

**University of Rzeszów**

College of Humanities

Institute of History

Supervisor: rev. dr hab Sławomir Zabraniak

## **Lubomirski Family's Patronage and Sponsorship in Rzeszów**

Aleksandra Haligowska, MA

### **Summary of the Doctoral Dissertation**

Many works broadly describe the history of Rzeszów and raise many issues, but they leave us feeling slightly unsatisfied. The study of the influence of the Lubomirski family, as the owners of the city, on the city's shape and look appears to be an important and necessary research postulate. This dissertation is an attempt to fill this gap. Its main topic is the patronage and sponsorship of the Lubomirski family in the city. Patronage, understood as a pool of rights and obligations towards the Church, inscribed in the role of the city owner, had a significant impact on the regulation of a wide sphere of social life. A patron, who had the privilege of the presentation for an ecclesiastical office, decided about filling posts in the parish with church dignities. At the same time, he or she became its guardian, assuming duties appropriate to an integral part of the estate of the inheritor. Sponsorship meant to be a host and take care of the city's cultural sphere by financing selected areas of art or institutions. The beneficiaries of sponsorship included individual figures and individual foundations, both secular and church.

Patronage and sponsorship were the forms of the Lubomirski family's activity in Rzeszów, the effects of which had a fundamental impact on the functioning of the city and the creation of its unique character. The questionnaire covers a wide range of issues. How did Jerzy Sebastian Lubomirski take over Rzeszów? What was the city like when the owner changed? How did the Lubomirski family engage in the field of patronage and sponsorship? What initiatives have they taken? How did they fulfil the role of patrons and sponsors? What made them stand out? What is left of their efforts? How did the family lose its importance in Rzeszów?

Patronage was a duty and sponsorship over art was included by the Lubomirski family as part of their family ethos. The purpose of this dissertation is to present the members of the ruling family in Rzeszów in the light of their activities. It is essential to look for answers to the question of how they exercised their rights, how they fulfilled their obligations and what characterised them as sponsors. Acting as a sponsor can take various forms, which are often

manifested in a distinctive way for individual magnate families. Highlighting these features, documenting that they were manifested in Rzeszów and describing how it was done are the main subjects of this dissertation.

The undertaken subject determined the structure of the dissertation. It is divided into four chapters. The first chapter of this dissertation contains a description of the Lubomirski family, from the genesis through the biography of the members of the Rzeszów house, which allows analysing the behaviour, choices and motives that guided the Lubomirski family throughout history. It was an obligation to mark the beginning of Rzeszów's relationship with the family and the moment of its disappearance, thanks to which the later, problematic presentation of the Lubomirski family as patrons and sponsors gains a suitable background. The aim of the first chapter of the dissertation is, among other things, to distinguish members of the Rzeszów house and to show their fate, emphasising issues related to the city. However, the paragraph would be incomplete if it would not to present the ethos of the family, which undoubtedly had characteristic and exclusive features of the Lubomirski family. Addressing this issue significantly broadens our perspective on the Lubomirski family and their ties with Rzeszów, as well as the decisions and initiatives taken in the field that is the subject of this dissertation.

The second chapter is the most crucial part of the dissertation. It describes the Lubomirski family as patrons and sponsors of the Church. It presents issues related to the very essence of church patronage and initiatives taken in relation to individual foundations. The most important thing was to show the role and influence of the Lubomirski family on the subject of appointing church dignities and family members as initiators of the creation of the Piarist college, church and monastery of the reformers, the chapel of St. Hubert, the castle chapel and as benefactors of hospital foundations and the Piarist pharmacy. The aim is to highlight these initiatives that resulted directly from the activities of the family members and were continued in the activities of their successors. It created a specific pattern of relations between church institutions and the Lubomirski family, the description of which is a crucial issue of the dissertation. The chapter contains detailed descriptions of the motives that influenced the creation of the foundations and the way they functioned, as well as care for their material condition: construction, practical and artistic values, renovation.

Initiatives in the field of culture are the topic of the third chapter of the dissertation. It shows the Lubomirski family as modernisers of the city. It shows how Rzeszów has transformed over many decades in terms of functionality and aesthetics, which is an essential part of giving a new quality of cultural life to the local community. The chapter describes the role of individual hosts in animating the theatrical and musical life in Rzeszów. These issues were closely related to supporting the Piarist college, which made the city an important cultural

centre of the region. An important part of the paragraph is also an issue of financial support for talented youth and bringing non-local artists to Rzeszów.

The last chapter deals with an important issue of education in Rzeszów. The level of education in the city plays a crucial role in assessing the Lubomirski family as sponsors. It is the essential criterion which shows the level of care for the intangible development of the city. The introduction to the topic is a description of the educational traditions of the Lubomirski family during the times of Stanisław, the father of Jerzy Sebastian Lubomirski. It shows the family's ties with the Krakow Academy, which had a direct impact on the education model in Rzeszów and the genesis of the relationship between the Lubomirski family and Piarists. The presentation of these threads explains the actions of the next generations of the Lubomirski family ruling Rzeszów in the field of financing science. The chapter describes the succeeding hosts as benefactors of Collegium Ressoviense and the details of its functioning. It also presents issues related to the selection of teaching personnel and scholarship activities.

In order to find answers to the above questions, the author used mainly archival sources kept in state and church archives. Many of them were previously unknown to researchers or were studied only to a small extent. A lot of valuable information about the activities of the Lubomirski family as patrons and sponsors has been found in the collections of the State Archives in Rzeszów.

The resources found in the Rzeszów archives were supplemented by the resources of the Czartoryski Library in Krakow, the collections of church archives in Krakow, mainly monastic ones, the Bernardine Archives, the Archives of the Reformers and the Piarist Archives. A search was also undertaken in the Archdiocese Archives in Przemyśl. The files of canonical visitation and consistorial files kept there were a valuable source of information.

In the summary of this short description of the dissertation, it should be emphasised what the purpose and method of its creation is. The most important thing was to merge the information contained in the extensive archival material. Its quantity and variety in terms of content and nature of sources determined the methods of its development. Using it effectively was not possible without analogical reference to already known facts. Therefore, the research process focused on illustrating the most credible description of reality based on the list of sources and literature on the subject.