

Estimation of literacy of the adult inhabitants of the Province of Cracow, 1629-1661

Social category	N	% men able to write	% women able to write
Total	466000	Ca. 25	Ca.10
Magnates	920	100	100
Wealthy nobles	14440	99	85
Poor nobles	21900	90	55
Patricians	7460	85	55
Common citizens	37280	Ca. 65	Ca. 25
Plebs	48460	ca. 50	Ca.10
Wealthy Jews	7000	98	.
Poor Jews	16300	Ca. 50	.
Peasants	309900	Ca. 3	0
Clergy	2350	Ca. 95	Ca. 60

Those estimates are based on an analysis of signature in judiciary books from Cracow. The estimates were based on an expected share of every category in the total population of the province. Adults were assumed to be 2/3 of the total population, which, according to the new studies, seems to be too high. The current studies estimate the number of the nobility to be lower (especially the wealthy nobility). Those new studies ,however, do not change the results greatly.

Based: W. Urban, *Sztuka pisania w województwie krakowskim w XVII I XVIII wieku*, in: *Przegląd historyczny*, vol. 75, p. 78, 1984.