

## SHORT NOTES\*

### MIDDLE AGES

Krzysztof Czapla, *Dziadoszanie. Plemię zamieszkujące ziemię głogowską w X wieku* [Dziadoszan: the tribe inhabiting the Głogów Land in the 10th century], Głogów, 2014, Państwowa Wyższa Szkoła Zawodowa w Głogowie, 257 pp., ills., maps, tables, diagrams, list of archaeological sites, figure, map, table and diagram captions; explanatory notes to the archaeological sites' list in Polish and English, summary in English

The purpose of this archaeological study is to describe the population – named *Dziadoszan* (*Dziadoszanie*) – that inhabited the constellation of settlement clusters in the area of Głogów (ca. 1,500 sq. km) between the appearance of Slavic settlement (late 5th – early 6th centuries) and the integration of this territory into the newly-emerging states (mid-10th c.). The focus is on the natural environment, the development of forms of settlement (how the settlements were deployed relative to the landforms, soils and water network; the sizes and arrangement of the settlements, designs of the buildings), the economic foundations (hunting, agriculture, crafts and trade) and forms of social and political organisation. It is remarked that the network of settlements emerged at a rather early date locally, and kept in contact with the neighbouring communities and, in parallel, with the countries in the West and in the South (as testified by objects scarcely imported from the East Frankian, Avar and Bohemian-Moravian areas). In the late years of the period under discussion, strongholds appeared in the lands inhabited by the *Dziadoszan* tribe, with seventeen settlement clusters developed around them, occupying an area of 5 to 25 sq. km each, and each comprising one (or, rarely, two) strongholds (there moreover were twenty-eight settlement clusters without such central hubs). The author highlights the correspondence seen between the archaeological data and the source known as the Bavarian Geographer, which stated that the *Dziadoszan* (*Dadosesani*) possessed a total of twenty *civitates*. (JA)

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*Acta consularia Casimiriensia. Fragmenta inedita de annis 1378, 1394–1396*, ed. Marcin Starzyński, Kraków, 2014, Towarzystwo Miłośników Historii i Zabytków Krakowa, XV+38 pp. (2 unnumbered), ill., indices, introduction in Polish and English

The book is an edition of fragments of fourteenth-century plea-rolls of the town of Kazimierz near Kraków, which were missing in Adam Chmiel's 1932 edition. The present edition includes fourteen sheets containing the notes or records concerning the period 1394–6, as discovered and included in the respective town-council register after the publication of the Chmiel's edition, as well as a record dated 1378, found in the so-called Ambroży Grabowski's Files, as rewritten by the scholar, in all probability, from the oldest surviving roll or from a detached sheet attached thereto. Since the book complements Chmiel's edition, Marcin Starzyński has resolved to retain the typography and layout of the said edition, except for the names of months (quoted in Roman numerals, rather than Latin lections) and text notes (directly below the notes they refer to, and not at the page's bottom). (JA)

Maksymilian Grzegorz, *Słownik historyczno-geograficzny okręgu mirachowskiego komturstwa gdańskiego w średniowieczu* [A historical and geographic dictionary of the Mirachowo District, Gdansk Teutonic-Order Commandry in the Middle Ages], Bydgoszcz, 2014, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Kazimierza Wielkiego, 79 pp. (1 unnumbered), 1 map; *idem*, *Słownik historyczno-geograficzny okręgu puckiego komturstwa gdańskiego w średniowieczu* [A historical and geographic dictionary of the Puck District, Gdansk Teutonic-Order Commandry in the Middle Ages], Bydgoszcz, 2014, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Kazimierza Wielkiego, 100 pp. (3 unnumbered), 1 map

The two volumes in question are part of the series 'Słownik historyczno-geograficzny Pomorza Gdańskiego w średniowieczu' [A historical and geographic dictionary of the Gdansk Pomerania in the Middle Ages], which is, in turn, part of the series 'Słownik historyczno-geograficzny ziem polskich w średniowieczu' [A historical and geographic dictionary of Polish territory in the Middle Ages]. They mainly consist of entries related to individual localities and administrative units situated within the area under discussion (the volume regarding Mirachowo [Mirchau] District has eighty-six entries and the one on Puck [Putzig], 110 entries). The entries specify, as far as possible and purposeful: the name(s) (today's and historical) of the settlement; the location; political and administrative affiliation; the borders; the properties and proprietors;

population; tributes, mills and inns; the founding or incorporation; churches, chapels and shrines; schools and the clergy; historical events of importance; sources and reference literature; archaeological research and monuments. Each part of the Dictionary contains a map of the relevant area, specifying the localities by ownership (i.e. Teutonic, knightly, cloister's or priory's). (JA)

Janusz Bieniak and Sobiesław Szybkowski, *Urządnicy kujawscy i dobrzyńscy XII–XV wieku. Spisy* [The officials of Kuyavia and Dobrzyń Land, 12th to 15th centuries (lists)], ed. Antoni Gąsiorowski, Kórnik, 2014, Biblioteka Kórnicka, 319 pp., tables; series: *Urządnicy dawnej Rzeczypospolitej. Spisy* [Officials in Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (lists)], vol. VI: *Ziemia kujawska i dobrzyńska* [Kuyavia and Dobrzyń Lands], fasc. 1

The book is a new volume in the series publishing lists of Polish officials before 1795, specifying the names of the relevant officials between the dates the respective offices were established in the area in question and the end of the fifteenth century. Of the three sections included, Part A (pp. 45–179) – a list of Kuyavian officials before ca. 1425 and a corresponding breakdown for the Land of Dobrzyń (Part C, pp. 247–315) have been compiled by Janusz Bieniak; the section B listing Kuyavian officials from ca. 1425 onwards (pp. 181–245) is the work of Sobiesław Szybkowski. The names of the hubs and lands are accompanied with their related offices and who held them (in a chronological order). Each of the parts is concluded with an alphabetic list of the personal names appearing within it. The book opens with a 'Foreword' by Antoni Gąsiorowski, describing the history behind the study under review, its place within the series and the progress of the work on the forthcoming volumes. In an 'Introduction', Szybkowski discusses the history of political divisions of the lands in question in the fragmentation of Poland (12th to early 14th cc.) and the related shaping of administrative officials' hierarchies. (JA)

Grażyna Rutkowska, *Itinerarium króla Kazimierza Jagiellończyka 1440–1492* [The itinerary of King Casimir IV Jagiellon, 1440–92], Warszawa, 2014, Instytut Historii PAN, Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne, Wydawnictwo Neriton, 422 pp. (8 unnumbered), map, appendices, index of geographic names, summaries in German and English

This new item appears in a series titled 'Itineraria Jagiellonów' [Itineraries of the Jagiellons], which enumerates the abodes of the rulers of Poland-

Lithuania of the Jagiellon dynasty, and their consorts, during their respective reigns. The volume under review concerns the itinerary of Casimir IV Jagiellon from the date his brother, King Władysław III, sent him to Lithuania until his death. The details of the ruler's subsequent residences are specified as follows: name of locality, period of stay (reconstructed based on the available sources) and detailed dates, with pertaining source information added. The contents of the major relevant documents and the important events in which Casimir the monarch took part are taken into account. The author points out to a gradual change in Casimir's mode of ruling: from a 'touring kingdom', which was characteristic of the king's predecessors, to the residential system, which became evident since the Thirteen Years' War. The appendices list the documents arousing research problems: misdated, not used in the study (mostly, due to incomplete dating formula or discrepancy against the itinerary known from other sources), misattributed to Casimir, issued in his name, as well as dubious or forged documents. (JA)

Dominika Kuśnierz-Krupa, *Fundacje miejskie benedyktynów tynieckich w Małopolsce Południowej w okresie średniowiecza* [Municipal foundations of the Benedictines of Tyniec in Southern Lesser Poland in the Middle Ages], Kraków, 2014, Politechnika Krakowska, 217 pp., ill., table, maps, summary in English, title page, table of contents, list of illustrations in Polish and English

This book comes out as part of the series dealing with spatial development of Małopolska (Lesser Poland) towns founded (incorporated) in the Middle Ages. This particular volume focuses on three small towns owned by the Benedictine Abbey of Tyniec: Brzostek (founded 1367), Kołaczyce (before 1339), and Tuchów (1340). As observed by the author, the most important consequence of such founding was, from the urban-planning standpoint, the replacement of an irregular-shaped central square, situated at the confluence of three roads, with a quadrangular square located in the same place or nearby. In the three towns concerned, the street network was not quite developed, owing to a small number of settlers. The towns were surrounded by entrenchments composed of a moat (usually, a waterless ditch) and an earthwork with a palisade or a wooden hoarding at the top. As stressed by the author, among the many towns or cities of the region, only few developed into larger hubs, a majority remaining similar to those described in this monograph. (JA)

Anna Obara-Pawłowska, *Polityka gospodarcza Władysława Łokietka* [The economic policy of King Władysław the Short], Lublin, 2014, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, 441 pp., maps, tables, index, summary in English

The book seeks to determine the significance of the economic sphere in the policies pursued by Polish King Władysław the Short (Władysław Łokietek) and the ruler's contribution to the economic development of his subordinate lands, from the earliest years of his rule in the Kuyavia and Łęczyca Province (first documented 1275) until his death in 1333. The major fields of Władysław's activity included, the author remarks, the establishment of new and foundation (incorporation) of the already-existing localities under the German Law: in sum, at least eight towns and some 230 villages were thus incorporated. Apart from increasing the ruler's income, this activity enabled him to colonise the thinly inhabited areas of Lublin Land, northern Wielkopolska (Greater Poland) and the areas on the Dunajec River. The other important area of the monarch's activity was his endeavour to unify the coinage within the state; the author considers Władysław's emission of gold coins (the first such in the history of Polish minting industry) to have been an act of political manifestation rather than an economic venture. As far as trade is concerned, the monarch supported the merchants of large Teutonic Order cities and those of Lübeck until 1305, a stance that allowed for integrating his dominion into long-range trade; in the later years, he mostly supported merchants of his own country. There are scarce traces of the mining industry developed by Władysław. In search of the monarch's economic advisors, the author pointed to potent men in his team who successfully managed their landed estates, as well as Italian entrepreneurs who dealt with trading operations and salt-mine management in Poland. Obara-Pawłowska believes that the sources show Władysław the Short as a ruler who was aware of his purposes and of the effects of the economic policies he pursued. (JA)

Rafał Ojrzyński, *Obraz Polski i Polaków w pismach Eneasza Sylwiusza Piccolominiego (Papieża Piusa II)* [The image of Poland and Poles in the writings of Enea Silvio Piccolomini (Pope Pius II)], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo DiG, 200 pp., appendix, index of names, summary in English, table of contents in Polish and English; series: Fasciculi Historici Novi, XIV

The book deals with the image of the Kingdom of Poland in the letters and literary (specifically, historical-and-geographical) works of Piccolomini, later Pope Pius II. Geographically, his references span an area without Silesia,

Prussia or Lithuania; thematically, they do not cover Poland's conflicts with Papacy during the Thirteen Years' War, 1454–66. The purport of most of these notes caused Polish historians, beginning with Jan Długosz (15th c.), have considered Piccolomini quite prejudiced toward their country, someone who reproduced anti-Polish stereotypes produced by the Holy Roman Empire. In an attempt to alleviate this common opinion, the author remarks that, having reproduced the opinions inimical with respect to Poland during his stay at the court of Emperor Frederick III, Piccolomini (then, as Pope Pius II) ameliorated his views on Poland, albeit conflicts related to the Thirteen Years' War still intervened; these included the excommunication of the Prussian Confederation and the Papacy's disputes with Poland over the appointments of the heads of the Bishoprics of Chełmno and Varmia. (JA)

#### EARLY MODERN TIMES

Agnieszka Wiczorek, *Misje ludowe Zgromadzenia Księży Misjonarzy św. Wincentego a Paulo na terenie Rzeczypospolitej od połowy XVII do początku XVIII wieku* [Popular missions of St. Vincent de Paul's Congregation of the Mission in the territory of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth from the middle of the 17th to the early 18th century], Toruń, 2014, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, 667 pp., source appendices, maps, ill., summary in French

The author has aimed at showing the missionary activities of the St. Vincent de Paul's Congregation of the Mission within the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the chronological framework being 1654–1844 (exactly the years the Congregation was active in Poland-Lithuania). Wiczorek is primarily interested in the development of the mission stations, the organisation, course and reach of the missions, the composition of missionary groups, the sources of funding as well as the content of the catecheses and missionary sermons preached. The study is based upon extensive source materials; of special relevance to the analysis were the hitherto-unused archives of the Polish Province of the Congregation of the Mission in Kraków. An insightful reviewer would remark that the author somewhat uncritically approaches and uses the missionary reports, not subjecting this specific type of source to thorough criticism. The first two chapters are introductory, briefing the reader on the history of the Congregation in the Commonwealth, the development and formation of popular missions in Europe. The core of the author's research is discussed in the subsequent three chapters. Wiczorek analyses the organisation of the missions in detail; of interest is her argument concerning

the missions' geographic reach and the division of the Congregation's area of influence between its individual Houses. The subsequent sections reconstruct the course of the missions, describing the missionary's day (as it might have been), and analysing the meaning and significance of the Sacraments administered. The study is even more valuable owing to the plenteous source-list appendices. The tables specifying the casts of individual mission groups and detailed maps of the missions are particularly important and potentially useful in continued research. (MC)

Dariusz Kaczor, *Utrzymanie czystości w wielkich miastach Prus Królewskich XVI–XVIII w.* [Keeping big cities of Royal Prussia clean and tidy (16th to 18th century)], Gdańsk, 2014, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, 530 pp.

Maintenance of tidiness and cleanness was a matter of particular importance to proper functioning of towns in early modern period. Despite its significance, the issue has not been elaborated by Polish historians into a monograph. Kaczor's study is meant to fill this gap, proposing an all-embracing analysis of a number of questions related to the sanitation and sanitary condition in big cities of Royal Prussia between the sixteenth and the late eighteenth century. The research area was selected because of the state of the sources preserved; on the other hand, the importance of Prussian urban hubs has been appreciated. The choice of source materials – first of all, normative acts from the largest cities of Royal Prussia (Gdańsk [Danzig], Elbląg [Elbing], Toruń [Thorn]) – has determined the research perspective. The sanitary system is described in legal and financial terms. The readers interested in personal hygiene, household equipment or daily functioning of the municipal baths will not have their curiosity filled by the Kaczor's book. The monograph has seven chapters, analysing the following issues: the sanitary policies of municipal authorities, the burghers' obligations to maintain tidiness, fiscal encumbrances related to city cleaning, organisation of refuse collection and removal, cleanness maintenance facilities, solving the problem of unwelcome animals, cesspool emptying and faeces removal. The monograph is a reliable elaboration of the rich source material, providing a number of detailed findings. The reader interested in the functioning of modern towns or cities would find the content not synthesised; the reading of a detailed analysis of the sources, separately for each of the urban centres discussed, is sometimes strenuous. (MC)

Aleksandra Witkowska OSU and Joanna Nastalska-Wiśnicka, *Ku ozdobie i obronie Rzeczypospolitej. Maryjne miejsca święte w drukach staropolskich* [The Commonwealth to embellish, and defend. Marian sacred sites in Old Polish prints], Lublin, 2013, Wydawnictwo Werset, 776 pp., summary in English

The publication, a searching edition of eighteenth-century sanctuary prints, is a valuable complement of the previous research on the Marian cult in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. It is based on the old prints presently kept in Polish and foreign libraries. An in-depth source query has enabled, for the first time in historical research, to compile a complete bibliography of sanctuary literature connected with Latin Marian cult. There are two basic sections, of which the first, introductory, analyses in detail the Old Polish sanctuary literature, characterises the major sites of Marian cult (an attached map of the sites completes this section); the objects of worship and the rites related to coronations of Marian icons or statues are discussed separately. The core of this publication is a catalogue of sacred sites, that is, a bibliographical guide to the Commonwealth's Marian sanctuaries, describing a total of 426 cult sites, in alphabetical order. Described is the character and diocesan affiliation of each locality, and the object of worship characterised. The most important, and innovative, part of the catalogue is a bibliographic breakdown of prints connected with the respective cult sites. All in all, the book is a valuable contribution to the existing Marian cult studies, while the literature catalogue it provides is a key guide not only to historians focusing on the history of the Church but also to literary scholars and researchers of broadly defined Old Polish culture. (MC)

Zofia Zielińska and Wojciech Kriegseisen (eds.), *Władysław Konopczyński jako badacz dziejów XVIII w.* [Władysław Konopczyński, the researcher in the field of the 18th-century history], Warszawa, 2014, Instytut Historii Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Instytut Historyczny Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 257 pp.

This volume comes in the aftermath of a conference organised by the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the University of Warsaw's Institute of History at the sixtieth anniversary of Władysław Konopczyński's death. Konopczyński ranks among the major Polish researchers specialising in the eighteenth century; his rich research output has been inspiring for a number of other historians until this day. The book in question comprises thirteen articles by Polish and foreign authors. Taking a look at Konopczyński's output from the historiographic perspective, the authors

show various aspects of his research. The scholar's attitude towards the countries neighbouring on Poland-Lithuania: Austria (Jacek Kordel) and Turkey (Michael G. Müller, Özlem Akay Dinç), is meticulously analysed. The other areas covered include eighteenth-century politicians: Augustus III (Maria Czeppe), Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski (Zofia Zielińska), Jerzy August Mniszech (Tomasz Szwaciński); the history of the Catholic Church and religious dissidents (Paweł Zając, Wojciech Kriegseisen). Also of interest are the articles concerning methodological issues, among which there excels Dorota Dukwicz's analysis of a yet-unpublished piece by Konopczyński, entitled *Historyka*. Critically discussing the scholarly output of Konopczyński, this collection of studies is of value to eighteenth-century history researchers as well as to historians of historiography. (MC)

Urszula Augustyniak, *Testamenty ewangelików reformowanych w Wielkim Księstwie Litewskim w XVI–XVIII w.* [Testaments of Reformed Evangelicals in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, 16th to 18th century], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Semper, 300 pp.

Last wills have since long been an important source in research on Old Polish culture. As they are scattered, they have not been used to a satisfactory degree, though. Hence, every edition of sources of this sort seems to be immensely valuable. The publication in question is a revised edition of a volume on Reformed Evangelicals' testaments published in 1992, which comprised eighteen documents gathered on the queries carried out at Polish (Central Archives of Historical Records) [Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych] as well as Lithuanian and Belarusian archives. The present volume offers four new, previously unpublished documents. Compared to the original edition, following the reviewers' suggestions, the basis for the edition of four will documents has been altered, and facts-related footnotes complemented. The published wills are preceded by brief biographical notes on their authors and furnished with content- and facts-related notes. A glossary of potentially difficult terms appearing in the documents is added, making the volume perfectly fit for teaching purposes. An interesting selection of source materials is worthy of note: contained are the wills of members of the topmost Evangelical elite of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (Mikołaj Radziwiłł, Krzysztof 'Piorun' Radziwiłł, Krzysztof II Radziwiłł, Bogusław Radziwiłł), along with those of a definitely lower social status (Jerzy Despot Zenowicz, Katarzyna Grabowska, née Oborska). The source materials published in the volume can become the foundation for research on a broad range of aspects of history of the mentality, everyday life, and Protestant Church organisation in the Grand Duchy. (MC)

Henryk Gmiterek (ed.), *Materiały źródłowe do dziejów Żydów w księgach grodzkich lubelskich z doby panowania Zygmunta III Wazy 1587–1632* [Source materials on the history of Jews, as contained in the municipal books of Lublin from King Sigismund III Vasa's time, 1587–1632], series: *Fontes Lublinenses*, VI, Lublin, 2014, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, 240 pp., subject index, name index, summary in English

The book is the last volume in the multivolume series, edited by Henryk Gmiterek, presenting excerpts from Lublin's municipal books from 1633 to 1733, this time with respect to local Jewry. The materials contained in such books, or registers, particularly in towns such as Lublin, where large Jewish communities functioned, are significant for research on the history and culture of Jews in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. However, the fact that they are scattered and the need for tedious archival query cause that they are rather rarely used in studies carried out by historians. Consequently, all the editions of excerpts and chronological rosters of documents from such municipal books are extremely valuable. The present volume includes a total of 1,096 documents on Jews. The source basis for this edition have been the series of Lublin municipal books, including a hundred registers and a few units of detached records. The analysis extends to documents kept at the State Archives of Lublin and at the National Historical Archives of Belarus in Minsk. Short abstracts provided enable the reader to get up on the document's content and form an excellent guide for in-depth archive-based research. The subject area of the issues tackled in the documents is enormous: a bulk of the abstracts concern financial settlements involving Jews; protestations regarding criminal batteries or thefts are quite frequent; besides, many documents refer to the functioning of the Lublin religious community. The documents regarding members of local Jewish elite form a separate unit – the most interesting of them concerning Salomon Luria, as they show secular aspects of the great scholar's activity. (MC)

Dorota Wereda, *Unicka diecezja włodziemiersko-brzeska (część brzeska) w XVIII wieku* [The Volodymyr-Brest Uniate Diocese (the Brest section) in the eighteenth century], Siedlce, 2014, Uniwersytet Przyrodniczo-Humanistyczny w Siedlcach, 230 pp., appendices, maps

This monograph aims at showing the situation of the Uniate Church in the eighteenth-century Poland-Lithuania. The time caesura has been chosen

intentionally, as the author's intention was to describe the history of the Church's organisation in its already-established phase, that is, a hundred years after the Union of Brest was concluded. Geographically, the study spans the northern region of the Volodymyr-Brest Diocese. The sources used include documents from Uniate Church files, presently kept in the archives of Poland (Central Archives of Historical Records) [AGAD], State Archives of Lublin), Lithuania (Central Historical Archives of Lithuania) and Ukraine (Central Historical Archives of Ukraine in Lvov). The monograph consists of five chapters, discussing: the administrative structures, the central institutions, the material basis for the functioning of the parishes, the staffing of the parishes; also, the faithful are portrayed and the activities of various religious institutions described. The monograph is a reliable elaboration of the source material. Drawing a bulk of basic information from the sources, the author describes in detail the functioning of Uniate institutions in the Commonwealth, often using statistical methods for the purpose. She shows, in an interesting fashion, the changes taking place within the Church's organisation in the eighteenth century, such as establishment of new chapters. The economic foundation of the functioning of the parishes are extensively described as well. The expatriation on Uniate clergy is an interesting motif, as the detailed analysis of the sources has demonstrated that 'dynasties' of clergymen developed within the Diocese, with the result that young prospective priests prepared for their clergyman's profession at their fathers' side. Of value and importance to the possible further research are the enumerations or breakdowns attached, such as chapter members, deans, deanery instigators, parish populations, names of clergymen and collators. (MC)

Bogdan Rok, *Świat kultury staropolskiej. Teksty źródłowe i studia* [The Old Polish cultural world. Source texts and studies], Toruń, 2014, Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, 225 pp.

Bogdan Rok's scholarly interests concern Old Polish cultural and mentality history (as a broad concept), and his most recent publication deals with these issues. The book has two major parts, the first comprising source editions of hitherto-unpublished Old Polish memoirs. The first is the notes of Walenty Klichowski, from 1737–90, which primarily concern the chronicler's family history. Then follows 'A description of a Roman journey to the General's Chapter, conducted, out of holy obedience, by Stanisław the priest, the then-General Custodian, in the year 1789', penned by Ignacy Stanisław Filipecki. This account of a trip to Rome contains a number of interesting descriptions of localities situated on the way to the Eternal City. The second section is filled with studies by Bogdan Rok, which only loosely refer to the source texts published in the preceding part. Referring in some way to the Klichowski

diary are, possibly, the two articles on Old Polish calendars, of which the first ('Old Polish calendars as a historical source') is not research-based but rather summarises the abundant reference literature. More interesting, and based on source research, are the author's investigations concerning the calendars published by Lublin-based Jesuits. Subsequently, there come two articles on travelling in the Old Polish period, and thus referring to the second source text. The author's disquisition concerning the Capuchins' journey to Rome is based on reliable sources, and pretty interesting. There is also an article on sermons ('Old Polish eighteenth-century sermons: research postulates'), but the purpose behind it, in the volume's context, is unclear: there is no apparent thematic link between it and the remaining contents, and the essay is not research-based but provides initial remarks on the research on Old Polish sermons. (MC)

Renata Ryba, *Literatura staropolska wobec zjawiska niewoli tatarsko-tureckiej. Szkice i studia* [Old Polish literature in the face of Tatar-Turkish bondage. Essays and studies], Katowice, 2014, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego, 225 pp., index of names, summaries in English and Italian

The author's intent has been to show the diverse portrayals of Tatar-Turkish bondage in Old Polish literature. The study is not a typical monograph, but rather, a collection of autonomous, thematically interlinked studies. The constituent articles form a logical and interesting whole. The author has adopted an extensive subject area and chronological scope. Each of the studies analyses literary texts from a somewhat different research perspective. There are monographic studies on individual authors, such as Maciej Strykowski and Bartłomiej Paprocki, and thematic analyses of certain literary issues and topoi. Ryba looks at the Tatar-Turkish bondage from the perspective of sin, showing its dehumanising aspects; she also analyses problems related to liberation and miraculous release. All the studies are based on a rich source foundation; there is a plenty of interesting citations, too. Discussed are literary pieces from various periods, beginning with sixteenth-century literature and ending with an interesting sketch concerning the reception of Marek Jakimowski's seventeenth-century historical account in the nineteenth-century Polish literature. In all, an interesting reading experience; as it seems, the designed purpose of showing the diverse literary takes has yielded a completely successful outcome. (MC)

Wiesław Bondyra, *Własność ziemska w województwie bełskim w czasach saskich* [Land ownership in Voivodeship of Bełz in the Saxon period], Lublin, 2015, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, 289 pp., appendices, index of names, maps

This monograph analyses the land ownership situation in the Bełz Voivodeship (today, the area of Bełz in Ukraine) and in the Chełm Land, in the Saxon (Wettin dynasty rule) period. The author has intended to prepare a detailed description based on in-depth source query, which might become the basis for further research. In line with this assumption, the basic and only research query behind the monograph is: Who was the proprietor of the individual estates? As it seems, when reduced to identification of the possessors, research on land ownership becomes trivialised; it is a pity that the author has not ventured to pose some broader questions. The sources used primarily consist of treasury documents, among which a 1713 *lanowe* (land tax) register stands out, along with court files and (rather undefined) private and estate documents. The chronological framework is a deliberate choice, since land ownership in the Saxon time has not yet been subject to monographic treatment. There are three chapters, the first precisely defining the borders of the analysed area and a categorisation of types of land ownership. The author points out that a remarkable percentage of royal lands was specific to the area under analysis. He then proceeds to analysing the assets held by individual social groups, describing minutely the grand owners of hereditary estates and the landed estate of middle nobility. The descriptions are complemented by a source appendix specifying all the proprietors of the province's localities (as at 1713) – potentially of use in further elaboration on the subject. (MC)

Monika Jusupović, *Prowincjonalna elita litewska w XVIII wieku. Działalność polityczna rodziny Zabięłłów w latach 1733–1795* [The Lithuanian 18-century provincial elite. Political activities of the Zabięłło family between 1733 and 1795], Warszawa, 2014, Instytut Historii im. Tadeusza Manteuffla PAN, Wydawnictwo Neriton, Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne, 488 pp., bibliography, name index, index of geographical names, summaries in English and Russian

Based upon an impressive source query, this book is a detailed, conscientious, original and inspiring study of the political careers pursued by members of the Zabięłło family. The originality is mainly founded on the topic selected: although the political life of the eighteenth-century Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth has already been the topic of a number of exhaustive studies, they mostly tend to focus around great political mechanisms (such as the

functioning of self-government institutions, the judiciary, the parliament), specifically Polish institutions (confederations, seditions), and the large scale processes culminating in the reforms of the late years of the eighteenth century. In respect of family histories, the scholars have so far tended to focus on grand magnate families which, as it is commonly assumed, completely dominated the Commonwealth's political scene from the latter half of the seventeenth century onwards, paralysing the king's power, pursuing their own international policies and entwining all the petty nobles, citizens of the Commonwealth, in a network of clientelist relationships. A special case in point is at the focus of the present book: the Zabiello family was not powerful enough to break through in synthetic historiographic works; yet, the family's ambitions were great and it was capable of pursuing its own policy and skilfully juggling between the great parties or factions.

The Zabiello family pursued a significant career in the first half of the eighteenth century and managed to maintain their position till the Commonwealth's last days, rising to dominance in political life in the Kovno county in Lithuania, and stretching their influence to a number of adjacent counties. The key to the family's position was the control they exercised over the Kovno dietine (*sejmik*) and a series of local offices, for which Zabiello family members fought pitched battles with their competitors of a comparable calibre, or even with big magnates – such as members of the Radziwiłł house. In parallel, Zabiellos pursued a dexterous and forethoughtful marriage-oriented and social policy, entering into family relationships with all the significant families of north-eastern Lithuania, and efficiently multiplying their wealth. The book shows their activities during the reign of the last two Polish kings: Augustus III Wettin and Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski. Within this timeframe, thirty diet (*sejm*) assemblies were held; Zabiello managed to push their family's members as deputies for eighteen of these assemblies, thus ensuring themselves representation in the capital city. Their influence was crowned by the office of Field Hetman of Lithuania granted to Józef Zabiello. Jusupović stresses that a permanent trait in their strategy was care about the relations at the royal court – the key thing when it came to granting the offices as well as prestigious titles or ranks and commendations. The most fascinating feature about this family was their ability to incessantly weave between the two great magnate parties – the Czartoryski and the Radziwiłł faction, and the royal party of King Stanislaus Augustus. Zabiellos would enter into alliances with anyone, in search of favouritism for the family's members wherever they could count on a success. In the years of actual exercise of the rule of Poland by the Russians, Zabiello family sought the backing with Russian generals and the Russian ambassador in Warsaw, and even in St. Petersburg – and they were pretty successful. Their strategy reached its climax in the Bar Confederation years: during this actual civil war, the family split into adherents and opponents of the Confederation – and

this not due to their views, the author argues, but for opportunistic reasons: so that in case either party won, they could join the winning camp and favour their own relatives staying within the losing party. The author regretfully does not dwell on Zabiełło's ideological orientation, stating that it cannot be reliably reconstructed based on the sources; the tacit sources seem however to suggest that it would be fruitless to attempt to determine their ideological bias, since Zabiełło solicited influence for themselves and their followers for the influence's sake, themselves forming, as it were, an autonomous political entity situated beyond ideological divisions.

The book starts with a long chapter titled (somewhat misleadingly) 'The genealogy of the Zabiełło family in the eighteenth century', simply forming a collection of painstakingly reconstructed biographies of twenty-four major members of the family. By way of example, Antoni Zabiełło, one of these outstanding figures, was twelve times a parliamentary deputy, a marshal (speaker) of the Kovno dietine and a Kovno Master of the Hunt, General-Lieutenant of the Polish army. The subsequent chapter discusses the family's rights in property and social background: their political allies, clients and partners among the Lithuanian nobility. The last two chapters deal with the family's history during the reign of the last two kings, until the collapse of the Commonwealth. The book is complemented by an extensive annex listing the family's estates located in seven voivodeships. Considering the enormous effort made by the author and the indisputable cognitive value of the book, it remains regrettable that the reliable technique she has employed and her passion for tracking the activities of Zabiełłos wherever the sources allow have prevented the question about how typical, or how unique, this family's history actually was in the context of the eighteenth-century history of Poland-Lithuania. Was the Zabiełło family exceptional, or were they quintessential to the country's peculiar provincial elite? The latter option would certainly invite further research and imply reformulation of certain mainstream theses that prevail in historiographic portrayals of the Commonwealth. (AK)

#### NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURIES

Tomasz Kargol and Krzysztof Ślusarek (eds.), *Spółeczeństwo i gospodarka Galicji w latach 1772–1867: źródła i perspektywy badań. Zbiór studiów*, i [The society and economy of Galicia between 1772 and 1867: research sources and prospects, vol. 1], Kraków, 2014, Towarzystwo Wydawnicze 'Historia Iagiellonica', 219 pp.

The thirteen studies comprised in this book, written by mostly young- or medium-generation Polish, German and Ukrainian historians, are based on

queries done in the archives and libraries of what once was Galicia. The miscellany predominantly deals with social history, micro-history and economic history of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The authors have found a series of new research threads or links, and risked some original and significant comparisons, juxtapositions or confrontations. In a word, they encourage a comprehensive reflexion or revision of the Galician history, its potential new problematisation and contextualisation. In parallel, the authors have not lost sight of the developments taking place in the social sciences in the last twenty years, with due appreciation of political mobilisation of the masses, which seems to have come to the fore at the end of the researched period. The book well illustrates, in the main, the intensified research activity that has for a decade been evolving around the Habsburg-ruled Galicia. This modestly designed study is pretty inspiring. (GK)

Henryk Kocój, *Dyplomaci sascy o powstaniu listopadowym* [The November Insurrection as reflected in the Saxon diplomatic correspondence], Kraków, 2014, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, 380 pp.

The book comes as another publication by this author which contains selected sources from European diplomatic chancelleries, or chanceries, from the period of the 1830–1 November Insurrection in the Kingdom of Poland. This time, Henryk Kocój's query and editorial effort has extended to the diplomatic correspondence between the Saxon Foreign Minister Johannes Minckwitz (written in French and German) with the Saxon ambassadors to Petersburg (Lamaistre), Berlin (Watzdorff), Vienna (Uchtritz), and Paris (Könneritz). These letters span from the first news about the outbreak of an uprising in Warsaw (December 1830) until the re-establishment of the Russian authority after the Polish troops were defeated and the first edicts of Tsar Nicholas I issued with respect to the Kingdom's future. The letters report on the pieces of news coming from the battlefield, sentiments and opinions expressed with respect to the insurrection in the capitals of the partitioning powers as well as in France, and a series of behind-the-scenes diplomatic actions (such as attempts at achieving a Russian-Polish agreement via the Saxon envoy in Paris). This correspondence also offers an important source for recognition of the mentality, activity areas, purposes and methods of the period's diplomatic service. The collection of source texts is preceded by an extensive foreword, which (regrettably) basically limits itself to summarising the main threads (re)appearing in the following set of letters. The volume is concluded by selected proclamations of the Tsar and the Russian Supreme Commander Dybich, as reprinted in the *Auszug der neuesten Zeiten* (with no explanatory commentary added, though). (AK)

Marcin Wolniewicz, *Moskwa ante portas: Rosja w polskiej propagandzie powstańczej 1863–1864* [Moscow ante portas: Russia in the propaganda of the Polish 1863–4 Uprising], Poznań, 2014, Instytut Historii im. Tadeusza Manteuffla PAN, Wydawnictwo Nauka i Innowacje, 282 pp.

A young historian, associated with the Polish Academy of Sciences' Institute of History, Marcin Wolniewicz has undertaken a study on an apparently minor problem which, however, is, by all indications, key to understanding of the mentality of Polish elites of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century (and, possibly, later ones too). The issue in question is the image of Russia in the 1863–4 Uprising propaganda. Three large but skilfully condensed chapters deal with Polish diplomatic service and the history of the Uprising propaganda in the years 1863–4, the propaganda messaging as such and, lastly, the vision of the insurrectionary propaganda as portrayed by the poet and prose writer Cyprian Kamil Norwid. Wolniewicz evocatively shows the various levels of the propaganda and its dominant message threads: the Russian 'barbarism', 'schism' and 'cruelty', and even (not so obvious for many) a racial motif. This narration had an unrealistic purpose all throughout: to spark off a European war. But the insurgents were convinced, after all, that the Polish cause would necessarily be part of a revival of humanity.

This valuable study in history of historiography and history of mentality illustrates the period's political imagination, as if through a lens. It is a significant complement and important voice in the discussion in the context of the findings of Andrzej Wierzbicki, well-established in Polish historiography (as, e.g. in his *Groźni i wielcy, Polska myśl historyczna XIX i XX wieku wobec rosyjskiej despotii* [The minatory and the great. Polish 19th- and 20th-century historical thought in face of the Russian despotism], Warsaw, 2001). (GK)

*"Ludzie osobni" polskiej kultury. Korespondencja Jana Lorentowicza i Zenona Przesmyckiego-Miriama z lat 1899–1938* [The 'peculiar men' of Polish culture. The letters of Jan Lorentowicz and Zenon Przesmycki ('Miriam'), 1899–1938], edited, introduction and commentary by Grzegorz P. Bąbiak, Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 343 pp.

The book consists of three parts. The introductory section offers an extensive biographical study on the two leading figures in Polish literary life in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century: Jan Lorentowicz and Zenon Przesmycki are credited with having co-developed the modernist trend in Polish literary criticism. This section in question is actually a mini-biography,

also covering these authors' output and its reception. Part two quotes ninety letters of the two authors, from various years, exchanged with varying intensity; most of these letters are kept at the National Library (Warsaw). Two letters from Lorentowicz's daughters, Ewa and Irena, to 'Miriam', are added. The third part contains articles penned by Jan Lorentowicz. All in all, a valuable, meticulously edited documentary publication. (GK)

Małgorzata Büthner-Zawadzka, *Warszawa w oczach pisarek: obraz i doświadczenie miasta w polskiej prozie kobiecej 1864–1939* [Warsaw, as seen by female fiction writers: The image and experience of the city in Polish women's prose of 1864–1939], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo Stowarzyszenie Pro Cultura Litteraria, Instytut Badań Literackich PAN, 632 pp.

The book under review mainly deals with the phenomenon of female literature, which came forward on a mass scale as late as after the defeat of 1863–4 Uprising. Although the phenomenon is of essence to the social history of the Polish nineteenth century, few authors have so far coped with it. In her study, Małgorzata Büthner-Zawadzka, community activist and specialist in the studies of Warsaw, associated with the Institute of Literary Studies (of the Polish Academy of Sciences), endeavours to problematize the issue. The nine extensive chapters concentrated around the experiences of Polish female writers and women-of-letters of several generations (Eliza Orzeszkowa through to Magdalena Samozwaniec and Maria Kuncewiczowa); from the best-known ones, like Zofia Nałkowska, up to some almost-forgotten names such as Maria Ukniewska or Elżbieta Szemplińska-Sobolewska). The book concerns extraordinary women for whom independence and self-reliance, in the first place, were common. In the methodological and interpretative stratum, the influence of gender studies is quite clear, albeit this approach is not the only one that this author is familiar with. She revisits and revises the idyllic ideas concerning public and literary activities of women, stressing that women-of-letters were occupationally marginalised. The vicissitudes of women, and, overall, the female experience at the turn of the century, appear to have infallibly been interrelated with their professional activities and the themes of their works: urban crime and other social pathologies. Essentially, all the women authors discussed in this study formulated accusations against the Moloch-city as well as patriarchal civilisation. Büthner-Zawadzka has proposed an ambitious study at the borderline of gender studies, history of mentality, and micro-history. (GK)

Kamil Piskała, *Mieczysław Niedziałkowski: początki politycznej działalności i kształtowanie światopoglądu (1893–1918)* [Mieczysław Niedziałkowski: The outset of his political activity and formation of his worldview (1893–1918)], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Semper, 285 pp.

A young historian at the University of Łódź, Kamil Piskała has prepared an ambitious biography of Mieczysław Niedziałkowski, based on an abundant pool of sources, including private resources never before used by scholars. Composed of seven chronologically arranged chapters, the study discusses the beginnings of the political career of one of the most interesting personalities in Polish 'independence-seeking socialism' of the former half of the twentieth century. Personality and views-formation experience quite obviously come to the fore, the highlights being Niedziałkowski's contribution to the youth movement and his tertiary studies in Petersburg. It was at then, the author argues, that Niedziałkowski's Marxian orientation was established. Niedziałkowski remained loyal to the spirit and tradition of the Second International, in its version as infiltrated by the views of Stanisław Brzozowski. The author remarks that the attitudes of Niedziałkowski as a young man, and those of the whole generation of Polish socialists, were emerging in opposition to the tradition advocated by National Democracy and the political practices employed by this movement. All in all, the study is a well-written and originally conceived valuable prelude to a potential comprehensive biography. (GK)

Magdalena Semczyszyn, *Galicyskie wybory: działalność Centralnego Komitetu Wyborczego w Galicji Wschodniej w latach 1867–1906* [Galicia to elect: The activities of the Central Election Committee in East Galicia, 1867–1906], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo Sejmowe, 399 pp.

This dissertation by a young researcher presently representing the Szczecin Branch of the National Remembrance Institute, comes out of research on the borderline between political history and the history of constitutionalism. The subject-matter called for elaborate analyses focused on the organisation and activities of the title institution as well as on the political history of Habsburg Galicia at the turn of the twentieth century. There are four thematic chapters, the first introducing the relevant aspects of Galician politics, the second discussing the Committee's functioning in East Galicia, the third – the regional assembly (Diet of Galicia and Lodomeria) election, and the fourth, the Council of State election. The local branch of the Central Election Committee had been organised before the first general election in 1867 and

was re-established in the course of thirteen subsequent election campaigns for the local Diet as well as for the Council of State in Vienna. The book under review shows how the fundamentals of mass politics were getting formed – with the new type of canvassing, new political parties, and new behaviours of political actors. In a sense, the thesis also illustrates the clash of the local establishment and the lower strata of various ethnic groups, becoming emancipated at the time. The Galician election served over the decades as a synonym of fraud that was used by the East-Galician conservatives (so-called Podolaks) to remain in power; now, we have this disheartening stereotype reconfirmed. While the projected reader is an expert in the field, a number of problems dealt with – such as the administration's attitudes with respect to the ethnic, religious, social, and political conflicts – may prove to be of interest to a broader reading public. An annex is attached listing the members of electoral commissions, along with breakdowns of candidates aspiring for diet and parliamentary mandates. (GK)

Jacek Surzyn, *Antysemityzm, emancypacja, syjonizm. Narodziny ideologii syjonistycznej* [Anti-Semitism, emancipation, Zionism. The birth of Zionist ideology], Katowice, 2014, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego, 324 pp.

The book is composed of four chapters portraying the forerunners of Zionism and some outstanding activists of the movement: Moses Hess, Leon Pinsker, Theodor Herzl, and Max Nordau. A brief description of the legal and social status of nineteenth-century Jewry and an essay on modern anti-Semitism precedes these portraits. The selection of the personages is the author's discretion and may appear questionable to the reader versed in the topic; it is undisputable, though, that each of the figures described had a critical bearing on the history of Zionism. Each of the portraits comprises a short biographical outline but primarily focuses on the character's views and ideas. As is known, the latter half of the nineteenth century saw the shaping of a Zionist agenda that rejected the eschatological messianic slogans in favour of restoration of a nation-state. There were three drivers that proved to be critical for a modern national Jewish awareness: anti-Semitism, social emancipation, and political Zionism of the century's late years. The study of Silesian University's Jacek Surzyn, philosopher and political scientist, reliably evidences the building-up of certain social processes and how they were reflected in the sphere of ideas. It can serve as an introduction to the issues concerned, as viewed and elaborated by the key figures of the Jewish national rebirth. The author has, laudably, made use of a number of source texts (some of them forsaken); his conscientious competency as a translator

is clear. However, his findings and interpretations, when transgressing the framework of established research queries, appear secondary to the current state of research as well as the debates pervading the academia. The virtually absent references to the Polish context are striking. (GK)

Sławomir Węgrzynowicz, *Patrioci i zdrajcy: społeczeństwo Królestwa Polskiego wobec mikołajowskiej polityki Rosji w latach 1846–1856* [Patriots and traitors: the society of the Kingdom of Poland confronting Russian Tsar Nicholas I's policies, 1846–56], Kraków, 2014, Wydawnictwo Arcana, 643 pp.

This monumental treatise by a young researcher affiliated with the Jagiellonian University concerns the ideas, worldviews and group attitudes in Polish society towards the Russian authorities, primarily, the bureaucratic and military apparatus. The five thematic, chronologically ordered chapters are based upon a huge source base (particularly valuable seem to be the Russian archival resources). Polish period press has also been used, though not as systematically.

The history of independence-oriented conspiracies is dealt with the most extensively. The figure of Nicholas I, and the tsar's role in the taming of Polish resistance, is somewhat demonised. The study is, however, strongly based on the literature on the subject; the discussion waged by the author with his predecessors is certainly a model one. The editorial work is careful; a valuable bibliography is added, along with an appendix and photographs of several dozen main protagonists, some of them never published before. (GK)

Lidia A. Zyblikiewicz, *Ludność Krakowa w drugiej połowie XIX wieku: struktura demograficzna, zawodowa i społeczna* [The population of Kraków in the second half of the 19th century: demography, professions, and social structure], Kraków, 2014, Towarzystwo Wydawnicze 'Historia Iagiellonica', 356 pp.

This demographical and statistical study, by a specialist in nineteenth-century social history, analyses the documentation based on four general censuses carried out in Kraków in the years 1857, 1869, 1880, and 1890. This, in a variety of respects, is a unique documentation resource, if one takes into account the specificity of Polish territory and the vicissitudes of archival funds during the Second World War, in particular. The four chapters meticulously analyse the employment, age and gender profiles of the dwellers, along with their marital status, religion, language, and literacy. The study is a piece of historical demography, an area that for the recent dozen-or-so years has

been resiliently developing at the Jagiellonian University. The book's value extends to the social history of the second half of the nineteenth century and the urbanisation of Polish lands. The role of that period of dynamic change still seems not to have been fully recognised by Polish historiography. (GK)

Leszek Żyliński, *Od Prus do Europy. Szkice z tożsamości narodowej Niemców* [From Prussia to Europe. Essays on the national identity of Germans], Toruń, 2014, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, 318 pp.

Leszek Żyliński is one of the best-known and renowned Polish experts in Germany's modern and recent history. His new book offers a selection of rather loosely interrelated articles, situated at the borderline of scholarly analysis and political commentary and referring, in the main, to Żyliński's most recent (2012) considerable-sized publication on Europe in German nineteenth- to twenty-first-century thought (*Europa w niemieckiej myśli XIX–XXI wieku*). These publications' common theme is German identity: from the 'local homeland' (*Heimat*) of East Prussia, through the Kingdom of Prussia and Germany, up to a united Europe. Almost all these essays are modified versions of the already-published texts. A weak point to this publication is that the scholarly texts have, clearly, been blended with those purely popularising ones, which makes legitimate the question about the projected reader. In fact, the essays and articles comprised in this volume can, and should, be read separately.

The first section, titled 'Prussian stocktakes', is in fact an extensive essay on Prussian ideological and cultural legacy from the late eighteenth century to the Second World War. Of interest are the well-written but, unfortunately, rather concise and superficial texts on the literary and salon culture, and a separate essay on Marion von Dönhoff, paying homage to the personage but polemical with respect to her vision of 'Prussian virtues'. Section two, on 'Germanness as a problem', encompasses essays concerning certain 'typically German', and virtually untranslatable, notions – such as *Heimat*, *Gemütlichkeit*, *Innerlichkeit*, *Ordnung*. Heinrich Böll and his position in West Germany's society is discussed, as is Anna Wolff-Powęska's book *Pamięć, brzemień i uwolnienie. Niemcy wobec nazistowskiej przeszłości* [Memory, burden, and freeing. Germans facing their Nazi past]. The largest essay is on German national holidays and historical anniversaries (early nineteenth century through to our day). The third section, 'European contexts', contains three essays on the history of twentieth-century political ideas, including the concepts of Eastern Europe, the German *Mittleuropa* versus the Polish 'Intermarium' concept, and the German concepts of united Europe between the 1920s and the late twentieth century. An article on the idea, mission, and pragmatics of the 'Borussia'

association, dealing with publishing (incl. the periodical *Borussia*) and education, the initiatives to which Mr. Żyliński has made his contributions since they emerged, crowns the book. (AK)

Jerzy Grzybowski and Joanna Kozłowska (eds.), *Między Rusią a Polską. Litwa. Od Wielkiego Księstwa Litewskiego do Republiki Litewskiej* [Between Russia and Poland. From the Grand Duchy of Lithuania to the Republic of Lithuania], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 335 pp.

This book is a rather chaotic, both in regard of the topics dealt with and the format of the texts, collection of studies written in connection with a conference held in 2009 by the University of Warsaw's Chair of East Central European Intercultural Studies. The subject-matter in question is generally describable as Lithuanian-Polish and Lithuanian-Belarusian political and cultural relations under the shadow of the great neighbouring countries, Russia in the first place, mainly in the interwar period. The volume opens with an essay penned by Jan Koźbial, being a passionate and pretty sensible, though desperately general, polemic against the postmodernist historical interpretations of the role and significance of nation-states; unfortunately, it is hard to discern this message's direct relation with the volume's subject-matter. The subsequent article is an emotionally involved, passionate and, perhaps, reliable account on the situation of the Polish ethnic minority in the Republic of Lithuania at the end of the first decade of the twenty first century; it however lacks any trait of scholarly analysis. Then follow the texts of more genuinely analytical sort, aligned content-wise with the declared scope of issues. The first three in this group deal with problems from a remote past: the religious relations in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the thirteenth–fourteenth century; the eighteenth-century policies of the Basilian Order in the Grand Duchy; and, a ca. 1565 political treatise entitled *Rozmowa Polaka z Litwinem* [A conversation between a Pole and a Lithuanian] by Augustyn Rotundus-Mieleski. The subsequent fifteen texts, apart from one that deals with Russian deportations of Lithuanian noblemen in the nineteenth century, concern aspects of twentieth-century, particularly interwar, history. The topics covered include: Polish-Lithuanian and Lithuanian-Belarusian national and ethnic stereotypes; Polish-Lithuanian relations during the Second World War; Polish-Lithuanian intelligence 'war'; Russian emigration in both countries and the idea of Polish-Lithuanian federation in Polish government circles in the interwar period; the Lithuanian interwar army; the image of Lithuania in Belarusian press before the First World War; and, the Soviet nationality policy in Lithuania past 1945. (AK)

Zofia Borzymińska and Anna Matysiak (eds.), *Odkrywanie żydowskiej Pragi. Studia i materiały* [Discovering the Jewish Praga. Studies and materials], Warszawa, 2014, Żydowski Instytut Historyczny, 492 pp.

The volume offers a dozen studies on various aspects of the Jewish history in Warsaw's right-bank (eastern) area of Praga. The first of the two sections is a collection of essays by scholars associated with the Warsaw-based Jewish Historical Institute, mainly its Warsaw Studies Department. The second contains source texts, including from the pre-war Jewish press. The book has been produced in the aftermath of a conference held (under the same title) at the Institute on 6th November 2012. The studies deal with urban micro-histories (as in the portraits of several key figures in the 'Jewish' Warsaw) as well as collective memory mechanisms in the context of the Holocaust and post-war Polish-Jewish relations. The latter forms a more interesting part of this collection, as they find the mechanisms of the rivalry between various national narratives on the past. A fair-sized set of illustrations complements the content. (GK)

Piotr Okulewicz, *Obóz sanacyjny w województwie poznańskim w latach 1926–1935* [The *Sanacja* camp in Poznań Province, 1926–35], Poznań, 2014, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza, 510 pp.

Written by a young historian associated with the Institute of History, Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznan, this study consists of three large chapters, covering, respectively: (i) the period immediately after Józef Piłsudski's coup d'état (1926–7); (ii) the rivalry of the new regime against the opposition over the influence in Wielkopolska [Greater Poland] (1928–30); and, (iii) stabilisation of the *Sanacja* camp's rule, including the breakup of institutional forms of consociation of the oppositional politicians. The study shows the dominant position of the *Sanacja*'s Left in the broad camp of Piłsudskites, amidst the dispute over the 'rule of people's hearts and minds' in the most National Democracy-inclined area of Poland at the time. This circumstance was quite unite in the overall national context, with no change occurring in this respect with the rightist turn initiated in 1936 inside the ruling camp. Clearly, the rivalry against the Wielkopolska 'nationalist camp' was fuelled by the escalating political violence, which the *Sanacja* would not shun. Within the restricted subject-matter, the author proposes several interesting findings and conclusions, plus quite a bulk of new documentary material. (GK)

Włodzimierz Mędrzecki and Cecylia Leszczyńska (eds.), *Praca i społeczeństwo Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej: zbiór studiów. Metamorphozy społeczne* [Labour and the society in the Second Republic of Poland: a collection of studies. Social metamorphoses], Warszawa, 2014, Instytut Historii im. Tadeusza Manteuffla PAN, 425 pp.

This collection of twenty-one studies by social and economic historians specialising in the interwar Poland has three sections: 'The work, its organisation and efficiency in the Second Republic'; 'The Polish State as a the employer and an employee'; and, 'Earned income and its distribution'. The book has been published as part of the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences' largest research project on the interwar Poland (1918–39), entitled *Spółeczeństwo Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej. Nowa próba syntezy* [The Society of the Second Republic of Poland. A new attempt at a synthetic approach]. The studies, essays and short treatises of this volume are based on research on various types of hired labour: those dating back to the preindustrial period – especially, in agriculture, land cultivation or related professions, plus craftsmanship (broadly taken); subsequently, the enlarging isles of modernity are covered; and then comes the time – the last years of the interwar period – of a dynamic industrial development. The reader is given a very clear idea that shortly before the Second World War, the Second Republic rapidly increased its modernisation activities. Valuable, well-knit and impeccably edited, this book is potentially enjoyable not only by experts. (GK)

Przemysław Różański, *Amerykańscy Żydzi i amerykańska dyplomacja wobec kwestii żydowskiej w Polsce 1922–1939* [The responses of American Jews and U.S. diplomacy to the Jewish question in Poland, 1922–39], Gdańsk, 2013, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, 551 pp., bibliography, name index, summary in English

The book refers to its author's previous publication, *Stany Zjednoczone wobec kwestii żydowskiej w Polsce 1918–21* [The United States and the Jewish question in Poland, 1918–21] (Gdańsk, 2007), which covered virtually the same issue, with respect to an earlier period. This previous study concerned the matter that is better recognised in scientific literature, since the topic is high-profile and broadly discussed nowadays. At the time Polish statehood was getting formed after the First World War, through the 1920 war against Bolshevik Russia and other conflicts of the time, Paris peace negotiations, the situation of Polish Jews was, mainly owing to international Jewish organisations,

an affair broadly disputed by the Western press and diplomats. Apart from the prevalent uncertainty of successful establishment by the new Polish state of its attitude towards its numerous minorities, a major factor in this respect was the wave of anti-Jewish pogroms and other brutal riots to which the Jews fell victims; these events alerted the international Jewish community. It was under the influence of the latter that the Allies' diplomats disposed Poland, and other East Central European countries, to sign the so-called Little Treaty of Versailles which regulated in detail the status of ethnic minorities and granted them protection of the League of Nations.

The study under review discusses, basically, the same problem, with respect to much longer but, essentially, more tranquil and less earthshattering a period. It is worth remarking that, although the last decades have produced an impressive number of more or less detailed studies, in Poland and in the West, on the interwar history of Polish Jewry, the subject-matter raised by Przemysław Różański was never before subjected to research in any comparably detailed manner. It should thence be hoped that in the face of the rising popularity of studies on the history of Polish Jews, the book in question will contribute to the ongoing dispute, providing valuable material for further analysis. In principle, the major strength of Różański's study is its extremely abundant and detailed source material. Różański has investigated several thousands of documents in several United States archives, including: the American Jewish Archives (Cincinnati, OH); the National Archives and Records Administration (College Park, Maryland); the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace (Stanford, CA). In Poland, his research was done at the Central Archives of Modern Records in Warsaw [Archiwum Akt Nowych]. Moreover, he has made use of relevant documents published in the series: *Foreign Relations of the U.S., Diplomatic Papers*; *Polskie Dokumenty Dyplomatyczne* [Polish Diplomatic Documents], and others. Dominant in this extremely broad query are diplomatic sources (produced by the American diplomatic service in Poland and by its Polish counterpart in the U.S.), alongside press sources.

The book is composed of three chronologically sequenced sections, corresponding with the standard periodization of Polish interwar (1918–39) history: (i) before the 1926 coup; (ii) the rule of Józef Piłsudski; (iii) 1935 (Piłsudski's death) to September 1939 (outbreak of the Second World War). A characteristic trait is the author's traditional methodological approach, which is probably still typical for diplomatic service historians. This book completely lacks any au-courant theoretical or terminological considerations, or any explicated argument proposed a priori. Instead, the author scrupulously follows the 'markings' of the Second Republic of Poland in the press, diplomatic reports, and among American Jewish organisations – and, any possible initiatives of the latter, meant to dispose the U.S. Administration to exert pressure on the Polish authorities. He also recorded the Polish

initiatives designed to win the favour of the American Jews and, by their intermediation, of the business and administration. To summarise the seventeen years of these endeavours would be a difficult task, since all these involved entities responded to the ever-changing situation. Still, the few dominant trends and landmark points are worth emphasising. First, the great concern about the fate of Polish Jews in the first post-war years soon lessened among, and the campaigning in their favour did not resume the dimension of that from the years 1918–21; and, never again did the U.S. administration re-engage in the affair on any large scale. Second, in line with the sentiments prevailing amongst the Polish Jews, the American Jewish community welcomed the takeover of the rule by Piłsudski with relief, and put much trust in that man and his policies. Third, the Great Depression soon had a negative effect on these sympathies and implied the accusations of the Polish Government of discriminatory measures toward the Jews, in spite of the repeated *dementis*. Fourth, the exacerbated anti-Semitic resentments and the related repeated riots, especially when involving university students, evoked no alerting response virtually until 1935–7, while the idea to organise an emigration of Jews from Poland – endorsed, since 1936, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Minister Józef Beck in person – triggered much protest. The author describes the year 1938, particularly the period following the so-called *Polenaktion* (deportation of some 17,000 Jews from the Third Reich to Poland) and the *Kristallnacht* in Germany, as the ‘last upheaval’ – with both parties seeking mutual agreement and the American Jews declaring support for Poland endangered by the Nazi Germans. There even appeared the ideas of providing financial support for an organised emigration of Jews – the idea still considered at that time in Poland. (AK)

Elżbieta Kowalczyk (ed.), *Komuniści w międzywojennej Warszawie* [Communists in the interwar Warsaw], Warszawa, 2014, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej, 293 pp.

The book, consisting of sixteen studies regarding various aspects of the history of communist milieus in interwar Warsaw, reflects quite well the Polish state of research on the issue. Worthy of note are, especially, the essays by Krystyna Trembicka (‘The communist milieu in face of Poland’s regained independence and of the Polish-Soviet War’), Zbigniew Zaporowski (‘Legal activities of the illegal Communist Party of Poland in Warsaw’), Karol Sacewicz (‘Struggle on the Left: the first confrontations. The battle for hegemony within Warsaw’s councils of workers’ deputies and between the KPRP [Communist Workers’ Party of Poland] and the PPS [Polish Socialist Party], 1918–19’), and by Elżbieta Kowalczyk, the editor (‘The structure of the Warsaw Committee of the KPP [Communist Party of Poland]’). Interesting

pieces of information and insightful analyses are provided in the studies of Andrzej Chojnowski, Konrad Rokicki and Wojciech Materski. One might think that research on communist milieus in interwar Poland is recovering from a collapse which was the case in the first decade after the 1989 transition. Effects of former failures and negligence come up to sight at times: the focus on political history; the tone of (not too sophisticated) historical journalism, no comparative studies present, and prevalence of police sources. A selective bibliography of the topic is added – but even if read cursorily, one comes to the conclusion that there remain a number of problems that still wait to be investigated. (GK)

Karol Ludwik Koniński, *Pisma polityczne* [Political writings], collected, edited, and with a foreword by Maciej Urbanowski, Kraków, 2014, Wydawnictwo Arcana, 584 pp.

This is a collection of a dozen writings and political treatises by one of the most interesting publicists associated with the National Democracy movement. Karol L. Koniński (1891–1943), literary critic and ethnographer, treaded a somewhat confusing path, though his concepts basically did not transgress the National-Democratic paradigm. This was the case with the ‘Jewish question’ – one of the major problems of the Second Republic. Professor Maciej Urbanowski, the volume editor, flounders, to an extent, in his commentary to the matter in question – which, actually, quite well renders the convoluted argument of Koniński himself. This argument pends between the eliminatory anti-Semitism typical of Polish nationalism of the time, world-power fantasising characteristic of the generation (and manifesting itself in slogans like ‘Poland shall be a power or there’ll be no Poland at all’; or, ‘What Slavs expect is for us to enter a role that is, kind of, natural for us: the role of historical leadership of those Slavic nations which have remained loyal to Europe’), and the universalistic pretences of the Catholic Church, which Koniński strongly identified himself with.

In his foreword, Urbanowski parenthesises such hallucinations, claiming that Koniński is a personality of a higher rank. But whether he successfully coped with this mined field of issues, and the cursed Polish problems of the time, is not so obvious. The reader can find in his texts many accusations targeted at the country’s political life. Some of them can be read as a metaphor of a split within Polish nationalism, and of Catholic social thought too, between the temptation of guarding the tradition (on one’s last legs), and the need to adapt to the challenges of modern time. I find Professor Urbanowski’s book as a valuable source for research on the radical nationalist trends in the interwar Poland. (GK)

Michał Śliwa, *Demokracja i parlamentaryzm w polskiej refleksji politycznej w XX wieku. Studia i szkice* [Democracy and parliamentarianism in Polish 20th-century political reflection], Kraków, 2014, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Pedagogicznego w Krakowie, 219 pp.

Democracy and parliamentarianism are, clearly, the great subject-matters of Poland's twentieth-century history. However, the reflexion on these issues still remains somewhat superficial. Significantly, no considerable-sized treatise that would comprehensively and critically belabour the scope and meaning of these notions in Polish cultural space has appeared in the last twenty years. The dissertation by Michał Śliwa, an outstanding political thought historian employed with the Pedagogical University of Krakow, is composed of thirteen studies, all previously published elsewhere. The essays raise a number of issues, such as: socialist ideas of self-government; Polish concepts and expectations with respect to twentieth-century democracy; a cycle portraying protagonists of democracy (Stanisław Kutrzeba, Józef Siemieński, Antoni Peretiałowicz, Julian Hochfeld, and others) as well as democracy critics, to name Marek Sobolewski. The author deals with the vicissitudes of the ideas, reminds us of the lives and fates of nineteenth-century democratic activists, and of Polish nobility's democratic traditions. The proposed discussion with Polish critics of liberal democracy (there are such still) appears not as brilliant. Lacking a general conclusion, the book is worthy of careful reading. (GK)

Krzysztof Woźniakowski, *Polskojęzyczna prasa gadzinowa czasów okupacji hitlerowskiej 1939–1945: studia i szkice zebrane* [Polish-language reptile press under the Nazi Occupation, 1939–45: Collected studies and essays], Opole, 2014, Wydawnictwo Naukowe SCRIPTORIUM, 598 pp.

This collection of essays by an outstanding researcher offers an exhaustive survey of the topic. Woźniakowski, an Opole University historian specialising in the German Occupation in the Polish territory, places special emphasis on the cultural aspect of the press offered by the Nazis to Polish readers. Of the five chapters, the first attempts at a synthetic take on the press devised by the Third Reich for Poles; the second discusses the cultural press offer; the third, the industry press: medical, pharmaceutical, and veterinary; chapter four portrays the Polish-language press in the Reich-incorporated area of Poland; finally, chapter five deals with cultural issues as presented by the Wilno daily *Goniec Codzienny*. The author argues that the offer was extensive, with directly anti-Semitic comments appearing quite rarely. This detailed

analysis of the Polish-language press offers points, as well, to the projected reader. A first comprehensive study of the subject-matter, it comprises a bulk of interesting, hitherto-unknown illustrations. (GK)

Piotr Niwiński, *Okręg Wileński AK w latach 1944–1948* [The Home Army Wilno District, 1944–8], Warszawa and Kraków, 2014, Oficyna Wydawnicza Mireki, 581 pp., bibliog., indexes, appendices, ills.

Based on detailed and precise findings, this monographic study concerns an important structure of the Polish Underground State, one that pursued conspiratorial activities for a very long time. Piotr Niwiński has based his research not only on archival documents but also on various accounts of veterans that have been collected over the years. In 1944, the Home Army's Wilno District troops joined the military action against the Germans over Wilno, entering into a tactical cooperation with the Red Army. In January 1945, after the Home Army was dissolved, the District network continued their operations in central Poland, directly reporting to the Supreme Commander. The troops (particularly, the 5th and 6th Brigades, commanded by Zygmunt Szendzielarz, nom-de-guerre 'Łupaszka'), once dislocated, successfully pursued armed anti-communist operations, fighting against the Civic Militia and against Polish and Soviet security units. The book describes the District's organisation, the offensive and defensive actions of its troops (executing NKVD informers and traitors sentenced to death by the military organisation, protecting males from conscription for the Red Army in Wilno land, manufacture and distribution of leaflets and periodicals) and the redeployment of District troops, armament and coffers to central Poland (including the so-called legalisation: some 3,000 soldiers or civil associates received forged IDs and financial support enabling them to continue their activities). 1947 saw the District Command prepare for an expected war between the USSR and the West, by means of intelligence actions. The structure was eventually smashed by the Public Security Ministry in 1948. (BK)

Kazimierz Krajewski, *Na straconych posterunkach. Armia Krajowa na Kresach Wschodnich II Rzeczypospolitej* [At their lost posts. The Home Army in the Second Polish Republic's Eastern Borderland], Kraków, 2015, Wydawnictwo Literackie, 930 pp.

The book synthetically shows the armed activities of the Home Army and its preceding formations in the Polish Eastern Borderland (the *Kresy*), that

is, in the territory of eight north-eastern and south-eastern voivodeships of the Second Republic. The study is arranged chronologically, describing the shaping of Polish partisan troops (1939–41), their increase in terms of strength and numerical force (1941–4), and decomposition (1945–53). Thus, a considerable group of soldiers (whose actual size is still to be determined) waged armed actions and operations for ten years – initially, against the Germans and then against Soviet troops (esp., NKVD). Although the Polish element was a minority in those lands, the Home Army in the Eastern Borderland had 80,000 sworn soldiers as of 1944, of whom 33,000 were mobilised for fighting – all this in spite of Polish political structures (parties) appearing deficient locally (save for the city of Wilno). The Eastern-Borderland Home Army was a sort of *levée-en-masse*, uniting the people from Polish villages and small towns, and extended to Orthodox Belarusian people. The author deals with purely military aspects (such as equipment and armament of the troops, command team members, the functioning of chains of command, and the like) as well as with the political and social effects of Home Army's presence in the Eastern Borderland. The study looks in detail at the Army's fighting against the German troops (Operation 'Tempest', 1944) and pro-German Lithuanian groups, Soviet partisans, Ukrainian nationalist movement (Ukrainian Insurgent Army, UPA), as well as at the mutual contacts of the allies (Home Army and Red Army) in the fight against the common enemy. Last but not least, NKVD repressions are covered at a length. It also reveals various aspects of the fighters' everyday reality (provisioning, courier communication). From 1945 onwards, the operations of Home Army troops were defensive; after the troops were evacuated and most of the Poles repatriated themselves home, the anti-communist armed resistance smouldered in Polesia, in the vicinity of Grodno and Nowogródek [Navahrudak], at least until 1953. The terrorist actions were aimed against the Soviet administration and the agricultural collectivisation. (BK)

Jan Emil Skiwski, *To, o czym się nie mówi. Szkice polityczne z lat 1946–1956* [Things they don't talk about. Political sketches, 1946–56], selected and ed. Maciej Urbanowski, Łomianki, 2014, Wydawnictwo LTW, 343 pp., index of names

Jan Emil Skiwski (1894–1956) was a writer and publicist. An anti-communist, he admired the Italian fascism. He initially sympathised with the leftist-liberal circle of *Wiadomości Literackie* weekly, then with the ruling camp (*Sanacja*), and finally joined the National Democrats. In 1943, he was one of the Poles selected by the Germans to go together with their own delegates to Katyn, in order to see for themselves the graves of the NKVD-murdered Polish

officers. In 1944, under the patronage of the occupational authorities of the Generalgouvernement, he began editing and publishing the periodical *Przełom* [The Breakthrough], where he campaigned for Poles to cease fighting against the Germans. Being one of the very few advocates of agreement with the Third Reich, he had to flee from Poland in 1945 (he was eventually sentenced by default to life imprisonment, for collaboration with Nazi Germany, in 1949). He died in Venezuela, bearing an alias. The book collects Skiwski's political writings (some of them published before by Paris *Kultura* monthly, others first published in this volume). These texts can be used in studies on nascence of radical political attitudes and their unsteadiness. Worshiping authoritarian practices and criticising parliamentary democracy, Skiwski proved unable to ally with any political group for any long time; even as an émigré after the war, he remained an outsider. His convictions, apart from anti-communist, were strongly anti-American as well. His idée fixe was a solidarism of European nations. (BK)

Robert Spałek, *Komuniści przeciwko komunistom. Poszukiwanie wroga wewnętrznego w kierownictwie partii komunistycznej w Polsce w latach 1948–1956* [The communists against the communists. In search of internal enemy within the Polish communist party's leadership team, 1948–56], Warszawa, 2014, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Wydawnictwo Zysk i Spółka, 1133 pp., index of names, bibliog., summary in English

Not much less than 800 communist activists, suspected of misconduct to the Party's detriment, were detained in the years 1948–56 at the Public Security Ministry (Ministerstwo Bezpieczeństwa Publicznego, MBP) facilities. The authority that dealt with these inmates was the Ministry's Department no. 10. Most of the arrested were not sentenced but were used as (prospective) witnesses in the contrived trials of Władysław Gomułka, the Polish Workers' Party leader, his closest associate Marian Spychalski, as well as those of Alfred Jaroszewicz and Włodzimierz Lechowicz (the former was an arms industry official before 1939, the latter was a counterintelligence officer in the Second Republic; both collaborated with the Communist Party of Poland, KPP). The arrestment of Hermann Field, a communism supporting U.S. citizen who was kidnapped by MBP officers in 1949 in Warsaw, is also described. The author extremely systematically discusses the major investigations; he shows the varying political objectives of the 10th Department, the role of Soviet advisors and Polish party leaders in setting the directions for the investigations, the deposition extraction methods (types of torture and chicanery);

also, how the detained behaved under seclusion, and their defence strategies. Spalek has succeeded in portraying the climate of ‘espionage-mania’ so characteristic of Stalinism, and showing its psychical effects within the ruling elite. The monograph enables the reader to penetrate the mentality of Polish communists. (BK)

Maciej Chłopek, *“Zdumiewający świat”. ZSRR i ludzie radzieccy w propagandzie Polski Ludowej lat 1944–1956* [‘The amazing world’. The USSR and Soviet people in the propaganda of the Polish People’s Republic], Radzymin, 2015, Wydawnictwo von Borowiecky, 462 pp., bibliog., index of names, appendices

The title of this monograph does not fully reflect its content. Taking advantage of many types of sources, the study, extremely rich in content, deals with Polish-Russian relations, showing the long duration of national stereotypes and their revivals under Poland’s autonomisation from the Soviet Union after 1956. Chapter one describes the heritage of mutual contacts between Poles and Russians, showing the ways in which the Polish memory of the Partition era, the 1920 war, and the Second World War-time experience (particularly in Poland’s Eastern Borderland after 1939) affected the social image of Russia, Soviet people and the Soviet Union. The last war offered multiple reasons for upholding a negative image of Russian people, who were associated with savagery and cruelty, their country connoting poverty. Chapter two deals with methods and forms of Polish pro-Soviet propaganda after 1944. The propaganda was meant to alter the adverse image of Polish-Russian relationship, its efforts were focused on a reinterpretation of the past and change of the stereotype of Russia. The comprehensive aid provided to Poland by the USSR was a token of friendship between the two nations. The Polish-Soviet Friendship Society (Towarzystwo Przyjaźni Polsko-Radzieckiej, TPPR), which was joined *en masse* (12,000 and 7.1 million members as of 1945 and 1955, resp.), Russian language taught on a compulsory basis at schools and the mass media became the instruments in building the new relations. Chapter three presents the content of the propaganda message on the Soviet Union and its people, targeted at the Poles. Newspapers, movies and radio broadcasts portrayed the USSR as a modern, rationally governed, happy and rich, and peace-seeking country, one that abolishes any national antagonisms. The major inventions – radio, penicillin, aeroplane, and anything like – were made by Russians, the propagandists reassured. Free from the burdens of capitalism, Soviet people were, apparently, idealistic, socially benevolent, humanitarian, hard-working and industrious, courageous, and optimistic. The subsequent chapter shows the ‘off-propaganda’ public perceptions of the USSR. The

communications from the authorities were received disbelievingly by a large portion of the society; sometimes, M. Chłopek persuades us, they were read backwards. The last chapter quotes specific examples of social actions which, in the author's opinion, were meant as responses to the pro-Soviet politics of Polish authorities (e.g. conspiratorial activity, boycotting of propaganda events, profanations of Soviet Army soldiers' cemeteries). The author comes to the conclusion that despite the huge financial outlays and efforts made by the state apparatus, the Stalinist propaganda proved incapable of changing the broadly established negative perception of Russia and the Soviet Union. (BK)

Żbikowski Andrzej, *Sąd Społeczny przy CKŻP: wojenne rozliczenia społeczności żydowskiej w Polsce* [The Social Court affiliated to the Central Committee of Polish Jews: the wartime-related settlements of the Jewish community in Poland], Warszawa, 2014, Żydowski Instytut Historyczny im. Emanuela Ringelbluma, 367 pp.

Written by Andrzej Żbikowski, an eminent historian of Polish nineteenth- and twentieth-century Jewry (member of the Jewish Historical Institute staff and a lecturer at the University of Warsaw), this book deals with a chapter in the history of the Nazi-occupied Poland and the annihilation of Polish Jews that still arouses much controversy, and tends even to be tabooed: namely, collaboration of members of local Jewry with the German Nazi administration and the post-war 'account-squaring' in this respect. The three chapters, concluded with a summary, discuss several dozen of such instances. Doing his best to render the narrative possibly unbiased, the author shows multiple layers of the issue: the historical context; the organisation mechanisms of the post-war Jewish community – above all, the Central Committee of Polish Jews [Centralny Komitet Żydów Polskich]; the contribution from the Polish administration; and, first and foremost, the Jewish trauma of the genocide. The meticulously edited sources are crucial; the several dozen underlying documents have mainly come from the ŻIH Archive, most of them being used for a scholarly purpose for the first time. The book can make a major contribution to de-mythologizing the ever-hot topic it deals with. (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 cashbox: On 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, 628 pp.

A collection of eleven essays, edited and with an introduction written by Jan Grabowski and Dariusz Libionka, two eminent historians focusing on the Holocaust in the Polish territory (and, respectively, the present and former Editor-in-Chief of the leading Polish periodical in the area, *Zagłada Żydów. Studia i Materiały* also published in English, as *Holocaust Studies and Materials*) is yet another attempt at facing the difficult past and painful memory. These essays are arranged into a penetrating analysis of Polish society during and shortly after the war. The newly-forming society is shown from several perspectives; its fears and neuroses appear in the background of an actual revolution in the material and property-related area, which followed the genocide of local Jews and their disappearance from the Polish cultural and social landscape. Some of the essays show the mechanisms of social dialogue and communication between specified interest groups, with the coordinative role of the Nazi German occupational policy (the excellent essay by Ingo Loose). The events and occurrences under discussion have overshadowed the psychosocial condition of Polish community. (GK)

*Na rogu Stalina i Trzech Krzyży: listy do Jerzego Borejszy 1944–1952* [At the corner of Stalin Avenue and Three Crosses Square: Letters to Jerzy Borejsza, 1944–52], selected, edited, with an introduction and footnotes by Grzegorz P. Bąbiak, Warszawa, 2014, Spółdzielnia Wydawnicza 'Czytelnik', 590 pp.

This voluminous edition of letters to Jerzy Borejsza (1905–52), the noted editor and legendary founder of 'Czytelnik' Publishing House, a great 'ambassador' of Polish culture, and a grey eminence of the communist regime in early post-war Poland, is no doubt a valuable source for research on a specified social group and a specified period. The authors of these letters are the cream-of-the-crop among Polish writers and intellectuals of the time (most of them born after 1901).

Most of these letters, picked and assorted somewhat selectively, and elaborately edited, is half-private. Thus, the collection casts much light on, primarily, the character of those acquaintances and the addressee's role in the literary milieu. There is quite a lot of personal requests, expectations

and complaints, but the multiple 'matters-in-hand' appear predominant. These everyday-life fragments make this document collection peculiar, enabling the reader to better understand the complicated and, quite often, dramatic spiritual biographies of the epistlers. 'High-end' rarities are among them too, just to mention a long letter by Julian Tuwim, which in fact expresses this author's post-war ideological credo. The conscientious editorial work goes to the credit of the inestimable editor, Grzegorz P. Bąbiak. An important source in research on the history of Polish intellectual elite in the first half of the twentieth century, the publication invites even broader readership. (GK)

Wojciech Frazik, *Emisariusz Wolnej Polski: biografia polityczna Waława Felczaka (1916–1993)* [An emissary of a Free Poland: A political biography of Waław Felczak (1916–93)], Kraków, 2013, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Wydawnictwo Attyka, 711 pp.

The author, a researcher of the recent history, editor-in-chief of *Zeszyty Historyczne WIN-u* (a periodical dealing with aspects of the history of the 'Freedom and Independence' anticommunist resistance organisation), and member of the staff of the National Remembrance Institute's Public Education Office (Branch of Kraków), has offered the readers an extremely voluminous doctoral thesis. Richly documented, the dissertation is based on the resources from a dozen-or-so Polish and foreign archives, including the National Remembrance Institute, the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in London. It makes use of Waław Felczak's accounts and letters, and of a dozen private collections. Felczak's political biography is chronologically arranged into seven chapters, the wartime and post-war periods (chaps. 3–5) being the most extensive. His ardent patriotism was, in the author's view, the axis around which this man's rich biography was woven.

The dissertation is a catalogue of knowledge on this extraordinary character. A researcher of the history of Hungary and southern Slavs, Felczak was certainly a charismatic figure – the author's fascination with him is apparent at a number of moments. This excellently documented book is virtually unobjectionable in technical and practical terms. Having read it, however, one struggles with a primal doubt: why is Waław Felczak still worth of reading at all? This question, not to say an answer to it, was probably regarded by the Cracow historian not too relevant, or, perhaps, beyond his powers. The book is enriched with several dozen photographs, many of them from private collections. A comprehensive appendix is attached. (GK)

Krzysztof Kania, *Edward Bernard Raczyński, 1891–1993: dyplomata i polityk* [Edward Bernard Raczyński, 1891–1993: a diplomat and politician], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo Neriton, 407 pp.

The character portrayed in this book is an almost model figure for the Polish political emigration of the first half of the twentieth century. Aristocrat and influential diplomat in the Second Republic, easily developed his career (he was employed with the Polish Embassies in Copenhagen and London as well as with the Foreign Ministry's executive level). Since the Second World War, he was an émigré in London; he was one of the last Polish Presidents in exile, in 1979–86. Count Raczyński also held other functions among Polish political emigrants, and was patron of the Liberal International. The author, a young researcher associated with the Toruń-based Nicolaus Copernicus University's Faculty of Humanities, focuses in four narratively capable chapters, on Raczyński's post-war life, seen in the context of the Polish emigration in London. His biography spans three separate periods in the recent history of Poland. The historian had to face an enormous amount of documents produced by Raczyński himself and by the institutions he was associated with (documents, to be sure, scattered all around the world).

While not a particularly innovative approach, it reliably renders the present state of research on the life of Polish political emigration after the Second World War. A powerful aspect of this book is the skilfully used accounts of witnesses to history. In all, the story portrays an ethically integral character, the man whose merits to his country are great but whose political calibre was somewhat secondary. (GK)

Bartosz Kaliski, *Kurierzy wolnego słowa (Paryż–Praga–Warszawa 1968–1970)* [The messengers of free speech (Paris–Prague–Warsaw, 1968–70)], Warszawa, 2014, Instytut Historii im. Tadeusza Manteuffla PAN, 353 pp., photographs

The thing is about a petty but important episode in the history of the People's Republic of Poland, the so-called Tatarniks' case, which affected the smugglers of publications (with no right of circulation and thus, illegal) to Poland from Czechoslovakia. The study has six chapters and a foreword. Described is the specificity of the communist authorities' struggle against the Paris *Kultura* periodical editorial milieu. Next, a readership map is outlined for publications of the Institut Littéraire as read in Poland in the 1960s. The following section portrays main characters of the events to which the title

alludes: Maciej and Barbara Kozłowski, Jakub Karpiński, Krzysztof Szymborski and Maria Tworkowska, are portrayed. The fourth chapter covers *Kultura's* political commentaries on the 1968 Prague Spring events. The next concisely describes the events of 1969, involving the smugglers; the sixth, and last, deals with the political trials that put an end to that episode. In a common view, the Tatarniks' case became one of the major catalysts for the emergence of organised political opposition in the communist-ruled Poland.

An ambitious young-generation researcher of the People's Republic associated with the Polish Academy of Sciences' Institute of History and, for a number of years now, with the 'Solidarity' Archive, Kaliski shows the central episode from several viewpoints. Deftly problematizing the political history of the time and embedding it in the relevant context, he efficiently copes with the increasing literature, and penetrates a number of new sources. While at times the argument seems overloaded with historical details, the narration goes smoothly. In all, the book is a valuable case study in the political history of the People's Republic and the history of Democratic Opposition – not just for specialists in the field. (GK)

Magdalena Grochowska, *Strzelecki. Śladem nadziei* [Strzelecki. In wake of hope], Warszawa, 2014, Świat Książki, series: Autorytety, 638 pp.

The author, an award-winning reporter with *Gazeta Wyborcza* daily (she has to her credit, among others, the prestigious *Polityka* weekly's History Prize and the literary Nike Award, for her monograph of Jerzy Giedroyc, both received in 2009), has revisited a figure that is emblematic for Polish twentieth-century culture. Jan Strzelecki (1919–88) is one of the canon names in Polish sociology, and an outstanding figure in the Democratic Opposition in communist Poland. The book's topic is outlined more broadly, though: it depicts a sort of leftist humanistic utopia which the author endeavours to comprehend, in spite of any "unfair or mischievous contrasts" and "easy tendency for condemnation" (p. 11).

Grochowska has elaborated a (probably) unmistakable writing formula which combines traits of historical, essayistic and biographical narrative into, formally, historical reportage. The reception of a blend of this sort is not always easy. A combination of voices from the epoch researched sometimes makes up a compositional and arrangement potpourri full of milieu-related allusions and sparse threads, becoming legible only if one discerns the specific ambience and map of Warsaw twentieth-century intellectual milieus. It must be admitted, though, that when read carefully, this book becomes an indispensable guide to the history of Polish creative intelligentsia. Witty, wise, instructive and enlightening as it is, the new work by Grochowska

might not be a commercial success comparable to that enjoyed by her earlier books, but will certainly reconfirm this author's strong position in the field of biographical reportage. (GK)

Jerzy Łojek, *Wiek XX. Pisma wybrane* [The 20th century. Selected writings], selected, edited and with an introduction by Marek Kornat, Kraków, 2014, Wydawnictwo Universitas, 653 pp., index of names

A volume of selected writings of Jerzy Łojek (1932–86), a historian specialising in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, who did extensive research on the Polish press and the decline years of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and since the late 1970s dealt with the twentieth-century history, finding himself associating with the Democratic Opposition. The book reprints twenty-six articles and utterances by Łojek and his two major works whose original, underground editions were signed with a penname: *Agresja 17 września 1939. Studium aspektów politycznych* [The aggression of 17th September 1939. A study in its political aspects] (1979) and *Dzieje sprawy Katynia* [The history of the Katyn affair] (1980). While both these studies have become outdated, at the moment of publication they were important contributions to the discussion on the recent past, and were reprinted several times by independent (out-of-state-control) publishers. Jerzy Łojek was a polemical publicist, one that put forth pronounced arguments, which the book under review clearly demonstrates. One of his claims was that Poland should have yielded to Germany's demands regarding Gdansk. His interests in the recent history was reinforced by personal reasons: Jerzy's father was killed in the Katyn massacre. The volume also includes studies on political issues (a.o., Józef Piłsudski; Russo-Japanese War of 1905; patriotism and how it relates to historical education; Polish twentieth century emigration), providing excellent material to historiography historians. (BK)

Bogusław Tracz, *Hippiesi, kudłacze, chwasty. Hipisi w Polsce w latach 1967–1975* ['Hippies', 'mop-heads', 'weeds'. The hippies in Poland, 1967–75], Katowice and Kraków, 2014, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Oddział Katowice, Wydawnictwo Libron, 564 pp., indexes, bibliog., tabs., ill.

Based on multiple types of sources, this excellent monograph of the hippie movement in communist Poland makes use of the methodologies of history

as well as of ethnology and sociology. Tracz briefly describes the history of American hippies and of their European perception, and subsequently portrays Polish youth culture of the 1960s – the soil in which Polish Hippiesism was ingrained. Large cities became the hubs of the hippie movement in People's Republic of Poland. Groups led by charismatic figures like Józef 'Prorok' ['Prophet'] Pyrz (philosophy student at the Warsaw academy of theology) or Ryszard 'Pies' ['Dog'] Terlecki (a Kraków history student) began emerging around 1967. At its peak, the movement numbered some 3,000 members. Many people joined the hippies seasonally to hike with them across the country, out of institutional control of the school or the parents; few tried to live with communes on a permanent basis. The largest hippie jamboree, at the wall of the Marian sanctuary at Jasna Góra, Częstochowa, in August 1971, was attended by some 300 participants. The author describes the hippies' way of life, social composition (a significant proportion of the group was formed of the offspring of communist elite members, along with underclass members), oppression-reluctant spirituality (distanced towards ideology – be it communist or Catholic Church influence; express anti-American attitudes; pacifism and, consequently, refusals to do military service). The issue of drug addiction is discussed quite in detail (types of drugs taken over and manufactured by hippies and the effects of their use). The communist state's negative attitude towards the hippies is described, highlighting the brutal Militia actions of 1971–3. State authorities considered Hippiesism a criminogenic phenomenon, if not a sanitary risk (alleged spreading of venereal diseases, or lice). Long-haired young people were hunted by militiamen and committed to forty-eight hour detention, and forcedly shaven. The press charged hippies of parasitism, idleness, and demoralisation of morals. (BK)

Piotr Osęka, *My, ludzie z Marca. Autoportret pokolenia '68* [We, the people of March. The '68 Generation: a self-portrait], Wołowiec, 2015, Wydawnictwo Czarne, Instytut Studiów Politycznych PAN, 366 pp., series 'Historia', bibliog., index of names

This book exemplifies how the oral history method can be applied in generational studies. It has been based on a hundred interviews and accounts of people identifying themselves with the March 1968 generation in Poland (Osęka being the interviewer in most cases). Among these witnesses of history, sharing their opinions on the March '68 occurrences, one finds members of the 'Commandos' circle – i.e. young Warsaw University student dissidents, along with not-quite-well-known people, including emigrants. The interviewees generally consider the 1968 student strikes, the repressions applied by the authorities against the protesters and the defamatory anti-Semitic propaganda campaign as the constituents of a formative period in

their lives, which they now find extremely important. The author, regrettably, focuses on intellectuals, although he is aware that the protests and street fighting against the law-and-order forces were joined by young labourers and secondary-school students in the country's minor hubs. The first chapter is methodological, the subsequent ones outline the consecutive stages of a collective biography of the protesters at universities, seeking the common ground: starting with childhood years, through to the studies, March '68 and its aftermath – emigration or joining the dissident (Democratic Opposition) ranks. The author goes as far as arguing that the March 1968 Generation decisively contributed to the emergence of the opposition in 1976 and of the 'Solidarity' movement in 1980–1). Albeit Oseka has assumed a 'metropolitan' perspective in his description of the March '68 experience (ignoring the potential history witnesses from provincial areas), his book provides a host of valuable observations on the ideological genealogy of the Generation's activists: as proved by the numerous examples quoted, this genealogy was not utterly communistic or leftist. The numerous quotations from the stories told by the representatives of the revolted generation make the book potentially useful as a source for further research. (BK)

*Wujec. Związki przyjacielskie* [Wujec. Friendly liaisons], Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo Krytyki Politycznej, 373 pp., indexes, ill.

A recollective interview with Ludwika Wujec (born 1941), a Democratic Opposition activist for many years. She was born as Ludwika Okrent into a Jewish working-class family; Ludwika's parents were low-rank members of the Communist Party of Poland (KPP). She spent the Second World War years with them in the Soviet Union (her father was eventually killed in warfare, as a Red Army soldier, in 1945). Ludwika spins a yarn full of anecdotes and details about her juvenescence in a Polish-Jewish educated milieu, her participation in the actions and events of the Social and Cultural Association of Jews in Poland (TSKŻ), her tertiary studies (which she relinquished as she engaged in teaching jobs) as well as her membership with the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR) (which she joined in 1963). Ludwika's ideological maturing for dissident activity (Workers' Defence Committee [KOR] and, later on, 'Solidarity') was accelerated by her relationship with Henryk Wujec, a long-term activist with Warsaw's Catholic Intelligentsia Club (KIK); the couple got married in 1970. Since Henryk's background was a traditional peasant family, their marriage broke certain cultural and mental barriers. The book shows an intricate genealogy of the KOR-circle dissidents, whilst it also offers a bulk of valuable observations on the daily life of students in the 1960s' decade, the 'gender division' in the oppositional and conspiratorial

labour of the 1970s and 1980s, and the participation of former dissentients in the country's political life after 1989. (BK)

Władysław Bartoszewski, Michał Komar, *Kryptonim „Bonza”*. *Życie jednoznacznie podwójne* [Code-name 'Bonza'. An unequivocally double life], Warszawa, 2015, Wydawnictwo PWN, 268 pp., index of persons, ill.

This volume is composed of Władysław Bartoszewski's recollections on Polish émigrés, including those employed with the Radio Free Europe's Polish Section, and Polish intellectuals at home (Marek Skwarnicki, Jan Józef Szczepański, Artur Międzyrzecki, Gustaw Herling-Grudziński, Kazimierz Wierzyński, the Rev. Tadeusz Kirschke, Władysław Szpilman, Leszek Kołakowski, Simon Wiesenthal, and others), with whom Bartoszewski was close friends or who have influenced him the most. The largest passage concerns Jan Nowak-Jeziorański, Director of RFE Polish Section; this section contains a selection of letters exchanged between Nowak and Bartoszewski in 1977–2001. Bartoszewski contributed by stealth with RFE since the early 1960s, sending to the Munich-based editorial staff, via conspiratorial channels, information concerning the political life and Democratic Opposition in communist-ruled Poland. He is also credited with having sent to Paris *Kultura* editorial board (led by Jerzy Giedroyc) numerous important manuscripts which were afterwards published as books or articles. Bartoszewski had known some of the RFE staff from the German Occupation time, some had been his fellows in Polish Underground State activities – the circumstances that generated special interpersonal ties between them and enabled mutual trust. The book is a contribution not only to the memoirist's biography but also to a portrait of the entire wartime generation: the people who continued their acquaintances and contacts, contracted in the occupation years (during the Warsaw Uprising, or otherwise). For those of that formation, free and independent Poland was not an abstract entity but a reality for which they spared no effort, often putting their own lives at risk. (BK)