

Glass-Making on the Podolian Estates of the Sieniawski, Czartoryski and Tarło Families (Michunki Lasowe, Stare Sioło, Berezówka, Latyczów) in the Years 1721–1782

Summary

In addition to agriculture, forestry, and production of construction materials, glass-making occupied a fairly important place on the map of the economic output of the Ukrainian estates owned by the aristocratic families of Sieniawski, Czartoryski, and Tarło as early as in the 1720s. In 1717, the Sieniawski family became involved in the manufacturing of crystal and decorated glass tableware at Huta Kryształowa near Lubaczów, supplying more than fifty seats of nobility (castles, palaces, and manorial estates) throughout the Commonwealth of Poland and Lithuania. The Sieniawski family and, from 1731, the Czartoryski family, who had come into possession of the estates of the former, furnished their Polish and Lithuanian residences with window glass, glass tableware, and decorative glassware either manufactured by Polish glassworks or imported from abroad. The estates in Ruthenia and Podolia required enormous quantities of window glass and glass tableware. However, shipments of glassware had been always at the risk of being damaged or destroyed during their transportation from the Kingdom of Poland proper to Present-day Ukraine and as far as Podolia. Consequently, the Sieniawski and Czartoryski families would come to realize the necessity of having their own glassworks. They expected that the manufacturing of glass with the use of local raw materials and labour (both villein and hired service), as well as local or invited specialists, would meet their own demand and, as the glassworks continued to develop their production capacity, enable them to make a profit. In order to accomplish that goal, storehouses were established at individual estates owned by the families. It was not a random undertaking but a well-thought-out policy of storing the manufactured glassware and distributing it to residences of the nobility, business and trade administration buildings, inns, hospitals, and churches.

It can be said that the same motivation guided Jan Tarło, who, upon his appointment as *starost* of Latyczów in 1728, began manufacturing glass at the glassworks of this district for his estates, e.g. at Medyka, and for sale. Following the appointment of August A. Czartoryski as *starost* of the same district in 1751, the assortment and production volumes of those glassworks were significantly increased, even to include the manufacture of timber ash and potash, which were first carted and then shipped via the river ports at Sieniawa and Jarosław (on the San) and down the Vistula to Gdańsk (Danzig). This enterprise yielded lucrative profits to the Czartoryski family. [MF]