

*THE PRUSSIAN HOMAGE* IN ZAMOŚĆ –  
THE WAR-TIME HISTORY OF THE PAINTING  
FROM EUGENIUSZ TOR'S MEMOIRS

S u m m a r y

Memoirs of engineer Eugeniusz Tor, director of The Dr Adrian Baraniecki Municipal Industrial and Craft Museum in Cracow, are a chronicle of the extremely interesting war fate of Jan Matejko's painting *The Prussian Homage*. The author, already before World War II, had participated in the meeting organized to discuss the way of protecting the painting and immediately following the outbreak of the war, personally supervised the transportation of the canvas to the town of Zamość, where it was sheltered in the vaults of St Catherine's church. During military operations the painting was damaged by the Soviet soldiers and later, under the care of the memoirs' author, was transported back to Cracow, where it stayed under the floor of a hall of the Czapski Palace till the end of the war.

After the war, in March 1945, Mr Tor – as a vice-mayor of Cracow – participated in the consultations devoted to the conservation works performed on Matejko's masterpiece. The solemn opening of the Gallery of the 19th Century Polish Painting in the Cloth Hall in Cracow took place on 1st September 1945, with the renovated *Prussian Homage* as one of its main masterpieces.