

Title: Art of Dissimulation in Ruthenian Thought of the XVIIth Century
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The aim of my paper is to examine the art of dissimulation in Ruthenian intellectual culture on the verge of the XVI–XVIIth centuries, to study the causes which brought it to life in Ruthenia, to delineate its peculiarities as well as its impact on the development of later philosophical and theological thought in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

I will first give a broader philosophical perspective and help to find an appropriate interpretation model for “Ruthenian dissimulation,” place it in a philosophical context (Augustine, Aquinas, Bacon, Calvin, Kant).

Second, I will pay special attention to outlining the difference between simulation and dissimulation, making it clear that Ruthenian dissimulation should be reached not within the ethical binary opposition “telling the truth” – “lying,” but within a complex anthropological context of self-creation, self-presentation, authorship and search for identity.

Next, I will denote the prerequisites of the emergence of the views on dissimulation and the need to dissimulate in Ruthenia in the second half of the XVIth century and study the links between the notion of dissimulation and practices of mental reservation and nicodemism.

I will look closely at possible ways of dissimulating in XVI–XVIIth centuries’ writings of Meletyj Smotryckyj, Lavrentyj Zyzanij, Kasjan Sakowicz – polemical, catechetical, homiletical texts, biblical translations.

Finally, I will examine the philosophical aspects of the art of dissimulation, specifically its influence on the later theory of speech acts and performatives. This will help to delineate that art of dissimulation was not merely a baroque cultural practice, not merely a cultural phenomenon of the XVIIth century. I will make a general draft of how this phenomenon could be interpreted within the theoretical apparatus of contemporary philosophical trends.