

“Koncerz” sword with a sheath



- Date of production 16th/17th century (blade), 17th/18th century
- Place of creation Germany (blade), Poland (sheath)
- Dimensions length: total – 121.7 cm; sheath – 118.5 cm, width: blade – 2.7 cm; sheath – 5 cm
- ID no. ZKWawel 173/1-2
- Museum [Wawel Royal Castle – State Art Collection](#)
- Availability Crown Treasury
- Subjects [war](#)
- Technique [forging](#), [grinding](#), [engraving](#), [niello](#), [gilding](#), [inlaying](#)
- Material [wood](#), [brass](#), [steel](#), [silver](#), [pearl](#), [jewellery stones](#)
- Acquired date returned in 1961
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- Digitalisation RDW MIC, 2014
- Tags [techniki zdobnicze](#), [militaria](#), [3D](#), [domena publiczna](#)

A *koncerz* with a long, thin blade, hexagonal and flattened in the cross section, decorated with a plain

ornament at the grip. On both sides of the upper part of the blade, pistol barrels are attached with wheellocks. The silver gilded hilt ends with a silver pommel in the form of a moustached man in a turban. The shaft is covered with a ferrule ornament with figures of standing warriors. The joints are set with pearls and stones. It catches the eye with the fancifully shaped circular cross-guard with an engraved ornament set with stones. The sheath is plain, entirely covered with gilded silver, with an engraved leaf ornament, as well as an oval medallion with nielloed decoration and pearls.

A *koncerz* sword is a type of cold weapon with a characteristic long and thin blade, used for stabbing. In Poland, it was one of elements of weaponry used by the Hussaria cavalry. The presented exhibit is an excellent example of a luxurious armament, characterized not only by its diversity of materials and decorations, but also a combination of a cold weapon with firearm. The pommel in the form of a Turkish man alludes to the fight against “infidels.” According to tradition, the presented *koncerz* comes from the armoury of John III Sobieski. It was part of the Radziwiłł family collection in Nieśwież, and then it was requisitioned by the Russians. It was regained from the Hermitage Museum (Lenz B.15), then evacuated to Canada in 1939, and given back in 1961.

Elaborated by Krzysztof Czyżewski (Wawel Royal Castle), editorial team of Małopolska’s Virtual Museums, © all rights reserved