

Early Watermarks from Silesian Papermills?

The beginning of producing paper in Silesia in connection with the usage of paper in the Jagiellonian royal courts around the turn of the 15-16th centuries



Year

1492



Watch later

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The 3rd generation: sons of Casimir IV

- Wladislaw (1456*; King of Bohemia 1471-1516; King of Hungary 1490-1516)
- [Casimir (1458*-1484)]
- John Albert (1459*; King of Poland 1492-1501)
- Alexander (1461*; Grand Duke of Lithuania 1492-1506; King of Poland 1501-1506)
- Sigismund (1467*; Duke of Głogów&Opava; Governor of Silesia&Lusatia; GDL&KP 1506-1548)
- [Frederick (1468*-1503; archbishop of Gniezno & bishop of Kraków)]

First map of Silesia by Martin Helwig (1561)



Silesia

- > the very beginning of handmade paper-producing can be located in Silesia
- > one of the most developed region of Central Europe
- > being among the territories with the highest level of urbanisation
- > with an extended network of routes
- > its merchants active in international trade
- > and with important centres of cloths making
- > the most prominent town, "the capital" of Silesia was Wrocław

First papermills in East-Central Europe

Silesia, Polish Kingdom, Bohemia,
Moravia

Wrocław (cc.1475/1490)

Świdnica (cc.1491/1499)

Nysa (cc.1496)

Raciborz (cc.1497)



Prądnik Czerwony (1491) on
the land leased by the
monastery of Holy Spirit de
Saxia

Mogiła (1504) Cistercian



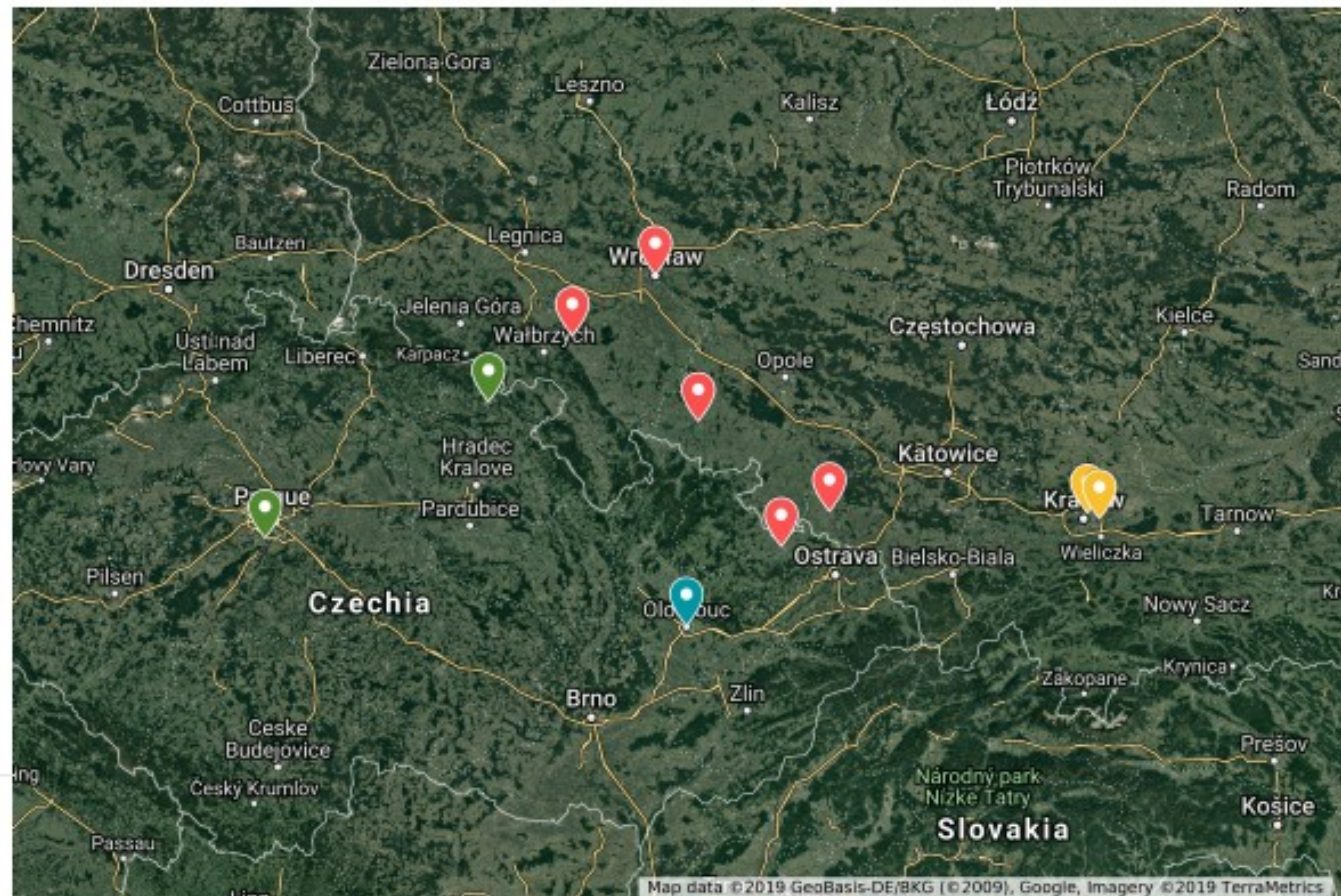
Zbraslav•Königsaal (1499)
Cistercian

Trutnov (before 1505)

Olomouc (1505)



Opava (1501/1506) privilege
from 1507

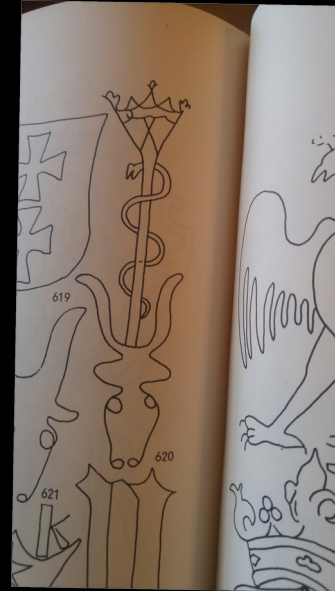


Problem

As a result of the lack of written sources and deficiency of detailed watermark research efforts to find the first paper products/watermarks of these mills have produced speculation and confusion.

When?

- Wrocław: *1475 – according to Tromonin's Watermark Album (1844)
 - *1477 – according to Rauter, Über die Wasserzeichen der ältesten Leinenpapiere in Schlesien
 - *before 1490 according to written sources (a document issued on 6 February 1490, a commitment of Hans Haunolt papermaker, regarding the payment of rent from the papermill)
- Świdnica: *1491 – according to the sc. lit.
 - *according to written sources, the first known owner and papermaker, Michael Peuthel in 1505, who rebuilt the mill after some disaster
 - * 1498/99 – according to Dąbrowski, based on *Frumentorum Parochialis*



Jagellonian court accounts (1492-1507)



Accounts

- >First-rate WRITTEN sources for the history of organisation and everyday life
- >The system of recording accounts:
 - chronologically
 - thematically
- >Main books and auxiliary volumes

Jagiellonian ledgers 1492-1507

Table 1

Table 1		page		binding					year															
reg. nr.	name	width (mm)	height (mm)	nr. of folios	condition	material	fastening	fore-edge flap	1492	1493	1494	1495	1496	1497	1498	1499	1500	1501	1502	1503	1504	1505	1506	1507
20	J.A.	110	325	271	damaged				10	10	10	10	15											
21	S.	160	315	329	original	leather	X			7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	5, 6, 8 10, 12, 16
22	J.A.	102	320	178	original	parchment	X	X		10	10	10	10	10										
23	A.	203	310	91	original	leather	X				11	11	11	11	11	11	11							
24	J.A.	110	318	81	original	parchment	X	X						4	4	4	4							
25	A.	110	326	168	original	leather	X	X							9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9		
26	J.A.	155	269	132	original	leather	X	X								5	5							
27	A.	105	310	158	original	leather	X	X								12	12	12	12	12	12			
28	J.A.	217	315	229	original	leather	X	X [cut]									13	13						
29	S.	105	318	388	original	leather	X	X									1, 3	1, 2 3	2 10	10	10			
30	A.	208	315	144	original	leather	X	X										1	1					
31	A.	160	305	89	rebound													13	13	13	13			
32	A.	105	320	132	original	leather	X	X												1	1	1	1	
33	S.	154	393	250	original	leather	X	X													8	5, 8 14	5, 6 8, 10	5 10
34	A.	160	315	114	original	leather	X	X													10	10	10	
35	S.	200	282	129	rebound																			10 14 14
36	S.	213	293	58	original	leather																		
37	S.	215	295	58	original	leather																		10 14 8
38	S.	150	314	132	original	leather	X	X																
Cod.Lat.411	W.	288	218	333	rebound						1	1												

Watermarks' number (see Table 2)

J.A. : John Albert
A. : Alexander
S. : Sigismund
W. : Wladyslaw

Watermarks of the royal accounts

















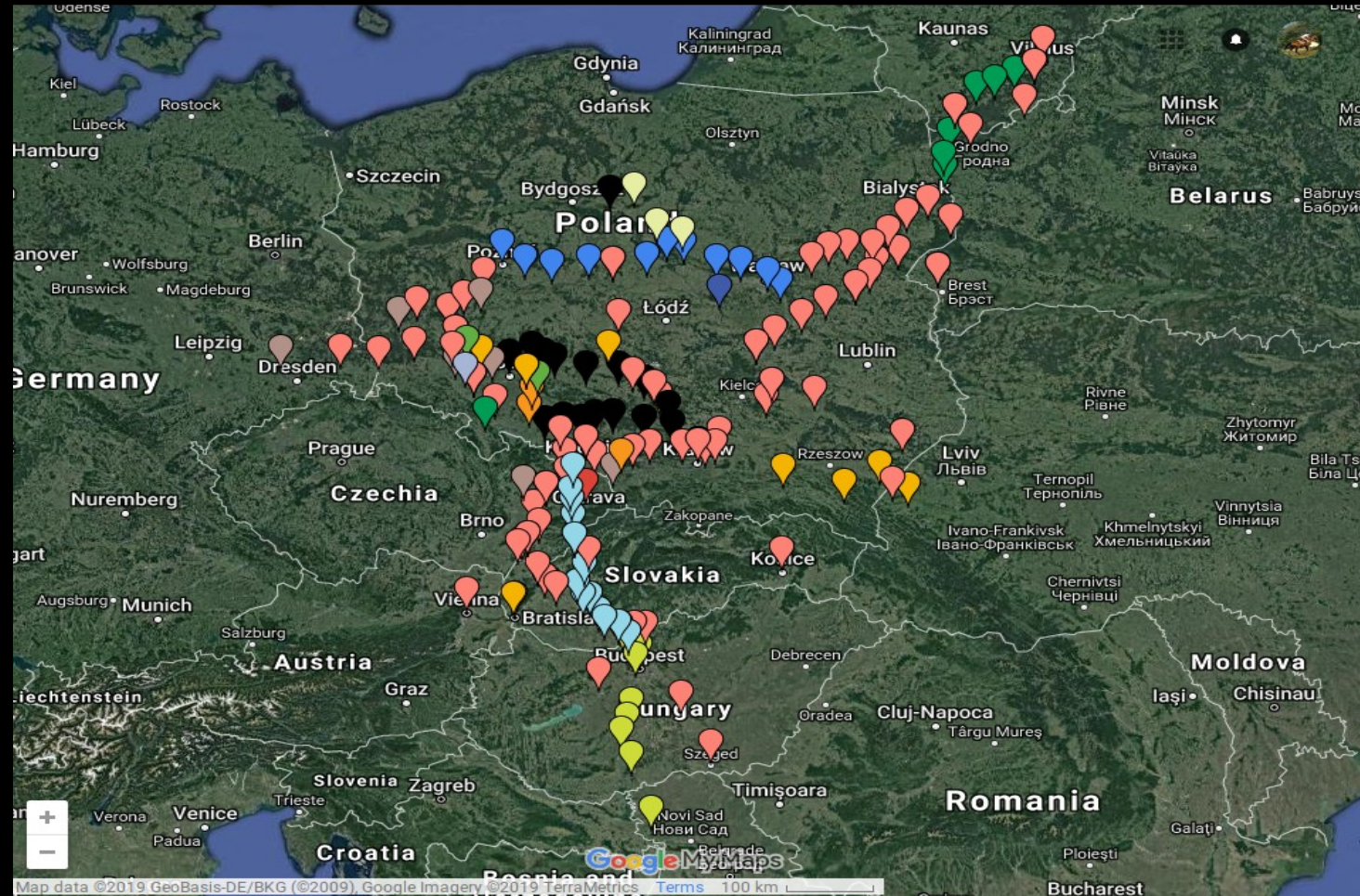
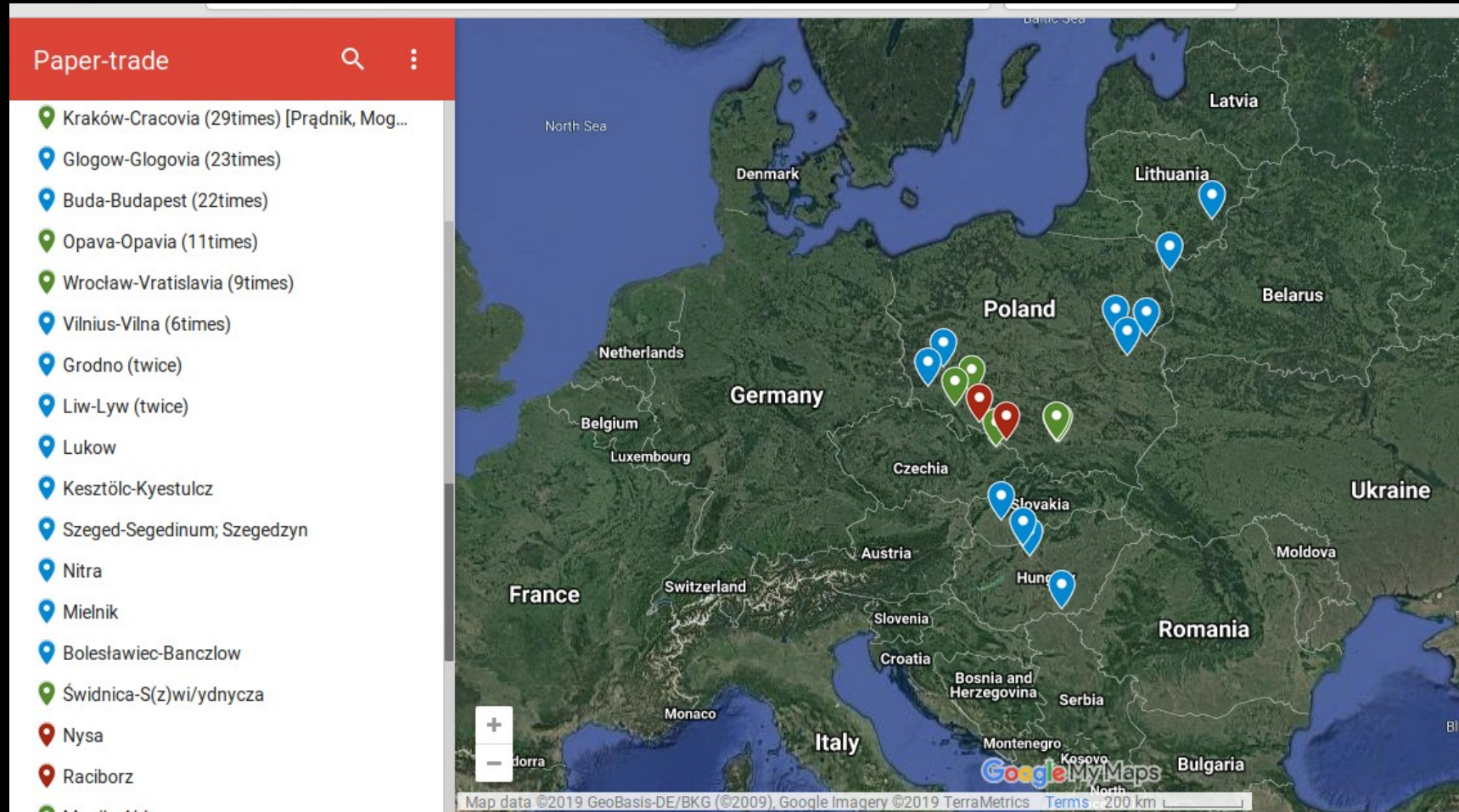
Nr.	Motifs	Description [place of origin]	Nr. of manuscript/year
1		Scales in circle (different versions, e.g. with star, with flower) [Italy]	29/1500;1501 30/1501;1502 32/1503-1506 Cod-lat. 1494,1495
2		Crossbow in a circle with a cross [Italy]	29/1501;1502
3		Circle with transverse line; above star [Italy]	29/1500;1501
4		Cardinals hat; beneath letter P [Italy]	24/1497-1500
5		Double-contoured stirrup-shaped arch terminating in a globus cruciger [Italy]	21/1507 26/1499-1500 33/1505-1507
6		Patriarchal cross [uncertain (Pradnik Czerwony?)]	21/1507 33/1506
7		Letter W; above crow; beneath fishtail [Wrocław]	21/1493-1506
8		Boar [Świdnica]	21/1507 33/1504; 1505;1506 38/1507
9		Bull's head with eyes; above Latin cross [Italy]	25/1496-1505
10		Bull's head with eyes; above Latin cross with serpent [Italy; uncertain]	20/1492-1495 22/1493-1497 33/1506-1507 34/1497 21/1507 29/1502-1504 34/1504-1506 37/1497
11		Bull's head with eyes; above Latin cross with serpent [Italy]	23/1494-1500
12		Bull's head with eyes; above Latin cross with serpent; beneath mark [Italy]	27/1499-1504 21/1507
13		Bull's head with eyes; above Latin cross with serpent and flower; letter on both sides [Italy]	28/1501;1502 31/1501-1504
14		Bull's head with eyes; above flowers; beneath arrowhead [Italy]	33/1505 35/1507 36/1507 37/1507
15		Bull's head with eyes; above five petals flower [Italy]	20/1495
16		Bull's head with eyes; above crosier; beneath ring [Mogila(?)]	21/1507

Table 2

The movements of Prince Sigismund's court (1500-1507)



Places of purchasing paper



Mentioning books
(libellus, liber):

1. Purchasing material
to prepare and repair
2. paying for the
labour

Mentioning accounts (regestrum)

1. purchasing paper
2. interlacing paper
3. buying pre-made, blank ledgers

Written source: the TEXT

“...pro cinobrio pro eodem *libro*
scribendo dedi IIII denarios
Hungaricales”

“Item pro pergameno ad describendum
reculas racionum alias lyczby dedi 1/2
florenum, sed post modum idem *liber*
domino principi datus est per Italum
Philipum et pergamenum remansit.”
AGAD RK 29, f. 46;

“Item pro registro novo ad viam, in quo summe describuntur,
antequam in regestrum summarum inscribuntur, dedi VIII
gr.” AGAD-ASK-RK, sign. 33, f. 77.

“Item eodem die pro papiro II1/2 libris ad ligandum in
registrum summarum dedi V gr.” “Item a labore eiusdem
registri, dum papirum introligatum est, dedi III gr.” AGAD-
ASK-RK, sign. 29, f. 302.

“Item a ligatione papiri ad registrum, ubi summe scribi
debeant, dedi III gr.” AGAD-ASK-RK, sign. 33, f. 222v.

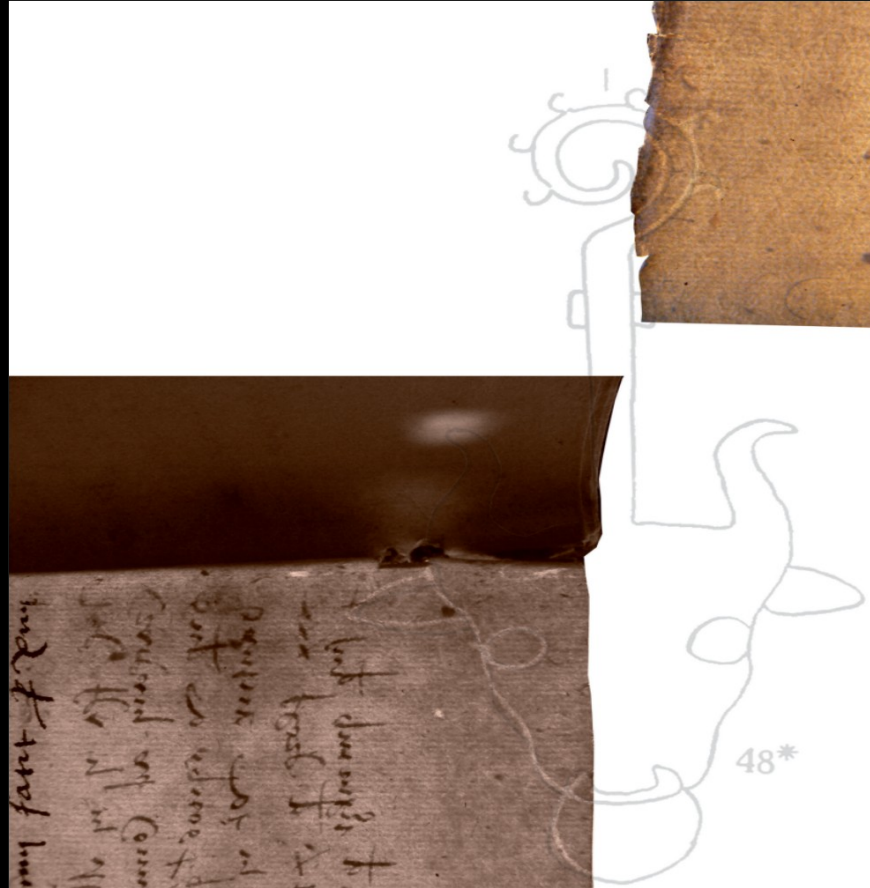
“Item pro novo registro ad conscribendum equos curiensium
dedi XX gr.” AGAD-ASK-RK, sign. 33, f. 168.

Books for court administration

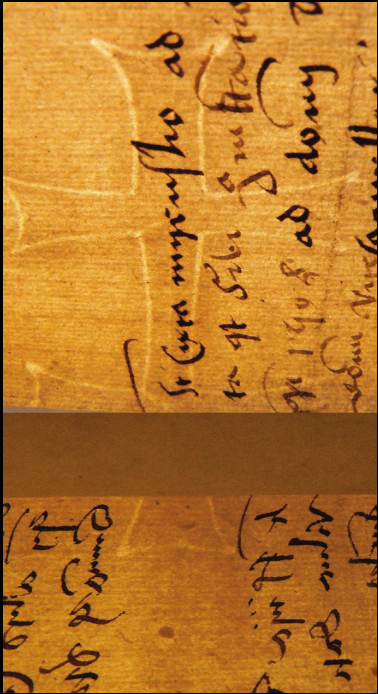
Examination of paper

- Watermills (this period is the beginning of papermaking in Silesia and in Poland) – is there any evidence of using local products?
- Watermarks (comparison; paper from Northern Italy)
- Waste paper (in binding)

Product of Mogiła?



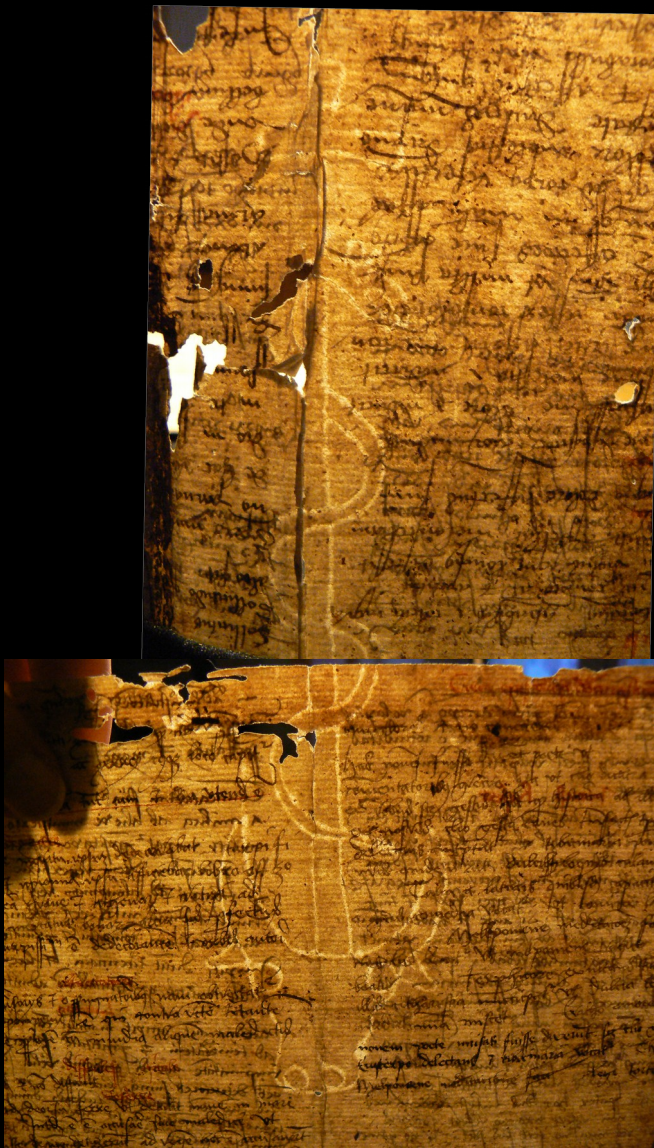
Questionable origin



Prądnik Czerwony (1493, on the land of the monastery of Holy Spirit, owner Fryderyk Szylinga; master paper-maker Mathias Koch from Reutlingen)

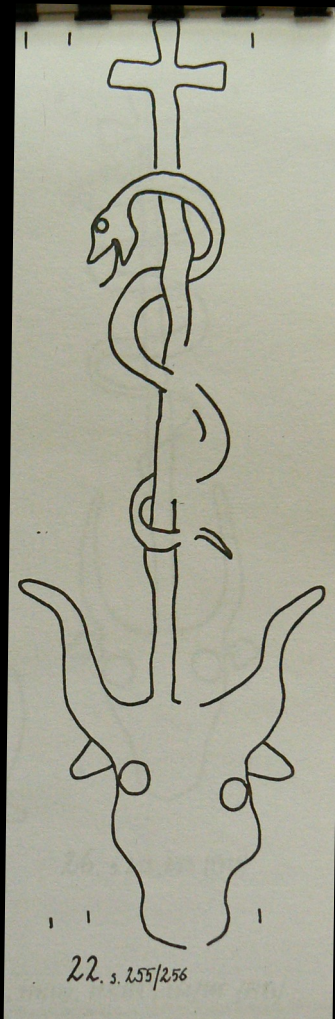
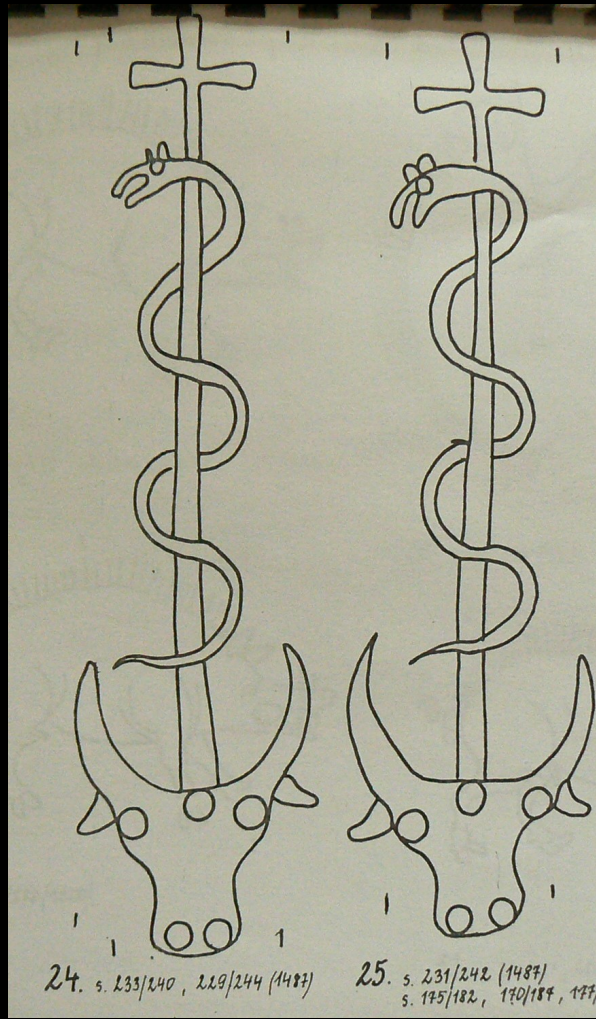
Or somewhere else?

According to Piccard:
Oberrhein (Upper Rhine) region




- A folded paper with 15/16th-century handwriting placed into the ledger of Alexander (issued 1501-1502)
- Its fragmentary watermark depicts a bull's head which design does not correlate to the contemporary Italian design (no research has been carried out on this unknown origin of item).
- Urywki ćwiczeń gramatyczno-stylistycznych (przełom XV na XVI wiek).

*Frumentorum Parochialis (Schweidnizensis) ab A° 1471 ad A°
1507*



Plan of Collaboration



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The "Manuscripta.pl" Project

Manuscripta.pl is an ongoing collaborative project, which attempts to bring together bibliographic information concerning extant medieval manuscript books (and book fragments) in Polish repositories, to register Polonica (books of Polish provenance) in foreign archives, and to record all traces of lost (destroyed or missing) manuscript books relative to Polish collections. The originators of the project are deeply convinced that scholars working on medieval manuscripts not only in Poland, but all over the world need an information tool that will facilitate access to Polish materials.

The project is based at the L. & A. Birkenmajer Institute for the History of Science, PASC. In 2017, Institute of Art, PASC, and Institute of Literary Research, PASC, became institutional collaborators of Manuscripta.pl. The Wrocław University Library joined the project in 2018. Since October 2017, our activities are financed by a generous grant provided by the National Programme for the Development of the Humanities (Narodowy Program Rozwoju Humanistyki, No. 0084/NPRH5/H11/84/2017). But, even if all our team-members are employees of the Polish Academy of Sciences, we have managed to solicit for our cause the assistance of numerous professionals working in institutions all around the country and abroad, in particular librarians, who voluntarily devote their time and expertise.



Department of Paper and Leather Conservation

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Our department

The Department of Paper and Leather Conservation started to take form in the years 1968-1969. It was separated from the Department of Technology and Painting Techniques, which was undergoing a reorganisation process at that time. The newly created organisational unit managed by Prof. Alicja Strzelczyk started to educate students in the specialization of paper and leather conservation and restoration. Such orientation of the course of study resulted from the need to prepare specialists in the field of conservation and restoration of archive and library collections. In the following years, the scope of the Department's activity widened to include issues related to the conservation of other historic objects from paper and leather, such as: