

Issue # 12 of 2011 is totally dedicated to a «women's factor» in the history of Belarus.

The issue opens with an editorial by a historian from Hrodna **Natalla Śliž**. It is titled «Women in Belarusian History».

An article by **Natalla Śliž** «Noblewomen on the Pages of Private, Legal and Judicial Documents of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 16th–17th Cent.» considers the role of upper class women in property operations, compiling private documents, and initiating legal cases. The research has been performed on the basis of archival records analysis.

An article by a historian **Natalla Hardzijenka** «Peculiarities of Social Stereotypes about Women on the Territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 18th Cent.» retraces the changes in women's status that were happening on the territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania under the influence of Enlightenment ideas. The author considers the then evolution of women's images on the pages of periodicals, in memoirs and epistolary heritage.

An article by a historian from Minsk **Natalla Anofranka** «Participation of Noblewomen of Belarusian and Lithuanian Territories in Political Life at the End of the 18th — the Beginning of the 19th Cent.» analyses new forms of women's social activity. The forms appeared after the liquidation of Polish and Lithuanian Statehood (Rzeczpospolita) as a result of the three divisions and after the ethnic Belarusian territories' annexation to the Russian Empire.

The topic is further developed by a historian **Alena Firynovič** in her article «The Role of Women in the Revolt of 1863—1864 on the Territory of Belarus». On the basis of Belarusian archival documents, the author evaluates the level of upper class women's political activity during the revolt and at the time of its suppression.

An article by a historian from Minsk **Iryna Ramanava** «Women Have Got Armed with Stakes and Are Attacking Us» is dedicated to a phenomenon of women's riots which took place on the territory of Belarus at the beginning of the 1930s during the compulsory collectivization of the village.

An article by a historian **Iryna Kaštalan** «The Problem of Marriage and Motherhood in the Life of the Belarusian Woman of the First After-War Decade» is concentrated on the family life of Belarusian women during the period mentioned and on their role as wives and mothers.

An article by an archivist and historian from Minsk **Ludmiła Ivanova** «Ludwika Karolina of the House of Radziwiłł — Patron of Protestant Church in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania» considers the life and activities of one of the last representatives of the Birzhy line of the Radziwiłłs family.

An article by a literary critic **Alaksandr Fiaduta** «Failed Meeting» considers a polemic by correspondence which took place in the 19th cent. between the

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famous Polish patriotic activist Ewa Felińska and the Russian cavalry-woman Nadezhda Durova on the problem of women's role in society.

The issue finishes with an article by the Belarusian historian **Aleh Dziarnovič** «Two Giedroyc Princesses: a Life during the Change of Epochs». The publication is dedicated to the life paths of two famous in Russian history and culture women, coming from an ancient Lithuanian and Belarusian princely family, — namely those of a doctor, surgeon and writer Vera Giedroyc and of a poet Raisa Giedroyc (Kudashova), author of the popular New Year's song «There was born a fir tree in the forest».

A publication by a historian **Volha Harbačova** «Anna Gierycz about the Rejtans, the Radziwills and Ishkaldz» pays attention to an interesting figure of a noblewoman who was a niece of Rzeczpospolita's famous patriot Tadeusz Rejtan. Anna Gierycz personally participated in the patriotic Polish movement on the territory of Belarus in the first decades of the 19th cent. and had to spend the rest of her life in emmigration. The issue contains Anna Gierycz's memoirs, some of which are published for the first time.

The Belarusian writer **Michaś Skobla** presents a regular selection from a rich epistolary heritage of the famous Belarusian poet and dissident **Łarysa Hienijuš**.

An article by an ethnologist from Minsk **Tacciana Valodzina** «A Woman and the Feminine in the Traditional World-View of Belarusians» is dedicated to the peculiarities and forms of the Belarusian traditional femininity stereotype embodiment as well as its influence on peasants' world-view and everyday practices.

An article by an ethnologist from Minsk **Volha Łabačeŭskaja** «The Anthropology of Weaving: Belarusian Narrative» reveals a new angle of our understanding of this specific sphere of women's existence in traditional culture.