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**Matejko at the 1875 Paris Salon:
*Christening of the Sigismund Bell***

“Biuletyn Historii Sztuki” 74, 2012, no 2, p. 267-296

Abstract

The article deals with a critical reception of one of the lesser known paintings by Jan Matejko (1838-93) displayed at the 1875 Paris Salon and titled *Baptême de la cloche Sigismond, à Cracovie, en 1521* (1874/75, National Museum in Warsaw). Matejko who already for his debut in 1865 was awarded a medal in Paris, after the 1867 Universal Exhibition while residing in Cracow displayed his oeuvre in the French capital for many years *hors concours*. The reception of the *Bell* at the 1875 Salon became a turning point in Matejko's Paris career: more appropriately said, a beginning to its end. The Author analyses whether this turn resulted from the transformation taking place in Matejko's art; from the transformed artistic realities; or possibly due to some other circumstances. He discusses various aspects of the Salon as well as the reviewers' opinions on Matejko and other participating artists.