

Abstract: Milling Industry in Royal, Church and Noble Estates in Northern Poviats of the Pomeranian Province (1466-1626)

Numerous publications have been written on the history of milling. They refer to the beginnings of the milling industry in Poland, location of mills, legal and social standing of millers and production technologies used in mills. However, no monograph on the history of milling in Royal Prussia covering the period from the second half of the 15th century to the 18th century has been written so far. This study aims to contribute to the extensive research subject and to analyze the milling industry solely in the northern part of the Pomeranian Province (within gdański, pucki, tczewski and mirachowski powiats) in years 1466-1626. The most noteworthy in the context of this dissertation is Rafał Kubicki's book on water mills in the Dominion of the Teutonic Order in Prussia from the 13th to the 15th centuries (up to 1454). In some respect the presented thesis is a continuation of the historical research carried out by Kubicki. Focusing the study on this particular period of time may fill in the gap in publications on the history of the milling industry in the Pomeranian Province.

The subject of this study is the milling industry in royal, church and noble estates in northern poviats of the Pomeranian Province in 1466-1626. The 1466 starting point refers to the second Treaty of Toruń / Thorn, which resulted in establishing the province henceforth called Royal Prussia. Therefore this date opens up a new era in the history of Pomerania. The year 1626 marks the outbreak of a war with Sweden in the region, as in July 1626 Gustav Adolf, King of Sweden, marched into Pomerania, conquering Tczew, Gniew, Puck, among others. It was the turning point, the first sign of upcoming wars and perturbations, and the end of 160 years of almost unbroken peace. The first war with Sweden brought losses and inhibited the development of the milling industry. The Swedish Deluge, a generation later, was obviously far worse.

The first chapter of the dissertation presents the administrative structure of Royal Prussia and the water network. This part sets out the territorial and administrative limits adopted in the study and describes the scope of conducted research. The second chapter outlines the history of the milling industry from medieval times to the beginnings of the 17th century. The subject matter has been divided successively into the history of milling in Europe, Poland, and Gdańsk Pomerania. Chapters III and IV present analyses of the researched data. The third

chapter refers to the functioning of mills over the period chosen, and the fourth – the last one – describes specific features of millers. The results of the research on mills show first of all their number and location, followed by production profiles, as well as buildings and equipment of mills. The research on millers, in turn, examines vocational characteristics of workers employed in mills and of mills' headmen, including their duties and privileges. The described chapters include conclusions derived from the conducted research. Apart from the above mentioned chapters, a list of mills is added to the dissertation. The annex comprises the vocabulary of milling terms used in the thesis (Old Polish, German-Polish and Latin-Polish). Furthermore, it contains tables created for the purposes of the thesis, with information on mills found in surveys dated 1565, 1615 and 1624, and coming from the 1570 tax register. Moreover, the content of so far unpublished documents from the holdings of the State Archive in Gdansk and the Diocesan Archives in Pelplin and Włocławek is included.

This study draws from paleography, diplomatic, chronology, historical geography, archival science, linguistics and legal history. All these auxiliary sciences and methods have been used to properly interpret and comprehend identified sources, their content in particular. Moreover, it is worth mentioning that a separate study of the history of mills has been distinguished, called molinology, derived from books and articles on this subject, as the history of milling has its own, abundant literature. However, the thesis is based primarily on the source material. A variety of manuscript sources related to mills and millers in the researched area were identified in the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw, the State Archive in Gdańsk, the Diocesan Archives in Pelplin and Włocławek, the State Archive in Toruń, and the Gdansk Library of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences. For comparison, the West Prussian Land Register of Frederick the Great was consulted in Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz (the Secret State Archives of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation) in Berlin.

The main focus of this study is to examine the importance of milling in a relatively peaceful period in Gdańsk Pomerania's history between the Thirteen Years' War and the first war on land between Poland and Sweden, which was fought there. To accomplish this, the number of mills was estimated for the researched period (1466-1626), taking into account their presence in specific poviats, particularly in royal, church and noble estates. Their location was pointed out, the number of mills in towns and in settlements without town privileges was compared, the distance from town or village centres was considered. Production profiles were indicated for individual mills. The proportion of particular types of facilities in industrial mills and grain mills was examined. The profession of a miller was analyzed. The author checked

how millers obtained rights to their mills, and whether they were granted their privileges, inherited them, leased them based upon an agreement or as a consequence of a settled dispute. Furthermore, the author verified if in 1466-1626 mill buildings were built from the scratch, or if they were rebuilt, reconstructed, fixed or repaired after war damages or fires. It also examines how mills were equipped. Analyzed issues include the construction of mill wheels and their number, origin of millstones, and purchases of buckets, chests, axes, ropes and fire protection equipment. In addition, millers' work is discussed. The author looked for information on how the miller directed water flow to the wheel, how millstones were transported and grooved, how the required grade of flour was achieved, how grains to be ground were delivered to mills, and how the produced flour was transported. Besides, it was necessary to examine how millers paid their rent to mill owners, usually kings, their local representatives (Polish: starosta), abbots, bishops, noblemen, and if the rent was paid in money or also in other types of duties or servitude, e.g. labour to the benefit of the manor / castle. The last questions referred to the levels and modes of payment collected by the miller from customers, and if the latter were forced to use the designated mill (milling coercion) and pay in grain for the labour performed by workers while milling.