

ANOTHER IMAGE OF TANNENBERG BATTLE:  
BYCHOWIEC CHRONICLE AND THE POEM BY JAN  
OF WIŚLICA "BELLUM PRUTENUM"

*Summary*

Numerous different publications have already dealt with the great defeat of the German Order in 1410. This article presents a comparison of the Bychowiec Chronicle and the poem by Jan of Wiślica (Joannes Vislicensis, Vislicius) "Bellum Prutenum". The Chronicle was created in the third decade of the 16th century in the entourage of the Vilnius Voivode and the State Chancellor of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania Albertas Goštautas. The poem was composed in 1515 and published next year in Krakow, the Polish capital.

The author of the article notes clear connections between these works in question, e.g. the idealization of the Lithuanian landscape and the most famous Lithuanian ruler Vytautas. The main attention in the course of the investigation is paid to the descriptions of the Tannenberg battle in the above-mentioned texts. The identical images of the beginning of the battle are pointed out, the most significant being the dialog between the Great Duke of Lithuania Vytautas and the King of Poland Jogaila, when upon the dramatic situation evolving in the battlefield the duke asks the king to join the struggle immediately. Contrary to the expectations, Vytautas receives a negative answer: Jogaila states the necessity to finish attending to the Mass.

Having pointed out certain other textual parallels, the author of the article finally concludes that poem by Jan of Wiślica had probably made up one of the sources for the Bychowiec Chronicle.