

THE PROBLEM OF THE ARTISTIC ORIGIN OF THE PREMONSTRATENSIAN CHURCH IN THE KRAKÓW DISTRICT OF ZWIERZYNIEC

In 1777, the presbytery in the Kraków Church of St. Augustine and St. John the Baptist was rearranged on the basis of the design by an amateur architect Father Sebastian Sierakowski, Canon of the Cathedral Chapter. In the form of the presbytery, arranged as a peristyle encircling the eastern part of the church on three sides, the creator reached for solutions used in antiquity, thus departing from modern Baroque architecture. Familiar with the work of contemporary French theoreticians, Sierakowski, as one

of the first artists in Poland, used the motif of a peristyle and an exedra in the interior design of the church. Despite the novelty of his work in the detail of the whole arrangement, one can still see the artist's attachment to the tried and tested repertoire of modern forms, among which the most noteworthy are the prominent gable above the altar and the capitol designed by Vincenzo Scamozzi. Nevertheless, Sierakowski's presbytery should be regarded as an early Polish classicist work.