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# English summaries. Journal of the Library at Kórnik Nr. 4

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## ENGLISH SUMMARIES.

### *Journal of the Library at Kórnik Nr. 4*

- p. 5 Władysław Pociecha: **The Congress in Poznań in 1530.** There is a fixed opinion among historians that the congress called to Poznań in 1530 by Sigismund I in order to form an agreement between the national Hungarian king John Zapolya and his rival Ferdinand I was only one link in the chain of the Habsburgian policy. The aim of arranging placeable congresses was to pacify Europe and turn all Christian forces against the Turks; besides this one provided the Habsburgian dynasty with an opportunity of tightening family links with the Jagiellonian House by contracting a marriage between the Polish king's son Sigismund Augustus and Ferdinand I's daughter, Elisabeth. An objective analysis of the historical records leads to quite opposite conclusions. The meeting of Charles V with the Pope Clements VII in Bologna (1529—30) pretending to aim at unifying Europe against the Turks, was in fact meant to exert a pressure on Turkey in order to let Ferdinand I occupy Hungary and to expel Zapolya, excommunicated by the Pope. In spite of statements made in Bologna that a war would soon be undertaken against the infidels. Ferdinand I, advised by Charles V who wished to be free to make war with the Protestants, entered into clandestine negotiations with Turkey. These plans met considerable obstacles owing to the Polish attitude in the quarrel for the Hungarian crown. In Poland although neutrality was proclaimed, two factions were fighting with each other: The prohabsburgian party, led by the chancellor K. Szydłowiecki and representing the magnates and the national party, supported by the mass of lower nobility and the Polish middle class who were not willing to allow the Habsburgs to occupy Hungary. This latter party brought about the fact that Zapolya kept the Hungarian throne and besides it wished to base Polish politics on a treaty with Turkey against Germany. In order to bind Sigismund I with the Habsburgian policy and to paralyse the activity of the national party in Poland, Ferdinand I, through George, Duke of Saxony, suggested to Sigismund I to meet in 1530 pretending to plan to mediate in an agreement with Zapolya, but actually to force a marriage contract between Sigismund Augustus and the Archduchess Elisabeth. This marriage, according to the plans of the Viennese court, had to facilitate the occupation of Hungary and to prepare the ground for occupying Poland in case the Jagiel-

lonian dynasty should die out. The congress in Poznań (19. X.—11. XI. 1530) failed in the pacification of Hungary. The Habsburgs consented—only as an extreme measure — to a war against the Protestants to let Zapolya be the governor of Hungary in their name, if he would break relations with the Turks. But even this point was not touched upon at the meeting in Poznań, because at the Augsburg congress, which took place at the same time, Charles V gave up the idea of a war against the Protestants and gained considerable military contingents for protecting Hungary against the Turks. The news of the successes of the Habsburgian policy at the Augsburg congress their plenipotentiaries broke off the negotiations in Poznań. The unique but frail result of this congress namely a year's armistice between Zapolya and Ferdinand I, never came into force. as Ferdinand, deceiving Zapolya by peace-treaties, made in that very time an assault on Buda which totally failed. Although the Polish delegates for the meeting in Poznań, belonging to the national party, defended the cause of Zapolya in a wise manner, and pushed the marriage contract into the background, the chancellor Szydłowiecki succeeded in forming a provisional marriage contract between Sigismund Augustus and Archduchess Elisabeth, which was the chief aim of the Habsburgian policy.

- P. 77 Stanisław Bodniak: *The Oldest Scheme of an Agreement between Poland and Moscow against Germany.* On the basis of not yet published records the author states that in the XVI c. a revolutionary turn was to take place in the relations between Poland and Moscow. In winter 1570—71 the Polish king Sigismund Augustus (1548—1572) planned to form an alliance with his greatest foe, Ivan IV, czar of Russia, against the Germans. This scheme was brought forth by the increasing German pressure towards the east, which threatened Prussia and Livonia, Poland's access to the Baltic Sea. Both the countries, Poland and Russia, were equally interested in Livonia, as Moscow had there her port Narva (since 1558). The German Reich claimed the possession of the whole of Livonia and tried to regain it. Sigismund Augustus through his ambassador Michael Haraburda was about to propose his own plan of an agreement to Moscow's emperor, Ivan IV. The author explains why this plan failed. But the new trend in the political views of Sigismund Augustus in this period

found their expression in the fact that he warned the czar Ivan IV against the Germans and that he entered into negotiations for a peace treaty in the years 1571—2.

- 93 Władysław Konopczyński: *England and Poland in the XVIII c.* The author does not enter into the question how much the attitude of England influenced the first partition of Poland (1772), a fact condemned by all English people, he sketches the general relations between both nations in the XVIII century; then with the help of abundant material chiefly from the British Record Office and Polish State Archives, but also from many others, he throws some light on the role played by George III and his ministers in the quarrel between Poland and Russia, which ended in the partition of Poland. Formally England was interested in Polish political matters only as they concerned her own allies, and Russia was expected to be one. Since the middle of the XVIII century the wisest Polish families of Czartoryski, Poniatowski, Andrew Zamoyski, Konarski felt a strong sympathy towards England and admiration for her. The family of Czartoryski had their friends on the Thames such as Williams, Mansfield, Hardwick, Stormont etc. Poland was separated from England by the great distance and the difference of religion; the trade between these countries was slight while political ideals were similar in both. All attempts of reforms by the family of Czartoryski were baffled by Russia with the help of Prussia and for her benefit. To weaken the Polish government Russia inflated the question of the dissenters. Poniatowski, the Polish king, was willing to give all non-Catholics full tolerance and freedom of confession without political equality of rights which no country gave any religious minorities. In exchange for these concessions the King tried to obtain the consent of Russia to the reform of Polish parliament. This plan was rejected by Russia and as a result an insurrection (the confederacy of Bar) broke out. Czartoryski succeeded in persuading the government of George III to mediate in Moscow. The fate of Poland depended on this mediation. But the English ambassador in Moscow, Lord Cathcart, totally absorbed in negotiations concerning an alliance and a trade agreement was duped by the minister of Catherine II Panin; he used mediation as an opportunity to serve and to flatter the czarina. The result was that Catherine punished the Czartoryski family for their underhand dealings with England and their aiming at independence by the sequestration of their

property in the Polish state. Many an Englishman understood the pitiful position of Czartoryski and sympathised with them. Most of them accused France of inciting Poles to resistance and exposing them to persecution. But nobody understood the fact that it was only France that tried to save Poland although in a clumsy way, England on the other side helped Russia to defeat the Turks, making it easy to the Russian fleet to reach the Archipelago. This fact was soon repented by Wiliam Pitt jr. Stanislaus Augustus even in the struggle for reforms at home in the days of the partitions was not supported by the English diplomacy so he himself and his followers who had admired England lost their affection for her.

P. 130 Józefa Orańska: Gaetano Vincent Kielisiński in the Light of Records and his Works in the Museum at Kórnik. The author of this treatise completes and corrects some details in the life of G. V. Kielisiński both artist and officer of the insurrections 1831 and 1848 basing herself on archival material and on his rich heritage preserved mostly in the Museum at Kórnik. Kielisiński himself was acting as an engraver and a librarian in the Library at Kórnik in the years 1840—48, where he died 2. I. 1849. His precise drawings of coins, medals and Polish medieval stamps have a great value; most valuable are also his sketches representing various folk types, his drawings of architectonic monuments and of military scenes chiefly from the insurrection in 1831. But the most precious are the sketches drawn with a pencil and a quill. Besides drawing and water-colouring he did some etching. The outstanding features of his art are: keen observation, expressive characterization, good composition (in the military scenes), faithfulness in the execution of the work.

P. 153 Stanisław Bodniak: A Fragment of the Journals of the Parliamentary Session Held in Warsaw 1572. The author published a fragment of unknown Journals of the parliamentary session in 1572, the last while Sigismund Augustus was alive. The original manuscript, preserved in the National Library in Warsaw, was destroyed by the German occupants during the insurrection of 1944. The author succeeded in saving the copy of the text, which he had made before. The published fragment tells of the quarrel between the Polish House of Deputies and the Senate about the organization of the highest courts in Poland. The King himself took part in this discussion on the side of the Senate attacked by the Deputies.

- p. 164 Stanisław Bodniak: *The Duties of an Ambassador by Ławryn Piaseczyński — the Beginning of the XVII Century*. In one of the manuscripts in the National Library in Warsaw an unknown work of Ł. Piaseczyński, a diplomat and secretary of the Polish king Sigismund III Vaza, was discovered by Mr. Bodniak. The title of this writing is: *The duties of an ambassador outside the Kingdom (extra Regnum)*. Here we have the rules of conduct for a Polish diplomatic representative performing his political mission on a foreign court given in a concise form by Ł. Piaseczyński, who himself was a diplomat and it was his own experience and practice which formed the basis of this work. Writings of this kind are very rare in Polish and European literature of this period.
- p. 173 Roman Pollak: *Corrections in the Text of „The Garden of Trifles“ by W. Potocki*. The poetic work of one of the best Polish writers in the XV century, W. Potocki's „The Garden of Trifles“ was not printed during his life. It was edited as late as 1907 by Alexander Brückner who made use of a copy with many errors, omissions and alterations. In 1925 Mr. Pollak compared this edition with the autograph of Potocki preserved in the National Library in Warsaw and took notes of all the differences. Potocki's autograph was destroyed by the Germans during the insurrection in Warsaw 1944, but the above mentioned annotations were partially saved and they form the basis of the corrections.
- p. 180 Adam Skalkowski: *Julius Enoch and his Writings on Polish-Russian Matters (1861—1864)*, Making use of the archives of the family Stablewski where the heritage of Julius Enoch was preserved the author, Adam Skalkowski, completes the details of the life of this most eminent collaborator of Alexander Wielopolski, and publishes a selection of his political writings. Among those there is one of special importance namely a scheme of a Polish-Russian agreement which he suggested on his own initiative, as the insurrection 1863/64 was about to fail. Taking the Russian political point of view he argued that the persecution of Poles was not advantageous to the empire. The bone of contention between both Slavic nations was always consisted in the districts with mixed population where the Polish element was dominating by their social position and their higher level of culture but by no means by their number. Enoch advised that this Polish element should withdraw voluntarily within the boundaries of the Congress

Kingdom where they might enjoy total independence and full opportunity of development. Poles have been the vanguard against the German pressure and all persecution according to Muraviev's system would be to the benefit of the enemies of the Slavic nations.

- P. 208 Stanisława Jasińska: Słowacki in the Notes of Leonard Niedźwiecki. This is a supplement to the notes of L. Niedźwiecki concerning Julius Słowacki, preserved in the Library at Kórnik which were published by L. Płoszewski in the Literary Journal (Pamiętnik Literacki) in 1929. These notes bring forth important details which explain, among others, the genesis of the poem „On the Return of Napoleon's Ashes" and allow to fix the dates of the poem „Beniowski", of the part published when Słowacki was alive as well as of the second part which remained in the manuscript. Besides these notes throw more light on Słowacki's life in exile, in Paris.
- P. 216 In the part „News" there is a report of the Management of the Library at Kórnik for the administrative period from 1. VII. 1946 to 30. VI. 1947 as well as information about the editions planned by the Library and the exhibitions which are to take place in the Museum at Kórnik.