Deerparks at the former Opole Regency
Doctoral dissertation

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Abstract

Deerparks, were closed areas intended for animals, used for hunting and nature observation. They were one of the oldest types of gardens. Formed since ancient times, being one of the attributes of power and privilege. These areas were closely related to the residence of the ruler or its surroundings. In every age, composition and function of this type of hunting parks changed, what was essentially determined by the needs of utilitarian and the prevailing style. Detailed analysis of the genesis and development of deerparks in the garden art, allow to the conclusion that their utmost growth and counting occurred in the 18th and 19th century, where created teams have considerable diversity, as well as specific arrangements. In the 18th century can be observed especially popular systems such as Entre éventail et étoile. Such clusters have been submitted of deerpark about a radial arrangement, menagerie and the hunting palace, placed on central square. Since the 2nd half of the 18th century began to create the first groups of the landscape composition. However, their utmost popularity was in the 19th century. The occurrence of many independent deerparks in the areas of former Prussian and German, was mainly due to the political and social changes, in which aristocratic family was losing their social significance. The behavior of the former hunting privileges allowed to the continuation of centuries-old tradition and to maintain the prestige. Hunting, which took place in deerparks, stopped to have a utilitarian character, and became a form of sophisticated entertainment and the possibility of acquiring new privileges and political contacts.
The subject of the dissertation were deerparks occurring on a former Opole Regency (Rejencja Opolska) since the 2nd half of 18th century to the early 20th century. The aim of the study was their identification, characterization and valorization. These teams have not been yet comprehensively studied or characterized. Currently, due to the lack of adequate knowledge and inadequate treatments, many of them are neglected, blurred their compositional arrangement and landscape borders, hence this necessary has released their analysis and comprehensive characterization. Due to multithreading subject, were presented also the cultural – social conditions of the region, the characteristics of the hunting traditions of this period, the genesis and development of deerparks in the garden art.

Based on the analysis of the inventories from the turn of 19th and early 20th century, as well as archival cartography it was concluded that in the Opole Regency there were three different varieties of deerparks, defined based on the composition, functions, and of farming:

- deerparks in nature of forest - (zwierzyńce leśne - Tiergarten) – 19 teems,
- deerparks in nature of park - (zwierzyńce parkowe - Wildpark) – 9 teems,
- pheasantry - (bażanciarnie - Fasanerie) – 42 teems.

Had been investigated their genesis, development, and factors affecting the specificity of their formation. They are also included on a wider scale - urban, rural complexes and open landscapes. In terms of surface it has been shown that the deerparks accounted for about 22% of the whole forest complexes of the unit, also creating about 5% of the this area. It was taken also a thread of traditional hunting residential architecture, that is objects of type Jagdschloss (16) and Jagdhaus (25), inevitably occurring in the hunting areas. Presented their typology and specifying the type of compositional style. They were inventoried their immediate garden surrounding, along with outbuildings. In this work was characterized the current state of the garden teams and the residential buildings occurring in their area. Presented contemporary threats and conservation guidelines, allowing to inhibition of degradation and disappearance of specific cultural landscapes created by this subjects.

Studies undertaken in this work, allowed confirm the thesis, that the deerparks from the 2nd half of 18th to the early 20th century, were a significant group of garden compositions, standing out among them expressive and various specific features of formal and functional. Until today they constitute an important component of the Silesian garden heritage. Their numerous occurrence in the region resulted that they have become a significant feature of the form of landscapes of Opole Regency. Their multifaceted cultural and natural values cause that today should be subject to constant care and far-reaching protection. So far unaudited comprehensively, after detailed studies appear to us in all its typological complexity and their
values in the comparative statement of historical deerparks all cultural periods, with special emphasis on English-style garden (landscape).