

Mariusz Kozdrach, *The nobility of the Radom District in the times of Stanisław August Poniatowski. A study of local bonds*

The dissertation is an attempt to look at the nobility of the Radom District as a local community, characterizing with a sense of belonging to the inhabited territory, strong relations with co-inhabitants and local institutions. The Stanisław August Poniatowski's reign brought partial decentralization of the Sandomierz Voivodeship and strengthening of the Radom District's self-government. Similar trends can be noticed in local activity of that time (e.g. local confederations). Therefore considerations were focused on an analysis of "formal" bonds linking the nobility with the Radom District, such as durability of possession (including migration and circulation of elite) as well as engagement in local political life. The dissertation has a thematic structure and the subsequent chapters are concentrated on land possession, local offices, self-government and the Church.

The first chapter, being an introduction to the principal, analytical, part of the dissertation, contains general characteristics of the Radom District. It presents the Districts' place in the structures of state and Church administration, as well as population and land possession issues. Collected data were confronted with other lands of the western Lesser Poland (Cracow, Lublin and Sandomierz Voivodeships). This part of the dissertation contains also a description of the 18th century Radom and concerns about its role as a district's capital.

The second chapter, opening the principal part of the dissertation, has been devoted to the issue of land possession – basic criterion of the nobility's territorial identification. After establishing a number and structure of noble estates in the Radom District, changes of possession over the last 25 years of the 18th century were analysed. That allowed to indicate over a hundred noble families hereditarily possessing land near Radom over the whole studied period (and potentially having stronger relations with the Radom District). The group was subsequently analysed for „roots” in the District. The families were divided onto local (autochthonic), originated from the medieval knightly settlement, and immigrant. The latter, divided for families settled in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, had also been analysed for their geographical origin, what allowed to point main migration directions. The non-hereditary possessors were studied separately, as the temporary forms of land possession had lesser potential in creating local bonds.

The third chapter presents local offices, which existence could be favourable in forming a particularistic (district) political elite. In the subsequent subsections the Radom offices – castellan and starost, land offices (*urzędy ziemskie*) and castle offices (*urzędy grodzkie*) – were described. In order to present their separateness from the Sandomierz Voivodeship's offices, ways of promotion were analysed (potential promotions from and to offices in other districts) as well as the office holders' possession (dependence between holding estates in the Radom District and gaining local offices) and origin (number of the autochthonic families' members holding local offices and availability of functions for the immigrants).

The fourth chapter concerns about the noble self-government. At first the Stanisław August period Crown law reforms, establishing a dietine in Radom, were described. Afterwards the Radom elective dietine, functioning from 1764 to 1791, was analysed as well as other manifests of particularistic self-governance of the Radom nobility in the last years of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Main assemblies, gathering the nobility of the whole Sandomierz Voivodeship, were however held in Opatow (since 1793 in Kielce), therefore principal part of the chapter was devoted to participation of the Radom nobility in those dietines. An attempt was taken to determine an attendance of the analysed group among participants of the Opatow dietine

and their engagement in fulfilling the dietine's „internal” (i.a. assessors) and „representative” (deputies, Tribunal judges) functions. Resolutions of the Opatow dietine (*lauda*) were also analysed for local Radom postulates.

In the last, fifth chapter, main institutions of the Catholic Church in the Radom District has been presented, with a detailed analysis of bonds linking the nobility with local parishes. Bonds' manifestations were examined over three issues: material support for churches, burial places' selection and benefices' holders. Those problems, arising from the patronage law, were analysed regarding to whole nobility of the Radom District, not only presenters (*collator*).