

Palace of Shenborns



You can already see the promise of a fairy-tale at the “Karpaty” sanatorium railway station which resembles a diminutive castle. Further on is a luxurious park with 40 species of “residents”, such as boxwood, spruce, Chinese cherry, pink beech and other botanical pearls. Beyond the tree-tops is a high tower decorated with a clock and a family crest. The King of the beasts – a lion with a crown – appears everywhere in this setting fit for a king. But these days the meadows and lanes of the park are full, not with royalty but with patients who have heart-vascular system and metabolic function problems. These are the patients of this famous sanatorium, which since 1946 has been located in the luxurious Counts of Schönborn hunter’s palace. During World War II this Transcarpathian architectural wonder was sought out by Hermann Goering, but the Transcarpathian authorities in Ukraine did not sell the manor to that Nazi ideologist.



It all began in 1840 from a simple wooden cabin, where the Counts of Schönborn (the local land-owning authorities), came with their guests to relax after hunting. And in 1890 the stone castle, similar to the illustrations in novels by Dumas, was built here.

They say somewhere in Germany there is a castle whose number of towers equals the number of days in a year – 365. In Chynadieve castle you can also study a calendar: 365 windows, 52 rooms, 12 entrances. It is strange and symbolic. The pond was also at one time the epitome of allegory: its outline was similar to the shape of Austria-Hungary. Now its lazy waters reflect the numerous chimneys of the palace. Such a conglomerate of chimneys would throw off even Santa Claus!

White clouds float about the four different shaped towers’ weathercocks, as you gaze upon the glass paintings of the first floor chapel and glance into the stone hall. A solemn petrified lion stands guard at the base of the wooden stairs. On the ceiling there is a Stag Horn chandelier, the so-called “Melusina”. And such a fireplace is there!

Luckily, not only the façade of the building, but also fragments of the former interior remains.

The second castle of Chynadieve, situated in the centre of the village, was not so lucky. Its history is a longer and more dramatic one. The stern Chynadieve fortress – with two corner towers, meter thick walls and mysterious vaults – was built in the 14th century by

Baron Pereni. This stronghold became the centre of the village of Chynadieve. In 1657 the fortress was destroyed by Polish troops and then rebuilt. The castle was reconstructed many times, with the most considerable changes made in 1734 and 1839. They tried to make a seigniorial manor from this inhospitable fortress, as was in fashion at that time. Then workers found a strange skeleton in the walls. What a field for legend-makers! During the fascist invasion the castle was turned into a prison.



Mukachevo Castle



Its showcase foundation is a 68 meter high dormant volcano. It watches over the city lying below, wide open to all eyes and winds, and only the volcanic Carpathians stand up behind it as a devoted wife. It has seen a lot in its lifetime, and now it peers out at Europe and its own past, spanning about a thousand years. It is Palanok Castle in Mukachevo, in the Transcarpathian region, an invincible relic of the Middle Ages.

They say that Mukachevo is named after the castle. Residents of the Transcarpathian region poured their pain (muka in Ukrainian) into a lonely hill, and there an outpost appeared at the crossroads for trade and military routes.

And the fact is that this hill is not artificial, but of natural volcanic origin. In the 9th – 11th centuries the first wooden fortresses appeared here. And neither Polovets Khan Kuteshko, who besieged the wooden fortress for 50 days in 1089 nor Mongolian Khan Batyi in 1241 with a horde of sixty thousand did not manage to defeat Palanok.

In the 14th century, instead of the oak stockade named “palanok” (where the castle got its name) stone walls arose. Annually the residents of Mukachevo were obliged to hack out all tree sprouts or bushes on the hill in order to prevent the enemy from approaching the fortress suddenly under the cover of the brush.

In 1396 Mukachevo became the property of the Prince of Podillia, Fedir Koriatovych. The magnate strengthened the castle, dug a moat and turned into his residence. Under the Old Tower he ordered a well dug in the rock. Now a new pain: they had to dig 85 meters in order to find water! Legend has it that after centuries of work this titanic project got a fabulous break. The devil helped Koriatovych with the construction of the well after the prince promised to give him a bag of gold. When the time came to pay, the prince gave the devil a small bag! The angry devil jumped to the well and even now he is not still and sometimes you can hear his clamor.

Palanok’s strength has always been impressive: 5-meter thick walls, a large permanent garrison, 164 guns, 60 barrels of gunpowder, and sufficient food supplies in the event of a long siege. In the times of the Transylvanian Prince Rakoci (1633-1711) Palanok Castle became one of the strongest fortresses of Central Europe. It’s incredible: for three years from 1658 to 1688, the widow of Prince Ferez I, a delicate woman named Ilona Zrini withstood the troops of Austrian Emperor Leopold I in Palanok. The Turkish sultan Mehmed IV, impressed by her courage, awarded the princess with special credentials: the only such case in history. Now the wise princess with her son Ferez Rakoci II peers out over the city, because in March 2006 their monument was established on the central bulwark. The monument to prince Koriatovych remains in the castle yard where for good luck you need only to take hold of the bronzed finger of this nobleman, now polished by a thousand hands.



Palanok was a stronghold for the anti-Habsburg struggle (1703) and the capital of Transylvania (1705). At that time they even had their own mint and an Austrian political prison (1782-1897). From December 1805 to March of 1806 these walls hid the greatest treasure of Hungary from Napoleon’s troops – the Hungarian Holy Crown. During Soviet times the castle was even a technical

school. Now on the territory of Palanok, with a total area of almost 13,930sq.m, there is a historical museum (tel.: (+380 3131) 44-096), art gallery, art studio and cozy coffee houses.

From the Internet-resources: www.castles.com.ua

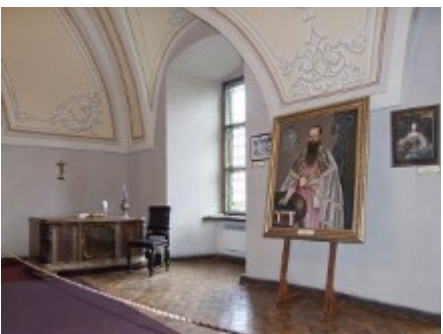
Uzhgorod castle



The most valuable exhibit of the Transcarpathian Regional Museum is undoubtedly Uzhgorod Castle dated back to the XV-XVIII centuries, which is the oldest and most valuable historical and architectural structure of Uzhgorod. References of the existence of the fortification Gung at the time of conversion of the Hungarians through the Carpathian passes in Tiso-Danube lowland in the late IX century are found in the Hungarian chronicles of the XIII century, which also describe a courageous Slavic prince Laborets. The wife of the prince was defeated by the Hungarians, and the Laborets was killed in eastern Slovakia near the river, which is now called Laborets. The river Uzh flows into Laborets river. At the end of the XIII – the beginning of the XIV centuries Uzhgorod castle were strengthened, the construction of a stone fortress was begun. Perhaps then a church was built in the court of Uzhgorod castle, the foundation of which we can see today. At least from 1284 year the document that mentions a priest of this temple Stefan was preserved. Subsequently, in 1646, Uzhhorod Union was signed in this church, and in 1996 the castle held great celebrations on the occasion of the anniversary of the union.



Since its inception, the fortress has undergone numerous renovations. In 1653 outer defensive wall and in 1658 entrance to the fortress were reinforced, as the inscription over the entrance arch states "A.D. In 1658.". Perhaps, at the same time open fireplace was built on the left of side of the entrance to the castle, near which guard got warmer. From the right side, at the base of the inner arch, is a large stone with a hole carved in it, where the torches were extinguished. Earlier, in 1598, entrance to the main building and the main building of the castle palace were built. There is a date of 1598 year above the entrance gate, then one of the rearrangements was completed. Above the date are shown four starlings – a family coat of the Drugets. On both sides of the emblem, and in the basement floor from the moat, battlements are seen. In the end of XVI century castle finally got a modern look. The castle was surrounded by a dry moat of 15-20 meters wide and 5-10 meters deep carved into the rock from the three sides of, and from the north-east it was protected by a steep cliff. The fortress embraces an area of two and a half acres. Actually palace stands on the edge of the steep northern slope of a Castle Hill. This massive two-storied building is made in the Renaissance style. Its shape repeats the



outlines of the fortress. When taking the castle walls by the enemy, the castle could defend itself. The castle together with the external reinforcements were surrounded by ditches from three sides, through which the east bridge was hitched. At first it was suspended, nowadays a wooden ordinary bridge was built on piers.



Outside Uzhgorod castle looks like a powerful defensive structure in the shape of a trapezoid on each corner of which the bastions are located, which are slightly advanced in the direction of the moat and connected by the fortress wall. At the corner towers artillery was installed that kept under fire all the approaches to the castle. Fifth bastion of a stake form is located in the north facade of the castle. It was another gate located near this bastion that led into the castle, the traces of it are preserved till nowadays. It connected the castle from the outside, so-called "hussar" castle, built of wood. Inside the Uzhgorod Castle there is a yard of 25 to 25 meters size with a well that supplied the garrison with water. It was carved into the rock deeper than for 40 meters, 17 meters of which is a water barrel. Underground there are spacious cellars, dungeons, which served as storage facilities. In the right wing of the castle was a prison of torture chamber. From the east a wing is adjacent to the castle. It was built as a one-story building at first, later a second floor was built as well. Residential building was made as an add on the southeast bastion. Among the household buildings a stable survived in the southwestern corner of the yard.

The palace has over 40 rooms. The largest hall of the castle, the so-called knight located on the first floor has been turned into an inside chapel. In 1857 it was painted by Ferdinand Otter. Around the same time the neighboring rooms were decorated with sculpture, painting, gold leaf. Now this decoration has been partially restored.

From the Internet-resources: www.zkmuseum.com.