

## PROFESSORS OF THE KRAKÓW UNIVERSITY AS THE KRAKÓW BOURGEOISIE IN THE 17<sup>TH</sup> AND 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES

The 17<sup>th</sup> century launches a period of gradual loss of significance for Kraków, initiated by the transfer of the permanent royal seat to Warsaw. The subsequent occupations of the city, from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, associated with the stationing of foreign troops and levies, caused the economic decline of Kraków and its inhabitants. The situation of the city had an impact on the functioning of the University, which after a period of prosperity plunged into a crisis, manifesting itself in a decrease in the number of students. This was due to a decline in the prestige of the university, caused, among other things, by the resistance of the professors to modernising the curriculum. The main complex of university buildings of medieval origin, located in the area of St. Anna's and Gołębia Streets, was an important location in Kraków's urban space. However, despite the problems that the university had to confront, the prestige of educated people was growing. Professors of philosophy, medicine, law and theology came from the Kraków bourgeoisie. However, it was the University teachers sitting on the Municipal

Council, both physicians and lawyers, were most closely associated with Kraków. Their political status was a confirmation of their exceptional position in the city, resulting from their wealth, family connections and education. This was associated with possession of a representative building in the Main Square or in the adjacent streets. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, fifteen councillors had a doctoral degree, while in the next two centuries the City Council consisted of twenty-one councillors with a doctoral degree and eighteen professors teaching at the University. The Kraków councillors with professorial titles represented the Council as deputies of the City of Kraków in the general assemblies, often using their knowledge in support of the city. Representatives of the University authorities took an active part in state ceremonies (welcoming monarchs arriving in the city, royal coronations, weddings and funerals) or religious ceremonies. Numerous fields of activity of University professors as Kraków's bourgeoisie show the close and often complicated ties and relations between the city and the university.