

The Chivalry of *Ziemia Sąddecka* in the Middle Ages

S U M M A R Y

A subject of this dissertation is the chivalry who possessed the estates in the region of Sącz in the Middle Ages. The area covered by the research is *ziemia sądecka* (*Sądeczyzna*) in the mediaeval meaning of the term. This name was formerly used to refer to the territory of the consecutive administrative and judicial units with the capital in Sącz (castellany, principality, judicial district), in the beginning covering *Sąddecka* Valley and nearby surroundings, later, with the progress of colonization, a more extensive area reaching approximately: *Biała* river in the east, *Nowotarska* Valley and the *Gorce* Mountains in the west, and *Beskid* peaks forming also the state border in the south and hills between *Tropie* and *Czchów* in the north.

The period covered by this study ranges from the 13th century to the 15th century. In the first half of the 13th century we can notice first knightly estates in *ziemia sądecka* (relating to the earlier centuries, due to lack of sources, we can only make some hypotheses), while the second half of the 15th century was the time of a definitive end of mediaeval chivalry in Poland.

The aim of this study was to gain deeper knowledge of mediaeval chivalry of *ziemia sądecka*, covering such issues as its genesis, genealogy of local noble families, their financial status, participation in the colonization, foundations and public activity, including – especially – assumption of offices. The results of the research have been presented in monographic chapters dedicated to all noted families, preceded by one separate chapter discussing the earliest knights of *Sądeczyzna*.

For most of the 13th century we have information about only few magnates who had lands in *ziemia sądecka*, while at the end of this century a number of knights possessing estates here and appearing in sources began to increase significantly. This fact is related to the events which took place at that time, i.e. the arrival of princesses Kinga and Gryfina to Sącz and establishing a centre of authority in this town. Both members of local elite and some princesses' courtiers from Krakow came to their new court.

In the fourteenth-century documents we can read about resident knights in *Sądecczyzna* much more frequently, particularly of the last years of the 14th century when the oldest preserved land court records were dated. So in the 14th and the 15th centuries we note the members of noble families of nearly thirty various coats of arms as landowners in the territory covered by the study.

First, we note in *ziemia sądecka* the families of *Gryf*, *Janina*, *Jastrzębiec* and *Topór*; who were undoubtedly in this area in the 13th century. Later, in the first half of the 14th century the families of *Starykoń* and *Drużyna* appear as the possessors of the lands in *Sądecczyzna*; while in the second half of this century – the families of *Niesobia*, *Odrowąż*, *Ogniwo Lubowla*, *Półkozic*, *Strzemię Zaroże*, *Strzemię Ławszowa*, *Szreniawa*, *Świnka* and *Turzyna*; one member of *Dębno* clan; in the first half of the 15th century – the families of *Czarny Jeleń*, *Ostoja*, *Ośmioróg*, *Sulima*; and also, as the owners of smaller estates – the families of *Trąby*, *Radwan*, *Grzymała*, *Wężyk* and *Warnia*; and in the second half of this century – the families of *Korczak*, *Leliwa* and *Bogoria*.

Furthermore, aside from the above-mentioned chivalric clans possessing hereditary estates (held on the basis of *ius militare*) in *Sądecczyzna*, also the *Ratołd* family, longtime tenants of the Nowy Targ county in the 15th century, have been presented.

We notice as well numerous representatives of rather unwealthy chivalry, possessors of small properties in mediaeval *ziemia sądecka*, whose ancestral affiliation is unknown. They have been included in the study too, with the intention of noting all noble landowners in *Sądecczyzna* and getting the most comprehensive picture of mediaeval chivalry in this region.