

Source material relating to the Camaldolese *jurydyka* in Praga near Warsaw from 1666–1717

Summary

The documents published in the volume are kept in the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw in the *Wilanów Economic Archive* unit (“Anteriora” section, not available to the users). They comprise 22 manuscripts (mainly individual leaves and bifolia) with a total of 68 pages – the oldest from 1666, the latest from 1717, with most of them concerning the first two decades of the 18th century.

Since the second half of the 17th century Praga had consisted of two main parts: the property of the Bishops of Kamyanets-Podilsky (since the 16th century) and the part that is of interest to us, the so-called “Praga Magnacka” [Baronial Praga], called since the 1720s “Praga Książęca” [Princely Praga], and in the present volume – “grunty Kazanowskie” [Kazanowski’s lands]. The areas that made up the *jurydyka* (settlement under the jurisdiction of an ecclesiastic or secular lord) of Praga Magnacka were acquired by Adam Kazanowski in the 1630s and 1640s. Owing to some financial liabilities he took on before his death (1649), his widow Elżbieta Słuszczanka was forced to pledge them to the Camaldolese monks from Góra Królewska near Warsaw (today the Warsaw district of Bielany), as she lost a lawsuit before the Crown Tribunal (1666).

From now on the Camaldolese monks had at their disposal *retenta* (payments in arrears), taxes and rents from lands and buildings in Praga Magnacka. They were to use these revenues to recover their debt and that is why for a while they became the owners of the *jurydyka* by virtue of a lien on it. This lasted until 1720, when Praga Magnacka went into the hands of Elżbieta Sieniawska née Lubomirska and became part of the Wilanów estate. This is how the former Camaldolese documents concerning Praga ended up in the Wilanów archives.

The monks drew up and gathered primarily those documents that would enable them to effectively recover the money owed to them by virtue of owning the *jurydyka*. They included audits or inspections (checking the actual state) of buildings and squares, as well as various dues that the inhabitants of Praga were obliged to pay. In addition, the monks kept registers precisely defining who among the Praga residents had paid his or her dues. Most of the material published in the volume relates to the above issues and belongs to this type of sources, although there are also letters, a proclamation and complaints lodged before courts.