

Lublin Appellate in Years 1917-1939. A Collective Portrait of Professional Judges

The subject of the dissertation are professional judges, ruling at all levels of courts in the Lublin Appellate District in the years 1917–1939. The starting date of the dissertation is 1917, directly related to the situation in which the post-partition part of Poland found itself under occupation and the administration of justice was taken over from the occupation authorities by the Department of Justice of the Provisional Council of State. The end date of 1939 is connected with the loss of the possibility to conduct administration on the lands of the Republic of Poland formed after the restoration of independence, which was caused by the outbreak of World War II. The geographical scope of the research will cover the area under the jurisdiction of the Lublin Appellate Prosecutor's Office together with its legal changes in the period in question. The research concludes in an attempt to characterise the professional group comprised by judges performing their duties in the Lublin Appellate Prosecutor's Office. Prosopography is becoming more understood as an independent part of social history. This research method is suitable for carrying out scientific research on a wide range of professional circles and is one of the increasingly common research methods used by historians to get closer in a direct way to a group or professional milieu that functioned in a bygone time. The characterisation of such an extensive, and - at the same time - rather hermetic in public opinion, professional group as the judges adjudicating in the Lublin Appellate Court in the years 1917–1939 seems possible due to the preservation of a rather substantial source base. The description is based on the personal files of judges and notaries, the presidial files of the Court of Appeal and the district courts. Information was also obtained from the collections of files of notaries, societies and associations connected with the judiciary and civil registry offices, which constitute a rich resource of information related to origin, place of birth and family. An archival search was carried out in State and foreign archives. The search also included undervalued epigraphic sources. A great deal of information concerning the date and place of death of the judges was extracted from them. Extensive printed sources were used to outline the systemic foundations and the legal basis for the functioning of

judicial structures. The collected source material was supplemented with information gleaned from published collective works, monographs on the administration of justice in the interwar period and websites devoted to student associations of the interwar period. The results of the research carried out are presented in four chapters and an extensive appendix. The first chapter will present the structures of the Lublin Appeals in the period 1917–1939.

Chapter two will be devoted to the legal regulations concerning the employment and service of judges during the period under review. Chapter three was devoted to an analysis of the private lives of judges. The fourth chapter became the place for the presentation of the professional life of judges. An extensive appendix contains biographical entries of professional judges judging in the Lublin Appellate District.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. A. Robert", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'M' and a long, sweeping tail.