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**The house of Prussia in Central Poland until the 16<sup>th</sup> century.  
Displacement – wealth – careers.**

**Summary**

This doctoral dissertation is part of the study of the society of Central Poland during the Middle Ages, in this case over the nobility of the Prus coat of arms with particular emphasis on the political, economic and property role of nobiles until the 16th century. The title area of the considerations includes two historically important lands, initially princely districts, and then from the fourteenth to the eighteenth century independent voivodships - Łęczyca and Sieradz. It should be emphasized that this is not a typical genealogical work, meaning it does not present biograms of subsequent representatives of the Prus family, but focuses on various aspects of their activities in the problem system.

The house of Prussia has not recently been the subject of specific investigations of historians, and therefore there are still many blanks to be filled in when discussing this issue. The only complete monograph of the family is the work of Jadwiga Chwalibińska, „The house of Prussia in the Middle Ages” (Toruń 1948). Undoubtedly, the value of this publication should be appreciated, but it should also be noted that it is only a starting point for further research and, therefore, it does not exhaust the whole issue. Therefore, the signaled problem is worth re-studying, as well as expanding to new research aspects, taking into account primarily the relationship of the family with the lands of Łęczyca and Sieradz.

The work deals with several fundamental aspects. First of all, the origins of the heraldic family of Prussians in the Polish lands were analyzed, especially in relation to the area of Central Poland, although the presence of the family was also signaled in other districts of our country. Secondly, a thorough description was given to heraldry related to the family which used the three basic varieties of the coat of arms, namely Prus I, Prus II (Wilczekosy) and Prussia III. The appearance of coats of arms and the evolution of their images, as well as heraldic legends, were discussed in detail not only the origins of the emblem itself, but also issues related to the origin of the family, such as Długosz's tale about three princes from Prussia, who, after committing the crimes, were to flee to Poland. Based on the analysis of the source and literature of the subject, some shifting of dates of the appearance of specific coats of arms in written messages have been made, thus ordering the state of knowledge on this subject. This problem was closely related to the need to correctly assign the coat of arms'

proclamations to a particular heraldic variant, because older literature was not consistent in this respect, and in recent studies some inaccuracies also occurred.

From the point of view taken in the title of the issue, questions related to the displacement and assets of the nobility of the Prussian coat of arms in Central Poland are important. On the basis of manuscript material, in particular, the terrestrial and city books of Łęczyca, Sieradz and Brzeziny, an analysis of the displacement and possession of the nobility in the area of interest was made, as illustrated by the maps attached to the work. Moreover, the political and religious careers of the family members also occupy an important place in the issues discussed in the thesis. Therefore, the participation of representatives of the nobility in political life was examined in detail not only at the local partisan, but - as far as it was possible - also at the national level. Economic activity also has an important place on the dissertation pages. Through it, we mean the lease of the royalties, property keys that constitute church property and foundational activity. All the manifestations of activity raised on the cards became the basis for establishing the hierarchy of importance of the house of Prussia in Łęczyca and Sieradz land in the period of interest.

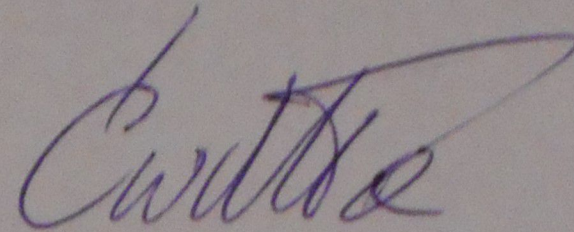
The author - based on available sources - also analyzed the manifestations of family and neighbor life. Thus, the following issues were of interest: protection of the material foundations of family members, assistance in making political and church careers, and - what seems to be an extremely interesting issue - neighborly relations, which included all kinds of border disputes, debt enforcement, inns and even criminal cases.

At the end of the work a summary of the author's research goals can be found. The property potential of all representatives of the family was calculated in detail, against the background of all noble property in Central Poland, and these findings are summarized by the property map and a bar chart. In this part, the phenomenon of the expansion of the nobility from the Prus family to the East in the 15th and 17th centuries was also indicated, trying to answer the question, what was the factor determining the mentioned phenomenon.

The annexes, which further illustrate the content in the main part of the dissertation, are a complement to the issues raised on the labor pages. First of all, the genealogical tables of individual noble families co-creating the house of Prussia should be mentioned. An important element is also the iconographic documentation of all varieties of the Prus coat of arms in the 15th-20th centuries. It has been divided into several thematic parts: epitaphs, tombstones, boards, paintings, seals and others. In the annexes, we also find illustrations of temples and a manor from the foundation of the family Wspinek from Będków. The last annex concerns the most important documents from the 15th-16th centuries. Here you can find entries of key

property divisions, a documentary of Piotr III Wspinek's oath as an Uniejów starost and a testament of Michał Wilkucki.

This dissertation therefore presents a detailed panorama of the broad activity of the nobility of the Prussia coat of arms in Central Poland during the Middle Ages. It fills the historiographic gap regarding the history of this house in Łeczyca and Sieradz lands.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'C. Wilkucki', written in a cursive style.