

Rice as a foodstuff and a medicament in ancient and Byzantine medical literature

The article discusses dietetic qualities of rice, its therapeutic applications and culinary recipes pertaining to the preparation of the cereal as described in ancient and Byzantine medical sources composed between I and VII c. AD (i.e. in the writings of Dioscurides, Galen, Oribasius, Anthimus, Alexander of Tralles, Aetius of Amida and Paul of Aegina). Although focused on the time span specified above, the authors of the study also make use of additional information present in the later literary medical tradition, composed as late as XI c. (up to the time of the compilation of Symeon Seths's *Syntagma de alimentorum facultatibus*). The evidence also includes purely culinary sources, i.e. *De re coquinaria* attributed to Apicius.

The article consists of three parts. The first chapter of the study is devoted to dietetic characterizations of rice and enlists features attributed to it over the ages. Accordingly, the authors maintain that the cereal is usually said to be hard to digest, not nourishing, astringent as well as slowing down the work of the alimentary tract (possibly leading even to constipation). The above-mentioned features were consistently made use of in ancient and Byzantine medical procedures.

The second part of the study tries to retrieve from medical and culinary writings main culinary guidelines according to which rice was prepared as food. The authors conclude that, as a rule, the cereal was not used for bread baking, though it is likely that it was utilized in preparing cakes. Rice usually was the basis for preparation thick, gruel-like dishes which were normally compared to *chondros* or *poltos*, less thick soups which were said to be similar to *ptisane*, and watery, thin concoctions called *chyloi*, created by diluting rice stock. The cereal was usually cooked in meat stocks and sometimes in milk (the sources maintain that in this way rice improved the dietetic characteristic of milk by means of reducing its flatulence, preventing it from affecting the liver as well as counteracting stone formation in the bladder).

The third chapter enumerates medical procedures which included rice and rice products. It is interesting that especially ample information on the subject comes from the VIth century, which could testify to a considerable popularity of rice in the field of medicine long before the time when it was finally introduced as a Mediterranean crop by the Arabs. Rice (due to its astringency) was mainly used to prepare enemas, which were in turn supposed to cure dysentery and other

ailments resulting in excessive excretion of fluids of the body. It was also utilized to reduce swellings and cure gout, put an end to hemorrhages, and employed in medicaments removing unwanted hair and skin irritations. Last but not least it was recommended in multiple diets usually prescribed by the doctors to those suffering from gastric problems.

ELEONORA JEDLIŃSKA

**A contribution to the history
and meaning of the painting *The last Judgment*
by Hans Memling (c. 1440–1494)**

Hans Memling was born in the region of the Middle Rhine. He worked in Cologne and Brussels before purchasing Bruges' citizenship in 1465. His art, while deeply influenced by the paintings of Jan van Eyck and Roger van der Weyden, is characterized by calm seriousness, luminous colours, perfect composition and – what is the most important – deep knowledge of theological medieval doctrine of Last Judgment.

Central wing: Christ appears in evangelical guise seated on rainbow, his feet resting on a glistening globe, surrounded by the apostles and intercessors Madonna and John the Baptist. The rainbow separates the two worlds and their different orders; the golden space of God's Kingdom appears at the top, while the earth, represented as a wide plain enclosed in the distance by a chain of mountains, is shown at the background. This is the valley of Josephat, which, according to the apocryphal author – Honorius Augustodunensis of Autun, *Elucidarius sive dialogues de summa totius christianae theologiae*, PL 172, 1165C and James de Voragine, *Legenda Aurea* – will be the site of The Last Judgment. The time of day is fixed by the dark blue-green night (it is midnight) sky. All the figures are pictured on a cloud that continues right to the gates of paradise, and left to the hell. The angels (as tradition says) with the instruments of the Passion hover above this divine assembly; the four angels blowing their apocalyptic trumpets.

The figure of St Michael stands on the earth directly below Christ, on the axis mundi. He is holding the scales in his left hand, he uses the crosier as a spear in his right hand to puncture the flesh of the condemned soul. The iconography of the altarpiece is clarified by its destination. St Michael has been selected here first and primary as the saint to whom the chapel was dedicated (Angelo di

Jacopo Tani – the donor of altarpiece founded a chapel in Fiesole devoted to St Michael and drew up his will).

On the right, St Peter leads the small crowd of righteous up a crystal staircase to the gates of paradise. The procession is headed by a pope, a cardinal and a bishop. On the chasuble of the bishop we can see the small, almost hidden and faint but really important picture of *Annunciation*. This „hidden” *Annunciation*, image of creation of Eve from the rib of Adam (tympanum in gate of paradise), and Madonna kneeling before Christ in central panel of Memling’s triptych – is a holy narrative about our history of Redemption and extraordinary role in it.

The important problems which are analyzed in this article are the issue of influences on Memling’s work by other painters (Jan van Eyck, Hugo van der Goes, Roger van der Weyden, Dieric Bouts), the problem of nudity in his pictures, the iconography of *Last Judgement*, images of light, „Judge as a fulfillment of judiciary”, reflection and mirror, space and movement in the picture.

KATARZYNA KURAS

Parties and factions in the final period of the rule of king Augustus III

The objective of the article is to analyze the parties and factions existing in the final period of Augustus’ III Wettin reign and to discover the appropriate meaning of the terms „party” and „faction” in this period. It is journalism or „occasional writings” that dominates in the group of the sources used as a base of information about the divisions existing on the political scene and „principles” exploited to make struggle between parties more dynamic. It turns out that the existence of parties was not guaranteed by the person of powerful leader, structures or parties’ programme. Much more important were „principles” or „slogans” and current opportunistic fight on the domestic forum, during which (e.g. in the years 1762–1763) significant changes on the political scene were introduced. Consequently, both political divisions and parties’ affiliations were dynamic and heterogeneous, related to promoted slogans, possible financial benefits, not the programme. As a result, the parties existing in this period in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth: the Familia, republican party and court party, were rather platforms of agreement of various factions than compact, homogeneous formations.

Gustav III's monarchist coup d'état of 19th August 1772. The origins, developments and consequences

Great political changes took place in Sweden after the death of Charles XII in 1718. In the years 1719–1723 a political system in which the authority of the King was significantly reduced had been developed. In such a system the key role was played by the Swedish Parliament, Riksdag, which consisted of four Chambers of the State, namely Noble, Bourgeois, Clergy and Peasant one. At that time the most important institution in the country had become the Secret Committee of Riksdag that between meetings of Riksdag controlled all state authorities. In the thirties of the 18th century on the Swedish political scene appeared two parties called „hats” and „caps” which competed for voters and authority in the country. All those political changes took place when Sweden lost its international position and importance. Instead of being a major player it became the subject of political games. Its neighbors had made arrangements ensuring the constancy of the political system introduced in the years 1719–1723. What is more, famous corruption of Swedish parliamentarians facilitated foreign interference in the internal affairs of the state. Almost from the beginning the party of „hats” cooperated with France while „caps” wanted to collaborate with Russia. Initially, the French court gave support to the party of „hats”. However, in the second half of the sixties of the 18th century Versailles decided to strengthen the position of the King in the Swedish political system. At the same time a heir to the throne, Prince Gustav, became a leader of the anti-constitutional opposition.

In 1771 he took the throne of Sweden as Gustav III. Initially he tried to act according to the constitution. However, the inability to work out a common position with two parliamentary parties led him to develop a plan of a coup d'état. With the help of a few trusted advisors the king prepared a complex project which was to stir up a rebellion against the government in Finland and southern Sweden and then direct loyal to the king troops to Stockholm. However, the plan failed. In the decisive moment Gustav III was left without advisors and the army. Fortunately, he did not lose his presence of mind. On 19th August 1772 with the help of his own guards Gustav III held a bloodless coup d'état and took control over all main points of the capital. The most important members of the government were imprisoned. With all the power in his hands the King did not decide, however, to restore the system of absolute rule. On 21st August 1772 he proposed to his subjects a new constitution which provided for the harmonious co-operation between the King and Riksdag. From the political stage of the

country disappeared parties of „hats” and „caps” and the position of the ruler was greatly enhanced.

The bloodless coup d'état from 19th August 1772 completed in the history of Sweden the 'Age of Liberty'. Former historiography generally accepted almost unreservedly the point of view of monarchist propaganda of Gustav III. The era of political parties' was condemned as a dark period in the history of Sweden. It exposed corruption, anarchy and the interference of the foreign powers in the internal affairs of the country. According to many prominent Swedish historians thanks to his coup d'état, Gustav III saved Sweden from dividing the fate of the Polish Republic, namely from losing the independence and being partitioned between Russia and Denmark. An attempt to rehabilitate the 'Age of Liberty' made only the representatives of liberal and democratic mainstream of Swedish historiography.

MAŁGORZATA KARKOCHA

The parish of Rembieszyce in the years 1800–1945. Select problems

The Parish of St. Peter and Paul in Rembieszyce is located in the province of Kielce, in the commune of Małogoszcz. It was founded in 1438 with the efforts of Odrowąż family, the owners Rembieszyce and surrounding villages. From its inception until today, it was composed of four settlements: Rembieszyce, Karsznice, Mieronice and Wola Tesserowa.

The present article discusses the history of the parish Rembieszyce in the years 1800–1945, taking into account such issues as the place of the parish in the church administrative structure, its emoluments, priests and church service, and finally the population of the parish. The basic sources for the research are primarily materials stored in the Archives of the Diocese of Kielce, such as lists of the presbytery funds, inventories *fundi instructi*, statistical lists concerning the parish, reports, and documents prepared for the sake of the parish representatives pastoral visit to the dean, and reports prepared by those in charge of the parish before visiting the parish by representatives of the diocese. The author has also used documents from the archive of the Parish of Rembieszyce (the parish records registering births and deaths and the parish chronicle). Among the printed sources, one should mention the diocesan directories published regularly in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Other documents, such as correspondence, complement the present study.

Analysis of the source material leads to some interesting conclusions. First and foremost, the parish of Rembieszyce in the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century was one of the smallest and poorest parishes in the diocese. Low emoluments incumbency in Rembieszyce often caused difficulties in its manning. Suffice it to say that over the nearly 150 years the parish had as many as 25 priests with the title administrator and only one *proboszcz*, i.e. vicar. Twice it was vacant for lack of candidates willing to take over its management.

Throughout the period under research one can observe a small but steady increase in the number of inhabitants of the parish. Larger losses in the population were observed only during the period of epidemics and during World War II. Parish of Rembieszyce was fairly uniform in terms of religious and therefore free from sectarian tensions. The majority of its inhabitants were Roman Catholics. Jews constituted a small percentage of the total population (about 3% in the nineteenth century, less than 4% in the first half of the last century). Other denominations in the parish has also been recorded.

Last but not least, among the inhabitants of the parish throughout the period that is in the interest of the present study (with some exceptions) female parishioners statistically dominated male ones. This phenomenon is not only characteristic of the parish under research but occurred throughout the province of Kielce.

JACEK GOCLON

The government of general Władysław Sikorski (December 16, 1922 – May 26, 1923). Origin, composition and activities

The Government of general Sikorski was established under very dramatic circumstances: after the murder of President Gabriel Narutowicz (Mr Ludwik Darowski has rejected the mission of construction of new government) the new Premier Minister was general Władysław Sikorski. In practice out of the Parliament government, what was created by the General, in short time lost the support of the Polish Parliament. It was active only six months and in consequence was unable to achieve any target described in the Premier's expose; first of all to repair the state treasury, or the Policy for the native minorities (in reality the cabinet did only the analyze concern the actual native minorities status). In foreign activity it was not achieved a close connection with United Kingdom (even the cooperation with France was not so close as was expected by

Polish government), or the relationships with Soviet Union and Czechoslovak Republic was not satisfied. The solid success of the government was (thanks full mainly by ministry of the treasure, Władysław Grabski) the action against the inflation of Polish currency. In the legislation domain the main achievement was the law to establish the State Tribunal. Also was started some acts and works over the changes in state administration and it was improved the works over the construction of new sea port in Gdynia.

ADRIAN ULJASZ

To be socially aware and tolerant. Educational value of the literary output of Halina Górska

Literary works written for children and social engagement of a Polish writer and educationalist of the interwar period, Halina Górska (1898–1942), had made a significant contribution to the Polish literature and ideological thinking. Her literary output deserves broader attention of cultural historians, literary scholars, educationalists, bibliologists and publishers, as it is permeated with constantly relevant educational values. Attitudes promoted by the writer included social sensitivity and tolerance of ethnic differences. Political and social ideas of the Polish left wing party, as well as the Christian tradition had fundamental importance in shaping of her worldview.

The paper discusses educational values instilled in Górska's works, using three books for children and youth first released in 1930's: a tale *O księciu Gotfrydzie rycerzu gwiazdy wigilijnej* (*A Tale about Gotfryd, Knight of the Christmas Star*) and novels *Nad czarną wodą* (*Upon black water*), *Chłopcy z ulic miasta* (*Boys of city streets*) and *Druga brama* (*The other gate*).

WITOLD JARNO

Organization and deployment of military units in the Łódź Military District after the cessation of hostilities (August 1945 – November 1946)

The article describes the organization and dislocation combat units subordinated undertakings command of Military District of Łódź, after the

transition to peace organizations in September 1945. Initially, the most of them were 1 Training Division, which was renamed the 18 Infantry Division and moved to Białystok in Warsaw Military District in November 1945. In its place, in September 1945 to the Łódź Military District transferred 2 Infantry Division, which had its garrisons in Częstochowa, Kielce, Piotrków Trybunalski and Radom. In addition, the Łódź Military District stationed several units of other weapons, such as: 1. Motorized Infantry Brigade in Łódź (disbanded in early 1946), 14. Anti-tank Artillery Brigade and 21. Reserve Artillery Regiment (created based on the Heavy Artillery Regiment 82. in Tomaszów Mazowiecki), 52. Self-propelled Artillery Regiment in Zgierz, 2. Brigade Engineer in Radom (in the summer of 1946 moved to the Warsaw Military District), 3. Communications Regiment in Zgierz (reorganized in the autumn of 1945 the 1st Regiment of Communications) and 2. Battalion Flamethrowers in Skierniewice. In the district stationed many units of the Air Force, which however, were subordinate directly to the Polish Army Aviation Command. Because of financial savings, the Łódź Military District was disbanded on the 30th of November 1946, however combat units which stationed on the territory of this district were subordinated to the commanders of other military districts.