

Summary

Mielec has an old founding metric. It may have been established in the second half of the 12th century, and the first written mention of it dates back to 1224. In 1470, it obtained town rights.

The city and its inhabitants have been described in numerous publications. Only a small portion of them have utilized the press as a source material for research, despite it containing countless articles about Mielec. Proving this thesis required undertaking extensive scientific studies. The years 1867-1914, the period of Galician autonomy, were selected for the research as they played a fundamental role in the history of Mielec, as the processes taking place in the city during that time laid the foundations for its future rapid development. The preliminary analysis of sources revealed an immense wealth of material, which necessitated the selection of specific periodicals for study, as it was impossible to examine all newspaper titles. Attention was drawn to two major Galician newspapers – the Kraków-based "Czas", published since 1848, and the "Gazeta Lwowska", published since 1811.

In relation to these choices, a series of research questions were formulated regarding the history of the locality, to which the aforementioned press titles were expected to provide answers. These questions revolved around several key points: how much historical information about Mielec and its inhabitants does the analyzed press contain? Will it inform about already known events or supplement them, and will it introduce new, unknown subjects? Will it complement the facts obtained from archival and library sources or present new topics? Addressing these issues would help determine whether the Kraków-based "Czas" and the "Gazeta Lwowska" during the period of Galician autonomy are reliable sources for describing the life of Mielec and its inhabitants.

Browsing through the selected press titles was a laborious and time-consuming task. A total of 48 volumes of each newspaper were subjected to examination, amounting to approximately 30,000 newspaper issues containing between 174,000 and 232,000 pages. The analysis of the Kraków-based "Czas" and the "Gazeta Lwowska" yielded a comprehensive bibliography with several thousand bibliographic descriptions related to Mielec and its inhabitants. However, not all of them were utilized in the presented work. Minor pieces of

information that did not contribute significant knowledge to the thesis were omitted. The selected group served as the basis for developing the intended topic.

The work is divided into five chapters. The first chapter, titled "City, Infrastructure, Institutions, and Public Services", presents a general overview of the city, with attention paid to the demographics of the locality. The railroad is discussed, as well as the goods of Mielec and their owners. Furthermore, institutions based in Mielec are highlighted, such as the District Court, the Volunteer Fire Brigade, and the post office. Partially related professions are also mentioned, including judges, lawyers, notaries, and postmasters, as well as other occupations in the city, such as doctors, pharmacists, and other medical professions. The second chapter is titled "Authorities and Political Life". It presents the municipal authorities, the District Office, the Mielec County Council, and the County Department. An important part of this chapter is dedicated to the deputies of the Galician Sejm in Lviv and the State Council in Vienna. A significant portion of this section focuses on their political activities. The next chapter depicts the economic life of Mielec. Various subsections discuss crafts and trade, agriculture, and industry. The most extensive part is devoted to financial and credit institutions operating in the city. The fourth chapter, titled "Education, Teaching, and Religious Life", is dedicated to the aforementioned topics. It discusses elementary schools, other educational institutions, and the only secondary school in Mielec, namely the gymnasium. Attention is also given to the Mielec gymnasium dormitory. An essential part of this chapter is the presentation of education implemented in the city. One of the subsections also introduces the Catholic parish, Mielec's priests, the parish church, as well as pastoral care and functioning religious associations. The last chapter is devoted to everyday life, representing the most diverse part of the work. It discusses various celebrations and anniversaries, concerts, theatrical performances, and city balls. Additionally, it covers the travels of Mielec residents to Krakow and Lviv, as well as natural disasters affecting the townspeople and crimes committed by city residents or outsiders. Marriage and death among Mielec residents were also found to be interesting topics.

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