
SUMMARY, No. 9 (84), 2009

The issue contains the articles of the Lithuanian historians, selected specially for the Belarusian readers by a prominent historian **Darius Staliūnas**. His book 'Making Russians. Meaning and Practice of Russification in Lithuania and Belarus after 1863' sparked the discussions on the some aspects of the common history of Belarusians and Lithuanians in the XIXth century. The issue is designed to facilitate the fruitful discussions about the key events of the common history.

The issue opens with the preface of the Stockholm based Belarusian historian **Andrej Katlarčuk**, who tries to answer question why the current Belarusian historiography is such backward and provincial in comparison to the Lithuanian one.

Historian **Artūras Dubonis** in his 'Mindaugas' Kingdom' traces the life path of the first known Grand Duke of Lithuania and the only King of Lithuania, shedding the light on the formation of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

The article of **Rūta Čapaite** 'The Everyday Life of Grand Duke Vytautas of Lithuania According to Contemporary Correspondence' discusses the ruler's frequent trips to each of his estates (mobility of the court), his intensive interaction with people (arriving and departing guests and envoys, their receptions, and solemn and expensive feasts), the gifts given, court pastimes (musicians, jesters, dwarves, and hunting), and information about health.

Ramvydas Petrauskas in his 'The Formation of the Institutional Court of Grand Duke of Lithuania' follows the transformation of the feudal Lithuanian oligarchy into the early political nation of the country according to the models, which were obligatory in the medieval Europe.

Jūratė Kiaupienė in her 'The Political Nation of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: the Lithuanian Prospect' re-calls that the phenomenon was ethnically heterogeneous and included the believers of various Christian denominations.

Raimonda Ragauskienė in her 'Female Correspondence in Ruthenian (Queens and Rich Noblewomen) in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (Late XV—XVI century)' stresses the fact, that the Lithuanian nobility of various origin, including the rulers, used actively the Ruthenian in their inner circle.

Ingė Lukšaitė in her 'Book Publishing in Lithuanian in Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Minor Lithuania (XVI — early XVII century) doesn't leave any doubts that the affirmative actions of the Prussian rulers for ethnic minorities, taken in the middle if XVI century, first of all the support of the publishing activity in the native language, provided a good ground for the Lithuanian national revival.

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Gintautas Sliatoriūnas in his 'Jan Bokiej Mission in Moscow (1697—1698) and the Problem of the Russian Military Intervention in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania' focuses on the crucial historical point when the political elite of the country started to apply for Russian forces to resolve internal political conflicts.

Ramunė Šmigelskytė-Stukienė in her 'The Lithuanian Metrics in the Second Half of XVIII Century: Re-dislocation of the Archive and its Systematization and Regulating' unveils the outstanding symbolic meaning of the Lithuanian Metrics for the Lithuanian society in the eve of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth partition and the unsuccessful attempts to hide the national relic from the Russian invaders.

Tamara Bairašauskaitė in her 'Noble Déclassé: to Prove the Origin' discloses how Russian authorities strove to determinate the Polish nationalism in Belarusian-Lithuanian lands, forcefully decreasing the number of people with the noble status.

Darius Staliūnas in his 'Borders in a Borderland: The Belarusians and the Ethnolinguistic Policy of the Russian Empire in Western Borderlands (the Era of "Great Reforms")' highlights the ambiguity of the Russian imperial policy towards Belarusians. Despite some dogmatic views, it gave the chances for the Belarusian nation-building.

Edmundas Gimžauskas in his 'The Lithuanians and the Belarusians in the Reclaiming of the Statehood after the WWI: between Historical and Ethnographical model shows the reasons why the Belarusian nationalism proved itself as weaker and belated than the Lithuanian one.

The issue closes with an account by **Algimantas Kasparavičius** 'The Political Role of the Belarusians in the Kaunas-Moscow Diplomatic Game' in the interwar period.

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