

THE GUILD BANNER OF THE KRAKÓW AND KAZIMIERZ FISHERMEN IN THE COLLECTIONS OF THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF KRAKÓW

The banner of the guild of Kraków and Kazimierz fishermen in the collection of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków is a valuable document recording the customs of Kraków's guilds. This is one of the few surviving guild banners from the 18th century. It is decorated with applications – the image of the Mother of God is associated with the altar of fishermen in the Church of St. Catherine; the White Eagle symbolises the authority of the Kraków governor over the guild; and the fish refers directly to the fishing profession. Thanks to the abundance of information in written sources, it was possible to determine the context in which the banner functioned, and also to indicate its founder. Fishermen participated “under the banner” in

the processions on St. Stanislaus Day (from the Kraków Cathedral to the Skalka Church) and on Corpus Christi. They also took part in the processions of the Brotherhood of Jesus of Nazareth (at the request of the Trinitarians) and in services held by the Augustine Order (the fishermen guild's altar was in its church). The initials “LS” and the date 1764 refer to the founder of the banner, fisherman Wawrzyniec (Laurentius) Stefański, who served that year as the elder of the guild. He had promised to provide a new banner a few years earlier, in 1758, when he had been threatened with expulsion from the guild for failing to comply with its statute.