

Katarzyna Janicka

*Seats of the Górkas family (Łódzia coat of arms) in Greater Poland ca. 1450-1600. The birth and development of the modern residence in the circle of the power elite.*

## SUMMARY

At the turn of the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Era the Górkas belonged to the most powerful and influential families of the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland. For a few generations they represented the top of the power elite (being i.a. Poznań Voivodes and General Starosts of the Great Poland). The family's significance was strengthened by the title of imperial count granted by the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. Górkas created a residential system comprised of over 20 seats (castles, palaces and manor houses) – a construction enterprise conducted on an unprecedented scale among the Polish great landowners elite of the time.

The PhD thesis, consists of seven chapters, three excurses, five annexes, and bibliography, aims at reconstructing, analyzing and interpretation the group of four residences of key importance for the Greater Poland region: castles in Kórnik, Koźmin, Szamotuły and the palace in Poznań. Each of them were rebuilt or modernized in the 16th century which makes these objects interesting for residential culture research.

The methodology adopted for the dissertation grows out of politically, socially, economically and culturally contextualize the architectural object. Such an approach captures the formal, stylistic and temporal dependencies and allows for defining Górkas' residences in a broader process of shaping residential architecture in the Crown at the turn of the Middle Ages and Early Modern Era.