

Cesare Beccaria (1738-1794). Sylwetka i dzieło

Cesare Beccaria (1738-1794). Silhouette and work

SUMMARY

C. Beccaria, died in 1794, belonged to the most famous writers of the Enlightenment who performed the work of humanitarian reform of criminal law. *On Crimes and Punishments* (1764) offers our best contemporary guide to a human and efficient criminal justice system. Beccaria, 1738, son of aristocratic parents in Milan, member of the Accademia dei Pugni and friend of Pietro and Alessandro Verri, acquired fame also for his writing on economics and other subjects and above all he is the man who, more than any other, contributed to the reform of criminal law in the eighteenth century. He was not only the most influential representative of the so called humanitarian literature of the 18th century but also as precursor of modern criminal policy and a reform of material criminal law and criminal procedure. By reminding a figure and views of Beccaria the Author devoted his remarks to the analysis of the contents *On Crimes and Punishments* and as well to history of reception of Beccaries conceptions in Europe and of the reform of criminal law in the eighteenth century. The first comprehensive criminal code promulgated Pietro Leopoldo (future Emperor Leopold II) in Toscana – “Leopoldina” in 1786, under enormously influence of Beccaria, the next – “the Josephine” – Emperor Josef II., 1787, for Austria. Cesare Beccaria is still regarded as a thinker to which on should come back which on can ask for advice, and his famous essay is an inexhaustible source of reflection for every lawyer up till now.

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