

VILNIUS SATIRE AS
A FORM OF THE URBAN
CONSCIOUSNESS

Summary

The article deals with satirical prose of the Vilnius periodical *Wiadomości Brukowe* (*The Street News*, 1816–1822). Traditionally these texts are associated with the most prominent satirical genre in the Enlightenment culture – the ideological satire, which was based upon strong opposition of values and developed an aggressively persuasive discourse. This article discusses an alternative satirical form, which is also noticeable in the periodical, the “carnivalized satire” (M. Bakhtin). For this type of texts, the ambivalent reasoning and the blurred limits of oppositions are inherent. The carnivalized satire is related to the emergence of the modern urban consciousness, which is penetrated by the variety and richness of the urban experience. The article analyzes the process of transformation of the carnivalized satire into the modern form of urban prose – the feuilleton. It also discusses, how this satirical form was related to flaneurism, a specific cultural practice generated by the encounter with the urban space and the anonymous urban crowd.