

PAINTED AL FRESCO CABINET

Historical names:	Painted al Fresco Cabinet (17th century), Staircase (18th century), Second Staircase/Staircase to the Upper Floor (19th century), Staircase/painted al Fresco Cabinet (20th century).
Years of origin:	1670s
Architect:	Agostino Locci - 17th century, Johann Sigmund Dyebel - approx. 1730.
Artists:	Jerzy Eleuter Siemiginowski - fresco decoration of the walls and ceiling, second half of the 17th century, Martin Altomonte, Jerzy Eleuter Siemiginowski? - illusionistic architectural framing of windows and doors, second half of the 17th century.

Description:

The painted al Fresco Cabinet, as the only one room located in the corner extensions, was not covered with precious fabrics in the 17th century but had typical Italian al fresco decoration made by Jerzy Eleuter Siemiginowski and the same ceiling decoration, which did not preserve to this day. The wall paintings, discovered during the restoration conducted in 1955, imitate three tapestries with figural representations hanging in the corners, the stone framing of windows and doors, as well as the sculptural decoration.

The "tapestries" depict *Apollo and the Cumaean Sibyl*, *Apollo playing the flute*, *Apollo and shepherdess Issa*. Their content was based on the literary original of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. The history of Apollo is also referred to on the medallions crowning the illusionistic frames of the portals (*Marsyas challenging Apollo* and *the Flaying of Marsyas*), as well as in the attributes taking the form of musical instruments and solar symbols decorating the window splays and door jambs.

During the restoration carried out in the 20th century, the fireplace was reconstructed along with decorations depicting figures symbolising *Religious Zeal* and *Prudence* discovered above, as well as blue Baroque fabric painted on the plaster with gold crowns and Maria Kazimiera's coat of arms.

In the 17th and 19th centuries, the room housed a wooden staircase leading to the first floor. This project may have been developed by Maria Zofia Denhoff or Augustus II the Strong and its executor was Johann Sigmund Dyebel.

Selected literature:

Fijałkowski Wojciech, *Wnętrza pałacu w Wilanowie*, Warsaw 1986, pp. 40, 91, 94-95.

Karpowicz Mariusz, *Jerzy Eleuter Siemiginowski, malarz polskiego baroku*, Wrocław – Warsaw – Cracow – Gdańsk, 1974, pp. 87-98

Karpowicz Mariusz, *Sztuka Warszawy czasów Jana III*, Warsaw 1987, pp. 72-76, 84.

Rastawiecki Edward, *Słownik malarzów polskich*, vol. 1, p. 7.