

SUMMARY. №6 (105). 2011

Issue № 6 of 2011 is totally dedicated to the history of the Belarusian territories of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (Rzeczpospolita) in the 18th century.

The issue opens with a preface by a co-editor, a historian from Minsk **Andrej Macuk**.

A text by a Minsk historian **Dzmitryj Vićko** «Swedish Attack of 1702 on the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and an Attempt to Restore the Sapiehas» is dedicated to the events which were happening on the territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania at the first stage of the Northern War of 1700—1721. The military activities are considered here in close connection to the then internal political situation in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

A Polish researcher **Adam Perłakowski** in his article «An Image of Belarusian Towns of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the Diary of Prince Maximilian Emanuel von Wuerttemberg-Winnental» introduces the reader to a West European person's view on city and town life in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania at the beginning of the 18th century.

A Lithuanian researcher **Mečislovas Jučas** has contributed a text «Social and Political Problems at District Seimiks of Lithuania in the 18th Century». The text is based on the analysis of district Seimiks instructions of some of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania's districts. The author reveals the district nobility's views about their state as well as about its social, economic and political development.

A text by another Lithuanian historian **Robertas Jurgaitis** «Parliamentary Activities of the Wilno (Vilnia) Seimik Deputies at the Rzeczpospolita Seim in 1717—1793» presents a detailed review of the different aspects of the parliamentary activities of the representatives of the most influential regional Seimiks of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

An article by **Andrej Macuk** «Internal Political Situation in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the Middle of the 18th Century in Relation to Ordination of Ostroh Division» additionally considers a typical of that time situation when a change in the legal state of one of the greatest estates in Rzeczpospolita had a significant influence on the alignment of forces of different magnate groups during a period of their permanent internal political struggle.

A Polish researcher **Monika Jusupović** in her article «Political Hesitations of the Nobility of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania at the Times of August III and Stanislaw August Poniatowski» considers the given problem on the example of the history of the then influential Medekszas family.

Different aspects of Rzeczpospolita's relations with its Eastern neighbour, which was gaining its political authority at the time, is depicted in the articles by a Lithuanian researcher **Elmantas Meilus** («Relationship between Rzeczpospolita and the Russian Empire according to the Materials of the «Complete Collection of Laws of the Russian Empire» in 1649—1771») and by a Russian scientist **Maksim Anisimov** «Conflicts in the Border Area of Russia and Rzeczpospolita in the Middle of the 18th Century».

A publication by a Hrodna researcher **Iryna Kiturka** «Enlightenment and Agrarian Reforms in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the Other Half of the 18th Century» deals with different projects of economic relations reorganization on the Belarusian and Lithuanian territories of Rzeczpospolita under the influence of the progressive ideas which were spreading around Western Europe at the time.

A Lithuanian researcher **Ramunė Šmigelskytė-Stukienė** in her article «Inspection of the Activities of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania Treasury Committee in 1792—1793» analyses the results of the work of the financial institution, the creation and functioning of which became an immediate result of state regulation reforms, which the authorities of Rzeczpospolita tried to carry out, in spite of all the hardships.

A problem of the army organization of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in different periods of the 18th century is in the centre of attention of two Polish historians. **Tomasz Ciesielski** presents an article «Armed Forces of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania during War for Polish Heritage in 1733—1735». **Mariusz Machynia** offers an article «The Army of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania at the Initial Period of the Activities of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania Military Committee».

An American historian **David Althoen** in his article «Natione Polonus and the Naród szlachecki. Two Myths of National Identity and Noble Solidarity» gives a critical consideration to the views (firmly consolidated in Polish and therefore other historiographies) about the identity of Rzeczpospolita's nobility and that of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

A historian **Jury Hardziejeŭ** in his article «City Elites of Harodnia (Hrodna) in Modern Age» considers different aspects of Harodnia (Hrodna) city authorities' life on the example of some of the then most influential city families.

Robertas Jurgaitis in his article «Municipal Problems of Wilno (Vilnia) at the Meetings of Wilno (Vilnia) Seimik in the 18th Century» analyses the degree of the local nobility's representative institutions engagement in solving specific problems of the city centres of the region.

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An article by a Harodnia (Hrodna) researcher **Hanna Paŭloŭskaja** «An Image of Aliens in the Perception of the Clergy of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the Other Half of the 17th—18th Centuries» shows on concrete examples how representatives of other cultures and religions, and first of all residents of the Moscow state, Prussians and Jews, were perceived by the creators of Harodnia (Hrodna) claustral chronicles.

Mečislovas Jučas in his publication «Religious Arguments between Catholic Uniats and the Orthodox in the First Half of the 18th Century» pays attention to the complex interconfessional problems of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which, being unsolved, contributed to the division of Rzeczpospolita.

An article by a Polish historian **Dariusz Rolnik** «Karol Stanislaw «Panie Kochanku» and other Radziwills during the Period of King Stanislaw August Poniatowski's Reign in the Contemporaries' Appraisal» offers an opportunity to form an idea about the role of the whole family of the Radziwills as well as of its separate representatives in the social and political life of the other half of the 18th century.

An article by a Lithuanian researcher **Vidas Dolinskas** «The Last Great Hetman of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania Szymon Kossakowski» thoroughly considers the life of a man, who, in the author's opinion, was «an extraordinary personality, whose historic importance surpasses not only the Grand Duchy of Lithuania but also the whole of Rzeczpospolita».

The issue presents the first translation into Belarusian of part of the memoirs by a famous composer, political and military figure **Michał Kleofas Ogiński** «Mémoires sur la Pologne et les Polonais depuis 1788 jusqu'à la fin de 1815». The memoirs cover the events before the defeat of the 1794 revolt under Tadeusz Kościuszko's command and Michał Kleofas Ogiński's emigration.

A publication «Some Remarks Concerning a Useful Edition» by a Brest historian **Ihar Šaučuk** presents polemics with Aleh Dziarnovič, an author of the preface to «ARCHE» № 7 of 2009 under the title «The Historiography of the New Economic Policy's Epoch», with regard to some peculiarities of Belarusian historiography development in the 1920-s.