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SCOTTISH „SOBIESCIANA“ (A Communique)

In the collection of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery there are two pictures connected with Sobieski family. One is "The wedding of James Stuart, older claimant to the English throne and Maria Klementyna Sobieska, the granddaughter of king John III" (Fig. 55) and the other one "The baptism of prince Charles Edward Stuart" (Fig. 56).

The pictures were offered by James Stuart to the bishop of Montefiascone, Sebastian Bonaventura, who married the bride and the bridegroom and remained in Urbino in the possession of that family until the middle of 19th century, when they were bought by the Scottish Gallery during the auction of the collection of Earl of Rosberry in Menmore castle.

The first picture shows the wedding ceremony which took place in Montefiascone in the year 1719. It was ordered by James Stuart and painted in the year 1735, after Maria Klementyna's death, by Agostino Masucci.

The second picture, being the pendant of the first one, presents the baptism ceremony of their son Charles which took place on 31st December 1720 in Palazzo Muti in Rome. It was painted by Pier Leone Ghezzi and Agostino Masucci.

Edinburgh gallery also contains the portraits of James Stuart Maria Klementyna and Charles Edward, who was called Bonnie Prince Charlie for his beauty and charm. He is a well known and popular historical hero among Scots, who still remember that his mother was of Polish descent.

There are many more "Sobiesciana" in Great Britain. In the British Library one can find the Sobieski family genealogy, the marriage contract between James Stuart and Maria Klementyna as well as Jakub Sobieski's letters to his daughter and the list of donations to her benefit.

As an interesting detail one can also mention the play "Nice's Death" written after Maria Klementyna's death.



56. The baptism of Charles Edward Stuart. Painting by P.L. Ghezzi and A. Masucci



55. The Marriage of Maria Klementyna Sobieska with James Stuart. Painting by A. Masucci