Summary

AGATA MATYSCHOK–NYCKOWSKA/ Diversity of horse-drawn vehicles on the example of sledges from the collection of the Museum of Carriages in Galowice

Despite rapid development of technical thought of the 19th century directed towards facilitating the ways of transport, a horse-drawn vehicle accompanied people for no less than 150 years. Various environmental or historical factors not only once made the use of motorisation inventions impossible to apply and forced people to come back to the oldest means of transport being vehicles equipped with runners. Despite huge diversity of contemporary means of transport, horse-drawn vehicles are still willingly used, mostly for entertainment or sports. Although WW2 caused a great devastation in collections of drawn vehicles, there are still many precious historic carriages in palace complexes, manors or country barns. Conservation and maintenance of this type of antiquities is expensive and demanding great labour input and experience, therefore only very few museum centres can afford appropriate storage and exposition of this sort of objects. The Museum of Carriages in Galowice is the only place, except for the Museum in Łańcut, that can boast such a rich and varied collection of horse-drawn vehicles. The collection possesses a few examples of runner vehicles, namely sleighs. The collection is interesting considering the fact that each of the item represents different formal and functional type.

The article discusses various types of sleighs from the collection of the Museum of Carriages in Galowice and analyses their construction with relation to their function.