

# Łancut Castle

I always dreamed about coming to Poland way before from my Erasmus exchange. Because Poland has a great history and beautiful places to visit but my favorite ones are always the castles. And also what I like the most while I'm traveling is when I found similarities between cultures. These are the main reasons why I choose Lancut Castle for my project. Because I learned so many things about history of Poland and also found a little pieces of my culture while walking inside of this very beautiful old castle.

History of this castle starts with King Casimir the Great in the early middle ages. Other land owner families were Pilecki's, Stadnicki's, Lubomirski's and the Potocki's. What I heard about the most was Potocki's. Others I know among other families is Stanisław Lubomirski which is the person the present castle was built for in 17th century. Our guide was pretty happy to tell all of the history of the castle. She showed his portrait and said 'The way he looks, clothes and hair style may come familiar to Turkish students.'



Fashion in that times were coming from Ottomans'. She was right. If we could hang his portrait to the Topkapı Castle in İstanbul instead of Lancut Castle probably many people wouldn't say that he is a foreigner. In the end of 18th century a noblewoman Izabela Lubomirska as known as 'Blue Marquise' because of her blue dresses made the most important changes in the castle. She filled the castle with many beautiful arts from the famous artists. Specially from



France and Italy. Her room was the most amazing one for me. In the room there was a beautiful Harp and many paints on the wall. Whole room was looking like an artwork. There was a little chair right next to the entrance. Our guide asked us 'What do you think that little chair is made for?' A lot of students answered maybe for children they said. She said that it was made for the dogs which I love it more. It was so cute. At the end of 18th century, Lancut was one of the greatest residences in Poland. It featured an active musical and theatrical life, with many famous

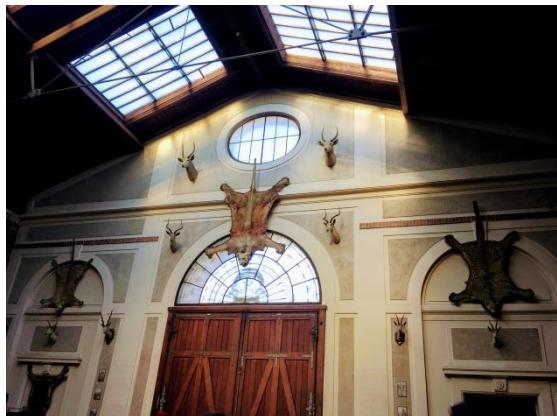
guests staying. In 1816, after Princess Izabela Lubomirska's death, the whole estate became a property of her grandson Alfred Potocki the First, who in 1830 created electoral law in Lancut.



From 1889 to 1911, the castle was renovated and reconstructed, the works led by French architect Armand Beaugue and Italian draughtsman Albert Pio. That made at the times of Roman Potocki who has my another favorite room in the castle. Our guide said that he was really like to hunting. This is the reason why the castle is full of charts, carriages and a horse farm. Our guide also said that at that times people all around the Europe were coming to watch Polo matches in Poland. People of the castle were very good at playing Polo and she showed a Picture of a lady who's like to ride horses and play

Polo. The lady was sitting on the horse just like a real lady in the picture. Our guide said that she was the first Polish women who plays Polo. They showed us the carriages of her.

It was made by leather. In the place of where all the carts are also many animal heads and heads on the walls.



Most of the present interiors were created at that time she said. The elevations were converted into French neo-baroque style. Works in the park started in 1890 and continued for 14 years. It was twice enlarged and surrounded fenced in. An Italian garden was created near eastern side of the castle, while a rose garden was arranged on the southern side of the Orangery.

There was a Turkish room in the castle but we sadly couldn't see it because of the restoration but we saw a sword named 'Karabela' which is brought from Ottoman Empire. There was Arabic letters on it because Ottoman Empire were using Arabic letters at that times but now thanks to our founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk we are using Latin alphabet. But the Word 'Karabela' means 'Black trouble' in Turkish.





When we said that to the guide she was surprised. She said that I didn't know that it has a meaning.

Rather than Turkish room and all French, Italian designed dining rooms we saw a Chinese room. Chinese students said It is just like a typical Chinese room. There was also many tiles as decoration. That made them also very happy I think.



What Erasmus taught me is we need to forget about our differences by sharing them. I'm feeling connected when I saw similar things between other cultures. Like when I find similar words, similar foods, similar tastes, similar music but especially similar sincerity and warmth between people.

Because when we share we are realizing that even if we thought in different way, live in different styles, eat different foods; we still laugh in the same way, cry in the same way and love in the same way. No matter what happens I still feel so lucky to have this kind of a chance. I will never forget.

Elif AKYOL/Erasmus Student