

SUMMARY

Issue 5 of 2016 is generally dedicated to the mediaeval history of Belarus.

The issue opens with a path-breaking study by a young historian from Sankt-Petersburg Alaksiej Kibin' titled "From Yotvingian Land to Lithuania. Political and Socio-Cultural Transformations in the Upper Basin of the Niemen in 10—13 Century". Subject of the study is the formation, organization and the transformation of the Ruthenian frontier on the section from Jatvež (Yotvingian Land) to Lithuania in the Middle Ages. The study starts with the revision of the theory about the Yotvingian past and finishes with historical period when the Lithuanian domination on mentioned lands was established.

A Polish historian Jan Tyszkiewicz in his "Yotvingian Land in Early Middle Ages. Between Neman, Biebrza (Bobra) i Gołdapa, Or against Legends" critically examines the same subject. He criticizes different versions of ancient Yotvingian Land localization and its territorial shape, which are available in mediaeval Polish and German chronicles as well as in contemporary studies by Polish, Lithuanian and Russian historians and archeologists.

A Lithuanian historian Vaida Kamuntavičienė in her article "Population of Jelnia parish in the 17th century (Stara Litwa or following the traces of the Yotvingians in the Diocese of Vilnius)" analyses the data from the visitations of the Catholic Church and inventory materials of 17th century in regard of the population of Jelnia parish (Slonim deanery, Vilnius diocese, Grand Duchy of Lithuania; now Lida district, Hrodna Voblast, Republic of Belarus). In the period in question Jelnia parish was inhabited by Yotvingians Old Lithuania (Stara Litwa). The data allow the conclusion that the remains of the Baltic tribe Yotvingians swept out of existence by the crusaders in the 13th century, moved deeper to the Southeast and in the 17th century were called Old Lithuania in the neighborhood of Ruzhany, Slonim and Vaukavysk in modern Belarus.

The issue ends with a critical review by Professor Oleg Latyszzonek from Bialystok university of the Belarusian translation of a British monograph which was published by ARCHE last year. Original title is: *Rowell Stephen Christopher. Lithuania Ascending: A Pagan Empire within East-Central Europe, 1295–1345 (Cambridge studies in medieval life and thought, ser. 4, No. 25). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997. 416 p.*