

This doctoral dissertation, entitled **Armament of the Polish Forces in the South-Eastern Lands of the Kingdom of Poland, 1470–1520** describes the offensive and defensive armament, as well as the armoury (individual sets of armament) of the Polish military formations guarding Podolia and Red Ruthenia against invasions by the Crimean Khanate, the Moldavian Principality and the Ottoman Empire. These were mercenary cavalry and infantry units, banners of permanent defense (*obrona potoczna*), the royal court banner, and soldiers provided by royal cities as armed escorts for wagons participating in expeditions. In addition, the arsenals of the most important royal castles in Red Ruthenia and Podolia were discussed. It was also necessary to present the organization of the army in this territory, as organizational issues are directly related to military equipment.

The source material for this work consists of handwritten and, to a lesser extent, printed registers of mercenary troops and royal horsemen, extracts from royal accounts, inventories of royal castles, as well as references to armaments in court records. The work also draws on numerous studies on armaments and military organization in medieval and early modern Poland, as well as studies on armaments in the broader European (“Latin”) and Oriental cultural circles. This allowed for a better understanding of the process of intermingling of Eastern and Western military cultures, a phenomenon observed in the Ruthenian lands of the Polish Crown and influencing the armament of Polish troops in the borderlands.

The first chapter is devoted to the organization of the Polish Kingdom's army stationed in Red Ruthenia and Podolia in the years 1470–1520. Particular attention is paid to the organization and functioning of mercenary troops, which formed the core of the regular defense. The organization of the militia in this area is also discussed. Some attention is also devoted to the organization of the royal court banner and the city infantry.

The second chapter discusses the offensive weaponry used in Ruthenian lands, both by foot soldiers and cavalry from Polish formations guarding the borderlands. It was established that the main change compared to the Middle Ages was the rearmament of mercenary infantry from crossbows to arquebuses. The role of firearms increased, which was evident in castle inventories, where crossbows were described as old and inefficient weapons. Field units, on the other hand, did not use polearms with composite iron heads (e.g., halberds). Sabers and light polearms began to be used to a greater extent in cavalry, which was related to the increase in the number of Eastern-style horsemen (racs, hussars, and Tatar archers).

The third chapter is devoted to protective armor. In the Ruthenian lands, it was the Polish army that had the heaviest protective armor, which resulted from its affiliation with Western military culture. However, during the period covered by the study, a slow process of discarding heavy armor began, which was related to contacts with enemies armed in the Eastern style (often completely without protective armor and using ranged weapons). Based on written and iconographic sources as well as material artifacts, it has been established that the protective

armor of the defenders of the Ruthenian lands did not differ significantly from that of the rest of Poland – the model was the so-called *kopijnicza* armor, i.e., full plate armor, but most of the soldiers used either the so-called *strzelcza* armor, i.e., reduced to head and torso protection (occasionally also upper limbs) or individual elements: helmets (*salads*, *kapalins*, *szłomy*), armor, breastplates and backplates, collars, etc. No less important was the growing significance of shields, often the only protection for racket riders.

The aim of chapter four was to show the diversity of armor, i.e., sets of offensive and defensive weapons characteristic of particular categories of horsemen and foot soldiers. It presented the armaments of older types of horsemen originating in the Middle Ages (lancers and crossbowmen) and newer types of horsemen, Orientalized Polish soldiers (*racs*, hussars, Eastern archers, etc.). The information gathered in this chapter allows us to trace the diversity of equipment used by soldiers serving in Ruthenia.

The summary presents conclusions regarding offensive and defensive weaponry and the organization of Polish troops in Ruthenia in the years 1470–1520.

The work is accompanied by an appendix consisting of lists of cavalry captains and their companies operating in Ruthenia in the years 1489–1520, as well as lists of losses of men, horses, and weapons in the Battle of Sokal in 1519.

Keywords: armament, permanent defense, *levy en masse*, court banner, Ruthenian lands, Podolia, Red Ruthenia, Kingdom of Poland

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