

THE FORTRESS LANDSCAPES - THE PROPOSAL OF THE NEW HERITAGE CATEGORY. POLISH EXAMPLES.

Lidia Kluptz *

The problems of the landscape protections become recently more important not only in Poland but also in Europe and in the whole world. This situation is connected with the increased understanding of the questions of the human heritage. This is also connected with the understanding of importance of the space protection, both, the nature and culture areas. The standpoint of the ICOMOS in the case of the protection of the cultural heritage, especially the cultural landscape protection, has the great meaning in the popularization of this idea. The areas of the cultural landscape are recently more often registered as the world heritage on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites List. The area of the pilgrim landscape of the complex in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska in Poland, which was registered in 1999, is one example of decision in the last few years. The landscape protection is also very important for the European Council. This problem has been undertaken by the European Landscape Convention, which was signed by eighteen European countries in October 2000 year.

The protection of the cultural landscape became also very popular in Poland during the last two decade of the XX century. The government undertook this problem and the new law for the protection of the historic landscape was established in 1990. The new categories for the protection of the monuments were created. From that time the valuable cultural landscape could be protected in Poland as the cultural reserve, cultural park or conservation zones. After that Professor Janusz Bogdanowski from Polish delegation presented the culture and nature problem in the European landscape at the Symposium of CSCE in Krakow in 1991. The concluding document of the CSCE from 1991 influenced the later decisions of the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO to join the cultural landscapes to the List of World Heritage UNESCO.

The problems of the fortresses protection and management are generally connected with the cultural landscape protection ideas. We could talk about the fortress landscape by the analogy to the urban landscape, the rural landscape, the open landscape and the like. We have to deal with the fortress landscape from the beginning of our civilization, when the man started to build defensive constructions.

Area of Poland abounds with the defensive buildings and fortress. It is connected with our very dramatic history and the geographical position on the European continent.

The Polish fortress landscapes are one of the most interesting and various in Europe, but they are not as well known as the historic urban systems, historic parks and gardens or churches. The Polish fortresses are however very valuable as the objects of the defensive art which is one of the most essential motors to the civilization development. From this point of view the fortress are very important. They are the testimony not only of the Polish development, but also of the whole European culture.

In Poland we could study the characteristic elements of the medieval, renaissance and modern types of fortifications which are characteristic for the different schools and fortifications systems like Polish, Dutch, Italian, Prussian, Russian, Austrian, German and Soviet, which is sometimes hard to say if they were defensive or rather offensive structures. But however they should be protected as the material testimony connected with the history of this part of Europe and rules according to the Europe division into the two influence zones, which were established after the Jalta agreement between Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin.

This possibility, that in the area of one country, like it is in Poland, we could study nearly the whole different types of fortress is unique on the European scale.

The fortress landscape could be researched according to the different aspects, for example: period of construction; the style and the type of the fortification school, the geographical situation, the condition of historic landscape, the knowledge and science values, the rare or the value representative.

In Poland we could find many examples of fortress landscape according to this division. For example we have the defensive systems situated in the mountains, in the lowland, on uplands, on the seaside, in the wetlands or by the rivers. We could study the old medieval castles, churches and monasteries, which have been built as the defensive structures, the old fortified Renaissance towns and the large eighteen-century strongholds, but the most valuable is the modern fortress landscape from the end of the XIX century and the beginning of the XX century. That period was one of the most tragic for the history of Poland. Our country lost the independence for the 120 years and Poland was divided between Russia, Prussia and Austria. The borders of those three countries have been established in the area of Poland. Because of this Poland was one of the most fortified space in Europe. The characteristic features of this type of

landscape are the large fortified areas with single or group of masked forts composed in rings, masked roads and different types of fortress greenness.

In Poland we have also very interesting Polish, German and Soviet military systems from the XX century connected with the First World War, the Second World War and built during the cold war time and under the Warsaw Pact. After 1995, when Poland joined NATO Pact, this type of fortress landscape connected with Soviet defensive system gained a new value, because it is unique between NATO countries.

Our Polish fortress landscape in spite of many changes through our history is still well preserved and readable. . It should be protected as the culture and civilization value not only as Polish but also as European. The nature values of the fortress landscapes are also of a large significance. The values of natural environment have been used for setting and masking the defensive structures. The nature has been used as well as a natural hindrance. Because of its specific character, the fortress landscape could be also treated as the prototype of the integrated protection of culture and nature values together.

The values of the historic defensive systems and the fortress landscapes become more popular in Poland. The fortress and the fortress landscape started to be treated as the common European heritage. But we still have a lot of problems with the preservation and management of those monuments in the proper way. The problems are connected with the large scale of the military areas, the lack of management or even bad management, the lack of local development plans, with nowadays process of changes in the Polish army, the imperfection of our law, with the deficiency of our education and other different reasons. These problems should be

solved very quickly if we would like to preserve and manage our fortress landscapes properly. But first of all we should prepare the documentation of our fortress landscape resources especially for those which are in danger. Most of them became superfluous for the Polish army. Very often these defensive areas are very large. With those areas is the biggest problem. They are very large and difficult to manage by one owner. It is also very hard to find a new program and the new functions for those large fortress landscape. The same difficulties connected with the fortress landscape management occur in different not only European countries.

This type of landscape, not very well known yet, could be found all over the world. People very often do not understand those types of monuments and this is the reason that those types of landscapes are in danger. Because of the very large and complex values, specific character, the fortress landscape could be protected and put to the list as the new category of heritage. It could be treated as the prototype of the integrated protection of culture and nature values together.

*** Lidia Kluptz**

Landscape architect

From 1984 worked for The Centre for the Preservation of Historic Landscape. The National Institution for Culture. 00-464 Warszawa, ul. Szwolezerow 9; Poland; from 1997: Vice President of the Main Board of Fortification Society in Poland; from 1997: Expert of the Polish Minister of Culture in the scope of the preservation of the cultural landscape, parks, gardens and fortifications; from 2000: member of ICOMOS; Author of many projects connected with the preservation and management plans of cultural landscape, historic parks, fortifications and the fortress landscape. Author of many articles and reports on preservation and conservation of landscape and fortifications.