Jędrzej Tomasz Kałużny
Studia doktoranckie
Katedra historii średniowiecznej Polski
Uniwersytet Łódzki, wydział Filologiczno-Historyczny.

The topic of PhD thesis is The Polish king's court banner in the years 1447–1501. (Choragiew nadworna królów Polski w latach 1447–1501). Dissertation consists of preface, four chapters and conclusion. Except that, in PhD thesis there is an annex about people in the court banner. Dissertation is written in the cathedral of medieval Polish history. PhD thesis presents history of the Polish king's court banner. Court banner was an elite formation, a private military unit of the king. In medieval times, Polish kings had a big court, but part of it was a court banner, a royal armed force unit.

The court banner was commanded by Court Marshall, who has a great authority and was obliged to took important decisions. That banner was composed of courtiers, called horse courtiers. They were Polish gentry noble. On the other hand being on duty was also their opportunity for further career. Current state of knowledge is that there were about 884 courtiers in the court banner. However according to the register written in the last years of the XV century, around 2000 riders were standing in the ranks of the banner. In the court banner there were two categories of riders: courtiers – noble people who were standing at the head of their retinues and their retinues. Every courtier had his own retinue, the majority of which ranged generally from 4 to 6 riders. The register also included less important courtier (cubicularii). They served at the royal court and the court banner, along with their retinues. However their retinues were smaller than couriers retinues.

The first chapter is about organization of court banner, such as: hierarchy, retinues, sources and payment. In the second chapter every information about people were collected, because in court banner served people from whole Poland and sometimes from another countries. This chapter includes information about theirs careers, origins and years of service. In next chapter information about weapons, equipment and horses were collected and sorted in tables including details about: types of horses, parts of armor and types of weapon. In last chapter history of Polish wars in XV century was described, in which the banner took part. In annex information about biography of Court Marshalls and horse courtiers were collected.