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Treasure of Lublin. Index chronologicus by Gustaw Manteuffel

The Second World War caused irreparable losses in the field of Polish culture. The nazis burned the catalogues as well, so we do not even know what exactly was lost. During archival query conducted in the Library of the Catholic University of Lublin I found a manuscript which describes the content of the Manteuffel family's private archive. The archive was also lost during the WW2 destruction of Warsaw. In the so called 'Index chronologicus' it is possible to trace the difficult fate of Polish-Livonian aristocracy from the earliest times of the German Crusaders, through the privileges of Polish monarchs or Russian diplomas, to the French notebooks of private writings. The 'Index' served the 'historian of Drycany' for re-creation, re-vision of the past of his own family, such as highlighting merits or minimizing adventurous episodes. Not only members of the Manteuffel family appear on the 'Index' pages. Among the figures recorded in the 'List' are rulers (kings, tsars, princes), public figures (ministers, state officials of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth) or military commanders (Polish or Russian captains, tsarist generals) and neighbors, often holding important local functions. Krzysztof Zajas (2009) wrote that after taking under consideration that today the family archives from these territories (Polish Livonia) in a great majority do not exist, the comments about the underrepresentation of the Polish-Livonian discourse in historical research are becoming very meaningful.