Founded in 1364 by King Casimir the Great, the Jagiellonian University is the oldest Polish institution of higher education. Highly esteemed and respected, the University is a symbol of Polish nation and academia, an institution whose history has been inextricably bound with the history of Kraków and Poland for more than 650 years. The Jagiellonian University's founders and benefactors: St. Stanislaus, House of Anjou, King Casimir the Great, and Pope Urban V as well as coats of arms of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The decorations and furnishings of the interior are the works of Tadeusz Stryjeński, an esteemed late-19th century architect divided by a monumental staircase with a diamond vault ceiling. The richly ornamented double-door leading to its rooms is framed by stone doorways.

Assembly Hall
Assembly Hall– the largest and most impressive room of Collegium Novum located on the first floor of the building. A richly decorated with tapestries, paintings depicting rectors and professors of the University as well as a portrait of Pope John Paul II, a self-portrait of the painter Jan Matejko and the most famous and precious of the paintings in the Hall – Conversations with God by Jan Matejko. Another painting on the wall of the University is the Country is in 15th and 16th century hang on the wall opposite to the dais. The colourful walls of the Hall were painted by the artist Józef Kott. The room is crowned with a uniquely beautiful coffered ceiling with coats of arms of the Universityitters and a white eagle with 3 stadion wings. As a testament to the long-lasting role played by the University in the fields of science, culture, and education, the interior of the Assembly Hall reflects the influence of the University on the Country in the 15th and 16th century. The richly ornamented double-door leading to its rooms is framed by stone doorways.

Sonderaktion Krakau
Remembrance Day.
At the Jagiellonian University, the colored paintings in the Hall – Conversations with God by Jan Matejko. Another painting on the wall of the University is the Country is in 15th and 16th century hang on the wall opposite to the dais. The colourful walls of the Hall were painted by the artist Józef Kott. The room is crowned with a uniquely beautiful coffered ceiling with coats of arms of the Universityitters and a white eagle with 3 stadion wings. As a testament to the long-lasting role played by the University in the fields of science, culture, and education, the interior of the Assembly Hall reflects the influence of the University on the Country in the 15th and 16th century.
Commemorative plaques

Important events and historical figures related to the Jagiellonian University are commemorated by plaques embedded in the walls. There are several dozen such tablets placed throughout Collegium Novum. The most notable are:

Ground floor – front wall, next to the main entrance:
A plaque commemorating the University's founders: King Casimir the Great, Queen Jadwiga d'Anjou, and King Vladislaus Jagiello.

First floor landing:
A bronze plaque commemorating the laying of the cornerstone of Collegium Novum by Józef Sebastian Pelczar, Jagiellonian University Rector, on 23rd May 1883.
A bronze plaque commemorating the victims of Stalinism – the University's students, alumni, and staff killed or gone missing in the years 1939–1945.

Second floor landing:
A marble plaque commemorating the Jan Kazimierz University of Lviv professors and alumni killed by Nazi Germans.

Assembly Hall vestibule:
A bronze plaque commemorating the Jagiellonian University and Academy of Mining professors and teaching assistants arrested on 6 November 1939 during Sonderaktion Krakau.

Sculptures

Exhibits from the collection of the Archaeological Museum, formerly located on the ground floor of Collegium Novum, are now displayed in the 'rectors’ hallway' on the first floor. Among the 19th–century masterpieces are Leda and the Swan sculpted in marble as well as plaster casts gifted by Karol Lanckoroński: Laocoön and His Sons, head of Zeus (based on Fidias’ statue), and the goddess Aphrodite.

Oak of Liberty

The Oak of Liberty is located at the centre of a circular lawn in front of Collegium Novum. It was planted to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of 3rd May 1791. During World War II, the Nazi German invaders cut down the tree, and another one was eventually replanted in its place as a symbol of the rebirth of independent Poland in 1918 and the permanence of University values. In more recent times, the Oak gained an additional meaning: earth from places where Polish students and academics of the Second Polish Republic died tragically in the course of World War II, gathered in the years 1999–2004, was placed next to the tree.