CHAPTER FOUR

THE MIGRANTS AND THEIR MOTIVES: THE SOCIAL MAKE-UP OF THE SCOTTISH MIGRATION AND SPHERES OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

The socio-economic background of the Scottish emigrants to Poland-Lithuania has thus far received relatively little attention. The studies dealing with the issue acknowledge that the group was not homogeneous, and that apart from the numerically dominant and generally untraceable “vagrant” Scots, there were also educated and wealthier individuals: merchants, militarymen, traders and clergy. Although this assessment is, on the whole, correct, it fails to recognise that the largest group comprising of less affluent individuals was not uniform either. Such representation, overlooking findings of the multiple studies of the socio-economic background of internal migrants in Scotland, gives a rather disjointed view and does not acknowledge changes over time. The literature fails also in another respect. One of the least researched and yet most significant aspects of the topic is the plight of a sizable group of emigrants—the Scottish women.

Very few Scots recorded their reasons for migrating to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, so the motives put forward by historians are usually assumed rather than demonstrated by the available source documents. A better understanding of motives can be formed by taking a closer look at which part of Scotland they migrated from, who they were and what they did.

Parish, municipal records and the like indicate a variety of locations along the east coast of Scotland from which the migrants originated. Among the most important, it seems, were Aberdeen, Dundee and Edinburgh.

The records of admittance to civil rights of Cracow, Gdańsk, Poznań and Lwów provide a very important source of information about the origins of migrants. The municipal records show that of 172 Scots whose origins were entered into registers of citizenship, 74 (43 per cent) came from Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, 27 individuals (15.7 per cent) originated from Dundee, 19 (11 per cent) came from Edinburgh, six (3.5 per cent) from St Andrews and five (3 per cent) from Dunfermline. The data shows that 41 migrants (23.8 per cent) came from a multitude of smaller towns and hamlets of eastern Scotland (Table 4.1).

The largest number of Scots from Aberdeenshire acquired civic rights in Cracow. Of the 36 Aberdonians, 31 came directly from the city of Aberdeen, while a further six originated from smaller locations in the shire. A large contingent of Scots from the same region was admitted to

---

2 John Allan (adm. 1573): LICCr II no. 34 (Alauth); Robert Blackhall (adm. 1622): W. Kowalski, "From Aberdeen to Poland: the Seventeenth Century Aberdeen Birth-brieves as a source for Scottish–Polish relations," (paper presented to the Britain and Poland-Lithuania: Contact and Comparison from the Middle Ages to 1795 Conference, Jagiellonian University, Cracow, September 15–18, 2005), Table II (hereafter Kowalski II), no. 55; William Buchan (adm. 1602): Advocatalia Cracoviensia, Vol. 521, fol. 1241; John Burnet (adm. 1608): LICCr. II no. 2340 (Burneth); Thomas Burnet (adm. 1617): Kowalski II no. 46; James Chalmer (adm. 1655): Kowalski II no. 78; John Chalmer (adm. 1596): LICCr. II no. 1677 (Chalmers); cf. MTSC no. 12; Robert Chalmer (adm. 1621): Kowalski II no. 51; Alexander Clark (adm. 1703): S. Kutrzeba and J. Ptasiński, "Dzieje handlu i kupiectwa krakowskiego," Rocznik Krakowski 14 (1911): 114; James Clark (adm. 1623); Kowalski II no. 57; John Craig (adm. 1589): LICCr. II no. 1135; Alexander Cruickshank (adm. 1622): Kowalski II no. 54 (Gruschanke); George Cruickshank (adm. 1646); Kowalski II no. 72; Alexander Dickson (adm. 1599)—LICCr. II no. 1850 (Dickson); Robert Dickson (adm. 1595)—LICCr. II no. 1599 (Dickson); George Elmslie (adm. 1608): LICCr. II no. 2349, cf. MTSC no. 143; John Forbes (adm. 1588): LICCr. II no. 1005; Andrew Fraser (adm. 1625): Kowalski II no. 63; William Harrison (adm. 1625): Kowalski II no. 62 (Harriesoune); Andrew Hunter (adm. 1609): LICCr. II no. 2415; John Hunter (adm. 1624): Kowalski no. 61; Daniel Ingram (adm. 1585): LICCr. II no. 795; Robert King (adm. 1576): LICCr. II no. 319 (König de Eberding); Patrick aka Peter Orem (adm. 1599): LICCr. II no. 1849; Thomas Orem (adm. 1607); LICCr. II no. 2337 (Horam); Peter Robertson (adm. 1676): PSB XXXI/2, 329–330; Thomas Rolland (adm. 1598): LICCr. II no. 1799; John Strachan (adm. 1617): Kowalski II no. 47; William Torrie (adm. 1626): Kowalski II no. 70 (Tor); Peter Wood (adm. 1625): Kowalski II no. 68; Thomas Wright (adm. 1589): LICCr. II no. 1055.