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THE COPERNICUS TOWER NEW EXHIBITION ON CATHEDRAL HILL IN FROMBORK

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arch. WMROT

The tower was owned by Nicolaus Copernicus in the years 1504-1543, when the astronomer lived and resided in Frombork as a member of the Warmia chapter. Contrary to what Jan Matejko painted in his famous painting "Astronomer Copernicus, or Conversation with God", Copernicus did not at all conduct sky observations on this tower. According to many historians, including Dr Jerzy Sikorski, Copernicus observed the sky from the courtyard of his house, where in the garden he had built a paved square called a pavementum. There he disposed his instruments: the triquetrum, the solar quadrant and the astrolabe. Copernicus bought the tower because he was obliged to do so according to the chapter's regulations called statutes. These ordered the Warmia canons in Frombork to have one house within the walls of the Hill and another one outside the Hill - the idea was that the canons would have somewhere to hide in case of danger, and in Copernicus' time this was the Teutonic threat. According to Dr Sikorski, during the Teutonic siege Copernicus hid his instruments for observing the sky in the tower. It is likely that the astronomer kept other things there as well, but he neither lived in the tower nor worked there permanently.

This north-west tower, known as the Copernicus Tower, was built at the end of the 14th century and is the oldest element of the western section of the fortifications. Mentioned as early as 1499, it was the only defensive structure on the Cathedral Hill that was used for residential purposes. The canons who owned the tower also had houses outside the fortress walls. The situation was similar for Copernicus. On his return from Italy to Warmia, he took over the Tower from a deceased canon, Martin Achtsnich (1504), but when he settled

permanently in Frombork, he bought the canonry outside the walls (1514). It can be assumed that Copernicus, without eliminating the defensive qualities of the tower, which were still very important at the time, arranged a modest chamber in it for the safe keeping of his most valuable possessions, such as his book collection, manuscripts and astronomical instruments. In the records of the Warmia Chapter, the name "Copernicus Tower" has appeared for the first time in 1610. After the war damage of 1626, the Tower was repaired by its next owner, Canon Eustachy Nenchen. At the beginning of the 18th century, the tower was thoroughly repaired by Canon Nikolai Schulz, but less than a century later it was almost completely ruined. The tower was repaired as the alleged observatory of Nicolaus Copernicus in 1870, and in 1912 Canon Eugene Brachvogel arranged the first chamber dedicated to the memory of Nicolaus Copernicus in it. Severely damaged in 1945, it was incorporated into the complex of the Nicolaus Copernicus Museum. Renovated in 1961-65, the tower's interior was extensively rebuilt and adapted for museum use.

Planned exhibitions in the Copernicus Tower:

The 1st floor - Kitchen from the time of Nicolaus Copernicus

The kitchen from the time of Copernicus will be equipped in furniture, appliances and cooking utensils. At the hearth there will be a height-adjustable hook for hanging cauldrons over the hearth and a spit or a grill. In addition to this, the kitchen is going to have a simple wooden table, benches and simple stools as well as open, simple shelves for crockery and utensils. A set of replicas of clay cooking pots, a bellows for igniting the fire, copies of a set of cutlery, hanging hooks for hanging cured meat, poultry and fish as well as artificial fake food - bread, vegetables, meat, fish, groats.

The 2d floor, Nicolaus Copernicus' bedroom

The main exhibit will be a unique Late Gothic bed, as well as chests from the 15th and 16th centuries, Renaissance chairs, a Gothic crucifix on the wall and a Renaissance secretary and a Late Gothic chest with the scene of the Annunciation.

3rd storey – the study of a Renaissance scholar

The exhibition presenting the alleged study of Nicolaus Copernicus, entitled Cabinet of a Renaissance Scholar, will be presented on the top floor of the Copernicus Tower. The tradition of arranging Copernicus' study goes back even further, as the first small museum devoted to Copernicus was created here in 1912 by the Warmia historian Eugen Brachvogel. Several objects from this first exhibition have survived and will be on display: Renaissance chairs and armchairs as well as copies and facsimiles of documents and books. In addition, the exhibition will include 2 neo-Gothic cupboards from the 19th century, a small reading and writing desk, a 16th century chest, a Renaissance table, neo-Gothic candlesticks of various sizes from the 19th century as well as a reconstruction of a tiled furnace. There will also be a mannequin made depicting Copernicus sitting while writing a document on a small desktop.

THE PERMANENT EXHIBITION "MIKOŁAJ KOPERNIK - LIFE AND WORK - IN THE FROMBORK MUSEUM



arch. Muzeum Mikołaja Kopernika we Fromborku

Frombork is the place where Nicolaus Copernicus spent 30 years of his life. The buildings where he stayed and worked - the cathedral, the chapter-house and the tower he acquired as a dwelling - have been preserved here. The movable objects that he owned have not been preserved. The exhibition 'Nicolaus Copernicus - Life and Work' presents the figure of the astronomer against the backdrop of the era, through publications, maps, coins and other objects that were created and used at the time, and also through his images and presentations of scenes from his life, which were created to commemorate the great scientist. The exhibition leads the visitor from the stereotype of Nicolaus Copernicus gazing at the sky from his tower, through his various activities, to the image of a man who devoted every spare moment to astronomy and, thanks to this passion, went down in history as the founder of the heliocentric theory. The exhibition opens with a gallery of portraits of Nicolaus Copernicus. Here, copies of the oldest and best-known painted portraits of the scientist and original graphic images from the museum's collections are presented. Alongside these, sculptures of the scientist are presented. From the room of images, we move to the exhibition, which takes us chronologically through the life and work of Nicolaus Copernicus. The exhibition begins with his youth - the years of study and travel, which, after leaving Toruń, Nicolaus Copernicus spent in Kraków and Italy. After gaining a doctorate in the canon law and the right to practise medicine, he arrived in Warmia, initially staying at the court of Bishop Łukasz Watzenrode in Lidzbark Warmiński. Warmia, which had been part of Royal Prussia since 1466, has been presented on the exhibition. The map of Warmia shows Copernicus' main places of residence: Lidzbark Warmiński - at the court of Bishop Lukas, Olsztyn - administrator of the chapter's estate, Frombork - place of work and observation. The exhibition has presented the Warmia Cathedral Chapter and the public activities of Nicolaus Copernicus as a canon under Bishops Lucas Watzenrode, Fabianus Lusianus, Johannes Dantiscus and Mauritius Ferber. The most

famous function held by the scholar in the chapter is the office of estate administrator and related to it his stay in the castle in Olsztyn. The exhibition takes the visitor in turn through the various aspects of the scientist's work. Nicolaus Copernicus is presented as a cartographer, physician, economist and astronomer. The astronomer collaborated with Bernard Wapowski, the father of the Polish cartography, in drawing up maps of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Copernicus treated bishops and canons, but he was also a doctor when in 1519 an epidemic threatened northern Warmia - the area around Braniewo and Frombork. As an economist, he formulated a law that was independently repeated in the middle of the 16th century by the English economist Thomas Gresham, which states that inferior money (made of poorer metal) drives superior money out of circulation. This became the basis for society's view of the economic crises taking place from the point of view of the rules of monetary circulation. Nicolaus Copernicus was an avid astronomer. The exhibition features reconstructions of the instruments he used, disposed on a staged 'pavimentum' (observation terrace), a facsimile of the manuscript of *De revolutionibus* and an edition of the work. The heliocentric theory formulated by Copernicus initiated a change in the perception of the structure of the universe. No scientist could be indifferent to it. The exhibition features portraits of those scientists who contributed to the modern worldview: Tycho Brahe, Johannes Kepler, Galileo Galilei, Isaac Newton. The exhibition shows the figure of Nicolaus Copernicus, who lived in a specific reality. Scientific research was part of his life filled with everyday duties, but it was this that earned him a special place among scholars and the memory of posterity.

www.muzeumkopernika.pl/

THE "KOPERNIKANA" THE TEMPORARY EXHIBITION IN THE MUSEUM OF THE WARMIA ARCHDIOCESE IN OLSZTYN



Arch. WMROT

On the occasion of the 550th anniversary of the birth of Nicolaus Copernicus, the temporary exhibition Kopernikana has been opened in February 2023. The exhibits will be shown until October 2023. The exhibition features documents drawn up by Nicolaus Copernicus, his manuscript records and the scientific books he used. The exhibition includes objects that are housed on a daily basis in the Archives of the Diocese of Warmia and the Hosianum Library. The archive holds documents drawn up by Nicolaus Copernicus, while the Hosianum Library holds the books he used, including Copernicus' notes.

The exhibition features documents from the archive:

Localization of abandoned land 1518-1519

Letter of Nicolaus Copernicus to Kasper Paipo 16.04.1517

Letter to the Warmia Chapter 22.10.1518

Nicolaus Copernicus' inventory of documents in the treasury at the castle in Olsztyn 1520

The exhibition presents Nicolaus Copernicus' books with his notes and the books he used.

On entering the exhibition you will see a bust of Nicolaus Copernicus made by Hans Wissel (1897-1948). In addition, stamps and medals are on display.

www.muzeum.archwarmia.pl/index7.html

THE PERMANENT EXHIBITION DEVOTED TO NICOLAUS COPERNICUS IN THE MUSEUM OF WARMIA AND MASURIA IN OLSZTYN



fot. Wojciech Krom

Nicolaus Copernicus lived in the castle in Olsztyn between 1516-1521. He conducted here his astronomical research. **We have a very important astronomical device in our castle, a unique astronomical board - the only existing original instrument made and used by Copernicus.** It helped him to determine the exact date of the spring equinox, the beginning of the spring. The date of Easter is determined according to it. The date of the equinox (21st March) was established during the First Council of Nicaea in the 4th century. In days of Copernicus it fell on the 11th March. In such a way there was a discrepancy of 10 days. Thus, the Church wanted to sort this matter out. As a result Copernicus got this task. The determination of the spring equinox was used for carrying out the reform of the calendar. The reform was conducted by the pope Gregory XIII in 1582, after the death of Nicolaus Copernicus. It was only in 1582 that 10 days were crossed out – thus 4th October was followed by 15th October. The calendar was changed from Julian into Gregorian and it is thanks to Copernicus who determined the equinox in the castle of Olsztyn.

The astronomical board is located in the cloister in front of the room in which the famous astronomer lived in the first half of the 16th century. In this chamber, there is a beautiful diamond vault, which was made in the last years of Copernicus' stay or shortly after his departure. In the room you can see copies of documents issued by the scientist. We can also see here a copy of an astrolabe - an astronomical instrument for determining the position of celestial bodies. A sketch for Gerson's painting 'Nicolaus Copernicus lecturing on mathematics in Rome' hangs in the Hall. The painting was created in 1873 at a time of great interest among artists in the Copernican Jubilee. In addition, the room houses a library cabinet from Reszel, remembering the time of Copernicus. It was made around 1471.

COPERNICI tempus et studium - TIME AND WORK OF COPERNICUS - 21.03.2023 - 30.09.2023 - THE TEMPORARY EXHIBITION AT THE 550th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF NICOLAUS COPERNICUS



arch. Muzeum Warmii i Mazur w Olsztynie

Warmia is the land where one of the most important breakthroughs in human history took place. It was here that Nicolaus Copernicus conducted his astronomical research and it was here that he created the heliocentric theory. The year 2023 marks the 550th anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus' birth, the 480th anniversary of his death and the 520th anniversary of the astronomer's arrival in Warmia.

The Warmia Chapter Castle is the best-preserved material monument to the life and work of Nicolaus Copernicus. It is for this reason that the gothic chambers of the castle at the Museum of Warmia and Masuria in Olsztyn have been used to prepare the jubilee exhibition Copernici tempus et studium. Copernicus' time and work. The starting point was the astronomical board located in the cloister of the Olsztyn castle. It is the only existing astronomical instrument made by Copernicus in the world. The astronomical board was created as a result of observing the apparent movement of the Sun and made it possible, among other things, to determine the date of the spring equinox.

Time, measured by the movement of celestial bodies, was therefore an extremely important issue that occupied the thought of not only Copernicus the astronomer, but also Copernicus the theologian. The exhibition devotes considerable attention to the various faces of time. The presentation of a collection of clocks of various types - from sundials, through various mechanical clocks to a clock showing atomic time - shows not only the evolution in the way time is measured, but also the emergence of new needs and changing tastes.

Calendars show a different approach to time. In the time of Copernicus, a church calendar was used and the order of the year was determined by feasts and memories of saints.

A different, but one of the most universal ways of dividing time seems to be the dualistic division into working time and rest time. How people viewed these categories depended not only on the era in which they lived, but also on their social and wealth status. . The gallery of paintings, prints and photographs from various eras depicts just that - ways of spending time - work and leisure.

It is work that is the second key word of the exhibition *Copernici tempus et studium*.

Copernicus' time and work. Everyone knows Copernicus as an astronomer, the founder of the heliocentric theory. However, he practised astronomy in his spare time. In his everyday life, he was first and foremost a canon of Warmia, administrator of the estates of the Warmia chapter and diocese, a trained lawyer and an aspiring physician. The exhibition shows Copernicus as a versatile man who divided his time between many activities, including scientific and intellectual work.

The proof of Copernicus' work as a lawyer include not only legal treatises with his own notes, but also the legal advice he prepared in 1535 for the Warmia Bishop Maurice Ferber.

Copernicus the physician is most fully presented when we look at a medical incunabulum from his private library. Copernicus the economist, author of a treatise on the reform of Prussian money, is symbolised by the coins used in Royal Prussia in Copernicus' time, before and after the monetary reform. All the aspects of Copernicus' activity have been touched upon to show him as a true Renaissance man. The picture culminates in an indication of his interest in ancient culture, which was revealed, among other things, in the translations from Greek into Latin that he made.

The picture of Copernicus would not be complete without turning our eyes to his personal library. According to today's estimates, it consisted of 100-150 books, but only 54 have survived to the present day. The exhibition presents 5 of the 11 surviving volumes from Copernicus' book collection in Poland.

www.muzeum.olsztyn.pl/6921,copernici-tempus-et-studium-czas-i-praca-kopernika.html