



O wspańiałości i mocy sławnego Bolesława - Tekst angielski

The deeds of Bolesław¹ are doubtless greater and more numerous than we are able to describe or recount in simple words. For what master counter could produce a more or less precise number of his iron regiments, let alone cite descriptions of so many victories and triumphs. For [he had] 1300 armoured knights² and 4000 shield bearers³ from Poznań, 1500 armoured knights and 5000 shield bearers from Gniezno, 800 armoured knights and 2000 shield bearers from the stronghold of Władysławia⁴, 300 armoured knights and 2000 shield bearers from Giecz; all of these valorous men skilled in the art of war stood up [to fight] during the time of Bolesław the Brave. [As for knights] from other towns and castles, [it] would be a long and unending task for us to enumerate [them], and for you perhaps a pain to listen. But to save you [this] laborious enumeration, I shall tell you the quantity of this lot without numbers: namely King Bolesław had more armoured knights than all of Poland has shield bearers in our day; there were as many knights when Bolesław reigned as there are people [in Poland] of all estates today⁵.

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¹ Bolesław I Chrobry/Boleslaus I the Brave (or: the Valiant) (967–1025) was the first king of Poland to be formally crowned (1025). He was the son of Mieszko I and his wife Dobrava, a Bohemian princess of the Přemyslid dynasty. Bolesław assumed power throughout the Piast state in 992, having expelled his stepmother Oda and his stepbrothers Mieszko and Lambert. During his reign a Church province independent of Germany, with its metropolitan seat in Gniezno, was established at the Gniezno Summit, which was attended by Emperor Otto III, in the year 1000.

² Armoured knights (Pol. pancerni, Lat. loricati) – heavy cavalry clad in chain mails (armour consisting of small metal rings linked together).

³ Shield bearers (Pol. tarczownicy, Lat. clipeati) – light cavalry using shields (Pol. tarcza) as cover.

⁴ Today the town of Włocławek in Kuyavia.

⁵ Men able to bear arms.