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THE DRAWINGS FROM WILANÓW COLLECTION IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM IN WARSAW

The drawings from Wilanów "Archive", handed over to the National Museum in Warsaw in the year 1950 had not been described in the old catalogues or inventories. If we try to systematise the collection, we can divide it into three main groups of drawings:

1. *A r c h i t e c t u r a l p r o j e c t s*. The group of those projects containing sixty positions has already been described and published (A. Rottermund, *Katalog rysunków architektonicznych ze zbiorów Muzeum Narodowego w Warszawie, Warszawa, 1970*).

It includes, among others, the projects for the extension of the palace and for the rebuilding of the old buildings and building the new ones in the residential group (18th and 19th centuries, architects Jan Zygmunt Deybel, Franciszek Maria Lanci and Bolesław Podczaszyński) as well as the project of the chapel containing an urn with Tadeusz Kościuszko's heart in the castle tower in Rappersville (The Polish National Museum had its abode in the castle). This last project was made by the Swiss architect Albert Bittner.

2. *A l b u m s a n d s k e t c h - b o o k s*. The earliest one is "Jenny's Album" belonging to Johanna (maiden name Ruszkowska) Bagghufd (called Madame Baggo) who died in the year 1818. It is preserved only fragmentarily - the cover and two drawings (Napoleon's the First Portrait by Józefina Kossakowska from the year 1812 and "Laitiere et Voiturier de francfort" by Jan Rustem). The missing drawings are mentioned in the catalogue "Dessigns Modernes" made by Aleksander Potocki, e.g. two drawings by William Allan (1782-1850) who later became the chairman of the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh. "The Album of August Potocki" (1806-1867), son of Aleksander and his first wife Anna (maiden name Tyszkiewicz), containing the writings and drawings from the years 1816-1822 (Fig. 39) and including a drawing alleged to Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz. "Katarzyna Branicka's Album" contains portrait sketches, genre and

facetious scenes drawn mainly by Katarzyna's sister Eliza in the years 1837-1838.

"Zofia Branicka's sketch-book" contains the drawings from the journey to Carlsbad, Toeplitz, Kissingen, Frankfurt and Paris. They are genre, religious and landscape illustrations and portraits. In Kissingen a Roman prince Livio Esba Odescalchi, who was an officer in Austrian army, proposed to her. After the wedding (1841) Zofia Odescalchi settled in Rome where she started a salon. There are also two other sketch-books with drawings by Zofia and her son Baltazar. "Jadwiga (maiden name Potocka) Branicka's Album" (1827-1916) contains the portrait sketches of her famous contemporaries signed with the monogram "KB" (Katarzyna Branicka?). Two 19th century albums are devoted to Chinese art.

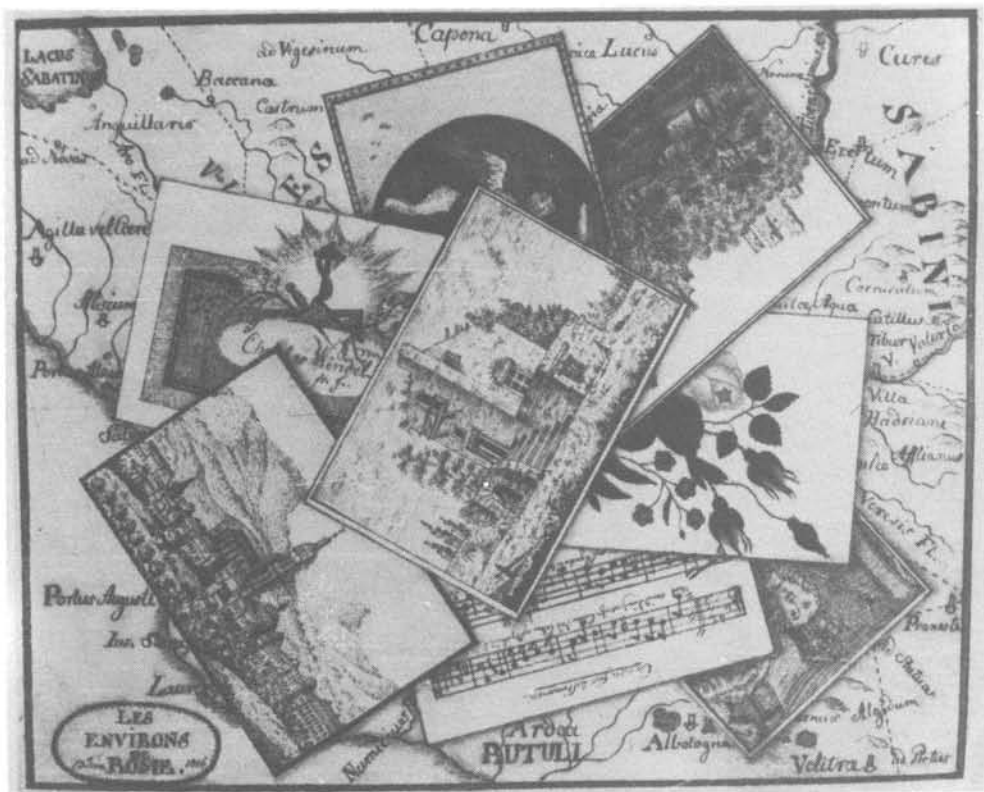
3. L o o s e d r a w i n g s. They come from different periods and they form a heterogenous collection of works being either family souvenirs or serving some utilitarian purposes (as projects or patterns for the producers). Two drawings showing the gathering of aristocratic society in the salons are worth attention. One of them is the work of Juliusz Kossak from the year 1852, the other one is signed with monogram "E.D."

In this group we also find the amateur pencil sketches of the interiors of one of Potocki's palaces (in Krzeszowice or "Rams Palace" in Cracow?) and the furniture projects copied on tissue-paper and found after the Second World War in one of Piranesi's albums.

One of the manuscripts given to the National Museum in December 1950 is the leather-bound notebook belonging to Katarzyna Branicka and containing on its sixty five pages "Extrait du precis de l'histoire Moderne par M. Michelet, Petersburg 28.XI.1839". In the same group we find the manuscript written by Józef Cybulski, an actor who - the inscription reads - "gives his literary request to J. W. Count Ksawery Branicki (...) Wilanów, 17.V.1893".

The genealogies of Potocki and Branicki families, drawn by hand or engraved, are also an interesting document.

Summa summarum - in spite of not very big artistic value of many works the whole set has to be regarded as the valuable document of artistic culture of two famous Polish aristocratic families. It is also an important historical source material.



39. 'Trope l'oeil' — drawing from the album of August Potocki, 1816