

Absrtacts

A.B.Gerstein

“Black falcon down”: how the legend of Pietro della Vigna was being composed.

The article deals with variety of versions explaining the disgrace of Pietro della Vigna (1190–1249), the favourite of the Emperor Frederick II of Staufen. The ruler himself accused his familiar of a high treason, but in the secret letter to his son-in-law hinted at some other guilt of Pietro. We can hardly ascertain the truth. But the author suggests to consider the Frederick's lead that Pietro had taken part in the plot against the Emperor to poison His Majesty as a way to veil the real reason of this disfavour.

O.I.Togoeva

Out of sight – out of mind, or The fall of Georges de La Trémouille.

The article deals with the story of rise and fall of Georges de La Trémouille (1385–1446), the grand chamberlain and the “main adviser” of Charles VII. The author analyses all the medieval chronicles which described the career of this royal favorite (i.e. the “Chronique de Charles VII” of Jean Chartier, the “Chronique” of Enguerran de Monstrelet, the “Chronique d’Arthur de Richemont” of Guillaume Gruel, the “Chroniques du roi Charles VII” of Gilles Le Bouvier, and the “Rosier des guerre” de Pierre Choynet) to clarify the circumstances of the fall of La Trémouille in 1433, his captivity at Chinon castle, his detention at Montrésor (the domain of Jean de Bueil) and his ensuing disgrace.

Yu.P.Krylova

Offended and insulted. The authors of French anti-courtier works of the XVth century.

The article presents the hypothesis that some of the XVth century works, criticized the court manners, were written by formerly successful people who had made a career at court, but later forced for some reasons to leave it. Perhaps, this particular biographical fact induced them not only to be engaged in literary

creativity, but also to criticize the court in his writings. Being in favor, the courtiers have not taken up a pen to criticize the court. On the examples of the Alain Chartier's «Le Curial», the Jean de Lannoy's letter for his son, the Jean de Bueil's «Le Jouvencel», the anonymous work «Abuzé en court» and Octovien de Saint-Gelais's «Le Séjour d'honneur» Yu.P.Krylova, restoring the historical context, comes to the conclusion that only those persons who considered themselves unfairly offended, undertook writing. Not hoping to return to the court, they tried in such a way to restore justice.

E.I. Nosova

Bastards at the Burgundian court: a chance to become the Great?

The article deals with the place of illegitimate children at the court of the Dukes of Burgundy (1363–1477). During the Middle Ages the social status of bastards was ambivalent. On the one hand, they did not have the rights of legal heirs. Legally speaking they were aggrieved. On the other hand, bastards were not considered as marginals and were not expelled from society. Natural offsprings often grew up in the father's family, together with the legitimate posterity. Since the bastards could not count on the family fortune, so they made their career with redoubled zeal, and the court became a place where they could gain grace of the ruler in order to ensure their future.

The analysis of Burgundian court ordinances confirm that the bastards could achieve a very high position in the hierarchy of the court, but it was lower than the position of his father's family. Bastard was almost always married to those below his family. It is also indicates their humility position: they could not hope for the profitable union. This conclusion is in accord with the opinion of the researchers, who criticized the thesis of the "golden age" bastards. At the same time, the opportunity to get to the court can be considered to be a rare success, which was reserved for few persons. Bastard joined the court circle and benefited from his privileged position, as well as all other members of his family.

R.M. Aseynov

From the Burgundian court to the court of the king of France: Philippe Pot, seigneur de La Roche.

The article discusses the career of the Burgundian noble Philip Pot (1428–1493), one of the most powerful courtier of the Dukes of Burgundy. The author also focuses on the reputation of this character, to chroniclers' and dukes' perception to him as well. The special attention is paid to the reasons of his conversion in the France kings' service and to the events that were connected with it. According to the sources seigneur de la Roche in his experiencing of the unexpected disgrace made excuses for his action and pointed out that the reason of his conversion in the France kings' service had been forced.

A.Yu. Seregina

A royal favourite, or a martyr? A Catholic nobleman at the court of Queen Elizabeth I of England.

The article offers an analysis of political strategies employed by a Catholic nobleman, Philip Howard, earl of Arundel (1557–1595), to preserve his influence at the court of Queen Elizabeth I. In his attempt to restore the Howard clan to its former power and position within the Queen's inner circle, the earl of Arundel played a number of roles, presenting himself, first, as an ideal courtier and knight, and when this strategy failed, and he found himself in prison – as a pious Catholic. The image of the Earl of Arundel was perceived and transmitted in a number of ways: Elizabethan propaganda saw him as a 'model' traitor who betrayed his country and Queen for his ambition, while the Catholics viewed the Earl as a martyr who suffered for his faith. The surviving sources (the biography of the Earl, record of his examinations and of his trials) reflect various aspects of these propaganda images, and their careful juxtaposition makes it possible to see how Philip Howard manipulated his public image, and how this image was used by the later generations of the English Catholics in the 17th century.

O.E. Kosheleva

“Sagnificant other”, or Royal minions during the Romanovs’ reign in Muscovy.

Traditional Muscovite Boyar *duma* appointment policy prevented birthless royal minions to obtain high *duma*’s ranks. Anyway 15% of boyars (the highest *duma* rank) were not pedigree persons. They were tzars’ wives relatives and tzars’ minions. The author shows the ways which helped tzars to overcome *duma* traditions. Many examples prove that royal minions on their starting point were sponsored by pedigree boyars in order to have their clients in the court near to the czar.

L.A. Pimenova

Hard luck of the count de Maurepas

The article is devoted to the vagaries of the court career of Jean-Frédéric Phélypeaux, count de Maurepas (1701–1781), who held ministerial posts in France in the reigns of Louis XV and Louis XVI, and between the two elevations was in disgrace almost a quarter of a century. In sharp turns of his fate we can trace the role of origin, family ties, personal strategy, intrigues, and rivalry of court factions, the influence of the nearest royal entourage. Thus, ultimately, turns of the "wheel of Fortune" were determined by the decisions of the king whose motives remained unclear to contemporaries.

The fate of Maurepas and its perception by contemporaries reveal the particular ideas about happiness and unhappiness in the XVIIIth century and demonstrate the dissonance between the court and “philosophical” value systems.

The article is written mainly on the material of diaries and memoirs, and unpublished diplomatic correspondence.