

The summary of doctoral thesis entitled *The assembly (i.e. sejmik) in Sądowa Wisznia during the Reign of the Wazas (1587-1668)* by Andrzej Król

The doctoral thesis is devoted to the assembly in Sądowa Wisznia, gathering the nobility of Lvov, Przemyśl and Sanok Land of pre-partition Province of Russia, during the reign of the Wazas. Its aim is to discuss the procedures, present the assembly officials as well as decisions and views of the delegates debating in Sądowa Wisznia. It should be rather a full characteristic of the discussed institution of the nobility government. Above formulated intentions influenced the structure of the thesis. The authors of the previous monographs on the assemblies have researched into various aspects of the legal institution. They focused on the issues of the form of organisation, the ways of functioning and pertinent scope of work. A number of researchers put emphasis both on the presentation of the functions fulfilled by the assembly and the scope of its work. Other historians concentrated on the form of the assembly and the issues of its organisation. Conscious application of one of the presented types of monographs meant making the work more historical-political or historical-legal. After the Second World War, the researches started to combine both approaches towards the issues of the assembly, which was done also in the summarized thesis. It should be stressed that a bit less place, mainly because of insufficient amount of source material, was devoted to political and formal-legal issues. The key questions are the content and issues of the assembly's deliberations. It can be asserted that the thesis is constructed in such a way that allows to present the procedures, members and issues of the assembly's deliberations.

As yet, the assembly in Sądowa Wisznia hasn't been studied in such an innovative way, discussing all aspects of its work. The thematic studies published on the basis of *lauda sejmikowe* are minor and deal with diversified issues connected with the work of the assembly. Therefore, the author of the doctoral thesis decided to devote a separate study to discuss it. What also determined the choice of the topic was the fact that the discussed nobility gathering took place on a specific territory. Ruthenian voivodship was an area where eastern and western Slovenian Lands met. It was also a multiethnic territory of both Polish and Ruthenian political, religious and cultural influences. It was characterised by social and cultural independence.

The title of the doctoral thesis was formulated based on recognition of legitimacy of the conception of the assembly by Adam Lityński. He came to conclusion that there was only one assembly as a legal institution in a particular land or voivodship, but depending on the situation and necessities, it fulfilled different functions. There were no separate assemblies, but only one as a legal institution, which had a number of purview. This statement was also

judged legitimate by the author of this very dissertation. Due to this fact, its title includes the term *the assembly in Sądowa Wisznia*, rather than *the assemblies in Sądowa Wisznia*, which was often applied in subject literature.

The dissertation is confined to the period of reign of the Wazas in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (i.e. 1587-1668). Having taken the year 1587 as an initial date was not dictated by the fact that Swedish prince occupied Polish-Lithuanian throne at that time. It was rather because of the access to source material. A breakthrough in work and development of land assemblies was indeed interregnum after the death of Sigismund Augustus in 1572. It is also thought that the epoch encompassing the reign of the Wazas in Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth is so chronologically capacious that, within this period, it is possible to show the evolution of the scope of competence of the assembly as well as the views and attitudes of the delegates. It should also be stressed that the research on the assemblies in the period of reign of particular dynasties has already been done by historians of parliamentarism with a satisfactory result.

A main source basis of the dissertation is a collection of instructions for the Sejm deputies together with resolutions of the assembly in Sądowa Wisznia, entered in the county books of Lvov, Przemyśl and Sanok. They were printed, but their collection is incomplete. Thanks to the enquiry conducted in Polish and Ukrainian archives and libraries, it was possible to get to some resolutions of assembly, missing in county books. The documents which were the result of the decisions made during the assemblies were not the only materials used in the research. Other useful files were legations for the assemblies, credentials, correspondence of the assembly and its participants, the assembly speeches, reports from deliberations, instructions for deputies, hetmans, clerks, the army, attestations and treasury sources. Auxiliary source basis was composed of correspondence, the Sejm diaries and other diaries, political documents and the Sejm constitutions. Additionally, a number of published assembly files were used.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, nine separate chapters, four appendixes and a bibliography. The first chapter deals with the Land of Lvov, Przemyśl and Sanok and its assembly. It presents the territory, civil and church administrative divisions, the structure of land possession, the origin of the assembly in Sądowa Wisznia, the place of its deliberations and categories of its gathering.

The second chapter discusses the procedure of the assembly, especially regulatory solutions. Special attention was paid to the issues of summoning and circulation of official information, introductory procedures during the assembly and functions fulfilled by king's leg-

ate. A huge effort was put into an attempt at reconstruction of deliberations course, presentation of the way of making decisions, limitation and breaking the assembly and describing the way of entering into files and publishing the assembly documents.

The next chapter presents a line-up of the assembly and its participants' functions. In its introductory part, the author made an attempt to estimate the strength of the assembly in Sądowa Wisznia and to specify its social line-up. The main part of this chapter was devoted to characteristics of the assembly officials (e.g. marshals, deputies, tax collectors, treasury judges and diplomats). In its final part, political factions participating in the assembly were described.

The fourth chapter is devoted to presenting the views of the sejmik participants on internal political problems. The author described their attitude towards the king, especially in period of interregnum and political. He also presented procedures of free election and demands concerning the general sejm and the assemblies as well as the law and the judiciary of the nobility.

The fifth chapter deals with foreign policy, especially attitudes of the assembly participants towards Turkey, Crimean Khanate, Moskow, Sweden, Habsburg Empire and feudal lands of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The next part of the thesis discussed social issues, i.e. ennoblement and naturalization (indygenat), towns and townspeople, peasantry, the Jews and other minorities. The author also presented the attitude of the deputies towards Latin Church, Orthodoxy, union and Protestantism.

Two last chapters concern the army and treasury. The last but one part includes a description of the assembly participants' attitude towards different taxes. The author also characterised tax declarations and its execution. Moreover, he stressed their views on king's treasure and monetary issues. When it comes to the chapter devoted to the army, special attention was paid to the presentation of the nobility's attitude towards mass mobilization, district army and other kinds of army.

The list of gatherings of the assembly in Sądowa Wisznia and its marshals between 1587 and 1668 is included in Appendix I. In turn, Appendix II contains a list of deputies the assembly in question. Appendix III presents marshals of the sejmik in Sądowa Wisznia in the discussed period according to the number of functions fulfilled. The last but not least Appendix describes the deputies during the reign of the Wazas, also according to the numbers of their functions.