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Publiczna Biblioteka Pedagogiczna
Książnica Pedagogiczna
im. A. Parczewskiego w Kaliszu



2023
Rokiem Braci
Kościelniaków
w Kaliszu

TADEUSZ KOŚCIELNIAK

(July 11, 1910 in Kalisz – January 14, 1996 in Kalisz) was a Polish painter. Brother of Władysław and Mieczysław.

He was self-taught, modeled on the masters of the late nineteenth century. A versatile artist, he practiced oil painting, watercolour, pencil and ink drawing. In painting, he remained faithful to genre scenes, landscape, portrait, he also did not avoid preserving architecture, which clearly fascinated him. A lot of canvases prove the knowledge of iconography and Christian symbolism, creating a separate chapter in his work related to the areas of sacred art. He presented his works at exhibitions in Poznań, Gniezno, Łódź, Gdańsk, Kraków and Warsaw, as well as abroad: in Gothenburg, Berlin and Paris. A few were found in museums (Kalisz, Poznań, Warsaw, Berlin), and dozens in private collections.

MIECZYŚLAW KOŚCIELNIAK

(29 January 1912 in Kalisz – 5 March 1993 in Słupsk) was a Polish painter, graphic designer, and draftsman, brother of Władysław and Tadeusz Kościelniak.

Already a prominent artist, he was arrested in 1941 and sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp. His camp number was 15261. In the camp he drew about 300 paintings depicting the everyday life of prisoners. His work is currently displayed in the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. During his imprisonment in Auschwitz, he met fellow prisoner Bronisław Czech, a three-time Polish Olympian, and helped refine Czech's artistic talents. He also befriended Maximilian Kolbe, a Catholic priest who was murdered in Auschwitz and was canonized by the Catholic Church in 1982.

At the end of the War, in May 1945, he was liberated by the 3rd Armored Cavalry Group at the Ebensee Concentration Camp in Austria, near the town of Seewaichen on the Atter Kammer See. He painted a number of portraits of U.S. military personnel at that time, including one of Colonel James H Polk, commander of the 3rd Cavalry Group (now in the possession of Col.Polk's family).

Mieczysław Kościelniak became a member of the Association of European Culture (SEC), and was awarded the National Education Committee Medal, the Gold Cross of Merit, and the Medal in the Service of Polish Education.

After the war, Mieczysław Kościelniak moved to Warsaw, then in 1979 to Ustka and finally, in 1989, to Słupsk. He died in 1993 and is buried at the Ustka cemetery. One of the streets in the town is named after him.

WŁADYSŁAW KOŚCIELNIAK (September 21, 1916 in Kalisz – November 13, 2015 in Kalisz) was a Polish painter, graphic artist and draughtsman, poster artist, columnist and regionalist.

In 1935 he graduated from the School of Economics in Kalisz. In the years 1937-1939 he performed military service in the 17th Regiment of Greater Poland Uhlans, took part in the Battle of the Bzura and in the defense of Warsaw. In 1947 he graduated from the Higher School of Maritime Trade in Gdynia and began studies at the Higher School of Administrative Sciences in Łódź, after a year he abandoned his studies and devoted himself to independent artistic work, started in 1946.

In the years 1951-1981 he was a member of the Association of Polish Artists and Designers and the president of the ZPAP branch in Kalisz. In the years 1959-1961 he was the secretary of the Social Committee for the Celebration of the Eighteenth Centuries of Kalisz. He cooperated with the Kalisz Regional Museum in Kalisz, for which in 1954 he made an axonometric plan of Kalisz in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and models of city gates, and in 1972 a model of the New Town in Kalisz in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (1:200 scale), supplemented in 1985 with a model of Toruńskie Przedmieście and Wrocławskie Przedmieście.

He practiced woodcut, etching, dry needle, lithography, copperplate engraving, monotype, sgraffito and mixed techniques. Kościelniak's works can be found in museum collections and private collections in Poland and abroad.

Władysław Kościelniak was the author of over 1150 columns "Wędrówki ze szkicownikiem" published in the weekly "Ziemia Kaliska" and over 100 other publications enriched with drawings, in which he documented the history of monuments of Kalisz and Kalisz.

He was the father of Cyprian.

He was buried at the Municipal Cemetery in Kalisz.

His archival legacy is preserved by the Alfons Parczewski Pedagogical Library in Kalisz and the State Archives in Kalisz.