

SPECIAL DISPLAY

PRESENTATION OF A PAINTING
FROM THE LVIV HISTORICAL MUSEUM COLLECTION



The Tsars Shuysky at the Sejm of 1617

30 December 2021 – 30 October 2022





Stanisław Żółkiewski Presenting the Deposed Tsars Shuysky to King Sigismund III of Poland and Prince Ladislaus Sigismund at the Sejm of 1611

Oil on canvas

340 × 340 cm

Lviv Historical Museum

The painting underwent complex conservation treatment in the Paintings and Sculpture Conservation Studio at Wawel Royal Castle in 2011–2013.



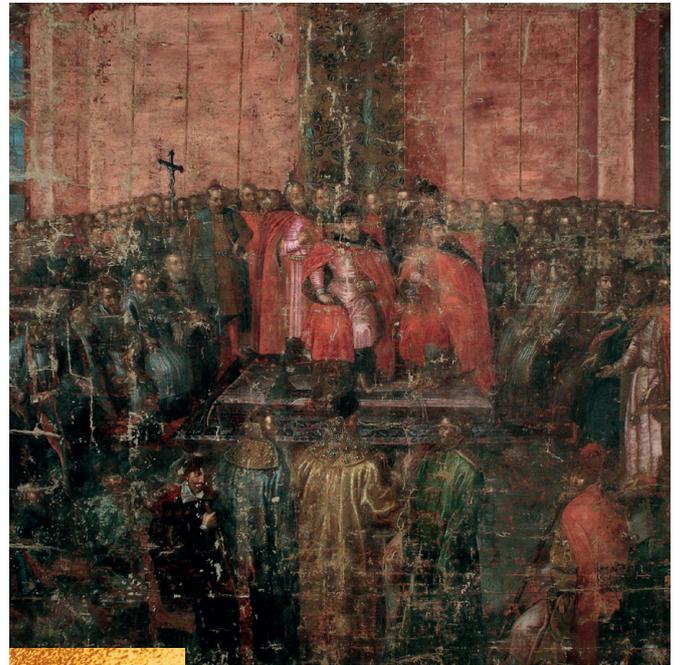
Condition prior to conservation and restoration:
J.K. Lorenowicz's 1872 repaints



Prior to conservation and restoration:
outline of the substrate paint layer under X-ray



During conservation and restoration:
stripping to uncover the original paint layer



During conservation and restoration: original layer
uncovered, putties matching the colour of mortar applied

On October 29th 1611, dethroned Muscovite Tsar Vasily IV Shuysky bowed to King Sigismund III in the Senatorial Chamber of the Royal Castle in Warsaw, during a formal session of the Polish Sejm. He was accompanied by his two brothers: Dmitry, senior in rank, and the younger Ivan. Taken prisoner in the wake of the defeat of the Muscovite army at the Battle of Klushino (July 4th 1610) and the surrender of Smolensk (June 13th 1611), the tsar and his brothers were transferred to Warsaw and brought before the

Polish monarch in a triumphal procession by victorious commander hetman Stanisław Żółkiewski. By paying homage to King Sigismund III, the Shuyskys acknowledged themselves as defeated.

This political event of major political significance which historiographers would eventually name the Tribute of the Tsars Shuysky (or, simply, the Shuysky Tribute), was duly depicted on canvas and in graphic representations. Dating back to the 17th century, the painting shown at the exhibition originates from

the Sanguszko residence in Podhorce, transferred there from Zaslav by Eustachy Sanguszko in 1872. It is hypothetically considered to be a copy of a work by court painter of the Vasas Tommaso Dolabella (1570–1650), intended for one of the ceilings at the Royal Castle in Warsaw where it remained until the early 18th century, when King Augustus II the Strong gifted it to Tsar Peter I of Russia. The piece was ostensibly copied by an artist associated with Tommaso Dolabella, the rendering quality in best-preserved sections differing from hand-painted works by the Venetian master. Its graphic version, a copperplate by Tomasz Makowski (b. 1562-

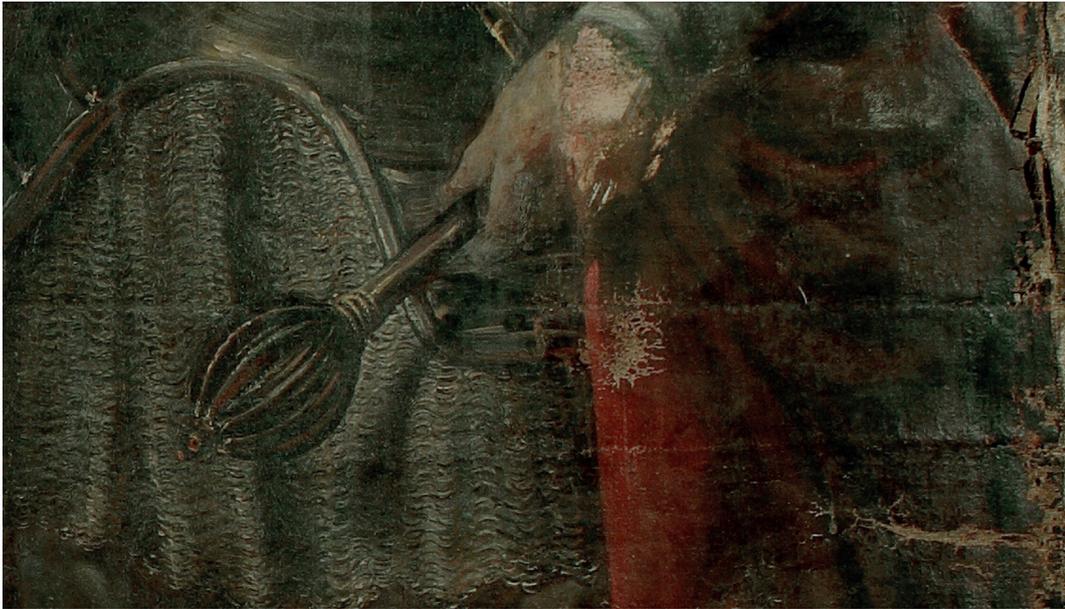
1575, d. 1630) featuring an identical compositional scheme, forms part of the collection of the National Library in Warsaw.

In the year 1872, the displayed painting was well-nigh entirely repainted during restoration works carried out by Jan Kanty Lorenowicz. Numerous elements of the original composition were modified as a result. Thorough conservation and restoration works carried out over the years 2011-2013 at one of the Wawel Royal Castle's conservation studios comprised the removal of nineteenth-century repaints. This allowed the seventeenth-century layer to be revealed, its original appearance reconstructed.

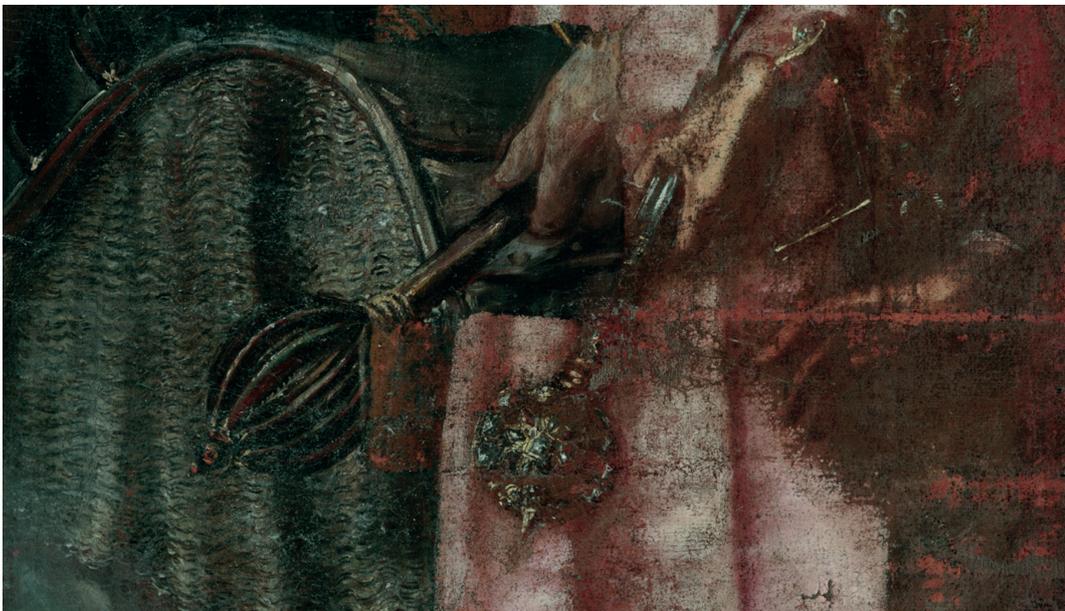


King Sigismund III [1] and Prince Ladislaus [2] have been portrayed enthroned beneath a canopy at the back of the hall, senators seated on either side of the throne. Tsar Vasily [3] and his two brothers [4] are facing away from the viewer in the foreground. Victorious commander hetman Stanisław Żółkiewski [5] is standing to the right, right arm outstretched in the *adlocutio* pose. The two seated marshals, staffs in hands, are Jan Swoszowski (?) [6] to the left and Zygmunt Gonzaga Myszkowski [7] to the right. The formal session of the Sejm was also attended by other notables: marshals Mikołaj Wolski and Krzysztof Wiesiołowski [8]; from the clergy, bishops Jan Zamoyski [11], Marcin Szyszkowski [9] and Piotr Tylicki [10]. While in all likelihood, the artist's intent was to portray the most significant individuals with relative accuracy, not all characters can be clearly identified.

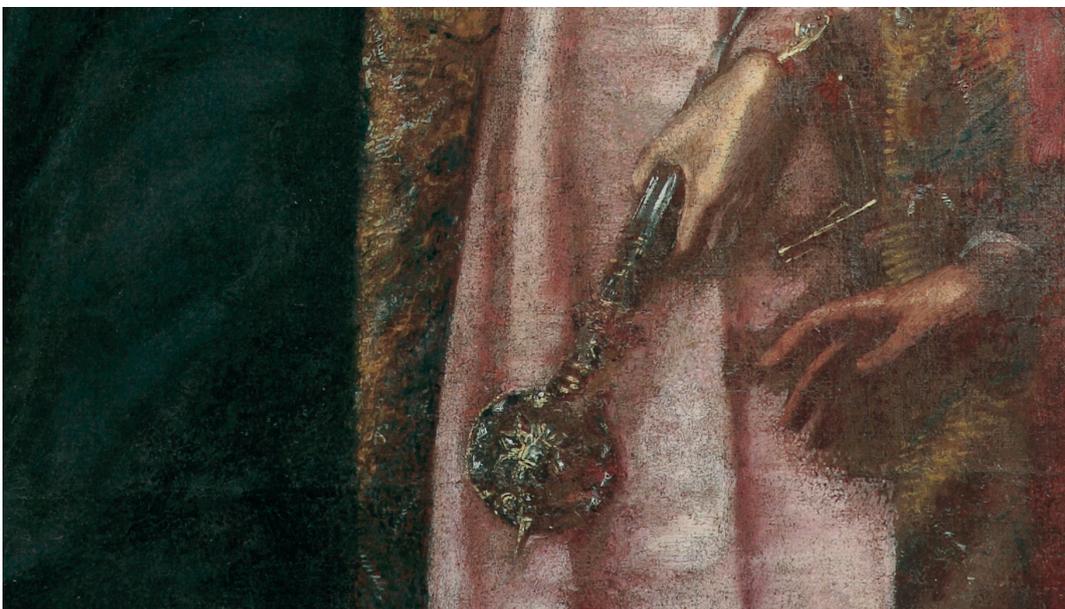
Detail of the composition: Żółkiewski's *bulava* (mace)



Prior to conservation and restoration



During conservation and restoration



After conservation and restoration

The Tsars Shuysky at the Sejm of 1611

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