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ABOUT RESEARCH ON MEDIEVAL KALISZ

Abstract: Professor Tadeusz Poklewski-Kozieli together with his team conducted in the years 1981-1987 excavations of medieval Kalisz, the capital city of south Great Poland. The excavations concerned the chartered town area enclosed within the defensive walls. Recreated was also the scope of the bailey in the 14th century Kalisz, which belonged in the first line to the sacral objects and was church property, but also to the royal castle and the Jewish district – these creating the so called „non-urban area”. In contrast, as it has been stated, the urban utility area – for trade, handcraft and dwellings – constituted only 40% of the chartered land.

A particularly important discovery of Professor Poklewski-Kozieli was finding the topographic location and examining the relics of the Kalisz castle destroyed in a fire in 1537. It has been ascertained, that the castle – built as a royal residence – and the adjoining defensive town walls were constructed at the same time: in the 30s and the beginning of 40s of the 14th c. on the initiative and from foundation of Casimir the Great. An important element while determining the dating of particular objects of stone architecture were the pioneer examinations of brick regarded as an *new compound of archaeological sources*.

Keywords: medieval Kalisz, non-urban space, urban space, castle

In his rich scientific output which encompassed different fields of medieval archaeology of Poland and Europe Professor Tadeusz Poklewski-Kozieli dedicated much attention to the urban issues. Above all else one has to mention Kalisz on this occasion, the capital of Great Poland, where he, together with his team, in the years 1981-1987 conducted excavations of the town at the time of granting its municipal charter¹. Admittedly, earlier in the years 1955-1957, some archaeological works have been undertaken on the area of the medieval town, but they only had a rescue character and enfolded just a part of it – namely the old Jewish district². Discovered then were the remains of 14th century housing and some earlier 13th century forges used possibly for iron ores processing. However, the research conducted by T. Poklewski-Kozieli and his team had a much wider program – it concerned the space of medieval Kalisz enclosed within the defensive walls. On the basis of written sources among which were also the modern archive, iconographic and cartographic materials – above all the city plan from 1785 made by Andrzej Politalski and preserved in a copy of Ottomar Wolle from 1878 – reconstructed was the so called nonurban space

of the 14th century Kalisz³ (Fig 1). The idea was to grasp and reconstruct the scope of territories which enclosed with a ring the town walls from the inside. This area was primarily possessed by sacral objects at that time (parochial church of St. Nicolas, collegiate of the Holy Virgin Mary) also property of monasteries (Franciscans with the church of St. Stanisław) or the estate of the archbishop and the royal castle, together with the barmkin and the Jewish Quarter. The spatial analysis of medieval Kalisz revealed then that the utilitarian urban area used for handcraft, trade and dwellings was much restricted at that time by the „nonurban” property. It made up for as little as 40% of the chartered area which indisputably negatively influenced the financial economy and income of the town. In an article on this issue T. Poklewski-Kozieli and Maria Żemigala showed moreover that the „nonurban” space influenced the process of parceling out the „urban” spaces. By showing the dual character of the space in medieval Kalisz the Authors stressed that its case was no exception in this aspect. The spatial structure in other municipal centers of Great Poland was very much similar to the one in Kalisz.

During the archaeological works conducted in Kalisz by T. Poklewski-Kozieli investigated were the town defensive

¹ Poklewski-Kozieli 2012c, 139-144.

² Młynarska 1960, 113-114, 105-130; Szenicowa 1961, 52-90.

³ Poklewski-Kozieli and Żemigala 2002, 159-164.



Fig. 1. „Non-urban space” in 14th c. Kalisz. After T. Poklewski-Koziełł and M. Żemigala 2002.

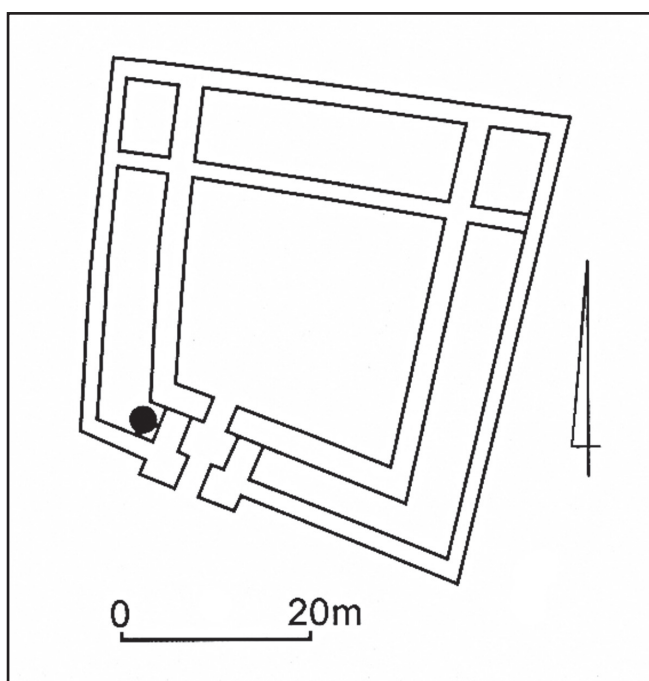


Fig. 2. Projection of the residential castle in Kalisz. After T. Poklewski-Koziełł 2012c.

walls: their route and placing with regard to the watercourses. The researcher of Kalisz estimated that the length of medieval defensive fortifications was about 1600 m and the urban space inside the town walls was 18 ha. The medieval Kalisz at that time could be counted then, as T. Poklewski-Koziełł stated, among towns with biggest

fortifications such as Płock or Sandomierz, which would ascertain to it the order of magnitude of province capitals.

With the help of the city map of 1785 made by A. Politalski the placing of the former city gates could be estimated: the Wrocław Gate in the south and the Toruń Gate in the north. The medieval urban fortifications of Kalisz, as T. Poklewski-Koziełł had found, were an efficient town protection.

One particularly important discovery of T. Poklewski-Koziełł and his team were the relics of Kalisz castle found not far from the old Toruń Gate. The castle was destroyed by fire in 1537 and fell into ruin within the following centuries. Determining the position of the feature and reconstructing its architectonic shape was possible due to the preserved description of the building prepared in 1564 by the inspectors of the royal demesne when the castle itself was already burned and due to the 18th century plan, already mentioned before, by A. Politalski, as well as to a drawing of the castle relics made in 1803, before the Prussian demolition (Fig 2). During the archaeological excavations only the stone continuous footing of the castle was exposed. The brick rubble found in the trench was, according to the scientists, pointing to the fact that the castle walls were given a brick protective facing. As T. Poklewski-Koziełł describes, the castle at the time of Middle Ages was a four-winged construction, creating a square with a courtyard inside. The entrance gate was in the south wing, on the side facing the town. The second gate, possibly used for business, was near the barmkin. The drawbridge led over the moat to the main gate which faced the town (Fig 3). The excavations

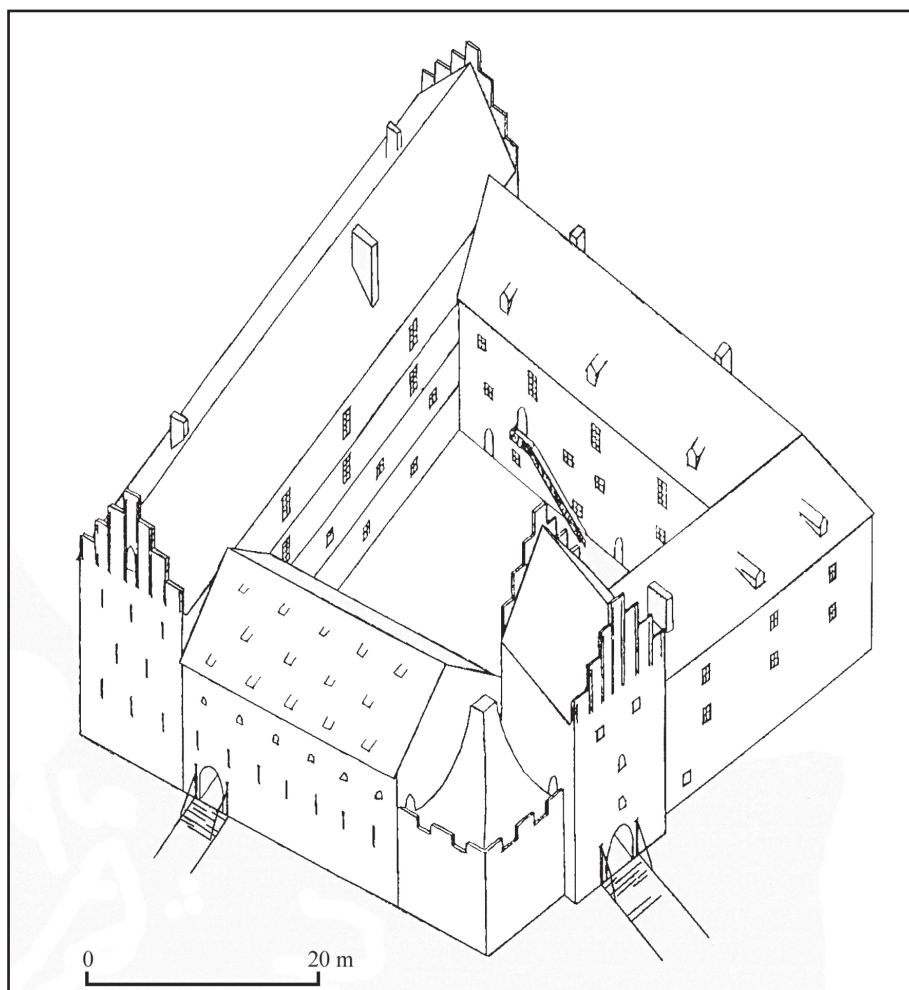


Fig. 3. 14th c. royal castle in Kalisz (reconstruction). After T. Poklewski-Kozieł 1992.

showed a spatial and chronological connection between the brick city walls and the castle. The ground analysis and the remaining fragments of castle foundation allowed T. Poklewski-Kozieł to determine the time of its constructing, namely (simultaneously with the defensive walls) to the first half of the 14th c. and more specific to the 30-40s of the 14th c., which meant the beginnings of Kazimierz Wielki kingship; to the same time the archaeologists have estimated the construction of the brick ring of town walls. T. Poklewski-Kozieł decisively and against earlier assumptions of literature of the subject rejected the possibility of existence of an older residential castle of Przemysław II in this place, the duke who confirmed an earlier town charter for Kalisz and expanded it in 1282.

T. Poklewski-Kozieł recognized that the castle and the defensive walls *were a simultaneous defensive work constructed at the initiative and founded by Casmir the Great – at the beginning of the kingship of this ruler*⁴.

Due to the undertaken excavations of medieval defensive constructions near to Kalisz, on the fringes of rivers Prosna and Barycz, T. Poklewski-Kozieł ascertained that those fortifications, together with the Kalisz Castle, were

erected to strengthen the borders of the kingdom as a result of Casmir the Great's activity. This happened in the first years of his kingship, i. e. in the years 1336-1342⁵. In his reflections regarding the fortification investments of Casmir the Great on the Great Poland territory T. Poklewski-Kozieł determined that the particular military objects had several different functions – not only defensive but also economic ones⁶. The differences in their destination and character were visible in the planning and architecture of the examined castles.

During the excavations of the Kalisz castle remnants T. Poklewski-Kozieł stated that this was an exceptional object within the entire Great Poland territory, since it was constructed *with an idea of making it a royal residence*⁷. Therefore the castle was never used in its military or defensive function in relation to the town. The residence must have already been ready in summer 1343, since it was then that the king's representatives were signing a peace treaty

⁴ ...były jednoczesnym dziełem obronnym powstałym z inicjatywy i fundacji Kazimierza Wielkiego – na początku panowania tego władcy – Poklewski-Kozieł 1992, 24-37.

⁵ Poklewski-Kozieł 1994, 61-78.

⁶ Poklewski-Kozieł 2012c, 139-144.

⁷ ...z myślą o rezydencji królewskiej – Poklewski-Kozieł 2012c, 140.

with the Teutonic Knights⁸. We also know that later, i. a., Władysław Jagiełło stayed in this castle when visiting Kalisz.

While dealing with medieval Kalisz one cannot overlook the results of research on the constructional brick conducted by Tadeusz Poklewski-Kozieł with participation of Maria Żemigała⁹. As Maria Żemigała writes in her valuable work titled „Brick in Great Poland constructions in Middle Ages”: *the archaeologist is always compelled to take a position when it comes to the brick as the new archaeological source*¹⁰. The Authoress discussed on this occasion the output of Polish literature of the subject and presented detailed results of research on this issue, also concerning methods used for examinations of brick relics¹¹. The analysis of brick architecture started with 13th century sacral objects of Kalisz: the St. Stanislaus Church of a Franciscan monastery founded by Bolesław the Pious and his spouse Jolanta and the Church of St. Nicolaus, dated to the times of Bolesław the Pious (after 1275), together with the buildings in its vicinity originating from the 15th and 16th c. The research encompassed also the brick mate-

rial found on the area of the castle and of the town walls. Archaeological works were conducted also in the collegiate church of St. Mary and St. Joseph in the chartered town. Thanks to the exposure of the original brick walls it could be estimated that they originate in the 14th c.¹². This way the issue of the origin of this church was definitely cleared. Against all opinions on its early origin confirmed was the notion known from the Chronicles of Janko of Czarnkowo that the founder of the collegiate church of St Mary in the chartered town was Jarosław Bogoria from Skotniki, the archbishop of Gniezno in the years 1342-1371.

The excavations brought as an effect the strengthening of the view that the division of Kalisz into 2 parishes effected in 1303 between the church of St Nicolaus (it became the parish church in the town) and the St Mary church, which existed in the Old Town of Kalisz for very long already. Another change in the parish divisions came only then, when archbishop Bogoria Skotnicki founded a new Church of St. Mary on the area of the chartered town¹³.

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⁸ Peace Treaty signed afterwards at the end of July that year in Murzynno near Inowrocław, Kuyavia region, Poklewski-Kozieł 2012b, 73.

⁹ Poklewski-Kozieł 2012a, 53-58.

¹⁰ *Archeolog był zmuszony ustosunkować się do cegły jako składnika nowego źródła archeologicznego* – Żemigała 2008, 8.

¹¹ Żemigała 2008, 7-28.

¹² Żemigała 2008, 60-65.

¹³ Młynarska-Kaletynowa 2013, 208-209.

Streszczenie

O badaniach średniowiecznego Kalisza

Profesor Tadeusz Poklewski-Kozieł wraz z zespołem prowadził w latach 1981-1987 badania średniowiecznego Kalisza, stołecznego miasta południowej Wielkopolski. Dotyczyły one zawartej w murach obronnych przestrzeni lokacyjnej. Odtworzono również dla XIV-wiecznego Kalisza zasięg terenów przymurnych, należących przede wszystkim do obiektów sakralnych i własności kościelnej, także do zamku królewskiego i dzielnicy żydowskiej, które tworzyły tzw. „przestrzeń niemiejską”. Natomiast, jak stwierdzono, użytkowy teren miejski – rzemieślniczo-handlowy i mieszkalny, stanowił wówczas zaledwie 40% powierzchni lokacyjnej.

Szczególnie ważnym odkryciem było zlokalizowanie i zbadanie reliktyw zniszczonego pożarem w 1537 r. zamku kaliskiego. Ustalono, że zamek wzniesiony jako rezydencja królewska oraz przylegające doń mury miejskie powstały jednocześnie w 30-tych i w początku lat 40-tych XIV w. z inicjatywy i fundacji Kazimierza Wielkiego. Ważnym elementem w określaniu datowania poszczególnych obiektów architektury murowanej były pionierskie badania cegły traktowanej jako *składnika nowego źródła archeologicznego*.

