

Sandomierskie Voivodship in the Former Poland — Political and Administrative Status

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Abstract

The Sandomierskie Voivodship existed on the administrative map of Poland from the 14th century until the fall of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth at the end of the 18th century. Its genesis is connected with the times of the early Piast monarchy and the importance of the city of Sandomierz as one of the main seats of the Kingdom of Poland (sedes Regni principales) already defined in the oldest Polish Chronicles by Gallus Anonymus. Sandomierz's relations with Krakow during the division of the state into districts (1138–1310) and support granted to the Piasts in the struggle for the unification of the state raised the province of Sandomierz to the rank of the voivodship, with all the constituent elements of the voivodship as an administrative unit of the nobility's self-government. This study draws attention to the role of historical factors in obtaining a high position in the hierarchy of pre-partition Poland by the Sandomierskie Voivodship. In particular, the role of this voivodship is visible in the light of formal and legal sources, documents and royal seals as well as the place of the Sandomierz's dignitaries in the former state ceremonial. The dusk of the significance of the Sandomierskie Voivodship was triggered by the reign of rulers of the Jagiellon dynasty in Poland. The shift of the state borders to the east after the unification of Poland and Lithuania weakened the former meaning of Sandomierz as the main gate leading from Poland to the east. After Poland regained its independence in 1918, the concept of the continuation of the voivodship with the capital in Sandomierz was developed. These plans were interrupted by the outbreak of World War II and the Polish state did not resume them.

Keywords: Sandomierz, Sandomierskie Voivodship, history of administration, local government

JEL: K23, N93, N94

Introduction

The Sandomierz region belongs to the phenomena of the past and occupies a special place in the history of Poland. This region, successively a province of the state, a duchy and only then a voivodship, owed its significance to Sandomierz, already distinguished in the oldest description of national history left by Gallus Anonymus. In contemporary descriptions of the past, Sandomierz is classified among concepts associated with the homeland “characterizing or even defining Poland” alongside cities such as Krakow, Gniezno, Warsaw, Gdańsk, Grunwald and Częstochowa (Samsonowicz 1993, 5). The area of the former Sandomierskie Voivodship, after the separation of the Lublin Voivodship from it in the second half of the 15th century, amounted to 25 790 km² (Trawkowski 1993, 75), which is the size of the currently existing voivodships.

Sandomierz has about 23 000 inhabitants, which coincides with the typical size of today's capitals of counties. In the past, the city, in terms of the number of inhabitants, was included in the second category of cities. In the time of Bolesław III Wrymouth, when Sandomierz was the capital of the province, it numbered 1 to 3 thousand residents, and as the capital of the voivodship in the 16th century it was probably inhabited by 4–5 thousand inhabitants (Bogucka and

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Samsonowicz 1986, 42, 374). The former advantageous location of the city at the intersection of important trade routes, at the border of the Vistula, gradually changed into a poorly communicated location, situated away from the most important roads and routes, contributing to the decline of its importance and the loss of the position of the voivodship capital. In the 20th century Radom and Kielce reached for the role of the capital of the voivodship, and only the second one of these cities, not without difficulty, maintained this function until today as the capital of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship, while Sandomierz remained the capital of one of its counties, similarly to Radom — the district town of the Mazowieckie Voivodship.

1 The province and the district of Sandomierz

Among voivodships and territories of former Poland, the Sandomierskie Voivodship belonged to lands and voivodships with the most distant tradition going back at least to the second half of the 11th century. After the restoration of the Polish State and Church which was based on Krakow, Sandomierz served as one of the state's management centers. There is no shortage of arguments justifying the territorial autonomy of Sandomierz even in the tribal and pre-state times. Regardless of the role of the factors shaping the separateness of Sandomierz in the times before the Polish state was created, Sandomierz ultimately owed the role of the voivodship capital to the decisions of rulers of the patrimonial monarchy. For the first time the role of Sandomierz as the district capital was defined by Władysław I Herman (who died in 1102), and this role was solidified for nearly two centuries by the will of Bolesław III Wrymouth (in 1138).

The earliest administrative role of Sandomierz is illustrated by the specification of Gallus Anonymus. “Deeds of the Princes of the Poles” mentions Sandomierz along with Krakow and Wrocław among the main capitals of the kingdom. Gallus' entry: *sedes regni principales*, mentioning the three main capitals of the kingdom, is the most important testimony of the importance of Sandomierz in the early Piast monarchy. According to the chronicler, Władysław I Herman, dividing the state between his sons, the half-brothers Zbigniew and Bolesław, decided¹ that: “Bolesław, my righteous son, shall take over the main capitals of the kingdom in Wrocław, in Krakow, and in Sędomierz” (Gall Anonim 1996, 75). “Deeds of the Princes of the Poles” also contains another reference to Sandomierz — about the implementation of the paternal ordinance on the division of the state among sons. In the commentary on the translation of the Gallus' *Chronica Polonorum*, Plezia draws attention to the taking over of Sandomierz by Bolesław III Wrymouth, but as one of two, not three, designated capitals. Bolesław was to embrace Sandomierz along with Wrocław or Krakow — “Bolesław received two main capitals of the kingdom and a part of a more populous country” (Gall Anonim 1996, 89, note 7). Gallus' news about the division of the country from the times of Władysław I Herman, as well as the role of Sandomierz as one of the main capitals of the state, seem unsatisfactory. The rudimentariness of this information is not surprising, however, in the light of the views of the chronicler who is characterized by his strong patriotism, his praising of the powerful position of the monarch and the unity of the state as well as his opposition to the tendencies to feudal fragmentation (Bardach 1964, 127).

The end of Bolesław III Wrymouth's reign and his ordinance of 1138 on the division of the state between Władysław II the Exile, Bolesław IV the Curly, Mieszko III the Old, and, after some time, Henry of Sandomierz and Casimir II the Just, under the protection of their mother Salomea,² determined the outlines of the political map of Poland for almost two centuries. The parts of the country designated at that time, not without corrections and territorial changes, first gave rise to provinces called districts, and in the 13th century — separate duchies. From the 14th century

1. *Boleslaus vero, in Wratislaw, et in Cracovia, et in Sandomir, sedes regni principales obtinuat* (Gall Anonim 1952, 151).

2. Władysław, known as the Exile (+1159 or 1163) until 1146, the Duke of Krakow and Śląsk, Bolesław IV the Curly (+1173), the Duke of Mazowsze and Kujawy, after 1146 Krakow, Mieszko III the Old (+1202), the Duke of Wielkopolska, Henry of Sandomierz (+1166), the Duke of Sandomierz after reaching the age of majority; the wittum for the widow Salomea of Berg in the form of the Sieradz–Łęczycza land secured the throne for the unborn at the time of establishing the division of the state Casimir the Just, and originally also perhaps for the minor Henry (Mistrz Wincenty (tzw. Kadłubek) 1992, 159, note 171).

these departments, reorganized in the times after the unification of the state and the restoration of the Kingdom of Poland, became the administrative units in the form of lands and voivodships. The removal from the power of Władysław II the Exile in 1146 opened the way for the dissociation from the Krakow's senior quarter of the separate duchy for the minor Henry and appointing him a province with a capital in Sandomierz. Political changes in the country after Władysław's removal, Krakow's takeover by Bolesław IV the Curly and the designation of the Sandomierz land for Henry are considered the beginning of the Duchy of Sandomierz (Labuda 1959, 186ff.). The character of Henry's authority in Sandomierz was discussed in historical literature. Lalik drew attention to the need for the specifying of the earlier views by referring to legal acts and preferring them to the chronicle messages, which he described as "the chroniclers' declarations." The scholar emphasized that Henry, in the light of documents, was "the son of the Duke of Poland." Therefore, the sources of law resulted in the doubt of earlier statements that, during the life of Henry of Sandomierz, the Duchy of Sandomierz (*ducatus Sandomiriensis*) has already existed. The character of the authority of Duke Henry of Sandomierz—the son of Duke Bolesław III Wrymouth—should be associated not with the concept of *ducatus* but with *dominium*, covering the assigned province (*provincia*) as a form of local rule practiced already in the times of Władysław I Herman and Bolesław III Wrymouth (Lalik 1967, 70–79). Therefore, the successors of Bolesław III Wrymouth held power over the state not as dukes but as rulers of provincial principalities (Bieniak 1982, 34ff.); as a *partimonium* of the whole dynasty, with the ruler of the Grand Duke taking the lead (Gawlas 2000, 78). Political and ecclesiastical connectivity between Sandomierz and Krakow, bound together by the memory of Wrymouth's will and the church organization as a part of the Krakow bishopric, laid the foundation for the development—at first, of the district, and later, the Krakow–Sandomierz Duchy, usually connected in a wider province, from the 15th century defined as Małopolska (*Polonia Minor*). Connections of both provinces, often under the authority of a common duke, with a common church and magnate elite thanks to the capital's character of Krakow (Balzer 1916, 57ff.), strengthened the leading role of Małopolska in the state. For both provinces, Krakow and Sandomierz, and later the lands and voivodships, this union was favorable; it raised the position of Sandomierz, while Krakow gained protection from the east and cooperation in eastern politics. Sandomierz became the gate opening the road to the east, giving economic benefits and the possibility of implementing the plan of cultural and territorial expansion far beyond the Vistula. Contacts with the east were co-shaped by the Church in the framework of the attempt to Latinize Ruthenia through the Sandomierz region, which took place from the second half of the 12th century.

The shape of historical memory about the city of Sandomierz and the Sandomierz region has been strongly influenced by the figure of Duke Henry of Sandomierz that may be compared to the Gallus' reference to the *sedes regni principals*. Actions of Henry of Sandomierz, participation in the crusade of European knights to the Holy Land in 1154, going beyond the importance of local church foundations, and finally the Christianization of pagan Prusai and Yotvingians and death at the hands of pagans in 1166, rightly provided him with a prominent place in the past and contemporary historical consciousness as well as Polish culture. The death of the Duke of Sandomierz in a battle was left unmentioned in the Chronicle of Wincenty Kadłubek which gave rise to its questioning, as the chronicler said that, in the aforementioned battle, "the Polish army has vanished." However, the veracity of the news about Henry's death with pagans is determined by the "Yearbook of the Krakow chapter" and the document of the Krakow bishop Getka from 1167 (Mistrz Wincenty (tzw. Kadłubek) 1992, 173, 222; Teterycz-Puzio 2009, 116–121). The image of the Christian model of the knight-prince, according to sources and traditions, was complemented by donations for the Church, foundations and endowment of the collegiate church in Wiślica (Lalik 1963, 183), the Benedictine church and monastery in Czerwińsk and the church and hospital in Zagórze intended for the Joannites (Teterycz-Puzio 2009, 91). Particular attention should be paid to the collegiate foundation in Opatów. Dedicated to Saint Martin, one of the patrons of the knights, perhaps originally intended for the Templars, it is known mainly from modern times, as the place of debate of the Sandomierz regional council. However, the foundation of the collegiate was associated with the 12th-century eastern policy of the Piasts, accomplished mainly through the province of Sandomierz, whose significance reached far beyond the Sandomierz and Małopolska

regions. The said policy was aimed at establishing a Latin bishopric for Ruthenia. These plans were continued by Casimir II the Just (Dobosz 1995, 101). In the 13th century, the plans of the Latin bishopric destined for Ruthenia were continued by Casimir II the Just and Bolesław V the Chaste. As part of this plan, the former Abbot of Cistercians from Opatów Gerard (*primus episcopus Russie Ordinis Cisterciensis quondam abbas de Opatas*) was ordained a bishop of Ruthenia. Efforts aimed at Latinizing Ruthenia did not, however, come just from Opatów. The Cistercians from Wąchock and Koprzywnica and, located outside of Sandomierz region, Sulejów, funded by Casimir II the Just, played an active role in these plans. The role of the province of Sandomierz in missionary activity declined in the mid-13th century after its takeover by the Lubuskie bishopric (Szymański 1965, 391–395).

2 The Duchy of Sandomierz

After the death of Henry of Sandomierz in 1166, initially only a part of the province of Sandomierz with Wiślica was given to the youngest son of Bolesław III Wrymouth, Casimir II the Just. After the death of Bolesław IV the Curly in 1173, Casimir took over Sandomierz, and after removing Mieszko the Old from Krakow's throne and taking over the Krakow-Sandomierz district, a large part of Wielkopolska and Mazowsze, he assumed the title of Duke of Poland (*Princeps Poloniae*). The title of the Duke of Sandomierz combined with the title of the Duke of Krakow appeared during the rule of Bolesław V the Chaste, son of Leszek the White and the Russian princess Grzymisława. The first one to use this title was evidently Grzymisława, widow of Leszek the White, in 1228 (Lalik 1967, 79), and although her son Bolesław was also referred to as the Duke of Sandomierz in documents in the initial period of his rule before the battle with Konrad I of Masovia in Suchodoły in 1243, he ordered to put the official title “son of Leszek, Duke of Poland” on his seal. After the battle of Suchodoły, a victory that united the Sandomierz knights (Giergiel 2004, 181–183), he assumed the title of the Duke of Krakow and Sandomierz (Grodecki 1936, 260), and around 1250 he ordered the second³ prince's seal with the image of a prince and the eagle on the shield as well as the titulature of the two principalities, Krakow and Sandomierz, “Bolesław's Seal of God's Grace Duke of Krakow and Sandomierz” (Bobowski 1965, 35–37). Since the mid-13th century, the merged Sandomierz and Krakow Duchy has existed and been supported by local knights, and after taking the throne of Krakow by Leszek II the Black of the Piast dynasty of Kujawy, it has also been combined with Sieradz. It is difficult not to notice the connection between the emergence of the Duchy of Sandomierz and the vivid canonization of St. Stanisław (in 1253), the program for the unification of Polish lands and the restoration of the kingdom. The Duchy of Sandomierz (*ducatu sandomiriensis*) is seen as one of the tools to achieve the overarching objective of unifying the Polish lands. Historical and legal interpretations of particularisms on the one hand and simultaneous aspirations for unification on the other hand served Konrad I of Masovia's plans expressed in his titulature (the duke of Krakow, Mazowsze, Sandomierz and Łęczyca).⁴ At the end of the 13th century they became a part of a wider game played as part of liquid alliances of the rulers of the main centers of the unification policy — Wielkopolska, Śląsk and Kujawy, and finally — combating the external threat and loss of hereditary rights to the Polish crown for the benefit of a foreign intruder, Wenceslaus II of Bohemia (Bieniak 1996, 50).

Before his death, Bolesław V the Chaste, the last of the rulers from the Małopolska line, appointed Leszek II the Black from the Kujawy Piast line as his successor, which was confirmed by the election of the knights (Mitkowski 1972, 158). Leszek II the Black was forced to fight for the Duchy of Krakow and Sandomierz against Yotvingians, Lithuanians and Ruthenians, without

3. The first seal of Bolesław V the Chaste had the writing: *Sigillum Boleslavi filii Lestconis ducis Poloniae* (The seal of Bolesław, son of Leszek, Prince of Poland), the second one: *Sigillum Boleslai dei gratia ducis Cracovie et Sandomirie* (Piech 1993, 203–204).

4. Seals with the titulature of Konrad I of Masovia, the son of Casimir the Just and the brother of Leszek the White, are included in SK Kuczyński's list, first covering the stamp from the times of ruling Mazowsze and Kujawy, then supplemented with the titulature of Łęczyca, with the addition of Krakow-Mazovian titulature (*Sigillum ducis Cracovie et Mazovie*) and the fullest on the remainder with the addition of the Sandomierz title (*Sigillum Conradi ducis Cracovie, Mazovia, Sandomirie, Lucita*) (Kuczyński 1978, 260–283).

neglecting the efforts to develop economic affairs. The ruler, due to the rebellion of some of the great lords of Małopolska in 1285, changed the local relations thoroughly, putting Boksa, the Voivod of Sandomierz, and Mikołaj, the Castellan of Sandomierz, on the foreground. Sandomierz clergy was the Leszek's support. In this area it has always had a particularly important position, especially the chapter at the collegiate church, the second church in the Krakow–Sandomierz Duchy in terms of significance after the cathedral of the Krakow. Among the Duke's closest supporters there were: Chancellor Prokop, the provost of the collegiate chapter, and Zefryd, the custodian of the church of the Virgin Mary, later the Chancellor of Krakow. The group of the Duke's closest associates took part in the reorganization of the city of Sandomierz, which in its location document from 1286 received new organizational and legal foundations (Lalik 1993, 99) after the ravages of Mongol-Tatar raids that fell on the city under the reign of Bolesław V the Chaste. Reconstruction of the neglected city and its reorganization based on Magdeburg law determined its legal framework for future centuries (Giergiel and Jop 2015, 10ff.), while Leszek II the Black, and then Władysław I the Elbow-high, received the support of Sandomierz in their overriding political goal, which was to unite Poland.

The stages of the political formation of the Duchy of Sandomierz are visible in its internal organization and the establishment of a local board in the form of a developed hierarchy of officials. The rise of the hierarchy of Sandomierz's officials occurred during the rule of Casimir the Just, with the appearance of the Voivod (in 1195) and Castellan (in 1198). The 1220s and 1230s were the times of the second stage of development of the local board, including the office of: Pantler (from 1224), Butler (in 1228), Judge and Treasurer (in 1232), Chamberlain (in 1239). The flourishing of the hierarchy occurred during the reign of Bolesław V the Chaste. The following land offices were attached to the list in the Duchy of Sandomierz in the years 1243–1255: Ensign, Konarski (*agaso*), Sword-bearer, Cupbearer, Deputy Master of the Horse, Deputy Master of the Hunt, Sub-judge and Deputy Master of the Pantry, and since 1276—the Master of the Hunt (Kurtyka et al. 1990, 166–213).

The occupation of Krakow and Sandomierz by the Czechs after the death of Leszek II the Black (in 1290) set new dynamics to the process of uniting. The native dynasty, supported by the authority of the Gniezno Archbishop, responded with the coronation of Przemysł II (in 1295) as the king of Poland, and after reaching for the Polish crown by Wenceslas II of Bohemia (in 1300), the role of the head of the Piasts' camp was taken over by Władysław I the Elbow-high. In the face of the highest-ranking challenges, Sandomierz, with its Mayor Marek and its councilors (Kiryk 1994, 120), played an important role in the merger of the Sieradz, Łęczyca and Kujawy Duchies with the Krakow and Sandomierz district as they took the side of Władysław I the Elbow-high and supported him in his efforts to regain Krakow (in 1306).

3 Sandomierskie Voivodship—the land of the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland

After the unification of the country, from the 14th century to the end of the existence of the pre-partition Poland, the Sandomierskie Voivodship became one of the elements of its territorial organizational structure. In the time of the last of the Piasts, the Polish throne has established the organization and administrative tasks of the voivodship within the framework of a state in need of a strong central authority as well as the preservation of distinctive and autonomous local self-governments created in the district period. The new political system of the state was formed during the reign of Casimir the Great and gained shape as part of the political and legal structure called the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland (*Corona Regni Poloniae*). The idea of the Crown of the Kingdom was the embodiment of the state and its rights, regardless of the person of the ruler, and was related to all lands under the reign of the Polish king, as well as all historically and ethnically Polish lands. The doctrine of the state was based on the principle of sovereignty of the king and kingdom, and the indivisibility and inalienability of its territory (Bardach 1964, 386–387; Kuczyński 1993, 5).

After the unification of the state, the district duchies became lands (*terres*). Those of them in which the voivod office (*comes palatinus, palatinus*) was performed, as in Sandomierz land, were

called voivodships, and their component parts with a shaped distinction were called the lands. The Sandomierskie Voivodship included the Sandomierz land and the Lublin and Łuków lands, which in 1474 became a separate voivodship; in 1793, the Steżycacounty was annexed to the Lublin Voivodship (Ćwik and Reder 1977, 33–35). At that time, it was a voivodship in the Crown created without a territorial base in the form of a former district principality. Nevertheless, in fact, all administrative units, both lands and voivodships, were referred to as the lands of the Kingdom of Poland (*terres Regni Poloniae*). In the times of Casimir, which were the basis for the emergence of a new model of the state, the following former duchies and provincial districts were fully-shaped: Krakow, Sandomierz, Wielkopolska and Kujawy with Sieradz and Łęczyca, as well as Dobrzyń (the region recovered from the Teutonic Knights) and Red Ruthenia (incorporated into the state as former fiefdom of the Polish king). Those six lands together with the king were the body of the Kingdom of Poland (*Corpus Regni Poloniae*). The lands obtained their own symbols, which, when used together with superior royal signs, constituted a vivid interpretation of the state. Interestingly, three of such ideological programs deployed on the keystone of the church vaults from the Casimir period were preserved in the Sandomierskie Voivodship. The oldest images of the coat of arms of the Sandomierskie Voivodship, a two-tiered arms with strips in the right part and a field strewn with stars in the left one, were among the coats of arms and royal symbols located in the collegiates in Sandomierz and Wiślica and in the church in Stopnica. The Sandomierskie Voivodship gained a new coat of arms, because it did not have the its separate symbol before. Introduced in the 14th century, the mark stood out against the background of other Polish symbols of the lands, with a multitude of figures and colors used in it, which made it more associated with the West European coats of arms than with medieval Polish marks. In the coat of arms of the Sandomierskie Voivodship, the similarities to the Anjou coat of arms are seen, as through the marriage of Elizabeth of Poland with the king Charles Robert the Anjou remained in a close relationship with the Piast court (Kuczyński 1993, 13–16). Apart from the decoration of the building founded by Casimir the Great, the coat of arms of the Sandomierskie Voivodship was used on its territorial banner. The banner of the Sandomierz land was carried by the Ensign of Sandomierz at the funeral of Casimir the Great. A special role was also played by the land banners in the system of organization of common uprising, where they served as combat signs, gathering knights of individual lands. The most famous use of the land banners took place in 1410 in the Battle of Grunwald. According to the draft included by Jan Długosz in *Roczniki*, the banners of Sandomierz were among the banners raised by the Polish knights: “The sixth land of Sandomierz had a coat of arms, in which there were three yellow beams, meaning redwood sheds, in the one half, and seven stars in the blue field in the other half” (Długosz 1982, 103). The marks of Sandomierz located on its city seal became a symbol of the connection between the rulers of Poland and the city. The great seal, perhaps the most magnificent among the seals of Polish cities, made in the first half of 14th century, presented a building with a tower, maybe a Sandomierz castle, or perhaps the city walls (?), with the king’s coat of arms above it, and a unique inscription saying that that seal, emanating the pride of Sandomierz, was a symbol of the Polish king (and kingdom) as well as the city of Sandomierz: *Regis*



Fig. 1. Coat of arms of the Sandomierz Voivodship (Gwagnin 1578)

Polonie et civitatis Sandomirie (Rokosz 2002, 313, 320). At the time of the Jagiellonians, the city of Sandomierz was awarded another distinction, as it was entitled to use the Royal White Eagle with a crown on its head in its arms—just as Gniezno, as well as the right to squeeze the city seals in red wax—as several other major cities: Krakow, Poznan, Torun, Gdansk and Lviv.⁵

The significance of the new administrative unit with headquarters in Sandomierz, called from the late Middle Ages a voivodship, but still also called a land, can be considered from two points of view. Firstly, from the state point of view, as an inalienable part of the kingdom that accomplishes its goals, and secondly, from a local one, as a self-government unit serving particular purposes (see: Witkowski 1992, 35–36). The first function was mentioned above; the second one's sources originated from the system of the state monarchy, in which the lands and voivodships acquired the character of territorial self-governments. The territorial organizations of the nobility were to serve the state and its ruler, in particular through the duty to defend the homeland, but at the same time they obtained means to implement the particular interests of the nobility citizens (*terrigenae*) settled on their territory. In the late Middle Ages, voivodships and lands acquired their own representative bodies in the form of regional sejmiks. At the end of the 14th century, in reference to the former district rallies, councils of land lords and provincial sejms, the land sejmiks began to shape. The Sejmik of the Sandomierskie Voivodship gathered in Wiślica and in the New Town of Korczyn (where the provincial sejmiks of Małopolska also met) and, from the end of the 15th century, in Opatów (Pawiński 1895, 42). The deliberations of the Sandomierz's sejmik took place in the abbey collegiate church; a reminder of the local patriotism of the nobility is the provincial coat of arms on one of the benches and in the polychrome of the church (Kuczyński 1993, 191–192). The colors of the civic uniform of the voivodship also fell to the times of Stanisław II Augustus. In reference to the colors of the coat of arms of the Sandomierskie Voivodship, the attire of the deputies consisted of a pale blue robe with crimson-lined lapels, gold-plated buttons and a white żupan (Jeziorowski and Jeziorkowski 1992, 26). The broad competences of particular sejmiks, visible in their nomenclature, crystallized in the modern centuries. Among them there were: Economic sejmiks devoted to taxation matters, Electoral sejmiks aimed at extending candidates to the offices, Hooded sejmiks establishing local temporary authority for the time of the interim, Pre-Sejm sejmiks designed for the task of adopting a position (instructions) on matters of the General Sejm, Relational sejmiks devoted to reports on the General Sejm's debates and decisions, and Extraordinary sejmiks devoted to various purposes (Bardach 1964, 434–445, 448, 454; Kaczmarczyk and Leśnodorski 1966, 115, 119–122, 154, 237–244, 256–258; Pawiński 1895, *passim*). From the 14th century, the state judicature at the local level was reorganized, continuing the former institution of the land courts in Sandomierz and Radom (from 1562/63 in Stężyca) and the grodzki courts subjected to the municipal and magistrate court, which were located in castles: in Sandomierz, New Town of Korczyn (for the administrative districts of both Wiślica and Pilzno), Radom, Opoczno, Chęciny and from 1563 – Stężyca (Chłapowski and Falniowska-Gradowska 1993, 5–8).

The territory of the Sandomierskie Voivodship in its basic shape grew out of the province of Sandomierz from the 11th/12th century, crossing the Vistula line in the east, covering the Lublin and Łuków lands, including the Radom land in the north, the Vistula land in the south and the area of three castellations on the Pilica River: Małogoszcz, Żarnowiec and Skrzynno (Trawkowski 1993, 31). The efforts of the Piasts who ruled Sandomierz to implement missionary goals in the east from the 14th–15th centuries were replaced by the economic expansion of the Sandomierz nobility east of the Vistula. The change of the territory of the Sandomierskie Voivodship and the separation of the Lublin and Łuków lands raised to the rank of the voivodship took place in 1474. Lublin's acquisition of the role of the center of eastern policy undermined the importance of Sandomierz and the entire region, causing a gradual decline in its political and economic significance.

Thanks to the historic role of the Sandomierz principality and Sandomierz itself in the early Middle Ages and in the process of the Kingdom of Poland's renewal, the Sandomierskie Voivodship occupied a high position in the hierarchy of the Polish lands until the end of the pre-partitioning Poland. The official expression of the voivodship's position was included in the legal and histori-

5. The seals of the city of Sandomierz are presented and explained recently (Seroka 2016, 9–21).

cal interpretation of the state expressed in the titulature of the rulers. The titles of the king and, at the same time, the Polish state, were reflected in state legal acts. And so, Władysław I the Elbow-high was the duke of individual united districts and held the title of the heir of the Kingdom of Poland: “Władysław of God’s grace Duke of Krakow, Sandomierz, Sieradz, Łęczyca and Kujawy, as well as the heir of the Polish Kingdom” (Szymański 1967, 282–287). After the coronation of 1320, Władysław I the Elbow-high and Casimir the Great maintained the established order of lands; in the documents and on the majestic seals the rulers were titled as: “King of Poland, Krakow, Sandomierz, Sieradz, Łęczyca [and] Kujawy” (Gumowski 1910, 7 (no. 4), 9 (no. 6)). Sandomierz therefore occupied a high third place in the official royal titulature, mentioned directly after the title of the monarch and the title of the Krakow land—“the mother and the capital of all the lands of the Polish Kingdom.”⁶ From the times of the Jagiellonians, who did not use the titles originating from the district times, the coat of arms of the of Sandomierskie Voivodship was envisioned on the most important state seals (Gumowski, Haisig, and Mikucki 1960, 176–180). Finally, there is another impossible to omit testimony of the historical role of Sandomierz, regarding the position of senior Sandomierz state officials in the state ceremonies. The Sandomierskie Voivodship received a distinction in the form of the fifth place of the Voivod of Sandomierz in the hierarchy of senatorial offices, after the Castellan of Krakow and the voivods of: Krakow, Poznań and Vilnius (Chłapowski and Falniowska-Gradowska 1993, 6). During the act of royal coronation, it was an honor of the Voivod of Sandomierz to bring the *Globus cruciger*, the third in the hierarchy of the royal insignia, to the Wawel Cathedral. The insignia was also carried by the Voivod before the royal coffin in the funeral procession (Ochman 1983, 146, 152).

Ending

In 1793, the Grodno Sejm established a new administrative division of the country based on a unified local structure. Lithuania was divided into eight voivodships, the Crown—into ten, including the Sandomierskie Voivodship with the capital in Sandomierz (Witkowski 2007, 83–84). However, the fall of Poland at the end of the 18th century brought the end of the existence of the Sandomierskie Voivodship. The Sandomierz territory was situated within the borders of the First and Third Austrian Partitions. Sandomierz became the capital of the *circulus*, a lower-level administrative unit. During the 19th century, the city did not regain the rank of the capital of the voivodship or the later governorate. Sandomierz lost this role to Radom and Kielce, permanently becoming the capital of the county. However, it should be noted that at the end of the Second Polish Republic in the planning sphere there was a plan to restore Sandomierz to the status of the capital of the voivodship. Such a plan was included in the concept of establishing the Central Industrial Region prepared by Eugeniusz Kwiatkowski. As part of the project, Deputy Prime Minister Kwiatkowski predicted the creation of the Central District—Sandomierz and the return of the city to the role of the capital of the voivodship, as well as entrusting the function of the Voivod of the Central Region to the President of Warsaw Stefan Starzyński (Kotowski 1997, 23). These plans remained unrealized. Interestingly, the historical role of Sandomierz was remembered by the church, as the city was deemed worthy of being the capital of the Sandomierz bishopric established in 1818. In modern times, a diocese of Radom was formed in part of the territory of the diocese of Sandomierz (in 1992), and the Sandomierz church was subordinated to the Lublin metropolitan.

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6. *Terra Cracoviensis, mater et metropolis et caput omnium terrarum et regionum Regni Poloniae*, quoted after Jan Długosz (Kuczyński 1993, 13).

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