

= Zawieszenie dzwonu Zygmunta =

Zawieszenie dzwonu Zygmunta (Polish : Zawieszenie dzwonu Zygmunta na wieży katedry w roku 1521 w Krakowie , English : The Hanging of the Sigismund bell at the Cathedral Tower in 1521 in Kraków) is a painting by Jan Matejko finished in 1874 . It depicts the installation of the Sigismund Bell in the Wawel Cathedral in Kraków in 1521 . The bell was installed in the Sigismund Tower and rung for the first time on 13 July 1521 . The bell is considered to be one of the national symbols of Poland . This painting is one of a number of historical paintings by Matejko . It shows a crowd of people , with a number of identifiable figures of historical importance . It conveys the Golden Era of the Polish Renaissance , and the power of the Kingdom of Poland .

There are several alternative names for the painting . They include The consecrating of the Sigismund bell ... (Poświęcenie dzwonu Zygmunta ...) , as proposed by Mieczysław Treter , The raising of the Sigismund bell ... , King Sigismund 's Bell , or just Sigismund Bell (Dzwon Zygmunta) .

= = History = =

The Sigismund Bell painting was created in 1874 . During his work , Matejko commissioned craftsmen to create a replica of a scaffolding that was used to move the bell , and he identified its likely original location , in order for it to be portrayed realistically .

There are numerous anecdotes associated with this painting . Matejko used his family for models , and likely the painting contains nearly all the members of his family . The painting was well received by contemporaries , and Stanisław Tarnowski published an extensive and positive review in 1875 in Przegląd Polski . The work was displayed in Paris in 1875 , and probably contributed to Matejko 's recognition by the Académie française ; three years later it was displayed there again , during the Exposition Universelle (1878) , and (together with two other paintings ? the Unia lubelska (Union of Lublin) and Wacław Wilczek) yielded him an honorary golden medal .

The painting is in the collection of the National Museum , Warsaw .

= = Composition and significance = =

Matejko was deeply interested in the era of the Renaissance in Poland , and this painting is one of a number of historical paintings that he set in that period . The composition is very colorful , yet realistic . It conveys the Golden Era of Polish Renaissance , and the power of the contemporary Kingdom of Poland , both its elites and the common people . The left side of the painting is focused on the richness and glory of the era , while the right notes the hard work of ordinary people that made this greatness possible . Although the painting is usually known as the The hanging of the Sigismund bell .. , in fact it shows not the moment of hanging but the moment of the bell 's emergence from the mold in which it was cast .

The painting shows a crowd , with a number of identifiable figures of historical importance . On the left , there is the royal court , but only the king , Sigismund I , his family (including queen Bona Sforza) , and the court jester , Stańczyk , can be identified . Sigismund , the patron of the Sigismund Bell , and his son Sigismund August , were Polish kings that inspired other works of Matejko , including The Babin Republic (1881) and The Founding of the Lubraski Academy in Poznań (1886) . Sigismund I 's portrayal on the Hanging ... painting is the one where Matejko shows him with pride and respect . Other figures in the court include banker Jan Boner , merchant and official Seweryn Bethman , and castellan and voivode Stanisław Kmita . Bishop Jan Chojewski is also shown on the painting , consecrating the bell , with canon Grzegorz Lubrański nearby .

Outside the court , master bell @-@ founder Hans Beham is seen above the bell . Between him and the court there are two dark @-@ clad figures . These are the Wawel architect Bartolommeo Berrecci , and a musician , Valentin Bakfark , who according to a legend threw a string from his instrument into the melted bronze (in fact , he arrived in Poland two decades after the bell was cast) . In the background , Wawel Castle can be seen .

As he would often do , Matejko included people whom he considered significant for the era , but who could not be present in the scene , like Sigismund I 's son , Sigismund II August , who would have been only one year old . In 1885 Matejko would paint a sequel @-@ like picture , Zygmunt I s?uchaj?cy Dzwonu Zygmunta (Sigismund I listening to the Sigismund Bell) , showing an older Sigismund and Sta?czyk , contemplating the passing of their era .