

= Jan Zamoyski =

Jan Zamoyski or Zamojski (Latin : Ioannes de Zamo?? ; 1542 ? 1605) was a Polish nobleman , magnate , and the 1st ordynat of Zamo?? . Royal Secretary from 1566 , Deputy Kanclerz (Chancellor) of the Crown from 1576 , Lord Grand @-@ Chancellor of the Crown from 1578 , and Grand Hetman of the Crown from 1581 . General Starost of Kraków from 1580 to 1585 , Starost of Be?z , Mi?dzyrzecz , Krzeszów , Knyszyn and Tartu . Important advisor to Kings Sigismund II Augustus and Stephen Báthory , he was one of the major opponents of Bathory 's successor , Sigismund III Vasa , and one of the most skilled diplomats , politicians and statesmen of his time , standing as a major figure in the politics of the Polish @-@ Lithuanian Commonwealth throughout his life .

= = Biography = =

= = = Childhood and education = = =

Jan Zamoyski was born on 19 March 1542 to Stanisław Zamoyski and Anna Herbut in Skokówka . He started his education in a school in Krasnystaw but when he was thirteen years old he was sent to study abroad ; from 1555 to 1559 he was a paige at the royal court in Paris . Already at this young age he attended lectures at the Sorbonne University and Collège de France . In 1559 he briefly visited Poland , then attended the University of Strasbourg ; after a few months there he moved to University of Padua , where from 1561 he studied law and received a doctorate in 1564 . During his years abroad he converted from Calvinism to Roman Catholicism .

During his education , he became active in university politics , and in 1563 he was elected the rector of the law department . Around that time he also wrote *De senatu Romano* , a brochure about Ancient Rome government . He returned to the Commonwealth in 1565 , and was the first person to receive a commendation letter from the senate of the Republic of Venice .

= = = Early career = = =

After returning to Poland , he was appointed to the Royal Chancellery , and soon became a favorite secretary to King Sigismund II . In 1567 he commanded a royal task force , sent to remove the noble family of Starzechowscy from the royal lands they were decreed to hold illegally . Another major task he completed at that time was the reorganization of the Chancellery archive .

In 1571 he married Anna Ossolińska ; his wife and their young son died shortly afterwards , in 1572 . After the extinction of the Jagiellon dynasty in 1572 during the election sejm (special session of the Commonwealth parliament) he used his influence to enforce the viritim election (meaning all nobles had the right to vote for the new king during the upcoming Polish ? Lithuanian royal election , 1573) . However , his proposal for majority voting did not pass , which opened the process for abuses of liberum veto in the future . He was a colleague of Mikołaj Sienicki and Hieronim Ossolinski , and with them he was one of the leaders of a faction of the lesser and middle nobility (szlachta) in the Commonwealth , whose goal was the reform the country - the execution movement - preserving the unique constitutional and parliamentary government of the Commonwealth with the dominant role of poorer nobility (Golden Freedom) . He was so influential and popular among the lesser nobility that he was known as the " first tribune of nobility " or " Polish Gracchus . "

= = = Chancellor and hetman = = =

In that first election he was in favour of Henryk II Walezy (later , Henry III of France) . Subsequently he was part of the diplomatic mission that traveled to France to finish formalities with the newly elected king . He also published a pamphlet praising the new king , and thus suffered a loss of face when Henryk secretly abandoned Poland and returned to France . During the following

1575 election he was an vocal enemy of the Habsburg dynasty and its candidate , and this anti @-@ Habsburg stance , resounding among the lesser nobility , helped him regain his popularity . For the king , Zamoyski championed the case of a Polish candidate , which ended up in the marriage of Anna Jagiellon with the anti @-@ Habsburg Stephen Bathory of Transylvania .

Bathory thanked Zamoyski by granting him the office of Deputy Chancellor on 16 May 1576 . He participated on Batory 's side in the quelling of the Danzig rebellion in 1576 ? 1577 , sponsoring a chor?giew of pancerni (cavalry unit) and participating in close combat on several occasions . In 1577 he married again , this time marrying Krystyna Radziwi?? , daughter of magnate Miko?aj Radziwi?? Czarny ; this made him a close ally of the Radziwi?? family , the most powerful family in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania . In 1578 he received the post of the Grand Crown Chancellor . That year poet Jan Kochanowski dedicated his *Odprawa Pos?ów Greckich* , the first Polish tragedy , to him .

He took part in the preparation for a war against Muscovy in 1579 ? 1581 , where he contributed a group of 400 or 600 mercenaries . Through he had little prior military background nor experience , he was interested in mastering the military art , and proved to be an adept learner . With Batory 's support , he begun filling in for some of the roles of Grand Crown Hetman Miko?aj Mielecki , particularly when Mielecki was not present . While not campaigning , he was also instrumental in ensuring that the ongoing political support for the war . In 1580 he was hit by another personal tragedy , as his wife died in labor , together with their child ; entering a short period of depression .

Later that year , in August , he captured Velizh in September he participated in the siege of Velikiye Luki , and then took Zvoloc . On 11 August 1581 he received the nomination for the post of Grand Crown Hetman ; this nomination , although uncontroversial at that time , was technically illegal . Following that he participated in the long and inconclusive Siege of Pskov , which ended with the Peace of Yam @-@ Zapolsky in 1582 . Though Zamoyski failed to capture Pskov , he drained the Russian resources , and the ongoing siege was a major reason for the final treaty , which was highly favorable to Poland .

In June 1583 Zamoyski took his third wife , Gryzelda Bathory , a relative of king Bathory himself . In May 1584 Zamoyski 's men captured Samuel Zborowski , a noble whose death sentence for treason and murder had been pending for roughly a decade , shortly afterwards with Bathory 's consent Zborowski was executed . This political conflict between Báthory , Zamoyski and the Zborowski family , framed as the clash between the monarch and the nobility , would be a major recurring controversy in internal Polish politics for many years , beginning with a major dispute at the Sejm of 1585 .

= = = Later years = = =

After the death of Batory in 1586 , Zamoyski helped Sigismund III Vasa gain the Polish throne , fighting in the brief civil war against the forces supporting Habsburg archduke Maximilian III of Austria . The camp supporting Sigismund was rallied around Zamoyski , whereas Maximilian was supported by the Zborowski family . Zamoyski defended Kraków and defeated Maximilian 's forces in the Battle of Byczyna in 1588 . In that battle , which S?awomir Le?niewski describes as " one of the most important in Polish history , and the most important in Zamoyski 's military career " , Maximilian was taken prisoner and in the resulting Treaty of Bytom and B?dzin of 1589 had to give up all pretenses to the Polish crown . Later that year Zamoyski proposed a reform of the royal elections , which failed to pass the Sejm .

From 1589 Zamoyski , in his role as the hetman , tried to prevent the intensifying Tatar incursions along the Commonwealth south @-@ eastern border , but with little success . In order to deal with the recurring disturbances in that region Zamoyski developed a plan to turn Moldavia into a buffer zone between the Commonwealth and the Ottoman Empire ; this would lead to a lengthy campaign .

= = = In opposition to the throne = = =

Meanwhile , in internal Commonwealth politics , early on in Sigismund III 's reign , Zamoyski , who was once a staunch supporter of the Commonwealth kings , begun to distance himself from the King . Sigismund had quickly allied himself with the Habsburgs , much to chancellors dissatisfaction . Zamoyski was dissatisfied with Sigismund 's early plans to use Poland as a stepping stone to gaining the Swedish crown , as Sigismund was plotting to cede the Polish crown to the Habsburgs in exchange for their support of his right to the Swedish throne . The new King feared the chancellor 's power , but due to Commonwealth laws he was unable to dismiss him from his posts . He offered him a prestigious voivode of Kraków office , but Zamoyski declined , as if he was to accept , the law would require him to resign from his slightly less prestigious but more influential chancellorship . By 1590 ? 1591 Zamoyski was seen as one of the king 's staunchest opponents . Open quarrel between king and chancellor broke out during the Sejm of 1591 , culminating in a heated exchange of words and the king storming out of the chamber . Despite their tensed relations , neither the king nor the chancellor wanted a civil war ; soon after their quarrel Zamoyski would issue a public apology to the king and their uneasy relationship would continue until Zamoyski 's death .

In 1594 Zamoyski once again failed to stop a Tatar incursion in the southern borders . The next year was much more successful , as in Moldavia in 1595 he was victorious in the Battle of Cecora , and helped hospodar Ieremia Movil? (Jeremi Mohy?a) gain the throne . In 1600 he fought against Michael the Brave (Micha? Waleczny , Mihai Viteazul) , hospodar of Wallachia and the new Prince of Transylvania , who had conquered Moldavia a few months earlier . He defeated him under Bukova (Bucovu) and restored Ieremia to the throne . He also helped his brother , Simion Movil? to become brief ruler of Wallachia , thus spreading the influence of the Commonwealth to the Central Danube .

In 1600 and 1601 Zamoyski took part in the war against Sweden commanding the Commonwealth forces in Livonia (Inflanty) . At the same time he was a vocal opponent of that war on the political scene . In 1600 he recaptured several strongholds from the Swedes and a year later captured Wolmar on 19 December 1601 Fellin on 16 May 1602 , and Bialy Kamien on 30 September 1602 . The rigours of the campaign , however , placed a strain on his health , and he resigned the command .

At the Sejm of 1603 Zamoyski led opposition to the governance reforms proposed by Sigismund ; seeing in them intentions of transforming the Commonwealth into an absolute monarchy . Later , he also opposed Sigismund 's plans to intervene in the civil war plaguing Muscovy (the Time of Troubles and the Dymitriads) . He clashed with Sigismund for the final time during the Sejm of January 1605 .

Zamoyski died suddenly on 3 June 1605 , due to a stroke . His fortune was inherited by his single son , Tomasz Zamoyski .

= = Assessment and legacy = =

= = = Remembrance = = =

Fame of Zamoyski , significance in life , endured after his death . He was praised by artists such as Szymon Starowolski and Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz , and historians , including Stanis?aw Staszic , Stanis?aw Tarnowski and Artur ?liwi?ski . There were also those critical of him : Hugo Ko???taj , Józef Szujski , Micha? Bobrzy?ski . Nonetheless , Polish historiography and culture treatment of Zamoyski is mostly positive , and historian Janusz Tazbir remarked that Zamoyski posthumous career was even more magnificent than his real one . Le?niewski , ending his recent biography of Zamoyski , concludes that he is a significant , if controversial , figure of Polish Renaissance .

Zamoyski was the subject of several paintings and drawings . Most notably , he is one of the characters in two large paintings by Jan Matejko , featured on the Skarga 's Sermon and Batory at Pskov .

= = = Political and military leader = = =

Having control of both the Chancellorship and the Grand Hetman office , Zamoyski was one of the most powerful people in the country , having obtained both the power of Grand Hetman (commander in chief of the armed forces) and that of chancellor , combined for the first time in the hands of one person . He was responsible for much of the Polish internal and foreign policies . He is considered to be one of the most prominent statesmen in Polish history .

Even though his military career begun almost as an afterthought , or by accident , Zamoyski is also remembered as one of the most accomplished Polish military commanders . In his tactics , he favored sieges , flanking maneuvers , conserving his forces , and the new Western art of fortification and artillery . The war with Muscovy shown him to be a skilled commander in sieges , and latter events would prove him to be an equally able leader in the open field .

= = = Wealth and cultural patronage = = =

Zamoyski gathered a significant fortune ; his estates generated a revenue of over 200 @, @ 000 zloties in the early 17th century . His personal lands covered 6 @, @ 445 square kilometres (2 @, @ 488 sq mi) , and included eleven towns and over 200 villages . He was a royal caretaker of another dozen or so cities and over 600 villages . Totaled , his personal and leased lands covered over 17 @, @ 000 square kilometres (6 @, @ 600 sq mi) , with 23 towns and cities and 816 villages . In 1589 he succeeded in establishing the Zamoyski Family Fee Tail (ordynacja zamojska) , a de facto duchy . Zamoyski supported economical development of his lands , investing in colonization of frontiers , and the development of industry , both small (sawmills , breweries , mills and such) and large (his lands had four iron mills and four glass factories) .

His most prized creation was the capital of his Fee Tail , the city of Zamo?? , founded in 1580 , built and designed as a Renaissance citta ideale or " ideal city " by the Italian architect Bernardo Morando . In the city , in 1595 he founded the Akademia Zamojska , the third university in the history of education in Poland . In addition to Zamo?? , he also funded four other towns : Szarogród , Skinderpol , Busza and Jasnogród .

Zamoyski collected a significant library , and was a patron of numerous artists in his Fee Tail . Artists under his patronage included the poets Jan Kochanowski and Szymon Szymonowic , and the writer and historian Joachim Bielski .

= = = Personality = = =

Zamoyski was not a deeply religious person , and his conversion from Protestantism to Catholicism was primarily pragmatic . Le?niewski notes that Zamoyski was often motivated by greed , for example during the Danzig Rebellion , when he supported lenient treatment of the rebels , and during the 1577 ? 1578 negotiations with , when he favored the solution of George Frederick , Margrave of Brandenburg @-@ Ansbach ; in both cases his decision was likely influenced by bribes or favors . In another example , Le?niewski describes how Zamoyski openly demanded rewards following his victory at Byczyna , and tried to include an article favoring him in the Bytom and B?dzin treaty . He further notes , critically , that with raising power and political success Zamoyski begun displaying negative qualities , such as egoism and arrogance . Zamoyski was ruthless to those weaker than him . At the same time , he was respected by his opponents , widely recognized as highly intelligent , a cunning strategist and tactician in matters political and military , and a popular political leader . He valued the good of the country at least as high as his own , and although he could have become the king after a victorious civil war against Sigismund , he preferred to act within the limits of law instead , avoiding a war that could devastate the country , and thus curbing his own ambitions .