

Apparently, the spirit of Hans von Czirn, who owed the success of the deal with the devil, repents wandering on the slopes of the Gromnik Mountain....

Monuments and places that are worth seeing in the Przeworno Municipality

The Przeworno Municipality has a lot of interesting places that encourage you to visit it. They intrigue visitors with their history and undiscovered secrets. They are inextricably linked with our land and create its unique vibe. They are an incentive to make a visit to the Przeworno Municipality, to look closely at these unknown and interesting places. We invite you to wander around the Przeworno Municipality and discover the charms of our beautiful churches, palaces and farms. We also encourage you to actively relax in the vicinity of the Gromnik Mountain, where a multitude of trails will allow you to spend time, as well as enjoy the rich flora and fauna of forests growing on our "Little Homeland." Discovering interesting places of the Przeworno Municipality is an unforgettable adventure, as well as a history lesson and the pleasure of communing with nature and attractions of our land.

Jeglowa

- **Jeglowa** (the original name Rudgieri Villa - 1293) is a large, industrialized village located on the Jeglowka - the left-bank tributary of Krynka at the eastern foothills of the Strzelinskie Hills, at a distance of about 10 km from Strzelin on south-east. There are wide views of the Strzelinskie and Wawrzyszowsko - Szklarskie Hills. To the east from the main road running through the village, the railway line leading from Strzelin to Przeworno ran formerly. This place is one of the convenient starting points for trips towards the Gromnik Mountain. In 1264, the village belonged to Komes Radoslaw II called Drzemlik. In 1305 it was mentioned as "Villa Jeglowa alias Rudgeri villa". From 1311, on the emolument of Duke Bolek I, it was the property of the monastery of Poor Clares in Strzelin. Due to the geological structure, Jeglow is one of the most famous places in the country. Its fame was brought by quartzite quarries and crystalline slates exploited since the 18th century, where the largest and most beautiful mountain crystals are found in kaolines. Its area covers 1 050 ha, including 601 ha of agricultural land and 376 ha of forests.

- **Quartzite slate quarry in Jeglowa** - south of the village of Jeglow, there are famous quarries in the country - formerly *Magnesite Plants*, where quartzite slates are mined - this is the only documented site in Poland, and one of the few in the world, containing high quality natural fireproof material. There are also small amounts of kaolin. There are many rare and valuable minerals in quartzite slates and kaolines, i.e. anatase, zirconium, epidote, opal, pyrite. In addition, it is the only place in Poland where mountain crystals are so massively present. The largest specimens reach up to 20 cm in length, 5 cm in diameter and weight up to 0,25 kg. Once (in the 17th century) they were bound in gold, and polished served to cut glass panes. While maintaining their natural beauty, they are great decorations for many collections, but they are also a great jewelery material. At the beginning of the 19th century, more and more attention was paid to quartzite and quartzite slates. Currently, they play a huge role in the economy. The deposit in Jeglow is considered the only one in the country, and some specialists say that even on the continent. Attention is paid to their technological properties and henceforth found their use as a valuable fireproof material. Its affluence in Jeglowa is estimated at 3 million tons.

- **St. Antoni Padewski Church in Jeglowa** - rises in the northern part of the village on a hill located near the district road leading towards Strzelin. The first mention of the building dates back to 1293, after which it was probably rebuilt or reconstructed in the 15th or 16th century. From this period, the tower of the Church is probably preserved. From 1542, it existed as an Evangelical shrine, since 1945 it has again been a Catholic church. The object was destroyed several times by fires, therefore in 1888 a new church was built in its place, leaving the old tower (the oldest and unchanged part of the church from the 15th century), which was made of broken stone and brick, covered with a high tin helmet with a bell dating from 1597. The body comes from 1887-88, made of granite blocks in an interesting neo-Gothic style. The interior of the church contains a wooden altarpiece from the middle of the 19th century. The baroque oil painting "The Last Supper" painted by an unknown author, dating from the 17th century, deserves special attention. The penitential cross, which is one of 600

crosses located in different parts of Poland, is located in the wall that surrounds the church and cemetery.

The Gromnik Mountain - a mysterious place

- This is the highest elevation of the Strzelinskie Hills (the Niemczansko – Strzelinskie Hills), located at 393 m above sea level, with a strongly conical shape. Steep slopes marks lower, poorly marked culminations. The particularly varied sculpture is presented in the north - eastern parts of the foot, where they are cut by gorges, i.e. Diabelska Kregielnia. The Gromnik Mountain is made of granite, in places on the slopes there are noticeably small quartzite and quartzite slates rocks. The Gromnik Mountain's massif is overgrown with a large part of beech forest, partly mixed forest with the majority of oak, spruce and pine.

The name of this place is very old (the first mention comes from 1427 - Romsberg in German) and does not require too detailed explanation, because it is associated with strong and very numerous lightning discharges occurring during the storms just above this hill. Its German equivalent of "Romsberg", translated into Polish, means a "thunder."

Because of its location and appearance, the Gromnik Mountain has been a very strong magnet attracting many people since the earliest times. This massif has been an area of penetration and settlement for millennia.

In prehistoric times, the Gromnik Mountain could be a place of Pagan Cult, just like Sleza. There is a hypothesis saying that at the top there was a grad of the Lusatian culture, after which the gord remained - from the 8th to the 5th century BC. In the 9th - 10th AD centuries, there was the Slezanie gord, then these areas came under Czech influence. The gord occupied an area of approx. 2 – 2,5 ha; so it was small, but well-fortified with shafts with a wooden-and-earth corpus with a covering of stones, sometimes passing into a stone wall. The interesting feature of this place is the archaeologists' find – the remains of the pre-Piast stone rotunda, probably the oldest Christian chapel in the Polish lands. It was built from local granite. It is said that the castle was destroyed by Mieszko I around 990. From the 10th to the 15th centuries, the Gromnik Mountain was uninhabited, as indicated by the total lack of ceramics from this period in fossil materials. In the Middle Ages, in 1427, the knights of von Czirn, brought by the Dukes of Brzeg, inhabited these areas. During the Hussite Wars, they gained the fame of combators who joined the stronger ones. Taking advantage of the weakness of the princely power, they built a castle here in 1439 and made it a bandit's hotbed. Unfortunately, it was twice destroyed by Wroclaw and Brzesc townspeople, bishop and princely armies. However, this did not stop the banditry. In 1482, the castle was destroyed by Frederick, the Duke of Legnica-Brzesko. Over time, the family of bandits settled down and gained the grace of the dukes, living in the estate at the foot of the hills: courts - castles in Siemysławice and Przeworno. The gen expired in 1615 and its property passed into possession of the Dukes in Brzeg. At the top of the mountain in 1825, the inhabitants of Przeworno built a brick-built viewing tower in the top clearing, after which in 1845 a styleless guesthouse was added to it. From that moment, the Gromnik Mountain was a place of frequent trips, mainly appreciated because of the great scenic values. From the tower, there was a panorama of the Sudetic Foreland. In 1945, the tower was damaged and its remains were blown up. At present, on the peak glade, a new **Viewing tower** has been built, which since 2013 has been a facility made available for visitors. It enjoys great interest from tourists, residents of the Przeworno Municipality, the Strzelinskie District, as well as people who prefer active rest from the entire Lower Silesian Province and beyond. The view from the tower perfectly presents the peak glade excavations discovered in the clearing, and it is also a great vantage point from which a magnificent panorama of the surrounding area can be seen. This building allowed to return to the years of splendor of this place, when it was built in the 19th century, the tower played a significant tourist role.

At present, many surprising discoveries have been made on the Gromnik Mountain. Archaeological research carried out since 2006 at the top of the Gromnik Mountain made it possible to discover valuable findings that have made this place a subject of keen attention of archaeologists and art historians. In addition to movable finds (coins, parts of ceramics, figural tiles), which can be seen in the **Municipality Tourist Center in Romanow**, archaeologists have discovered the walls of a two-

aisle rotunda, old walls surrounding a 15th century castle, stairs leading to the underground castle room. We hope that another string of archaeological research planned on the Gromnik Mountain will be implemented, which will allow us to explore the history knowledge of this place. Certainly, make this mountain more attractive and expand the tourist offer of the Przeworno Municipality.

The Gromnik Mountain and historic monuments associated with it constitute a great place for those who value cultural trips, during which every free moment is actively spent. The Gromnik Mountain is a peculiar crossing of tourist trails, both walking and cycling. They enable you to reach the most interesting places of our Municipality and more.

The mentioned monuments and places are a substitute for riddles that contain this mountain full of mysteries. We are waiting for someone who would like to find a hidden and not fully understood story.

Romanow

- Until the mid-19th century, the village belonged to the Duchy of Brzeg; located in a very picturesque area - nearby (about 1 km to the south - west) the Gromnik Mountain rises, which measures 393 m above sea level. The town is located closest to the mountain (5,5 km to the west of Przeworno, 7 km to the east of the White Church). Until 1937, Romanow was called Pogart, then it was changed to Rummelsdorf Ost (from the name of the Gromnik Mountain). The name refers to the merger into one of the villages of Romanow, Pogroda and Krasiewice, which were previously located in various duchies and districts. After 1945, Romanow was called Pogroda, and the current Pogroda was called Krasiewice. Eventually, Pogroda became Romanow, and Krasiewice became Pogroda. The current name Romanow has no historical justification. The village covers 393 ha, including 229 ha of agricultural land and 130 ha of forests. The surrounding areas have a rather complex geological structure, because Devonian husk slates and quartzite slates prevail here, in which there are many minerals.

Romanow is an agricultural village. In 1978, it included 20 individual farms, a few years later this number increased to 33, while only 70% of the professionally active population remained from farming.

- **The Municipality Tourist Center in Romanow** was established in 2013. It is a place of frequent tourist visits. There is the Historical Chamber of the Gromnik Mountain in which you can see excavations found at the top of the Gromnik Mountain, connected with the existence of the Czirnów family castle, for example fragments of potteries, unique decorative stove tiles (figural tiles), metal elements of weapons, decorations, tools, coins. This place is perfect for exhibitions, expositions showing the values of the Strzelinskie Hills, the Gromnik Mountain and the Przeworno Municipality. It is the building created precisely for the needs of visitors - a place of rest, recreation and information, where hikers, cyclists and motorists can relax, as well as obtain information about attractions located in the Przeworno Municipality and in the Strzelinskie Hills.

Dobroszow

- The village was founded probably around the middle of the 13th century (mentioned for the first time in 1264 as Dobrascov), it belonged to the commander Boguslaw of Strzelin. It was a Slavic settlement, and its name was created from the name of the founder (first owner). Until the mid-18th century, it was located in the Duchy of Ziebice.

Dobroszow covers the area of 373 ha, including 181 ha of agricultural land and 163 ha of forests. It is a small town located in the "heart" of the Strzelinskie Hills, between the Gromnik Mountain, Wyzna and Kalinka, surrounded by beautiful, picturesque landscapes. The Dobroszowa area is very diverse, the individual ranges are separated by deep and narrow gorges. Through the village runs the red trail from Ziebice towards Strzelin through the Gromnik Mountain, from the west and south it is crossed by the blue trail from Przeworno through Nowoleska Kopa to Henrykow;

- **St. Jadwiga filial church in Dobroszow** - a sacred building located in the center of the village. It captivates with its simplicity and grace. The original building came from the end of the 13th century.

Most probably, the church was destroyed during the 30-yearss war. The church was repaired several times, including in 1856, 1910, 1959 and 1970. Inside the church there is a baroque and rococo decor from the 18th century. The interesting elements of this church are: a wooden, rococo pulpit in the shape of a whale and a magnificent altar, on which there is a painting depicting the scene of the prayer of St. Jadwiga.

Przeworno

- The original name of the village is Prevorno (1264), while the current name has only been in operation since about 1947; Przeworno until the mid-18th century belonged to the Duchy of Brzeg. The large village located among fertile fields on the left shore of Krynka (between the Szklarskie Hills from the east, the more distant the Strzelinskie Hills from the west), at a distance of about 15 km to the south – east from Strzelin, dominated by small-town buildings. The village is located on an area built of Miocene silts, sludges and stripes, there are also gravels and sands nearby, but also quartzites, quartzite slates and marbles (white, gray, blue) in a small amount. The quarries found in Przeworno have been exploited for centuries. Already around 1403, the lime kilns were open here; the gray and black limestone were extracted here, once known as the marble from Przeworno; it was a very valued and sought-after building material. It was from his deposits that a number of architectural details were made, including to the Ducal castles in Brzeg and Olawa, as well as altars in the Church in Henrykow and the Cathedral of Wroclaw. A blue tourist trail runs through the village, extending from the White Church through Krzywina to Henrykow, through Kalinka, Nowoleska Kopa, Nowolesie, and Witostowice.

- **Palace in Przeworno** - probably in 1447, i.e. when Przeworno was taken over by the gens of von Czirnów, in the south-eastern edge of the village, over the branching of the Krynka river, the construction of the existing castle was begun. It crumbled during the battles with the townsmen of Wroclaw and Nysa in 1429, 1443 and 1461 - according to legend, the knight Jan Czerniawa vel Czirn was supposed to take his death from his sword by a stroke inflicted by Wroclaw townsmen. During the 30-years war in 1643, the palace was plundered and burnt by the Swedes. A few reconstructions deprived him of many stylish features. The cartouche with the crest of the former owners and the date 1543 were placed above the main portal coming from the 18th century. After the death of von Czirnów, the castle was taken over by the Dukes of Brzeg, after 1675 by the Czechs, and later by the Prussian authorities. After the Second World War, the offices and flats of the local State Agricultural Farm were located here. Currently, the building is being renovated by a private owner.

- **The Blessed Virgin Mary – the Queen of Poland parish church in Przeworno** - mentioned for the first time in 1335. In 1428, during the Hussite Wars, it was destroyed. It was rebuilt in 1575, it was again destroyed during the 30-years war in the 17th century. In the following centuries it was rebuilt (the last time in 1881-1889). Inside, in the southern wall of the main nave, there is a late Renaissance bipartite epitaph with a rich sculptural decoration with biblical scenes from the last quarter of the 16th century. It is made of sandstone, with the stylistic features it refers to the Renaissance gravestone of the Rediger coming from the St. Elizabeth church in Wroclaw. In the right transept, the epitaph of the Czirnów family from 1576, the late Renaissance, carved in sandstone was placed. In the main nave there is a baptismal font from 1765, in the sacristy there are several tombstones from the end of the 16th century. Next to other graves of the dead members of the Czirnów family, there is the grave of the last reigning Piast from the line of Legnica and Brzeg Dukes - George IV William who died in 1675 at fifteen. The plaque dedicated to the work and creation of Max Drischner, a German composer who was acting as an organist in this church, was placed on the wall.

- **Siemislawice - (currently Przeworno, Siemislawice street)**

Court/Palace of Siemislawice - in 1445 in Siemislawice, the castle was erected by Jerzy Czirn which originally was a Gothic one. In 1609, Georg von Czirn rebuilt it in the Renaissance style.

In 1654, Christian – the Duke of Brzeg, transformed the Siemislawice stronghold into a summer residence. The castle in Siemislawice is distinguished by a four-sided tower on which the Renaissance

portal with heraldic cartouches with the date 1609 and the sundial has been preserved. The building is currently in private ownership and is being successively renovated.

The Holy Trinity church - was mentioned in 1335. The current building was built in 1729-1734 in the Baroque style. The temple is single-nave, with a narrower presbytery, barrel vault with a small turret. The preserved baroque interior comes from the time of church construction, the interesting elements are a wooden sculpture of the Holy Trinity on the main altar and a pulpit dating from 1746. The temple was originally an Evangelical church, currently it is acting as a Roman Catholic auxiliary church.

Libchavy

Libchavy is a Municipality in the Pardubice Region, in the county of Ústí on Orlicí.

It has 1737 inhabitants. It covers an area of 22.11 km² and lies at an altitude of 345 m above sea level. The highest point of the precinct is the Vadětín Hill - 524 m above sea level. Average annual temperature: 6.2°C. The Municipality is located on the 50th of the North Parallel, and its coordinates are: 50°00'00" N, 16°39'34" E. The national road No. 14 runs along the village on the section of 4.86 km. Along the Orlica River there is the Tichá Orlice Nature Park, through which the Choceň - Letohrad cycle path leads. A very positive impact on the development of the Municipality has, for example, the industrial production and small business development. In the village, there is a primary school, two kindergartens, a gymnasium, a multi-functional playground with artificial surface, a football field and all technical infrastructure networks (water pipe, sewage system, gas pipeline, electrical energy).

The roots of the Libchavy Municipality date back to the first half of the 13th century, when Nakaša received the "Libchavy Forest", which meant "over the stream." In 1227, the testament of the deceased nobleman Kojaty Hrabíšica was opened and it was a wish that this land would flourish and new settlements would be erected. The gentry of Brandýs in the stream of the Libchavská Valley founded the long village of the German Libchavy. When in 1360 a new priest was designated in Czeska Libchava, the priest from the German Libchavy participated in this ceremony, together with the archbishop. It can be concluded that the village was already fully built, there was also a church and presbytery. This is the first reference to the German Libchavy. As a result of the Hussite Wars, the owners of the village were killed and the nobles from Bubna replaced them. They shared the German Libchavy, resulting in Dolne, Srednie and Gorne Libchavy. It was not until 1952 that Srednie and Gorne Libchavy were merged again, functioning from that time under one name - Gorne Libchavy. In 1976 (after 400 years) Dolne and Gorne Libchavy were merged. Since then, the Municipality has been operating under one name - Libchavy.

Attractions in Libchavy:

At number 174 is the oldest building - the fortress, whose corpus comes from 1588. It was the residence of the members of the Bubna gens. It was rebuilt to the present form in 1628 by Karol von Liechtenstein. The Gornolibchawski Court, currently the municipal office, building No. 93 in Dolne Libchavy, dates back to 1682. It was built as a farmstead consisting of several buildings. It occupies an area of 80x80 m. The current building of the municipal office was formerly the home of the household's supervisor and farm workers. The construction of the court was commissioned by Karol von Liechtenstein.

The St. Nicholas church - the current building in the Empire style was built in 1802 according to the plans of the Liechtenstein architect J. Hardtmuth. Initially, a wooden Gothic church with a standing bell tower, probably built in 1585, was destroyed in a fire in the Easter in 1799. The sculpture set: St. Jan Nepomucen, St. Adalbert and St. Nicholas at the SOR company - a baroque sculpture from 1733.

The stone crossing from 1754 – the nobles' crest on the pedestal from Bubna - a significant testament of belongingness to this part of Libchavy to the property of the nobles from Bubna, located by the national road No. 14 in Gorne Libchavy. The baroque sculptures from the first half of the 18th century placed around the church: Immaculata, St. Joseph and the sculpture of Christ in the cemetery.

The Przeworno Municipality is located in the south-eastern part of the Lower Silesia Province in the triangle of the larger three cities of Opole, Wrocław and Walbrzych. Its area is 11.196 ha. The varied sculpture of the Municipality creates a hilly landscape with forested culminations of elevations covered by the protected landscape area. The forest permeates with the fertile slopes of cultivated fields, creating beautiful and unique views. The important element of the landscape is the extending strip of the Strzelinskie Hills consisting of the Gromnik Mountain, the Kalinka, the Nowoleska Kopa and the Wyzna Hills. The Przeworno Municipality covers fantastically shaped areas. The hill nearby – the Gromnik Mountain - allows you to ride a bike (there are often amateur bicycle rallies in this area), during which you can enjoy beautiful views and breathe fresh forest air. The Przeworno Municipality is a history, tradition and beautiful nature. The role of the Municipality's natural area in the district and province is significant. The Strzelinskie Hills are an excellent base for recreation for the inhabitants of the district, as well as for the Wrocław Agglomeration. Numerous monuments, quarries that become a real treat for many tourists and naturally attractive, varied and still clean environment, undoubtedly attract a lot of recreation and history lovers and people who want to forget about the duties for a while and take a closer look at the natural advantages of the Municipality.

The Gromnik top (393 m above sea level), which is the highest hill of the Strzelinskie Hills, has attracted awareness of scientists for ages who represent both natural scientific disciplines (geographers, geologists and biologists), as well as historical studies (historians, archaeologists and art historians). The research on the historical past of the Gromnik was recently the domain primarily of historians, as the investments carried out in the 19th century at the top of the hill, including the construction of a brick-built viewing tower and the tourist infrastructure made the relics of older medieval castle buildings almost impossible to access for archaeologists. Archaeological research could only be carried out on the slopes of the hill, where there were old wood-earth fortifications surrounding the former stronghold at the Gromnik. The total destruction of tourist objects at the Gromnik in the last months of the Second World War by German troops retreating from Lower Silesia did not improve, contrary to appearances, the situation of archaeologists. Thick, even two-meter thick layers of debris on the top clearing, have effectively deterred researchers from undertaking excavations there. Therefore, the knowledge of scientists about the beginnings of the existence of fortifications at the top of the Gromnik was based mainly on the analysis of medieval written sources. The situation changed dramatically only at the beginning of the 21st century, when on the initiative of the authorities of the Przeworno Municipality and the Strzelinskie Hills Association, the first cleaning works after the Second World War were carried out at the top of the Gromnik, consisting in the removal of debris of top clearing. In the course of these works, relics of brick-built medieval architecture were unveiled in September 2003, which quickly became the subject of interest of art historians from the Faculty of Architecture of the Wrocław University of Technology and archaeologists from the Institute of Archeology of the University of Wrocław. The archaeological and architectural excavations conducted systematically from 2005 to 2018 thoroughly changed the existing knowledge of scientists about old defensive constructions on the Gromnik. Earlier, it was known, mainly using historical sources, that on the top there was the castle of one of the most significant noble family of the Czirn in medieval Silesia in the 15th century. Only earthen fortifications, in the form of a

system of banks surrounding the culmination of the Gromnik, were known from former castle fortifications. It was believed that all brick-built elements were demolished or dismantled in the past, including in the 19th century in order to obtain a building stone from which the viewing tower and other elements of the tourist infrastructure were erected. The sketched picture by historians, was supplemented with information by the archaeologists, that the Czirn family castle was not the oldest stronghold on the Gromnik, because this mountain was fortified already in prehistory, in the Hallstatt period, as a gord of the Lusatian culture (around 8th-5th century BC), and in the early Middle Ages, when in the 10th and 12th centuries the Slavic gord performed here. Some researchers also thought that the Gromnik - like the nearby top of the Sleza mountain – acted as a cult center in prehistory.

Conducted interdisciplinary scientific works since 2005 have provided many new spectacular data on the Gromnik past. Although the existence of the former prehistoric gord from the Hallstatt period at the top was not confirmed, the presence of the Slavic fortified gord was positively verified, and its chronology was clarified for the period from the middle of the 9th to middle of the 10th century. The creation of an early medieval gord in this place could have been connected with mining on the eastern slopes of the Gromnik, in the area of current villages of Jeglow and Krzywina, an excellent stone raw material - quartz-sericite slate - which high quality whetstones and grindstones were made of, exported even outside Silesia. Whetstones made of this material are discovered on dozens of early medieval archaeological sites in Lower and Upper Silesia, in the Wielkopolska Region, and even in Moravia. It is possible that in exchange for stone products, attractive metal objects made in southern Moravia found their way to the gord on the Gromnik. During archaeological research, several monuments were discovered from the 9th century in the oldest Christian West Slavic state, that is in the Great Moravian Empire (elements of weaponry and decorations).

The vast majority of archaeological and architectural discoveries made since 2005 are connected with the 15th century castle of the Czirn family. These discoveries perfectly complement the existing knowledge about the castle. It was erected relatively late, as it was officially in November 1439, when the brothers Opitz and Hayn Czirn obtained permission from the Duchess of Brzeg, Elizabeth, to build a brick-built castle there. However, it can't be ruled out that before the document was issued by the duchess, some preliminary construction works were carried out at the Gromnik by Czirn family. Opitz Czirn, a well-known Silesian nobleman, holding a number of important functions on Strzelin land, was also involved in collecting protection money from merchants bound for Wroclaw and Swidnica. Such practices were determined in mediaeval chronicles (usually formed in bourgeois circles) as robberies, while knights increasing their income in such way were called knight-robbers, in German - Raubritter. The rich Silesian cities, mainly Wroclaw and Swidnica, undertook military expeditions to the castles belonging to the Raubritter family. The largest exercise against knight-robbers was made in 1443, when several castles were demolished, including stronghold on the

Gromnik (even the exact date is known - August 5, 1443), in Stare Kolnie near Brzeg and the Karpień castle near Ladek Zdrój in the Klodzko region.

The influence of the Czirn family at the court of the Duke of Piast, the Duke Ludwik II of Legnicko-Brzeski region, had to be large, as in 1446 Opitz Czirn obtained the Duke's consent to rebuild the castle on the Gromnik. This second phase of the castle's existence is also lighted up with written sources. It is known that around 1475, the Czirn family left the castle at the top and moved to Przeworno, where they built their new residence, in the 16th century rebuilt in the Renaissance style.

Numerous relics of the 15th century castle architecture were unveiled during the excavations. The amazement of archaeologists and historians inspired the investment of the Czirn family. It was really a residence designed and built according to the latest patterns and trends at that time. The brick-built castle foundations on the current top clearing is surrounded by bastion earthen fortifications, already adapted to the defense with the use of firearms, which were beginning to appear in Central Europe. It is possible that future research will show that the Czirns were precursors of such a fortification solution in Silesia (and at the same time in the area of current Polish lands). Within the castle walls stood at least two monumental buildings. One of them was a huge four-sided castle tower with external walls reaching its thickness of 2.2 m, after which a large cellar with a height of more than 5 meters has remained, connected with the castle courtyard by wide stairs, and with higher floors by additional internal staircase. The second building was a polygonal, probably octagonal tower of the so-called donjon nature, located in the central part of the castle, inside which could be a castle chapel. In the southern part of the castle, relics of a residential building, equipped with a unique tiled stove, built of figural tiles decorated with scenes taken from Greek mythology, heraldic and religious depictions were discovered. The antique motifs appearing on the Gromnice tiles, for example the scenes of the battles of Hercules and Aphrodite with monsters, are one of the oldest in the Polish lands, if not the oldest, examples of a new style in art - the Renaissance.

After leaving the castle on the Gromnik by the Czirn family, for the next several hundred years, until the 1820s, there was not much on the hill. This situation changed with the construction at the top of the viewing tower, one of the oldest buildings of this type in Lower Silesia, and the adjacent tourist infrastructure. Today we know that the 19th century viewing tower on the Gromnik was created by building a former castle tower several meters away - the aforementioned donjon. In the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, the Gromnik was one of the most attractive tourist destinations in Lower Silesia, visited by thousands of tourists, not only from Silesia. This is evidenced by more than one hundred different types of postcards with the image of the Gromnik top and the attractions on it. Some of these postcards are even addressed to the United States!

After the Second World War, the Gromnik became a forgotten building. This was due to the demolition of all brick-built buildings (viewing tower, inn and others) in the last months of the war.

Only local residents of the surrounding towns, mushroom pickers and tourists wandering along trails were mounted the Gromnik (several marked trails cross the Gromnik). Lovers of monuments, especially medieval military architecture, had to wait until the early 21st century to see again unveiled relics of the local castle. Undoubtedly, the attraction of the top is the viewing tower built in 2011-2012, from the top of which the relics of the castle are particularly impressive. It should be emphasized that the half-timbered construction of this tower proposed by the tower designers is not accidental. It was in this construction that part of the castle buildings in the western part of the top clearing were erected in the Middle Ages. Archaeologists found their remains in the first seasons of their research (2005-2007).

During the castle research, many interesting movable monuments were discovered. Apart from fractions of pottery, archaeologists found unique (not only in Silesia) decorative stove tiles (figural tiles), metal elements of weapons, decorations and tools. Interesting monuments are also the coins found at the top, many of which are false. Archaeologists are convinced that Opitz Chirn founded the mint workshop in the Gromnik, in which coins were minted, above all Polish Jaggielonian denarii, mainly denarii of King Wladyslaw Warnenczyk II. The falsification of coins in the Middle Ages was, of course, a prohibited practice for which death was a punishment. As you can see, Opitz Chirn protected himself from a shameful death, and his "scars" were revealed only after more than 550 years.

Legend no. 1

They fell through alcohol

In 1443, the army of Wroclaw and several other allied cities and dukes struck the Gromnik, quickly gaining it. Meanwhile, neither Hans nor Opitz was at the castle. Soon, through the intercession of the aforementioned Elizabeth, the Duchess of Legnicko-Brzeski Region, the guilt was again forgiven and the legal purchase of the city of Strzelin and the reconstruction of the Gromnik castle were allowed. Whoever expected, that von Czirn would calm down, was in the wrong. Famous Raubritteers continued their brigandish activities. Its end was brought only by ... alcohol. The knight Gunzel von Swinka, the owner of the Swina castle, was famous for his passion for alcohol. His drunken performances were admired throughout Central Europe and there was no one who could match him in drunkenness. In 1455, Hans and Opitz attacked a wagon that carried beer and wine to the Swina's castle. The whole load was put to the castle of Niesytno, where the celebration began.

Meanwhile, the constantly thirsty Gunzel von Swinka learned about the attack of von Czirn. He raged, gathered a pack of armed knights, and struck with surprise at the robbers' headquarters. Drunks did not resist. Hans tried to seek refuge in the castle chapel, but angry Gunzel did not respect the sacred land and murdered von Czirn mercilessly. That was the end of the most famous Silesian raubritter.

According to a later legend, Czirn was hanged by townspeople from Wrocław and Świdnica for his evil deeds. However, as a knight, he was entitled to go on a scaffold in spurs.

Maciej Molczyk, city guide - WroTA, source:

<http://wroclaw.naszemiasto.pl/artkul/historia-wroclawia-hans-von-tschirn-rozbojnik,2891494,artgal,t,id,tm.html>

Legend no. 2

In the thirties, von Czirn carried out its raubritters' activities mainly on Wrocław and Strzelinskie Land, taking the traders' toll in Wrocław. They plundered the suburbs of Brzeg and the bishops' castle in Otmuchów. They were involved in political affairs, even they legally bought offices, but it was the front of a brigandish activity. In 1443, the troops of Silesian cities (mainly Wrocław) and the bishop of Wrocław attacked the Gromnik and won it. The castle was destroyed. Brothers von Czirn were not there at the time. They not only avoided the punishment, but soon again they were lucky. As a result of disputes in the Duchy of Legnica and Brzeg, after the death of Duke Ludwig II, Strzelin was sold to Hans and Opitz von Czirn. They bought it just two years after the demolition of the headquarters in the Gromnik for 1,750 Hungarian guilders, and a year later they also bought the Przeworno castle. They forced the dukes to agree to rebuild the Gromnik's castle. The Strzelinskie Land belonged to the von Czirn family for several dozen years.

Rising wealth did not stop Hans from being involved in robberies, and he fell into conflict with other mighty men. The conflict with Guncelin von Schweinichen, the master of the Swiny, ended with death for him. According to the legend, the reason was the transport of wine, which belonged to Guncelin and which was stolen by Hans. Enraged von Schweinichen at the head of the troops struck Niesytno, conquered the castle and killed Hans von Czirne. It would be an irony if this clever and cunning knight, who had escaped from so many dangers, died because of wine. Apparently, the spirit of Hans von Czirn, who owed the success of the deal with the devil, repents wandering on the slopes of the Gromnik. In popular culture, the figure of raubritter was invoked on the pages of Narrentur by Andrzej Sapkowski. He presents Hans von Czirn as a knight who was in disrepute and for whom other knights-robbers felt respect.

↑<http://skarbykultury.pl/historia-kultura-sztuka/sztuka-dolnego-slaska/historie-z-dolnego-slaska/2278-rycerze-rozbojnicy-na-pograniczu-slasko-luzyckim>

Legend no. 3

Ruin of the church of St. Oswald from the 16th century (II) behind the village, on the west side of the road to Samborowiczek, on a cemetery overgrown with shrubs and surrounded by a stone wall, there are ruins of a church from the 16th century. It was built in the Renaissance style as a parish

church of St. Oswald and this name was transferred from the demolished 15th century. Destroyed as a result of hostilities in 1945. Part of the perimeter walls survived. It was not long before the epitaphs of the 16th and 17th centuries could be seen, several generations of the mighty Czirn family.

[↑https://dolny-slask.org.pl/522356,Krzywina,Kosciol_sw_Oswalda_ruina_II.html](https://dolny-slask.org.pl/522356,Krzywina,Kosciol_sw_Oswalda_ruina_II.html)

There is a ruin of the St. Oswald church on the road to Przeworno, built in the 14th century, was founded by the son of Sambor Czirn Henryk called Kruk. It was destroyed in 1446. The eastern wall of the nave of the church remained, which is probably the only memento in Strzelinskie Land after the destruction made during the Hussite wars.

[↑https://fotopolska.eu/Krzywina/b28062,Kosciol_sw_Oswalda_I.html](https://fotopolska.eu/Krzywina/b28062,Kosciol_sw_Oswalda_I.html)

Legend no. 4

According to one of them, Jan Czirn, whose pride and power intimidated the local population and neighbors, sold his soul to the devil. The pact with the Devil signed by Czirn guaranteed him enormous wealth and impunity. When the knight sometimes met with a devil, they played bowling together in bones on the nearby quarries. However, the moment came when the devil came to von Czirn for his property, i.e. the soul of a knight. In order to gain time, the knight offered the devil to play the last bowling party. The stake in this game was the implementation of a contract with a devil: if the knight wins - the devil leaves him, but if the devil wins - the knight will be taken to hell. Bowling alleys ran in the direction of Samborowiczek. A night fell out, illuminated only by the silvery light of the moon suspended in the sky. At the end of the ravine stood nine stone bowling. The first was cast by the devil. He picked up a stone piece of rock and threw it down, knocking down eight pins. Devil enjoyed his success and giggled thinking about a new soul in hell. Now it's your turn - he said to the knight. The knight, roused by anger, clawed off a huge rock from the corner of the castle gate and threw it with all his strength, knocking nine pins. There was a furious howl of the devil who escaped under the cover of the night. And the knight went to church and thanked God for salvage.

[↑http://forum.ioh.pl/viewtopic.php?t=29198](http://forum.ioh.pl/viewtopic.php?t=29198)

