

# POLAND

## Castle of the Teutonic Order in Malbork

### Brief description

This 13th century fortified monastery belonging to the Teutonic Order was substantially enlarged and embellished after 1309, when the seat of the Grand Master moved here from Venice. A particularly fine example of a medieval brick castle, it later fell into decay, but was meticulously restored in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Many of the conservation techniques now accepted as standard were evolved here. Following severe damage in the Second World War it was once again restored, using the detailed documentation prepared by earlier conservators.

### 1. Introduction

**Year of Inscription** 1997

#### Agencies responsible for site management

- Malbork Castle Museum  
Starościńska 1  
82-200 Malbork  
e-mail: [sekretariat@zamek.malbork.pl](mailto:sekretariat@zamek.malbork.pl)  
Web-site: [www.zamek.malbork.pl](http://www.zamek.malbork.pl)

### 2. Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria** C (ii) (iii) (iv)

#### ICOMOS evaluation

That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria ii, iii, and iv*.

Malbork Castle is the supreme example of the medieval brick castle that characterizes the unique architecture of the Crusading Teutonic Order in eastern Europe. It is also of considerable historical significance for the evidence that it provides of the evolution of the modern philosophy and practice of restoration and conservation.

#### Committee Decision

Bureau (June 1997): The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of cultural criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv). Malbork Castle is the supreme example of the medieval brick castle that characterizes the

unique architecture of the Teutonic Order in eastern Europe. It is also of historical significance for the evidence that it provides of the evolution of the modern philosophy and practice of restoration and conservation. Upon the decision of the Bureau to recommend inscription, the Delegate of Germany and the Observer of Poland made statements (see Annex V).

Session (1997): The Committee decided to inscribe this property on the basis of criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv), considering that Malbork Castle is the supreme example of the medieval brick castle that characterizes the unique architecture of the Crusading Teutonic Order in eastern Europe. It is also of considerable historical significance for the evidence that it provides of the evolution of the modern philosophy and practice of restoration and conservation.

Following the inscription of these two properties from Poland, the Observer of Germany congratulated the Polish Government for the nominations and inscriptions of the Town of Torun and the Castle of Malbork which are representative of the common history of these two nations and which may be regarded as concrete evidence of the increasing spirit of co-operation and friendship. The Observer of Poland expressed his thanks for the inscriptions and thanked the Observer of Germany for his kind intervention.

- Statement of Significance does not adequately define the outstanding universal value of the site
- Need to seek a decision from the Committee on changes to the statement of significance
- Proposal for revised text has not been made by State Party, but change is required
- Brief description of the site is not satisfactory, change required
- Name of the site is not adequate, change required

#### Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- No buffer zone has been defined, further work needed; No need to seek a decision from the Committee on changes to the buffer zone

#### Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

### 3. Protection

#### Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- The Malbork Castle was for the first time designated as a historic monument in 1804
- Entry into the Inventory of Monuments of the "Castle buildings complex in Malbork with delimitation of protection limits and listing the plot numbers", issued by the Arts and Culture Department of the Voivodeship Office in Gdańsk, in 1949
- Entry into the Inventory of Monuments of the "Area of the Castle and the town of Malbork", issued by the Presidium of the Voivodeship National Council in Gdańsk and the Voivodeship Inspector of Monuments, in 1959
- "Local Spatial Development Plan for the Town of Malbork" adopted by a resolution of the Town National Council in 1989
- Decree of the President of the Polish Republic on the designation of "Malbork - the Teutonic Castle complex" as a Memorial of History in 1994
- Resolution of the Malbork Town Council on adoption of the "Study of conditions and orientations of spatial development for the town of Malbork" in 1996; "Plan of the Development of the Town Centre" and "Study of Natural Conditions for the Local Spatial Development Plan of the Town of Malbork" have also been prepared
- Act on Museums in 1996
- Act on the Protection and Guardianship of Historical Monuments in 2003
- Protection arrangements are considered sufficient

#### Actions taken/proposed

The Castle Museum has submitted requests to the municipal authorities of Malbork and the region:

- to remove elements distorting the Castle panorama from the area surrounding the site
- to include the construction of a ring road in the town development plans, removing the vehicle traffic from the centre of Malbork
- to include the construction of a ring railway route in the regional development plans, moving rail traffic away from the immediate vicinity of the Castle
- to enforce the ban on military and civil flights over the Castle area

### 4. Management

#### Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction

- Art and history museum, historical research institution, educational, culture and conference centre

#### Management/Administrative Body

- Steering group set up in 1961
- Site manager/coordinator on full-time basis
- Levels of public authority primarily involved with the management of the site: national, regional
- The current management system is highly effective

### 5. Management Plan

- No management plan, preparation will be completed in 09/2006
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Malbork Castle Museum

### 6. Financial Resources

#### Financial situation

- State budget subsidy of around 40%
- Funding for conservation and protection of the site comes mainly from the Museum's own income. The remaining funds (10%) are acquired from: Polish German Co-operation Foundation, Polish Committee for Scientific Research, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Eachocast, Sponsor Companies
- Funding is insufficient

### 7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: 151

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Very good: conservation, management, interpretation, education
- Good: visitor management
- Average: promotion

### 8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- Specialist postgraduate studies for staff employed at the Conservation Department of the Castle Museum in Malbork at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Warsaw University and Jagiellonian University in Cracow; Expert analyses and consultations by

specialists from the Institute of the Science of Historical Works of Art and Conservation Techniques of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Gdańsk Technical University and Academy of Mining and Metallurgy in Cracow; Specialist conservation works are sometimes commissioned from renowned conservation companies

### 9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 451,600 in 2004 (counting the number of sold tickets for the museum and other events at the castle)
- Visitor facilities: permanent and temporary exhibitions; sightseeing tours and guides; web-page; three car parks for cars and coaches; tourist information centre; two restaurants and several seasonal bars; two cafes; conference centre with lecture halls and modern technical facilities; shops and stands with printed materials and souvenirs; public conveniences; access for the disabled; hotel; ticket boxes; post office; public phones
- Visitor needs: none

### 10. Scientific Studies

- Risk assessment, studies related to the value of the site, monitoring exercises, condition surveys, archaeological surveys
- Research related to the use of the Malbork Castle in the past, e.g. a study of the operation of the Grand Masters' Chancellery
- Participation in the "Echocast" international programme, which develops standards and training materials for staff who are the first point of contact for museum visitors (2003 – 2006)

### 11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention emblem used on some publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among visitors, local communities, businesses and local authorities
- Education is a great need, even if the average awareness is considered to be sufficient
- Special events and exhibitions concerning the site's World Heritage status: permanent exhibition devoted to Polish sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List; conferences

and meetings, documentaries and TV programmes, classes and educational activities, all devoted to World Heritage issues

- Web site available: [www.zamek.malbork.pl](http://www.zamek.malbork.pl)
- No involvement of local population in the management of the site in connection with delivering social or other benefits

### 12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

#### Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

#### Conservation interventions

- Since the end of December 1997 two hundred eighty six larger and smaller conservation works have been carried out in the Malbork Castle complex
- Present state of conservation: very good

#### Threats and Risks to site

- Ground movements caused by the progressing degradation of the hill on which the Castle is located
- Moistness of the lower floors of the Castle caused by an inefficient drainage system; a full appraisal of the situation and its regulation was started in May 2004 as basis for an action plan;
- Vibrations caused by freight trains passing along the railway near the Low Castle; a real reduction of the negative effects may be achieved only after the construction of the Central Trunk Line, bypassing the town
- Młynówka Canal, running through the area of the Castle complex, becomes troublesome whenever its waters are temporarily re-directed to wash out the waste from the nearby sugar plant; an additional source of odour is the household waste illegally drained into the Canal. It is necessary to periodically clean the canal bed in order to reduce the settlement of waste; even better results may be achieved if the Canal is not used to wash out the sugar plant waste; it is also necessary to liquidate all illegal waste drainage
- Currently, proposals for a ring road bypassing Malbork are under consideration. The Museum is also planning to locate car parks in such a way as to limit the number of cars and especially coaches, entering the Outer Bailey area

### **13. Monitoring**

- Formal monitoring programme
- Conservation monitoring, geodetic monitoring, control of ground water level, measurements of buildings dislocations, monitoring of the Castle security system

### **14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions**

- Main benefits of WH status: awareness changes, prestige, tourism, education, international co-operation
- A number of conservation and reconstruction works have been carried out in the Castle, including works of fundamental importance for the integrity and significance of the site
- The Castle is much more often present in the media, its promotion in the country and abroad has intensified, new tourist attractions have been introduced, tourist traffic has increased, especially that of foreign visitors
- The tourist infrastructure has been improved
- New educational programmes for children and young people have been introduced; co-operation with educators from other countries has developed as has organisation of joint education projects and participation in the conferences "World Heritage in Young Hands"
- A number of books and brochures have been published devoted to the Castle, the Teutonic Order, the culture in general as well as the culture and art of the Middle Ages
- The number of scientific conferences and incentive meetings organised in the Castle Karwan Conference Centre has increased
- The local population of the town and the region and the staff of the Castle Museum have become much more aware of the unique value of the Malbork Castle and of our obligations towards the site
- The main difficulty encountered by the Castle Museum is the lack of an active intellectual environment in the town of Malbork

#### **Future actions:**

- The Castle Museum has developed co-operation with other European cultural institutions under the European programme "Echocast". Using the materials developed during the programme the Castle Museum is going to run permanent internal training for different groups of professionals working in the Museum in order to raise the awareness of its staff and standards of their everyday work in a world class historic site