The First Female Deputies of the Legislative Sejm of the Second Polish Republic. Historical and Political Reflections on Centenary of Women's Suffrage

Abstract

The article analyses the activity of the first eight female deputies of the Legislative Sejm from 1919–1922 with particular emphasis on the content of speeches in the parliament. The main thesis of the research was the statement that the presence of active female deputies raised the quality of the debate and brought the attention to the previously unnoticed problems. The considerations were based on the analysis of archival shorthand reports from the Legislative Sejm meetings in the number of 342 documents from 10th February 1919 to 27th November 1922. The research was carried out from three perspectives – historical, political and linguistic – which allowed for a comprehensive and innovative approach to theme.

Keywords: Sejm discourse, first female deputies, women's rights.