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A NOTE ON THE ORIGIN OF FOUR GREEK VASES IN THE JAGELLONIAN UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

Four greek vases published here above by E. Papuci-Władyka, Ph. D., were already for a relatively long time included into collection of Jagellonian University Museum, but up till now they were never subjected to close scrutiny, their origin is also not very well known.

According to the Museum’s documents we can only say that oinochoe (Cat. No. 1) and amphora (Cat. No. 4) came from acquisitions in “Desa“ shops respectively in 1956 and 1950¹ by creator and first director of Jagellonian University Museum Prof. Karol Estreicher².

The two next vessels, pelike (Cat. No. 2) and guttus (Cat. No. 3) arrived to the Museum thanks to Prof. K. Estreicher in 1968 from the collection of Francis Xavier Pusłowski Palace³.

¹ In the archives of the “Desa“ enterprise which sold these vases there is no any information concerning persones who sold them. The price of oinochoe (Cat. No. 1) in 1956 was 1000 zł, the amphora’s price is unknown.
² Karol Estreicher (4 III 1906 — 29 IV 1984) art historian. His family was during five generations linked with Cracow University. He continued the edition of Polish Bibliography and was the author of many important works on history of art. The crown of his life was reconstruction of Collegium Maius in which he established and arranged the present Jagellonian University Museum. Cf. J. Wyrozumski, Karol Estreicher, Rocznik Krakowski, 1987, Vol. 51, pp. 151—154.
³ F. X. Pusłowski (1875—1968), count, after II World War teacher of foreign languages in Jagellonian University, open-handed donator of this University. The main substance of his
Fig. 1. Wax-seal on the bottom of guttus from the Jagellonian University Museum. Phot. by Janusz Kozina
In sum, about the provenance of these four items we don’t have any precise information. We only know that oinochoe (Cat. No. 1) according to a notice on Museum’s catalogue card, should come from excavations in Crimea. But about the two items from the collection of Pusłowski we don’t have even such premises. Nevertheless some suggestion can be derived from wax-seal on the bottom of guttus (Cat. No. 3). It permits to find out a place of appearance of this relic of antiquarian trade business in Kingdom of Both Sicily before 1861 (the text on the seal runs around “1. […] I RE DEL REGNO DELLE DUE SICIL […] 2. COMMISSIONE DI ANTICH […]“ (Fig. 1). It couldn’t be excluded that the guttus was bought already in Italy by Genèveive Pusłowska (née Drucki-Lubecki), grandmother of F. X. Pusłowski.

It seems that F. X. Pusłowski didn’t attach much attention to antique vases included in his own collection. It indirectly could be assumed from lack of any mention about them in guides to the collection edited in 1930’s as well in other sources.

Although the four vases mentioned here don’t constitute an exceptionally distinguished set, nevertheless they enrich and embellish the collection of Jagellonian University Museum. They also express Prof. K. Estreicher’s personal fascination, knowledge and love for art. His desire to enrich the University Collection pushed him to penetrate all environment in search for new, genuine work’s of art.

The four items described above are among the oldest in the collection of University’s Museum and also most recently acquired.

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4 Addition to notice on inventory card. Notice on amphora’s card (Cat. No. 4) informs that the monument was glued from fragments by Mr. Piwowarski in June 1950.

5 After the death of her husband G. Pusłowska migrated from Poland together with her sons Francis and Sigismund (well known amateur of art, the father of Francis Xavier) and stayed in Italy for some time. Cf.: E. Rostworowski, Pusłowski Zygmunt, [in:] Polski Słownik Biograficzny, 1986, Vol. XXIX/3, p. 427.

6 Przewodnik po zbiorach w pałacu hr. Pusłowskich w Krakowie, Kraków 1936. We don’t have mentions in latter publications (in which the introductions are also lists of works of art from F. X. Pusłowski collection) as: K. Buczkowski, T. Wrzesień, Wystawa starych zegarów na tle wnętrz pałacu hr. Pusłowskich, Kraków 1938; K. Buczkowski, Z. Przeorska-Exnerowa, Wystawa miniaturow na tle wnętrz pałacu hr. Pusłowskich, Kraków 1939. They are also absent in donation document of F. X. Pusłowski for Jagellonian University. Cf. Jagellonian University Archives, S III dossier “Ksawery Pusłowski”.