

From the Editors

As a result of enormous interest in the artistic and intellectual culture of the times of John III Sobieski and in Wilanów, the most magnificent work created under his inspiration, several years ago the Museum of Wilanów undertook, as part of its statutory activities, research into problems that had not been investigated sufficiently until then.

The programme of our research covers matters pertaining to the artistic patronage of John III, the founder of Wilanów and the successive owners of this residence, as well as various problems concerning the history of the entire palace and garden complex, its architecture and décor, its collections and people whose academic or artistic activity was associated with Wilanów.

Aware of the need to carry out current documentation of our research and to publish its results, the Museum started bringing out its "Studia Wilanowskie", a continuous publication.

The first four volumes published on the 300th anniversary of Wilanów contain full documentation of the academic session "John III: The Artistic and Intellectual Culture of His Period" held on this occasion. We omitted in it papers read on the second day of the session and devoted to the Jesuit Adam Kochański, the Wilanów librarian and secretary to the king, since these were published in full in "Organon", edited by the coorganizers of the session, the Committee for the History of Science and Technology of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Only one paper on Adam Kochański, besides other articles discussing the sculpted decoration of the gate and the palace and selected items from the Wilanów collections, found its way to volume V of the "Studia".

The successive three volumes included papers read at an academic session held in 1980 on the 175th anniversary of the

Wilanów Museum. They present the origins and history of this museum, one of the oldest in Poland, changes in the palace interiors adapted to house museum displays, and its rich collections.

Volume IX was published in connection with the exhibition organized in the Wilanów palace in 1983, on the 300th anniversary of the Relief of Vienna and constitutes a kind of annexe to the exhibition catalogue.

Volume X, dedicated to Wojciech Fijałkowski, Ph.D., on his 30th anniversary as director of the Wilanów Museum, contains papers on the palace interiors and collections written by museum employees.

All volumes include a current chronicle of events connected with the palace.

The contents of the first ten volumes is presented here in a shortened form. The following volumes will each include such an English-language summary.