

Summary of the Doctor's Degree

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The title of Doctor's Degree: "Amtsblatt der Königlichen Regierung zu Danzig". From the history of the Prussian official press in the years 1816-1848

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The state official journals began to appear in the Kingdom of Prussia from 1811. In the following years, until 1818, subsequent registries included in the Hohenzollern state obtained their official organs. The official journal of the Gdańsk regency was first published in 1816. From that moment, until the establishment of the Free City of Gdańsk, it was published regularly at weekly intervals. This paper describes the Gdańsk Amtsblatt for the years 1816–1848, that is essentially for the period of the first half of the 19th century. The overriding goal of the work is not however is not a comprehensive analysis of the journal for a given period, but rather an in-depth analysis of selected problems that appear on its pages. Therefore the work focuses more broadly on aspects related to sanitary culture and crime, in this regard, making a thorough analysis of the content of the Gdańsk Amtsblatt.

The first chapter of the work is devoted to the general characteristics of the official journal of the regency of Gdańsk. A historical outline of this writing genre and its reception in Poland and in the Kingdom of Prussia are presented. In the case of the eastern areas of the Kingdom of Prussia, it was also undertaken to present the specificity of official journals, which in regency was inhabited to a large extent by the Polish-speaking population, appeared in two-column form, i.e. on the left there was the original text in German, while on the right its translation into Polish. An important issue raised in the first chapter was also the issue of the formal characteristics of the Gdańsk official journal. The focus here is on the external characteristics of this journal, as well as its volume, frequency of publication and the characteristics of its publishing organizations. The target audience to which this official establishment was addressed was also presented. The following pages of this chapter are devoted to the analysis of specific sections of the journal and its supplements. In the case of the latter, they were divided into permanent and periodic additives. As for the main content of the journal, the separate sections, the characteristics of which are dealt with in this chapter,

are as follows: orders and announcements of the Gdańsk regency, security police, various news, personal chronicle and other columns of the journal appear periodically.

The second chapter of the thesis concerns the analysis of selected issues in the sanitary safety of the Gdańsk regency which appeared in the Gdańsk amtsblatt. In addition to the general characteristics of the sanitary condition of the eastern part of the Kingdom of Prussia, the focus is on matters related to human and animal diseases appearing in the journal. When it comes to human diseases, the following illnesses were analyzed: plague, smallpox, cholera, rabies, scabies and tangling. A lot of information concerned the epidemics of smallpox and cholera in the Gdańsk regency. In the case of smallpox, in the Gdańsk's Amtsblatt we find numerous data on towns where the outbreak and the end of the epidemic took place at a specific moment. In addition, there is also information on the number of vaccinations against smallpox in a specific year in a concrete district. In the case of animal diseases, on the basis of numerous data on the outbreak or the end of an epidemic in a specific town, analyzes were made of infectious diseases of livestock in the Gdańsk regency, mainly sheep and cattle, but also horses and pigs.

The last chapter of the work is devoted to the analysis of nearly two thousand arrest warrants, which appeared periodically in the Gdańsk official journal. Their comprehensive analysis allowed for a more detailed picture of the criminal witness of the regency. Thus, the categories of crimes committed in the area of the registration of crimes, the gender structure, age and religion of criminals, language knowledge and origin are presented here. The aspects related to the physical characteristics and material culture of criminals from the Gdańsk regency were also analyzed. First of all, an important aspect was the analysis of the so-called specific features of criminals, which included, among others, scars after illnesses and tattoos. The characteristics of arrest warrants, the frequency with which they appear and the publishing bodies that publish them have also been presented. This chapter also deals with the punishment imposed on those who break the law. The types of punishments ranging from death penalties to imprisonment or fines have also been presented. It is noticeable that in the 19th century the focus shifted from physical punishment to imprisonment, which was becoming more and more popular at that time.

The work ends with extensive appendices for each of the chapters. In the case of the first of them, which complements the first chapter, the source texts contained in the first issue of the Kwidzyn official journal were edited. In the case of the other two annexes, they are tabular in nature and constitute a summary of data contained in the Gdańsk official journal

regarding two issues analyzed more broadly in the work with specific disease entities among people and animals and arrest warrants published in the Gdańsk official journal.