

Tadeusz Maciejewski

**STADTBÜRGERSCHAFT (THE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY OF CITIZENS –
CITY COUNCIL) OF THE VERSAILLES FREE CITY OF GDANSK
IN THE YEARS 1919–1939**

The Constitution of the Free City of Gdansk adopted on 14 June 1922 provided in art. 69 that the city of Gdansk was an independent state municipality which was an independent self-governing corporation with a separate property and thus independent from the rest of the territory of the Free City of Gdansk.

The constitutional provision was specified by the law on the administration of the municipality of Gdansk (42 paragraphs) which was announced by the Senate of the Free City of Gdansk on 9 October 1923. The law established the Municipal Assembly of Citizens (*Stadtbürgerschaft*) as a legislative body consisting of 51 members. All members were chosen by the *Volkstag* for the four year long term of office. The Assembly was headed by a chairman and his two deputies. The legal regulation of the work of the Assembly was provided by its Rules of Procedure, consisting of 10 titles and 47 paragraphs, which was announced on 18 November 1924. The Rules of Procedures of the Municipal Assembly of Citizens regulated following issues: municipal councilors, presidium, committees, draft resolutions, the course of proceedings, records of resolutions and meetings etc. The interpretation of the Rules was a competence of the Chairman of the Assembly. The committees were divided into fixed and departmental. The latter ones were related to the specific departments of state administration. The right of initiative was granted to factions and groups of at least 6 members. The meetings of the Assembly ended with all necessary voting and were open as a rule.