



Johann Friedrich Endersch, *Map of Warmia*, panorama of Lidzbark Warmiński in the lower left corner, coloured copperplate, 1755



Fragment of a map of Poland with Pomerania and Prussia, *Tabula Sarmatiae*



Plaque commemorating Nicolaus Copernicus' speech in Grudziądz in 1522, funded in 1959 by the local division of the Polish Historic Association, placed on the house no 3/5 at the Main Market Square in Grudziądz

# LAWYER AND ECONOMIST

Nicolaus Copernicus used his expertise in law that he acquired during his studies in Italy in the numerous duties of his administrative, public and scientific functions in the chapter of Warmia. Unfortunately, none of his legal documents remained until today.

Copernicus dealt also with economic, financial and administrative matters. This was a result of his scientific interests and his duties in the chapter. He is the author of a treatise on the reform of the Prussian monetary system entitled *Monetae cudendae ratio* (*On the Minting of Coin*), which he elaborated in the years 1517–1526. In the paper, Copernicus postulated the principle that “bad money drives out good”. About twenty years later, Thomas Gresham repeated this principle, which later came to be referred to as Gresham's Law. In 1531 Copernicus wrote *Ratio panaria Allensteinensis* (*Olsztyn Bread Tariff*) that calculated the price of bread in relation to the price of wheat and rye, and the weight of a loaf. This “fair bread price” was to be binding in Lidzbark Warmiński (Heilsberg) and other towns in Warmia. Unfortunately, the manuscript was looted and taken away from Poland during the Swedish Deluge in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.



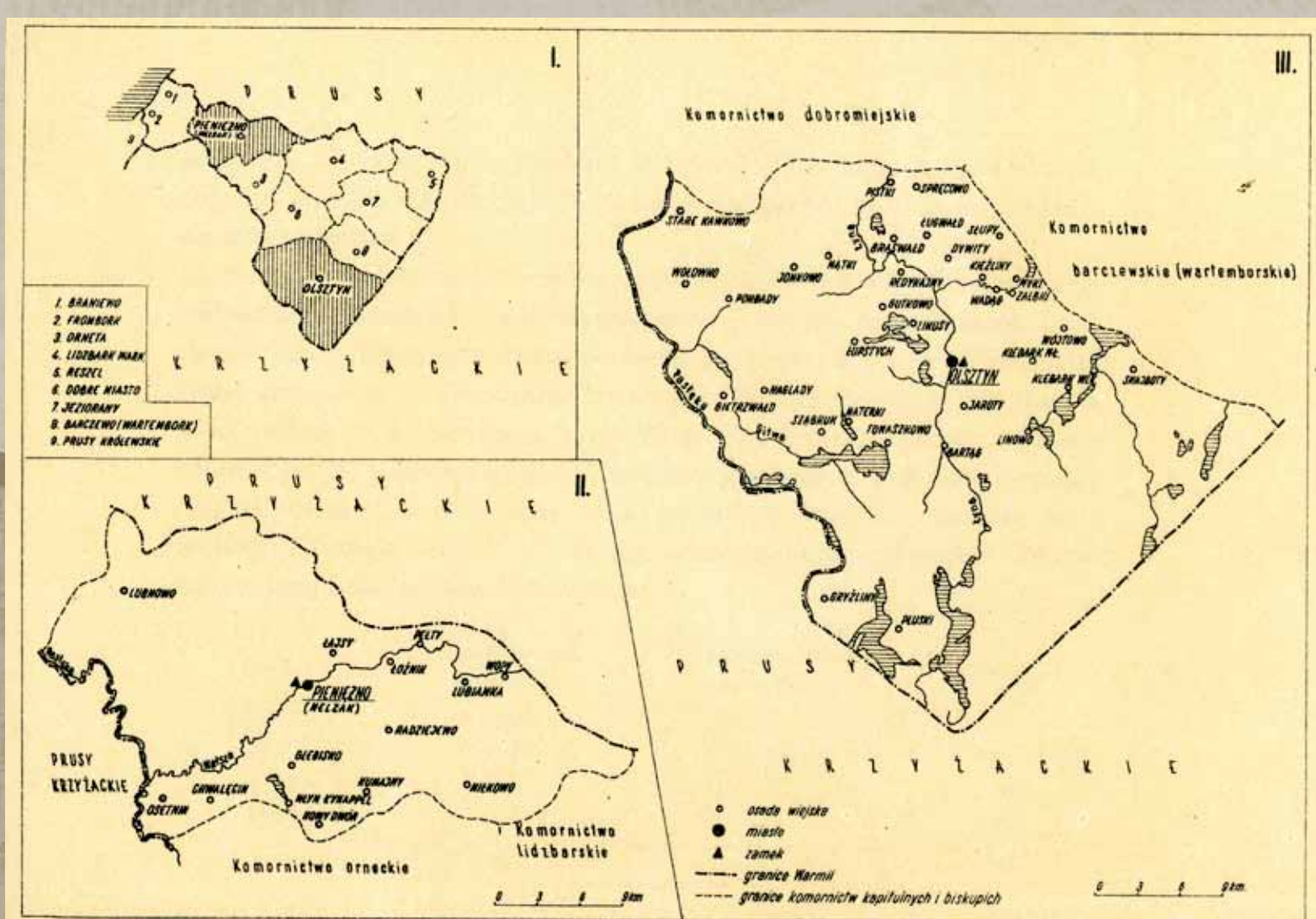
Nicolaus Copernicus presents his treaty *Monetae cudendae ratio* (*On the Minting of Coin*) in a city hall room during the gathering of Royal Prussia estates in Grudziądz in 1522; in the treaty he calls for equalising the value of Prussian and Polish currencies, drawing by Johann Schübeler, ca. 1876



Coins in Royal Prussia after 1528: a) denar (denarius), b) szóstak (equal to 6 groszes)



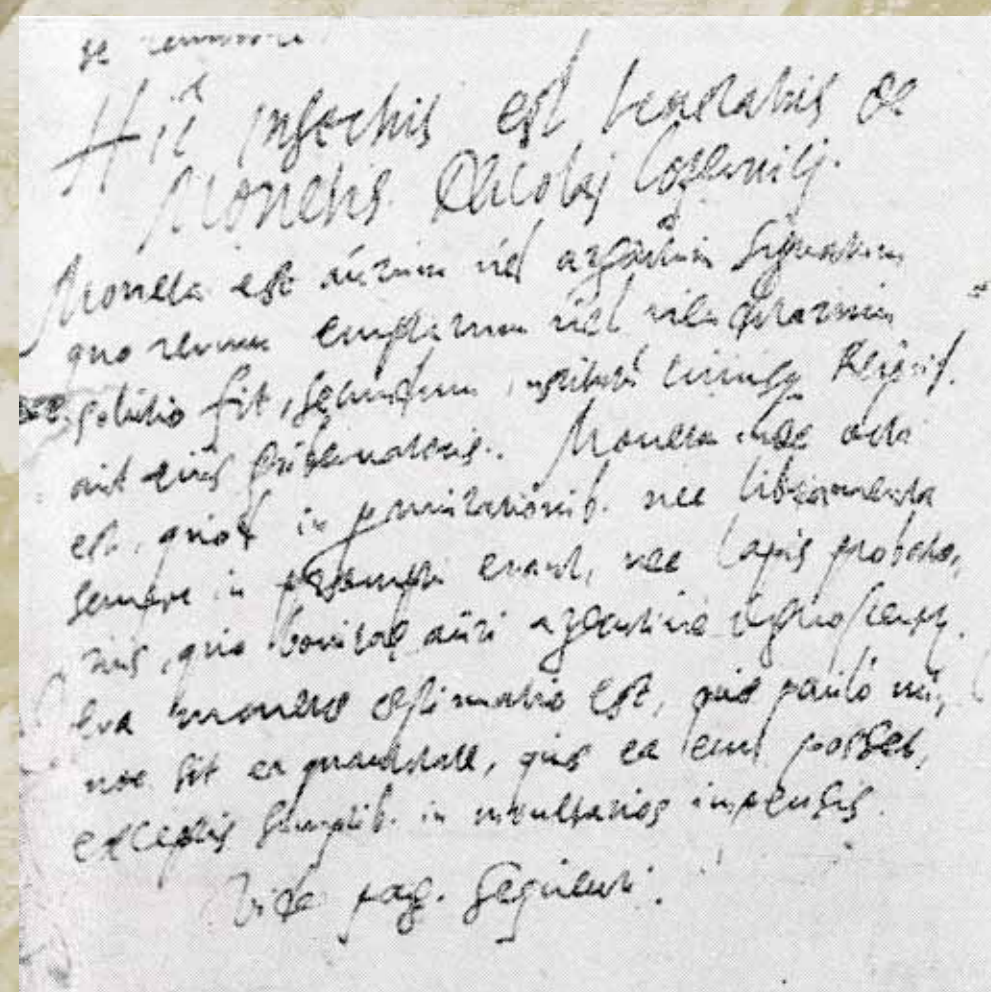
Work in a mint, wood engraving by O. Mangus



Nicolaus Copernicus' colonisation activities in Warmia in 1516–1521: I. Division of Warmia into districts subject to the bishopric and the chapter, II. Copernicus' colonisation activity in Pieniężno District in 1517–1519, III. Copernicus' colonisation activity in Olsztyn District in 1516–1521



As administrator, Nicolaus Copernicus collected peasants' payments on grounds belonging to Warmia chapter



Beginning of Copernicus' work *Tractatus de monetis*, entered into the final resolution of the gathering of Prussian estates

| panis | serabatoris | panis | serabatoris |
|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| panis | panis       | panis | panis       |
| aria  | aria        | aria  | aria        |
| 9     | 7 16        | 39    | 1 33 1/2    |
| 12    | 5 24        | 46    | 1 27 1/2    |
| 15    | 4 19 1/2    | 45    | 1 22 1/2    |
| 18    | 3 12        | 48    | 1 18 1/2    |
| 21    | 3 0 1/2     | 51    | 1 14 1/2    |
| 24    | 2 36        | 54    | 1 10 1/2    |
| 27    | 2 21 1/2    | 57    | 1 7 1/2     |
| 30    | 2 9 1/2     | 60    | 1 4 1/2     |
| 33    | 2 0         | 63    | 1 2 1/2     |
| 36    | 1 40        | 66    | 1 0         |

Mikołaj Kopernik, *Ratio panaria Allensteinensis* (*Olsztyn's bread tariff*), 1531