

Summary

ANNA MICHALSKA / Different faces of Silesian and Lusatian nobility. International exhibition project „Nobility in Silesia”

Since May to November 2014, four exhibitions released within the international exhibition project “Nobility in Silesia” were presented in Legnica, Wrocław and Görlitz. In the Legnica Copper Museum the exposition “Knights of Freedom, Guardians of Rights” showed the history of Silesian gentry since the Middle Ages to the 18th century. In Görlitz one was able to learn about history of Lusatian nobility (“Knights, Junkers, Noblemen”, Silesian Museum). The exhibition “Lasting amidst Changes” (Museum of Cultural History in Görlitz) joined the both mentioned above exhibitions with a common epilogue by depicting history of Silesian and Lusatian gentry until nowadays. The last of expositions, “Keeper of the Jelenia Góra Valley” made the visitors of the University of Wrocław Museum acquainted with a countess Friederike von Reden (1774–1854).

Within the exhibitions items related with the most important Silesian and Lusatian noble families, including the Piasts, were presented, ranging from those, connected with their status (family trees, marriage contracts, court portraits), through documents of their every-day life (iconography of family residences, housekeeping books, costumes, table settings), pieces executed for and by Silesian and Lusatian noblemen (emblem books, diaries, editions of poetry and romances), to unique ones, e.g. the executioner’s sword Hans Ulrich Schaffgotsch was beheaded with in 1635. Some of the exhibits, as for instance a Renaissance portrait of Wolff von Busewoy, which promoted the expositions in Legnica, was introduced to the public for the very first time.

The exhibitions were accompanied by numerous cultural events, to name but curator’s guiding, concerts of early music, a few series of popularising lectures and a panel exhibition.