

## Museum Division of the Sejm Library

### History

The concept of creating the Museum of the Polish Sejm first appeared in autumn 1979. In 1980, the Organization Committee, composed of historians, lawyers and museologists, was set up. In the five years that followed, four conferences were held on the history of the parliament's activity. The resolution adopted on 19 December 1984 by the Presidium of the Sejm established the Museum of the Polish Sejm, presided over by the Head of the Chancellery of the Sejm. At the beginning of January 1985, the first museum pieces intended for the permanent exhibition were collected and preservation work began. However, in 1989 the building that was supposed to host the museum was allocated to the Sejm's committees. In January 1991, instead of the Museum of the Polish Sejm, the Museum Division of the Sejm Library was established.

### Collection

Currently, the collection of the Museum Division contains nearly eight thousand artifacts, including: works of art (paintings, prints, drawings, graphics, sculptures, fabrics), documents (early printed books, incunables, manuscripts, new prints, posters, electoral flyers, maps, documents connected with the life of the society), as well as coins, badges, medals and militaria depicting the history of the Polish parliamentary tradition starting from the 15<sup>th</sup> century and a collection of photographs from the inter-war and the post-war periods. This collection inspires in-depth studies on the history of the Sejm and the reconstruction of the history of the parliamentary space and the political activity of the deputies.

### Tasks

- collect items related to the history of the Polish parliamentary system, protect them and make available for visitors and historians
- conduct research and promote knowledge about the Sejm's history,
- develop the collection for the future permanent exhibition, which will be opened to general public
- take care of the decorations in the offices of the members of the Presidium of the Sejm,
- produce [exhibitions commemorating historical anniversaries](#) (almost 40 own exhibitions since 1989),
- arrange space for temporary exhibitions (more than 400 exhibitions since 1989),
- develop the digital and interactive project of the [Virtual Museum of the Sejm](#), which illustrates the history of Polish parliamentarism since the 1<sup>st</sup> Republic of Poland; arranged chronologically, with descriptions,
- prepare iconographic materials for Twitter [“Dzieje Sejmu” \(The History of the Sejm\)](#) of the Chancellery of the Sejm