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**Zasady organizacji wystaw przemysłowo-artystycznych w Królestwie
Polskim epoki paskiewiczowskiej**

**Granting of “patents of freedom” and bringing industrial machine
models to the Kingdom of Poland in the early Paskievich era**

SUMMARY

Direct and indirect tendency to actual reduction of technological competitiveness of the country visible in the Kingdom of Poland in the first phase of the so-called Paskievich era, seems to coincide with the introduction in 1837 of a new law, defining the rules for granting “patents of freedom” and bringing to Poland new technological models. While from a formal point of view, the new legal arrangements – indeed – gave full opportunity for the implementation of development projects numerous and sometimes absurd (especially in the case of rules concerning import of “models” but also in such issues as principles of protection of the patent itself) legal and fiscal restrictions led in practice to the reduction of real scientific activity and development of new technologies. Sometimes the governing tsarist authorities used a kind of veil, which made it difficult to understand their true intentions, hidden behind widely stressed concern for the finances of the state – formally characterized as a kind of already obsolete in practice mercantile economic system. However, in reality these activities indicated clear desire to build and maintain substantial obstacles to the technological development of Poland. One could easily tie these intentions with apparent chaos in issuing the “patents of freedom”.

Analecta – Studia i Materiały z Dziejów Nauki
[**Analecta – Studies and Materials on the History of Science**]
XXIII, 2014, 1, 27-50