

Articles

Ulrich Fox (†), Archpriest Maximilian Tarnowski. Pastor in the German Reich and the People's Republic of Poland

Tarnowski belonged to the group of 113 priests from the Diocese of Warmia who decided, following the collapse of the Third Reich and the exodus of a substantial part of the East Prussian population, to remain with their parishes. His experience of the national socialist dictatorship equipped him to represent the interests of the Church in conflicts with the new Communist state with both prudence and decisiveness. Meeting the differing pastoral needs of the remaining original population and those of the new settlers, with their differing cultural traditions, posed a major challenge. Tarnowski felt closest to the native German parishioners and the new Polish settlers felt that, although he could speak to them in their mother-tongue, he was not 'one of them'. During the Stalinist-era the authorities sought to isolate him from the native population at all costs, and even gained the support of the Apostolic Administrator Biskupski in so doing, Tarnowski continued to fight – unsuccessfully – to remain in his parish. Therefore, against his own wishes, he asked his diocesan bishop to superannuate him. He lived in the retirement home of the Congregation of the Sisters of St Catherine in Orneta (Wormditt) for 27 years. The extent to which Maximilian Tarnowski can be seen as a typical representative of the native clergy of the diocese during the decades of political and social upheaval which followed the end of the War remains to be investigated by future comparative studies.

Jerzy Kielbik, The Civil Servants of the Town of Heilsberg (1650–1750)

The aim of this article, in so far as it is possible, is to reconstruct the personnel-composition of the Council and the jury-bench in the town of Heilsberg. The table provided is certainly incomplete, since there are several gaps in the corpus of sources available in this field. The professional advancement of the civil servants tended to begin at an advanced age. Despite far-reaching nepotism and the social seclusion of the ruling elites in Heilsberg, the most important function in the town – that of the office of mayor – nevertheless tended to go to persons who had been suitably prepared for carrying out this role, whether through practical experience gained as a member of the jury of the town council, or whether through the possession of pertinent qualifications and legal expertise, such as can be seen in the career paths of the legal clerks. Nevertheless, the great influence held by the Bishops of Warmia over appointments to town offices cannot be overlooked. In exercising this influence, however, the bishops also tended to take corporate interests into consideration.