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THE EARLIEST REGISTERS OF THE PRIVATE ARCHIVES
OF THE NOBILITY OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LITHUANIA
IN THE 16TH CENTURY*

Key words: noblemen's archives, clans of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, noblemen's documents

TENDENCIES IN PREPARING EARLY REGISTERS

The registers of the resources of the archives of the noblemen's of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania constitute the fundamental source for the reconstruction of the collections of old documents. They are helpful in reconstructing the structures of the archives' resources, getting to know the principles of their functioning and ordering, establishing the typology of documents and their circulation.¹ The significance of registers is also essential to explain the genealogical questions, property issues and other questions connected with the history of individual noble families. In the last decades the research on this kind of sources has become more intensive. The focuses of the research have become: inventories of the archives of the Radziwiłł family, the Słuszków family, the Pociej family² and other families

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¹ About the significance of registers see: Waldemar CHORĄŻYCZEWSKI, Krzysztof SYTA, *O możliwościach badań archiwistyki staropolskiej*, [in:] *Przełomy w historii. Pamiętnik XVI Powszechnego Zjazdu Historyków Polskich we Wrocławiu*, vol. 2, Toruń 2001, pp. 281–296; Krzysztof SYTA, *Archiwa magnackie w XVIII wieku. Studium kultury kancelaryjno-archiwalnej*, Toruń 2010, pp. 188–213. The literature concerning the subject matter collected here.

² Czesława SADKOWSKA, *Genealogia rodu Słuszków i ich archiwum (szkic genealogiczno-archiwalny)*, Archeion, vol. 52: 1969, pp. 57–81; eadem, *Ludwik Konstanty Pociej hetman wielki Wielkiego Księstwa litewskiego i „regestr” jego archiwum z roku 1720*, *ibid.*, vol. 59: 1973, pp. 67–85; Rafał JANKOWSKI, *Burzliwe losy Archiwum Radziwiłłów z Nieświeża od XV w. do 1838 r.*, *Miscellanea Historico-Archivistica*, vol. 11: 2000, pp. 35–68; idem, *Prace inwentaryzacyjne w Archiwum Głównym Radziwiłłów w Nieświeżu do 1945 r.*, *Archiwista Polski*, vol. 5: 2000, no. 3 (19), pp. 43–55; Krzysztof

of magnates from the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, mainly from the 17th and the 18th centuries.³ The inventories of the archives of the Sapieha family of the mid-17th century and the inventories of the estates belonging to the Chodkiewicz family from Supraśl of the end of the 18th century⁴ were published. Attention was also paid to the registers of the documents of the Samogitian noblemen of the end of the 16th century.⁵ The earliest archival registers of the noblemen from the Grand Duchy of Lithuania of the 16th century have not been hitherto examined. The aim of the article is to fill in this gap partly.

The aim of the publication is to establish the circumstances of preparing the registers and their typology. In the old sources the earliest inventories of documents are referred to as registers, certificates, books or simply documents: “regestum, registrum” (Latin), “registr, rejestrz, sprawy, metryki, księgi” (Polish), “реистр, реестр” (in Russian). In the article I use the term “register,” which occurs in the sources of the time most often, as a term which best reflects the variety of meanings – from an inventory to an index. Registers were usually lists of documents prepared in the chronological order, which were sometimes classified according to the subject matter or significance.

The 16th century constitutes the period of the formation of the tradition to prepare registers of archival registers. Thus, so few of them have survived. More information about the collections of the family documents may be found in the Lithuanian Metrica or in the court books.⁶ What is also important for the research on the 16th century archives are the registers of the 17th century and later since using retrospection in this case may be risky. While preparing new archival inventories the 17th century archivists sometimes did not leave a trace after old registers; they destroyed the old system or even documents.⁷ For example, in the years 1647–1648 the archival documents of Kazimierz Leon Sapieha were divided into a completely different way according to modified registration principles.⁸ In the

SYTA, *Archiwum kniazia Andrzeja Hrehorowicza Sanguszki kowelskiego z końca XVI w.*, *Archiwa – Kancelarie – Zbiory*, vol. 2005, pp. 29–44.

³ K. SYTA, *Archiwa magnackie w XVIII wieku*. The monographs analyze 6 (out of 11) archives (along with their inventories) of Lithuanian magnates' families of the 18th century.

⁴ *Sumariusz dokumentów do dóbr supraskich*, ed. Antoni MIRONOWICZ, Białystok 2011; *Kazimiero Leono Sapiegos archyvo inventorinė knyga (1647/1648 m.)*, ed. Darius ANTANAVIČIUS, Algirdas BALIULIS, Vilnius 2014.

⁵ Krzysztof SYTA, *Archiwa szlachty żmudzkiej w II połowie XVI wieku*, [in:] *Studia o bibliotekach i zbiorach polskich*, ed. Bohdan RYSZEWSKI, vol. 7, Toruń 1997, pp. 29–47; Jonas DRUNGILAS, *Jono Gruževskio archyvo registras (XVI a. pab. – XVII a. pr.)*, *Istorijos šaltinių tyrimai*, vol. 1, pp. 251–265.

⁶ The situation of archival registers in medieval Central and Eastern Europe (e.g. in the Kingdom of Hungary) looks similar, see: Katalin SZENDE, *The Uses of Archives in Medieval Hungary*, [in:] *The Development of Literate Mentalities in East Central Europe*, ed. Anna ADAMSKA, Marco MOSTERT, Turnhout 2004, p. 122.

⁷ R. JANKOWSKI, *Burzliwe losy*, p. 38.

⁸ *Kazimiero Leono Sapiegos archyvo inventorinė knyga*, p. XXXVII.

case of the archive of the Sanguszkó family a significant number of alterations concerning the classification of documents were introduced to the registers in the 18th–19th centuries.⁹ Obviously, the longer was the time distance between subsequent registers of documents in the same archive, the more different forms they could have.¹⁰

The condition of the sources does not allow us to estimate how many archives of noblemen were included in a professionally prepared inventory or in an ordinary list of documents. The principles of their preparation were created gradually. As early as the beginning of the 16th century in the courts of the representatives of the most influential noblemen of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania books – cartularies (in Latin *cartularium*) were written; they included copies of documents made in the chronological order or their registers. Cartularies may be regarded as the earliest, if specific, registers of documents.¹¹ Our present knowledge allows us to suppose that until the mid-16th century in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania there existed few archival inventories. There were probably only a few dozens of them. Nevertheless, it must be stressed that in the second half of the 16th century there appeared county inventories of documents of not only magnates' families, but also the middle and lower-middle gentry, which was the evidence of their becoming more and more common. The number of registers increased in the last quarter of the century, when their characteristic features were formed. At the end of the 16th century there appeared inventories reflecting the character of an archive and its structure. At the turn of the 16th and 17th centuries at the courts of magnates and more affluent gentry there existed usually several archival registers. A typical example may be a case of the Grand Lithuanian Marshall Krzysztof Mikołaj Dorohostajski. The magnate's last will of 1615 lists boxes stored at the court of Oszmiana and in the basement of a brick house in Brest, which included registers recorded by the official Stefan Jaugiełło; in a separate box there was the "main register."¹² Krzysztof II Radziwiłł owned a similar inventory in 1616; it was "The register of legal issues concerning all the names" ["Rejestr spraw prawnych na wszystkie imiona"].¹³ Supposedly, it included hundreds of registers of documents written in the Great Duchy of Lithuania from the mid-16th to the end of the 16th century. Changes

⁹ Bronisław GORCZAK, *Katalog rękopisów archiwum XX. Sangószków w Sławucie*, Sławuta 1902; Krzysztof SYTA, *Dzieje archiwów książąt Sanguszków*, *Miscellanea Historico-Archivistica*, vol. 11: 2000, pp. 108–109.

¹⁰ Kazimiero Leono Sapiegos archyvo inventorinė knyga, pp. XXXVII–XXXVIII.

¹¹ The question of professional registers and cartularies in the French diplomacy is discussed by: Laimonas KARALIUS, *Lietuvos Metrikos knygų vaidmuo Aleksandro Jogailaičio kanceliarijoje (problemos aktualumas ir tyrimo perspektyvos)*, *Istorijos šaltinių tyrimai*, vol. 1, pp. 191–192.

¹² Urszula AUGUSTYNIAK, *Testamenty ewangelików reformowanych w Wielkim Księstwie Litewskim w XVI–XVIII wieku*, Warszawa 2014 (2nd ed.), p. 156.

¹³ Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych w Warszawie [The Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw] (further cit. AGAD), *Rękopisy Biblioteki Radziwiłłowskiej* [Manuscripts of the Radziwiłł's Library], shelfmark VIII-13, fol. 3.

taking place in the tradition of making inventories of documents are reflected in an increasingly wider range of terms appearing slowly in the 16th–18th centuries.¹⁴

Historiographers underlined the problem concerning a variety (in content and form) of registers of documents drafted even in the same chancellery.¹⁵ The reality of the 16th century, particularly its second half, reflect the basic division of registers into: general – embracing the whole range of the archive, and fragmentary registers.¹⁶ Such a division is conditional as there were no clear-cut differences between those two types of registers. It must be also noticed that the 16th century inventories of documents showed usually only the main part of the resources possessed by the archive, which concerned also general registers.

GENERAL INVENTORIES OF NOBLEMEN'S ARCHIVES OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LITHUANIA IN THE 16TH CENTURY: FROM CARTULARIES TO REGISTERS

General registers were the most comprehensive inventories of documents. They were recorded in order to collect and order information. They were drafted in important moments of the lives of the archives' owners and their families. Registers were made often when the wealth was to be divided, which entailed also the division of documents concerning the properties.

Each type of inventories was specific. The most important ones were informative-ordering registers, which best reflect not only available documents, but also the structure of the archives. From the beginning of the 16th century they were made at the courts of magnates and affluent gentry, where a considerable number of documents was collected. Originally, books resembled cartularies, which were typical of the Middle Ages. They were drafted e.g. at the court of Mikołaj Mikołajewicz Radziwiłł (died in 1521). In 1524 his son accused his mother Elżbieta Radziwiłł that after her husband's death "привилія и листы купчые, и записы, и книги тые, в которыхъ суть вси листи, привилія и записы, и листы купчыми отца ихъ вписаны, взяла къ своимъ рукамъ."¹⁷ As can be seen, many various documents were compiled, which allows us to classify the above-mentioned books of the Radziwiłłs as general registers. At the court of the voivode of Vilnius Olbracht Gasztołd in the years 1518–1532 there were recorded various books titled "Księgi dworskie Gasztołtowe pożytków i danin, przedania," some of which constituted archival inventories.¹⁸ This is how in the years 1551–1556 a writer Maciej

¹⁴ K. SYTA, *Archiwa magnackie w XVIII wieku*, p. 188.

¹⁵ Piotr BAŃKOWSKI, *Porządkowanie archiwaliów prywatnych*, Archeion, vol. 19–20: 1951, pp. 19–20; K. SYTA, *Archiwa magnackie w XVIII wieku*, pp. 188–193.

¹⁶ K. SYTA, *Archiwa magnackie w XVIII wieku*, p. 193.

¹⁷ *Lietuvos Metrika (1522–1530), 4-oji Teismų bylų knyga*, par. Stanislovas LAZUTKA, Irena VALIKONYTĖ [et al.], Vilnius 1997, p. 131.

¹⁸ Darius ANTANAVIČIUS, *Originalių Lietuvos Metrikos XVI a. knygų sąrašas*, Istorijos šaltinių tyrimai, vol. 4: 2012, p. 180.

Sawicki defined the collections of documents belonging to Gasztołd. He might have been the person to compile all the documents of the Gasztołds in one collection. In 1623 an official from the “Metryka Litewska” (further cit. ML) [Lithuanian Registry Office] defined all the documents left by the voivode of Vilnius as one book. It seems that quite a few post-Gasztołd archival documents were to be found in the chancellery of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

One may follow the route of the Gasztołd documents to the chancellery of the monarch and reveal the circumstances of the registers being made. After the death of the last representative of the family, the voivode of Trakai, Stanisław Gasztołd (died in December 1542), in the summer of 1543 the Great Lithuanian Writer Iwan Hornostaj, on behalf of the host, dealt with taking over of the estate from the Gasztołd family.¹⁹ It was then that the court books and registers recorded in the years 1532–1537 were taken over.²⁰ The materials went to the chancellery of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the period from the end of June 1543 to the end of 1544: “На памят, которые рейстра Кваштоловские с королемъ его млстью молодымъ пошли. 1. Напервей, рейстръ прыходу и платовъ з ыменей пана Кваштоловых. И в томъ же рейстре расход тымъ пенезем. 2. Другий рейстръ скарбу пана Кваштолового. 3. Рейстръ листовъ и привильев пана Кваштоловых. 4. Рейстръ листовъ купчих на земли людей бортьских. 5. Копей листовъ Комаровских, Олексеевых и инъшихъ на имена ихъ, которые они на панех Кваштолтехъ выслужили. 6. Рейстръ внесеня паньны виленское в домъ пановъ Кваштоловъ.”²¹ In September 1544 in Brest Iwan Hornostaj handed over to Sigismund the Old the gold and jewelry belonging to the Gasztołd family upon a separate register, while on 1 December Sigismund August in Vilnius received the jewels of the Gasztołd family from the hands of the sub-treasurer.²²

After five years the archival heritage of the Gasztołd family went to the hands of Sigismund August. After the death of Zofia Gasztołd (in August 1549) attempts were made to prepare a register of her property.²³ Three members of the House of Lords arrived at the magnates’ court in Wołożyn: the chancellor of the bishop of Vilnius Stanisław Gabryałowicz, the starost of Radoszkowice Augustyn Furs and the royal courtier Boufal. In Vilnius the treasurer of the monarch Stefan Wełkowicz

¹⁹ Queen Bona to Zofia Gasztołdowa, Kraków, 4 April 1543, *Listy polskie XVI wieku*, vol. 1: *Listy z lat 1525–1548 ze zbiorów Władysława Pociechy, Witolda Taszyckiego i Adama Turasiewicza*, ed. Kazimierz RYMUT, Kraków 1998, p. 303.

²⁰ For example: “Regestr wyprawy” Barbary Radziwiłłówny, AGAD, Archiwum Radziwiłłów [Radziwiłł Family Archive] (further cit. AR), dz. XI, no. 18, fol. 30–45.

²¹ *Lietuvos Metrika (1540–1543), 12-oji Teismų bylą knyga*, par. Irena VALIKONYTĖ, Neringa ŠLI-MIENĖ [et al.], Vilnius 2007, p. 241.

²² AGAD, Dok. perg., dz. I, no. 8655, 8656.

²³ Letters of Sigismund August to Mikołaj Radziwiłł nicknamed “the Red,” Kraków, 25 August and 13 December 1549, *Listy polskie XVI wieku*, vol. 2: *Listy z lat 1548–1550 ze zbiorów Władysława Pociechy, Witolda Taszyckiego i Adama Turasiewicza*, ed. Kazimierz RYMUT, Kraków 2001, pp. 379, 428–429.

received sealed boxes brought from the courts in Wołożyn and Kojdanów along with the boxes transported from the court of Z. Gasztołd in Vilnius. The king's brother-in-law, Mikołaj Radziwiłł "the Red" and the courtier Jan Szymkowicz were responsible for making two copies of the register: one of them was given to the landed sub-treasurer I. Hornostaj, the other was sent to the king to Cracow.²⁴ Jan Szymkowicz gave for safekeeping the register of the mansions of Z. Gasztołd to the treasury of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.²⁵ In this way a collection of documents known as "The Register of the Gasztołd family" was created. In 1569, when the documents were needed, it was not possible to spot them in the Lithuanian treasury. The registers had been taken away by the Lithuanian chancellor Mikołaj Radziwiłł "the Black" and could be since then found in the Radziwiłłs' archive in Nieśwież.²⁶ The original judicial book of the years 1510–1522 belonging to the landed Lithuanian marshal Jan Radziwiłł might have been kept there as well. One of its parts (fol. 154–171, 235–237) constituted registers of the estates of an anonymous owner made in the years 1510–1511.²⁷ For a long time historiographers discussed the issue as to whom the described estates had belonged – to Sigismund the Old or Olbracht Gasztołd.²⁸ Nowadays, the above-mentioned registers are considered to have been part of the Gasztołd's archive.²⁹ Probably, Jan Radziwiłł's books were taken to the archive of the Radziwiłłs in Nieśwież upon the order of his son Mikołaj Radziwiłł "the Black."

Some of the Gasztołd collections and registers from Nieśwież were identified. The following were found on the list of old books of the Lithuanian Registry Office of 1623 stored in the treasury of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: "Sprawy zaś na dobra Goształtowskie i insze spadkowe, do stołu Króla Jego Mości należące, iż pewnego rejestru i porządku nie miały, przystąpić do odbierania ich, ażby porządnie złożone byli, nie mogli."³⁰ In 1623 the Lithuanian chancellor Lew Sapieha passed the files along with the books of the Lithuanian Registry Office to a new chancellor of Lithuania Albrycht Stanisław Radziwiłł.³¹ In the same way part of the

²⁴ AGAD, Dok. perg., dz. I, no. 8664.

²⁵ Российский государственный архив древних актов, ф. 389, оп. 1, д. 1–2, ML, book 38, fol. 11–11v.

²⁶ AGAD, AR, dz. II, no. 62–63.

²⁷ *Литовская Метрика*, т. 1: *Книги судных дел* (Русская историческая библиотека, т. 20), Петербург 1903.

²⁸ Joachim LELEWEL, *Bibliograficznych ksiąg dwoje*, vol. 3, Wilno 1826, pp. 96–99; Kazimierz HARTLEB, *Biblioteka Zygmunta Augusta. Studium z dziejów kultury królewskiego dworu*, Lwów 1928; Konstantinas JABLONSKIS, *Lietuvių kultūra ir jos veikėjai*, Vilnius 1973, pp. 353–357; Alodia KAWĘC-KA-GRYCZOWA, *Biblioteka ostatniego Jagiellona. Pomnik kultury renesansowej*, Wrocław–Warszawa 1988, pp. 29–30; Marcelinas ROČKA, *Rinktiniai raštai*, par. Mikas VAICEKAUSKAS, Vilnius 2002, p. 69.

²⁹ Kęstutis GUDMANTAS, *Alberto Goštauto biblioteka ir Lietuvos Metraščiai*, Knygotyra, vol. 41: 2003, pp. 9–24.

³⁰ D. ANTANAVIČIUS, op. cit., pp. 162, 180.

³¹ Waldemar MIKULSKI, *Dokumenty z Archiwum Wielkiego Księstwa Litewskiego w archiwum Warszawskim Radziwiłłów*, *Miscellanea Historico-Archivistica*, vol. 7: 1997, p. 73.

Gasztold collection was incorporated into the Lithuanian Registry Office (quite a few original documents of the family may be found in book no. 583).³² Albrycht Stanisław Radziwiłł might have taken some of the Gasztold documents to the family archive, as it was the case with the register of Barbara Radziwiłł's dowry.³³ As it has been established, courtly officials of Olbrycht Gasztold (the magnate's writer Ukołow, treasurers Mikołaj Zacharewicz and Aleksiej Pawłowicz³⁴) in the years 1518–1542, and in the years 1542–1549 state officials prepared about ten various property registers of the Gasztold family. They also generated several inventories of documents.³⁵

At the court of the Ostrogski dukes, who had a long tradition of writing official documents,³⁶ cartularies were introduced. At the beginning of the 18th century the manuscript titled "Munimenta Ducum in Ostrog" was placed in the archive of the Sanguszko dukes³⁷ along with other various documents. It was a four – hundred-sixty – page book of the copies of privileges granted by the monarchs to the Ostrogski dukes³⁸ concerning their property and made in 1539. It might have been created during the division of property between the widow of Illia Ostrogski – the duchess Beata Kościelecka and her husband's half-brother – Konstanty Wasyl Ostrogski. The magnate must have ordered that a collection of copies of the most important documents be prepared, which was approved of by the duchess's patron – Queen Bona (with the signature "Bona regina subscripsit").³⁹ For this reason, the collection is now referred to as the "Book of Queen Bona."

In the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 16th and 17th centuries it was common to prepare books including copies of documents. In a book of this type referred to as the "Metrica of His Lordship Jan Chodkiewicz 1572–1579,"⁴⁰ the court writer of the castellan of Vilnius Jan Hieronimowicz Chodkiewicz recorded all the economic

³² ML, ks. 583; AGAD, Tzw. Metryka Litewska [So-called Lithuanian Registry Office], dz. IV, B 24.

³³ Archivists wrote the following on the document: "Nr. 5, fasc. 6, do spraw familijnych," AGAD, AR, dz. XI, no. 18, fol. 30–45.

³⁴ ML, book 31, fol. 132v–133v.

³⁵ AGAD, Dok. perg. dz. I, no. 8664; ML, book 38, fol. 11–11v.

³⁶ At the beginning of the 1560s at the court of the Ostrogski family separate judicial books were written, see: Ігор Тесленко, *Організація функціонування задвornого суду князів Острозьких (до постановки проблеми)*, [in:] *Магнацкі двор і сацыяльнае ўзаемадзеянне (XV–XVIII стст.)*, рэд. Андрэй М. Янушкевіч, Мінск 2014, p. 198.

³⁷ In 1710 Paweł Karol Sanguszko married Maria Lubomirska. As a result, the documents of the Ostrogskis, the Zasławskis and the Tarnowskis were handed over to him, see: Roman MARCINEK, *Sanguszko Paweł Karol*, [in:] *Polski słownik biograficzny* (further cit. PSB), vol. 34, Wrocław 1992–1993, p. 499.

³⁸ *Lietuvos Metrika. Knyga Nr. 17 (1530–1536). Užrašymų knyga 17*, par. Laimonas KARALIUS, Darius ANTANAVIČIUS (tekstai lotynų kalba), Vilnius 2015, p. 497.

³⁹ Władysław ROŚCIEŃ, *Królowa Bona (1494–1557). Czasy i ludzie odrodzenia*, vol. 3, Poznań 1958, pp. 135–136.

⁴⁰ Архив Санкт Петербургского института истории РАН, Коллекция рукописей Археографической комиссии, ф. 114, д. 11, no. 87.

documents. The register of the documents belonging to the voivode of Vilnius Jan Hlebowicz prepared before 1549 (the year of his death) was probably a cartulary in which each document was thoroughly described.⁴¹ In a separate book of 1690 including 264 copies of documents, there were recorded the most important privileges of the Radziwiłłs of Birże and Dubinki from the years 1492–1690.⁴²

In the first half of the 16th century archival inventories started to be prepared at the magnates' courts. At the court of the Ostrogskis there existed not only books including copies of documents, but also detailed registers of files stored in the treasury. Such an inventory was made before 1530 by the sub-treasurer of the hetman Konstanty Iwanowicz Ostrogski – Iwan Fiodorowicz.⁴³ Similar registers of documents were made by officials of the princes of the Słucki family such as before 1542 Jan Łowaniecki – the sub-treasurer of Jerzy Siemionowicz Słucki – or in 1556 – Abraham Łabkowski, the official of the knyaz Jerzy Słucki.⁴⁴

The affluent Lithuanian noblemen also had registers describing collections of documents. Piotr Bohowityn Szumbarski was not as wealthy as his famous relative – the grand Lithuanian sub-treasurer Bohusz Bohowitynowicz, but apparently he took over the tradition of the sub-treasurer to order documents. In 1554 his son Michał mentioned documents left by his dead father and registers prepared in the first half of the 16th century: “две скрини з листы старыми и з реестры, и з списски, и со всею справою небожчика пана Боговитина в справах Шумбарских и всих дворов.”⁴⁵ Before 1558 the general register of the archive belonged to the Kopocz brothers.⁴⁶ Another well-known register is the register of the Uniate bishop of Lutsk – Cyryl Terlecki, which was recorded in the chancellery books in 1596. The inventory was created when his brother Jarosz gave for safekeeping the archive of the wladika (prince-bishop) to a burgher of Pińsk Grzegorz Krupa. The wladika's collection included over 100 documents of various type. In some cases the documents bore the following data: dates of recording the documents, the kind of material, information about seals and people undersigning the documents.⁴⁷

General registers were prepared for informative purposes so that it be known what files were stored in the archive. Cartularies and registers including short notes about documents played such a function. At the end of the 16th century there appeared registers which played a more extensive role, providing more detailed information also about the archive itself. As the significance and number of the

⁴¹ ML, book 255, fol. 369v; Lietuvos mokslų akademijos Vrublevskių biblioteka, Vilnius, Rankraščiai (further cit. LMAVB, RS), f. 1, no. 160.

⁴² AGAD, AR, dz. XI, no. 2.

⁴³ *Lietuvos Metrika (1540–1543), 12-oji Teismų bylų knyga*, p. 132.

⁴⁴ ML, book 251, fol. 40; *Lietuvos Metrika (1540–1543), 12-oji Teismų bylų knyga*, p. 206.

⁴⁵ ML, book 245, fol. 108v.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, book 249, fol. 222v–224.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, book 285, fol. 95v–98v.

documents grew, earlier simple registers turned into detailed catalogues of the private archive's resources.

Such registers were prepared in the years 1596–1603 in order to sort out the collections by the affluent Samogitian nobleman of Polish origin – Jan Grużewski,⁴⁸ and by the voivode of Wenden Krzysztof Słuszką about 1606.⁴⁹ They were commissioned by the owners of the archives. Grużewski's register was made in 1596 when he became the owner of the mansion of Kielmy. As far as Słuszką was concerned, the inventory was probably prepared upon the death of his elder brother Mikołaj.⁵⁰ Grużewski's register was prepared in two stages: in 1596 a register of court documents was made, while in the years 1596–1603 the described documents were classified according to the former owners of the estates. In the inventory of K. Słuszką documents were divided into thematic series (divided into estates or files of individual people) chronologically. Jan Grużewski's register includes 209 documents concerning legal and property issues. In the inventory of K. Słuszką about 300 documents were registered (62 documents packed up in four batches) excluding minor documents. The majority of the materials referred to legal and property issues, but there were also personal documents. The inventory also contains five registers of documents e.g. the register of 1567 made after the death of Jan Kmita. Both registers – of J. Grużewski and K. Słuszką – were prepared in Polish by secretaries who were familiar with the rules of making registers and legal-administrative terminology. In Grużewski's inventory the first initials of the words were distinguished – the beginning of each text was marked out. In the register of Słuszką the first letters of the verses were written with exceptional diligence. In some cases the content of the document, the seal and signatures were described. Both registers include corrected dates. Jan Grużewski made comments in the documents – judicial files (the trial of J. Grużewski and Stanisław Radowicz in the years 1584–1586 in the Samogitian court).⁵¹ Both J. Grużewski⁵² and K. Słuszką not only looked over the documents, but they might have dictated them to their secretaries. For instance, some documents of K. Słuszką were defined as belonging to “our Mother” or her sister. Both registers played a role of an “archival index.” The register was used when the documents were verified, the evidence of which are dashes placed by its author on the margin of separate documents.

INVENTORY REGISTERS

This kind of registers of documents started to be prepared in the first half of the 16th century as a result of the death of the owner of the archive or in some specific circumstances such as a wedding. In contrast to the above-mentioned

⁴⁸ LMAVB, RS, f. 256, b. 3904.

⁴⁹ AGAD, Archiwum Roskie, Akta gospodarczo-majątkowe, shelfmark 1038, no. CXI 1/19.

⁵⁰ Mirosław NAGIELSKI, *Słuszką Krzysztof*, [in:] PSB, vol. 39, Wrocław 1999–2000, p. 152.

⁵¹ ML, book 281, fol. 10–10v, 11v–112.

⁵² J. DRUNGILAS, op. cit., p. 256.

examples they often included the description of the condition of documents collected by middle- and lower-middle noblemen.⁵³ However, it must be stressed that during the inventory the registers of collected documents were not always made; it happened frequently that the statement about the existence of such a collection of documents was expressed. Inventory registers were prepared by the monarch's officials. Such registers of documents were handed over in the presence of witnesses. In 1585 three people witnessed the transfer of the documents of the Samogitian nobleman Andrzej Bilewicz along with his register to the widow Zofia Janowa.⁵⁴ In 1556 in the case concerning the conflict between Anna Steckiewicz (the standard-bearer's wife of Nemenčinė) and her husband's stepchildren about his privileges, the court issued an order of making a register of all the documents in the presence of court clerks.⁵⁵ In 1557 a bedel of the Vilnius court made a register of the documents of the late Jan Widziszka.⁵⁶ In 1566 after the death of Anna Niekrasz the register of the preserved documents was prepared by the county marshall Mikołaj Naruszewicz.⁵⁷

Registers of this type were also commissioned by magnates. In 1564, after the death of the castellan of Vilnius Hieronim Chodkiewicz, his property along with all the documents were taken over by his wife Anna Szemet, who passed them over to their sons. For this occasion the magnate's treasurer compiled a "register of documents and privileges."⁵⁸

In the event of the death of the owner of the archive during an inventory of the property they had left documents collected by the owner were recorded separately. Such a register was prepared in May 1571 after the death of Krzysztof Chodkiewicz.⁵⁹ The Lithuanian sub-treasurer of the court Wawrzyniec Wojna compiled a register of documents and privileges of the late Samogitian starost Maciej Kłoczko before 1576. In 1594 Jakub Kulvietis made a register of nine documents of the late Adam Kulvietis.⁶⁰ The register of the archive of Andrzej Sanguszko (died in 1591), made on 27 June 1598, has the most comprehensive content and the richest history.⁶¹ It includes documents from the mid- to the end of the 16th century. They were divided into 18 bigger groups. In the first and last group various personal documents were described. The remaining part constitute legal documents

⁵³ *Istorijos archyvas*, vol. 1: XVI a. Lietuvos inventoriai, par. Konstantinas JABLONSKIS, Kaunas 1934, pp. 373, 420–421.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 249.

⁵⁵ ML, book 252, fol. 101v.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, book 252, fol. 199–199v.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, book 264, fol. 148v–151v.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, book 38, fol. 472–475v.

⁵⁹ LMAVB, RS, f. 16, no. 7.

⁶⁰ ML, book 279, fol. 243v–247v; *Istorijos archyvas*, vol. 1, pp. 357–358.

⁶¹ AGAD, AR, dz. X, shelfmark 86, fol. 14–19; K. SYTA, *Archiwum kniazia Andrzeja Hrehorowicza Sanguszki*, pp. 34–35.

concerning the property.⁶² Much information is provided by similar registers of documents: of Jan Czyż of 1560⁶³ or the above-mentioned register of Andrzej Bilewicz. The register of 62 documents was prepared after Aleksander Chodkiewicz died childless in 1578.⁶⁴

Sometimes information about details concerning the postmortem registration of documents was preserved. The example of making a register of the collection of documents of a nobleman Piotr Janowicz is worth describing. Janowicz died during the war in the first half of the 16th century. When the nobleman went to the war, his wife Elżbieta Jadowtówna passed the box with her husband's documents for safekeeping to a nobleman Mateusz Bortkiewicz. However, she kept for herself the register of the collection of the documents. In 1547 after the death of P. Janowicz, her husband's brothers accused her of appropriating some of the documents concerning property issues. In the material of the court trial the procedure of registering the documents was described while they were being given to M. Bortkiewicz by E. Jadowtówna. The files put into the box had not been shown to the witnesses. For this reason six documents concerning the purchase of two properties were missing in the box. The noblewoman made an excuse that the documents had been stolen from her barn. One document had not been placed by her in the box; yet, she showed the documents later to officials. The court ordered that the documents be returned to her husband's brothers and their registers be prepared again and handed in to both parties.⁶⁵

Inventory registers were also prepared when marriages were concluded. A case in point is a register of documents of the duchess Barbara Sołomerecka (first the wife of Konstanty Chodkiewicz – died in 1571 – and later of the voivode of Polotsk Stanisław Dowojna – died in 1573) prepared in November 1572 during her remarriage.⁶⁶ In January 1574 the magnate gave the register and all the documents for safekeeping to the voivode of Brest Gabriel Hornostaj in Vilnius. In 1579 the majority of the documents returned to the duchess, some of them remaining at Hornostaj's place.⁶⁷ In this way some files of the Dowojno family and the Chodkiewicz family were to found in the archive of the Hornostaj family.

Registers created during the division of the property also started to be made in the first half of the 16th century; they often reflected all the archival resources or part of them. In such circumstances e.g. in 1546 Bogdan Epimach left behind documents concerning the mansion in Ratom, which were stored in the box.⁶⁸

⁶² AGAD, AR, dz. X, shelfmark 87, fol. 9–31; K. SYTA, op. cit., pp. 36–43.

⁶³ ML, book 255, fol. 160–163v.

⁶⁴ *Prawa i przywileje miasta i dóbr ziemskich Zabłudów XV–XVIII w.*, ed. Józef MAROSZEK, Białystok 1994, pp. 83–100.

⁶⁵ ML, book 234, fol. 184v–188.

⁶⁶ AGAD, Archiwum Potockich z Radzyna [Potocki Family of Radzyń Archive], no. 322–323.

⁶⁷ ML, book 272, fol. 156v–157.

⁶⁸ Ibid., book. 233, fol. 27v–29.

In 1547 the duke Fiodor Sanguszko ordered that after his death his documents be passed over to his wife or the eldest son. After the property was divided, all his sons had to receive proper documents.⁶⁹

In many sources there exists information about the process of dividing the property and archives. In 1562 the division of the collection of documents of the voivode of Vilnius Jan Hlebowicz took place. His widowed wife – Anna Zasławska – passed all the documents left by her late husband to their son Jan, who in 1562 came of age. The division took place in the presence of the Samogitian bishop Jan Domanowski and the landed sub-treasurer Ostafij Wołłowicz.⁷⁰ Jan Hlebowicz received part of the archive, while his mother kept the documents concerning estates belonging to her as a widow, her husband's donations and her own personal documents.⁷¹ The division of the archive's resources took place in a peaceful atmosphere and according to the will expressed by the voivode in writing. At the end of the 16th century the brothers Konstanty and Mateusz Oszmientyszków carried out the division of documents and put their signatures on the registers in a similar way.⁷²

It is natural that the division of estates and privileges associated with them sometimes generated conflicts. For example, in January 1552 the brothers Dymitr and Stefan Sapieha conducted the division of their property and the archive's resources. In the presence of a bedel documents were checked but not read. In the meantime Dymitr Sapieha noticed that the register of the documents was missing. When the documents were being checked once again, the brothers fell out since among Dymitr's documents there were a few documents belonging to Stefan along with the register, which Stefan apparently wanted to hide. After several weeks the division of property was completed and the brothers received each a bag with documents with the information which bag belonged to which of them.⁷³ In 1563 the knyaz Bogdan Sokoliński while dividing the documents with his brother Andrzej, complained about the latter saying that he "had made him drunk" and had taken the documents concerning the property division and had left Vilnius.⁷⁴ The landed judge Lew Sapieha and his brother – the grand steward of Lithuania Mikołaj Sapieha also found it difficult to divide their property. Their trial lasted from 1581 (in Vitebsk) to 1594 (in Orša). Both parties could not reach an agreement about the division of estates situated in the voivodeship of Polotsk and Vitebsk. In 1593 in Oršait was established that the coin would be tossed "такowym способом кончит, же росписавшы и розделивши и поровнавшы тые русские имена на две

⁶⁹ *Archiwum książąt Sanguszków w Sławucie*, vol. 4: 1535–1547, ed. Bronisław GORCZAK, Lwów 1890, pp. 562–565.

⁷⁰ ML, book 255, fol. 369v–371.

⁷¹ Михаил Федорович Спиридонов, *Заславль в XVI в.*, Минск 1998, p. 12.

⁷² Vilniaus universiteto biblioteka, Rankraščiai (further cit. VUB, RS), no. 35, fol. 617v.

⁷³ ML, book 240, fol. 265–266, 287–287v.

⁷⁴ Ibid., book 260, fol. 412v.

части мает тот роздел через жеребий кончити, то ест чей жеребий на первой вымет ся, тот собе часть наперед обирал в держанье свое мети.”⁷⁵ In 1594 the grand steward of Lithuania was given estates and documents listed in point 13 of the register, while his brother – in point 11.⁷⁶

FRAGMENTARY REGISTERS OF THE ARCHIVES BELONGING TO THE NOBLEMEN OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LITHUANIA IN THE 16TH CENTURY

The reason why fragmentary registers were made was mainly the purchase of a property, various transactions of a different kind, conflicts and trials in the court which concerned property issues, the loss of documents or their missing in the archival resources for another reason. Such registers of documents embraced some archival documents concerning individual real estates. In sources of this type very often there is no information about how such documents were stored or prepared.

A specific group of fragmentary registers embrace the ones which were prepared after the loss of archival sources owing to the war or fire. They resemble general registers since their authors made an effort to recollect and list as many documents as possible. However, such registers were neither complete nor exact. It happened very often that the registers of archival resources were lost along with other documents. Fragmentary registers were made more often than general ones, for which reason the information concerning this type of registers provided by sources is more comprehensive.

Registers of documents concerning real estates. As early as the first half of the 16th century a tradition of transmitting documents of sales, exchange or other files concerning given real estates to a new owner became quite common. For example, in 1543, during the exchange of the real estates between the knyaz Wasyl Sanguszko and the queen Bona, the prince had to provide the queen with all the documents concerning the real estate. In the exchange act it said that if Sanguszko or his descendants kept some documents for themselves, the documents would lose their legal force and “жадной помощи.”⁷⁷ In 1551, after the death of the marshall of Volhynia Fiodor Sanguszko, it was demanded that the marshall’s wife and eldest son return to the king the documents concerning two estates which had become the property of the king. Within the established period of time, the widow sent all the documents.⁷⁸ Although in such cases registers of transmitted estates are not mentioned in sources, it is known that they were made on such an occasion. A register of seven documents belonging to Dmitrij Iljicz prepared in 1547, passed over to his nephews, included entries concerning various types of files and their

⁷⁵ AGAD, AR, dz. X, no. 80.

⁷⁶ Ibid., dz. X, no. 81.

⁷⁷ *Archiwum książąt Sanguszków w Sławucie*, vol. 4, p. 340.

⁷⁸ ML, book 239, fol. 5v.

seals.⁷⁹ About 1500 the marshall of Volhynia Piotr Kiszka signed a register of documents concerning the estate of Krywicze sold to Sasin Fiodorowicz. The register was burnt in 1558 in Vilnius.⁸⁰

In the second half of the 16th century the practice of transmitting fragmentary registers of documents along with the estate became very common. For instance, in 1563 Aleksander Hincza, who took over the estate of Horodyszcze, presented a register of 5 documents which he had received. In 1584 during the sale of the Nibry estate by a landowner of Kaunas Bartosz Konarski to the castellan of Minsk Feliks Rafałowski, a register of 28 documents was compiled.⁸¹ Twenty-six documents referring to the Rzesza estate were generated when it was inherited by Fiodor Iwanowicz Szklenski. In 1586 a register connected with estates pledged by the duke Słuska⁸² was generated. Franciszek Gradowski, transmitting in 1590 the estate of Gajżuwa to his younger brothers, gave them a register of documents connected with the estate (from the year 1585). In 1596 Jerzy Kiełpsza, while selling two mansions in Samogitia to Aleksander Radzimiński, provided the new owner with nine documents referring to the estate described in the register (from 1539).⁸³

At the end of the 16th century registers of documents were prepared when estates were taken in pledge. For example in 1595 in Lidowiany, while a mansion of Cytowiany in the county of Ukmergė [Polish: Wilkomierz] was being leased by the Samogitian sub-chamberlain Wojciech Radzimiński to Szymon Janowicz, two identical registers of 13 documents were prepared, which concerned the estates remaining in the possession of the Radzimiński family from 1565.⁸⁴ The owner of the estate and the lease-holder exchanged sealed and signed registers in the presence of three witnesses.⁸⁵

Similar fragmentary court registers were prepared when trials concerning property conflicts, inheritance law or the rights to hold privileges took place in court. For example, in 1558 a widow Anna Kościuszeko sued her sons to regain the documents concerning all the estates.⁸⁶ More extensive registers were made in case of property claims of a bigger value. Files of the case from the years 1552–1554 between the duchess Zofia Sanguszko and her son from the first marriage Michał Bohowityn Szumbarski are very informative. The duchess accused her son of raiding the court in Kozierady, imprisoning a clerk Motylewski and robbing the treasury. According to her, her son paid a blacksmith Paweł Rożkowicz for opening the boxes; he took all the property and all the documents from the “clay

⁷⁹ Ibid., book 234, fol. 223.

⁸⁰ Ibid., book 249, fol. 125.

⁸¹ Ibid., book 39, fol. 582v–85v; VUB, RS, f. 7, no. 40, fol. 340.

⁸² AGAD, AR, dz. X, shelfmark 60, 67; Archiwum Roskie [Roskie Archive], Akta gospodarczo-majątkowe [Economic and financial registers], shelfmark 1038, no. CXI 1/19.

⁸³ *Istorijos archyvas*, vol. 1, pp. 300, 434–435.

⁸⁴ Ibid., pp. 369–371.

⁸⁵ The register was described in: K. SYTA, *Archiwa szlachty żmudzkiej*, pp. 38–39.

⁸⁶ ML, book 252, fol. 303–303v.

basement” and barns. In 1552 in the court of Vilnius the duchess presented a register of stolen documents. Her son rejected the charges and “defending his honour,” he showed his mother’s letters. In one of them Zofia Sanguszko complained that she had gone into trouble because of her “immoral husband” Wasyl Sanguszko (died in 1557), who raided the estate of Obolce, imprisoned her, stolen the whole wealth, and dismissed her servants. The duchess asked the son to help her to reach Vilnius. According to other letters, her whole wealth was placed in Obolce and was taken away by her husband. His son owned only the archive (stored in the mansion in Kozierady). At the beginning of the following year, after the register had been generated, the son gave back some privileges to his mother, keeping for himself the documents of the Bohowityns (they were also recorded).⁸⁷

If documents were lost owing to fires, wars, thefts, being lost or in other circumstances, specific fragmentary **registers of lost documents** were created. The content of such registers proves that the owners tried to restore the biggest possible number of registers and their content. For example, a nobleman of Upytė [Polish: Upita] Jakub Laksztute restored over ten documents which he had had stolen in 1551 in an inn in Vilnius. A standard-bearer Jan Sobolewski reconstructed the content of 31 lost documents.⁸⁸

The precision of the information concerning missing documents depended on the circumstances in which they had been lost. The most precise were registers of documents which had been stolen. Somewhat more concise were registers of files lost as a result of wars. For instance, in 1563 the voivode of Polotsk Stanisław Dowojno was taken prisoner by the Muscovites and lost his archive. When in 1570 he was released from captivity, in court he defined his archive as “privileges and papers.” A former Muscovite prisoner-of-war knyaz Mateusz Massalski described his archive in a more detailed manner. He listed his documents and files of his cousin, which concerned the issue of the ownership of the estates in the county of Braslau.⁸⁹ If documents were lost, sometimes the county court would allow owners to present their own registers within a limited period of time. For instance, in 1562 Jerzy Janowicz, notifying of the theft of documents concerning his estate, could not remember precisely their number and detailed content, but he added that he would soon manage to generate an appropriate list.⁹⁰

The most precious registers of lost documents constitute lists made in the county books after fires during which private archives were destroyed. Let me enumerate only a few typical cases. An inventory of documents burnt during the fire in Vilnius in 1539 informs about the general register of the archive of a middle-income nobleman Griszka Mitkowicz. It appears that he knew the content of almost all the documents concerning his father’s estates. A similar thing happened in case

⁸⁷ Ibid., book 245, fol. 65–113.

⁸⁸ Ibid., book 240, fol. 228; book 256, fol. 308–309v.

⁸⁹ Ibid., book 48, fol. 368; book 249, fol. 415v–416v.

⁹⁰ Ibid., book 260, fol. 284.

of the register of the burnt resources of the archive of Jarosz Ragozy in 1557.⁹¹ The inventory of burnt documents of the castellan of Minsk Jan Hlebowicz included a significant quantity of information: it includes 30 groups of documents concerning his most important estates located in various counties and a brick house in Vilnius in Niemiecka street. As the documents of Hlebowicz's wife, Katarzyna *née* Krotoska, were not mentioned, they might have been stored in a different place.⁹²

At the end of the 16th century a tradition of preparing registers of documents which **for various reasons were taken out of private archives** commenced. For example, in 1595 a clerk of the Radziwiłłs of Birże Jerzy Chrzonowicz took out some documents out of the Radziwiłłs' archive and compiled on their basis a "register of matters." In 1598 in the register of the archive of the knyaz Andrzej Sanguszko, among 18 groups of files there is a register of property documents concerning the estate of Obolce, taken out of the archive by Piotr Stabrowski – the duke's sister's husband. At the end of 1601 former protectors of the duke Samuel Sanguszko-Kowelski – the Sapiehas, made a detailed register of files which they handed over to him.⁹³

Among this kind of register the one that deserves special attention is the register of property documents unlawfully taken away from the treasury of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania by the hospodar's courtier Jan Ościk in 1586. In 1581 after the nobleman's father – Hrehory Ościk – was sentenced to death for high treason, his estates were confiscated. However, eventually Hrehory's son was presumed innocent and King Stephen Báthory returned to him part of the estates he had inherited from his father. Nevertheless, Jan Ościk, having taken over the estates and documents referring to them, unlawfully took away from the treasury privileges concerning the former estates of the Ościk family which did not belong to him such as the estate in Gegužinė, which at that time was owned by the voivode of Trakai Jan Hlebowicz. Although he was ordered to give back the appropriated documents, Ościk refused to do so. Finally, the court made him return the files unlawfully taken by him from the treasury; the files were registered separately within the period of six weeks.⁹⁴

CONCLUSIONS

The 16th century was the period of the formation of one of the most important sources – original registers of resources of private archives of the noblemen of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Few genuine inventories of archives have survived

⁹¹ Ibid., book 23, fol. 132v; book 251, fol. 82v.

⁹² Ibid., book 272, fol. 35v–37v. The publication of the register in: Raimonda RAGAUSKIENĖ, *Lietuvos Didžiosios Kunigaikštystės didikų archyvo atvejis: Dubrovnos linijos Hlebavičių dokumentų aprašai Lietuvos Metrikoje*, Istorijos šaltinių tyrimai, vol. 4, pp. 129–132.

⁹³ Национальный исторический архив Беларуси, ф. 694, оп. 4, д. 5792, fol. 120; AGAD, AR, dz. X, shelfmark 86, fol. 28; shelfmark 87.

⁹⁴ ML, book 279, fol. 403–405v.

until the present day. Much more information is available about “documents referring to other documents” (extracts from court books or comments in the Lithuanian *Metrica*).

At the beginning of the 16th century cartularies were prepared by noblemen; they were typical of the Middle Ages and included copies of documents or registers of texts with a short annotation concerning their content. In the second half of the 16th century there also appeared registers of documents generated by representatives of lower- and middle- income gentry. In the last quarter of the 16th century characteristic features of inventories were finally shaped and applied in subsequent periods. Affluent noblemen used to have a few archival registers of various magnitude.

The typology of documents described in the registers and their size allows us to distinguish general registers embracing all or most documents of the archive and fragmentary registers, which are more frequent but provide only fragmentary information. However, even general registers fail to include all the documents of a given archive; they usually contain only the most important files.

General registers were compiled for informative and practical purposes (the administration of estates and documents connected with them), during an inventory of property and/or during the division of property and distribution of documents among heirs. The reason why fragmentary registers were generated was the conclusion of property agreements, the loss of documents or their deliberate withdrawal from the archive.

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DIE FRÜHEN ARCHIVREGISTER DES ADELS IM GROSSFÜRSTENTUM LITAUEN (16. JAHRHUNDERT)

Zusammenfassung

Schlüsselwörter: Großfürstentum Litauen (GFL), 16. Jahrhundert, Adelsarchive, Archivregister

Im Beitrag werden die frühen privaten Archivregister des Adels im Großfürstentum Litauen (GFL) des 16. Jahrhunderts behandelt. Im genannten Jahrhundert bildete sich die Tradition der Registerführung heraus. Bis heute sind nur wenige originale Register erhal-

ten geblieben. Daher sind die Eintragungen über Register in erhalten gebliebenen Büchern der Landkreisgerichte und der Litauischen Matrikel von besonderer Bedeutung. Bereits Anfang des 16. Jahrhunderts wurden Kopialbücher (Kartulare) an den hochadeligen Höfen geführt, ab der zweiten Hälfte des 16. Jahrhunderts wurden Urkunden auch durch Vertreter des Mittel- und Kleinadels registriert. Im letzten Viertel dieses Jahrhunderts bildeten sich die Merkmale heraus, die für die Register der späteren Zeit typisch waren. Auf Grund der Typologie der in den Registern beschriebenen Urkunden werden im vorliegenden Beitrag Gesamtregister, die den Großteil der im Besitz gehaltenen Urkunden umfassten, und Teilregister unterschieden. Doch selbst in Gesamtregistern wurden bei Weitem nicht alle, sondern nur die dem Besitzer wichtigen Urkunden registriert. Aus diesem Grunde gleichen die Archivregister aus dieser Zeit "Realitätsfallen". Im Beitrag werden darüber hinaus Ziele für das Anlegen der Register besprochen.

THE EARLIEST REGISTERS OF THE PRIVATE ARCHIVES
OF THE NOBILITY OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LITHUANIA
IN THE 16TH CENTURY

Summary

Key words: the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the 16th century, archives of nobility, registers of archives

This article is devoted to the earliest registers of the private archives of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania nobility of the 16th century. The custom of drafting such documents developed throughout this century. Very few original noblemen's document registers have survived, and our knowledge of them mainly comes from inscriptions in court books and from the Lithuanian Metrica acts. At the very outset of the century, books of document copies (cartularies) were written in the courts of the GDL magnates. Document inventories of the representatives of the minor nobility and gentry started appearing in the second half of the 16th century. The last quarter of the century witnessed the final formation of the inventory characteristics typical of later years. Based on the typology of documents described in the registers, registers are grouped into either general – covering the basic documentation – or partial. However, even in the general registers only the documents most important to the owner were listed. Hence, the registers of the private archives can turn into a "reality trap" reflecting but a part of the archivalia. The article also analyses the purposes of the drafting of registers.