

Summary of Professional Accomplishments

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Rafał Kubicki

2. Education

2000 M.A. History (University of Gdansk)

2000 M.A. Theology (The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin)

2004 Ph. D. History (University of Gdansk) PhD topic: *The Dominicans in Prussian contrata 13-half 16 century*, Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Wiesław Długokęcki

3. Employment

2000-2012 archivist in the States Archive in Gdansk

since 2005 assistant professor in the Institute of History, University of Gdansk

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Presentation of the accomplishment* under Art. 16 Sec. 2 of the Act of 14th March 2003 on the Academic Degrees And On The Academic Title As Well As On The Degrees And The Title Within The Scope Of Art (Polish Journal of Laws No. 65, Item 595, as amended):

Milling Industry in the State of the Teutonic Order in Prussia in the 13th-15th Century (to Year 1454), Gdańsk 2012, University of Gdansk Publishing House, pp. 608.

The subject of my research interests includes issue connected with coming into being, development and functioning of the milling industry in the State of the Teutonic Order from the 13th until the end of the first half of the 15th century. The subject falls within some important social and economic issues in the history of late Middle Ages, a branch which has been really neglected in the Polish historiography lately. Our point of departure was the conviction that in order to be able to present important factors which shaped the social and economic picture of medieval Europe, it is essential to study some key elements which shaped the living conditions of contemporary society, including the methods for supplying people with grain products, an issue of utmost importance for organization of everyday life. As for other areas, the subject has already been dealt with in both European and Polish historiography, however, the area of Prussia has not been studied yet, with the exception of a synthetic article by Hans Steffen, and any kind of research into the subject has often only been replaced with some common, widely-held opinions. Meanwhile, a proper perspective for understanding important elements of the issue in question can only be obtained by means of providing a global, comprehensive picture of the entire area of the Teutonic Order Prussia and following the processes which were taking place over a long period of time. Only then will we

be able to fit all the scattered information into a harmonious whole and reconstruct the changes which were taking place in the social and economic spheres of life, most of all in the organizational structure of rural areas. Reconstruction of the development process of the network of watermills and windmills, within the entire area of the State of the Teutonic Order, was supposed to show the dynamic character and complexity of the issue connected with economic, political and social transformations which were taking place over the period of time from the beginning of the State of the Teutonic Order in the 13th century, at the time of its economic boom, right to the outbreak of the Thirteen Years' War in mid 15th century. The areas subject to the research were the regions which used to be part of the state, namely Prussia proper and Chełmno Land, where the Order could develop its economic policy most intensely, as well as Pomerania, where it found already established law regulations and economic and ownership structure which had been developed at the duke's times. Having that in mind, we have also decided to raise the issue of milling industry in the united church property (monastic – mainly the Cistercians) and mills located in knight's estates and cities.

Selecting such a particular state organism as the State of the Teutonic Order, where centralized structure of relatively uniform administration created exceptional conditions for conscious development of rural economy, relations village-mill, village-city, for the purpose of following through the process was not accidental. We did not only want to present the specificity of the conditions where the phenomenon, interconnected with the planting of towns carried out by the Knights of the Teutonic Order, was taking place but also the transformations which were introduced to the functioning of rural structures within the developed areas at the duke's times in Pomerania.

Given the above, it was vital to try to answer the question about some important factors which influenced the specific situation within the areas. To what extent was the development of the milling industry determined by the process of establishing rural and urban settlement by the Teutonic Knights, individual bishoprics and chapters of bishops, often on previously undeveloped areas? What was brought about by the consistent and long-term economic policy implemented by the Teutonic Order, finally – what were the effects of their legal regulations, including the mill regalia, which were possessed by the Knights, but also individual bishops and chapters of bishops? Another important question was the issue of similarities and possible differences in policies applied to millers and to the milling industry by the above institutions. Additionally, in order to present a wider context of economic transformations, reflected in the changes taking place in the network of mills, the data about the objects which existed until the

first half of the 15th century was put together with a list of objects from the second half of the 16th century.

Second vital issue, apart from the process of popularizing grain mills, was to determine their economic significance for the Teutonic Order, which did not only charge rural millers with a rent payable in money and goods, but also managed huge milling facilities located in biggest cities (Gdańsk, Elbląg, Królewiec, Toruń) and in the vicinity of the capital in Malbork on its own. Thanks to the fact that part of the inventories, inspections and accounts of the Order, and in particular detailed accounts of master millers, have survived, an attempt was made to evaluate the milling capacity of the facilities and reconstruct their annual operating cycle. The outcomes have showed the main factors which used to determine the efficiency of individual milling facilities including, apart from the obvious cyclical nature of cultivation and harvest times, the size of a given facility (measured by the number of millwheels) and the area from which grains were supplied to given facility as well as local water conditions. While looking into the issue of economic importance of rural and urban mills, we also included the aspects connected with trading mills (sale / purchase agreements), pledges, leases and collecting rent by territorial rulers. The question connected with the importance of mills for united church property (episcopal, capitular and monastic) as well as the organization and fiscal significance of the Teutonic Knight's mills (urban and castle) has been presented separately. While discussing the role of mills in economy, we have made an account of financial condition of rural areas, organization of milling process, existing relations between rural areas and mills (the milling constraint), functioning of auxiliary farms to rural mills, development of settlements and new ways of organizing rural areas. For this purpose we have analysed the relation between location of mills and the legal framework of local villages and estates (based on Polish, Chelmno, Magdeburg and Prussia law).

Basing on the available source materials, we have made an attempt to reconstruct information about the structure, construction technique and use of milling facilities. We have also prepared a list of detailed information on the kinds of contemporary milling devices, the technique of founding different types of watermills, swelling water and building other milling facilities (windmills, ship mills and treadmills) as well as different methods for obtaining millstones and maintaining the facilities in good operating condition (peasants' charter duties). The third important question concerned the issue of "social consequences" which were brought about by the emergence and popularization of grain mills. This led to the appearance of a separate, in both legal and economic sense, group of millers who were particularly distinguished from among other villagers by their economic standing. Given the above, an

attempt was made to present the internally diversified professional group and its individual members. Apart from a general perspective, we have also provided an individual characteristic of all the internal changes, which however, due to the state of source materials, could only be done in some limited extent. We have pointed to the internal diversification of millers, both in legal and economic scope. All the issues have been presented in a selection of detailed tables, charts and choropleth maps which offer better presentation of many of the discussed issues.

Second fundamental part of the publication includes a list of rents collected from watermills and windmills within the period to the year 1454 and an alphabetical list of mills and windmills operating within the area of the State of the Teutonic Order until the end of the first half of the 15th century. It includes a table and a historical and geographical dictionary of detailed data concerning over 900 facilities operating within the State of the Teutonic Order at that time. Undoubtedly, the collected information shall constitute an important element in further studies aimed at reconstructing settlement relationships within the area, in particular these concerning the development of Prussia proper. A detailed map of windmills and watermills, attached on a CD, makes an integral part of the lists and illustrates the right spatial context of functioning of individual objects. The said lists and maps were prepared on the basis of a wide preliminary research of source materials which included both printed and non-printed sources mainly from the archive of the Order of the Teutonic Knights which is located in Berlin Dahlem as well as the Polish national and church archives (Gdańsk, Toruń, Bydgoszcz, Olsztyn, Pelplin, Płock).

In conclusion, the dissertation illustrates the development process of the network of watermills in the State of the Teutonic Order from the 13th until the end of the first half of the 15th century and its relation with the type of rural settlement. In this context we have pointed out to the importance of the mill regalia, and their consistent use by the Teutonic Order which was possible because the Knights of the Teutonic Order were the main ruler of the land in the state. All actions undertaken by them successively enabled implementation of effective spatial policy and optimize location of windmills and watermills as well as prevented harmful competition between them. Thorough analysis of the preserved source information made it also possible to verify previous estimates concerning the network of watermills in East Pomerania by Maria Dembińska. Basing on the findings, it has been showed that the diversification of the network of watermills and windmills was attributed not only to local terrain condition, but also to the legal framework and ownership relations as well as to the type of settlement. A distinct influence of the development of the network of rural mills on the

aspirations of church institutions (orders and bishops) to have their own milling facilities, even at the expense of their low productivity, has been shown too. Also, creation of a separate group of mill settlements and their economic significance have been mentioned. All this has been presented in the context of legal and economic relations between the mills and neighbouring villages, their economic and spatial interconnections as well as the method for regulating and settling any disputes.

Thanks to the source information, we have managed to reconstruct the size and operating cycle of huge Teutonic Order mills, with an accuracy of weekly grinding capacity and all this to over long periods of time accounting for even as much as several years, which can be used as a hint when studying the issue of real crops within the area of operating of individual mills. Basing on the same source materials, we have also calculated grinding productivity of watermills in the 15th century more precisely. We have also made an attempt at determining the grinding productivity of mills and define factors which influenced it. When reconstructing information about the kinds of rent collected from rural mills, usually in cash or grains, sometimes also both, we have determined the kind of rent as a vital hint on the state of rural economy development, the measure of its relation to market and use of money in economic exchange. Basing on the analysis of the ways rent was collected, its due dates and principles of paying it (one-off payments, instalments), we have revealed a close relation to the cycle of agricultural production, which was somehow reflected in the milling activity of the mills. We have also suggested using the information about periods of exemption from paying the rent which used to be granted to the millers who were only settling in as a measure for evaluating development of rural settlements within a given area. Our analysis of the tendency to lower the rent observed in the 30's and 40's of the 15th century has provided yet another mean for measuring the scale of economic crisis, which was attributed to destruction resulting from wars fought against Poland, in the state.

The abovementioned findings shall constitute part of future studies illustrating rural areas in the State of the Teutonic Order in late Middle Ages. Presenting them in a wide comparative perspective and over a long period of time was supposed to provide a possibly most comprehensive image of the changes that the milling industry was undergoing in the State of the Teutonic Order in Middle Ages. It seems important for the proper understanding of analogous processes which could have been observed in neighbouring states and gives us a chance to show the similarities and differences between economic and organizational models in relation to Poland and the countries of Western Europe.

5. Other academic and research achievements

The second field of the research, which constituted an extension of the subject of the Ph.D. dissertation, and was the basis for publication of a book entitled *The Circle Of The Prussian Contrata Dominicans From The 13th To The End Of The First Half Of The 16th Century*, Gdansk 2007, the University of Gdansk Publishing House, pp. 261, include our works on the subject of the history of the Church, with particular consideration of religious structures. Proceeding with the abovementioned research areas, we have discussed a variety of issues connected with functioning of the religious structure of mendicant orders (Dominicans, Franciscans, Augustinians Eremites, Carmelites, Franciscans Observants) in the State of the Teutonic Order and Royal Prussia in a long time perspective, going as far back as the dissolutions from the beginning of the 14th century. In consideration of the above, a general model of financial base for functioning of mendicant orders, also including the specific situation of individual orders in the Middle Ages (Dominicans in Elbląg) and in a broader perspective which included transformation they underwent from modern times up to the dissolution from the beginning of the 19th century (Dominicans in Gdansk). We have also dealt with the problem of social function of religious structures in cities on the example of the practice of accepting prebendaries. We have also analysed other detailed issues such as relations between diocesan and monastic clergy, functioning of monastic fraternities in mendicant orders and the pattern of maintaining contact between a mendicant order and local society (a case study - Dominicans in Elbląg, Dominicans in Gdansk).

In an attempt to extend the study of rural structures and the issues connected with milling, we have undertaken a broader large-scale research into the subject of its significance for the economy of united monastic property (the Cistercians from Oliwa) until the 17th century and for the big cities in Ducal Prussia – Gdansk and Elbląg from the second half of 15th century to the end of the 18th century. Also, we have announced a study on the subject of the significance and use of watermills for military purposes in the Middle Ages on the example of the State of the Teutonic Order in Prussia as well as a publication on the subject of the use of water energy in milling in the area.

Going beyond the subject areas of the above issues, we have also undertaken a research into the forms of bourgeois piety in late Middle Ages (pilgrimages, *ad pias causas* legacy) and also the functioning of urban society, which became part of the popular in European historiography trend of studying bourgeois wills from the Hanseatic circles. A comprehensive research into the late medieval Elbląg bourgeoisie wills constituted a great opportunity to

conduct such study. The point of departure being provisions to the benefit of religious means, we have proposed a reconstruction of the model of bourgeois piety in late Middle Ages which was predominant in the higher class of Elbląg citizens and which, to a large extent, is conform with analogous study conducted for other, not only Hanseatic, circles from that period of time. Basing on the sources, we have also analysed elements of material culture, the way they were perceived and judged in the circle. Moreover, we have analysed examples of everyday life of late medieval bourgeoisie (city baths in Elbląg – organization and hygiene related issues).

A separate area of our academic activity is devoted to editing historical sources from late Middle Ages. Some minor editions, including the statutes of journeyman fraternity from the Old City of Gdansk, document sources (Franciscans from Gdansk, Cistercian nuns from Żarnowiec) and detailed economic accounts (of a master miller from Elbląg) have been published to date. Also following all new publications on the subject of our interest and reviewing them within the frames of our participation in scientific discussion take an important place in our academic activity.

The activities undertaken by us and our fields of study show that our main field of interest are social and economic issues of late Middle Ages in the State of the Teutonic Order in Prussia and Ducal Prussia, with particular interest in the processes which were taking place in the 15th century and their existence in long time perspective. The extensive concern about different factors which significantly influenced living conditions of contemporary society, both in group and individual dimension, is supposed to enable reconstruction of a more detailed image of contemporary social and cultural reality without omitting the entire complexity of its elements which can be the case when one focuses on a narrow research area, artificially isolated from a broader historical contest. The monographic presentations established on a broad source base, extensive research questionnaire, possibly accounting for complete outcomes of analogous studies of similar subject areas as well as trying not to shut ourselves in artificial chronological boundaries can lead us to valuable research outcomes and bring us closer to reconstructing a fuller image of contemporary social and economic reality.

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