

## PRIVATE RESIDENCES WITH BASTIONED FORTIFICATIONS IN POLAND IN THE XVII CENTURY

In the letter of Prince Stanislaw Lubomirski (1583-1649, Fig. 12) at that time the Palatine of Kiev and the owner of the splendid castle of Wisnicz, to one of his sons, who studied abroad in the thirties of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, we find a significant order:

*I command you to be assiduous in study of geometry and of "delineations fortificationum", and on the other hand: you ought to master mathematics and geometry, fortifications and "delineations" (...) if you want to be a respected and useful man in your country*<sup>1</sup>.

A need for that kind of knowledge and experience was caused not only by the expected future military career of young magnates but also by the particular fashion at that epoch among the Polish high nobility to have a residence with bastioned fortifications. To this fashion a three factors contributed greatly.

Firstly, the economy of the country based on agriculture, and there was an advanced process of the accumulation of landed estates in the hands of the new class of magnates, who must live in countryside to administer their extensive properties.

Secondly, the most important *latifundiae* were situated in the eastern parts of the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth, in the territories of Ruthenia (Ukraine) and in White Russia, constantly raided by Tatars of Crimea (to the South) and frequently involved in wars with Sweden or Muscovites (to the North); the territories at the same time characterized by social instability. Therefore the residence ought to be defensive.

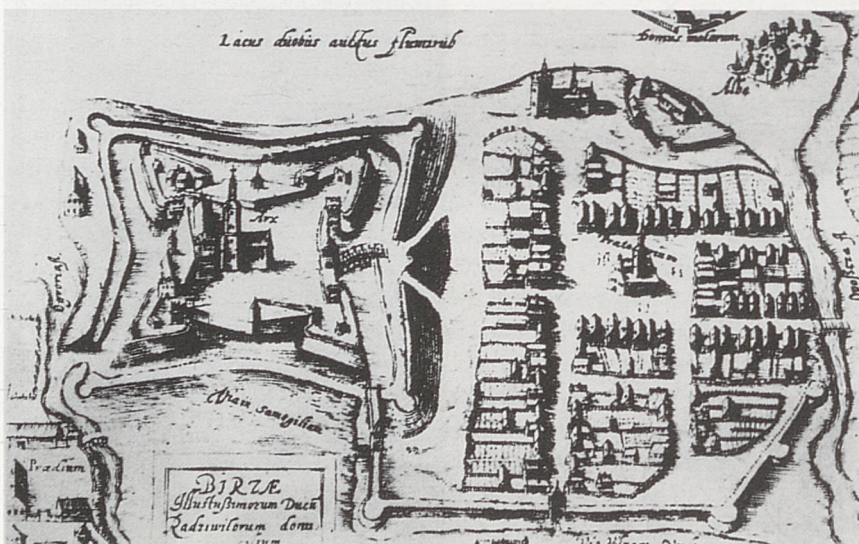
Thirdly, and lastly, the magnates, often being the *nouveau riche*, wanted to manifest their personal power through their impressive residences. It was important also for maintaining the authority among the provincial nobility, and necessary for political reasons.

It is worth remembering that the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth was at the time simultaneously a Kingdom and a parliamentary republic of nobility, and the courts of magnates were populated by impoverished nobles, supporters and clients of the master.

Many of the nobles stayed in the courts of magnates as honourable servants or as soldiers in their private military regiments. Therefore the magnate's residence, as a centre of political, military and cultural life of the neighbourhood, had to be sufficiently large.

From that point of view residential centres of big estates created as non alienable properties (*majorats*) by the most powerful noble families of Lithuania and Ruthenia at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century were of particular importance.

I mean here castle of Birze (Fig. 1) founded in 1589, near the border of Courland at the North, by Prince Krzysztof Radziwill, the *Grand Hetman* (that is, Commander in Chief) of Lithuania (1547-1603, Fig. 2) with fortifications modernized between 1603-1630 by his son of the same name (1585-1640), educated in Netherlands; that of Nieswiez in White Russia (Fig. 3) founded in 1583 by Prince Mikolaj Krzysztof Radziwill (1549-1616, Fig. 4) the Palatine of Vilnius and a famous pilgrim to the Holly Land; that of Olyka in Volhynia (Fig. 5) created in 1640 by Prince Albrecht Stanis-

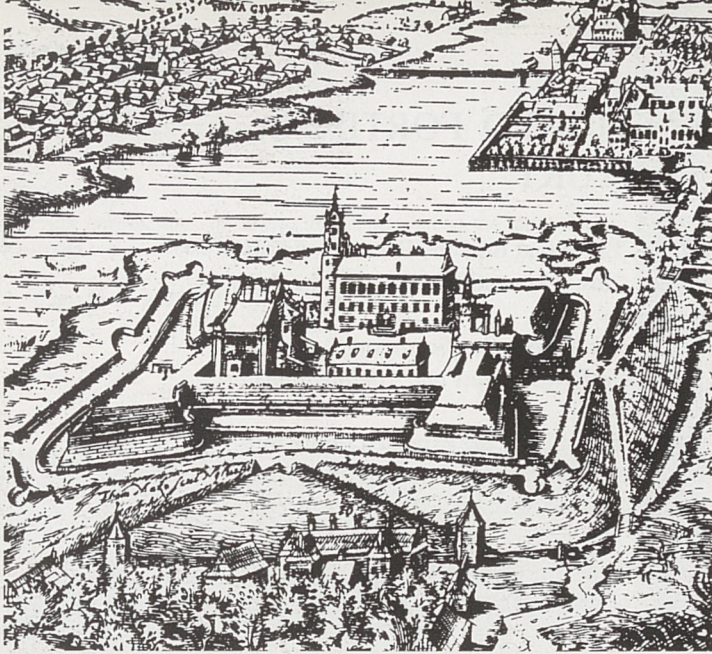


1. Birze castle, engraving by T. Makowski (ca. 1610).  
2. Krzysztof Radziwill, engraving by W. Jakobsz Delff (1639).



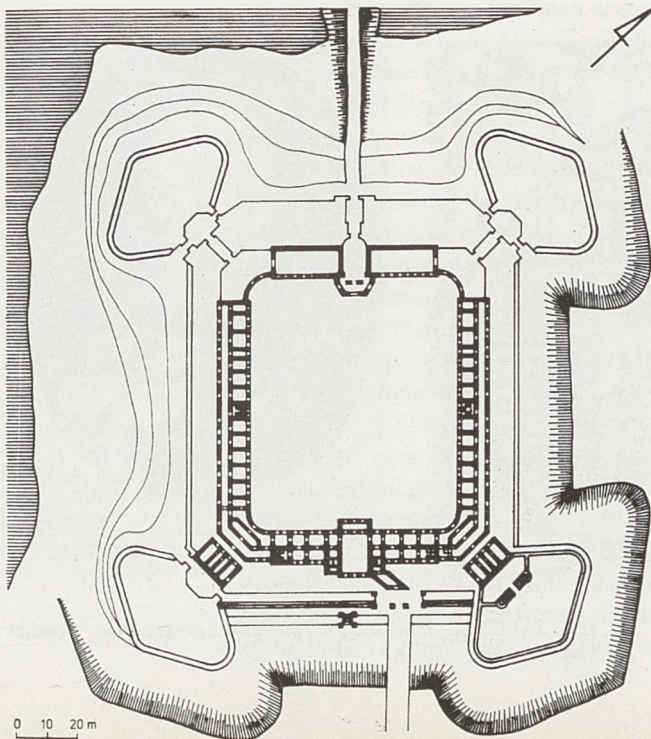
1. K. TARGOSZ, *Jana Sobieskiego nauki i pregrynacje*. Wroclaw 1985, pg. 179.



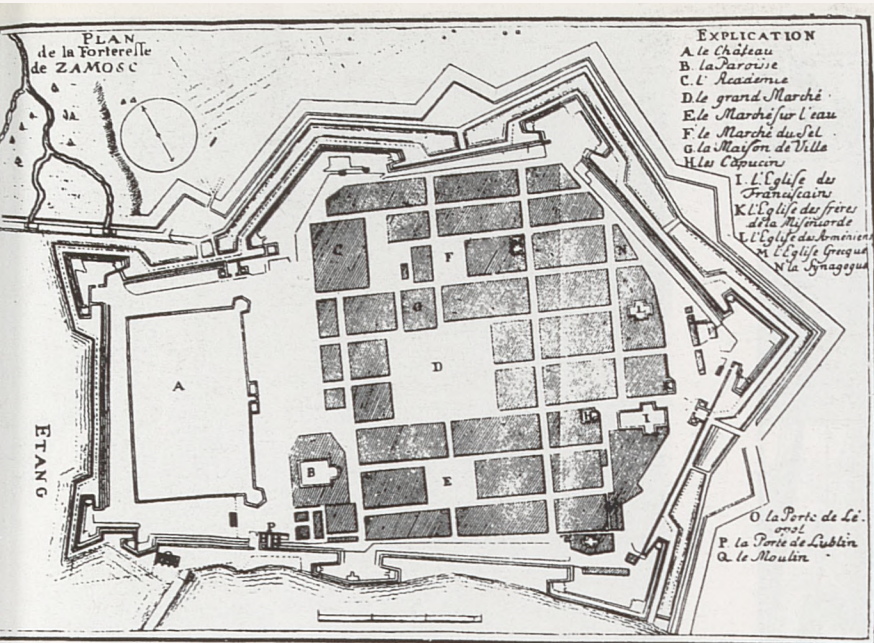


ARTIFICES DIGITI SCRIBSERVNT FRONTIS HONOREM :  
SCRIPTA ANIMVM. FORTEM PORTIA EACTA MANVM. 1655

law Radziwill (1595-1656, Fig. 6) the Chancellor of Lithuania, as well as that of Dubno in Volynia, founded in 1609 by Ruthenian Prince Janusz Ostrogski (1554-1620) the Castellan of Cracow. All of these castles, and some of them being united with towns, received regular bastioned fortifications of the old or new Italian system, which later were sometimes modernized. The most famous seat of *majorats* in Central Poland was the town of Zamosc (Fig. 7) founded *in cruda radice* in 1580 by the Chancellor of Crown and Hetman Jan Zamoyski (1542-1605, Fig. 8) one of the most important men of State of his time, educated in Padua and Paris. Constructed between 1579 and 1605 by the Venetian architect Bernardo Morando (died in 1644) on the model of Italian *città ideale*, with the residence of the owner organically united with the town, it received, for the first time in Poland, the bastioned fortifications of the new Italian system. Italian education of Polish nobles was the cause of the fashion of the model of *palazzo in fortezza* residence, that begins in the second decade of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. One of the first examples of that type of building was the castle in Zbaraz situated in the eastern part of the country. Its first design, prepared in 1612 by Vincenzo Scamozzi (see: *L'idea della architettura universale*, Venezia 1615, parte I, pg. 253, Fig. 9) for the Ruthenian Prince Krzysztof Zbaraski (1579-1627, Fig. 10) a pupil and friend of Galileo, who spent several years in studies studying in northern Italy and in the Netherlands, appeared to be not sufficiently defensive. Therefore the owner changed the plan, enlarging the space between the dwelling house and fortifications (Fig. 11). The construction, started in 1620, and was finished by the brother of the founder, Prince Jerzy Zbaraski (died in 1631), the Castellan of Cracow. In spite of the old Italian system of







3. Nieswiez castle, engraving by T. Makowski (1583).

4. Mikolaj Krzysztof Radziwill, engraving by L. Kilian (after 1604).

5. Olyka castle (after T. Polak).

6. Albrecht Stanislaw Radziwill (ca. 1640).

7. Zamosc, plan (ca. 1774).

8. Jan Zamoyski, engraving (1601).

its fortification, the castle of Zbaraz, as a central part of the big military camp of Polish troops, resisted the famous siege of Cossacks and Tatars in 1649. In Polish military tactics, based on the mobility of cavalry, the fortified residences of the magnates were used as supply centres during war or as the strongest points of larger temporary encampments<sup>2</sup>. Such was also the main purpose of the chain of bastioned castles built along the southern border of the State, among which the residences of Stanislaw Lubomirski (1583-1649, Fig. 12) the Palatine of Cracow and skilful military commander (Wisnicz, Lancut, Rzemien, and Polonne) were of particular importance.

Lubomirski studied military matters in northern Italy (Venice, Padua), and also in France and in the Netherlands, but in his own buildings he usually employed architects and artists of Italian origin. It was Venetian architect Matteo Trapola (died in 1637) who was responsible for the reconstruction and fortification (in 1615-1621) of the old medieval castle in Wisnicz (Fig. 13) the main Lubomirski's residence, as well as of the fortified church and convent of the Monks of Carmelite Order, situated on the neighbouring hill (1621-1635).

Both buildings constituted a system of convergent defence (Fig. 14) and both received bastioned fortification of the old-Italian system, later partly modernized by the Polish military architect Krzysztof Mioszowski (ca 1600-1679).

The old-Italian system of fortification was also the main model for the bastioned fortification of the citadel in Brody in Ukraine (Fig. 15) constructed in 1630-1635 by the Venetian engineer and architect Andrea dell'Acqua (1586-1656) for the *Grand Hetman* of the Crown, Stanislaw Koniecpolski (ca. 1592-1646, Fig. 16).

The pentagonal fortress was joint here with the town, surrounded by the earthly fortifications with ten bastions.

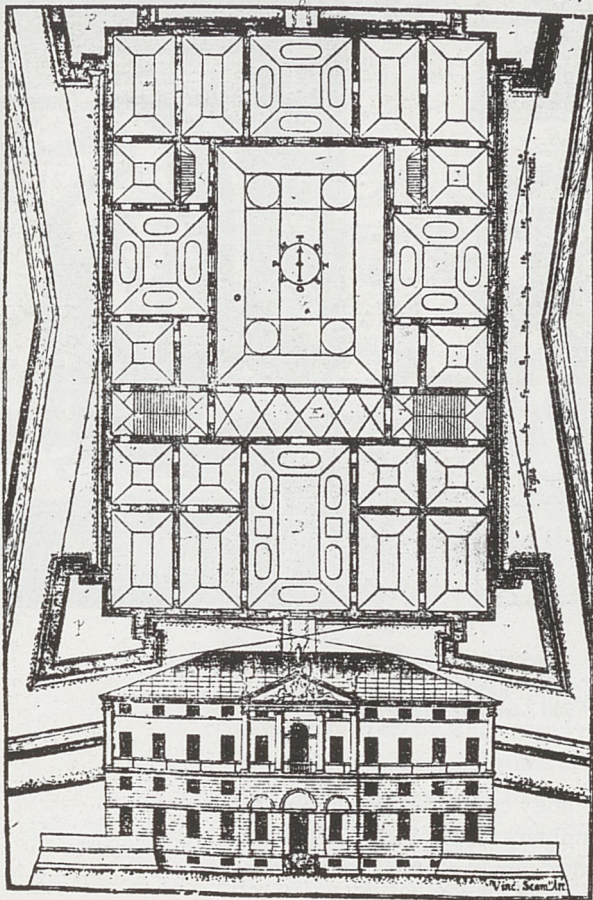
The pentagonal plan of fortification was very popular in Poland. One of the reasons was the fame of such Italian buildings as the Farnese *villa-castello* in Caprarola, studied and admired by many Polish visitors. It was that work of Vignola on which the unusual design of the enormous castle named Krzyztopór (Figs. 19 and 17) in the central part of Poland was modelled, a residence of Krzysztof Ossolinski (1587-1645, Fig. 18) the Palatine of Sandomierz, constructed in 1621-1644 by the North Italian architect Lorenzo Senes<sup>3</sup>.

In spite of its high residential buildings with five towers, and a courtyard with long stables, all inserted into the pentagon of bastioned fortifications of the new-Italian type, this palace-fortress was defensive to some degree. This was not the case with another castle-palace, that in Podhorce (Ruthenia, Figs. 21 and 20) a pseudo defensive residence designed for *Hetman* Stanislaw Koniecpolski (Fig. 16) by the Venetian Andrea dell'Acqua, and constructed between 1634-1640, at first by the Polish master-builder Mikolaj Silvestri (died in 1638) and then by the German engineer

2. See: J. BOGDANOWSKI, *Wplyw szkoly staroholenderskiej na uformowanie sie polskiej manieri w sztuce obronnej XVII w.*, in: *Niderlandyzm w sztuce polskiej*. Warszawa 1995, pgs. 327-349.

3. A. MAJEWSKI, in: *IBI Bulletin* 29, 1971, pgs. 52-ff.; *IBI Bulletin* 45, 1987, pgs. 85-ff.; S. MOSSAKOWSKI, *Orbis Polonus. Krzyztopór a Caprarola*, in: *Arx felicitatis. Ksiega ku czci Profesora Andrzeja Rottermunda*. Warszawa 2001, pgs. 165-182.

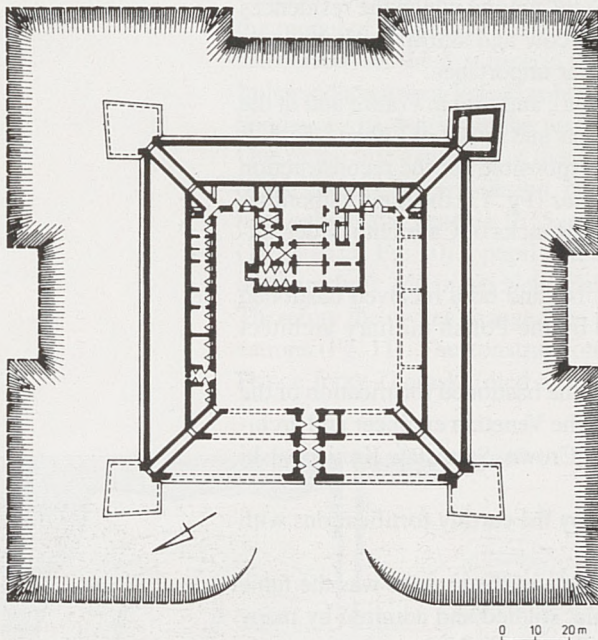




9. V. Scamozzi, project of the residence in Zbaraz (1615).

10. Jerzy Zbaraski (ca. 1620-1630).

11. Zbaraz castle (after T. Polak).



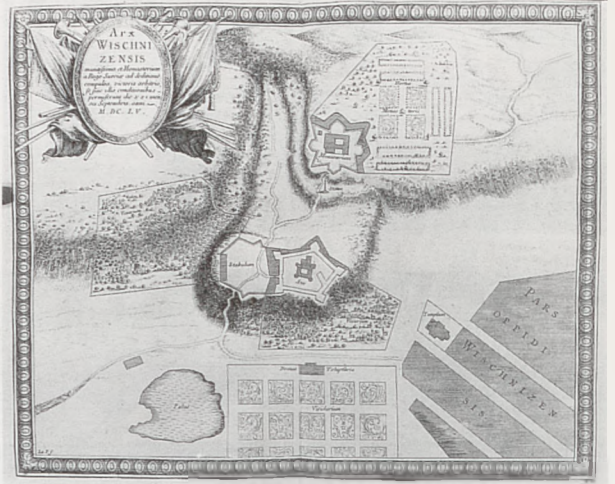
12. Stanislaw Lubomirski (ca. 1647-1649).

13. Wisnicz castle.

14. The castle and the church in Wisnicz, plan of 1656 from S. Pufendorf (1696).

Johann Ludwig von Wohlzogen<sup>4</sup>. In fact, it is not a fortress but an Italian *villa in modo di castello*, with its walls shaped in the lower parts as curtain walls and pointed bastions, over which balustraded terraces were situated. In the thirties of the 17<sup>th</sup> century several Polish military engineers studied in the Netherlands, especially in Leyden, among whom were famous artillery masters: Pawel Grodzicki (died in 1645), Krzysztof Arciszewski (1592-1656) and Kazimierz Siemienowicz (ca. 1600-1651), the author of the treatise *Artis magnae artilleriae pars prima* (Amsterdam 1650). Also of Polish origin was Adam Freytag (1608-1650), the author of the well-known handbook *Architectura militaris nova et aucta* (1<sup>st</sup> Ed. Leyden 1631) which propagated in Europe the principles of the old Dutch system of bastioned fortifications. Some of these people and many of the signifi-





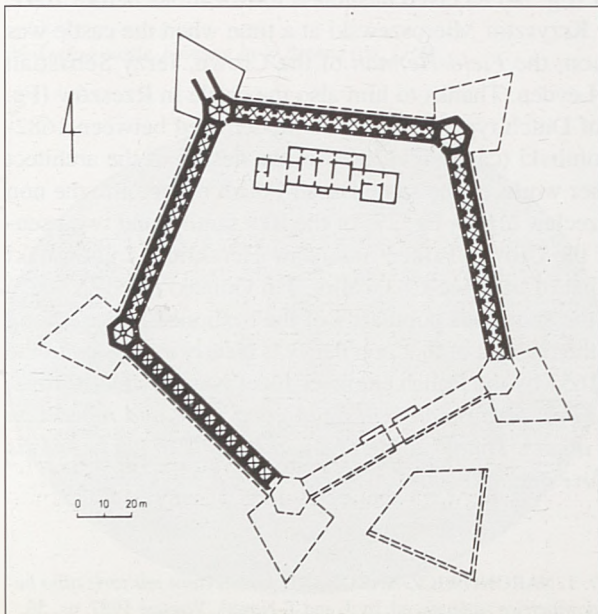
cant members of the Polish high nobility (e.g. Jakub Sobieski, Tomasz Zamoyski, Mikolaj Sieniawski, Krzysztof, Janusz and Boguslaw Radziwill, Jerzy Lubomirski, Aleksander Koniecpolski), not only studied in the Netherlands but also took part in the war of independence of the United Provinces, sometimes for military experience only<sup>5</sup>.

One of the first private residences with the bastioned fortifications of the old-Dutch system was that of the Primate of Poland in Lowicz, near Warsaw constructed about 1621 for the archbishop Wawrzyniec Gembicki (1559-1624).

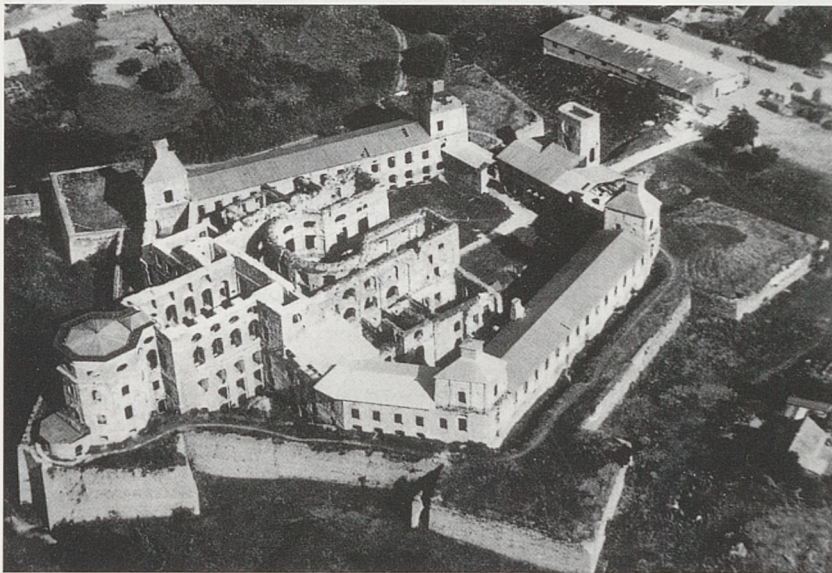
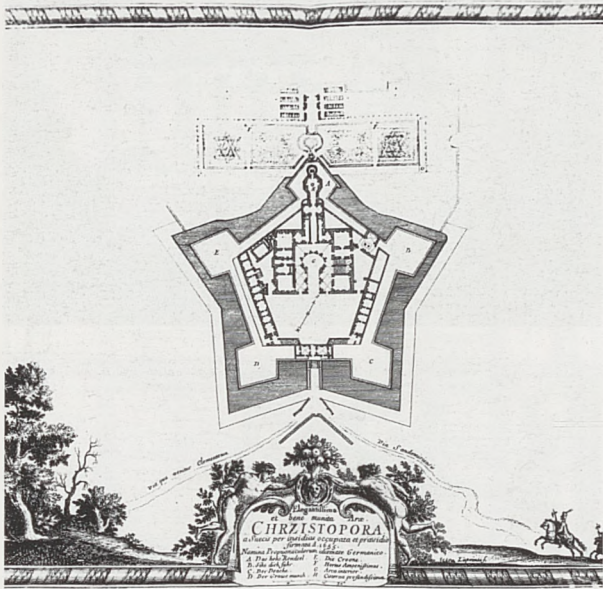
In several other private castles the acquaintance of their patrons with the Dutch system during their studies in the Netherlands is clearly visible. So the bastioned castle in Zloczów (Ruthenia, Fig. 22) constructed between 1634-1636, received its old-Dutch shape through the influence of the journey to Holland of its founder, the Castellan of Cracow, Jakub Sobieski (1590-1646, Fig. 23) the father

15. Brody citadel (after T. Polak).

16. Stanislaw Koniecpolski (ca. 1635).







17. Krzyztopór castle, plan of 1656 from S. Pufendorf (1696).

18. Krzysztof Ossolinski (ca. 1640).

19. Krzyztopór castle.

of Jan (1629-1696), the future heroic King of Poland, who also studied in the Netherlands between 1646-1648.

Another Lubomirski's residence, in Lancut (Fig. 24) received bastioned fortifications before 1641, also of the old-Dutch type, modernized by Krzysztof Mieroszewski at a time when the castle was in the hands of Stanislaw Lubomirski's son, the *Field-Hetman* of the Crown, Jerzy Sebastian (1616-1667, Fig. 25) who was educated in Leyden. Thanks to him also the castle in Rzeszów (Fig. 26) obtained the earthwork fortifications of Dutch type, which were modernized between 1682-1690 by his son, Hieronim Augustyn Lubomirski (ca. 1647-1706), on the design of the architect Tilman van Gameren (1632-1706). The other works of the same Dutch-Polish master are: the non executed design for the palace-castle in Przeclaw (1690, Fig. 27) of the Rey family, and two pseudo-fortified villas: that of the Marshal of the Crown, Prince Stanislaw Herakliusz Lubomirski (1641-1702) in Pulawy (1671-1677) and that of the Vice-Chancellor, Jan Gninski (died in 1685) near Warsaw (1682-1684) which testify to the enormous popularity of the bastioned forms among the Polish nobility in 17<sup>th</sup> century<sup>6</sup>. One of the reasons of that popularity is clearly explained in the treatise on military architecture written in 1657 by the Polish engineer Józef Naronowicz-Naronski (ca. 1610-1678): *When the Lord has his own fortress, he will be in good fame and reputation among everybody, and will attract love of others. Thanks to that he will be able to carry out his plans among Noble Brothers having their love and authority*<sup>7</sup>.



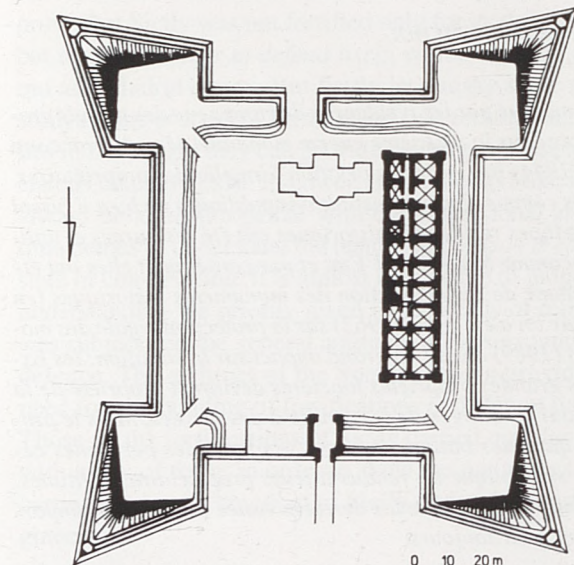


20. Podhorce castle, photograph from 1937.

21. Podhorce castle, reconstruction by A. Szyszko-Bohusz.

22. Zloczów castle (after T. Polak).

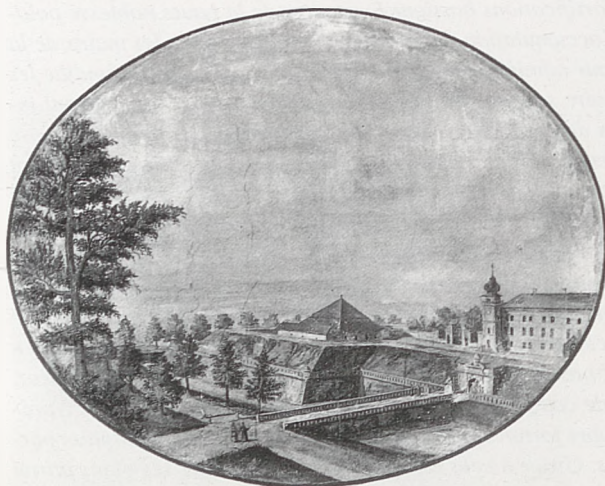
23. Jakub Sobieski (ca. 1646).



24. Lancut castle, painting by V. Brenna (ca. 1780).



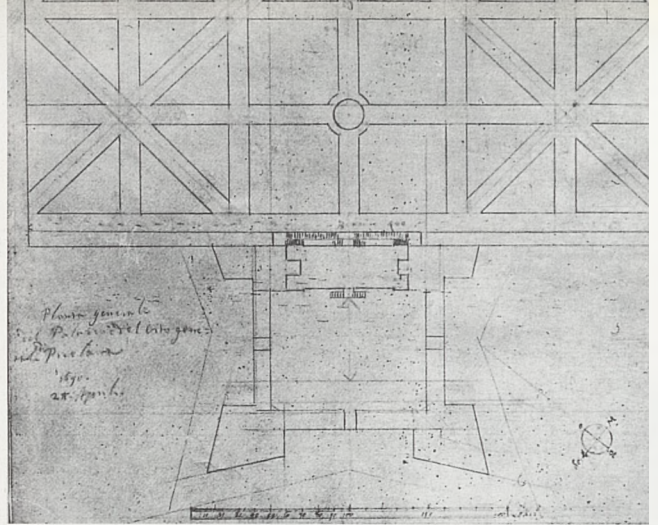
25. Jerzy Sebastian Lubomirski (ca. 1664).







26. Rzeszów castle.



27. Tilman van Gameren, project of the castle in Przeczlaw (1690).

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#### LE DESTIN DES CHÂTEAUX ET DES RÉSIDENCES DE CAMPAGNE EN POLOGNE AUJOURD'HUI

*Le paysage artistique de la vieille Pologne a été marqué par les résidences de campagne des grands propriétaires terriens, dont plusieurs ont été détruites dans la deuxième guerre mondiale. Mais le vrai coup de grâce a été donné par la Réforme Foncière (1944) liée à l'expropriation formelle des propriétaires. Dévastés ou détruits, ces bâtiments furent utilisés comme sièges d'institutions publiques ou bien ils furent abandonnés. Mais il faut aussi souligner que quelques résidences historiques ont été restaurées et utilisées comme bâtiments publics représentatifs ou comme Musées de l'État et par conséquent elles ont été conservées. L'État a entrepris un grand programme de reconstruction des monuments historiques (en particulier de Varsovie, Gdansk et Wroclaw) et une loi a été votée (1962) sur la protection légale des monuments historiques. Les changements politiques (1989) eurent un grand impact sur la situation: les Exploitations Agricoles de l'État disparurent et les grandes propriétés foncières devinrent propriété de la récente Administration des propriétés de l'état, qui fut obligée de les vendre à des privées. Mais le problème de la propriété n'est pas encore résolu; quelques bâtiments furent vendus à des personnes célèbres, d'autres furent vendus pour une somme symbolique ou rendus à leurs propriétaires légitimes. Sans avoir résolu la question des propriétés, nous risquons que les derniers restes de la partie importante de l'héritage culturel polonais disparaissent pour toujours.*

#### LES RÉSIDENCES PRIVÉES AVEC LES FORTIFICATIONS BASTIONNÉES EN POLOGNE AU XVII SIÈCLE

*L'habitude d'avoir une résidence avec des fortifications bastionnées, usage de la haute noblesse polonaise, était liée à l'économie agricole et à l'accumulation de propriétés foncières dans les mains de la nouvelle classe, qui habitait la campagne pour administrer ses propriétés. En outre, les latifundiae les plus importants se trouvaient dans un territoire souvent impliqué dans des guerres et socialement instable. Quelques exemples sont les châteaux de Birze, Nieswiez, Olyka et Dubno. La ville de Zamosc (fondée sur le modèle de la ville idéale italienne fut la première, en Pologne, à être bastionnée suivant le nouveau système italien (le style du palazzo in fortezza) de Serlio dérivait de la formation italienne des nobles polonais). L'ancien système italien de fortification était aussi le modèle principal pour la fortification bastionnée de la citadelle à Brody; la forteresse pentagonale était liée à la ville, entourée par les fortifications en terre-plein avec dix bastions. Podhorce est un important type de résidence défensive, il ne s'agit pas d'une forteresse mais d'une villa in modo di castello. A. Freytag, auteur d'un traité qui a diffusé en Europe les principes du vieux système hollandais de fortifications bastionnées, est né en Pologne; on retrouve quelques résidences bastionnées privées polonaises de ce genre à Lowicz, Zloczów, Lancut, Rzeszów. Une des raisons de cette popularité est expliquée dans le traité de J. Naronowicz-Naronski: Quand le Seigneur a sa propre forteresse, il est fameux et a une bonne réputation parmi tout le monde, et attire l'amour des autres. Grâce à cela il sera capable d'exécuter ses plans parmi les Frères Nobles, il sera aimé et aura une grande autorité.*