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EXHIBITION OF TEUTONIC ARMAMENTS IN THE SPACE OF THE CASTLE IN MALBORK BEFORE THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND NOWADAYS¹

Abstract: Armament exhibitions at Malbork Castle had many arrangements throughout its history. Before the Second World War, there were several places where arms and armour were displayed. After the war, for most of the time, there was just one exhibition showcasing only European armaments from the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period. In 2016, two separate armament exhibitions opened – the European and the Oriental one, displaying arms and armour from the East and the West. Those two exhibitions connect armaments used by the founders of Malbork Castle – the Teutonic Knights and their troops who incorporated arms and armour used in Western and Eastern Europe into their military campaigns. Another rearrangement made in 2022 offers a good opportunity to summarise the current state of knowledge.

Keywords: arms and armour; Malbork Castle; armament exhibition; Teutonic armaments.

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During almost 300 years of the existence of the State of the Teutonic Order in Prussia, the Teutonic Knights used many types of armaments, part of which originated from Western European armies, and the rest from the Balt troops against whom they fought. Thus, their armaments are a characteristic example of the clash of Eastern and Western military influences. A number of Teutonic arms and armour have survived to our times, some of which are kept at the castle in Malbork.

Before the Second World War, Malbork Castle held almost two thousand pieces of arms and armour, from ancient times until the present day, both from Europe and all over the world. They can be divided into three groups. The largest one contains armaments from two copious collections acquired by the castle in the 19th century. The first of them was Mayor Pfefferkorn’s collection gifted to the castle in 1834, consisting of 138 pieces of arms and armour (Steinbrecht 1916, 14–15; Schwandt 1922, 75; Chodyński 2017, 44–45; Dobry, Trupinda 2020, 330–331). The second, much larger collection was bought in 1892 for 130.000 Marks

from Theodor Blell. It consists of 1438 pieces of armament (Gosk, Masłowski 2021, 45). The second of mentioned groups of arms and armour in the castle involves individual items brought to the castle as a result of archeological or river control works or by private individuals. Sometimes they created their own small collections such as the armaments of Reinhold von der Wickerau gifted to the castle by his wife in 1888. The third group consists of replicas and reconstructions of armaments created for decorative purpose.

Despite the Teutonic past of the castle in Malbork only a few of all the armaments that were stored there before the Second World War could be called Teutonic. To identify “Teutonic armaments”, they would first need to be defined. In this article I consider “Teutonic armaments” to be arms and armour related to the Teutonic Knights and military detachments in their service. Therefore, those are both weapons used by the Teutonic armies and found in the territory of State of the Teutonic Order as well as weaponry bearing the Teutonic Order’s coat of arms.

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Fig. 1. Teutonic pavise (after Trapp 1940/1945, 50, Abb. 3)

Ryc. 1. Pawęż krzyżacka (wg Trapp 1940/1945, 50, Abb. 3)

Arms and armour bearing the Teutonic Order's coat of arms are basically shields only. In the castle there were just three types of shields. The first type were pavises, or rectangular shields of Balt provenance with a vertical ridge in the central part. In the pre-war military collection, there were two pavises with the black cross. The first was kept in the castle since at least 1887. It was first mentioned by Georg Bujack in his article from 1888. He described it as almost rectangular in shape with rounded corners and a deep groove on the inner side which appeared as a rib on the outer side. It was 1.24 m high and 0.54 m wide (Bujack 1888, 9; Nowakowski 1980, 54). This shield was illustrated in four drawings in an article by Bernhard Engel from 1902 (Engel 1900–1902, 95). B. Engel procured them from the then castle conservator, Conrad Steinbrecht. Information about this shield during the Second World War was summarised and supplemented by Oswald Trapp (Fig. 1). He personally inspected this shield in Malbork, taking his own measurements. According to them, the shield was 125 cm high, 56 cm wide in the middle and 46.5 cm wide at the bottom. O. Trapp also tried to discover its history, although Bernhard Schmid, the then castle conservator, was unaware of its origins. He considered it an old gift, not bought from the castle funds, because there was no mention about it in the inventories. It did not come from the Blell collection, although Blell considered it to be the only original Teutonic

shield which had survived to the 19th century and was dated to the second half of the 14th century (Trapp 1948, 51). This shield was actually a gift from the officers of the 8th Battalion of the 45th East Prussian Regiment of the Landwehr for the castle to celebrate the 55th birthday of Emperor Frederick III. Additionally, the officers donated a helmet, two swords, a battle axe and mail (*Acta des Kgl. Regierungs-Präsiddi...*, k. 416–417). It is not known how the officers came into possession of this shield. Since Blell considers it original, it may be come from the Teutonic armoury located in Królewiec. The front drawing of this pavise from Engel's article was used in many research articles on Teutonic armaments published after the war. In these papers, the pavise was described as a lost shield from Malbork Castle, dated to ca. 1380 (Nowakowski 1980 51, ryc. 19; 1994, 130, Fig. 8; Kajzer, Nowakowski 2001, 82, Fig. 1; Kwiatkowski 2016, 414, il. 95b).

It was photographed twice before the war. Both photos were used for postcards. An older photo was taken at the end of the 19th century and depicts a showcase with armaments gifted by the officers in the Winter Refectory (Fig. 2:1). The case next to the pavise displayed a kettle hat with cheek plates, mail and a sword. On 10th February 1887, Theodor Blell sent a letter to Conrad Steinbrecht, where he described the mail delivered to the castle, which he had bought for 125 Marks (the castle was supposed to pay him 126.2 Marks; por. *Die Waffensammlung...*, k. 78–81). He also suggested putting mail in this showcase together with the gift from the officers. On one of the pages of the letter, he sketched a way of displaying those exhibits. His drawing shows the kettle hat with cheeks, a basinet (it is unknown which of these helmets was a gift from the officers), mail, two swords and the pavise (with the battle axe missing). His suggestion was quickly implemented, as in March a drawing was made of the showcase with the arms and armour arranged like Blell wanted (only the basinet was missing) (Fig. 2:2). In this drawing we can clearly see the inside of this showcase. It stood in the Winter Refectory until 1915 at the latest, because the next postcard from this year shows it in the Summer Refectory, although without armaments inside.² The showcase was photographed one more time, for the needs of a postcard from 1925 (Fig. 5). Then, however, the aforementioned pavise was replaced by another one.

The location of this pavise after 1915 can be inferred from a postcard from the 1930s showing the Great Refectory. The photo for this postcard

² Collection of Malbork Castle Museum, Inv. No. MZM/DH/1889_7.

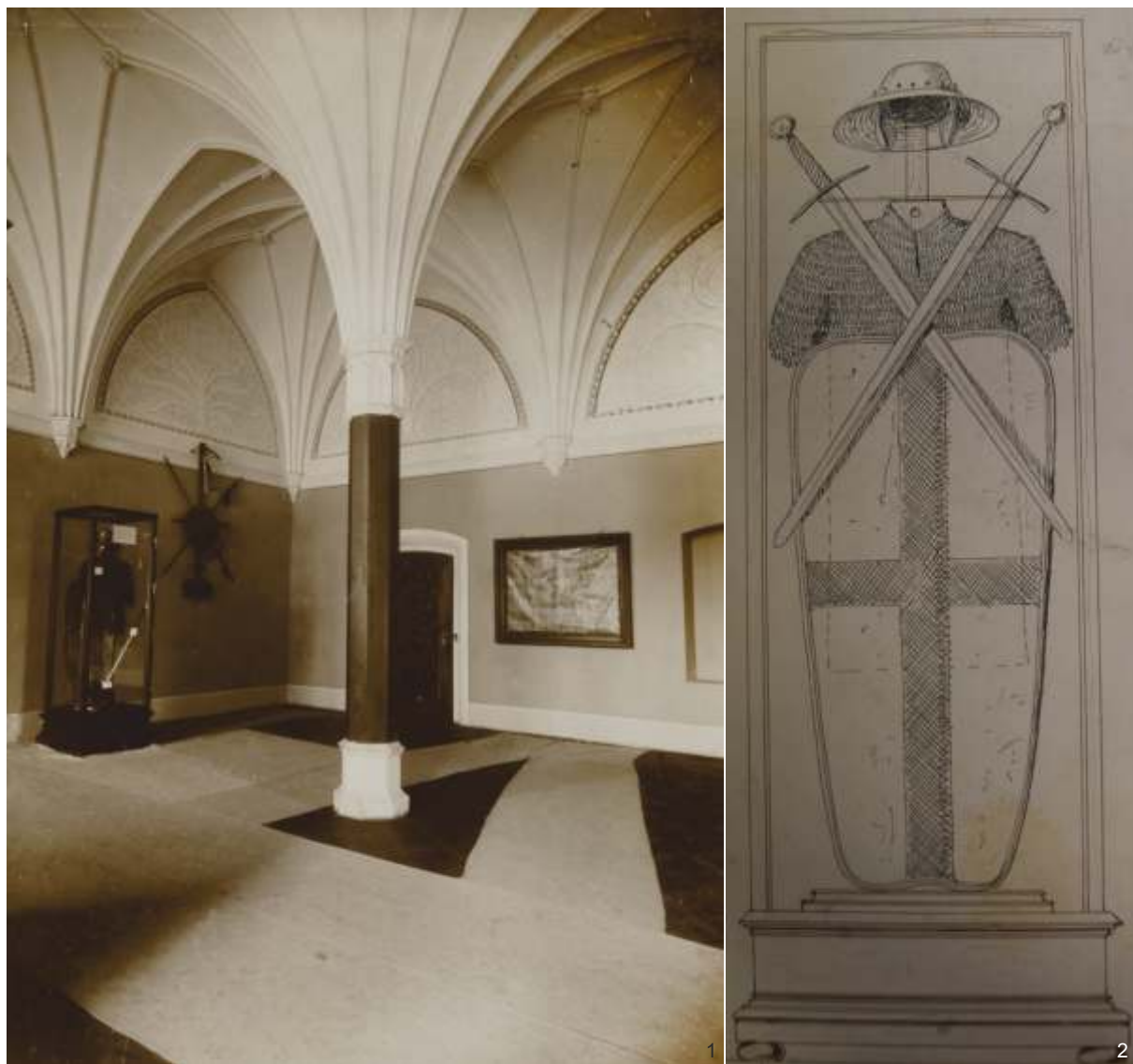


Fig. 2. 1 – Winter Refectory at the end of 19th century. Collection of Malbork Castle Museum, Inv. No. MZM/DH/1926_11; 2 – showcase with arms and armour (after *Acta des Kgl. Regierungs-Präsiddi...*, k. 426)

Ryc. 2. 1 – Zimowy Refektarz w końcu XIX w. Zbiory Muzeum Zamkowego w Malborku, nr inw. MZM/DH/1926_11; 2 – gablota z uzbrojeniem (wg *Acta des Kgl. Regierungs-Präsiddi...*, k. 426)

was taken by a photographer from Marienburg named Heinrich van der Piepen (Fig. 3). In 1916, on its eastern and western walls there were replicas of barred helmets and shields with the coats of arms of dignitaries supporting the Order in the Christianisation of Prussia (Rząd 1993, 125). When the photo was taken some of those shields and helmets were temporarily replaced by other types and one of them was a shield that belonged to Henry XIII Duke of Bavaria. This shield was replaced by the aforementioned pavise. In 1936 at the latest, Henry XIII's shield returned to its rightful place, although it is still unknown where the pavise was relocated.

Yet another Teutonic pavise was kept at Malbork. It was first mentioned in Engel's article in 1902 (Fig. 4). It was supposed to be lighter than the previous one, and it was in the shape of an inverted trapezoid, measuring 105 cm in height and from 45 cm (at the bottom edge) to 65 cm in width (at the top edge). The cross was characterised by extended arms. A red border ran along the edge of the face. On the back was a shield-grip in the shape of a letter T, iron rings and rivet marks (Engel 1900–1902, 94). When the article was published, this shield was in the Warnecke³ collection. According to Walter Rose, this collection was brought in 1904 or 1905 by Count Wilczek to

³ It was probably a Prussian heraldist, Friedrich Warnecke (1837–1894).



Fig. 3. Great Refectory in the 1930s. Collection of Malbork Castle Museum, Inv. No. MZM/DH/1932

Ryc. 3. Wielki Refektarz w latach 30. XX w. Zbiory Muzeum Zamkowego w Malborku, nr inw. MZM/DH/1932

the castle of Kreuzenstein. This pavise was gifted to the German Emperor Wilhelm II on 7 July 1906 during his visit to Kreuzenstein. During its handover, the count was reported to have said: *The shield undoubtedly came from Marienburg, it should go back to Marienburg! It belongs to the*

Order of the German Lords. The count's statement was only intended to emphasise the value of this artefact. There is no evidence that this shield indeed came from Malbork (Trapp 1948, 52).

Thereafter, on 8th October of the same year, the Emperor had the pavise sent to Malbork, where it was registered in Blell's inventory in the section devoted to new acquisitions under No. 110. A mention "Property of His Majesty the Emperor" in the inventory suggests that the ruler did not renounce ownership of it (Masłowski 2021, 212). It was placed in a showcase in the Summer Refectory, replacing the previous pavise (Fig. 5). Both pavises were transported in 1945 from Malbork to Warsaw by employees of the Polish Army Museum. In a four-page inventory created at that time, they were given No. 90 (*Przedmioty...*, zał. 2, k. 4; Polejowski 2019, 78). Now they are provided with accession Nos. MWP 180 and MWP 181 in this museum (Godlewski 2015, 399; Kubacki 2015, 401; Kułakowska, Petrus, Rottau 2024).

Besides the pavises with the Teutonic Order's coat of arms, the castle also held shields with the Grand Master's coat of arms – in the silver field there is a golden cross fleury and potent, superimposed on a black cross. The Imperial eagle



Fig. 4. Teutonic pavise (after Trapp, 1940/1945, 52, Abb. 4)

Ryc. 4. Pawęż krzyżacka (wg Trapp, 1940/1945, 52, Abb. 4)



Fig. 5. Summer Refectory ca. 1925. Collection of Malbork Castle Museum, Inv. No. MZM/DH/1876

Ryc. 5. Letni Refektarz ok. 1925 r. Zbiory Muzeum Zamkowego w Malborku, nr inw. MZM/DH/1876



Fig. 6. Chapter House in 1894 (after *Marienburger Baujahr* 1894, 29)

Ryc. 6. Kapitułarz w 1894 r. (wg *Marienburger Baujahr* 1894, 29)



Fig. 7. Infirmary in 1918 (after *Marienburger Baujahr* 1918, 12)

Ryc. 7. Infirmeria w 1918 r. (wg *Marienburger Baujahr* 1918, 12)

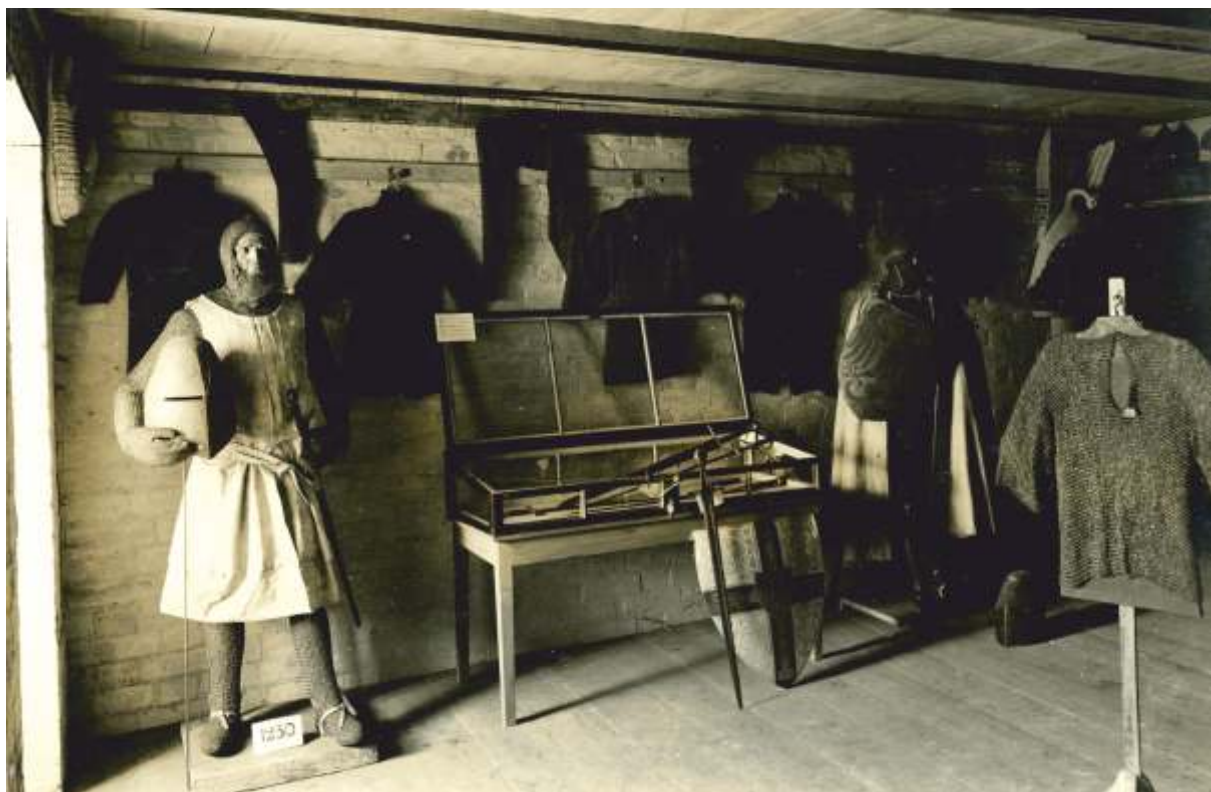


Fig. 8. Attic of the Grand Commandry in 1917 (after *Marienburger Baujahr* 1917, 28)

Ryc. 8. Poddasze siedziby wielkiego komtura w 1917 r. (wg *Marienburger Baujahr* 1917, 28)



Fig. 9. Seven Pillar Hall in 1910 (after *Marienburger Baujahr* 1910, 76)

Ryc. 9. Sala Siedmiokolumnowa w 1910 r. (wg *Marienburger Baujahr* 1910, 76)

is a central inescutcheon. There were three types of such shields. The first was a pavise replica used in 1894 as a model for a polychromy in the rebuilt Chapter House (Fig. 6) (Marienburg Baujahr 1894, 29). In 1918 it was hanging in the Infirmary in the Middle Castle (Fig. 7) (Marienburg Baujahr 1918, 12). We know that it was transported to the Polish Army Museum and today it bears the accession No. MWP W.42488 in its collection (Gosk 2024, 24–26).

The second type of shield with the Grand Master's coat of arms was a replica of a heater shield. It belonged to the Blell collection and was provided with No. 866 in his inventory. It was to be modelled on a series of heater shields that were located in the Cathedral of St Elizabeth in Marburg until 1880s, and today are kept in the Marburger Universitätsmuseum für Kulturgeschichte in the Marburg castle. In 1917 it was in the attic of the Grand Commandry in the Middle Castle. Since 1914 this room served as an armoury displaying European arms and armour from the period between 1100 and the modern times from the Blell collection (Fig. 8) (Marienburg Baujahr 1917, 28). This shield is also in the Polish Army Museum (acc. No. MWP W.51285) (Gosk 2024, 26–27).

The last shield of this type was a siege shield. It was probably created like the previous one before 1910 on the request of Conrad Steinbrecht. It is known that the coat of arms on it was taken from a painting decorating the internal face of the front door of St Elisabeth's Cathedral in Marburg. This painting is dated to 1283 (Michler 1984, 248–254). The shield form may have been based on a siege shield with the coat of arms of the town of Erfurt. Twenty shields of this type hung in the Erfurt town hall. They remained very long there thanks to their artistic value and a high location just below the ceiling. In 1830, the town hall building was partially dismantled and on its place a new building was erected in 1869–1875 in the neo-Gothic style. The shields were moved, first to the city orphanage and then to the Angermuseum founded in 1886 (Herrmann 1865, 28, 59; Horn 2019, 114). On the basis of the municipal coat of arms these shields are dated to 1347–1386 (Herrmann 1865, 63). Twelve are still in Erfurt museum, while rest were sold or gifted to other museums. Considering the dimensions of the copy made for Malbork castle, it can be assumed that it was based on the one of these twelve shields from the Angermuseum (acc. No. 3000.f).

A siege shield with the Grand Master's coat of arms hung since ca. 1910 on the northern wall of the Seven Pillar Hall, as can be seen in Marienburg Baujahr photos (Fig. 9) (Marienburg Baujahr 1910, 76–77; 1917, 12–13). This shield survived the siege of the castle from 25 January till 9 March 1945 intact. Probably because of its huge size and weight it became one of the few pieces of armament which were not taken from the castle after the war. At the end of the 1950s it was transported to the Film Studio in Łódź, where it was used as a prop for the "Krzyżacy" movie directed by Aleksander Ford which was filmed at the time (Tomkiewicz 2010, 173). It can be seen in the scene of Ulrich von Jungingen's conversation with the Polish legation before the Battle of Grunwald. After shooting the film it was returned to the castle (Gosk 2024, 19–24).

Yet another type of armaments which could be called "Teutonic" was a set of eleven great helmets, together with shields hanging at the beginning of the 20th century as decorations in St Anne's Chapel. The chapel was re-Gothicised in 1895–1912, including decorations and refurbishment. Prussian conservators tried, just like everywhere in the castle, to bring back the original character of this premise, which was a burial chapel of the Grand Masters. One of the last stages of the work was to commemorate the 11 Grand Masters buried in the chapel by hanging their heraldic shields on the walls along with some replicas of great helmets. The shields were painted in 1899 by a painter Paul Klinka, whereas a metal worker Emil Jantzen finished forging the helmets two years later (Fig. 10) (Rząd 1994, 193). They were based on original great helmets kept in Western European collections. These replicas hung in the chapel until January 1945. Then, due to the collapse of the tower, which fell on the church and the chapel located below, some of them were destroyed, while the rest were recovered after the rubble had been removed in 1957. A photo taken in the late 1950s from the collection of the Malbork City Museum shows a few of those helmets in the Seven Pillar Hall (Butryn 2010, 319, Photo 5). Today we know the locations of four of these helmets hanging above the heraldic shields of Heinrich von Dusemer,⁴ Paul von Rusdorf,⁵ Dietrich von Altenburg⁶ and (probably) Conrad Erlichhausen.⁷

Two copies of actual grand master's shields hung in the Winter Refectory in June 5–6 June,

⁴ Currently in the collection of the Zagłębie Museum in Będzin (acc. No. MB 244).

⁵ Currently in the collection of the Malbork Castle Museum (acc. No. MZM/Mt/482).

⁶ Currently in the collection of the Malbork Castle Museum (acc. No. MZM/MT/137).

⁷ Currently in the collection of the Polish Army Museum (acc. No. MWP 78).



Fig. 10. St Anne's Chapel in 1904 (after *Marienburg Baujahr 1904, 11*)

Ryc. 10. Kaplica św. Anny w 1904 r. (wg *Marienburg Baujahr 1904, 11*)



1902. During these days took place the imperial visit of Emperor Willhelm II and his wife on the occasion of the consecration of the church in the High Castle. For this reason, the Winter Refectory was decorated with, among other things, thirteen copies of original shields from the 13th and 14th centuries. Among them were the shields of two Grand Masters – Conrad of Thuringia and Karl von Trier (Fig. 11 – currently in a private collection) (*Marienburg Baujahr 1902, 18*).

People often brought archeological artefacts to the castle, particularly after the great flood in Żuławy in 1888, when rivers were regulated and dredged. During those works, workers excavated many armaments, which were finally included in the castle's military collection. After 1896, archeological findings began to be recorded in the military inventory, whose first part contained a description of the collection bought from Blell.

Fig. 11. Winter Refectory in June 5–6, 1902 (after *Marienburg Baujahr 1902, 18*)

Ryc. 11. Zimowy Refektarz w dniach 5–6 czerwca 1902 r. (wg *Marienburg Baujahr 1902, 18*)

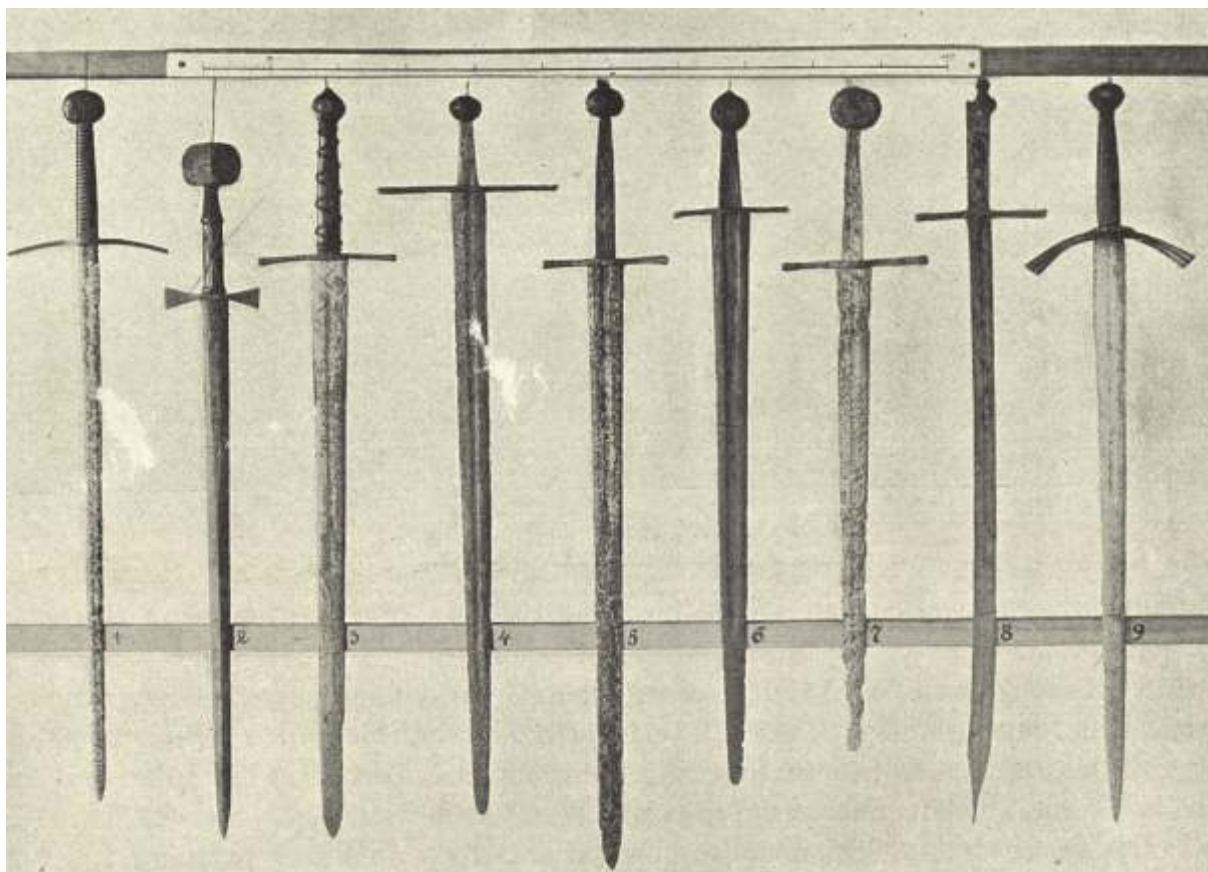


Fig. 12. Edged weapons excavated and brought to the castle in the years 1885–1906 (after Dobry, Trupinda 2020, il. 12)

Ryc. 12. Broń sieczna z wykopalisk i prac ziemnych, przekazana na zamek w latach 1885–1906 (wg Dobry, Trupinda 2020, il. 12)

Those findings, excavated in the territory of the Teutonic Order and dated to between 1224–1466, could be considered Teutonic armaments.⁸ Such artefacts include a medieval spur found in Gródek nad Wdą (Masłowski 2021, 208, No. 62), a sword found in the Vistula Elbląska near Świerznica (*ibid.*, 209, No. 72), a sword found in Lake Drużno (*ibid.*, 210, No. 84), a sword found in the Dzierzgoń River (*ibid.*, 213, No. 116), a sword found in the village of Zwanzigerweide (Przydatki) (*ibid.*, 222, No. 186), a sword found in the Nogat (*ibid.*, 222, No. 188), a “deer catcher” (Germ. Hirschfänger) found in the Elbląg River (*ibid.*, 211, No. 90), a falchion (Germ. Langmesser) recovered in Malbork (*ibid.*, 212, No. 106) and two specimens of unspecified side weapons (Germ. Seitengewehr) found in the Dzierzgoń (*ibid.*, 213, No. 117) and the Mała Święta Rivers (*ibid.*, 221, No. 179). We do not know much about archeological findings before 1896. However,

in the News of the Royal Board of the Castle Reconstruction (Germ. Nachrichten der Königlichen Schlossbauverwaltung zu Marienburg Westpr.) from 1916 there was a photograph of nine edged weapons brought to the castle during the period of 1885–1906 (Fig. 12) (Steinbrecht 1916, 16, Abb. 12, No. 3; Dobry, Trupinda 2020, 333, il. 12). Among them was the aforementioned sword found in Lake Drużno (No. 6), the sword found in Zwanzigerweide (No. 7) and the falchion from Malbork (No. 8). Additionally, the photograph depicted a sword found in the Panieński Canal (No. 1), three swords from the Tina River (Nos. 2, 3 and 9), a sword from the Vistula near Nowe (No. 4) and a sword from the Święta River (No. 5). In 1914 they were put in a show case in the upper floor in the gatehouse (Fig. 13), while in 1917 most of them were placed in a showcase in the attic of the Grand Commandry (Fig. 8). Sword 3 from this photo

⁸ Many historians, as Andrzej Nowakowski, are very cautious when considering individual finds as part of the Teutonic Knights' armament. However for the purposes of this article I want to look at the Teutonic armaments in a wider aspect and include also these without archeological context. Similar approach took for instance Krzysztof Kwiatkowski (Nowakowski 1980, 53; 1994, 37–39; Kwiatkowski 2016).



Fig. 13. Upper floor of the gatehouse in 1914 (after *Marienburger Baujahr* 1914, 9)

Ryc. 13. Górna kondygnacja przedbramia w 1914 r. (wg *Marienburger Baujahr* 1914, 9)

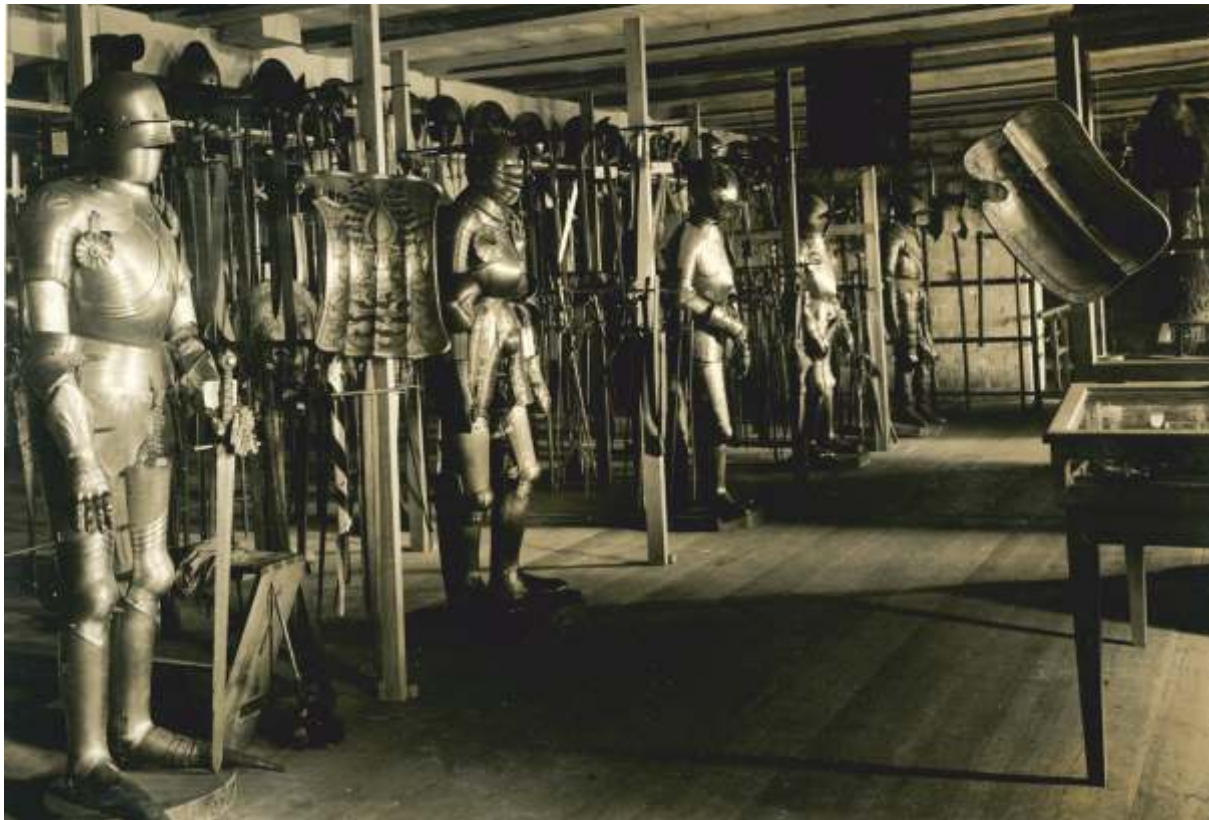


Fig. 14. Attic of the Grand Commandry in 1917 (after *Marienburger Baujahr* 1917, 29)

Ryc. 14. Poddasze siedziby wielkiego komtura w 1917 r. (wg *Marienburger Baujahr* 1917, 29)



was provided with a grip and was placed next to a Gothic armour from the Blell collection (Fig. 14). Today, two of those weapons are kept in the Malbork Castle Museum (acc. Nos. MZM/Mt/168 and MZM/Mt/340), while two others are in the Polish Army Museum (acc. Nos. MWP 126 and MWP 149).

From the correspondence between Conrad Steinbrecht and the president of the Royal Board Anton Rothe, we know that Blell had weapons from the Teutonic armoury in Königsberg, which were scattered at the beginning of the 19th century. Some of them were saved by Professor Knorr, who gave them to Blell. Unfortunately, it is unknown how many artefacts there were, but it is known that one of them was a mail (Thorner Presse 1894, 3; *Acta der Kgl. Preussischen...*, k. 138). In his collection it was provided with No. 783 (Masłowski 2021, 149, No. 783). All specimens of mail from the Blell collection were kept in 1917 in the attic of the Grand Commandry (Fig. 8).

It is worth mentioning one more exhibit that, although not kept in Malbork Castle before 1945, today holds a prominent place in its military exhibition. This is a field cannon from Kurzętnik, or a “houfnice” barrel cast probably in the foundry at Malbork Castle in the first of the 15th century. It was discovered in 1941 when, on behalf of the German Regional Museum of West Prussia in Kwidzyn, archaeological research was carried out in the area of the castle ruins, during which a cannon barrel (referred to as a “bombard”) was found in the cellar. This artefact was sent to Kwidzyn and given No. 3512 in the inventory. In 1944, in the face of the approaching front line it was hidden in the village of Różany (germ. Alt Rosengart) near Malbork, when it was found by Alfons Lemański, the first director of the museum in Kwidzyn. The artefact was provided with acc. No. Mk/M/46 (Grodzicka 1963, 7–13; Chodyński 2007, 388–389; 2010, 126–127; Stępiński, Żabiński, Strzyż 2013, 155–201; Jezierska, Rzepczyński 2019, 156–157). In 2007, the exhibit was sent to Malbork for the “Imagines Potestatis” exhibition. It was later decided to leave it in Malbork Castle and today it is displayed in the “Oręż europejski” (“European Arms and Armour”) exhibition opened in 2016.

Fig. 15. Exhibition of medieval weaponry at Malbork Castle in 2022: 1 – showcase with armaments from the pre-war military collection; 2 – window recess with the siege shield; 3 – recess with the houfnice barrel from Kurzętnik; 4 – showcase with the replica of the pre-war Teutonic pavise; 5 – showcase with medieval swords. *Photo D. Piątkiewicz*

Ryc. 15. Wystawa uzbrojenia średniowiecznego na zamku w Malborku w 2022 r.: 1 – gablota z uzbrojeniem z przedwojennych zbiorów militarnych; 2 – nisza okienna z tarczą oblężniczą; 3 – nisza z lufą hufnicy z Kurzętnika; 4 – gablota z kopią przedwojennej pawęzy krzyżackiej; 5 – gablota z mieczami średniowiecznymi. *Fot. D. Piątkiewicz*

Summarised, arms and armour which could be called “Teutonic” were only a minor part of all armaments kept in the castle before the Second World War. Today just few of them are kept here. In March 2022, after almost six years after its opening, the exhibition of European armaments underwent some changes, largely involving the medieval section. At the entrance appeared a showcase dedicated to pre-war artefacts. As most of them were replicas of unusual forms and ancient artefacts, it was not possible to show them in the showcase with the originals. Thanks to this, it was possible to finally bring them out of storage and display them in the right context. A dozen or so artefacts include two of the helmets from St Anne’s Chapel, related to Paul von Rusdorf and Dietrich von Altenburg (Fig. 15:1). To the left of

the showcase, in a window recess, there is a siege shield with the coat of arms of the Grand Master (Fig. 15:2). The sword excavated from the River Tina in 1886 went to a separate showcase to the right of the entrance. The cannon from Kurzętnik was displayed in a recess with a reproduction of the painting “The Siege of Malbork in 1460” from the Artus Court in Gdańsk (Fig. 15:3). A separate showcase was used for medieval protective armaments, in which a replica of the Teutonic pavise from the Polish Army Museum was displayed (Fig. 15:4). It was made in 2004 by ARS RESTAURO from Toruń during the conservation of the original. The swords were arranged chronologically, and among them is a sword retrieved from the River Tina in 1887, marked by a red dot (Fig. 15:5).

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EKSPOZYCJA UZBROJENIA KRZYŻACKIEGO W PRZESTRZENI ZAMKU W MALBORKU PRZED II WOJNĄ ŚWIATOWĄ ORAZ WSPÓŁCZEŚNIE

Streszczenie

Przedwojenna kolekcja militariów Muzeum Zamkowego w Malborku liczyła niemal 2000 elementów uzbrojenia. Pomimo jej przechowywania

w zamku będącym historycznie stolicą państwa krzyżackiego samego uzbrojenia krzyżackiego było w nim niewiele. Na potrzeby tego artykułu uznano

za nie więc broń związaną z samymi braćmi zakonnymi, jak i formacjami im służącymi. Był to zatem zarówno oręż stosowany przez wojska zakonne, jak też znalezione i wytworzony na terenie państwa krzyżackiego oraz noszący herb zakonu krzyżackiego. Przyjmując te kryteria, za krzyżackie uznano siedem tarcz – dwie oryginalne pawęże noszące godło zakonu krzyżackiego, dwie kopie oryginalnych tarcz wielkich mistrzów oraz trzy rekonstrukcje tarcz z godłem wielkiego mistrza – pawęży, tarczy trójkątnej oraz tarczy oblężniczej. Za krzyżacki uznano również zestaw 11 rekonstrukcji tarcz trójkątnych z godłami wielkich mistrzów pochowanych w Malborku, które wraz z kopiami hełmów garnczkowych z XIII i XIV w. powieszono w celach dekoracyjnych w regotyzo-

wanej kaplicy św. Anny. W dalszej części artykułu wymieniono znaleziska archeologiczne broni średniowiecznej odkrytej na terenie państwa krzyżackiego, którą przyniesiono na zamek na przełomie XIX i XX w. Ostatnią grupą uzbrojenia krzyżackiego były zabytki pochodzące z krzyżackiej zbrojowni w Królewcu oraz lufa hufnicy z Kurzętnika. Każdą z tych broni opisano pod kątem jej historii oraz miejsca eksponowania na zamku przed II wojną światową. Pod koniec artykułu porównano je do militariów krzyżackich, które współcześnie przechowuje się w murach malborskiego zamku, asumptem do czego była rearanżacja średniowiecznej części wystawy militariów w 2022 r.

Tłumaczył Autor