

Summary

The Pleszew inhabitants in the 16th-century.

The doctoral thesis is a result of long-term archival research. The main aim of these studies was to create a database, which is important from the point of view of the history of Polish towns, based on the example of the 16th-century Pleszew. The comprehensive list of 2408 inhabitants of the town and its suburbs, and other people connected with this municipality, was based on the analysis of city books of records from the Pleszew found in the State Archives in Poznań. The chronological area of the dissertation covers the years 1520–1600. The decision to set this limit has been caused by the state of preservation of the source material, the current state of research and the time-consuming work, which has been devoted to various aspects of the Pleszew inhabitants' lives.

The research basis for the 16th-century Pleszew and its inhabitants is constituted by the city book created by the council and jury offices. As a part of this comprehensive source material has been preserved in fragments, in order to complete the information and achieve more complete knowledge of the past life of the town's inhabitants, the materials produced by the nobility courts in Kalisz and Poznań and records of church courts have been used. During the analysis of the Pleszew's economy, the data contained in the tax registers of The Province of Kalisz in the second half of the 16th century has been used. The archeological excavations and cartographic materials from the later periods were the last types of sources supplementing the information on the city appearance and economy.

This doctoral thesis is an attempt to answer the question about discovery opportunities of the past and the specificity of the city. Specific issues in this scope are discussed in four chapters. The first chapter characterizes the view of the city in 16th century. The different parts of this chapter present the geographical and administrative location, development of Pleszew and its position in the layout of cities in The Province of Kalisz. There, the status of the town and its successive owners during the analyzed period have been presented. An attempt was made to recreate the city layout with the reconstruction of the city plan and the location its suburbs and the utility and farm buildings.

The second chapter is devoted to issues related to the city governance. There, domestic power of representatives of the town's owners – burgraves was described. The structure and scope of activity of council and jury offices in the theory and practice were presented, as well as the career of officials represented by the Pleszew's elite. Also the

activity of the municipal office, the role of its writers and the importance of this profession in the life of the town were described.

The third chapter deals with demographic issues and attempts to characterize the city's community and the inhabitants of its suburbs. There, relations between this groups and interactions with people coming from outside the Town were presented. This part of the dissertation shows the result of studies reached by the using the method of prosopography with analysis, among others, kinship degrees, occupational structure, social and property status of the inhabitants and the issue of urban migrations. Lastly, by using the sociotopographic method, the attempt to recreate the neighbors' sequences and the owner's changes bulidings located in the founding city has been made, which were resulted from the concluded contracts, inheritance or purchase and sale transactions. The purpose of this analysis was to determine the location of households of particular social and professional groups in the urban space.

The next chapter is devoted to issues related to economy and everyday life in the town. The first part discusses the craft and agricultural activities of the inhabitants of Pleszew. All problems related to trade, the impact of the local market and commodity exchange were also analyzed.

The last chapter presents the everyday life of the Pleszew inhabitants, their families and neighborhood relations, the home equipments, the intellectual culture and various aspects of their raligiosity, manifested by, for example, caring for churches, the activity of Pleszew's mansionaries, as well as the local school.

The part summarizing includes observations and suggestions relating to used sources and methods. The postulats for the future research, which are related not only to the history of Pleszew, but also to other smaller towns in Poland have been maken. Moreover, the dissertation has been supplemented with six annexes, containig the lists of the owners of the town and inhabitants representing them, the lists of mayors, councilors, voyts and jurors, guardians and witnessess appearing in municipal courts, lists of neighborhood and the comprehensive list of inhabitants of Pleszew and inhabitants its suburbs and their relatives. The dissertation is supplemented by numerous tables, maps, charts and photographs. Likewise, a list of abbreviations and a bibliography are incuded in the paper.