



Invitation to the Academic Conference

Princess Anna Vasa (1568–1625) and Women of the Late 16th – Early 17th Century

Toruń, June 26–27, 2025



We cordially invite you to participate in the academic conference organized to mark the 400th anniversary of Anna Vasa's death, hosted by the Early Modern Studies Center as part of the "Baltic Heritage of the Jagiellonians" program. Our aim is to deepen research on the life of the princess and her diverse activities, which often deviated from the gender norms of her time. This anniversary also provides an opportunity to focus scholarly attention on other exceptional women active in the Jagiellonian and Vasa states of the 16th and 17th centuries, who challenged contemporary gender stereotypes in various ways.

The conference is dedicated to scholars of history, literature, and art history of the Renaissance and Baroque periods. It will feature two thematic blocks covering the following topics:

I. Anna Vasa

Political activity

Patronage of the sciences (botany, theology, and others)

Epistolography

Charity work

Role as a protector of Protestant churches

Iconography of the princess

Court life

Literary portrayals of Anna Vasa (16th–17th centuries)

The two funerals of Anna Vasa

II. Outstanding Women of the 16th–17th Centuries in the Jagiellonian and Vasa Monarchies

Artistic and scientific patronage

Religious community patronage

Political activity

Exceptional women in literature and painting

Public and private life

Literary achievements

The role of women in cultural transfer

Charity work

Women's leisure and intellectual pursuits (*otia muliebria*)

Conference language: English

The conference will be held in person at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. In justified cases, participants will be able to join online.

As part of the event, we plan an excursion to Anna Vasa's Mausoleum in the Church of the Virgin Mary in Toruń, as well as a presentation of the monumental Herbal (1613) by Szymon Syreniusz, from the collections of the University Library.

The organizers will cover the accommodation and travel costs of participants. Papers selected by the Scientific Committee will be published in 2026 either in a conference volume or in a high-impact academic journal.

Organizer:

Centrum Badań Epok Wczesnonowożytnych in collaboration with: Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika w Toruniu, Toruń City Council

Proposals, including a title and a one-paragraph abstract, should be sent to annawazowna2025@gmail.com by May 5, 2025.



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