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LIETUVOS Didžioji Kunigaikštystė

Valstybė. Kultūra. Edukacija

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Sudarytoja RAMUNĖ ŠMIGELSKYTĖ-STUKIENĖ



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ISBN 978-9955-847-94-6 ISSN 2351-6968 Homeland is a reflection of its people. The people are made by the education of younger generation.

Joachim Litawor Chreptowicz¹

On 30 August 1781 Lithuanian vice-Chancellor and member of the Educational Commission Joachim Ignacy Litawor Chreptowicz (1729-1812) noted in his address to the professorship of Vilnius University and the Rectors of the secondary schools in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania that in order to strengthen the homeland one must essentially improve education of its nation, especially of the younger generation, distributing educational knowledge as wide as possible among all levels of society. It is no coincidence that a quote from this speech, reflecting reception of the Enlightenment ideas in Lithuania, was used as an opening line in the second volume of an ongoing publication *The Eighteenth-*Century Studies. This publication is dedicated to the discussion of reforms in state education and sociocultural changes in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 18th century. Key topical axis of this publication is the impact on development of society and activities of the first institution for administering education and science in the Polish and Lithuanian state - the Educational Commission, founded 14 October 1773. Along with the history of education this publication also continues the topic of socio-cultural changes, focused on issues in the history of cities in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

In the first chapter, titled 'State educational policy and the Educational Commission in the 18th century', we find seven scientific articles covering genesis of the idea of reforming state educational system of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania during rule of August III, the role of graduates of Lithuanian military schools in state reforms in the second half of the 18th century, the work of the Educational Commission and assessment of its activities, and contribution of professors of Vilnius University to development of science and culture in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

Readiness of the nobility to accept educational reforms is revealed in the research by Andrej Macuk, based on the comprehensive analysis of instructions issued to districts sejmiks. The author clearly proves that in the course of government by the King August III the nobility in all districts of the Grand Duchy of

I A quote from Arnoldas Piročkinas, Algirdas Šidlauskas, Mokslas senajame Vilniaus universitete, Vilnius: Mokslas, 1984, p. 100.

Lithuania demanded that the Sejm approved financing of the Piarists schools and Vilnius University as well as to equalise rights of Vilnius and Krakow universities, however it was still not the time for these reforms to be actualized.

Valdas Rakutis looked at the development of the educational system through the history of military schools, revealing that development of the nation was greatly impacted by the graduates of Warsaw Cadet Corps, then directed by Lithuanian lieutenant general Adam Kazimierz Czartoryski. Among them notably were the nobles of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: engineer and General Tadeusz Kościuszko, officer, politician and playwright Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz, Colonel Józef Jeleński, administrator and statesman Jan Horain, and others.

A study by Aldona Prašmantaitė, researching relationship between the clergy of Vilnius and Samogitian bishoprics and the Educational Commission, showed that this non-religious institution in implementing its educational model had successfully appropriated experience of administrative structures of the Catholic Church and its intellectual potential. Yet Wioletta Pawlikowska-Butterwick and Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski compared two most influential figures of Vilnius at the time: Bishop Ignacy Massalski and University Rector and astronomer Marcin Poczobutt-Odlanicki, seeking to answer the question what has determined the special position of the astronomer both in Vilnius and the entire Lithuania in the last decades of the 18th century.

University reform by the Educational Commission is presented in the article by Janina Kamińska, supplemented with the article by Arnaud Parent dedicated to the development of medical science and presenting the work of three French doctors in Lithuania: Jean-Emmanuel Gilibert, Nicolas Regnier and Jacques Briotet.

Formation of public opinion and periodicals as tools of advertisement is analysed in the article by Magdalena Ślusarska 'The work of the Educational Commission in Lithuania in the pages of "Vilnius newspapers".

The second chapter of this publication 'Traditions and changes in education' presents analysis of: education at home (by Jolita Sarcevičienė), architectural studies in non-university schools in Lithuania (by Rasa Butvilaitė) and role of women in formation of international identity in the times of the Educational Commission (by Olga Mastianica). Article by Dariusz Rolnik 'Lithuania and the Crown on educational reform. School years in the memories of citizens of the Polish-Lithuanian state in the times of Stanislaw August' is richly illustrated with the views of nobility on the educational system at the time of the Educational Commission.

Article by Jonas Drungilas 'In the labyrinths of forgotten ancestry: case of the Nagurski family in the second half of the 18th century', even though not being

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directly linked to the history of Lithuanian system of education, nevertheless demonstrates how important it was for the nobility to establish and maintain genealogical self-consciousness of their families.

The third chapter of the publication 'Contexts of Urban History' hosts scientific articles in various aspects presenting a history of cities of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. At the centre of the article by Gintautas Sliesoriūnas are the sessions of the Supreme Tribunal of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, taking place in late 17th and early 18th centuries in Vilnius, analysed via the prism of fighting among various political groupings. Rights of towns and questions of self-government are discussed in the articles by Belarusian scientists Maksim Makarov and Ina Sorkina. M. Makarov after analysis of the government structure of the town of Polotsk comes to conclusion that judicial government of the town in the 18th century covered only some of Polotsk's merchants and craftsmen. Most townspeople were under the jurisdiction of nobility and clergy. The main document that regulated activities of town government in the 18th century was the Privilege of Władysław Vasa, granted to Polotsk on 11 March 1633. The office of voigt of Polotsk was taken by the Voivode of Polotsk.

At the same time I. Sorkina using example of the town of Kapyl and introducing new historical sources shows that townspeople of Kapyl both at the end of the 18th and all of the 19th century actively sought to preserve the rights granted to them in the times of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, i.e. right of personal freedom, freedom from obligations of serfdom and the status of town. This article adds new data to the research by Rimantas Jasas and Mečislovas Jučas on attempts by the townspeople of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania to preserve self-governance under the rule of the Russian Empire, started in the seventh decade of the 20th century.

Building reconstructions in Kaunas in the second half of the 18th century, changing the landscape of this city, are discussed in the article by Liudas Glemža. The author focuses on the problems of reconstructing the Town Hall, also adding new data in the history of the building of the Town Inn.

Relationship between art and commerce in the 18th century Lithuania is analysed in the article by Lina Balaišytė, dedicated to the issue of relationship between labour of the artist and his remuneration. After discussing work and life of the artists in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania from socio-economic aspect the author comes to conclusion that due to the undeveloped market for art in Lithuania artists were hesitant in creating freely and preferred working upon commissioning. Remuneration was often influenced by the quantitative criteria (size of the art object, number of figures, etc.), however financial appreciation was also influenced by artist's qualifications, status and links with influential patrons.

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Articles published in the second volume of *The Eighteenth-Century Studies* not only reveal changes in the educational system of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, but also touch upon the issue of influence of education on cultural and social processes, thus opening new doors for further research in this area.

Ramunė Šmigelskytė-Stukienė May 2015, Vilnius