

THE PALACE AND THE PARK COMPLEX IN THE TOWN OF KOROPETS IN TERNOPIL REGION

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Abstract. In the given article the authors analyze the actual state of the Koropets palace and its park complex, as well as its inherent difficulties. They explain the significance of this architectural ensemble as a remarkable landmark and an excellent artwork of landscape by Arnold Rohring. It is an integral part of the natural park of the Dniester canyon and a promising tourist attraction in Ternopil region.

Key words: Koropets palace and park complex of Counts Badeni, landscape park by Arnold Rohring.

1. Introduction

The town of Koropets emerged in the confluence of the river of Koropets into the Dniester river among the picturesque Carpathian landscapes: meadows and wooded slopes of rocky hills, ravines and gullies with powerful waterfalls, which altogether create a unique beauty and grandeur of the natural territorial complex of the Dniester canyon (Fig. 1).

The first written mention of Koropets dates back to the year 1421. In 1427 the town was granted Magdeburg rights. Despite numerous wars and disastrous Turkish and Tatar invasions, the town managed to preserve its original look.



Fig. 1. Panorama of the natural park of the Dniester canyon [1]

2. Basic Theory Part

Extremely favorable natural conditions and the existing unique monuments of history, culture, and architecture, like the famous palace and the park complex of Counts Badeni, provide good conditions for transforming this small town into a successful touristic and recreational center of Ternopil region (Fig. 2).

In 1615 the town of Koropets, which formerly belonged to the Polish crown, became the property of Stefan Potocki, the governor of Bratslav. At the end of the 18th century the estate was sold to Myslovsky family from little-known Polish nobility. At the beginning of the 19th century the Myslovskys built a small classic-style palace and a landscape park around it. The park was laid on the place of the former oakery that stretched on the slopes of the river Dniester.

In 1893 Koropets, together with the palace, becomes a property of Count Stanislaw Marcin Badeni (Stanislaw Marcin Badeni) (1850–1912), Marshal of the Galician Sejm. Immediately, Stanislaw begins the restructuring of the small palace into a refined residence in the style of “Vienna Renaissance”. It is believed that the architect of the new palace must have been one of the famous Lviv or Viennese architects at that time, but his name was preserved.

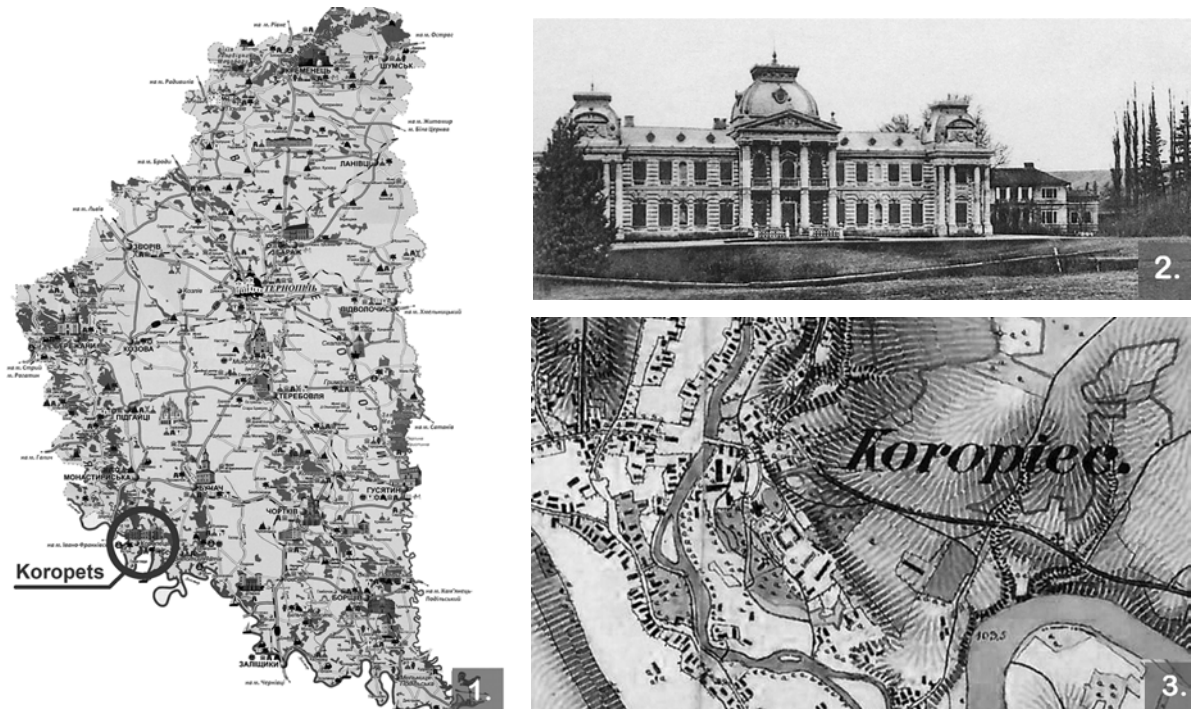


Fig. 2. The Koropets palace and the park complex as a tourist and recreational facility of Ternopil oblast
 1 – the tourist map of Ternopil oblast [3]; 2 – the palace of Counts Badeni – Koropets [1];
 3 – the plan of Koropets, including the palace and the park [4]

The palace had two floors and was decorated with three risalits and a shaped roof. The most impressive was the artistic combination of colored wood for the flooring and panels on the walls. Till our times an oval ballroom with a black marble fireplace, the so-called royal room, was preserved. The room was decorated with the portraits of Polish Kings by Marcel Mashkovsky, which were the exact copies of the famous works of Jan Matejko. A dining room, library, and a chapel were placed next to the ballroom. The other side of the building served for housing purposes, as well as the first floor, which was more ordinary (Fig. 3) [2, p. 95–96].



Fig. 3. The Koropets palace and the park complex – the Badeni palace and the remains of the nearby landscape park on the Dniester river, 2015 [1, 5]

Construction works were finished in 1906, shortly before WWI. At the same time Stanislav Badeni started renovation of the park and, for this purpose, invited Arnold Karol Röhring, a well-known Galician gardener at that time and a founder of the famous Stryiskyi park in Lviv.

Röhring's project envisaged a significant expansion of the park to 200 hectares and a thorough reconstruction of its planning structure. A peculiar feature of the park's composition were broad meadows with scattered picturesque groups of trees and ornamental shrubs. The lawn before the palace was covered with bright and vivid flower-beds and the area behind the palace with beautiful tall roses. The rivers of Koropchuk and Mlynivka, ran through the park, and the opposite banks of the rivers were united by wooden bridges painted white. There was also a pond with a greenhouse and a glasshouse over it (Fig. 4). The park was planted with diverse greenery, i.e., silver poplars, oaks, chestnuts, maples, linden-tress, weeping willows and even two huge tulip trees. Vast plantations of apricots and walnut gardens stretched at the outskirts of the park. [6, p. 98].

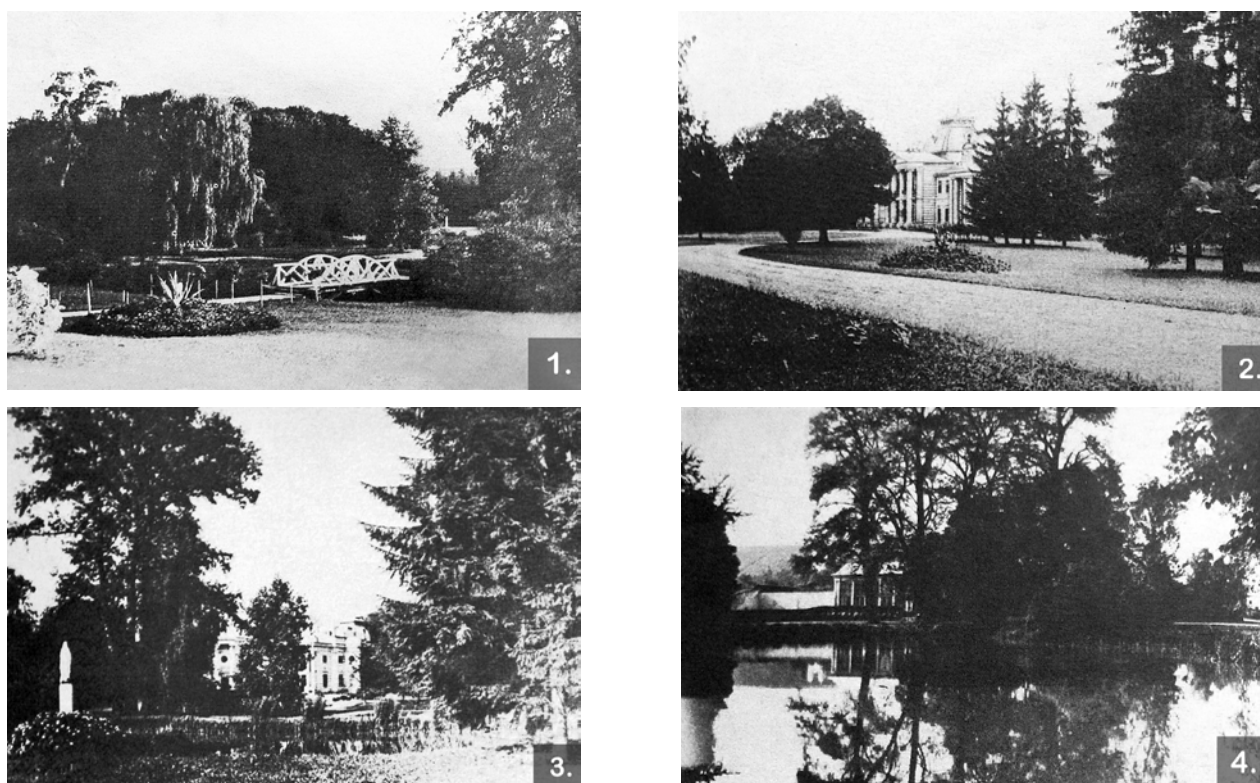


Fig. 4. 1 – A fragment of the park with a white wooden bridge over the river, 1914; 2 – The walkway to the main facade, 1914; 3 – A fragment of the park, 1938; 4 – A fragment of the park with an orangery, 1938; [7. p. 53–54]

After the death of Stanislav Badeni in 1912 the estate became property of the younger son of the Count, Stephan Badeni, who was the last owner of the estate. During WWI the Koropets palace and the park complex were substantially damaged. However, after the war Badeni almost completely restored the family residence to its original look.

Being the property of the Badeni family till September 1939, the palace and the park complex were carefully maintained. The team of 30 gardeners took care of the park. In 1939 the Soviets came to Koropets and the owners of the estate emigrated to Budapest.

In 1944–1955 Koropets became a district center, and the palace was used as the headquarters for the communist party local administration. In 1959 a regional military boarding school was opened in the former Badeni mansion. Eventually, new functional uses caused irreparable damage to the authentic look of the palace and the park complex.

The military boarding school was steadily enlarged and new academic, administrative buildings and sport playgrounds were built in the place of the park and in front of the palace. Currently, the park is a neglected state requiring professional supervision.

Given the importance of the palace and the park complex for the town of Koropets, the Ternopil Regional Council granted the Koropets park the status of garden and park landmark of local importance (decree No. 870,

dated 20.12.1968). In 1972 by decree No. 228 the status of landmark was modified. In 2001 the park was named the object of natural reserves fond of Ukraine (decree No. 238, dated 27.04.2001).

Nowadays, the palace and the park around it are in a very poor condition. Despite the great concern among the local community and tourists, no investments have been made in its reconstruction.



Fig. 5. A military boarding school, placed on the territory of the palace and the Badeni park complex in Koropets, 2014 [8]

Conclusions

Being conscious of the importance to preserve the historical and cultural heritage, the community should look for new possible ways and means to restore the outstanding architectural landmark and art-work of Arnold Röhrling, a famous Austrian gardener in Galicia. The change in functionality of the palace and the park complex to a tourist and recreational one would promote the transfer of Koropets into a successful tourist resort of Ternopil region.

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КОРОПЕЦЬКИЙ ПАЛЦОВО-ПАРКОВИЙ КОМПЛЕКС МОНАСТИРСЬКОГО РАЙОНУ ТЕРНОПІЛЬСЬКОЇ ОБЛАСТІ

Анотація. Проаналізовано сучасний стан та проблеми Коропецького палацово-паркового комплексу. Визначено його роль як видатної архітектурної пам'ятки та пам'ятки садово-паркового мистецтва авторства Арнольда Рерінга, що є невід'ємною складовою природного парку Дністровського каньйону та перспективного туристичного об'єкта Тернопільської області.

Ключові слова: Коропецький палацово-парковий комплекс графів Бадені, ландшафтний парк авторства Арнольда Рерінга