

Summary

Maria Wylężek

The image of the Silesian uprisings and the plebiscite of 20 March 1921 in the memories of the participants. A case of resources of the State Archives in Katowice.

The main theme of this dissertation is the image of the Silesian uprisings and the plebiscite, which was recorded in the memories of the participants of the Silesian irredentism. The source of the research consists of memories prepared in the 1960s and 1970s, which were collected by the employees of the Jacek Koraszewski Silesian Institute of Science in Katowice, and after its liquidation in 1992 transferred to the State Archives in Katowice.

The pages of the dissertation present a picture of armed struggle in Upper Silesia in the years 1919-1921, the plebiscite campaign and the plebiscite, both from the perspective of the individual experiences of people "entangled in history" and the community of memory created by veterans. On the basis of the reports made by its members, a portrait (image) of their community was also reconstructed. The core of this group, diverse in many respects, were native Upper Silesians, but it also included people from outside the territory of Upper Silesia, who for various reasons – according to declarations, mostly patriotic – volunteered to take an active part in the uprising. Except for assessment of compliance of information contained in the sources with the current state of knowledge, as well as indicating their cognitive values and limitations, the research paper discusses the impact of state historical interpretations on individual, collective and publicly expressed memory. The culmination of the considerations is an attempt to answer the question about the purposefulness of studying sources inspired by and determined by the official canons of memory, as well as to indicate areas that have been ideologically reformatted and those that seem to be free from the influence of the interpretation which was force in the reality of the Polish People's Republic.

The work consists of six chapters preceded by an introduction and closed with a conclusion. In the first two chapters, which are an introduction to the main part, the historiographical outline and context of the events are outlined and the methodological aspects are presented. The remaining chapters present the results of research on the source material.

Keywords: Silesian uprisings, plebiscite, Silesian insurgents, collective memory, memoirs, memoirs, historical policy, community of memory.