5th INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM OF GENEALOGY, HERALDRY, AND VEXILLOLOGY (ICGHV5)

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Theme: "The State and Noble Families: Political, Social, and Cultural Heritage"

Noble Heraldry, Indigenat, and Armorial Privileges in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (Fifteenth–Seventeenth Centuries)

Dr Oleg Odnorozhenko (Ukraine / Lithuania)
The lecture will be delivered in Polish.

Summary

This presentation examines the heraldry associated with ennoblement privileges in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania from the late fifteenth to the seventeenth century. Ennoblement (nobilitation) is analysed as a legal and symbolic act through which individuals or families were granted noble status, often accompanied by the right to bear a coat of arms.

The lecture highlights the distinction between traditional hereditary heraldry and armorial bearings granted through sovereign authority. Unlike inherited coats of arms, nobilitation heraldry was created and sanctioned directly by the ruler and formalised in official documents issued by the chancery. These privileges typically included both a written description and, in some cases, visual representations of the granted arms.

Drawing on numerous historical examples, the presentation explores the social, political, and military contexts in which such privileges were granted. Ennoblement was often awarded for military service, diplomatic merit, financial contributions, or other forms of loyalty to the ruler. In certain cases, unique circumstances – such as acts of personal devotion or protection of the sovereign – also led to the granting of noble status.

The study demonstrates how heraldry functioned not only as a system of identification but also as an instrument of power, social mobility, and state-building. By analysing these privileges, the lecture provides new insights into the forma

CV

Dr Oleg Odnorozhenko is a historian and specialist in auxiliary historical sciences, including heraldry, sphragistics, genealogy, and historical geography. He holds a Doctor of Sciences degree and has authored 16 monographs and more than 100 scholarly articles.

He has worked at the Institute of Ukrainian Archeography and currently serves as a research officer at the Lithuanian Institute of History. His research focuses on medieval and early modern elites, heraldic traditions, and the history of Eastern Europe.

Bajorų heraldika, indigenatas ir herbų privilegijos Lietuvos Didžiojoje Kunigaikštystėje (XV–XVII a.)

Dr. Oleg Odnorozhenko (Ukraina / Lietuva).
Paskaita bus skaitoma lenkų kalba.

Santrauka
Pranešime nagrinėjama heraldika, susijusi su bajorystės suteikimo privilegijomis Lietuvos Didžiojoje Kunigaikštystėje XV–XVII a. Bajorystės suteikimas aptariamas kaip teisinis ir simbolinis aktas.
Kartu su bajoryste dažniausiai buvo suteikiamas ir herbas. Šie herbai skyrėsi nuo paveldimų, nes buvo kuriami valdovo valia ir įtvirtinami oficialiuose dokumentuose.
Pranešime analizuojami konkretūs istoriniai pavyzdžiai. Aptariamos aplinkybės, kuriomis buvo suteikiama bajorystė – už karinę tarnybą, diplomatinius nuopelnus, finansinę paramą ar lojalumą valdovui.
Parodoma, kad heraldika veikė ne tik kaip atpažinimo sistema. Ji taip pat buvo valdžios, socialinio statuso ir kilmės įtvirtinimo priemonė.
Šis tyrimas padeda geriau suprasti bajorų tapatybės formavimąsi ir heraldikos raidą Lietuvos Didžiojoje Kunigaikštystėje.

CV
Dr. Oleg Odnorozhenko – istorikas, pagalbinių istorijos mokslų specialistas (heraldika, sfragistika, genealogija). Yra paskelbęs 16 monografijų ir daugiau kaip 100 mokslinių straipsnių.
Dirbo Ukrainos archeografijos institute, šiuo metu yra Lietuvos istorijos instituto mokslo darbuotojas. Jo tyrimai skirti viduramžių ir ankstyvųjų naujųjų laikų elitui bei heraldikos tradicijoms.