



Bogusz Wasik, *Budownictwo zamkowe na ziemi chełmińskiej (od XIII do XV wieku)* [The Architecture of castles in Culmerland (from the 13th to the 15th century)], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń 2016, 370 pp. + CD, ISBN: 978-83-231-3586-9.

The fortified buildings in the territory of the former dominion of the Teutonic Knights in Prussia continues to be a significant research topic within the cultural heritage of the post-Teutonic Order's territories. The evidence for this are the publications of the Muzeum Zamkowe w Malborku (Castle Museum in Malbork)¹, numerous conferences and symposiums² and research and development grants³.

The monograph devoted to the medieval castles of Culmerland (Pol. ziemia chełmińska) is the effect of the work on the PhD thesis defended by Bogusz Wasik in 2015 at the Faculty of Historical Sciences of Nicolaus Copernicus University. The author graduated earlier from the fields of Archeology (specialization Archeological Conservation) and Protection of Cultural Heritage (specialization Heritage Science) which provided him with a wide interdisciplinary range of research skills including the means necessary for the analysis of architectural structures, construction materials, historical planning and metering along with the whole building process in compliance with the history of construction techniques.

¹ See the works published in 2016: *Kaplica św. Anny na Zamku Wysokim w Malborku. Dzieje – wystrój – konserwacja*, ed. J. Hochleitner, M. Mierzwiński, Malbork 2016; *Kościół Najświętszej Marii Panny na Zamku Wysokim w Malborku. Dzieje – wystrój – konserwacja*, ed. J. Hochleitner, M. Mierzwiński, Malbork 2016; *Wieża klesza i domek dzwonnika na Zamku Wysokim w Malborku. Dzieje i konserwacja*, ed. J. Hochleitner, M. Mierzwiński, Malbork 2016.

² Among the most recent conferences addressing the problem of Teutonic Order's architecture the following are worth mentioning: *Claritas et consonantia. Formy, funkcje i znaczenia w sztuce średniowiecza*, organizers: The Faculty of Fine Arts of Nicolaus Copernicus University of Toruń / the Warsaw Branch of SHS / the University Library in Toruń, Toruń 16–18 June 2016 (a separate section devoted to the art of the state of the Teutonic Order in Prussia); *Stare i nowe dziedzictwo Torunia, Bydgoszczy i regionu*, organizer: The Faculty of Fine Arts of Nicolaus Copernicus University of Toruń, Toruń 7–8 April 2017 (a separate section about the architecture of Teutonic Order's castles); *Castrum Sanctae Mariae. Burg – Residenz – Museum*, organizatorzy: Muzeum Zamkowe w Malborku / Historische Kommission für Ost- und Westpreußische Landesforschung, Malbork 25–27 May 2017.

³ *Castrae terrae culmensis. Na rubieży chrześcijańskiego świata*. The project carried out by the interdisciplinary research team as part of the National Programme for the Development of Humanities, module 2b, nr 2bH 15 0078 83. See more about the project: <http://projektumk.wixsite.com/castra-terrae> (access: 20. 07. 2017).

The monograph discussed here focuses on the fortified architecture in the territory of Culmerland, which is quite transparent owing to the presence of material relics. It must be underlined that this is the first detailed study in this field which treats the architecture in a comprehensive manner, and not only through the prism of selected and better preserved buildings. The author rightly concentrates exclusively on brick and stone constructions (see *Zagadnienia wstępne – tematyka, metoda, zakres chronologiczny i terytorialny* (Preliminary issues – theme, method, chronological and territorial scope, pp. 11–14)) omitting the complicated issue of the first timber and earth fortifications. The research query included sixteen architectural works which played various functions – from the castles of Teutonic Order’s convents and those of chapters and bishops which belonged to the Culm chapter incorporated by the Teutonic Order. The monograph was divided into nine chapters including subchapters with 281 photographs, architectural drawings, engravings, predominantly made by the author (it is a pity that all the illustrations were described with the abbreviation “ryc.” (‘fig.’) without defining what kind of illustration it was)⁴. The book has a very clear and attractive graphic design, its cognitive value enriched with some additional material included on a CD-ROM. The only significant shortage is the lack of indexes.

The author, in a separate chapter entitled *Dzieje zainteresowań i stan badań nad zamkami ziemi chełmińskiej* (Works of interest and the state of research on the castles in Culmerland), conducts an analysis of the current state of research; the author divides the study on fortified constructions in Culmerland into chronological stages: *Zainteresowanie zamkami pokrzyżackimi do końca XVIII wieku* (pp. 15–16), *Rozwój naukowego zainteresowania zamkami w Prusach od przełomu XVIII i XIX wieku do lat 40. XX wieku* (The development of the scientific interest in the castles in Prussia from the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries to the 1940s, pp. 16–19), *Stan badań nad zamkami ziemi chełmińskiej po drugiej wojnie światowej* (The state of research on the castles in Culmerland after the Second World War) (pp. 19–23). The author, rightfully blurring the lines of his field of study⁵, also

⁴ Interesting examples of the profiles of the layout of leveling mounds in Wąbrzeźno (Germ. Friedeck or Briesen) (fig. 74–75 on pp. 124–125) cannot be referred to as drawings, like the whole range of photographs of the historical building material; bricks, fittings, profiles, reconstructions of the blocks of castles or projections of buildings. A separate terminology should be applied with the categorization into: photography, drawing, suggestion of the reconstruction or iconographic material (fig.).

⁵ Unfortunately, the interdisciplinary approach has not always been used by researchers of architecture and art. About the role and importance of historical research see: S. Józwiak, *Czy średniowieczne źródła pisane mają znaczenie w badaniach nad zamkami krzyżackimi w Prusach?*, *Zapiski Historyczne* 80, (2015), 1, pp. 103–105.

refers to current historical studies carried out in recent years⁶. It should be underlined that despite the fact that the chronological presentation of the advance of the research is not a mistake, it still bears the marks of enumeration. The author fails to provide an in-depth analysis of the problem, which would present the question of changing methodological attitudes and focus typical of a given period of research, which is the starting point for the author's own inquiry.

The next chapter presents the problem of the location, topography, situation and relations of the castle compared with other buildings in the town (pp. 25–38). What is interesting is the manner in which the author describes the choice of location where the castle was to be built (using the former fortress of timber-earth construction or the construction in undeveloped and uninhabited areas – the so called “budowa na surowym korzeniu” (lit. ‘raw root construction’) pp. 25–32). The issue has very often been raised by historians of art, but they did so on the basis of merely hypothetical premises: Bogusz Wasik was the first to examine archeologically specific premises and to indicate the relation between the choice of location and the preferred type of the architectural solution.

Next, we receive a smattering of information referring to the broadly understood issues concerning planning and design (pp. 39–61). Here the author analyses the problem of applying the so-called *ad quadratum* architectural form (pp. 41–61) to the fortifications erected in Culmerland. It must be stressed that the author presented convincing arguments illustrating them with the representations of concrete buildings⁷ provided with explanatory coloured remarks. The argumentation provided by Bogusz Wasik constitutes an essential change in the quality of the research on regional castleology owing to the use of the source evidence (let us recall the recent unclear analysis of the application of the method of *ad quadratum* in the High Castle in Marienburg (Pol. Malbork) suggested by Kazimierz Pospieszny⁸).

The analysis of the technique of building castles in Culmerland conducted in subsequent chapters may be considered to be a major contribution to the general history of construction techniques in the Middle Ages. The author distinguishes

⁶ Particularly the works by Sławomir Józwiak and Janusz Trupinda: S. Józwiak, J. Trupinda, *Organizacja życia na zamku krzyżackim w Malborku w czasach wielkich mistrzów (1309–1457)*, Malbork 2007 (1st edition), 2011 (2nd edition); S. Józwiak, J. Trupinda, *Uwagi na temat wznoszenia murowanych zamków krzyżackich w państwie zakonnym w Prusach w końcu XIV wieku*, *Komunikaty Warmińsko-Mazurskie* 2/272, (2011), pp. 201–229; S. Józwiak, J. Trupinda, *Krzyżackie zamki komture w Prusach. Topografia i układ przestrzenny na podstawie średniowiecznych źródeł pisanych*, Toruń 2012.

⁷ Here the studies of other authors are used.

⁸ K. Pospieszny, *Domus Malbork. Zamek krzyżacki w typie regularnym* (Monografie Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika w Toruniu), Toruń 2014, pp. 248–254.

here stages of erecting castles⁹, starting from *Prace ziemne* (*Earth works*, chapter 5, pp. 63–127), through *Materiały budowlane* (*Construction materials*, chapter 6, pp. 129–176), *Konstrukcje murów* (*The structure of walls*, chapter 7, pp. 177–217), down to *Charakterystyka wybranych elementów architektury* (*The description of selected architectural elements*, chapter 8, pp. 219–243). In the last stage, the author analyzed the articulation and decoration of the walls (berms, friezes, enamelled bricks, ornaments from overburnt brick on the front of the brick castle walls, apices and their structure and composition), windows and doors, vaults, cloisters, wells and canals. The thorough analysis is enriched with very good drawings – including the profiles of the buildings which help to understand the discussion.

Let us now provide some detailed remarks. What deserves recognition is the innovative reasoning devoted to earth works. The reader is presented with a thorough analysis of the works connected with water infrastructure (p. 64), moats (pp. 65–67), preparation of the groundwork (pp. 67–74), making embankments for the main buildings of the fortification – the so-called high castles (pp. 74–113), levelling mounds in outer castles (pp. 115–126). The reader is also acquainted with the labour force and sources of the building material (p. 127). What is striking in the chapter devoted to elements of architecture is the order in which the elements are characterized, failing to recognize the hierarchy referring to their functions in architecture (it might have been better to start with an analysis of vaults, which are the superior architectural element, and then move on to the windows). However, the part of the analysis concerning the building material raises reservations. On the one hand, the author provides a thorough study of the ceramic material along with the typological categories and the analysis of builders' signs. On the other hand, the author devotes only two pages for the discussion of the problem of the so-called artificial stone (pp. 129–130). The common use of artificial stone as the building material¹⁰ also used in sculpture, and architectural elements and details), was a specific feature of those territories. For this reason the bibliographical query should be thoroughly updated – particularly in recent years there have appeared several studies which significantly modify older research assumptions concerning building material¹¹. Bogusz Wasik deals with the technique

⁹ All the observations based on the analysis of the historical material during the field works, archeological and architectural works, the analysis of the building material and architectural elements and details used.

¹⁰ Stone blocks made from artificial stone were also moulded, e.g. the gate through the High Castle in Marienburg.

¹¹ For example: M. Jakubek, *Maswerki ze sztucznego kamienia z zamku krzyżackiego w Toruniu. Przyczynek do problematyki technologicznej i konserwatorskiej*, mps pracy magisterskiej w IZiK UMK, Toruń 2008 (access: Archiwum Prac Dyplomowych UMK); M. Jakubek,

of making details in artificial stone perfunctorily and on the basis of quite obsolete sources¹². It was presented in a short sub-chapter *Detal artystyczny z ceramiki, kamienia i sztucznego kamienia* (*Artistic detail made from ceramic, stone and artificial stone*, pp. 169–175)¹³. The publications cited by the author referring to technology, techniques, proficiency concerning the assumed method and the whole process of sculpting in artificial stone¹⁴ does not withstand criticism owing to the condition which must be fulfilled by the technique and technology along with the characteristic features of the materials used¹⁵.

The last extensive chapter of the work, entitled *Dzieje budowy i rozplanowanie zamków na ziemi chełmińskiej* (*The history and spatial planning of castles in Culmerland*, pp. 245–313), is devoted to the analysis of individual castles in Culmerland. It includes new findings, which constitute a significant and progressive contribution of the author to the the field in question. Wasik examines early irregularly shaped castles: Bierzgłowo (Germ. Birgelau), Grudziądz (Germ. Graudenz), Pokrzywno (Germ. Engelsburg), Toruń (Germ. Thorn), Starogród (Germ. Althaus) (pp. 245–271), regularly shaped castles (*castellum*): Golub (Germ. Gollub), Ko-

F. Schlütter, W. Oberta, J. W. Łukaszewicz, *Medieval Gypsum Mortars Used for Architectural Details in the Castle of the Teutonic Order in Toruń, Poland*, in: *Historic Mortars and RILEM TC 203-RHM Final Workshop HMC 2010, Proceedings of the 2nd Conference and of the Final Workshop of RILEM TC 203-RHM*, ed. J. Válek, C. Groot, J. J. Hughes, Bagneux 2009, pp. 227–237; M. Jakubek, *Gotyckie detale architektoniczne z zapraw gipsowych z terenu państwa krzyżackiego w Prusach: problematyka technologiczna i konserwatorska*, dys. doktorska pod kierunkiem prof. dr hab. Jadwigi W. Łukaszewicz, Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika. Wydział Sztuk Pięknych. Instytut Zabytkoznawstwa i Konserwatorstwa, Toruń 2015 (access: catalogues in the reading room of the University Library of Nicolaus Copernicus University).

¹² M. Arszyński, *Technika i organizacja budownictwa ceglanoego w Prusach w końcu XIV i początku XV wieku*, *Studia z Dziejów Rzemiosła i Przemysłu. Studia i Materiały z Historii Kultury Materialnej* 9 (1970), pp. 6–139 (see critical review of the new edition of this publication: S. Józwiak, J. Trupinda, *Marian Arszyński, Organizacja i technika średniowiecznego budownictwa ceglanoego w Prusach w kontekście europejskim*, *Komunikaty Warmińsko-Mazurskie* 2/292 (2016), pp. 367–378); T. Jurkowlaniec, *Gotycka rzeźba architektoniczna w Prusach*, Wrocław–Warszawa–Kraków–Gdańsk–Łódź 1989.

¹³ What arises reservations is the terminology applied here: first of all, the role played by architectural detail referred to construction, not art.

¹⁴ E.g. A. Błażejewska, *Rzeźba w Prusach Krzyżackich do połowy XIV wieku. Źródła stylu*, Toruń 2012, p. 194. This author's work on the research on the use of artificial gypsum stone only repeats earlier findings in the field.

¹⁵ See also the verifications of the assumed theses: J. Raczkowski, *Monumentalne zespoły kolegium apostołskiego na terenie dawnego państwa zakonnego w Prusach*, Pelplin 2013, pp. 145–153; idem, *Kolos malborski. Problematyka warsztatowa i styloznawcza*, in: *Monumentalna figura Madonny na kościele NMP w Malborku. Konteksty historyczne, artystyczne i konserwatorskie*, dd. J. Hochleitner, Malbork 2015, pp. 85–89.

walewo Pomorskie (Germ. Schönsee), Lipienek (Germ. Leipe), Papowo Biskupie (Germ. Bischöflich Papau) and Rogóźno (Germ. Roggenhausen) (pp. 271–292) – including so-called “classical” conventual castles (Brodnica (Germ. Strasburg) and Radzyń Chełmiński (Germ. Rehden), pp. 292–304) as well as bishop and chapter castles in Kurzętnik (Germ. Kauernik), Lubawa (Germ. Löbau) and Wąbrzeźno (Germ. Friedeck) (pp. 306–313). The chapter includes some interpretations of the archeological and architectural works conducted by the author in individual buildings along with his suggestions regarding the reconstructions of the layout, buildings and chronological stratification. The author provides carefully selected illustrations and drawings of high documentary value. The author’s contribution to regional research should be appreciated.

To recapitulate, the very important territory of Culmerland and the first fully organized Prussian diocese have been addressed by this monograph concerning the construction of castles in the Middle Ages. I am convinced that the publication significantly enhances our knowledge about medieval castles, the technique and organization of fortified buildings; furthermore, it will contribute to future in-depth academic and comparative works – e.g. as part of the project “*Castrae terrae culmensis. Na rubieży chrzescijańskiego świata*” (“*Castrae terrae culmensis. On the boundary of the Christian world*”). This monograph by Bogusz Wasik, shall serve future generations of archeologists, historians, historians of art and researchers of the academic sub-field of castleology.

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