

## Summary

### **JACEK ŻUKOWSKI/ Carved sticks or iconoclasm of the Polish Brethren**

One of the most striking features of the painting Judgment over Arians (executed after 1642) is its complex ideological message. It belongs to the group of ceiling paintings from the palace in Kielce founded by a Cracow bishop, Jakub Zadzik. The canvas, painted in the workshop of Tomasz Dolabella, refers to a parliament judgment of the year 1638 and it originally functioned as the main piece of decoration in the bishop's apartment, which was an equivalent of a courtroom in a town hall, decorated with scenes of judgments and personifications of virtues of a good judge. The painting reflects a strong belief in the king's role as the protector of religious order. State hierarchy and moral discipline have their equivalents in natural and universal order, expressed by the personifications of the four seasons surrounding the central painting, evoking stability and social peace regained thanks to the Sarmatian Salomon's verdict. The scene depicts the dual, secular and sacral, character of the crime being judged (*crimine Divinae et Regiae Maiestatis laesae*), and at the same time it pictures the union of church and secular law orders. Last but not least, it reflects on the cause of the whole trial – the sacrilegious attack on a roadside crucifix by the students of the Socinian academy in Raków. Acts of iconoclasm were rarely of a spontaneous nature. Committing torts against cult objects was quite popular among children and adolescents. It was thought that thanks to their specific legal status they would not be held responsible for their assaults. The thesis of the article is that complex political circumstances, but foremost the iconoclasm of the Polish Brethren, were the grounds for the trial of 1638 represented in the painting from Kielce. This phenomenon is discussed in the context of the European iconoclastic theory and practice, early modern image phobia, legal awareness, as well as court sources and polemical literature by Szymon Budny, Marcin Krowicki, Faustyn Socyn, Walenty Smalcus, Jonasz Schlichtyng and others.