

**„Towns from the times of King Casimir the Great in the Poprad Valley
– Muszyna and Piwniczna.
Spatial development during the medieval period”**

abstract

This doctoral thesis concerns spatial development, including the architecture of two towns: Muszyna and Piwniczna. Both towns were founded by King Casimir the Great during the high Middle Ages. The towns were founded around the same time, within the period of 15 years: Muszyna before 1364, while Piwniczna in 1348. They were located on the Poprad River, in the borderlands, at the distance of around 15 km from each other. Currently, the towns are rather small with around 5000 inhabitants. They are in Lesser Poland Voivodeship, within the administrative boundaries of the Nowy Sącz district.

The time brackets of the work start at the period when both towns were established and lasted towards the end of the Middle Ages in Poland i.e. traditionally the end of the 15th century.

While preparing this dissertation several approved research methods were used. They included preliminary archive research, the planning method, field research, the comparative method, the analytical method and a public survey.

Before the history of the origins of both towns was prepared, their urban development and architecture during the medieval period, the then tendencies in the development of urban layouts had been analysed, presenting models on the basis of which the towns were laid out. A tabular analysis of the period when towns were founded in the Krakow region, including their urban model, was also presented.

The work contains an analysis, and then a description of both towns by characterising the pre-charter period, followed by the time when the towns were established, until the end of the 15th century, considering their urban design and architectural development. It was found out e.g. that they were both given defined, orthogonal urban layouts. Thus they were towns with uncomplicated functional-spatial structures which can be referred to as simple layouts. However, it should be emphasized that each town was laid out according to a different urban model: Muszyna on the basis of a 9-square model, while Piwniczna – on a turbine model.

In the dissertation current forms of protecting the cultural resources in both towns were verified. Objects inscribed in the monument register of the Lesser Poland Voivodeship, the principles of protecting cultural landscape included in the Local Spatial Development Plans of each town, as well as commune monument lists and commune monument protection programmes were analysed.

A significant element of the study was also drawing attention to the attitude of the local community as far as the restoration and protection of monuments of architecture and urban planning in both towns were concerned. By carrying out public surveys it

was attempted to find out the attitude of inhabitants of historic towns towards the cultural landscape of their "little homeland", whether they are aware of its worth and if they know the history of the town they live in. Answers to those and other questions asked in the surveys allowed for e.g. determining the needs related to the social education concerning the need to protect monuments and their restoration.

In the Conclusion it was stated that the described historic towns of Muszyna and Piwniczna are still of high cultural value. The preservation and restoration of their cultural heritage shaped by and crystallised in the past, is a public duty that next generations will hold us accountable for.