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ARTICLES

Ewa Dubas-Urwanowicz — A Kingdom without a King? Royal Competence during the First Two Interregna after the Death of Zygmunt August

The author indicates the division of monarchic rights during the titular period between the Primate, the Senate and gentry conventions. As a result, the Primate, apart from fulfilling the function of a temporary head of state with the title of interrex, assumed the right to convoke national and provincial assemblies of the gentry, while the Senate took over steering foreig n policy during periods between the conventions, and the latter guaranteed the functioning of the court apparatus and the local administration as well as the defence of borders. The author accentuates the political maturity of the ruling groups which made it possible — despite the absence of previously prepared procedures and social and international conflicts — to prevent civil war and to preserve the functioning of state structures at the time of interregna.

Grzegorz Kucharczyk — "Hangmen" or "Victims"? The Place and Role of Censors in the Prussian Censorship System Prior to 1848

The author tried to verify the image of the censor as a civil servant — a loyal executor of state policy aimed at spreading control of the printed word. Thorough research, based on Polish and German archival material, made it possible to alter the likeness of the censor conceived as an arbitrary "hangman" of the free word. The censors themselves were restrained by assorted limitations, some which were embedded in the very premises of Prussian censorship. The demands of the superiors were high, and wages remained low, or at time were non-existent. Moreover, the censors complained about eye strain and the hardship of reading daily portions of inferior prose and poetry. Hence at times the censors were not so much the "hangmen" as the "victims" of the Prussian censorship system.

Mariusz Mazur — The Press Campaign Connected with the Radom and Ursus Events of June 1976

The article discusses the way in which the press, subjected to the communist authorities, presented workers' unrest which took place after the government announced high rises of food prices. The author considers mainly assorted features of the press campaign: its language, which stirred the emotions of the readers, the manipulation of information intended to show the hooligan motives and character of the disturbances, a wide presentation of a campaign of support for the authorities, officially spontaneous and in reality organised by those authorities. The characteristic way in which the riots were depicted included logical errors and contradictions, especially the minimalisation of the scale of the workers' outbreak and the exaggerated assessment of ensuing material losses.

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MATERIALS

Piotr Kardyś — The Inhabitants of Wiślica in the Books of the Wiślica Officiant from the End of the Fifteenth Century to the First Half of the Sixteenth Century

The author discusses the beginnings of the Wiślica office of the officiant, established probably in 1392 as one of the regional posts (oficialatus foraneus) in the Cracow diocese. The major part of the text lists the inhabitants of Wiślica mentioned in the books of that office from 1472–1548. The author points out that data concerning the burghers, and especially their cognomens, indicate the Polish ethnic nature of the town and the developed crafts specialisation of its residents.

Stanisław Mrowczyk — The Zaolzie Staff. Recollections of the Activity of a Group Established in 1945 to Initiate Preparations for the Polish Seizure of Zaolzie

The author recalls his service in the so-called Zaolzie Staff — a unit of Polish special forces active from July 1945 to March 1948. The tasks of this unit entailed the preparation of the seizure of Zaolzie Silesia by the Polish Armed Forces (propaganda, preparations for the take-over of industrial enterprises, and the organisation of the administration) as well as the capture of Czech agitators propagating the inclusion of the regions of Polish Cieszyn, Raciborz, Głubczyce and Kłodzko into Czechoslovakia. The unit was resolved after the communists seized power in Prague. Up to now, the activity of the Zaolzie Staff has not been the topic of historical studies.

REVIEWS

COMMUNICATIONS