

Dear readers,

we present you a largely monothematic issue focusing on the changes in the legal status of women throughout the history. The papers cover various aspects of women's lives during different historical periods and provide insight into these issues from a variety of perspectives. Starting from antiquity to modern times and contemporary issues, authors enjoy many examples of case studies, legislative decisions and theoretical discussions presenting women's issues as an attractive scholarly problem that is a key element of current and historical debate.

In designing the issue, we tried to maintain a historical chronological sequence and so the first paper included is the article by Lyuba Radulova *Legal Protection Granted to Soldiers' Partners in the Military Diplomas*. Radulova starts from the assumption that all types of Roman soldiers were forbidden both to marry during their service and to maintain any legal marital relationships concluded before enlisting in the army. She also accepts the thesis that this ban was applied during the time span between the reign of Augustus and was dissolved by Septimius Severus. The author analyses in detail the possibilities of legal protection that the law provided to the partners of these soldiers.

The next article by Petr Dostalík *From Sister to Needy Widow: Changes in the Position of the Wife in Roman Inheritance Law* (in Czech: *Od sestry k nuzné vdově. Změny postavení manželky v římském dědickém právu*) deals with legal status of a wife in the Roman law of succession from the earliest period (as far as the Law of the Twelve Tables) to the changes of the law of intestate succession made by emperor Justinian.

The following article by Marek Starý *Heritability of Silesian Principalities in the Female Line in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period* (in Czech: *Dědičnost slezských knížectví v ženské linii ve středověku a raném novověku*) shifts to the Middle Ages in Silesia that in the 14th century became one of the Lands of the Bohemian Crown. It focuses on the question of the extent to which Silesian dukedoms were hereditary in the female line. To this end, individual specific cases in which this question was solved in the 14th–17th centuries are collected and these are then comprehensively evaluated.

Ulrike Müßig in the article *Challenged Universality – Kant and a Citoyenne between Stage and Scaffold* draws the attention to the fundamental aspect of constitutional history, how to explain the relationship between the freedom of the individual and the formation of states.

In the next article *Women and Parliamentary Divorce in England: From Wife-Sale to the Divorce Act of 1857* Dolores Freda gives an overview of the possibility to reach a divorce between spouses in the timespace roughly from the reign of Henry VIII. until the first half of the twentieth century. In her conclusions, the author also notes the property-law aspects that the dissolution of marriage meant for women.

Two authors Miriam Laclavíková and Adriana Švecová in their article *Two Sides of the Same Coin – Poor or Merry Widow? The Legal Status of the Widow in the Private Law of the Late 19th and the First Half of the 20th Century in Slovakia* (in Slovak: *Dve strany*

jednej mince – úbohá alebo veselá vdova? Právne postavenie vdovy v súkromnom práve konca 19. a v prvej polovici 20. storočia na území Slovenska) introduce the distinctive features of the private legal status of the widow in Hungarian law and subsequently in Czechoslovak law, specifically in the legal area of Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia.

The following article of Pavel Salák called *Interwar Drafts of Czechoslovak Civil Code from “Women’s Point of View”* (in Czech: Meziválečné osnovy OZ „pohledem žen“) deals with draft of the Civil code that was made during the interwar period. The author presents three selected cases from the field of family law to show how women’s views or demands were (or were not) reflected in the draft of the code. As the authors of the recodification were only men, it was *de facto* a male understanding of women’s needs.

The last article on the main topic is by Miroslav Šepták and is called *Changes in the Legal Status of Women in Austria in the 20th Century* (in Czech: Proměny právního postavení ženy v Rakousku ve 20. století). It points out that the WWI. made a significant change in women’s rights and in granting the right to vote not only in Austria but throughout Europe. The article deals with the most important aspects of the legal regulation of women’s lives not only in public life but also in family life, labour law and criminal law (especially the possibility of terminating a pregnancy, etc.).

The papers included in the part of the issue called „Varia“ are rather diverse. In the first contribution *The Philosophy of the Crime and the Punishment – The Chosen Aspects of the American Criminal Law in the 19th Century with Special Regard to the Problems of the Prison System* (in Czech: Filosofie zločinu a trestu – vybrané aspekty amerického trestního práva v 19. století se zvláštním zřetelem k problematice vězeňství) Radim Seltenreich focuses first of all on the brief development of the prison system in the United States. He then addresses the philosophical question of the relationship between guilt and punishment, its effectiveness from the perspective of society, economic efficiency and the changes in its forms in the 19th century.

Róbert Jakubáč in his article *On Hungarian Land Books and Their Administration* (in Slovak: O uhorských pozemkových knihách a ich spravovaní) focuses on the legal regulation and practice of the maintenance of land books in Hungary from the mid-19th century onwards, with reference to the opinions on their necessity, significance, functionality and legal regulation presented within Hungarian legal science.

The last paper by Mónika Balatoni and Ivan Halász *Lost Prestige and Interwar Hungarian Cultural Diplomacy* (in Slovak: *Stratená prestíž a medzivojnová maďarská kultúrna diplomacia*) focuses on the question of the emergence and formation of Hungarian diplomacy as it took place in the interwar period. The authors note various significant moments that shaped its place within Europe.

As usual, there are interesting reviews and information from legal history for readers. We trust that readers will find many interesting suggestions for further research and reflection in this issue.

We wish you a wonderful reading!

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