**Muzeum Narodowe we Wrocławiu/  
National Museum in Wrocław**

**The Środa Treasure. Legends and Myths  
October 1 – December 29, 2024**

Curator of the exhibition: Jacek Witecki

**The Środa Treasure, found by accident in 1988 in the town of Środa Śląska during building works, has remained one of the most unusual doscoveries of the 20th cent. The legends and myths surrounding this find are the theme of this year's presentation of the Środa Treasure at the National Museum in Wrocław.**

This collection of unique medieval royal and imperial gems, most likely originated from the treasury of the Czech king Charles IV and served as collateral for a loan, was hidden around the mid-14th-cent. and remained a secret for the next 600 years.

“The unusual circumstances surrounding its discovery, as well as its enormous value, meant that it caused a public sensation, producing widespread discussions, enquiries and speculation” – explains Jacek Witecki, curator of the exhibition. “The research centred on the Środa Treasure has been accompanied for many years by new theories, legends and a particular »mythology«, which in itself is a fascinating subject in the area of culture and history. This in fact is the letmotif of the current exhibition, showcasing not only the actual artefacts – including the royal wedding crown – but also documents, press clippings, reports and photographs.”

To quote Piotr Oszczanowski, Director of the National Museum in Wrocław: “This mysterious and most unusual collection of gems and goldsmithery could easily become the pride and joy of any important museum around the world, a priceless artefact linked to great historic figures, which probably embelished the most beautiful women of the Middle Ages, is mesmerising and simply... spectacular. The Środa Treasure means all this, and in line with the tradition of many years, it is now returning to the National Museum in Wrocław, enabling us to enjoy its beauty right to the end of this calendar year.”