

SUMMARY

Marriage and extramarital relations of the GDL nobility in the sixteenth — seventeenth centuries

Marriage and extramarital relations of the GDL nobility have not been studied deeply in Belarusian and foreign historiography. For example, Belarusian ethnography paid prime attention to the marriage of peasants. Soviet historiography concentrated on such topics as history of economy, history of the 20 century, etc. Historiography of the Republic of Belarus started to pay more attention to the history of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, including the history of marriage.

The *goal* of the monograph is to present the development and formation of the institute of noble marriage in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (GDL) in legislation, its use in judicial practice and private documents, canon law, marriage customs, and divorce.

Sources. This research is based on different kinds of sources such as *legal sources* (grand duke's privileges, the Statutes of the GDL of 1529, 1566, 1588), *private documents* (testaments, court cases, notifications about receiving a dowry and others), and *narrative sources* (chronicles, family chronicles, memoirs, panegyrics, wedding poems).

The noble marriage was based on such documents as pre-marriage contract, permission for marriage (in some cases), dower list, list of movable property of a bride, notification about receiving a dowry. The marriage was indissoluble, sacramental and regulated both by legislation of the GDL and canon law. Coexistence of Orthodox, Uniate, Catholic, and Protestant churches in the GDL influenced marriage relations. The betrothal and the wedding were the main stages in the traditional marriage. Since the seventeenth century the nobility celebrated the wedding like a performance in theatre with speeches, feasts and other ceremonies.

The marriage ended with the death of one of the spouses or as a result of divorce. An ecclesiastical court heard reasons for divorce but a temporal court regulated property conflicts between spouses. Docu-

ments defined reasons for divorce: adultery, illness, spouses belonging to different denominations, impossibility to live together, long absence of one of the spouses, etc.

The book consists of introduction and eight chapters. Introduction presents goal and objectives of the research in history of the noble marriage in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Historiography and sources are described in the first chapter. The conditions for conclusion of the marriage according to the legislation of the GDL are analyzed in the second chapter. The third chapter is devoted to the types of the noble marriage (based on the Statutes of the GDL), marriage strategies and pre-marriage contracts. In the fourth chapter the attention is paid to the dower list and how it was implemented in practice. Noblewomen dowries are presented in the fifth chapter. Specificity of canon law and wedding ceremonies of Orthodox, Uniate, Catholic, and Protestant churches are analysed in the sixth chapter. The seventh chapter describes traditions and customs of noble wedding. Divorce in temporal and ecclesiastical courts is presented in the last chapter. The book is accompanied by annexes, illustrations, and the list of literature and sources.