polsko-niemiecko-francuski: z przydatkiem przysłów potocznych, przestroż gramatycznych, lekarskich, matematycznych, fortyfikacyjnych, żeglaskich [!], łowczych i inszym naukom przyzwoitych wyrazow*, vol. 3 (Leipzig, 1764), p. 179.

the Wilanów gardens was repeated several times in many later stories,⁵⁵ guides,⁵⁶ and even encyclopaedias and books of a scholarly nature,⁵⁷ thus cementing for good the widespread belief in its veracity. Edmund Jankowski, author of the already quoted monograph on the history of the gardens, expanded the story of Poles returning from Ottoman captivity, '[...] who worked there also in the gardens. They might have brought with them the ability to grow flowers, melons and other [plants]'.⁵⁸ Gerard Ciołek pointed out that local tradition attributes the construction of the present Sobieski Canal, connecting Lake Wilanów with the Wilanówka River, to the Turks.⁵⁹

No historical material has yet been found to confirm the involvement of Turkish captives in the construction of the Wilanów palace and gardens. However, accounts from the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century have survived, indicating that Tartars and other slaves of unspecified nationality were employed in the garden. To date, it has not been possible to indicate whether they were prisoners of war captured by the king or how long they worked at his former summer residence.⁶⁰ The myth itself was therefore most likely born out of the fantasies of nineteenth-century historiographers and writers inspired by Sobieski's famous victories in numerous skirmishes with the armies of the Ottoman Empire. This might have also been inspired by the symbolism of the palace's decoration, such as the equestrian statue of King John III as the conqueror of the Turks, now displayed in a niche in the south wing, or the reliefs by

- 55 'Wilanów', *Przyjaciel Dzieci*, no. 23, 1 Dec. 1863, p. 360; K.W. Wójcicki, 'Willanów', *Tygodnik Ilustrowany*, vol. 7, 30 May 1863, no. 192, pp. 207–210; K. Hoffmanowa, *Dziela Klementyny z Tańskich Hoffmanowej*, vol. 4, ed. N. Żmichowska (Warszawa, 1875), p. 161; 'Opowiadanie historyczne: król Jan Sobieski i oblężenie Wiednia (Dokończenie)', *Przyjaciel Dzieci*, vol. 23, 13 Oct. 1883, no. 41, p. 488; A. Rzażewski, 'Ostatni Krzyżowcy. Opowiadanie z czasów Jana III', *Przegląd Polski*, vol. 18, 1883, fasc. 3, pp. 331–387.
- 56 *Krótki opis Wilanowa z wykazem obrazów znajdujących się w Galeryi i pokojach palacu* (Warszawa, 1854), p. 7; W. Zawadzki, *Grody polskie. Opis historyczny dla dorastającej młodzieży* (Lwów, 1866), p. 179; E. Luniński, *Willanów. Z osiemdziesięciu ilustracjami* (Warszawa, 1915), p. 25.
- 57 *Starożytności polskie. Ku wygodzie czytelnika porządkiem abecadłowem zebrane*, vol. 2 (Poznań, 1852), pp. 686; A. Połujański, *Opisanie lasów Królestwa Polskiego i gubernij Zachodnich Cesarstwa Rosyjskiego pod względem historycznym, statystycznym i gospodarczym...*, vol. 1 (Warszawa, 1854), p. 65; K.W. Wójcicki, *Cmentarz Powązkowski oraz cmentarze katolickie i innych wyznań pod Warszawą i w okolicach tegoż miasta*, vol. 3 (Warszawa, 1858), p. 50; S. Orgelbrand, *Encyklopedyja powszechna*, vol. 27: *Wikaryusz–Wybrzeże* (Warszawa, 1867), pp. 60–61; S. Dziewulski, *Warszawa*, vol. 1: *Dzieje miasta. Topografia. Statystyka ludności* (Warszawa, 1913), p. 134.
- 58 Jankowski, *Dzieje ogrodnictwa*, p. 56.
- 59 Ciołek, *Ogród w Wilanowie*.
- 60 A. Skrzypietz, 'Wilanowskie „gospodarstwo” królewicza Aleksandra', *Studia Wilanowskie*, vol. 21, 2014, pp. 55–72.



Stephan Schwaner depicting the scene of John III's triumphal entry into Wilanów, followed by a train of Turkish captives (Fig. 5).⁶¹

Fig. 5

Stephan Schwaner, *Turkish Captives Being Led into Wilanów*, 1686, Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów

4. Conclusions

Literature from the nineteenth and early twentieth century had a significant impact on perpetuating the garden myths related to King John III. Numerous legends, tales and anecdotes were built around a few key motifs: the gardener king, the trees he imported or personally planted, the Wilanów collection of exotic plants he gathered, as well as the involvement of Turkish captives in the construction of the gardens located there. Most of them were based on subjective interpretation of history handed down orally from generation to generation, or the imagination of novelists and poets inspired by patriotic motives and the desire for independence. The belief in their veracity at the time was so strong that they found their way into tourist guides and even scholarly publications or encyclopaedias. Thanks to this, the image of John III as the gardener king became permanently inscribed in Polish tradition and still functions in the consciousness of many Poles today. It is also perpetuated by the numerous natural monuments scattered throughout the country.

King John III was undoubtedly a practising gardener, as evidenced by the exquisite gardens at his family estates in Jaworów and Żółkiew and at his summer residence in Wilanów near Warsaw. He planted trees there

61 M. Morka, *Polski nowożytny portret konny i jego europejska geneza* (Wrocław, 1986), p. 138; M. Milewska-Ważbińska, *Słońce na tarczy, czyli tajemnice pałacowej fasady* (Warszawa, 2008), pp. 50–51; M. Karpowicz, *Co nam mają do powiedzenia fasady Wilanowa* (Warszawa, 2011), pp. 12–13.

with his own hands and collected various plants, including exotic hothouse species. He developed his knowledge based on inferences from observations gained in other gardens, conversations with gardeners and reading the collection of books gathered in the palace library. However, he was wrongly credited with bringing poplars, thuyas and chestnut trees to the Commonwealth. No conclusive evidence has been found to confirm the involvement of Turkish captives in the construction of the Wilanów gardens either. The material collected in this article, however, provides the basis for further in-depth source and bibliographical research into King John III's love of gardening.

APPENDIX 1

List of natural monuments (solitaires, groups of trees and avenues) in Poland associated with King John III and Queen Marie Casimire⁶²

SOLITAIRES

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1. *'Sobieski' oak in Janowiec Wielkopolski*

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.0419033.819

Location: Kuyavia-Pomerania Voivodeship, Żnin district, Janowiec Wielkopolski (urban-rural) commune

Geographic coordinates: 52° 45' 42.29" N 17° 27' 53.446" E

Species: pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur* L.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 32; DBH [in cm]: 142; circumference [in cm]: 446

Legal acts: Uchwała nr XI/121/04 Rady Miejskiej w Janowcu Wielkopolskim z 20 lutego 2004 r. w sprawie uznania za pomniki przyrody (Dziennik Urzędowy Województwa Kujawsko-Pomorskiego, 7 April 2004, no. 44, item 702)

Supplementary data: The natural monument is located by Brudzińska Street connecting Janowiec Wielkopolski with the Dziekszyn hamlet. According to local tradition, King John III passed through the village on his way to the relief of Vienna in 1683.

2. *'Sobieski' oak in Sobieszyn*

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.0616062.1373

Location: Lublin Voivodeship, Ryki district, Ułęż (rural) commune, Sobieszyn village

Geographic coordinates: 51° 36' 54.588" N 22° 9' 0.49" E

Species: pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur* L.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 25; DBH [in cm]: 118; circumference [in cm]: 371

Legal acts: Zarządzenie nr 42 Wojewody Lubelskiego z 22 października 1987 r. w sprawie uznania za pomnik przyrody (Dziennik Urzędowy Województwa Lubelskiego, 6 Nov. 1987, no. 12, item 211)

Supplementary data: The natural monument is located in the Protected Landscape Area 'Pradolina Wieprza', close to the Count Kajetan Kicki School Complex in Sobieszyn. The village is the former family seat of the Sobieski family and takes its name from their surname. King John III was one of its owners.⁶³ According to local legends, King John III rested under the oak while returning from the victorious Battle of Vienna in 1683. According to another legend, the tree was planted at the end of the seventeenth century by the monarch's sister, Katarzyna Radziwiłłowa née Sobieski.

3. *'Marysieńka' lime tree in Dobczyce*

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.1209013.1227

Location: Lesser Poland Voivodeship, Myślenice district, Dobczyce (urban-rural) commune

Geographic coordinates: 49° 52' 41.158" N 20° 5' 17.194" E

62 Characteristics of natural monuments developed on the basis of data found at the Geoservice of the General Directorate for Environmental Protection, geoserwis.gdos.gov.pl/mapy/ (accessed 15 Jan. 2023) and the Central Register of Nature Conservation Forms, crfop.gdos.gov.pl/CRFOP/# (accessed 15 Jan. 2023). The list does not include natural monuments that got destroyed by the end of 2022.

63 *Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego*, vol. 10: *Rukszenice–Sochaczew* (Warszawa, 1889), pp. 946–947.

Species: lime tree (*Tilia* L.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 15; DBH [in cm]: 163; circumference [in cm]: 512

Legal acts: Orzeczenie LKS.I-4-12/46 Urzędu Wojewody Krakowskiego z 31 marca 1947 r.; Rozporządzenie nr 3 Wojewody Krakowskiego z 30 stycznia 1997 r. w sprawie pomników przyrody na terenie województwa krakowskiego (Dziennik Urzędowy Województwa Krakowskiego, 6 Feb. 1997, no. 5, item 13)

Supplementary data: The monumental lime tree is located next to the Roman Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist. In the central part of the tree, there is a grotto with a statue of Our Lady Immaculate. The lime tree 'Marysieńka' commemorates the victory of King John III at the Battle of Vienna.⁶⁴ An information board on the trunk reads: 'NATURAL MONUMENT / UNDER THE CARE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROTECTION / OF MONUMENTS AND NATURAL MONUMENTS OF THE PTTK D-ce / 'Marysieńka' LIME TREE / PLANTED BY THE FOREFATHERS / AS A MEMORIAL OF THE VICTORY OF KING J. SOBIESKI / at Vienna in 1683 (5 m. circumference) / Destroyed during the war in 1945 – Conservation / carried out as community action in 1981–82 and 1999'.

4. *Sobieski's elm (Sobieski's brzost) in Sucha Beskidzka*

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.1215021.2061

Location: Lesser Poland Voivodeship, Sucha Beskidzka district, Sucha Beskidzka (urban) commune

Geographic coordinates: 49° 44' 31.432" N 19° 35' 44.741" E

Species: mountain elm (*Ulmus glabra* Huds.) or Dutch elm (*Ulmus × hollandica* Mill.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 25; DBH [in cm]: 164; circumference [in cm]: 515

Legal acts: Decyzja Rol.IX-3/43/63 Prezydium Wojewódzkiej Rady Narodowej w Krakowie z 30 września 1963 r. uznanie za pomnik przyrody

Supplementary data: The monumental elm tree grows by Adama Mickiewicza Street, opposite the town hall of Sucha Beskidzka. According to local tradition, it was planted by King John III passing through the village on his way to the relief of Vienna in 1683. The tree was named to mark the two-hundred eightieth anniversary of the victory.⁶⁵ It is also referred to by locals as 'brzost', which is the colloquial term for elm.⁶⁶

5. *'Sobieski' oak in Legionowo*

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.1408011.867

Location: Mazovian Voivodeship, Legionowo district, Legionowo (urban) commune

Geographic coordinates: 52° 23' 46.283" N 20° 55' 4.578" E

Species: pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur* L.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 25; DBH [in cm]: 125; circumference [in cm]: 393

Legal acts: Orzeczenie nr 566 z 1 czerwca 1979 r. w sprawie uznania za pomnik przyrody; Rozporządzenie no. 22 Wojewody Mazowieckiego z 31 lipca 2009 r. w sprawie ustanowienia pomników przyrody położonych na terenie powiatu legionowskiego (Dziennik Urzędowy Województwa Mazowieckiego, 31 July 2009, no. 124, item 3637); Uchwała no. XX/30/2020 Rady

64 A. Matuszczyk, *Beskid Wyspowy – ziemia ciągle obiecana: przewodnik* (Pruszków, 2008), p. 256.

65 *Powiat suski: Podbabiogórze*, ed. J. Kociótek (Sucha Beskidzka, 2016), p. 4.

66 M.S.B. Linde, *Słownik języka polskiego*, vol. 1, part 1: A–F (Warszawa, 1807), p. 183.

Miasta Legionowo z 26 sierpnia 2020 r. w sprawie pomników przyrody (Dziennik Urzędowy Województwa Mazowieckiego, 2020, item 9063)

Supplementary data: The monumental oak grows by Jana III Sobieskiego Street no. 55 (access from Stefana Czarnieckiego Street). The name of the tree is to commemorate King John III.

6. *King John's lime tree in Warsaw-Wilanów*

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.1465011.3470

Location: Mazovian Voivodeship, Warsaw district, Warsaw (urban) commune, Wilanów area

Geographic coordinates: 52° 9' 54.029" N 21° 5' 13.09" E

Species: large-leaved lime (*Tilia platyphyllos* Scop.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 21; DBH [in cm]: 136; circumference [in cm]: 427

Legal acts: Orzeczenie nr 64 z 31 stycznia 1975 r. o uznaniu za pomnik przyrody (Urząd Miasta Stołecznego Warszawy, Wydział Rolnictwa i Leśnictwa, znak: RL.lś-831/1/75) (Dziennik Urzędowy Rady Narodowej Miasta Stołecznego Warszawy, 23 March 1975); Rozporządzenie no. 24 Wojewody Mazowieckiego z 31 lipca 2009 r. w sprawie pomników przyrody położonych na terenie powiatu warszawskiego (Dziennik Urzędowy Województwa Mazowieckiego, 31 July 2009, no. 124, item 3639)

Supplementary data: The tree grows within the buffer zone of the Morysin Nature Reserve, in the grounds of the historic palace and garden complex in Wilanów by the main avenue in the Forecourt leading to the palace.

7. *Sobieski's oak in Mołodycz*

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.1804112.248

Location: Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Jarosław district, Wiązownica (rural) commune, Mołodycz village

Geographic coordinates: 50° 9' 12.84" N 22° 47' 31.809" E

Species: pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur* L.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 24; DBH [in cm]: 213; circumference [in cm]: 669

Legal acts: Uchwała no. XXXIII/184/96 Rady Gminy Wiązownica z 21 sierpnia 1996 r. w sprawie uznania za pomnik przyrody

Supplementary data: The monumental oak grows in the Sieniawa Protected Landscape Area by the Radawka River. According to local legend, the tree was planted by King John III returning from the victorious Battle of Vienna in 1683.

8. *Oak tree in Łukawiec*

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.1809082.559

Location: Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Lubaczów district, Wielkie Oczy (village) commune, Łukawiec village

Geographic coordinates: 50° 4' 33.027" N 23° 7' 6.826" E

Species: pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur* L.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 24; DBH [in cm]: 129; circumference [in cm]: 405

Legal acts: Decyzja Wydziału Rolnictwa i Leśnictwa Prezydium Wojewódzkiej Rady Narodowej w Rzeszowie nr RLOP-410/P/206/69 z 20 sierpnia 1969 r. (Dziennik Urzędowy Wojewódzkiej Rady Narodowej w Rzeszowie, no. 10, item 74)

Supplementary data: The oak grows next to the Roman Catholic church of the Epiphany, built of larch timber between 1754 and 1756. According to tradition, the church was purchased and moved

from Narol. Next to the church is a bell tower built on a single pillar, flanked by two oak trees. According to a local legend, these trees were planted by King John III returning from the victorious Battle of Vienna in 1683.⁶⁷

9. Sobieski's pine in Żołyńia

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.1810072.757

Location: Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Łańcut district, Żołyńia (rural) commune

Geographic coordinates: 50° 7' 51.044" N 22° 20' 2.503" E

Species: Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 15; DBH [in cm]: 140; circumference [in cm]: 440

Legal acts: Ln 11/1/P/95/57 nr 95 z 25 czerwca 1957 r. (Dziennik Urzędowy Wojewódzkiej Rady Narodowej w Rzeszowie, 5 Apr. 1958, no. 3, item 11)

Supplementary data: The monumental pine tree is located by the road connecting Białobrzegi and Żołyńia. A wooden folk shrine is installed on the trunk. According to local legend, King John III rested under the tree on his way to the relief of Vienna in 1683.⁶⁸

10. Marysieńka's oak in Gdynia-Orłowo

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.2262011.7239

Location: Pomeranian Voivodeship, Gdynia district, Gdynia (urban) commune, Orłowo area

Geographic coordinates: 54° 28' 15.867" N 18° 33' 27.133" E

Species: pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur* L.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 26; DBH [in cm]: 155; circumference [in cm]: 487

Legal acts: Orzeczenie nr 174 Prezydium Wojewódzkiej Rady Narodowej Wydział Rolnictwa i Leśnictwa w Gdańsku o uznaniu za pomnik przyrody (Dziennik Urzędowy Wojewódzkiej Rady Narodowej w Gdańsku, 31 Dec. 1966, no. 21, item 136)

Supplementary data: The monumental oak grows on the grounds of the historic manor and landscape complex of Kolibki in Gdynia, which once belonged to the Sobieski family. After King John's death, Queen Marysieńka (Marie Casimire) became the owner of the estate. In 1720, Prince Jakub Sobieski sold the Kolibki estate to the Voivode Piotr Przebendowski. To this day, the park contains objects commemorating the historical links with the royal couple, including Marysieńka's Oak, Marysieńka's Grotto and King John's Ash Tree.⁶⁹

11. King John's ash tree in Gdynia-Orłowo

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.2262011.7305

Location: Pomeranian Voivodeship, Gdynia district, Gdynia (urban) commune, Orłowo area

Geographic coordinates: 54° 28' 18.594" N 18° 33' 29.799" E

Species: ash tree (*Fraxinus excelsior* L.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 29,5; DBH [in cm]: 194; circumference [in cm]: 610

Legal acts: Uchwała nr XVIII/345/12 Rady Miasta Gdyni z 28 marca 2012 r. w sprawie ustanowienia pomnika przyrody „Jesion Króla Jana”

Supplementary data: The monumental ash tree, like Marysieńka's oak in Orłowo, commemorates the historical links of the Kolibki manor with King John III and Queen Marie Casimire.

67 *Leksykon drewnianej architektury sakralnej Podkarpacia*, vol. 1: A–L, ed. K. Zieliński (Rzeszów, 2011), pp. 182–183.

68 F. Frączek, *Legendsy regionu łańcuckiego* (Łańcut, 1989), p. 21.

69 *Encyklopedia Gdyni*, eds M. Sokółowska, I. Greczanik-Filipp, W. Kwiatkowska (Gdynia, 2006), p. 283.

12. Sobieski's oak in Bieruń

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.2414011.514

Location: Silesian Voivodeship, Bieruń-Lędziny district, Bieruń (urban) commune

Geographic coordinates: 50° 4' 48.223" N 19° 10' 55.474" E

Species: pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur* L.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 22; DBH [in cm]: 185; circumference [in cm]: 581

Legal acts: Zarządzenie nr 2 Burmistrza Miasta Bieruń z 25 września 1991 r. w sprawie tymczasowego uznania tworów przyrody ożywionej za pomniki przyrody

Supplementary data: The natural monument 'Sobieski's Oak' is located at Barbórki Street, near the palace manor of the former Solec settlement. Local legends state that the tree was planted in the seventeenth century to commemorate the march of King John III to the relief of Vienna in 1683.⁷⁰

13. 'John III Sobieski' plane tree in Bytom-Miechowice

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.2462011.57

Location: Silesian Voivodeship, Bytom district, Bytom (urban) commune, Miechowice area

Geographic coordinates: 50° 21' 28.796" N 18° 51' 12.395" E

Species: London plane (*Platanus × hispanica* Mill. ex Münchh.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 25; DBH [in cm]: 196; circumference [in cm]: 616

Legal acts: Decyzja nr 312 znak: RL-op-831/32/73 Prezydium Wojewódzkiej Rady Narodowej w Katowicach z 1 grudnia 1973 r.

Supplementary data: The monumental plane tree grows in the grounds of the historic Thiele-Winkler family palace and park, which is now called the People's Park. According to local tradition, the tree commemorates the march of King John III to the relief of Vienna, during which he stopped in Bytom between 19 and 20 August 1683. The name of the king was given to the tree on the two-hundred-ninetyth anniversary of the victorious battle. A plaque on the trunk reads: 'Natural Monument / named after John III Sobieski / PLANE TREE'.⁷¹

14. 'John III Sobieski' oak in Kończyce Wielkie

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.2403082.1805

Location: Silesian Voivodeship, Cieszyn district, Hażle (rural) commune, Kończyce Wielkie village

Geographic coordinates: 49° 50' 18.357" N 18° 38' 43.262" E

Species: pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur* L.)

Parameters: height [in m]: no data; DBH [in cm]: 186; circumference [in cm]: 584

Legal acts: Uchwała no. II/11/2022 Rady Gminy Hażlach z 23 marca 2022 r. w sprawie ustanowienia pomników przyrody (Dziennik Urzędowy, 2022, item 1971)

Supplementary data: The monumental oak is located in the grounds of the historic palace complex in Kończyce Wielkie. According to the local legend, soldiers of the hussars unit of Hetman Mikołaj Sieniawski heading for the relief of Vienna in 1683 buried their dead horses under the tree.⁷²

70 A. Żukowski, *Sławne drzewa województwa śląskiego* (Czerwionka-Leszczyny, 2006), pp. 44–46.

71 M. Boroń, R. Simon, 'Okazałości dendrologiczne GOP-u', *Aura*, no. 7, 2018, p. 28.

72 A. Czudek, 'Drzewa Sobieskiego na Śląsku', *Zaranie Śląskie. Kwartalnik Literacki*, vol. 9, 1933, fasc. 3, pp. 127–142; Żukowski, *Sławne drzewa*, pp. 56–59.

15. Sobieski's oak in Ustroń

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.2403021.132

Location: Silesian Voivodship, Cieszyn district, Ustroń (urban) commune

Geographic coordinates: 49° 43' 36.79" N 18° 48' 23.029" E

Species: pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur* L.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 22; DBH [in cm]: 212; circumference [in cm]: 666

Legal acts: Orzeczenie Prezydium Wojewódzkiej Rady Narodowej w Katowicach z 30 czerwca 1954 r. RL.13b/17/54

Supplementary data: A monumental oak, densely covered with ivy, grows within the buffer zone of the Silesian Beskid Landscape Park. It was planted by the locals to commemorate the march of King John III's troops to the relief of Vienna in 1683.⁷³ Another legend states that it was planted to commemorate the fortunate rescue of this land by the Polish army, which repulsed the onslaught of the pagan Hungarian and Transylvanian army allied with the Turks. Next to the oak is a boulder with an inscription designed by the artist Karol Kubala: 'Natural monument. Sobieski's oak. 1683'.⁷⁴

16. Sobieski's lime tree in Stanica

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.2405042.1198

Location: Silesian Voivodship, Gliwice district, Pilchowice (rural) commune, Stanica village

Geographic coordinates: 50° 12' 11.968" N 18° 30' 15.289" E

Species: small-leaved lime tree (*Tilia cordata* Mill.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 16; DBH [in cm]: 223; circumference [in cm]: 701

Legal acts: Decyzja nr RL-VII-7140/14/84 Wojewody Katowickiego z 25 września 1984 r. o uznaniu za pomnik przyrody

Supplementary data: The monumental lime tree grows within the boundaries of the Cistercian Landscape Compositions landscape park in Rudy Wielkie. According to local tradition, the tree was planted by King John III's soldiers who marched to the relief of Vienna in 1683. Sobieski's lime tree in Stanica is located on the trail 'Following the traces of Polish hussars in Silesia'.⁷⁵

17. Sobieski's oak in Racibórz (Łęczczok)

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.2411011.350

Location: Silesian Voivodship, Racibórz district, Racibórz (urban) commune

Geographic coordinates: 50° 7' 45.259" N 18° 16' 26.137" E

Species: pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur* L.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 33; DBH [in cm]: 271; circumference [in cm]: 851

Legal acts: Decyzja nr 347 o uznaniu za pomnik przyrody Prezydium Wojewódzkiej Rady Narodowej w Opolu z 14 kwietnia 1967 r., Rozporządzenie no. 4/06 Wojewody Śląskiego z 9 marca 2006 r. w sprawie ustanowienia pomnika przyrody – drzewa gatunku dąb szypułkowy (*Quercus robur*) rosnącego na terenie miasta Racibórz (Dziennik Urzędowy, 2006, no. 33, item 952)

Supplementary data: The natural monument grows in the Łęczczok nature reserve, on the Alley of the Polish Hussars running along the dyke separating the Grabowiec and Brzeziniak ponds. The site is located within the Cistercian Landscape Compositions landscape park in Rudy Wielkie and the

73 Czudek, *Drzewa Sobieskiego*.

74 Żukowski, *Sławne drzewa*, pp. 77–80.

75 *Ibid.*, pp. 182–184.

Natura 2000 habitat area – Łęczczok Ponds. According to local tradition, the tree commemorates the march of King John III through Racibórz on 24 August 1683 on the way to the relief of Vienna.⁷⁶ However, some authors recognise that it was planted 100 years earlier by the Cistercians, who used to plant trees along communication routes and dikes in this way.⁷⁷ The Sobieski's oak in Racibórz is located on the trail 'Following the traces of Polish hussars in Silesia'.

18. *Sobieski's lime tree in Ruda Śląska-Rudzka Kuźnica*

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.2472011.5

Location: Silesian Voivodeship, Ruda Śląska district, Ruda Śląska (urban) commune, Rudzka Kuźnica area

Geographic coordinates: 50° 19' 35.309" N 18° 51' 5.807" E

Species: small-leaved lime tree (*Tilia cordata* Mill.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 22; DBH [in cm]: 78; circumference [in cm]: 245

Legal acts: Uchwała nr 814/XLIII/2009 Rady Miasta Ruda Śląska z 14 maja 2009 r. w sprawie ustanowienia pomników przyrody (Dziennik Urzędowy Województwa Śląskiego, 2009, no. 122, item 2579)

Supplementary data: The monumental linden tree grows in the park named after John III Sobieski in Rudzka Kuźnica. According to local accounts, part of the king's troops passed through Biskupice and Kuźnica Rudzka on their way to the relief of Vienna in 1683.⁷⁸

19. *Sobieski's lime tree in Tarnowskie Góry – Stare Tarnowice*

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.2413041.926

Location: Silesian Voivodeship, Tarnowskie Góry district, Tarnowskie Góry (urban) commune, Stare Tarnowice area

Geographic coordinates: 50° 26' 26.098" N 18° 49' 17.7" E

Species: small-leaved lime tree (*Tilia cordata* Mill.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 21; DBH [in cm]: 163; circumference [in cm]: 512

Legal acts: Orzeczenie nr 00068 Prezydium Wojewódzkiej Rady Narodowej w Stalinogrodzie z 11 czerwca 1955 r.; Rozporządzenie nr 47/06 Wojewody Śląskiego z 19 sierpnia 2006 r. w sprawie ustanowienia pomnika przyrody – drzewa gatunku lipa drobnolistna (*Tilia cordata*) rosnącego na terenie gminy Tarnowskie Góry; Uchwała nr XXV/267/2020 Rady Miejskiej w Tarnowskich Górach z 26 sierpnia 2020 r. w sprawie pomników przyrody zlokalizowanych na terenie gminy Tarnowskie Góry

Supplementary data: The monumental lime tree grows in the so-called Organist's Field on top of a non-existent conical stronghold, once surrounded by a ring of ramparts with a palisade and a moat. According to local tradition, the tree commemorates the march of King John III through Tarnowskie Góry on 20 August 1683, going to the relief of Vienna.⁷⁹ It was in Stare Tarnowice that the ruler had allegedly four of his soldiers hanged for committing robberies.⁸⁰

76 Czudek, *Drzewa Sobieskiego*; J. Duda, *Osobliwości przyrodnicze Raciborza* (Racibórz, 2001), p. 112.

77 Żukowski, *Sławne drzewa*, pp. 65–68.

78 B. Podgórska, A. Podgórski, *Drzewa w pomniki zakłete. Drzewa pomnikowe w Rudzie Śląskiej*, part 1 (Katowice, 2009), pp. 13, 27.

79 M. Wroński, 'Gródek rycerski, czyli „zagadkowy pagórek na polu organisty” w Tarnowicach Starych', *Zeszyty Tarnogórskie*, no. 1, 1986, pp. 5–14.

80 M. Kopiec, *Król Sobieski na Śląsku w kościołach w drodze pod Wiedeń. Opowiadanie historyczne* (Mikołów, 1920), p. 15.

20. 'Bartek' oak in Bartków

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.2604192.1

Location: Holy Cross Voivodeship, Kielce district, Zagnańsk (rural) commune, Bartków village

Geographic coordinates: 50° 59' 14.455" N 20° 39' 7.748" E

Species: pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur* L.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 28; DBH [in cm]: 313; circumference [in cm]: 985

Legal acts: Orzeczenie nr 1 z 2 grudnia 1952 r. Prezydium Wojewódzkiej Rady Narodowej w Kielcach (Dziennik Urzędowy, 1954, no. 1, item 1); Rozporządzenie Wojewody Świętokrzyskiego nr 35/2007 z 12 grudnia 2007 r. w sprawie uznania za pomniki przyrody (Dziennik Urzędowy, 2007, no. 239, item 3552); Uchwała nr 22/VII/2017 Rady Gminy Zagnańsk z 29 marca 2017 r. w sprawie pomnika przyrody (Dziennik Urzędowy, 2017, item 1340)

Supplementary data: The monumental oak grows in the buffer zone of the Suchedniowski-Obłęgowski Landscape Park. The tree is associated with legends of the Viennese spoils that King John III is said to have left in the trunk.⁸¹ One of them states: 'The trunk of the oak contains a hollow inside, about which the local legend says that King John Sobieski, while returning through Samsonów from his Viennese expedition and while camping under the oak, ordered a rifle, a Turkish sabre and a bottle of wine to be put inside; it is said that these artefacts fused with the bark and are inside the tree to this day'.⁸²

21. Sobieski's oak in Sandomierz

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.2609011.337

Location: Holy Cross Voivodeship, Sandomierz district, Sandomierz (urban) commune

Geographic coordinates: 50° 40' 40.153" N 21° 44' 23.087" E

Species: pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur* L.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 19; DBH [in cm]: 166; circumference [in cm]: 521

Legal acts: Zarządzenie Wojewody Tarnobrzieskiego nr 34/88 z 30 grudnia 1988 r. w sprawie uznania tworów przyrody za pomniki przyrody (Dziennik Urzędowy, 10 Jan. 1989, no. 1, item 2); Uchwała nr XXI/259/2020 Rady Miasta Sandomierza z 27 maja 2020 r. w sprawie pomników przyrody położonych na terenie Miasta Sandomierza (Dziennik Urzędowy, 2020, item 2064)

Supplementary data: A monumental oak grows next to a larch vicarage from the second half of the seventeenth century by the Roman Catholic church of the Conversion of St Paul the Apostle. Local tradition links it to the commemoration of King John III's victory in the Battle of Vienna in 1683.

22. 'Sobieski' oak in Nowa Wieś

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.3002073.10230

Location: Greater Poland Voivodeship, Czarnków-Trzcianka district, Trzcianka (urban-rural) commune, Nowa Wieś village

Geographic coordinates: 53° 0' 33.48" N 16° 26' 33.96" E

Species: pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur* L.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 25; DBH [in cm]: 108; circumference [in cm]: 339

81 W. Wigura, 'Dąb w Bartkowie', *Ziemia. Tygodnik Krajoznawczy Ilustrowany*, vol. 3, 1912, no. 2, p. 30; T. Banaś, R. Garus, *Legends świętokrzyskie. Przewodnik rodzinny* (Kielce, 1996), p. 45; M. Ziółkowska, *Gawędy o drzewach* (Warszawa, 1988), pp. 65–74; E.M. Zaraś-Januszkiewicz, *Drzewo w krajobrazie kulturowym* (Warszawa, 2016), pp. 235.

82 Hajduk-Nijkowska, *Nie wszystko bajka*, p. 213.

Legal acts: Uchwała nr XLVIII/450/18 Rady Miejskiej Trzcianki z 17 maja 2018 r. w sprawie ustanowienia pomnika przyrody o nazwie „Sobieski” (Dziennik Urzędowy, 2018, item 4329)

Supplementary data: The name of the monumental oak is to commemorate King John III.

23. ‘Marysieńka’ lime tree in Samborsko

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.3031023.5105

Location: Greater Poland Voivodeship, Złotów district, Jastrowie (urban-rural) commune, Samborsko village

Geographic coordinates: 53° 25' 10.129" N 16° 43' 14.146" E

Species: small-leaved lime tree (*Tilia cordata* Mill.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 20; DBH [in cm]: 135; circumference [in cm]: 424

Legal acts: Uchwała nr 152/2000 Rady Miejskiej w Jastrowiu z 26 września 2000 r. w sprawie uznania za pomnik przyrody (Dziennik Urzędowy Województwa Wielkopolskiego, 2001, no. 2, item 15)

Supplementary data: According to local tradition, the tree was planted in 1683 to commemorate King John III's victory in the Battle of Vienna.

GROUPS OF TREES

1. Sobieski's oaks in Wysock

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.1804052.324

Location: Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Jarosław district, Laszki (rural) commune, Wysocko village

Geographic coordinates: 49° 59' 27.597" N 22° 49' 9.806" E

Species: pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur* L.)

Parameters: **Oak no. 1:** height [in m]: 29; DBH [in cm]: 148; circumference [in cm]: 465; **Oak no. 2:** height [in m]: 28; DBH [in cm]: 120; circumference [in cm]: 377; **Oak no. 3:** height [in m]: 32; DBH [in cm]: 170; circumference [in cm]: 534; **Oak no. 4:** height [in m]: 30; DBH [in cm]: 146; circumference [in cm]: 459; **Oak no. 5:** height [in m]: 30; DBH [in cm]: 117; circumference [in cm]: 368; **Oak no. 6:** height [in m]: 25; DBH [in cm]: 127; circumference [in cm]: 399; **Oak no. 7** – no data

Legal acts: Zarządzenie nr 36/89 Wojewody Przemyskiego z 30 października 1989 r. w sprawie uznania za pomnik przyrody (Dziennik Urzędowy Województwa Przemyskiego, 1989, no. 20, item 148)

Supplementary data: A group of seven oak trees growing in the grounds of the historic palace park in Wysock. In the second half of the seventeenth century, Queen Marie Casimire erected a two-storey wooden mansion here. According to the tradition, King John III planted dozens of trees in the garden. Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz noted: ‘There is a row of oak trees in the garden, undoubtedly planted by King John. These trees are of immeasurable height [...] Equally interesting to a Pole is Lipnik [a lime-tree grove], planted by the liberator of Vienna when he was still a hetman. It is a circle measuring several hundred steps in circumference.’⁸³ On 28 October 1792, at the palace in Sieniawa, Princess Izabela Czartoryska gave Tadeusz Kościuszko a lavish name-day party, during which her daughters Maria of Württemberg and

83 J.U. Niemcewicz, *Juliana Ursyna Niemcewicza podróże historyczne po ziemiach polskich między rokiem 1811 a 1828 odbyte* (Paris–St. Petersburg, 1858), p. 426.

Zofia Zamoyska presented him with a wreath made from the branches of an oak tree planted by King John III in Wysock.⁸⁴ A commemorative stone in the park bears an inscription: ‘SHADY CHESTNUT TREES / LOFTY LIME TREES AND / YOU PECULIAR STOUT OAKS / PLANTED BY SOBIESKI’S HAND / COMMEMORATE HIS VICTORIES / THE TIMES OF CHIVALRY / HAPPY MOMENTS / OF POLAND’.

2. Sobieski's oak trees in the Budomierz forestry

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.1809042.1767

Location: Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Lubaczów district, Lubaczów (rural) commune, Budomierz forestry (Lubaczów Forestry District)

Geographic coordinates: 50° 7' 50.515" N 23° 18' 12.295" E

Species: pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur* L.)

Parameters: Oak no. 1: height [in m]: no data; DBH [in cm]: 109; circumference [in cm]: 345;

Oak no. 2: height [in m]: no data; DBH [in cm]: 116; circumference [in cm]: 365

Legal acts: Orzeczenie Prezydium Wojewódzkiej Rady Narodowej w Rzeszowie nr RL.Vib-13/9/15/53 z 14 listopada 1953 r. (Dziennik Urzędowy, 31 Dec. 1953, no. 12, item 69)

Supplementary data: Two monumental oak trees grow on the site of the no longer extant village of Sieniawka. The trees were named in honour of King John III, who made expeditions in this region against the Tartar *chambul* units during the Polish-Turkish War (1672–1676). According to another local legend, the oak trees were planted by King John III during a stopover on his way back to Jaworów after the victorious Battle of Vienna in 1683.

AVENUES

1. The Avenue of Queen Marysienka in Krasnobród

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.0620043.1655

Location: Lublin Voivodeship, Zamość district, Krasnobród (urban-rural) commune

Geographic coordinates: 50° 32' 29.155" N 23° 13' 59.114" E

Species: silver birch (*Betula pendula* Roth), horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum* L.), ash tree (*Fraxinus excelsior* L.)

Parameters: Birches no. 1–31: height [in m]: 10–23; DBH [in cm]: 34–69; circumference [in cm]: 107–217; **Chestnuts no. 1–41:** height [in m]: 3–17; DBH [in cm]: 39–91; circumference [in cm]: 123–286; **Ash trees no. 1–16:** height [in m]: 13–26; DBH [in cm]: 47–104; circumference [in cm]: 148–327

Legal acts: Orzeczenie nr 66 Wojewódzkiego Konserwatora Przyrody z 24 sierpnia 1981 r. (Dziennik Urzędowy Wojewódzkiej Rady Narodowej w Zamościu, 1981); Uchwała nr VII/75/2019 Rady Miejskiej w Krasnobrodzie z 6 czerwca 2019 r. w sprawie pomnika przyrody Aleja Królowej Marysienki w Krasnobrodzie (Dziennik Urzędowy, 2019, item 3881)

Supplementary data: The three-row avenue, 750 m long, consists of 88 trees under monument protection. The plantings were laid out along the present-day Avenue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which connects the Roman Catholic church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary with the

84 A. Chołoniewski, *Tadeusz Kościuszko* (Lwów, 1902), p. 56; *Album biograficzne zasłużonych Polaków i Polek wieku XIX*, vol. 2, ed. S. Askenazy (Warszawa, 1903), p. 519; *Oświecenie – kultura, myśl*, ed. J. Platt, *Prace historycznoliterackie* series, vol. 17 (Gdańsk, 1995), p. 92; A. Aleksandrowicz, *Różne drogi do wolności. Puławy Czartoryskich na przełomie XVIII i XIX wieku. Literatura i obyczaj* (Puławy, 2011), pp. 112–115.

Chapel on the Water and other chapels. The queen's patronage of the historic avenue of trees is directly linked to the history of the nearby shrine. The brick church and monastery were built between 1690 and 1699 as a votive offering of gratitude to Queen Marie Casimire for a miraculous healing, as stated in the Latin inscription on the foundation plaque on the façade: 'To the Greatest and Best Lord, at the cost and expense of the Her Majesty Marie Casimire, Queen of Poland, companion in life of the late Blessed and Most Powerful in the World John III, King of Poland, in fulfilment of a vow after the health already irretrievably lost was regained in this place before the miraculous image, this holy shrine was erected in honour of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary and consecrated in 1699'. The Queen also funded the chapel of St Roch of Montpellier, patron saint of infectious diseases.⁸⁵

2. Sobieski Avenue in Breń

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.1204052.368

Location: Lesser Poland Voivodeship, Dąbrowa Tarnowska district, Olesno (rural) commune, Breń village

Geographic coordinates: 50° 12' 49.893" N 20° 56' 11.139" E

Species: English oak (*Quercus robur* L.), small-leaved lime tree (*Tilia cordata* Mill.), ash tree (*Fraxinus excelsior* L.), common maple (*Acer platanoides* L.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 10–25; DBH [in cm]: 45–213; circumference [in cm]: 141–669

Legal acts: Decyzja L.K.S.M.Z. III-2-13/49 Urzędu Wojewódzkiego w Krakowie z 8 marca 1949 r. w sprawie uznania za pomnik przyrody; Zarządzenie nr 2/87 Wojewody Tarnowskiego z 26 lutego 1987 r. w sprawie uznania tworów przyrody za pomniki przyrody (Dziennik Urzędowy Województwa Tarnowskiego, no. 3, item 30); Uchwała nr XXXII/288/14 Rady Gminy Olesno z 6 listopada 2014 r. w sprawie zniesienia formy ochrony przyrody – pomnika przyrody (Dziennik Urzędowy Województwa Małopolskiego, item 6687)

Supplementary data: The two-row avenue, which is 1.5 km long, consists of 252 monument-protected trees and connects the park and landscape complex in Breń with the 'Owczarnia' manor park in Olesno. The plantings were laid out along the current Lime Tree Avenue. It is called Sobieski Avenue because, according to local legend, King John III rested in the Breń park during his 1683 expedition to Vienna.⁸⁶

3. Lime tree avenue from Osłonino to Rzucewo

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.2211072.7123

Location: Pomeranian Voivodeship, Puck district, Puck (rural) commune, Osłonino and Rzucewo villages

Geographic coordinates: 54° 40' 38.217" N 18° 27' 33.573" E

Species: small-leaved lime tree (*Tilia cordata* Mill.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 5–24; DBH [in cm]: 43–258; circumference [in cm]: 135–811

Legal acts: Orzeczenie nr 75 Prezydium Wojewódzkiej Rady Narodowej w Gdańsku o uznaniu za pomnik przyrody (Dziennik Urzędowy Wojewódzkiej Rady Narodowej w Gdańsku, 31 Jan. 1955, no. 1, item 4)

Supplementary data: The four-row avenue, about 2 km long, consists of 185 lime trees under monumental protection and runs through the area of the Coastal Landscape Park and the Natura

85 M. Kościński, *Dominikanie w Krasnobrodzie (1664–1864). Z dziejów kościoła i klasztoru* (Lublin, 2008), pp. 15–20, 63–66.

86 *Dąbrowa Tarnowska. Zarys dziejów miasta i powiatu*, eds F. Kiryk, Z. Ruta (Kraków, 1974), p. 747.

2000 habitat area Puck Bay and Hel Peninsula. The plantings were laid out along the current Lime Tree Avenue. Local legend says that it was planted by King John III, who owned the Rzucewo palace in the second half of the seventeenth century.

4. Lime tree avenue in Konopiska

Registration no. CRFOP: PL.ZIPOP.1393.PP.2404072.18

Location: Silesian Voivodeship, Częstochowa district, Konopiska (rural) commune

Geographic coordinates: 50° 43' 37.138" N 19° 0' 47.699" E

Species: small-leaved lime tree (*Tilia cordata* Mill.)

Parameters: height [in m]: 25; DBH [in cm]: 67–124; circumference [in cm]: 210–390

Legal acts: Rozporządzenie nr 23/94 Wojewody Częstochowskiego z 30 grudnia 1994 r. w sprawie uznania za pomniki przyrody (Dziennik Urzędowy Województwa Częstochowskiego, 1995, no. 2, item 5); Uchwała nr 372/XLIX/2022 Rady Gminy Konopiska z 27 września 2022 r. w sprawie zniesienia formy ochrony przyrody dla jednego drzewa z grupowego pomnika przyrody (Dziennik Urzędowy, 2022, item 6092); Uchwała nr 74/XIII/2015 Rady Gminy Konopiska z 4 września 2015 r. w sprawie zniesienia formy ochrony przyrody dla części drzew z grupowego pomnika przyrody (Dziennik Urzędowy, 2015, item 4666); Rozporządzenie nr 4/96 Wojewody Częstochowskiego z 6 lutego 1996 r. zmieniające rozporządzenie w sprawie uznania za pomnik przyrody (Dziennik Urzędowy Województwa Częstochowskiego, 1996, no. 2, item 5)

Supplementary data: The 100 m long avenue consists of 9 monument-protected lime trees and runs in the buffer zone of the Upper Liswarta Forests Landscape Park. The plantings were laid out along the current Lipowa Street. Local legend says that the lime trees were planted by King John III in 1683, when he was heading to Vienna with his army. In another version, the king was said to have stopped with his army in Konopiski for a rest. To commemorate this event, lime trees were planted in the path of the marching troops and the inhabitants called the avenue the Royal Route. Since 2011, the Lime Tree Feast is held along the avenue in July.

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