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Summary of the doctoral dissertation

Title: *Cologne as an important cultural and economic center
in historiography and belles-lettres*

Keywords: Cologne, Cologne Cathedral, city, space, carnival, monuments, novel, fairy tales, legends

In the dissertation the author presented the fourth largest city of Germany, which is Cologne, showing them in a historical cross section on the one hand and in literary representations on the other. It is the most important economic and cultural center in Germany and an essential communications route in Europe. In the 19th century, this city became one of the most important industrial, commercial and banking centers in the country. Due to the very good location, the trade here is focused mainly on foreign contacts. The metropolis located on the Rhine has enormous transport possibilities. The industrial specificity of the Cologne includes, first of all, the food, chemical, pharmaceutical and perfumery-cosmetics industries.

Cologne, which is the main subject of this dissertation, is presented as a city that creates a multi-colored composition of impressions composed of many cultural events that took and take place here. The city was a turning point and an inspiration for many prose writers and poets who put it in the background or in the foreground of their literary works. The urban, cultural and historiographical image of Cologne was presented in the subsequent parts of the work. The author tried to explore the relationships existing between them. The dissertation structure has been divided into five parts. Each part has been divided into thematic sections and sub-chapters.

The first part presents research assumptions and research methodology, which were assumed by the author of the work.

In the second, analytical and theoretical, part, the theory of the city has been presented as a source of inspiration for writers and poets. The chapter contains theoretical issues about the city in literature. The author characterized selected concepts of the city and conducted an analysis of changes in defining the city in various research areas. The chapter presents the city discourse and the theory of city interpretation, as well as the difference in its reading in the architectural and literary context.

In the third, theoretical part of the work, Cologne has been presented as a research object. The author discussed in detail the customs, delicacies and monuments in the city. In

addition, they presented the most important information about Cologne and the short history of the city in chronological order. The author focused on the major monuments, churches and museums and presented the most important figures related to the German metropolis.

In the fourth part, the author reviewed the most important, in her opinion, examples from the literature: fairy tales and legends related to the city, novels, stories, poems, but also travel reports, journalistic works, films and online art corresponding to the themes covered in the theoretical and historiological parts. Among the selected authors there are: the anonymous medieval artists (eg. the author of *Annolied*), Grimmelshausen, Goethe, Schlegel, Forster, Heine, Celan, Böll, Schätzing, but also foreign writers, like Petrarca, or contemporary Craig Russell and Polish poets Jankowski, Krynicki, Jastrun, Roguski, Hoffmann.

The fifth part summarizes and analyzes the topic in the context of the research theses. The most important conclusions here include the fundamental significance of the city's history as an inspiration for literary creativity, but also the reflection of the stigma of literary representations on the image of the city.