

## THE HOUSE IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN TOWNS IN THE POLISH-LITHUANIAN COMMONWEALTH AND SILESIA

On April 22–23, 2002, the Commission for the History of Towns of the Historical Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Archeological Commission of the Wrocław Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences organised a national conference in Wrocław which was dedicated to *The House in Medieval and Modern Towns in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Silesia*. Thirteen papers and six communiqués dealing with various aspects of the question indicated by the title were read during the two-day debates.

The debates opened with a text by Urszula Sowina (Warsaw) *The Medieval Burgher House. Some Research Problems* in which the author depicted the social reasons which influenced the structure of various types of medieval burgher houses in Europe, from the Italian *accasamentum domorum* and *case-torri* to the Hanseatic “Dielenhäuser”. The author discussed the medieval building materials, drawing attention to the transfer of building techniques which accompanied colonisation on the basis of German law; she also characterised the basic sources useful in research on medieval urban tenement houses (building accounts, notes on urban trade in immovables, family partages, inventories, last wills, results of archeological research, views, maps and description of towns).

The next papers on medieval houses in Silesian and Polish towns were more analytical. Mateusz Goliński (Wrocław) discussed in detail the question of water supplies for Świdnica in the 14th century, emphasising the usefulness of councillors' book in this type of research. They have helped him to establish that no fewer than 30 plots had wells, many of which belonged to two, three or even more partners.

Krzysztof Dumala (Warsaw) described arcaded houses in Lower Silesian market squares, emphasising that they were very popular in that province and in neighbouring Little Poland. He pointed out that many wooden arcaded houses were devastated after 1945 but that this type of construction was still in use. Maciej Małachowicz (Wrocław) presented a detailed analysis of the architectural details of the sculpture decorating the corner of a house in Kurzy Targ (Chicken Market) in Wrocław. The sculpture dates from about 1400. Artur Boguszewicz (Wrocław) spoke of the results of the architectural and archeological research on the medieval houses of Dzierżoniów. Rafał Eysymontt (Wrocław) made use of iconographic and cartographic sources to reconstruct the state of housing in 13th–14th century Niemcza. Bogusław Czechowicz (Wrocław) described the figure of Madonna and Child attributed to Albrecht Dürer on one of the houses in Strzegom's market square.

Controversy arose over the text by Cezary Buśko (Wrocław) who dealt with medieval houses of tower type, a category in which he included all multistorey buildings in medieval Cracow and Wrocław. According to Małgorzata Chorońska (Wrocław), co-author of another paper on medieval Silesian houses, Buśko's assertion was overhasty for it did not consider elements typical of house-towers (a separate ground floor, lack of entrance on the ground floor, etc.).

Six more papers and communiqués were read during the next round of the conference. They focused on housing in medieval and early modern Cracow. On the basis of rectors' court records from 1460–1510, Krzysztof Boroda (Białystok) discussed the housing conditions of Cracow students who lived in private

hospices. They usually stayed no more than several weeks in one hospice, paying 6–9 groschen a week. They were usually late with their rent, and this was one of the reasons for the frequent rotation of inmates, discovered by the author in over a dozen private hostels.

Zdzisław Noga (Cracow) discussed a long-drawn-out 16th century action brought by the heirs to a well known building in Cracow's market square, the Blue Lion House. The extensive detailed documentation of the dispute enabled the author not only to show the means by which energetic patricians took over valuable properties (the successive owners of the Blue Lion House were: Paweł Kaufmann, Stanisław Ziemianin and Waclaw Chodorowski) but also to depict the family relationships between members of the local elite.

Kamila Follprecht (Cracow) outlined the property structure in Cracow in the middle of the 17th century. Only a small part of the properties belonged to burghers at that time, most were already owned by the clergy, the nobility and the municipal and university authorities. The author pointed out that as a result of shared ownership, many one-family houses became multi-family ones.

The results of K. Follprecht's observations were confirmed by Waldemar Komorowski (Cracow) in his paper *Palaces in the Shape of Tenement Houses and A Fenced Manor House, that is Noblemen's Residences in 17th Century Cracow*. According to the author, the decline of burghers' Cracow in the late 17th and 18th centuries was accompanied by a rapid increase in the number of noblemen's properties in devastated Cracow; in the second half of the 18th century they accounted for 27 per cent of all properties. What is more, magnates and noblemen owned properties not only in the parts of Cracow under private jurisdiction but also in the centre of the city.

The last two papers read on the first day of the conference concerned the names of Cracow houses in the 15th century (Przemysław Tyszką, Lublin) and the location of Cracow suffragans' houses (Jan A. Spież, Cracow). Tyszką depicted how the names arose and the functions they played. Jan A. Spież tried to define the character of ownership of each property in the so-called Dominican quarter discussed by him, and its interior decorations.

The second day of the debates opened with a paper by Andrzej Karpinski (Warsaw) *Ill-famed Houses in the Commonwealth's Cities in the 16th–18th Centuries. An Outline*. He depicted various buildings or sets of properties which for many reasons were disliked or abhorred by the inhabitants or inspired them with a feeling of dread. Some of them, for example prisons, houses of detention, places of torture, forced work houses, public baths, hangmen's houses and some categories of hospitals (leproseries, lunatic asylums, hospitals for infectious diseases, orphanages and homes for foundlings) were included into public services; some owed their ill repute to dubious character of their inhabitants. The last-named category included first and foremost legal and illegal brothels, houses storing stolen goods and thieves' dens.

The next three papers concerned tenement dwellings and houses in 18th century Gdańsk. In the first paper Edmund Kizik (Gdańsk) reconstructed the kitchen equipment and utensils in the houses of poor inhabitants of Gdańsk in the 18th century. On the basis of private and official inventories he ascertained that about a third of the persons estimated to have been worth less than 100 florins had some kitchen furniture and utensils, mainly old worn-out kettles, pots and plates made of sheet metal, zinc or faience; their number usually did not exceed several pieces in one household. Kizik did not find any wooden spoons and plates in the inventories. On the other hand he did find many tea utensils (bowls, tins, etc.), which would indicate that tea became very popular in Gdańsk in the second half of the 18th century.

On the basis of announcements published in "Gdańska Gazeta Ogłoszeniowa" in 1770–1776, Ewa Barylecka-Szymańska (Gdańsk) depicted the local immovables trade market. The fact that the number of properties on sale kept increasing year by year (detached houses, houses with shops, inns, subur-

ban houses with gardens, tenement houses) may indicate that after the first partition of Poland (1772) some inhabitants of Gdańsk decided to leave the city, feeling that their interests were in danger. The author also discussed nearly 300 announcements for rent, most of them concerned single accommodations, rooms and detached houses.

*Building Police Acts as a Source for Research into Gdańsk Tenement Houses from the Middle Ages to the 18th Century*, this was the subject of a communiqué read by Zofia Maciakowska (Gdańsk). The author pointed out that the materials analysed by her were very useful for reconstructing the size of properties and their layout as well as for obtaining information on the interior of houses, cellars and vestibules.

The papers were followed by an animated discussion in which the speakers stressed the necessity of deepening interdisciplinary research into burghers' houses, analysed new research possibilities provided by various little known sets of sources, and disputed detailed issues, for instance the presence of multistorey houses in Polish and Silesian cities. The speakers also emphasised the necessity of undertaking research on small towns in the Polish Commonwealth and intensifying comparative research.

The results of the debates were summed up by Hanna Zaremska (Warsaw). In her opinion the conference was a success in every respect. The Wrocław conference showed, however, that while much was known about town planning and urban architecture, research on urban sociotopography was still insufficiently developed.

Andrzej Karpiński

## THE CULTURE OF THE JAGELLONIAN AND RELATED COURTS

On 5–7 September 2002, in the conference hall of Lublin's "Europa" hotel an international session was held entitled *The Culture of the Jagiellonian and Related Courts*. It was organized by: Lublin Catholic University, The Institute of Central-Eastern Europe in Lublin, Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum Geschichte und Kultur Ostmitteleuropas in Leipzig as well as the History of Culture Commission of the Historical Sciences Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The conference brought together historians as well as historians of art from Germany, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Italy, Holland, Sweden, Great Britain, the United States and Poland. The lecturers' interest embraced Polish, Hungarian and Lithuanian courts of the Jagiellons, as well as the courts of the Frankish Hohenzollerns, Swedish Vasas and the ducal court of Courland.

The first session of the conference was entitled: *The Life of the Court Between Everyday and Holiday*. Maria Bogucka (Warsaw) in her lecture *The Court of Anne Jagiellon: Size, Structures and Functions*, presented the organization and the tasks fulfilled by the courts of women from the Jagiellonian house. The authoress drew attention to the changes in those courts, depending on Anne's age, her marital status and political influence. The lecture by Anna Brzezińska (Budapest), entitled: *"Companions of Royal Bed": Queens in 16th Century Poland*, was devoted to the ideas of the role and place of the queen, current in the 16th c. Her paper featured Bona Sforza, Barbara née Radziwiłł and Catherine née Habsburg — three queen consorts who — for various reasons and to a different extent — became enemies of the gentry in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Three subsequent lectures were devoted to the entertainments of Jagiellonian courts. Peter Király (Kaiserlautern) in his paper *Hofmusik der Jagiellonen-Könige Ungarns (1490–1526). Musikalische Verbindung zwischen den ungarischen Herrscherhöfen und dem polnischen Königshof zur Zeit der letzten Jagiellonen* attempted to reconstruct the musical tastes and the milieu of musicians at the Hungarian Jagiellons' court. Małgorzata Wilkska (Warsaw) presented *Les diver-*

*tissements de la Cour dans le bas Moyen Age: temps et lieu (en Pologne et ailleurs)*, stressing the universal, pan-European character of the culture of the Jagiellonian court. Daiva Steponavičienė (Vilnius), while discussing *Feasts at the Lithuanian Palace in the 15th Century*, made use of written accounts on a par with archaeological sources from the excavations at the Castle of Vilnius. Finally, Almut Bueß (Warsaw), in her lecture "*Und der Mensch gab einem jeglichen Vieh und Vogel unter dem Himmel und Tier auf dem Felde seinen Namen*": *Tiere am herzoglichen Hofe in Kurland*, discussed the issue of the great role of animals in the life of men of the past, taking as an example the everyday life and culture of the court in Courland.

The second block of papers was entitled: *Court Art and Representation of Power*. It opened with a lecture by Zenon Piech (Cracow): *Die Wappen der Jagiellonen als Kommunikationssystem*, in which the author presented the ways of employing the heraldic complex of the Jagiellons (by the then standards relatively small) in dynastic and state symbolism as well as in artistic representations. Petronilla Cemus (Leipzig), in her lecture *Die Aktualisierung der Wenzelslegende im Jagiellonenzeitalter am Beispiel der Ausmalung der Wenzelskapelle im Prager Veitsdom unter König Wladislaw II*, carried out an analysis of the propaganda role of St. Wenceslaus's cycle founded at St. Vitus's Cathedral in Prague by Ladislaus Jagiellon II in the first decade of the 16th c. The lecture by Katharina Chrubasik (Bonn) *Die Funktion des Grabmals von Wladislaw II, Jagiellon im Kontext der Verortung* was a complement to the Polish research on Ladislaus Jagiellon's tomb in Wawel Cathedral, and drew attention to the symbolism of its location within the sacral space. Zita Ágota Patáki (Rome), in her lecture *Buda regia — Buda imperialis. Statuenhof und Statuenprogramm: Höfische Kultur und Repräsentation in Ungarn zur Zeit des Königs Matthias Corvinus*, tried to reconstruct the appearance and iconological programme of the Renaissance complex of sculptures and bas-reliefs, commissioned by Matthias Corvinus for his royal residence in Buda. The last lecture in this session was by Agnieszka Gąsior (Leipzig), entitled: *Die Rolle der jagellonischen Prinzessin Sophie (1464–1512) in der künstlerischen Repräsentation der Hohenzollern in Franken*, and devoted to the analysis of the programme of two altars exhibited in the churches of Ansbach and Heilsbronn in connection with Zofia's marriage to Margrave Frederick called the Elder.

A successive session, entitled *Power and Art*, was opened by Reinhard Seyboth's *Die fränkischen Hohenzollern und ihre Beziehungen zu den Jagiellonen im 15/16. Jahrhundert*, where he described the Hohenzollerns' endeavours to maintain possibly the closest relations with the Jagiellons, which resulted in numerous marriages and personal contacts. Natalia Nowakowska (Oxford) in her lecture entitled *Diplomatic Relations between the Jagiellonian Courts of Poland-Lithuania and Rome, 1492–1506* demonstrated that after the death of Casimir IV Jagiellon the relations between the Polish Crown and Lithuania on the one hand, and Rome on the other, did not warm up as much as it is generally acknowledged, and two essential issues that continued to be the reason of conflict were: the participation of the Commonwealth in the anti-Turkish crusade, and her attitude to the Orthodox Church. An earlier stage of the policy of the Jagiellons towards Rome was dealt with in a lecture by Paweł Kras (Lublin) *The Hussite Revolution and Church Reform in the Diplomacy of the Jagiellonian Court*. The author gave us a better insight into the basic stages and premisses of the attitude of Polish and Lithuanian rulers to the Hussite revolution in Bohemia, against the background of the general commitment of the Jagiellons to the reform of the Church in the first half of the 15th c. Petr Hlavaček (Leipzig-Prague), in his lecture *Die Franziskaner-Observanten und die Jagiellonenkönige zwischen Kooperation und Opposition*, presented the connections of this order with the Jagiellons, going back to the times of Ladislaus Jagiellon's ancestors, and strengthened by his preparation for baptism. Jan Royt (Prague) presented *Die Darstellungen der Landgerichtssitzung unter Vorsitz König Wladislaw Jagiellos sowie des Vogelpar-*

laments auf Schloss Neuhaus, and linked them with the restitution of common law courts by Ladislaus Jagiellon in 1485.

The session *Court Education and Spiritual Culture* opened with a lecture by Dorota Żołądź-Strzelczyk (Poznań): "A Blessing Most Desired" — *the Expecting of a Child and the Beginning of Life of Polish Jagiellons*, where she described the period of expecting the offspring — inheritors of the dynasty — at the Jagiellonian court, the care of the pregnant queen, the child-birth and confinement, as well as the attendant ceremonies. Urszula Borkowska (Lublin), in her lecture *The Education of the Jagiellons*, discussed three stages in the upbringing of the successors to the throne — childhood under the mother's protection, education under the eye of Cracow University professors, and the stage of getting introduced into the secrets of political life. The latter was described, and given a concrete example by Wojciech Goleman in his lecture *The Political Education of a Prince: the Message of Wojciech Nowopolec (Novicampianus), the Teacher of John Sigismund Zapolya*. Paul Knoll (Los Angeles), in his paper: *The Jagiellons and the University of Cracow*, presented the connections of this dynasty with the University. The session closed with a lecture by Anna Adamska (Utrecht) *The Jagiellonians and the Written Word*, which analysed the participation of the Jagiellonian rulers in literary culture.

The last session of the conference was entitled: *The Court as a Built-up Space*. It opened with a paper by Napoleonas Kitkauskas (Vilnius): *Architectural Evolution of the Residence of the Kings and Grand Dukes of Lithuania in Vilnius*. The author presented the successive stages in the redevelopment of the ducal palace ruined at the turn of the 18th c., on the basis of the archaeological research accomplished in recent years. Another grand-ducal residence — the castle in Troki, was discussed by Gintautas Rackevičius (Vilnius) in his paper *Old-New Facts about Late-Gothic Exterior of the Residence of Great Duke in Trakai Insular Castle*. He attempted to reconstruct the late-Gothic decorations of the castle, executed — according to him — on Witowt's commission in connection with his political plans. Tomasz Ratajczak (Poznań), in his paper *Master Benedict, a Royal Mason of King Sigismund the Old, and the Workshop of a Late-Medieval Builder at the Dawn of Modern Times*, presented the transition from the Gothic to the Renaissance style and the organization of work in building workshops, as well as the role of the patronage of Sigismund the Old in this domain. Inga Lena Ångström Grandien (Falun), in her paper *The Residences of John III of Sweden and Katarina Jagiellon*, recreated the appearance of Stockholm Castle after its thorough reconstruction by King John III, before the fire which ruined this edifice in 1687. Agnieszka Januszek (Lublin), in her paper *The Renaissance-Style Reconstruction of the Royal Residences during the Reign of Sigismund Augustus*, presented the building initiatives of this ruler, famous as a collector and patron of Renaissance art, however, less known as a propagator of refined architecture. This session, as well as the whole conference, closed with the paper by Tomasz Torbus (Leipzig), entitled: *Mythos und Wirklichkeit: Zu den ungarischen Einflüssen auf die Residenzarchitektur in Polen-Litauen um 1500*. The author questioned the thesis that early-Renaissance Hungarian architecture exerted an essential influence on the development of the Renaissance in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. While subjecting to a closer analysis the castle in Buda, so far acknowledged as the model example, he has shown that there is no convincing evidence that it was the prototype of the Renaissance redevelopment of Wawel Castle.

The conference has shown that the history of the Jagiellonian dynasty continues to be a great inspiration for the researchers into the past in many countries. We have listened to many interesting reports, even if sometimes rather distant from the main subject of the conference and the methodological premisses of the history of culture.

Tomasz Wiślicz