

“*EPISCOPUS NITRIENSIS SOLVIT PRO COMPLEMENTO SUI COMMUNIS SERVICII.*”

OBLIGATION OF COMMUNE SERVITIUM OF THE BISHOPS OF NITRA TOWARDS THE ROMAN CURIA IN THE LATE MIDDLE AGES*

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In the medieval economic agenda of the Roman Curia, the payment of servitium commune constituted the obligation of the holders of offices of higher prelatures, i.e. archbishoprics, bishoprics, provostries and also abbeys with an annual income of at least one hundred chamber gold florins, to pay to the Apostolic Chamber a sum equal to one-third of the annual income of such office and the function and usage of the respective benefice. The possession of these ecclesiastical offices and benefices was already subject not only to papal confirmation, but also to compulsory presentation to the cardinalate (*consistory*). The records give several details about the individual holders of the higher prelatures, but also about the state of the prelate itself and other circumstances, not infrequently of a non-ecclesiastical nature, and thus also add significantly to the overall social context of historical events. The present study, based on research in the Vatican Apostolic Archives, analyses how the fulfilment of such a duty affected the bishops of Nitra in the 15th and early 16th centuries and thus complements the medieval history of the bishopric of Nitra.

Keywords: Middle Ages. Kingdom of Hungary. Bishopric of Nitra. Apostolic Chamber. Roman Curia, servitium commune.

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The theologically conditioned and power-accepted authority of the Roman Curia undoubtedly gave it a significant position and influence in the medieval ecclesiastical, political and social structures of the time. The Holy See employed a number of mechanisms to maintain and further develop it; in the lay environment it was tied to a widely developed diplomatic apparatus, but in the ecclesiastical-legal environment it was supplemented by its own instruments. Their most significant components were the obligation of the visitation of ecclesiastical prelates ad limina, in which they renewed their commitment of

personal obedience to the bishop of Rome,¹ but also direct control over the possession of the more important ecclesiastical offices and their benefices. Such control was exercised through the obligation of the holders of such offices to submit to a confirmation process by the Curia and to pay the associated financial obligations. This required a rather elaborate and broadly structured agenda, which was handled by the Apostolic Chamber.² In addition to the economic records, however, it also reflected important facts about the ecclesiastical and administrative organisation, as well as the socio-political events of the time.³

The fees and revenues of the Roman Curia, referred to as the *servitium commune*, together with the so-called *annatas*, were among the most important revenues of the Roman Curia. The *annatas* affected the so-called inferior prelates and the possession of inferior benefices (provostries, archdeaconries, capitular titles and offices, canonries, major parishes, monastic prelatures), whose annual income amounted to at least twenty-five gold florins, and the confirmation of their possession was thus already part of the so-called collation of the Roman pontiff. Confirmation of the possession of these offices and benefices was not subject to presentation to the College of Cardinals (*consistory*). The fee in question was a lump-sum fee, amounting to one half of the annual income from such a benefice (*annata seu medii fructus primi anni*),⁴ obligations and payments of the higher

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- 1 * The study was published within the project VEGA 1/0713/21 *Registra censuum medievalia Slovaciae. Medieval property registers with relation to the territory of Slovakia in the Middle Ages*. Methodologically and materially it follows the author's scientific work, which followed the subject matter for the period until the end of the 14th century, cf. RÁBIK, Vladimír. "Electus in episcopum Nitriensem promisit pro suo communi servitio". Payments of the so-called *servitium commune* of Nitrian bishops to the Apostolic Chamber in the 14th century. In: RÁBIK, Vladimír, ed. *Studia Historica Tyrnaviensia XVII. Sources for the history of church administration*. Trnava: Faculty of Arts, University of Trnava, 2015, pp. 36–54.
 - 2 The study is based on research into the special series of chamber books in the Archives of the Vatican Apostolic Chamber and other related chamber registers of the Città del Vaticano, Archivio Apostolico (formerly Segreto) Vaticano (hereafter AAV), Camera Apostolica (hereafter Cam. ap.), *Obligaciones et solutiones* (hereafter *Obligat. et sol.*), Vol. 1, 1A-91 (years 1297–1555), *Obligaciones communes* (hereafter *Obligat. com.*), Vol. 1–15 (years 1408–1531), *Obligaciones particulares* (hereafter *Obligat part.*), Vol. 1–9 (years 1419–1482), *Servitia minuta*, Vol. 1–3 (years 1419–1455), *Taxe*, Vol. 1–14, 34, 36, 37 (years 1426–1507), *Annata*, Vol. 38 (year 1492). Sources on this subject can also be found in Archivio di Stato di Roma, *Camerale I.*, *Quitanze per comuni e minuti servizi* (hereafter *ASRo Camerale I.*), Vol. 112 (year 1407).
 - 3 RÁBIK, Vladimír. *Povaha a interpretácia slovacík v stredovekých písomnostiach Vatikánskeho tajného (dnes apoštolského) archívu*. In: *Slavica Slovaca*, 2021, Vol. 56, no. 1, pp. 79–92.
 - 4 These payments were elaborated in detail and edited by KÖRMENDI, József, ed. *Annatae e regno Hungariae provenientes in Archivio secreto Vaticano 1421–1536. Magyar Országos Levéltár kiadványai., II., Forráskiadványok 21*. Budapest: Akadémiai kiadó, 1990. Körmendi published sources only from the *Annata fund*. However, a number of Hungarian *Annatas* can

Hungarian prelates have only recently come to the attention of historians.⁵ As for the payments of the so-called servitium commune, these already concerned the higher prelatures, i.e. archbishoprics, bishoprics, provostries and also abbeys with an annual pension income of at least one hundred gold florins. The possession of these ecclesiastical offices and benefices was already subject not only to papal confirmation, but also to compulsory presentation to the cardinalate (consistory). Therefore, in contemporary documents they were also referred to as *beneficia consistoralia*.⁶ The amount paid was one-third of the annual income or pension derived from the holding of such office and the use of the benefice in question. Thus, at a minimum, it was the sum of thirty-three and one-third papal florins from each such holder of a higher prelature.⁷ The designation of such offices and benefices as consistorial, however, entailed for their holders not only a special presentation to the cardinalate (this was done either in person or through legally authorized representatives, the procurators), but also a special payment, which, out of the total amount paid, was set aside for all the cardinals present in the Curia at the time of the presentation. A rather detailed record was kept of their payment, which gave rise to a special type of record in the relevant chamber registers – the so-called *distributio pecuniarum*. Another type are the records of the disbursements for those cardinals who performed diplomatic service on behalf of the Roman Curia, since these members of the cardinalate were also given their due portion. Their absence was due to official service, not to neglect of duty.

In addition to the above payment, however, the higher prelates also paid the so-called *servitia minora*, which were fees intended for the officials of the Apostolic Chamber and the College of Cardinals. Sometimes also referred to

also be found inscribed in the registers listed in note 2.

- 5 BARBARIĆ, Josip, KOLANOVIĆ, Josip, LUKINOVIĆ, Andrija and Jasna MARKOVIĆ, eds. *Monumenta Vaticana Croatica. Camera apostolica 1. Obligationes et solutiones. Camerale 1 (1299–1560)*. (hereinafter Mon. Vat. Croat. – Camera apostolica 1). Zagreb; Rome: Kršćanska sadašnjost, 1996, 705 p. The heritage of József Lukcsics from the 1930s has also recently been published, which presents the sources in a regesta form, but it corresponds to contemporary conditions and is incomplete. Cf. + LUKCSICS, József, TUSOR, Péter and Tamás FEDELES, eds. *Collectanea Vaticana Hungariae. Vol. 9. Cameralia documenta pontificia de Regnis Sacrae Coronae Hungariae (1297–1536) I. Obligationes, solutiones* (hereafter CVH 9/I). Budapest; Róma: Gondolat Kiadó – Typographia Pannonica, 2014. 384 p.
- 6 KIRSCH, Johann Peter. *Die Finanzverwaltung des Kardinalkollegiums im XIII und XIV Jahrhundert*. Münster i. W., 1895, pp. 5, 86–87 (example of the papal decree on the payment of servitium commune of 1318). The latest cf. also KOWALSKI, Marek Daniel. *Proventus camerae apostolicae debiti. Oplaty duchowieństwa polskiego na rzecz papieżstwa w latach 1417–1484*. Kraków: Towarzystwo Wydawnicze “Historia Iagellonica”, 2010, pp. 48–49.
- 7 KIRSCH, Johann Peter. *Die Finanzverwaltung des Kardinalkollegiums*, pp. 9.

as *quinque servitia*, (or in the younger period as *servitia minuta*), this payment reflected the proportional division of this payment for several recipients – one small servitia for the superior of the Apostolic Chamber and its clerics (*clerici Camere Apostolice*),⁸ three small servitias for the other papal officials, and one servitia for the members of the College of Cardinals.⁹ In view of the above, the individual share payments (*minuta*) were also recorded separately in the respective chamber registers.

While the amount of the servitium commune fee was stable and depended on the value of the relevant benefice, the amount of the lesser servitia was variable. It depended primarily on the actual number of cardinals present in the consistory and in the papal services (*legations*). It was calculated according to a certain formula. The amount paid as *servitium commune* was divided by the number of cardinals present, and the resulting sum was further divided in half. In this way the officials of the chamber arrived at the sum which was to make up one small servitia. By multiplying it by five, the total sum of the five smaller servitia was then calculated. As a model example, the servitium commune amounted to two hundred gold florins, then this amount was divided by the number of cardinals. If, for example, there were twenty cardinals, then the result was ten, which was then divided by two, and the sum thus obtained was multiplied by five. The result of the calculated amount of such a charge in this particular case was a total of twenty-five gold florins. The prelate in question paid these separately in addition to the above model sum of two hundred gold florins as his *quinque servitia consueta (or servitia minuta)*.¹⁰ It was not a small fee, but a rather large sum, which many prelates had trouble paying together with the general servitia. Moreover, the fluctuating number of cardinals relativized this sum even more. Only Pope Paul II, because of the growing protests of the higher clergy, fixed the amount of the minor servitia by his bull of 23 November 1470 so that they were to make up a fourteenth part of half of the general servitia. Thus, as it were, there was a stable situation in the Curia in the number of cardinals, which would be only fourteen. This stabilised the amount of the minor servitia at about eighteen per cent of the total general servitia¹¹ Even so, this was still a relatively heavy financial burden on the prelates entering office.

8 The records of payments received by this part are preserved from the 15th century, namely from 1419–1455 in a series of chamber registers marked as *Servitia minuta*. Cf. AAV, Cam. Ap., *Servitia minuta*, Vol. 1–3.

9 KIRSCH, Johann Peter. *Die päpstlichen Annaten in Deutschland während des XIV. Jahrhunderts*. Paderborn: Druck und Verlag von Ferdinand Schöningh, 1903, pp. 306.

10 KOWALSKI, M. D. *Proventus camerae apostolicae*, pp. 51–52.

11 ASV, Cam. Ap., *Taxae*, Vol. 12, fol. 125r: “*Una bulla ad rei memoriam cum qua ordinatur et statuitur, quod minuta servitia ecclesiarum et monasteriorum decetero perpetuis futuris temporibus pro quatuordecim cardinalium numero computentur*”. Also: KOWALSKI, M. D.

The actual payment was recorded (and paid) in the so-called gold florins (*floreni auri de Florence*), which were also known as chamber gold florins (*floreni auri de camera*) from the mid-14th century onwards. They were minted in almost pure gold with a purity of 23 and 11/12 carat with a weight of 3.573 grams.¹² It was also roughly equivalent to Hungarian gulden at this time, which had a slightly lower purity of 23 and 9/12 carats and a weight of 3.558 grams.¹³ It should be noted that the change of the local currencies of the respective prelates into the official papal currency was arranged by some selected (licensed) banking houses, which then also used to make the corresponding payment directly to the respective chamber official. Everything was, of course, done with the corresponding profit and a receipt of the payment.

The first time such fees appear during the pontificate of Alexander IV (1254–1261). During the pontificate of Nicholas III (1277–1280), they became established as a necessary part of the prelate's confirmation in office.¹⁴ In the agenda of Pope John XXII (1316–1334) they were already mentioned as "*consuetudo antiqua*" and treated as such, as an established and, although formally voluntary payment, in reality a compulsory obligation of all senior prelates and a condition of their confirmation in office.¹⁵

However, this payment also entails a personal visitation of the Roman Curia by the relevant denominated prelate in order to obtain the necessary confirmation. Such a visit (visitation) also involved the College of Cardinals. It had already been imposed as an obligation on newly elected prelates by the conclusions of the Fourth Council of the Lateran in 1215.¹⁶ In 1278 Pope Nicholas III extended such an obligation to prelates and abbots whose appointment had raised doubts and led to disputes, thus reserving (also for his successors) the final arbiter. This, of course, further strengthened papal authority and strengthened papal confirmation. Other, younger modifications of these duties also came from Popes Urban V (1362–1370), Gregory XI (1370–1378), Alexander V (1409–1410) and especially Martin V (1417–1431).¹⁷

Proventus camerae apostolicae, pp. 53.

12 KIRSCH, J. P. Die Finanzverwaltung des Kardinalkollegiums, s. 6; HITZBLECK, Kerstin. *Exekutoren. Die außerordentliche Kollatur von Benefizien im Pontifikat Johannes' XXII*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2009, pp. 37.

13 MARSINA, Richard et alii, eds. *Dejiny Slovenska I*. Bratislava: Veda, 1986, pp. 326 (author of the relevant part Richard Marsina).

14 KIRSCH, J. P. Die Finanzverwaltung des Kardinalkollegiums, pp. 7–9: Kirsch even contemplates specifically that the payment of general servitia was introduced between 1252 and 1277.

15 Mon. Vat. Croat. – Camera apostolica 1, pp. 14.

16 KIRSCH, J. P. Die Finanzverwaltung des Kardinalkollegiums, pp. 22–23.

17 Mon. Vat. Croat. – Camera apostolica 1, pp. 18.

The whole process of initiating the actual obligation for the payment of the relevant fees was also regulated by internal papal decrees, for practical reasons recorded in some of the books under review. All of them have a fairly consistently kept uniform structure and differ only in stylistic expressions or in the amount of the ecclesiastical penalty threatened to the prelate concerned if he failed to comply with the given provisions of the decree. In terms of content, these papal decrees can be divided into several sections in which the prelate in question made commitment. They were, in particular:

- Taking the oath of payment.
- Obligation to pay that amount to the proper officer (named) or his or her deputy or successor in office. This eliminated the possibility of “excuses” that payment had already been made but to someone else in the chamber office, which was a fairly common excuse.
- If he did not pay the amount in question within a specified time (usually within one year of his appointment to office), he was obliged to appear in person at the Roman Curia within four months and pay the sum due.
- The obligation of guaranteeing the debt was made by all the movable and immovable property of the diocese or of other ecclesiastical institutions within its territory.
- If payment was not made, the obligation to her was to extend to all successors in office until payment was made in full.
- If the prelate asked for an extension of time (prorogation), he was obliged to accept all the conditions for its implementation.
- If he did not keep his commitment, he was excommunicated and suspended from his office.
- Finally, he publicly declared his obligation to fulfill the stated commitments by taking an oath over the Holy Scripture.¹⁸

This was the regime, which was subsequently joined by all relevant prelates from the Hungarian (and therefore also Slovak) environment. Naturally, in practice, the most common practice was that if the prelate in question did not keep his obligation, or if he completely refused to fulfil it (because such cases also happened), the Holy See did not confirm him in the rank, office and possession of the prebend. He remained only in the position of an elected, not affirmed – a confirmed dignitary (called *electus*). Such was also the case of Archbishop Gregory of Esztergom, who, according to the record of our source of 8 April 1299, left the Roman Curia, where he obtained confirmation of his election

18 A list of the duties of the committing prelates is preserved in an undated record from the pontificate of (anti)Pope Clement VII (1378–1394); cf. AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 43, fol. 186r-v. They are published in full by RÁBIK, V. *Electus in episcopum Nitriensem*, pp. 38–39.

as archbishop, but did so without paying the appropriate fees or fulfilling the obligation.¹⁹ This is also why this archbishop never received papal confirmation for his office and is known from historical sources of foreign and domestic provenance only as the elected Archbishop of Esztergom.²⁰

Confirmation tax commune servitium of the bishops of Nitra was already in the 14th century set at 275 chamber florins.²¹ This is also recorded in the official chamber records, which have been preserved since the end of the 14th century for all the Roman Curia's obedient prelatures.²² For further historical development of the property status of the Nitra bishopric, it is also important to note that the same records also include the tax of the Benedictine Zobor Abbey of St. Hypolytus, which was located on the territory of the Nitra diocese. Its amount, with an estimate of the annual pension, was set by the Apostolic Chamber at 250 chamber florins,²³ i.e. only slightly less than that of the Diocese of Nitra. This was one of the greatest reasons why the bishops of Nitra from a certain time sought to affiliate this income to the episcopal treasury, which they finally succeeded in doing by the end of the Middle Ages, as shown by the registers of the Apostolic Chamber. For comparison, the dioceses of Ráb and Eger had the tax set at 800 chamber florins. The Archbishopric of Esztergom had the highest, where even the original sum of 2000 chamber florins was increased at the beginning of the 15th century to 4000 chamber florins through the suggestion of the College of Cardinals.²⁴

On the obligation of the bishops of Nitra to pay the general servitia in the period of the 15th century, the sources of Roman curial provenance bring us the first information already with bishop Hynek, nicknamed Czech – Bohemus (the name is the Czech equivalent of the German personal name Heinrich). Hynek

19 ASV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 1, fol. 10r.

20 ENGEL, Pál. *Magyarország világi archontológiája 1301–1457. Tom. I.* Budapest: História-MTA Történettudományi Intézete 1996, pp. 63; BEKE, Márgit, ed. *Esztergomi érsekek 1001–2003.* Budapest: A Szent István Társulat, 2003, pp. 134–142.

21 RÁBIK, V. *Electus in episcopum Nitriensem*, pp. 40–43.

22 AAV, Cam Ap., Arm. XXXIII, Vol. 6, fol. 11r (ca. end of the 14th century), Vol. 5, fol. 12r (turn of the 14th and 15th century), Vol. 7, fol. 117v (ca. 1440–1450): “*Nitriensis in Hungaria et provincia Strigoniensi, floreni II^cLXXV*”.

23 AAV, Cam Ap., Arm. XXXIII, Vol. 6, fol. 25v (ca. end of the 14th century), Vol. 5, fol. 26v (turn of the 14th and 15th century), Vol. 7, fol. 117v (ca. 1440–1450): “*Ipolit de Coborio/ Zoborio ordinis sancti Benedicti, diocesis Nitriensis, floreni II^cLta*”.

24 AAV, Cam Ap., Arm. XXXIII, Vol. 6, fol. 3r, 8v, 14r (ca. end of the 14th century), Vol. 5, fol. 3r, 9r, 15r (turn of the 14th and 15th century), Vol. 7, fol. 94r, 98v, 140v (ca. 1440–1450). Archbishop Jan de Surdis of Esztergom in 1376 made a obligation of 2000 chamber gold florins, Archbishop George of Pavlovice nad Uhom in 1423 already of 4000 chamber gold coins. ASV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 43, fol. 36v (year 1376), Vol. 60, fol. 91v (year 1423). On the persons of the archbishops cf. BEKE, M., ed. *Esztergomi érsekek*, pp. 185, 201.

was originally the abbot of the Benedictine Zobor Abbey of St. Hypolytus and held the office of Bishop of Nitra from 1404 to 1427.²⁵ However, it took Hynek some time to fulfil his obligations to the Roman Curia, which was also related to the longer process of approval of his person by the Holy See. It was not until 28 September 1407 that Pope Gregory XII allowed Hynek to be canonically consecrated bishop.²⁶ Subsequently, on 5 October of the same year, Hynek undertook to pay to the Apostolic See his general servitia in the enumerative amount of two hundred and eighty-five florins of the see and the five usual smaller servitia. At the same time, he acknowledged the debt of his predecessor, Bishop Peter (1399–1405),²⁷ which then amounted to one hundred and thirty florins and twenty-five solidi, and the five minor servitia were also unsettled.²⁸ Bishop Hynek fulfilled this financial obligation in a gradual instalment scheme and already on 25 October 1407 he paid the general servitia and four smaller servitias in the amount of twelve florins.²⁹ The next instalments paid then date from the beginning of the following year, 1408. On 14 January, Bishop Hynek paid ninety florins to the chamber, but the payment did not cover the amount intended for the minor servitias.³⁰ Finally, the last entry informs us that on 28 January 1408 the bishop paid nineteen florins, fifteen solidi and eleven denarii

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- 25 VURUM, Josephus. *Episcopatus Nitriensis eiusque praesulum memoria cum ichonographicis tabellis exhibentibus priorem ac modernam faciem castris et civitatis Nitriensis*. Posonii: Typis heredum Belnay, 1835, p. 280–282; EUBEL, Conradus. *Hierarchia catholica medii aevii sive summorum pontificum, S. R. E. Cardinalium, ecclesiarum antistitum series ab anno 1198 usque ad annum 1431 perducta. Vol I.* (hereafter HC I.). Monasterii: Sumptibus et typis Librariae Regensbergianae, 1913, pp. 368; ENGEL, P. Magyarország világi archontológiája, s. 72. Vo svojej vlastnej listine z 27. septembra 1413, písanej po česky, sa Hynek označuje ako “Hynek zbožie mylosti Biskup Nitterski”, Magyar Nemzeti Levéltár Budapest – Országos Levéltár (hereafter MNL-OL), Diplomatikai Fényképgyűjteményďalej (hereafter DF) 290 653. Regest of the charter was published by: MÁLYUSZ, Elemér, ed. *Zsigmondkori oklevéltár IV. (1413–1414)*. Budapest: Magyar Országos Levéltár, 1994, pp. 266, no. 1132.
- 26 AAV, Registra Lateranensia, Vol. 128, fol. 34r–34v.
- 27 VURUM, J. *Episcopatus Nitriensis*, p. 278–280. HC I, pp. 368; ENGEL, P. Magyarország világi archontológiája, p. 72.
- 28 ASRo Camerale I., Vol. 112, fol. 35v: “*MIIII^cVII, indiccione XV, die V mensis Octobris, Hymkonius electus in episcopum Nitriensem promisit florenos auri de camera CCLXXV et quinque servicia consueta. Item recognovit camere et collegio pro Petro predecessoris sui florenos CXXX et solidos XXV et V servicia consueta*”. CVH 9/I, pp. 79, no. 130.
- 29 ASRo Camerale I., Vol. 112, fol. 35v: “*MIIII^cVII, indiccione XV, die XXV mensis Octobris, idem dominus [Hymkonius electus in episcopum Nitriensem] solvit pro parte partis suorum quatuor minorum serviciorum XII florenos auri de camera*”. CVH 9/I, pp. 294, no. 575.
- 30 ASRo Camerale I, vol. 112, fol. 26v: “*MIIII^cVIII, indiccione XIII, die XIII mensis Ianuarii, idem [Hymbronijs electus in episcopum Nitriensem] solvit pro parte partis sui communis servicii LXXX florenos auri de camera, non facta divisione de minutis serviciis*”. CVH 9/I, pp. 294, no. 575.

in repayment of his general servitias and for four minor servitias a further nine florins, four solidi and five denarii in papal currency.³¹ No further records of Hynek's other payments have survived, but it is highly probable that they did not take place. This is indicated by the case of the next bishop of Nitra, George of Brezovica (1429–1437),³² who, before he had even undertaken to pay the total amount of his prescribed tax, made two separate payments to the Apostolic Chamber in relatively large sums and then, even on the day of payment of his own obligation, paid a large instalment for the entire prescribed tax of the bishopric of Nitra.

Specifically, we learn that the official representative (procurator) of Bishop George, the Spiš Canon Francis, son of Ladislaus, paid on 6 June 1429 to the Apostolic Chamber an instalment for the bishop's general servitia in the amount of one hundred and thirty-seven chamber florins and twenty-five solidi, and also paid two other smaller sums in the amount of, one of eleven florins, twenty-two solidi and eleven denarii, and the other of thirty-four florins, eighteen solidi and nine denarii. These sums were the installments for a minor servitia for the superior of the Apostolic Chamber, and three other servitias for the clerics of the chamber.³³ The same procurator then, on the very next day, 7 June, brought another instalment on behalf of the bishop to the Apostolic Chamber. This time it was the sum of one hundred and forty-seven florins, forty-seven solidi and eleven denarii.³⁴ Then on the next day, 8 June, the bishop's procurator, Canon Francis, assisted by Canon Michael of Veszprém, took the solemn oath in canonical manner of the bishop's obligation for the whole of the prescribed

31 ASRo Camerale I, vol. 112, fol. 32r: "*MIIII^cVIII, indiccione XIII, die XXVII mensis Ianuarii, idem [Hymbronijs electus in episcopum Nitriensem] solvit pro parte partis sui communis servicii florenos auri de camera XVIII, solidos XV, denarios XI et pro parte partis suorum quatuor minorum serviciorum florenos similes VIII, solidos III, denarios V*". CVH 9/I, pp. 295, no. 577.

32 VURUM, J. *Episcopatus Nitriensis*, pp. 283–284. HC I, pp. 368. ENGEL, P. *Magyarország világi archontológiája*, s. 72.

33 ASRo Camerale I, vol. 1116, fol. 69r: "*Georgius episcopus electus Nitriensis pro totali solutione sui communis servicii ... florenos CXXXVII et solidos XXV monete Romane ... nec non pro integra solutione unius minuti servicii prefato camerario et clericis dicte camere debiti XI florenos, XXII solidos et denarios XI dicte monete Romane ac pro totali solutione suorum trium minorum serviciorum XXXIII florenos, solidos XVIII et denarios VIII prefate monete Romane ... per manus Francisci Ladislai canonici Montis sancti Martini ... solvit*". CVH 9/I, pp. 332, no. 645.

34 AAV, Cam. Ap., *Obligat. et sol.*, Vol. 63, fol. 140v: "*reverendus in Christo pater dominus Georgius episcopus Nitriensis pro totali solutione ... florenos auri de camera centum quadraginta octo (!), solidos quadraginta septem, denarios undecim nobis etc. per manus venerabilis et discreti viri Francisci Ladislai (!) canonici ecclesie collegiate sancti Martini de Scepus ... solvit*". CVH 9/I, pp. 332, no. 646.

general servitia, amounting to two hundred and seventy-five chamber florins, also with the obligatory formula of the obligation to pay half of the sum within six months, and the other half thereafter within another six months.³⁵ Bishop George, however, did not intend to apply this procedure. After taking the oath, on the same day the bishop's procurator paid the missing sum of one hundred and forty-eight florins, forty-seven solidi and eleven denarii, so that all Bishop George's financial obligations would be fulfilled. On the occasion of the payment of the last instalment, we learn that George of Brezovica was appointed bishop by the Roman Curia on 1 June 1429.³⁶ The bishop thus fulfilled his financial obligation to the curia within a week of his appointment, which was quite exceptional even on a Europe-wide scale. If we add up all of George's payments for servitias, we find that they amounted to four hundred and thirty-two chamber florins, one hundred and nineteen solidi (which was four and a quarter florins³⁷), and twenty-two denarii. This was much more than his own prescribed duty represented. But if we subtract this from the above sum, we arrive at a sum of one hundred and sixty-two and a quarter florins and a few denarii, which he paid in excess of his pecuniary obligations. This corresponds roughly to the sum of which we have no proof that it was paid by George's predecessor in the office of Bishop of Nitra, Hynek. It means, therefore, that George of Pavlovce, as part of his obligation on taking the office, to assume the unpaid obligations of all his predecessors, must also have undertaken to make up Bishop Hynek's unpaid dues, although no explicit document to this effect has been preserved for us. It was only from this time onwards that George of Pavlovce was allowed to be confirmed in the episcopal office and to exercise his functions unhindered. On 20 July 1429, the regular, so-called general division of the revenues (i.e. half) of the obligatory fees for the members of the College of Cardinals (constituted by *communa servicia*,

35 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 64, fol. 75v: "*Franciscus canonicus ecclesie sancti Martini de Scepus et Michael Michaelis canonicus Vesprimiensis procuratores et procuratorio nomine domini Georgii episcopi Nitriensis tamquam principales et private persone vice et nomine dicti electi obtulerunt camere apostolice et collegio dominorum dominorum (!) cardinalium pro suo communi servicio debito ducentos septuagintaquinque (!) florenos auri de camera, ad quos dicta ecclesia reperitur taxata, et quinque minuta servicia consueta pro familiaribus et officialibus domini nstri pape et dicti collegii, eorundem autem communis et minorum servitorum medietatem infra sex menses proxime venturos et aliam medietatem infra alios sex menses ex post immediate sequentes solvere promiserunt, submiserunt, renunciaverunt, iuraverunt et se obligaverunt in forma*". CVH 9/I, pp. 106, no. 176

36 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 65, fol. 76v: "*Rome die VIIIa dicti mensis Iunii dominus Georgius episcopus Nitriensis solvit florenos CXLVIII solidos XLVII denarios XI. Fuit promotus Rome Kalendis Iunii pontificatus domini Martini pape V^{ti} anno XII^o*".

37 The currency conversion is from 1372: ASV, Cam. Ap., Collect., Vol. 465, fol. 143 "... *quilibet florenus de Ungaria pro XXVII solidis ,V denariis ... et florenus camere pro XXVIII solidis computatur*".

minuta) also took place in the Roman Curia. On that occasion, the dues paid by Bishop George of Nitra were also divided among the twenty-seven cardinals. The chamber then paid a total of three thousand and twenty florins, thirty-two solidi and eight denarii, collected from several bishops.³⁸

The whole process of the payment of the general episcopal servitia and other associated payments can be traced in even greater detail in the case of Bishop Dionysius of Seč (1438–1439),³⁹ despite the fact that he remained in the office of Bishop of Nitra for just over a year. Dionysius was a graduate of the University of Vienna (he is documented as a student here in 1426⁴⁰) and at the time of his appointment as Bishop of Nitra he already held the academic degree of Doctor of Canon Law (*decretorum doctor*). This was on 19 February 1438, when the bishop's see of Nitra became vacant with the death of Bishop George of Pavlovce.⁴¹ Dionysius of Seč was solemnly enthroned as Bishop of Nitra on 22 April in Ferrara in the presence of ten cardinals.⁴² Subsequently, on 14 May, the bishop, through his procurator, who was the magister of liberal arts and medicine, the nobleman Thaddeus de Dalmariis of Tarvisio (a locality in Veneto), undertook to pay the compulsory tax of his general servitia of the known amount of two hundred and eighty-five chamber florins and five smaller servitias for the chamber and chamber officials and officials of the College of Cardinals. Here, too, the undertaking was to pay the said sum within two terms, the first half within six months, and the second half of the sum at the expiration of the next succeeding months.⁴³ Three days afterwards, on 17 May, the bishop,

38 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 65, fol. 79r–79v: “Anno a nativitate Domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo nono et die XX mensis Iulii pontificatus ... domini Martini ... divina providencia pape Vti anno duodecimo fuit facta Rome generalis divisio pecuniarum communium et minorum servitorum solutarum per dominos prelatos infrascriptos ... Nitriensem .. episcopos ... de quibus capiunt domini cardinales et clerici collegii”.

39 WURUM, J. *Episcopatus Nitriensis*, pp. 284–285; EUBEL, Conradus. *Hierarchia catholica medii aevii sive summorum pontificum, S. R. E. Cardinalium, ecclesiarum antistitum series ab anno 1431 usque ad annum 1503 perducta. Vol II.* (hereafter HC II). *Monasterii: Sumptibus et typis Librariae Regensbergianae*, 1914, pp. 204; ENGEL, P. *Magyarország világi archontológiája*, pp. 72.

40 *Slovenský biografický slovník V*. Martin: Matica slovenská, 1992, pp. 189; TŰSKÉS, Anna, ed. *Magyarország diákok a bécsi egyetemen 1365–1526. Students from Hungary at the University of Vienna 1365–1526*. Budapest: Az Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem Levéltára, 2008, pp. 122–123.

41 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 66, fol. 64v: “provisum fuit ecclesie Nitriensi vacanti per obitum quondam domini Georgii ultimi ipsius episcopi extra Romanam curiam defuncti de persona domini Dionisii Nicolai de Zeech decretorum doctoris ad ipsam Nitriensem ecclesiam promoti”.

42 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 69, Fol. 42r. HC II, pp. 204, the date of the bishop's graduation is given as 22 April.

43 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 70, fol. 226v: “Die Mercurii, XIII mensis Maii egregius

through his procurator, paid two sums out of this obligation, first one hundred and twenty-six florins and thirty-seven solidi,⁴⁴ and on the same day another seventy-six florins and thirty-seven solidi.⁴⁵ The College of Cardinals remitted to him twenty-five florins. Probably to this date must be dated the other chamber records of the special fees paid by Bishop Dionysius on the occasion of his episcopal graduation and of the bond for the general servitia and for the issue of the relevant charters. In the Apostolic Chamber records they are kept without daily dating, with only the month of May marked. We learn from them that for the act of graduation (*ordination*) itself a special fee, called “*sacra*”, was paid to the papal curia and recorded in the Apostolic Chamber; in the case of Dionysius it was twenty-five florins, forty-three solidi, and nine denarii.⁴⁶ The bishop also had to pay the deacons who were present at the ceremony and completed the scenery of the entire graduation ceremony. In this case, Bishop Dionysius paid four florins, twenty-seven solidi and nine denarii.⁴⁷

Other sums paid were related to the payment of smaller servitias (*minuta*). These were paid separately by the bishop because their final recipients were different. One minor servitia of fifteen florins, thirteen solidi and ten denarii was received by the head of the Apostolic Chamber and its clerics.⁴⁸ Three other

artium et medicine magister Taddeas de Dalmariis de Tarvisio (!) ... vice et nomine reverendi in Christo patris domini Dionisii Nicholai (!) dei gracia electi Nitriensis obtulit camere apostolice et sacro reverendissimorum dominorum cardinalium collegio pro suo communi servitio debito ratione provisionis de dicta ecclesia sibi facte florenos auri de camera ducentos septuaginta quinque, ad quos dicta ecclesia taxata reperitur; et quinque minuta servitia consueta pro familiaribus et officialibus domini nostri pape”. The record is also preserved in the other form in ASV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 64, fol. 294r. CVH 9/I, pp. 112, no. 186.

- 44 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 68, fol. 35v: “*quod reverendus in Christo pater dominus Dionisius episcopus Nitriensis pro totali solucione suorum communis et minuti ... florenos auri de camera centum viginti sex, solidos triginta septem nobis etc. ... solvi fecit realiter et cum effectu, remissione tamen de similibus florenis vigintiquinque de consensu et voluntate unamini prefatorum dominorum cardinalium illorum presertim, quorum interest, eidem domino episcopo hac vice dumtaxat liberaliter facta*”.
- 45 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 69, fol. 42r: “*Ferarie dicta die dominus Dionisius episcopus Nitriensis solvit florenos LXXVI, solidos XXXVII*”.
- 46 AAV, Cam. Ap., Servitia minuta, Vol. 2, fol. 48v: “*Introitus sacre spectantis ad reverendissimum dominum camerarium et clericos camere receptus per me Nicolaum de Valle camere apostolice clericum de mense Maii 1438 ... a domino Dyonisio, electo Nitriensi, floreni XXV, solidi XLIII, denarii VIII*”.
- 47 AAV, Cam. Ap., Servitia minuta, Vol. 2, fol. 147v: “*Introitus subdiaconorum .. de mense Maii 1438 per manus mei Nicolai de Valle apostolice camere clerici ... A domino Dyonisio electo Nitriensi floreni III, solidi XXVII, denarii VIII*”.
- 48 AAV, Cam. Ap., Servitia minuta, Vol. 2, fol. 22v: “*Mensis Maii 1438 introitus unius servicii ad reverendissimum dominum camerarium et clericos camere spectantis dumtaxat receptus per me Nicolaum de Valle apostolice camere clericum de mense Maii M CCCC XXXVIII Fer-*

smaller servitias of forty-five florins, forty-one solidi and six denarii were again received by the papal clerics of the Curia.⁴⁹ As can be seen from the records, Bishop Dionysius used the services of the banking house of the Medici to pay these four servitias. These servitias were then, according to custom, paid on 30 June to the respective clerics, who numbered sixteen in total. This financial operation was also carried out by the Medici family.⁵⁰ The last one of the minor payments made by Bishop Dionysius was the sum of two chamber florins. It was a fee in the chamber called “from the seal” (*sigilli*), which represented a fee for the preparation of an accounting receipt of the sums paid – an acquittance.⁵¹

The sum paid by Bishop Dionysius for his principal financial obligation, consisting of a general servitia, part of which was deposited in the bishops’ chamber treasury by the procurator on 17 May, was, as already mentioned, also included in the ordinary and regular official distribution of the revenues of the Roman Curia on 20 May. Their recipients at that time were the twenty-three cardinals⁵². After all these financial transactions and settlements, finally on 30 June 1438, the Pope remitted to Dionysius the payment of the rest of his general servitia,⁵³ thus ending all Dionysius’ financial obligations to the Roman Curia, connected with his accession to the office of Bishop of Nitra.

However, tenure of Dionysius of Seč as bishop of Nitra was not long. Already on 5 June 1439, the Pope “for certain reasonable reasons” dismissed Bishop

rarie ... Pro uno minuto domini Dyonisii, electi Nitriensis, ... floreni XV, solidi XIII, denarii X”.

- 49 AAV, Cam. Ap., Servitia minuta, Vol. 2, fol. 194v: “*Introitus trium minorum receptus a Medicis de mense Maii 1438 per manus mei Nicolai de Valler apostolice camere clerici ... A domino Dyonysio electo Nitriensi pro tribus minutis floreni XLV, solidi XLI, denarii VI*”. ASV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 87A, Fol. 27v: “*Dadetti floreni quarantam quinque (!), solidi XLI, denari VI per li 3 minuti della Chiesa Nitriensis in persona dimessis domini Dionisii Alemani de Medicis compagno*”.
- 50 AAV, Cam. Ap., Servitia minuta, Vol. 2, fol. 194v: “*Divisa fuerunt in Farraria supradicta minuta servicia videlicet postas sedecim ... ut est moris, die ultima Iunii anni MIIII^cXXXVIII ut patet per librum Cosme et Laurencii de Medicis et sociorum in curia Roamana ad fidem premissorum*”.
- 51 AAV, Cam. Ap., Servitia minuta, Vol. 2, fol. 81v: “*Introitus sigilli ... de mense Maii 1438 ... Pro quitancia domini Dyonisii, electi Nitriensis, floreni II*”.
- 52 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 69, fol. 43r: “*Anno a nativitate Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo octavo, die vero vicesima mensis Maii, pontificatus sanctissimi domini nostri domini Eugenii pape IIII^o anno VI^o, Ferrarie, fuit facta generalis divisio pecuniarum communium et minorum servitiorum solutarum per prelatos infrascriptos, videlicet per ... Nitriensem ...episcopos ...*”.
- 53 ASRo Camerale, vol. 1118, fol. 151v: “*Eugenius papa IIII de sue liberalitatis munificencia ... domino Dionysio Nicolai episcopo electo Nitriensi ... de parte sui communis servicii cameram apostolicam tangentis ... die date presencium graciose remisit atque donavit*”. CVH 9/I, pp. 334–335, no. 651 (with an incorrect date 1434).

Wenceslaus from the office of Bishop of Eger, after appointing him to the post following the death of the previous Bishop Peter of Rozhanovce, and appointed Dionysius of Seč in his place.⁵⁴ The information about Bishop Wenceslaus of Eger is remarkable, because such a bishop is not known from other historical sources at all, and is not even recorded in the existing scholarly literature.⁵⁵ However, another record from the chamber books of the same date omits the information about Wenceslaus altogether and only states that the Pope appointed Dionysius of Seč to the episcopal see in Eger after the death of the previous bishop, Peter of Rozhanovce (1421–1425).⁵⁶ As early as 15 July 1439, Dionysius undertook in the Apostolic Chamber to pay his new general servitia, which he was to pay by virtue of his office as Bishop of Eger. It amounted to eight hundred chamber florins.⁵⁷

After Dionysius, Ladislaus of Štítník became bishop of Nitra, who, despite holding the office for almost a decade (1439–1448),⁵⁸ never achieved official confirmation of it by the Roman Curia, which was expressed by his designation “electus”. It is related, then, that we do not find any documentation about the person of Bishop Ladislaus in the curial archives of the Holy See. However, the decade that followed the death of King Albrecht I of Habsburg (1439) was also marked by an internal political crisis and a weakening of the institution of royal power, culminating in the de facto administrative disintegration of the kingdom into several oligarchic domains that competed with each other for power. One of the consequences of this situation was the disorderly relations in the ecclesiastical administration of the country. Nitra itself became a victim of the disordered internal political situation, and in 1445, together with the bishop’s seat in the castle, it was occupied by the army of John Jiskra of Brandýs.⁵⁹ The change came

54 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 66, fol. 70v: “*Die Veneris, V^{na} mensis Iunii anno nono, .. sanctissimus dominus noster etc. ex certis racionabilibus causis amovit dominum Venceslaum ab ecclesia Agriensi ad quam pridem vacantem per obitum domini Petri ultimi dicte ecclesie episcopi extra Romanam curiam defuncti idem dominus Venceslaus promotus fuerat et providit dicte ecclesie Agriensi de persona domini Dionisii episcopi Nitriensis ipsum transferendo et absolvendo a vinculo quo dicte Nitriensis ecclesie tenebatur*”.

55 HC I, pp. 78. HC II, pp. 82. ENGEL, P. Magyarország világi archontológiája, pp. 73; SUGAR, István. *Az egri püspökök története*. Budapest: Szent István Társulat – Az Apostoli szentszék könyvkiadója, 1984, pp. 148–154.

56 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 66, fol. 71r: “*Die veneris, V^{na} mensis Iunii anno nono ... sanctissimus dominus noster transtulit dominum Dyonisium de Zeech episcopum Nitriensem ad ecclesiam Agriensem per obitum domini Petri ultimi dicte ecclesie Agriensis extra Romanam curiam defuncti vacantem absolvendo dictum dominum Dionisium a vinculo quo dicte Nitriensi ecclesie tenebatur*”.

57 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 64, fol. 311r. CVH 9/I, pp. 115, no. 191.

58 ENGEL, P. Magyarország világi archontológiája, pp. 73.

59 TIHÁNYIOVÁ, Monika. *Páni zo Štítnika. Putovanie kultúrnyimi a hospodárskymi dejinami*

only in the person of Bishop Nicholas of Zelemer (1448–1457),⁶⁰ Prepost of the Chapter of the Holy Trinity in Buda. He was appointed Bishop of Nitra on 15 December 1448 at a closed meeting of the College of Cardinals, and it was stated on this occasion that this was due to the transfer of Bishop Dionysius of Seč to the episcopal see in Eger and the subsequent, so-called simple resignation of Bishop Ladislaus.⁶¹ In the Roman Curia, the so-called simple resignations (and therefore also resignations to exercise them) were those that did not go through its usual approval procedure and, in particular, papal confirmation.

On 21 April 1449, the new Bishop Nicholas, through his official representative, who was the canon and scholastic John of Hniezdne, guaranteed to pay to the Apostolic Chamber the entire amount of his general servitia of two hundred and eighty-five florins and five smaller servitias.⁶² What is particularly noteworthy about this report is that the bishop's procurator, Canon John, possessed the appropriate credentials in the prescribed form of a public instrument, which had been issued as early as 14 July 1448. This means, therefore, that the process of appointing Nicholas as Bishop of Nitra had already begun half a year before his official appointment in the Roman Curia (i.e. in July 1448). And this is remarkable, because when on 26 June 1448 Nicholas's predecessor Ladislaus

horného Gemera. Turany: o. z. Georgius Bubek, 2019, pp. 32–34.

- 60 VURUM, J. *Episcopatus Nitriensis*, pp. 285–286. HC II, pp. 204; ENGEL, P. *Magyarország világi archontológiája*, s. 73.
- 61 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 72, Fol. 60r, Obligat. et sol., Vol. 75, fol. 58r: "*Eisdem die et loco (i.e. die Mercurii XVIII kalendas Ianuarii) sanctissimus dominus noster in consistorio secreto ... providit ecclesie Nitriensis in regno Ungarie de persona domini Nicolai prepositi ecclesie sancte Trinitatis de superioribus aquis calidis Budensibus, Vesprimiensis diocesis, vacanti per translacionem domini Dyonisii dicte ecclesie episcopi ad ecclesiam Agriensem et eciam per renunciacionem simplicem domini Ladislai*".
- 62 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 76, fol. 52v, Vol. 77, fol. 63v: "*venerabilis vir dominus Iohannes scolasticus Gneznensis et procurator legitimus reverendi in Christo patris domini Nicolai dei gracia electi Nitriensis ut de sue procuracionis mandato edocuit publico instrumento ... sub data die XIII^{or} mensis Iulii proxime preteriti rogato et in camera apostolica dimisso dicto nomine, obligavit camere apostolice et sacro reverendissimorum dominorum cardinalium collegio florenos auri de camera ducentos setuaginta quinque, ad quos dicta ecclesia taxata reperitur, pro suo communi (!) et quinque minuta servicia consueta*". CVH 9/I, pp. 123–124, no. 209. V *Bullarium Poloniae V and VI* this document is missing, cf. SUŁKOWSKA-KURAŚ, Irena and STANISLAUS KURAŚ, eds. *Bullarium Poloniae : litteras apostolicas aliaque monumenta Poloniae Vaticana continens. Tomus V (1431–1449), Tomus VI (1447–1464)*. Romae; Lublini: Polska Akademia Nauk, Instytut historii – Polski Instytut Kultury Chrześcijańskiej – Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski, 1995, 1998. The bishop's procurator paid a compulsory fee of two chamber gold florins for the issuance of the relevant confirmation document from the Apostolic Chamber. AAV, Cam. Ap., *Servitia minuta*, Vol. 3, fol. 153v: "*Introitus sigilli ... de mense Aprilis ... A domino Nicholao episcopo Nitriensis floreni II*".

of Štítník disputed with Nicholas of Čakanovce over the property of his village, which he had illegally occupied, he was still acting as bishop of Nitra.⁶³ It was probably one of his last episcopal ascents, because already in July the office of bishop of Nitra had to be assumed by the prelate of Buda, Nicholas of Buda. In addition to the whole situation surrounding the bond at this time, it should be mentioned that the bishop's procurator paid the Apostolic Chamber a total of ten florins in succession from 16 to 28 April 1449 as a fee for the issuance of all the necessary confirmation documents.⁶⁴

Despite the payment already made, however, Bishop Nicholas had difficulty in repaying his obligation. He therefore asked the Apostolic Chamber for several postponements of the due date. This postponement, as is well known, could only be obtained after payment of at least a certain amount (*pars partis*). However, Nicholas' case is exceptional, because on 25 February 1452, the head of the Apostolic Chamber, Cardinal Latinus, extended the due date until 30 June.⁶⁵ But even at this date the bishop did not pay his entire indebtedness. In order to avoid the appropriate ecclesiastical sanction, he paid on 4 June 1452 at least the sum of sixty-seven florins and twenty-five solidi, and for the remainder of the deficiency he finally received a papal dispensation, which annulled his debt to the Roman Curia.⁶⁶

Nicholas is the only bishop of Nitra about whom there is a document of his canonical obligation to visit the Roman Curia at regular intervals of two years, the so-called *visitatio liminum apostolorum*, and on that occasion to renew his vow of obedience to the Bishop of Rome (the Pope).⁶⁷ On 1 July 1454, such a bishop's Roman visitation was carried out by the canon of Nitra, Gerard, son of Martin, on behalf of Bishop Nicholas. However, this was already after the mandatory deadline of 21 April, so the bishop was subject to the appropriate sanction, under which he found himself in a state of so-called perjury, and therefore the canon

63 MNL-OL, Diplomatkai Levéltár (hereafter DL) 14174: "*contra reverendum in Christo patrem dominum dominum Ladislaum de Chitnek episcopum ecclesie Nitriensis*".

64 ASV, Cam. Ap., Taxae, Vol. 7, fol. 16v.

65 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 77, fol. 104v. The bishop had to pay a fee of one chamber florin for the issuance of the proration document. ASV, Cam. Ap., Servitia minuta, Vol. 3, fol. 159v.

66 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 77, Fol. 109r: "*reverendus in Christo pater dominus Nicholaus episcopus Nitriensis pro parte suorum communis et IIII^{ti} serviciorum in quibus etc. ac termino iamdiu elapso etc. florenos auri de camera LXVII solidos XXV nobis etc. ... die date resencium solvi fecit realiter et cum effectu, remissione tamen de toto residuo eorundem communis et IIII^{ti} serviciorum de consensu etc.*"

67 RÁBIK, Vladimír a Zuzana LOPATKOVÁ. *Visitatio liminum of Hungarian bishops at the Roman Curia in the Middle Ages*. In: *Historický časopis*, 2021, Vol. 69, Issue 5, pp. 785–814.

of Nitra had to obtain and eventually obtained a dispensation from ecclesiastical punishment for his bishop.⁶⁸

Another bishop of Nitra, whose financial transference of episcopal servitias to the Apostolic Chamber can be documented, is the rather controversial figure of Thomas of Döbrönte (1463–1480), first Prepost of the Veszprém Chapter and later Bishop of Zagreb.⁶⁹ Thomas came to his new position thanks to King Matthias I, whom he supported on his accession to the Hungarian throne. The bishopric of Nitra was not only a royal reward for his political support, but also a solution to the poor property situation of Thomas, who had difficulties with the use of the Zagreb episcopal estates. But even in the Nitra bishopric the property situation of the new bishop was not favourable. According to the papal charter of 13 January 1464, the property of the Nitra bishopric was also in a bad state and many of its estates were plundered and occupied. The new Bishop Thomas was therefore given permission that if he failed to regain possession of the bishopric's properties, he could resign and return to the episcopal see in Zagreb.⁷⁰ Thus out of the frying pan into the fire... In the meantime, however, Pope Paul II had at the same time granted him command of the Benedictine Pannonhalma Archabbey of St. Martin and the Cistercian Abbey of Our Lady of Cicador,⁷¹ which was to improve the bishop's property situation somewhat. For the above reasons, but also because on his appointment as Bishop of Zagreb he had duly fulfilled all his

68 AAV, Cam. Ap., Div. Cam., Vol. 27, fol. 126r: "*quod cum reverendus in Christo pater dominus Nicolaus Dei gracia episcopus Nitriensis teneatur singulis bienniis etc. visitare. Hinc est, quod prefatus dominus Nicolaus episcopus sedem ipsam sive eadem limina pro duobus biennis die XXI mensis Aprilis proxime preteriti finitis die date presencium per venerabilem virum dominum Gerardum Martini canonicum Nitriensem procuratorem suum etc. cum reverencia et honore debitis visitavit. ... Et insuper eundem dominum Nicolaum episcopum a reatu periurii aliisque penis etc., quas seu quod incurrit ob moram etc. tenore presencium duximus absolvendum et absolvimus totaliter per presentes*".

69 TÓTH, C. Norbert. *Magyarország késő-középkori főpapi archontológiája. Érsekek, püspökök, illetve segédpüspökeik, vikáriusaik és jövedelemkezelők az 1440-es évektől 1526-ig.* Győr: Egyházmegyei Levéltár, 2017, pp. 67; VURUM, J. *Episcopatus Nitriensis*, pp. 290–299; HC II, pp. 204; TÓTH C. Norbet, HORVÁTH, Richárd, NEUMANN, Tibor and Tamás PÁLO-SFALVI. *Magyarország világi archontológiája 1458–1526. Magyar Történelmi Emlékek. Adattárak.* Budapest: MTA BTK Történettudományi Intézet, 2016, pp. 44. (documents the bishopric of Nitra of Thomas as early as 1459, but this is not consistent with the data in the Vatican archives and the Apostolic Chamber). HC II, pp. 204, for years 1460 to 1463 documents the person of certain Elijah.

70 THEINER, Augustinus, ed. *Vetera monumenta historica Hungariam sacram illustrantia. Ab Innocentio PP. VI. usque ad Clementem PP. VII. Tom. II. (1352–1526).* Romae: Typis Vaticanis, 1860, pp. 393, no. 569.

71 THEINER, A. *Vetera monumenta*, II, pp. 394, no. 570.

financial obligations – paying annatas as well as minor servitias – on 2 May 1464 (on the Pope’s instructions) the Apostolic See remitted him all the fees associated with his assumption of the Bishopric of Nitra.⁷² However, Bishop Thomas did not hesitate to ally himself with the unity of Brethren, considered enemies in the Kingdom of Hungary and especially in the royal court, when he assumed his new office and especially in his efforts to restore the bishop’s estates. King Matthias therefore intervened and entrusted the administration of the bishopric to the Archbishop of Esztergom, John Vitéz of Sredna. The archbishop subsequently solved the lack of property for the bishopric by seizing the properties of the Zobor Abbey of St. Hypolytus for the benefit of the Nitra bishopric with the king’s consent. This was officially confirmed by Pope Paul II with his privilege on 17 September 1468.⁷³ The Bishopric of Nitra returned to the hands of Bishop Thomas only after the Pope on 30 June 1471 ordered Archbishop John Vitéz to allow Thomas to use his episcopal rights in Nitra.⁷⁴ This was apparently without the income derived from the estates of the former Zobor monastery, which the archbishop kept for himself. And the next Archbishop of Esztergom, Jan Beckensloer (1474–1476),⁷⁵ also kept them. On 22 April 1474, the Canon of Esztergom, Gregory,⁷⁶ undertook to pay the common servitia on behalf of the Archbishop of Esztergom in the Apostolic Chamber, precisely on the basis of the possession of the Zobor monastery, because – as is specifically stated here – the monastery was “annexed” to the Esztergom Church. At the same time, it was pointed out that in the chamber the amount of the monastery’s income, on which the corresponding tax was calculated, was calculated at two hundred and fifty chamber gold florins,⁷⁷ which – as noted above – was only slightly less than in the case of the Bishopric of Nitra itself. It was therefore an interesting prebend.

72 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 79, Fol. 89r.

73 For more details on the whole situation cf. LUKAČKA, Ján. Zoborský kláštor benediktínov v 13. a 14. storočí. In: FUSEK, Gabriel and Marián Róbert ZEMENE, eds. *Dejiny Nitry. Od najstarších čias po súčasnosť*. Nitra: Mesto Nitra, 1998, pp. 183–184; OSLANSKÝ, František. Zoborský benediktínsky kláštor a jeho zánik. In: MARSINA, Richard, ed. *Nitra v slovenských dejinách*. Martin: Vydavateľstvo Matice slovenskej, 1998, pp. 212–219.

74 THEINER, A. *Vetera monumenta* II., pp. 425, no. 607.

75 BEKE, M. *Esztergomi érsekek*, pp. 214.

76 About the person of Gregorius, canon of Esztergom chapter (1471–1475), cf. KOLLÁNYI, Ferenc. *Esztergomi kanonokok*. Esztergom: Buzárovits Gusztáv könyvnyomdája, 1900, pp. 111–112.

77 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 84, Fol. 221v: “*prefatus dominus Gregorius nomine dicti archiepiscopi obtulit camere apostolice et collegio prefato pro communi servicio monasterii sancti Ypoliti Nitriensis, ordinis sancti Benedicti, casu quo certa unio de eodem monasterio olim eidem ecclesie Strigoniensi facta suum effectum sortita reperitur et non alias florenos auri de camera CCL, ad quos dictum monasterium taxatum reperitur et quinque minuta consueta*”.

The original possessions of the Zobor monastery came into the possession of the bishop of Nitra only gradually, only during the reign of the new Hungarian king Vladislaus II. and definitively only with the accession of the new bishop Anton of Šankovce (1492–1500).⁷⁸ However, although the possessions of Zobor Abbey significantly increased the income of the bishopric, it did not lead to an increase in the amount of the bishop's general servitia for the incoming bishops, but remained the same and traditional. Nor is there any indication (no evidence of this have survived) that the bishops of Nitra paid the servitia for the Zobor pensions separately, perhaps because this Benedictine monastery was actually dissolved.

Anton of Šankovce was one of the important personalities of the religious and political life in the country. Already before his appointment as bishop of Nitra, he was from 1486 the Prepost of Bratislava and Vice-Chancellor of the Universitas Istopolitana in Bratislava. He also held the post of vicar of the Archbishop of Esztergom for spiritual administration.⁷⁹ He also held the office of Prepost of Bratislava during the office of Bishop of Nitra until 1498. The aim of this was apparently also to compensate for his financial circumstances in his new office, as with his predecessors on the bishop's see of Nitra. In the second half of 1492 and in 1493, Bishop Anton undertook an important diplomatic mission to the papal court on behalf of King Vladislaus II, the aim of which was to obtain the annulment of the marriage of the Hungarian monarch to the widow of Matthias Corvinus, Queen Beatrice. This marriage was one of the conditions for the assumption of the Hungarian throne by a member of the Polish ruling dynasty after the death of Matthias I, who died without a legitimate male descendant.

78 VURUM, J. *Episcopatus Nitriensis*, s. 302–310; HC II, s. 204; TÓTH C. N., HORVÁTH, R., NEUMANN, T. and T. PÁLOSFALVI. *Magyarország világi archontológiája 1458–1526*, pp. 44.

79 RATKOŠ, Peter. Vzťah Jána zo Sredny a Juraja Schömberga k univerzite Istropolitane. In: HOLOTÍK, Ludovít and Anton VANTUCH, eds. *Humanizmus a renesancia na Slovensku v 15.–16. storočí*. Bratislava: SAV, 1967, pp. 80, 85, 87; JUDÁK, Viliam. *Nitrianske biskupstvo v dejinách*. Bratislava; Sereď: Ústav pre vzťahy štátu a cirkví, 1999, pp. 21; ŠEDIVÝ, Juraj. *Mittelalterliche Schriftkultur im Pressburger Kollegiatkapitel*. Bratislava: Chronos, 2007, pp. 277; HLAVÁČKOVÁ, Miriam. Bratislavský prepošť Juraj zo Schönbergu a jeho doba. In: SLIVKA, Michal, ed. *Studia Archaeologica Slovaca Mediaevalia*, 2006, Vol. 5, pp. 207–220; HLAVÁČKOVÁ, Miriam. Diplomat v službách uhorských kráľov. Pôsobenie nitrianskeho biskupa Antona zo Šankoviec na sklonku stredoveku. In: *Historický časopis*, 2010, Vol. 58, Issue 1, pp. 15–35; HLAVÁČKOVÁ, Miriam. Medzi kráľovským dvorom a kapitulou. Bratislavský prepošť v 15. storočí. In: HRDINA, Jan and Martina MAŘÍKOVÁ, eds. *Kapituly v zemích Koruny české a v Uhrách ve středověku. Documenta Pragensia Supplementa II*. Praha: Archiv hlavního města Prahy – Scriptorium, 2011, pp. 228–230; HLAVÁČKOVÁ, Miriam. *Juraj zo Schönbergu. Bratislavský prepošť v službách cisára a kráľa*. Bratislava: Veda, vydavateľstvo Slovenskej akadémie vied, 2015.

On this occasion, the bishop also received from Pope Alexander VI the official confirmation of his episcopal office in Nitra by a bull dated to 4 January 1493. Already on 13 January of the same year, through the Prepost of Esztergom, Paul, he undertook to pay to the Apostolic Chamber his episcopal common servitia and the usual five smaller servitias for the officials of the Chamber and the papal court. He was to pay half the sum within six months and the other half in another six months.⁸⁰ Subsequently, on 19 January, he undertook to pay the papal chamber, through the prelate of Esztergom Paul, annatas for holding the office and prebend of the prelate of Bratislava. Its annual income was one hundred papal chamber guildens, of which he was obliged to pay exactly half to the chamber treasury. This money was paid on 24 July.⁸¹ All the financial transactions were handled for the bishop by the Florentine banking house of Francesco Bonzi.

Bishop Anton of Šankovce was an important reformer of the ecclesiastical conditions in the pastoral territories entrusted to him, i.e. within the Bratislava presbytery and archdeaconate and in the Nitra bishopric. Already as the Provostry of Bratislava, he visited several parishes in the territory of the Provostry of Bratislava (*Archdeaconate*) and made corrections on the spot. In some cases, however, he also acted unobserved, as in the visitation of the parish church of St. Nicholas in Trnava, where, by observing how individual priests led the church services and the altar prayers, he discovered that they were neglecting them and leading them in an improper manner. He therefore adapted the services in the church to the manner of chapels, which was approved by the Archbishop of Esztergom, Hypolit d'Este, and by Pope Alexander VI in his bull of 15 February 1493.⁸² In 1498, Bishop Anton also took over the administration of the original Zobor estates, as evidenced by the mandate of King Vladislaus II, by which the monarch ordered the estates of the Nitra county not to prevent the bishop

80 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 11, fol. 21r: “*venerabilis vir dominus Paulus prepositus Strigoniensis ut principalis ac vice et nomine domini Antonii episcopi Nitriensis obtulit camere apostolice et sacro collegio reverendissimorum dominorum cardinalium ratione provisionis et perfectionis de persona dicti domini Antonii ad ecclesiam Nitriensem auctoritate apostolica per bullas domini Alexandri pape VI sub data Rome quarto Nonas Ianuarii anno primo factas, florenos auri de camera ducentos septuaginta quinque ad quos dicta ecclesia in libris camere taxata reperitur, et quinque minuta servitia consueta*”. CVH 9/I, pp. 167, no. 282.

81 AAV, Cam. Ap., Libri annatarum, Vol. 39, fol. 94r. KÖRMENDY, J., ed. *Annatae e regno Hungariae* pp. 95, no. 183. The information about the annatas paid is also stated in the record of servitias, cf. AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 11, fol. 21r: “*Die XXIII Iulii usque solvitur pro annatis florenos CXXIII*”.

82 AAV, Registra Lateranensia, Vol. 947, fol. 91v-93r. For more details see: RÁBIK, Vladimír. *Listina pápeža Alexandra VI. z roku 1493 o trnavskom farskom Kostole sv. Mikuláša*. In: *Pamiatky Trnavy a Trnavského kraja 18*. Trnava: Krajský pamiatkový úrad, 2015, pp. 27–29.

from receiving tithes from such estates.⁸³ For Bishop Anton, the property reason for holding the office of Provost of Bratislava, from which he resigned in the same year, had thus passed away. However, he achieved at least that he was succeeded in this office by his relative.⁸⁴ Nicholas of Bačka is another bishop of Nitra (1501–1503),⁸⁵ who we find in the economic agenda of the Apostolic Chamber in the matter of the obligation and repayment of episcopal servitia. The title of the elected Bishop of Nitra appears in the list of royal dignitaries at the end of the charter of King Vladislaus II of 12 March 1501.⁸⁶ He was confirmed in his episcopal rank only by a bull of Pope Alexander VI of 9 August 1501, but it seems that on this occasion Bishop Nicholas did not undertake to pay his own episcopal servitia under the usual conditions, as was customary. However, as early as 8 October in that year he paid to the chamber one hundred and thirty chamber gold florins and fifty-two solidi. This sum represented one-half of the total episcopal servitia. It is therefore remarkable that Bishop Nicholas's own episcopal obligation was not issued by the chamber until the following day, 9 October, and yet it was still for the full amount,⁸⁷ although half of it had already been paid. It was paid by the bishop's official representative and procurator, the Ostian cleric Balthasar de Ripa. The bishop already had a receipt for the payment of the sum. The receipt has not survived, but is evidenced by a scribal note in the entry in the register of the actual obligation.⁸⁸ However, Nicholas of Bačka did not stay long at the bishop's see in Nitra, because already on 3 August 1503 the new bishop of Nitra was the king's secretary Sigismund Thurzo (1503–1505), who in this position claimed to take over several estates in Spiš. After the death of George Worth, these were to pass into the king's hands on the basis of an escheat. The monarch did really give these estates to Sigismund and his brothers, but their takeover was complicated by the fact that the daughter of the deceased George Worth, Martha, refused to surrender them and tried to keep

83 Listinu publikuje VURUM, J. *Episcopatus Nitriensis*, pp. 121–122.

84 ŠEDIVÝ, J. *Mittelalterliche Schriftkultur*, pp. 277.

85 VURUM, J. *Episcopatus Nitriensis*, pp. 310–317. HC II, pp. 204.

86 MNL-OL DL 62959: "*Nicolao de Bachka electo Nitriensi*".

87 AAV, Cam. Ap., *Obligat. et sol.*, Vol. 12, fol. 140v: "*dominus Baldasar de Ripa clericus Astensis ut procurator et procuratorio nomine reverendi patris domini Nicolay (!) episcopi Nitriensis sponte obtulit camere apostolice et sacro collegio reverendissimorum dominorum cardinalium pro communi servitio ecclesie Nitriensis, ratione provisionis et perfectionis de persona sua eidem ecclesie per bullas domini Alexandri pape VI. sub datis Rome quinto idus Augusti anno sui pontificatus nono auctoritate apostolica facte, florenos auri de camera ducentos septuaginta quinque, ad quos ipsa ecclesia taxata reperitur, et quinque minuta servitia consueta*". CVH 9/I, pp. 184–185, no. 313.

88 AAV, Cam. Ap., *Obligat. et sol.*, Vol. 12, fol. 140v: "*Die 8 Octobris solvit florenos 130, solidos 52, patet libro X^o introitus, folio XV*".

them. Sigismund, however, disputed her legitimate origin by claiming that she was born to the deceased George shortly after the marriage and at an “illegitimate time”, i.e. less than nine months after the marriage, which disqualified her for an illegitimate descendant. Indeed, King Sigismund complied and ordered the See of the Ten-lanced nobles of Spiš, under which these estates properly belonged, to arrange for their takeover by the Thurzo family.⁸⁹ Only a very brief record of the obligation of Bishop Sigismund of Thurzo is preserved in the registers of the Apostolic Chamber, dated to 17 October of that year.⁹⁰ The record reveals only that the whole agenda was carried out by representatives of the banking house of the Fugers, which corresponded to the commercial alliance of the two dynasties.⁹¹ However, Sigismund’s ecclesiastical career only began with his position as Bishop of Nitra and continued on to the episcopal see in Transylvania (1505–1506) and then in Oradea (1506–1512).⁹²

In the list of dignitaries at the end of the charter of privileges issued by Vladislaus II of 1 March 1505, by which the monarch confirmed the earlier toll privileges of the Bardejov burghers, a certain Stephen appears as the elected bishop of Nitra.⁹³ There is no complete agreement in the literature as to which of the Stephens is the one in question, as there are as many as three persons with this name – Stephen Bajoni, Stephen Podmanický and Stephen Erdödi.⁹⁴ Stephen Podmanický can be reliably excluded, because he appears as the elected bishop of Nitra for the first time in the sources only from 1512, and his papal appointment also dates only from 22 October of that year.⁹⁵

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- 89 MNL-OL DL 21197: “*reverendus dominus Sigismundus Thurzo electus ecclesie Nitriensis et secretarius noster*”.
- 90 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 12, fol. 140v: “*Die XVII dicti [Octobris]. Dominus Ioannes (!) Zinch nomine reverendi patris domini Sigismundi electi Nitriensis est obligatus collegio ratione perfectionis ad dictam ecclesiam*”.
- 91 On the meaning of the lineage cf. LENGYELOVÁ, Tünde and kol. *Thurzovci a ich historický význam*. Bratislava: Pro historia; Historický ústav SAV, 2012.
- 92 TÓTH C. N., HORVÁTH, R., NEUMANN, T. and T. PÁLOSFALVI. Magyarország világi archontológiája 1458–1526, pp. 44.
- 93 MNL-OL DF 216733: “*Stephano electo Nitriensi*”.
- 94 VURUM, J. *Episcopatus Nitriensis*, s. 318 (Podmanický); VAGNER, József. *Adalékok a Nyitrai székes-káptalan történetéhez*. Nyitra: Huszár István könyvnyomdája, 1896, s. 112 (Bajoni). *Magyar Katolikus Lexikon*. Budapest: Pálos Könyvtár – Szent István Társulat, 1980, 2013 [cit. 2022-09-29]. Available at: <<http://lexikon.katolikus.hu>> (Bajoni). TÓTH C. N., HORVÁTH, R., NEUMANN, T. and T. PÁLOSFALVI. Magyarország világi archontológiája 1458-1526, pp. 45; (Erdödi). LUKINICH, Imre. *A podmanini Podmaniczky-család oklevéltára I*. Budapest: A Magyar Tudományos Akadémia, 1937, pp. LX–LXI (Erdödi).
- 95 MNL-OL DL 24906. cf. also TÓTH C. N., HORVÁTH, R., NEUMANN, T. and T. PÁLOSFALVI. Magyarország világi archontológiája 1458–1526, pp. 45; van GULIK, Guilelmus and Conradus EUBEL. *Hierarchia catholica medii aevii sive summorum pontificum, S. R. E. Car-*

The aforementioned Stephen was appointed bishop of Nitra by Pope Julius II by a bull of 19 December 1505, as emphasized by Stephen's episcopal obligation of 28 January 1506. It was paid to the Apostolic Chamber by the merchant John Zing of the Fuger Trading Company on behalf of the bishop. It was in the standard form of an obligation to pay a servitia of 275 chamber guilders in two equal instalments. The first was to be paid within six months and the remainder in the following six months. A scribal note in the register points out that smaller customary servitias were already paid on 3 and 8 January, which were the income of officials of the papal curia and the College of Cardinals.⁹⁶ Although no further records of this kind of duty of Bishop Stephen survive in the registers of the Apostolic Chamber, there is no indication that he did not duly fulfil them, since in the following period he acted as Bishop of Nitra quite unmolested, and even moved up in courtly ranks and offices. He is thus documented until 6 February 1512. This day is the last day on which Stephen can still be met in his capacity as Bishop of Nitra. On this day, King Vladislaus II of Hungary ordered all judges in the kingdom, and in particular the Archbishop of Esztergom, Thomas Cardinal Bakóc, titular Patriarch of Constantinople and royal secret secretary, the bishop of Nitra, Stephen, who also held the office of Chief Justice of Hungary, the palatine Imrich of Perín, the mayor of Abaúj, and the provincial judge Peter, count of Svätý Jur and Pezinok, not to act in any of the court cases of John of Kanizsa, because he set out for a pilgrimage to Rome to the tombs of the holy apostles (*ad limina*) and to Loreto to the house of the Virgin Mary⁹⁷. Bishop Stephen was, after all, the last of the medieval bishops of Nitra whose affairs in relation to the Roman Curia were reflected in its agenda.

dinalium, ecclesiarum antistitum saeculum XVI. Ab anno 1503 complectens. Vol III. Monasterii: Sumptibus et typis Librariae Regensbergianae, 1910, s. 259. In more detail cf. BAĎURÍK, Jozef. Nitriansky biskup Štefan Podmanický a jeho miesto v pomoháčskych dejinách. In: MARSINA, Richard, ed. *Nitra v slovenských dejinách*. Martin: Vydavateľstvo Matice slovenskej, 1998, pp. 232–236.

- 96 AAV, Cam. Ap., Obligat. et sol., Vol. 88, fol. 59r. “*Die XXVIII Ianuarii 1506 (!) dominus Iohannes Zing institor de Fucheris nomine dicte societatis ac vice et nomine reverendi patris domini Stephani electi Nitriensis obligavit camere apostolice et sacro reverendissimorum dominorum sacre Romane ecclesie cardinalium pro communi servicio dicte ecclesie ratione translacionis et provisionis de eadem ecclesia per bullas domini Iulii sub data XIII kalendas Ianuarii anno tertio auctoritate apostolica facte, florenos auri de camera 275 (!) ad quos dicte ecclesia in libris camere taxata reperitur et quinque minuta servitia consueta, eorumdem unius communis et minorum servitorum medietatem infra sex menses immediate sequentes aliam medietatem vero modo infra alios sex menses proxime sequentes solvere promisit, submisit, iuravit etc. et reverendus pater dominus mensarius tulit sententias in scriptis*”. CVH 9/I, pp. 190, no. 325.
- 97 MNL-OL DL 22275: “*Stephano episcopo ecclesie Nitriensis, personalis presencie nostre locumtenenti*”.

Thus, it can be summarized that from the observed period of the late Middle Ages (1400–1526) the curial agenda of the Apostolic Chamber documents a total of ten persons of the bishops of Nitra who fulfilled their confirmation obligation in the form of obligatory commune servitium payments, although it cannot be documented everywhere that they fulfilled this obligation without any residue. These bishops were: Hynek Bohemus (1404–1427), George of Brezovica (1429–1437), Dionysius of Seč (1438–1439), Ladislaus of Štítník (1439–1448), Nicholas of Zelemer (1448–1457), Thomas of Döbrönte (1463–1480), Anton of Šankovce (1492–1500), Nicholas of Bačka (1501–1503), Sigismund Thurzo of Betlanovce (1503–1505) and finally Stephen Erdödi/Bajoni (1505–1512). Thus, only four of the known bishops are missing: Albert Hangač (1457–1458), Elijah (1460–1463), John Polnar (1504–1504) and Stephen Podmanický (1512–1530). The data on the economic aspect of the assumption of the episcopal office in Nitra significantly supplement and correct our existing knowledge about the development of this office, its social and political position, and also its personnel. It makes clear that the curial agenda of the Roman See provides a unique factual account and context that finds no counterpart in the domestic source situation.

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