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Silva rerum of Aleksander Jastkowski, a Przemyśl land judge from the second half of the 17th century

Abstract: Sylvias (from the Latin *silva rerum*, i.e. forest of things) belong to the category of domestic books manuscript books, created in Old Polish times (17th-18th century) mainly in the noble community gentry circles. They are considered a valued source for historical and literary research due to the historical and literary research due to the variety of materials they contain, collected by their authors without a specific plan according to their tastes possibilities and needs. The author of one of the largest works of this kind was Aleksander Jastkowski (c. 1625/30–c. 1691), a nobleman from the Przemyśl land Ruthenian Voivodeship, a judge of the Przemyśl lands. His *sylva* entitled. ‘Compendium omnis activitatis politici et rei economicae ex variis authoribus collectae’ (National Ossolineum Library in Wrocław, manuscript no. 3554) should be considered a typical example of this type of writing. This *sylva* was created successively probably for more than half a century mainly by A. Jastkowski, and was completed after his death at the beginning of the 18th century by persons unknown to us. It numbers 594 pages and contains in copies numerous materials, mostly relating to public life at the time (approx. 45% of the total manuscript), such as journalistic writings, correspondence and speeches by dignitaries state dignitaries, the Diary of the Sejm of 1652, records of the Sejmik of the Ruskie Voivodeship in Sądowa and others. In addition, it contains notes by A. Jaskowski concerning his private matters, copies of his and his family’s estate documents, extracts from his and his family’s property documents, excerpts from books he had read, and notes on various fields of knowledge (cultivation of the soil, medicine, Polish and general history, legal and constitutional subjects, etc.), literary works, and notes on the history of Poland etc.), literary works, specimens and examples of occasional letters, materials concerning the private affairs of various individuals.

Keywords: *Sylva*, *silva rerum*, Aleksander Jastkowski, manuscript book, manuscript

Introduction

Silvae rerum are considered one of the most interesting and, at the same time, characteristic manifestations of the culture of the Old Polish times of the 16th–18th century. This type of domestic manuscript book, created mainly by the gentry and characterized by an unlimited variety of content, forms, and ways of creation, is a mine of ancient writing, especially of an ephemeral nature. For this reason, they have quite a rich literature, primarily considering their significance for researching the mindset and culture of the nobility of the 16th–18th centuries¹. However, only a few silvae received individual elaborations². Among manuscripts of this kind, the silva titled “Compendium omnis activitatis et rei economicae ex variis authoribus collectae”, located in the manuscript collection of the Library of the National Ossoliński Institute in Wrocław (manuscript no. 3554), stands out for its size (594 cards in folio format, about 33x21 cm), variety and richness of materials. This silva, primarily written by or in the environment of Aleksander Jastkowski, a nobleman from the Przemyśl region of the Ruthenian province in the second half of the 17th century, can be considered a model example of a nobleman’s silva. However, it has not received a scholarly discussion or comprehensive cataloging study, a task urgently needed to understand and fully appreciate its significance. Information on this silva in *Inwentarz rękopisów Biblioteki ZNiO* [Inventory of the manuscripts from the Ossolineum Library] published in 1949 is limited to the title and basic external description³, with no data concerning its authorship, content, or construction. Neither this silva has aroused the interest of researchers dealing with this type of manuscript, except the author of this article, who has devoted

1 In the first place it is necessary to point out the monograph by S. Roszak, *Archiwa sarmackiej pamięci. Funkcje i znaczenie rękopiśmiennych ksiąg silva rerum w kulturze Rzeczypospolitej XVIII wieku*, Toruń 2004. From other studies, among others: M. Zachara, *Sylwy – dokument szlacheckiej kultury umysłowej w XVII w.*, [in:] *Z dziejów życia literackiego w Polsce XVI i XVII wieku*, ed. by H. Dziechcińska, Wrocław 1980, pp. 197–219; eadem, *Twórca – odbiorca sylw szlacheckich w XVII wieku*, [in:] *Publiczność literacka i teatralna w dawnej Polsce*, ed. by H. Dziechcińska, Warszawa–Łódź 1985, pp. 117–129; J. Partyka, *Rękopisy dworu szlacheckiego doby staropolskiej*, Warszawa 1995, pp. 48–85; M. Matwijów, *Z problematyki staropolskiej książki rękopiśmiennej. Kopiarusze i zbiory materiałów życia publicznego XVII–XVIII w.*, „Roczniki Biblioteczne” 2011, vol. 55, pp. 29–68.

2 M. Zachara, *Silva rerum Szymków*, „Odrodzenie i Reformacja w Polsce” 1981, vol. 26, pp. 161–177; J. Starnawski, *Przemyska silva rerum*, „Przegląd Humanistyczny” 1970, vol. 14, no. 5, pp. 91–117; D. Wićko, *Silva rerum z XVIII wieku z pamiętnikiem Michała Adama Śliźnia (1691–1752) ze zbiorów Biblioteki Narodowej Białorusi w Mińsku*, „Zapiski Historyczne” 2010, vol. 75, no. 3, pp. 99–109; idem, *Silva rerum Стафана Яна Слізня XVII–XVIII стст. з успамінамі Аляксандра Слізня за 1561–1649 гг. (са збораў Нацыянальнай біб-ліятэкі Беларусі)*, „Здабыткі. Дакументальныя Помнікі на Беларусі” 2009, vol. 11, pp. 62–78.

3 *Inwentarz rękopisów Biblioteki Zakładu Narodowego im. Ossolińskich we Wrocławiu*. Vol. 1: *Rękopisy 1505–7325*, collective elaboration ed. by J. Turska, Wrocław 1948, p. 182.

some attention to it in his studies of collections of materials of public life of the 17th–18th centuries⁴. This causes Jastkowski's *silva* to remain virtually unused by researchers, especially those studying the political history of the Republic of Poland in the second half of the 17th century⁵. Therefore, in addition to the book studying characteristics of the *silva*, the presentation of its creator, and the manner of its creation and construction, the article includes a comprehensive list of its essential contents, which I hope will prove helpful to researchers of the political and cultural history of the Old Polish times.

The *silvae rerum* of the nobility of the 17th century

The *silvae rerum* present such great formal diversity that the attempt to define them unambiguously encounters significant difficulties⁶. This is because the creation of *silvae* was not subject to any rules and norms as to the form and content of the manuscript and, as in the case of all other manuscripts classified as part of the so-called private sphere (as opposed to so-called official records), depended solely on the tastes, abilities, and needs of their creator or creators. Such specific of this type of manuscript manifested itself in the uncoordinated and mostly ad hoc manner in which they were created, in which many people could be involved, keeping records independently of each other and often for many years.

Eventually, an actual “forest of things” (Latin: *silva rerum*) was developed, consisting of copies of everything that aroused the interest of the creator(s), was necessary for their own professional or household activities, or finally, what was deemed worth preserving “to the memory” for themselves and their descendants – starting with various materials of public life (such as. copies of official records, diaries of public events, speeches delivered at public gatherings, political journalism, etc.), a variety of primarily minor literary materials of a temporary and occasional nature, specimens and examples of wedding and funeral speeches, diary notes, notes on family matters, bills, correspondence and personal documents, curiosities (*curiositates*) of various kinds, anecdotes, sentences, prophecies, excerpts from readings, medical and economic advice, etc.

4 M. Matwijów, *Kopiarusze i zbiory materiałów...*, pp. 39, 40, 44; idem, *Zbiory materiałów życia publicznego jako typ książki rękopiśmiennej czasów staropolskich (1660–1760)*, Warszawa 2020, pages according to the index.

5 This includes the monographs W. Czapliński *Dwa sejmy w roku 1652*, Wrocław 1955, and M. Matwijów, *Ostatnie sejmy przed abdykacją Jana Kazimierza 1667 i 1668*, Wrocław 1992, and the source publication *Pisma polityczne z czasów panowania Jana Kazimierza Waza 1648–1668. Publikacja – egzorbitancje – projekty – memoriały*. Vol. 1–3, coll. and comp. by S. Ochmann-Staniszevska, Wrocław 1989–1991.

6 M. Matwijów, *Kopiarusze i zbiory materiałów...*, pp. 30–32, 37–39. For this reason, S. Roszak (op. cit., p. 84) used the more general term ‘rękopisy sylwiczne’ [*silva* manuscripts] for this type of writing.

In addition to the diversity in terms of subject matter and the types of materials contained in them, their inherent feature is the lack of any order in the materials' arrangement due to the uncoordinated buildup of materials placed in them. Another characteristic feature of the *silva* is very often its personal nature. This manifests in their creators' inclusion of private materials, notes, and information about themselves and their immediate family, sometimes chronicle or diary notes, and in signaling a personal attitude to the inscribed materials. For this reason, Joanna Partyka, who researches this type of writing, attributed the function of a "para-memoir" to them. One can also look at the *silvae* as a specific form of a personal archive, as Stanisław Roszak accurately put it in the title of his monograph, describing them as "archives of noble memory". After all, this was *silvae*'s purpose – archiving various kinds of notes and records worth preserving for the future rather than creating written work with specific content and structure. However, such *silvae* can also be found. In this sense, the function of the *silva* could be seen as, in part, a kind of counterpart to the official ledger of entries used in the law office system of that time and intended for archiving copies of more critical personal documents and those related to their creators' activities. The above features make it possible to distinguish typical *silvae* from ordinary notebooks and other Old Polish manuscripts containing various written materials, usually dedicated to certain materials or concerning a specific subject matter (e.g., political or literary miscellanea).

The scale of the *silvae* creation phenomenon is difficult to precisely determine since many of the monuments of this type of writing have not survived our times. It seems they were one of the more popular manuscripts created in the 17th–18th centuries, although considering them a typical household book in Old Polish times does not seem justified. Indeed, many noblemen and burghers (because *silvae* were not just a phenomenon typical for the landed gentry) kept various household records. Still, most of them indeed only went up to the level of ordinary diaries or notebooks. In the case of the former Ruthenian province and, more broadly, "Crown Ruthenia" of the second half of the 17th century, we can point to only a few similar *silvae*, of which we can only consider as surpassing Jastkowski's work, the *silva* (manuscript in the Scientific Library of the PAU-PAN in Kraków No. 1046) of the alleged authorship of Jan Samuel Mirz Brzezicki of the Chełm region or Bełz province⁷.

Biography of the *silva*'s creator

Aleksander Jastkowski was probably born around 1625–1630 as the son of Walerian and Anna Kowalkowska. He came from a noble family from the

7 M. Matwijów, *Zbiory materiałów z życia publicznego...*, pp. 235–238.

Lublin province⁸, whose representatives and his ancestors probably settled near Jarosław in the Przemyśl region in the mid-16th century. All indications are that they occupied a relatively modest economic and social position for a long time, basing their livelihood on service and leasing landed estates from the local magnates – owners of the Jarosław estates⁹. Such was Alexander's father, Walerian, who, being by the grace of Anna of Ostrogska née Kostka, Voivode of Volhynia, the possessor of the mayorship of Surohów near Jarosław, in 1647 took from Anna Alojza Chodkiewiczowa née Ostrogska, Voivode of Vilnius, a lease of the entire village of Surohów, which was an expression of her reward for the "kind service and fidelity" she had received from him "for many years"¹⁰.

About the youth of A. Jastkowski, we know little: it is possible that he attended the Jesuit college in Jarosław, where he received an education typical of the nobility of the time. He then served in the army and participated in the fighting in Ukraine in the early years of the Khmelnytsky uprising. In 1647, he took over the mayorship in Surohów from his father by the grace of Chodkiewicz, and after his father died in 1649, he inherited from him, together with his brother Stefan (who died in 1664 in Ukraine), some landed property in the Przemyśl region. He did not stabilize his property situation until 1664, when after the death of his stepmother Anna Jastkowska 2v. Baranowska, following in his father's footsteps, took a lease "per contractum" from Sandomierz voivode Jan Zamoyski, then owner of part of the Jarosław estate of the village of Surohów, of which he became a full-fledged owner ten years later by a donation from the next owner of the estate – Stanisław Koniecpolski starosta [district head] of Dolin¹¹. All we know about his family relations is that he was married from 1653 to Helena Rybińska, who died in 1689. He probably had no children, as he did not mention anything about them in his diary notes included in the silva, but he had two nieces and a nephew, the children of his half-sister Joanna Kołaczkowska¹².

Beginning in the 1650s, he began to take an active part in the public life of the Ruthenian province. Probably in 1657, he held an envoy from the nobility of Przemyśl to the Transylvanian prince George II Rákóczi. From 1658, he repeatedly held various functions (mainly treasury) in the Przemyśl region on behalf of the general assembly of the Ruthenian province in Sądowa Wisznia. With time, even more significant and prestigious positions came: kangaroo judge of the Ruthenian province in the interregnum of 1668–1669, and marshal

8 See A. Boniecki, *Herbarz polski*. Vol. 8, Warsaw 1905, p. 312.

9 In 1568, Marcin Jastkowski was the starost of the Jarosław castle, which belonged to the owner of the Jarosław estate, Zofia of Sprowa, Silva by A. Jastkowski, f. 560v.

10 Silva by A. Jastkowski, f. 288–289v., 555.

11 Silva A. Jastkowski, f. 288–289v., 291–294, 297–298, 563–563v., 591v.

12 Silva by A. Jastkowski, f. 587, 590.

of several Wisznia local parliaments: three pre-Sejm assemblies: May 25, 1672, December 13, 1672, and December 16, 1687, as well as the election assembly on October 20, 1673. In addition, he was marshal of the local parliament of Przemyśl landowners on August 1, 1671¹³.

Thanks to the authority he enjoyed among his “brethren” in the province, he was also able to become active in the national forum as a deputy of the Wisznia Parliament to five Sejms: the 1669 electoral assembly, the 1669 coronation assembly, the 1672 extraordinary assembly, the 1674 electoral assembly, and the 1683 ordinary assembly, as well as a deputy of the same assembly to kings Jan Kazimierz in October 1663 and Michał Korybut in December 1671¹⁴. However, he was not counted among the outstanding parliamentarians. It is true that at the Electoral Sejm of 1669, he was a deputy to arrange the pacts of the conventions concluded with the new king. Still, at the Coronation Sejm of 1669, he no longer distinguished himself in any particular way, as the Sejm diary does not mention him. On the other hand, at the Sejm of 1672, his activity was limited to supporting the motion to inform the Chamber of Deputies of the state of the Crown Artillery by the Crown Artillery General Marcin Kątski, and at the Electoral Sejm of 1674 to speeches in defense of the rights of his patron S. Konicpolski starosta of Dolin to the estates belonging to the Zamojski Ordinance, which the Convocation Sejm of the same year had awarded to Marcin Zamojski¹⁵. As it seems, he played a more prominent role only at the Sejm of 1683, or, he was able to present his activities to his brethren at the Wisznia relational assembly on May 24, 1683, in an appropriately favorable light, since in the laudum of that sejm the nobility stated that Jastkowski, representing the Przemyśl land, and his colleague Andrzej Modrzejewski “magnum w nas merentur respectum za pracę, spezy i fatygi swoje przez czas niemały na sejmie podjęte” [magnum w nas merentur respectum for the work, spezys and fatygos of theirs for a considerable time undertaken at the sejm] and therefore “in vim gratificationis [...] po zł. 2000 na każdego z ichmciów oferujemy [...]”¹⁶ [in vim gratificationis [...] zł. 2,000 per each of them we offer [...]]. This activity was complemented by his participation in the work of the Crown Tribunal in 1678 as a deputy from the Ruthenian province. He also participated with his province

13 *Akta grodzkie i ziemskie z czasów Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej z archiwum tzw. bernardńskim w Lwowie*. Vol. 21: *Lauda wiszeńskie 1648–1673*, comp. by A. Prochaska, Lviv 1911, pp. 482, 553, 558, 570, 593, 616, 621; Vol. 22: *Lauda Vishenskie 1673–1732*, ed. by A. Prochaska, Lviv 1914, pp. 161, 172, 204, 215, 216; Silva by A. Jastkowski, f. 297–298, 590v.

14 *Akta grodzkie i ziemskie...* Vol. 21, pp. 372, 518, 575, 593; Vol. 22, p. 154; Silva by A. Jastkowski, f. 391; *Volumina legume*. Vol. 5, ed. by J. Ohryzko, St. Petersburg 1860, p. 20.

15 *Diariusz sejmu koronacyjnego 1669 roku*, ed. K. Przyboś and M. Ferenc with co-authors J. Elzbieciak [et al.], Kraków 2004; *Pisma do wieku i sprawy Jana Sobieskiego*. Vol. 1. Part 2, ed. by F. Kluczycki, Kraków 1881, pp. 778, 1432, 1442.

16 *Akta grodzkie i ziemskie...* Vol. 22, p. 160.

in the election of King Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki in June 1669 and Jan III Sobieski in May 1674¹⁷.

Confirmation of his importance among the nobility of the Ruthenian province came in the form of holding municipal and land offices there. He began his clerical career with the office of the Przemyśl municipal scribe (from about 1661) and, for a short time, probably of Sanok (in 1663). He then began to climb the land hierarchy as a Przemyśl swordbearer from March 17, 1668, a Przemyśl land deputy judge from January 20, 1671, and finally, a Przemyśl land judge from January 16, 1683, which was the real crowning achievement of his career. This office was among the most prestigious land offices, although it had long lacked significance¹⁸. He owed these promotions not only to his abilities but also to his exceptional foresight and attention to his interests – we know from his diary records that in 1681, he managed to secure for himself from King Jan III in Jaworów the office of Przemyśl land judge even before the electoral assembly took place, and the Ruthenian nobility formally submitted his candidacy to the king¹⁹. Indeed, he also owed his promotions to the patronage of local magnates, such as, in particular, J. Zamoyski, governor of Sandomierz, and S. Koniecpolski, starosta of Dolin and the crown camp leader. Probably, it was to their support that he owed the titles of courtier and secretary to His Majesty the King²⁰, obtained already in the fifties, which are admittedly purely honorary dignities and not connected with any duties at the royal court but testify to his foresight and ambition to stand out from the general nobility.

He probably died in 1691 – his last diary note is dated 1689, and the last document recorded in the silva by his hand is a copy of a letter to him dated December 30, 1690²¹. From this brief overview of his life path and activities, Jastkowski appears to us as a typical representative of the noble stratum, not exceeding either by his life path, type of activity, moral attitude, and aspirations from other state representatives. In his youth, militancy and work in the municipal office, then public service in the nobility's self-government and serving in the interests of wealthy patrons, and farming were typical areas of nobility activity in the 17th century. It is worth noting, however, that he owed his

17 Silva by A. Jastkowski, f. 590; *Elektorowie królów Władysława IV, Michała Korybuta, Stanisława Leszczyńskiego i spis stronników Augusta III*, comp. by J. Dunin-Borkowski and M. Dunin-Wąsowicz, „Rocznik Towarzystwa Heraldycznego” 1908/1909, vol. 1, p. 79; *Volumina legum*. Vol. 5, p. 154.

18 Silva by A. Jastkowski, f. 590–591; *Urzednicy województwa ruskiego XIV–XVIII wieku (ziemie halicka, lwowska, przemyska, sanocka)*. Spisy, comp. by K. Przyboś, Wrocław 1987, p. 343; P. Dąbkowski, *Palestra i księgi sądowe sanockie w dawnej Polsce*, „Pamiętnik Historyczno-Prawny” 1925, vol. 1, no. 6, p. 190, fn. 9; *Akta grodzkie i ziemskie...* Vol. 22, pp. 17, 154, 204, 216.

19 Silva by A. Jastkowski, f. 587, 590v., 591v.

20 Ibidem, f. 556, 559.

21 Silva by A. Jastkowski, f. 539, 591v.

achievements primarily to himself rather than to the position or achievements of his family and ancestors. This career path demonstrates his extraordinary personal abilities, which, as the first and only one in his family, took him to the top of the noble elite of the Ruthenian province. However, it was not his public activity, which was not distinguished by anything special in fact, but the documentary activity carried out in the privacy of his home, which resulted in the silva he created, that became his most outstanding achievement.

Bibliological characteristics of the silva

Jastkowski's silva is an example of an undertaking carried out over several decades, a dozen years after the death of its primary creator. The extended period of the manuscript's creation is evident if only in Jastkowski's changing handwriting style and the different types of paper used to write down the silva²². Indeed, the everyday image of the silva as an originally bound book, into which all the interesting material was successively written (pasted), still needs to be confirmed. It is possible, moreover, that the creation of this kind of writing work was not initially intended by Jastkowski at all and that the intention crystallized just as he accumulated a variety of notes kept by him in the form of loose individual bifolia or several-sheet sections. Such a supposition is supported by the apparent need for more attention in some of the sheets to the proper formatting of the columns of text on individual pages with a view to their later binding. A characteristic manifestation of this was the writing of the text to the edges of the page, without preserving the inner and outer margins – such a method of writing (found quite often in Old Polish manuscripts, by the way) meant that when such pages were bound, the text on the inner side could enter the spine and thus be partially illegible. The text on the outer side could be easily damaged when the manuscript owner aligned the edges of the manuscript or during binding by the bookbinder. Therefore, it seems that these oldest texts, probably written down as early as ca. 1650–1655 and which later became part of the silva, were some excerpts from classical literature, with which he probably became familiar in his studies at the Jesuit college, as well as copies of materials of public life from 1652–1655 (f. 79–112, 372v–379). Lack of inner margins or minimal margins are also found in other texts written by Jastkowski: copies of materials of public life from 1663–1667 (f. 385v–395, 401–404v) and in the earliest personal notes (f. 555–559). The exact manner of page formatting is also found in copies of materials from 1652–1655 and

22 Unfortunately, it was not possible to identify the watermarks appearing on them – none of them are present in *Filigrany papierni położonych na obszarze Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej od początku XVI do połowy XVIII wieku* by J. Siniarska-Czaplicka (Wrocław 1969).

1667, as well as from the early 18th century made by other individuals (e.g., f. 173v.–186, 188–199, 251–259, 262–267, 323–327, 338–372, 411–414v.).

It seems that Jastkowski decided to create a separate book from his notes around 1668–1670. This opinion is supported by an apparent change in the formatting of the columns with copies of materials from these and later years from about that time, manifested in the care (but not always!) for preserving the inner and outer margins, as it seems precisely with a view to the future binding of the notes (e.g., f. 208–224, 267–270, 473–509v., 518–539). The fact that Jastkowski began to think about creating a single codex from the notes may also be evidenced by the provisional trimming of the edges of some pages, and this was done to standardize their size and align the outer edge of the collected sections even before their final binding. It is also possible to surmise that at that time, Jastkowski began to temporarily join individual sections, including unsigned ones, used to inscribe new texts to create a substitute for a book and protect the inscribed sections from displacement and loss. This supposition is supported by the following note found on p. 207v. Jastkowski's handwritten remark: "tu libkę papieru przyszyć" [Here the paper libra sew]. Thus, at least some sections could have been somehow provisionally joined together in the last years of his life. The fact that the manuscript was prepared for binding while Jastkowski was still alive is evidenced by the fact that it was supplied with an individual title, inscribed by Jastkowski in his hand, on a separate page at the beginning of the manuscript. Aside from the title page, however, the silva was not provided with other elements to organize the content and help navigate through it, such as, in particular, an index (registry) of contents, which were sometimes created in manuscripts of this type.

Jastkowski's death around 1691 closed the crucial, most fruitful period of silva's creation. In whose hands it fell immediately after his death is unknown; in any case, after 1691, there was a gap of about ten years in its continuation. Under unknown circumstances and by unknown persons, it was continued in ca. 1703–1710 – the absence of any personal references in these notes does not allow any suppositions as to their authorship or circle of writing. By that time, it may have come into the hands of Józef Wandalin Mniszech starosta of Sanok, the future Grand Marshal of the Crown, and it was in his circle that further material was added to it²³. This was realized, however, to a relatively modest extent – while about 500 cards (i.e., 93.5% of the total) were recorded during Jastkowski's lifetime, only 34 cards (i.e., 6.5% of the total) were recorded at the beginning of the 18th century. In any case, this was already the last period of silva's creation. We can assume that shortly after that (ca. 1715–1730?), it

23 The presence of Catherine Ludwika Czartoryska of Mniszechs (d. 1703), sister of J.W. Mniszech, 's epitaph in the silva is a premise too dubious to draw any conclusions from it.

was probably bound in brown leather at Mniszech's request, which is supported by the similarity of its binding with the bindings of other manuscripts from Mniszech's collection made in the years ca. 1730–1740. Probably at about this time, it suffered some losses, as evidenced by traces of cutting out (tearing out) about 20 cards, at least partially written (this seems to be supported by a loss in one text from about 1705 adjacent to the trace of torn out pages)²⁴. It was included in the book collection of the Mniszechs in Laszki Murowane and recorded in the 1748 inventory of the Laszek castle²⁵. Probably in the 1780s, a super-ex-libris of his grandson Jan Józef Tadeusz Mniszech was provided. Characteristically, however, it was neither earlier nor then paginated (foiled) – as can be inferred from the style of writing made in pencil, this probably occurred only after Jadwiga Mniszchowa donated it along with other Mniszech manuscripts at the end of the 19th century to the Library of the National Ossoliński Institute in Lviv²⁶.

As was most often the case with manuscripts of this kind, it was not solely the work of Jastkowski himself, although he put the most effort into its creation. Indeed, he handwrote some 345 pages (f. 1, 4–58, 68v–78, 79–112, 113–165, 208–224, 237–239, 244–250, 260–261, 267–270, 283–298, 331v–337v, 380–381v, 385v–395, 401–404v, 408–410v, 416v–417, 419–449v, 473–509v, 518–539, 555–571, 587–591, as well as single pages and annotations scattered in various places of the silva), which accounts for about 2/3 of the volume of the entire book. In addition, he made corrections and additions to some of the pages transcribed by others (e.g., on f. 251, 252, 320v.). Other people wrote down about 185 pages, i.e., about 1/3 of the book's volume. It is difficult to determine how many people created the silva in total. We can assume there were about 15–16, with as many as 6–7 hands we can distinguish for texts inscribed in the early 18th century. In addition to Jastkowski's hand, the most distinguished are the hands with which the materials concerning the Kazanowskis, the Borysów district office and the Wisznia sejmik were written down (e.g., f. 262–267, 271–282, 405–408, 509v.–518), as well as materials from the time of Władysław IV (e.g., f. 251–259, 311–322v.).

However, the diversity of people who created the silva during Jastkowski's lifetime does not prove that we are dealing here with texts written down

24 These traces are found after f. 186, 199, 226, 583.

25 *Inwentarz zamku laszeckiego jak się ad praesens znajduje [...] spisany mense Aprili Anno Dni 1748*, [in:] *Materiały źródłowe do dziejów kultury i sztuki XVI–XVIII w.*, coll. and comp. by M. Gębarowicz, Warszawa 1973, p. 59. It was registered in the section “Księgi Manuskryptów różnych. Sub litera O” under No. 29 as “Compendium omnis activitatis”.

26 On the history of manuscripts from the collection of J.W. Mniszech, see M. Matwijów, *Rękopisy ze zbioru Józefa Wandalina Mniszcha (1670–1747), marszałka wielkiego koronnego*, „Z Badań nad Książką i Księgozbiorami Historycznymi” 2022, vol. 16, no. 1, pp. 9–31.

independently of each other, autonomous also from the fragments of the silva written down by Jastkowski. How the records were kept indicates that the texts were primarily written down by the copyists in cooperation with each other, as evidenced by the “overlapping” of their hands on some pages of the manuscript – we are dealing with such cases on f. 165, 173v., 267, 401, 408, 509v., 518. Also, Jastkowski’s hand alternates in some fragments of the silva with the hands of other copyists (f. 452–472). The integrity of the fragments written by different people and fragments made by Jastkowski seems to indicate that all the copies were created in his environment and order. It is also characteristic that Jastkowski did not include any original documents (e.g., letters written to himself) in his silva, which was the practice due to saving the copyists’ work. Still, he transcribed all private documents from his archive, treating his silva as a copybook.

Characteristically, texts were only sometimes entered from the beginning of the section or the first page of the card but from the third or fourth card or its verso. It could have been done considering the idea of entering other material later or reserving a space in case the text in the previous section did not fit. Indeed, we do not have examples of artificially thickening the text at the end of the typesetting to fit in with all the text. On the other hand, this caused the book to contain many unsigned cards – about 60.

The method of making entries does not differ from that used in other such manuscripts. Individual documents are provided with headings specifying their type and essential content. However, there are cases of a lack of such headings or their formulation in a general way that are devoid of informative value. Occasional explanations of the context of the documents or the circumstances of their events (e.g., at the copy of the universal of Władysław IV of 1646, f. 256) are unlikely to have come from the authors of the silva but have been copied from the documents that are the basis of the copy. The level of the copies can be assessed as good, although there are some fragmentary texts in the silva, unfinished by Jastkowski or other copyists (e.g., on f. 257, 480, 486v.; other cases are losses of text due to mechanical damage to the silva, including cutting the outer edges of the pages when binding the manuscript). Regarding craft quality and graphic design, Jastkowski’s silva should be rated quite highly. The care and legibility of the handwriting of both Jastkowski and most other copyists should be considered good, and sometimes even very good, with a tendency to give calligraphic features to the writing (e.g., f. 265–273v.). Only a few texts are written in careless, barely legible handwriting (e.g., f. 327v.–331). Understandably, in the texts that Jastkowski considered more important and of more lasting value, he typed much more carefully than, for example, notes and extracts from literature (f. 79–112). Another matter is that we do not know whether at least some fragments of his silva, written initially

down on loose sheets or bifolia, or composed altogether of materials foreign by provenance, were not transcribed by Jastkowski after some time “in clean” already in normal typesetting, giving them not only a more careful and unified external appearance but also a uniform “code” form – we may be dealing with such a procedure in the case of the block of materials of public life from 1670–1682 (f. 473–509v.).

A characteristic feature of Jastkowski’s *silva* is his desire to group some of his materials into thematic and chronological blocks. At least some of the economic advice he wrote down (f. 4–58), excerpts from various literature (f. 60–112), diary notes (f. 587–591), some materials of public life (f. 392–410v.), estate records of the Jastkowskis and various individuals (f. 283–298, 473–539, 555–571) were grouped in this way. This indicates that presumably keeping his records on loose sections from the 1750s onward, Jastkowski tried to adhere to a factual division of records, which is a good indication of his expertise and organization of his work, which can be linked to the experience he acquired during his clerical practice at the Przemyśl and Sanok town registries. Such homogeneous fragments are, for example, the diary-autobiographical entries entitled “*Notanda singularia*” – we can assume with a high degree of probability that Jastkowski began to compile them around 1676 and continued to do so until his death since the records up to that year are still drawn up retrospectively, without any chronological order, and only from 1677 do they assume a strictly chronological character, indicating that Jastkowski then began to keep them up to date.

However, such a way of grouping the materials was not carried out consistently, as there are often cases of surprisingly mixing them in a manner typical of *silva* manuscripts. Thus, for example, the poem “*Duma chocimska*” [Chocim Pride] was placed next to an excerpt from the privilege of Sophia of Sprow for the tailor and furrier guild in Jarosław from 1553, the “*Pieśń ziemiańska*” [Land Song] is adjacent to the “*Porządek rady koronnej*” [Order of the Crown Council] from 1569. Various occasional letters written to Jastkowski were placed between the instructions of Jan Gniński’s envoy to Turkey in 1677 and Jan III’s vote at the Senate Council in 1688. We also encounter cases of adding various texts to randomly selected free spaces in the manuscript without caring to preserve the thematic connection between the texts – thus, among the materials related to Adam Kazanowski, the Crown Court Marshal, Jastkowski wrote “*Czarów nagana z Syreniusza*”. Understandably, he also failed to maintain chronological order in the materials of public life – resulting, for example, in the “breaking up” of a unified block of materials from 1666–1670 (pp. 473–509v.) with individual materials from 1643, 1674 and 1682.

In addition, one can see in the *silva* a desire to group sections with similar topics next to each other to give the book a more orderly structure. This was

most likely still carried out by Jastkowski, although only sometimes consistently. This did not apply to the amalgamation of similar materials written down during his lifetime by other copyists, which resulted in coinciding materials ending up in different places in the codex. This was also true of the materials attached to the silva in the early 18th century, which were essentially grouped in two places (f. 173v–199 and 540–545).

Characteristics of the silva in terms of writing

The title Jastkowski gave to his silva was imprecise and in no way reflected its thematic diversity and the wealth of materials it contained. In terms of the type of materials, it included documents and records, correspondence (letters), speeches, literary texts (songs, poems, epitaphs, anecdotes), specimens of letters and speeches, diary notes, extracts from literature, and miscellaneous notes; rare in this type of manuscript book is a beautiful handwritten drawing of a tree of kinship and affinity according to Johannes Andreae (“Genealogia”, p. 380). In part, the listed types of writing correspond to the subject matter of the silva, in which we can distinguish such areas as public life, mainly political affairs (this subject matter dominates the silva, occupying about 45% of its content), household, agriculture and horticulture, medicine, law, Polish and general history, belles lettres, epistolography and rhetoric, genealogy and heraldry, customs, culture, and private and professional affairs. Excluding minor notes and extracts from literature, the number of self-contained written documents (letters, speeches, deeds, literary works, etc.) can be approximated at about 200 pieces. As in the case of other manuscripts of that kind from the Old Polish period, they relate almost exclusively to the affairs of the former Republic, and documents relating to foreign countries are very few²⁷.

Like other such manuscripts, the collected materials’ origin is mainly in the public domain. Jastkowski acquired them through his private contacts and during his professional and public activities, such as participating in land assemblies, which were traditionally the place for disseminating various ephemeral political and other writings²⁸. All the more intriguing is the presence in the silva of materials from private possession and thus more widely inaccessible – this applies to copies of materials related to A. Kazanowski, the Crown Court Marshal (died in 1649), and other Kazanowskis, as well as those relating to the Borysów district office in Lithuania from 1626–1649, of which Kazanowski

27 A detailed description of silva’s contents is provided later in the article.

28 Direct testimony to this is the notation: “Literae a regentibus Regni Sueciae quorum copiae in comitiis particularibus Visnensibus directissimis meae [emphasis MM] die 6ta Junii 1667 per incolas sunt productae”.

was a possessor. They appear to be a copy of some unknown copybook of the administrative records of the Borysów district office and the Kazanowski family *silva rerum* – but this does not explain where, from whom, and how the unknown copyist who made the copy of these materials for Jastkowski gained access to them. Likewise, a copy of some mid-17th century political miscellanea is probably the materials from 1646–1652 (1654), especially the diary of the first Sejm of 1652.

As in the case of other *silva* manuscripts, in addition to copies of various “foreign” materials, Jastkowski included in his *silva* some documents and personal notes concerning himself and his family, as well as texts of his authorship. In the case of family materials, he showed a good deal of initiative in acquiring them, not contenting himself with entering documents inherited from his father and from his archive into the *silva* but carrying out occasional searches for this purpose in various official and institutional records, including those in the Jarosław municipality and some manuscript found in the Dominican monastery in Lublin 1679 (f. 565v.), probably taking advantage here of his stay in Lublin on the occasion of his participation in the work of the Crown Tribunal. Jastkowski’s method of inscribing these materials is also typical of *silvae* – with an emphasis on the personal nature of these entries, such as “*Assecuratia ode mnie dana jmci panu Stanisławowi Koniecpolskiemu*” [Assecuratia from me [emphasised by MM] given to Mr Stanisław Koniecpolski] or “*List zapraszający mnie do Łańcuta*” [Letter inviting me to Łańcut]. Occasionally, however, he used the neutral conjugation form in the third person, such as when inscribing a privilege for himself for the office of land judge of Przemyśl from King Jan III in 1683.

In addition to copies of his correspondence and legal and property documents, Jastkowski’s autobiographical notes (“*Notanda singularia*”) are the most interesting. However, they are typically diary, superficial, and limited to providing only basic factual information. Notes going beyond this, revealing the background or behind-the-scenes of essential events in his life, are virtually nonexistent. In addition to information about himself and his immediate family, the diary notes contain several mentions of the deaths of people with whom he was in any way connected, such as A.A. Chodkiewiczowa (1654), and J. Zamoyski, Sandomierz voivode (1665) – again, however, without any additional comments.

This also applies to the few records of significant public events in which Jastkowski personally participated. They do not contain detailed descriptions or reflections on them; they are perfunctory and laconic. An example can be found in the notes²⁹. concerning the turbulent events of 1669–1672:

29 The spelling has been modernized according to the rules of editing Old Polish sources.

Elekcya króla jmci Michała w Warszawie było die 19 Junii 1669. Koronacyja eodem anno die 29 septembris. Koronacyja króla jmci Michała w Krakowie w dzień S. Michała die 29 septembris 1669. Na tenże sejm byłem posłem, a ten sejm się rozerwał przez pana Olizara posła województwa kijowskiego. Anno Dni 1672 die 16 septembris Kamieniec Podolski cesarz turecki wziął. O tem przyszła wiadomość w półtory niedzieli, gdy za Tarnogrodem pod Księżpolem stało pospolite ruszenie przemyskie, a stamtąd poszło pod Gołąb, a potem pod Lublin. In Anno 1672 byłem posłem do Warszawy na sejm, który się rozerwał przez jmp. Ubysza chorążego gostińskiego³⁰

[Election of King Michał in Warsaw on die 19 Junii 1669. Coronation eodem anno die 29 septembris. Coronation of King Michał in Kraków on St Michael day die 29 septembris 1669. I was a deputy to that Sejm, and that Sejm was torn apart by Mr. Olizar, deputy of the Kyiv province. Anno Dni 1672 die 16 septembris Kamieniec Podolski was taken by the Turkish emperor. The news of this came in one and a half weeks when behind Tarnogród near Księżpole stood the Przemyśl mass mobilization, and from there went to Gołąb and then to Lublin. In Anno 1672, I was a deputy to Warsaw for the Sejm, torn apart by jmp. Ubysz the Gostin ensign].

Even in the case of the rupture of two consecutive electoral assemblies of the Ruthenian province in 1681–1682 over the election of candidates for the office of the Przemyśl land judge, which directly concerned him due to his desire to run for the vacant office, he did not bother to make any closer reference to these events and comment on them, contenting himself only with giving the names of the rupturers³¹. This also applies to the assemblies in which he was the speaker.

One can also conclude from this that Jastkowski's public activities could have absorbed him more, and he needed to pay more attention to them. In a way, this is confirmed by the selection of copies of his correspondence in the *silva*. He considered only letters of a private and occasional nature worthy of immortalization, especially invitations to funerals and weddings. At the same time, he ignored all "public" correspondence, which he had to conduct as a senior land official and participant in various public missions. This confirms that the nobility of the time was primarily uninterested in public affairs (except for defending its rights and state privileges), focusing its activity on private, family, and property matters.

In terms of intellectual character, the *silva* reveals a picture of Jastkowski as a man curious about the surrounding world, with broad interests (notable, are his

30 *Silva* by A. Jastkowski, f. 589.

31 *Silva* by A. Jastkowski, f. 590v.-591. Only once did Jastkowski get around to providing some details of the proceedings, when he noted with satisfaction that he received 222 votes in the election of candidates for the vacant office of land judge.

notes concerning coffee, chocolate, and tea, i.e. products still absent from the manors of the nobility), reaching for a variety of readings, including publishing novelties (the book by Stanisław Herakliusz Lubomirski *Rozmowy Artaxessa y Ewandra, w których polityczne, moralne, y natural uwagi [...] prawdziwie wyrażone są*, s.l. 1683). In terms of his worldview, he did not differ from the rest of the noble society, which is directly evidenced by his inclusion in the *silva* of the “Pieśń ziemiańska”, praising the values of the noble way of life – interestingly, however, the *silva* lacked the then most frequently reproduced work with a “golden-age” message, which was the “Rokosz gliniański”; instead, the famous “Rada Philippa Kallimacha” was included in the *silva*, but already after Jastkowski’s death.

The same can be said of his general knowledge, part of which was his knowledge of Latin, which Jastkowski was fond of using in his *silva*. Understandably, excerpts from various Latin-language literature, particularly, were written in Latin. This allows one to see the effect of the education he probably received at the Jesuit college in Jarosław. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that the *silva* contains virtually no texts in other languages – the only exception here is the “*Italica adagia*” (f. 103–104). Still, these, too, were primarily written in Latin and only partially in Italian. However, judging how much Jastkowski knew this language was not easy.

In terms of creative talents, on the other hand, he can be seen as a man who lacks or does not exude such abilities or ambitions, limiting himself to transcribing or summarizing various “foreign” written documents but avoiding committing his impressions, opinions, and thoughts to paper. We do not find the text of his authorship in the *silva*, or at least we have no clear basis for this, except for copies of several of his private letters to various individuals. He did not even include sketches or transcripts of his speeches delivered at public gatherings, and he must have had at least a few of them, such as the speech at the Electoral Sejm of 1674. However, we must consider the possibility that some of the occasional literary works included in the *silva* were written by him, which is supported by their amateurish or, to put it bluntly, poor literary level. Among these works, we can especially include an otherwise unknown extensive poem, “*Ordinatio zamoyska*”, the ideological message of which is entirely in line with the views professed by Jastkowski (it suffices to cite the titles of the chapters of this work: “*Ordinatio przeciwko Bogu*” [Ordinatio v. God], “*Przeciwko wolności*” [Against Freedom], “*Przeciwko prawu*” [Against the Law]) allows us to see as his authorial literary attempt. It is impossible with the current state of knowledge to determine whether some of the other occasional poems in the *silva* are also such attempts (e.g., “*Obeście żołnierskie*” [Soldier’s Bypass]).

As in the case of other similar manuscripts of this type, Jastkowski’s *silva* should be looked at as a source for learning about the intellectual culture of the

society of the time and, above all, as an essential source for historical and literary research. As already mentioned, most of the political material contained in it was present in the public space at the time, thanks to which it was also preserved in other similar manuscripts and sometimes in multiple copies³², but this does not diminish their significance as an important testimony to their dissemination in the public space and readership popularity; besides, they can serve as comparative material to identify different variants of texts circulating in manuscript copies at the time. More importantly, there are also unique materials, not known elsewhere, rescued from obscurity thanks to Jastkowski and seemingly without counterparts in other manuscripts and source editions that have survived to our time. For example, we can point out here the copies of materials related to A. Kazanowski, the Crown Court Marshal, the diary of the first Sejm of 1652 (26 I-6 III)³³, some files of the Wisznia sejmik (instructions of the assembly to the deputies to King Jan Kazimierz on September 11, 1663, and to the deputy to field hetman of the Crown Jan Sobieski on June 6, 1667)³⁴, Hieronim Roth's supplication to the crown senators from 1669 or the admittedly incomplete files on the administrative affairs of the starosta of Borysów in Lithuania.

The silva content

The descriptions of the materials and documents have been grouped according to their type or subject matter to facilitate orientation in the contents of the silva. Jastkowski's personal and family materials and correspondence are included at the beginning of the compilation, followed by his notes and excerpts (sometimes also made by other people) grouped according to particular issues, materials of public life, literary and occasional works, and materials concerning the private affairs of various individuals. All autonomous written documents are described in detail³⁵, Except for notes and excerpts by Jastkowski and others, most of the documentation of an archival nature (Jastkowski's correspondence, files of the Borysów district office), which, not wishing to overextend the volume of the article, are described in general terms, with detailed consideration of only some of the more extensive texts.

32 For a compilation of the various materials of public life in silvae and other manuscript books created at the time, see M. Matwijów, *Zbiory materiałów życia publicznego...*, pp. 385–466.

33 Not mentioned by J. Dąbrowski in *Wykaz diariuszy sejmowych (1649–1668) z okresu panowania Jana II Kazimierza Wazy*, „Studia Historyczne” 1996, vol. 39, no. 3, p. 381. There is no analogy between this diary and the other diaries of this Sejm mentioned in this list.

34 Not published in the edition of *Laudy sejmikowych wiszeńskich 1648–1673*, Lviv 1911.

35 According to the principle for cataloging Old Polish manuscripts, their spelling was not modernized when the original titles were given.

1. “Notanda singularia” – Jastkowski’s diary notes on events from his life, private affairs, and major public events from 1653 to 1689, ff. 587–591.
2. Correspondence of A. Jastkowski (mainly letters inviting to funerals and weddings, some with Jastkowski’s responses), including those from starostess of Wolbórz Elżbieta Pisarska 1673, f. 421–422; Stanisław Herakliusz Lubomirski, Marshal of the Crown 1682, f. 526; Jerzy Bogusław Fredro, Crown huntsman 1682, f. 526v.–528; Adam Mikołaj Sieniawski, starosta of Lviv 1684, f. 530v.; King Jan III 1690 (invitation to the wedding of Prince Jakub to Princess Jadwiga of Neuburg), f. 539; from various individuals, f. 528–528v.
3. Personal and property records of the Jastkowskis; “Regestrum inscriptionum et variarum recognitionum in Actis Regni autenticis recognitarum domi nostrae servientium” (excerpts and notes from various official records concerning property matters of the Jastkowskis and related families 16th–17th centuries), f. 555–571v.; “privilege for Surohów” by A.A. Chodkiewiczowa for Walerian Jastkowski 1647, f. 288–289v.; “Copia kontraktu albo raczey lennego prawa” by S. Koniecpolski starosta of Dolin for A. Jastkowski for the mayorship of Surohovo 1673, f. 292–294v.; “copia donaciy” of Surohów by S. Koniecpolski starosta of Dolin to A. Jastkowski 1674, f. 291–291v.; “assecuratia ode mnie [A. Jastkowski] dana jmci panu Stanisław Koniecpolski obożny kor. na wykupno Moszczany” 1675, f. 296–296v.; “Copia przywileju” of King Jan III for A. Jastkowski for the office of the Przemyśl land judge 1683, f. 297–298.
4. A. Jastkowski’s excerpts and notes on economics, household, agriculture, and horticulture. Among others, “Ephemerides economicae quid quovis mense faciendum sit [...] authore Astrophilo Tynnaviensis”, f. 4–15v.; “Observationes economicae circa usum ac utilitatem aquarum eodem authore”, f. 16–20v.; “Diskurz o drzewach owocowych Józefa Wiszniowskiego w Kalendarzu Anni 1683”, f. 22–29v.; “Ex observationibus calendarii Tynnaviensis ad annum Christi 1688”, f. 30–35v.; “Obserwacie w miesiącach wydane od magistra Słowakowicza akademika krakowskiego w minuciach roku 1687”, f. 38–45; information on porcelain, Greek fire, tea, coffee, chocolate, et al., f. 45–53; “Obserwantie gospodarskie dla zdrowia i gospodarstwa”, f. 423v.–425v.; “Zebranie sławnych jarmarków”, f. 442–442v.; “Obserwacie miesięcy do zdrowia y gospodarstwa”, f. 445–447.
5. A. Jastkowski’s extracts and notes on medicine, anatomy, natural philosophy, and astronomy. Among others, “Centum observationes admirabilium effectuum simpathia, antipathia et virtutis magnethicae”, f. 54–58; “De simpathia et antipathia ex libro Evandri et Artaxis ill[ustrisi]

- mi [Stanisłai Heraclii Lubomirski] mareschalci regni”, f. 157–158v.; “wrozumienie wieku ludzkiego”, “iudicium astrologorum de cometa”, “sposób na widzenie zaćmienia słońca bez urazy oczu”, f. 380v.–381; “Descriptio mensium ex schola salernitana”, f. 423–423v.; “Przestrogi dla zdrowia potrzebne” (about letting go of blood, etc.), f. 426–427; “Traktat o rokach klimakterowych”, f. 428–431v.; “Arcana conservandae sanitatis ex Joanne Jacobo Uweclero Basiliense”, f. 432–432v, “Anatomia żołądka”, “O kiszkaach”, et al., f. 322v.–437; “Disposita obrotów niebieskich y postanowienia zegara”, f. 448–448v.; “Praecepta conservandae sanitatis Żurawskiego sławnego medyka”, f. 452–453.
6. A. Jastkowski’s extracts and notes on Polish and universal history. Among others, “Chronologia o monarchiey tureckiey” (until 1683), f. 69–77v.; “Reges et origo regum et imperatorum Turcarum”, f. 135v.–136; “Notatio de Terra vel Capitaneatu Sepusien[is] ex Chronica Miechoviensi [by Maciej of Miechow]”, f. 160–161; “Ex Gramundo Historico Galliae de Regnesio et Pannatu”, f. 212–215v.; “Regestrum principum et regum Poloniae secundum Cromerum”, f. 438–438v.
7. Jastkowski’s excerpts and notes on legal and political issues of the Republic of Poland: “Haereditatis acquisitio per Reges [...]”, f. 127v.–132v.; “dekret sejmowy na niewykupowanie dóbr szlacheckich od królowej Bony” 1535, f. 133; “Porządek y ordo urzędników koronnych ex libro Christophori Hartknoch”, f. 337–337v.; “Porządek rady koronney y WXL secundum constitutionem Anni 1569”, f. 438v.–439v., 461–462v.; “Regestr woiewództw, ziem y powiatów koronnych y WXL”, f. 440–441v.
8. Excerpts of A. Jastkowski on religious matters: “Historia sacra de Susanna lectio Danielis prophetae”, f. 216–217; inscriptions in the church in Piotrowin, f. 224, 375v.
9. A. Jastkowski’s notes on tax and administrative matters of the Przemysł land: “Regestr miast ziemi przemyski[ej], wiele które czopowego czynią...”, order of land offices and “Cadentia roków ziemskich przemyskich”, f. 463.
10. Excerpts and small notes on various subjects, anecdotes, sentences, aphorisms, apophthegms, f. 79–103; 104v.–112, 114–116, 118–118v., 121v., 123–127v., 134, 136v.–138, 139v.–141v., 144v.–145, 147v.–150v., 151v.–157, 159–159v.; “Italica adagia”, f. 103–104; “Notata ex libro Friderici Marselero [Federick de Marselaer] De legationibus”, f. 142–144; “Descriptio populorum”, f. 145v.–147; “Enumeratio herbes moralitem ad casum mortalitatis”, f. 151; “Witchcraft reprimand of Syrenius fol. 124”, f. 275–276v.; “Descriptio Affinitatis et Prosapiae”, f. 379v.–380; “Notata singularia in mensibus”, f. 443–444v.; notes helpful in of-

- fic work (including titles used in letters to European rulers) f. 437v., 456v.–457v.; “*Contra meridiana Christiani militis*”, f. 465–466v.; “*Sententiae bellicae in ordinem*”, f. 467–470.
11. Specimens and examples of funerals, weddings, and other occasional letters, f. 276v., 301–301v., 408–410v., 416v.–420v. (here, among other things, „*Materia listu pro funere zapraszającego na pogrzeb jmp. kasztelana przemyskiego od jmp. Mikołaja z Brzezia Landkorońskiego rodzica swego*”), 422v.–423, 525v.–526, 529–530v.
 12. Materials of public life from 1646–1647, mainly concerning plans for the Republic of Poland’s war with Turkey. Among others, a letter from Stanisław Lubomirski voivode of Kraków to King Władysław IV “o zaciąganiu woyska inscia Republica diebus Maii A. 1646”, f. 251–252; letters of Piotr Gembicki bishop of Kraków to Jan Gembicki Crown secretary 14 May 1646, to King Władysław IV on 27 May 1646, and to Jerzy Ossoliński Chancellor of the Crown s.d. [1646], f. 252–253v.; “*Amicus ad Amicum* letter” of May 1646 and response to it (political writings), f. 253v.–255; letter of King Władysław IV to Polish senators on June 16, 1646, f. 255–255v.; universal of Władysław IV canceling military enlistments on June 28, 1646, f. 256; files on the revision of the Wieliczka salt mines 1646 (order of King Władysław IV of March 1646, “*Innotescentia*” of the commissioners on August 6, 1646), f. 450–452; an ordinance of King Władysław IV’s entry to Kraków for the coronation of Ludwika Maria Gonzaga de Nevers 1646 and “*regestr gospód na koronacją królowej jejmci dla jmci pana marszałka nadwornego koronnego w roku 1646*”, f. 271–272v.; letters of Mikołaj Potocki Grand Crown Hetman to S. Lubomirski voivode of Kraków s.d., to King Władysław IV on 10 III 1647, to Krzysztof Ossoliński starosta of Stobiec on 12 and 28 III 1647 (2) and to the crown sejmiks on 27 III 1647, f. 300–300v., 311–312v., 315–316; letter from Yuri Dolgoruki voivode of Putyvl to Mikołaj Potocki Grand Crown Hetman s.d. [ca. 1647], f. 262–262v.; letter from Turkish Sultan Ibrahim to Władysław IV dated February 1647, f. 304–304v.; Crimean Khan Islam Giray letter to Władysław IV dated March 17, 1647, f. 305–306; letter from A. Kazanowski Crown Court Marshal to S. Lubomirski voivode of Kraków on 19 III 1647, f. 322–322v.; letter of the Sylistrian Pasha to M. Potocki Great Crown Hetman s.d. (unfinished), f. 257.
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29. Unmarked sermon (?), f. 308–310v.

Conclusions

Alexander Jastkowski’s *silva rerum* attracts attention as a fascinating monument of the writing of the Old Polish times, which can serve as an example of a typical manuscript of its kind both in form and content. It brings much information about the mindset of the seventeenth-century nobility. Still, due to its rich and diverse materials, it is primarily an essential source for research in the political and cultural history of Old Polish times. The fact that it has lived to see a detailed discussion and disclosure of its contents only more than 100 years after its introduction into scholarly circulation, at the same time, tells a lot about the state of academic research on Old Polish manuscripts and the approach of research libraries to the catalog processing of these manuscripts. Thus, one may be tempted to make the sad observation that this does not bode well for work on other writing monuments of this kind. Moreover, there are still quite a few left to study and discuss, to stop at just pointing out the *silva* of Jan Samuel Mirz Brzezicki mentioned in this article. This would not yet be so acute if it were not for the fact that important historical and literary sources escape from the sight of Polish science, and the bibliographic registration of writing hidden in ancient manuscripts is still more than modest.

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