

THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE AUTHORITIES AND CITIZENS OF THE FREE CITY OF KRAKÓW ON THE “NATIONAL CAUSE” AND THE “GUARDIAN” MONARCHIES

The discrepancy in attitudes of the authorities and citizens of the Free City is visible on many levels, such as the attitude to official ceremonies paying homage to the partitioning states (“guardians” of the miniature Republic of Poland), as well as to patriotic demonstrations. The first category includes ceremonies paying homage to the rulers of Russia, Austria and Prussia, and the second category includes enthusiastic funerals, held at the Wawel Castle, of national heroes – Prince Józef Poniatowski (1817) and Tadeusz Kościuszko (1818) – and raising of the Kościuszko Mound (from 1820). Replacing 3 May as a state holiday with 11 September (commemorating the awarding of a constitution to the Free City by the “guardian” powers), originally a sign of loyalty, gradually became a demonstration for civil liberties, which were curtailed after the November Uprising. The Uprising, supported by the citizens of the Free City, engendered a conflict of conscience among the representatives of the authorities, who were jus-

tifiably afraid of the partitioners’ intervention. This conflict was most clearly visible in the era of post-Uprising repressions, when the Senate – under pressure from the Conference of Residents, which assumed full power – was forced to surrender insurgents coming from outside the Free City area. The sad aspect was the increase in the number of denunciations. Other points of conflict between patriotism and loyalty were: the struggle for the autonomy of the Jagiellonian University, for making Kraków’s schools accessible to young people from all three partitions, for censorship to be relaxed or tightened. It was relatively easy to demonstrate patriotic attitudes through art and restoration of monuments, understood as “national memorials”. The thirtieth anniversary of the Free City was rounded off with the “Manifesto to the Polish Nation” announced by the insurgent government in 1846, regarded by Professor Stanisław Grodziski as “one of the most beautiful texts written in Europe at that time”.