



Muzeum
Stanisława Staszica
w Piłe

Stanisław Staszic Museum in Piła

permanent exhibition



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Headquarter of the Museum

The Museum of Stanisław Staszic's headquarter is located in a house which formerly was owned by the Staszic family. The house with farm buildings i.e. a cowshed, barn and fold were a part of a grange located in a part of a town called Zamoście. In 1794, Wawrzyniec, father of Stanisław Staszic sold the house with other assets located within borders of Piła to the tenant, Christian Lehn. The merchant paid 1600 of Prussian thalers from the good year of 1764. For over 150 years the house in Browarna Street became a living place of other families from Piła.

During the battle for the town in 1945 the Staszic's house was seriously damaged. The initiative for saving this memorial of a famous citizen of Piła was introduced by members of the Town Committee of Polish Socialist Party. At a meeting on 2nd July 1947 the Reconstruction Committee of Family House of Stanisław Staszic was created. The Committee was led by Kazimierz Czerwiński. In order to finance the restoration of the building a funding bricks were issued worth 50, 100, 200 and 500 Polish Złotys. Their sales brought a revenue of over 300 thousand of Polish Złotys. A lot of citizens and institutions and companies operating in town made also donations. In August 1947 initial work started with removing rubble from the house and adjacent square then workers of PBI K. Jurczyk & Partners began the house demolition, reconstruction of the walls and roof construction. On the anniversary of the baptism of Stanisław Staszic, 6th November the laying of the foundation stone took place. Over a year later on 14 November 1948 the reconstructed house of the Staszic Family was handed over to the town authorities who designated it as a memory chamber for this famous citizen of Piła.

In 1951 thanks to help of Professor Kazimierz Malinowski, the director of National Museum in Poznań the Museum of Stanisław Staszic was opened. From this moment the house of the Staszic family has become a museum.



Staszic House - 1930s. (photo: F. Witkowski)



state before August 1947 (photo: R. Zaranek)



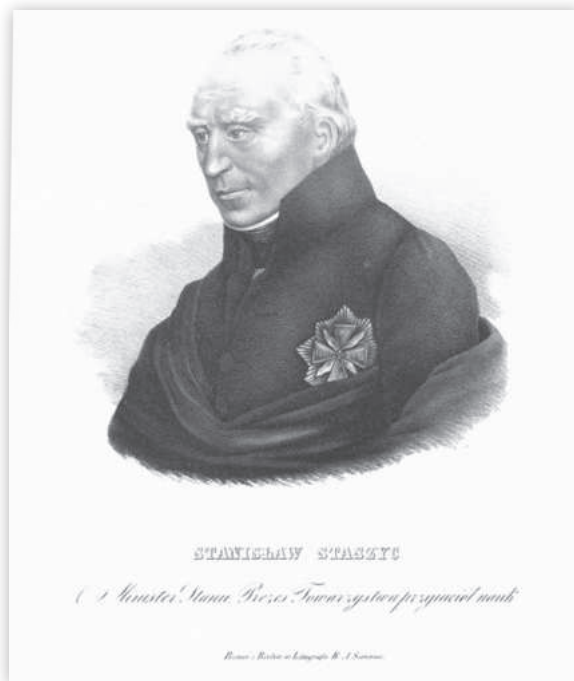
after 1955 (photo: R. Zaranek)

Stanisław Staszic (1755–1826)

Stanisław Wawrzyniec Staszic was born in Piła at the beginning of November 1755. He was a son of a town mayor, Wawrzyniec Staszic. He grew up in a family of long time tradition of public service and strong patriotic values. The education of a young Stanisław was directed by his father. In 1778 he graduated from the Seminary in Poznań. After finishing education in home country he continued to study abroad. In 1779–1781 he studies at the Collège Royal in Paris. After his return to homeland in 1781 for over ten years he worked for the family of Chancellor Andrzej Zamoyski. He entrusted Staszic with upbringing and education of his two sons, Alexander and Stanisław. While staying at house of Zamojski he wrote and anonymously issued his two most known works *Remarks upon the Life of Jan Zamojski* (1787) and *Warnings for Poland* (1790). Both these books were dedicated to repair of Poland and largely shaped public opinion at those times for reforms and contributed to passing the 3rd May Constitution.

After the third partition and fall of the Polish state in 1795 Staszic went to Vienna. In that period he dedicated to scientific research in order to know the geologic structure and resources of the land of former Poland. For this purpose he undertook a series of research trips in the Carpathians range. As a result the book was issued titled: *On Geology of Carpathians Mountains and Other Mountains and Plains of Poland* (1815) as well as a geological map. This research let him gain the title of „Father of Polish geology”.

In 1808 Staszic was chosen the president of the Warsaw Society of Friends of Science. For 18 years he directed work of this science organization and become a founder of its offices in Kanonie and the Staszic Palace in Krakowskie Przedmieście Street. In his last will he gave his entire library to Warsaw Society.



Portrait of Stanisław Staszic, K. A. Simon, 1829, lithograph

Since the creation of the Duchy of Warsaw Staszic started his civil service. In 1807 he became a member of the Treasury Department as well as Education Chamber where he dealt with: developing plans of school reform, providing education funds and creating new schools (School of Law, School of Medicine). Soon he became the most trusted expert of the Minister of Education Stanisław Kostka Potocki, and one of the most active members of this chamber. Next year he was nominated as a member of the State Council. He fulfilled functions of a referendary and then a State Counselor.

The fall of Napoleon and creation of the Polish Kingdom under the scepter of the Aleksander I, the Emperor of Russia did not cancel the civil service career of Staszic. He continued as a member of the State Council of the Polish Kingdom. In 1816 he was nominated as a member of the government commissions: Internal Affairs and Police and Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment. In the first ministry that he led, he managed the Directory of Industry, Commerce

and Crafts until 1824. He dealt mainly with developing industry and crafts, building roads and regulation of rivers. He especially took care of mining and metallurgy. He founded a lot of new mines, ironworks and factories in Zagłębie Dąbrowskie and Staropolskie. He also organized the Main Mining Management and Mining Academic School in Kielce, the first Polish tertiary technical school.

While taking post at the second government magistracy Staszic fulfilled function of a deputy minister of S. K. Potocki and member of the Main Examination Committee. He continued work on further organization of education system on Polish land. He made a lot of contributions in creation of the University of Warsaw. In the following years with his help there were founded schools in order to educate specialists needed by the state. They were: Construction and Measurement School (1817), Agronomic Institute in Marymont (1820), Road and Bridge Civil Engineering School (1823), Practical Veterinary Institute in Buraków (1824) and Preparation School for the Institute of Polytechnics (1826). In 1824 Staszic was nominated the

Minister of State. For his merits for the country he got the 1st Class Order of St. Stanislaus (1815) and the Order of White Eagle (1818).

Staszic was a precursor of peasant cooperativity by creating Hrubieszów Agricultural Society, which got in 1822 its final organizational shape. In 1819–1820 he published a poem *The Human Race*, a result of over thirty years of studies on human civilization on Earth. He died on 20th January 1826 in Warsaw. He was buried at the Camaldolese Church in Bielany. Before his death he wrote his last will in which he estimated his fortune at 809 thousand Złotys in deposits and cash. According to belief that „only this one does the best toward his Creator who during his life improves fate and increases happiness of other people” Staszic gave everything what he possessed for public purposes. He donated the Hospital of Dzieciątko Jezus with amount of 200 thousand Złotys, Institute of Deaf and Blind with 45 thousand Złotys, Department School in Hrubieszów with 60 thousand Złotys. He also designated 200 thousand Złotys for founding of work rooms for poor citizens of Warsaw.

The permanent exhibition in the Museum of Stanisław Staszic documents life and activity of this great citizen of Piła. He spent his childhood and early youth in Piła. In 1778 he graduated from a seminar in Poznań. Then in 1779–1781 he studied natural sciences at the Collège Royal in Paris. It is supposed that he last visited his hometown in 1781 when he returned from studying abroad to home country. After his return from studies Staszic took a post of a teacher and tutor of Chancellor A. Zamoyski's sons and settled permanently in Zamość. Contacts with members of this family, first with Andrzej and Konstancja and later with their children Anna and Stanisław lasted until the end of his life. At the Academy of Zamość he received doctoral degrees in both laws and directed the Department of French Language. In this part of exhibition we can see a lithography made on base of a drawing by Napoleon Orda showing the oldest picture of a Staszic family house with partial view of Browarna Street, a copy of the only one known portrait of Staszic from youth years of 1790s, autobiography by Staszic titled *A Brief Sketch of My Life*, a letter of good birth issued for Jacob Piehl signed by Andrzej Staszic, mayor of Piła and Stanisław's grandfather with a stamp of Piła from 1704 (a deposit from District Museum in Piła), the oldest board commemorating Staszic founded in 1876 in Poznań and portraits of members of the Zamoyski family: Andrzej, Aleksander and Stanisław.

Traveling was an important stage in Staszic life. He traveled abroad and around the country for scientific and research purposes, on duty as a government officer and privately. During 1790–1791 he went with the Zamoyski family to Vienna and Italy. The most time he spent in Vienna, Rome, Florence and Naples. He probably visited Sicilia where he watched the Etna volcano. From this trip he brought a diary which proves that he was a careful observer – real researcher of societies. His last journey to Paris Staszic

organized in 1804–1805. He devoted himself mainly to studying the latest literature in the field of Earth sciences. It was also an occasion for him to meet Tadeusz Kościuszko. The above mentioned journeys are documented at permanent exhibition with graphics with views of cities and places he visited. There are shown several views of Lwów, Rome, Naples, salt mine in Wieliczka, which was visited by Staszic with Konstancja Zamoyska and her children on 23 April 1790, which is certified by a record in the guestbook preserved until today. His second travel to Paris is associated with a graphic created on base of a painting by Louis David showing the crowning of Napoleon as Emperor of the French, during which Staszic stayed in the town upon the Seine river. He devoted much attention to the phenomenon of just creating Napoleonic legend. As he described, the expressions of the emperor cult were noticed everywhere: among people, at imperial court, in galleries, and even among mineral collections! On the touchscreen monitor in the Room I we can learn better the trips done by the famous citizen of Piła which were divided into five topic blocks: travels around the lands of the Republic of Poland, Italy, Paris, Vienna and Staszic's geological expeditions. Here, there were used parts of *The Travel Diary by S. Staszic* and *On Geology of Carpathians Mountains and Other Mountains and Plains of Poland* completed with illustrative material of maps, graphics, drawings and contemporary photographs showing places visited by Staszic. Here are presented stories of childhood, youth, study period, and work of Staszic as a teacher and tutor at house of Ex-chancellor Andrzej Zamoyski.

The research travels on the brink of 18th and 19th centuries and geological interests of Staszic are documented mostly by illustrations and a map in the form of an atlas supplemented to the book *On Geology of Carpathians Mountains and Other Mountains and Plains*



of Poland (a copy of the book issued in 1815 is presented in a display case). The dominant feature of this part of the exhibition is a geological map of Polish land as well as neighboring countries (two of four sheets). There is also shown a panoramic view of the Tatra mountains from Polish side, geological cross-section from the Baltic Sea to the Tatra mountains, a silhouette of a highlander from the beginning of 19th century, a scene showing an eagle attacking a mountain chamois and a drawing of the Mount of Łomnica climbed by Staszic. In the cabinet there is also a book: *The Epochs of Nature* by G. L. Buffon translated by Staszic with his extensive commentary and footnotes. It sho-

uld be mentioned that Staszic climbed several peaks over 2 thousand meters above sea level in the Tatra mountains. They are mountains of Kołowy Szczyt, Krywań and Łomnica (2634 m). On the peak of the Łomnica mountain he spent all night in order to perform necessary measurements. Then he climbed the Babia Góra mountain at dusk to watch the sunrise and the phenomenon of refraction of sunlight. In his research work he also used devices constructed according to his own idea. With a depth probe (i.e. lead ball with a line) he stated the depth of Tatra lakes. The temperature at lake bottom was measured with a glass bottle with a thermometer inside, closed with a cork.

View of the former of Staszic family house in Piła

Drawing by N. Orda, lithography by M. Fajans, Warsaw 1880

The oldest known part of Browarna Street with former house of Staszic family (first on the right side). Its author Napoleon Orda stayed in Piła in 1878. Then, two drawings were made, the first one with Staszic's house and the second, showing the Church of St. John the

Baptist and St. John the Evangelist. Only the first one was used to make a lithography. It was included in Notebook No 5 of *Historic Views of Poland* titled *The Album Depicting Historic Places of Grand Duchy of Poznań and West Prussia* drawn from nature by Napoleon Orda.



Rys z natury Napoleon Orda

Litował M. Fajans w Warszawie

PIŁA (Księstwo Poznańskie)

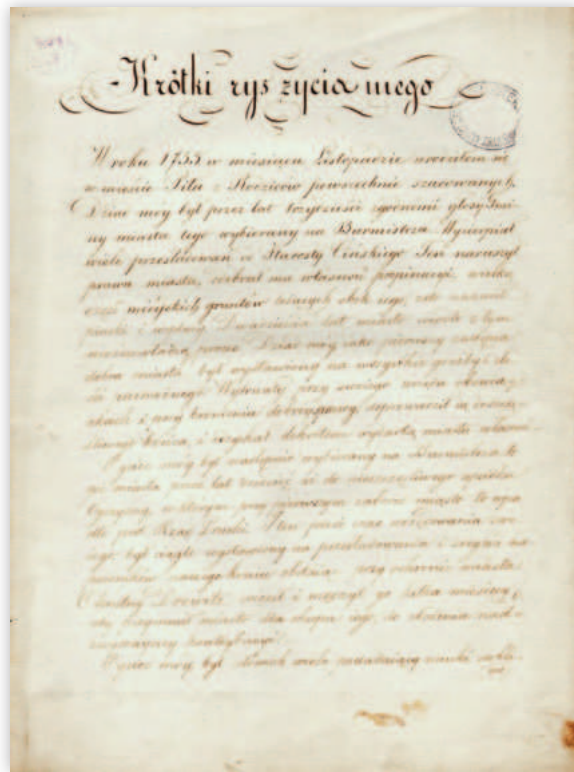
Tu się urodził w r. 1755 Stanisław Staszic, gorący przyjaciel ludu, miłośnik sztuki i znakomity obywatel. Był profesorem Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Nauk w Warszawie od r. 1808 do 1826. Ministrem Skarbu od 1824 do 1826. Umożliżył powstać całej swej funduszą na własność i instytucje dobroczynne.

Ici naquit Stanislas Staszic en 1755. Savant, homme d'état, ami et protecteur du peuple. Président de la Société des Amis des Sciences à Varsovie depuis 1808 jusqu'en 1826. Ministre d'Etat de 1824 à 1826. Il légua en mourant sa grande fortune aux paysans et aux établissements de bienfaisance.

Stanisław Staszic, *A Brief Sketch of My Life*

Warsaw, 2nd half of 19th century, manuscript

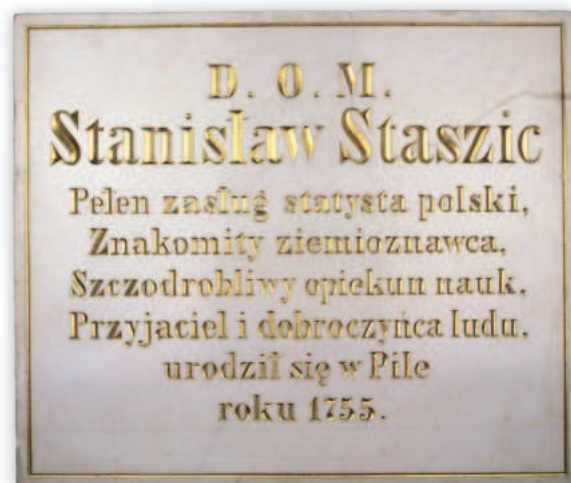
Staszic most likely wrote *A brief Sketch of My Life* as a result of request by Samuel Bogumił Linde at general meeting of Warsaw Society of Friends of Science in October 1822 to its members to submit their life histories to the archive. Staszic left the manuscript in his papers and after his death it was transferred to Warsaw Society files and there Secretary of the Society, Rev. Edward Czarniecki made a copy. The original and copy were burnt in Warsaw in 1944. There were more copies. The copy preserved in files of Museum of Stanisław Staszic was stored in files of Krasieński Estate Library in Warsaw. The above mentioned manuscript according to Czesław Leśniowski was a copy stitched into a copy the Volume 1 of *The Human Race*.



The plaque in honor of Staszic founded by Poznań Society of Friends of Sciences

Poznań, Creator unknown, 1876, white marble with gilding

This is one of the first exhibits in the museum's collection. The plaque was founded by a Department of History of Poznań Society on 50th anniversary of Staszic's death. It was built in the wall of the presbytery of St. Johns' Church in Piła. After the outbreak of the war in 1939 it was took off on order of the last parish priest Rev. Franz Hartz. After the war the plaque was found and returned to the Town Council of Piła and then in 1948 it was handed to the Museum of Stanisław Staszic.



Stanisław Staszic, *On Geology of Carpathians and Other Mountains and Plains of Poland*, Warsaw 1815

The book was published by Staszic in amount of 300 copies. It consists of 12 treatises where four of them are the travel diaries from a trip to the Tatra mountains. In this work Staszic analyzed five geological formations: original, adjoining, preductal, post-marine, and sedimental mountains. Nine of the treatises were also printed separately.



The Geological Map of Poland and Neighboring Countries, 1815

Engraving by J. Z. Frey, drawing by J. Ch. Hoffmann, copperplate

The first information about the map comes from 1810 and it was published completely five years later. It is the first Polish geological map covering the entire territory of the country. The map is documenting the geological construction showing hypsometric, morphologic data, location of minerals, paleontological data, and even archeologic finds. Professor Zbigniew Wójcik wrote that „the map by Staszic is without any doubt creative achievement on a European scale”.







About 1802 Staszic moved permanently to Warsaw. First as a member, and then as a president he actively took parts in work of Warsaw Society of Friends of Science. Thanks to his efforts the society received two consecutive locations, the first one in Kanonie, and the second in a palace in Krakowskie Przedmieście Street known as the Palace of Staszic. It was built in 1820–1823 according to a project by an Italian architect Antonio Corazzi. Staszic prompted himself his colleagues to maintain and continue the researches he started as well as in other sciences both theoretical as well as natural and historic calling for “being useful for the nation”. It is worth mentioning that against opposition of numerous people he succeeded in

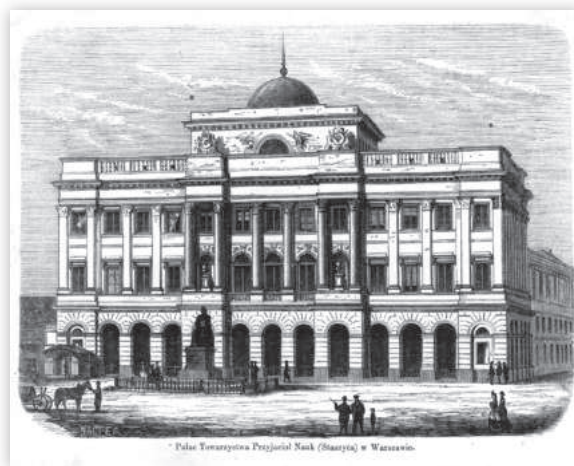
choosing as a member of a society a poor Jew, Abraham Stern, a brilliant inventor of a machine calculating fractions and roots. Moreover he gave his library, manuscripts and natural collection to the society in his testament. A writer and biographer Kajetan Koźmian described Staszic as a „most active, zealous and above all most generous” member of Warsaw Society.

The dominant element of the exposition in this room is a reproduction of a painting by Bronisław Kopczyński *The Ceremony of Honoring Rev. Onufry Kopczyński with a Gold Medal for the Grammar of Polish Language*. The ceremony took place in 1816 a library of the Piarist boarding school in Miodowa Street in Warsaw. Among the mem-

bers of Warsaw Society present at the meeting there is also Stanisław Staszic. Below the painting there is an interactive dresser with two touchscreens built in its top. One of them contains material associated with Warsaw Society activity and Staszic's part in work of the society. The second touchscreen presents the above mentioned painting by B. Kopczyński. By clicking on numbered figures marked on the painting, information about them is shown on the screen. The dresser was equipped with six drawers in which there are artifacts from the museum collection associated with Warsaw Society activity as well as. We can see the following documents: a letter by Staszic to a bibliographer and translator Wasyliy Grigoryevich Anastasevich dated on 20 June 1811, silver medal minted by Warsaw Society for the Saxon King Fryderyk August in thanks for royal patronage, a print with a speech starting a public meeting of Warsaw Society by Staszic on 22 December 1809, information print: *A Prospectus of History of Polish Nation* referring to a project realized by the society and a copy of newspaper *Gazeta Warszawska* of December 1815, in which there was a report on the audience of Emperor Alexander I for the society members and the Volume VI of Warsaw Society *Annals*. It is worth mentioning that on behalf of the delegation present at the audience Staszic delivered a speech to the monarch and introduced colleagues who came with him. The president also dedicated the emperor his work *On geology of Carpathians*. In the above mentioned volume of the *Annals* there was published a geological treatise *About Geology of Sarmatia and then Poland*, in which Staszic appealed to youth to dedicate for sciences, skills and discovery of national wealth. He finished it with

a famous sentence: *Even a great nation can fail; but only wicked could be destroyed*. Today the appeal of a famous citizen of Piła is often called "The Staszic ode to youth". Additionally after opening of each drawer you can hear information on chosen objects.

In the cabinet there are presented documents commemorating the activities of the society. There are: *WTPN Annals*, *Historical Songs* and *The History of Polish Nation During the Reign of Władysław IV* by members of the society: Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz and Kajetan Kwiatkowski and medals with portraits of Rev. O. Kopczyński, Samuel Bogumił Linde, and the monument of Nicolaus Copernicus in Warsaw. In this part of exhibition we present also several portraits of members of Warsaw Society, e.g. Stanisław Kostka Potocki, General Jan Henryk Dąbrowski (he gave to the society his valuable collection of maps and drawings as well as some of military artifacts), Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz, (3rd and last president of Warsaw Society), and a portrait of Stanisław Staszic. Then follow a watercolor and graphics with the view of the Palace of Staszic, a bust of an Italian architect Antonio Corazzi – the author of a project of the Palace of Staszic, miniature of Nicolaus Copernicus statue which originator and great patron was Staszic and a portrait of a Danish sculptor Bertel Thorwaldsen – the author of the monument of the Polish famous astronomer.



View of the Palace of Staszic in Warsaw, engraver H. Walter, 1863, woodcut

Portrait of Stanisław Staszic

Lithography by W. Śliwicki, Warsaw 1824,

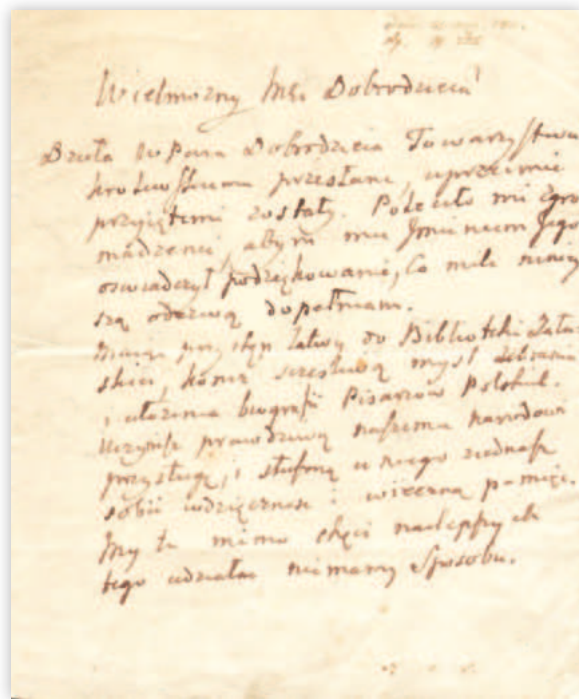
It is the only graphical portrait of Staszic in collection of the Museum of Staszic made during his life. The portrait was published in an album *Portraits of Famous Poles* published by WSFS. The image of Staszic was placed in Volume 6th published in 1824. After the Staszic's death there were some copies printed with a four verse poem by Kajetan Koźmian, saying: "At work on country's fortune and compatriots' education/ His mind was invigorated by Zeno and his heart was ruled by Plato/But how to rise over both of them, he looked for a pattern in heaven/and he managed to love people more than himself".



Letter from Stanisław Staszic as President of Warsaw Society of Friends of Science to Vasyliy Grigoryevich Anastasevich in Petersburg

Warsaw, 20 June 1811, manuscript

In the letter Staszic thanked to Russian bibliographer and translator W. G. Anastasevich for the books offered to Warsaw Society. He also prompted the addressee of the letter to work out the bibliography of Polish writers based on resources of the Załuski Library taken away to Petersburg. Anastasevich became a corresponding member of Warsaw Society on recommendation of Staszic.



Miniature of the monument of Nicolaus Copernicus in Warsaw

Karol Minter's factory, Warsaw 1854–1879,
zinc die-cast

The originator of creating the monument of N. Copernicus was Staszic. He reported this idea in 1809 on one of meetings of the State Council of Warsaw Duchy which take place in Toruń. Warsaw Society undertook the execution of the project by announcing a public fundraiser for this purpose. After the fall of the Duchy a decision was made to localize the monument in Warsaw. In 1820 Staszic signed a contract for creation of the monument with a Danish sculptor Bertel Thorwaldsen, and the agreed fee for the artist was paid from his own means. In a testament he designated 70 thousand Złotys for a die-cast in Warsaw. The monument was put in front of the Palace of Staszic and ceremonially unveiled in 1830.



Corridor

In a corridor linking Room II and III you can see a reproduction of a drawing by Jan Piotr Norblin *Swearing in of the Constitution of May 3rd* and listen to parts of five recordings (control of the army and army taxes, taxes from county office, setting of a new tax base for lands and government type – in this case voting in local meetings) described by Staszic in *Warnings for Poland*. It is worth mentioning that Staszic with his students Aleksander and Stanisław Zamoyski watched from a public gallery in the Senator Hall of the Royal Palace in Warsaw parliament debates in the first year of Great Sejm activities. In the corridor there are also portraits one of the originators of the Constitution of May 3rd, Hugo Kołłątaj and Tadeusz Kościuszko, a participant of a war between Poland and Russia in defense of the Constitution. The future commander of the uprising was met by Staszic in 1792 in Zamość. According to words by K. Koź-

mian, writer of diaries from this period, Staszic was supposed to say that Kościuszko is an honest and brave man but he does not know Poland and even less Europe. "He would like to be like Washington as a commander of the army, but such a man like dictator Sulla does not save Poland".





Next part of the permanent exhibition is dedicated to writing activities of Stanisław Staszic. His achievements in this area include translations from French and original works. The first publication of Staszic were translations of poems by Racine *Religion* and by Voltaire *About the issue of Lisbon* (1779). Subsequent positions were: *Epochs of Nature* by Buffon (1786), *Numa Pompilius II the King of Rome* by Florian (1788), *The Eulogy Marcus Aurelius* by Thomas (1789) and *Illiad* by Homer (1815). Staszic was also one of translators of a vast work by Rulhière *History of a Disorder in Poland*. In the cabinet aside from *Iliad* and *Numa Pompilius* there are showed original works by Staszic. They are: *Remarks on the life of Jan Zamoyski* (1787), *Warnings for Poland* (1790), first edition of a brochure *About statistics of Poland* (1807) and Volume II *The Human Race*

– the biggest literary project of Staszic. This work containing three volumes was written by him for almost thirty years. It was published in 1819–1820 with great splendor on Dutch paper and decorated with 18 drawings. This philosophic and didactic poem was published without censorship interference and next nearly all edition was confiscated and destroyed by order of the Great Prince Konstanty. There are rare complete copies existing presently and they are bibliophile rarities.

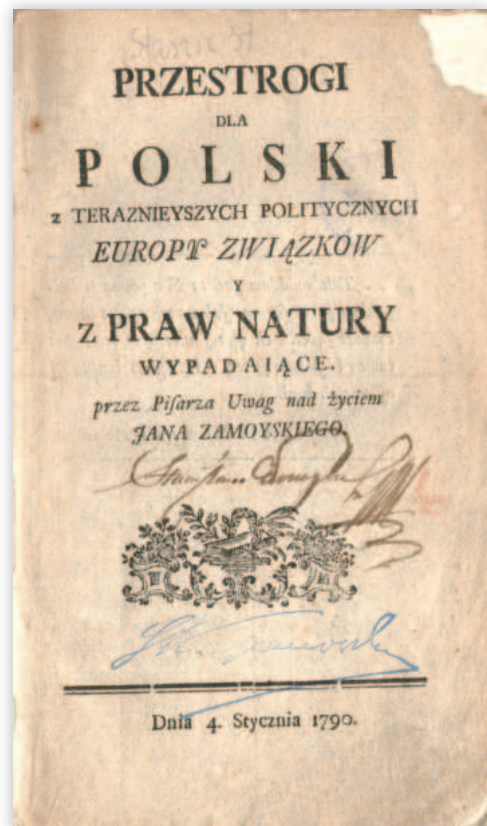
On the main wall of the room there are enlarged two drawings for Volumes I and VII of *The Human Race* showing a primitive man in natural state and the beginnings of agriculture and the first page of a manuscript of this book. There are also presented several

graphics from the greatest literary work of Staszic and non-typical portrait of him, in his apartment at work. A colored lithography belongs to a series of *Portraits of Kings and Famous Poles* published in the second half of 1850s. It is worth to pay attention to a graphics by F. Jasiński based on a painting by J. Matejko *The Announcement of the 3rd May Constitution*. Among other people depicted here there is Staszic with Chancellor A. Zamoyski. This is one of two paintings by this artist where Staszic was portrayed. At the exhibition there is also a famous graphics *The King's wheel* depicting in allegoric way the first partition of Poland between Russia, Austria and Prussia. This fact recorded firmly in memory of 17 years old Staszic, because Piła was included into the Prussian state and his father was deprived of the post of mayor.

In the Room III, material available on a touchscreen develops the thread of literary activities of S. Staszic. You can find here not only information about some works by Staszic, but also ale selected extracts (thoughts by Staszic) taken from *Remarks upon the Life of Jan Zamoyski* and *Warnings for Poland* as well as opinions by contemporary figures and historians on *Remarks* and *The Human Race*. Aside from this, visitors have possibility to get known with texts of five publications by Staszic, among which there are also *On Statistics of Poland*, *To the Parliament* and *Thoughts about Political Balance in Europe*. You can find here also the origin of Jan Matejko's painting *The Announcement of the May 3rd Constitution* and a copy of the graphics from the museum's files with numbered characters put on the canvas by the artist.



Portrait of Stanisław Staszic, lithographer A. Maurin, Warsaw before 1860, lithography



Stanisław Staszic, *Warnings for Poland*, Michał Gröll, Warsaw, May 1790

The Announcing of the May 3rd Constitution by Jan Matejko

Drawing by F. S. Jasiński, according to a drawing by J. Matejko, etching

The painting by Jan Matejko shows members of parliament and senators in streets of Warsaw between the King Palace where the 3rd May Constitution was adopted, and the St. John's Church, where it was solemnly sworn in. In the picture there are characters who took direct part in the event as well as such who were not there, but according to the painter they had symbolic meaning for this moment in the history of the Polish nation. The latter include, among others, Chancellor Andrzej Zamoyski and Stanisław Staszic, who were traveling around Italy at that time. Jan Matejko's canvas was a testimony of rooting the excellent citizen of Piła in 3rd May tradition.



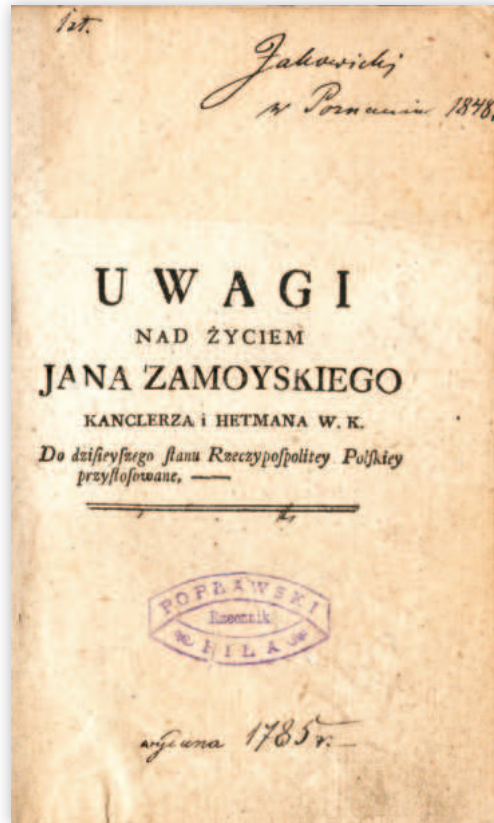
Jan Matejko



F. J. Anstey

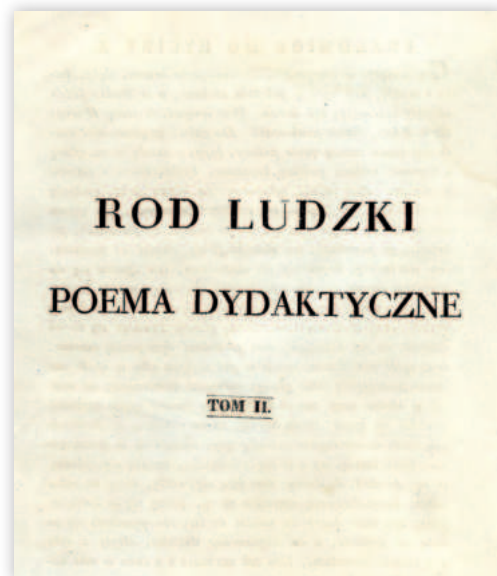
Stanisław Staszic, *Remarks upon the Life of Jan Zamoyski*, Warsaw 1787

The book was created from inspiration of the former Chancellor Andrzej Zamoyski. Staszic wrote that *Remarks* was created in order to „all flaws of our country social principle to be showed to the nation which stands on brink of the abyss and to show the last moment for saving and improvement“. Discussing the ways of saving for Poland Staszic wrote about education, executive, lawmaking and judicial powers, commerce, taxes, army and politics of neighboring powers. The book gave the author his name as one of the most distinguished Polish political writers.



Stanisław Staszic, *The Human Race* (Volume II), Warsaw 1820

This three volume work was the result of thorough studies by Staszic on human civilization. The author showed in it a general scheme of human history and vision for the society of the future – „Europe of associated nations“. The work has a clear didactic goal revealing the mechanisms governing social development in order to help people achieve a state of universal peace and happiness. The book consists of 18 poetic chapters and 77 chapters written in prose. All chapters include graphics which Staszic ordered in Warsaw, Vienna, Paris and Rome.





*Już się Odkrywa, ukazuje ta szczęsna Część Świata,
Gdzie mają powstać krajow. Narodow z rzeszenia.
Wzrostem powszechnei Rzeszy potoczy je zakon;
W posród z rzeszonych ludow jeden Bog jeden tron.*

Graphic for Volume XVIII of *The Human Race*, drawing V. P. Antoine, eng. N. Ponce, 1822, copperplate



In the last room there are exhibited artifacts associated with the public activities of Stanisław Staszic during the era of the Duchy of Warsaw and the Kingdom of Poland.

Among several objects located in the display case there are, among others: a handwritten letter by Staszic to unknown addressee dated on 12th May 1818, office letters originating from government committees for Internal Affairs and Police, as well as Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment signed by Staszic on behalf of ministers Tadeusz Mostowski and S. K. Potocki, medals: (commemorative), for founders of the Medical School, with the image of Dr August Ferdinand Wolff, co-founder of the school, (inaugural) from the University of Warsaw, (reward) for artists IN GENIO ET ARTI, and

two medals commemorating the construction of the road from Warsaw to Brześć in 1823, a plaque made in the steelworks in Samsonów with the image of Emperor Alexander I and inscription „Polish Factory in Samsonów 1816” and medallion with the image of Staszic from the second half of 19th century.

In a cabinet filled with volumes from 18th and 19th centuries you can find two interesting objects. The copy of *Orationes XVIII* by Aleksander Politi with handwritten dedication and signatures of Staszic and other officers and teachers. It was given in 1818 to Wojciech Jarociński, at that time a student of the 6th grade at the Warsaw Piarist Collegium, who excelled in his studies. The book certifies the attendance of Staszic at public performances by students of Warsaw schools. There is

also Volume IV of *Works by Staszic Defense of the Education Fund* printed on it. Between 1811–1812 at meetings of the Council of State of the Duchy of Warsaw Staszic was in dispute with the Minister of Justice Feliks Łubieński about the nature of the post-Jesuit goods, from which the profits were allocated to the Education Fund. He himself prepared a draft for a decree on this matter, and at the decisive moment, with a speech in defense of the Fund, he convinced members of the Council of State to support his position.

In this part of the exhibition we also show some graphics related to public activity of Staszic. Among them you can see: the view of the Bishop's Palace in Kielce – the headquarters of the Mining Directorate and Academy of Mining and the palace where the Internal Affairs and Police Committee held its offices, lithography of the building complex of the Palace of Casimir from 1824 – the headquarters of the University of Warsaw and the print made according to the painting by Antoni Brodowski, showing the Emperor and King of Poland Alexander I founding the University in Warsaw. The artist painted also Staszic who is standing (second on the right) between Emperor and the Minister of Education S. K. Potocki.

There are also three valuable objects exhibited in this room. A medical diploma of Filip Jakub Mikuliński, of 1st class surgeon from 1813 signed by Staszic, an oil painting of Stanisław Staszic in a navy blue tailcoat and a book from his private library bought in Paris written by a French geologist Barthélemy Faujas de Saint-Fond *Recherches sur les volcans éteints du Vivarais et du Velay* (Grenoble-Paris 1778).

In the last Room IV there are also two touchscreen monitors showing the public activity by Staszic (educational and economical) and the Hrubieszów Agriculture Society, his death circumstances, his testament and origins of the legend of Staszic. Another multimedia element is an interactive dresser equipped by six drawers in which there are following objects: a silver cup with a dedication for S. Staszic, a Dutch ducat (in this currency Staszic had significant savings), a letter from General Józef Zajączek to Staszic, a silver medal minted for the occasion of the opening of Aleksander Ironworks in Białogon, a copy of newspaper *Gazeta Warszawska* with a speech delivered by Count Fryderyk Skarbek on the funeral of Staszic and a round medallion from 2nd half of 19th century with an image of Staszic cast in the K. J. Minter Factory in Warsaw.



Cup with a dedication for Stanisław Staszic

Producer unknown, 18th century, silver

This is a unique material object which belonged to Stanisław Staszic. The cup has a dedication on its foot from which learn that it was given to Staszic by Łukasz Zagurski on 11th May 1797 in gratitude for education. The date of dedication proves the cup was handed over to Staszic during his stay in Vienna. Most probably Staszic after finishing education of Aleksander and Stanisław, the sons of Chancellor A. Zamoyski, took up giving lessons to the above mentioned Zagurski. He could do it at the latest until May 1797 because from June that year he stayed permanently at home country.



Portrait of Stanisław Staszic

Painter unknown, 1820s, oil on canvas

The portrait of Staszic in a navy blue tailcoat was practically unknown until 2006. It was in possession of a family of Zygmunt Kazimierz Bartkiewicz, a painter from Lublin and was in family tradition treated as „a portrait painted by Bacciarelli”. The authorship of this painter was not able to confirm. The painting’s authenticity is supported by the dress of Staszic, because after his death on the list of wardrobe used by the author of *Remarks* there were listed two navy blue tailcoats, five white waistcoats and a silk scarf.



Medical Diploma of Filip Jakub Mikuliński

Warsaw, 31 December 1813, printing

This is one of the first diplomas of 18 students who graduated from the Medical School in Warsaw. F. J. Mikuliński received the rank of 1st Grade Surgeon, which was confirmed by signatures of Dean Hiacynt Dziarkowski and President of Council of Faculty of Medicine

S. Staszic. The school was founded in Warsaw in 1809 with the significant participation of Staszic, and after creating the University of Warsaw it became the Medical Department of the school.



Commemorative medal by Aleksander Ironworks in Białogon near Kielce

F. Stuckhart, Warsaw 1818, silver, minted

The construction of the factory was supervised by Staszic who acted as a General Director of the Directorate of Industry and Crafts. The ceremony of opening the ironworks where copper, lead, and silver were smelted took place on 26th August 1817. The medal itself was minted a year later before the expected arrival of the Emperor Aleksander I at Sejm (Parliament) in Warsaw. Staszic was an author of inscription placed on the reverse of the medal: „And the sun shone on Polish ores”.



Medallion with image of Stanisław Staszic

Karol Minter's factory, Warsaw, about 1860, zinc, cast

The medallion presents the oldest type of image of Staszic in the art of medallion. Its original was cast in Aleksander ironworks in 1821 in form of a rectangular plaque. In the second half of 19th century the relief was reproduced in several sizes. The author of original was most probably August Chartron, a modeler and draftsman of the Mining Directorate in Kielce.



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