



Kobierzyce

Cobilwitz (1257), Koberwitz (1333), Rösslingen (1937), Kobierowice, Kobierów (1946), Kobierzyce (1948)



Postcard sent in 1905

1. A monument to Kobierzyce inhabitants killed during the war of 1870 (no longer exists)
2. The palace rebuilt in the 19th century in the historicism style, now the seat of Kobierzyce Commune Council
3. The post office building (now a residential building, 16 Robotnicza Street)
4. The building of the railroad station; the railroad connection between Kobierzyce and Wrocław started in 1884
5. The v. R. Krusche store (now at 3 Robotnicza Street)





6. The palace, view from the park. Currently the Palace is the seat of Kobierzyce Commune Council

7. The shield of Kobierzyce Commune Coat of Arms is divided into three stripes: yellow, green and red, on which (from above) there are emblems: an eagle from Lower Silesia, the initials of the commune, the shape of which refers to the Knot of Bielany, and the Maltese Cross symbolizing the stay of the Order of St. John in Tyniec nad Ślęża

8. Interior of the palace, view of the main staircase with polychrome ceiling

9. In the park there is a large pond with a fountain, with ornamental huge red beech and willows growing there

10. Railroad station in Kobierzyce; on the 1st June 1884 a 20 km route from Wrocław to Kobierzyce via Bielany and Domasław was opened; a year later the line was extended to Strzeblów. In 2021 the line was revitalised so that after a break of almost 20 years passenger trains could once again run from Wrocław through Sobótka to Świdnica.

It is assumed that the name of the village originates from the name Kobier or from the word kobier, which means "rug, a hand-woven carpet". Originally the village was a princely property, later it belonged to Wrocław townsmen and noble families.

Kobierzyce is a large multistreet village (2061 inhabitants, as of 15.08.2021) which has been the seat of Kobierzyce Commune since 1975.

In the northern part of the village there is a palace-park complex. The palace was built in 1730 in baroque style by the then owners of the estate - the Königsdorff family. In the 19th century, on the initiative of Carl von Rath, a pioneer in the sugar industry (a commemorative plaque on the side wall of the building), the palace was given a more representative character. The building was rebuilt in Historicist style - Neo-Baroque and Neo-Renaissance; two side wings were created then, the former garden was changed into a landscape park with a large pond. The von Rath family company owned an estate of 460 hectares, and in Kobierzyce there was a sugar factory, a distillery and a molasses factory. The narrow-gauge railroad network connected as many as twenty farms.

In 1924, at the invitation of the owners of the palace, the Counts von Keyserlingk, Kobierzyce was visited by Rudolf Steiner, a philosopher and the founder of anthroposophy, who gave a series of lectures for the landowners during Whitsun entitled The Basics of Spiritual Knowledge for Success in Agriculture. Steiner's visit to Kobierzyce is regarded as the beginning of biodynamic agriculture in the world (a commemorative plaque is located at the side entrance to the palace).

The Kobierzyce Commune Office has been located in the palace since 1997; the former representative hall is used as a customer service office, the large dining room is a wedding room, and the representative room on the second floor, the so-called Blue Salon, is used for the Commune Council meetings.

In the village there is an elementary school, kindergarten and nursery, a post office, a health center, a community room, a library, sports and entertainment hall, a railroad station and bus station as well as sports stadium.

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Discovering the “biggest secret”, i.e., a visit of a philosopher

During the Whitsunday period in 1924, the philosopher, mystic, visionary and educational reformer Rudolf Steiner visited Kobierzyce at the invitation of the von Keyserlingk couple. A commemorative plaque referring to Steiner's visit is located on the front wall of the palace by the side entrance. Why was Steiner's visit to Kobierzyce important and has gone down in history?

Both Master Steiner and Johanna von Keyserlingk, who considered herself a disciple of the philosopher, were extraordinary individuals. Johanna discovered the ability of clairvoyance already as a child. She was more interested in esotericism and spiritual development than in the outside world, where her domineering father was co-owner of the huge sugar company “vom Rath, Schoeller & Skene”. In 1918, already a mature woman and married, the countess met Steiner in person, had a long conversation about her spiritual development and confided in him about her supernatural abilities. From this meeting she was completely influenced by anthroposophy (the spiritual school created by the philosopher), became a disciple of Steiner and followed his advice in life. At the philosopher's suggestion the von Keyserlingk couple moved to Kobierzyce and hosted the anthroposophist, who spent several days in the palace. During Pentecost Steiner gave a series of lectures entitled “The Basics of Spiritual Knowledge for Success in Agriculture”, which twice a day attracted a large crowd of farmers, local gentry, anthroposophist's sympathizers, and people looking for unusual experiences. The philosopher was surrounded by an atmosphere of the uncanny. Some of the guests travelled from Wroclaw to Kobierzyce on a special train. Special precautions were taken (Steiner had previously experienced an attack by right-wing militia) and the special guest had his own personal bodyguard. Count Carl von Keyserlingk himself, armed with a pistol, kept vigil outside Steiner's bedroom door at night.

The lectures at Kobierzyce were intended to convince farmers to cultivate their land without artificial fertilizers. Steiner revealed to his listeners the “greatest secret”, which is fertilizing the soil in accordance with nature, the configuration of the celestial bodies, and spiritual knowledge.

The philosopher's controversial arguments concerning, for example, methods of fertilizing soil (using a cow horn filled with cow feces and buried in the ground for some time so that the manure in the horn drew all the astral energy from its surroundings) still have fervent adherents today, especially in organic production, e.g. in grape growing, and the theory of the “cosmic” effect on the fertility of the soil is popular among allotment holders who sow, plant and harvest according to the biodynamic calendar based on the cycle of phases of the moon.

Thanks to countess Johanna von Keyserlingk (née Skene) and Rudolf Steiner's stay in Kobierzyce we know what the interiors of the Kobierzyce palace looked like in the 1920s. In her memoirs, the owner of the time tried to pass on to posterity everything she remembered from the stay of her master. Here is a fragment describing the hall and the main staircase:

“The house had about sixty rooms. A left and right wing adjoined the central section with a terrace over the driveway, allowing a garden at the back with beautifully flowering colored shrubs [...] from the cozy lobby one walked on black and white marble tiles and a winding staircase of dark beech upstairs, passing a huge moose that had been shot for me in Norway. Red velvet curtains framed a large stained glass window. An old Danzig clock and a carved model of a ship, hanging in the corner above a round table, made the room very cozy.”