**THE FORTRESS LANDSCAPES - THE PROPOSAL OF THE NEW HERITAGE CATEGORY. POLISH EXAMPLES.**

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The problems of the landscape protections become recently more important not only in Poland but also in Europe and in the whole world. This situation is connected with the increased understanding of the questions of the human heritage. This is also connected with the understanding of importance of the space protection, both, the nature and culture areas. The standpoint of the ICOMOS in the case of the protection of the cultural heritage, especially the cultural landscape protection, has the great meaning in the popularization of this idea. The areas of the cultural landscape are recently more often registered as the world heritage on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites List. The area of the pilgrim landscape of the complex in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska in Poland, which was registered in 1999, is one example of decision in the last few years. The landscape protection is also very important for the European Council. This problem has been undertaken by the European Landscape Convention, which was signed by eighteen European countries in October 2000 year.

The protection of the cultural landscape became also very popular in Poland during the last two decade of the XX century. The government undertook this problem and the new law for the protection of the historic landscape was established in 1990. The new categories for the protection of the monuments were created. From that time the valuable cultural landscape could be protected in Poland as the cultural reserve, cultural park or conservation zones. After that Professor Janusz Bogdanowski from Polish delegation presented the culture and nature problem in the European landscape at the Symposium of CSCE in Krakow in 1991. The concluding document of the CSCE from 1991 influenced the later decisions of the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO to join the cultural landscapes to the List of World Heritage UNESCO.

The Polish fortress landscapes are one of the most interesting and various in Europe, but they are not as well known as the historic urban systems, historic parks and gardens or churches. The Polish fortresses are however very valuable as the objects of the defensive art which is one of the most essential motors to the civilization development. From this point of view the fortress are very important. They are the testimony not only of the Polish development, but also of the whole European culture.

In Poland we could study the characteristic elements of the medieval, renaissance and modern types of fortifications which are characteristic for the different schools and fortifications systems like Polish, Dutch, Italian, Prussian, Russian, Austrian, German and Soviet, which is sometimes hard to say if they were defensive or rather offensive structures. But however they should be protected as the material testimony connected with the history of this part of Europe and rules according to the Europe division into the two influence zones, which were established after the Jalta agreement between Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin.

This possibility, that in the area of one country, like it is in Poland, we could study nearly the whole different types of fortress is unique on the European scale.

The fortress landscape could be researched according to the different aspects, for example: period of construction; the style and the type of the fortification school, the geographical situation, the condition of historic landscape, the knowledge and science values, the rare or the value representative.

In Poland we could find many examples of fortress landscape according to this division. For example we have the defensive systems situated in the mountains, in the lowland, on uplands, on the seaside, in the wetlands or by the rivers. We could study the old medieval castles, churches and monasteries, which have been built as the defensive structures, the old fortified Renaissance towns and the large eighteenth-century strongholds, but the most valuable is the modern fortress landscape from the end of the XIX century and the beginning of the XX century. That period was one of the most tragic for the history of Poland. Our country lost the independence for the 120 years and Poland was divided between Russia, Prussia and Austria. The borders of those three countries have been established in the area of Poland. Because of this Poland was one of the most fortified space in Europe. The characteristic features of this type of