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PROPERTY DISTRIBUTION OF FARMSTEAD AND PETTY NOBILITY (SZLACHTA) IN KUYAWIA AT THE TURN OF THE 15TH AND 16TH CENTURIES

Farmstead (peasantless) nobility is one of the most interesting social phenomena in the history of Poland. Its smaller or larger clusters could be found in most of the lands of the Kingdom of Poland. Peasantless nobility (called farmstead, or provincial szlachta) has already been the subject of many studies of pre-war and more recent historical literature, but those were generally concerned with a selected area. Naturally, the territories most associated with the farmstead nobility are Masovia and the Łuków land, as well as Podlasie¹, but the areas with a high percentage of noble clusters were also the lands of Łęczyca and Dobrzyń². This topic has already been developed rather extensively for the Kalisz and Gniezno Poviats in Wielkopolska (Great Poland region)³. There also exist works on petty nobility settlement in Podkarpacie⁴, Kashubia⁵, and even in Małopolska (the Lesser Poland region), traditionally associated with large latifundia⁶. Still, there are no comparative studies treating the phenomenon of farmstead nobility comprehensively.

¹ W. Smoleński, *Drobna szlachta w Królestwie Polskim: studium etnograficzno-społeczne*, Warszawa 1885; A. Żaboklicka, *Zmiany w strukturze drobnej własności szlacheckiej w XV-XVI w. na przykładzie ziemi liwskiej*, „Przegląd Historyczny”, vol. 49, 1958, iss. 2. *Drobna szlachta podlaska*, ed. S. K. Kuczyński, Białystok 1991; K. Boroda, *Wielkość arealów gospodarstw szlachty zagrodowej w województwie płockim w XVI wieku*, [in:] *Rodzina i gospodarstwo domowe na ziemiach polskich w XV-XX wieku*, ed. C. Kukło, Warszawa 2008; T. Jaszczółt, *Własność możnowładcza, średnio- i drobnoszlachecka na obszarze tzw. „podlaskiej” części powiatu węgrowskiego do połowy XVI w.*, „Rocznik Liwski”, vol. 5, 2010/2011.

² A. Bogucki, *Grody a osadnictwo drobnorycerskie w ziemi dobrzyńskiej*, „Przegląd Historyczny”, vol. 63, 1972, issue 2.

³ W. Dworzaczek, *Z wielkopolskich zagadnień demograficznych*, [in:] *Studia nad dziejami społeczeństwa, polityki i kultury dawnej Polski w wiekach XVI-XVIII*, ed. Z. Chodyła, Z. Sprys, Warszawa 2010; L. Połaszewski, *Szlachta zagrodowa w województwie kaliskim w XVI i XVII wieku*, „Rocznik Kaliski”, vol. 8, 1975; J. Karczewska, *Rozmieszczenie wsi zagrodowych i drobnoszlacheckich w powiecie gnieźnieńskim na przełomie XV i XVI w.*, „Klio”, vol. 29, 2014.

⁴ W. Pułnarowicz, *Rycerstwo polskie Podkarpacia (dawne dzieje i obecne obowiązki szlachty zagrodowej na Podkarpaciu)*, Przemysł 1937; A. Tarnawski, *Szlachta zagrodowa w Polsce południowo-wschodniej: materiały do bibliografii*, Lwów 1938.

⁵ K. Mikulski, *Drobna szlachta kaszubska w XVI-XIX wieku*, „Kaszuby. Seria Pomorze Gdańskie”, No. 18, Wrocław 1988.

⁶ K. Potkański, *Zagrodowa szlachta i włośczyce rycerstwo w województwie krakowskim w XV i XVI w.*, „Rozprawy Akademii Umiejętności, Wydział Historyczno-Filozoficzny”, vol. 23, Kraków 1888; A. Sochacka, *Drobna szlachta w województwie lubelskim w średniowieczu*, „Rocznik Lubelski”, vol. 25/26, 1983/1984.

This list of lands should also include Kuyavia with its clusters of farmstead villages, and its similarities to the ownership relations in Central and Greater Poland. This article is of the reconnaissance type, focusing primarily on the location of clusters of farmstead nobility and petty noble property in Kuyavia at the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries. Such chronological range is dictated by the number of fiscal sources representing this environment most adequately. Kuyavia is in the fortunate situation since its register of fiefs of 1489 is preserved⁷, and the information it provides can be confronted with the 16th-century conscription registers⁸ and supplemented with data drawn from medieval court books.

Small clusters of farmstead nobility property were located in Inowrocław Kuyavia. Information on this subject comes primarily from the invaluable fief tax inspection of 1489, as, unfortunately, no judicial sources were preserved from Inowrocław Kuyavia, which could have expanded the knowledge of noble property also for earlier years. Scarce information about noble estates in Inowrocław region can be supplemented on the basis of court registers of the neighbouring poviats. In Inowrocław Poviats, farmstead property was located in the following parishes: Parish of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Inowrocław, as well as in the parishes of Góra, Brodnia and Ludzisko. In 1489, there were the following villages in the parish of the Blessed Virgin Mary: "Trzaski triplices" and "Gsynycze", in which "tantum nobiles" are found⁹. Under the "Trzaski triplices" term there are Trzaski Jaronty (Trzaskowy Jaruntowski), Trzaski Komasyce and Trzaski (Trzaskowy Dolne), while "Gsynycze" is Dziennice. In the 16th century, these villages were temporarily included in the Góra parish, in 1582, however, in the inspection of the Inowrocław parish, we read that due to the seizure of the church in Góra by heretics, the villages of Trzaskowy and Góra belonged to the Inowrocław parish¹⁰. In the 16th century Trzaski lost its farmstead character, the farmstead nobility was already there (Zakrzewski and Niemojewski families), only in Trzaski (Trzaski) Dolne there was Trzaskowski family on 3 fiefs of land¹¹.

In the vicinity of Inowrocław, apart from Trzaski, the farmstead villages were Dziennice, Łąkocin, Dupki, Wilczkowice and Pomianowice (known today as Pławinek) in the Góra parish. According to the inspection "*Tantum multi nobiles habentur nullus kmetho*" in those villages¹². Only the Pomians were identified among the lo-

⁷ *Lustracja poradnego i rejestr łanów województw brzesko-kujawskiego i inowrocławskiego z roku 1489*, ed. J. Senkowski, „Teki Archiwalne”, vol. 7, Warszawa 1961.

⁸ A. Pawiński, *Polska XVI wieku pod względem geograficzno-statystycznym*, Wielkopolska, vol. 1-2, Warszawa 1883.

⁹ *Lustracja...*, p. 153.

¹⁰ Z. Guldón, *Rozmieszczenie własności ziemskiej na Kujawach w II połowie XVI w.*, Toruń 1964, p. 34.

¹¹ *Ibidem*, p. 96.

¹² *Lustracja...*, p. 168-169.

cal heirs. The village of Pomianowice (Pławinek), mentioned in 1430¹³, took its name from its owners originating from this family. Probably the name of the village Trzaski Jaronty referred to a Jarand; an agnatic name in the Pomian family. Such genealogy was densely dispersed in Kuyavia, the owners of the shares in Trzaski can be associated with the Pomians from nearby Przybranów¹⁴. In the second half of the 16th century, the above-mentioned villages were also of the farmstead type. According to the tax registers in Dziennice, there were 2 shares belonging to Dziński families, each consisting of 1 fief. Dupki, a village that no longer exist today, was divided into 3 shares with areas of 1/4 to 1 fief¹⁵. There were 3 shares in Pomianowice – a half-fief owned by S. Dupski, another three-quarter one belonging to J. Leski and a 1-fief share in the hands of J. Pławiński¹⁶. The most divided village in the Góra parish was Łąkocin, where in 1582 there were 6 shares belonging to different members of the Łąkocki family, ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 fief, of which the 1.5 fief share belonged to three Łąkocki nobles. In the 16th century, it was possible for the farmstead nobility owing farms with an area of less than 1 fief and cultivating them together with their relatives to sum up the shares and pay the tax jointly¹⁷; this was probably the case of Łąkocki family. In Wilczkowice at that time, B. Łąkocki had 2 cottagers¹⁸. The picture of the ownership in these villages is probably not complete, it is rather the status reported for the conscription purposes, but the small area of noble farms highlights the farm nature of the property.

The next cluster of farm property were individual villages in Brodnia parish. In 1489 those were Wola (Stanomińska), Zagajewice “triplices”, in which there lived “multi nobiles” and “predia nobilium, nullus kmetho” and Małe Sobiesiennie, where “nobiles cum ortulanis” could be found¹⁹. According to the 16th century conscription registers in Wola, there were 5 single-fief shares belonging to the noble men and women of Wolski family²⁰. As for Zagajewice, while at the end of the 15th century they were referred to as “triplices”, in the 16th century only Zagajewice and Zagajewiczki are mentioned. In the latter there were 3 shares – 1 fief belonging to lord Łąkocki, 3/4 of the fief held by Zagajewski and a 2-fief share in the hand of another Zagajew-

¹³ Archiwum Diecezjalne we Włocławku (here in after: AD Włocławek), księga konsystorska włocławska II, k. 170.

¹⁴ J. Karczewska, *Ród Pomianów na Kujawach w średniowieczu*, Poznań–Wrocław 2003, p. 41.

¹⁵ Z. Guldon, *Rozmieszczenie własności...*, p. 93.

¹⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 95.

¹⁷ K. Boroda, *Wielkość arealu...*, p. 38.

¹⁸ A. Pawiński, *Polska XVI wieku...*, *Wielkopolska*, vol. 1, p. 252; Z. Guldon, *Rozmieszczenie własności...*, p. 94, 97.

¹⁹ *Lustracja...*, p. 163, 164.

²⁰ Z. Guldon, *Rozmieszczenie własności...*, p. 97.

ski, and they were all self-cultivated²¹. In Zagajewice, only one 1-fief share was mentioned belonging to lord Grabski, a farmstead nobleman.

The inspection shows that in 1489 the following villages in the Ziemisko parish were of the status of farmstead villages: Krusza Podlotowa (before: Polodowa), Krusza Zamkowa and Barczyce. They were also "Predia nobilium, nullus kmetho" there²². Krusza was considered to be a noble area, and apart from the noble property, it also included the property of the Krusza Duchowna chapter.

The names of a few heirs of Krusza who lived in the first half of the 15th century are known and it is even possible to track their ancestral affiliation. In 1404, before the court in Brześć Kujawski, Inowrocław junior master of the chase Przybek of Krusza of the Leszczyc coat of arms testified to the noble origin of the Dryjczyk Maciej Daroni of Daronie Górki²³. In 1411, on the other hand, Bogumił of Krusza stood as a witness in the Strzelno document – most probably also a Leszczyc, judging by his name²⁴. Also from 1411 there is a mention of Jakub of Krusza, who sold the shares in Niesiechowice (Kruszwica Powiat) to Chwałęta of Niesiechowice. Jakub attached a seal with the Sokola coat of arms to the document²⁵. Probably still at the beginning of the 15th century. Krusza was not a very fragmented village, since one of its heirs held an office in the Inowrocław hierarchy. However, in the mid-15th century, in court records from Kruszwica of 1447, Mikołaj was mentioned with the nickname Stary Zamek of Krusza and Stanisław of Krusza²⁶, and in 1459 a certain Maciej Polot from Krusza appeared in the court records in Gniezno²⁷. They can be perceived as eponyms for the names of the villages of Krusza Zamkowa and Krusza Podlotowa (Polodowa), which were adopted permanently. Still it is impossible to establish to which family the said heirs belonged. The use of nicknames by the nobility is typical of heirs from farmstead or petty nobility villages. At that time, Krusza might already have been quite fragmented, as in 1489 there were "predia nobilis nullus kmetho"²⁸. According to the registry data from the 16th century, in Krusza Zamkowa there were 2 shares of 1 fief each in the hands of two members of Kruski family and a single fief share belonging to Zakrzewski family, while in Krusza Podlotowa only Zakrzewski family had a single

²¹ A. Pawiński, *Polska XVI wieku...*, Wielkopolska, vol. 1, p. 251; Z. Guldon, *Rozmieszczenie własności...*, p. 97.

²² *Lustracja...*, p. 173.

²³ *Nieznane zapiski heraldyczne*, part 2, ed. S. Kozierowski, „Rocznik Towarzystwa Heraldycznego we Lwowie”, vol. 6, 1923, No. 3.

²⁴ Archiwum Państwowe w Bydgoszczy (here in after: APB), Strzelno Kl. A 40.

²⁵ APB, Strzelno Kl. A 40.

²⁶ Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych w Warszawie (here in after: AGAD), Kruszwica Z., vol. 76.

²⁷ Archiwum Państwowe w Poznaniu (here in after: APP), Gniezno Z. 7, vol. 79 v.

²⁸ *Lustracja...*, p. 173.

fief share, the source does not mention any other heirs²⁹. It is possible that the richer nobility bought the shares there and Krusza eventually lost its farmstead character.

In the Bydgoszcz Poviát of the Inowrocław voivodship, clusters of farmstead villages were located in the parishes of Dąbrówka, Dóbrcz and Żołędowo. In 1489 in Dąbrówka parish, the property of the farm nobility was located in the following villages: Sicienko, Osowiec, Kruszyn and Wojnowo³⁰, in Dóbrcz parish, there were fiefs of farmsteads in Trzebień and Pyszczyń, and in Żołędowo parish – in Nekla and Myślęcín³¹. The preserved sources make only single, scarce references to the local nobility. They do not allow its family affiliation to be determined; it can only be presumed that it might have included representatives of Nałęcz family, who owned estates in the nearby Ślesina parish. In the 16th century, typical farmstead ownership was maintained only in Sitno, Sicienek and Pyszczyń where there were one-fief shares owned by various families. There were still small farmstead shares in Myślęcinek, Kruszyn, Osowiec, Trzebień, while in Wojnowo, next to the three shares of 1-1.5 fiefs, there was a larger one belonging to W. Kołodzki³². In the 16th century, in Bydgoszcz Poviát there were two villages in Lisewo parish, namely Dobrogościce, which is not mentioned in the inspection of 1489, and Gniewkowiec which were also of farmstead village status. In Dobrogościce, according to the tax register of 1582, there were 7 shares with an area of 0.5 to 1.75 fiefs, and in Gniewkowiec there were 6 self-cultivated shares with an area of 0.5 to 1.75 fiefs³³.

In Brześć Kujawski Voivodeship the property of farmstead nobility was represented to a greater extent than in Inowrocław Voivodship. The area of Kruszwica Poviát, the smallest in the Voivodeship, was inhabited mainly by impoverished, petty nobility, with its estates heavily divided in the 15th century³⁴. The farmstead property in Kruszwicko was located in Kościeszki parish. Farmstead nobles lived in Kościeszki and Rzeszynek, Gościejewo and Siemienice (Siemionki). In Kościeszki itself, there were “*predia multorum nobiliorum cum ortulanis*”, and farmstead nobles living there owned a morgen of land³⁵. Among the many heirs of Kościeszki in the 15th century, we can list, among others Pomians and Rawicz. In 1405, the castellan of Kruszwica, Jan of Grabie, of the Pomian coat of arms, divided the property among his sons from his first marriage, granting them, among others, half of the tenement house

²⁹ Z. Guldon, *Rozmieszczenie własności...*, p. 94.

³⁰ *Lustracja...*, p. 179.

³¹ *Ibidem*, p. 181.

³² Z. Guldon, *Rozmieszczenie własności...*, p. 86-88.

³³ A. Pawiński, *Polska XVI wieku...*, *Wielkopolska*, vol. 1, p. 257.

³⁴ J. Karczewska, *Struktura własnościowa osadnictwa regionu nadgoplańskiego do końca XV wieku*, „*Slavia Antiqua*”, vol. 53, 2012, passim.

³⁵ *Lustracja...*, p. 149-150.

(i.e. a brick manor house) in Kościeszki³⁶. In 1407, however, Grabski was bound to the part in Kościeszki belonging to Warsz³⁷ – judging by the name a representative of Rawicz *clenodium*, who were present in nearby Kożuszków and Sobiesiernie. Another Pomian – Andrzej of Brzezie, a judge from Brzeg – had a share in Kościeszki³⁸. There is information from 1423-1424 about a conflict over the right of patronage of the church in Kościeszki. It lists a Pomian – Andrzej of Brzezie, Maciej Kijaszek, brothers Mikołaj and Sagniew (probably Rawicz), other brothers Mikołaj and Marcin, Chwalisław of Sosnowice and Mikołaj of Witowice³⁹. Incidentally, Sosnowice and Witowice, located in Radziejowskie, were also farmstead property⁴⁰. In the case of the property in Kościeszki, it should be noted that the farmstead parts were also owned by the wealthy, clerical nobility (Grabski, Andrzej of Brzezie). Such situations were not unique. At the end of the Middle Ages, there were only farmsteads owned by the nobility in Rzeszynek, Gościńiec and Siemionki in the late Middle Ages; while in the 16th century there was a manor in Rzeszynek, Gościejewo did not function as a separate settlement, it was absorbed by the neighbouring village, and there were two owners of one-fief shares in Siemionki (S. Siemieński and Dobrosłowski)⁴¹. Kijewice was also a fairly strongly divided village in the Kruszwica Poviát: in 1489 there were “predia” of four nobles and only one peasant on half a fief. In the 16th century, according to the registers, there were 5 shares ranging from 0.5 fief to 1.5 fiefs, which were in the hands of various heirs⁴².

In Brześć Kujawski Poviát, on the other hand, the farmstead property was concentrated in the parishes of Kruszyn, Chocień, Zgłowiączka and Boniewo. In the first one, the villages inhabited by the farmstead nobility were: Gróbce Stare and Gróbce Nowe, Smólsk Piotra and Smólsk Piaścino, Osiemborowice, Dębice, Łopanice, Lijewo, Czołpino – in the second half of the 15th century there were “predia nobilium” without any peasants⁴³. In Chocień parish, however, the villages of peasants nobility were Krukowo, Chocień, Zaduszniki, Jaskułowice, Popowice, Ząbin, Ząbinek, Szczytno⁴⁴. “Predia nobilium” were only located in the following villages in Boniewo parish: Łąkie, Rczeszewo Lasoty (i.e. Arciszewo), Rczeszewo Krczonka as well

³⁶ AGAD, Brześć Z. 2, vol. 40v, 41, 191.

³⁷ AGAD, Brześć Z. 2, vol. 235.

³⁸ *Księgi sądowe brzesko-kujawskie*, ed. J.K. Kochanowski, Warszawa 1905 (here in after ref.: Kochanowski), Nos. 161, 1200.

³⁹ AD Włocławek, księga konsystorska włocławska 1, vol. 155v, 156v, 213, 223v, 225v, 245v, 249.

⁴⁰ *Lustracja*..., p. 138, 146.

⁴¹ *Ibidem*, p. 150; Z. Guldon, *Rozmieszczenie własności*..., p. 69.

⁴² Z. Guldon, *Rozmieszczenie własności*..., p. 152.

⁴³ *Lustracja*..., p. 94.

⁴⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 97.

as Kaniewo and Mikołajczewice⁴⁵. A complex of farmstead villages was also located in Zgłowiączka parish, and it consisted of Borzygniew, Grodziec Kuczwał, Grodziec Michała, Grodziec Zbyluta, Janiszewko, Smogorzewko, Kaniecz (Koniec), Skowronkowo⁴⁶. "Predia nobilium", without peasants, were also located in Poczernin, i.e. Pocieryn (in the parish of Kościelna Wieś), Krajewice (Zakrzewo parish), and also in Waganiec (Zbrachlin parish). Information about such a state of ownership comes from 1489. In the 16th century, some of these settlements, e.g. Osiemborowice became manors. In modern times, some of the villages disappeared and were absorbed by the neighbouring ones, namely: Borzeczniew, Osiemborowice, Czołpino, Jaskultowice, Krajewice, Smólsk in Kruszyn parish. Some of those villages were still divided into several hamlets, including Łąkie, Grodziec, Rczeszewo (Arciszewo). In the remaining villages, however, according to the conscription registers of 1557-1566, single, small, 0.5 to 2 fief shares remained. For example, in Gróbce Nowe, a 1 single-fief share was reported, similarly in Grodziec Michałowy. Sometimes 1 share was reported, cultivated by several people – mostly brothers. This was the case in Grodziec Zbyluta, where 6 fiefs were reported, belonging to 3 brothers in total, in Ząbin 1 share with 4 fiefs belonging to the Dołęga and Żabiński family, in Rczeszew (Arciszewo) – a 4-fief share belonging to 4 people⁴⁷. Thus, in the said villages small, farmstead property was maintained, but already in the phase of decay, when one or two small shares of individual noblemen were reported from the villages.

In the Radziejów Powiat, small property is to be found in Janowice and Sosnowice in Sadlno parish, as well as in Witowice, Witowiczki and Mietlica in Ostrowo nad Gopłem parish. The inspection of 1489 states that there were "predia nobilium multorum" in those villages⁴⁸. In the first half of the 15th century, the property there was fragmented, and the shares were also owned by heirs from the neighbouring Sadlno and Kobylnica. According to S. Szybkowski, there were families using the coat of arms of Godzięba and Mora in Sosnowice⁴⁹. In Witowice there lived a family related to Kłobski Pomians on the distaff side⁵⁰. In Ostrów, on the other hand, there was the property of the then very impoverished nobility from the Ostrów line of the Leszczyc family⁵¹. We know of a few people inheriting in Mietlica (Ostrowo parish) from the

⁴⁵ *Lustracja...*, p. 97, 98.

⁴⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 101.

⁴⁷ A. Pawiński, *Polska XVI wieku...*, *Wielkopolska*, vol. 2, p. 13-14; Z. Guldón, *Rozmieszczenie własności...*, p. 56, 57, 62.

⁴⁸ *Lustracja...*, p. 138, 146.

⁴⁹ S. Szybkowski, *Ród Cielepałów*, Gdańsk 1999, p. 49, 56.

⁵⁰ J. Karczeńska, *Ród Pomianów...*, p. 102-103.

⁵¹ J. Karczeńska, *Własność szlachecka na pograniczu wielkopolsko-kujawskim w pierwszej połowie XV wieku*, Kraków 2010, p. 48-50.

second half of the 15th century, yet the sources do not allow us to establish their family ties or determine their family affiliation.

The farmstead villages in Radziejów Powiat also included Morzyce and the villages of Bytoń parish – Potółówek, Dębołęka and Wrzelewo⁵². In the 16th century, classic farmstead ownership was maintained in Witowiczki, where there were 8 shares ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 fiefs, and also in Morzyce with 5 farmstead shares ranging from 1/4 to 1 fief⁵³.

In Kowal Powiat, at the end of the 15th century, the farmstead property was concentrated in the following villages of Kłóbka parish: Bilno, Szewo, Szewo Wirczek and Uniesławice, and in Michał Dąbrówka and Dąbrówka Mała located in Grabkowo Dąbrówka Wielka parish⁵⁴. According to the tax registers of the mid-16th century, there were still shares belonging to the farmsteaders in these villages. Such property can also be seen in several other places within the Powiat, including villages where in the 15th century there was farm property – Czapple, Kamienna and Gagowy were among them⁵⁵. The owners of shares in those villages added them up to pay the tax together, and so 4 fields in Czapple were reported by 4 Dedo nobles, and 3 fiefs in Gagi by 2 Kłobski nobles, while in Kamienna 5 fiefs were submitted for conscription by Wojciech Kamieński and “item alii omnes cum vidua”⁵⁶.

Farmstead villages were numerous in Przedecz Powiat. Small ownership practically dominated the area. A complex of farmstead villages was located in Błenna parish and, according to data from 1489, those were Roznietczyce (now lost) with four hamlets: Roznietczyce Śmiłowe, Roznietczyce Gogołek, Roznietczyce Świętomirowe and Roznietczyce Bernarda, then Dziewczepole Smisz and Dziewczepole Macieja, as well as Gogołki, Wiszczelice and Naczachowo Niewiedział⁵⁷. The next clusters of farmstead villages were located in the parishes of Izbica Kujawska and Chodecz. In the former one, those were: Naczachowo Wielkie, Wietrzychowice Wielkie and Wietrzychowice Małe (referred to as Dietrzychowice in court registers), Grochowiska Żegotki, Grochowiska Pakosza, Grochowiska Ślazowe and Kucice, Kozanki and Obałki⁵⁸. The following, in turn, belonged to Chodecz parish: Łakno, Mielno Urbana, three hamlets in Prošno – Prošno Nadrożę, Prošno Sławęczyno and Prošno Giet-sława, as well as Głębozcki and Cetty. Homestead ownership could also be found in

⁵² *Lustracja...*, p. 142.

⁵³ Z. Guldon, *Rozmieszczenie własności...*, p. 80, 82.

⁵⁴ *Lustracja...*, p. 118-119.

⁵⁵ A. Pawiński, *Polska XVI wieku...*, *Wielkopolska*, vol. 2, p. 18-19.

⁵⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 19.

⁵⁷ *Lustracja...*, p. 124

⁵⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 129

the villages of Janowice, Ryń, Ośno Nagórne and in Nasięgniewice and Bogdanów in the Lubotyń parish⁵⁹.

In Grochowiska, among the heirs, nobility of the Łazęka coat of arms could be presumed: in the document of the Kuyavia sejmik of 1433, two noblemen appeared from this coat of arms – Żegota from Szczodrów and Jan from Grochowiska. Some of the nobility in Błenna parish may have belonged to Drużyn family, because in the same document Piotr Pełka of Błenna was referred to as its representative⁶⁰. The description of the nobility of Jasiek of Roznietczyce from 1414 allows us to state that in Roznietczyce the nobility of the Pobóg coat of arms had its property⁶¹. Still, it is difficult to identify the ancestral affiliation of most of the nobility from this and neighbouring villages. It is possible to indicate where they had their property shares. In Roznietczyce heirs from Wyłocze had their shares. They also had shares in Błenno, Naczachów and Wietrzychowice. The heirs from Ogorzelew, in turn, also resided in Łakno and Goły, and the nobility from Obałki also held their shares in Świszewy and Poddębice. In Świszewy, fiefs were also held by Awdańcy of Komorowo. In Psary, Radoszewice, Trzebuchów and also in Wierzbie, small noble families of the Pomian coat of arms would inherit their shares. Their filiation is presented elsewhere⁶². In Psary there were probably families of only this one *clenodium*. In Radoszewice, however, representatives of Rogala family can also be found⁶³. The nobility of various coats of arms lived in Trzebuchów, Ogończycy from Poczernin and Pomianów definitely had their property there⁶⁴.

Following the inspection data from 1489 reveals that in the second half of the 15th century, the number of the farmstead nobility in the Przedecz Poviát was high – the highest in Brześć Kujawski Voivodeship. However, such a situation could have been observed earlier, as evidenced by court records from Przedecz land books. In the middle of the 16th century, small and farmstead ownership still dominated the Poviát, heirs had shares with an average area of 1-2 fiefs, so the situation remained virtually unchanged. Only in single villages, villages with several or a dozen fiefs were reported for tax purposes. Dziewczopólko, Strzyżki, Ośno Dolne, Wiszczelice, and Roznietczyce Śmiałów were still of the farmstead character – these were villages with the largest number of shares.

⁵⁹ *Lustracja...*, p. 125-126.

⁶⁰ „Kodeks dyplomatyczny Polski”, vol. 2, ed. A. Muczkowski, L. Ryszczewski, Warszawa 1848, No. 576.

⁶¹ AGAD, Przedecz Z. 2, vol. 4 vol.

⁶² J. Karczewska, *Ród Pomianów...*, p. 149, 179, 192.

⁶³ AGAD, Przedecz Z. 2, k. 126.

⁶⁴ J. Karczewska, *Ród Pomianów...*, p. 142, 148, 192, 198.

There were numerous heirs in the respective villages, and the proliferation of the family increased the fragmentation of its heritage. In Przedecko, heirs from one farmstead village very often had parts in the neighbouring villages, which were fragmented, as was the family estate (as in the saying: “six fortunes and still nothing to eat”). Often, the subject of transactions between the farmsteads were also shares located in one village. Court books rarely inform about their size, using terms such as *pars*, *sors* instead, still on the basis of some references, where the area is nevertheless defined, it can be concluded that they were small. For example, in 1424 Jan and Dobiesław of Łakno sold 2 fiefs there⁶⁵, in 1427 Bernard and Mikołaj of Roznietzycze bought two fiefs in Pyszków⁶⁶. The size of the share is also evidenced by the sales sums – the share in Wyszczelice, that Jakusz of Wyszczelice bought from Jan in 1424, was worth 13 grzywnas at the time (Translator’s note: Grzywna was a medieval measure of weight, used mainly for silver)⁶⁷ while the price of one fief of land in Przedeck Pówiat was then approx. 20 grzywnas⁶⁸. At the same time, quite an intensive land turnover and frequent transactions concluded within the family circle can be seen, not affecting, however, the level of land prices.

Also, the amount of marriage and dowry bequests, which are a good indicator of the property status, is not impressive. The dowries of noblewomen from Przedeck Pówiat amounted to 2-10 kopas groszy (one kopa = 60), 10-25 grzywnas⁶⁹. The dowry was rarely offered in cash, it was usually in the form of a pledge given to the father-in-law. Marriages were concluded in one’s own milieu – wives usually came from another family living in the same village or from the local petty nobility.

Similarly, other property matters in which the farmsteads participated amounted to relatively modest amounts, corresponding to the scale of their assets. There were, for example, marriage and dowry entries for 1 fief of land, debt in the amount of several dozen groszy and several-grzywna sureties.

In this thicket of nobility, it is difficult to establish filiation, which is made even more difficult by the same people inheriting in several neighbouring villages of a similar property structure. Their inhabitants were connected with each other by kinship and affinity, as well as various property matters. In this melting pot of properties and bloodlines, it is only in a few cases that it is possible to identify ancestry.

Uncontrolled reproduction, cramped farmsteads, and poverty were the causes of frequent neighbourly conflicts concerning, in general, mutual damage to the farm,

⁶⁵ AGAD, Przedeck Z. 2, vol. 269.

⁶⁶ *Ibidem*, vol. 330v.

⁶⁷ *Ibidem*, vol. 282.

⁶⁸ See AGAD, Przedeck Z. 2, k. 314 vol.- 60 grzywnas were paid for 3 fiefs in Berzyno.

⁶⁹ E.g.: Stanisław of Naczachowo sued Jan from the same place for 20 kopas of his wife’s dowry (Przedeck Z. 2, k. 267 v).

disputes over the margins, perfectly nailed in the saying “the one whose scythe is first, has a wider meadow”. Court books also abound in cases of “*pro violencia et vulneribus*”, as beatings, injuries and attacks were frequent in this community.

According to Z. Guldon's calculations based on the 16th century conscription registers, in Inowrocław Voivodship there were then 85.5 fiefs (38.5 fiefs in Inowrocław Poviát and 47 fiefs in Bydgoszcz Poviát) belonging to the farmstead nobility, therefore this type of property was not playing a big role there⁷⁰. Accordingly, in Brześć Kujawski Voivodeship 360 fiefs belonged to farm nobility, most of which was in Przedecz Poviát. The majority of shares did not exceed the 1 fief area, which accounted for 56.3% of the total field fiefs in the voivodship⁷¹. These calculations are somewhat different from the data presented by Adolf Pawiński, according to whom in Brześć Kujawski Voivodeship there were a total of 343 fiefs in the hands of the farmstead nobility⁷². Such calculations are possible for the second half of the 16th century, as enabled by the tax registers. Court books are scarce in such figures, providing information on the number of these nobility and their affairs – mainly property and family matters. However, the information from the court registers supplemented with the data from the inspection of fiefs of 1489 allow us to conclude that the saturation of farmstead property in eastern Kuyavia – especially in the district of Przedecz – was already significant in the first half of the 15th century, and this was maintained several dozen years later. Still it was not dominant in the property structure of this territory, manor nobility was more prominent there. As mentioned above, the largest concentration of peasantless nobility was in Przedecz Poviát and was located to the north-east of Przedecz. The property structure there and social relations were similar to those in the neighbouring Łęczyca region. According to A. Pawiński, in Łęczyca region, based on the information from tax registers, 426 fiefs belonged to the farm nobility and such property was dominant in the area⁷³. Petty noble property was partially diminished as a result of the concentration of noble property: plots in such villages were bought by wealthier nobility.

In the 15th-16th centuries, there was farmstead property in each Poviát of Kuyavia. However, it constituted a small percentage of noble estates in this territory. In Inowrocław and Bydgoszcz Poviats, farmstead settlements were scattered and did not show

⁷⁰ Z. Guldon, *Rozmieszczenie własności...*, p. 47, 49.

⁷¹ *Ibidem*, p. 44.

⁷² A. Pawiński, *Polska XVI wieku...*, *Wielkopolska*, vol. 1, p. 145.

⁷³ *Ibidem*, p. 149.

any features of a grouping, unlike Brześć Kujawski, especially in their south-eastern part. The area of Kuyavia was a transitional territory between the Greater Poland proper and the lands of central Poland, which was also reflected in the property structure of the nobility. As for farmstead property, the Kuyavia ownership relations were closer to those that can be observed in the neighbouring Łęczyca land in this respect. It is especially noticeable in the border district of Przedecz – the similarities concern the fragmentation and area of farms. The size of farmstead farms in Kuyavia, mainly those in Przedeczki Powiat, is also comparable to the acreage of those in Płock Voivodship, where in the first half of the 16th century those with the size of 0.5-1 fief dominated⁷⁴.

The specificity of the farm nobility, its activity in the scope of private and public affairs is common for this environment, regardless of the place of settlement. The world of homestead nobility was confined to parish structures and it was a world belonging to the circle of rural, not chivalrous, culture, although its inhabitants boasted knightly coats of arms⁷⁵.

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⁷⁴ K. Boroda, *Wielkość arealu...*, p. 43.

⁷⁵ B. Geremek ed., *Kultura Polski średniowiecznej XIV i XV wieku*, Warszawa 1997, p. 127.

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PROPERTY DISTRIBUTION OF FARMSTEAD AND PETTY NOBILITY (SZLACHTA) IN KUYAVIA AT THE TURN OF THE 15TH AND 16TH CENTURIES

Summary

The article is a scientific reconnaissance on the issue of the distribution of property of the peasantless nobility and partial nobility in Kuyavia in the late Middle Ages and the early modern period. Its highest density was to be found in Przedecz Poviát (Przedecz) in Brześć Kujawski Voivodeship. The saturation of farmstead property in Kuyavia was already strong in the mid-15th century, but in the following century it began to shrink due to the concentration of noble property as accomplished by affluent nobility.

Keywords: Kuyavia, farmstead nobility, noble estate

ROZMIESZCZENIE WŁASNOŚCI SZLACHTY ZAGRODOWEJ I CZĄSTKOWEJ
NA KUJAWACH NA PRZEŁOMIE XV I XVI WIEKU

Streszczenie

Artykuł jest naukowym rekonesansem dotyczącym kwestii rozmieszczenia własności szlachty bezkrajowej i cząstkowej na terenie Kujaw w czasach późnego średniowiecza i okresie wczesnonowożytnym. Największe jej zagęszczenie znajdowało się w powiecie przedeckim (Przedecz) w województwie brzesko-kujawskim. Nasycenie własnością zagrodową na Kujawach było silne już w połowie XV w., jednak w kolejnym stuleciu zaczęła się ona kurczyć w związku z podejmowaną przez zamożną szlachtę koncentracją własności szlacheckiej.

Słowa kluczowe: Kujawy, szlachta zagrodowa, majątek szlachecki