

SUMMARY. №6 (127). 2014

Issue 6 of 2014 is fully dedicated to the history of Magnates in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in 15th — 18th centuries. The issue opens with a preface by its editor, a historian from Minsk **Andrej Macuk**.

In an article by a Lithuanian historian **Rymvidas Petrauskas** titled «Why Magnates Are Dying out: The Destinies of Magnate Families of Grand Duchy of Lithuania» traces the history of rise and fall of prominent magnate lineages of 15th — 16th centuries (Kezhaila, Mantyhird, Zabiarezinski, Niemirovich, Montaut). The author makes a conclusion that the genealogical extinction of a magnate family usually implied the near end of its historical tradition.

A Belarusian historian **Nina Skiepjjan** in her article «Revisiting the Formation of Magnate Estate in the Grand Duchy in 15th — Early 16th Centuries» studied the ways in which serving gentry rose to the rank of magnates, namely: expansion of their allotments via good marriages, investitures, inheritance. Also, using the example of two magnate families Radzivil and Hashtold, the scholar described the evolution of political and economic standing of magnates in social and political life of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

A researcher from Lithuania **Genutė Kirkienė** in her article «A New View on Chadkievič Family — The Counts of Šklou and Myš» takes an attempt to trace the Chadkievič lineage in a new way. She studies the history of different branches of their family tree, points out mistakes in some works related to the history of the Chadkievič. Special attention is given to the question of the size of Chadkievič family estate changing throughout the history of this noble family.

A work by a scholar from Hrodna **Natallia Sliž** «Sakovič-Nasiloŭski: From an Influential to an Ordinary Family (15th—16th Centuries)» is dedicated to Sakovič family that later changed its family name to Nasiloŭski. This family had a very high standing in the society of 15th century. The story of Sakovič-Nasiloŭski is an interesting example of how an influential family gradually loses its importance in the political life of a country and degrades to the level of provincial gentry.

A Belarusian historian **Dźmitryj Vičko** in his article «Military Action in 1701 and the Beginning of Military Cooperation between the Sapieha Family and Sweden» studies the effects of the collaboration between the Swedish king Karl XII and the Sapieha magnate family that was taken under Swedish protection, on the course of Great Northern

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War. The author concludes that the collaboration led to a change in Karl XII's plans: instead of marching on Russia he moved his troops to the West of Kurland closer to Samogitian domains of Sapieha family, which the Swedes occupied and later — into the lands of the Commonwealth.

An article by a Lithuanian researcher **Vydas Dolinskas** «*Gente poloni, natione lituani: an Outline of Kasakoūski Lineage and the Effects of their Activity in Lithuania*» offers an in-depth study of the Kasakoūski family genealogy, their blood ties with Polish and Lithuanian nobility, and the size of their estate. The historian also covers various projects of philanthropy and sponsorship the family carried out.

A historian from Poland **Tomasz Kempa** in his article «Yan Yanavič Hliabovič — The Rebellious Magnate of Late 16th Century» carries out a detailed study of the hardest period of the magnate's life — Moskovian captivity and a written consent to collaborate with the Czar John IV the Terrible in exchange for freedom. That led to de facto exclusion of Hliabovič from the magnate society of the Grand Duchy of the time, which however turned into a rise in authority due to correctly chosen tactics during the three periods without kings.

A scholar from Poland **Andrzej Adam Majewski** in his work «Alexander Hilary Palubinski in the Light Of Eulogies by Michal Vajnovič and Karal Hlinaecki» demonstrated that both poetic sources of mid 17th century contain true facts of Palubinski's life. Moreover, only thanks to these eulogies, in spite of their natural bias one is able to know about some detail of the magnate's life.

An article by a Lithuanian researcher **Ramunė Šmigelskytė-Stukienė** «An Outline of Political and Diplomatic Activity of Michal Kleafas Ahinski (form Warsaw Sejm of 1786 to Hrodna Sejm of 1793)» is dedicated to little known episodes of the life of this man, who is world famous as a composer and music theorist, but, as the researcher demonstrates that Ahinski was a prominent politician and diplomat of the last years of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

A historian from Poland **Adam Danileczyk** in his article «*Vale et me ama. Stanistaū Aūgust and Joachim Litavor-Chaptovič in the Light of their Own Correspondence (1780—1788)*» reconstructs the activity of a representative of a magnate family Chraptovič aimed at strengthening the court party in the Grand Duchy, and also the plans of this magnate concerning the election of royalists as delegates and deputies to regional dietines.

Two articles by Polish researchers are deal with the estate of Biržai branch Radzivils. **Krzysztof Kossarzecki** in his article «Revisiting the Role of Prince Bahuslaū Radzivil's Estate in his Policies» studies the

ways in which one of the most prominent members of the renowned family dealt with his financial problems and how it influenced his political and military career. **Mariusz Sawicki** in his work «The Private Fortress of Radzivils in Biržai in 17th Century. Artillery and Armory» on having studied archive sources makes a conclusion that the cause of Biržai castle's low defense capacity (as demonstrated by several castle surrenders to the enemy) was not so much the bad condition of its armory and artillery as the design mistakes in the fortress itself.

An article by **Nastassia Skiepjān** «The Household and Servants of the Princes of Sluck at the End of 15th to the 80-s of 16th Century» deals with the subject of structure, evolution and staffing of the household under princes Yury 'Siamionavič and Yury Yur'ievič Alielkavič-Slucki, also the criteria of employment of servants are studied and the relations that existed between the princes and their household staff.

In her work «The Private Archives of Nobles in the 16th Century in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania» a researcher from Lithuania **Raimonda Ragauskienė** addresses such questions as the composition of the archives of the time, their sizes, the ways of making inventories of documents typical for the time, etc. The author concludes that the inventories of documents of the time do not reflect the real composition of magnates' archives.

A Polish historian **Aleksandra Ziober** in her work «Senate Councils in the Last Years of the Reign of John II Casimir Vasa (1660—1668)» makes a conclusion that the magnates of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania because of their involvement in Senate councils had a decisive influence on the formation of foreign policy of the country. Apart from that the Senate councils enabled them to react to changes in the international standing of the Commonwealth more rapidly.