

Scholars and Literati at the Lubrański College in Poznań (1519–1780)

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This note is a summary description of the set of scholars and literati who taught at the Lubrański College in Poznań, also called Lubrański Academy, from its inception in 1519 to its disappearance in 1780.

1 THE COLLEGE

This institution was a university-level college operating in Poznań in the years 1519–1780, founded by the Bishop of Poznań, Jan Lubrański. Lubrański had stayed in Italy in the years 1502–1503, gaining knowledge and experience among the local Renaissance humanists. He wanted his institution to follow the Renaissance model, in contrast to the conservative University of Kraków. Originally, the College had two faculties: theology and the humanities, but it did not have the right to award academic titles. For these titles students attended one of the European universities. The College gained traction with the arrival of the new dean of humanities, Krzysztof Hegendorfer (Christoph Hegendorf) from Leipzig, in 1530, who created the school's statute and introduced new, revolutionary teaching methods. In 1535, he was accused of spreading theses inconsistent with the teaching of the Catholic Church and left. After his departure, the quality of the school declined, as it fell under the influence of scholars from the University of Kraków, who replaced the Renaissance methods with the medieval ones used in Kraków at that time. In 1619, the College became partially dependent on the University of Kraków, filling all departments with professors from Kraków. In 1780 the College was merged with what remained of the Jesuit Collegium Posnaniae (which was founded in 1571, obtained university privileges in 1611, and from which the Jesuits were expelled in 1773). The merged institution was the progenitor of today's Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

The Catholic Encyclopedia (Herbermann 1913) put this story in the context of the Counter-Reformation: Lubrański favored the cause of the Reformation. Strict measures for the preservation of the faith were taken in 1523 at the insistence of the king. In 1534 the young students were forbidden to attend foreign schools. Bishop Konarski (1562–74) brought the Jesuits into Poznań. The Counter-Reformation prevailed and a side-effect of this was that the German elements became almost completely Polonized.

2 SOURCES

The main source is the thesis by Nowicki (2011), published now as a book (Nowicki 2015). It provides a general history of the College, and a list of professors from 1616 onwards. Our coverage of the institution is thus excellent after 1616, but only partial before. Some additional names were found in Jagielloński (2019). A general history of the College is in Maślach (2011) (available online, in Polish).

3 SOME STATISTICS

Table 1 shows some descriptive statistics. We found 194 scholars and literati. Unfortunately, we do not know them well. The year of birth is known for 25.3% of them, with much higher percentages

only for the few scholars in the first two periods. The mean age at nomination is very young, 29.8 years. Longevity (mean age at death & expected age at death when 30) has quite high values, but computed on small samples. The birth place is known for only 46.4% of the individuals. The median distance between birth and Poznań is 335km, which matches the distance from Kraków to Poznań. Finally, 17% of the scholars have a Wikipedia page (in some language), and 55.7% of them have left a footprint in the catalogues of the libraries of the world, Worldcat, either by having published some work, or by having been the subject of published books and articles. The latter percentage is quite high, especially for a college.

Period		nb.	% birth year	mean age	mean age	exp. age
Start	End	obs	known	at nomin.	at death	at death
1450	1526	8	75	44	53.5	46.1
1527	1617	6	83.3	32.8	54.6	56.5
1618	1685	73	23.3	29.9	63.7	62
1686	1733	58	20.7	26.2	63.8	64.6
1734	1800	49	18.4	25	59.6	60.6
1200	1800	194	25.3	29.8	60.8	60.7
			% birth place	median distance	% with	% with
			known	birth-institution	Wikipedia	Worldcat
1450	1526		100	48	62.5	50
1527	1617		83.3	408	50	50
1618	1685		35.6	335	16.4	52.1
1686	1733		32.8	335	17.2	56.9
1734	1800		65.3	335	6.1	61.2
1000	1800		46.4	335	17	55.7

Table 1: Summary statistics by period

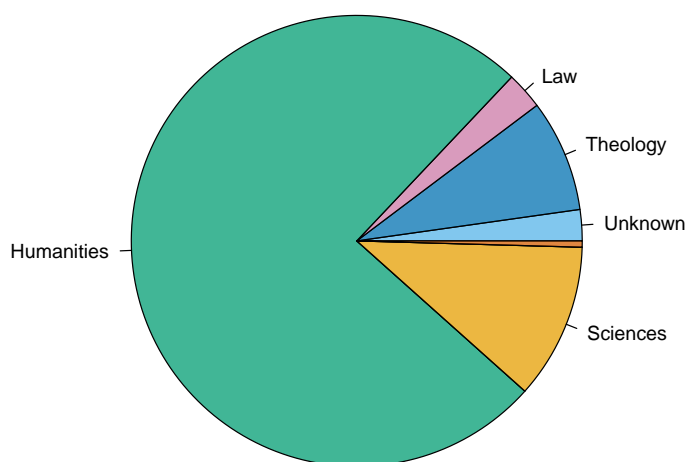


Figure 1: Broad fields at the Lubrański College

4 FIELDS

Figure 1 shows the relative importance of broadly defined fields. As expected, the lion's share goes to humanities, whose subjects are prerequisites for more advanced degrees.

5 PLACES OF BIRTH

Figure 2 is a plot of the places of birth of all the scholars of the Lubrański College. Most of them come from Kraków and the region that now is southern Poland.

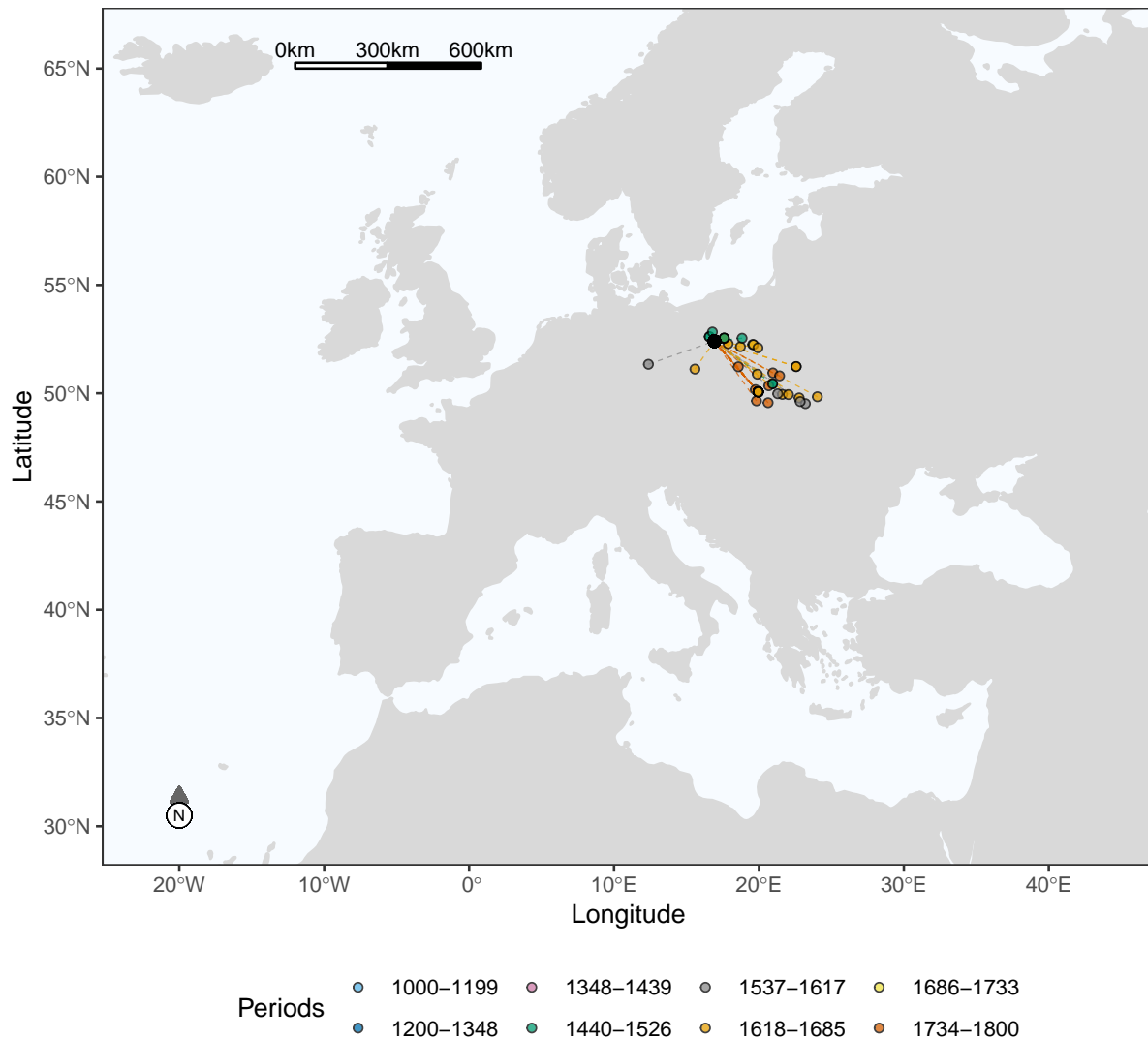


Figure 2: Places of birth of the scholars and literati at the Lubrański College

6 HUMAN CAPITAL OF SCHOLARS AND LITERATI

For each person in the database, we compute a heuristic human capital index, identified by combining information from Worldcat and Wikipedia using principal component analysis. We also compute the notability of the university at each date by averaging the human capital of the scholars active at the Lubrański College 25 years before that date. The details are given in the Appendix. Figure 3 shows the names of all the scholars with a positive human capital index. The orange line plots the notability of the university.

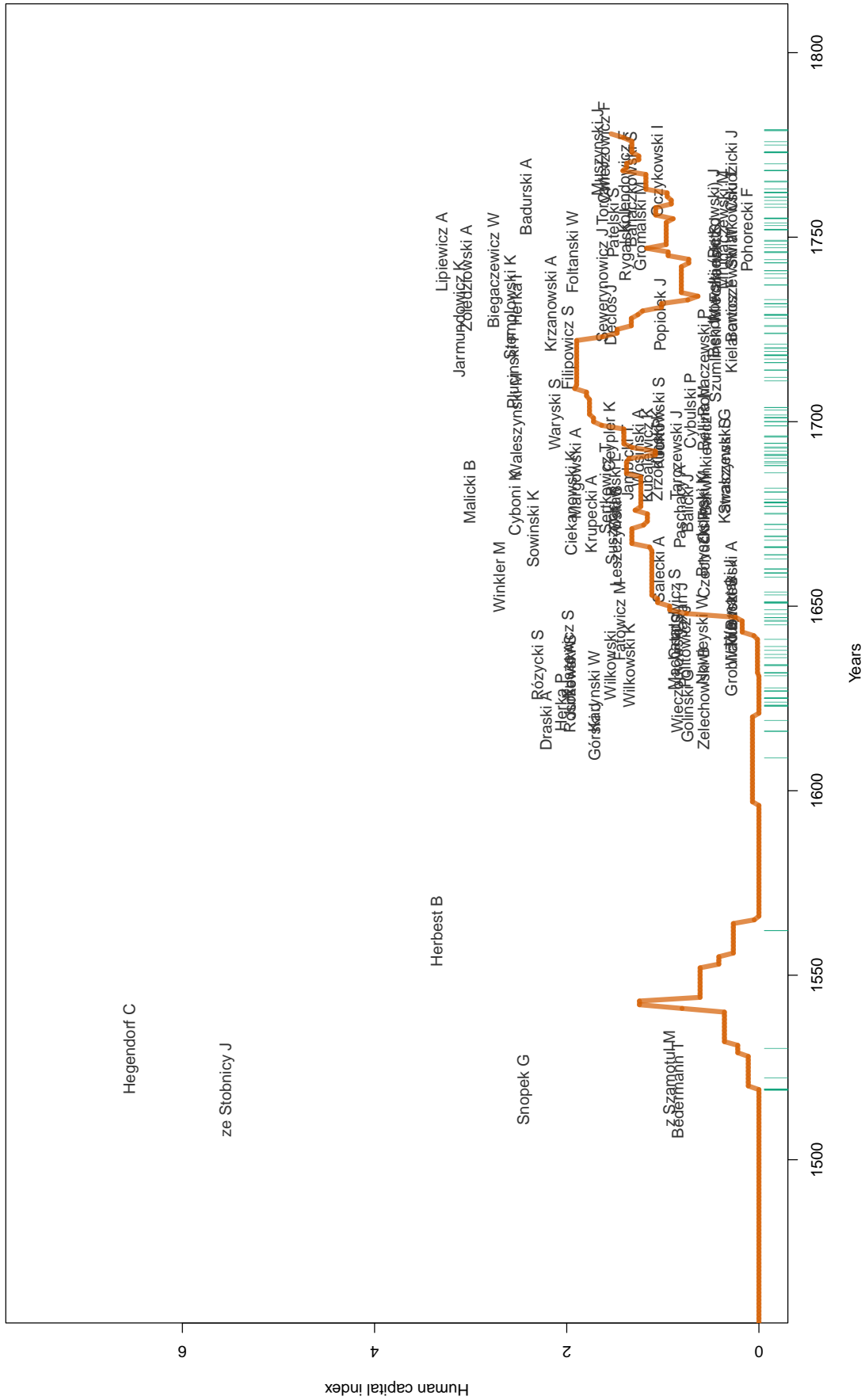


Figure 3: Famous scholars and college notability (orange)

The more renowned professors are those from the early days of the College, but there are not enough of them to ensure a real notability for the institution. In the second phase of the institution, after 1619, there are many professors who published well. Notability of the College peaked in 1700, at a low level of 2. The level is low partly because the majority of professors were also active in Kraków, and so we cannot attribute all of their publications to the Lubrański College.

7 TOP 5 PROFESSORS

We now provide a brief overview of the five professors with the highest human capital index. The first three are from the Renaissance period, while the last two are from the period during which the Lubrański Academy and the University of Kraków were closely linked.

Christoph Hegendorf (c. 1500 Leipzig – 1540 Lüneburg) was a German Renaissance humanist. He first taught at the University of Leipzig, his hometown. In 1530 the Bishop of Poznań, Jan Latański, invited him to become a professor of classical literature at the Lubrański College and also, more importantly, to reform the school. One of his great achievements was the development of a modern humanities curriculum. In his lectures, he emphasized rhetoric, both in Latin, in which he used Cicero as a model, and in Greek, in which he lectured mainly on Demosthenes and Aristotle. He was forced to resign in 1535 over accusations that he was a Lutheran.

Jan ze Stobnicy (c. 1470 Stobnica – c. 1519 Poznań) was a Polish philosopher, scientist and geographer. He was educated at the Jagiellonian University (University of Kraków), where he taught as professor between 1498 and 1514. He was the first rector of the Lubrański Academy. He published in several disciplines, including geography. His *Introductio in Ptholomei Cosmographiam* contains the first maps of Poland and the first information about the American continent. His second most well known-work, *Parvulus philosophie naturalis*, is a natural history manual.

Benedykt Herbest (1531 Nowe Miasto – 1598 Jarosław) was a Polish writer and polemicist. He was a professor at the University of Krakow (in 1561). In 1562 he moved to Poznań, where bishop Andrzej Czarnkowski entrusted him with the chair of theology and the position of law lecturer at the Lubrański Academy. He fought the Reformation there during nine years, after which he decided to join the Jesuit Order and left Poznań. Afterwards, he tried to convert Ukrainian Orthodox followers to Catholicism, while heading the Jesuit mission in Lwow (in current-day Ukraine).

Andrzej Dominik Lipiewicz (1724 Kraków – 1778 Palczowice) was a Polish priest, writer, and lawyer. He was a professor of poetry and mathematics at the Lubrański College. He was also an accredited surveyor and prefect of the Poznań Academic Printing House. Later, he became professor of mathematics and rhetoric at the University of Kraków and in 1755 he lectured at the Faculty of Law as well. He went back to the the Lubrański College as rector from 1763 to 1764 and was a censor of books for the Poznań diocese.

Kazimierz Jarmundowicz (1698 Kraków – 1762 Kraków) was a Polish lawyer. After having studied studying at the University of Krakow, he went to Poznań in 1722, where he became professor of grammar, poetry, rhetoric, and dialectics at the Lubrański College. He also became involved in a dispute with the Jesuits, defending the University of Krakow's monopoly over higher education. As a reward for his success, he was appointed Chancellor of the University of Kraków.

8 ANECDOTES

To house the Academy, Bishop Jan Lubranski initiated the construction of a magnificent edifice which was completed in 1530 and survives to this day. Since 1926 it has housed the Archdiocese

Archives and Museum.

9 FINAL THOUGHT

In the sixteenth century, there were several attempts to seed the humanistic revolution in universities. In some instances it was easier to create new institutions than to reform old ones. Some of the new institutions were a success (Royal College in Paris, 1530), others were half a success (Gresham College in London, 1597, Marishal College in Aberdeen, 1593), and, finally, in some of them, the conservative forces prevailed (Royal Bourbon College in Aix-en-Provence, 1603, Lubrański College in Poznań, 1519).

APPENDIX

The individual human capital index q_i of an individual i is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} q_i = & -1.76 + 0.43 \ln(\text{nb. of characters of the longest Wikipedia page}) \\ & + 0.40 \ln(\text{nb. of Wikipedia pages in different languages}) + 0.47 \ln(\text{nb. of works in Worldcat}) \\ & + 0.46 \ln(\text{nb. of publication languages in Worldcat}) \\ & + 0.47 \ln(\text{nb. of library holdings in Worldcat}) \end{aligned}$$

We assume that having no Wikipedia page is similar to having one page with a length of 60 characters and that having no Worldcat page is similar to having a page with one work in one language held by one library. The constant -1.76 normalizes q_i at 0 when there is neither a Wikipedia page, nor a Worldcat page. The weights (0.43, 0.40, etc) are obtained from the first principal component of the five indicators (De la Croix et al. 2020).

The notability Q of a university aggregates the q of the top 5 individuals who were active in the preceding 25 years using the following formula:

$$Q = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^5 \frac{1}{s_i} \left(\frac{q_i}{s_i}\right)^2}$$

where s_i is the number of universities at which i had an appointment.

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