



BETWEEN HISTORICAL EVENTS, FEELING AND... BOREDOM? –
POLISH FEMALE MEMOIRE WRITERS AT THE TURN OF THE 18th
AND 19th CENTURIES

What was expected of the lady living in the late 1700s or early 1800s? Should she be bored or fully occupied? If the latter is the answer, then boredom could become a chance to express some independence. Thanks to the tremendous sources: ego-documents of noble women (a new phenomenon of the time), I will be able to answer this question. Authors of said documents were of different age and position, thus their works are wonderful and rich source for such studies. The research will be done in the perspective of a specific period in a history of the European culture. The times of Napoleon, Rousseau, the philosophy of Enlightenment, novels and famous characters marked the individual as the point of reference. We can see it in ego-documents of that time: memoires, diaries and letters. Women gained new possibilities of expressing themselves – they were members of free masonry, hosted and participated at literary and political salons, owned and administered the great land estates, were engaged in politics. This leads to the second question of my paper: what were their reasons for writing memoirs? Was it to immortalize themselves? Or maybe it was a boredom that led them to writing? This issue was not a subject of any Polish literature and historical studies so far (except maybe for Andrzej Cieński). This paper's aim is to change that situation.