



Kielce prison



The exhibition in the cellar refers to the cruel function of the building. Preserved original, narrow cells, objects and documents recall that for over one hundred and fifty years apart from ordinary criminals, political prisoners were convicted- beaten and tortured. Sound and lights bring closer visitors to inhuman conditions in which the people were imprisoned. First, the enemies of a Russian Tsar - January Uprising participants, later during the Nazi German occupation - Polish soldiers and eventually tortured by Security Office officers opponents of the Communist power. The water cell located under the stairs shows the cruelty of Security Office. The exhibition also recalls that in the cellar prisoners were executed by hanging. To this day a preserved hook remembers the times of Tsars and an important document containing the minutes of the execution reminds Communist terror.

OMP*i*O

Ośrodek Myśli Patriotycznej i Obywatelskiej

Castle Hill

ul. Zamkowa 3
25-009 Kielce



www.zamkowa3.pl
www.ompio.pl

sekretariat
tel. 48 41 315 26 39
sekretariat@zamkowa3.pl

Kierownik Działu Edukacji OMPiO
Jolanta Białek
tel. 48 41 315 26 39 wew. 116
tel. kom. 48 609 77 18 09
jolanta.bialek@zamkowa3.pl

OMP*i*O

Ośrodek Myśli Patriotycznej i Obywatelskiej



THE MULTIMEDIA exhibition of HISTORICAL



**WZGÓRZE ZAMKOWE
CASTLE HILL**

The Centre of Patriotic and Civic Reflection came into existence in the building of old prison in Kielce. It is a place where citizens of Kielce and Świętokrzyskie region could learn about their ancestors' patriotic and civic achievements. The concept of the exhibition was developed by Mirosław Nizio – the author of the exhibition in The Warsaw Rising Museum.

The citizens of Kielce splendidly went down in Polish history. Here in Kielce and in the region patriotic and civic involvement has never been a claptrap. For our ancestors Poland had so great value that hundreds and thousands Polish people wanted to fight for it by risking their own lives.

The main idea of educational exhibition in The Centre of Patriotic and Civic Reflection is Polish way to independence. During educational activities like lessons, workshops and hand-on activities students learn history of their ancestors, the January Uprising participants and the legionnaires who believed in the idea of an Independence and responded to the call of Marshal Piłsudski, soldiers and partisans involved in the fighting against the Nazi German occupiers, in the building and being of the Underground Polish State during world War II, and then in a consistent desire to free themselves from the influence of the Soviet Union.

Kindergarten pupils, students of primary schools, middle schools and high schools, adults follow the paths of history. A journey through the history is not only a reflection of the old days. It serves the future. Our presence here and now, knowledge that comes from history, today's civic engagement is also a measure of the achievements of past generations.

The old prison – frightening and gloomy for generations of Kielce citizens, has been changed to a friendly and open place. Cells and trellis have disappeared. People who suffered here because they missed their Homeland won - the place of execution is now centre of free patriotic and civic reflection. It is a sign of our times that require a memory of the past and fresh look to the future.

Marek Maciągowski

The way to INDEPENDENCE

The exhibition was arranged like a nineteenth-century library. Perfectly integrated into the library space Multimedia encourages to an active meeting with history of Polish nation from the Kościuszko Insurrection to the end of world war I and the presented copies of art works, pieces of poetry and recordings make visiting the exhibition an unique experience. A walk into past starts with the meeting with Tadeusz Kościuszko who was the first to animate his countrymen to fight



for independence of their Land. Kościuszko commanded Polish forces during the victorious battle of Raclawice. This victory gave Polish people hope for freedom. At the exhibition you can enjoy the interactive reproduction of Panorama of the Battle of Raclawice by Wojciech Kossak and Jan Styka. Going forward, visitors learn about Polish uprisings against the invaders.

The exhibition formed by monitors and touch screens contains information about November and January Uprisings. Reproductions of clothes and uniforms, maps and writings take us to reality of 19th century enslaved homeland. Visitors meet writers, leaders, politicians and „ordinary” people (associated with Kielce region) who were not reconciled with the loss of independence. A special place among them belonged to Stanislaw Staszic and Stefan Żeromski. Their activity and work reinforced citizens' sense of community and national pride that they are Poles. Thanks to the organic work of many Polish patriots Józef Piłsudski could form the First Cadre Company which won an independent homeland. A big part of the exhibition is devoted to the Marshal. You can hear the unique voice recordings, watch videos and photos, reproductions of legion uniforms, weapons documents and newspapers.



World WAR II

The exhibition devoted to world war II allows visitors to learn about the September Campaign, the Polish armed forces fighting on all fronts and the Polish Underground State. Exposure except traditional exhibits: maps, weapons, uniforms and equipment of Polish soldiers also presents authentic films and sound recordings. Combatants' relations, comments and partisan commanders' memories, especially operating in Kielce, are an invaluable document of Polish heroism in fight with the enemy.

Communist POLAND

The People's Republic of Poland exhibition presents the history of Poland after II world war when Polish country again lost the sovereignty. The exhibits remind formation of subordinated to USSR Communist power. The exhibition also recalls the brutal methods and propaganda slogans that accompanied the implementation of the socialist ideas. It shows Polish protests against Sovietisation of the country which lasted nearly 50 years to 1989 when finally Communism was defeated. Everyday objects, video and voice recordings collected in this gallery help to understand and interpret the period of totalitarian rule in Poland.

