

The Regional Assembly of the Masovian Voivodeship has declared 2024 in Masovia the Year of Stanislaw Grzepski, whose name and deeds, unfortunately, turned out to be unknown to the general public. Many residents of Mlawa and the region were not aware that this outstanding Renaissance scholar was born 21 km from this city, in the village of Grzebsk located in the Wieczfnia Koscielna commune, exactly 500 years ago. Stanislaw Grzepski was born in 1524 into a noble family probably quite a wealthy one bearing the Swinka coat of arms. He was a son of Mikołaj Grzepski, who took particular care of the education of his children and sent both of his sons to study in Cracow.

Stanislaw began his education in 1537, at the age of 14, by studying at the Jagiellonian Academy but he could only pass his bachelor's exam in 1556 as student riots triggered by the spread of Reformation forced him to interrupt his studies. Having not received a position of a lecturer at the Academy, he returned to Mazovia, where he lived probably in Mlawa and worked on one of his publications. Staying in the area Grzepski worked as a private tutor and devoted his free time to scientific research.

After his return to Cracow in 1562, Stanislaw was occupied with giving lectures and editing texts, while preparing collected materials for printing. In 1563 he received the title of Master of Arts and was then appointed to the Grand Academic Board at the Academy of Cracow. He was put in charge of an academic department at the Faculty of Liberal Arts, where he lectured Greek. Obtaining this honorable position drained Grzepski's financial resources, so much so that Jan Brozek, his 17th-century biographer, wrote: *"He had no bedding, only a leather headboard, and under his head he placed the Pentateuchum or some other Greek book"*. This Renaissance author was completely devoted to science and spent most of his royal professor salary on buying books and valuable ancient coins, the collection of which he donated later to the Academy of Cracow. Stanislaw Grzepski was appointed the treasurer of the Collegium Maius at the age of 46, shortly before his death on December 1, 1570. His tombstone bears the following inscription: *"A philosopher in life and customs"*. It explains his austere, even Spartan lifestyle as well as his consciously withdrawal from offered offices and positions that could have provided him with a comfortable life.

The Patron of the Year 2024 in Mazovia, Stanislaw Grzepski can certainly be called a Renaissance man. He had an incredible ability to learn foreign languages and mastered Latin, Greek and Hebrew. He was proclaimed *"the Sarmatian in languages trained"* and known worldwide as an outstanding classic and biblical philologist, whereas in Poland he is also praised as a mathematician, the author of a handbook for geometers, being the first technical book written in Polish. He happily combined philological and mathematic exercises with the passion of numismatics and history. He was friends with another great Renaissance artist, Jan Kochanowski who left a handwritten Latin dedication in a book he gave to Grzepski which is kept now in the collections of the Jagiellonian Library.

*"When I set off on a long journey around the world,  
This pledge of eternal friendship I leave to you.  
True, dearest Grzepski, it is not something great,  
But measure this gift, though small, by the measure of my heart."*

Stanislaw Grzepski has two significant books to his credit, for which he is remembered. He collected and analyzed the materials for both while residing in Mława. The first book that brought him fame is *“Geometry, as a Science of Measuring, briefly written from Greek and Latin books”*. It is the first Polish textbook in the field of geometry and measuring which consists of descriptions concerning the principles of geometry, creating measurements of surfaces and “height”, “distance” and “depth”. The novelty is the use of Polish terminology in this field. Grzepski's work is clear and accessible, the examples of new vocabulary introduced by the author might sound somewhat rough but were easily understandable.

Grzepski's second significant work is titled *“De multiplici siclo et talento hebraico. Item de mensuris hebraicis, tam aridorum quam liquidorum which in Polish reads On various Hebraic shekels and talents, about the system of liquid and fixed measures, on ancient numismatics (not only Hebraic coins)”*. Thanks to it, the author gained pan-European fame, as it contributed to the development of further biblical research in Europe. The work is based on the biblical text and is devoted to measures and weights in the Bible. Grzepski used the full range of his talent and knowledge as a numismatist, geometer, and high-class philologist. The work is purely analytical, and the research conducted on it demonstrated the author's full research independence.

Stanislaw Grzepski is undoubtedly a representative of the intellectual elite of his time. His biography, closely connected with Mława and the surrounding region, is worth knowing as well as his entire literary legacy.

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