


Dorota Folga-Januszewska

Museums of Warsaw

a guide



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Photos (cover)

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The author, editorial team and publisher extend their warmest thanks to the staff and directors of the museums as well to the students and graduates of the Chair of Contemporary Art, Theory and Museology at the History of Art Institute and the Museology Institute of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Warsaw, for their assistance in verifying the information and gathering the illustrations.

Photos prepared for printing by

Studio Kolor, Rzeszów

Printed by

Interak, Czarnków

Printed in Poland

Copyright by BOSZ

Olszanica 2012

1st edition

Published by BOSZ

Offices: ul. Przemysłowa 14, 38-600 Lesko, Poland

Tel.: +48 13 4699000, Fax: +48 13 4696188

e-mail: biuro@bosz.com.pl

www.bosz.com.pl

ISBN 978-83-7576-160-3

Editors' note

This book covers institutions which are museums as understood under Polish law; in other words, they are either entered into the register kept by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage or their statutes have been agreed with the Ministry, or they operate in compliance with organisational regulations issued by the body to which they report, including, for instance, HEI museums attached to scholarly institutes, parish, diocesan and denominational museums, and those connected with associations and foundations. A considerable number of other museums are also presented; these have the status of either a legal personality or private institution which is open to the public.

The author and editorial team took the decision not to include the museums' opening times, since this is subject to change and, in many cases, is seasonal. Current information can be found on the museums' websites.

Both the author and the editorial team have made every effort to verify the information presented in the guide. Nonetheless, it may be that, with time, some information will no longer be up to date. Any information from readers as regards anything in the book which ceases to be up-to-date will be most welcome. Please feel absolutely free to let us know by writing to: muzea@bosz.com.pl.

Example entry

number on the map

museum name

address and contact details

primary institution; where

applicable, the department

and branch name is given

after the colon

museum building

history of the museum

collections

permanent exhibition

additional activities

collection categories

part of the permanent

exhibition

The Museum of Wola
Branch of the Historical Museum
of Warsaw

ul. Srebrna 12
00-810 Warszawa
Tel.: (22) 624 37 33, 624 38 79
Tel./Fax: (22) 624 90 21
muzeumwoli@poczta.onet.pl
www.muzeumwoli.mhw.pl

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The museum was founded in 1974, at the initiative of the Society of Friends of Warsaw – the District of Wola, when it received its home in the Neo-Renaissance palace of Aleksander Sikorski from around 1880.

The museum holds historic, iconographic, photographic collections, as well as documents, Warsaw newspapers and articles connected to the history of the district of Wola, its economic and cultural development, along with the collections of silver and artistic crafts. The museum is home to collections of film and theatre posters, mementos of the Ulich family and memorabilia of the Home Army unit *Chrobry II*.

The permanent exhibition – Warsaw's Wola: 1367–1996; the Warsaw Slater Room (collections of A. and T. Wysiadecki).

The institution organises temporary exhibitions, meetings, concerts, lectures, conferences, puts out publications, conducts research, educational activities, museum lectures and contests of knowledge on the subjects of the Wola district and Warsaw.



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23 **Stanisław Józef Thugutt
Geological Museum**

Faculty of Geology of the University of Warsaw

ul. Żwirki i Wigury 93
02-089 Warszawa
Tel.: (22) 554 00 00
Fax: (22) 554 00 01
info.geol@uw.edu.pl
www.geo.uw.edu.pl/muzeum



This museum was established in 1961 by the Ministry of Higher Education as a part of the Faculty of Geology of the University of Warsaw. It has borne its current name since 2008. It was founded as a research and educational unit, and carried on the tradition of the Minerology Cabinet, which existed from the beginnings of the University of Warsaw in 1816, and later of the Museum of the Geology of Poland, which was established before the Second World War and totally destroyed during the bombardment of Warsaw in 1939.

The museum presents geological specimens from every continent: collections of minerals (including agates, quartz, and calcites) meteorites (including specimens of meteorite from Putusk) rocks, numerous paleontological collections, and archives.

The permanent exhibition presents the museum's collections according to the system of classification of minerals and stratigraphic-paleontological collections, as well as the collection of meteorites and samples of moon rock.

The institution organizes temporary exhibitions, makes its collections available for academic research, conducts educational activities including museum lectures and workshops for children, public education activities in geology and natural science.



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Geology Museum of the State Geology Institute in Warsaw

ul. Rakowiecka 4
00-975 Warszawa
Tel.: (22) 849 53 51 ext. 503
Fax: (22) 849 53 42
wmiz@pgi.gov.pl
www.pgi.gov.pl

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This museum was founded in 1919, with a seat in a building designed by Marian Lalewicz between 1925 and 1930. In 1947, it was reconstructed following war-time damage, and in 1999 it was rebuilt and modernized. It is the only museum in Poland dedicated to the geological makeup of the country.

The museum has geological collections and skeletons of extinct ice age animals, including reconstructions of a Polish dinosaur, the *Dilophosaurus*, a mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*), a woolly rhinoceros from Upper Silesia (*Coelodonta antiquitatis*), a cave bear (*Ursus spelaeus*) from the caves of Ojców. A reconstruction of a cave has also been conducted.

Permanent exhibitions: Earth Matter, Polish History Written in Stone, Poland's Natural Resources, State Geology Institute 1919–1999, Fossilized World, Magmatism, Sedimentation and Diagenesis, Metamorphism; the main room contains stratigraphic charts, maps, and landscapes.

The museum conducts educational activities, museum lectures, guided tours and lectures; it also puts out publications.

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Museum of Independence in Warsaw

Branches: the Museum of Pavilion X
in the Warsaw Citadel; The Museum
of the Pawiak Prison and the Mausoleum of Battle and Martyrdom 1939–1945

al. Solidarności 62
00-240 Warszawa
Tel.: (22) 826 90 91–92, 827 37 70
Fax: (22) 827 03 23
promocja@muzeumniepodleglosci.art.pl
www.muzeumniepodleglosci.art.pl



The museum, located in the eighteenth-century Przebendowski / Radziwiłł Palace, was founded in 1990 as the History Museum of the Polish Independence and Social Movements in the place of the liquidated Museum of Lenin (operating during the years 1955–1989).

The collections are: historic, numismatic, artistic, iconographic (photographs and postcards), faleristics (medals and honorary orders), banners and ceremonial flags. They depict the history of the struggle for independence of the Polish people from the Kościuszko Uprising through 1989. They include a Leopold collection – dedicated to the history of the city and the people of Lviv and the Kresy region [the Borderlands], and the *Sybirak's* Collection.

Permanent exhibitions: *Polonia Restituta*. For Independence and Borders 1914–1921; *The White Eagle Forever*. Historical aspect of the emblem and coat of arms of the Polish country; *So Poland could be Poland*. The history of the Opposition in PRL (The People's Republic of Poland) 1945–1989.

The institution organises temporary exhibitions, thematic meetings, concerts, meetings and conferences, conducts research, educational activities, and museum lectures, and puts out publications, including *Niepodległość i Pamięć* (*Independence and Memory*).



Museum of Diving Warsaw Diving Club WKP

ul. Grzybowska 88
00-840 Warszawa
office@muzeumnurkowania.pl
www.muzeumnurkowania.pl

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The museum was founded in the cellar of the Warsaw Diving Club as a result of a community initiative.

The collections include diving equipment with rare items from the nineteenth century, classic equipment from the twentieth century: dive gear, suits, helmets (including those of the Draeger company), pumps, helmets and other equipment from the Siebe Gorman, chest weights, weapons and equipment used in underwater hunting, photographic documentation, a historical collection related to the history of diving in Poland, a small natural science collection (e.g. a tooth of the *Megalodon* – an extinct fish), films, archives, newspaper clippings, and a collection of iconography and philately connected with diving.

The permanent exhibition displays the most interesting items.

The museum organises temporary exhibitions, film screenings (including a "Movie Wednesday" once a month), meetings, presentations and guided tours, and makes its collections available.

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The Museum of Military Ordinariate

Branch of the Historical Museum of Warsaw

ul. Długa 13/15
00-238 Warszawa
Tel.: (22) 498 02 43
muzeum.ordynariatu@mhw.pl
www.ordynariat.mhw.pl



The decision to found the museum in the cellars of the Field Cathedral of the Polish Army was made in 2005. The museum was opened in 2010. It is the only museum in Warsaw governed by local authorities that operates in a sacral building. The entrance to the cellars is located on the western side of the church's vestibule.

The museum is home to historic collections illustrating the history of military chaplains from the time of conversion to Christianity to the present day. It also features iconographic, faleristic, and art collections, collections of handicraft, liturgical vestments and books, documents, personal mementos, recorded testimonies, multimedia and photographs.

The permanent exhibition combines historic materials and multimedia presentations, and depicts the history of the Military Ordinate.

The museum conducts educational activities and museum lectures.

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Wilanów Poster Museum

Branch of the National Museum in Warsaw

ul. Potockiego 10/16

02-958 Warszawa

Tel./Fax: (22) 842 26 06, 842 48 48

plakat@mnw.art.pl

www.postermuseum.pl

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The opening of the world's first museum dedicated to poster art in 1968 was closely connected with the Warsaw International Poster Biennale, organized since 1966. (At present the museum serves as the seat for the Poster Biennale Office). Initially, it functioned as a branch of the National Museum in Warsaw. The new building of the museum was constructed behind the façade of the former riding hall of the Wilanów Palace, extended with the building of the New Gallery.

It houses collections of European and Polish posters dating from the end of the nineteenth to modern times, a collection of the Polish Poster School, collections of Japanese, Chinese, American, and Latin American posters, and a collection of works by the laureates of the International Poster Biennale.

The museum organises temporary exhibitions of renowned creators of posters from all over the world, as well as presents exhibits from the museum's own collections on every continent. The institution organises the Warsaw International Poster Biennale and the Polish Poster Salon (which takes place every two years), conducts research, puts out publications, and works alongside the art community, as well as gathers documentation concerning this type of design.

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This museum was established in 1993 on the grounds of the nineteenth-century Fort IX Czerniakowski, named after General Jan Henryk Dąbrowski during the Second Republic of Poland.

The institution's collections contain heavy equipment from the Polish Military and other armies, militaria, historical collections relating to the history of the Polish military, documents, photographic collections, and multimedia presentations.

The permanent outdoor exhibition presents armoured and rockets weapons, artillery, automobiles, radio-location and communication equipment and missile equipment.

The museum conducts educational activities and museum lectures, and organises temporary exhibitions and ceremonial events.

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The Warsaw Rising Museum

ul. Grzybowska 79
00-844 Warszawa
Tel.: (22) 539 79 05, 539 79 06
Fax: (22) 539 79 24
kontakt@1944.pl
www.1944.pl

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This museum was founded in 1983 as a branch of the Historical Museum in Warsaw. The Community Committee for the Museum Construction began assembling the collections, and the museum carried out the cycle of temporary exhibitions between 1994 and 1999. In 2003, by the Decision of the President of Warsaw the museum was located in the building of the former streetcar power station, adapted for the museum purposes, built between 1904 and 1908. The museum was opened in 2004 – on the 60th anniversary of the Warsaw Rising as an independent institution.

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The museum collections were formed as a result of a community initiative – mainly of donations from participants in the rising. There are also private and historical collections connected with the history of the rising and the actions of the participants, collections of photographs and film documentation from 1944, recordings and witness accounts, documents, letters, and personal items.

Permanent exhibitions: on the ground floor: The History of the Second World War in Warsaw from 1 September 1939 to May 1945; on the mezzanine: The History of the Warsaw Rising in August 1944, Life Inside the Warsaw Rising; on the first floor: The Situation in September 1944 and the Fall of the Warsaw Rising.

The museum is narrative and interactive in nature, and conducts educational activities, organises events and meetings dedicated to the history of the Rising and the Second World War in Warsaw, is in ongoing co-operation with participants in the Rising, and records interviews and memoirs.

