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### **Museum of Józef Piłsudski in the Belvedere (1935-1939)**

(summary)

In *The Museum of Józef Piłsudski in the Belvedere (1935-1939)* the author presents in a very interesting way an unknown and unsurveyed theme. The depicted institute was established in the Belvedere in Warsaw a few months after Piłsudski's death in order to compile this character by collecting his souvenirs, documents and presenting his relations. Moreover the exhibition that displayed his whole life was open for visitors.

The first chapter portrays a wide background of events that led to setting up the institute devoted to Josef Piłsudski. Indisputably one of them was his growing popularity among society but also establishing more museums dedicated to his memory like for instance his family house in Zułów, apartments in Łódź, a manor house „Milusin” in Sulejówek or a villa in Druskienniki. In this chapter the author presents Piłsudski's relations with the Belvedere including the history of his private museum which was located in this palace in 1928-1935.

The second chapter describes an organisation of the Museum in Belvedere in 1935. This part discusses the ideas raised, during a dozen of meetings, in relation to the newly opened institute. The effect was a compilation and introduction of a complete document regarding the setting up the Museum of Józef Piłsudski in the Belvedere. The author analyses the legal acts that were introduced with reference to the museum.

In the next chapter the most important people who worked in the museum are presented. The author depicts a list of short biographies of Lt Col Adam Borkiewicz - a director, Józef Kluss - a custodian, warrant officer Walenty Wójcik, Wanda Gertzówna – registrar's officer as well as guides who had been in Piłsudski's security and other administrative level. Information about professor Bonawentura Lenart from the National Library, who cooperated with the museum, is also included. The author mentions the advisory team that took part in creation of the museum. He presents a list of its members, responsibilities and their scope. Moreover, a history of members who voluntarily guided the visitors around the palace is described.

The fourth chapter is devoted to the museum operation between December 1935 and August 1939. The author focuses on the workers actions that were leading to adjust the Belvedere for the visitors' needs. It included the maintenance of the collection, its protection, way of exposure and efforts to gain new exhibits. The chapter contains a description of the renovations of the palace and its surroundings. It presents such details as an attendance list and daily issues: administrative matters, human resource and the budget.

As in the previous chapter the author elucidates the history of events that had an impact on the museum's creation and the final effect is presented. In this part the description of exhibits and the way they were gained is elaborated.

The sixth chapter of the thesis depicts a history of the museum during the Second World War – starting with the invasion, the September Campaign, all actions that were taken in order to protect the museum, the capitulation of Warsaw and the last month of German occupation with the final order to turn the Belvedere out.

Unfortunately, plenty of the exhibits could not be saved. Some of them were transported to France and further to Great Britain in September, some of them were gathered by the workers. The rest were moved to the National Museum and to the Polish Army Museum, where they were being damaged and stolen by German soldiers. After the war in the new geopolitical situation there was no possibility to recreate a museum devoted to Józef Piłsudski, which is why the collection was dispersed, some of the exhibits were damaged and some of them were added to other museums.

In the next chapter the author portrays the history of the Belvedere during and after the war. A very important part of this description is devoted to a reconstruction of the palace done by Germans, which changed the Belvedere completely. The other aspect included refers to actions taken after 1989 in order to recreate the museum. In the second sub chapter the author presents other institutes in Poland and in foreign countries that are devoted to Józef Piłsudski, in particular the present situation of the places mentioned in the first chapter. Finally, in the last part endeavours to set up a museum in Sulejówek were described. The efforts resulted in the museum's creation in a manor house „Milusin”. Some of the exhibits were given by Piłsudski's descendants and some of them were the ones that were taken from the Belvedere in 1939. This museum continues the work before the war of the Museum of Józef Piłsudski in the Belvedere.

**Key words:** Józef Piłsudski, Museum of Józef Piłsudski in the Belvedere, Belvedere, cult.

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