

Lady Jane Grey – the legitimate Queen or an usurper? The problem of the English Succession in 1553

An article is an attempt to answer the question, whether the proclamation of Lady Jane Grey in July of 1553 was legal, or the Nine Days Queen was an usurper. It also includes opinions of English historians concerning this problem. There are two main issues. The first is the role of Duke of Northumberland in an alternation of the succession made by Edward VI (the verification of Northumberland's Black Legend, according to which a decision of designating his daughter-in-law, Lady Jane, to be Edward's successor was a result of Duke's manipulation or even a forgery, in order to maintain his influence). Secondly, there is a question about validity of king Edward's document, entitled *My Device for the Succession*, which was signed by the most important figures in realm, but never approved by an act of Parliament.

ZBIGNIEW ANUSIK

The land ownership in the county of Sandomierz in 1629

Tax registers of the 16th and 17th century are very useful when doing research on the structure of land ownership in the Polish Republic. One of them is tax register of the county of Sandomierz from 1629. It was published in 1989 but it has not been much used by historians so far. Studies conducted by the Author of the research allow to conclude that in terms of a division of land ownership in the county of Sandomierz between the king, the church and the nobility (respectively 16,98%; 31,58% and 51,44% of all taxable farmland together with 20,36%; 32,11% and 47,53% of the total amount of tax paid), the results differ quite much from calculations made for the whole voivodeship of Sandomierz where at the end of the 16th century Crown lands accounted for 11%, estates of the church amounted to nearly 16% and noble properties accounted for 73% of all real estates in the analyzed voivodeship. There is also an important difference when we compare results achieved for Sandomierz county and the neighbor county of Pilzno, where division of land ownership between the king, the church and the nobility looks as follows – 17,86%, 9,39% and 72,75% of all taxable farmland together with 17,09%, 11,80% and 71,11% of the total amount of tax paid.

The described registry also confirms common belief that in the first half of the 17th century land was concentrated in hands of large landowners. Ten of the richest landowners representing only 4,04% of all owners (there were 248 of them) gathered in their hands estates which accounted for 20,75% of all taxable farmland and for which the sum of the tax paid amounted to 25,66% of all fiscal charges of the county. Even more impressive are the analogous calculations for the noble property. The wealthiest landowners concentrated in their hands 40,35% taxed farmland and paid to the treasury 53,98% of the tax due to these estates. One should also draw attention to the fact that real estates in the county of Sandomierz were owned by so powerful magnates as Zasławski, Lubomirski, Tęczyński, Leszczyński, Ligęza, Tarło and Ossoliński families. Among the wealthiest landowners of the county of Sandomierz one can also find representatives of old senatorial families such as Oleśnicki, Tarnowski, Sienieński and Firlej. However, most of them spent their time in properties situated outside the very county.

We get even more spectacular results while taking into account real estates burdened with tax higher than 100 zlotys. It appears that 20 landowners representing 8,06% of the whole surveyed population possessed a total of over 28% of all land in the county and paid tax which constituted almost 32% of all revenues to the treasury of the Polish Republic. However, if we take into account estates staying in hands of the nobility only (thus excluding the royal estates and church ones), the results are even more striking. The most powerful landowners owned more than 55% of all taxable noble farmland and they paid almost 67% of the tax owed by the nobility in the county. The meaning of these numbers is unambiguous and may serve as a summary of our earlier presentation of the problem.

KATARZYNA BUCHOLC-SROGOSZ

Political aspects of the parliamentary control over the Permanent Council – select problems

The paper presents study on the control functions of the Sejm, but they were confined to meetings organized when the Permanent Council was working. The object of study is the control of the Permanent Council and its departments. In most cases reports of people which was delegated to evaluate the Council and its departments contained positive attitude towards the Council. However there were also negative elements, but they were given very carefully and intricately. The overt criticism was visible in speeches of opposition delegates. According to Z. Szczański responsibility of the Council before the Parliament was illusory, even though the delegates spent most of the time on consideration of Council's activities and on discharge. The opposition attacked during assemblies the Council's decisions, but only a small part of them were repealed. None of commissioner was brought to Sejm's trial. The paper raised the problem of constitutional and political (parliamentary) responsibility of the government. During the assemblies of 1778–1786 there were known both types of responsibility, but only in theory. The constitutional (legal) responsibility was only regulated in law in second half of eighteenth century. It seems, however, that the Parliament of Republic was not yet fully prepared to fulfill the political responsibility.

ALEKSANDRA ANNA KOZŁOWSKA

The brigade general Jerzy Dobrodzicki (1884–1934) and his family

Jerzy Dobrodzicki, born December 14, 1884 in Wadowice, was an Austrian infantry officer, then a brigade general of the Polish Army. In 1905 he joined the Austro-Hungary army. He was a member of the Association for Active Struggle (Związek Walki Czynnej). In 1911 he made contact with the Riflemen's Association (Związek Strzelecki) as a combat training instructor. In the World War I he fought on the Russian front as the company and then the battalion commander. In January 1917 he joined the Polnische Wehrmacht. After the „refusal to swear” allegiance to Austria-Hungary and Germany crisis of Polish soldiers in July 1917, J. Dobrodzicki returned to the ranks of the Austrian 20th infantry regiment, which went to the Italian front at the Piava river. He took the lead of the „Freedom” Organisation which coordinated Poles who served in the Austro-Hungary Army. As politically suspect he was pulled from the front to Bochnia near Cracow. After the end of

the World War I he was promoted to the rank of major and appointed to organize the 2nd Highlander Riflemen Regiment. During the Polish-Soviet War he commanded the 5th infantry regiment. During the battle of Borodzianka (May 12, 1920) he was seriously wounded and taken to a hospital. During the period November 20, 1920 – September 14, 1921 he commanded the 1st Infantry Brigade. In the years 1921–1926 he was the commander of the 1st Highlander Riflemen Regiment in Nowy Sącz, then the commander of the divisional infantry in the 18th Infantry Division in Łomża. In 1929 J. Dobrodzicki was promoted to the rank of brigadier general and appointed commander of the II Corps District (Okreg Korpusu) in Lublin. He died in Warsaw on November 15, 1934 and was buried in Powązki Cemetery. His wife, Zofia Dobrodzicka lived in Warsaw and went through the horror of the Warsaw Uprising in 1944. She died in 1970. During the World War II the general's only son, Jerzy Andrzej Dobrodzicki, served in the Polish Navy, the branch of the Polish Armed Forces in the West. After the war he lived in Great Britain and moved to Canada in 1949. He died in Ottawa in 2001. His son Andrzej lives with his family Grażyna and Adam in Canada.

WITOLD JARNO

45. Rifle Borderland Regiment in the defense of Tomaszów Mazowiecki in September 1939

The article describes the 45 Infantry Regiment fighting in defense of Tomaszów Mazowiecki in September 1939. The regiment was part of the 13th Infantry Division, fighting in the composition of the Army „Prussia”. This Division was given the task to defend the region Tomaszów Mazowiecki and stop German XVI Panzer Corps. Fighting on the left wing defence of the Division, the 45 Infantry Regiment (commanded by Colonel Stanislaw Hojnowski) given the task of defending Tomaszow Mazowiecki. After a day-long battle German tanks broke the Polish defenses and conquered the northern part of the city. In this situation the regiment was ordered to withdraw to the north. During the march through the streets of Tomaszów, the regiment was strafed by German troops and saboteurs. In a few hours a night battle, the regiment was broken up and no longer be an organized unit. During the fighting killed more than 100 soldiers, including the commander of the regiment, Colonel Hojnowski. Survivors soldiers retreated towards Inwłodza, where he joined the own division and participated in the following battles. Fear in defense Tomaszow permanently etched in the history of the regiment, and is still remembered by the people of the city.