

**VISITATIONES CANONICAE
ARCHIDIACONATUS
POSONIENSIS
1694/1695**

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Introduction

Religious and cultural history is an integral part of the historical science system. Without a knowledge of these areas, it is not possible to understand how they influenced other historical events. From a thematic perspective, we are primarily exploring different phases of religious history, in the period of Modern era, in the context of Central Europe, focusing on the issues of reformation, Recatholisation, ethnic identity, the question of religion in the anti-Habsburg aristocratic uprising as well as other complex societal, economic and social transformations that were occurring in society during the period of Modern history. Canonical visitation records are important and valuable historical sources that function as key resources for extensive research on changes in society during Modern history. The status of research on canonical visitation records in Slovak historiography, especially in terms of the older period of our Modern history, does not reflect the value that research on canonical visitation records really has. Partial studies and professional articles using canonical visitation records as a historical source are being issued but the research itself is still more random than systematic. It is clear from the discussion above that there is still a lack of more comprehensive use and appreciation of this significant historical source.

In order to gain further knowledge from research of religious and cultural history and to enrich historical awareness, it is essential to reflect on the possible results of this research and future directions. Religious, cultural, social and economic transformations of society in the early Modern era were very complex. These transformations can be monitored in multiple, intermingling levels, thus presenting historical phenomena in a chronological way that demonstrates their interconnectedness. In the various areas of today's Slovakia, these processes took place to different degrees. It is necessary to take this into account and gradually map the entire territory of Slovakia. Based on the collection and analysis of the sources we can then proceed to reconstruct historical events, to track and compare them, and thus to illuminate the social, cultural and spiritual development of the individual territory of Slovakia in the period of the early Modern era.

New, modern trends in the research of religious, cultural and ethnic identities in Slovakia require specific methodological analysis. Classification of religious and cultural history crosses several historical disciplines, and thus requires interdisciplinary cooperation. Historians can use these sources, detailing canonical visitations, that are essential to the processing of individual issues relating to religious and cultural interactions in the past, and interpret them for their own research purposes directly from the canonical visitation archives.

In a series of monographs of the Department of History, we have published the edition of the canonical visitation records of the Bratislava archdeaconry during the years 1694-1695, deposited in the Hungarian Esztergom Primate Archives. This series of monographs was established by Department of History of with the aim of using archive sources as an entry point into Slovak history. The study of the monographs led to the production of important publications, critical editions.

This publication is not only an edition of canonical visitation records, primarily talking about the religious history of the selected territory, the fact that the canonical visitation records are geographically related to the territory of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese

of Esztergom, meant that this edition provides a historical perspective for this period of Slovak history in a Central European context. In accordance with the official thesis of Slovak historiography, which sets as one of its objectives the publishing of historical sources, canonical visitation records will be accessible to all candidates for this period of Slovak history in the form of these editions.

The Author