

France and its history have been of interest to Poles for centuries, a special place in Polish historiography is held by relations between Poland and France, especially the Napoleonic era, which brought Poles hope for the restoration of the state and the fight with Napoleon against the invaders. And when Napoleon was gone, his legend and legacy were still alive.

The aim of the project will be to examine the role of money at Napoleon's Imperial Court (1804-1815). Areas of interest will include issues such as: estate status of the court at the very beginning; revenues and expenses of the court, special emphasis will be placed on revenues and expenses of Napoleon himself, as well as his wives: Josephine and Marie Louise, as well as on the property owned by the abovementioned persons; sources of maintenance of the court; attention should also be paid to the status of the franc and its course in the early nineteenth century; the issue of money flowing through the court in the widest possible sense will also be relevant; however the salaries of court officials, courtiers, as well as investments made from court assets will also be significant. Undoubtedly, apart from the Emperor, the most important person at the court was the Grand Marshal of the Palace (Grand Maréchal du Palais), who was responsible for court accounts (bills), as well as all other financial matters. Looking at these financial obligations will be particularly important from the point of view of this project, as well as the silhouettes of people who have held this function over the past several years, and were: Géraud Christophe Michel Duroc (1804-1813), Armand-Augustin-Louis, Marquis de Caulaincourt (1813), Henri-Gatien Bertrand (1813-1821).

The project will be based on the analysis of the source material (archives, diaries, letters, memories), which I will confront with specialist literature on the subject. During the project implementation, research is planned primarily on the resources of archives, libraries and museums of Paris.

The most important reasons for me taking up the subject of finance and money at Napoleon's imperial court include, above all, the extraordinary role of the royal court in the functioning of the state and community, and the burden on the state budget which was associated with the obligation to maintain this institution. Another important issue is the researchers' lack of interest in this issue before. This applies to both Polish, French and world historiography. The subject of court was previously raised by researchers, but the question of court finance, sources of its maintenance, as well as expenses of the court, Emperor, empress and courtiers have never been studied before. For a significant proportion of researchers, Napoleon is associated with his great battles and almost constant wars, forgetting or leaving his role as a monarch on the sidelines, with such an extremely important human aspect.

The project will have a significant impact on the development of research on finance, money at the royal court, which historiography has not yet appreciated in a proper way. Research carried out under the project will be completely innovative in the world scale and undoubtedly contribute to a better understanding of the institution which was the imperial court and what role it played in the mechanisms of the state and the community.