

Issue 2 of 2016 of ARCHE journal is fully dedicated to the past of Navahrudak (Latin: Novogrodecum; Lithuanian: Naugardukas; Polish: Nowogródek) and its surrounding area. The articles featured in this issue cover the history from the foundation of the town to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Four of them are large researches on the topic.

The area is very important from the prospect of the Belarusian Nation and State-Building. In the medieval era, its geographic location was between Kievan Rus and ancient Lithuania, where the Baltic tribes encountered the Eastern Slavs. Since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were speculations that Navahrudak was first capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The conclusion followed from 'Bychowiec chronicle' which was edited by Teodor Narbutt. However there are grounds to believe that 'Bychowiec chronicle' was a literary falsehood. Anyway it is extremely unreliable historical source.

The issue opens with a preface by the editor of the issue, Grodno based historian **Andrej Cichamiraŭ**.

A Belarusian translation of a study by a prominent Polish historian **Jerzy Ochmański** (1933—1996) "The Lithuanian Ethnic Frontier In The East From The Tribal Times To 16<sup>th</sup> Century" was made from a 1981 Polish edition of the study. It dedicated to the problem of determining the boundaries of Lithuanian ethnic influence on the territory of modern-day Belarus, and the interactions between the Baltic and Slavic populations.

An article by a historian and classical philologist **Hanna Paŭloŭskaja** "A History Of Navahrudak By Rev. Józef Pożowski (1759) As An Example Of City History Of New Ages" gives an account of biography and research work of Jesuit Józef Pożowski.

A book by **Józef Pażowski** (1721—1785) "Navahrudak, Once A Regal City Of Princes Of Navahrudak..." was published in Lviv in 1759. Its original title was *Novogrodecum ducum Novogrodensium olim regia urbs, hodie princeps palatinatus Novogrodensis, ducatus aliquando in Lithuania amplissimi ex historiarum monumentis erutum atque in decem sectiones descriptum, insignioribus non modo ducum et palatinorum Novogrodensium rebus gestis, praecipuis, praecipuorum ducum Russiae, Lithuaniae, Novogrodiae genealogiis, sed observationibus et adnotationibus etiam quibusdam criticis et philologicis auctum atque illustratum. Bonarum litterarum statoris et vindicis logicis S. R. I. prin-*

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cipis Iosephi Alexandri e ducibus Prussiis Jablonowski, palatini Novogrodensis. Leopoli, 1759.

The study is translated into Belarusian for the first time. It is one of the most interesting histories of the Belarusian towns published in 18<sup>th</sup> century.

An article by a Lithuanian historian **Darius Vilimas** “The Officials Of Powiat Nobility Courts Of The Grand Duchy Of Lithuania In 1566—1588 (the First Generation Of Powiat Nobility Court Lawyers)” is dedicated to the question of training of professional lawyers of powiat level between the publications of the Second and the Third Statutes of Lithuania.

Another article by **Darius Vilimas** “The Last Will And Testament Of Navahrudak Powiat Judge Jaraš Jeūlašeŭski (1578—1619)” is an analysis of this historical document (the complete text of the document is also published with a Belarusian translation).

A study by a historian of the book and philologist **Mikalaj Nikalajeŭ** from Saint-Petersburg “The Book Of Miracles Of The Navahradak Icon Of The Virgin, As A Historical Relic Of 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Of Jesuits And Miracles Of Navahradak History Which Perished And Which Survived” is dedicated to a work written in 1673 titled “A new protection granted to our tortured Motherland...” which was one of the first synthetic studies of Navahrudak history. A Belarusian translation of this work is also published.

An article by Lithuanian researchers **Kęstutis Gudmantas** and **Andrej Ryčkov** “Notification On Laūryšava Monastery Copied From An Old Russian Chronicle By Demetry Zankievič (a study a source publication)” is dedicated to a 1701 document that tells about the foundation of Laūryšava Monastery near Navahradak. The complete text and a Belarusian translation are published.

An article by **Violeta Radvilienė** “Editions Of Niasviž Printing House In Lithuanistics Stock Of Rare Editions Department” is of a source-study and bibliographical nature and tells about Niasviž editions of 18<sup>th</sup> century, which are kept in the Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences in Vilnius.

An article by a Lithuanian art historian **Vidmantas Jankauskas** “Iconographic Sources of Navahrudak Castle” tells about various images of Navahrudak castle of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

A study by a philologist from Bialystok University **Grażyna Charytoniuk-Michiej** “Dziady” (Forefathers’ Eve) Ritual In The Documents And Poetry Of Adam Mickiewicz” (a Belarusian translation of a Polish 2011 edition) is an excellent example of combination of diverse research methods. The author brilliantly

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described a Belarusian ritual of Dziady (Forefathers' Eve), using the modern ethnological data and poetic work by a famous Polish poet of 19<sup>th</sup> century Adam Mickiewicz who was born near Navahrudak.

The memoirs by **Mikalaj Nikalajeŭ** “Navahrudak Was Babylon...” Excerpts From A Life Story” deserve special attention. The author spent his childhood and school years in Navahrudak, and because of that was always interested in its old and modern history.

The issue closes with two reviews. The first one, written by **Natallia Ružyckaja** “The Latest Monograph Of Navahrudak, Or How Much Oats A Navahrudak Horse Ate.” is a review of a collective work “The History Of Navahrudak From Depths Of Time To Our Days.”, published in Minsk in 2014. (Original title: Гісторыя Навагрудка — з глыбінь вякоў да нашых дзён / М. П. Касцюк і інш — Мінск: Белстан, 2014).

A review by **Andrej Cichamiraŭ** “Stage Censorship And Intrigue: From Hrodna To Navahrudak” is dedicated to a book by Zbigniew Jędrychowski about theater life of Hrodna and Hrodna region in 1784—1864, published in 2012 in Warsaw. (Original title: Jędrychowski, Zbigniew. Teatra grodzieńskie, 1784—1864. Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 2012).