
KOŚCIUSZKO MOUND IN CRACOW – A MONUMENT OF HISTORY. MAINTENANCE, MANAGEMENT, PROMOTION

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ABSTRACT: Kościuszko Mound, built in 1820-1823 by the Polish Nation as a symbolic grave and monument to Tadeusz Kościuszko, is the second significant sub-dominant feature in the cultural landscape of Cracow, next to Wawel Castle. In the mid-19th century, a citadel fort with neo-style features was built around the Mound, considered a masterpiece of architecturae militaris. In 1936, the Mound was entered into the register of monuments and in 2017, by decree of the President of the Republic of Poland, together with its surroundings, it was declared a Monument of History. As an earthen structure, the Mound is subject to constant processes of destruction caused by the forces of nature. The Committee of the Kosciuszko Mound established in 1820 is responsible for its permanent conservation. The Committee also takes care of the surroundings of the Monument by restoring components of the fort. The great success of the conservation and adaptation works is the transformation of the southern curtain (i.e. the earth rampart fortified with a wall, with a ramp for rolling out cannons) into a multi-cubature, two-storey conference and exhibition centre. The Committee also led to thinning the canopy of the self-seeding forest around the Mound and in the foreground of the fort, in order to expose this historic complex. In other parts of the fort, subordinate to the Committee, Kościuszko exhibitions are held, and ultimately the Kościuszko Museum is to be established here. Among the projects aimed at promoting the Kosciuszko Mound with its surroundings as an object of historical, architectural and landscape values - material and immaterial – there are numerous publications in Polish and foreign languages, lectures given in Poland, but also in the United States, France, Switzerland and Australia. The best evidence of the well-established place of Kosciuszko Mound in the Polish space and geography of the Globe and in the consciousness of Poles and many foreigners is the huge and steadily growing visitor turnout.

KEY WORDS: Kosciuszko Mound, symbolic grave, monument, conservation, management, promotion

Ideological content of the monument. Historical overview

Kosciuszko Mound was erected in the years 1820 - 1823, similar to the prehistoric, legendary graves of Krak and Wanda near Cracow. It was erected with the physical effort and the financial sacrifice of the Polish nation as a symbolic "grave for the monument" for General Tadeusz Kościuszko - a

national hero of the United States, an honorary citizen of the French Republic, Commander-in-Chief of the 1794 Kościuszko Insurrection, deceased in Solothurn on 15 October 1817. It was erected "from its native soil and the homeland boulder" as the "eternal sign" of independence and the memory of the hero. The inauguration of the construction of the Mound on St. Bronisława Hill towering over the former capital of Poland took place in the aura of a national holiday. At the same time, in the synagogue in Kazimierz, the Jewish community celebrated the memory of Kościuszko with a solemn assembly. His friends in France, England and the United States were soon informed about the commencement of the construction of the monument. So the matter gained international fame, so to speak.

Soil from the battlefield of Raclawice and the graves of the fallen were placed at the base of the Mound. During the construction process, soil from the battlefields at Dubienka, Szczekociny and Maciejowice was deposited there. And on July 4, 1926 in the head of the Mound "the soil from battles in America was deposited as a proof and remembrance of Tadeusz Kosciuszko's participation in the War for the Independence of the United States on the 150th anniversary of its declaration". Thus, one can say that on the *pars pro toto* principle, the Mound was built of earth soaked with blood and mixed with the ashes of the heroes. The Mound was erected under the supervision of the Management Committee for the Construction of the Monument, chaired by Franciszek Paszkowski, General of the Polish Armed Forces of the former Duchy of Warsaw. The construction was supervised by Feliks Radwański, Feliks Radwański, junior, Szczepan Humbert and Franciszek Wincenty Sapalski - the best specialists in the field of construction at the disposal of the Free City of Cracow and the Jagiellonian University. After the erection of the commemorative grave, the Committee did not dissolve, but guarded this monument and national memento as the Committee for the Conservation of the Kościuszko Monument Grave. In the 1830s, the old dirt road from Zwierzyniec to Kopiec was regulated using the Committee members' funds and trees were planted alongside it. Today, this road is Washington Avenue, lined with monumental trees. In 1860 the President of the Committee, Piotr Moszyński, crowned the Mound with a three-tone boulder of Tatra Mountains granite. Mounting of this monumental boulder, bearing the most concise commemorative dedication – "TO KOŚCIUSZKO", was planned by the builders from the very beginning, however, they had to wait until the body of this earth structure subsided and became stable. The Committee, since 1937 called the Committee of the Kosciuszko Mound exists to this day, continuously taking care of the Mound¹. Immediately

¹ For information on the Mound construction and its subsequent history see: *Pamiętnik budowy Pomnika Tadeusza Kościuszki przez Komitet zarządzający tąż budową wydany*, Kraków 1825 [1826], here documents, plans and *Lista imienna osób składających ofiary na Pomnik Tadeusza Kościuszki*; *Dodatek do Pamiętnika budowy Pomnika Tadeusza Kościuszki wydanego w 1826 roku, obejmujący sprawozdanie Komitetu Pomnikiem tym zarządzającego za czas do 1 lipca 1852 r.* Kraków 1852; *Dodatek drugi do Pamiętnika Pomnika Kościuszki obejmujący czas od 1 lipca 1851 do końca 1876 roku.* Kraków 1878. Also see Rokosz M., *Kopiec Kościuszki w Krakowie*. Wydawnictwo Literackie Kraków 1981; Gordziałkowski J., *Dzieje Komitetu Kopca Kościuszki (1820 – 1994)* [in:] *Kościuszcze w hołdzie*, ed. M. Rokosz, Kraków 1994, pp. 85 - 184; Rokosz M., *Najkrótsza historia budowy i napraw Kopca Kościuszki „z ojczystej ziemi i z głazu krajowego”* [in:] *Kopiec Kościuszki i jego podłoże geologiczne. Atlas – Przewodnik*. ed. A. Wójcik, published by Urząd Miasta Krakowa, Wydział Kształtowania Środowiska, Kraków 2016, s. 6 - 22; Danowska E., *Jak powstawał Kopiec Kościuszki w Krakowie - jego dzieje w czasach Rzeczypospolitej Krakowskiej* [in:] „*Krakowski Rocznik Archiwalny*” XXIII, Kraków 2017, pp. 45 - 63; Rokosz M., *Kopiec Tadeusza Kościuszki w Krakowie - znak wiecznotrwały* [in:] *Rozważny i romantyczny. W 200. Rocznicy śmierci Tadeusza Kościuszki*. Muzeum Historyczne Miasta Krakowa. Kraków 2017, pp.193 – 211.

after it was erected, the Mound became a pilgrimage destination for Poles and a place of national demonstrations. For the generations living under foreign occupation, following the partitions of their homeland, it was a sign of faith in the independence and resurrection of Poland, a place of national remembrance visited by war veterans, teachers with school children, parents with children, high school students and academics, gentlemen and peasants².

In the years 1850 - 1856 the Austrian military authorities, implementing the plan of building the Fortress of Cracow, erected around the Kosciuszko Mound a powerful Fort no. 2 "Kosciuszko", which was to defend the access to the core of the fortress from the west. The mound was surrounded by a retaining wall within which a neo-Gothic chapel of the Blessed Bronislawa was built and remained under the exclusive management of the Committee³. It was entered in the land and mortgage registers as the National Foundation for the Grave of Tadeusz Kościuszkowski [Monument]⁴. This means that the Mound, as an object founded by the Polish nation, remains the property of the nation under the management of the Committee representing it. Thus, one Viennese morga of land with the Mound rising on it, for which the Committee did not pay any land tax, was treated as an independent piece of land of the Republic of Poland. Its symbolic meaning as a sign of independence was also based on this legal provision. Access to the Grave, despite its surroundings, was free for all days from dawn to dusk, except for the state of war. The aforementioned neo-Gothic chapel of Blessed Bronislawa is an indivisible work of Feliks Księżarski, who also worked in the Directorate of Photification, with the support and recognition of Lieutenant Colonel Juliusz Wurmba, beyond any doubt according to contemporary sources⁵. The "Kościuszkowski" Fort, with its fortifications directly connected with it, was the greatest defensive

² Gordziałkowski J., *Kopiec Kościuszkowski – miejsce pielgrzymek Polaków* [in:] *180 lat Kopca Kościuszkowski* [in:] *Materiały z sesji naukowej odbytej 15 kwietnia 2000 roku*. Towarzystwo Miłośników Historii i Zabytków Krakowa. Kraków, pp.15 - 103; Rokosz M., *Kopiec Kościuszkowski w Krakowie: czym jest i co znaczy / Krakow's Kościuszkowski Mound what is and its significance?* [in:] *Tadeusz Kościuszkowski - historia, współczesność, przyszłość. Relacje i zależności*. Sc. ed. M. J. Żychowska. Politechnika Krakowska im. Tadeusza Kościuszkowski. Kraków 2017, pp. 119 – 125. Rokosz M., *Le tertre do Kościuszkowski a Cracovie: Quest – ce que c'est et quelle est sa signification?* [in:] „Annales Academie Polonaise des Sciences. Centre Scientifique a' Paris” vol 19, 2017, pp. 158 – 176.

³ This was guaranteed by point 3 of the Act on the relinquishment of land around the Kościuszkowski Monument for the construction of fortifications, concluded on 21 April 1852 in Cracow between the representatives of the "Committee for the Management of the Monument [the Kościuszkowski Mound] and the representatives of the Austrian Ministry of War - *Dodatek do Pamiętnika budowy Pomnika Tadeusza Kościuszkowski... op. cit.* pp. 65 -67.

⁴ National Archive in Cracow („hereinafter NAC) team: Kościuszkowski Mound Committee, ref. no. 7: Mortgage. The record was renewed in 1906, *ibidem*.

⁵ See „Czas” 1860 no. 202, p. 3; Moraczewski M., *Nekrolog Feliksa Księżarskiego*, „Czasopismo Techniczne” Lwów 1884 R.2, no.4, pp. 51; also see Biblioteka Jagiellońska rkps 7927 IV: Stacherski A., *O budownictwie krakowskich w czasach naszych i stawianych przez nich budowlach*, 1961, card 196 nn - comp. Białkiewicz Z. J., *Feliks Księżarski – krakowski architekt romantycznego historyzmu i dojrzałego eklektyzmu*, „Rocznik Krakowski” R. LV, Kraków 1989, pp. 171, 175; also see Bogdanowski J., *Fortyfikacje austriackie na ziemiach polskich w latach 1850 – 1914*, „Studia i materiały do Historii Wojskowości” vol, 12, 1966, p. 76.

work of the Fortress. It was recognized as an outstanding work of *architecturae militaris*⁶. On the present Washington Avenue, which was adapted to the needs of military transport in the upper part of its length, changed its course slightly, a bridge was built over a road across it. Today, the so-called "Devil's Bridge", as an early example of a collision-free crossroads, is a valuable monument of road construction.

After 1918, in the reborn Republic of Poland, pursuant to an agreement concluded on 1 July 1924 with a representative of the Government, the Committee remained in charge of its rights and obligations and continued to take care of the symbolic Grave of the Commander, in which the military authorities helped him greatly⁷. Immediately after the establishment of the provincial office of the conservator of monuments in Cracow, the Kościuszko Mound and its surroundings were in the field of view of the conservator Tadeusz Szydłowski. The Conservator cooperated with the Committee for the Conservation of Kościuszko's Grave. Care was taken to "tidy up and secure the slopes of the grave". Then, outside the Fort, the "strict boundaries of the area" excluded from future development were set so that "the view of the grave would not be disfigured and its seriousness as a national monument would not be compromised"⁸. On 16 July 1929 The Mound was visited by the President of the Republic of Poland Ignacy Mościcki⁹. In 1936, by decision of Bohdan Treter, the conservator of the Cracow district, on October 20, 1936, the Kościuszko Mound was entered into the *Register of Immovable Monuments* (section A) under no. 954¹⁰.

⁶ Towarzystwo Miłośników Historii i Zabytków Krakowa – Komitet Kopca Kościuszki, Kraków 1994; Janczykowski J., *Historia i rewaloryzacja Fortu 2 „Kościuszko”* [in:] *180 lat Kopca Kościuszki. Materiały z sesji naukowej odbytej 15 kwietnia 2000 roku*. Towarzystwo Miłośników Historii i Zabytków Krakowa. Kraków 2000, pp. 147- 166.

⁷ NAC team: KPK sygn. 6: *Układ w przedmiocie uregulowania stosunków prawnych Pomnika (Mogiły) Tadeusza Kościuszki, zawarty dnia dzisiejszego między dowództwem Okr. Korp. Krakowskiego, działającym w imieniu Rządu względnie Skarbu Państwa Polskiego na zasadzie uprawnienia Ministerstwa spraw wojskowych z dnia 1 lutego 1923 . L. 20699 V.W.III. a Komitetem Pomnika Tadeusza Kościuszki na zasadzie uchwały tegoż Komitetu z dnia 20 lipca 1923 r. Układ ten w imieniu władz wojskowych podpisał PŁK. Jan Skoryna, szef inżynierii i saperów Dowódca Okregu Korpusu V a w imieniu Komitetu – prezes Dr Franciszek Paszkowski i sekretarz Dr Klemens Bakowski.*

⁸ Szydłowski T., *Opieka nad zabytkami miasta Krakowa. Z działalności Urzędu konserwatorskiego* [in:] „Rocznik Krakowski” 20, 1926, p. 192; idem, *Kronika konserwatorska z lat 1925 do 1928* [in:] „Rocznik Krakowski” 22, 1929, p. 143.

⁹ On this occasion, a new Memorial Book for visitors to the Mound was established, in which the President and representatives of the military and civil authorities of Krakow, including the Mayor of the city and the President of the Committee Dr. Karol Rolle, signed his signature on page 5 - see NAC. The KPK team signed 17 - visit of the President and KPK 44 - memorial book. See also photographs by Władysław Pikiel, photographer-illustrator of the Military Institute of Science and Publishing in Warsaw, in the Collections of the Committee of the Kosciuszko Mound.

¹⁰ The aforementioned *Register...* is kept in the Office of the Voivodeship Conservator of Monuments in Krakow. A copy of the Treter Conservator's decision on the matter was sent to the President of the Committee, Karol Rolli, in the Committee's registry, briefcase: *Legal status of the Mound and the Committee. Judgments and expert opinions.*

During World War II, the general governor Frank planned to level the Kościuszko Mound¹¹. After the war, the authorities of the People's Republic of Poland, despite using the slogans of Kosciuszko's democracy, did not support the Committee in their concern for the Mound, which was gradually becoming dilapidated¹².

In June 2015. The Committee, convinced of the exceptional values of the Kosciuszko Mound and its surroundings, with the support of the President of Cracow and the support and assistance of the Municipal Conservator and Voivodeship Conservator, made efforts to recognize the Kosciuszko Mound as a Monument of History. As we emphasized above, this Mound erected as a monument, is subject to a strict definition, which according to Samuel Bogumił Linde said that the monument "is a monument erected for remembrance or commemoration". By decree of the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda of 22 November 2017, the Kościuszko Mound with its surroundings, "due to its historical, architectural and landscape values - both material and non-material [...] of the monument and symbolic grave erected by the Polish Nation to commemorate the great leader and national hero, a symbol of patriotism and independence aspirations, creating a landscape composition incorporated in the panorama of historical Cracow", was recognized as a Monument of History¹³.

Conservation

The Mound was erected at an altitude of 300 m above sea level, i.e. 100 m above the level of the Cracow Market Square, at an altitude of 35 m. It is a cone cut from loess soil on a round base with a diameter of 80 m, the diameter of the viewing platform at the top of the Mound is 8 m. The height of the Mound is 35 m. The volume of the Mound is 70,000 m³ of land. The volume of the Mound is 70,000 m³ of earth. Two spiral intersecting paths lead to its viewing platform, the so-called "double worm path". It was erected in the romantic upsurge of hearts, as a ground structure with steep slopes, whose angle exceeds the angle of the loess soil angle of repose, which is the building material of the monument. The mound was constructed simply by compacting the loose dirt and without the use of any structures, e.g. stone and rosewood, or fascine layers. The only structural element was a 30-metre-high fir trunk "from the Silesian forests" of Jaworzno area, which was to mark the center and the vertical axis of the mound. The layers of soil were hardened according to the technical possibilities of the time and the slopes were turfed. The works lasted for three construction seasons (1821-1822-1823). Immediately after the erection, the mound was recognized as "the most beautiful and the largest [grave], which had ever been erected anywhere in the world"¹⁴ and with its communication system was

¹¹ Wroński T., *Kronika okupowanego Krakowa*. Kraków 1974, s. 150 nr 874 and comp. Rożek M., *Kopiec Kościuszki... op. cit.*, p. 158 -160.

¹² Since March 1949, Prof. Karol Estreicher, a member of the Committee since 1931 and a member of the Department (Board) of the Society of the History and Monuments of Krakow; idem: *Dziennik wypadków*, vol. II: 1946 – 1960. Kraków 2002, pp. 150, 288 -289, 711, 774.

¹³ Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland. Warsaw, 7 December 2017. Item 2267. 14 Construction diary... Op. Cit., p. 68.

¹⁴ *Construction diary... op. cit.*, p. 68.

an admirable geotechnical structure of its time. Most of all, it was a place of national memory.

The properties of the loess soil used as a building material i.e high hygroscopy, lack of any internal framework, poor hardening of the successive layers of the embankment and steepness of the slopes - all this made the Mound particularly sensitive to the destructive effects of the forces of nature. Melting snow and torrential June rains are the cause of erosion and natural damage in the form of creeping earth, cracking and landslides. These phenomena occurred already during the construction and all the subsequent period. The Committee did prevent the catastrophe. Already in the 1830s, the base of the Mound was planted - as evidenced by numerous iconographic accounts - with rapidly growing poplars. In the mid-19th century, the Austrian military authorities separated the Mound from the fort, surrounding its base with a brick retaining wall. Another major conservation project on the Mound was the installation in 1924 of stone "gutters" for outflowing rainwater, paving paths with Jurassic limestone (the same cobblestone was then laid on both approaches on the Wawel Hill), paving of the viewing platform and the surrounding area and surrounding it with a balustrade made of red Świętokrzyski sandstone.

After 1945, the condition of the Monument-Grave deteriorated in an obvious way. The immediate surroundings of the Mound were also devastated by the decision taken in 1946 by General Michał Rola Żymierski to demolish the "Kościuszko" fort as a symbol of Austrian occupation¹⁵. It was then that the western bastion front of the fort, partially demolished at the end of the war was taken apart. Further demolition of the fort was stopped in 1956 as a result of a protest by the Cracow academic community, headed by Professor Janusz Bogdanowski¹⁶. The ruins began to overgrow with a self-seeded forest. As a result of the efforts of Professor Karol Estreicher, President of the Committee, in the years 1979-1980 the military authorities developed a plan to repair the Mound. It was decided to mechanically strengthen the monument by means of concrete micro piles with a diameter of 10 cm, 7 to 10 m long, drilled into its body at the height of the paths¹⁷. In the years 1989 -1990 it was necessary to carry out another renovation. This time, efforts were made to strengthen the Mound by means of concrete anchors. The authors of the project were professors of the Geotechnical Institute of the Cracow University of Technology, Prof. Stanisław Datka and Prof. Julian Pałka¹⁸. However, these repairs did not prevent further destruction caused by natural forces.

Heavy rains in June and July of 1997 caused damage on the Mound, which was assessed as the greatest construction disaster in its history¹⁹. The downpours of the following year deepened

¹⁵ Żymierski personally, on October 10, 1946, as part of the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the Battle of Lenino, symbolically began the work of devastation by forging the first brick.

¹⁶ Bogdanowski J., *Fortyfikacja austriacka na ziemiach polskich w latach 1850 - 1914*. „Studia do Historii Wojskowości” t. XII, cz. 1, Warszawa 1966, p. 71.

¹⁷ Rokosz M., *Najkrótsza historia budowy i napraw Kopca...* op. cit., p. 18.

¹⁸ Pałka J., Datka K., Musiał K., *Opracowanie sposobu kotwienia Kopca Kościuszki wraz ze szczegółowymi wytycznymi realizacji zabezpieczenia*. Instytut Geotechniki Politechniki Krakowskiej 1990.

¹⁹ Rokosz M., *Katastrofa Kopca Kościuszki i w 1997 roku i pierwsze próby ratowania zabytku [in:] 180 lat Kopca Kościuszki...*, pp. 167 - 175.

this condition. The Mound began to crack in two down to a depth of several meters, the viewing platform leaned towards the south, which threatened the monumental boulder to slide from the top directly onto the chapel. After the Committee's efforts, funds were obtained from the State Treasury and the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Hydrotrest-Skanska company, from December 5, 1999 to the end of October 2002, carried out a protective repair of the Mound²⁰. It has been restored as an "everlasting sign of Poland's independence and solidarity of nations in the name of humanity" - as we can read on the memorial plaque mounted on the Mound on this occasion. On the eve of the national holiday, November 11, 2002, the Kościuszkowski Mound was ceremonially reopened.

Daily lawn maintenance, re-sowing and mowing on the slopes of the Mound are of fundamental importance for its conservation. Systematic geodetic monitoring of vertical and horizontal movements of the Mound is also carried out.

The last quarter of a century brought fundamental changes not only in the care of the Mound, but also in its immediate surroundings. This was made possible by, among other things, subsidies from the Social Committee for the Renovation of Cracow's Monuments and the possibility of using European Funds.

Since 1994, the Committee has been gradually taking over the most ruined parts of the fort from the Cracow municipality, namely the southern caponier in 1994, bastion V together with the internal courtyard in 1996, and finally the I-V curtain in 1997. In 1997, the I-V curtain was raised from the ruins to be used for exhibitions, conferences and museums. Conservation works on all the buildings was carried out by the "Arkona" Monuments Conservation Workshop, according to its own designs, for money obtained by the Committee from European funds and the National Monuments Revaluation Fund of Cracow, managed by the Social Committee for the Renovation of Monuments of Cracow. As a result of the conservation and adaptation works, we there are four buildings with a total usable floor space of 2,388.39 m² and a cubic capacity of 13,159.8 m³. Three floors of the caponier include 210 m² (630 m³), a bastion of 779 m² (92796 m³), a roofed courtyard of 320 m² (2560 m³) and a curtain of 1079 m² (7200 m³). During the repairs, the curtain and the bastion were adapted to the needs of the disabled.

The greatest conservation and adaptation success is the revitalization of the I-V curtain and its transformation into a conference and exhibition facility. The works lasted from September 2011 to May 2013. The curtain, i.e. the earth rampart fortified with a brick and stone wall, with a ramp for rolling out cannons - with a deteriorating crown of its walls (crenellation) and covered with a self-seeded forest - was transformed into a two-storey building with a total area of 1097 m² - intended for the Tadeusz Kościuszkowski Conference and Exhibition Centre. This was achieved by clearing the building of dirt, restoring the walls, putting horizontal roofing (roof terrace) and dividing the entire internal space into two floors with a staircase and an elevator. These works

²⁰ Tylutki J., *Założenia projektowe odbudowy Kopca Kościuszki w Krakowie* [in:] *180 lat Kopca Kościuszki...* pp. 177 – 181; also see: *Sprawozdania z czynności Komitetu Kopca Kościuszki...* „Rocznik Krakowski” vol. LXVLXVI, 1999-2000, pp. 183 – 185; „Rocznik Krakowski” vol. LXVII, 2001, pp. 157 – 159; „Rocznik Krakowski” vol. LXVIII, 2002, p. 235-237; „Rocznik Krakowski” vol. LXIX, 2003, p. 237-239.

were performed by the "Arkona" Monuments Conservation Workshop, designed by M.Sc. Eng. arch. Grażyna Safruga. A masterpiece of artillery defense has become, so to speak, a temple of the Muses and a meeting place. In 2014, at the competition for a well-kept monument announced by the General Conservator of Monuments - Piotr Żuchowski, the Committee received a distinction for "careful conservation and adaptation of the ruined curtain I-V of the southern Fort No. 2 "Kościuszko", one of the oldest preserved defensive works of the Cracow Fortress, allowing to bring out the historic values of the object and give it new utility values".

Over the last 25 years, the Committee has held several exhibitions on Kosciuszko in the caponier, bastion, and recently also in the curtain. Currently, there is an exhibition in the caponier entitled: "The Fortress and the City of Cracow". In the bastion there is a Kosciuszko exhibition. Let us mention that the aim of the Committee from the very beginning of its existence was, apart from everyday care for the Kosciuszko Mound, the creation of the Kościuszko Museum, and for this purpose the Committee collected contributions²¹. Currently, an advanced conservation and adaptation renovation is under way, including the roofing of the courtyard, the bastion and the ground floor of the curtain, in order to arrange a permanent museum exhibition here entitled: "Kościuszko - the Hero Still Needed." We intend to open the exhibition in autumn 2020 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Mound and the Committee.

Another serious conservation problem arises from the spontaneous, uncontrolled transformation of the natural environment on the Blessed Bronislawa Hill. Since the early Middle Ages, this loess Hill has been covered by arable fields and pastures, with no forests. After the abandonment of cultivation, mowing of meadows and grazing, as well as the devastation and demolition of the western parts of the fort after 1945, the natural process of succession of shrubs and trees onto the ruins and overgrowing of the foreground of the fort took place. For over half a century the hill has been overgrown with self-seeded forest, which has resulted in a radical and unfavourable change in the landscape. Trees growing year by year have completely obscured the fort and increasingly obscure the view of the Mound, which e.g. from the west (over the embankments of Rudawa, from Wola Justowska) also cannot be seen at all. Here we have to deal with the classic conflict of culture and nature, resulting in an abandoned and neglected landscape²². In order to regain the landscape values of the Blessed Bronislawa Hill with the Kościuszko Mound and the fort, it is necessary to adopt the principle of active protection, i.e. to prune the canopy of trees growing closest to the historic complex (the Mound and the fort) and to thin this self-seeding forest thicket, making it a park landscape. The Committee makes every effort to ensure that the Kościuszko Mound, the second, besides Wawel, sub-dominant feature of the cultural landscape of Cracow, does not disappear, but remains visible. In them - in Wawel and Kopiec Kościuszki - our nation - as John Paul II said - "reads not only its past, but simply its identity".

²¹ Niezabitowski M., *Zbiory Komitetu Kopca Kościuszki i Muzeum Kościuszkowskie w Krakowie* [in:] *180 lat Kopca Kościuszki...* as above, pp. 123 – 145.

²² Rokosz M., *Krajobraz z Kopcem Kościuszki. Szkic geograficzno-historyczny. The Kościuszko Mound and its surrounding landscape* [in:] „*Aura. Ochrona Środowiska*” 7/2015, pp. 19-21.

The management

The Committee has been the historical and legal guardian and administrator of the Kosciuszko Mound, organically connected with it since the beginning. It has also been the administrator of the part of the fort for 25 years. The Committee, reborn in every generation by co-optation, is a small group of people who take care of this monument every day. For almost 200 years now, the Committee, under the management of 11 successive presidents, has performed its duties honorably. Established by the Ruling Senate of the Republic of Cracow in 1820, it functioned as a governing body of the Free City of Cracow. After 1846, it was subordinate to the Galician authorities in Lviv. In 1924, the Government of the reborn Republic of Poland confirmed its legality. After 1945 the Committee, unable to operate under the current rules, took refuge under the wing of the Society of Lovers of History and Monuments of Cracow, which had been in existence since 1896, where, while maintaining its autonomy, it acted as a guardian and manager of the Mound, and its president continued to use the old seal of the Committee²³. In 2011, the Committee drafted the Statute and registered in the National Court Register, becoming a legal entity as an association called "Committee of the Kosciuszko Mound in Cracow, established in 1820". Such is also the content of its old seal which has maintained its validity. The Committee has never been a numerous body, but always a prominent one. Currently, the Committee consists of 17 ordinary members and 6 honorary members, among whom are professors of history of the Jagiellonian University, professors of the Cracow University of Technology and AGH Academy of Science and Technology, conservators, lawyer, museum workers, director of the Municipal Greenery Board, representative of the Wawel Cathedral Chapter, including three members of ICOMOS. Among the honorary members are Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, Rector of the Jagiellonian University Franciszek Ziejka, Director of the ICC Prof. Jacek Purchla, Secretary General of PAU Jerzy Wyrozumski, Protonotary Jerzy Bryła and Prof. Antony Bajdek, President-founder of The American Association of the Friends of Kosciuszko at West Point. The Committee operates in the form of meetings in the system of minutes of activities and has at its disposal the Bureau of the Committee, headed by the Director of the Bureau, which employs 9 persons occupying 7 ³/₄ full-time positions. The Director, on behalf of and with the participation of the President, carries out renovations supervised by the City Conservator. The Committee employs a gardening tending to the grass on the slopes of the Mound. All of them are subordinate to the President.

Promotion

An integral and primary, second only to Wawel, component of the Cracow cultural landscape, panorama and prospects, the Kosciuszko Mound, has its place in this internal "cordial" geography of Poland. For generations, it has been a place beloved and visited by Poles. Due to Kosciuszko, the hero of international fame, this Mound also has a place in the geography of the globe, which is best proved by the growing numbers of visitors from different continents. This is facilitated

²³ Rokosz M., *Wywód historyczno-prawny Kopca Kościuszki w Krakowie i dzieje ustrojowe jego Komitetu w latach 1820 – 2000*[in:] *180 lat Kopca Kościuszki...*, pp. 105 – 122.

by the development of mass tourism on a global scale, but also undoubtedly by the contacts of the Kosciuszko Mound Committee with e.g. West Point in the United States, Paris, Solothurn, Rapperswil or Kosciuszko Heritage in Melbourne. The growing turnout of tourists on the Mound does not bring the negative effects of anthropopressure, because this historic building, due to the significant steepness of the slopes, can be only visited by walking along paved paths. Promotion of the Kosciuszko Mound is also supported by Polish and foreign language publications (English, French, Russian and German) published by the Committee, as well as foreign publications and speeches of the President of the Committee delivered in Poland and abroad, explaining what the Mound is and what it means. The promotion also includes articles in the daily press, radio and television interviews. The promotion includes free admissions to the Mound for organized groups, in justified cases, or free admissions to the Jubilee Rally of the Polish Scouting Association in 2011, and discounted admissions to the Mound on World Youth Days in Cracow in 2016. Free admission days to the Mound are also an element of the promotion. Currently, they are: 5 February, 24 March, and 15 October. Information about Kościuszko and the Mound, with which the Committee reached the participants of the Esperanto Congress in Lisbon in July 2018, etc., can be also considered a promotion. The daily decoration of the Kosciuszko Mound is the Polish flag flying at the top of the hill, while on 4 July, the national holiday of the United States, next to the Polish flag, there is the American flag; on 14 July, on the national holiday of France, the French flag is raised. On 3 May, 11 November and 15 August, from the top of the Mound to its base "flows" wide, white and red flag, well visible from the city. This is an emphasis on the character of the Kosciuszko Mound as a national monument. The unique appeal of the Kosciuszko Mound and its constant, or even growing popularity is evidenced by the attendance. In 2013, 106 182 persons visited the Mound, in 2014 - 119 273 persons, in 2015 - 127 703 persons, in 2016 - 133 732 persons, in 2017 - 147 706 persons, and in 2018 - 169 674 persons. Obviously, we are seeing a clear upward trend. On days of national holidays, free entry and other sunny days long, there are almost endless queues of people willing to climb the Kosciuszko Mound.

Significant events promoting the Kosciuszko Mound was the Polish Youth Rally on the 200th anniversary of Kosciuszko's death, inaugurated at the Mound on 12 October 2017, as well as the international Kosciuszko Conference organized on 13-14 October 2017 with the participation of speakers from 9 countries from four continents²⁴.

In connection with the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining independence, the Kościuszko Mound was the venue of numerous anniversary events, often on a national scale, to mention only the youth march from the Kościuszko Mound to the Piłsudski Mound. The Committee and its President continue their efforts to make the Kosciuszko Mound a place of patriotic education in the spirit of Kosciuszko open to the contemporary world. The future permanent museum exhibition under the Mound will take place: "Kościuszko, the hero is still needed." - will certainly contribute to the growth of its ideological impact.

²⁴ See Rokosz M., *Obchody Roku Kościuszki w Krakowie. Czynności Komitetu Kopca Kościuszki w Krakowie od 23 marca 2017 do 23 kwietnia 2018 roku* [in:] „Rocznik krakowski” vol. LXXXIV, Kraków 2018, p. 157 – 170.

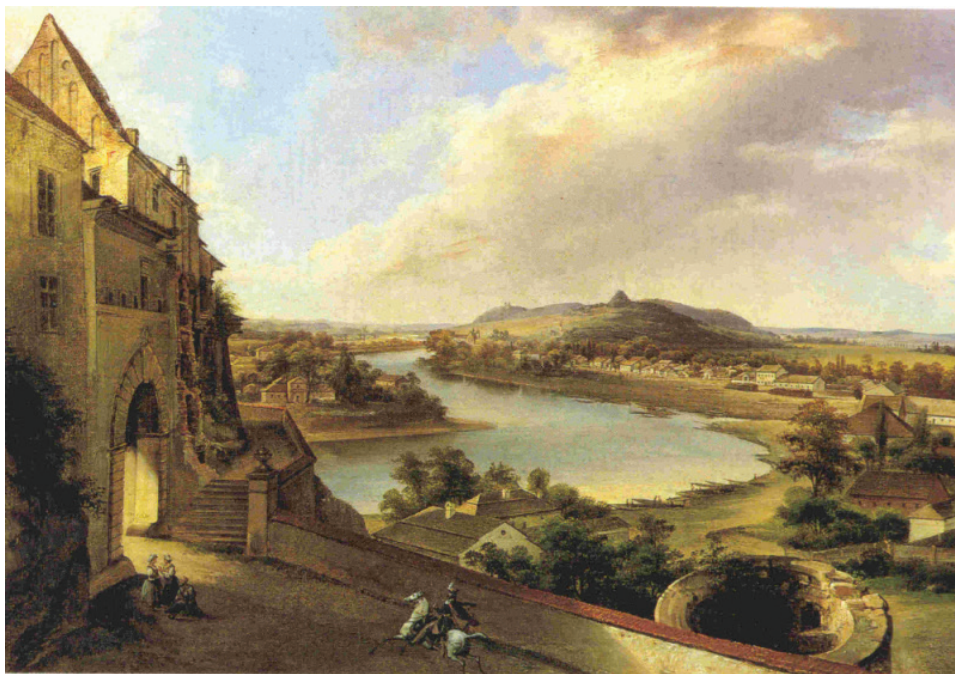


Fig. 1 Franciszek Macke (Matzke), a copy of a painting by Jan Nepomucen Głowacki, View from Wawel on the Vistula River bend and Kościuszek's Grave (1846); a sort of quintessence of the Polish landscape



Fig. 2 Mogiła Kościuszki and Fort "Kościuszek" from the bird's eye view from the west side. Fot. Agencja Fotograficzna "Światowid" 1935. Muz. History of the City of Cracow



Fig. 3 Kosciuszko Mound has been overgrown with self-seeded forest for over half a century. Photo: Piotr Krzan, collection of the Committee of the Kosciuszko Mound



Fig. 4 The Curtain before conservation and adaptation renovation. Collection of the Committee of Kosciuszko Mound



Fig. 5 Curtain after the trees have been cleared and the soil has been removed. Collection of the Mound of Kosciuszko Committee



Fig. 6 Curtain after renovation. Collection of the Kościuszko Mound Committee



Fig. 7 A fragment of the Curtains's interior in the process of renovation. Collection of the Committee of the Kosciuszko Mound

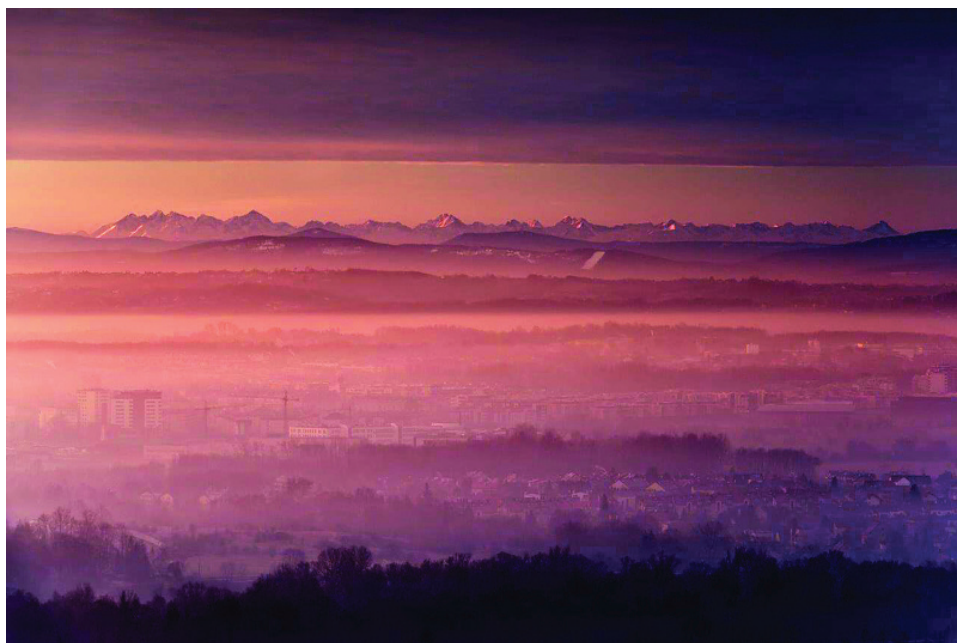


Fig. 8 View from Kosciuszko Mound at sunrise towards the Tatra Mountains. Photo: Piotr Krzan. Collection of the Committee of Kosciuszko Mound



Fig. 9 This is what the Kosciuszko Mound looks like on national holidays and solemn days. Photo: Piotr Krzan, collection of the Committee of the Kosciuszko Mound



Fig. 10 The top of the Kosciuszko Mound on a weekday. Photo: Piotr Krzan, collections of the Committee of the Kosciuszko Mound

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