

Reviews

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Sources Published by the Society of the Lovers of Cracow's History and Relics of the Past:

Księga przyjęć do prawa miejskiego w Krakowie 1507–1611. Libri iuris civilis Cracoviensis 1507–1611, ed. Aniela Kiełbicka, Zbigniew Wojaś, Wydawnictwo Towarzystwa Miłośników Historii i Zabytków Krakowa, "Fontes Cracovienses" 1–2, Kraków 1993–1994; *Księga wójtowska krakowska 1442–1443. Registrum domini advocati Cracoviensis 1442–1443*, ed. Mieczysław Niwiński, Krystyna Jelonek-Litewka, Aleksander Litewka, "Fontes Cracovienses" 3, Kraków 1995; *Księga ławnicza kazimierska 1407–1427. Acta scabinalia Casimiriensa 1407–1427*, ed. Bożena Wyrozumska, "Fontes Cracovienses" 4, Kraków 1996; *Księga wiertelnicza krakowska 1568–1606. Quartaliensium recognitiones et divisiones 1569–1606*, ed. Krystyna Jelonek-Litewka, Aleksander Litewka, Łukasz Walczyk, "Fontes Cracovienses" 5–8, Kraków 1997–2000; *Księga proskrypcji i skarg miasta Krakowa 1360–1422. Liber proscriptio-num et querelarum civitatis Cracoviensis 1360–1422*, ed. Bożena Wyrozumska, "Fontes Cracovienses" 9, Kraków 2001; *Dochody i wydatki konwentu braci eremitów św. Augustyna przy kościele św. Katarzyny w Kazimierzu*, t. 1: 1502–1505. *Precepta et distributa conventus fratrum eremitarum s. Augustini ad s. Catharinam in Casimiria*, vol. 1: 1502–1505, ed. Krystyna Jelonek-Litewka, Waclaw Kolak, Czesława Pirożyńska, Zbigniew Wojaś, "Fontes Cracovienses" 10/1, Kraków 2002.

In the 1990s, in addition to the "Rocznik Krakowski" (Cracow Yearbook) and "Biblioteka Krakowska" (Cracow Library), a new series of source publications, "Fontes Cracovienses", began to be published by the Society of the Lovers of Cracow's History and Relics of the Past. Every year readers can get a new volume of this excellently edited publication. The new series presents materials concerning the history of the Cracow agglomeration from the 14th to the 17th century (inclusive). This is a continuation of the pre-war editions of sources, which had been proposed for years but could not materialise for various reasons. The publication is very large in scope and includes also sources of Church provenance.

The series "Fontes Cracovienses" opens with a two-volume edition of *Libri iuris civilis Cracoviensis 1507–1572* and *1573–1611* edited by Aniela Kiełbicka and Zbigniew Wojaś. This is a continuation of Kazimierz Kaczmarczyk's 1913 publication which covered the Middle Ages¹. The publication was of such great value for researchers that no sooner had the oldest books with lists of

¹ *Księgi przyjęć do prawa miejskiego w Krakowie 1392–1506 (Books of Persons Granted Civic Rights in Cracow in 1392–1506)*, ed. K. Kaczmarczyk, Wydawnictwa Archiwum Akt Dawnych Miasta Krakowa, vol. V, Kraków 1913.

persons granted civic rights appeared than the idea sprang up to bring out successive books. However, it was only at the end of World War II that steps were taken to implement the plan. Contrary to expectations, the new post-war reality was not conducive to the idea. The work slowed down and was finally suspended. It was resumed more than thirty years later, which meant that in practice it was begun nearly from scratch.

The publication was prepared in a well thought-out, economical way. In both volumes the sources are preceded by an extensive editorial and historical introduction by A. Kielbicka. In the introduction to the first volume Kielbicka, in addition to a general characterisation of the source, a description of the manuscripts on which the edition is based, and a detailed explanation of the principles governing the edition, also discusses the way in which civic rights were acquired. She presents briefly who and in what circumstances applied for admission into the community of Cracow citizens as well as the policy pursued by the town towards the foreigners whom it wanted to win over and induce to settle in Cracow. In the introduction to the second volume she depicts the changes which took place at the turn of the 16th century in the acquirement of civic rights in Cracow.

It required a great deal of work to render the specific linguistic properties of the text. The orthography and punctuation have been faithfully preserved, mistakes in spelling have been transliterated and corrected in footnotes. The identification of places and explanation of terminology have been placed in the indexes. This has made the text more lucid and more readable. In addition to the index of persons and geographical names and the index of subjects, the edition also comprises a list of abbreviations used in the text and a list of dictionaries which were used to identify place names.

Volume 3 presents the oldest *Registrum domini advocati Cracoviensis* from the years 1442–1443. This is yet another item which remained in a state of limbo for a long time despite many years of endeavours. In 1932–1933 Mieczysław Niziński made a copy of the book. He did not intend to publish it but wanted to deposit it in Cracow's Archives of Historical Records, where it was to replace the original which at that time was kept at the Baworowski Library in Lwów. Soon afterwards a proposal was put forward to make the book accessible to a wider group of researchers. But unfortunately the plan was foiled first by a lack of funds and then by the outbreak of World War II. After the war the Archives of Historical Records, despite its promises, did not manage to resume its publishing activity, and Cracow's oldest *Registrum domini advocati* did not appear until 50 years after Niziński's death (he died in 1942). The text was prepared for print by Krystyna Jelonek-Litewka and Aleksander Litewka. They collated Niziński's copy with the original, made the necessary corrections and edited the volume. They preserved the internal structure of the book which is divided into five parts according to the cases dealt with. Only the first part does not have a separate title and the notes are placed according to the streets in which the defendants lived. The other parts are: *Vulnerati*, *Resignationes*, *Arestaciones*, *Recognitiones et iuramenta magni iudicii*. It is a pity that the editors have left out this division in the contents.

The book registers cases of lesser importance which were in the competence of the councillors and the chief officer (*scultetus*) or the chief officer alone, and uncontroversial matters dealt with in the chief officer's office. Predominant among the litigious cases were minor offences, such as slander, defamation, invectives, theft and beating, and rarely also bodily injury. The statements made in the chief officer's office concerned mainly two questions: debts and payment obligations. The chief officer's book supplies a great deal of valuable information for research into the organisation and functioning of the town's self-government, in particular as regards the administration of justice; it also provides interesting information on the daily life of Cracow inhabitants. Many historians have availed themselves of the book in the past, among them M. Niwiński, M. Friedberg, B.

Wyrozumska and H. Zaremska². Now that it has been published, it has the chance of being studied by linguists and onomastic experts. The publication certainly does credit to the editors, who have tried to render the text as faithfully as possible, together with its grammatical and orthographic peculiarities. They have rightly confined themselves to making changes and using the "sic" sign only when this was absolutely indispensable. This has made the text easier to read.

The edition is equipped with a concise but exhaustive introduction by Krystyna Jelonek-Litewka, in which she presents the obscure history of the manuscript before it reached Cracow's Archives of Historical Records; she also describes the book, its contents and the way in which the entries were made. The second part of the introduction explains in detail the editorial principles applied by the editors. It should be stressed that from the very beginning "Fontes Cracovienses" has always exhaustively informed readers of the editorial principles applied in each book. The publication is equipped with two indexes: an index of persons and geographical names and an index of subjects, as well as a list of abbreviations and symbols used in the text.

Volume 4 of "Fontes" presents Bożena Wyrozumska's edition of *Acta scabinalia Casimiriensia* from the years 1407–1427. This is the first edition of medieval municipal sources since A. Chmiel published the oldest councillors' book of that town in 1932³. Only three 15th century councillors' books of Kazimierz have survived till our times, those from 1407–1427, 1461–1484 and 1485–1508. The present publication offers readers the oldest of these books, the one covering the years 1407–1427. It contains incontestable cases dealt with by the court and the councillors' office. It also contains a few criminal cases for murder, injury and theft. An important part of the book consists of registers of last wills and inventories.

The commentary in the preface is an excellent introduction to the Kazimierz councillors' book. Wyrozumska briefly presents in it the foundation of the town of Kazimierz near Cracow. Next she characterises the town's medieval acts and describes in detail the manuscript on which the edition is based, both its outward appearance and its contents. She emphasises that the source is most useful for research into the medieval history of both Kazimierz and Cracow. The publication has three indexes: an index of place names, an index of persons, and an index of subjects, as well as a list of abbreviations.

The next four volumes (vols. 5–8) present the oldest book of Cracow's quarters (districts) from the years 1568–1606. The edition is the work of Łukasz Walczy who made a copy of the original, as well as of Krystyna Jelonek-Litewka and Aleksander Litewka who have edited the text. Czesława Pirożyńska has edited the text from the scientific point of view, and the index and the map are the work of Kamil Follprecht and Waldemar Komorowski.

The book is a source which has not yet been fully appreciated and studied by researchers. To many persons its title is still a puzzle for it does not tell them what the book really contains. The name has been borrowed from the German noun *Viertel*, a town district. Cracow was divided into the castle, potters', Sławków and butchers' quarters. That was the area in which the district masters, or expert surveyors and building specialists, to use present-day terminology, carried out

² M. N i w i ń s k i, *Wójtostwo krakowskie w wiekach średnich (The Office of Cracow's Scultetus in the Middle Ages)*, Kraków 1938; M. F r i e d b e r g, *Kancelaria miasta Krakowa do połowy XVIII wieku (The Chancellery of the City of Cracow up to the Middle of the 18th Century)*, "Acheion", vol. 24: 1955, pp. 277–304; B. W y r o z u m s k a, *Kancelaria miasta Krakowa w średniowieczu (The Chancellery of the City of Cracow in the Middle Ages)*, Kraków 1995; H. Z a r e m s k a, *Krakowska księga wójtowska z roku 1442. Bójki i obelgi (Cracow's Scultetus' Book from 1442. Scuffles and Insults)*, in: *Cracovia Polonia Europa. Studia z dziejów średniowiecza ofiarowane Jerzemu Wyrozumskiemu w sześćdziesiątą piątą rocznicę urodzin i czterdziestolecie pracy naukowej*, Kraków 1995, pp. 93–100.

³ *Święci radzieckie kazimierskie 1369–1381, 1385–1402 (Kazimierz Councillors' Books 1369–1381, 1385–1402)*, ed. A. C h m i e l, Kraków 1932.

their work. They were instructed by the municipal council to survey building work in the town. They divided properties, assessed their value and carried out inspections. At first they wrote reports on their work in the councillors' book. A separate book began to be used in 1568.

The quarter masters' book is an invaluable source for research on the topography of the town and its social structure. It also supplies a great deal of interesting information on the inhabitants' daily life, in particular on their housing conditions. The quarter masters' meticulous description of buildings makes the book a first-rate source for conservators. The pages of the book portray a grim picture of 16th century Cracow, full of ruined houses, dilapidated walls, decaying roofs, rotten staircases and porches, and blocked wells, but when reading these notes one should remember that they show only a part of the truth about Cracow in those days.

Each volume is equipped with a short editorial preface written by Krystyna Jelonek-Litewka. The value of the publication is enhanced by the indexes: the index of persons and place names, the index of subjects, and the list of places mentioned in the notes.

Volume 9 is *Liber proscriptionum et querelarum civitatis Cracoviensis 1360-1422*. A part of the book was published by Franciszek Piekosiński in 1878 but that edition included notes only up to 1400 and there were many omissions and errors in it⁴. What is more, single leaves which either made part of the book or were connected with it thematically have been found in the long time which has elapsed since the publication of Piekosiński's edition. This is what has made the full edition of the book of proscriptions necessary and justifiable. This difficult task was undertaken by Bożena Wyrózumska.

The book of proscriptions is the only book concerning criminal matters in the legacy of Cracow's municipal chancellery. It documents only the last stage of trials in which the verdict deprived the accused of civic rights and sentenced them to exile. Notes about corporal punishment, such as the cutting off of the hand or flogging, are rare. The source is not uniform in content. In addition to proscriptions, the book also contains information on the town's disputes with the governor, the chief officer, noblemen as well as the complaint lodged by the townsmen with the king in 1369. Piekosiński called all these notes *gravamina* (charges). But the noun *querelae*, i.e. complaints, proposed by Wyrózumska in the present edition, renders the sense better.

The scientific value of this source is well known to researchers. It has been best used by H. Zaremska in her study on the outlaws in medieval Europe⁵. Thanks to the present edition this valuable source has a chance of reaching a wider circle of readers. Its text has been worked out in accordance with the editorial instructions recommended by the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1925. The book is divided into three distinct thematic parts (*proscriptiones, querelae, varia*). The part presenting the source is preceded by a preface in which Wyrózumska describes and characterises the manuscript and presents her editorial remarks. The text of the source is equipped with scanty notes. Local names and also persons have been identified, as far as this was possible, in the indexes. The value of the publication is enriched by reproductions of some pages of the manuscript. The annex contains the oldest Polish register of outlaws in the Nysa province (*Tabela proscriptorum provincie Nizensis*) from the 1280s.

Volume 10, the last one so far, presents the first of the two planned parts of the *Book of the Earnings and Expenses of the Augustinians' Convent at the Church of St. Catherine in Kazimierz in 1502-1505*. Apart from over a dozen documents

⁴ *Najstarsze księgi i rachunki miasta Krakowa od r. 1300 do 1400 (The Oldest Books and Accounts of the City of Cracow from 1300 to 1400)*, ed. F. Piekosiński and J. Szujski, Kraków 1878.

⁵ H. Zaremska, *Banici w średniowiecznej Europie (The Outlaws in Medieval Europe)*, Warszawa 1993.

which were included in diplomatic codes⁶ and in the source extracts published by W. Kolak⁷, this is the first publication of source materials connected with the history of the Augustinians' convent in Kazimierz. It required hard, laborious work by a numerous editorial team. The part concerning earnings has been copied by Waclaw Kolak, the part dealing with expenses by Zbigniew Wojaś. The copies have been compared with the original and edited by Krystyna Jelonek-Litewka and Czesława Pirożyńska.

The book of the convent's earnings and expenses in 1502–1508 is the oldest of the Augustinian convent's many account books now kept in the State Archives in Cracow. The convent was ordered to record its earnings and expenses by the provincial of the Order, Augustus of Regensburg, who visited the convent in 1502. He saw to it that a separate book be set up and put down his instructions on the first page. The convent scribe felt duty bound to enter all, even the smallest sums paid to the convent or spent by it. The notes are a fantastic historical source providing a wealth of information on the economic foundations of the Augustinian monastery and the monks' daily life. They acquaint readers with the convent's powerful protectors and benefactors and supply valuable information on the local cults of Our Lady of Consolation, St. John the Almoner, St. Catherine and other saints.

The language of the source may cause some difficulties, for although it is simple and not very rich, it is not free of grave errors and orthographic mistakes. The editors have spotted out and explained the most serious errors, making the book much easier to read.

The editors have followed A. Wolff's editing instructions⁸, with but a few modifications. All departures from Wolff's method have been scrupulously explained in the introduction. In addition to editorial remarks, the introduction also briefly depicts the history of the Augustinian order in Poland, the history of their monastery at St. Catherine's church in Kazimierz, the fate and contents of the order's archives and a description of the manuscript on which the edition is based. The volume also contains a photocopy of one page of the manuscript. Unfortunately, the volume has no indexes, but the editors have promised to include them jointly in the second volume.

Each item of the "Fontes Cracovienses" series presents a valuable and most interesting research material edited with great precision. Equally well edited is the new series of source publications entitled "Cracovienses Fontes Minores". The first volume contains notes from medieval municipal books about Armenians in medieval Cracow, edited by Bożena Wyrzomska⁹. In anticipation of the next volumes of sources referring to Cracow's history, I would like to wish the publishers, the Society of the Lovers of Cracow's History and Relics of the Past, further equally successful initiatives.

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⁶ *Kodeks dyplomatyczny Małopolski (Diplomatic Code of Little Poland)*, ed. F. Piekosiński, Kraków 1876–1905, vol. 1, № 271, vol. 4, № 1052, 1190, 1443, 1518; *Kodeks dyplomatyczny katedry krakowskiej (Diplomatic Code of Cracow's Cathedral)*, ed. F. Piekosiński, Kraków 1889, vol. 2, № 613; *Zbiór dokumentów katedry i diecezji krakowskiej (Collected Documents of the Cathedral and Diocese of Cracow)*, ed. S. Kuraś, Lublin 1973, vol. 2, № 242, 519, 537, 550.

⁷ *Dary królewskie dla kościoła i klasztoru Augustianów w Krakowie (Royal Gifts for the Augustinians' Church and Convent in Cracow)*, ed. W. Kolak, "Krakowski Rocznik Archiwalny", vol. 7: 2001, pp. 133–143.

⁸ A. Wolff, *Projekt instrukcji wydawniczej dla pisanych źródeł historycznych do połowy XVI wieku (Proposal for Editing Handwritten Sources up to the Middle of the 16th Century)*, "Studia Źródłoznawcze", vol 1: 1957, pp. 155–184.

⁹ *Ormianie w średniowiecznym Krakowie. Wypisy źródłowe (Armenians in Medieval Cracow. Extracts from Sources)*, ed. Bożena Wyrzomska, "Cracovienses Fontes Minores", vol. 1, Kraków 2003.