

Wincentego Skrzetuskiego poglądy na naukę i jej rolę w naprawie Rzeczypospolitej

**The views of Wincenty Skrzetuski on science and its role in the repair
of the Polish Commonwealth**

SUMMARY

The article presents the views of Wincenty Skrzetuski, one of the most eminent Polish historians and lawyers of the Age of Enlightenment, on the role of science and scholarship. The author presented his ideas on this topic in the work *Mowy o główniejszych materiach politycznych* [Discourses on major political matters], published in 1773. In the period of the reign of King Stanisław August Poniatowski, history was seen not only as having the function of providing knowledge but as having a utilitarian role as well, with historical descriptions being used to substantiate political theories and views. Skrzetuski's work, published after the first partition of Poland, had a similar function. Its author, a Piarist, wrote on issues of politics, law, the economy, social matters, agriculture and science. Just as the other parts of the book, the chapter on science and scholarship was supposed to show the reader how the Polish Commonwealth could be repaired. Skrzetuski viewed the development of science and learning as one of the ways to strengthen the state. In the fragments of the book devoted to this issue, Skrzetuski made references to the debate on the role of science in the development or fall of morals, which was then current in Europe and Poland. From what he wrote on this subject, it clearly transpires that Skrzetuski was quite unequivocal in his support of the role of science and indicated its unique significance both to the state as a whole, as well as to its individual citizens.