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The rozdolska library of Lanckorońscy (since XVIII to XX centuries)

Summary

Lanckorońscy were one of the greatest and famous Polish noble families. The most well known members of this family were Karol Lanckoroński and Karolina Lanckorońska. Their deeds for the history and culture of fatherland made them great benefitors of Poland.

Karol Lanckoroński was working as a politician in favour of his country when Poland was under foreign partition in XIX and at the beginning of XX centuries. His daughter Karolina Lanckorońska served for Poland especially during the Second World War when she was working for polish army. Besides after the war when she was living abroad and the country was under soviet regime, she was helping Polish professors, scholars and students by giving them money and scholarship grants. At the end of her life she donated to her fatherland the whole fortune of her family (collection of historic goods, pieces of arts and archives of her ancestors together with abundant library of her family). This very library of Lanckorońscy which is just a part of this family's donation and legacy is the theme of this scientific work.

The library of Lanckorońscy is called rozdolska library. It takes its name from the city of Rozdół where the library was established. Nowadays the rozdolska library is escrow in The Scientific Library of the PAAS and the PAS (The Polish Academy of Sciences and The Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences) in Cracow as a separate deposit. The rozdolska library is the typical collection of private books. Its beginnings dates back to XVIII century when the library was established. After the nearly two hundred years of difficult and complicated changes the collection ended its history at the end of XX century. The whole process of changes and movements of this library author described using salvaged library's inventories. Besides very useful and helpful in studies were rich archival materials. The third part of sources was the whole library's collection of books. Based on this material the author of this work analyzed how succeeding owners of the library, their decisions, interests and reader's choices shaped the content of the collection in subsequent years of its history.

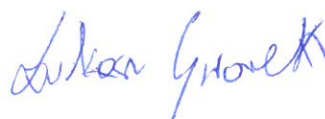
The main thesis of the work assumes that historical events and processes dating back from XVIII century shaped and formed largely not only the history of the Lanckorońscy family

but also the history of their library. This assumption was proved in the following chapters of work, in which the author depicted how certain historic conditions and events influenced on the rozdolska library and on their owners.

The work (besides the preface and the wrap-up) is composed of five chapters. In the first chapter author presents the methods which were used to study the history of library and its stocks. In the next three chapters the author describes the whole history of rozdolska library since the beginnings till the present condition. The last chapter of the work presents the place of the rozdolska library amongst others Polish nobles libraries. By comparing the rozdolska library stocks with library collections of others famous nobles collections since XVIII to XX centuries, one can see the common features of book collectors' and main readers interests of this times. In this last chapter the author also described the historical and cultural context of times when the collection existed.

In the conclusions of the work it is important to spotlight that the rozdolska library together with its owners were strictly associated with the history of Poland and this part of Europe. Such historical events as loss of independence by Poland in the outcome of partition of the country, hardships and damages during First and Second World Wars, emigration during communist regime had stigmatized not only the family of Lanckorońscy but also their collection of books. Besides it was also presented how readers' interests of subsequent owners and collectors' trends had influenced on rozdolska library and its stocks. In addition to this historical sketch of this library, its history was compared with others famous nobles libraries which had been existing in Poland between XVIII and XX centuries.

Cracow, 2.12.2018

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lukasz Głowacki', is written in a cursive style.