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## *The room above the porte cochère of the Kwidzyn castle in the times of the Pomesanian chapter*

### *Introduction*

Since the Teutonic Order was brought to Poland in 1226, the Prussian territories were gradually conquered by it. On the Chełmno Land granted by a Polish duke, i.e. Konrad of Mazovia, and on the incorporated lands belonging to several tribes, three dioceses: Chełmno, Pomesania and Warmia were approved in 1243 by papal legate William of Modena. In Pomesania, situated in the middle, the episcopal see was established in Kwidzyn. From then on, the local church became the cathedral. Next to the cathedral (replaced by a new one in 1320), the construction of a chapter castle began. This complex, at first separate and then linked together, was extended over the centuries. To the north of the castle, there was a much larger outer bailey. The chapter house was linked with the Catholic Church until the secularisation of the Teutonic State (1525). Later it was taken over by Protestant bishops and then by officials of Albert, Duke of Prussia.

The castle was built on a nearly square plan with three protruding towers in the corners and a bell tower in the south-eastern part, partly adjacent to the church. In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, a small cloister with a well tower was added to the northern wing, and a much larger cloister ending in a dansker was added to the western wing. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, the southern and eastern buildings were demolished.

In the middle of the medieval castle, there was a small courtyard with cloisters on three sides (without the eastern

one). A low porte cochère located in the northern wing led to the interior of the complex (Figs. 1, 2). Above it, there was a room whose history was connected not only with the porte cochère but also with the fate of the castle inhabitants. Their aspirations and needs significantly influenced its interior.

In the scientific literature on the Kwidzyn castle, the history of the room above the porte cochère was not examined for a long time. With unassuming architectural decorations, the room was not given much thought and considered one of many; hence, it was mentioned only in general descriptions, adaptations for new purposes or studies on the history of the entire complex [2]–[6]. It received more attention after the research and conservation work carried out in the castle in 1978, 1994 and 2011–2012 [7], [8]<sup>1</sup>. The traces of paintings found at that time in the northern part of the vault were included in the study by Łukasz Stawski [9], written in 2012–2013 and concerning only this room. It includes the results of previous research and historical data found in the literature on the subject to date. Based on the information gathered, he set about determining the function and changing architecture of this room.

A comprehensive stratigraphic study of the walls was carried out in 2017<sup>2</sup>. The resulting documentation was then accompanied by a description of the exposed vault paintings, their provenance and dating. The results were published in a separate article [11]. At that time, architectural research was also carried out, which brought a lot of new data to the spatial solutions known so far [12].

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<sup>2</sup> The work was carried out by a team that had started research here several years earlier. Final paper: [10].

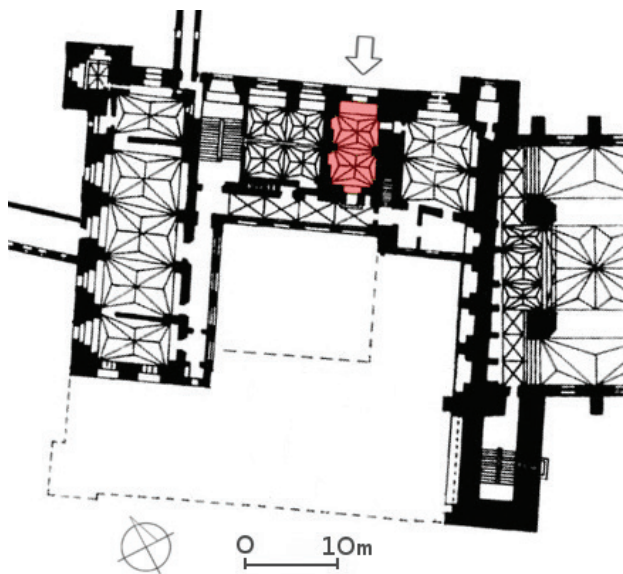


Fig. 1. Fragment of the plan of the Kwidzyn castle.  
Location of the entrance and the room above it (after: [1, p. 422])

Il. 1. Fragment planu zamku w Kwidzynie.  
Lokalizacja wjazdu oraz pomieszczenia nad nim (za: [1, s. 422])

### *Description of the room before the works in 2012*

The room above the porte cochère was built on a rectangular plan with dimensions of  $730 \times 495$  cm. It was covered with a two-span stellar vault supported by six consoles. The north wall has a large recess 427 cm wide and 150 cm deep. It contains a window of considerable size with a segmental arch. From the outside, it is located in the central part of a high ogival recess, historically intended for a portcullis. The west wall of the large recess contains a smaller one 95 cm wide, 185 cm high and 44 cm deep. In the southern wall of the room, there is an entrance to the cloister, and in the western and eastern walls, there are passages to the neighbouring rooms, which used to be the winter refectory and the provost's chamber. All these passages are ogival. In the eastern wall, apart from the aforementioned passage, there are two staircases: a straight one leading from the porte cochère on the ground floor to the cloister on the first floor, and a spiral one from the former provost's chamber to the second floor. Other rooms within the thick walls include a small windowless room to the east of the entrance (south wall), accessible from the cloister.

### *Results of the 2012 and 2017 research*

The study carried out in 2012 and renewed and enriched by architectural research in 2017 brought new information about the walls (Fig. 3), vaults and floor. The identification and analysis of the material gathered resulted in an increased understanding of the original architecture and its subsequent transformations. The investigation showed that it is necessary to undertake research even if, according to the current state of knowledge, it may not yield new information about the researched object's past. The archi-



Fig. 2. View of the entrance and the rooms located above from the north (photo by A. Piwek)

Il. 2. Widok od strony północnej na wjazd i powyżej usytuowane pomieszczenia (fot. A. Piwek)

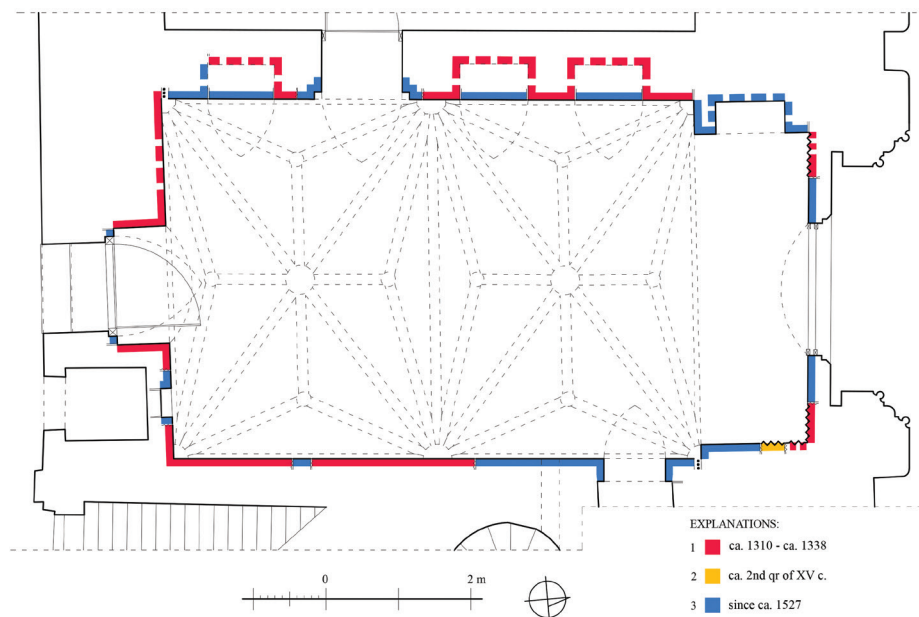
tectural research could not include all the surfaces of the walls due to the necessity to preserve the historical plaster. Therefore, the research possibilities were limited only to the parts where the plaster was modern or heavily corroded and to be replaced. One may hope that this research will be continued in the future. Despite this reservation, it has to be said that the work carried out on the walls revealed numerous re-buildings. These, in turn, made it possible to formulate conclusions, which have now been corrected in several places. The presentation of the material in this article is limited to the scope corresponding to the times of the Pomesanian chapter.

**The northern wall** of the room with the ogival window recess, where the vault supports were set, contained bricks in small quantities, and only on the western side (at the floor and the lower parts of the vault), measuring  $30.0\text{--}30.5 \times 14.0 \times 7.0$  cm, which were considered medieval. The ceramic material on the window wall, visible in greater quantity, had similar dimensions. It was found in two vertical strips near its edges. On the window side, they ended in irregular joints at a distance of approx. 60 cm from the corners of the recess. The faces of the bricks were damaged. In the upper part, the strip on the western side ended with a fragment of a chipped arch pen-



Fig. 3. Plan of the room above the entrance showing medieval and modern parts (drawing by T. Jażdżewski)

Il. 3. Plan pomieszczenia nad wjazdem z zaznaczeniem partii średniowiecznych i nowożytnych (rys. T. Jażdżewski)



etrating (in the middle of the recess) its lintel (Fig. 4a). The ogival arch of the recess has a strip of chipped bricks, approx. 15 cm wide, separated by a joint at the window wall (Fig. 4b).

**The eastern wall** was essentially constructed of  $30.5 \times 14.5 \times 7.5$  cm bricks. This medieval material in the northern bay was found above the passage to the adjoining room from the east and in the buttress area set in the middle of the wall (the full extent due to the plaster is unknown). It was found in much greater quantity in the

south bay. Apart from a few modern patches, it was present on the whole surface of the wall. The east wall also includes the east wall of the large recess. Exposed parts of the bricks included medieval bricks with chipped faces. Their southern boundary was marked by an irregular joint running approx. 70 cm from the face of the northern wall. At a distance of approx. 30 cm from the window wall, vertical cracks in the plaster were observed, which coincided with the southern boundary of the depression found on the recess arch.



Fig. 4. Remains of the original recess in the northern wall (with a window):

- a) fragment of the arch (disappearing in the middle of the vault) at the junction with the cover of the widened recess,
  - b) part of the medieval widened recess arch with traces of the narrowing of the northern wall (strip of bricks by the window wall)
- (photo by A. Piwek)

Il. 4. Pozostałości po pierwotnej wnęcie w ścianie północnej (z oknem):

- a) fragment łuku (zanikający pośrodku sklepienia) przy styku z przekryciem poszerzonej wnęki,
  - b) część poszerzonego w średniowieczu łuku wnęki ze śladami po zwężeniu ściany północnej (pas skutych cegieł przy ścianie okiennej)
- (fot. A. Piwek)



Fig. 5. The northern bay of the western wall with a pair of ogival recesses. Their side walls contain horizontally bevelled and right-angled cuts so that shelves could be fitted: a) general view, b) detail with cuts in the southern wall of the second recess from the north (photo by A. Piwek)

Il. 5. Północne przeszło ściany zachodniej z parą ostrołucznych wnęk. Ich ścianki boczne zawierają poziome wykucia skośne i proste, aby można było założyć półki: a) widok ogólny, b) detal z wykuciami w ścianie południowej drugiej od północy wnęki (fot. A. Piwek)

The southern wall contains mostly  $30.5 \times 14.5 \times 7.0$  cm bricks. Similar bricks were used to build a recess with a segmental arch. Its inner wall with a passage dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Bricks of this and earlier periods, still modern, locally filled the central portion east of the entrance.

The western wall contains mainly  $30.5\text{--}31.0 \times 14\text{--}14.5 \times 7\text{--}7.5$  cm bricks classified as medieval. In the north bay, two ogival recesses were found 95 cm wide, 235 cm high (up to the keystone), bricked up with  $30.5 \times 14.0 \times 8.5$  cm bricks, as well as  $25 \times 15.0 \times 9.0$  cm bricks and medieval shaped stones (Fig. 5a) [9, p. 9]. After their removal, it was possible to determine the depth of these recesses – 45 cm on average. The side walls of the recesses contained intentionally made small indentations (Fig. 5b), four on each side. In the second recess to the north, there was a marked variation in their execution. The two uppermost rows and the third row on the north wall were bevelled at the top, while the rest were right-angled. Bevelled cuts were also found in both recesses where the vertical walls meet the base of the recesses. A similar recess to the two described above was found in the south bay, between the passage to the hall adjacent to the western and the southern wall of the room under study, except that its southern wall was

made of 19<sup>th</sup> century bricks. The aforementioned entrance and the offset come from the same time. As it turned out, above them, a fragment of an ogival opening was found, walled up with bricks from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Its highest point coincided with the upper line of the arches of the discovered medieval recesses. Chipped Gothic bricks were also discovered on the transverse wall of the west side of the large recess. Their apparent small number was a result of the modern remodelling and the covering of part of the wall with plaster considered important for the decor of the room. A small indentation was also found on the soffit of the recess arch, at a distance of approx. 30 cm, near the window wall.

### *Conclusions from the research and analyses*

The time of construction of the castle has not been fully established. According to some findings, the construction process may have lasted from around 1300 to around 1350 [2, pp. 56, 57], [4, p. 10]. The examined room underwent several architectural changes both at that and at a later time. The works influenced the state of the interior. This process can be divided into stages. Along with them, the

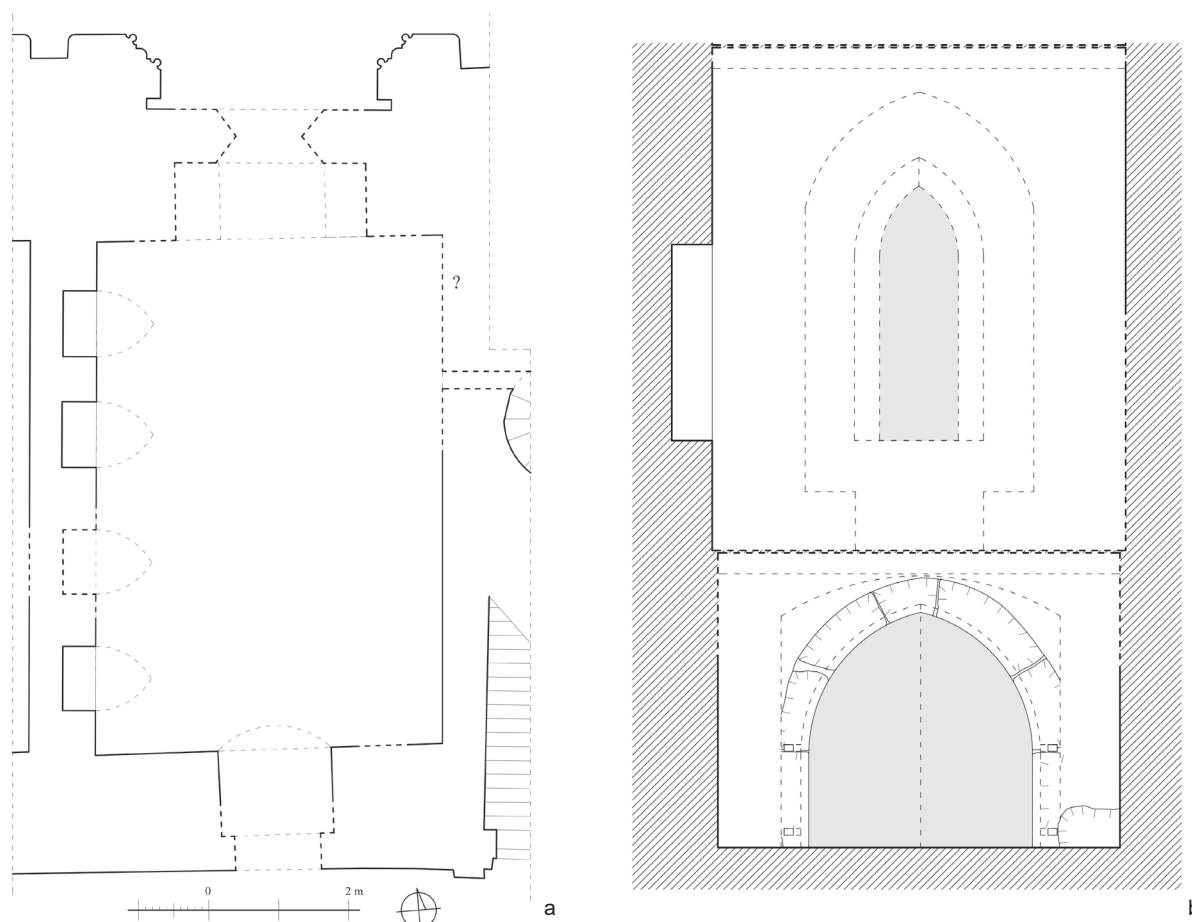


Fig. 6. Reconstruction of the room above the porte cochère from approx. 1310 to approx. 1338: a) plan, b) cross-section (including entrance) (drawing by T. Jażdżewski)

Il. 6. Rekonstrukcja pomieszczenia nad przejazdem z lat ok. 1310–ok. 1338: a) plan, b) przekrój poprzeczny (wraz z wjazdem) (rys. T. Jażdżewski)

functions of the room also changed. Some of them are still uncertain, hence there are divergent hypotheses. As a result of the research carried out, some of them can now be considered true and supplemented with new data, while others are considered unrealistic or even rejected.

### Stage 1

Construction of the northern wing of the castle, with which works began, started probably in 1310<sup>3</sup>. At present, the time of its completion cannot be determined<sup>4</sup>. Therefore, this stage of work was assumed to have been performed in year 1338, but it still has to be confirmed during future research into other parts of the castle.

The room above the porte cochère was built on a rectangular plan corresponding to the present one (Fig. 6a)<sup>5</sup>.

The entrance was located in the southern wall. It was set in a preserved recess with segmental coping. Its exact shape is not known due to the reconstruction carried out in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although it presumably was the same as the existing one<sup>6</sup>. From the side of the interior of the hall, the face of the original large northern recess could have been located in the same place as now. This is evidenced by the preserved medieval bricks on the western side of the floor and the vault. The surface of the window wall, as the chipped Gothic bricks indicate, was moved towards the interior of the hall. Analysing the thickness of the stone portal on the ground floor, it can be assumed that the wall could have been 70 cm thick, so it would have been 40 cm thicker than now. The fragments of a damaged corbel arch found on the western side of the window, set on the chipped gothic wall and not visible in the axis of the recess covering, as well as the probably chipped strip in the corbel arch, indicate the existence of an earlier and narrower recess. This unambiguous trace is only reinforced

<sup>3</sup> The postponement of the beginning of the construction of the walls of the northern wing of the castle was due to the preliminary construction work [13, pp. 25, 26].

<sup>4</sup> Anna Chrzanowicz [7, p. 22] acknowledges that the works could have been completed even in 1400.

<sup>5</sup> Most of the described history of the room focuses on details resulting from the research on the whole castle and historical materials,

thus they are not always fully and equally considered in relation to this particular interior.

<sup>6</sup> The present passage from the interior was created as a consequence of the changes made in the 19<sup>th</sup> century [12, p. 7].



Fig. 7. The eastern fragment of the medieval entrance to the Kwidzyn castle with a late-Gothic extension (pilaster) and a modern segmental vault (photo by A. Piwek)

Il. 7. Wschodni fragment średniowiecznego wjazdu do zamku w Kwidzynie z późnogotyckim poszerzeniem (pilaster) oraz nowożytnym sklepieniem odcinkowym (fot. A. Piwek)

on the eastern side by the extent of the presence of chipped Gothic bricks, as the upper parts are rebuilt here. Despite the preservation of only a small trace of the corbel arch, the former shape of the first recess can be reconstructed. Located in the middle on the wall, it was approx. 270 cm wide (Fig. 6b). It was distanced from the longitudinal walls of the room by approx. 110 cm. At the top, it has an ogival corbel arch with a sag of 135 cm. The full height of the recess was approx. 510 cm (measured from the level of the present floor). From the fragmentary preservation of a corbel arch in the thin northern wall, it was established that it must have been visible also from the outside<sup>7</sup>. Such solutions were widely used. A similar corbel arch can be spotted in the entrance gate to the inner bailey of the Teutonic castle in Rogoźno. It was erected after 1300 [14, p. 154], i.e. at a time similar to the construction of the northern wing (including the entrance) of the castle in Kwidzyn. As it might be presumed, the corbel arches above the entrances may have provided structural protection for the wall

<sup>7</sup> As a result of modern works on the external surface of the narrow recess (it was covered with decorative plaster), this corbel arch is invisible.

above the entrance. The Kwidzyn window wall located above the entrance could have had one window with an ogival arch<sup>8</sup>. The possibility of two such windows in the wall, due to the width of the recess, should be rejected. Two egresses were probably created in the recess.

The western wall of the room had four ogival recesses<sup>9</sup>, the central one being approx. 15 cm further apart than the others.

Most probably the opposite wall (the eastern wall) did not have similar recesses. According to the research carried out by Chrzanowicz [7, p. 68], it contained a small window indirectly lighting a circular staircase situated within the thickness of the wall. It was located approx. 130 cm north of the central vault support and approx. 270 cm above the present floor.

The possibility of widening the large recess of the northern wall (to its present size) without changing the vault set on it should be considered unlikely. Thus, it must be concluded that initially the room could only have had a ceiling. The type of floor can be assumed by analysing the porte cochère located on the ground floor. The present vaulting is not original. The two wall pilasters on the northern side of the porte cochère, which intersect with it, were also built later (Fig. 7). This is evidenced by their width of 44–48 cm, considerably narrower than that found on the first floor (110 cm) and from the stone foundations set against the cobblestone. They project beyond the outline of the porte cochère. It is assumed that wider pilasters, approx. 70 cm wide, connected to each other in the upper part by a segmental corbel arch, were originally set on them. These elements formed a brick base for the first floor to build a transverse wall with a window recess. The rest of the barrier between the porte cochère and the interior of the first floor was the ceiling. The floor level was approx. 30 cm lower than at present. This was due to the spatial relationship between the ground floor porte cochère and the room above it.

From the location of the hall on the first floor, close to the single staircase starting at the ground floor level and ending on the upper floor, its original function was assumed to be that of a guardroom. It housed several people guarding the gate leading to the castle courtyard. It may have contained equipment connected with increasing the defence of the entrance operated by guards. However, it is unlikely that it was a place of worship [6, p. 146]. In such a case the construction of a permanent altar would have been impossible due to the lack of a suitable place. Similarly, the suggestion that the room intended for writing is located above the entrance should also be regarded as unconvincing [9, p. 5], [11, pp. 295, 296]. The construc-

<sup>8</sup> Such a version was adopted in 1890 by Conrad Steinbrecht in his drawing presenting a reconstruction of the northern elevation (IS PAN in Warsaw).

<sup>9</sup> Juliusz Raczkowski [11, p. 294] mentioned three preserved recesses (the first, the second and the fourth, counting from the north). Referring to the previous study [9, p. 8], he pointed to the possibility of the existence of one more niche, in the place of the western door. Currently, it is being reconstructed based on the preserved traces. Recent research suggests that the fourth recess to the north is also a partial reconstruction, as it was significantly enlarged in modern times.

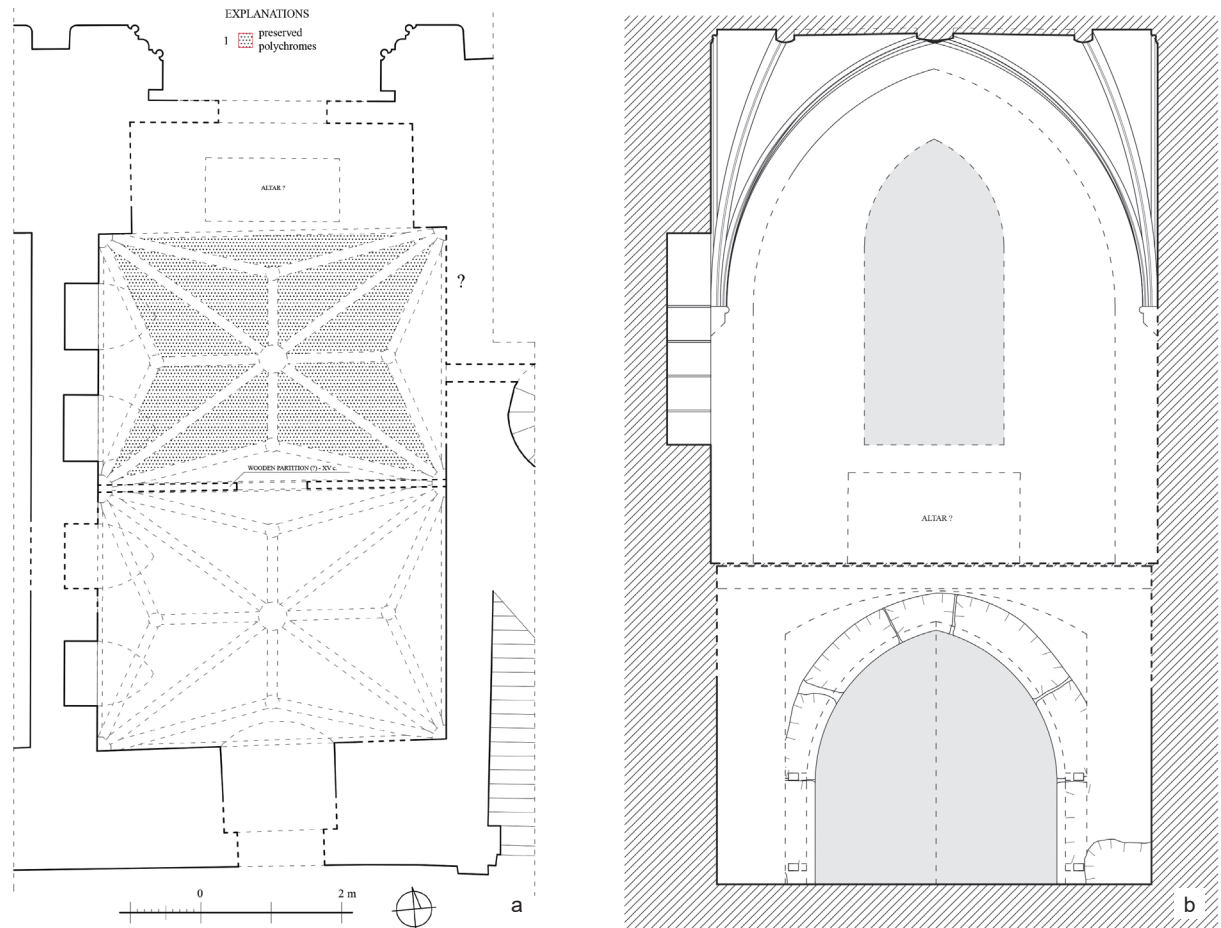


Fig. 8. Reconstruction of the room above the porte cochère from the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the 15<sup>th</sup> century: a) plan, b) cross-section (including entrance) (drawing by T. Jażdżewski)

Il. 8. Rekonstrukcja pomieszczenia nad przejazdem z 2. ćwierci XV w.: a) plan, b) przekrój poprzeczny (wraz z wjazdem) (rys. T. Jażdżewski)

tion of the basic parts of the castle had not yet been completed, so that was the main issue occupying the chapter. In addition, a conflict of functions would have arisen, at that time irreconcilable due to, among other things, a lack of space. As a third argument, it should be stated that it was not until the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century [15, p. 77] that scribal activity in the chapter of Kwidzyn developed considerably, which led to the search for additional space for scribes at the castle.

### Stage 2

The analysis of the changes in the architectural design of the northern wing, noticed already in 1982 [13, pp. 22, 23], shows that it could have been rebuilt in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. At that time, or even at the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, a chancellery or a courtroom was created in the room above the porte cochère<sup>10</sup>. However, this function did not result in any significant reconstructions. The few measures taken at that time probably included the lon-

<sup>10</sup> These functions were mentioned by H. Domańska [4, p. 35]. However, she addressed the whole first floor of the northern wing without specifying the room. Stawski [9, p. 5] assumed one more function – a library.

gitudinal carving of two recesses in the northernmost side walls in order to insert wooden shelves<sup>11</sup>. They were used to store documents. Their different design may indicate the different times of their construction and thus the need to store an increasing number of documents over time. The bevelled indentations at the bottom of the recesses prove that the boards were placed there. This might indicate division. The lack of traces of similar shelves in other recesses may be a result of the division of the interior into two separate zones, possibly by means of a wooden partition<sup>12</sup>.

### Stage 3

It is likely that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the described room underwent greater changes than before (Fig. 8a, b). They concerned not only its architecture, but

<sup>11</sup> Stawski [9, p. 5] regarded this as evidence of the introduction of a writing function while excluding the sacral one. During the research, both functions were confirmed, but as it turned out, they did not occur simultaneously, so, his statement should only be partially considered correct.

<sup>12</sup> Traces of such indentations were not found on the original northern wall of the fourth recess. As a result of the destruction of its side walls, there is no information about the division in the third recess, one can only presume a resemblance to the authentic fragments of the fourth recess in the same bay.



Fig. 9. Part of the northern bay vault with traces of exposed polychrome (2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the 15<sup>th</sup> century?) (photo by A. Piwek)

Il. 9. Część sklepienia północnego przęsła ze śladami odsłoniętej polichromii (2. ćw. XV w.?) (fot. A. Piwek)

also its artistic decoration. The size of the works, which entailed considerable costs, and their advisability indicate that the new function introduced was of great importance to the chapter. Therefore, it is very likely that the room was converted into a chapel.

This is evidenced by some newly found information. It mainly relates to the reconstruction of the northern part of the room. As stated, the closing window wall was narrowed by approx. 40 cm, leaving actually only a thin brick partition. The wall was fitted with new bricks for a wider recess. The previously massive side walls were cut down, removing approx. 60 cm of masonry on both sides and narrow pilaster walls were created using new bricks. As it was not easy to achieve a homogenous surface, the unevenness between the inserted corbel arch bricks in the northern wall and the additional ones set on the pilasters was compensated for by covering them with plaster of various thicknesses. Over the years, the only evidence of such works were visible cracks. Thus, the new recess became 400 cm wide and 155 cm deep. These radical measures, which could have led to a partial deterioration of defence, had one aim – to gain a substantial

area (155 × 400 cm) with a permanent base, supported by a pointed stone gate frame and an adjacent brick, segmental porte cochère arch. As it was assumed, this substantial undertaking served to make room for a brick altar set on a permanent base. It may have stood against the wall, reinforcing its structure, or it may have been far enough away from it so the window could still be used.

The rest of the room was covered with two parts of the stellar vault. It was placed 50 cm above the new recess. The ribs of the vault were set on supports. They were placed in the corners and in the middle of the longitudinal walls. Recent restoration work has revealed fragments of the original supports and the vaulting ribs that go up to them. These details were made of artificial stone [10, p. 11]. It consisted of lime-gypsum mass, quartz, crushed ceramics, charcoal and wooden fibres [10, p. 11].

The completely uncovered polychromes (Fig. 9) indicate the sacral function of the room and the time of its creation. It is assumed that they were made between 1400 and 1450 [10, pp. 8, 9], although this is not the only possibility<sup>13</sup>. Their sacral content (figures of saints) corresponds with the new use of the hall. Their appearance only on the vaulting of the northern bay has not been explained yet. The suggested reason is the start of the war in 1409 [9, p. 8] and its consequences. There is also another explanation. When a wooden partition is placed in the middle of the interior, it separates parts intended for users of different status – the clergy and the castle servants.

Three arguments have recently been put forward against the theory of a sacred function of the room [11, p. 294]. The first was the absence of consecration crosses on the walls. However, their absence is not certain. Medieval plaster may have survived only on those parts of the walls which are Gothic<sup>14</sup>. The old plaster found at the height of the occurrence of possible consecration crosses was preserved only in two places: the western part of the southern wall and the northern part of the western wall (a fragment between the first and the second recess from the north may also be taken into account). However, it is uncertain whether the plaster found there dates from the Middle Ages. The second argument is related to the lack of orientation<sup>15</sup>. The room is arranged on a north-south axis, but it must also be taken into account that the sacral function would have been secondary and had to allow for

<sup>13</sup> Stawski [9, p. 8] points to the time of the first 10 years of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, while Raczkowski [11, p. 292] points to the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, although he noticed the possibility of setting the site during the reign of Bishop Jan Mönch, i.e. at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century/beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>14</sup> At the same time, this term does not mean medieval plaster. The potential for error in his discernment is evidenced by the case of the eastern wall of a window recess. According to 1994 documentation [8], on its central part, Gothic plaster with traces of painting was found. However, the research carried out in 2017 indicated that this wall contained gothic bricks chipped or filled with material classified as modern [12]. Another finding is the presence of Gothic plaster in the centre of the recess's lower plane of the arch and in the recess of the western wall of the recess, which was created in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as well as part of the corbel arch forming the recess.

<sup>15</sup> In castles and churches, the location of chapels with respect to the eastern direction was customary.



Fig. 10. Northward view of the interior of the room above the porte cochère at the end of conservation work (September 2017) (photo by A. Piwek)

Il. 10. Widok w kierunku północnym wnętrza pomieszczenia nad przejazdem pod koniec prac konserwatorskich (wrzesień 2017) (fot. A. Piwek)



the existing condition and possible minor reconstructions. Furthermore, no consideration for orientation in the location of altars in other castles is indicated by the examples in Nidzica (oriented to the south) and Barciany (to the north). The third argument – no room for the altar – was, as it turned out, already noted during the medieval adaptation. There were attempts to remedy it with the construction measures described earlier.

In the monastic fortresses, only one room served as a chapel, and it was located on the first floor in the central, main part of the castle. The Kwidzyn room partially met these conditions. The construction of a larger chamber in the Middle Ages was probably considered too expensive given the proximity of the large Pomesanian temple.

After the secularisation of the Teutonic Order (1525), Kwidzyn became part of the newly created Duchy of Prussia. The Pomesanian chapter initially opposed the spread of Protestantism. However, after Bishop Erhard of Queiss joined the movement in 1527, it broke up. The castle started to be managed by the starostas of Kwidzyn (who were also bishops).

### Summary

For over 200 years, the Kwidzyn castle served the function for which it was built – the house of the Pomesanian chapter. During this time, it was expanded and rebuilt to meet the changing needs of the canons. At present, the room above the porte cochère is best examined. In the course of its history, at the time of the Pomesanian chapter, it had various functions: initially defensive, then administrative and sacral. The architectural research conducted in 2017 provided findings for a better understanding of the history of the described room. It also revealed new elements that were related to its decor (Fig. 10). As a result, the worth and significance of this room grew to one of the most valuable in the castle. The history presented in this article is only a minor contribution to the history of the entire castle; therefore, it is advisable to continue research in other parts of the castle.

Translated by  
GROY Group

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### Abstract

#### *The room above the porte cochère of the Kwidzyn castle in the times of the Pomesanian chapter*

This article presents the history of the construction of the room above the porte cochère in the northern wing of the Kwidzyn castle in the times of the Pomesanian chapter. The findings presented here were derived from the architectural and stratigraphic research and analysis of archival materials conducted in 2017. According to these findings, the room was built in the first stage of erecting the castle. In the following centuries, it underwent architectural changes corresponding to the new needs of the castle's inhabitants. The preserved traces testify that it had several successive functions from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, so far not fully recognised and explained: a watchtower, court office or chamber, or even a chapel. Much of the knowledge about it is contained in the stratification of the walls and the reconstructions of historical transformations from the medieval period. In later times, the room was spared significant damage and still constitutes a valuable source of knowledge about the castle's history.

**Key words:** Kwidzyn, castle, watchtower, court office, court chamber, chapel

### Streszczenie

#### *Pomieszczenie nad przejazdem zamku kwidzyńskiego w czasach kapituły pomezańskiej*

W artykule przedstawiono historię budowlaną pomieszczenia nad przejazdem bramnym w skrzydle północnym zamku w Kwidzynie w czasach kapituły pomezańskiej. Prezentowane ustalenia uzyskano na podstawie wyników badań architektonicznych, stratygraficznych oraz analizy materiałów archiwalnych, które przeprowadzono w 2017 roku. Według nich pomieszczenie powstało w pierwszym etapie wznoszenia zamku. W kolejnych wiekach podlegało architektonicznym zmianom odpowiadającym nowym potrzebom mieszkańców zamku. Zachowane ślady świadczą, że od XIV do XVI wieku pełniło ono kilka następujących po sobie funkcji, dotąd nie w pełni rozpoznanych i umotywowanych: strażnicy, kancelarii bądź izby sądowej, a nawet kaplicy. Znaczną część wiedzy o nich zawarto w rozwarstwieniu ścian i rekonstrukcjach historycznych przekształceń z okresu średniowiecza. W późniejszych czasach wnętrze uniknęło znacznych zniszczeń i do dziś stanowi cenne źródło wiedzy o historii zamku.

**Słowa kluczowe:** Kwidzyn, zamek, strażnica, kancelaria, izba sądowa, kaplica