

Issue 2 of 2017 of “ARCHE” journal is titled “Urban History of Belarus” and comprises the time period between the 16th and 20th centuries.

The issue opens with a preface by a historian from Hrodna, the issue’s editor **Natallia Sliž**.

Her article «The Hrodna Engravings By Adelhauser/Zündt 1567—1568 As A Reflection Of International Events Against The City Life Background» offers a detailed analysis of one of the most informative visual sources on 16th century Hrodna history. The review of a work of fiction contains a broad description of historical context of the time; the information given is verified against other contemporary sources.

A study by an American researcher from the University of California **David Frick** “Buchner At The Font: Godparenting And Network Building In Seventeenth Century Wilno” is dedicated to interconfessional relationships in the capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (GDL) of the time. The author points out that during the time in question christenings were popular in Wilno/Vilnius with godparents from Christian confessions other than the confession of the child’s parents.

In a documentary article by **Irina Gerasimova**, a historian from Saint-Petersburg, “An Inventory List Of Wilno/Vilnius Property Of Ašmiany Chamberlain Samuel Hieronim Kociel (1678): Stone Buildings, The Yard And Vegetable Garden”, using the example of one Wilno/Vilnius home-owner, the process of expensive city property acquisition by GDL nobility is explained. Also the ways of using this property as a source of additional income are shown.

In the article by a Polish scholar **Mariusz Sawicki** “The Siege Of Sapiehas’ Old Bychaŭ In 1702” an instance of internal struggle in GDL during the Northern War of 1700—1721 is studied in detail. It was when the troops of GDL with the help of Moscow Cossacks made the private Sapieha fortress garrison capitulate. The Sapiehas supported Sweden in the conflict.

A study by a Lithuanian historian of art **Lina Balaišytė** “For Ruler’s Glorification, In Memory Of The Glorifier: Celebration For August III in Wilno/Vilnius” is dedicated to the festivities and celebrations of various kinds that were held in Wilno/Vilnius in 18th century to honor Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth king August III.

An article by a Polish historian **Andrzej Stroynowski** “Hrodna Diet Of 1784. The Joint Sessions Of The Houses Of October 6 To 23 Of 1784.” focuses on one of the initial stages of the above mentioned Diet.

An article by a researcher from Gdańsk **Iwona Janicka** “Wilno — A City Of Contrasts” is made up of sketches of citizens’ daily lives between 1795 and 1840s.

A historian from Białystok **Wiesław Wróbel** centered his attention on the difficulties around the construction of Białystok water pipeline in 1879—1890 in his article “We In No Way Are Adept At Treading On This Achilles Heel Of Ours...”

An article by a researcher from Minsk **Julija Latuškova** “Minsk Under German Occupation Of 1918 (February, 21st — December 10th)” sheds light on various facets of everyday life of the occupied city during the final period of World War I: registration of citizens, voluntary and compulsory relocation for the purpose of work; working conditions and ways of citizens’ survival, etc.

A piece by historians from Hrodna **Andrej Vaškievič** and **Tacciana Kasataja** “City Housing And House Interiors Of Hrodna In Early 20th Century (based On Memories And Photographs)” is an attempt to have a glimpse of the part of city space which is normally beyond the scope of urban researchers’ attention, being a part of private life which is seldom publicly displayed by property owners at their will.

The issue closes with an article by a historian from Moscow **Denis Mironov** “The Fashions And Images of Belarusian Women In 1920 — 30s On The Pages Of “Bielaruskaja Rabotnica i Sialanka” (Belarusian Female Worker And Farmer) Magazine”. The author concentrates on the publications of the magazine which demonstrated a notable, often contradictory cultural and ideological symbiosis, typical of many spheres of life during the period of “New Economic Policy”.