

## THE OLDEST PHOTOGRAPH OF THE DOMINICAN CHURCH IN KRAKÓW

The oldest photograph of the Dominican Church in Kraków – and one of the earliest photos of the city in general – is published in this article for the first time. Until now, only the woodcut, probably made on its basis and published in 1860 in *Tygodnik Ilustrowany*, was known, but it obviously contains much less information than the photograph.

The photo shows the church seen from the window of the Franciscan Monastery, together with the Dominikański Square and part of the All Saints' Square. It records the appearance of the church during the reconstruction after a fire in 1850 and a collapse five years later, that is without the naves, dismantled after the collapse of parts of the pillars and the vault, and successively restored. The

façade, which survived the catastrophe, is shown during the demolition, that is before the new façade was erected, suggesting that the photo was made in late spring or in summer 1860. You can also see other details that are important for getting to know the history of the building, and the 17<sup>th</sup>-century belfry standing next to it (it was pulled down in 1861).

The photograph was most probably made by Władysław Sawiczewski (1840 – before 1892), a pharmacist

and artist by profession, married to Artur Grottger's sister. Records show that around 1865–1866 he was an amateur photographer, reproducing some of his brother-in-law's works, and later he opened his own photographic studio. This print allows us to include him in the small group of amateur photographers operating in Kraków in the 1850s and 1860s.