

Żoliborski Konwikt Pijarów

The Joli Bord Piarist Boarding School

SUMMARY

This article gives a detailed history of the Joli Bord Boarding School of the Piarist priests in Warsaw. The educational institute was situated on the property near The Vistula River named Joli Bord and existed between the years 1807-1832

At first, from 1757 to 1807, this estate served as a recreational and farming subsidiary for religious institute Collegium Nobilium. Founded in 1740 by Stanisław Konarski, the Collegium Nobilium was meant to be a boarding school for youths of noble birth. The pupils spent their summer vacations at the Joli Bord property of the convent. It was here that the priests stocked food and combustible, cultivated gardens and reared livestock. During the Napoleon Wars the Collegium Nobilium palace on Miodowa Street in Warsaw was requisitioned and changed into a hospital. This was the reason why, in 1807, the pupils were transferred to Joli Bord estate. Four years later, due to the initiative of the headmaster of the school Kajetan Kamiński, this property became the permanent seat of the educational institute.

Aside from the household buildings, originally, there was just the Summer Palace which hosted the youths during their vacations. The Palace soon underwent alternations designed to serve the new demands of the school. Shortly after these changes new residential buildings were constructed: The New House. The Long House, a spacious library (rebuilt from an old mill), a chapel and, finally, an astronomical observatory – the pride of the educational authorities of the institute. These structures were designed by: Kajetan Kamiński, who took up designing as an amateur, the architect Jakub Kubicki and, most probably, Jakub Malinowski, who abandoned his artistic activity for scientific research. All buildings were surrounded by gardens of both utilitarian and decorative character.

The ideological conception of the Joli Bord Boarding School found its sources in the eighteenth century philosophy which proclaimed the return to nature and the education of a sensitive man. The institute's architectural and urban conception derived from the, at that time, fashionable sentimental and romantic palace-garden foundations. Among the formal executions two contradictory tendencies prevailed. Practicism resulting from the necessity of household economies and also the concern for the comfort and safety of the pupils stood in opposition to the submission to new trends in art (the creation of picturesque views and places). A richer decoration characterized three buildings: the chapel – the sphere of faith, the library – the sphere of knowledge and the main room of the Summer Palace – the sphere of the school's tradition. The Palace, in a disguised yet legible way, thanks to the appropriate choice of a quotation placed on the façade, reminded the pupils that the main device of the Joli Bord Boarding School was love for the native land.

How deeply this particular virtue was assimilated by the pupils one can see on the example of their numerous participation in the November Rising. As an act of revenge, in 1832, the Russian invaders took over the Joli Bord estate of the Piarists (which was afterwards included into the carist Citadel). A year later this educational institute was closed down definitely.

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