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DOCUMENT FROM 1446 FOR THE PARISH IN PSZCZEW

Abstract

The publication contains an edition of a Medieval document concerning mass chantry for the parish church of Pszczew and its stipend. The document has so far been known solely on account of its copy. The original kept in the State Archives in Zielona Góra. It is a donation privilege that expands and solidifies the asset base of the Pszczew parish church and its parson. Decisions discussed in it could be linked with the former appointment of regional officiality in Pszczew. Furthermore, it carries precious information regarding the Pszczew Vogts (advocate mayor) and the town topography. The document was issued in Poznań on July 5, 1446. The bishop of Poznań, Andrzej of Bnin, instituted a morning Mass stipend in the honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the parish church in Pszczew and confirmed and enlarged the benefit of the Pszczew's parish.

Keywords: Pszczew; diocese of Poznań; parish church

Archival sources can still reveal some unknown documents that have never been printed. One such document is mentioned in the title. Among the resources of the State Archives in Zielona Góra, in the unit called 'Urban, post-manorial and guild collections' and including documents of various origin and chronology, it is marked with the file reference number 'Pszczew 57'. It concerns the institution of a Morning Mass stipend in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the enlargement of the benefit of the parish in Pszczew.¹ It has not yet been published

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¹ The State Archives in Zielona Góra possess a considerable amount of diplomatic material concerning the western part of the area of Wielkopolska; however, these are mainly modern sources. Therefore, this medieval finding is all the more significant.

in full and the original has not been cited in the literature, although historians were acquainted with its content thanks to a copy of it – an entry from 1788 in the Poznań consistory books entitled ‘An erection privilege of the parish church in Pszczew’.² This entry was referred to by Józef Nowacki in his work devoted to the history of the Poznań archdiocese³ and by the publishers of *Słownik historyczno-geograficzny województwa poznańskiego w średniowieczu* [A historical/geographical dictionary of the Poznań voivodeship in the Middle Ages], who gave a detailed summary of the copy.⁴

The document referring to the parish in Pszczew is not, as suggested by its name in the consistory books, an erection privilege of the church, since the parish church in Pszczew dates back to the Middle Ages, as indicated by a mention of Peter, son of Michał, a chaplain in Pszczew.⁵ The parish church at that time, however, was not the 15th-century one, but another which might have been the church of St Adalbert in the suburbs, later a sucursal (auxiliary) church. After the location of Pszczew, which took place in 1288, a new parish church was built, later named after St Magdalene. The matter of the *patrocinium* of the Pszczew church is one question that comes to mind in connection with the study of its history. In 1437, Maciej – the son of Bogusław of Rokitno and a priest of the Cracow diocese – received a provision for the vicarage in the Holy Mary Church in Pszczyna.⁶ However, in 1457, when the provost from Pszczew, Jan, gave permission for Police to be separated from the Pszczew parish, the local church was named after St Mary Magdalene.⁷ It could be supposed that the change to the church’s *patrocinium* took place between 1437 and 1457 in connection with that of the church in Pszczew, which belonged to the archdeacon starting in 1457. Before that, it likely belonged to the bishop of Poznań. It is possible that the foundation of the Holy Mass chantry in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary somehow combined those *patrocinia* and was a special tribute to the earlier patron.

The document from 1446 published herein and issued by the bishop of Poznań, Andrzej of Bnin,⁸ concerns the Saturday Holy Mass in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary and provides the details of the benefit of the Pszczew parish. The original text does not provide the day when the Mass was to be celebrated, but at that time it was well known that Saturday is the day devoted to the cult of the Mother of God. However, in the 18th century the day of the week for this service was written

² Archdiocesan Archives in Poznań (further referred to as AAP), Acta causarum consistorii Posnaniensis 239, pp. 147–152.

³ J. Nowacki, *Archidiecezja poznańska w granicach historycznych i jej ustrój*, vol. 2, Poznań 1964, p. 469.

⁴ *Słownik historyczno-geograficzny województwa poznańskiego w średniowieczu* (further referred to as SHGW), part 3, fasc. 3, compiled by K. Górską-Gołaską, T. Jurek, G. Rutkowską, I. Skierską, ed. A. Gašiorowski, Poznań 1997, p. 620.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 621.

⁶ *Bullarium Poloniae*, vol. 5, eds. I. Sułkowska-Kurasiowa, S. Kuraś, Lublin 1995, No. 626.

⁷ SHGW, part 3, fasc. 3, p. 620.

⁸ J. Nowacki, *Bniński Andrzej (+1479)*, *Polski słownik biograficzny*, vol. 2, Kraków 1936, pp. 143–145.

in the margins of the diploma. The bishop confirmed the existing income of the parish, which is indicated by a phrase that refers to the amount taken according to the custom at the time, while simultaneously increasing its endowment. This is related to the fact that the Pszczew parish was enlarged, wherein all the villages of the bishop's property were joined, including those which were being established. According to the document from 1446, the benefit of the parish in Pszczew consisted of ferton (a unit of mass, approx. 49 grams) tithes from Kalsk, a bishop's lake called Jezierce, five measures of rye, five measures of oats due for tribute (*meszne*) from half of the voivodeship in Pszczew, then a tribute from each peasant amounting to metrils (101 kg) of rye and the same amount of oats annually (with the exception of Pszczew, where the tribute was paid according to the old custom). The provost also owned two areas of backwaters (*jazy*) – one in the vicinity of his house and the other near Brama Poznańska, plus a stream, meadows and gardens which were already in his possession.

It is likely that the document instituting a new Mass stipend and describing the endowment of the extended parish in detail was issued in connection with the establishment of a district (*foral*) officiality. Although the circumstances and the time of its establishment are not known, what is known is that the first Pszczew official confirmed in the sources was Jakub, who was named so in the documents from 1360 and 1362.⁹ He was at the same time the Pszczew archdeacon certified in this position between 1360 and 1366,¹⁰ as Pszczew was the seat of the minor archdeaconship appointed in the Poznań diocese in 1298.¹¹ Archdeacons had the right of patronage over the church in Pszczew, which is confirmed in 15th-century sources.¹² The establishment of the foral officiality in Pszczew, which was distant from the bishop's seat, was intended to facilitate access to the church yard for the inhabitants of the western frontier region.¹³ The seats of officialities were situated in the centre of the landed property – this is the custom observed in the Gniezno archdiocese by the authors of a study on regional officialities in this archdiocese,¹⁴ and a similar situation also occurred in other archdioceses.

Very little information is preserved concerning the individuals serving as the Pszczew official.¹⁵ What is known is that in 1424 it was Hektor the Older of Koziemin (today Koźmin) from the Leszczyce family, who was also the tenentary of the

⁹ *Kodeks dyplomatyczny Wielkopolski* (dalej: KDW), vols. 2–3, published by I. Zakrzewski, Poznań 1878–1881; vol. 7, published by A. Gąsiorowski, R. Walczak, Warszawa-Poznań 1985; vol. 8, published by A. Gąsiorowski, T. Jasiński, Warszawa-Poznań 1989; vol. 3, Nos. 1435, 1465.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* 1435, 1565; Nowacki, *Archidiecezja*, vol. 2, p. 296, where the years 1357–1366 are indicated.

¹¹ KDW, vol. 2, No. 770.

¹² Mentioned by SHGW, part 3, fasc. 3, p. 620.

¹³ T. Jurek, *Biskupstwo poznańskie w wiekach średnich*, Poznań 2018, vol. 1, p. 390.

¹⁴ A. Gąsiorowski, I. Skierska, *Oficjalaty okręgowe w późnośredniowiecznej archidiecezji gnieźnieńskiej*, "Czasopismo Prawno-Historyczne", (1995) fasc. 1–2, p. 99.

¹⁵ Jurek, *Biskupstwo poznańskie*, vol. 1, p. 391.

Pszczew estate, canon of Poznań and provost of Głuszyno.¹⁶ As Józef Nowacki claims, the officiality of Pszczew was connected with the local provostry of the parish church,¹⁷ whereas the known officials of Pszczew – Jakub and Hektor of Koziemin – were not the provosts of Pszczew. However, Wawrzyniec – who appears in the document from 1446 and who was certified as the official of Pszczew between 1441 and 1448 – was provost, despite being called the *rector* of Pszczew in the document from 1446.¹⁸ Therefore, it is possible that the position of the official had its provision in the form of income from the provostry, but the officiality and the provostry were two functions held by two different individuals and sometimes combined into one, as was the case with the above-mentioned Wawrzyniec.

The establishment of the officiality in Pszczew raised the importance of the parish and its provostry, and could have contributed to increased benefits. It is also likely, though difficult to confirm, that the local church was enlarged and rebuilt, lending it more dignity. In this situation the patronage of the church could have been changed (before 1457) and the *patrocinium* of the Blessed Virgin Mary replaced by St Mary Magdalene in the later period, while the institution of the Holy Mass stipend in the honour of the Mother of God might have been a way of honouring the patron of the church in Pszczew. The Pszczew parish was fairly large; apart from the town of Pszczew, at the beginning of the 16th century it included Stok, Zielomyśl, Kuligowo, Stołuń, Święchocin, Silna, Szarcz, Gorzycko Nowe and Łowyń.¹⁹ In the book of *benefice* of the diocese of Poznań from 1510, the parish in Pszczew was only mentioned, with no additional information provided.²⁰

The document from 1446 mentions the vogt of Pszczew – a nobleman named Piotr and heir from Charcice – from whom the bishop of Poznań bought half of the *advocatia* for the bishopric. The name of the locality from which this Piotr, the vogt of Pszczew and heir from Charcice, came was mistakenly written down as ‘Chauzicze’. The publishers of *Słownik historyczno-geograficzny...* [A historical/geographical dictionary...], who had the copy at their disposal, hesitantly described Piotr as the heir of Kęszyza, while the original uses the name ‘Charcicze’.²¹ This does not cause any concern over identification: it is the village of Charcice in the parish of Chrzypsko Wielkie, not far from Pszczew. In the period 1388–1393 a certain Pietrasz lived there; however, it is doubtful that he was the vogt of Pszczew.²² On the other hand, the transumpt of the location document of Pszczew issued by the bishop of Poznań, Wojciech Jastrzębiec, describes the exchange of places affected by the bishop with the vogts of Pszczew, Jakusz – son of Błażej from Kikow – and

¹⁶ KDW, vol. 8, no. 987; P. Dembiński, *Poznańska kapituła katedralna schyłku wieków średnich*, Poznań 2012, pp. 389–391.

¹⁷ Nowacki, *Archidiecezja*, vol. 2, p. 245.

¹⁸ SHGW, cz. 3, fasc. 3, p. 627.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 621.

²⁰ *Księga uposażenia diecezji poznańskiej z roku 1510*, ed. J. Nowacki, Poznań 1950, p. 176.

²¹ SHGW, part 3, fasc. 3, pp. 619–620.

²² SHGW, part 1, fasc. 2, eds. A. Gąsiorowski, S. Chmielewski, K. Górka-Gołaska, J. Luciński, Wrocław 1983, pp. 181–182.

Grzymek and Piotr – sons of Mikołaj Cholewa.²³ Piotr is likely the vogt by the same name mentioned in 1446, while the nameless wife of the vogt and owner of the lake mentioned in the document from 1446 should be recognised as Katarzyna, the widowed wife of Piotr, as the publishers of *Słownik...* did.²⁴ This is indicated by the case from 1443 to 1447 concerning the trial of the vogt's widowed wife Katarzyna against Marcin from Przetoczno, who criticised the letter of Katarzyna's dowry, which amounted to half of the vogtei in Pszczew.²⁵ This would be the part of the Pszczew voivodeship which was left in Piotr's hands after he sold the other half to the bishop.

The seal attached to the document has not been preserved, but it was still there in the 18th century and it was described in the entry. Impressed in white (natural) wax, it showed the Holy Virgin Mary holding the Infant in her left arm, with the figure of St Peter on Her right side and St Paul on her left. On the reverse side, a smaller seal was impressed in red wax with letters around it, but it was not legible.

The document is the donation privilege, enlarging and confirming the material foundations of the parish church in Pszczew and its provost, and instituting an additional Mass stipend to give it more splendour and dignity.

DOCUMENT

Poznań, 5 July 1446

The bishop of Poznań Andrzej from Bnin institutes the Morning Mass stipend in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the parish church of Pszczew and confirms and enlarges the benefit of the Pszczew parish.

Original: State Archives in Zielona Góra, City, post-manorial and guild collections, reference number Pszczew 57

Copy: Archdiocesan Archives in Poznań, Acta causarum consistorii Posnaniensis 239, pp. 147–152. Title: Insertionis Erektionis Ecclesiae Parochialis Pscevensis

Note: *The text of the document is published in accordance with the rules contained in Kodeks dyplomatyczny Wielkopolski, vol. 6, eds. A. Gąsiorowski, H. Kowalewicz, Warsaw/Poznań 1982, pp. XIII–XVIII.*

A parchment document measuring 410×293+70. The seal is not preserved, only a red and green rope remains.

Note in the left margin of the document: ‘Anno Domini 1788 die tertia mensis octobris in iudici Consistorii Generalis Posnaniensis producit et mediante decerne[?] Actis Consistorii eiusdem inserit. C. T. de Iüngling(...) ex Acti Notarius.’

In the right margin: ‘sabbatinis.’

²³ KDW, vol. 7, no. 589.

²⁴ SHGW, part 3, fasc. 3, p. 619.

²⁵ *Wielkopolskie rotę sądowe XIV-XV wieku*, vol. 1, comp. H. Kowalewicz, W. Kuraskiewicz, Poznań–Wrocław 1959, no. 1609; SHGW, part 3, fasc. 3, p. 620.

Dorsal notes on the back, one mediaeval and three modern ones. The writing is faded, hardly legible; one of the notes – the one from 1593 – resembles an inventory of the provostry and its surroundings written by the new provost of Pszczew, Bartłomiej from Kleczew.

In nomine Domini amen. Ad perpetuam rei memoriam. Andreas²⁶ Dei gracia episcopus Poznaniensis significamus tenore presencium quibus expedit universis, tam presentibus quam futuris. Quia etsi bonorum mense nostre episcopalis ampliatione intendere debeamus et profectibus, multo tamen fervencius ex assumpte dignitatis nostre pastoralis officio ad augendum cultum divinum debitores sumus et obnoxii. Et quidem si in opido nostro Pczewo comoda instaurare nos delectat et profectus, delectat maiori affeccione augere cultum attollencia divinum, unde ut Omnipotenti Deo, qui nos quanquam immeritos ad tante dignitatis fastigium erexit, sueque intemerate Genitrici Virgini Marie in ecclesia parochiali eiusdem opidi nostri Pczewo debita atque digna laudum munia iugiter exsolvantur et devota obsequia. Ideo zelo devocionis nostre quo decet puriori maturam missam ad laudem et honorem Omnipotentis Dei et ipsius Genitricis Gloriose Virginis Marie per rectorem eiusdem ecclesie modernum et futuros aut suum vicarium voce solempni singulis diebus de anno in annum temporibus perpetuis instituimus decantandam, quam honorabilis Laurencius²⁷ rector dicte ecclesie modernus coram nobis personaliter constitutus ad decantandum se et suos successores libere submitit non compulsus. Ut autem idem Laurencius rector modernus et futuri, nostre liberalitatis donis suffulti, huius oneris iugum tanto attentius queat ferre et laborem, sibi ratione officii huiusmodi fertones nostros decimales in villa Kalsko²⁸ nuncupata et lacum nostrum Jezercze²⁹ appellatum situm altius et ultra alium lacum advocatisse Pczewensi similiter Jezercze³⁰ nominatum, cum omni piscatura et proprietate ratione pretacte decantande misse et oneris damus, donamus et largimur perpetuo tenore presencium mediante. Damus eciam eidem rectori torrentem alias *struga* de lacu Jezercze advocatisse inferiori usque ad lacum suum Jezercze predictum, ita tamen quod idem rector ex eodem lacu suo Jerzercze su[...]t fluere torrentem alias *strugam* sine restragnacionem (!) aliquali nec meatum suum quoquo modo impediat in preiudicium nostrum seu mense nostre episcopalis. Et preterea confitemur nos et succesores nostros episcopos Poznanienses, prefato rectori et ecclesie sue Pczewensi, ex medietate advocatie nostre Pczewensis, quam pro fortalicio nostro Pczewensi et pro mensa nostra episcopali apud nobilem

²⁶ *Andrzej z Bnina h. Łódzia – biskup poznański 1438–1479*. Cf. J. Krzyżaniakowa, *Bniński Andrzej*, in: *Wielkopolski słownik biograficzny*, eds. A. Gąsiorowski, J. Topolski, Warszawa 1981, pp. 60–61.

²⁷ *Wawrzyniec – pleban i oficjał w Pszczewie w latach 1441–1448*. SHGW, part 3, fasc. 3, p. 621.

²⁸ Kalsko – a village in the commune of Międzyrzecz, lubuskie voivodeship, formerly the property of the Cisters cloister in Bldzew.

²⁹ Jezersko lake – according to SHGW (part 3, fasc. 3, p. 620), there were two lakes of this name, here it is probably Proboszczowskie Lake.

³⁰ Glinno (Cegielne) lake.

Petrum³¹ heredem in Charcizce³² tunc advocatum nostrum Pczewensem nostris paratis pecunis emimus, in quinque mensuris siliginis et totidem avene ratione missalium annis singulis debitos et obligatos. Que quidem missalia eidem rectori, qui fuerit pro tempore, ad festum sancti Martini Confessoris [11 XI] annis singulis temporibus eviternis iuxta cursum temporum paratis pecunis solvere volumus et debemus. Preterea omnes villas, quibuscumque vocentur vocabulis, in clavem nostra Pczewensi iam locatas et in futurum locandas, quotquot sunt et fuerint, ecclesie in Pczew predictae iure annectimus parochiali, decernentes ut ex nunc et perpetuo incole predictarum villarum sexus utriusque ad eandem ecclesiam in Pczew pro percipiendis ecclesiasticis sacramentis recurrant, rector quoque eiusdem ecclesie a quolibet kmethone predictarum villarum locatarum et locandarum dumtaxat duos choros siliginis et totidem avene ratione missalium annis singulis temporibus eviternis tollet et habebit excepto opido nostro Pczew, de quo missalia more diutius servato recipiet atque tollet. Habebit etiam idem rector duo obstacula alias *jazy* in suam et ecclesie sue proprietatem, unum retro curiam suam, aliud vero in torrentem de lacu Pczew³³ in lacum Myelno³⁴ fluente penes walwam dicti opidi nostri, que Poznaniensis appellatur. Damus etiam ipsi rectori torrentem inter lacus Jezercze cum omni piscatura et qualibet utilitate. Habebit etiam idem rector ortos et prata, que hactenus tenuit et possedit, et fruebitur ipsis libere eviterterne [sic!]. Harum quibus nostrum et capituli nostri sigilla sunt appensa testimonio literarum. Feria tertia infra octavas sanctorum Petri et Pauli Apostolorum in capitulo generali Anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragésimo sexto. Presentibus ibidem venerabilibus et honorabilibus dominis.

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vol. 7, print A. Gąsiorowski, R. Walczak, Warszawa–Poznań 1985; vol. 8, print A. Gąsiorowski, T. Jasiński, Warszawa–Poznań 1989.

³¹ Piotr from Charcice–vogt in Pszczew between 1407–before 1443 (SHGW, part 3, fasc. 3, p. 619).

³² Charcice, a village in the commune of Chrzypsko Wielkie, wielkopolskie voivodeship.

³³ Lake Pszczewskie (other names Kochle, Miejskie).

³⁴ Lake Mielno, according to SHGW, part 3, issue 1, edited by A. Gąsiorowski, ed. K. Górską-Gólaszka, J. Luciński, G. Rutkowska, I. Skierska, Poznań 1993, pp. 115–116, was located south of Lake Pszczewskie, now disappeared.

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DOKUMENT Z 1446 ROKU DLA PARAFII W PSZCZEWIE

Streszczenie

Publikacja zawiera edycję średniowiecznego dokumentu dotyczącego fundacji mszy w kościele parafialnym w Pszczewie i jego uposażenia. Dokument znany był do tej pory jedynie z kopii. Jego oryginał znajduje się w Archiwum Państwowym w Zielonej Górze. Jest to przywilej donacyjny, który poszerza i umacnia podstawy majątkowe kościoła parafialnego w Pszczewie i tamtejszego plebana. Decyzje z niego wynikające mogły mieć związek z wcześniejszym powołaniem w Pszczewie oficjalatu okręgowego. Treść zawiera cenne informacje na temat zmian patronium świątyni i jej prawa patronatu. Przynosi także wartościowe wiadomości na temat pszczewskich wójtów i topografii miejscowości. Dokument został wystawiony w Poznaniu 5 lipca 1446 r. Biskup poznański Andrzej z Bnina ustanowił mszę poranną ku czci NMP w kościele parafialnym w Pszczewie i potwierdził oraz powiększył uposażenie parafii pszczewskiej.

Słowa kluczowe: Pszczew; biskupstwo poznańskie; kościół parafialny