

# HOW BRODNICA GOT ITS COAT OF ARMS

## – A *SHORT PLAY*

Mieszczka – Townswoman

Strażnik – Guard

Król - King

### Act I

Townswoman I Kozłowa: How are you Kowalowa?

Townswoman II Kowalowa: Good... Kozłowa, good... It's warm in my hut. I've got something to eat. My husband has a job. What do I need more my dear neighbour?

Mieszczka I Kozłowa: You're right Kowalowa. But... Have you heard there is a thief in our town?

Townswoman III: Thief? Oh God! But our town is so peaceful and people are decent. I don't believe it, you're talking nonsense.

Guard I Kozłowa: Who? Me? I'm telling the truth! While I was walking near the Chełmińska Gate yesterday I heard the guards talking about him. His name is PROKOWIEW. He robs manor houses and castles. He is already known in Szczytno, Malbork, Torun, and Golub Dobrzyn.

Townswoman III: Oh gosh. Golub Dobrzyn is so close to Brodnica. He may come to our town too.

Townswoman II: Don't be afraid my dears. We are humble people and we aren't rich. There are no kings here. Tell me... who would like to rob a place like this?

Townswoman I: Yea... You're right. It's time to go now because guards started doing their night rounds.

Townswoman II: That's right and our men are hungry, they need a dinner.

### Act II

Guard 1: Citizens of Brodnica blow out all the candles from East to West.

Guard 2: Dark night is coming.

Guard k 1: You have to rest.

Guard 2: You will need energy in the morning.

Guard 1: To welcome the king do your best.

Because tomorrow Casimir the Restorer and his army are our guests.

### Act III

Prokowiew: Oh, that's great! I will be rich! But what am I going to steal? I know! Rings!! No... I've got too much of them. Maybe a crown? No... It's too big, it's difficult to hide and It's so heavy that I will have a headache like after two goblets of wine. I know! I will steal Casimir's sceptre. I haven't got any sceptres yet. Am I mad? No... I ate too many mushrooms

with those little spots. Hmm... but I always cut out all the white spots. I will hide behind the brush near the Drweca river and tomorrow about midnight I will steal the sceptre. Casimir will be surprised! Can the king rule without a sceptre?

#### Akt IV

Townspeople scream:

MI: Long live the king!

MII: Viva Casimir the Restorer!

MIII: Welcome to our town.

MIV: Drink fresh milk straight from the cow, and try the duck with an apple. It's very tasty.

MI: I made a delicious cake for our king. Maybe you will taste the food that our humble citizens have prepared? I suggest flatbread and .....

King: Thank you for all of these my dear townspeople. You're very decent and hospitable. What is your town called?

Townspeople: Brodnica, our loving King.

King: I will stay here with my army to have a rest. We still have a lot of kilometers and war with Kievan Rus ahead of us. Thanks to your hospitality I feel like in the royal court.

#### Akt V

Prokowiec: Oh... Casimir is snoring... Snore Casimir, snore and I'll steal your sceptre. This sceptre shines like the sun in the sky. Pure gold! I have to hide it in my sack to avoid the prison and run away. When the blazing sun is gone. When he nothing shines upon. Then you show your little light,  
Twinkle, twinkle, all the night...

#### Akt VI

Guard I: Why are you so happy and why are you singing in the middle of the night? Everyone is sleeping in Brodnica right now but you're having a party?!

Guard II: Show me what have you got in your sack our dancing queen.

Prokowiec: Nothing special. It's a cat. I have a lot of mice at home.

Guard I: Cat? Are you sure? It's a bit too quiet for a cat. Show me your sack.

Prokowiec: I won't show anything.

Guard II: You will!

Guard I: You filthy thief! It's not a cat, it's our king's sceptre! You must be this robber

Prokowiec. You rob manor houses and castles.

Guard II: You will get a severe punishment for what you have done. Our king will decide what to do with you.

## Act VII

King: Dear residents. Prokowiew tried to steal the King's sceptre at night. This act was shaming and disgraceful, that's why the thief must be punished. What punishment do you want for him?

Townsman I: We've got the old tradition here.

King: What tradition?

Townsman II: This tradition has been known for ages and it is always passed down from generation to generation.

Townsman III: Well, If we catch a thief, we cut his hand off.

Prokowiew: Poor me... What a disgrace. Everyone will be pointing fingers at me.

King: Do your thing executioner.

*The executioner cut off Prokowiew's hand.*

Torturer: And this is how Brodnica got its emblem – right hand with a red background. The red background means blood and white hand means not only the hospitality but also law and order. Prokowiew was buried outside the city walls near today's Przykop street. Nowadays, he walks around the city every day and waits for the king's arrival.