

Emotions and expressions thereof in works of Jan Długosz

The main aim of the project is to investigate the role of emotions and expressions thereof in the works of Jan Długosz (1415–1480). He was the most prominent Polish historian of the Middle Ages and he left a considerable amount of writings, most importantly the best known and enormous chronicle „*Annales seu Cronicae Incliti Regni Poloniae*”. In this extraordinary work he presented Polish history from the legendary ancient beginnings until events contemporary to his life. Writing the „*Annales*” took him 25 years. This work in its modern edition comprises almost five thousand pages. However, Długosz was not only a historian, but also a canon of Cracow, a secretary to the Archbishop of Cracow Zbigniew Oleśnicki, a diplomat and a teacher of the King Kazimierz Jagiellończyk’s sons. In spite of his many occupations he managed to write also other works, for instance catalogues of Polish bishops, the lives of Saint Stanisław and Saint Kinga and „*Insignia seu clenodia Regis et Regni Poloniae*” (the oldest Polish armorial known today).

Despite the fact that research on Długosz’s works has been conducted for a very long time, we still know very little about the portrayal of emotions in his works. This subject is examined only in a few articles treating this matter superficially or marginally, being an addition to research devoted to other topics. Even though emotions may appear as something universal and unchangeable, a significant amount of modern research proves that it is not quite true. Emotions, the way they are perceived, named and expressed are mostly culturally constructed. In the past 20 years historians have more and more often acknowledged the importance of research on emotions in cultures of the past. Meanwhile, in spite of the thorough research existing abroad, in studies about Polish history (or even Central Europe in general), this subject remains on the margin.

The works of Długosz, most especially the „*Annales*”, are vital sources to study the late medieval history of Poland and Lithuania. Working on my Master thesis about cry and tears in the „*Annales*” I noticed that this piece is full of emotional descriptions and that emotions are important not only for interpersonal relations but also in politics and in history processes in general. According to Długosz, tears were very often used by the subjects in order to influence emotions of the king and to get what they asked for. And the king, being moved or feeling sympathy for his subjects, sometimes cried himself. Długosz describes also the tears of king’s councilors when making an important decision about the war between Poland and Teutonic Order, stressing that precisely because of their tears the king agreed with his councilors. It shows that according to Długosz emotions and various forms of expressing them have had a great impact on the important political decisions. In my upcoming research I will investigate how Długosz described and valued also other emotions. Considering that language has a great importance in expressing emotions I will take an interest in emotional vocabulary of Długosz as well. I was already able to see that it is very rich and diverse. Only to describe cry and tears Długosz used 16 different terms. In my studies I will apply philological method established in historical research as well as research questionnaire developed by historians representing so called moderate constructivism.

Research on emotions and different ways of expressing them in works of Długosz will be helpful to numerous scholars investigating the late medieval history of Poland and Lithuania and those studying the mentality and identity of Długosz. This research will also be a part of studies on Polish mental culture in the Middle Ages (especially considering the political and intellectual elites, to which Długosz belongs). This research project will also provide a new voice (from a considerable source base not yet examined) in a vivid historiographical debate about the role of emotions in European medieval literary activity and in the lived of the people of the past.