

Konrad Grochecki

The Tomb of the Orzechowskis Located on Arian Hill near Krasnystaw. Cultural and Historical Context of the Structure and Its Significance as Memorial Site

Summary

keyword: archaeology, architecture, Fibonacci number, funerary art, golden ratio, mausoleum Orzechowskich, memorials, obelisk, Polish Brethren, Renaissance, pyramid

The research concerns an unusual monumental pyramid-shaped tomb of Paweł Orzechowski the Elder, deceased in 1612. The uniqueness of the structure is significant also in reference to modern European art. The mausoleum was erected on a square base, and is topped with a pyramid-shaped finial. The location of the presently twenty-metre high structure adds to its meaning. It was erected on top of one of the highest hills in the area, towering over the village of Krupe, near Krasnystaw in Lublin Voivodship. The village of Krupe is best known for picturesque ruins of a fortified castle built in Renaissance-Mannerism style. Till 1644, the castle had been a seat of the Orzechowski family.

The aim of the research is threefold. The first question concerns the monument itself. Therefore, the aim is to decipher forgotten message hidden in the tomb's shape, its proportions and architectural details, as well as to recognize historical and cultural context of the structure resembling antique sepulchral architecture.

Furthermore, the dissertation examines the site of the mausoleum's location, the previous research of which indicates other traces of human activity much older than the tomb in question. Outlines of former embankment link the finding to the aforementioned choice of location. This motif, as well as decoding the message behind the tomb's shape, which is presumably both ideological and religious, might help understand the founder's concept of eternal life.

Final complementary part of the research is an attempt to diagnose modern social memory based on local perception of the pyramid. Presented dissertation is divided into parts referring to the issues outlined above: 1 –Structure; ideas incorporated into architecture, 2- Location; secrets of Arian Hill, 3 – memory and its manifestations.

Konrad Grochecki