

Political activity of the Tarnowski family from Dzików in the Second Republic of Poland.

The Tarnowski's Family, remaining one of the oldest and the most important gentry families of the II Republic of Poland, experienced the phenomena and transformations of the years 1918-1939 that affected the entire social class to which they belonged. The last representatives of the family, Jan Zdzisław and his son Artur, actively participated in the political and social life on a local and nationwide level. The first one was a Senator while the latter a Member of the Polish Parliament of those times. Both took the leading roles in the conservative movement, which adopted a variety of forms at that period. Political significance of the Tarnowski's Family reached its zenith when they held a famous reunion of the Małopolska Region conservatives in their family manor in 1927, visited by colonel Walery Sławek, an envoy dispatched by Piłsudski. The Tarnowski's Family implemented their peculiar mission, attempting to settle itself within the long-standing tradition of the lineage and the heritage of their great predecessors on the one hand and to confront the dynamic social and political changes of the 30-ies on the other. Remaining faithful to the last will of the ancestors and being loyal to conservative principles they tended to become more and more archaic and old-fashioned in the world moulded by totalitarian ideologies. WWII brought about the destruction of the hitherto binding world as well as put an end to the Polish gentry.

Key words: The Tarnowski's Family, II Republic of Poland, gentry, conservatism

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