



Jacek Woźniakowski

Having raised Villa Decius from ruins, Kraków has become a somewhat different city. As if in a house full of beautiful old furniture, someone has placed a bouquet of colourful fresh flowers on one of the antiques. This is an imperfect simile, of course, if for no other reason than that flowers are silent, while Villa Decius is already resonating with multitude of tongues, just as it did in the days of its first owner. How did he converse with Copernicus? In Latin, in German, or in Polish? One way or the other, Villa Decius would once again like to be Kraków's window on Europe, just as Kraków is one of Poland's windows, and Poland is one of the widest open windows on the world in this part of Europe.

Our guests from all over the world may come together here under the roof of Villa Decius, in the shadow of its trees, not only in brief and fleeting contacts, but in a particular way during extended working fellowships, when persons of shared interests and aspirations can more truly come to know one another, forming at times enduring and fruitful friendships. And who strengthens the human community more than that *amicus certus*, whom the ancient sages used to say that you would find in your moment of trial, and whose company makes the moments of joy all the sweeter?

**Prof. Jacek Woźniakowski**

Honorary President of the Villa Decius Association



Aleksander Koj

Within fifteen years of its existence, the Villa Decius Association became an international institution of culture, recognised and appreciated in Europe, popularising the phenomenon of modern culture in its broad meaning, and in a creative way referring to the great tradition inscribed in the history of the Villa. It was here that countless concerts, exhibitions, theatrical performances and literary meetings, involving both already recognized artists, as well as those who chose the Villa for their artistic debut, were held.

The great achievement of the Association is the fact that it created a model of literary residence and programmes of artistic workshops in numerous fields of art. With the implementation of an interdisciplinary programme of *Advanced Studies*, which encompasses the *Visegrad Summer School*, as well as international seminars and conferences focusing on key issues of the contemporary world, the Villa Decius Association has also become an important European educational institution, successfully entering the great academic tradition of Kraków.

**Prof. Aleksander Koj**

Chairman of the Villa Decius Association

## HISTORY OF VILLA DECIUS

Jost Ludwig Dietz came to Kraków from Hungary in 1508. Who could have expected then that young lad would soon become one of the most influential persons in the city? That he would leave a remembrance which would shape the image of Kraków to the same extent as the Wawel!

Justus Ludovicus Decius - as this is how the Alsatian started to be called in Poland - was a protégé of his compatriot, Jan Boner, a royal banker, the founder and manager of the largest commercial empire in contemporary Europe - the Wieliczka and Bochnia salt mines. Through his positions as a secretary, a book-keeper and a trusted deputy, Decius quickly became a consummate diplomat, practised financier and a highly positioned royal dignitary.

A secretary of King Sigismund the Old since 1520, and soon his advisor and the principal of crown mints, due to his many talents, literary and historical dissertations, many journeys and scientific predilections, he enjoyed the respect and friendship of the most outstanding European humanists. He knew Martin Luther and Desiderius Erasmus. He also maintained close contacts with the Habsburg court. Already by 1519 he had obtained noble status from the emperor, and somewhat later he was received to the House of Tęczyński.

In 1528 Justus Decius purchased parts of Przegorzaly and Wola Chełmska near Kraków in order to build a suburban villa following the example of a fashionable paradis terrestiare in the environs of Florence and Rome - estates that were meeting places and venues of rest and philosophical debate.



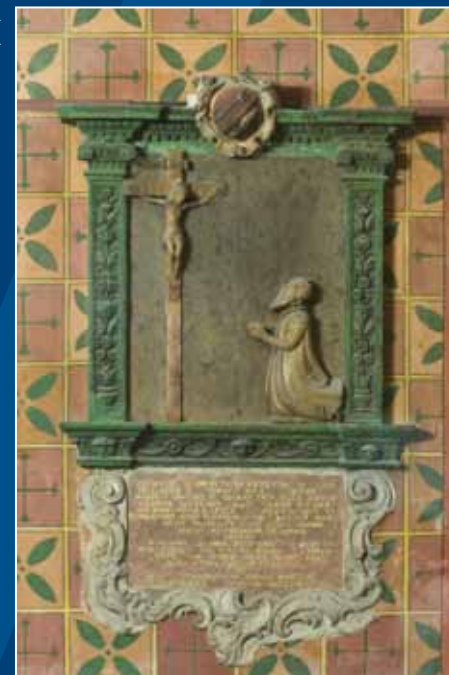
Topór - the coat of arms of Justus Decius.



Villa Decius  
Lithography by M. Salba, 1836

VD  
VILLA  
DECIUS

Epitaph of Andrzej Rottermund and Anna Decius, St. Mary's Basilica



VD  
VILLA  
DECIUS



Renaissance portal and window architrave in the Villa Decius cellar and basement

He employed three Italian architects for the building: Giovanni Cini of Siena, Zenobius Gianotti of Rome and Filippo of Fiesole. Located on the picturesque eastern slope of Sowiniec, surrounded by an extensive renaissance garden, the palace was completed in 1535. Soon it became the venue for meetings of representatives of different cultures and nationalities, the exchange of opinion and for creative confrontation between various convictions.

After the death of the patron of the house, in 1545, the estate was inherited by his son, Justus junior, known as the leading dissenter in the capital of the Republic of Poland. The Arcadian estate in the Wola district, already known as Wola Justowska, was again full of guests. Those followers of religious innovation, the disciples of Luther and Calvin, found an atmosphere of tolerance and freedom at Villa Decius, and who knows, perhaps even an idyllic foretaste of eternity ...

In 1590 the estate was bought by Sebastian Lubomirski, the founder of the fortune of his House. He rebuilt the palace to meet the needs of his family. In 1630 the Villa was heightened by a new storey, with a large impressive hall. Two alcove towers were added and linked by a three-story arcade loggia. Most probably the change was inspired by the Renaissance treatise of Sebastiano Serlio. The reconstruction works were supervised by Matteo Trapoli - the personal architect of the Lubomirskis. The first outbuilding of the Villa, known



today as the Łaski House, also comes from that period. The Lubomirskis were gradually becoming one of the first aristocratic Houses of the First Republic of Poland and the small palace finally turned out to be too little. Therefore they moved to new, much grander residences at Wiśnicz and Łańcut.

The eighteenth century was less favourable to Villa Decius. The estate often changed owners, and these did not always husband it appropriately. Under the Sanguszkos who presumably renovated the building and introduced changes into the interior, a major part of the second floor collapsed. Despite the size of the catastrophe, Andrzej Morzkowski – provincial royal official in Barcice – purchased the estate. Later, this time fortunately, the Villa passed into the hands of the Wielowiejskis. The first of the three great ladies to reside at Villa Decius in the nineteenth century came from the Wielowiejski family. Already in the 1820s Joanna Ledóchowska née Wielowiejska transformed the destroyed Villa into a summer residence in accordance with her likes and Zeitgeist. The garden underwent the most significant change, it was converted into an English landscape park following the contemporary fashion. Such surroundings gave the Villa a romantic and somewhat enigmatic touch.



Fragment of the mosaic decoration of the 1st-floor loggia



View of the 1st-floor loggia, 19th c.



Villa Decius  
S. Świerzyński, 1868

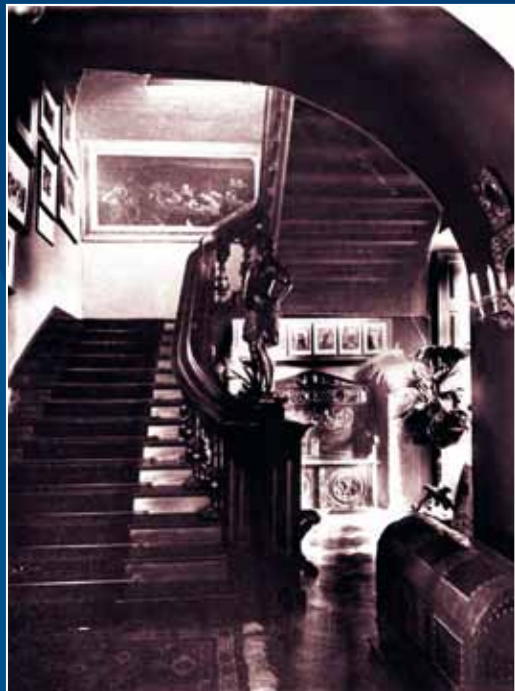


In the 1840s Henrietta Kuczkowska née Ankwicz took an interest in the estate. She came back to Poland after many years spent in Rome, where her parents kept open house, inviting the distinguished notables of the Polish émigré community. It is no secret that Miss Henrietta Ankwicz was the muse and the youthful beloved of Adam Mickiewicz, who portrayed her as Ewa in the third part of *Dziady*. After she had come back to Poland at the side of her second husband, Kazimierz Kuczkowski, Henrietta tried to maintain intimate contacts with the aristocracy paying no heed to their difficult financial situation. However, due to that carefree attitude the Villa underwent yet another costly reconstruction. An impressive front staircase appeared, the towers received balconies, an attic was added over the loggia. Once again the Villa was embellished, yet eventually the married couple went into debt. They tried to save the situation by selling off the palace furniture and gobelin tapestry, and by selling licenses for tree felling in the Wolski grove. In the end, the declining estate was purchased by a Viennese banker, J. G. Schuller, for more than a million zlotys.



In the 1870s Villa Decius once again recovered its former splendour due to Marcelina Czartoryska, the Villa's last aristocratic owner. The daughter of Michał Radziwiłł and Emilia née Worcell, she was raised in Vienna, where she began her musical studies under Carl Czerny. She took lessons from Frederic Chopin in Paris, becoming with time one of the best performers of his works. In Paris she befriended many personalities from among the eminent Polish émigré community, as well as French literary and artistic circles. Her guests included such figures as Charles Gounod, Paul Delaroché, and Eugène Delacroix. In 1867 the Duchess returned to Poland for good and took up residence in Kraków at Villa Decius. Her house soon became the leading salon in the city, the mainstay of patriotism and Polish character. A fire at the residence in 1882 forced Czartoryska into a temporary removal to the city centre. Soon, after the reconstruction of the Villa supervised by Tadeusz Stryjeński, the Duchess returned to the palace in the Wola district. That restoration gave Villa Decius its neo-renaissance form and its current layout of rooms. Moreover, she added the impressive wooden stairway leading from the hall on the ground floor to higher storeys which still exists today.

# VD VILLA DECIOUS



Staircase, 19th c.



Fireplace Room on the ground floor, 19th c.



Fireplace Room on the second floor, 19th c.

Early 1990s



# VD VILLA DECIOUS

With the death of Duchess Czartoryska in 1894, the halcyon days of Villa Decius came to an end. During the First World War it was used as army quarters. Later the Villa was changed into a tenement building. The Second World War deepened the devastation of the building – the Villa housed the Nazi police headquarters. After the war the building housed successively a school for auditors of co-operatives, a boarding school and a tuberculosis ward of the Dr. Anka Hospital. In the 1970s the building fell into complete ruin and it was hard to imagine that it would ever come back to life. Nevertheless, in 1996 Villa Decius once again opened wide its doors. Restored due to the efforts of the City of Kraków, the Villa regained its former splendour.

## ”RENAISSANCE 2000” BY KARL DEDECIOUS

A passage from the book *A European from Łódź* by Karl Dedecius, from the Polish translation by Sława Lisiecka

*(...) I remember especially well two episodes related to Szymborska. They are a testimony to the refinement of her ironic allusions. One day Kornel (Filipowicz – ed.) and she announced that that day we would go for a walk in the fields. The trip was not too long: six kilometres north-west of the city’s centre, of the Cloth Hall, towards Balice Airport. Having passed the never-ending villa district, we reached park and forest suburban landscapes. They both mentioned the name: Wola Justowska. And nothing more did they betray. Later, we walked a broad dusty road to stop in front of a ruined palace, which even despite its dilapidation emanated bygone splendour and Italian charm.*

*– What is it? An enchanted fairytale castle covered in cobwebs?*

*– Let us go inside.*

*The interior was dominated by the gloom of mildew and a chilly damp. The aura of a graveyard. We walked along a corridor. The building was in its death throes, not unlike its residents. On rusted beds, standing next to each other, the terminally ill were lying. They coughed, breathed heavily and quietly wailed. The doctor in charge of the hospital approached us, and Wisława introduced us. “This is an heir to the original owner of the palace, Mr. Karl “de Decius”, and this is the mistress of the house, doctor...” It occurred to me that this casual meeting had been prearranged. One of Szymborska’s shocking ideas.*

*“Yes, our Villa Decius is crumbling. The sick should long have found a better place. We have applied for it. And for a very long time we’ve been doing so.” It seemed that the physician took the joke seriously, the Decius-Dedecius pun, and wanted to explain herself.*



Wisława Szymborska and Karl Dedecius, 2006

VD  
VILLA  
DECIOUS



W. Szymborska, K. Dedecius  
3rd Kraków Literature Days,  
2006

*Poland has been, generally speaking, a tolerant country, and especially so was the city of Kraków. When, in the 15th century, Pope Paul II had his spies follow the Florentine Callimachus, a poet and free thinker, following a plot to assassinate him, King Kazimierz Jagiellończyk (Casimir Jagiellon, 1427 – 1492) granted Callimachus refuge in Kraków and made him tutor to his children. Wit Stwos (Veit Stoss), the sculptor, due to his unpaid debts and matured bills ran into trouble with the aldermen of Nuremberg and also avoided arrest by fleeing to Kraków, where he stayed for 20 years. In gratitude for the asylum awarded, he sculpted his most beautiful altar for St Mary’s Church, which stands in the Main Market Square of Poland’s former capital.*

*Konrad Celtes, the first German poet to be made poet laureate by Emperor Friedrich III at the castle in Nuremberg, professor of poetics in Vienna, well acquainted with Europe’s intellectual elite, studied for two years in Kraków, sang in love lyrics the beauty of Halszka, a Kraków burger’s daughter, and called to life Poland’s first literary society Sodalitas Litteraria Vistulana. The gratefulness of those in one’s care frequently seems to be a saving grace. For both parties.*

*What, though, does Decius have to do with this? Decius, at that time – that is in 1505 – still Ludwig Jodok Dietz, fled the political and religious turmoil in Weissenburg (Alsace) and in the neighbouring city of Landau in the Palatinate joined the Boner family, before, together with them, going east and settling in Kraków. Here both Celtes and Decius won trust and position, as they took major posts by King Sigismund the Old (Zygmunt Stary). Franz Boner of Landau, on the other hand, banker and financial advisor to the king, came to be known as “Fugger of Poland”. Dietz, whose name, following the custom of Kraków’s humanists, was Latinised to Decius, rendered great services to the city and the Crown in his capacity as secretary to the king, counsellor, historiographer, patron of the university and printing presses, director of salt mine, co-author (together with Copernicus) of the Polish-Prussian monetary union in Toruń, royal envoy and diplomat, trusted go-between for Poland, Prussia and the German Reich, twice granted nobility: in Kraków and in Vienna ... a truly dazzling accumulation of offices and titles, indeed.*

*Thanks to the marriage of King Sigismund to Bona Sforza of Italy, together with the court of the future queen, Italian architects reached Poland, bringing with them – across the Alps – houses, squares, churches, and palaces, together with the atmosphere of the South: the pastel palette, the quality of fair disposition, and lightness. The king of humanists of the “Golden Age” had a residence built for his friend and factotum.*

*What other than a joke could Szymborska have meant? With the passage of time, I came to understand her allusions better. No, Decius was not among my ancestors: I knew that best myself: my predecessor was no patrician but a farmer. Despite this, his name was more often than not associated with mine.*



*Decius became for me a role model and a stimulus for the Renaissance 2000 project: not only in my life but also in the life of Europe. For such understanding of it was taking shape already in the year 1500. In Kraków.*

*On 30th May 1991, during the cultural symposium organised as a part of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Conference in Kraków, I had the honour of formulating and presenting the draft to the German delegation who approved my idea to establish the European Academy at Villa Decius. In 1992, Kraków's Municipal Council decided to acquire the premises together with the palace and park for cultural and scientific purposes. Thanks to the cooperation of many people and support of numerous institutions, the Villa – carefully renovated by local preservation experts – was returned to the public on 6th September 1996 as a new symbol of the city.*

*Soon after collecting her Nobel Prize in Stockholm, Wisława Szymborska, whose guest I was there, returned to her Decius joke. During a dinner for a small cluster of friends in Kraków's Old Town, she drew a sheet of paper from her handbag: a photocopy of a Latin-Polish text, a publication concerning Kraków's historic heritage and art treasures brimming with dates, details and footnotes. Then she briefly quoted its contents: the inscription on a bronze votive plaque in one of Kraków's hundred churches reads: the distinguished councillors of urbs celebrissima Cracovia, Decius and Rottermund announce the betrothal of their children, entrusting them to the care of the Lord. And? Where is the point?*

*Szymborska is the daughter of Anna née Rottermund.*

- You see: now we are related in blood. I could be your heir.*
- Or I could be yours.*

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Wisława Szymborska and Karl Dedecius, 1997



Loggia on the first floor



## THE VILLA DECIUS ASSOCIATION

Renovated thanks to the efforts of the City of Kraków, Villa Decius inaugurated its operations on 6th September 1996. The restored building is managed by the Villa Decius Association, composed of eminent personalities from the world of science, economics and culture. The President of the Board of the Association is Prof. Aleksander Koj and its Director is Danuta Glondys, Ph.D.

During fifteen years of its existence, the Villa Decius Association has become an important opinion-forming cultural institution of international significance, and the Villa itself, a well-known and valued venue for meetings and exchange of ideas between the representatives of various societies, religions, cultures, opinions, and areas of interest.

The guiding idea to provide "forum for dialogue of cultures" is implemented through numerous international social, educational and artistic programmes that answer to the challenges of contemporary world and, at the same time, cherish the memory of European heritage and the Villa Decius tradition.



Karl Dedecius, Józef Lassota, Mayor of Kraków Prof. Jacek Woźniakowski, 1996



Villa Decius, present view



Dr. Danuta Glondys Prof. Jacek Majchrowski, Mayor of Kraków 2006

The Villa Decius Association is a member of selected European organisations: Associazione Per Il Premio Librex Montale, Zagranica Group and Halma – The European Network of Literary Centres.

In recognition of its outstanding achievements the Villa Decius Association, it has been awarded:

- The Pro Publico Bono First Prize for initiatives in international and interethnic relations, 2004
- The Honorary Diploma of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Borys Tarasyuk, for endeavours to foster relations based upon mutual friendship between Poland and Ukraine, 2005
- The Diploma of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, Adam Daniel Rotfeld, for outstanding contribution to the promotion of Poland in the world, 2005
- Silver Medal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic in recognition of remarkable involvement in the strengthening of the new conditions of integrated Europe, 2005
- Diploma and Statuette of Merit for the District of Zwierzyniec, 2006
- Honoris Gratia award for Merits for Krakow by President Jacek Majchrowski, 2006
- Diploma of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Bogdan Zdrojewski, for outstanding accomplishments for the legacy of Frederic Chopin, whose work is the foundation of Polish culture, 2011



Honoris Gratia Order



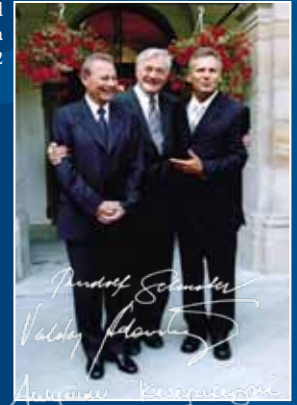
Statuette of Merit for the District of Zwierzyniec



## GUESTS OF VILLA DECIUS

Much like centuries ago, Villa Decius is visited by eminent guests, recognised standard-bearers of their age. The Villa receives heads of States, presidents, prime ministers, diplomatic leaders, recognised scientists and artists, and the greatest authorities in social, cultural and political life.

Aleksander Kwaśniewski, President of Poland  
Valdas Adamkus, President of Lithuania  
Rudolf Schuster, President of Slovakia, 2002



Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of Lithuania  
Bronisław Komorowski, President of Poland  
Danuta Glondys, 2011



Dick Cheney, Vice-President of the United States  
Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine  
2005



HRH Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, 2002



Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Visegrad Group:  
Ferenc Samogyi, Hungary  
Cyril Svoboda, Czech Republic  
Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, Poland  
Eduard Kukan, Slovakia, 2004



HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex  
Danuta Glondys, 2004



## PROGRAMMES OF THE VILLA DECIUS ASSOCIATION

The Association undertakes efforts to promote and develop culture, science and art on local, regional international platforms. Cooperating with the national and international scientific, artistic and economic millieus, the Association focuses on the following areas:

- promotion of democracy and civil society
- promotion of intercultural dialogue and human rights
- development of humanistic thought and artistic creation
- protection and development of the Villa Decius tradition
- popularisation of the business cultural responsibility
- implementation of the conservation programme
- development of the conference centre

Programme activities of the Association are interdisciplinary in character, while the subject themes of the projects realised encompass areas that serve the development of international cultural and intellectual cooperation, deepening of European integration processes, protection of cultural heritage, shaping attitudes of openness and promotion of human rights.



*Eastern Europe.  
The challenges of  
modernisation, 2010*

Janusz Onyszkiewicz  
Borys Tarasyuk  
Stanislav Shushkevich

*Polish-British Round Table, 2010*

Agnieszka Walter-Dropp  
Prof. Timothy Garton Ash  
Krzysztof Bobiński  
Ambassador Ric Todd



## DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Since the beginning of the Villa Decius Association existence, promotion of democracy and civil society has been a vital part of its activities, and has been tackled during numerous debates, seminars, conferences and workshops implemented as part of the *Advanced Studies* programme.

Among its initiatives one can find are: *European Club* (2002-2008) meetings of the academic millieus' representatives which were devoted to Central and Eastern European challenges and *Study Tours* for young leaders from the Eastern Europe, aiming to strengthen the democratic transition and civil society development beyond EU borders (2006 - 2008).



Ambassador  
Magdaléna Vášáryová

Political and social changes as well as the phenomenon of the new borders of the European Union became the subject of interpretation for the *European Art Laboratory*, which gave birth to experimental multimedia projects: *Outsider* (2004), *Zona* (2005) and *At the Border* (2008).



Andrzej Rapacki

Within the *Advanced Studies* programme a series of international conferences have been held: *Polish Heritage. What Can Poland Contribute to the EU?* (1997); *Poles, Germans, French – the Paths of Cooperation* (1998); *Europe in the Media* (1999, 2000); *European Talks by the Fireplace* (2000, 2001); *Models of Cooperation Between East and West. Weimar Triangle and Ukraine* (2002, 2003); *Beyond Enlargement – Moving Borders* (2003), *Missions of the Fourth Power* (2008), *Eastern Europe - The Challenge of Modernization* (2010) and the European debates: *Media. Propaganda or Promotion*; *Talks on Freedom* (2003); *Limits of Freedom. Media in Contemporary World* (2004); *Media Space Wars* (2005), *Silent Intelligentsia?* (2006).



Piotr Pytlakowski



Janusz Majcherek



Janina Paradowska



Within *Advanced Studies* programmes the *Visegrad Summer School* occupies a special place. Implemented since 2002, this prestigious interdisciplinary educational project is addressed to young people from Central and Eastern Europe. Focusing on the most current problems of the region, on many areas of social, economic and cultural life, considered in the context of the European Union and the phenomena of global nature, the School has become a model programme of the education of young European elites. The project has been implemented in collaboration with international partners: Cracovia Express Foundation - Hungarian Centre in Kraków, the Association for International Affairs in Prague, Center for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture in Bratislava and the Institute Euroregio Ukraine in Kiev.

European current problems and issues of international cooperation in the field of strategic security are the themes of the *Polish-British Round Table*, the annual meeting of politicians, diplomats and intellectuals from Poland and the UK. The initiator of the project, co-sponsored by the Royal Institute of International Relations in London, European Studies Centre at Oxford, the European Strategy Centre – demosEuropa, Unia&Polska Foundation and the Villa Decius Association, is Prof. Timothy Garton Ash.

In 2011, at the initiative of the French Consulate and the French Institute in Cracow, a series of Franco-Polish conference debates devoted to the EU sectoral policies with the participation of outstanding experts from both countries, was inaugurated.



Visegrad Summer School, 2005



Polish-British Round Table, 2010



Visegrad Summer School, 2010

### The Academy of Anti-discrimination Training, 2008 – 2010



Ambassador  
Fébé Potgieter-Gqubulee



Prof. Magdalena Środa



Participants of the Academy

## INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Promotion of social dialogue and human rights, with particular emphasis on minority rights, are another priority area of the Villa Decius Association activity. The earliest initiatives in this field were performed in the years 1999 – 2005 as series of original seminars on multicultural education *Minorities in Everyday Life* and *Towards Multiculturalism* presenting the culture of national and ethnic groups in Poland and the phenomenon of new immigration.



My Europe II, 2004

These themes were continued in the project for the promotion of human rights and open attitudes in Poland, *Our Europe* (2007 - 2008), addressed to teachers and students of primary and secondary schools and in the resulting web portal [www.etnoteam.pl](http://www.etnoteam.pl).



Our Europe, 2008

In the years 2008 – 2010, the Association implemented two editions of the unprecedented programme entitled *The Academy of Anti-discrimination Training*, offering comprehensive anti-discrimination training of coaches in two parallel, gender and cultural sensitivity, workshops.

The problems of multiculturalism and shaping attitudes of openness towards the „other” have been a subject of many initiatives of the Association:

- seminars for journalists and employees of local governments *Roma Community* (2002 – 2008)
- workshops for Romani assistants and supporting teachers *Roma Community* (2009 – 2011)
- scientific conference *Intercultural Education in Poland in the Context of Poland's Integration into the EU* (2003)
- the regional educational programme for children and youth *My Europe* (2003 – 2005)
- European programme of creating a strategy for immigrant integration *Libraries as Gateways to the Integration of Immigrants in the EU* (2005 – 2006)
- and programme *Education for Integration*, initiated in 2011, aiming at increasing the efficiency of integration and leveling opportunities for immigrants in Polish society.



Villa - Art - India, 2008



Roma Community, 2010

Protection of human dignity, the necessity of dialogue, the need for solidarity with others and renunciation of violence have become the subject of a series of most prestigious international conferences:

- *The World of the Future: Dialogue or Conflict?* (2002)
- *Tolerancja.pl* (2003)
- *Rebuilding Peace in Post-conflict Communities* (2004)
- *Sport against Racism and Xenophobia* (2004)
- *Non-violent Revolutions* (2005)
- *The Community of Dialogue* (2006)
- *Captive Mind Revisited* (2007)
- *Millenium Goals of Culture* (2008)
- *Challanges of Freedom* (2009)

In 2003, the Villa Decius Association established the Polish Prize of Sergio Vieira de Mello, commemorating the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights who died in a bomb blast in Iraq. The Prize is annually awarded to persons and non-governmental organisations for their special merits for peaceful coexistence and cooperation of communities, religions and cultures.



Władysław Bartoszewski  
*The World of the Future: Dialogue or Conflict*, 2002



Tadeusz Mazowiecki,  
General Mieczysław Bielik  
*Rebuilding Peace in Post-conflict Communities*, 2004



John Ralston Saul, George Kolankiewicz  
*Captive Mind Revisited*, 2007



Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka, Aleksander Koj  
*Captive Mind Revisited*, 2007



Prof. Jerzy Buzek  
*Poland and Ukraine. Shared Europe*, 2003



Richard Wolin, Unni Wikan  
*Challanges of Freedom*, 2009



Leopold Unger  
*Challanges of Freedom*, 2009



Adam Michnik, 2004



Statuette of the Polish Prize of Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2002 - 2003), by Andrzej Renes

The Prize is awarded by a Panel of Judges composed of representatives of: the President of the Republic of Poland, the Ambassador of Brazil, the Ambassador of Sweden, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Embassies and Consulates supporting the Villa Decius programmes related to human rights, the Institute of National Remembrance, the Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection, the Founders of the Prize and the Villa Decius Association.

The Laureates of the Prize: Tadeusz Mazowiecki and the One World Association (2004), Father Marian Żelazek SVD (1918 - 2006) and the Krzyżowa Foundation for European Understanding (2005), Aleksandr Milinkevich and Jewish Culture Festival (2006), Maryna Hulia and Magurycz Association (2007), Krystyna Pryjomko-Serafin and Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and Szewach Weiss - Honorary Prize and Michał Żejmis - Distinction by the Award Committee (2008), Fatos Lubonja and United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and Leopold Unger - Honorary Prize (2009), Nagy El-Khury and Mohammad al-Nokkari The Memorial Association, as well as Andrzej Przewoźnik (1963 - 2010) - Honorary Prize (2010).



Bogdan Borusewicz  
*Non-violent Revolutions*, 2005



Panel of Judges of the Sergio Vieira de Mello Prize, 2009



John Ralston Saul, Fredrik Barth, Unni Wikan  
*Captive Mind Revisited*, 2007



Tadeusz Mazowiecki receives the Prize from Andrzej Zoll, 2004



## HUMANIST THOUGHT AND ARTISTIC CREATION

Literature and art of literary translations are present in the programmes of the Association from the very beginning of its activity, thanks to Dr. Albrecht Lempp, the Association's first director. It was due to his initiative that in the years 1999 – 2001, Villa Decius Association provided the headquarters for the *Polska2000 Literary Group*, dealing with the promotion of Polish literature abroad. In 2000, the Team successfully conducted the exceptional programme promoting Poland as the guest of honour in Frankfurt at the world's largest International Book Fair.

The most important literary programmes of the Villa Decius include: the Polish-German-French conference on multiculturalism in literature – *Triologue* (1997); meetings of authors of literature with literary critics and translators – *Discussions of Polish Literature* (1996, 1998); The “*Świat Literacki - Literary World*” Festival (1997, 1998), four series of translation seminars – *Poets of Europe* (2000, 2002, 2003, 2004), *Krakow Literature Days*, organised in cooperation with the Robert Bosch Foundation (1997, 2001, 2006, 2008); translation conference *To Explain Slavic* (2008); artistic project *Milosz Birthday Party* (2011).



Dr. Albrecht Lempp



Juli Zeh



Ignacy Karpowicz



Michał Witkowski



Mariusz Sieniewicz



4th Krakow Literature Days



Olha Sydor, Monika Muskała, Hans-Peter Hölscher-Obermaier, Andriy Bondar, Dorin Daume, Jakub Ekier



The Villa Decius Association is a unique, in this part of Europe, institution offering residence grants for writers and literary translators. Literary residence in Villa Decius, which originated in 1998, covers successive or simultaneously implemented programmes:

- scholarships for German-language writers, translators and artists recommended and supported by Kulturstiftung der Länder in Berlin (1998 – 2006)
- *Homines Urbani* – a scholarship programme, whose beneficiaries are writers and translators from Poland, Germany, Ukraine and Belarus, implemented in cooperation with: the Book Institute, the Robert Bosch Foundation, Kulturstiftung des Bundes and Foundation of Polish-German Cooperation (2004 – 2008)
- *Collegium of Translators* – a residential programme for translators of Polish literature conducted in cooperation with the Book Institute and Jagiellonian University (since 2006)
- *Creative Scholarships* – scholarship programmes for German writers implemented since 2005 in cooperation with Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation
- *HALMA Scholarships* – a scholarship programme for European writers, awarded by HALMA, the European Network of Literary Centers, the founding member of which is the Villa Decius Association
- *Visegrad Scholarships* – a creative residence programme for writers from the Visegrad Group countries, financed by the International Visegrad Fund
- *Dagny* – a programme of scholarships and literary events, addressed to the authors from Germany, Norway, Poland and Ukraine.

The long tradition of literary residence at the Villa Decius has contributed to the creation of an international network of literary contacts, as well as to the establishment of a trilingual literary magazine „Radar,” published in German, Polish and Ukrainian languages by the Association since 2010.



Kolja Mensing



Natalka Śniadanko



Saszko Uszkałow



Serhij Żadan



Agnes Ravatn and Eirik Bo



Piotr Marecki and Igor Stokfiszewski



Joanna Pawluśkiewicz and Tom Schulz



Svealena Kutschke



The idea of artistic exchange is also pursued in the *International Summer Art Academy* programme (since 2002). The *Academy* encompasses workshops of historical dance, mime, singing, stage makeup, and land art. The results of workshops are presented in the Villa Decius in the form of shows, concerts and exhibitions open to the public.

In 2011, thanks to *Pixel. Polish-Norwegian Photographic Platform*, international workshops in yet another field of contemporary art – photography – have been initiated. These workshops are a creative experiment aiming at artistic reinterpretation of the function of post-industrial sites in Kraków and Oslo.

For many years, the Villa Decius has also been a venue for the presentation of art of other countries and regions of the world, taking place during a series of meetings entitled *Villa – Art – World*.

Since 2008, thanks to artistic events of the *Gardens of Creativity* programme, the Villa has also become a space for presentation of contemporary art in dialogue with the historic architecture of the building.



Contemporary Dance Stage, *She*, 2010

Impression Dance Group, *Chopiniana*, 2010



Mathilde Lapostolle, *Tampopo*, 2010



Tadeusz Boruta, *Shadow of the Empire*, 2010



International Summer Art Academy, 2010



Nigel Kennedy, 2002



Kevin Kenner, 2010



Stanisław Drzewiecki, 2010



Maria Knapik, 2010

## VILLA DECIUS TRADITION

The origin of many programmes of the Association is rooted in the history of the Villa Decius itself, its architecture and its inhabitants. The reflection on the origins of the Renaissance led to *The Renaissance Heritage of Malopolska* programme, which encompasses interrelated initiatives in tourism and cultural education: *Renaissance Route in Malopolska* and *Culture Classes in historic buildings*.

The series *Heritage of Chopin* piano concerts held in Villa Decius, relates to the nineteenth-century artistic salon of Duchess Marcelina Czartoryska and her relationship with Frederic Chopin.

In an effort to preserve the tradition of the Villa, an annual educational outdoor meeting, in the form of a family picnic *Sunday at Decius*, is organised in the Villa's surrounding gardens on the occasion of Children's Day.

The history of raising from ruins and bringing back the Villa to European culture became an inspiration for the Association's activity of preservation and renovation of yet another monument of European culture - the Palace and Park complex of Fredro in Beńkowa Wisznia in Ukraine. Supported by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage since 2009, inventory works necessary to prepare a draft of restoration and adaptation of the venue for an international cultural centre, are held. The activity profile of the restored Fredro Palace will be similar to the one of the Villa Decius Association.

*Renaissance Route in Malopolska*, 2010



*Sunday at Decius*, 2005



## BUSINESS CULTURAL RESPONSIBILITY

During the Renaissance, the Villa Decius played the role of Poland's second salon. The first was the Royal Court. It was here that aristocrats and diplomats, senior officials, academics, bankers and artists would come. Justus Decius, himself a man of numerous talents, was also the father of monetary reform in Poland.

The role of business support and patronage have frequently been discussed during the national and international conferences and seminars: *Partnership in Financing of Culture* (1998), *Laurel for the Patron* (1999), *Sponsorship of Culture, Art and Money* (2000), *Preparation and realisation of the projects co-financed by the European Union for the beneficiaries from Kraków and Malopolska Voivodeship* (2005), *European Union: Economic Reality and Social Fiction*, *Euro: Models and Mechanisms and Time and Place of the Euro in Poland* (2005) and *Ethics in Business Practice* (2005 – 2007) and during annual debates concerning the social responsibility of business within the programme of the *Visegrad Summer School* (since 2003).



Jerzy Brniak, BP  
*Visegrad Summer School, 2009*



Karol Szyndzielorz, Siemens  
*Visegrad Summer School, 2009*



A. Styliński, Siemens, K. Tyniec-Margańska,  
DaimlerChrysler, D. Adamska, BP.



*Ethics in Business Practice, 2005*



Statuette of the Prize of Decius



Grzegorz Morek, Aleksander Koj  
Danuta Glondys, Karol Szyndzielorz  
Ewa Mikos, Laurel for the Patron 2009



Marek Lisansky, Heinz Peters  
Danuta Glondys, Albrecht Lempp  
Laurel for the Patron 2009



Aleksander Koj, Jerzy Nowak and  
Jarosław Skalik, PZU Życie SA  
Laurel for the Patron 2009



Zina Jarmoszuk, MKiDN  
Laurel for the Patron 2010



Bogdan Kucharski, BP Europa SE  
Laurel for the Patron 2010



Ewa Mikos and Karol Szyndzielorz, Siemens  
Laurel for the Patron 2009

## PATRONAGE AND SPONSORING

Villa Decius, as a non-governmental organisation, does not benefit from any permanent public sources of financing. Employment costs and expenses connected with the maintenance of buildings are covered from its own business activity, while funds for the development of programme operation and furnishing of the historic interiors come from acquired targeted subsidies and grants, as well as from support of business and foundations.

Information about benefactors of the Villa reach the public opinion through the media, publications and promotion that accompany the sponsored projects. Every year, Patrons and Sponsors of the Association become candidates to the prestigious competitions: Patron of Kraków Culture, Arts & Business Awards, Patron of Culture and Benefactor of the Year.

During the fifteen-year history of the Patron of Kraków Culture, a number of companies supporting the activities of the Villa Decius has been awarded the title: BPH Bank (numerous awards), Kärcher (1998, 1999), PKO Bank Polski (2001 – 2004), LOT Polish Airlines (1997, 1998, 200), Polkomtel SA (1997, 1999 – 2001), PricewaterhouseCoopers (1998), Ziyad Company (2002), BP Europe SE Branch in Poland (2007), PZU Życie SA (2008) and Siemens (2009). Nominated by the Association, PKO Bank Polski was also awarded the title of the Benefactor of the Year (2001) and the award, in the "Sponsor" category, in the Arts & Business Awards competition (2005).

The Association's donors receive numerous honorary privileges, including special conditions for participation in events organised, as well as for the use of the palace conference facilities.

In 2005, the Prize of Decius was established to award companies and institutions that support of the Villa Decius Association initiatives. The bronze statuette was made by the renowned Polish sculptor Andrzej Renes. Decius Prize winners are: PKO Bank Polski (2005 – 2007), PZU Życie SA (2008), BP Europa SE Branch in Poland (2009 – 2010) and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage (2010).

## CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

The programme serves reconstruction and development of the historic Villa Decius complex. It encompasses regular maintenance and renovation of buildings as well as revitalisation of historical gardens. It also covers the restoration of the former splendour to the Villa's interiors by complementation and maintenance of historical and stylish furnishings of Villa Decius.

The conservation programme is implemented thanks to many years of cooperation with the Civic Committee for the Restoration of Kraków Heritage (SKOZK) and it is financed from the Association's own funds, grants from SKOZK and support of the following sponsors: AKG Architektura Krajobrazu, Edison SA, Ziyad Raof – Hotels & Restaurants, Gemini Holdings Sp. z o.o., Kärcher Sp. z o.o., Nawratronik, Przedsiębiorstwo Budowlane "Reno", and Wilka Polska.



Gothic Garden



Erazm House



Łaski House



## PALACE AND PARK COMPLEX

The historic palace and park complex goes beyond the Renaissance palace and its surrounding park. It also includes two outbuildings: the Łaski House and the Erazm House.

The Łaski House, named after Jan Łaski junior, a supporter of the Reformation and friend of Justus Decius, was opened after a thorough renovation in 1998. It contains 10 comfortably furnished guest-rooms used by Villa Decius Association fellows.

The other one – the Erazm House, financed by the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation and the City of Kraków was completed in 2000. Named after another friend of Justus Decius, Erasmus of Rotterdam, it provides 12 high-standard apartments and modern conference facilities.

The gardens surrounding the palace have been systematically restored to their previous splendour, while a comprehensive restoration of the whole Decius Park is already under way.



## THE CONFERENCE CENTRE

The palace and park complex of Villa Decius is an exceptional place to organise conferences, symposia, banquets and open-air events. Eight of the representative chambers of the Villa Decius palace are at disposal of those who wish to organize most elegant and private meetings. Stylishly furnished and decorated, they are equipped with modern audio and video equipment.

The Centre offers extensive assistance in organising all events, ranging from corporate integration events in a variety of artistic conventions to complete programmes of stay in Kraków.

In the cosy, secluded and comfortably furnished rooms in both of the wing buildings, the guests of Villa Decius will find ideal conditions for relaxation.

The elegant Restaurant, drawing upon Europe's best culinary traditions and recipes, has its seat in the Villa's Renaissance cellars.

Since 2009, thanks to the cooperation with the Kraków Register Office, civil marriages, which gain exceptional setting thanks to the historic surroundings, have been granted in the Villa Decius.

Additional information concerning the Villa Decius Conference Centre are available on its website: [www.willadecjusza.pl](http://www.willadecjusza.pl).



Fireplace Room



Ballroom



Czartoryski Room



Main Hall



Restaurant



"Sky Blue" Room



## HOW TO REACH VILLA DECIUS?

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Villa Decius is situated in Wola Justowska: a calm, residential district of Kraków located in a picturesque Decius Park.

The Villa can easily be reached by bus services (lines 152, 192, 292, 102, and 134), from the centre of the city.

The vicinity of the Kraków-Balice Airport is a particular advantage for Villa Decius in its capacity as a conference centre.

