

Katalog pieczęci Jagiellonów [Catalog of the Seals of the Jagiellonians]. Edited by Marcin Hlebionek, Martina Bolom-Kotari, Waldemar Chorażyczewski, Miroslav Glejtek, Marcin Hlebionek, Vitaliy Perkun, and Piotr Pokora.

Folia Jagellonica Fontes 46. Toruń: Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne–Towarzystwo Naukowe w Toruniu, 2024. 490 pp.

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Considering that a significant part of the Polish royal seal usage is dated to the Jagiellonian period, this volume could to a large extent build on works focusing on the seals of the kings of Poland. Three of these milestones are well worth mentioning. 1) Without a doubt, Marian Gumowski is one of the foremost authorities on Polish auxiliary sciences. Although he obtained his doctorate in numismatics, he also produced basic works on heraldry and sphragistics. He was the first to publish a catalogue presenting the seals of the kings of Poland.¹ 2) The present volume takes as a point of reference the works of Zenon Piech, in particular his analysis of the heraldic programme of the Jagiellonians.² 3) A catalogue published in 2015, based on the material of and published by AGAD, the institution with the largest archival holdings in Poland.³

The editor has been conducting research in the field of sphragistics for decades. Marcin Hlebionek is a fellow at the Institute of History at the Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika w Toruniu (UMK). His current workplace is also his alma mater, where he graduated in 1998, obtained his PhD in 2002, habilitated in 2014 and has been a professor at the university since 2019. His main fields of expertise are historical auxiliary sciences, numismatics, heraldry and, of course, sphragistics has worked on

1 Gumowski, *Pieczęcie królów*. His heraldic handbook: Gumowski, *Handbuch*. His numismatic bibliography: Gumowski, *Bibliografia*.

2 Piech, *Monety*.

3 *Sigilla regum*.

important projects, such as the International Dictionary of Sphragistics,⁴ the documents of the Peace of Brest of 31 December 1435,⁵ and the volume presenting the seals of the kings and queens of Poland.⁶ These may be considered his preliminary research for this volume. An international team of authors has contributed to the compilation of this volume. Piotr Pokora (Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu) and Waldemar Chorążyczewski (UMK) from Poland, Martina Bolom-Kotari (University of Hradec Králové) and Miroslav Glejtek (Univerzity Konštantína Filozofa v Nitre), for compiling the Czech and Slovak parts, and regarding the processing of the Eastern material, Vitaliy Perkun from the Institute of History of Ukraine participated in the project.

The volume was published by the Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne in collaboration with the Towarzystwo Naukowe w Toruniu, both of which have a long history in the field and each of which added their own ISBN number to the volume, making this the 46th issue in the *Folia Jagellonica, Fontes* series. The volume was proof-read by the above-mentioned Zenon Piech, as well as by Sobiesław Szybkowski, lecturer at the Uniwersytet Gdański, who was also the author and editor of several source publications.⁷ The book is entirely in Polish. Given the significance of the Jagiellonians in Europe and their perception in the last decade (they were the rulers of the predecessors of many of today's countries and the dominant dynasty in Central Europe), it would be desirable to have at least the introductory chapter in English or German translation as well, and it would be equally useful to read in one of the languages of international scholarship a description of the seals of the rulers enthroned outside Poland. However, we should quickly add that thanks to the language modules of artificial intelligence, it has never been easier to overcome the language barriers.⁸ Nevertheless, these algorithms can often make mistakes in terminology, which can compromise the humble and precise work of publishers.

The first, 70-page introductory chapter of this hefty 490-page volume is written by the editor, Hlebionek. It is a thoroughly referenced treatise with more than 300 notes, giving a brief overview of the history of the research and explaining the structure and concept of the catalogue. We learn that a total of 190 seals from the years

4 Müller et al., eds, *Vocabularium*.

5 Szweda et al., eds, *Dokumenty*.

6 Bonczkowski et al., *Piecczęcie*.

7 Along with Marcin Hlebionek, Sobiesław Szybkowski contributed to the publication of the seals of the 1435 Peace of Brest, and his publication of the charter can also be mentioned as an example: Szybkowski, *Katalog*.

8 This solution is particularly helpful when using the volume digitally. The editor has been kind enough to enable the author of this article to work with it. However, the PDF of the volume is not yet available for purchase or online.

1379 to 1596 are described in the volume. Among them are the seals of the kings of Poland and the grand dukes of Lithuania (including the tyvarium of Jan Olbracht, no 73.), the seals of the Jagiellos on the Czech and Hungarian thrones, the queens of Poland, Bohemia, and Hungary, and the seals of the princes and princesses of Poland (including, among others, the seals of Silesian princes and ecclesiastical dignitaries, and the wives of foreign rulers), as well as the seals of the dynasty's descendants, such as that of Jan z Książąt Litewskich, Bishop of Vilnius.

The second chapter of the introduction deals with the seals of the Polish-Lithuanian rulers of the dynasty. It covers the issues of seal usage, chancery, iconography, heraldry, and a separate subsection deals with forged seals. The third chapter deserves more attention, as it is devoted to the seals of the Jagiellonians who succeeded to the Bohemian and Hungarian thrones. Subsection 3.1.2. of this chapter begins with a summary of the seal usage of the rulers of Hungary, based mainly on the basic sphragistic work of Lajos Bernát Kumorovitz and Imre Takács's catalogue of the seals of the Árpáadian kings. Regarding King Władysław I of Hungary (Władysław III of Poland), Hlebionek notes that two Hungarian secret royal seals can be linked to him. King Władysław I began using the first after his coronation in 1440, and the second was used in Buda from the summer of 1444. Hlebionek accepts the assumption of the author of these lines⁹ that, from that time, the two seals were in parallel use. Additionally, however, he refutes the assumption of Ferenc Dóry and Marian Gumowski that a third seal may have existed as well: according to the confirmation clause, in the absence of the royal seal, it was not another royal seal but that of Palatine Lőrinc Hédervári that was impressed under the text of the charter.¹⁰ Hlebionek points out that Władysław I could not have a Great Seal because he was not crowned with the Holy Crown, nor was it in his possession. The catalogue contains seven seals from King Władysław III/I under numbers 17–23, and his Hungarian royal seals are found under numbers 21 and 22.

In the case of King Władysław II, Hlebionek points out that, with the exception of the gold seal, the Jagiellonian monarch used the same seals as King Matthias, continuing the same system. In the catalogue, the Czech and Hungarian related seals of Władysław II can be found under numbers 42–54. It is noted that in the 1550s Queen Isabella, the king's niece, reinstated and reused the second ring seal (54) of the king. This is a rather unusual procedure, and therefore it is a pity that the catalogue does not include a picture of the copies identified in Vienna (1554) and in Chornik (1559).

Hlebionek stresses that Louis II did not have a Great Seal. The catalogue describes the Hungarian and Czech secret and judicial seals under numbers

9 Novák, "Additions to the itinerary," 49–50.

10 The charter in question: MNL OL DL 13 653.

127–133. In the case of Louis II, the research on seal impressions has not only led to the discovery of new ring seals (nos 134–140), but has also revealed a more complex picture of their use. The catalogue distinguishes between six different ring seals used during the reign of the king, which can be divided into three groups: multi-field rings with a coat of arms, single-field rings with a coat of arms depicting the dynastic eagle, and a gemma seal. Except for the latter, the King's ring seals with the coat of arms were designed in the same way: they depict the dynastic eagle, above which the letters 'L(udovicus) R(ex)' are placed. The differences between them are due to the different depictions of the shield and the coat of arms; they are typically found on documents addressed to Hungarian-speaking recipients. The gemma seal (no. 140) depicts a man's head with a radiant crown.

After the analysis of the seals of the two rulers of Hungary, Hlebionek examines the impressions of the queens of Hungary and Bohemia. This is perhaps the greatest benefit for us, as the editors have done extensive archival research and have identified impressions that previous catalogues could not include images of. Among the wives of King Władysław II, we find two seals (nos 58–59) of Barbara of Brandenburg (1464–1515), three (nos 60–62) of Beatrice of Aragon (1457–1508), and two (nos 63–64) of Anne of Foix-Candale (1484–1506) following each other. In the case of Louis II's wife, Maria Habsburg (1505–1558), the catalogue collects all the seal impressions, i.e., also those that she used as Princess of Castile and Archduchess of Austria (no. 144) before her marriage, as well as those she used as Governor of the Habsburg Netherlands (nos 149–153).

A fourth chapter is devoted to the analysis of the seals of Anna Jagellonica (1503–1547), sister of Louis II. As the wife of Ferdinand I, she became queen of the Germans, then Queen of Bohemia and Hungary. Previously only one of her seals was known, however, this research has discovered five more (nos 121–126).

In the fifth chapter of the introductory study, the author examines the physical characteristics of the seals: their shape, size, material, and the colour of the impression. Here, the seals of the sovereigns of Hungary and Bohemia appear on two more pages (pp. 78–80).

The catalogue itself is on pages 85 to 469. What complicates navigation is that, although the catalogue is presented in roughly chronological order, there is no index to direct the reader to the relevant pages by seal owners. Each catalogue item is identified by a Roman numeral. Enlarged colour photos are included of the fronts, and, if available, of the backs as well. The size, the circumscription (indicating its resolution), the language of the circumscription and the font are given in separate lines. This is followed by a plastic description of the seal and the identification of any coat of arms. The listing of literature relating to the seal provides a thorough historiographical overview and/or additional information. This is followed by an

extended analysis, focusing on the use of the seal in question and its chancellery observation. The archival identification numbers of all the originals found are listed along with the year or year range. This clearly demonstrates that the collection was extended beyond Poland and included archives in Germany, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Sweden, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Latvia, and Lithuania. The bibliography is at the end of the volume, from page 479 to page 490, presumably containing most of the relevant items.

In conclusion, the editing of the catalogue is very thorough, it summarises the works on seal material and adds new results. It seems to be a timeless handbook, which, by its very nature, has a place on the shelves of Central European historians studying heraldry, sphragistics, and numismatics. At the same time, it fits well into the series of efforts that in recent decades have aimed at a better understanding of the history of the Jagiellonian dynasty.

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