



powered by



A Freely Accessible
Repository of Digitized
California Newspapers
from 1846 to the Present

Sacramento Daily Union, Volume 84, Number 6, 27 August 1892 — CRACOW. [ARTICLE]

CRACOW.

Some of Its Art Treasures and Its Memories.

The glory of Cracow is its University, which was founded in 1346 by King Casimir the Great. It is known as the Jagellon, and boasted a printing-press long before any of the other towns of Europe were so far advanced. It also possesses an astronomical observatory. Here Copernicus was once professor, and a fine statue of him by Thorwaldsen is to be seen in the building.

Close to the Florian's Gate is to be found the elegant abode of Prince Landislaus Czartoryski, which contains a very choice museum of works of art, bric-a-brac and MSS., as well as relics of Polish history. It is a species of South Kensington on a miniature scale, and is most generously thrown open to the public twice a week by its owner.

That Cracow has not lost its ancient love for art is shown by the Academy of Fine Arts that exists in that town, of which the famous Polish painter, Matejko, is director. A number of this painter's finest works, as well as those of his colleague, Siemiradsky, can be seen in the permanent Art Exhibition, situated on the first floor of the Cloth Hall. Indeed, Polish painters and sculptors, as well as architects, have distinguished themselves of late considerably throughout all Europe, and have contributed to recall the ancient glories of their nation. A fine new theater for the production of Polish plays is being built by the native architect, Zawiejski and will be adorned

by over 200 life-size sculptures from the hand of his talented brother, Mishka Zawiejski, who has made for himself so good a name as sculptor in Florence.

Before leaving Cracow you should drive through the dusty suburbs to a hill a little outside, which is known as the Kosciusko Hill, an artificial mound raised to the height of about thirty metres, in the antique shape of a snail heap. This memorial was heaped up in the year 1830 in the remembrance of the native hero who tried to restore independence to Poland. Thousands of nobles and patriots helped to raised this mound by bringing earth from all the great battle fields of the Poles, especially from the disastrous field of Macieiovice, where

“Freedom shrieked when Kosciusko fell.”

Even delicate ladies brought parcels of earth, and foreign potentates from afar joined in this national enterprise. It was four years before it was completed. The ascent is made by means of a spiral ramp, about two feet broad, with no protection on the outer side, so a steady head is required. On the summit, crowned by a small plateau, stands a large unhewn granite boulder, upon which is inscribed the one word “Kosciusko” in large letters. Around it is planted a low border of flowers, which are always kept carefully tended. The whole monument is a touching evidence of national patriotism. To upraise such mounds seems to have been a favorite form among the Poles of doing honor to their great dead, for Cracow can show yet two other such hills upraised by human hands.—The Magazine of Art.

This article has been automatically clipped from the Sacramento Daily Union, organised into a single column, then optimised for display on your computer screen. As a result, it may not look exactly as it did on the original page. The article can be seen in its original form in the [page view](#).