



Maciej Badowicz. *Studium z dziejów wina w państwie zakonu krzyżackiego w Prusach XIV–XV wieku: produkcja, dystrybucja, konsumpcja* [A Study of Wine in Teutonic Prussia, 14th–15th Centuries: Production, Distribution, and Consumption]. Gdańsk: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, 2017. 141 pp. + 3 extra. ISBN: 978-83-7865-545-9.

The production and trade of wine in the Teutonic Order's territory of Prussia during the Middle Ages has been of interest to scholars who work on the history of this region for quite some time. It is therefore commendable that Maciej Badowicz, a doctoral student at the University of Gdańsk, considers the topic in this new book. Badowicz attempts to clarify and systematize existing research, as well as broaden our knowledge through his own research. The publication was financed through a scholarship for doctoral students. There are some easily noticeable problems with the publication, probably due to the author's lack of experience, careless editing, inattentive revision, and proofreading; such shortcomings are common in the writing of inexperienced researchers. The reviewed work consists of an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography, a list of abbreviations, and eleven appendices.

In the introduction, the author justifies his choice of topic with the statement that “no other food product had as profound an impact on the politics and culture of the Middle Ages as wine.” The above claim, along with the author's generalization that wine was “a common drink in the Middle Ages, but which ennobled the people consuming it or offering it to their guests” (p. 7), is not fully convincing. Furthermore, the introduction, as well as other sections of the manuscript are sometimes written in an overly complex style and language, and their argumentative logic is, at times, difficult to follow.

In the first chapter, titled “The Characteristics of Grapevines: Stages of Wine Production,” the author describes some of the general problems concerning the history and the conditions for the cultivation of grapevines (such as soil, humidity, temperature, sunlight, etc.), the process and technology of its cultivation, as well as the most important stages of the production of wine (from the picking of the grapes up until the ageing of the wine). The author bases this chapter on existing literature, mostly in Polish.

Badowicz devotes the second chapter of the book to discussing problems connected to the production of wine in the regions controlled by the Teutonic Order in Prussia during the 14th and 15th centuries. This section is also based mostly on



existing literature on the subject. In the first part of the chapter, the author discusses the conditions for grape cultivation in Prussia and provides a description of the region's climate and soil types. He then turns to the earliest written evidence for grape cultivation in Prussia. Unfortunately, the author's use of some of the previously published material occasionally leads to certain generalizations which seem problematic (see, for example, p. 29, where he generalizes that arable land located near the towns was used for garden plots, while urban plots which were indivisible were granted, along with urban gardens, to settlers in accordance with the Law of Kulm; or his claim that, in the 14th century, cities located in the territory of the Teutonic Order in Prussia were endowed with 100 hides of arable land). Badowicz also does not utilize some recent research that would be highly relevant to the topic, for example work on climate.¹

The second part of the chapter is dedicated to the description of issues connected to the production of wine in the territory of the Teutonic Order's state in Prussia. Again, the author refers in rather general terms to soil types and temperature levels occurring in this region. He also discusses places where vineyards were located in the region (for example Thorn (today: Toruń), Kulm (Chełmno), Elbing (Elbląg), Danzig (Gdańsk), Christburg (Dzierżgoń), Schönsee (Kowalewo), Schwetz (Świecie), Neuburg (Nowe), the Mewe (Gniew) commandery, and the Althaus (Starogród) commandery), and where wines, both local and imported, were stored. Unfortunately, because of a lack of relevant source material, the author is unable to establish the scale on which wine was produced in Prussia, or how much was imported from other regions.

The third chapter considers the issue of the distribution of wine in the Teutonic Order's state in Prussia, both in the Order itself as well as in cities located in the Order's territory. Badowicz emphasizes the important role of the Hanseatic League, the Teutonic Order's officials, city officials, and Prussian merchants in the wine trade. He also briefly discusses the regions from which wine was imported to Prussia, as well as the methods of transportation and the barrel measuring units

¹ For example: *The Polish Climate in the European Context: An Historical Overview*, ed. Rajmund Przybylak, Jacek Majorowicz, Rudolf Brázdil, and Marek Kejan (Dordrecht: Springer, 2010); Rajmund Przybylak, Janusz Filipiak, and Piotr Oliński, "Meteorological Observations of Gottfried Reyger in Gdańsk, 1722–1769, and Their Relevance to Research on Climate Change," *Przegląd Naukowy: Inżynieria i Kształtowanie Środowiska* 66 (2014): 360–375; Aleksandra Pospieszynska, "Climate Change in Toruń during the Last Four Centuries, Based on Instrumental, Historical and Dendrological data," PhD dissertation, Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika w Toruniu, Toruń 2015; Piotr Oliński, "Descriptions of Weather by Jan Długosz from the *Annales*: Records from the 1550s and 1560s," in *Jan Długosz (1415–1480): życie i dzieła*, ed. Lidia Korczak, Marek Daniel Kowalski, and Piotr Węcowski (Kraków: Towarzystwo Wydawnicze „Historia Iagellonica”, 2016).

used at the time. He describes the various legal regulations placed on the trade and the quality of wine, as well as regulations which were aimed at preventing tampering. Some of these regulations were general while others were specific to certain cities. This part of the study is based mostly on an analysis of written sources compiled in the Teutonic Order's chanceries.

The last chapter of the book is called "Consumption of Wine in the Teutonic Order's State in Prussia between the 14th and 15th Centuries." Badowicz begins this chapter by introducing some of the suggestions for the classification of sources on medieval wine-making from a 1999 article by Allen J. Grieco. The author presumably translated the text from the original French, which would explain the stylistic awkwardness of some of the translations. Badowicz also proposes adding financial records to this classification. Next, Badowicz characterizes features of different types of wines imported to Prussia during the Middle Ages (such as malvasia, romania, Greek wines, Italian wines, French wines, Portuguese wines, Hungarian wines, Bohemian wines, Austrian wines and Rhineland wines; the two last types could have perhaps been imported from Teutonic Order's wineries located in those two regions; as well a local wines). The author also considers the role played by wine in the Teutonic Order's internal and external policy (for example as a gift given to rulers and officials), as well as its uses in medieval medicine and as an ingredient in medieval cooking. The chapter ends with a brief discussion of stone and glass vessels, uncovered by archaeologists in Prussia, which could have been used for the storing and drinking of wine.

In the "Conclusion" section, Badowicz summarizes his earlier considerations by emphasizing the significant role of the production and trade of wine for the economic and social development of the Teutonic Order's state and some cities, for example Thorn (Toruń). Wine produced in Thorn was quite often served at the table of the Teutonic Order's officials or presented as a gift to guests of the Order. Grape cultivation and wine production in Prussia only deteriorated in the 15th century, during the wars between the Teutonic Order and Poland, which caused the large-scale destruction of vineyards, usually located outside the city walls. Because of these events, and due to the ever increasing import of Hungarian wines, Prussian wineries never recovered their economic significance.

The publication ends with a bibliography (divided into manuscript sources, printed sources, maps, and secondary sources) followed by a list of abbreviations and eleven appendices which show prices of wine during the discussed time period, amounts of wine stored in some of the Order's cellars, measuring units used in Europe at the time, and a lists of people involved in the production of wine. There is also a map, showing where Prussian wineries were located and in which cities and castles wine was stored. The city of Kulm (Chełmno) is not indicated on the

map, however, even though a number of vineyards existed both in the city itself as well as in its suburbs. This shows that the map does not fully represent medieval reality at the time.

Apart from the stylistic problems already mentioned, another issue is the book's scholarly apparatus; there are a number of mistakes in the footnotes and bibliography (for example footnote 8 where the wrong name is used to refer to the author of the book, footnotes 17 and 29 where the page number of the quoted source is lacking, footnote 20 where the terms 'editing' and 'publishing' are not differentiated when discussing volumes of sources, footnotes 24 and 71 which contain wrong titles: *Handelsrechnungen Buch des Deutschen Ordens*, hrsg. v. C. Sattler, Leipzig 1887, instead of *Handelsrechnungen des Deutschen Ordens*, hrsg. v. C. Sattler, Königsberg 1887. This last mistake also features in the list of abbreviations. There are more such issues within the body of the text.

Among the works listed in the bibliography, a number of manuscript sources from the Archiwum Państwowe w Gdańsku (Gdańsk State Archive) are listed. These works are not referenced correctly. Furthermore, among these, the author lists an account which was published in print ten years ago (in another part of the bibliography the author lists this source again, this time amongst the printed sources). The source in question is the *Księgi Młodego Miasta Gdańska 1400–1455 [1458–1459]*. Edited by Krzysztof Kopiński and Piotr Oliński (Toruń: Towarzystwo Naukowe w Toruniu, 2008). It should also perhaps be mentioned that there is no mention of wine or vineyards in this source. The references to the Archiwum Państwowe w Toruniu (Toruń State Archive) material are also incorrectly written; in addition to the name of the collection, the full shelf mark should be included, namely Katalog II, XVI 3. This catalogue encompasses volumes and acts rather than documents, as the author mistakenly claims on page 92. Specific editions, relevant to the theme of the publication, have been ignored² or incorrectly classified by the author (for example *Die ältesten Willküren der Neustadt Thorn (c. vom Jahre 1300) nebst einigen Urkunden und einen Zinsregister*, hrsg. v. Georg Bender, Zeitschrift des Westpreußischen Geschichtsvereins 7 (1882)).

A number of other bibliographical notes are poorly written; for example, some are not in bibliographical order, some are not complete, they provide the wrong surname of the volume's editor, or they are inconsistent in style when listing

² For example: *Księga ławnicza Starego Miasta Torunia (1428–1456)*, ed. Karola Ciesielska and Janusz Tandecki, part 1, 1444–1456 (Toruń: Towarzystwo Naukowe w Toruniu, 1992); part 2, 1444–1456 (Toruń: Towarzystwo Naukowe w Toruniu, 1993); *Księga ławnicza Starego Miasta Torunia (1456–1479)*, ed. Krzysztof Kopiński and Janusz Tandecki (Toruń: Towarzystwo Naukowe w Toruniu, 2007); *Księga ławnicza Miasta Nowego nad Wisłą (1416–1527)*, ed. Krzysztof Mikulski and Wiesław Nowosad (Toruń: Towarzystwo Naukowe w Toruniu, 2012).

works included in collected volumes or journals. Some works from foreign journals have been added to the bibliography in the original while others have been translated to Polish.

Despite these points of criticisms, pertaining mostly to technicalities, the book is of great merit. It introduces a lot of interesting new data to the subject. Its value for further research concerning the history of Pomerania in the Middle Ages, its vineyards, and the wines imported there, cannot yet be fully estimated. It should also be emphasized that compiling the material for this publication must have required a high level of paleographic skills as well as knowledge of foreign languages (both for the source material and secondary literature cited). The author's research methods appear convincing. Therefore, the publication reviewed here can be seen as an important work that summarizes, synthesizes, and expands our knowledge on wine production in medieval Prussia. It is likely that, in the future, it will be referenced by numerous Polish and foreign scholars.

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