

SHORT NOTES*

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GENERAL WORKS

Jan Tyszkiewicz, *Geografia historyczna. Zarys problematyki* [Historical geography: An outline], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo DiG, 355 pp., maps, diagrams, ills., 4 appendices, indexes, summary in English; series: Nauki pomocnicze historii. Seria nowa

This is a subsequent book in a series of studies dealing with auxiliary historical sciences. It is compiled as a compendium showing the state-of-play and methods of research, the geographical scope being limited to Poland and lands historically connected with this country (which basically includes the basins of the Oder, Vistula, Dnieper, and Niemen). Issues of historical cartography will expectedly be discussed in a separate book in the series. Jan Tyszkiewicz's present book discusses: the scope and history of historical geographic research in Poland; types of sources: written, cartographical, archaeological, onomastic and iconographic, along with graphic documentation; problems and methods of reconstruction of natural and cultural landscape, with several aspects of the latter ('cultural' meaning reshaped by human activities): political (frontiers), economic (incl. industrial), transport-related (roads), military (landscape as the area of warfare), elemental disasters in history, and development of the geographic horizon of inhabitants of Polish territories. Further on, contributions from various disciplines in amassing historical geographic knowledge is discussed: archaeology, linguistics and onomastics, climatology, hydrology, botany, anthropology and human ecology. The annexes list the major publications, including the most important historical atlases, along with selected atlases covering other disciplines: geography, geology, hydrology, climatology, environmental and life sciences, economy, mailing and transport, linguistics, ethnography, ecology, etc. Published catalogues of geographical collections and of historical-and-geographical dictionaries of Polish lands are likewise listed. (JA)

* Authors of short notes: Jacek Adamczyk (JA), Maria Cieśla (MC), Bartosz Kaliski (BK), Adam Kożuchowski (AK), Grzegorz Krzywiec (GK).

Andrzej Leder, *Prześniona rewolucja. Ćwiczenia z logiki historycznej* [An over-dreamed revolution: Exercises in historical logic], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo Krytyki Politycznej, 205 pp., index; series: Seria Historyczna, 16

The book's five condensed chapters may be regarded to be a psychoanalytical introduction to historical studies on the twentieth century – and, probably, not confined to it. The brilliant argument is concluded with a number of surprising punch-lines. The author, whose background is 'the Warsaw School' of historians of ideas, has, in a sense, built a dictionary and, primarily, developed certain research tools, offering samples of their practical application, examples of possible concepts and conceptualisations, ways of tackling the issues at the intersection of historical anthropology and contemporary psychoanalysis. Virtually, each of these essays might potentially become a germ for a larger treatise, or even wider-ranging research project. Leder seeks to identify the causative properties or subjectivity of a sovereign (Polish) nation, its historical genealogy and phantasmatic desires. He resumes a series of questions that were evoked in Polish debates of the 1990s, and a host of problems so far unexplained with use of sociological patterns. This is certainly one of the recently published major books on meanders of Polish national awareness, the origins of the native middle class, Polish-Jewish concatenations and their influences on the social and historical consciousness of twenty-first century Poles. (GK)

Zdzisław Najder *et al.* (eds.), *Węzły pamięci niepodległej Polski* [Independent Poland's memory bonds], Kraków and Warszawa, 2014, Fundacja Węzły Pamięci, Społeczny Instytut Wydawniczy Znak, 1061 pp., index, tables, ills., 2 CD

The study is another attempt to take advantage of the *histoire croisée* category in the research on the history of Poland. This ambitious venture, animated by the Museum of the History of Poland under the patronage of a few other institutions, including the 'KARTA' Centre, is designed to reconstruct the collective memory of the 'independent Poland generation', by identifying the sites of memory in Polish cultural community whose geographical heart is localisable in the vicinity of Pinsk, rather than Lodz. Thus, this voluminous encyclopaedia encompasses dates (3 May [1791], the year 1905, 11 November [1918], the year 1920, September 1939, ...); names of streets, cemeteries (e.g. Łyczakowski [Lychakiv] in Lvov, Rakowicki in Cracow), 'monumental' institutions, such as the Żałuski Library; manifesto notions, such as the *antemurale* ('Bulwark of Christendom'); novels – e.g. Andrzej Strug's *Dzieje*

jednego pocisku (1910), on the 1905 Revolution, or Aleksander Kamiński's *Kamienie na szaniec*, on Warsaw scouts-soldiers in German-occupied Warsaw; the national epic *Pan Tadeusz* by Adam Mickiewicz; the national play *Wesele* by Stanisław Wyspiański; *The Dąbrowski's Mazurka* – a song that turned into the national anthem; the WWII 'heroic' warships 'Błyskawica' and 'Orzeł'; sinister metaphors ('Judeo-commies'); restaurants, such as the famous pre-war 'Adria' in Warsaw; towns – for instance, Góra Kalwaria (the Jewish *shtetl* and Chassidic hub of Ger), recounted by Marcin Wodziński; or, Hel, the town and the peninsula defended by its Polish crew until the first days of October 1939, whose story is told by Antoni Jackowski; notions and categories such as 'intelligentsia' – by Marcin Król; the legitimacy of noble status of families (Daniel Beauvois); *liberum conspiro*, the pejorative term coined by nineteenth-century Cracow conservatives (Jerzy Zdrada); architectural monuments, such as the Catholic and Armenian Cathedrals of Lvov (Stefan Ciara); Warsaw's King Sigismund III Column (Juliusz A. Chrościcki); orders and decorations, e.g. the Cross of Valour (*Krzyż Walecznych*) (Janusz Odziemkowski). Thematic sections and certain more extensive phenomena have received considerable space in this book – to quote: 'Antiquity in Poland' (by Jerzy Axer); 'Orientalism in Poland' (Janusz Tazbir); 'National Democracy' (Aleksander Hall); '*Rabacja*' – the Galician Slaughter of 1846 (Jerzy Zdrada); 'Russification' (Andrzej Szwarz); 'The Polish Philistine' (Grażyna Borkowska); or, 'Kościuszko soldiers and followers' (Maciej Korkuć). Among the military entries, apart from those already mentioned, are military formations such as 'General Anders's Army' or 'The Home Army'; military infrastructure – e.g. 'The Warsaw Citadel'; 'Patriotic jewellery'. Moreover, constitutional solutions specific to the country and nation are included, such as the Henrician Articles and the *electio viri*tim; power-status symbols, such as the alleged Boleslav the Brave's sword 'Szczerbiec'. Added to that are specified geographical regions, universities (including those of Wilno and Lvov), along with journals and other periodicals (e.g. *Wiadomości Literackie*), thus depicting an almost complete cultural landscape of Poland before 1945.

While the selection of the entries and their authors are not subject to doubt, this being a matter of the editors' taste (most of them are outstanding researchers, intellectuals and experts in the field), the content varies as to quality. Some of the entries imply, in a way, their authors' political, if not outright ideological, declarations; there also happen regular squeaks, so to name them. For instance, 'The Year 1920', penned by Adam Zamoyski, the otherwise eminent historical writer, consists of a sort of his personal impression and is nowhere near a reconstruction of 'the 1920 phenomenon' in the Polish memory. Although such a method is not wrong by definition, it severely spoils the composition of the book – and makes one realise, once again, that a venture of this kind cannot remain neutral. Thus, unrestrained coverage of the topic by the author, the potentially strongest point about the

work under review, turns into its weakness. Instead, publication of a number of hitherto-unknown pictures comes as a great advantage. The book is conscientiously compiled and very smartly edited. (GK)

MIDDLE AGES

Księga proskrybowanych Nowego Miasta Torunia (1358–1412) [The book of outlaws of the New Town of Thorn, 1358–1412], ed. Bożena Wyrozumska, Toruń, 2013, Towarzystwo Naukowe w Toruniu, XXIV+ 69 pp., table, indexes; table of contents and introduction also in German; series: Towarzystwo Naukowe w Toruniu. Fontes, 107

This is an edition of the official lists of individuals condemned to banishment – one of the earliest such sources found in the territory of Poland. The register specifies details of 912 persons (two convicts are entered twice, probably by mistake): their names, types of crimes committed, the affected persons, and judges passing sentences in individual cases. A number of notes are crossed out, which, according to the editor, may suggest that the punishment was repealed. The first 309 mentions (dated 1358–81) were made in the same hand, which – given the much diverse handwritings in later notes – suggests that compilation of the register began only in 1381, the earlier pieces of information having been copied from another source. Written on parchment, almost completely in Latin, the register is kept today in the State Archives of Toruń. (JA)

Alina Polak, *Dyplomatyka kościoła polskiego okresu średniowiecza. Formularz dokumentów arcybiskupów gnieźnieńskich do 1381 roku* [The diplomatics of Polish Church in the Medieval Age: The form applied with documents issued by archbishops of Gniezno before 1381], Opole, 2014, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Scriptorium, 473 pp., tables

The author has identified and compared internal characteristics (legal content, form, dictate) of documents issued by archbishops of Gniezno between the time the earliest known diplomas appeared (by Archbishop Janik, 1149–after 1167) and the time of Janusz Suchywilk (1374–82, the last known document is dated 1381). The book moreover attempts to describe the archiepiscopal chancery. It has been based on 281 preserved documents, published in their entirety or as *regesta*. In A. Polak's opinion, the origins of the chancery date

back to before 1331 (the year being assumed as the commencement date): it probably functioned from earliest times, evidently developing since Archbishop Pełka's pontificate (1232–58). Characteristic of the earliest diplomas is the dictate modelled after French rhymed prose, which indirectly attests to a genuine education of their authors. With time, a characteristic, concise and precise dictate of the diplomas took shape, as compared to other Polish chanceries. From the former half of the fourteenth century onwards, two forms were in use: one for diplomas regarding ecclesiastical matters and for clerical addressees; the other one for proprietary matters, and for secular recipients. The forms used made it difficult to forge the archbishops' diplomas. (JA)

Agnieszka Gut, *Średniowieczna dyplomatyka wschodniopomorska. Dokumenty i kancelarie Pomorza Wschodniego do 1309 roku* [Medieval Pomeranian diplomatics: Diplomas and chanceries of East Pomerania before 1309], Szczecin, 2014, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego, 343 pp., tables, diagrams, summary in German; series: Rozprawy i Studia, (CMLXIII) 889

This study deals with documents issued in Eastern Pomerania, or outside the area but meant to be received within it, between the moment the first such document was issued in 1178 (the date is subject to dispute) until the area was seized by the Teutonic Knights. The latter caesura is justified by the changes instituted by the Teutonic Order in the functioning of written documents. The description is based on a total of 484 extant documents (all appearing in print), of which as many as sixty-two (13%) were forgery or are interpolated diplomas. The author concludes that, compared to elsewhere in Poland, characteristic about the region in question was late appearance of diplomas, prevalence of ducal documents (approx. 70% of the body under survey; this became changing in the late years of the period in question) and of Church institutions among the recipients (75%). Hence, it was at a relatively late moment (1270s) that a permanent monarchical chancery was established (we know of scribes working for certain local dukes in the earlier years). The author sees increased numbers of municipal and knightly documents, as well as forgeries, as associated with the extinction of a local dynasty in 1294 and the numerous rulers, and even dynasties, subsequently replacing one another, which prompted the land's population to have their rights and privileges written down (and to acquire some new ones, not always in a legal manner). The appearance of documents issued by officials had to do with the fact that local rulers of alien origin did not reside in Pomerania on a permanent basis. (JA)

Jarosław Sochacki, *Formowanie się średniowiecznego państwa niemieckiego w latach 919–962* [The formation of a medieval German state between 919 and 962], Słupsk, 2014, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Akademii Pomorskiej w Słupsku, 355 pp., indexes

This book deals with the process of emergence of a German state out of the Carolingian monarchy. In spite of the decomposition of the state of the Franks in the late years of the rule of Louis the Pious, the rule whereby only members of the Carolingian dynasty could exercise power in the monarchy's individual parts continued to be observed. Given this situation, the election of Conrad I by the nobles of the country's eastern part came as a breakthrough. In the author's opinion, the factors that enabled the rulers from outside the traditional dynasty to maintain power were several: there were no monarchs in Italy or France who would have been powerful enough to reinstate their rule in the monarchy's eastern areas; the said countries had their own internal problems. Furthermore, the new rulers proved quite successful: Lorraine was recaptured soon, and Burgundy subordinated; conquests expanded to Slavic territories; the expansion of Normans was withheld and Denmark Christianised; the Hungarians were defeated; lastly, interventions in the Italian affairs were successful and concluded with the crowning of Otto I as emperor. These successful ventures were accompanied by successive strengthening of the position of the rulers: while Conrad I proved still not powerful enough to ensure succession to his offspring, Henry I established himself as a *primus inter pares* amongst the Reich's dukes; Otto I is a major figure in his own right. (JA)

Piotr Węcowski, *Początki Polski w pamięci historycznej późnego średniowiecza* [The origins of Poland in the historical memory of the late Middle Ages], Kraków, 2014, Towarzystwo Naukowe Societas Vistulana, 456 pp., indexes, summary in English; series: Monografie Towarzystwa Naukowego Societas Vistulana, 2

The book focuses on the awareness of the dwellers of Poland (exclusive of Silesia and Prussia) between the early fourteenth century and the 1520s–30s of the country's earliest history: from the baptism of Poland to the death of Boleslav I the Brave (*Chrobry*). With a considerable number of historical and hagiographical works dealing with the earliest history, whether originally written in the fourteenth to sixteenth century or copied from earlier texts (several hundred manuscripts surviving today), the number of sources attesting to the people's knowledge on the subject is really scarce (and mainly consists of files of Polish-Teutonic court cases). The major figures of the

tenth and early eleventh century appear to be often represented in the works: Mieszko I, Boleslav the Brave, St Adalbert, the Five Martyr Brethren, as do the crucial achievements: the baptism of Poland, elevation of the country to the rank of kingdom, formation of the ecclesial organisation, and military successes. All these personages and events were regarded as a model of conduct, both for the country as a whole and within local milieus. However, knowledge about them was unevenly disseminated, its best quality being encountered – quite clearly – with social circles capable of reading (clergy, magnates, some noblemen and burghers). The other groups, whose knowledge mainly came from sermons they listened to, could build rather fragmentary pictures for themselves, which were not as well grounded in chronology. (JA)

Dariusz Prekop, *Wojna Zakonu Krzyżackiego z Litwą w latach 1283–1325* [The war between the Teutonic Order and Lithuania, 1283–1325], Toruń, 2014, Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, 189 pp.

The book deals with military actions between the Teutonic Order and Lithuania: their course, tactics, and effects for both parties to the conflict – between the completion of the conquest of Prussia by the Order and the 1324 armistice and the anti-Teutonic alliance concluded between Lithuania and Poland a year later. The tactics of both parties is discussed, which consisted in ravaging the land, virtually without capturing strong points (apart from instances of taking the enemy by surprise or betrayal), with the aim to devastate the foe economically and thereby make him surrender. In the period discussed, Teutonic Knights held a total of 75 expeditions, most of them (24) to the Samogitian borderland on the Niemen. The Lithuanians carried out 44 campaigns, 17 of them to Prussia, all the other ones against the Livonian branch of the Order, which was militarily weaker and entangled in a conflict with the Riga Archbishopric. The influence of these actions on Teutonic military system is shown (adapting the tactics to the field conditions, including the use of rivers in transports of troops and supplies; taking advantage of the Baltic people, especially their military skills; establishment of the komturship [commandry] of Ragnit for the warfare purposes; enactment of taxation). It is emphasised, though, that in spite of shifting northwards the borderline of Samogitian settlement area, the Order did not attain its main goal – the conquest of Samogitia, which was supported by Lithuania and its Ruthenian dominions. The wars under discussion exerted a much heavier influence on the Lithuanian-Samogitian party as they speeded up the formation of a Lithuanian state and induced it to enter into an anti-Teutonic alliance with Poland. (JA)

Cezary Kardasz, *Rynek kredytu pieniężnego w miastach południowego wybrzeża Bałtyku w późnym średniowieczu (Greifswald, Gdańsk, Elbląg, Toruń, Rewel)* [The monetary credit market in the urban hubs of southern Baltic coast in the late Middle Ages (Greifswald, Gdansk, Elbing, Thorn, Revel)], Toruń, 2013, Towarzystwo Naukowe w Toruniu, 473 pp., tables, diagrams, appendix, summary in English and German; series: Roczniki Towarzystwa Naukowego w Toruniu, xciv, 2

This book specifies that acquisition of rents was the basic form of medium- and long-term credits in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries in the enumerated cities; a role of importance, though much less represented in the sources, was assigned to lien on immovable and movable goods. The lending markets developed in an uneven fashion: the best opportunities were offered in Gdańsk (though not as good as in Hamburg and other large north German cities); quite significant ones were encountered in Thorn (Toruń) and Elbing (Elbląg); the market performed the weakest in Revel (today's Tallinn). Almost all the social groups participated in it, great merchants coming to the fore – particularly those holding chairs with municipal authorities. There was a strong correlation between the situation in the credit market and the economic situation, with the European depression of the late fourteenth and early fifteenth century affecting the situation. The development of lending facilities and, in broader terms, of monetary economy, caused progressing specialisation of so-called pragmatic writing – from entries in municipal registers to the so-called rent registers. This process was unevenly spread among the cities, depending on the economic conditions and ingenuity of the municipal officials. (JA)

Hanna Krzyżostaniak, *Trzynastowieczne święte kobiety kręgu franciszkańskiego Polski i Czech. Kształtowanie się i rozwój kultów w średniowieczu* [Thirteenth-century saint women in the Polish and Bohemian Franciscan circles: The formation and development of cults in the Middle Ages], Poznań, 2014, Wydawnictwo Nauka i Innowacje, 311 pp.

The book traces the unfolding of the cults of five women: Salomea of the Piast dynasty, daughter of Cracow Duke Leszek the White; the sisters St Kinga (Cunegunda) and Blessed Yolanda (Helen), of the Árpád dynasty, both married to Polish dukes; and the sisters St Agnes and Anne, duchess of Silesia, of the Přemislid dynasty. The author emphasises that these women themselves, as well as their cults, represented a new type of devotion, which took shape under the influence of the mendicant orders in thirteenth-century Western Europe,

and was transferred in the following century to the central part of the continent. All these women were hagiographed quite early by means of written lives, though none of them was canonised in the medieval period. And, all have been attracting interest from scholars for a long time. Thus, H. Krzyżostaniak puts in the spotlight the birth of their cult, which has been not satisfactorily explored – including the interests of Franciscan Friars who were settling down and striking root during the lives and under the care of these duchesses in Poland and in Bohemia. The new type of godliness, reflected in their biographies, was characterised by individual religiosity inspired by concepts of evangelical life combined with charity activities. While saints of the earlier ages primarily patronised kingdoms and religious institutions, the major features of those of the later epochs were offering good example to the faithful, making miracles, and being ready to assist ‘ordinary’ people in their tough moments, when evoked; such was the popular perception. Specific to the area of Central Europe, and bringing ‘new’ saints closer to the ‘old’ ones, was the conservative aspect of lineage: ‘new’ saints came from the ruling families, which in the early medieval period was regarded as an element of charisma of power and authority – and a trait transmitted within the kinship relationship. The cult of the duchesses could also have reflected the cult of St Elisabeth of Thuringen, the oldest of Central European saint women, which was strongly propagated and ‘appropriated’ by the Franciscan Order. (JA)

Rafał Hryszko, *Media Aeva dulcia. Analiza produkcji i konsumpcji słodyczy w Królestwie Aragonii w XIV i XV w.* [*Media Aeva dulcia. An analysis of manufacture and consumption of confectionery in the Kingdom of Aragon in the 14th and 15th centuries*], Kraków, 2013, Towarzystwo Wydawnicze “Historia Iagellonica”, 316 pp., table, appendices, index of persons, summary in English; series: Medium Aevum, 4

The author makes a point that the Middle Ages witnessed a change in the views of sweets or candies: a transition from viewing them as a medicine taken especially after cold and moist meals, to consuming them as snacks for pleasure. The Kingdom of Aragon played an important part in this process: in the course of the Reconquista, it seized territories whose Muslim population manufactured honeys, among other things. In parallel, Aragon’s increasing share in Mediterranean trade enabled imports of sugar and a variety of spices from the Muslim Orient (and from elsewhere). Confectionery, relatively expensive in the period, was the food of social elites; others could taste them benefiting from the custom of throwing candies to the crowds assisting various ceremonies, and from the like occasions. Sweets were initially eaten as a dessert following the main course (at dinners or feasts) and, in a later

period, at special solemn meals, held in a unique setting and ceremonial, called *col-lació*, at which snacks were served. With the Aragon conquests in Italy (Sardinia, Sicily, Naples), the *col-lació*, *collazione* custom was transferred to these Italian lands and thereafter further on. The appendices attached contain confectionery recipes based on late medieval Aragon sources. (JA)

EARLY MODERN TIMES

Kauno miesto aktų Knygos XVI–XVIII a. Tarybos Knyga 1555–1564 (Acta civilia caunensia saec. XVI–XVIII. Liber Consularis 1555–1564), ed. Darius Antanavičius; *Kauno miesto aktų Knygos XVI–XVIII a. Vaito knyga 1561–1564 (Acta civilia caunensia saec. XVI–XVIII. Liber Advocatalis 1561–1564)*, ed. Darius Antanavičius and Algirdas Baliulis, Vilnius, 2013, Lietuvos Istorijos institutas, 525 + 528 pp., indexes, ill.

These two volumes open a series whose goal is to publish sixteenth-century municipal archival of Kowno (Kaunas). The choice of the town is not coincidental: first, Kowno was one of the most important urban hubs in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and, second, its municipal archive has been excellently preserved to this day. The series' volume 1 consists of a register of minutes of town council meetings (*Liber Consularis*) from 1561–4; volume 2 comprises the *Liber Advocatalis* from the same period. How important such sources are for research in the Duchy's social and economic history needs no argument. The first volume, written in Latin, has almost 1,500 entries, basically divisible into two categories: the first is disputes between the town's inhabitants, mainly over real properties and financial transactions; the second, all the resolutions concerning the administration of the city. The second volume contains 1,441 entries, in Latin and Polish. These entries form an excellent source helpful in analysing multiple aspects of daily life of Kowno burghers in the second half of the sixteenth century, including: the city's real estate, enforcement of financial liabilities, and inheritance matters. The source materials under discussion have been known from earlier research and are, moreover, accessible online in scanned form. The present edition offers a scholarly apparatus. The explanatory footnotes, abstracts and indexes provided considerably facilitate the use of the source materials. The transcription pattern applied to the Polish-language texts might make their reading difficult, to an extent; the Polish reader, accustomed to a modernised graphic form of Old-Polish texts, might find such very accurate transcripts somewhat problematic to read. All the same, the publication's high editorial standard is commendable. The source materials now published exquisitely complement our knowledge on the towns in Poland-Lithuania; what is more,

they are an interesting source not only for general historians but also for linguists and historians of law. Let us hope that this municipal sources series will be continued, as envisioned by its editors and publishers. (MC)

Akta sejmikowe ziemi chełmskiej 1572–1668 [Chełm Land's dietine records, 1572–1668], ed. Wiesław Bondyra, Henryk Gmiterek, and Jerzy Ternes, Lublin, 2013, Archiwum Państwowe, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, 739 pp., indexes; series: Fontes Lublinenses, 5

Dietine (local assembly) records have since long been regarded as a source of importance for research on political, social or economic history. As such records are dispersed among many castle court records, their use is considerably hindered; hence, source editions comprising dietine documents are extremely valuable. The collection in question contains documentations of the local assembly of the Chełm Land. While this particular *sejmik* was none of the major ones in the Commonwealth, a number of resolutions taken by that body are extant which prove to be interesting due to the area's specificity. The present volume comprises, in total, 199 documents referring to 212 nobility's assemblies held between 1572 and 1668. The query for the needs of this compilation was carried out, primarily, in castle court records of Chełm and Krasnystaw, kept today in the State Archives of Lublin, the National Historical Archive of the Belarus Republic, and the Russian State Archives of Historical Records in Moscow; complementary documents have also been found in other Polish archives. Among the published documents, the *sejmik's* resolutions, called *lauda*, and instructions to the parliamentary deputies come to the forefront; the protestations, manifestations or approvals are lesser in number. The publication's high editorial standard is commendable. Critical apparatus – explanatory and textual notes – accompanies the materials. The Chełm Land's dietine files is an important publication not only for historians focusing on political history of the Commonwealth; owing to the territorial specificity, they are very interesting also for researchers in ethnic and religious relations. (MC)

Maciej Ziemiński, *Skład osobowy sądu wyższego prawa magdeburskiego na zamku krakowskim w XVII–XVIII wieku* [The personnel of the High Court of Magdeburg Law at the Cracow Castle in the 17th to 18th century], Kraków, 2013, Księgarnia Akademicka, 399 pp.

The monograph is a prosopographic study of a group of persons forming the High Court of Magdeburg Law in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries

(from 1601 to 1794). The group consists of 108 individuals, aldermen (*scabini*) and vogts (*advocati*). The source used for the purpose consisted of a fund of High Court records, presently kept at the State Archives in Cracow. While the author has carried out quite a detailed and extensive source query, especially the first section of this monograph lacks a synthetic elaboration of the source material amassed. The argument is richly illustrated by detailed source examples, but the abundance of source information definitely makes the reading somewhat difficult.

The monograph is organised into two major parts, the first (chapters 1–2) describing the Court's procedures of selection and the mode of its operations, along with the position of provincial vogts and aldermen in the clerical hierarchy and their relationships with the municipal authorities. Ziemierski's research has found that the new magistrates were appointed, on a lifetime basis, on request of the magistrates, and was formally attended by the governor of Cracow and provincial vogt of the High Court of Magdeburg Law. The Court's activities caused numerous conflicts with the municipal authorities, with legal and competence disputes at the background. The second, much more interesting and much more synthetic section, directly deals with the people holding the court offices. Ziemierski argues that most of the aldermen have arrived from outside Cracow, and were prevalently affluent merchants. The holding of this post was, especially in the seventeenth century, the first level in the career path of town council officials. The last section, providing a chronological breakdown of biographical notes of the High Court vogts, aldermen and scribes, proves particularly valuable and of use to any scholar interested in the history of Cracow. (MC)

Monika Jusupović, *Prowincjonalna elita litewska w XVIII w. Działalność polityczna rodziny Zabięłłów w latach 1733–1795* [Lithuania's eighteenth-century provincial elite: The political activities of Zabięłło family in the years 1733–95], Warszawa, 2014, Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne, Instytut Historii PAN, Wydawnictwo Neriton, 488 pp., bibliog., indexes, tables, ill., summary in English and Russian

The monograph under review analyses the political activities of exponents of the Zabięłło family under the rule of Augustus III Wettin and Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski. Zabięłło were typical representatives of provincial political elites. Their activities were concentrated in the county of Kowno [Lith., Kaunas], they were main-part actors in the local dietine (*sejmik*), proactively contributing to the upkeep of this 'not-to-be-broken-off' assembly. The author uses her detailed analysis of activities of Zabięłło to show the

influence of provincial political elites on the countrywide policies. The embarking on such a subject-matter is innovative. Jusupović has carried out a broad query across Polish as well as Lithuanian and Belarusian archives. Her monograph is structured chronologically and discusses the consecutive major political events. The book has basically two parts, the first of which, introductory, offering a meticulously detailed genealogy of the Zabiello family in the eighteenth century. Such presentation was necessary as the existing literature has often confused the individual members of the house. The main part analyses the property and social background of the Zabiello faction. Particularly interesting is the argument concerning their clients and political henchmen (the families Kossakowski, Szorc, Domeyko). The core part of the study analyses in detail the political activities of Zabiello, including their dietine-related activities, and the family members' attitude towards the crucial countrywide political occurrences. The monograph proves how important for the state policy were the contests at the local level. It discusses the source material conscientiously and in vast amounts of detail, and proves of special interest and importance for experts researching the political history of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. A reader less at home with the eighteenth-century political realities might find the reading rather demanding. (MC)

Jerzy J. Głowacki, *Gastronomia polityczna kuchmistrza litewskiego. Michał Wielohorski (ok. 1731–1814) – życie i myśl ustrojowa* [A Lithuanian Head Cook's political gastronomy: Michał Wielohorski (ca. 1731–1814), his life and constitutional thought], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo DiG, 527 pp., bibliog., name index, appendix

Historiography has not devoted much attention to the activities of Michał Wielohorski, a political activist active in the latter half of the eighteenth century. While no monograph of this figure has been written, Wielohorski was always characterised in unambiguously negative terms, mainly due to research of Władysław Konopczyński. In his book, J.J. Głowacki seeks now to make us better acquainted with Wielohorski better known, through drawing our attention to the conservative current in Polish political thought of the late eighteenth century, not too well recognised hitherto. Thereby, in spite of clearly referring, in the book's title, to Konopczyński's research, Głowacki's attempt is clearly to show the central figure in a different light. In spite of his recognisable fondness of Wielohorski, the author has managed to remain distanced and unbiased in his assessments and opinions, however simplified some of his statements or conclusions may seem, especially in the context of general evaluations of the epoch. At all, the study is skilfully written and interesting.

A typical biographical study, the book has seven chapters presenting the life of Michał Wielohorski in a chronological sequence. The author has carried out an extensive query in Polish and foreign (Lithuanian, Ukrainian, French and Austrian) archives and libraries, and has made use of the press and old prints. He expertly discusses, in the course of his narrative, with the existing historiographic output. While focusing his interests on the political activities, Głowacki also discusses Wielohorski's family connections, education background, and financial position. The character is portrayed against a broad background of his time. His political writings are the centre of the historian's concern, which extends to the Bar Confederates' discussion with Western philosophers on the political system of the Commonwealth, and its resulting treatise *O przywróceniu dawnego rządu według pierwsiastkowej Rzeczypospolitej ustaw* [On the restoration of the old rule according to the Commonwealth's primary statutes]. (MC)

Sabine Jagodzinski, *Die Türkenkriege im Spiegel der polnisch-litauischen Adelskultur. Kommemoration und Repräsentation bei den Żółkiewski, Sobieski, Radziwiłł*, Ostfildern, 2013, Jan Thorbecke Verlag, 258 pp., ill.; series: *Studia Jagiellonica Lipsiensia*, 13

This monograph, an abridged version of the author's PhD thesis submitted at the Humbolt University in Berlin, deals with methods of commemorating of the Ottoman expansion in the noble courtly culture of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Contacts between the Ottoman Empire and the Commonwealth, as a broad concept, rank among the topics willingly studied by historians recently. Yet, the monograph under review seems to excel among the many publications in the field. It provides a cultural-historical analysis, combining elements of history of art with studies of social memory. Jagodzinski's focus is on the forms and strategies of commemorating the Ottoman expansion, and how they changed as the threat from the eastern neighbours increased or decreased. In spite of its somewhat misleading title, it is a case study discussing the artistic programme of Żółkiew (Ukrainian, Zhovkva). The issue is presented in *longue durée* terms. Analysed are the methods of commemorating the struggling and battles with the Turks, in a chronological order, for the periods when the town was consecutively managed by: Stanisław Żółkiewski, King John III Sobieski, Michał Kazimierz 'Rybeńko' Radziwiłł, and Karol-Stanisław 'Panie Kochanku' Radziwiłł. The analysis is founded on documents collected at the Radziwiłł Archive (in the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw) – primarily, inventories, construction design drawings and descriptions, and wills. The author has omitted, for a change, the abundant collection of magnates' letters, which would seem of special interest and use in view of her research purpose.

The study has four chapters, chronologically presenting the activities of the subsequent owners of Żółkiew. Described is the gradual process of social remembering of the fighting against the Ottoman expansion. As evidenced by the author, it was commenced by the commemoration in the local church of the heroic death of Hetman Stanisław Żółkiewski in the battlefield of Cecora (Romanian, Țuțora). Particularly important were the actions taken by John III Sobieski, which turned Żółkiew into a site of countrywide importance, where the counteracting of the Turkish expansion was commemorated. The Radziwiłł period in the town's history is marked with a clear change in the commemoration method, with Żółkiew becoming the site of memory of John III. In brief, the Jagodzinski monograph shows the contacts between the Commonwealth and the Ottoman Empire from a not-too-well-acquainted perspective. (MC)

Michał Czernekiewicz, *Belgijska Sarmacja, staropolska Belgia* [The Belgian Sarmatia – an Old-Polish Belgium], Warszawa, 2013, Muzeum Pałac w Wilanowie, 128 pp., bibliog., index, summary in Dutch; series: Silva rerum

Michał Czernekiewicz centres his interests around the mutual associations and reciprocal influences between the Old-Polish seventeenth-century culture and the period's Flemish culture. These phenomena are researched through the prism of Neo-Latin literary texts. The study's chronology is bracketed between 1609 and 1649, being the respective death dates of Justus Lipsius and Nicolaus Vernulaeus. The study consists of two chapters; the first analyses texts created in a university milieu, primarily in Leuven, and the second shows mutual contacts of Polish and Dutch Jesuits. While the subject-matter seems very interesting, the book leaves the reader somewhat unsatisfied, as the author has limited himself to enumerating and describing the contents of the works that are related, in one way or the other, with the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth – without analysing the texts any deeper, or attempting at a synthetic take. His particular focus is on the activities of Lipsius, Putenaus, Vernulaeus – the figures already known from earlier research. Their works are merely summarised, with special emphasis on their parts that refer, in any manner, to the Commonwealth. The genuine value of Czernekiewicz's book is a compiled breakdown of Dutch works concerning Poland-Lithuania, potentially useful to historians interested in researching Polish-Flemish seventeenth-century connections and relations. (MC)

Marek Wrede, *Rozbudowa Zamku Królewskiego w Warszawie przez Zygmunta III. Studia i materiały* [The redevelopment of the Warsaw Royal Castle by Sigismund III: Studies and materials], Warszawa, 2013, Arx Regia – Ośrodek Wydawniczy Zamku Królewskiego w Warszawie, 302 pp., index, ill., summary in English

A collection of texts by Marek Wrede, combined with relevant sources materials, the book proposes a recapitulation of the present knowledge on the redevelopment of the Royal Castle in Warsaw, the project undertaken by King Sigismund III in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth century. The author thus resumes the question about the moment Warsaw was made the capital of Poland-Lithuania, replacing Cracow. Although the topic has been revisited many a time, the monograph under review makes a substantial contribution. There are two major parts; the first contains the author's studies. Three of them interpret anew the architectural sources known from earlier research, whereas the study on Sigismund III's travel from Cracow to Warsaw in March 1569 is of a different sort. The second part comprises sources related to the history of redevelopment of the Castle, primarily bills and receipts. The study is an interesting reading. Its use of a number of previously unknown sources has contributed to confirm several hypotheses posed earlier by historians. Particularly convincing and interesting is the detailed analysis of before-unknown royal bills or invoices, allowing to determine the date the redevelopment project commenced – 1600. Interesting, and based on a rich source material, is the essay about Sigismund III's trip, which provides a broad background of the events related to the transfer of the capital city. Less convincing are the author's hypotheses concerning the project's design drawing from the former half of the seventeenth century. Of special value is the second part of the study, with edited specimens of royal bills; some forty documents from the Treasury Archive have been published altogether. (MC)

Urszula Kosińska, Dorota Dukwicz, and Adam Danilczyk (eds.), *W cieniu wojen i rozbiorów. Studia z dziejów Rzeczypospolitej XVIII i początków XIX wieku* [In the shadow of the wars and partitions: Studies in the history of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 18th and early 19th centuries], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo Neriton *et al.*, 556 pp., ill., index; text written partly in Russian

This multi-author monograph is an anniversary book to Professor Zofia Zielińska, compiled to commemorate her seventieth birthday. A scholar specialising in the political history of the late Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth,

Zielińska has authored a number of important studies and educated – and has been a master to – many young historians whose research interests are primarily in the area of the partitions. The monograph's twenty-four articles – written, mostly, by students of Professor Zielińska as well as some of her friends and associates – are evidence that owing to her teaching efforts, a research school focused on the eighteenth century history has taken shape in the Polish historiography. Studies produced as part of this current are characterised by a very reliable underlying sources and a dense and detailed descriptive style, which might make them rather difficult to read for historians not specialising in the eighteenth-century political history. With respect to the topics covered by the compilation's content, the reader comes across several major groups of articles. Considerations of partitions-related aspects take up most of the space (the articles by D. Dukwicz, B. Nosov, P. Zając, E. Zielińska, R. Butterwick-Pawlikowski). Armed conflicts have been analysed (by J. Dygdała and J. Czuby). Of interest are the deliberations concerning various internal conflicts of the Saxon (Wettin) period and King Stanislaus Augustus's time (P.P. Romaniuk, A. Macuk, T. Szwaciński, W. Kriegseisen). The volume moreover contains reflections in the area of political thought in the eighteenth-century Commonwealth (J. Lukowski, A. Grześkowiak-Krwawicz). The articles are mostly narrow, many of them describing apparently not-quite-significant political events – but they do make a real contribution to the research in eighteenth-century political history. It should primarily be emphasised that previously unknown source materials have been used by most of the authors (as in the essays by W. Kriegeisen, D. Dukwicz, J. Budrewicz-Nowicki, U. Kosińska, D. Kołodziejczyk, and others), some of them published as appendices to the respective articles (A. Bues, J. Budrewicz-Nowicki, U. Kosińska). The authors have posed new research questions, expertly discussing with the theses offered by the earlier historiography (e.g. articles by W. Kriegseisen, P.P. Romaniuk). A bibliography of works authored by Zofia Zielińska is attached. (MC)

NINETEENTH CENTURY

Marta Sikorska (ed.), *Czego chce współczesna kobieta? Problematyka kobieca na łamach polskiej prasy w Łodzi przełomu XIX i XX wieku* [What is the contemporary woman after? Women and female affairs in the Polish press of Lodz in the late 19th and early 20th century], Łódź, 2013, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, 299 pp., index

This compilation of selected source texts from the Lodz press, covering a variety of woman-related issues, is an aftermath of many years of the volume

editor's interests. In 2001, M. Sikorska published a monograph on the image of Lodz woman of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century (titled *Wizerunek kobiety łódzkiej przełomu XIX i XX wieku*). Hence, the present selection has prevalently been made according to an 'emancipatory' key that reflects the author's own research; hence the prevalence of essays on changing or redefined social and professional roles of women and on reception of these changes by the period's public opinion. Another reason behind the choice was, probably, the fact that the texts were originally published by information and opinion-forming periodicals, rather than magazines targeted at the female reader (and edited by women), and so they typically represent 'the male viewpoint' on 'woman affairs'. The most often quoted journals include *Goniec Łódzki*, *Kurier Łódzki*, *Nowy Kurier Łódzki* and *Rozwój*. The selected periodicals, the reader is told in the introduction, primarily varied in their political profile, which was directly reflected in the editorial staff's attitude to 'the female question'.

The selected texts are grouped into sections: (i) upbringing and education; (ii) hygiene and maternity; (iii) female labour; (iv) women's movement in the West and in Russia; (v) women's movement in Polish lands; (vi) prostitution and human trafficking; (vii) women from other countries; (viii) fashion and the corset. Only the last two sections are, possibly, 'light' in content, whilst the proposed selection was prepared so as to highlight the moment of moral and social changes and the changing self-consciousness of women. Detailed notes explain the identities of the persons, institutions and historical events mentioned in the texts.

The book will no doubt be of valuable assistance to university students and, hopefully, experts. The author has, regrettably, not extended her selection to periodicals issued outside Lodz. The specificity of the local press's approach to women's affairs, compared to the contents of the periodicals published in the (Congress) Kingdom of Poland and the central, Warsaw, press in specific, has not been outlined. All the same, following the definition of 'women's issues', or 'female affairs', assumed by the editor, the collection seems rich and quite exemplary of the array of ideologies of the time. The writing style typical of the journalists at the turn of the century makes the reading all the more attractive – not only (and not chiefly) for specialists in the field. (AK)

Łukasz Jewuła, *Galicyskie miasteczka oraz ich mieszkańcy w latach 1772–1848* [Towns of Polish Galicia and their dwellers in 1772–1848], Kraków, 2013, Towarzystwo Wydawnicze "Historia Iagellonica", 271 pp., bibliog., tables, diagrams, index of persons, summary in English and German

This book is yet another evidence of a relentless interest among Polish historians in Galicia under Austrian rule. This time, the author focuses on a period

before the Spring of Nations, portraying a Galicia that is less known to the general reader, who tends to associate the famous land with the benevolent rule of Franz Joseph I and the extensive political autonomy of the period 1867–1914. It is a study in the social history of the towns, centred on the economic, profession-related and legal situation of their inhabitants, and thus rather old-fashioned methodologically – in any case, not aligned with the contemporary urban history trends. Coexistence of the various ethnic and national groups resisting in Galician cities and towns is the only topic related to the cultural and political life of the period, covered in the book.

The Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria – the south-western part of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth – was included in the Habsburg empire in 1772. The nobility, the only social class that had had political rights before that date, was the most severely affected by the political transition. The changes imprinted a less dramatic stigma on the life of the towns, which might serve as an excuse that the book does not touch upon this particular issue. The main property ownership change, which also affected urban hubs, was the mass-scale confiscation of ecclesial properties, particularly conventual estates, in the first years after the seizure of Galicia by Austria. The legal situation of urban residents, the urban populations, as well as these people's basic sources of upkeep, changed very slowly in the period discussed – save, perhaps, for the capital city of Lvov (Cracow was not part of Galicia at that time, which tends to be forgotten today). The same can even be said of the appearance, sanitary condition, and sizes of these towns. Small towns were dominant in the landscape, the prevailing share of their dwellers earning a living on farming, small craft and trade. The crucial change only came in 1847–8, with the amendments to the urban citizenship law (admitting Jews, i.a.) and the legal and administrative status of towns.

The introduction of the Habsburg administration, whose volume and prerogatives had been unknown to that territory, was a critical change, in turn. This new administration was tasked with helping the provinces integrate with the remainder of the country (which was interpreted variously in different periods), along with exercising police supervision (which actually included a series of modernising instructions regarding paying attention to hygiene and, overall, 'furnishing the cities'). Collection of taxes and conscription were its main jobs, though. Together with the Habsburg administration, considerable numbers of German and Czech settlers arrived in Galicia, which heavily affected the ethnic and denominational statistics of the province.

The archival materials produced by this administration, forming the basis of the book, have enabled the author to thoroughly reconstruct the demographic statistics, changes in the legal situation of the residents, fluctuations inside professional groups, sources of income, trade, and municipal construction industry. The subsequent chapters discuss as follows: (i) the main trends of Austrian policy toward Galicia and its towns; (ii) a typology of towns,

according to the period's administrative criteria; (iii) the economic potential of the towns; (iv) coexistence of nationalities (ethnicities) and religions; (v) the social and professional structure; (vi) the legal position of the burghers in the towns (of various types); (vii) the relations between the locals and the administration. The book also comprises forty pages of tables and diagrams or charts and a large annex presenting a complete list of Galician towns of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, their owners, populations (including Jewish), number of houses in each, and the official classification of male dwellers (into seven categories, by social class and profession). The tables and diagrams abound with details of buildings and their condition, incomes and expenditures of the administration, population – by denomination and class/profession and by administrative district, and municipal property structure. These data refer to 18 towns selected by the author and representing all the *cyrkuły* (precincts – administrative districts) as well as the main categories of towns (state-owned, private, Church-owned).

One of the book's focal points is the generally poor condition of most of the Galician towns, among which only few were important trading and manufacturing hubs. This is attested, i.a., by the great role ascribed to towns housing the *cyrkuł* seats. In line with the traditional interpretation in Polish historiography, the author attributes this situation to the Vienna government's exploitation-oriented policy, with market areas and transit opportunities shut off. In the period described, no acute animosities are virtually traceable between the nationalities or religions in the lives of the towns – although Christian burghers willingly, almost ritually, demonstrated their separateness from, and 'superiority' over, their peasant and Jewish neighbours. It is also remarked that the urban population as such increased only slightly, in its entirety, compared to the other resident groups. The larger cities, Lvov coming to the fore, saw a proportionally larger growth, thus reinforcing their dominant position over smaller towns. (AK)

Krzysztof Paweł Woźniak, *Niemieckie osadnictwo wiejskie między Prosną a Pilicą i Wisłą od lat 70. XVIII wieku do 1866 roku. Proces i jego interpretacja* [German settlement in the rural areas between the Proсна and Pilica, and the Vistula from the 1770s to 1866: The process and its interpretation], Łódź, 2013, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, 385 pp., bibliog., maps, indexes, appendices, summary in English and German

In the Middle Ages and in the subsequent manorial economy period, the German colonisers, and foreigners in general, enjoyed in Poland a special status which positioned them uniquely against serfs. Their settlement

was structured, and followed a group pattern: the colonisers were granted privileges, which primarily included the right to use the land on a hereditary basis, for lease; they were at times exempt from a variety of fees for a defined period of time – as a commuity, or village, in case of peasants. Research on the medieval and early modern colonisation has been made by a number of specialists, Polish and German alike (the author focuses quite a lot on the differences between the stances of both groups of scholars). The study under review follows up this tradition, complementing the image of the last epoch of German agricultural colonisation with his very detailed research. The process began in the early years of partitions of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and was concluded in 1866, the date the legal discreation of the colonisers was cancelled as the serfdom was abolished and an agricultural reform carried out, turning peasants residing in the Congress Kingdom into owners of land they had been using. The reasons of intensified immigration of peasants from German to Polish territory as well as to Russian Empire were economic ('hunger for land' in Germany; no qualified farmers in Poland and Russia) as well as social and political (will to avoid military service in any of the centralised German countries). The latter reason was why a considerable proportion of colonisers were members of religious minorities (Mennonites, Moravian Brethren). Poland or Russia was a major destination for immigrants from Germany, initially competing in this respect with the Habsburg territory and then with America, the latter taking prevalence around mid-nineteenth century.

K.P. Woźniak has based his findings on his many years' research, using a variety of sources: parish and municipal records, notarial records, legal regulations, memoirs and earlier studies of the topic, particularly by so-called local historians of German minority in Poland before WWII. The book has seven chapters; the first discusses German, Dutch and other settlements in Polish areas before the partitions, from the sixteenth century onwards. Chapter 2 focuses on the colonisation of 'South Prussia', being the land temporarily annexed to the Kingdom of Prussia after the Second Partition of Poland (1793–1807). The third and fourth sections discuss the development of colonisation in the time of Duchy of Warsaw (1807–15) and, respectively, in the (Congress) Kingdom of Poland until 1866. Chapter 5 is about the religious, cultural and educational facets of the German rural communities in the Kingdom. The sixth discusses the settlers' relationships with their Polish neighbours, and the seventh deals with historiographical disputes about the German colonisation, primarily between Polish and German historians. This section forms, in a sense, a separate treatise, whose accuracy is worthy of note, as is its attempt to unbiasedly analyse the output of both historiographies. Comprehensibly enough, the last two chapters combine several controversial issues: To what an extent was the colonisation a modernising exercise? In what ways was it reflected in the structure and technologies of farming? How did the ethnic assimilation proceed? The books is furnished with twenty

annexes, including maps of villages, exemplary settlement contracts, lists of cantorates and houses of prayer, lists of students.

Apart from a detailed discussion of the reference literature, the author focuses on the rural and, not infrequently, religious character of the colonisers' communities. He thence sees the perception of the settlers in terms of a Polish-German 'rivalry' as anachronistic: more than a national identity or culture, they tended to cultivate the memory of their *Heimats* (and their dialects), religiosity, and strict bonds of rural community. K. Woźniak finds that the settlers' rather considerable distinctness from their Polish environment normally lasted for three generations, although in the case of Mennonite and other like communities the difference lasted longer, expressed in the language they used and in no toleration for marriages involving people from outside the rural community. Hence, even if the settlers – as intended by the Polish and Russian authorities – brought along new techniques of husbandry and land cultivation, their influence on the surrounding environment remained not quite significant. (AK)

Artur Górak, Jan Kozłowski, and Krzysztof Latawiec, *Słownik biograficzny gubernatorów i wicegubernatorów w Królestwie Polskim (1867–1918)* [A biographical dictionary of governors and vice-governors in the Kingdom of Poland, 1867–1918], Lublin, 2014, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie Skłodowskiej, 453 pp., bibliog., ill.

This dictionary comes as a subsequent book of the three renowned scholars, documenting and cataloguing their research on Russian bureaucracy in the Polish territory – covering the Kingdom of Poland and the Chełm Governorate (Russian, *Kholms'ka Guberniya*) in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, with a focus on the so-called unification age: the years 1867–1915. In a comprehensive introduction, the authors offer a reliable survey of the reference literature, proving themselves to be well-read in the discussions and reference studies issued in the recent years in Russia. The book under review, which is essentially a study of top Russian elites in the Polish Kingdom, also provides an outline of the Russian policies in the Kingdom during the long nineteenth century. It is, moreover, probably the best, and very detailed indeed, guide to the operational principles of the Russian administrative apparatus: the staffing of offices, the pragmatics of individual levels of Russian bureaucracy, the very specificity of the Russian authorities in Poland against the background of the Empire as a whole and, finally, their symbolical legitimisation practices (with a discussion of orders, medals and other decorations and awards). The study is an excellent introduction to prosopographic research on the partitioning

authority in Polish lands. It moreover offers an extensive reference reading list being helpful with the personal entries, of which there are over 100, with a thorough survey of Russian archival resources (the research encompassed several central Russian archives as well as relevant archival funds of Tartu, Kaunas, Vilnius, Kiev, plus a dozen-or-so Polish hubs). Nineteenth-century history scholars will presumably find the reviewed book indispensable. (GK)

Mariusz Nowak, *Aktywność polityczna Zygmunta Wielopolskiego. Z dziejów myśli ugodowej w Królestwie Polskim w II połowie XIX wieku* [The political activities of Zygmunt Wielopolski: Aspects of the reconciliatory thought in the Kingdom of Poland in the latter half of the 19th century], Kielce, 2013, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jana Kochanowskiego, 483 pp., bibliog., indexes

The figure of Zygmunt Wielopolski (1833–1902), has most of the time been sidelined by his famous father, Margrave Aleksander Wielopolski, head of the civil administration in the (Congress) Kingdom of Poland prior to the January Insurrection (1862–3), who epitomised the failed attempts of Polish conservatives to cooperate with the tsarist government. An associate of his father and his expected political successor, Zygmunt appeared in the analyses of Polish politics of the second half of the nineteenth century proposed by Stefan Kieniewicz, Jarosław Czuby, Andrzej Szwarz, and others. For a more detailed portrait, the reader is referred to A.M. Składkowski's 1947 biography of Aleksander, and to the biography of Andrzej Zamoyski penned by S. Kieniewicz (1962). Mariusz Nowak has now offered us a first complete biography of Zygmunt Wielopolski and his informal party, which bears no stigma of a reactionary collaborator attached to him by the historians of the People's Republic period.

The monograph thus comes as one more recent item in Polish historiography that reminds the activities of Polish 'conciliators', or 'compromisers', without the odium of treason ascribed to them when still alive and in the later literature. The author makes an attempt to bring Zygmunt out of the shadow cast by the figure of Aleksander. The result of these efforts seems debatable, though: the son never attained a position for himself matchable with that of his father – whether in politics or in the historical memory. Zygmunt remained a politician of unfulfilled potential, a prospective statesman who for almost four decades waited for the reappearance of the situation that had once elevated his father to power. The book does not unambiguously tell us whether such reappearance was at all possible, but perhaps there is no good answer; in any case, there is no indication that any of the subsequent tsars ever favoured such a solution.

The composition of this book is chronological: its four extensive chapters discuss the stages of Zygmunt Wielopolski's political activity. The first discusses the political faction of his father Aleksander, the foundations of his worldview and the rule he exercised in the Kingdom in 1862–3. It was in these very years that the story's main character made his political debut: a close associate of his father, Zygmunt was mayor (president) of the city of Warsaw, this being in fact the only opportunity for him to wield real power. The next chapter presents two decades of the younger Wielopolski's activity as a leader of compromising conservatives. This informal formation was founded on the hope that Alexander II would alter its policy towards the Kingdom – for instance, by installing in this country a local government whose model would resemble the one of the Russian governorates, with their *zemstvos* (local assemblies of noblemen). However, the authorities eventually quit the idea, owing to a 'rebellious' nature of Polish provinces. Chapter 3 discusses the reign of Tsar Alexander III – the moment Zygmunt 'flowed to surface' for a while, by way of his polemics with the influential Great-Russian chauvinist Mikhail Katkov, published in *Moskovskie Vedomosti* journal. However, his position amongst the conservative-inclined Polish nobility was undermined by Ludwik Górski. His loss to Górski in 1890, in the struggle for the chair of the Land Credit Society, one of the few social organisations ever functioning in the Kingdom, formed of influential landowning gentry, marked the end of Wielopolski's real influence. This loss was doubtlessly impacted on his father's notoriety, combined with a similarity in personal character: both the father and the son did not know how to be liked and how to solicit for followers; also their reluctance toward the Catholic Church had a say in the outcome. The last chapter describes the years of Nicholas II, from whom some liberalisation in the tsarist policy toward the Poles was initially expected – very soon dispelled by the young emperor. Wielopolski appears there as one who sought opportunity for himself as a member of the aristocratic elite hosting the tsar in Warsaw; and indeed, he was one of those most disappointed.

The book, altogether, offers a sad picture of the most restricted opportunities faced by Polish conservative politicians under the Russian partition: their efforts were unstructured and could have no real bearing on the policies of Russian authorities. Zygmunt Wielopolski and his faction were apparently helpless, and in fact anachronistic, in their designs and actions. As they could not get organised, form a political party or pursue open canvassing, Wielopolski was doomed to half-measured personal efforts based on his acquaintances among Petersburg aristocrats. In Poland, he lost his influence, with time, to his rival for leadership among the landowners and, primarily, to the benefit of semi-legal revolutionary mass-member parties. Therefore, his activities became reduced to voluminous correspondence, occasional polemics in the press (controlled by the tsarist censors), and failed attempts at founding a newspaper. Accordingly, his political programme was also reduced to

a realistic minimum – from daydreams of a ‘resumed’ rule, modelled after his father’s, to endeavours in favour of a decentralised (be it to an extent) administration of the Empire and rather hesitant fighting against Pan-Slavism and Great-Russian chauvinism. Wielopolski’s ‘realistic’ policies ultimately boiled down to his personal hope for preservation of Polish national identity and language. (AK)

Barbara Stoczewska, *Ukraina i Ukraińcy w polskiej myśli politycznej. Od końca XIX wieku do wybuchu II wojny światowej* [Ukraine and Ukrainians in Polish political thought, between the late 19th century and the outbreak of World War Two], Kraków, 2013, Krakowskie Towarzystwo Edukacyjne – Oficyna Wydawnicza AFM, 389 pp., bibliog., index, summary in Ukrainian

This work by a Cracow scholar forms a systematising survey of the attitudes of major Polish political groups, from conservatives through to socialists, towards Ukrainians and the so-called Ukrainian question. Albeit communists, and any extreme Left, are clearly missing, the book is a reliable account on the approach of the main currents in the Polish political class towards these issues at the century’s turn. There are two extensive and chronologically ordered sections, the first discussing the period before WWI and the other, the two decades of the Second Republic. Even though the elite of the time could not elaborate a shared view on the Ukrainian cause, it becomes apparent that only very few of its participants or protagonists proved capable of trespassing the fetters of a ‘national’ thinking about their communities. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century this was no longer possible, regardless of political provenances. All in all, this particular study – conscientiously compiled and edited as it is – leads to rather dreary reflections. (GK)

Alfred Toczek, *Lwowskie środowisko historyczne i jego wkład w kulturę książki i prasy (1860–1918)* [The Lvov historians’ milieu and their contributions to the book and press culture], Kraków, 2013, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Pedagogicznego, 465 pp., bibliog., index of persons, index of periodicals, list of historians, summary in English

In the second half of the nineteenth century, with universities closed down or Russified in the Russian partition and the ban on setting up tertiary schools in the Prussian partition, Lvov became, along with Cracow, the main hub of Polish science. Being the seat of King John Casimir (since 1939, Ivan Franko)

University, the city remained an important centre of Polish humanities in the interwar period (1918–39). Due to the inclusion of Lvov (Ukrainian, Lvi'v) within the Ukrainian Soviet Republic, no research was conducted on the local scientific or scholarly traditions in the communist Poland, yet they blossomed after 1989 (mainly in Cracow and Rzeszow). With respect to the milieu of Lvov historians, Alfred Toczek's book summarises the twenty-five years of research whose results have, for the most part, been reflected in the multivolume series on the multicultural milieu of local historians (*Wielokulturowe środowisko historyczne Lwowa*, 2004–7). While the Toczek book refers in its title and method to the studies of Jerzy Maternicki, it is, without a doubt, an original study in Polish history of historiography: in respect of assumptions and detailed approach, it forms a *summa* of the activities of Lvov's historians. The author has embarked on tracing the research, writing, educational and editorial activities of literally all the local historians of the period in question, of whom he has identified 329 individuals, including amateur historians, archivists, editors, etc. 254 of them are defined as Poles and 51 as Ukrainians.

The present analysis has encompassed John Casimir University, local gimnasia, libraries, archives, scientific societies, industry and popular press. The opening chapter, titled 'Statistical prologomena', analyses and categorises the group under discussion by social and geographical background, education, and hubs or institutions represented by the scholars. The study's first part describes the historians' teaching activities at the university and in gimnasia, their contribution in the formation and activities of libraries and archives, their knowledge-popularising and educational activities, and press publications authored by them. The second part discusses in detail the research activities in the main fields and so-called auxiliary sciences of history and related sciences (such as literary history, philosophy and the arts). The argument is complemented by a number of tables. Apart from the type of data normally subject to statistical analysis (e.g. time and place of receipt of academic degrees), other issues are shown, rather astonishingly, in the like terms – such as scopes of scholarly interests. For instance, we can learn that most of those historians dealt with the history of Poland or Ukraine; thereof, "82 per cent of them penetrated the political history – most of all, the mediæval history", while universal history (encompassing other countries) was only practised by 28.6 per cent, a mere 9.5 per cent in this latter group having to do with the political history. The author comes to the conclusion that the latter category was a 'side activity' for these historians. The book concludes with a promising, though somewhat disturbing, postulate for a "complete, quantitative and qualitative study of the other historian milieus – apart from Lvov – from the Positivist, Neo-Romanticist and Modernist periods."

This impressive compendium of knowledge will no doubt be of valuable help to the researchers in the history of historiography, and for Polish (as well as Ukrainian) scientists and scholars, too. Yet, a curious reader is left

somewhat helpless, as the barrage of information floods the critical afterthought (tangential, as it anyway is) over the scientific, scholarly and intellectual output of the Lvov historians. No such reflection has been proposed in comparison with the output of their contemporary Polish or Ukrainian historians from outside Lvov, not to say with the trends in the period's international scholarship; the criterion of intellectual momentousness of their achievements is virtually invisible against the statistics of 'scopes of interests'. In other words, one can learn possibly everything about 'the scopes' – apart from where they led to or, first of all, how deep were these intellectual penetrations. Perhaps such evaluations would come with "a complete, quantitative and qualitative study", as postulated by A. Toczek, which would extend to the activities of *all* the Polish historians of the period – and, possibly, the neighbouring periods. Yet, the results of such studies can be enjoyed, at the best, by the generation to come. (AK)

Jerzy Szczepański, *Działalność społeczna rodziny Gałęzowskich na emigracji polskiej we Francji na przełomie XIX i XX wieku* [The social activities of Gałęzowski family among Polish émigrés in France in the late 19th and early 20th century], Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo DiG, 232 pp., bibliog., index, biographical notes of Polish activists in France

The history of Polish emigration in France after 1863 has, understandably, been kept in the background compared to the interest triggered by the so-called Great Emigration after 1831. The former featured a host of some of the most eminent political, literary or scientific figures; moreover, great political expectations were attached to those circles – and, personally, to Prince Adam Czartoryski – as France was to be prompted to politically intervene for Poland. Prince Adam's death in 1861 left the Polish émigré community without organisational or political leadership; after the anti-Russian insurrection of 1863–4, the hopes for a help from France were dispelled. The book by Jerzy Szczepański – which complements the research once carried out by Jerzy W. Borejsza and Jerzy Łojek, and, more recently, by Wiesław Śladkowski and Małgorzata Gmurczyk-Wrońska – recounts the time when Polish immigrants were less preoccupied by the tomorrow of their homeland, focusing rather on their own fate, caring about getting organised and gaining a position within the French society.

The story's central character is Seweryn Gałęzowski (1801–78), a fascinating but not quite known man. A graduate from the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Wilno, he took part in the November Insurrection (1830–1); after its failure, Seweryn went to Mexico where he made a considerable

fortune as a physician and entrepreneur. Having learnt of the revolution in 1848, he returned to Europe and awaited a revolutionary outbreak in Poland. Disappointed, he settled down in France and initially continued his practice as a doctor there. With time, however, he devoted himself entirely to organisational efforts among Polish émigrés, notably as a treasurer and, subsequently, chairman of the council of the Polish School in Batignolles near Paris. In the Second Empire period, the life of Polish emigration centred around the school, cherishing Polish tradition and customs as well as national awareness, and providing employment to Polish intellectuals in exile. Gałęzowski put the school back on its feet financially, set the framework for collaboration with the Cracow-based Polish Academy of Learning (also known as Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences) and for a scholarship exchange. Seweryn's heritage was continued by his nephews, Józef and Ksawery. Józef Gałęzowski was a member of Romuald Traugutt's National Government during the 1863–4 uprising. As an emigrant, he initiated the formation of a Polish Legion for the warfare of 1870–1, and later on served as head of a branch of the bank *Crédit Foncier*. Ksawery Gałęzowski was an ophthalmologist. These men's other works include the Polish Emigration Bank, the Literary and Artistic Society and the Polish Museum in Rapperswil, Switzerland. Their financial and social position enabled Gałęzowski to rub shoulders with the intellectual elite of the Polish immigrants, act as a link with the French environment, and care about contacts with Poland – primarily, with the autonomous province of Galicia in the Habsburg monarchy

The decline of their influence, as shown by the author, had to do not only with the younger Gałęzowski getting older but also with a changing face of the emigration. This rather elitist milieu, focused on cultivating the cultural tradition and showing some political aspirations, became, toward the late nineteenth century, alienated against the voluntary economic migrants arriving from Polish lands, most of whom were workers of peasant origin. The activities of Gałęzowski family, adapted to the new profile of Polish émigrés, were taken over in the first decades of the twentieth century by their relatives named Lipkowski. (AK)

INTERWAR PERIOD

Zygmunt Nowakowski, *Za zamkniętymi drzwiami. Reportaże z Niemiec 1933* [Behind the closed door: Reportages from Germany, 1933], ed. and with an introduction by Tomasz Szarota, Warszawa, 2014, Bellona, 175 pp., ills.

This cycle of famous reportages by a Cracow-based journalist with *Ilustrowany Kurier Codzienny*, originally published in the spring of 1933, comprises fifteen

essays, introduced and edited by the eminent German occupation historian Tomasz Szarota and comprising a helpful biographical note by Henryk Markiewicz, is worthy of note – and this for a number of reasons. Zygmunt Nowakowski, legionnaire and Piłsudsk-ite, describes the Hitlerite takeover with a swing, irony, and malignancy – but is otherwise greatly impressed and quite openly fascinated by what was happening behind Poland's western border. Even if not as competently and penetratingly as Antoni Sobański did at that time, the picture drawn by Nowakowski, today's readers will certainly find it original. These essays bring a number of interesting and unconventional observations, showing how powerfully attractive the Nazi turnaround could, paradoxically, be for a stranger that did not conceal his hostility toward Nazism. By all indications, this author accurately recognised the meaning of the myth Hitler sold to his nation; contamination with radical anti-Semitism is not of sole relevance, though. These reportages still form an important document of the period. Regrettably, the merited editor has not taken sufficient care to edit the book in a more meticulous fashion (no index is provided, for instance). (GK)

Dorota Sula, *Powrót ludności polskiej z byłego Imperium Rosyjskiego w latach 1918–1937* [The returns of Poles from the former Russian Empire in 1918 to 1937], Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo Trio, 360 pp., bibliog., index, ills., summary in English

Composed of six comprehensive chapters, preceded by an introduction, the book is based on many years of extensive query across the archives in Poland as well as in several Russian centres, Moscow and Harbin included. The author endeavours to introduce her own periodisation of the issues discussed, in association with the subsequent political crises affecting the Soviet state – up to the ethnic cleansing action crowned with the genocide of Polish community in 1937. The institutional dimension of the phenomenon is highlighted; the author has gathered the most interesting material in the archives of public institutions and offices, such as the Central Welfare Council, District Welfare Councils, State Office for Prisoners-of-War, Exiles and Workers, all of which handled some 2.4 million claimants altogether. Ethnic minorities are portrayed in a glaringly superficial manner, though. Neatly edited, study offers an interesting iconographic material. (GK)

Jerzy Kirszak, *Armia Rezerwowa gen. Sosnkowskiego w roku 1920* [General Sosnkowski's Reserve Army in 1920], Warszawa, 2013, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni Przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, 447 pp., bibliog., index, tabl., photographs, appendix

The study under review can be regarded as a side effect of a military historian's research on Lieutenant-General Kazimierz Sosnkowski, the formation's commander. A prominent Piłsudski-ite (often referred to as 'Piłsudski's brains') and an undisputedly important figure in the interwar period, Sosnkowski was considered during the Polish-Soviet war of 1920 an adherer of authoritarian commanding style (as minister of military affairs, he organised an internment camp for Polish officers of Jewish descent in Jabłonna near Warsaw). The book contains seven large chapters; apart from the first, all provide detailed reconstructions of the events occurring in the summer of 1920. The Reserve Army mentioned in the title operated for a very short time, just a few months, in so-called northern front; yet, its role in the last stage of the war was key. The formation had in its ranks many individuals that later on made a name for themselves (generals Lucjan Żeligowski and Władysław Belina-Prażmowski, or then-captains Waclaw Stachiewicz and Waclaw Jędrzejewicz, to name these few); with a refocused perspective, this fact could yield a number of interesting observations. Apart from the amassed knowledge, which is presented carefully and with great detail, and arranged in any possible manner, though rather chaotically, this study does not make a revealing contribution to the social, or even political, facet of the 1920 armed conflict, be it within the chronologically narrow confines. The proposed argument blends pieces of information of relevance with trivial ones. Researchers seeking to drill down specific aspects of the conflict would have to wade through the strings of geographical or personal (and not-quite-relevant) names. All in all, the target reader would be a narrow group of experts in the field. An appendix is attached comprising twenty-five documents (including e.g. the personnel of the military units), a number of unique photographs, plus two maps featuring the war operations' area. The study is a clear message of how much still remains to be done as far as the seemingly key conflict on the verge of the Second Republic. J. Kirszak seems to neglect or underestimate some of such problems, in the context of his analysis. On the other hand, the references reliably render the course of his study and thus prove relevant and useful. (GK)

Stanisław Ciesielski, *Wróg jest wszędzie: stalinowska polityka represyjna w latach 1928–1941* [The enemy is everywhere: Stalinist repressive policies in 1928–41], Toruń, 2013, Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, 338 pp., bibliog., index, ill.

Stanisław Ciesielski, presently head of the Faculty of Eastern European History at the University of Wrocław, specialising in the history of Polish political thought and histories of Poles in the East, is an illustrious researcher of Stalinist system. His recent book summarises the many years of his extensive research. There are six chapters, an introduction and a conclusion. Worthy of note is its comprehensive and reliable discussion with international reference literature. The proposed catalogue of research queries, and the author's endeavour to work out his own hypotheses, is a weaker point, for a change. Ciesielski focuses instead on a punctilious systematisation of groups subject to repression, detailing the various repressive measures applied to prisoners and (from chapter 2 on) to soldiers and their families – and, finally, to collaborators. The monograph concludes with a reconstructed description of the backstage repressive apparatus. Introducing and systematising the issue in question, the study is worth of reading, not only by experts. (GK)

Sylwia Frołow, *Dzierżyński: miłość i rewolucja. Biografia intymna* [Dzerzhinsky: love and revolution. An intimate biography], ass. by Andrzej Niziołek, Kraków, 2014, Wydawnictwo Społeczny Instytut Wydawniczy Znak, 348 pp., index, ill.

A contributor to the revered Catholic weekly *Tygodnik Powszechny*, Sylwia Frołow has now plunged into one of the most controversial figures in the twentieth century. Rather than offering a host of new unknown facts, the book opens and deepens a new, biographical perspective of viewing this certainly unique individual. However, the study reveals its author's deficiencies as a researcher and content arranger. To give an example, Dzerzhinsky, an eminent figure in the circle movement in Poland's eastern borderland, joined the Polish revolutionary movement, and weighted heavily on it, much earlier than one would learn from this book. Since the story of Dzerzhinsky's life is split into the Polish period and the Russian period, the sections devoted to the former contain the largest number of gross simplifications. The value of this study is nonetheless based on comprehensive use of the sources, including a personal account, unpublished letters, and numerous unknown illustrations. The reader will become better acquainted with Dzerzhinsky without a number of stereotypical, usually falsified clichés and a daemonic image this character has otherwise deservedly earned. Still, the book would not

make a lasting contribution to our knowledge on the Bolshevik Revolution. A well-written biography, featuring quite a number of delectable quotations and accounts from the family archive, appears somewhat disillusioning when it comes to reconstructing Dzerzhinsky's worldview. The author has certainly acquired a taste for historical details while she performs poorer when it comes to describing the Polish-Bolshevik war, which appears heavily simplified. (GK)

Paweł Duber, *Działalność polityczna Kazimierza Bartla w latach 1926–1930. Z dziejów “liberalnego skrzydła” obozu sanacyjnego* [Kazimierz Bartel's political activities in 1926–30: Aspects of the history of liberal wing in the *Sanacja* camp], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo Sejmowe, 302 pp., bibliog., index, ill.

This book is another attempt of its author – a historian, presently associated with the Józef Piłsudski Museum in Sulejówek – at describing a *Sanacja*-camp politician. Kazimierz Bartel, an outstanding mathematician, the first Polish prime minister after the May 1926 coup, represented a liberal branch within the camp. Comprising five chapters, the study is based on extensive archival query; although the relevant documentation is mostly kept in Polish collections, it is worth noting that the author has managed to reach for interesting archival materials in other countries as well, such as those from Bern. The treatise is arranged according to chronology and problems. Bartel Government's rule is described focusing on its political programme, the games around its formation, and its final decline. A definite advantage of this monograph is its ordered chronology and portrayal of the politician and his originality until his definite resignation in March 1930. The research queries and the attempts to address the crucial issues that reappeared due to K. Bartel's attitude towards national minorities appear not as convincing. The study will probably be of interest basically to experts in the field. (GK)

Grzegorz Ławnikowicz, *Między koniecznością państwa a pochwałą autorytaryzmu. Koncepcja państwa społecznego Waława Makowskiego* [Between the necessity of the state and a praise of authoritarianism: Waław Makowski's concept of social state], Lublin, 2014, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie Skłodowskiej, 454 pp., bibliog.

This study on aspects of Polish political thought is composed of two sections, the first entitled 'Toward a social state' and the second, 'The idea of social solidarity'. However, when going deeper inside the argument, not only these

watchwords but also the very idea of ‘social state’ becomes less and less graspable. With Waclaw Makowski, an eminent lawyer, one of the close associates of Marshal Józef Piłsudski, authoritarianism is a rather vague and hard-to-apply category. Hence, some of the research queries seem misplaced, and it all ends with a tautological moral: Piłsudski’s followers proved unable to carry the Marshal’s truncheon. Leaving aside such definitional discriminations, the author, himself a lawyer and a historian associated with the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, has reconstructed Makowski’s views penetratingly and in quite an original fashion, without a hagiographical intention. Regrettably, he avoids comparative research, or even such aspiration, which probably significantly depreciates the study. The references attached are extensive and helpful. The book is certainly worth being carefully read by researchers specialising in the period. (GK)

Tomasz Sikorski, *Żelazny krok potężnych, zdyscyplinowanych szeregów... Oblicze ideowo-polityczne środowiska “Zaczynu” (1936–1939). Studium z dziejów myśli politycznej piłsudczyków* [The iron stomp of the powerful disciplined ranks ... A political and ideological portrait of ‘Zaczyn’ milieu, 1936–9. A study in the history of political thought of the Piłsudski-ites], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo von Borowiecky, 332 pp., photographs

This study, by a Szczecin University historian and political scientist, concerns one of the most mysterious milieus of the Piłsudski-ite camp, gathered around the *Zaczyn* weekly. Although they officially supported the Camp of National Unity (OZN; 1937), after Józef Piłsudski’s death they positioned themselves opposite to the political authority centre. A respected scholar focusing on the numerous Polish right-wing groups and factions in the twentieth century, T. Sikorski explains this in terms of their will and aspiration for preserving the integrity of Piłsudski’s heritage. The book in question is, in fact, a representative anthology of *Zaczyn* weekly’s texts from 1936–9; an extensive introduction renders the reader acquainted with the references. The monograph comprises a reliably systematised bibliography and a dozen-or-so unknown photographs. The study is of value, primarily, for specialists. (GK)

Krzysztof Tracki, *Młodość Witolda Pileckiego* [Witold Pilecki’s young years], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo Sic!, 240 pp. + 16 pp. photographs

This biographical study of young years of Cavalry-Captain Witold Pilecki, written by a young author, consists of three chapters, whose analytical quality

is, unfortunately, very uneven. The general interest from the public opinion would make one expect that some original attempt at presenting this historical figure, or at least some individual stages in his life, could be made. To remind, Pilecki was a voluntary inmate and organiser of resistance acts in KL Auschwitz; he wrote famous reports from the camp; finally, he fell victim to Stalinist repressions. While, however, the genealogical threads – his lineage, early education, participation in Polish-Bolshevik war – appear reliable and credible (chapters 1 and 2), the further sections do not do as good a job. The presentation of Pilecki's professional career comprises poorly evidenced or superficially mapped out threads, which are probably partly untrue. The author has put a lot of effort to make Pilecki a prospective hero in his very young years, which, regrettably, spoils the perception and often leads to barely concealed hagiographical depictions. Also the digressions of the captain's political views may give rise to objection. Witold Pilecki certainly deserves another individual monograph, but the effort put into it by K. Tracki seems not fully used, to say the least. (GK)

Mariusz Urbanek, *Tuwim: wylękniony bluźnierca* [Tuwim: A frightened blasphemer], Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo Iskry, 337 pp., bibliog., index, ill.

Mariusz Urbanek is presently a highly valued historical author who has to his credit the acclaimed biographies of Władysław Broniewski, Bolesław Wieniawa-Długoszowski, Jan Brzechwa, and Leopold Tyrmand, to mention those best-known and most popular ones. His recent book, on Julian Tuwim, is composed of twenty-three essays. A more lively narrative than Piotr Matywiecki's *Twarz Tuwima* (2007), which was a pioneering study in several other aspects, M. Urbanek's book shows the author's individual vision of the poet and makes an effort to reveal the cracks in his personal biography. While this study is not as ambitious or in-depth as the monograph by Matywiecki, or, perhaps, as some earlier biographical studies, its great advantage is extensive use of archival material; the author is clearly preparing himself for a larger study on the interwar period. He shows quite a dexterity as he moves from empathy for the character he describes and Tuwim's numerous political choices – the biographer incidentally shares virtually none of them. He aptly shows the subsequent stages of Tuwim's life, calling the reader's attention to the last years of the life of this one of the most outstanding Polish men-of-letters ever: his moral freedom and black humour concealed a stealthy and sneaky wartime trauma and longing for a world that had been lost. The book is essential not only for expert scholars. (GK)

Anna Arno, *Konstanty Ildefons Gałczyński. Niebezpieczny poeta* [K.I.G., a dangerous poet], Kraków, 2013, Społeczny Instytut Wydawniczy Znak, 464 pp., bibliog., index, ills.

A New York University graduate, art historian and permanent contributor to *Tygodnik Powszechny*, *Zeszyty Literackie* and, primarily, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, author of poems and short stories, Anna Arno has earned her brand-name, in spite of her young age. A clear and articulate narrative is an advantage of this study which presents K.I. Gałczyński's output incisively, reliably and in an all-encompassing way, without marking the author's own standpoint. Arno moreover endeavours to depict the poet's works somehow outside the radical nationalism and, subsequently, Stalinist communism, to which this committed witness of his epoch attached himself through his pieces. The related sections, not to be neglected or omitted, are glaring with their confusion and superficiality of opinions proposed. With some other omissions and deficiencies, the reader, even if a specialist, would find the book tough going. In spite of some interesting fragments and extensive documentary effort, the study does not bring about a new departure. (GK)

CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

Tomasz Sikorski, *Polski Savonarola. Pisma polityczne Kazimierza Studentowicza z lat wojny i okupacji* [A Polish Savonarola: Kazimierz Studentowicz's political writings from WWII and German occupation years], Toruń, 2013, Dom Wydawniczy Duet, 678 pp., bibliog., index of person

In his introduction to this book, T. Sikorski calls Kazimierz Studentowicz (1903–92) “an apostle of Polish Christian socialism”. Studentowicz was an economist; he graduated and obtained his PhD at the Jagiellonian University, under tutelage of Prof. Adam Krzyżanowski. He spent two years in the United States in the 1920s as a scholarship student, and received one more doctoral degree at the Columbia University. He acquainted himself with John M. Keynes's state interventionism theory, which, in its moderate version, he believed to be a good remedy for excessive liberalism. Back in Poland, he worked for a bank, was temporarily associated with the milieu of *Sanacja* economists and, afterwards, was on close terms with the People's Party activists. In 1942, together with a group of his associates, he joined the conspiratorial organisation Unia and helped reshape its ideological profile. Set up in 1940, Unia was an association of individuals and milieus critical towards the *Sanacja* camp rule: Christian Democrats, peasant party activists, and conservative Catholics. An elitist and remarkably intellectual

circle, Unia attracted officials, scholars, landowners (among them were Jerzy Braun, Jan Hoppe, Stefan Kieniewicz, Konrad Sieniewicz, Jerzy Turowicz, Jan Zachwatowicz). In 1943, Unia merged with the Labour Party, which was Christian-Democratic. Studentowicz postulated that the economic and social system in post-war Poland be founded upon radically approached Christian principles (restricted individualism and rejected collectivism; emphasis on collective aspects of social life); his intent was, moreover, to overcome the contradictions between the Church and the state, the Left and the Right. The book contains forty-nine documents (articles, programme manifestos) by Studentowicz (originally published anonymously or under a penname), concerning ideological foundations of unionism, constitutional designs, international affairs (incl. a Central-European Union project) and ongoing internal policies (e.g. polemic with the communist wing in the conspiracy). The author has rediscovered Studentowicz's dispersed texts of relevance, and made enormous editorial effort, thus rendering the reader acquainted with the output of a controversial economist who showed remarkable political ambition. Studentowicz was arrested in 1948; sentenced to fifteen years of imprisonment, he was kept in a Stalinist prison until 1956. (BK)

Lidia Ciołkoszowa, *Publicystyka polska na emigracji 1940–1960* [Polish émigré journalism, 1940–60], ed. and introduction by Andrzej Friszke, Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo “Krytyki Politycznej”, 354 pp., index, appendices, series: Seria Historyczna, 15

Lidia Ciołkosz (Ciołkoszowa), a leading figure in the Polish Socialist Party already in the Second Republic period, was one of the greatest ladies in Polish wartime and post-war political émigré circles in London. Her journalist pieces, now (re)edited and reintroduced by Professor Andrzej Friszke, make us encounter, quite expectedly, a wealth of topics related to the life of Polish community in the last several dozen years. The issues tackled in these texts oscillate around the ever-present and cursed subject-matters of Polish émigrés of the period, such as: the Polish question versus the Soviet Union; the new order in East Central Europe; Poland and Germany; the Ukrainian problem; or, Polish-Jewish relations, which – significantly – have been covered relatively little by this eminent socialist author of assimilated Jewish background. The collection in question provides a list of émigré publicists – the genuine polemicists of L. Ciołkosz, along with periodicals published in exile. The editor's skill of making apt selection and his sense of composition are respectable, for this author's journalistic output is much larger. (GK)

Grypsy z Konzentrationslager Auschwitz Józefa Cyrankiewicza i Stanisława Kłodzińskiego [Józef Cyrankiewicz's and Stanisław Kłodziński's secret messages smuggled from Konzentrationslager Auschwitz], ed. by Irena Paczyńska, Kraków, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, Państwowe Muzeum Auschwitz-Birkenau, 2013, 674 pp., index of persons, bibliog., ill., introduction in Polish and German

This edition of 214 ciphered letters written and sent between September 1942 and January 1945 by the Auschwitz concentration camp inmates Józef Cyrankiewicz, then a Polish Socialist Party activist, and Stanisław Kłodziński, a physician, to their collaborators at large, is impressive with its back matter and subsidiaries. The *Lager* conspirers requested their associates for medicines, restoratives and poisons (to be used in actions against Gestapo informers in Auschwitz). In return, the helpers received accurate information on how the camp was organised, how many victims there were and where they came from (including those killed in gas chambers). Cyrankiewicz and Kłodziński also sent details of inmates which were finally received by the International Red Cross; consequently, IRC dispatched food parcels to Auschwitz which saved 'regular' (political) prisoners from hunger. The conspirers, who with time formed an international Auschwitz Battle Group [*Kampfgruppe*]), began collecting data on camp guards, SS-men, and Gestapo staff. The documents reflect a complexity of the relations between the Auschwitz conspiracy and the Home Army (AK) (The latter underestimated the military value of the in-camp conspiracy and basically distrusted it because of the group's international composition, while armed liberation of the camp, as postulated by the *Kampfgruppe*, was not on the Army's priority list.) The book evidences the rank and position of Józef Cyrankiewicz, later a long-term prime minister in communist Poland, in the *Lager* conspiracy. (BK)

Joachim Ceraficki, *Wasserpöckchen. Relacja Polaka w służbie Wehrmachtu* [*Wasserpöckchen: An account of a Pole in the Wehrmacht's service*], introduction by Aleksandra Janiszewska, afterword by Ryszard Kaczmarek, Ośrodek KARTA, Warszawa, 2014, 230 pp., ill.

The policy pursued in 1939 by the German occupiers in the Polish territory incorporated in the Third Reich was aimed at Germanising most of the local Poles (except for Warthegau). Joachim Ceraficki was born in 1921 to a Polish family living in Grudziądz. In 1942, the family was categorised as Group III with the Deutsche Volksliste, thus sharing the status of several hundred

thousand inhabitants of Vistula Pomerania and Gdańsk Pomerania, i.e. Reichsgau Danzig–Westpreussen. In May 1942 Ceraficki was called up for the Wehrmacht; altogether, some 450,000 Poles, from Pomerania, Upper Silesia and Masuria, joined the German army. Ceraficki fought in Transcaucasia, where he got wounded. After a rehabilitation in Generalgouvernement, he was back with the Eastern Front, in Ukraine. January 1945 saw him desert to the Polish Army. His book describes his wartime itinerary in an engaging style, focusing on the living conditions on the front, relations between the ethnic German and Polish (DVL Group III-classed) soldiers, as well as between the Wehrmacht and civilians in the conquered countries. His sincere account attests the complexity of the situation faced by Poles in the areas incorporated to Germany after 1939. (BK)

Jerzy Holzer, *Historyk w trybach historii. Wspomnienia* [Ground by the mills of history: Memoirs of a historian], Kraków, 2013, Społeczny Instytut Wydawniczy Znak, 320, tabl., index, photographs

Jerzy Holzer doubtlessly ranks among the prominent figures in Polish twentieth-century historiography. His account, steering clear of sentimentality and martyrdom, leads the reader through the intricacies of Polish history of the last fifty years and offers a multitude of fresh strains. A peculiar maze is proposed to hurdle in order to understand the structure of the events described. The argument is actually braided of several narrations, led by the author's steady hand through the historical thresholds and turbulences of the twentieth century. Holzer reinterprets a host of historical phenomena and occurrences, very often referring to his own reminiscences or experiences; and, he fascinatingly blends the subjective and the objective together. An extremely interesting cognitive horizon thus emerges, encompassing an extensive map of problems of Polish post-war culture. The book, in its entirety, is organised into a classic lecture containing twenty-five chapters, each section being a separate commentary to the history of Poland in the twentieth century. The chapters on scientific and scholarly life, particularly Polish-German contacts in the communist and post-communist ('Third Republic') Poland, featuring important episodes from the author's life as member of the diplomatic service in Germany and Austria, seem to be of the highest value. Albeit rather modest, the edition is very neat. (GK)

Stanisław Salmonowicz, *“Życie jak osioł ucieka...”*. *Wspomnienia* [‘The life’s fleeing like a donkey...’: Recollections], introduction by Danuta Janicka, Gdańsk and Bydgoszcz, 2014, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu. Oddział Gdańsk, 504 pp., indexes, photographs

This autobiographical book is written by a historian of law, science and culture, expert in the history of Prussia, Pomerania and Germany, and scholar specialising in Polish Underground State. Born 1931, Stanisław Salmonowicz descended from an Eastern-Borderland clerical family of *Sanacja* rule followers. He lived in Wilno until 1943, then moved to Warsaw. The war over, Stanisław studied at the Jagiellonian University and obtained his MA in Law in 1954 there. He successfully submitted a PhD dissertation in the history of law in 1960. Subsequently, in the sixties, joined the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. He was detained for four months in 1970 owing to his acquaintance with Władysław Bartoszewski, a historian and for several years contributor to Radio Free Europe’s Polish Section; as a result, he was dismissed as a lecturer. From 1972 on, he was employed with the Toruń Branch of the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, and only in 1982 joined the University staff again. He has to his credit, as author or co-author, a number of books on the history of Prussia, and has penned a biography of Emperor Frederick II, which had four editions. Salmonowicz’s memoirs document the history of the Second Republic’s intelligentsia during and after WWII (one example being Ludwik Muzyczka, the author’s uncle, who was member of the Home Army Headquarters, and was repressed after the war). The memoirist describes, in a detailed and interesting way, his studies in the Stalinist period, pointing to the mimicry – students concealing their actual beliefs and backgrounds – as a commonplace phenomenon. He shows the activities of Cracow students during the October 1956 events, reports on his own scientific trips and scholarship sojourns abroad. He dwells at length on the scholarly circles he rubbed shoulders with, portraying his masters, teachers and associates, not hesitating to draw expressive evaluations of their outputs and moral stances in the communist period. Salmonowicz presents himself as someone who yields to temptations of exaggerated aestheticism (living for and through high culture and arts) as well as those of politics (he was active with political parties after 1989). (BK)

Karol Modzelewski, *Zajeżdżimy kobyłę historii. Wyznania pobijanego jeźdźca* [We'll tucker the history's mare out: Confessions of a bruised rider], Warszawa, 2013, Iskry, 456 pp., tabl., photographs

Karol Modzelewski's memoirs are a catalogue, or gallery, of aspects of the intellectual history of the Third Republic (Poland after 1989). Ranking among the most outstanding Polish historians, the author is a mediaevalist of international renown. In his new book, irony and distance are blended with good-hearted humour. Born in 1937, Modzelewski has never lost a modicum of his innate vigour or curiosity. All in all, the book offers a penetrating look at the last half a century – perhaps one of the sharpest in Polish historical writings – above all, at post-war Poland's social and political history. One of the most prominent figures in the 'Solidarność' movement's left wing, Modzelewski helps the reader realise how strange and ambiguous the categories of freedom, equality, heroism, justice, and patriotism can be. He would not tease with 'know-it-all' attitude, or with some pseudoscientific jargon. While avoiding generalisations and focusing on details, this author creates figures and characterisations of historic persons and events through which he describes the complexity of his generational experience, reminiscing his own childhood years spent in the Soviet Union. An exciting story emerges, firstly because the author cares about approximating the truth.

The book was awarded with 'Nike' Literary Prize (2014), *Polityka* weekly's Historical Award, 'Kazimierz Moczarski' Historical Award, Warsaw Literary Premiere Award (2013) and several other important award nominations. This only reconfirms that it provides a major commentary on the twentieth century in Polish historical literature. (GK)

Jan Józef Szczepański, *Dziennik*, iii: 1964–1972 [Journal, vol. 3, 1964–72], ed. Krzysztof Lisowski, Kraków, 2013, Wydawnictwo Literackie, 818 pp., index, tables, photographs

A third volume of the diary by J.J. Szczepański, an important Polish author, one of the major fiction writers in the 1970s and 1980s locally, offers descriptions of his foreign journeys (primarily, to the United States) and draws a portrait of a creative artist for whom rejecting ideological and, above all, doctrinal disputes of his time was part of his personal programme. Szczepański attested to this attitude also by means of the complex, ambiguous, and fascinating vicissitudes of his novelistic characters. His argument is thoroughly personal, brushing against confession. The notes and records he makes are usually brief, taking, on average, half a page. Historians will

certainly find his descriptions of the years 1967–8 and of the early years of the Gierek decade particularly valuable. They also provide, doubtlessly, a powerful comment on this author's own literary works – the short stories written at the time, along with some other lesser texts (press articles, film reviews, film scripts). There is no question that Szczepański's journal is one of the testimonies contributing to the history of Polish intelligentsia – this time, by an author personally related, initially, to Warsaw and, subsequently, Cracow. Like the preceding two volumes, this release is carefully edited. (GK)

Poezja stanu wojennego. Antologia wierszy, piosenek, kontrafaktur, parafraz i fraszek [Poetry of the martial law time. An anthology of verse, songs, contrafacta, paraphrases and epigrams], ed. Anna Skoczek, Kraków, 2014, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Wydawnictwo 'Dante', 511 pp., bibliog.

Ephemeral verse writing became a sign of the martial law time (1981–3) in Poland. The volume contains selected pieces from anthologies of politically and socially committed poetry published illegally (outside censorship) or in exile. In her introduction, A. Skoczek describes these pieces, as a sort of cultural text that rendered the evaluations of the political reality and collective emotions. While the pieces are of varied literary value, they were much of relevance for those who read and 'used' them, due to the importance of the historical moment they were conceived at. The book has ten sections, comprising pieces by renowned poets (such as Miron Białoszewski, Ernest Bryll, Tomasz Jastrun, Jarosław Marek Rymkiewicz, Barbara Sadowska, Adam Zagajewski) and those by less known authors, alongside occasional poems (reflecting the martial-law realities), paraphrases (fables, ballads, etc.), songs (of which many were sung, indeed, by clandestine 'Solidarity' activists), contrafacta (being satirical paraphrases of other works), Christmas carols (extremely numerous, for the winter of 1981–2 fostered this particular current of creative activity); there are, moreover, prayers, epigrams, and epitaphs ('commemorating' the people in power). A number of pieces in the present collection are anonymous – originally written in detention centres, prisons, or internment camps. The book offers a survey of a peculiar output whose styles appear extremely rich (along with references to high culture works and national, religious, patriotic symbols, ordinary vulgarisms are frequently the case in these pieces). (BK)

Krzysztof Polechoński, *Pisarz w czasach wojny i emigracji. Ferdynand Goetel i jego twórczość w latach 1939–1960* [A writer in the years of war and emigration: Ferdynand Goetel and his literary output in 1939–60], Wrocław, 2012, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, 688 pp., bibliog., index, ills., summary in English and German; series: Acta Universitatis Wratislaviensis, 3404

This dissertation, authored by a literary historian, translator and editor from Wrocław, is impressive with its flourish. Ferdynand Goetel was one of the most controversial figures in Polish literature of the first half of the twentieth century. This outstanding fiction writer and reportage journalist was a prominent activist in Polish literary life; associated with late *Sanacja* circles, he was a proponent of fascist trends. After WWII, this author sank into oblivion, or even was boycotted from time to time by Polish diaspora for his contacts with the Third Reich. The author penetrates Goetel's layered dependencies and ideological adventures in a variety of ways, making his radical anticommunist attitude the binding element for all these threads. Certain insertions once comes across in this book, although not detrimental to the clarity of the main argument, may be approached with a hint of scepticism. Polechoński had to apply a Benedictine patience and precision in tracing and analysing the enormous documentary material Goetel has left. No other Polish author from the first half of the twentieth century has been described in a similarly meticulous bio-bibliographical study, although several individuals would have deserved it. The book is worthy of note – not only for a specialist. The treatise is firmly established in the intellectual landscape that has come in the history of literature and political history following the numerous turns related to the year 1989. (GK)

Jan Grabowski and Dariusz Libionka (eds.), *Klucze i kasa. O mieniu żydowskim w Polsce pod okupacją niemiecką i we wczesnych latach powojennych 1939–1950* [The keys and the cash: Jewish property in Poland under the German occupation and in the early post-war years, 1939–50], Warszawa, 2014, Stowarzyszenie Centrum Badań nad Zagładą Żydów/Polish Center for Holocaust Research Association, 628 pp., index of geogr. names

This pioneering book is a collection of eleven voluminous studies on the vicissitudes of movable and immovable properties owned by Jewish citizens of Poland during and after WWII. Discussed are the overall conditions and

determinants of the economic position and material status of Jews under the Nazi occupation (the German authorities' policy sought to deprive the Jews of any objects of value; immovable property was vested in trust). Case studies on property of two Jewish families are included. Of the other articles, three large and particularly valuable ones deserve a mention. Andrzej Żbikowski describes the ways in which the Generalgouvernement press propaganda pictured the economic exploitation and pillage of Jewish property. Although reading of this press was condemned by the Underground State, the contents it offered somehow contributed to accustoming the Polish people with the restrictions superimposed on the Jews and appeasing the consciences. Dariusz Libionka analyses the conspiratorial press of nationalists formations with a focus on what such magazines wrote on proprietary problems and 'the Jewish question'. The Jews remained enemies for this press till the end of the war; their property was to be taken over by the Polish State. Barbara Engelking discusses handing over of valuable things by the Jews to Poles, the moment things were going really bad, as part of a survival strategy. Such objects sometimes enabled the owner(s) to survive, but at times became the cause of their destruction. Engelking's anthropological and psychological sensitivity enables her to show the importance of property to its owners. The book opens a debate on some yet-unexplored circumstances of the Holocaust in the Polish territory and asks the questions about the actual participation of Polish people in the loot of Jewish property; the degree to which they took a financial advantage of the annihilation of the Jewry; how Polish fellow-citizens perceived the deprivations of Jewish property (did they collaborate with the occupiers or tried to protect 'the national substance', comprehended in a peculiar way?); and, why most of the legal and equitable owners failed to retrieve their objects or pieces of real property once the war was over. (BK)

Szkice z życia codziennego w Gdańsku 1945–1989 [Essays on the daily life in Gdańsk, 1945–89], ed. by Grzegorz Berendt and Edmund Kizik, Gdańsk, 2012, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu. Oddział Gdańsk, Instytut Historii PAN, 200 pp., ill., photographs

This conference-proceedings collection includes twelve texts written by ten authors (young- and middle-generation historians) on political, social and moral aspects of life of inhabitants of Gdańsk, the city and province (voivodeship). A few of these texts call for being mentioned. Sylwia Bykowska shows how the *Dziennik Bałtycki* daily portrayed the natives of Gdańsk in 1945–7 (tensions occurring between the locals and immigrants; disputes over how to

treat those listed by the Germans as Deutsche Volksliste's Group III. Edmund Kizik depicts the image of Gdańsk as it was disseminated by aliens – charity organisations' staff right after the war; afterwards, tourists, especially Germans. Piotr Perkowski deals with customs encountered at workplaces, based on denunciations to the authorities from 1950–70 (he has grasped the variability of subject-matters and styles). Grzegorz Berendt portrays Jan Ptasieński, first secretary of the Provincial Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party in 1960–7 (deputy minister of Public Security in the Stalinist years), in light of his own (unpublished) diary. Maria Kuczkowska's article is on the official and unofficial life in Sopot pensions and hotels in 1968–72, with a focus on economic-political conditions the tourist services in the Tri-City (Gdańsk–Gdynia–Sopot) grappled with. These few texts have no doubt grasped the unique specificity of the region, which, compared to the other regions of Poland, had been through a complex wartime past and was more open to foreign influence. (BK)

Krzysztof Kosiński, *Wiwisekcja powszedniości. Studium wczesnej twórczości Marka Nowakowskiego (1957–1971)* [A vivisection of commonness: A study on Marek Nowakowski's early works (1957–71)], Warszawa, 2014, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, 559 pp., bibliog., index of persons

While the title suggests that the book is one in literary studies, it is not so in fact. Albeit the author analyses the works of Marek Nowakowski (1935–2014), an extremely prolific prose writer, he reads his short stories the way a historian would do. Nowakowski described the lives of ordinary people from Warsaw suburbs and their vicinities, individuals identified as 'dregs of the society', excluded and derelict, whom he had met or come across in person (when a very young man, he spent a few months in prison). In the 1970s and 1980s, Nowakowski was a leading political-opposition author. Krzysztof Kosiński seeks for historic truth in his realistic prose works; this makes his book an interesting methodological proposition – an idea of how to read fiction, epitomised with extreme consistency. The actual empirical section is preceded by considerations on the relations between the reality and literary prose and on the value of literature as a historical source (with a reference to Hayden White). The core part of the study reconstructs the world of Nowakowski's characters, describing the nature of their mutual bonds, rendering their mentality, and never neglecting the material conditions of their lives. The researcher at times checks up pieces of information from Nowakowski's books in sources of deferent sort, coming to the conclusion that

this author's works are of considerable cognitive load as they enable insight into an unofficial, authentic and spontaneous 'universe of people', while our contemporary historiography all too often tends to show 'a world of institutions' – official and artificial, shaped by the ruling communist ideology. (BK)

Jerzy Eisler, *Siedmiu wspaniałych. Poczet pierwszych sekretarzy KC PZPR* [The Magnificent Seven: A galaxy of first secretaries of the KC PZPR], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo Czerwone i Czarne, 576 pp., bibliog., index of persons

This book is Polish historiography's first group portrait – not a lampoon or caricature – of all the seven heads of the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR), in office from 1948 to 1990: Bolesław Bierut, Edward Ochab, Władysław Gomułka, Edward Gierek, Stanisław Kania, Wojciech Jaruzelski, and Mieczysław F. Rakowski. All the biographical articles are written according to a similar pattern, beginning with the social background of each of the characters portrayed; their individual way to communism; career pursued within communist party structures, crowned at some point with the top position; and, the circumstances of deposition and the decline of activity (usually, retirement, sometimes interrupted by memoirs writing). Eisler mutually compares these top state figures in a variety of respects (such as education, seniority with communist organisations, personal position in their relations with heads of the Soviet mono-party). He makes selective use of private-life information, and describes, in some cases, manifestations of the cult enjoyed by some of these leaders. He assesses the conduct of these activists in critical political situations, makes attempts to recapture their own concepts for the links between the communist ideology and the pragmatics of ruling. The author has managed to outline seven vivid and nuanced portraits of communist politicians based on the most recent literature and his own research (he has had a number of opportunities to talk with the three last secretaries). (BK)

Mirosław Szumiło, *Roman Zambrowski 1909–1977. Studium z dziejów elity komunistycznej w Polsce* [Roman Zambrowski, 1909–77: A study in the history of the communist elite in Poland], Warszawa, 2014, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, 526 pp., bibliog., index of persons, summary in English, photographs

Roman Zambrowski joined the youth communist movement in his early young years, in 1924. With only an elementary educational background, he would

mount the career ladder with the then-illegal communist party (becoming a student at the International Lenin School in Moscow, 1929–31). His great ambition led him to play after 1944 a very important part in the communist party apparatus. In 1948–56, he was one of the very few top personages in the Stalinist Poland, his responsibilities being mainly collectivisation of agriculture. After 1956, he was considered the leader of adherents of the ‘thaw’ trend, and supporter of Władysław Gomułka. In 1964, he was dismissed as member of the Party’s Central Committee due to his criticism of Gomułka, and got off the political stage. Mirosław Szumiło’s book is a complete and penetrating biography of Zambrowski – actually, the best existing biography of a thus highly ranking Polish United Workers’ Party activist. Discussed are his family roots (Jewish, for the most part), the evolution of his political sentiments and views – from a Stalinist dogmatism and internationalism through to a peculiar ‘liberalism’ in the seventies (though Zambrowski would never cease describing himself as ‘a communist’), and even certain aspects of his lifestyle, typical of the Polish communist elite. This biography has prevalently been based on archival resources of the Comintern and on the notes and memoirs Zambrowski wrote down when retired. (BK)

Magdalena Mikołajczyk, *Rewizjoniści. Obecność w dyskursach okresu PRL* [Revisionists: Presence in discourses of the PRL period], Kraków, 2013, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Pedagogicznego, 421 pp., bibliog., index of persons, summary in English

Marxist revisionism remains an underspecified phenomenon in the twentieth-century history of the Left. Its definition has always been dependent on the current policy of the communist party, and often served as a stigmatising marker. M. Mikołajczyk describes Polish revisionism as a dominant thought current within the refurbishment (de-Stalinisation, ‘thaw’) movement of 1956. A revisionist milieu is singled out, being a multi-faceted group of scholars, journalists and publicists, and party activists of various generations (by way of example, Bronisław Baczko, Zygmunt Bauman, Paweł Beylin, Włodzimierz Brus, Helena Eilstein, Julian Hochfeld, Leszek Kołakowski, Krzysztof Pomian, Adam Schaff, Jan Strzelecki were all among them). The book is the first-ever collective portrait of the group, describing their role in post-1956 history of Poland and analysing their most famed texts, selected protest actions and other political undertakings. The author concludes by stating that the group of revisionists she describes, bound by ideological as well as (sometimes) personal ties, was a ‘proto-oppositional’ formation. The book is an outcome of extremely reliable and broad research, combining

elements of political-science, philosophical and historical analysis – and makes a valuable contribution to the intellectual history of the People's Republic of Poland. (BK)

Piotr Pęziński, *Na rozdrożu. Młodzież żydowska w PRL 1956–1968* [At the crossroads: Jewish youth in the PRL, 1956–1968], Warszawa, 2014, Żydowski Instytut Historyczny im. Emanuela Ringelbluma, 334 pp., bibliog., index of persons, ill.

This book, pioneering as it is with respect to the content, has been based on archival materials of the Social and Cultural Society of Jews in Poland (TSKŻ) – a monopolistic organisation set up as ‘a conveyor’ of the communist party’s policy to the Jewish milieu; the Jewish press (especially, *Nasz Głos*, a youth magazine published in Polish); and, accounts and recollections. ‘The thaw’ of 1956 enabled TSKŻ to operate in a broader and freer way than before. The milieu’s connections with the West were re-established (particularly with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which sponsored a number of the organisation’s ventures) and TSKŻ commenced an action aimed at reinforcing the bonds with the Jewishness of young people. The author describes the various difficulties the Society came across in its dealings: its members emigrated to Israel while the young generation became increasingly assimilated, the Jewish schooling and educational system was declining, the range of Jewish culture and Yiddish shrinking, and anti-Semitic trends within the ruling party (PZPR) growing. The TSKŻ management were moreover politically discordant with respect to the strategy of handling the relations with the Polish authorities. The author has managed to depict the stormy transformations affecting the Jewish youth: rebelling against the generation of their parents, those young people successfully sought bonds with their ancestors; undergoing an identity crisis, they partied just like their Polish peers did (also to big-beat rhythms, just to mention the Jewish band ‘Następcy Tronów’ [Successors to Thrones]). Pęziński shows the forms in which TSKŻ was active: organising summer holiday camps, children and youth clubs, scouting camps, ‘Babel’ student club functioning in Warsaw. The book offers a comprehensive insight in the lives of members of a community which, owing to dramatic political occurrences of 1968, ended up vastly dispersed and disintegrated. (BK)

Natalia Jarska and Jan Olaszek (eds.), *Płeć buntu. Kobiety w oporze społecznym i opozycji w Polsce w latach 1944–1989 na tle porównawczym* [The gender of rebellion: Women in social resistance and political opposition in Poland in 1944–1989. A comparative study], Warszawa, 2014, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, 404 pp., index of persons, ill., summary in English

This book contains articles and essays by Polish and foreign (mostly, female) authors, describing, in the main, the involvements of women in various forms of social resistance and oppositional activities in Poland. A handful of the texts concern women acting against communist regimes in Romania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Latvia. Some authors use the notion of gender. Among the most valuable articles, three stand out (by Anna Müller, Tomáš Bursík, Virginia Ion), which deal with women who resisted the living conditions in the Stalinist prisons in various countries. Grzegorz Miernik, Małgorzata Fidelis and Adam Leszczyński describe the ways in which women acted against the collectivisation of Polish agriculture, the conditions of labour in Żyrardów textile works (immediately after the war and in 1981). Ryszard Gryz and Małgorzata Krupecka show, for a change, the participation of females (secular and consecrated, respectively) in actions against laicisation superimposed from above by the state (as in the struggle for the right to build new temples and against administrative restrictions aimed against monastic orders). Cristina Petrescu analyses the role of female dissidents: Doina Cornea, Herta Müller and Ana Blandiana in their confrontation with the Romanian communism, finding that none of them ever attacked the regime from a feminist standpoint. The texts by Polish scholars (Adam Mielczarek, Jan Olaszek, Łukasz Kamiński, Natalia Jarska, Emilia Świętochowska) describe the participation of women in legal and underground ‘Solidarność’ movement (1980–9), taking note of a certain distribution of gender-related roles in the opposition activities. This collection of studies, doubtlessly abounding in facts and proving methodologically varied, opens up a new research current in Polish recent history. (BK)

Jerzy Eisler, *Grudzień 1970. Geneza. Przebieg. Konsekwencje* [December 1970: The origins, sequence and aftermath of the developments], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2012, 522 pp., bibliog., index of persons, ill., maps, summary in English

This is a second, considerably revised (1st edn., 2000), edition of the major, and most complete, monograph of the Polish ‘December revolt’. The first

chapter describes the political and social aspects of the late years of Władysław Gomułka's rule; the next deals with the price rise operation, carried out, with disastrous consequences, shortly before the Christmas of 1970. The following seven chapters show, in fairly great detail and day by day (15–20 December), the escalation of crisis and discontent in the coastal area (mainly, Gdańsk, Gdynia, Elbląg, Szczecin). Eisler is particularly keen on the course of the demonstrations and strikes, the role of the army and the police, and the doings of strike committees; finally, the chain of decisions made by the central and local Party and state authorities, which led to a tragedy: an order was issued that the protesters and workers on the way to the shipyard be shot at. The pacification operation in the coastal area involved 27,000 soldiers and 550 tanks, 108 aircrafts and helicopters. As a result, December 1970 saw – according to the official statistics – forty-five killed and 1,165 wounded. The last chapter deals with the first year of Edward Gierek's rule. The outcome of the December revolt was a replacement of the leadership team, a change in the ruling style and in the public mentality – particularly in the Tri-City area, which a few years later facilitated the anchoring by the political opposition in the local worker milieus. (BK)

Michał Paziewski, *Grudzień 1970 w Szczecinie* [December 1970 in Szczecin], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu. Oddział Szczecin, Szczecin, 2013, 552 pp., ill., bibliog., indexes

The December and January 1970 protests among the Szczecin workers were, in the author's opinion, the most important occurrences of 'the Polish December 1970'. The first section of Paziewski's book describes the socioeconomic situation of the population of Szczecin and thereabouts in the late 1960s. The second section describes in detail the developments of 17 and 18 December: the course of the revolt in the streets of Szczecin (street fighting, the burning of the communist party's provincial committee headquarters edifice). Section 3 focuses on the general strike in the Szczecin agglomeration, 18–22 December: self-organisation of the protesting workers, methods used by them to articulate their demands, bargaining with the authorities. Section 4 deals with events that proved incomparable to any of those occurring in the other hubs of the coastal area on strike in 1970: 22–25 January saw another general strike break out in Szczecin. As a result, the 'Adolf Warski' Shipyard (whose role was central to the developments) hosted a visit of the high-level joined party-and-government group led by Edward Gierek, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, and the ministers of Interior and National Defence of the

People's Republic of Poland. A nine-hour-long debate with the shipyard workers was held, which influenced the authorities' decision to withdraw the price rise. Paziewski describes the later lives of the major strike committee members as well as international aspects of the revolt (incl. solidarity demonstrations in the West). An outcome of several years of the author's effort, the book is based on his impressive archive queries and a number of eyewitness accounts he has gathered. He has moreover collected a number of ephemeral prints and leaflets (many being reprinted in the book) that attest the self-organisation and mobilisation of the Szczecin community of the time, whose conduct was that of civil society. (BK)

Marek Wierzbicki, *Ostatni bunt. Młodzieżowa opozycja polityczna u schyłku PRL 1980–1990. Fakty, konteksty, interpretacje* [The last rebellion: Youth political opposition in the late PRL, 1980–90. Facts, contexts, interpretations], Warszawa and Lublin, 2013, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu. Oddział Lublin, Instytut Studiów Politycznych Polskiej Akademii Nauk, 352 pp., bibliog., indexes

This book has aimed at a comprehensive and synthetic presentation of the phenomenon of political mobilisation of the young generation of Poles in the last decade of the People's Republic of Poland. The author discerns three basic stages in the development of this opposition movement: 1980–1, martial law (end 1981 to 1983), and 1984–90. The first section describes the origins of selected (large and significant) youth opposition organisations, their structures, activities and programmes, taking into account the aforesaid stages. In the 'Solidarność' years, youth opposition operated overtly, concentrating their efforts on striving for a change in the educational system (to institute self-government, alter the conduct-grade criteria, limit or eliminate Russian as obligatory subject taught at schools). The circle was joined by school and university students. During the martial law, the number of oppositional organisations increased rapidly and their postulates grew radical: reinstatement of the banned 'Solidarność' union was demanded along with independence of Poland and breaking off the dependence on the Soviet Union. 1984 saw the formation of Fighting Youth Federation (Federacja Młodzieży Walczącej), a countrywide though decentralised organisation that gained much popularity among young people. It followed the pattern of the Underground State (1939–45) and, paradoxically, to the anarchistic tradition. The Federation's demonstrations and rallies often ended with clashes and regular struggles with the police. New postulates appeared in 1984–90, including demilitarisation of the state educational system, introduction of alternative

military service, or launch of environmental protection measures. Reinstatement was also postulated of the Independent Students' Association (NZS), which was banned during the martial law: this demand called for pluralism in the youth movement. The second section is general and describes the ruling party's policies towards young people at all and youth organisations. Making use of sociological research (among other things), Wierzbicki describes the 'morale' of the young generation of the 1980s, whose symptomatic trait – not quite evident in the preceding decades of the communist Poland – was dissatisfaction with the living conditions and the status of civil liberties, going as far as rejecting the political system. Besides, young people were much more religious. The third section proposes a theoretical analysis of the youth opposition, seeking to identify the reasons of its occurrence, dynamic development and subsequent unexpected fadeout. The care applied by the author for accuracy of the notions and the logical order according to which the narrative unfolds – a rare feature in a historical study! – are both worthy of note. Another valuable point is that the phenomenon in question has been positioned within the tradition of Polish independence movements of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries – along with the author's endeavour to grasp a continuity while pointing out to differences between the historical epochs. (BK)

Eryk Krasucki, Tomasz Sikorski, and Adam Wątor (eds.), *Liberalizm nad Wisłą (XIX–XXI wiek). Koncepcje – ludzie – działalność* [Liberalism in the country on the Vistula, 19th to 21st centuries: Concepts – people – activities], Szczecin, 2014, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Wydziału Humanistycznego US Minierwa, 521 pp., bibliog., index

This most recent problem study from a series edited by researchers affiliated to the University of Szczecin apparently performs the poorest. Preceded by studies on Polish nationalism and Polish Left, the team of historians embarked on Polish liberalism. Twenty-three case studies are arranged into eleven essays headed altogether 'Activities – Concepts' and twelve entitled 'People'. A surprisingly large part (80%) of the content consists of studies concerning the latter half of the twentieth century, mostly focusing on the 1980s and 1990s. Among them are, not quite rare, essays or studies appearing somewhat odd, such as the pamphlet 'Toward an apostasy? Tadeusz Bartoś's Catholic liberalism' by two young historians directly identifying themselves with monarchism and an extremely fundamental version of Catholicism. The editors, renowned and award-winning researchers in their fields of expertise, declare in the introduction that their intention was to present an unbiased

and reliable picture of Polish liberalism; this attempt has failed, though. While there are some valuable studies in this collection, they fade out of sight in a gulf of highly ideologised and politically involved historical journalism. This is a pity, for the series has been very promising. (GK)

Adam Leszczyński, *Skok w nowoczesność: polityka wzrostu w krajach peryferyjnych* [A leap into modernity: Growth policies in peripheral countries], introduction by Zygmunt Bauman, Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo Krytyki Politycznej, Instytut Studiów Politycznych Polskiej Akademii Nauk, 583 pp., ill.

This ambitious dissertation is composed of nine thematic chapters, the first two introducing the topic methodologically and the remaining ones being thematic case studies on, primarily, the Soviet Union in the years 1929–80, China in 1949–79, and Poland in 1936–80. The author, a historian associated with the Polish Academy of Sciences' Institute of Political Studies, but primarily a journalist with *Gazeta Wyborcza*, the most important Polish opinion-forming newspaper, reminds us that the 1930s mark the beginning of a period when people universally started believing in economic planning, the need for state-driven industrialisation and development. The year 1980 symbolically appears as a stage conclusive for disillusionment with state interventionism. The decades described in the book were a period of optimistic belief that the distance between World 'A' and World 'B' could be easily overcompensated, in an apparently known way. The period was one of fascination with the Soviet Union, as a model example of a country leaping into modernity – which the author demonstrates by referring, i.a., to analyses of modernisation attempts in postcolonial countries. His perception of the Second Republic, immersed in permanent crisis and treated as a seasonal state, financially incredible for potential investors, in tariff war with the Germans, may come as a real astonishment. A story unfolds on evolving views on the role of the state in economic processes: beginning with the belief that only the state is capable of carrying out a fundamental modernisation change, and ending with the conviction that the state is the main obstacle to such developments, obstructing any growth in its residents' prosperity. Leszczyński substantially shows appreciation for this line of thinking, depicting the debate and, in some respects, individual strategies of thinking about public governance amidst a large audience embracing several historical periods and, in fact, a few continents (analysis of South American cases occupies considerable space in the book). The narratives are also bound by the specific social sensitivity to stories told about twentieth-century history, a certain local diction permeating across the chapters. The study stems from an individualised research orientation,

focused on multilevel and multidimensional concatenations emerging between the history of economy and of economic thought, on the one hand, and social policy, on the other. The author has identified the continuities and junctions between the individual epochs. His writing style is clear, offering an argument that abounds with illuminating cases. A foreword by Zygmunt Bauman introduces the study; along with valuable references, a considered and pretty useful bibliographical essay has been added. (GK)