

The aim of the project is to answer a series of questions and verify research hypotheses: What was the role of Western European monetary patterns and trade contacts in the process of development and modernization of the Silesian coinage in the kwartnik period? Who, where and in what economic system minted coins whose introduction into circulation is considered the first grosso reform in Central Europe? What was the relationship between this reform and the economic transformation that took place in Europe as a result of the so called "Commercial Revolution of the thirteenth Century"?

Silesian coinage at the turn of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries is poorly recognized, although we know more than a hundred types of coins called Silesian kwartniks minted at that time, and the research of the last half century has significantly extended our knowledge. The representations on the coins vary greatly in style. Most of the kwartniks have no legends, nor are they mentioned in documents, so the coins are still anonymous and our knowledge about them is insufficient. The previous attempts and methods of identifying and dating individual types of kwartniks have not produced satisfactory results, which was mainly caused by the lack of access to coins themselves, being mostly lost during the war or dispersed in European collections. Recently, we have managed to list of over 700 specimens of Silesian kwartniks. On this basis, we want to collect a possibly complete descriptive data- and photobase. Such material allows to conduct a broad comparative study on Silesian kwartniks with the coins of Western European countries.

We plan to carry out extensive research on the influences of the Netherlands, French and Italian patterns that affected the first grosso reform in Central Europe. We want to research common features of these coins using iconographic, epigraphic and heraldic studies. The modern digital methods will be applied to classify these features and publish the results in a graphic form. Also die link studies will allow to reconstruct the mint organization and the coinage structure.

The profound study of the patterns that influenced the modernization of Silesian coinage should allow to determine the chronology of individual kwartnik issues, and will be helpful to answer the questions: who, where and when started the production of these coins. Our research will be innovative, as so far no one has undertaken a broader study of this issue. Additionally metallurgical analyses of Silesian kwartniks using the X-ray fluorescence method (XRF) will be conducted, and the results will be compared with similar research carried out abroad. A comparative study on the chemical composition of coin alloys from various parts of Europe is also intended, and its results will be published in the form of statistical analyses. This kind of comparative analysis should answer the question: in which economic system was the first monetary reform in Central Europe carried out?

Latest findings in the field of kwartniks are virtually unknown outside Poland and the general knowledge of the topic is often based on outdated literature. Regrettably, the topic is also not a subject to a broader international discussion. Finally, we would like to refer and put the results of our research into context of the economic transformations taking place in Europe as a result of the so-called "Commercial Revolution of the Thirteenth Century".