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The History of the Bishop's Palace in the 19th Century Krakow.

The abstract:

The subject of my doctoral dissertation is the history of the Bishop's Palace in Krakow in the 19th Century. The main issue I tried to solve in my thesis was to establish what kind of function had the Bishop's Palace in Krakow in the 19th Century.

In order to gather relevant information I searched archival documents in 26 archives, including in particular: The Archive of the Metropolitan Curia in Krakow, The Archive of the Chapter of the Cathedral in Krakow, The National Archive in Krakow, The Jagiellonian Library, The Central Archive of Historical Records in Warsaw, The Secret Vatican Archive in Rome, The National Archive in Vienna.

The whole structure of my dissertation has been divided into three main chapters. Firstly, I have discussed period of redecoration of the aforementioned Palace by bishop Jan Paweł Woronicz. This undertaking was carried out with the help of well-known Krakow architect Szczepan Humbert and painters Michał Stachowicz and Józef Peszka, all of whom employed by the Bishop. The Bishop also established a museum within the Palace, which was in fact the first historical museum in Krakow. One of his main life goals was to teach citizens of Cracow Polish history and culture. In this way, the Palace became famous as a unique and delightful place in Krakow and in the entire Galicia region. In the second part of my dissertation, I will move on to describing the events of the year 1850 when there was a fire in Krakow which destroyed the Palace. For the next 30 years the building was completely run-down. What is more, there was literally nobody who wanted to undertake the Palace repair because of the high cost of such venture. The last part of my dissertation treats of the bishop Albin Dunajewski, who finally repaired the Residence solely at his own cost.

The Palace constituted the place of residence not only for the bishops in Krakow, but also for the bishops' cousins, nephews, and private individuals, for example poor students. At the time of November Uprising the Palace was also a hide-out for Jan Skrzynecki. Having regard to the foregoing the Palace building served not only as a bishops' apartment, but also as a flat for different people.

In addition, the Palace constituted, from 1817 to 1850 and from 1870 to the present, the main office of the diocesan curia. Before the above periods, from the 15th Century the curia was

situated in the town hall by Kanonicza street. Then Bishop Woronicz decided to move it to the Palace by Franciszkańska street. By such decision, he intended to improve the conditions of work in curia. For the same reason, also the diocesan archive was moved to the Palace. The fire of Cracow of 1850, which caused the destruction of the Palace, was the reason to return the curia and archives back to Kanonicza street.

In conclusion, the Bishop's Palace in the 19th Century served simultaneously as a residence for bishops, private individuals, and as the main office of the diocesan curia and archives. The history of the Bishop's Palace in the 19th Century was both extremely dynamic and intriguing.

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