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Summary of the doctoral dissertation: *Hunting in the Pomorskie (Pomeranian) Province in the years 1920-1939. Legal and administrative, environmental, economic and cultural conditions.*

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The dissertation takes up the subject the functioning of Pomeranian hunting in the times of the Second Polish Republic. Chronologically, the paper covers the period from 1920, i.e. the acquisition of Pomerania by the Polish administration, until the beginning of the Nazi occupation in September 1939. The borders of the Pomeranian Province from the years 1920-1938 were adopted as the territorial framework. The research did not cover the areas that were incorporated into the Province after 1 April 1938, because they did not have the possibility of full integration with the region.

There are but few works in which the authors have addressed the issues of Pomeranian hunting and they are usually limited to the analysis of the problem in the context of a selected social group, organization or a separate region of the Province. The term "hunting" used in the dissertation covers all issues related to the legal aspects of its functioning, game breeding and protection, the social origin of hunters, hunting culture and hunting itself. Such an approach to the subject renders it possible to answer questions about the position of hunting in the economy of Pomerania, its economic importance, its impact on the natural environment and its social functions.

The main factors that affect the shape and form of Pomeranian hunting were the natural conditions of the region and hunting legislation. Extensive forest coverage was conducive to animal husbandry and a multitude of lakes and watercourses provided shelter and food base. The natural conditions also determined the diversity of the fauna. However, the pine monoculture dominant in the Pomeranian landscape was not able to provide enough food – therefore, the game often left their refuges and destroyed the crops located near the forest borders. The notably agricultural character of Pomerania meant that keeping a proper state of game (mainly wild boars and deer) was an important factor for this basic branch of the Province economy. In addition to hunting, which regulated the number of animals and shaped the gender structure appropriate for breeding, a number

of other measures were undertaken to protect the game and improve their living conditions. They were implemented e.g. by combating poaching, proper setting of protection periods or setting up hunting grounds. The economic potential of hunting was used in various ways in Pomerania. In favourable seasons, considerable income was generated from the sale of game carcasses, mainly hares. Forest districts, less often landowners' estates, offered commercial shooting of deer – a form of hunting tourism. Both Polish and foreign hunters took advantage of Pomeranian hunting offers.

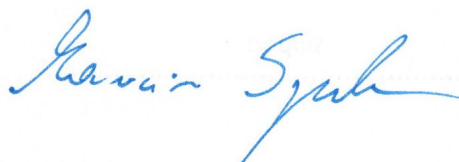
In the years 1920-1927, the basic legal act, which laid the foundation of Pomeranian hunting functioned was a Prussian act of 1907. The introduction of new regulations did not encounter major problems in Pomerania, which resulted from the fact that the President's regulation of 1927 was similar to the Prussian legislation in many respects. The activity of the Province Governor (Wojewoda) and County Governors (Starostas) were particularly important for the proper functioning of hunting in the Province. The former had such prerogatives as extending or introducing protection periods.

The social structure of Pomeranian hunters was highly differentiated. Hunting was practised by farmers – both landowners and smaller owners, craftsmen, merchants, soldiers and intelligentsia, including priests. Hunts were organized for social purposes, because of tradition, prestige or for trophies, but they were often treated as a way to diversify home cooking. Hunting, which did not always end with a shot, was often an offshoot natural interests. Most of the types of hunts known in the country were used in Pomerania. St Hubert's Races, which originated in *par force* horse-riding hunts, organized by the landowners and army officers were elite. The reduction of their form was mainly due to the lack of appropriate horses and the high costs of organizing this type of hunt. As far as game abundance and the quality of trophies are concerned, the Pomeranian forests could not compete with the representative areas in Białowieża or Spała. The location of the presidential fisheries in Pomerania was rather prestigious; besides, it was a strategic location to discuss the problems of the Province on the spot.

In the field of hunting culture, Pomeranian hunters often took advantage of the Polish partitioning heritage. A number of loanwords have survived in nomenclature for animals, weapons as well as in proverbs. In the discussed period, several objects were built (which cannot be found elsewhere in other regions of the country), related to the spread of St. Hubert's worship, although, contrary to opinions, the abovementioned phenomenon did not take on a mass character. Pomeranian hunting literature too has some achievements. Apart from minor works and reports printed in the trade press, there are also several valuable monographs on game breeding and a dictionary of hunting terms. The modest scientific output of Pomeranian authors was undoubtedly caused by the lack of their own academic centre. The acquired trophies formed extensive collections and, combined with other collections, they became an important component of the decor

of hunting lodges. Deer antlers, stag antlers and tusks of wild boars obtained in Pomerania have been presented at several domestic and foreign exhibitions, including a prestigious international exhibition in Berlin. Hunting was also an important element in the upbringing of a young landowner. It was a substitute for the duties of adult life, it taught responsibility, respect for the law, it gave the possibility to commune with and understand nature, which was necessary for rational property management.

In the interwar period, a number of civilian and military hunting associations were established in the Pomeranian Province. Most of them limited their activity to the organization of hunts despite their ambitious statutory assumptions. As a rule, their impact covered the area of a County (powiat). The Hunting Society in Toruń managed to develop a wider activity, which soon became a branch of a nationwide organization. By organizing exhibitions and competitions, the Society stimulated the development of hunting cynology, which translated into the improvement of breeding and training of pointers.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kazimierz Szulc". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.