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ADVENTURES OF THE NOBLEMAN

Based on Jan Potocki's novel "The Saragossa Manuscript"

With English Sub-titles. Running time: 155 minutes

The legend says that "The Saragossa Manuscript", the most famous work of Jan Potocki (1761-1815), was written as a series of stories during the long illness of the author's wife, whom he tried to amuse first by reading her the "Tales of the Thousand and One Nights" and then by his own stories. "The Saragossa Manuscript" was written in French and published in France in 1813. The pattern of the narrative is very intricate being woven out of many threads, which are spun round the adventures of many threads, which are spun round the adventures of its many heroes; it is a masterpiece of composition. It is also one of the most interesting works created by the great men of the Age of Enlightenment in Europe.

Screenplay (based on Jan Potocki's novel of the same title) by Tadeusz Kwiatkowski. Directed by Wojciech J. Has. Photography: Mieczysław Jahoda. Set Decorations: Jerzy Skarżyński and Tadeusz Myszorek. Music by Krzysztof Penderecki.

Cast: Zbigniew Cybulski, Iga Cembrzyńska, Joanna Jędryka, Kazimierz Opaliński, Franciszek Pieczka, Barbara Krafft, Adam Pawlikowski, Beata Tyszkiewicz, Gustaw Holoubek, Elżbieta Czyżewska, Bogumił Kobiela, Pola Raksa, Aleksander Fogiel, Zdzisław Maklakiewicz, and many other well-known artists.

Produced by „Kamera” Film Unit, 1964. Black & white, wide — screen. 4960 m. Original title: RĘKOPIS ZNALEZIONY W SARAGOSSIE



SYNOPSIS

Alfons van Worden, a young Captain of the Wallonian Guards of the King of Spain, travels to Madrid over the rugged mountains of the Sierra Morena. While staying for the night in a deserted inn he encounters two Moorish princesses, who confide a great secret to him: as the descendant of the powerful Moorish family of Gomeloz he has been entrusted with several important missions but he must first be tested to prove his courage, honesty and honour. Thus van Worden is by chance involved in many terrifying experiences, pursued by hanged men and people possessed by devils or threatened by Inquisitors and demons. He eventually finds himself in the castle of a mysterious magician where he stays for many days listening to the fascinating stories told by the old man. Each story seems to have some hidden meaning, as the magician strives to win van Worden's soul from Velasquez, a mathematician, scholar and rationalist.

In the „Madrid Stories”, which form the second part of the film, we make the acquaintance of many characters, and follow them at a breathtaking pace in thrilling adventures and amusing experiences. The exciting and mysterious story of van Worden's adventures leads to a very simple and obvious conclusion, which nevertheless takes the spectator unawares.

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