

A lot of effort has been made since 2005 to remind the citizens of Masovia, Poland and Europe about Jesuit priest Maciej Kazimierz Sarbiewski (1595-1640) the first Polish poet of European importance who was honored with Poetic Laurel Wreath in Rome by the pope Urban VIII in 1623 (the award is the equivalent of today's Nobel Prize); the professor of Vilnius Academy and adviser of the king Wladyslaw IV Waza. This greatest poet of the XVII century Europe, who has not been surpassed by any of Polish poets as for the number of translations and publications in the west, was born in Sarbiewo village near Płońsk, is hardly known in his



*Sarbiewo is an idyllic place...*

hometown. "Polish Horace" is far better known in Europe, particularly in Lithuania and western countries where he has been the subject of scientific research and numerous books published in many languages.

The First International Days of the Priest Maciej Kazimierz Sarbiewski "Christian Horace from Masovia" were initiated in the 410<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth by the poets and writers of Masovia in 2005. The three-day event was a great success and the festivities joined five districts of northern Masovia. Top-level governmental and non-governmental organizations, schools, parishes, cultural clubs, museums, libraries, social organizations and Jesuits all contributed to



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the organization of the event. It was the series of happenings including scientific sessions, poetic



*One of concerts in Sarbiewo shrine*

and musical concerts, meetings of writers from different countries, exhibitions, services; three books were published and few competition "For Laurel Wreath" (poetry, oratory, artistic and for secondary schools) were held. Three series of events of International Days of the Priest Maciej Kazimierz Sarbiewski have taken place so far (2005-2007) under the patronage of the bishop of Płock diocese and the President of Polish Sejm.

The initiators of the action established the **Academia Europaea Sarbieviana** association (AES) in 2006. It was registered in national registry of associations (KRS) on



*For the time being the headquarter of AES is located in historical presbytery*

January, 3<sup>rd</sup> 2007 in Warsaw in monumental presbytery in Sarbiewo. Among twenty founders of AES there are local creators, cultural animators, priests, non-governmental officials, as well as other people prizing "Sarmatian Horace" and people from abroad. In the AES charter apart from propagation of M.K. Sarbiewski's output in the country and abroad it was planned to promote glorious traditions of I RP, cooperation with Polish and international institutions and organizations: scientific, cultural, the Polish abroad, social, educational, non-governmental and business. To realize the above aims there is a need for an over-regional place the old "Sarbiewscy's manor-house" in Sarbiewo which today is the international centre of research, education,

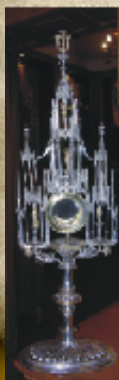
popularization, AES's museum and organization. Erection of the manor-house would complement already existing, unique Baroque complex in Sarbiewo that comprises of: church, presbytery and graveyard. "Sarbinium" would be the place for the Museum of Baroque, a library, the AES's headquarters, a Polish-Lithuanian inn and a small hotel. The above plans are advocated by numerous organizations including local and regional



*One of working sessions of AES in the presbytery*

governments (they will hand a plot by the river in Sarbiewo), artists (they presented an anthem, a logo, a painting and a sculpture of M.K. Sarbiewski), parliamentarians, authorities of Masovia voivodeship and scholars. Together we prepare a proposal for EU financial support and believe that realization of AES's aims will add to popularity and prestige of our country, will let better understanding of Old Polish heritage of Sarmatian culture, help the social and cultural promotion and activation of the region and Poland. For a good cause of national culture we offer extensive cooperation and invite you to join this great undertaking.

*Presidents of the board  
of Academia Europaea Sarbieviana  
Dr Teresa Kaczorowska  
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*The rich history  
of Sarbiewo dates  
back to the Middle Ages*

