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SUMMARY

The dissertation discusses the process of cultural landscape creation of the Braslav district in the period from the 16th to the 18th century.

The first chapter discusses the non-material elements of the cultural landscape present in the Braslav district in the second half of the 18th century and included in the descriptions of the parish priests specially prepared in 1784 for Ignacy Massalski, Bishop of Vilnius. The parish priests' detailed accounts of the natural landscape, hydrographic network, road network and the forestation of the area have been verified and supplemented by other archives and literature on the subject. The settlement network existing in the Braslav district at the end of the 18th century is presented, with a particular attention to the categories of settlements occurring and the population status. The road network of local and supra-local character has also been characterised with the connection of its influence on the economic development of individual centres, but also on the communication possibilities of members of the local community. The territory of the Braslav district was presented against the broader background of the Vilnius voivodeship of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania which allowed the highlighting of the specificity of the area resulting from its administrative location and topography.

The second chapter of the work is devoted to material elements of the cultural landscape created by sacral and secular architecture. It describes the artistic value of both the buildings themselves and their movable equipment. The tangible cultural legacy was inevitably accompanied by an intangible component. Taking into account the ethnic and religious diversity of the Braslav district, the spiritual heritage related to the functioning of churches, orthodox churches, manors and mansions, the organisation of the lives of their users and the cultural heritage are presented. Chronologically, the third chapter refers to the earliest period. It is an attempt to reconstruct the stages and directions of colonisation of the later county from the turn of the Middle Ages and the modern era, until the administrative reform of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in 1566. The first decades of the 16th century were a period of a high settlement activity in the territory of the grand ducal tenancy with its centre in Braslav. This region was a boarderland between Lithuania, Samogitia (The Teutonic Order) and Principality of Polotsk. Both representatives of Lithuanian social groups of boyars living in Lithuania for several generations (the Sapiehas, the Massalskis), and the groups of fresh settlers from the Smolensk region who appeared in the Braslav land as a result of the Lithuanian-Moscow war gave the main impetus to the settlement

process of the territory. Other domains (Widze, Dryświaty), which after 1566 found themselves within the administrative borders of the created Braslav district, are also discussed.

The fourth chapter outlines the circumstances under which a new system of land measurement *pomiara włóczna* was carried out in the grand ducal leases located in the Braslav district. Apart from an attempt to establish the time of the earliest surveying activities and the personalities of the land surveyors, an equally important objective was to place this undertaking in the context of the reformatory activities of King Sigismund August which were carried out in the whole of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania before and after 1557, when the agricultural reform (*reforma włóczna*) was officially implemented in Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and to answer the question if the Braslav land, as a peripheral area, was included in the land reform in a similar period as the lands located closer to the provincial capital and the whole of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, as well as if the special topographical conditions of the area affected the pace and extent of the surveying work.

The fifth chapter contains findings on the adaptation of the assumptions of the reform (*reforma włóczna*) in other than grand duke's estates located in the district. The new principles of the mode of economic exploitation of the land were transferred at different rates and to different extents to the estates of the church, the magnates and the minor nobility. The district was dominated by royal estates, but in the western part there were estates of the Vilnius bishopric and the Dryświaty estate with a specific status consisting in direct subordination to the Vilnius voivode. In the eastern part of the county there were estates belonging to the Sapieha's latifundium, who were the largest owners in this area.

The last chapter presents the changes in the charges of the subject population as a consequence of the regulations introduced by the reform. Individual examples show the separation of smaller leases from the grand duke's estate (*królewszczyny*) which, through the monarch's distribution, became a tool for rewarding merit and building loyalty.