

**Jarosław Dusik: "The Craft Guilds of Żywiec in the Old Polish Period. Organization and Operation of the Żywiec Guilds and the Related Apprentice and Journeyman Structures until 1778".**

The thesis "The Craft Guilds of Żywiec in the Old Polish Period. Organization and Operation of the Żywiec Guilds and the Related Apprentice and Journeyman Structures until 1778" presents the history, organization, and functioning of the Żywiec craft guilds from their origins to the reforms of Empress Maria Theresa, which altered the previously established rules of guild existence.

The thesis consists of eight chapters. The first chapter focuses on the history of Żywiec. It attempts to determine the origins of the town, dating it to the late 13th and early 14th centuries. Several interpretations of the town's name are provided, with the most likely being "żywiec," meaning livestock breeding. Attention is also given to the relocation of the present-day Żywiec from the area of Old Żywiec. The chapter further discusses the town's development under the rule of the Komorowski family (1467-1624), the Vasa dynasty (1624-1669), and the Wielopolski family (1676-1778), highlighting the impact of their actions on Żywiec's multifaceted development.

The second chapter focuses on the fate of the Żywiec guilds. It defines the concept of a guild, a journeyman's fraternity, and the guild tavern. It also characterizes different types of guilds, identifying those present in Żywiec (single, double, composite; open, closed), and discusses the role and objectives of these organizations. The first references to Żywiec artisans from the 15th century are cited, evaluating which of these could have been related to the organized craft guilds. The chapter then describes the guilds during the periods of the Komorowski, Vasa, and Wielopolski families, investigating the origins of these organizations and their subsequent developments. The number of guilds during specific periods is also determined, along with, where possible, the number of members in each guild.

Chapter three deals with the legal and organizational aspects of the guilds and their subordinate structures. It describes the types of documents that formed the legal basis for these organizations, such as statutes, privileges, ordinances, and resolutions. The circumstances surrounding their creation, their sources, and their structure are also explored. The chapter then focuses on membership in the guilds and journeyman organizations, as well as apprentice groups. It discusses the structure of this membership (in the guild: brothers and masters, as well as "half-brothers"; among the journeymen: companions and journeymen; among the apprentices: students and "boys")

and the corresponding titles (e.g., younger, middle, and senior brothers; junior and senior journeymen). The rights and duties of each membership level are also analyzed. The chapter also delves into the authorities of the guilds and journeyman fraternities or taverns, identifying who held power within them (senior and junior guild masters, senior brothers; tavern father, assessors, senior companions, tavern scribes), the qualifications required for each function, the election process, who participated, and the methods and timing of selecting authorities. The chapter also examines the accessories related to the guild authorities, such as the guild chests and seals.

Chapter four discusses guild meetings, including periodic and ad hoc gatherings of artisans, as well as the procedures followed during these meetings. It identifies four main types of meetings (admission, legislative, judicial, and occasional) and describes how they were convened (e.g., by the guild or a junior master), the locations and dates of meetings, and the types of participants involved. The rules of conduct during meetings, ensuring calm and discretion, are also detailed. The chapter explores the range of topics discussed at individual meetings, attempting to determine the guiding principles or factors influencing these discussions. Key procedures during meetings, such as attendance, the submission of proposals, decision-making, "contentment," and the written documentation of actions, are discussed in detail. Personal documentation, especially for candidates for apprenticeships or masters in the Żywiec guilds, is also addressed, with a focus on the guarantees provided by sponsors, their requirements, and the process involved.

Chapter five presents the path of advancement from apprentice to master. It extensively discusses education within the Żywiec guilds, defining categories of participants, the duration and costs of training. The number of admissions to individual guilds is also specified for periods for which data is available. The chapter then focuses on the process of obtaining release from apprenticeship, considering the required conditions for gaining freedom from education and the costs involved in this process. The thesis also discusses admission to journeyman fraternities, taverns, and further advancements within these organizations, linked to fulfilling "tavern duties," such as "sweeping" or "tavern keeping." The chapter analyzes various nuances related to service and release from it, including the order of releases, their temporary continuation, or return to service, and the valuation of these processes. The chapter concludes with a look at journeyman travel, focusing on the time and places of travel and the stay of wandering companions in Żywiec. The chapter also explores the masterwork and its relevance in individual guilds, alongside the attainment of town citizenship. The description of career progression within the guilds includes the time intervals between different levels.

The sixth chapter provides information on a full guild career. The discussion begins with the acquisition of full membership, identifying the beneficiaries and the costs involved. It also gathers and presents data on the number of admissions to specific guilds during a given period. The chapter then focuses on partial admissions, describing the categories of participants and any special duties owed to the guild by certain individuals. It continues with an analysis of advancements within full membership, dependent on fulfilling "junior" and "senior" guild duties. As in the previous chapter, the details of serving and being released from these duties, as well as the time gaps between advancements, are addressed.

The seventh chapter examines the economic, religious, charitable, social, recreational, and defensive aspects of guild life. It discusses the employment of journeymen, their wages (either for time worked or for specific tasks), and tips. The chapter also addresses issues related to journeymen leaving workshops, protecting masters from the uncontrolled departure of journeymen, and protecting journeymen from unlawful dismissal. Information is provided about production sites, tools, raw material sourcing, and the sale of finished products. A significant portion of this chapter is devoted to describing the guilds' control over the production and distribution processes, the determination of prices for guild goods, and efforts to combat unscrupulous craftsmen. The chapter also looks at the financial burdens of Żywiec's guild crafts, including contributions to the town or the local manor.

The religious life of the guilds is also explored in the seventh chapter, from the role of religion in guild life to the perceived origins of individual crafts. Patron saints of various guilds are identified, and the ways in which their feast days were celebrated are described. A substantial amount of space is devoted to guild funerals, memorial masses, and processions, with attention to the rituals, categories of participants, and the use of candles during these ceremonies. The chapter also explores the participation of guilds in local church obligations.

Other issues discussed in this chapter include credit for education or purchasing supplies, terms for repaying loans, and the maintenance of apprentices and journeymen, including their clothing. The chapter also addresses the hospitalization of apprentices. Social norms, cultural values, and good behavior within the guild are examined, as well as marriage obligations for masters. Finally, the chapter looks at alcohol consumption, the culture of feasting, and the ethics of socializing. The issue of defense is also considered, including the participation of guilds in processions with firearms and their contributions to armament funds paid upon joining the guild. Attention is also given to the institution of the municipal

guard of guild origin, as well as the guilds' role in firefighting, identifying which crafts were primarily responsible for the town's fire safety according to historical sources.

Chapter eight discusses the judiciary within the guilds. It establishes who formed the guild courts and who judged journeymen and apprentices. The chapter also identifies the appellate institutions for judgments made by the town authorities, outlining the scope of their actions. It characterizes the types of cases, the categories of participants, the methods of bringing cases to the guild, and the entire evidentiary process. There is also a focus on the costs, location, and timing of the trials. A comprehensive analysis is provided of the punishments at various levels of the guild justice system (among apprentices, journeymen, and full guild members). The dominance of certain types of punishment within specific categories of offenses is characterized. The chapter also compares punishments for the same offenses within the Żywiec inter-guild space, as well as across different levels of the same guild organization (apprentices-journeymen-brothers), and even across guilds, to assess the severity of Żywiec's guild justice system. The analysis also covers the issue of escalating punishments with the increase in offenses, as well as the proportion of these increases in individual guilds and sometimes beyond. Attention is also given to the reimbursement of funds and compensation for harm. The chapter explores the execution of punishments, the involvement of external institutions (such as the town authorities and local manor), and finally identifies the beneficiaries of these punishments, including the aforementioned institutions and the Church.

The analysis is supported by maps of guild admissions, tables of fees, dues, and punishments, as well as charts illustrating the discussed topics.