



Leonard Boreiko Chodzko (1800–1871), Adolphe Rouarque (1810 – after 1870), "Mykolas Kleopas Oginskis' Zalesy manor", 1822, The Department of Graphic Arts of Vilnius University Library, ChoL IA-4

⁹⁸ Adam Jerzy Czartoryski – statesman, political, culture figure, poet, a son of Adam Kazimierz Czartoryski and Izabela Fleming Czartoryska. Born on 14th of January 1770 in Warsaw, died on 15th of July 1861 in Paris. In 1788 was a Marshal of the Podolia sejmik. In 1792 he participated in the battles against Russia, in 1795 his parents sent him to Russia, where he lived in a Tsar's Palace in Saint Petersburg and in a Tsarskoye Selo. He was a Valet de chambre of the Grand Duke Alexander, and then he became the Tsar Alexander I, – he was one of the closest Alexander's trustees. In 1802 he became a vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, in 1804–1806 was a minister of Foreign Affairs, from 1802 worked in a Chief school's council of the Russian education ministry, from 1803 till 1824 (until Vilnius Philomaths case) he was a curator of Vilnius university and curator of the Vilnius education county. During the Uprising in 1831, he was elected as a chairman of the Provisional government in Warsaw. When the Uprising was defeated, he retreated abroad, lived in Paris, London, he led a group of Polish emigrants for 30 years. He was a founder of several scientific, educational, literary, charitable organizations.

⁹⁹ Iwo Zaluski, *The Oginski Gene: The History of a Musical Dynasty*, London: Zaluski Researches, 2006.

¹⁰⁰ The fact, which stated that M.K. Oginskis was an honour member of Vilnius University, was written in a book of Igor Belza. The documents, which could testify this proposition has not been founded yet. However, it is likely that I. Belza had them before starting writing a book, because he was familiarized with the archive of Mykolas Kleopas Oginskis, which was kept in the National Moscow archive.

¹⁰¹ Jan Chrzyciel Władysław Sniadecki – astronomer of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, mathematician, philosopher, pedagogue, corresponding member of the academy of sciences in Saint Petersburg, professor of the Krakow university (1781–1803), professor of Vilnius university (1806–1825), rector (1807–1815). Born on 28th of August 1756 in Znin (Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship in Poland). In 1755 graduated from the University of Krakow, 1778–1781 improved his knowledge in Göttingen, Leiden, Paris, Utrecht. Died on 21st of November 1830 in Jasiunai.

¹⁰² Johann David Holland (1746–1827).

¹⁰³ Michael Angel Schultz – architect (Neoclassicism representative), pedagogue, politician. Born in 1769 Kurzeme (Latvia), died on 20th of June 1812 in Vilnius. He graduated from the Vilnius University in 1788, where he gained a doctoral degree of philosophy (was a student of prof. Laurynas Gucevičius). Later he was a teacher of schools in Kretinga, Vilnius, Navahrudak. Participated in the Uprising of 1794. In 1797–1798 he was an adjunct of Vilnius University Architecture department, from 1798 – head of this department. Homestead's ensemble project of Zalesy manor (1802–1822) was one of the most important works of M. A. Schultz. At that time the owner of that manor was Mykolas Kleopas Oginskis.

IN ZALESYE

Upon Mykolas Kleopas return from an exile, through the mediation of Adam Jerzy Czartoryski⁹⁸, in St. Petersburg he met with Alexander I and other high-ranking government officials. M. K. Oginskis achieved to be appointed as a governor of Zalesye manor and a guardian of his disabled uncle Pranciūkus Ksaveras Oginskis. Upon his disposition, Mykolas Kleopas took the Rietavas manor, which formerly belonged to his grandfather – military and political figure of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania – Tadas Pranciūkus Oginskis (1712–1783).

In 1804, under the order of Alexander I all holdings of distant relative Mykolas Kazimieras Oginskis, who died a few years ago, were returned to M. K. Oginskis. It was also pledged that the state treasury will pay all debts to creditors. In the first years Mykolas Kleopas travelled a lot, spent much time in Vilnius, where he got to govern the Oginskiai Palace that formerly belonged to his father Andrius Oginskis. He frequently went to the Rietavas manor. He also often visited St. Petersburg with the official duties. In his the book "Gene of Oginskiai"⁹⁹ I. Zaluski writes that after Mykolas Kleopas returned from an emigration he was determined to withdraw from the politics and public life. However, he, under the approval of the Russian Emperor Alexander I, in the year of 1802–1804 joined the work on educational reforms led by A. J. Czartoryski, the Education Curator of Vilnius County.

Mykolas Kleopas actively supported him by advising and making practical moves. Mykolas Kleopas endeavored to improve the quality of teaching and material base of the Vilnius University and Lithuanian schools. During this period, A. J. Czartoryski received help from Nikolay Novosiltsev (1761–1836), Pavel Stroganov (1774–1811), the former Russian Ambassador in Turkey Victor Koczubej and several politicians of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. M. K. Oginskis was entrusted to take care of Lithuanian, Belarusian and

Ukrainian educational systems development. In 1803, Vilnius High School was reorganized and became the Imperial University of Vilnius. Mykolas Kleopas became an honorary member of the University¹⁰⁰, attended committees of the University, and bestowed a lot of modern equipment: two expensive microscopes, telescope. He took care of an amnesty process of the Vilnius University professor Jan Sniadecki¹⁰¹.

M. K. Oginskis also left a significant input in the field of education in Belarus. On his own expenses, he built the Maladzyechna County School and handed over to it a part of his library.

During this period, Mykolas Kleopas frequently kept company with composer Johann David Holland¹⁰², whom he knew since childhood. From 1802, J. D. Holland lived in Vilnius, in the Palace of Jurgis Radvila, up until his death in 1827. He worked as a music theory and choral management teacher. Mykolas Kleopas examined Holland's daughter Joan's, who worked as a music teacher in Verkiai, created miniatures for piano. At that time, Mykolas Kleopas spent more and more time working in the Vilnius University. At the same time, he worked in St. Petersburg consulting music teacher Jozef Kozlowski, who, in 1801, was appointed the director of the Imperial Theatre of St. Peterburg. Zalesye was the most pleasant place for life and rest. Here he played music, started composing again, mostly for the piano and the violin. The first year in Zalesye for Mykolas Kleopas and Maria de Neri was the happiest year – on 10th of July 1803, their daughter Amelia was born. In 1810's, Mykolas Kleopas did a huge reconstruction and renovation work in the Zalesye manor.

Mykolas Kleopas substantially renewed the Zalesye Palace in more than 15 years. He hired the architectural professor of Vilnius University – Mykolas Ąulcas¹⁰³ – to prepare a new project for the palace. Reconstruction was under the supervision

of an official architect of the Lithuanian Government – Joseph Poussier¹⁰⁴. Gradually the palace of the manor became a square building with four towers in each corner. It had a Doric pediment and two separate wings. The palace was situated in the French-style park, which was full of arbors and bungalows. For the complex also belonged the farm with a lake, through it a narrow embankment led to a forested Island of Swans.¹⁰⁵

When Mykolas Kleopas governed in Zalesye a few other new buildings were built in the manor. In consultations with the Vilnius University professor, Stanislovas Bonifacas Jundzilas¹⁰⁶ and botanist Józef Strumillo¹⁰⁷, English-style park and few greenhouses were formed around the palace. Mykolas Kleopas' income during that period was large enough to allow doing reconstructions in Zalesye, palaces in Vilnius, also constructing new palaces. He joined several organizations in Vilnius. In Zalesye, inspired by Juzef Kozlowski, Mykolas Kleopas implemented the old idea to create an allegorical opera about Napoleon. The idea was welcomed in St. Petersburg, as at the time the Russian-French relations were quite friendly. One-act opera "Zelis et Valcour" with the subtitle "Bonaparte au Caire" (Bonaparte in Cairo) was completed in 1803 and in the same year sent to St. Petersburg. Mykolas Kleopas did not have expectations that the opera will be built. He knew that opera genre was not his strongest suit. At that time, "Zelis et Valcour" had not been performed. Its premiere occurred only in 1950 over the Polish radio. Soloists, chorus and the Polish Symphony Orchestra led by Stanislaw Gaidecki, played it. Mykolas Kleopas wrote a diary for years and only in

Zalesye began to systematize the inscriptions. There accumulated information he subsequently used in the "Memoirs". Over the years in Zalesye, his daughters Amelia and Ema, visiting relatives and friends joined Mykolas Kleopas in his music performances. During that period, Mykolas Kleopas created a great deal of romances and polonaises.

During the year 1807–1810, M. K. Oginskis and Maria lived in Paris for several months, where they had a residence in Miromesnil st. 11. Those months Oginskiai house was open to all art artisans and intellectuals of Paris, and Maria was the perfect organizer of musical parties and she perfectly welcomed the guests. Henrieta Bledovska, the regular participant in these parties, writes in her memoirs:

"Musical evenings at their home were amazing, the hostess was an Italian, admirer of talents and favorite of art masters. Many of them visited Oginskiai house. I met Ferdinando Paer¹⁰⁸ – the famous composer – there. He is the author of such magnificent operas like "Camilla", "Orpheus and Eurydice" and he sang arias wonderfully. [...] Count Oginskis was a member of the Quartet. [...] Five-year-old daughter of Oginskiai¹⁰⁹ entertained us with her charm until half past eight. Amelia perfectly spoke four languages, she recited recitatives by heart and accurately, and danced the Galop gracefully – it was an example for women and mothers."¹¹⁰

As the time passed, Zalesye became famous as a cultural center, which particularly attracted the friends of Oginskiai in 1815–1821, when musical evenings were regularly held. Count Konstantinas Tiškevičius¹¹¹ in his book "Vilija and Its Banks"¹¹² vividly described the life in Zalesye. He writes that

¹⁰⁴ Joseph Poussier (1781–1821) – French architect.

¹⁰⁵ The island has remained so far.

¹⁰⁶ Stanislovas Bonifacas Jundzilas – Lithuanian scientist, philosopher, botanist, geologist, journalist, priest (1784), professor of Vilnius University (from 1802). Born on 6th of May 1761 in Jasionys (Grodno area, Voronovo region). Investigated flora of Vilnius, Shchuchyn, Lida, Grodno. Reorganized and expanded the botanical garden of Vilnius. Died on 27th of April 1847 in Vilnius. Buried in the Vilnius Bernardine cemetery.

¹⁰⁷ Józef Strumillo – Lithuanian theoretical gardening pioneer, elflorist, beekeeper. Born in 1774 in Kurkliskes. J. Strumillo planted a huge scientifically managed garden near Vilnius, behind Rudininkai gate. In 1820 he released a book "Ogrody Północne" ("The Northern Gardens"). This book has already been released for 7 times. After the Uprising in 1831, he was exiled. After returning from the exile to Lithuania, he continued his scientific researches. Died on 18th of July 1847 in Vilnius.

¹⁰⁸ Ferdinando Paer – Italian composer, one of the most famous creators of opera semiseria genre. Born on 1st of June 1771 in Parma (Italy), died on 3rd of May 1839 in Paris.

¹⁰⁹ Amelija Oginskytė.

¹¹⁰ Ivo Zaluskis, *Oginkiaŭ genas* ("The Oginski Gene"), Klaipėda: S. Jokūbio leidykla-spaustuvė, 2007, p. 93–96.

¹¹¹ Konstantinas Benediktas Stanislovas Tiškevičius – Count, Lithuanian nobleman, economist, historian, collector, archaeologist, Lithuanian archaeology pioneer, a founder of Vilnius Provisional Archaeology Commission and the museum of Antiques in Vilnius. Born on 17th of June 1806 in Lahoyk (Belarus), died in 1868 in Minsk (Belarus).

¹¹² Konstantinas Tiškevičius, *Wilija i jej brzegi* ("Wilija and Its Banks"), Dresdenas, 1871.

Zalesye has become a center for discussions and the latest news exchanges. All the nobility of Poland and Lithuania, who sustained hopes about the future of their country, were coming in Zalesye to exchange opinions and positions. The count welcomed all of them and let them stay and live in his palace for a few weeks.

According to K. Tiškevičius, in Zalesye Mykolas Kleopas spent his time for public relations, education and music entertainment. He was fond of music, played it artistically and was a composer. Each day of his was divided into two parts. In the morning, he discussed on various topics with intellectuals, read the correspondence and dictated his diary. At 1 pm, everyone gathered for lunch; after lunch used to come guests with carriages, on saddled horses, and the whole company, men and women, began active rest. This lasted for several hours. Later, they went back to the palace and usually played music. New compositions were performed by the quartet, which was always on time in Zalesye. The Count himself played the violin. The quartet worked perfectly, although they did not rehearse in advance. The famous Spanish violinist Escudero¹¹³ – who performed in Vilnius more than once and was well-known for that and the Count granted him with a pension – played as the second violin, the old J. Kozłowski played the cello. He was a musician, who worked for many years as a music teacher of the Emperor's sisters in the Palace of St. Petersburg. Having completed his mission and awarded by the Title of Minister Palace, adorned with

crosses and having a well-earned retirement, J. Kozłowski came to teach the Count, which he did from his early age. In his book, K. Tiškevičius admits that Italian teacher of the Countesses Amelia, Ema, and Ida Giuseppe Paliani¹¹⁴ sometimes sang Italian arias and operatic recitative by the piano. Guests felt like at home, they did not have any responsibilities. Some enjoyed the music, while the others listened to it. Those who were interested in politics and recent events read a variety of magazines and those who wanted to do nothing for a while or another, walked in the park or went to rest in the rooms. In 1819, Mykolas Kleopas invited a young alumnus of the Vilnius University Leonard Chodzko to work as his secretary. He needed help to organize the documents, prepare "Memoirs", notebooks with notes and other manuscripts. Here, in 1822, visited also studying in the Vilnius University Leonard's cousin Aleksander Chodzko.

The life in Zalesye made such an impression for him that he called it the "Athens of the North" and wrote a poem "Zalesye".

After Mykolas Kleopas left to live in Italy, his wife Maria de Neri and their children remained to live in Zalesye. Afterwards guests visited the manor, daughters still played the music, but the former musical aura was gone together with Mykolas Kleopas. In later years, the manor was forgotten. While preparing for Mykolas Kleopas Oginskis 250th birth anniversary, the manor had been renovated. In 2014, the restoration of the palace was completed. Near the palace stands a beautifully restored church.

¹¹³ Spaniard Escudero. M. K. Oginskis in "Letters About Music" writes: "I knew his (French violinist, composer, educator Pierre Marie Francois de Sales Baillot (1771–1842 – D. M.) student of the conservatory in Paris well. Bajo highly looked after him, urgently recommended for me – in 1812 Bajo sent him from Paris to Petersburg. He was a Spaniard Escudero, who spent several years in Russia and a few times he was staying at my house for a longer time. He was a very talented violinist and had all the qualities, what may a young man have. Now he is in London, where he teaches others to play the violin and leads singing lessons".

¹¹⁴ Giuseppe Paliani – Italian composer and pianist. Born in 1781 in Rome. From 1792 he devoted himself to music. Lived in Paris for a while. Wrote plenty of vocal and instrumental pieces of music.