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Summary

mgr Dominik Kadzik, *Polish royal court of Stephen Báthory*

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This dissertation examines the Polish royal court of Stephen Báthory. In the Modern Age we could notice a significant change in the position of the royal court in comparison to the Middle Ages. It became a heart of the political power, marginalising the local centres. It was the best place for pursuing a career in administration and also for a relatively quick enrichment.

From the point of view of transitions of the political system in the Polish-Lithuanian state, the period of Transylvanian prince`s reign seems to be very interesting. He was, *in fact*, the first monarch chosen at the free election (*wolna elekcja*) who actually ruled the Commonwealth – the episode of Henry de Valois on the Polish throne could not have left any lasting traces due to his short period of governing. That is why Stephen Báthory had a chance to create a new structural shape of the Commonwealth. The changes can be observed also in the area of the monarchical court. In the conditions of a hereditary monarchy a new ruler was taking over, as it was, the court of his predecessor. In the case of free election, particularly in the first three ones, the situation was thoroughly different. There were no protocols regulating the functioning of the royal court in the time of interregnum, while without a monarch his entourage could in fact do not function.

This dissertation is focused on the organisation of the royal court in years between 1576 and 1586. It consists of an introduction, 16 chapters, a conclusion and a list of the members of the Báthory`s royal court. The first chapter is in some way the introduction, because it presents general issues associated with hierarchy, court`s rules or staff`s salaries. Next 15 chapters are dedicated to each category of courtiers such as : court offices, courtiers, secretary, *salaricati*, medical staff, priests, royal guards, couriers, page boys, musicians, kitchen staff, room`s and table staff, hunters, craftsmen and artisans and stable staff. In each of these chapters I`m presenting a short evolution of every category of courtiers and servants during XVI c., their duties in Báthory`s time, personal changes, presences of foreigners and these courtiers whom served for Zygmunt II August and king Stephen successor`s Zygmunt III Vasa. In the conclusion I summarized all the findings briefly. What is more, one of the most important part of my dissertation is the list of the members of Báthory`s royal court in which I placed short biographies of each member.

