

The “Chronicle of the Poles” by Bishop Vincentius of Cracow (also known as Kadłubek). Critical Latin-English edition

The Chronicle of the Poles (Latin: *Chronica Polonorum*) is an example of medieval historiography and can be without doubt considered one of the fundamental monuments of Polish literature, because for centuries it shaped the historical and national consciousness of the Poles. Its author, Bishop Vincentius of Cracow, outlined the history of the Poles from ancient times to the year 1202. The Chronicle is written in Latin and consists of four books. The first book recounts legendary times (who among the Poles does not know the legend about Krak, about defeating the dragon, about Wanda?). The history of the Polish nation is integrated by the author in universal history. The second book refers to the beginnings of statehood and ends with the conflict between Bolesław Krzywousty and Zbigniew. The third book retells about the division of Poland, and the fourth tells about the reign of Mieszko III and the events known to the author, but unexpectedly ends in 1202.

The aim of the project is to develop the first critical English-Latin edition of the "Chronicle of the Poles". The edition aims to provide a wide range of English-speaking audiences with the most important compendium of knowledge for research on Polish cultural heritage in the Middle Ages. The strategic objectives of the project are: to increase access to one of the basic sources for the history of the twelfth century renaissance in Poland, as well as to provide English-speaking researchers with an in-depth commentary of this source material, referring to the history of the Poles, and thus to define the contribution of the Polish to the creation of Christian Europe.

The editorial material will also present Vincentius's role as an eyewitness to the development of Poland, demonstrating his erudition and broad education. The preparation of the edition is also aimed at incorporating the history of Poles into the world narrative of historical thinking about Europe and emphasizing the importance of the Piast monarchy against the background of medieval Europe of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

As part of the planned edition and editorial elaboration, it is planned to translate from the original language into English the most important compendium of knowledge about Poland, which has been used for over 800 years to research on Polish cultural heritage. The Chronicle of Bishop Vincentius of Cracow (Mistrz Wincenty also known as Kadłubek) is a special work for the Polish national heritage as the oldest monument of writing created by a person of Polish nationality in Latin.

The significance of the Chronicle for the history of the Poles, the Polish nation and the church in Poland is fundamental. The Chronicle was a source for historians and for the architects of statehood of the Piast and Jagiellonian era. The Chronicle bears witness to the oldest history of the Polish and formed the writing of history and created the identity of the Poles as a nation.

The project is part of the efforts to make available to the English-speaking audience a fundamental part of the national heritage, including a translation of literature created in Poland, written by a Pole and serving Poland for centuries.