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# Editorial.

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

## Editorial

The present issue of "Ochrona Zabytków" has a specific nature. It contains the reports presented at a scientific conservation session entitled "The Restitution of the Royal Castle in Warsaw" organized on 2–4 September 1986 by the State Ateliers for the Conservation of Cultural Property (referred to as the PP PKZ) as part of the celebrations of the 35th anniversary of their existence. It was the first session devoted to that subject, but undoubtedly not the last one, just as the problem of the Castle is very important for Polish monuments' conservators.

By devoting this issue of "Ochrona Zabytków" entirely to problems of the restitution of the Royal Castle, the biggest and most difficult task carried out by the PP PKZ, the Editors wish to express their esteem for the accomplishments of the PP PKZ.

In this issue the Readers will find both a presentation of the problems associated with national symbolism, which has always been an essential element – if not the motive power – of all undertakings in Poland, and considerations on the criteria of the evaluation and verification of attitudes towards conservation actions. It also gives an assessment of the undertakings, of technical, artistic and conservation skill, all of which were indispensable in the execution of this national work. The authors ask also many questions, to which no one has given the answer as yet.

The present issue of "Ochrona Zabytków" contains nearly all papers presented during the session. For the first time the floor was taken by those who won the battle of the Castle and who gained the words of esteem for their work. The attempt to evaluate this work is, of course, limited by the scope of our knowledge on the subject under discussion. Still, we can express our hope that the future will offer us the possibilities to resume it.

The problems raised by the authors concentrate mainly on technical and conservation questions. Still, some place has been devoted to the attempt to determine the role of the Castle in the consciousness of the Poles in the period of partitions and in independent Poland.

Great achievements of conservation work have been subjected to a thorough analysis. The time had passed since the completion of the work allowed for a critical analysis of the concepts adopted and solutions applied. Still, some of them give rise to certain reservations already today. They were stressed out also during discussions, in which 17 persons took part. The debaters presented their views on the perception of castle interiors, a scope and reliability of the information conveyed to the visitors by guides, quality and content of films shown to the guests. The subject that was frequently raised during the discussion was the lack of the information on the authors of this great work, i.e. the restitution of the Royal Castle, and the people thanks to whom this, national task was accomplished. The debaters pointed out the need to publish documents on conservation work – both the report of the Civic Committee for the Reconstruction of the Royal Castle and the protocols of the Architectonic and Conservation Commission. In the opinion of the speakers, the publication on the restitution of the Royal Castle also deserves editing. This great and honourable duty falls upon the Council of the Castle. The postulate, put forward before, to erect on the Castle's walls the plaque commemorating its erection and the names of the executors of this task to the present and future generations has been adopted.

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The present issue of „Ochrona Zabytków” is dedicated by the Editors to all those who have contributed to the realization of the aspirations of the millions of Poles both in the country and abroad to reconstitute the Royal Castle in Warsaw.