

Tomasz Jurek, Die beiden Siegel des Gnesener Erzbischofs Borzislus (1314–1317)

Abstract: The two seals of Archbishop Borzislus of Gniezno (1314–1317)

Archbishop Borzislus travelled to Avignon immediately after his election and eventually died there. An imprint of his seal on a document dated 22 January 1317 has survived as well as a broken seal matrix connected with the Archbishop, which was recently found in Horstmar, Westphalia. The figurative representation in the seal matrix does not reveal a pallium so it was probably a seal of a bishop elect. Borzislus' second seal – this time with a pallium – was produced only after his confirmation (which took place on 15 January 1317). It is a unique example of a seal of a bishop elect in Poland. Its iconography deviates from patterns common in the Empire, as Borzislus is depicted on a throne and in pontifical vestments. It seems to indicate weak knowledge of the way of depicting the legal rank of the seal's owner. Nevertheless, it is understandable that Borzislus, who was to handle important political matters in the Curia, needed a seal in as impressive as possible in representing him.

Keywords: episcopal seals – seal matrix – Archbishop Borzislus of Gniezno – Avignon – indulgence

Schlagworte: Bischofssiegel – Typar – Erzbischof Borzislus von Gnesen – Avignon – Ablass