

The school from the 1920s in the eyes of Władysław Bieńkowski, author of the post-war educational concepts from the 1940s and 1950s

Summary

The discussion is based on the school memories of Władysław Bieńkowski, a figure living in various historical periods. It is interesting due to his valuable reflections on the Polish school of the 1920s, which considerably expand the current knowledge. Moreover, after World War II he was the author of the educational concepts present in the Polish educational system in the 1940s and 1950s. W. Bieńkowski was an unconventional and complex personality who was entangled in his contemporary political, social and cultural conditions. As a representative of the state authorities, he was inclined to revisionism; however, he went against the tide of official directives and he even became a critic of real socialism. A researcher of our times faces a certain difficulty with schematic classification of a unique historical figure – is he an opportunist, nonconformist or somewhere in the “middle”? The article is a contribution to these discussions, but does not resolve the dilemma.

Keywords: Bieńkowski, history, education, school.