

Sławomir KOŚCIELAK

Staffing of Gdańsk monasteries in personnel reports of the Prussian
Ministry of Religious Affairs from 1817–1835.
Materials for prosopographic study on religious clergy
in Pomerelia

Summary

This source edition presents reports on the personnel situation of the Gdańsk monastic congregations undergoing suppression, which were drawn up in 1817–1835 at the request of the then Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Kingdom of Prussia. The reports can currently be found in the fond of records of the same Ministry (*Kultusministerium*), at the Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz in Berlin. Within the strict municipal jurisdiction of Gdańsk, there were three monasteries and four convents: of Dominican, Carmelite, and Brigittine monks, as well as Brigittine sisters. In the period in question, 20 reports were prepared overall; two semi-annual and 18 annual ones. The report tables changed their form and layout several times, becoming more and more detailed in the presentation of data, especially with regard to nuns and friars. The registers were supplemented with letters of transmittal, initially mentioning a great deal of problems which needed solving, but later becoming more and more terse and conventional. This edition endeavours to present the reports in their original form (written in German), preserving mistakes and slips of the tongue, and documenting the nonchalance of Prussian officials. The kind of material gathered in this way can prove useful in various sorts of study of the history of Gdańsk monasticism, demonstrating not only the gradual decline of formerly flourishing centres of religious life, but also depicting monastic life inside monasteries (the duration of novitiate, types of posts and functions in the monastic structure, activity inside and outside the institutes). It can also be of assistance in biographical and prosopographical research, since it portrays the social and geographic background of the convents in question and supplement the already published lexicons of monastery personnel.