

HOSPITALLERS' DEFENSIVE ARCHITECTURE IN THE AREA OF THE BAILIWICK OF BRANDENBURG, FROM THE FIRST HALF OF THE 14TH C. TO THE BEGINNING OF THE 17TH C. (UNTIL 1618). FORM AND FUNCTIONS

Established in the crusade era in the Holy Land, the knightly Order of St. John created in Europe vast security for its activity in the *Outremer*. Relatively early, at the end of the 12th century and the beginning of the 13th century, Hospitallers made its presence known in Brandenburg and Pomerania. Over time, the houses which were established there initiated the formation of the municipality, and in 1382, by the Heimbach arrangement, the Bailiwick of Brandenburg was created, which enjoyed a certain degree of independence within the structure of European Hospitallers' houses. Along with the acquisition of the properties of the Knights Templar and the sale of houses located in the Eastern Pomerania, commanderies located in the area of the conflicted Brandenburg-Polish-Pomeranian borderlands began to be the core of the bailiwick. The takeover of the Templar properties also changed the profile of the commandership. So far, there has been a clear connection with larger urban centers. Significantly, the defense of the Hospitallers' seats had no importance at the time. From the mid-fourteenth century, the activity of Knights Hospitaller began to concentrate on rural and border areas. The first brick castles were then erected, and several of them - in Łagów, Peżino, and Swobnica - were characterized by a similar form, with the presence of characteristic main towers with a four-sided base and a cylindrical upper part. Brick castles, however, did not exhaust the catalogue of defensive objects. To a certain extent, the military nature characterized also the architecture of the smaller commanderies in the form of manor houses to a certain extent. Unfortunately, the degree of preservation of individual objects did vary. The brick castles were in the best condition, and as far as smaller fortifications or defensive manor houses, relics (excluding free-standing chapels) were limited only to the outline of earth ramparts, mounds, or the residual holographic systems.

This work aims to discuss the form and function of castles and defensive manors erected by the Knights Hospitaller in the area of the Bailiwick of Brandenburg, to assess the genesis of forms, and their place in the European order's defensive construction, and to assess the ongoing changes, both in the sphere of architectural forms and spatial arrangements, as well as the functions performed. Chronologically, the work covers the time between the first half of the 14th century and the beginning of the 17th century, recording the evolution that the order underwent, and with it its architecture - through progressive secularization, the advent of the Reformation, and the real secularization of the bailiwick. The objects discussed in the work

were selected and separated on the basis of methodology based on both architectural or archaeological research, and also from the source terminology.

Even though the architecture of some of these facilities has been a subject of research in the past, this paper aims to focus on the analysis of the contents of the Hospitallers' inventories, which contain lists of rooms and buildings forging individual objects. The main sources here were primarily inventories dating back to the 16th century; they enable to supplement the information obtained in the course of archaeological and architectural research; in some cases, these sources remain as the only evidence that allows discussing the features of the castle and manor complexes. Due to the attributes of the inventories, the latest phases (16th-17th century) can be thoroughly discussed. However, apart from the use of the analytical and comparative methods, the use of the retrogressive method allowed for a careful attempt to reconstruct the state from earlier periods. Unfortunately, the rule and the statutes hardly answer the question about the forms of order's seats; they mention the presence of rooms and facilities - a chapel, refectory, dormitories, hospitals, but also an armory.

The work presents a meticulous analysis of the contents of the inventories, and the collected data has been compared with the results of previous architectural and archaeological research. This allowed (to a varying degree) to reconstruct the interior layouts and spatial layout. The analysis shows that among the castle complexes there were fixed rules for placing objects next to each other. Although the vast majority of arrangements were not directly commanded by the rule nor in statutes, but by the conventional pragmatics, which dictated the appropriate distribution of individual space's functions in the plans of the castles. The defensive elements of the castle complexes were characterized by a limited set of applied measures, construction typical in of the areas of Brandenburg and Pomerania; it rested on a quadrilateral of windowless curtain walls reinforced by the main towers. They were complemented by moats, ramparts, and wetlands. In the case of smaller defensive objects (such as Santok or Suchań), the architectural form corresponded to the knight's seats in the motte type (the tower on a mound). Here, too, the defense was largely ensured by the use and transformation of the hydrographic system. Sacral functions were not emphasized. Small castle chapels, likely serving only a few people to convents, were probably separated from other buildings, but the sacred function was inferior to military functions. Even before the adoption of the Reformation teachings, the area of the clause was not strictly closed to accommodate people - among the convention rooms there were guest rooms, rooms for servants, and squires.

Military issues in the architecture of the Knights Hospitaller's castles remained important until around the middle of the 16th century. Changes can then be observed – an increase in the residential role, visible in the form of new residential and representative rooms, liquidation of the brothers' rooms, moving the armory beyond the castles and manors, and finally - no further attempts of modernization of the fortifications that took place until the period between the beginning and the middle of the 16th century.

Defensive manors were characterized by considerable diversity. In their case, the border between the monastic farm and the knight's seat was fluid; for example, the foundations in Suchań (referred to in the sources as a castle) and Kraak (a fortified manor) could have been very similar. The Hospitallers' manors were characterized by a more compact layout, to some extent reflecting the motte-and-bailey model (a house on the mound with economic facilities). The real military value of this type of facility was minimal, and the defense was primarily ensured by the location in hard-to-reach terrain (watercourses, wetlands); moats, embankments, palisades, and placement on the elevations of the area were also used.

In the case of the Hospitallers' castles, it was observed that they were built according to plans. Despite the phasing, the presumably use of the *ad quadratum* method is noticeable, so the shape of the castles along with the buildings in their courtyards was the result of earlier calculations.

The location of castles in the border area was related to their potential use in hostilities; this role was attested by sources. The real threat meant that probably, in the first half of the 16th century, activities aimed at strengthening the defenses of the stronghold were still carried out; testimony to this were the arsenals registered in the inventories from that period, equipped with rich collections of firearms. It was only at the advent of the Reformation that the secularization processes accelerated, as a result of which the residential role increased, and the military role, given the growing importance of firearms, began to fade into the background.

It seems, however, that the defensive elements used, both in the castles and in the manor houses, were not only a reflection of the utilitarian need to ensure security. Together with the characteristic main towers, they constituted a symbolic element, emphasizing the unity of the bailiwick, but also its strength, especially in the border regions, which was a frequent area of conflict. In the architecture of the Knights Hospitaller of the Bailiwick of Brandenburg, there was no evidence of top-down creation of the architectural form, while the native references, both secular and sacred, were legible, also indicated for European commanderies. Thus, it was

regionalism that was key to creating the form and function of defensive structures in the Bailiwick of Brandenburg.