

The bronze sculpture of a sleeping lion was based on the original design by Theodor Kalide. It was installed in the 1950s, at the northern entrance to the Warsaw Zoo.

The sculpture's history is quite complicated and connected to the city of Bytom. In 2007, Bytom historians initiated efforts to get the sculpture back from the Warsaw ZOO, as they believed it came from Bytom. Due to the Kalide's sculptures great popularity (a sleeping lion and a waking lion, casts of which can be found in many German and Czech towns), it was not possible to determine whether the lion in Warsaw is the lion from Bytom.

Pursuant to an agreement between the cities, the Warsaw lion was deposited in Bytom in 2008, while a copy of the sculpture funded by one of the banks was placed in the Warsaw ZOO, near the lion enclosure.