# VOCABULARY DESCRIBING CLASSES OF PEASANTS, NOBLES, AND CLERGY LATIN POLISH ENGLISH

## **NOUNS**

cmetho (cmeto), onis, m. kmieć a self-supporting peasant

farmer

cmethona, ae, f. kmiotka female self-supporting cmet(h)onissa, ae, f. ditto peasant/farm wife

semi-cmetho (cmeto), onis, m. półkmieć semi-self-supporting

peasant who had less land

than a cmetho

semi-cmethona, ae, f. półkmiotka semi-self-supporting semi-cmet(h)onissa, ae f. ditto female peasant/farm wife

hortulanus, i, m. ogrodnik, zagrodnik peasant who had a cottage

and enough land for a garden and perhaps for some farm animals

coterius, ii, m. chałupnik cottager, i.e. a peasant who

tugurinus, i,m ditto owned his cottage

rustica, ae, f. włościanka female peasant farmer,

farmer's wife

rusticus, i, m. włościanin peasant farmer

colonista, ae, m. kolonista (masculine) colonist, settler, (later:

peasant farmer)

inquilinus, i, m. komornik landless peasant, tenant (i.e.

someone who lived with and worked for another)

famula, ae, f. służąca female servant

famulus, i, m. parobek landless farm worker or a

worker on a large estate, farmhand, day laborer

arator, oris, m. rataj hortulanus, zagrodnik,

ogrodnik who also worked

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on the farm of a large estate

ancilla, ae, f. służąca maid, female servant

agricola, ae, m. rolnik, włościanin, peasant farmer, fairly

gospodarz prosperous farmer

mercenaria,ae, f. wyrobnica female day laborer

mercenarius, ii, m. wyrobnik male day laborer

**ADJECTIVES** 

honestus uczciwy upright/honest (usually a

farmer from a village or

small town)

laboriosus pracowity industrious (a general term

for a peasant, worker

famosus/famatus slawetny renowned/famous

(generally refers to a middle class craftsman)

circumspectus/providus opatrzny prudent, a poor (i.e. not

wealthy) craftsman

infidelis/perfidus niewierny/przewrotny non-believer (i.e. non-

Christian)

#### VOCABULARY REFERRING TO NOBLES AND CATHOLIC CLERGY

#### **NOBLES**

LATIN POLISH ENGLISH

illustrissimus ac magnificus jaśnie wielmożny The Honorable (a magnate,

senator)

magnificus wielmożny Your Honor/Esquire (a

court official)

generosus urodzony "well-born" (an owner of at

least one village)

### VOCABULARY DESCRIBING CLASSES OF PEASANTS, NOBLES, AND CLERGY

nobilis szlachetny noble (owner or a

leaseholder of a parcel of land )

spectabilis godny worthy (a wealthy

aristocrat, patrician from a large town or

city)

honoratus zacny honorable (an

aristocrat, patrician)

#### **CLERICAL TITLES**

LATIN POLISH ENGLISH

reverendissimus (or sometimes as przewielebny most reverend (bishop/

reverendissimus ac ementissimus) ordinary of a diocese

reverendus wielebny reverend (an abbot,

suffragan, auxiliary bishop,

pastor of a parish)

venerabilis dostojny distinguished/venerable

(the pastor, curate, vicar of

a parish)

honorabilis czcigodny honorable/venerable (rural

parish priest, pastor,

assistant pastor)

N.B. The clerical titles admit of exceptions and sometimes were used interchangeably to designate clerics of various ranks. Some Latin terms used to designate priests in a parish are: parochus/vicarius/curatus (a pastor who is a member of the diocesan/secular clergy); commendarius/praepositus (a pastor who is a member of a religious order); cooperator (an assistant priest).

It is important to keep in mind that there can be variations in both spelling and use of the terms listed during various periods of time and in various areas of Poland.

Some of this data is derived from information found in *Poradnik genealoga-amatora* (1992) by Rafał T. Prinke and some is based on vocabulary found in records personally viewed and/or translated.