



DISCOVER OLSZTYN

City Symbols

Coat of Arms

St James – the Patron of the City

The Tradition of St James Today

Hymn

Flag

Logo

The City Hall

The Old City Hall

The Olsztyn Monuments

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What constitutes the history of Olsztyn and exerted an immense influence on its present image are historical events and signs of activity of its outstanding citizens and ordinary inhabitants. The elements of the past and present days may be discovered in characteristic emblems, architectonic buildings, monuments and documents, which became recognizable symbols of the city. Since the very beginning Olsztyn has been accompanied by the person of **St James** – the wanderer with a pilgrim stick and a shell in his hands. At first he was only the church patron, later on he became the protector of the whole city. His image has been present on the seal and coat of arms of Olsztyn for ages, has been applied on stained-glasses and pictures, facades of the buildings and interiors of municipal offices. Nowadays the name of the saint is evoked during important cultural and sporting events whereas the bridge, park, music ensemble and the shopping gallery were even named after him. One group of important symbols of Olsztyn comprises historic buildings associated with municipal authorities. Erected in the past centuries they outlasted the wars, fires and other historical maelstroms. Among the major symbolic monuments of Olsztyn we should mention the Gothic St James Cathedral, the Old and the New City Hall.





The Olsztyn coat of arms as the main motif of stained-glasses decorating the Session Hall in the New City Hall

COAT OF ARMS

On 31 October 1353, on the basis of the privilege passed by the **Warmian Chapter**, Olsztyn was given its name and was granted the municipal character. Initially the town did not have its own seal and municipal documents were stamped with the one belonging to the Warmian Chapter. The seal bore an image of the half-cross and the Gothic tower, whereas its upper part included the letters SCW – standing for *Sigillum capituli Warmiensi*, meaning “the seal of the Warmian Chapter”.

At the end of the 14th century the city used two seals: the large and the secret one. After centuries the former was identified on the basis of its dimly visible impress attached to an undated document. Only in 1916 the original seal was discovered in the ground close to the castle mill, where it had been probably buried since the time of the Polish-Teutonic war. The latter, it is a secret one, was still in use in 1526. It depicted the wanderer, dressed in a Gothic manner, carrying

a pilgrim stick in his right hand and a shell in the left one. His hat was surrounded by an aureole. The wanderer shown on the coat of arms was associated with St James the Elder, the then patron of the first parochial church – the present Cathedral Basilica. Later on he has been chosen as the protector of Olsztyn.

In the second half of the 16th century the two seals ceased to be used as the city introduced the new ones, whose image retained old elements, though modified to suit the Baroque taste. In that way also the image of St James presented on the seals has changed. The pilgrim was then depicted without an aureole, dressed in a secular manner, which made him look like renowned burghers of Olsztyn. He was wearing a shortened, knee-length dress, poulaines and a small brim hat. The saint was carrying a pilgrim stick in his right hand, while the left one rested on his chest, as if to support the wrap, which covered the back of the figure.

During the Baroque period the fashion has changed under the influence of the French style, which also affected the image of St



The seal of the Warmian Chapter dating to the beginning of the town history



The redrawn, oldest large seal of the 14th century



The image of St James on the facade of the tenement house in 3 Mrongowiusz Street

James. We see him wearing a big, musketeer-like hat, tights and trousers that buckled under his knees. Such a depiction of the patron of Olsztyn remained valid as long as Warmia – a dominium of the bishop and the Chapter – stayed under the reign of the Polish king.

In the course of centuries the Olsztyn coat of arms underwent some decisive transformations and the image of St James the Elder was complemented with new elements. Moreover, in the 15th century an additional half-cross and the Gothic tower appeared on the shield.

After the annexation of Warmia by the Prussians in 1772, the Olsztyn coat of arms became a combination of its former, 15th- and 16th-century elements and attributes of the Warmian Chapter: a half-cross and the city gate with the figure of St James between them. The break with the heraldic tradition of Olsztyn is marked by the partition of Poland. Some time later the city council was not even able to give an answer to the Königsberg municipal authorities concerning the actual image of the city's coat of arms. Its form was set later on the basis of the seal impress discovered in the acts of the Polish noble family of Grzymała of Nikielkowo. The new, or rather reconstructed, coat of arms included the elements taken from the emblem of the Warmian Chapter – a characteristic half-cross and the Gothic tower. As for the wanderer, he was dressed in a monastic habit. It was a starting point for further modifications of the coat of arms.

Until the beginning of the 20th century the Olsztyn coat of arms became a combination of different styles and heraldic attributes



A smaller 16th-century seal



The city seal from the turn of the 16th and 17th centuries



The 15th-century coat of arms



The 16th-century seal



The city seal of 1789



The city coat of arms in the Session Hall

originally belonging to the arms of the bishop and the City Chapter. It was also placed on the wall just above the main entrance to the **New City Hall**, built in the years 1912–1915. Just before the outbreak of the Second World War, the Nazi authorities removed the figure of the saint and for some years the Olsztyn coat of arms depicted only the half-cross and the Gothic tower.

In the post-war time **the early 20th-century form of the coat of arms** was approved, which version remained valid until 1973, when due to the expansion of the Olsztyn Tire Company (today Michelin Tire Company) its new form appeared. The shield was then divided into two fields – the white, left one and the right, blue one. The white part shield depicted a wanderer while the blue one showed an image of a cogwheel, being at the same a tire, with stylized golden ears of wheat placed around it. The details were meant to symbolize the industrialization of the city and agricultural character of the region. The tire stood for the Olsztyn Tire Company, while the ears of wheat



*The coat of arms (1839)
reconstructed according
to Kretschmer*



The 19th-century city seal

referred to the Agricultural University of Olsztyn. After some years the municipal authorities made a decision to return to the 14th-century form of the coat of arms. In 1982, after a stormy public discussion, **the present version of the coat of arms** was approved. It shows the patron of the oldest city parish – the Apostle James the Elder – with an aureole, dressed in a Gothic manner. He was wearing a foot-long, diagonally folded dress, a hat, golden poulaines and carried a pilgrim stick. There is also a heraldic shield, sharply pointed down, which serves as a background for the saint's image.

At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries the Olsztyn coat of arms was placed in various city parts. Some of the emblems have preserved until now. A very interesting bas-relief, showing an unknown form of the arms, may be found at the top of the main facade of the tenement house in 3 Mrongowiusz Street, built in the years 1905–1910. It is a combination of very unique elements. First of all, its base has the shape of a fishermen boat with a stylised half-cross resembling a flag, placed at its stern. As for St James the Elder, he does not carry



The Olsztyn coat of arms along with the arms of the partner cities of Offenburg and Chatauroux during the anniversary meeting on 19 May 2006.

a pilgrim stick. Such a form of the arms refers probably to the facts from the life of the patron of Olsztyn, who for many years used to work as a fisherman. The old form of the Olsztyn arms decorates also some interiors. It may be seen in its multi-colour version in the corridor of the parochial house at St James parish as well as in numerous Olsztyn offices.

Getting to know the history of the Olsztyn coat of arms will give its inhabitants a chance to feel a part of the history, whereas tourists will easily recognize the city and distinguish it from other Polish towns.

The use of the Olsztyn coats of arms is limited by the charter and restricted to the City Council, the President of Olsztyn and the City Office. Any legal or natural person as well as organisational unit willing to make use of the arms is obliged to obtain a permission of the President of Olsztyn, which is also required when using the arms as a trade mark for commercial or advertising purposes.



The Olsztyn coat of arms on the street signs



The 19th-century seal of the City Board



The coat of arms in the years 1894–1939



The coat of arms during the Second World War



The coat of arms introduced in 1973



The present Olsztyn coat of arms



Pilgrims on the route to Santiago de Compostella

ST JAMES – THE PATRON OF THE CITY

The patron of Olsztyn is **St James the Elder** (also referred to as the Greater), the cousin of Jesus and brother of St John the Evangelist. His name derives from the Hebrew "Jaaqob" meaning "may God protect us".

St James the Elder is the patron of pilgrims as well as warriors, workers, chemists, pharmacists, hat and wax makers or blacksmiths specialising in chain making; he takes care of the apples and crops and is called out when praying for a good weather and when suffering from rheumatism.

According to tradition, in the time after Pentecost, James the Apostle headed for Spain to spread the Good Word. That is undoubtedly why he is worshiped in Spain and Portugal and became the first patron of those countries. He was also considered the first among the Apostles and the second Christian martyr after St Stephen as in the year 44 Herod Agrippa I, the grandson of the King Herod the Great, with the intention to win the Jews favor, passed an order to behead him. The tradition says that in the 7th century the relics of St James were brought from Jerusalem to Santiago de Compostella in the north-west of Spain, where his tomb is to be found until now.

The religious cult of St James started to develop at the onset of the 9th century and has flourished until now. Compostella became a popular pilgrim destination, with its peak in the 12th century, when the place was acknowledged by the Pope the third – after Jerusalem and Rome



Pilgrims on St James's Route

(photo: www.franciszkanie.pl)

– most important place in Christendom. Over the centuries pilgrims of all social classes made their way to Compostella. We find among them many famous personalities, such as Charles the Great, St Francisco, St Brigitte the Swedish as well as the Warmian bishop Jan Dantyszek. Similarly Jerzy and Stanisław Radziwiłł (in 1579) and Jakub Sobieski, the father of the King Jan III Sobieski (in 1611) are also known to set on a pilgrimage. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe wrote that "Europe was formed on the way to Santiago".

The French Revolution marked a significant decrease in pilgrimages. Only after the 1980s the route started to attract more and more pilgrims from all over the world.



Symbolic shells of St James, the patron of Olsztyn

St James's Route functions as the symbol of cultural exchange and united Europe. Since 1986, the reconstruction of the route has been initiated in many countries. Today, apart from Spain, El Camino routes can be found in Portugal (Camino Portugues), France (Chemin Saint-Jacques) as well as in Germany, Austria and Switzerland (Jakobswege). The most attended one is the Camino Frances (ca. 750 km).

As for Poland, it is situated on the European pilgrimage route Camino de Santiago. It used to start in Estonia and go via Poland, Germany, Switzerland and France to Santiago.

Bearing all that in mind it is then not surprising that Poland replied to the appeal of the European Council and undertook the initiative to reconstruct former pilgrimage routes. The first one was the Low-Silesian St James's Route (ca. 160 km), opened on 24 July 2005 in Jakubowo near Głogów. Its extension is the Great Poland Route of St James (490 km), which is, in fact, a recreated historic pilgrimage route leading from Gniezno via Poznań and Zgorzelec to Prague. Other two historic routes – **Camino Polaco** (the Polish Route) and **Camino del Norte** (Northern Route) – have been also in the process of reconstruction. The first one starts in Ogrodniki at the Lithuanian border and leads via Olsztyn and Toruń to Słubice, at the German border. Its first section, extending from the Cathedral Church of St James in Olsztyn to the Gothic church of St James in Toruń, was opened on 25 July 2006.

The European symbol of the route is **St James's shell** – the attribute of the patron of Olsztyn and, at the same time, the element of the city flag.

The cult of St James and the pilgrimage movement must have

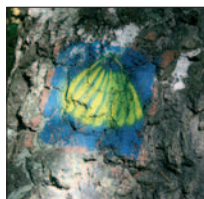


The board with information about St James's Route



After the visit of Pope John Paul II to Santiago de Compostela in 1982, the Council of Europe acknowledged St James's Route important for the culture of the continent and appealed to reconstruct and maintain historic pilgrimage routes, which was met with a great enthusiasm all over Europe.

In October 1987 St James's Route was declared the first European Cultural Route of the Council of Europe. In 1993 it was inscribed as one of the UNESCO's World Heritage.





The Cathedral Basilica of St James in Olsztyn

been decisive factors in adopting such a protector for the city of Olsztyn. St James was also the patron of the parochial church, erected simultaneously with the city. It was completed in 1380 and functions nowadays as the Cathedral Basilica.

The Cathedral Basilica of St James overlooking the Olsztyn Old Town is one of the most precious churches in Warmia. It is a hall, one-storey building with three naves. The middle one, with the late-Gothic netvault is twice as broad as the side ones, famous for their unique crystal vault. An eight-storey, 67 m high church tower was erected in 1596 on the site of the former wooden one. The church, as a logical element of the urban plan, was situated in such a way that its south-eastern wall and the tower could have been used as parts of the city defense system. The side chapels were altered in 1721 by Piotr Olechowski of Reszel. In the years 1866–1868 the church underwent a thorough renovation. Over the centuries it was visited by the outstanding Warmian bishops: **Jan Dantyszek**, **Marcin Kromer** and **Ignacy Krasicki** and even by the **King Wladislaus IV** (1635). In the years 1898–1900 **Feliks Nowowiejski**, the composer of „Rota” and the opera “Legenda Bałtyku” (“The



The figure of St James the Elder, the church patron, is placed near the main altar. It constituted a part of the former altar which was damaged in the fire of 1986. The statue is one of few surviving Baroque monuments.

Legend of the Baltic Sea”) was active there as a church organist. Moreover, between 1979 and 1981 the cathedral was the seat of the Warmian bishop Józef Glemp, the later archbishop of Poland. As a monument of the 14th-century north-European architecture, the Olsztyn cathedral is one of the very few mentioned in textbooks on the history of architecture. Over the centuries it has been an architectural landmark of the city, coexisting harmonically with the silhouette of the castle opposite. Since 1945 the parochial Church of St James the Elder functioned as a pro-cathedral, since 1973 as a con-cathedral and in 2004 it was raised to the rank of a minor basilica. In summer the church opens the door to the artists taking part in an annual event known as the Olsztyn Organ Concerts.

St James Bridge – the River Łyna flows near the cathedral while the bridge, which was given the name of city’s patron, spans the historic parts of Olsztyn – Podgrodzie and Lower Podgrodzie – linking Feliks Szrajber and Seweryn Pieniężny Street.



St James's Parade

THE TRADITION OF ST JAMES TODAY

The figure of the wanderer carrying a pilgrim stick and a shell has been found on the Olsztyn coat of arms and seals for centuries and even these days the citizens commemorate their patron as the most important cultural events taking place in Olsztyn bear the name of St James. The saint was also honoured in a monument.

The Monument of St James by Rafał Grabowski, a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk, was initially intended to decorate a bay-window of the Higher Gate (at present we can see there the picture of Virgin Mary). The statue is made of artificial mellowed sandstone, a pilgrim stick of bronze whereas the shell attached to the saint's hat is made of artificial sandstone. In 2004 the monument was placed on a sandstone socle at the Olsztyn Fish Market.

The Award of the President of Olsztyn – the **Statue of St James** was established in 2003, on the 650th anniversary of granting the civic rights to the town. On one hand it refers to the tradition and patron of the city, on the other it is meant to honour outstanding personalities living and working in the capital of Warmia and Mazuria. The Award Committee grants the prize in five categories: culture, science, economics, sport and as a recognition of distinguished service.

St James's Days is a two-day event starting on the name's day of the patron of Olsztyn. It is opened with **St James's Parade** – led traditionally by "St James" – which is attended by the citizens dressed in historic clothing as well as artists and dancers, often from exotic corners of the world, who in the same way mark the beginning of International Folklore Days. The event, being the part of the Olsztyn Artistic Summer (OLA) – the longest summer festival lasting from mid-June to



St James's Monument at the Fish Market



The Statue of St James



Sailing Cup awarded with the Shell of St James

mid-September – is accompanied by concerts, displays and fairs. During the first St James's Days, in 2003, a few hundred thousand inhabitants of Olsztyn took a group picture at the Old Town Market.

Polish Sailing Championship of the Tourism Sector awarded with "St James's Shell", officially opens the sailing season in the capital of Warmia and Mazuria. Each year the event promotes Olsztyn as the city of 11 lakes and 154 ha of forest – the largest municipal forest in Europe. It is attended by sailing crews from all over Poland as well as competitors from partner towns of Olsztyn – Gelsenkirchen (Germany), Łuck (Ukraine), Kaliningrad (Russia) and the Italian region of Perugia.

It may sometimes happen that fairy tales and fantasy merge with reality and facts. On one hand the history of Olsztyn has been thoroughly researched and described in details by scholars, on the other the city itself has its own legend, which teaches the youth respect for tradition.

St James's Legend is a story about a wanderer-pilgrim, St James, who had once arrived in the surroundings of Olsztyn. He was welcome by the inhabitants of the future city and decided to stay with them, taking an active part in every day activities. In order to show their gratitude, the inhabitants built him the church on the bank of the Łyna and asked the saint for his patronage. Good hearts of the people and the beautiful church made St James agree to become the protector of the church and the village. In the flow of time the town developed into a city, whose inhabitants placed the saint's image in the coat of arms. This is a simplified version of the history of Olsztyn and its patron written by Maria Zientara-Malewska.



Jakubowo Park

St James's Band is the Olsztyn folk band who chose St James as their patron.

Jakubowo Park also referred to as Jakubowo, situated just at the entrance to the Municipal Forest, is the former recreational centre of a pre-war Olsztyn, still extremely popular with the inhabitants.



The bell in the Tower of the City Hall

HYMN

The Olsztyn hymn was composed in 1920 by Feliks Nowowiejski and performed for the first time on 2 June of the same year at the plebiscite concert. The text of the "Warmian Hymn" – as it is properly called – was published in "Gazeta Olsztyńska" on 18 May 1920. It was stated that the author of the hymn was the Poznań poet Maria Paruszevska. Its opening lines sounded "O Warmio moja miła" ("Oh, My Beloved Warmia"). In 1969 the musicologist Jan Boehm proved that the present form of the hymn text was a result of co-operation of Władysław Belza, Maria Paruszevska and the composer's brother, Rudolf Nowowiejski.

It was, however, 25 years later – at noon on 28 October 1947 – that the hymn was performed on the trumpet from the tower of the city hall by a firefighter. Unfortunately, that tradition disappeared as the official municipal fire service dismissed a full-time trumpeter and there were no candidates to take up the service as a part-time job. The inhabitants of Olsztyn heard the tune of the "Warmian Hymn" again on 22 January 1969 – this time played by chimes. Since then it has been performed every day at noon. Later on the chimes were replaced with an electronic device – the steering clock and amplifiers were donated by the Olsztyn craftsmen. The hymn can be also heard at midnight on New Year's Eve.

Oh, My Beloved Warmia

*Oh, my Beloved Warmia
thou, my motherland,
thou put me to sleep in your arms,
my heart is filled with overwhelming
joy.*

*You were treacherously captured,
but our labour was not in vain.
The chains of the captivity
have been broken today by
the folk themselves*

*We, the loyal children of Warmia,
we do love our beloved motherland.
After years of historical maelstroms
the time has come for joy.
There are now Polish flags
flying over the Olsztyn old castle,
the former seat of the Teutonic*

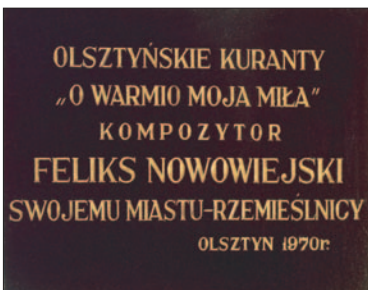
*Knights,
that is a witness to a miracle of the
national rebirth!*

*The enemies were afflicting Warmia
until the world was shaken by the war
and our beloved White Eagle
changed its flight path towards
Warmia.*

*Oh, the resurrected Warmia
do hear the song of your children
Oh, Warmia, the entire Poland
shed her blood for you.*



Feliks Nowowiejski



The board with information about the hymn in the vestibule of the City Hall



The flag of Poland and the European Union in front of the Olsztyn City Hall

FLAG



Banderia Prutenorum of 1448 by Jan Długosz, who referred to Olsztyn as "Holsten"

The first reference to the Olsztyn flag was made already in the mid-15th century in the chronicle by Jan Długosz. When describing the banners won at Grunwald, the author noted down that one of them belonged to the "civitas Holsten maior", it is to the inhabitants of the "major city of Holsten" – as Olsztyn was called at that time to distinguish it from Olsztynek – the minor city.

The banners became symbols of the municipal self-governance already in the Middle Ages. Until the end of the 18th century they served mainly as identification signs during battles. Over the next decade it was common to attach a symbolic meaning to colours, which resulted in introducing them to flags. At the time of the Second Polish Republic the colours and city flags caught an immense popularity on the

Polish territories. After the Second World War, in the period of People's Republic of Poland, the city flags also existed, however they did not appear on a massive scale until 1990, when the first democratic election to the local government took place. At that time also Olsztyn was granted a flag designed by Jacek Skorupski from the Polish Vexillological Society.

According to the "regulations" in force, the flag of Olsztyn is a rectangular piece of blue cloth with a **yellow shell** in its upper part and a **wavy white stripe** decorating its lower part.

The colours of the city flag derived from the colouring of the Olsztyn coat of arms. That is why they carry the following significance:



The present flag of Olsztyn

- white – the colour of the emblem, it is of the clothes of St James
- blue – the colour of the shield,
- yellow – the colour of other elements depicted on the coat of arms: golden poulaines, aureole, pilgrim stick and the shell



The flag of Olsztyn at the ceremony of unveiling the commemorative stone at Trzy Krzyże Square

The only graphic elements of the Olsztyn flag are the yellow shell and the white stripe.

The shell is a special element of the Olsztyn flag – it is the pilgrim's emblem and indispensable attribute of St James, the patron of the city. The shell motif on the flag refers directly to the coat of arms and serves at the same time as an individual identification sign to distinguish the flag from other Polish commune and city banners.

It should be also remembered that the shell found on the Olsztyn flag – referred to as the pilgrim's shell – is one of the emblems of pilgrims heading for Santiago de Compostela, the believed burial site of St James the Elder, Apostle. The shell was to serve pilgrims on their route as a bowl or plate. The shells were collected on the coast or made of ceramics and metal. As for St James, he was often depicted only with a pilgrim stick, pannier and the shell. At present, the shell emblem marks St James's Route – it is found on the paving of the roads leading to Santiago and on additional yellow arrows. The shell is also a decorative element of clothing or sticks of pilgrims heading for the sanctuary. On the route, they have at their disposal not only churches or chapels but may also find comfortable accommodation at parish buildings, on agro-touristic farms and in youth hostels.

The wavy stripe at the bottom of the flag symbolises water, which refers to the natural location of the city on the River Łyna, between a dozen of lakes. That sign adds the white element to the Olsztyn flag.



The city flag is a traditional element of all main municipal events



The city flag in "Merówka" – the Presidential Hall



Logo promotes Olsztyn during international fairs and exhibitions

LOGO



The logo of the city was chosen after a competition organised in 1997. The committee decided on the project by the Olsztyn architect Ewa Gadomska. It is characterized by clear form, the easy way of copying it in a coloured as well as black and white version and readability. The designed emblem combines the maximum of content with simplicity of form – it shows the Gothic castle, situated among the forests, lakes and rivers, and the shining sun above.

Not only the graphic signs function as symbolic characteristics of the city of Olsztyn but also the application of a certain colour allows to focus on the most recognizable elements of the urban landscape:

red – refers to the Gothic architecture of the red brick buildings,

green – symbolizes the forests surrounding Olsztyn,

blue – refers to lakes and rivers around the city,

yellow – stands for the shining sun, the symbol of optimism about city's future and its further development.



The Olsztyn logo can be seen on various promotional materials

The City Board approved logo in September 1997 and since then most of the promotional materials of the city bear that sign. Logo is also used in reference books, folders promoting Olsztyn in various Polish and foreign publications, during exhibitions, sporting and artistic events, touristic fairs, it can be seen on stamps, T-shirts and is applied to other souvenirs.

The use of the Olsztyn logo by a legal or natural person as well as by an organizational unit without legal personality requires the permission of the President of Olsztyn. The subjects interested in its application are obliged to sign the license contract with the City Office, specifying the conditions, aims and the period of making use of the sign.

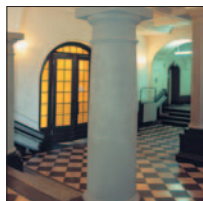


The entrance hall of the City Hall

THE CITY HALL

Nearly from the time of granting the civic rights to Olsztyn, the City Hall (nowadays referred to as the Old City Hall), situated in the centre of the Old Town, has functioned as a seat of the council-men. A developing town and its new institutions, such as the court occupying the same place since 1830, were in need of the new official building. A so called New City Hall, situated at Jan Paweł II Square, has been the seat of the municipal authorities since 1915. It was constructed on the site of the 14th-century Holy Cross Church, dismantled at the beginning of the 19th century. The city hall was built in the years 1912–1915 to the architectural project of Max Boldt and Paul Chrystian Zeroch by construction companies of Albert Dylewski and Franciszek Macpołowski, under the supervision of Kurt Zahlman. In the first half of the 20th century the south-west wing was added to the building. The Neo-Renaissance, monumental, four-storey block of the New City Hall, with a tower, gallery and the clock, crowned with the cupola helmet with a lantern and the spire, was situated in the centre of the former Upper Suburbs, marking in the same way the new city centre. The building was one of the very first in Olsztyn to adopt the style other than Neo-Gothic. Its original interior decoration referred to the successful battles of the German soldiers during the First World War. When rebuilding the New City Hall in 1975, the pictures were replaced with decorative copper boards.

What draws our attention are stone elements of the façade along 1 Maj Street. On the second floor, between the windows of the Session Hall, five stone statues – personifications of the civic virtues – **Justice, Wisdom, Beauty, Strength and Diligence** – were placed, each of them 2.6 m high. They were





Personifications of Justice, Beauty, Power and Diligence

made in the Berlin workshop of Max Krauze. Moreover, in the two symmetrically placed bay-windows we may find interesting bas-reliefs symbolising the four elements: Fire, Water, Earth and Air.

A richly decorated **portal above the main entrance** at Jan Paweł II Square, shows a centrally placed the then **coats of arms** with an image of St James, the half-cross and the tower. Apart from the main entrance, the building may be accessed via additional 12 side entrances. Two of them deserve a special attention. The entrance portal along 1 May Street, leading to the former flat of the supreme city mayor, is decorated on the left with the figure a man with a book in his hand, which symbolises the communal clerk, and on the right with a woman carrying a wallet and a shopping basket – the attributes standing for home and family. The bas-relief depicting the child, placed in the bay-window above the entrance, refers, in turn, to the warmth and the family harmony. The entrance portal along Ratuszowa Street is crowned with a keystone in a form of a male head. On the left, the portal's scrole is decorated with a forged lion's head.

We should also mention the Session Hall on the second floor. On its central wall, there is a large fresco of 1966, commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Second Peace of Thorn, when Olsztyn with Warmia became again the territory of the Polish Crown. Its author was the Olsztyn painter Julian Dadlez. The attention is also drawn by a marvelous coffer beam, four stained-glasses depicting four versions of the city arms, as well as three large oil paintings by Teodor Nowak of Grudziądz. They show **Jan of Łąjsy**, the founder of Olsztyn, **Nicolaus Copernicus** and the bishop **Ignacy Krasicki**. In 2006 the Session Hall was decorated with a portrait of John Paul II by the Olsztyn painter Jan Przelomiec.

In the first half of the 20th century the main inhabitant of the City Hall was the magistrate who shared the building with the police, municipal saving bank, Civil Registration Office and Register Office. In 1945 the building was taken over by the Polish national offices: Municipal Board, the President of Olsztyn, the City Council, and the Municipal National Council. In 1996 the wing added in 1920 became the home of the Register Office. At present the City Hall is the seat of the City Office and the President of Olsztyn.



The Session Hall

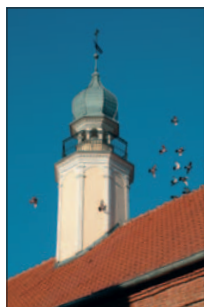


Northern wing of the Old City Hall

THE OLD CITY HALL

It belongs to the oldest historic monuments of Olsztyn, as it was constructed almost at the time of granting the town the civic rights. Over the centuries it underwent numerous alterations. After the fire of 1620 the city hall was rebuilt in a Baroque style. It was decorated with a little tower and a bell also used as a guard-room. At that time the character of the building has significantly changed – the municipal authorities occupied the first floor, while the ground floor and the cellars were used for commercial purposes. In the years 1760–1766 the thorough renovation took place. Later on, in 1852, the tower was dismantled and replaced with a small, wooden one (existing until 1945). Some years later, in 1858, the construction of the west wing was initiated. The building was then given to judicial authorities that occupied it until 1880 when the seat of the court was erected. A dynamic development of the city brought as its consequence the need for a more effective, complex system of city administration. As the then city hall did not provide the municipal authorities with proper working conditions, there arose the necessity to build a new one. The project was completed in 1916 and since then the city has been taking pride in the two city halls – the old and the new one. In the years 1927–1928 northern wing was added. It was housing the municipal library and the bookstore. Moreover, thanks to its construction a small courtyard was created, which was closed with the arcade portal.

In 1945 the Old City Hall was damaged in the fire. In the course of its reconstruction, which took place in the years 1946–1949, the building lost its characteristic little tower. The hall was thoroughly renovated in 2003, on the occasion of the 650th anniversary of the foundation of Olsztyn. As authentic Gothic elements were discovered under the layer of plasterwork in the in southern part of the building, the City Hall has reinstated its original, Gothic form. Nowadays it houses the Provincial Public Library.



The little tower on the Gothic wing



The sundial on the Old City Hall



The former courtyard of the Old City Hall. At present the atrium – gallery of the Provincial Library.



"Symphony of Birds" fountain in the castle park

THE OLSZTYN MONUMENTS

Not only historic buildings but also people, attributes and insignias may be referred to as city symbols. The symbolic value is attached to monuments, obelisks and commemorative plaques reflecting the tradition, ambition and the spiritual needs of the inhabitants of Olsztyn. They contribute greatly to the creation of the city's image and its unique atmosphere, often becoming recognizable symbols of the city with the sculpture of Nicolaus Copernicus at the Olsztyn castle being a representative example. It gained an immense popularity with the inhabitants as well as tourists and is used extensively during numerous promoting events organized by various institutions.

A lot of monuments, commemorative plaques, stones and even decorations of the facades honour the outstanding figures of the region – bishops, artists or the Polish activists of the plebiscite period. Some of them refer to the Polish history and its outstanding personalities, the Olsztyn activists and artists of the post-war times.

A different value is attached to sculptures decorating the Olsztyn parks and squares. They account for the atmosphere of the city, function as proofs of talents and sensitivity of the Olsztyn artists, who are authors of the majority of these artistic works. When walking thorough the castle park, it is worth to stop for a while at the "Symphony of Birds" fountain designed by Ryszard Wachowski and Antoni Szczypczyński. It is situated at a picturesque site at the River Łyna where you can comfortably rest and admire the walls of the Olsztyn castle. Another piece of art worth paying attention is



"Gymnasts", the sculpture by R. Wachowski in front of the "Urania" Sporting Hall

"Amor" – the sculpture by Balbina Świtycz-Widacka placed on a little island at the foot of the cascade on the Łyna. Nearby, there is a symbolic monument of the Łyna by Ryszard Wachowski. It reminds of the Old-Prussian origin of the river's name (Alna – Łyna). Among numerous monuments we should also have a look at another piece of art by Balbina Świtycz-Widacka – *"Spring"*. An interesting, modern form was given to the sculpture *"Solar System"* by Jean Maria Bechet, the Belgian artist, who created it on the occasion of the Copernican Year in 1973. It is situated at the castle wall, at the entrance to the small art gallery – the seat of the Association of Polish Artists.

At present (June 2008), Olsztyn boasts on 115 monuments and commemorative plaques, including 52 monuments, sculptures and bas-reliefs, 39 commemorative plaques, 17 commemorative stones as well as 7 pumps and fountains.

CHARACTERISTIC MONUMENTS:

The Prussian "Baba" at the courtyard of the Olsztyn castle is a unique monument – a half-metre high stone statue reminds of the pagan past of the region of Warmia and Mazuria. Initially it was situated in Barciany and only in 1948 the statue found its way to the Olsztyn castle.

The Statue of Christ holding a globe, at the square at the Church of the Holiest Heart of Jesus the Lord, is the oldest Olsztyn monument. Commissioned in 1737 by the then inhabitants it commemorates the victims of the plague epidemic of 1709–1710. It was situated near the then house for the plague victims, between the tombs of the cemetery, existing there already in the 18th century (today 1 Maj and Linka Street). In the last years the place was also commemorated with a stone monument. Since 1848, apart from a short renovation period at the beginning of this century, the monument has occupied the square at the Church of the Holiest Heart of Jesus the Lord in Kopernik Street.

The Figure of the Passion of Christ with the Polish inscription „follow me” dates back to the 18th century. It depicts Christ carrying the cross. It was commissioned by the inhabitants of Olsztyn to commemorate wars, epidemics and fires. It used to occupy the former Horse Market (now Roosevelt Square), however, at the order of German authorities the figure was moved. Thus, since 1937, it has been situated at the corner of Warszawska and Jagiellończyk Street.

The Bust of Nicolaus Copernicus in the park behind the castle was made by the Berlin sculptor Johannes Götz. It was commissioned by the German emperor Wilhelm II on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of Copernicus' visit to Olsztyn. It was situated at the Olsztyn castle, at the corner of Zamkowa and Okopowa Street. The celebration of unveiling took place in November 1916. The Copernicus' bust, resting on a socle, was placed under the Neo-Gothic canopy, whose sharply arched arcades were supported by the massive columns. The monument was crowned with a hip roof with little towers at its four corners. In January 1945, before the entry of the Red Army, the bust was hidden in the castle cellar. In May it returned to the other side of the castle, at the square where it can be found until now. The German inscription was replaced with the Polish one: "Defenders of Olsztyn against the Teutonic aggressor. To the great Pole Nicolaus Copernicus from grateful countrymen".



The Prussian "Baba" at the Olsztyn castle



The Statue of Jesus Christ



The Figure of the Passion of Christ ("Bożamęka")



The Bust of Nicolaus Copernicus



The sculpture of Nicolaus Copernicus in front of the Olsztyn castle

The Sculpture of Nicolaus Copernicus was commissioned by Urszula and Ryszard Szmyt to commemorate the 650th anniversary of the foundation of Olsztyn. It is situated at the corner of Zamkowa and Okopowa Street in the Old Town, at the Evangelic Church, not far from the castle. It is extremely popular with tourists who like to sit on Copernicus' lap and take pictures.

"To the Heroes of the Fight for National and Social Liberation of Warmia and Mazuria" a monument by Bolesław Marshall can be found in Jakubowo. It was built in 1972 on the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Association of the Poles in Germany. It was erected on the site of the first German monument, a so called rotunda, commemorating the plebiscite.

The Bust of Stefan Jaracz has occupied the square in 1 Maj Street, opposite Stefan Jaracz Theatre, since 9 June 1946. It was placed at the site of the former monument of the soldier with a floating banner – commemorating German soldiers who lost their lives in the French-Prussia war of 1870–71. The bust of that great actor by Jan Kubicki was cast in bronze at the Olsztyn Electro-Technical Railway Workrooms under the supervision of Stefan Pawlicki. The bronze (350 kg) was obtained from the melted slabs and letters taken from Hindenburg's mausoleum near Olsztynek, blew up by the escaping Germans.

The Bust of Adam Mickiewicz by Balbina Świtycz-Widacka at the square at the corner of Dąbrowszczaków and Mickiewicz Street, in front of the building of A. Mickiewicz Highschool no 1, was unveiled in 1965. Its socle was earlier, from 1901 to 1945, a part of the monument of Wilhelm I.

The Monument of the Liberation of Warmia and Mazuria the former Monument of Gratitude to the Red Army, situated in the city centre in Piłsudski Avenue (former Zwycięstwa Avenue), was unveiled in 1954. It is made of two gray, characteristic pylons, which are meant to symbolise an



The Monument of the Liberation of Warmia and Mazuria

open triumphant arch. The project was carried out by Xawery Dunikowski, the former prisoner of Auschwitz, the German concentration camp in Oświęcim. The construction of the monument is based on the slabs from Hindenburg's mausoleum in Tannenberg near Olsztynek. It depicts three typical fighting scene taking place during the Second World War, tankers and the Russian soldiers. After political transformation of 1989 the monument's name was changed and the square was turned into a car park, while the



The monument commemorating the heroes who lost their lives fighting for national and social liberation of Warmia and Mazuria slabs from Hindenburg's mausoleum used as a paving, were replaced with a cobblestone. However, some fragments of the mausoleum can still be found on the wall separating a car park from Piłsudski Avenue.

The Statue of Jan Nepomucen at St James Bridge is a replica of the sculpture of Nepomucen by Wilhelm Jansen of Cologne, lost during the Second World War, which occupied that place since 1869. Thanks to the initiative of the Association of Olsztyn Lovers, its bronze replica was sculpted by Piotr Obarek and Edward Jurewicz, complemented with a granite board with informative inscription. As it used to be in the past, today Jan Nepomucen, the patron of bridges, crossings, and currently also of rescuers, takes care of the tyna.

The Column of the White Eagle at Konsulat Polski Square was the initiative of Andrzej Sassyn, the President of the Association of Art Lovers. Completed in 2002 it was the result of cooperation of Andrzej Matyka – the author of the column – and Urszula and Ryszard Szmyt – who sculpted the eagle.

The Obelisk of the Liberty of the Motherland at Solidarność Square (at the corner of Piłsudski and Kościński Street), was commissioned on the initiative of the Association Pro Patria and unveiled in 2003.

The Stone of John Paul II commemorates the Pope's visit to Olsztyn in June 1991.

The Stone at Trzy Krzyże Square (at the corner of 1 Maj and Linka Streets) placed at the site of the former cemetery, commemorates the victims of the plaque epidemic of 1709 – 1710.

The Stone of Napoleon, commemorating the stay of the French emperor in Olsztyn in 1807, was placed in Grunwaldzka Street at St John Bridge on the initiative of the historian, Professor Janusz Jasiński, the member of the Polish Historical Society.



The Statue of Jan Nepomucen



The Column of the White Eagle



The Obelisk of the Liberty of the Motherland



The Stone of Napoleon



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