



**Dwór w Kruszowie (fot. K. Brzeziński)**



**Wnętrze dworu w Kruszowie (fot. materiały własne)**



**W parku wokół dworu można napotkać stary wehikuł konny pochodzący z dawnej dworskiej wozowni (fot. K. Brzeziński)**





**400-letni jesion  
został uwieczniony  
przez Andrzeja  
Wajdę w jednej ze  
scen filmu „Ziemia  
obiecana”  
(fot. K. Brzeziński)**





## Górki Małe

Warto też pojechać do położonych na południowy zachód Górek Małych. Tamtejszy dworek jest wprawdzie budowlą na wskroś współczesną, ale stoi na planie dawnego dworu pośród równie dawnego parku. Rosną tam kilkusetletnie dęby, także lipa i inne drzewa, z których aż czternaście ma status pomników przyrody.

## Górki Duże

W pobliskich Górkach Dużych można z kolei zobaczyć świadectwo bardzo dawnej historii – pozostałość średniowiecznego grodziska. Wygląda niepozornie, jak niewielkie wzgórze porośnięte chaszczami. Wystarczy jednak zatrzymać się i wyjść z samochodu, by dojrzeć, że wzgórek otacza rów będący pozostałością niegdysiejsze fosy. O tym grodzisku jeszcze do niedawna krążyły w okolicznych wsiach różne opowieści, powstała nawet obszerna legenda napisana przez Kazimierza Macieja Bartoszczyka (1889-1956), a zatytułowana „Zdarzenie prawdziwe”. Zaczyna się ona od strof:

*Pięć kilometrów od miasta Tuszyńska  
Leży niewielka wieś Górki Duże,  
A tam ukryte w lipach, olszynach  
Wznosi się wodą oblane wzgórze...,  
kończy zaś:  
(...) Odtąd już kopiec zostawion w spokoju,  
I tylko czasem w wieczornej ciszy  
Wieśniak wracając po w polu znoju  
Płacz pustelnika z wzgórza usłyszy.*





**W pobliżu Górek Dużych zaczyna swój bieg rzeka Dobrzyńka  
(fot. E. Stasinowski)**

*Z ostatniej chwili*

## Będzie szlak konny między Mrogą a Pilicą

24 maja w Dworze Kruszów odbyła się konferencja w sprawie przedsięwzięcia określanego jako projekt współpracy LAS – Lokalny Atrakcyjny Szlak. Chodziło o wytyczenie i oznakowanie szlaku konnego, przebiegającego przez trzy obszary lokalnych grup działania: Stowarzyszenie na rzecz Rozwoju Społeczności Lokalnej Mroga, Dolina Pilicy oraz tuszyńskiego Stowarzyszenia LGD BUD-UJ RAZEM. Projekt realizowany jest w ramach środków Programu Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich na lata 2007-2013. Instytucją zarządzającą programem Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich jest minister rolnictwa i rozwoju wsi.

Szlak nazwany został „Między Mrogą a Pilicą” i ma on m.in. na celu połączenie „małej pętli” łódzkiego szlaku konnego z „pętlą dużą”.

**Fot. ze zbiorów UM Tuszyn**







**Fot. ze zbiorów UM Tuszyn**

Podczas konferencji każde z LGD zaprezentowało swój odcinek szlaku, wraz z atrakcjami, jakie można podziwiać na każdym z odcinków. Nie zabrakło także prelekcji z zakresu turystyki regionalnej oraz turystyki konnej.

Podczas konferencji zabrali głos: Tomasz Dronka – naczelnik Departamentu Kultury Fizycznej, Sportu i Turystyki, Leszek Łuchniak – wiceprezes Towarzystwa Wspierania Turystyki Konnej, Małgorzata Kielek – właścicielka stajni „Wiki”, oraz przedsiębiorcy i miłośnicy koni z obszaru LGD, którzy prezentowali swoje oferty turystyczne.

Na konferencji obecni byli również przedstawiciele Departamentu Kultury Fizycznej, Sportu i Turystyki z dyr. Ryszardem Kalińskim na czele, Wydziału Płatności Urzędu Marszałkowskiego w Łodzi z naczelnik Miroslawą Jakiel na czele oraz przedstawiciele samorządów wchodzących w skład Lokalnych Grup Działania.

Po zakończeniu obrad odbyły się: pokaz druhów z Ochotniczej Straży Pożarnej Kruszków, którzy zaprezentowali m.in. starą, zaprzęgową sikawkę konną; parada Stowarzyszenia Ułanów im. OWWP mjr. Hubala. Zaprezentowano również dawny powóz konny, który pozwolił naszym gościom przenieść się do odległych czasów.

Konferencja odbyła się w momencie, kiedy ta książka była już w fazie druku.



**Pokazy Ochotniczej Straży Pożarnej z Kruszowa (fot. ze zbiorów UM Tuszyn)**







**Parada Stowarzyszenia Ułanów im. OWWP mjr. Hubala (fot. ze zbiorów UM Tuszyn)**



**Przejażdżka uczestników konferencji dawnym pojazdem konnym (fot. ze zbiorów UM Tuszyn)**



## **Zdarzenie prawdziwe**

**Na kanwie wiersza**

**Kazimierza Macieja Bartoszczyka (1889-1956)**

*Pięć kilometrów od miasta Tuszyna  
Jest wieś o nazwie Górki Duże  
A tam ukryte w zielonych olszynach  
Wznosi się wodą oblane wzgórze*

*Któż je usypał i w jakim celu?  
Niektórzy twierdzą, że to grodzisko,  
Gdzie kneź się bronił, co wrogów miał wielu,  
Inni, że tylko myśliwskie schronisko,*

*Podczas polowań rodzaj „hotelu”.  
Trzeba by wzgórze rozkopać całe,  
Bo to jedyna wyjaśnienia droga,  
Ziemię spakować w pojemniki małe*



*I zawieźć do archeologa.  
Lecz wiedzieć trzeba, nim to się stanie,  
Że był już we wsi jeden taki,  
Co w głowie miał tylko rymów składanie,*

*Więc ludzie przezwali go cudakiem.  
Otóż ów cudak, nazwisko Selka,  
Wymyślił sobie, że mu się uda  
To, co okrywa tajemnica wielka,  
Wyjaśnić po niewielkich trudach.  
I do dziedzica z prośbą poszedł,  
By ten pozwolił na wzgórzu kopać,  
A gdy usłyszał „Kop sobie, proszę”,  
Skrzyknął przy kopcu trzydziestu chłopa.  
Wódką częstował, strawę rozdawał,  
Mówiąc, by sobie nie żałowali,  
Potem zaczęła się zabawa,*

*Bo muzykantów też zwołał, by grali.  
Gdy się przyjęciem już uraczyli,  
Spocząć im nie pozwolił Selka.  
– Po to tu – rzecze – żeście przybyli,*

*By odkryć, co kryje tajemnica wielka.  
Jęli więc rozkopywać wzgórze,  
Jedni z ochotą, inni ze strachem,  
Piwnice odkryli głębokie, duże*

*Murów ułamki zniszczone krachem.  
Skarbów nie było prócz kilku monet  
Zwęglonych belek za to bez liku  
Noc nadchodziła, ręce zmęczone,*

*W oczach się troi od świetlików.  
Pora iść do dom – Selka ogłasza  
A chłopci patrzą, co tu wziąć można,  
Żeby robota nie była próżna,*

*W chłopie korzyści chęć przemożna.  
Monet dla wszystkich nie starczyło,  
Więc choć gałęzi do pieca nacięli  
Ciemno już całkiem na dworze było,*

*Gdy w progach chałup swoich stanęli.  
Nagle huragan się rozszał,  
Grom dudni, aż się wszystko trzęsie,  
Chata za chatą się rozwala,*

*Jazgoczą płocze kury i gęsi.  
Mści się natura na intruzach,  
Co spokój kopca zakłócili  
Ich gospodarstwa legły w gruzach*

*Nie wszyscy ten kataklizm przeżyli.  
Odtąd to wzgórze omijano z trwogą  
I nawet mówić o nim nie chciano,  
Nikt ze wsi na nim nie stanął nogą  
Jakby o wszystkim zapomniano.  
A jednak żyła starowina  
Sto lat już prawie mając na karku,  
Którą spotkałem na malinach.*



*I zaczął się ciąg z nią długi pogwarów  
Bogatym panem był szlachcic Górka,  
Wsi kilkanaście w kluczu posiadał,  
Ale największy skarb jego – to córka,  
Opowiedziała mi legendę  
Piękną, jak baśń z tysiąca nocy,  
Zawsze już ją pamiętać będę,  
Zapomnieć ją bowiem nie jest człęk w mocy.*

*Ona jedyna jego sercem włada.  
A czas niepokojów był, wojen, pożogi,  
Morowe powietrze ludzi zabija,  
Szlachcic ślub składa: „Mój Boże Drogi,*



*Spraw, niech nieszczęście dziewczę omija.*

*A gdy to sprawisz, ja z wdzięczności*

*Każę usypać w polu wzgórze*

*Na chwałę Boskiej Opatrzności*

*I chrześcijaństwu się przysłużę,*

*Klasztor fundując na jego szczycie,*

*Uposażenie mu dam całkiem duże,*

*Kościółek, by było należycie”.*

*I tak się stało, bo córka zdrowa,*

*Murarze z robotą się uwinęli,*

*Krótko więc trwała cała budowa,*

*Wnet eremici cele zajęli.*

*Modlili się dnie i noce całe,*

*W księgi się święte wczytywali,*

*A wymagania mieli małe,*

*Bo tylko ryby z fosy jadal.*

*Aliści był wśród mnichów jeden,*

*Co nie pogrążał się w modłach, lekturach,*

*Natomiast grzesznych myśli czereda*

*Wciąż dopuszczała jego natura.*

*Podszepty słyszał wrednego szatana,*

*Pokusy, by rzucić mnisi habit,*

*Bogactwo, władza miała mu być dana,*

*Jeśli się tylko da mu zwabić.*

*Próbował walczyć eremita młody,*

*Bronić się krzyżem przed podszeptem Złego*

*I nawet skronie święconej wody*

*Kroplami zraszał... Nic z tego.*

*Aż wreszcie diabeł sprawił, że przed nim*

*Córka dziedzica się objawiła*

*Pewnej niedzieli, w czas poobiedni  
W celi stanęła – piękna i miła.*

*Łzy miała w oczach, pokorę na twarzy  
I rzekła: „Wybacz, że tkwisz tutaj samotny  
Ja nie wiedziałam, że o mnie marzysz,  
Lecz nie bądź już dłużej markotny.*

*Podaj mi rękę i chodź w me ramiona,  
Chcę wynagrodzić ci wszystkie męki,  
Niech nas połączy miłość szalona,  
A skończą się wszystkie udręki”.*

*„Wybacz mi – rzecz zapłakana  
– „Jam nie wiedziała, że mnie miłujesz”,  
Pada przed mnichem na kolana,  
Zapewnia, jak bardzo żałuje.*

*„Gdybym wiedziała o twojej miłości,  
U ojca zgodę bym wyprosiła,  
Na ślub by się zgodził, wesele, gości,  
Piękna z nas para młoda by była”.*

*I opowiada dalej żarliwie, że przyszła oto,  
By błąd swój naprawić,  
Pragnie się rozstać z panieńską cnotą,  
A jego z samotni tej wybawić.*

*„Weź mnie w ramiona – kusi zwodniczo  
I czerpmy z kielicha rozkosze,  
Bo tylko one się w życiu liczą,  
Pocałuj mnie, miły, proszę”.*

*I uległ pokusie eremita,  
I rozwarł przed nią ramiona,  
Nie wiedząc zgoła, że pod nią skryta  
Jest postać szatana demona.*

*Gdy tylko poczuł jej słodki dotyk,  
Wszystko się wokół roziskrzyło,  
Wnet się rozległy potężne grzmoty,  
W przerwach coś przeraźliwie wyło.*

*Pękają grube, klasztorne mury  
Łamią się belki, dachu wiązania,  
Wszystko zapada się w głąb wielkiej dziury  
Jej czarcia otchłań klasztor pochłania  
Wraz z niedoszłymi kochankami,  
Którzy się sycić chcieli grzechem  
A wieść o tym w świat poszła nad polami  
Dalekim się odbijając echem.*

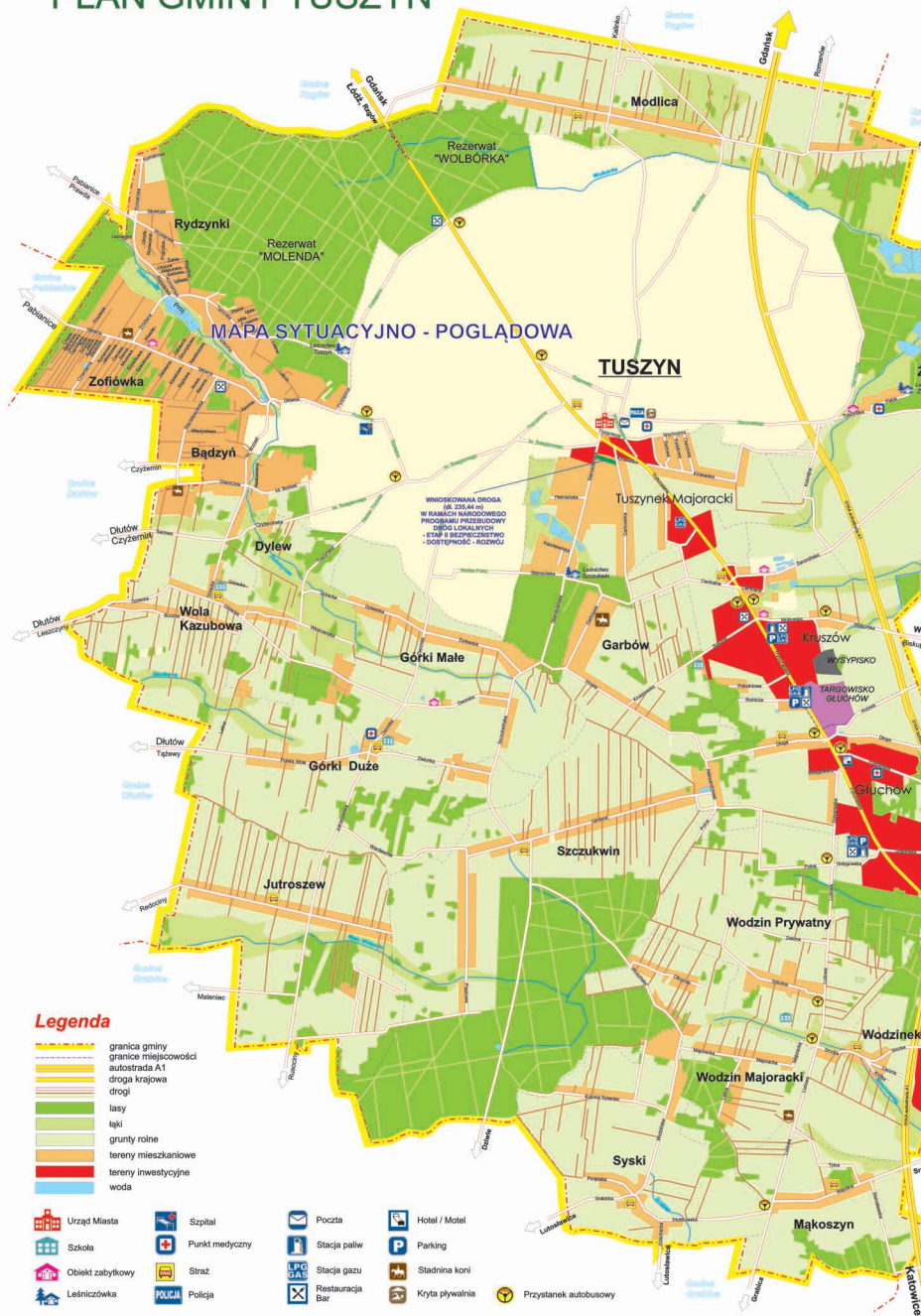
*I tylko w Górkach ludzie milczeli  
Przejęci wielką o siebie trwogą,  
Z czasem o wszystkim zapomnieli,  
Do dziś przypomnieć sobie nie mogą.*





# PLAN GMINY TUSZYN

## MAPA SYTUACYJNO - POGLĄDOWA





The gmina (the basic unit of administrative division in Poland, often translated into English as „commune” or „municipality”) of Tuszyn is situated in the central part of the Łódź voivodeship, in the east of the powiat (the second-level unit of local government and administration in Poland, most often translated into English as „county”) of Łódź. The close proximity of Łódź (22 km) makes the gmina a part of the Łódź Urban Agglomeration and a fragment of its southern development area. Other towns situated close to Tuszyn include Rzgów (10 km), Pabianice (17 km), Piotrków Trybunalski (25 km), Bełchatów (31 km) and Tomaszów Mazowiecki (36 km). The neighbouring gminas are Dłutów, Czarnocin, Grabica, Moszczenica, Brójce, Rzgów and Pabianice.

The gmina of Tuszyn covers the area of 130 km<sup>2</sup>, which is 26% of the powiat area and 0.7% of the total voivodeship area. This makes it the second largest gmina in the powiat.

## TUSZYN

The location of Tuszyn is not particularly spectacular; it lies far from the mountains or lakes, and even further from the sea. You will not find here any reputable, old buildings covered in moss, or excitingly beautiful creations of nature. Instead, Tuszyn is very conveniently, not to say attractively, located as regards transport. It is situated nearly at the very centre of Poland, close to the junction of two motorways – A1 and A2 (presently under construction). At the time when this book is taking shape, several fragments of a modern Polish road system are being built, which means that soon reaching the Tuszyn area will become easier. To avoid unnecessary loftiness, let us just say that Tuszyn is one of the many gmina towns in Polish Central Lowlands. The monotony typical of the lowland landscape is disturbed by the hilly area of







(photo by UM Tuszyn)

the south-eastern part of the Łódź Syncline (Niecka Łódzka), known as the South Mazovian Hills in the Bełchatow Upland (318 m above sea level). The Central Polish glacier „decorated” the ground moraines and outwash plains area with terminal moraine elevations, called Tuszyn Hills (c. 300 m above the sea level). The areas north and north-west of Tuszyn are dunes covered with vast forests.

The geological base of the Tuszyn land is a slightly curved Jurassic layer, filled with Cretaceous and Triassic formations, covered with loose quaternary formations: sands, gravels, loams, clays, moraine clays and local boulder areas. The area of the Tuszyn gmina may be divided into two parts: central – with longitudinal range of hills, and the much lower remaining part.

Tuszyn Hills, formed from an undulated moraine, culminate in Górki Małe, at 228 m above sea level, while the lowest area is the Wolbórka River Valley in the north-eastern part of the gmina, at 192.5 m above sea level.

The gmina of Tuszyn is located on the Odra and the Vistula Rivers drainage divide. It runs longitudinally, across Borowa Góra and Radomszczańskie Hills to the Tuszyn Hills, in the Warta and the Pilica river basin. There are two rivers flowing across the gmina: the Dobrzyńska and the Wolbórka. The upper course of the Dobrzyńska, a tributary of the Ner River flowing into the Warta River, runs through the western part of the gmina, the Wolbórka (a tributary of the Pilica River) has its sources in the north-west of Tuszyn-Las and flows across the parts of the town called Grzędy and Kępica.



(photo by E. Stasinowski)





(photo by E. Stasinowski)

The gmina does not have any natural water reservoirs, but there are two artificial ones in its north-eastern part – the żeromińskie ponds, covering the total of nearly 100 hectares, and two ponds belonging to the „Młynek” Sport and Recreation Centre, covering three hectares.

11% of the gmina area (2,657 hectares) is covered with forests, mostly pine and fir, but also birch and alder. The understory is rich in junipers, blackberries, hazel and raspberries.


(photo by E. Stasinowski)







(photo by E. Stasinowski)



The fauna here is typical of Central Poland, with game, like boars, foxes, deer, hares and grey partridges. You may often see squirrels or even moose. In the multitude of birds, you may hear and see rare species of woodpeckers, owls, herons or black storks. The world of insects is also more than rich.

The climate of Tuszyn is dominated by humid masses of polar-sea and polar-continental air. The annual precipitations reach about 600 millimeters; the vegetation period lasts 210-215 days. The majority of soils are brown earth; occasionally, in the north-east of the gmina, near Modlica, we can find the fertile chernozem. Economically, Tuszyn is a farming gmina; crops take up nearly 15% of the whole area and include mostly rye, potatoes and feeds.







(photo by M. Pawlak)



However, in Tuszyn itself and in nearby Głuchów we can visit large shopping centres, offering mainly clothes, which can be bought at both wholesale and retail price. The town of Tuszyn offers a well developed system of services as well.

The gmina is inhabited by 11,906 people, which makes 18% of the powiat and 0.44% of the voivodeship population. Tuszyn is the second most populated town in the powiat, with 7,202 inhabitants; the remaining inhabitants live in the 20 solectwos of the gmina.



(photo by UM Tuszyn)

The concept of contemporary tourism is not limited to visiting places famous for historical buildings or breath-taking landscapes. Travelling statistics include trips made for purely commercial reasons and Tuszyn is a perfect example here. Its shopping centres are famous all over Poland and even among its eastern neighbours, mainly Russia and Ukraine, as an ideal trading place. The stalls, both those owned by the gmina and private, have become one of the first examples of a new type of entrepreneurship in Poland after the political and economic transformation. Tuszyn, previously known only for its horse market, became a major trade centre, with thousands of transactions taking place every day, where the number of customers greatly exceeded the number of the whole Tuszyn gmina population. Recently, the growing competition in Poland has slightly weakened the attractiveness of this huge shopping centre. However, trade is still developing dynamically and the markets in Tuszyn are associated with „business” or good shopping.

It is also commonly known that the market trade in Tuszyn is a source of sizable permanent income for the whole gmina, despite economic fluctuations.



## ST WITALIS CHURCH

St Witalis Church took its present shape at the beginning of the second half of the 19th c., thanks to Andrzej Płodowski, the owner of the Żeromin estate. In 1857, persuaded by bishop Marszewski during his visit in Tuszyn, Płodowski donated 10.500 rubles, as well as bought bricks and wood to build a new church. The new brick church was completed in 1865, replacing the small, wooden one. It was erected at a different place, as well.

The Tuszyn parish was founded in as early as the first half of the 15th c. Before Tuszyn became a town, there had been a small church there. If someone is interested in those ancient times, it is possible to find the exact site where the tiny shrine used to stand – it is marked with a large stone placed on a small mound.

If we look at the existing church, we should remember that it was badly damaged by the shells of the Prussian artillery battery, shooting the area of Tuszyn while stationing in Rzgów in 1914. The damage was removed in 1927-1930, under the supervision of architect Oskar Sosnowski, who slightly enlarged the building on the presbytery side, making it a little more harmonious. As a whole, however, it is not that outstanding a building and we must agree with art historians, who treat it as a „non-style” construction.


The interior of the church is much more interesting. It contains elements saved from the old church, dating back to the 17th c.: tabernacle, paintings presenting Virgin Mary in the main altar and the church patron saint. An interesting object in the church porch is a stone tablet, commemorating the main benefactor of the church. The contemporary pieces of art include window paintings



by a well-known painter, Paḡowski, from the 1970's, as well as frescoes from the same period (made by other artists).



(photo by E. Stasinowski)



The church in Tuszyn is not an architectural gem, as we said before, but this can be compensated by quoting a few interesting facts from its history. Let us begin from the mystery connected with the church patron, a martyr, Saint Witalis. The history of the Church mentions two martyrs of that name. Both lived and died at the dawn of Christendom on Roman lands – one during the rule of the cruel emperor Nero, and the other one over 200 years later. Today, it is virtually impossible to say which of them was referred to at the time when the church was built. The former is also the patron saint of Ravenna, and the latter – of one of the churches in Bologna. The painting presenting the saint is not very helpful here, because its author used a far-fetched allegory.



Another interesting fact concerning the newly-built, brick church is the way it was treated by the Tuszyn parish priest of that time, Rzewuski. When the new church was ready, the priest refused to move there from the old, dilapidating, wooden shrine. That was his malicious way of dealing with his parishioners, unwilling to pay the tax (dziesięcina). He did not step over the threshold of the new church till his last day, and the parish was officially moved only by the next priest, Szymon Kupczyński.

In every town, the place where visitors intuitively search for some traces of history is the cemetery. The one in Tuszyn is 200 years old, and its founder was the St Witalis parish priest of that time, Wojciech Jasiński, the brother of Jakub Jasiński, a hero of the Kościuszko Uprising. The majority of graves are contemporary, but taking a closer look we may notice a few well-preserved historical tombstones. The oldest ones are the tombstones on the graves of Kazimierz Krzysztoporski from 1839 and Marianna Kietbańska from 1851. We should also pay our respect standing by the collective grave of the World War II victims



## 19TH CENTURY BUILDINGS

While walking around Tuszyn, the tourist becomes aware that as a matter of fact, he cannot find any evidence of the 600-year-long history of the town. Even the layout of the streets only remotely refers to the times past, so it is difficult to imagine what the old town might have looked like. Well, like most towns in Mazowsze, Tuszyn was built of wood, and its inhabitants were mainly farmers; town houses were not much different from country dwellings. They were often destroyed by fires or suffered from dampness and decay. However, such was the building tradition here, which lasted until the 19th c., or even a little longer. Here and there, you may still see a house dating back to the early 19th c., but after multiple modifications it is only its size that says something about the past of the town, and not such distant past, either.



The town hall comes from the 19th c. as well. It still performs its original function, though today it is one storey taller. Its rather heavy than slender, quadrangular clock tower is pleasant to photograph; it symbolizes the respectable urban status of the town.

The building standing nearby, in Reymont Square, next to the church, was built at more or less the same time. Originally it was a one-storey construction, which first accommodated the school and later the magistrate's court, police station and post-office. Today it is a residential building.



## THE 20TH C., THE INTER-WAR PERIOD

The traditional urban character of Tuszyn was destroyed by the tsar authorities, but after 50 years of functioning as less than a village, in 1923, the municipal rights were restored to the town. Tuszyn started to recover when Poland regained independence. Its mayor, Józef Domowicz, understood that the town needed urban investments and while he was in office Tuszyn gained the town baths and a slaughterhouse, the school was moved to decent premises and a statue of king Władysław Jagiełło, who had given the town municipal rights, was erected right in front of the school. All these buildings and the statue may be seen today. They can hardly be called historical monuments, but they are certainly of sentimental historical value, if not for all, then at least for those who come from Tuszyn families, live elsewhere but their roots are important to them.


There is an interesting story connected with the statue of Władysław Jagiełło. During World War II, the bronze bust of the king, designed by Mieczysław Szubelski, suffered the same fate as other Polish monuments. The aggressors threw it off the pedestal and wanted to recast it. However, it did not go further than the Łódź Kaliska station. There, the people who were escorting it, managed to steal the bust and hide it in Zgierz, where it rested safely until the end of the war.

Jagiełło returned to his rightful place in front of the school building only in 1966. It does not mean that it had been kept somewhere else by that time; it returned to Tuszyn soon after the war, but the town authorities for some reasons decided to place it not in front of the school, like before, but inside the building, in the main hall. Only the Millennium of the Polish State celebrations were an occasion to restore its original localization.





(photo by R. Gramsz)



Domowicz's term of office is strictly connected with two other investments in Tuszyn, whose importance is in fact more than local – creating Tuszyn-Las and building the sanatorium in Tuszynek.

Tuszyn-Las is an urban organism, separated from old Tuszyn by Road No 1. Despite this division, it is an integral, administrative part of the town. However, it is a very distinctive part, with its own, original identity. First of all, it is very young – Tuszyn-Las will celebrate its 100th anniversary only in 2018. It was created from scratch, in the inter-war period, in a forested area. However, the constructors had to respect very strict legal limits as to the number of trees that could be cut out on every plot of land (not more than 33% of the forest stand). That was because the fathers of the whole undertaking - mayor Domowicz and the starosta of Łódź, Aleksy Rzewski – were fascinated with the idea of garden towns, so popular and fashionable in Western Europe at that time. Such towns were supposed to guarantee the inhabitants full contact with nature every day, as if they were living in a garden. In the case of Tuszyn, it was about a forest, not a garden; the building site covered 250 morgas (the size of one morga or morgen varies from 0.5 – 2.5 acres, which equals approximately 0.2 - 1 hectare) of a forested area, called Poddębina. The official inauguration of Tuszyn-Las took place on 6th May 1928. The foundation act was embedded at the base of a commemorative plaque.

Tuszyn-Las developed as a town of charming villas and pensions, owned mostly by Łódź entrepreneurs, who started to appreciate its climatic advantages already in the 19th c. In summer, they gladly fled from the smoky, industrial Łódź to Tuszyn hills. Today the situation is not much different – Tuszyn-Las is full of one-family houses, and their number is growing as who would not like to live in a house, where pine branches knock on the window panes?

Today, the atmosphere of the pre-war garden-town has blown away somewhere among the pines. Only a few dilapidating villas remind us of the old times. Now, Tuszyn-Las is a fully modern town, with modern schools, shops, a church and even a cemetery. We could say that there is nothing to visit there if not for a relic resting in St Christopher's Church since 2011 – a holy reminder of the Polish Pope, John Paul II. It is a piece of fabric soaked with His blood during the assassination attempt. This may be a reason to visit Tuszyn. The people, for whom the memory of John Paul II is an everlasting value, will find praying for Him in a church which guards a drop of His blood to be an unforgettable experience.





The other important investment in Tuszyn was the building of a sanatorium for tuberculosis patients in Tuszynek. It is also situated in the forest, slightly further south-west of the new district. The forest offered particular climatic conditions which were considered ideal in the treatment of tuberculosis. The facility was opened in 1927 and gradually expanded in the following years, to become one of the largest sanatoria in the country. In the 1980's, it was transformed into a hospital, which despite constant reorganizations has been suffering from serious financial problems until the present day, which is the case of many other hospitals in Poland.



## NATURE AND RECREATION

Tuszyn's forests and its small hills have long been considered to be perfect conditions for recreation, soothing the body and soul. The first to learn that (mid-19th c.) were the better-off inhabitants of Łódź, who started to spend the summers there with their whole families, renting rooms at the local inhabitants' houses. At present, this form of recreation is offered by agro-tourist farms, where you can ride horses, taste fresh, healthy food and enjoy the clean natural environment. The Tuszyn area has not lost its climatic advantages and is still willingly visited for recreational purposes by the inhabitants of Łódź, Pabianice and other major towns near Łódź, who appreciate close contact with nature. A weekend trip to Tuszyn and its surroundings perfectly restores physical powers, especially if you choose one of the walking tourist trails or the nearly 30 km long cycling path.

The path is named after Józef Domowicz,; it begins in the town, but was planned to allow the tourist to ride across different areas: town streets, villages, typically recreational sites, forests and fields. The route runs near a swimming pool, two stables, a recreation centre and the Molenda nature reserve.

The reserve covers 142.45 hectares and is an area of fir protection, as this is the northern boundary of the region where this species occurs. The tree stand is formed by concentrations of fir and oak, as well as fir and pine, with some spruce, beech and hornbeam. The firs grow to up to 50 m, and they are 100-150 years old. The young trees and blooms show that it is the natural habitat of this species. Other protected species found here include periwinkle, ivy, martagon, sundews, or daphne. In spring you can admire fields of lilies-of-the-valley and wood anemone. If you are lucky, you may spot the nest of the black stork.

You are not allowed to walk in the reserve individually, but organized groups can easily get the permission at the forest inspectorate in Kolumna or Tuszyn.

The other Tuszyn nature reserve, Wolbórka, is situated far from the tourist trails. It covers only slightly over 32 hectares and it was established in order to protect the Wolbórka River spring area, the alder forest and a certain type of the *Colias* butterfly. The reserve comprises two alder forest complexes. They are both hard to reach, due to the abundance of groundcover and understory. Sometimes the black stork chooses this area to nest.

(photo by E. Stasinowski)





(photo by E. Stasinowski)



Tuszyn forests are perfect hunting areas, of course with the exclusion of the nature reserves. The areas belong to two hunting societies, called „Tur” („The Aurochs”) and „Żubr” („The European bison”). The members of the third society, Grabica, hunt mostly on the fields, because they have only 490 hectares of the forest.

As we know, cycling in the winter is not easy or pleasant. But in Tuszyn you may exchange the bike for a horse or ride in a sleigh. A sleigh ride („kulig”) gives you a chance to admire the beauty of the trees, which look equally magnificent in the winter and in the summer. Events like these are organized by two stables: „The Ranch in the Valley” in Wola Kazubowa and the one in Zofiówka.

(photo by E. Stasinowski)





Every year, the cultural institutions in Tuszyn organize a number of events, such as Wielka Orkiestra Świątecznej Pomocy (an annual national charity event), Christmas for children, the Grandparents' Day, the Mother's Day and the Children's Day. In the summer season the town celebrates the Days of Tuszyn, organizes cycling tours, family picnics, local fairs and Dożynki (the end of harvest holiday).



(photo by MOKSiT)







## TUSZYN IN THE LIVES OF FAMOUS PEOPLE

There are towns, which are visited only because they were once a part of famous people's lives. Following the life stories of such people, it is tempting to visit the places where they were born or spent many years of their lives, in order to look for minute details that may have had some influence on their outstanding personalities. Small Tuszyn is lucky to have had many such people passing through, which not many people are aware of.

How many of us know that Tuszyn is where the Noble Prize winner, Władysław Reymont spent his childhood? His parents, Mr and Mrs Rejment (that was the writer's original family name) moved to Tuszyn from Kobiele Wielkie in 1868, when little Władzio was only one year old. They were persuaded to do that by Mrs Rejment's brother, Szymon Kupczyński, who was the parish priest in Tuszyn. He helped his family, who were not doing too well in godforsaken Kobiele, by employing his brother-in-law as an organist, and letting them settle down in a house which belonged to the parish. The house was situated next to the park surrounding the Czetwertyński's manor house. Prince Michał Czetwertyński took possession of the Tuszyn starostwo and wójtostwo in the 18th c. and became the town's benefactor, rebuilding it after a great fire in 1790.


Today, it is hard to find any traces either of the princely manor house or the house inhabited by the Rejment family, but old inhabitants of the town still remember an area called „Sadzawki”, the name most probably referring to the small ponds nearby. It is where those buildings used to stand.

Young Władzio received elementary education at the school in Tuszyn, but his uncle - a priest and a well-read man - was not

satisfied with the standard of teaching, and lent the boy different books from his own library to read. Finally, he persuaded his parents to send the boy to the school in Będków.

Here the Tuszyn episode in the life of the future Noble prize winner ends. Right after he graduated from the school, he went to Warsaw to continue learning, but... to as a tailor's apprentice! As we all know, he did not spend the rest of his life making clothes, but he remembered the years in Tuszyn well, not only because of his wise uncle Szymon, but also his aunt Waleria Kupczyńska, married to a forester from Molenda. Young Władzio spent a lot of time at his aunt and uncle's forest hut, and a friend of theirs, gamekeeper Paweł, even tried to teach him the art of hunting. With poor results, though, because the boy did not have the feel for hunting, which the gamekeeper commented sourly: you don't have the heart for the rifle, you may be a second-rate writer, at the most.

Jankiel Adler was born in the family of a merchant and owner of a mill in Tuszyn, in 1895. He also left his home town early, in order to be a goldsmith apprentice, but soon it turned out that he was extremely talented. So, he went to study art in Warsaw, Yugoslavia and Germany. He became a famous painter and graphic designer, a representative of Jewish expressionism. First he lived and worked in Warsaw, staying in close touch with Łódź Jewish painters, and in 1920 he left the country to settle down in Düsseldorf. He often traveled to France and Spain. After Hitler came to power, Adler moved to Paris, and when the war broke out – to Scotland. He died in 1949, leaving valuable oil paintings, water-colours, drawings and drafts. They presented what fascinated the artist – Jewish folklore, Talmud and biblical motifs, his own war experiences (1940 he joined the Polish army in France, took part in the battle of Dunkirk); he experimented with abstractionism and surrealism.



The life of another writer, Maria Rodziewiczówna, living in the Eastern Borderlands, was connected with Żeromin near Tuszyn. She was a friend of the Mazaraki family and often visited them. At the time of the Great Depression (the 1930's), Aleksander Mazaraki helped her, sending potatoes and other food products. When Rodziewiczówna was at the camp for repatriates in Łódź during the war, Mr Mazaraki got her out of there and accommodated her in his other small manor house in Żelazna near Skierniewice. Exhausted by her war experiences, the writer died in 1944; she was buried at the cemetery in Żelazna, next to the Mazaraki tomb.

Tuszyn was also the home town of Aleksander Zwierzyński, a journalist and politician from the Vilnius region, well known in the interwar period. During the war he worked underground and from 1941 - for the Polish Government Delegation in London. He was the Chairman of the National Party Main Board, from 1944 he was the vice-chairman of the National Unity Council. In March 1945 he was arrested by the NKWD (The People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs) and UB (The Ministry of Public Security), along with 15 other activists of the independence movement, taken to Moscow, brought to trial and accused of espionage against the Red Army. In 1992 scouts put a plate on his grave with the following inscription: Aleksander Zwierzyński / The Son of the Tuszyn Land / A victim of the Stalin's regime / Sentenced in the Trial of the Sixteen.

Tuszyn is also where an outstanding scientist, a chemist Stanisław Kiełbasiński was born. He was famous for his studies on the arsenic-benzene-based medicines. He organized well functioning research and didactic sections at the Łódź Technical University and the Medical Academy in Łódź. He died in 1955 and was buried at the cemetery in Tuszyn.



Tuszynek is a place where a distinguished linguist, literary critic and library scientist, Wacław Borowy was born in 1890. He did comparative studies of translations and versification, was the head of the Faculty of Polish Literature at the University of Warsaw, a member of the Polish Academy of Skills and the Warsaw Scientific Society. He made a great contribution to the assembling and cataloguing of the university book collection, and taught many outstanding librarians. During World War II he lived in Warsaw, where he was fighting heroically in the Warsaw Uprising, trying to save the University Library book collection. He died in 1950 in Warsaw and that is where he was buried.



## WHAT IS WORTH SEEING IN THE GMINA OF TUSZYN?

### ŻEROMIN

Slightly east of Tuszyn, by the road to Czarnocin, there is the village of Żeromin. It is worth visiting mainly because of the charming ponds, which are remnants of the former estate with a manor house and farm buildings.

The village was first mentioned at the end of the 14th c. In the 16th c. it was the property of Sieradz communal clerk, Stanisław Gomoliński, and later it belonged to the old Bykowski family, settled in central Poland. In the next years the estate had other owners, such as Andrzej Płodowski, mentioned earlier as the founder of the brick church in Tuszyn. Other owners, the Mazaraki family, were famous for their talent for farm management. They turned the estate into a large-scale production farm, with meliorated fields and meadows, fish ponds, a distillery, a mill and a forge.

The quite well preserved remains of the old buildings are the farm workers houses; unfortunately, the manor house burnt down in 1998.



### KRUSZÓW

In Kruszów, south-east of Tuszyn, we may admire a reconstructed beautiful manor house. It is surrounded with a park, with an old lime alley and a double line of hornbeams, which are about 200 years old. A true tourist attraction is the 400 year old fraxi-

nus growing near the manor house. It is not only a monument of nature, but also a witness to the history of Polish cinema. The tree can be seen in “The Promised Land” (“Ziemia Obiecana”) directed by Andrzej Wajda, in several scenes of the three main characters’ visit at Karol Borowiecki’s parents’ house.

It is also interesting that in the past there used to be a tram line running between Łódź and Kruszów.







## GÓRKI MAŁE

It is also a good idea to go south-east from Tuszyn and visit Górki Małe. The small manor house there is a modern building, but it was constructed on the site of the former manor house, in an old park, with several hundred year old oaks, limes and other trees, 14 of which have been considered the monuments of nature.



## GÓRKI DUŻE

In nearby Górki Duże we may see traces of a very distant past – the remains of a medieval town. It looks very modest, like a small hill overgrown with bushes. However, if you stop and get out of your car, you will notice that the hill is surrounded with a ditch, which used to be a moat once.



## THE LATEST NEWS

There will be a horse riding trail between the Mroga and the Pilica River!

On 24th May, at the Kruszów Manor House, a conference was held, regarding a project named Attractive Local Trail. It was about establishing and marking a horse riding trail, running across the areas of three local activity groups: Mroga - The Association for the Local Community Development, The Pilica River Valley and the „Let's Build Together” group from Tuszyn. The project is financed by the European Union, as a part of the Rural Areas Development

Program for 2007 – 2013. The institution supervising the program is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The trail has been named „Between the Mroga and the Pilica Rivers” and its aim is to connect the “small loop” of the Łódź horse riding trail with the „big loop”.

The conference was held at the time when this book was already being printed.