

Summary

Julita Madej

Theatricality of everyday life of elites in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 17th and 18th centuries

Theatricality can be understood as a human potential to transform the world. Although it is intuitively identified with pretense and artificiality, the subject of this dissertation is to examine the deeper meaning of theatricality in the 17th-and 18th-century space of everyday life of magnates of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth as a representative of the entire nobility and Sarmatian culture. The basic research tool is the category of performativity, identified with theatricality, whose attributes are agency and dynamism. The aim of the research was to demonstrate performativity in the source context, i.e. to determine which phenomena appeared to the research group to have the agency, where they stemmed from, what their goals and effects were. The author's mission was also to make the dissertation itself take on a performative dimension by trying to establish contact with the past culture and understand it deeper. The dissertation proves that theatricalisation of life of magnates of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 17th and 18th centuries maintained and shaped the cultural memory of the entire nobility-Sarmatians community, and was therefore the foundation of their identity. The scope of theatricality of life of the elites of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth extended beyond the narrow political and economic space, unlike in the absolutist states, where theatricality focused only on the politics of the individual. This was the source of the durability of Sarmatian culture, which remains alive as long as it is possible to come into contact with it through the traces of theatricality of life of Sarmatians.

Lublin, 15.04.2024

Julita Madej