

## Summary

### **Teofila Sapieżyna née Jabłonowska (1742-1816) – private life and public activity**

This PhD thesis is a complete biography of Teofila Sapieżyna née Jabłonowska (1742-1816), one of the most active women involved in the Bar Confederation and an activist of the post-uprising emigration. She was the daughter of the founder of Societas Jablonoviana, the voivode of Nowogródek, Józef Aleksander Jabłonowski, the wife of Józef Sapieha – the grand *krajczy* of Lithuania and commander of the confederated Lithuanian army, the mother of Aleksander Sapieha – a traveler and politician closely associated with Napoleon. T. Sapieżyna went down in history mainly due to her involvement in the Bar Confederation. Although she was an uncommon person who played an important role in the environment of the Confederates, her activity, also in the public sphere, apart from a few publications, has not been elaborated in more details so far.

The dissertation has a problematic and chronological order and has been divided into six chapters. The first of them was dedicated to the period of Princess Teofila's life from her birth to the outbreak of the Bar Confederation in 1768. It presents the origin of T. Sapieżyna, her heritage, education and the first years of her marriage with J. Sapieha. Particular attention was paid to the atmosphere of her family house, which largely shaped her view of the world. Good education, interest in art and culture as well as excellent knowledge of French made her a person able to find herself among foreign and national elites. An important point in this part of the thesis was to show the relationships in the T. Sapieżyna's family, including her complicated contacts with father J.A. Jabłonowski and stepmother Franciszka Wiktorina née Woroniecka, but also strong bond between Teofila and her eldest sister – Anna Jabłonowska, who played a special role in her life. For Princess Teofila, A. Jabłonowska was a guide on public affairs, an adviser on economic and legal matters and a confidant until the end of her life in 1800.

The second chapter presents the activity of T. Sapieżyna during the Bar Confederation. Although the Princess sympathised with the Confederation from very beginning, she did not get involved in it at first. Her greatest activity took place after 1769, when J. Sapieha's problems with keeping the command over the confederated Lithuanian army have deepened; they also made her appear at the Confederates' headquarters in Cieszyn in the last days of 1771. In the Confederate environment, T. Sapieżyna was known for her persistence and consistency in reaching her goals. This was confirmed by her actions aimed at keeping her husband in the

position of commander. At the same time, apart from dealing with the J. Sapieha's affairs, Princess Teofila conscientiously fulfilled all her duties, conducting correspondence and organising passports. She also participated in meetings of the *Generalność*, which she reported in her diary. In addition to indicating the actions taken by the T. Sapieżyna, the chapter presents her motivations and observations about the Bar Confederation and the role she played in it. Moreover, a group of people with whom she had the closest contacts was identified, and the way in which she was building her position was characterised.

The third part of the dissertation focused on Princess Teofila's remarks on the political situation in Europe at that time, the place of the Bar Confederation on the international stage, the directions of searching possible allies and her attitude to the activities of the Confederates at European courts. The chapter shows both the political confusion of the Confederates and their attempts to reach the European political elite.

The chronological frames of the fourth part of the thesis are determined by the years 1772-1777, when, after the fall of the Bar Confederation, T. Sapieżyna and her husband were in exile in France. It discussed the Princess Teofila's position towards preparations and course of the Partition Sejm and her attitude towards Stanisław August. Such an approach allowed to indicate the tasks that, in her opinion, faced the Confederates and the ways in which they should be performed. The main emphasis was placed on the analysis of T. Sapieżyna's contacts with the French court, especially with Marie Anne Louise née Jabłonowska Princess de Talmont, Françoise de Chalus duchesse de Narbonne-Lara and the daughter of Louis XV – Marie Adélaïde, which she tried to use to draw the attention of the French elite to the situation of the Confederates (both political and economic) and help her husband in obtaining a rank in the French army. This issue is all the more important as the contacts with Versailles meant that T. Sapieżyna significantly strengthened her position among the Confederates, gaining the opinion of an influential person who could affect members of the royal family and its surroundings.

The fifth chapter is dedicated to the social and private life of Princess Teofila in exile. One of its assumptions was to reconstruct her social environment, and thus to evaluate her position among the elites of Strasbourg and Paris. Undoubtedly, finding themselves in the new reality was a huge challenge for the emigrants. In this perspective, they were a community that, apart from political goals, was united by the concerns of everyday life. For that reason, an important point in this part of the discussion was the definition of the living conditions of the Confederates, the problems they struggled with, and to characterise their mutual relations. The chapter is supplemented by an overview of the private life of the Sapiehas, their deepening

financial and family problems, and the reasons why they decided to return to their homeland in 1777.

The last and most extensive part of the dissertation, due to its wide chronological framework, deals with the life of the Princess Teofila from the moment she left France until her death in 1816. It discusses her family situation, including her separation from Józef and relations with her children – Aleksander and Anna. We can see her as a woman taking a leading role in the family, caring for the upbringing and education of her children, and then trying to secure their future by arranging their marriages. A lot of space was also dedicated to her litigation, as well as her economic activity. In 1784, after parting with her husband, she took over the management of the Wisznice, and eight years later, after the death of J. Sapieha, she took possession of vast lands. In this way she assumed the certainly difficult role of the manager of a great fortune. This approach to the subject allowed to trace the path of Princess Teofila to self-disposal of her property and gaining a certain maturity, as well as – most importantly for the deliberations conducted in this part of the thesis – to evaluate her actions within the family fortune, which ultimately could not be saved, because in towards the end of her life, T. Sapieżyna kept in her possession only Teofilpol and Lachowce. An important point of the chapter was also the reconstruction of the social environment centered around the Princess Teofila and the presentation of the significance of her court in Teofilpol, and then the confrontation of this image with the statement that in the last years of her life she distanced herself from the world and was famous mainly for her eccentricity.

This dissertation was aimed at presenting the female world on the example of T. Sapieżyna's life, which allowed to show various forms of women's activity in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, but also to indicate the accompanying emotions, motivations and difficulties that they had to deal with, as well as the mechanisms of their actions and functioning in a noble society.