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ANDREAS SCHLÜTER AND OTTO VAN VEEN:
THE SOURCE, CONTEXT, AND ADAPTATION OF A
CLASSICIZING EMBLEM FOR THE TOMB
OF JAKUB SOBIESKI*

On 21 August 1692, Agostino Locci the Younger, chief architect responsible for building construction at the royal palace of Wilanów near Warsaw, wrote to his employer Polish King Jan III Sobieski. He informed the King about various activities there and mentioned designs for funerary monuments enclosed with his letter:

“I sent to your Royal Majesty projects for epitaphs, with three Fame figures, each with a different coat of arms that would better satisfy his Royal Majesty and which would you kindly condescend to choose. I could find no better and appropriate Virtues, not merely simple (ones), but ducal Virtues like Courage as Fortitude and Vigilance in times of war.”¹

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¹ Before World War II Locci's letters were housed in the Geheimes Staatsarchiv, Berlin (Rep. 141.D.7) but later lost. Fortunately, twenty-five letters dated between 1681-94 were transcribed and published beforehand. The letter cited includes the following excerpt: “...Posiłam WKMC Proiect Epitaphi, cum triplici Fama każda inaczej Herb representująca, który się spodoba lepiej to WKMC obrać raczysz. Virtutes ni mogłem lepszych, ex proprias, non Simpliciter Nulli ale Duci wynaleść iako Valorem iakoby Fortitudinem et Vigilantiam circa Bellicas Expedi... W.Wil. 21 Aug. 1692.” J. Starzyński, “Wilanów, dzieje budowy pałacu za Jana III,” in *Studia do dziejów sztuki w Polsce*, 5(1933), and (2nd ed.) with commentary by A. Miłobędzki, Warszawa 1975, pp. 7, 106-107 and 109. Many thanks to Dr. Jacek Tylicki of Toruń for editing my English translation of this text.