***Title: ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE (PRE)HISTORY OF MASZKOWICE***

**Theme:** the questing trail will take you across present-day Maszkowice as well as fascinating traces of the past – the story of Zyndram of Maszkowice, and vestiges of a prehistoric settlement nearly 4,000 years old.

**How to play and find the Quest Treasure:** this game is accessible 24/7. Read all clues carefully, solving riddles for the final password leading to the treasure – an expedition seal.

**Start line:** the walk begins near the local school, next to a bridge on the Leszcz Brook in the centre of Maszkowice. GPS co-ordinates: 49.552680, 20.465974

**Walking time:** ca. 45 minutes (and a walk back of ca. 20 minutes)

Dear Explorer, Maszkowice happily welcomes you –

and a treasure awaits, once you’ve followed through.

You’re about to encounter many curious places,

Not to mention vital events and their traces.

While Johannes Longinus wrote of the 13th century

as the village founding date – its inhabitants’ history

goes back to the Bronze Age. The many twists of fate

were recorded in school annals, both sorrowful and great.

Locals lived off the land, focusing on farming.

Hence perhaps their nickname, rather disarming:

It’s said they produced and ate fava beans –

They are the Broad Beaners. That’s what it means!

Your questing walk begins near a bridge on a brook

named Leszcz (pronounced *Leshch*). You don’t need a book

to pick out a linden tree; an information board

is close by, on the main street. Once all are aboard,

Walk towards the White Brook (*Biały Potok* in Polish),

stop across from the school, the building quite modish.

School staff are promoting regional knowledge.

They founded a Regional Chamber. It must be acknowledged

that it’s working well with its artefact collection,

everything available for online inspection,

though only in Polish… local youth are truly into folk!

The *“Young Maszkowians”* ensemble allows a deep soak

in White Highlanders’ culture. Now, back to the school:

Young Roma pupils are part of the pool,

Their settlement to be found on the village border.

They are members of the *Bergitka Roma* tribal order.

*Solnisko* (Salt Pan) is the name of the closest hill

across from the school, its name hinting at skills

of making salt through the vaporisation

of saline liquids flowing from local spring formations.

Back to the bridge. It’s time the road sign for Łąkta to find,

Which happens to be with ***RADOWA*** aligned. R-21, O-15, A-3

Walk straight ahead to discover historical places.

Your path will be marked with genuine traces

of old times. To your left, between trees on the road,

a World War II memorial rests. Let your pace be slowed

to ponder the fate of 14 murdered locals. A grateful nation

founded the stone through ***ZBOWiD*** – the Veterans’ Association. O-12, D-5

Two men named ***WOJCIECH*** and one ***JÓZEF*** are shown in archives C-20, F-11

as murdered by Nazis on January 17th 1945.

A nearby information panel – check out both its sides –

Tells an excavation story. Take prehistory in stride,

inspect the double-sided content, where the past is told.

Look at (in our part of Europe) the oldest stronghold.

Unmissable upon a hill, it’s perfectly outlined.

1300 is with ***YELLOW*** (colour) marked on the timeline. E-10, O-22

You’ll learn of local people, and their culture backdrop.

Hailing from the south, they dwelt in a fort on the top

of the hill. Walk on along Brook Leszcz, follow the path.

The stream floods in rainy seasons, quite the local bath.

You’ll pass a dam, or barrage, used when waters climb.

It dates back to the Emperor Francis Joseph’s time.

Crossroads await, reach them soon you will.

To the left and upwards leads a trail to ***ZYNDRAM’s*** hill. A-6

Walk on towards Śliwowiec, keeping to the right.

Another clue and riddle will soon come into sight.

Remember the next intersection, your steps to retrace.

Yet before that happens, there is one other place

you need to see. The hamlet Łąkta is now on your right,

Brook Leszcz flows through it, the current kept light

by another dam. Ahead lies a monument to gloomy history,

and effects of pestilence in the 19th century.

The memorial in question’s the ***CHOLERA*** burial ground, O-13, E-19

***FIFTY***-five people buried in the local mounds – F-16, T-2

check the last number on the board. Sadly, every village

used to have such pits, Europe by plagues pillaged.

Return to the intersection you had kept in mind.

Once you reach it, walk up. Leave the trees behind.

You’ll get to the hilltop by following your nose.

Zyndram’s castle stood here, as the legend goes.

Just a legend? Personal conclusions you’ll be able to draw

Once you explore the hill, find out all there is to know.

Mikołaj Zyndram, the Sun proudly featured in his crest,

Was a brave mediaeval knight, in skirmishes the best.

King Ladislaus Jogaila repaid him in a truly royal manner,

Zyndram having commanded the Cracovian Lands banner,

Or *chorągiew* in Polish, in the battle of Grunwald. Now pass

monuments, across the clearing, through birches and grass

to an archaeological site. Take a left at the bonfire pit.

Slightly down to the next clearing, preparing to commit

to a left turn once you enter. Along the edge of the woods

walk to Zyndram Hill’s top. Here’s where you should

really spend some time. Find the information board

to learn how archaeologists locally have scored.

Begin by examining the site’s chronology.

Early Iron Age was ***PHASE*** VII. Fascinating history. H-9, S-1

***LATENE*** Period was Phase VIII. Pavement made of ***STONE*** T-8, N-4, S-24, T-7

is duly referenced in the top description shown.

You are facing a wall section carrying bygone memory,

archaeologists trying to confirm the builders’ identity.

Zyndram’s hill was inhabited since 1750 B.C.

Hence the *“Stronghold”* reference, we can all agree.

Local discoveries have truly been spellbinding,

Schoolbooks already featuring all related findings.

The panoramic view will take your breath away,

Dunajec at the hill’s foot may make an angler’s day,

the river overlooked by the Radziejowa Range

of Sądecki Beskid mountains, their beauty unchanged

for centuries. Cebulówka (Onion Hill) is actually really close,

and worth a pleasant hike, as every local knows.

Go back to the clearing – and find a monument

which recalls Poland’s *“Baptism”*, and also presents

dates in the country’s history. Take a good long look.

How many sixes altogether? ***SEVEN*** – by the book! S-23

The obelisk and plaques were founded by local residents,

the Battle-citing bottom date? That’s right. ***TWO THOUSAND TEN***. T-14, H-18, T-17

The nearby Papal Cross, for worshippers a heaven,

Was transferred from the Łącko Church in 2011.

The faithful walk Stations of the Cross each year,

as confirmed by inscriptions which on plaques appear.

Look down now, let your gaze wander to the valley.

Your current altitude in metres? 440 is the tally.

The spot you’re at is actually a unique location –

August 15th annual picnics serve goals of integration.

Masses in the field are celebrated locally as well

for souls of countrymen who in freedom struggles fell.

Your walk, Explorer, is done – you’re a true Questing Boss.

The treasure waits in the [PASSWORD].

Nobody’s close to your knowledge of the area by a smidge.

Retrace your steps to go back to the linden and the bridge.

PASSWORD:

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