***Title: A WALK AROUND RYTRO WITH COUNT STADNICKI***

**Theme:** the Quest will take you from the centre of Rytro to castle ruins on a hill, mentioned in legends over the years. Count Adam Stadnicki – former lord of local estates – will be your guide.

**How to play and find the Quest Treasure:** this Quest is a game you can play any time. Follow rhyming clues carefully, and solve riddles for the final password taking you to the Treasure – a commemorative seal.

**Expedition start line:** the Quest begins in front of the *Villa Poprad* next to national road (DK) No. 87 in Rytro. GPS co-ordinates: 49.490736, 20.682075

**Walking time:** ca. 1 hour 30 min

I’m Adam Stadnicki. I will be your guide,

revealing the town’s secrets with evident pride.

I was born in the late 19th century,

The lord and master of vast properties.

Representing a family noble and great,

I’d like to invite you to drop by my estates

in Rytro, one of the places we owned.

Here’s hoping your visit won’t be postponed,

as the sights are amazing, and I love guests.

My times of surveying lands were the best,

unravelling the mountains’ and woods’ mysteries.

Let’s share a sliver of Rytro’s history.

I myself invested a lot in the town:

I built the local church, likewise handing down

some woodlands to the parish. A huge fan of wise

development, the sawmill I also modernised.

We are at *Villa Poprad*. The river nearby

is in Rytro something than can catch the eye

with a surprise: though in Slovakia its sources flow free,

unlike others, it does not end up in the Black Sea.

Take a look at the ***VILLA*** and its design, L-21, L-28

Woodcarvings undulating in majestic lines.

Look for sunburst-shaped window decorations.

How many are there? ***SIX***. Amazing creations. S-29

The villa replaced an inn and a shepherd’s hut,

local artists here all their stuff could strut,

Mordarski sisters singing and amusing guests –

golden nectar flowing, and dancing was best.

An old mill stood beyond the bus stop, to the right,

the Jawor family proud owners of the local site.

Let’s walk up the river – a house to your left

has a *“turret”* only, of embellishment bereft.

A great opportunity for a Polish word game:

Why is *“paperlówka”* that very building’s name?

It used to be a guesthouse with rich history,

guests received by the Paperles, a Jewish family.

The next stop is a road sign, and an intersection:

***ROZTOKA*** Ryterska – to the right. Worth your inspection O-17, T-7

is the bridge ahead, and the brook below:

Roztoczanka can flood, with rain and melting snow.

The building to your left, just beyond the bridge,

is different to others, slightly crooked its ridge

and its outer wall. To castle ruins an allusion,

it is of glass and stony splinters a fusion.

Another modern creation – slightly further down,

without going into details, it brings to mind a clown,

though meant to be a knight, all in shining armour,

a building guarding my forests with ardour.

Let’s go to the railway station, right across the street.

In Franz-Josef’s times trains from Lviv you’d meet.

A lumber warehouse to the left. In the olden days

my sawmill took in timber. Profit would be raised.

Look at the road sign board. Adventure lies ahead!

***PRZEHYBA*** can be reached with trails blue and red. H-8, B-25

Winter promises attractions – many will be pleased

that the green trail to ***MUSZYNA*** can be crossed on skis! N-19

You can reach ***WIELKI*** Rogacz, following the red trail, L-12, K-23

meaning: *Great Horned Being*. Yet today, without fail

to Sucha ***STRUGA*** take the bridge to the other side, G-20

Leave the main road to ***PIWNICZNA*-**Zdrój behind. W-10, I-22, C-15

Wondrous are the Castle Hill and Makowica’s woods!

The valley was formed by water, a thing one should

consider noteworthy. *“A mountain-toppling Knight”*

Marshal Piłsudski called Poprad. An amazing sight.

Turn left off the bridge, the yellow board check:

how long would be to Castle Kamenica a trek?

If you replied: ***SIXTY-THREE*** and a ***HALF*** I-5, H-16, E-24, L-1

kilometres – that’s right! The riddle you’ve gaffed!

At the next intersection: a chapel of wood,

holding Christ crucified. How long has it stood

in this gentle meadow? Close to the grassy floor

is the date: ***EIGHTEEN EIGHTY-***four. E-9, N-6, I-18

We will now turn right – a steep tarmac road

will take us to my former woodland abodes.

Look at the red board: the Poprad Landscape Park

**(*POPRADZKI PARK*** KRAJOBRAZOWY) – a nature landmark. O-2, K-4

The red trail will soon escape to the left.

Stay on the main road. Past the bridge – be deft:

straight ahead. When a post comes into sight

all in white and red, we shall stick to the right.

A stone signpost we’ll reach, as it goes to show,

reading: *ZAMEK* (for *Castle*) – to the ***LEFT*** we go, L-13, E-26

to arrive at its walls after a brief walk.

On we should go now, for a history talk

at the foot of the Castle. It’s been four centuries

since it’s fallen into ruin. The rest is history.

The ruins have survived, and are quite well-known.

Works were carried out – Castle relics now shown

to travellers. Lords resident of olden days

were called *Ritter* (*knights*, in German), earning no praise

for their station, as they were mostly thieves,

seeking to ambush merchants, and to retrieve

the goods they were carrying – either by road,

or by the River Poprad which easily here flowed.

Once they neared the Castle, *“knights”* would attack,

grabbing coffers with gold and merchandise in sacks.

Pass the gate and look at the portholes for guns.

How many in the courtyard? ***FIVE***. Got it? Well done. E-11

A fortified tower entrance looms to our right.

Up how many steps? ***TWENTY***. From walls – a great sight, E-14

so let’s scale them – with care – in order to see

villages and mountains and valleys and trees.

Compare the view with an image or a hiking map,

names of towns and summits no longer a trap.

Where do the *Roztokas* vanish in the vales?

The two Great Horned Beings? They are in folk tales

and on Mount Radziejowa. Where does Poprad meet

Dunajec in Stary Sącz? Where can we greet

a white and flimsy tower atop a local church?

Silver and gold used to be locally searched,

and kept at the castle. In the 14th century

Piotr Wydżga the castellan went down in history

for taking the treasure to Teutonic Knights,

counting on a reward. Yet he met his plight:

the Teutons stole his gold. Piotr was betrayed,

and died of grief. He’s still here, they say,

haunting the Castle. The Quest end lies ahead:

we’ll go back to the post, all in white and red.

To a small bridge we’ll take a new route down.

How many posts? ***FOUR***. You’ll need to look around O-3

for the road you know, once we’re past the bridge.

Signs on a tall prop will help you a smidge:

*BASIA* is the name of the local parking ***LOT***, L-27

just like the guesthouse – we’ll give it a shot.

Let’s take a left where rooms are for rent,

another wooden sign will soon itself present

at the gate. At the entrance I will bid you goodbye,

I’ve shown you my lands, with my promise complied.

You have earned your Treasure. Close by, it waits

For persistent Explorers. You are one, dear mate!

Now combine the letters – they will reveal

The case with its Treasure. It’s a done deal!

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