



Nadleśnictwo Lubaczów



1. FORMER GREEK CATHOLIC PARISH CEMETERY IN BRUSNO STARE

The former Greek Catholic parish cemetery in Brusno Stare bears witness to the rich cultural heritage of this now non-existent village. It is also one of the most valuable open-air museums of sepulchral sculpture preserved within the Horyniec-Zdrój commune.

Brusno, later known as Stare (Old Brusno), was first mentioned in 1444. By the mid-16th century, it was known as a stonemasonry center. Initially, based on local limestone deposits, millstones and grinding stones were produced, and later crosses as well as votive and tomb sculptures. The peak development of this artisan community occurred at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. After World War II, following the resettlement of the Ukrainian population who had practiced the stonemasonry craft, sculptural production gradually declined.

The cemetery was established in the early 19th century next to the local church. Today, on an area of 0.26 hectares, around 350 monuments carved in local workshops have survived. The oldest gravestones take the form of crosses with broadened arms. They represent the dominant folk style of the Brusno center. From the second half of the 19th century onward, the most popular form became a more elaborate gravestone topped by a cross bearing a bas-relief of the Crucified Christ with two Marys at its base. Alongside these folk works, gravestones characteristic of more professional artistic craftsmanship gradually began to appear. An example includes crosses styled to resemble unstripped tree trunks. Grzegorz Kuźniewicz, a professional sculptor originating from Brusno Stare who worked there in the interwar period, had a significant influence on solidifying these trends.

Among the preserved monuments in the cemetery are monumental communal crosses from the mid-19th century, the tombstones of Greek Catholic priests, and the graves of local peasant families, many of whom were involved in sculpture: Artymowicz, Basznianin, Beń, Bumbar, Chmiel, Duś, Hrabcio, Hryciw, Kuźniewicz, Lubycki, Pidhorecki, Szewczyk, and Wieliczkowicz.

The cemetery is cared for by the Lubaczów Forestry Administration (Nadleśnictwo Lubaczów) and the Society of Friends of the Horyniec Land (Stowarzyszenie Przyjaciół Ziemi Horynieckiej). In cooperation with the Provincial Podkarpackie Monument Conservator, work is carried out to restore the gravestones.

(compiled by Janusz Mazur)



Cross from the finial of a tombstone, first third of a 20th century



Cross from the finial of a tombstone, early 20th century



Angel sculpture (stolen in 2008), work of G. Kuźniewicz ok. 1919 r.