

SHORT NOTES*

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GENERAL WORKS

Władysław Konopczyński, *Historyka* [Historics], ed. and with an introduction by Maciej Janowski, Instytut Historii Nauki im. Ludwika i Aleksandra Birkenmajerów PAN, Oficyna Wydawnicza Aspra-JR, Warszawa, 2015, 378 pp., indexes, ill.; series: *Fontes Rerum ad Historiam Scientiae Spectantium. Series Recentior*, 5

Historyka is a guide to the methodology of historical research, published over sixty years after the author's death. One of the most eminent researchers of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century history, and the factual initiator of the Polish Biographical Dictionary, Konopczyński has left an enormous historiographic and historical journalistic output but did not specifically deal with methodology of history. Hence, the present study is worthy of note and systematic reading. The first of its three parts describes the specificity of historical research: the scope and categories of history, the attitude of history toward other fields of research, heuristics, internal and external criticism, and the notion of historical fact. The second part describes the role of theory in historical cognition, including causality in history, historical laws, and the character of historical cognition – its forms, types, and quality; also, the metaphysical assumptions in historical research and historical materialism. The third section, entitled 'Additions', identifies the technical conditions of historian's work, such as the structure of the exposition, evaluation of historical studies, organization of the work and research review, remarks on the work on biography, a glimpse on the status of philosophy of history (historiosophy), and the issue of 'historical judgment'. An annex is attached which contains three interesting documents which accompanied the writing of the study. Konopczyński's argument is in the spirit of erudite polemic against Marcei Handelsman's *Historyka*, which was the best known methodological concept of the two interwar decades. In the first place, though, the polemic is targeted against the invasion of historical materialism into Polish historiography in the second half of the 1940s. While experts are the study's projected readers (the book is and remains today a historical document, in its own specific way, it simply cannot reflect the developments that took place in historiography after 1950), it is thoroughly recommendable to all those who critically deal with history. Its strong point is Konopczyński's unique

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writing style; an added value is the argumentative introduction by Maciej Janowski. (GK)

Roman Czaja and Krzysztof Kopiński (eds.), *Piśmienność pragmatyczna – edytorstwo źródeł historycznych – archiwistyka. Studia ofiarowane Profesorowi Januszowi Tandeckiemu w sześćdziesiątą piątą rocznicę urodzin* [Pragmatic literacy – Editing of historical sources – Archive studies: Studies in honour of Professor Janusz Tandecki on the 65th anniversary of his birth], Towarzystwo Naukowe w Toruniu, Toruń, 2015, 706 pp., index, ill.

This extensive publication, compiled in honour of Professor Janusz Tandecki on his 65th anniversary, contains a comprehensive biographical note, a bibliography, and a list of studies written under Tandecki's scholarly supervision. Eight of the thirty-five essays are in German. The texts are pretty varied, ranging from scientific articles to source editions, and chronologically covering the Middle Ages, the modern era as well as our day; grouped into units, they correspond with the notions specified in the book's title. The unit on 'Pragmatic literacy' discusses lay assessors' registers (Żaneta Bonczkowska and Sławomir Józwiak) and peasants' last wills (Janusz Łosowski), among others. 'Archive studies' includes essays on the chancellery at Nowa Wieś near Cracow (Agnieszka Bartoszewicz), methodology of editing of Old Polish archive resources (Waldemar Chorążyczewski), and scientific activities of the State Archives in Toruń (Wiesława Kwiatkowska). The section focused on 'Editing of historical sources' tells us about the epitaph of Boleslaus the Brave (Tomasz Jasiński) and the role of photographic documentation in editions of epigraphic texts (Joachim Zdrenka). (AG)

Dariusz Galewski, Wojciech Kucharski, and Marek L. Wójcik (eds.), *Historia, kultura i sztuka dominikanów na Śląsku 1226–2013. W trzechsetlecie beatyfikacji bł. Czesława* [History, culture and art of the Dominican Order in Silesia, 1226–2013. (On the occasion the 300th anniversary of the beatification of Blessed Czesław)], Oficyna Wydawnicza Atut, Wrocław, 2015, 350 pp., bibliog., index, ill.

An insight into the activities of the Dominican Order in Silesia, this study has been compiled on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the beatification of Czesław, the founder of the Order's convent affiliated to St Adalbert's church in Wrocław. The nineteen essays are grouped into 'History' and 'Culture and

Arts'. The authors have touched upon quite a variety of topics. Part one tells us, among other things, about the beginnings of Blackfriars' monasteries in Silesia (Anna Pobóg-Lenartowicz), the position of Wrocław's Dominicans in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Silesian historiography (Lucyna Harc), and the cult of Blessed Czesław after 1945 (Wojciech Kucharski). Part two offers a discussion of the situation of Dominican convents in the spatial layout of urban areas (Rafał Eysymontt), a description of the cloisters and ambulatories in the Order's convents in the *Polonia* province (Marcin Szyma) and of the furnishings of the Blackfriars Church in Głogów (Arkadiusz Wojtyła), and a history of the organs in Wrocław's St Adalbert's convent and St Joseph's church (Tomasz Gluchowski). (AG)

Piotr Guzowski, Cezary Kuklo, and Radosław Poniak, *O historii integralnej w ujęciu Andrzeja Wyczańskiego* [Integral history in Andrzej Wyczański's concept], Instytut Badań nad Dziedzictwem Kulturowym Europy, Białystok, 2015, 142 pp., ills.; series: *Dissertationes – Instytut Badań nad Dziedzictwem Kulturowym Europy*, 10; *Prace Centrum Struktur Demograficznych i Gospodarczych Przednowoczesnej Europy Środkowo-Wschodniej*, 2

Professor Andrzej Wyczański, who died seven years ago, was one of the major Polish post-war historians. His studies on aspects of social and economic history of the early modern period, in its broadest sense, written in the 1950s and 1960s, are still relevant and form the basis for further research on economic history of early periods. Wyczański's enormous scientific output is appreciated by foreign historiographers as well. Apart from his admirable achievements as a researcher, Professor Wyczański has left a considerable group of students, some of them following up his research work. The book under review, portraying Andrzej Wyczański the man and scholar, is the initiative of Piotr Guzowski, Cezary Kuklo, and Radosław Poniak, all being his former students. Rather than confining themselves to describing a biography of Wyczański and presenting a list of his publications, they have critically and synthetically depicted his output. Two essays describe the major characteristics of Wyczański's scientific work, with a focus on the link between social and economic issues tackled in his studies, his integral approach toward early modern Europe, aspects of interrelation with West European research, and conscious posing of daring research questions. A biography of Professor Wyczański is also presented, along with a hitherto-unknown interview. An essay by Wyczański on the University of Białystok and a bibliography of his works are added. The essays on his output are interesting; they can be of value particularly to the young generation of Polish historians, who

should be reminded of Wyczański the man and the historian. Still, the book is somewhat disappointing; the essays would have probably functioned better if published separately in journals. With a book-format publication, Wyczański's output had better be presented against a broader background, with a focus on how inspiring it potentially is for historians today. (MC)

Joanna Lisek (ed.), *Mykwa – rytuał i historia* [Mikvah: the ritual and its history], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, Wrocław, 2015, 243 pp., ill.; series: Bibliotheca Judaica, ed. by Marcin Wodziński, 9

This collection, edited by a scholar specialising in the history of culture of Polish Jewry, employed with the Department of Jewish Studies at the University of Wrocław, is composed of fourteen studies that are basically subjected to one comprehensively analysed issue. The essays portray the cultural phenomenon of Jewish ritual baths called mikvah (or mikveh) based on an interdisciplinary approach, that is, taking into account the architectural, archaeological, folkloristic, and gender studies-related aspects. Quite obviously, a historical perspective, enabled by detailed archival research, is employed as well. The aforesaid Jewish Studies Department – Joanna Lisek being one of its keystone figures – has to its credit a number of conferences and workshops on the history and culture of Polish Jews; and, it is one of Poland's major centres of studies in Yiddish culture. With Lisek's recent book, the reader can better perceive one more fragment of the universe of Eastern European Jewry. Mikvah was one of the centres of the 'shtetl world'. The reader is introduced into the role and function of mikvahs in Hasidic communities as well as within the sphere of collective memory as recorded in memory books; furthermore, a series of detailed issues related to the processes of Jewish modernisation and rabbinic law are discussed. The volume's contributors are mostly Polish authors, associated with the resilient Jewish studies hubs of Wrocław and Cracow. There are co-authors from Israel and the United States, which is part of the publisher's established good practice. Designed basically for specialists, the collection of essays under review can prove no less useful to historians of culture and mentality. (GK)

Piotr Augustyniak, *Homo Polacus. Eseje o polskiej duszy* [Homo Polacus: Essays on the 'Polish soul'], Wydawnictwo Znak, Kraków, 2015, 192 pp.

This collection of eighteen essays by a literary critic and essayist who contributes to opinion-forming quarterlies *Przegląd Polityczny* (Gdańsk) and *Znak*

(Cracow), philosopher, translator, and lecturer at the Cracow University of Economics, offers a new reading of the output of a dozen-or-so Polish cultural figures of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Analysed are the works or ideas of Henryk Sienkiewicz and Stanisław Brzozowski, Roman Dmowski, Joseph Conrad, the Rev. Józef Tischner, as well as a dozen of our contemporary authors. They are often juxtaposed and counterpointed: Dmowski vs Józef Piłsudski; Witkacy (Stanisław I. Witkiewicz) vs Bruno Schulz and Andrzej Bobkowski; Czesław Miłosz vs Zbigniew Herbert, Jarosław Marek Rymkiewicz, and Witold Gombrowicz. References to Mickiewicz, Conrad, or Nietzsche (who appears in the opening essay) resurface throughout the volume. Poland and Polishness was what these authors contemplated and – as Augustyniak convincingly tells us – has been a pretty topical issue, which was also true with those absorbed by a revolutionary fever. ‘How to think Poland up anew, and (re)build it’: such is the question that reappears throughout the volume. Although the topic seems thoroughly exhausted, this excellently written collection offers a series of original observations. At some points, descriptions related to a distant past, or time immemorial, are potent enough to aptly comment on the local present-day realities. The book is thus, all in all, a sort of a palimpsest composed of critical historical essays and reflexions on the modern times: a refreshing and inspiring reading, not specifically for those keen on history of ideas or Polish social thought. (GK)

MIDDLE AGES

Anselm z Canterbury [Anselm of Canterbury], *O gramatyku. Dialog o paronimach* [On the grammarian: A dialogue on paronyms], ed. and with an introduction by Monika Malmon, trans. by Monika Malmon and Tadeusz Grzesik, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin, 2015, 160 pp., bibliog.

Co-authored by Tadeusz Grzesik and Monika Malmon, this Polish translation (with the original text juxtaposed with it) of Anselm’s work is furnished with a concise introduction and an extensive and clear commentary (by Malmon) describing Anselm’s life and philosophy. The translation is based on a 1938 critical edition by Francis S. Schmitt. The English translation of Desmond Paul Henry’s was taken advantage of, including as the source of a summary that helps understand Anselm’s work (translated for the purpose by Malmon). The Polish edition comprises a small but satisfactory amount of footnoting. (AG)

Teresa Wolińska and Paweł Filipczak (eds.), *Bizancjum i Arabowie. Spotkanie cywilizacji VI–VIII wiek* [Byzantium and the Arabs: A meeting of civilisations, sixth–eighth century], Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa, 2015, 536 pp., bibliog., index, ill.

This work by a team of researchers associated with the ‘Professor Waldemar Ceran’ Centre for Studies in the History and Culture of the Mediterranean and East Central Europe (the ‘Ceraneum’) at the University of Łódź, deals with the relations and relationships between Byzantium and the Arab world. The book has nineteen chapters grouped into four sections arranged in a chronological order. The first section discusses the events prior to Arab conquest of the Byzantine dominion in the Middle East; we can learn about the Byzantine administration (Paweł Filipczak) as well as Arabic religious cults preceding Islam (Zofia Brzozowska). The conquest of the region is described in the second section. The third depicts the administrative situation after the conquest (Hassan Badawy, Błażej Cecota) and the fate of the Christians in the territory in question (Marta Woźniak). The last section reviews the sources related to the conquest, produced in various geographies – including Arabic (Marek M. Dziekan) as well as Greek, Syrian, or Coptic (Teresa Wolińska, Błażej Cecota). The book is an introduction to the complex issues of mutual Arab–Byzantine relations. (AG)

Józef Dobosz and Jerzy Strzelczyk (eds.), *Chryścianizacja Europy. Kościół na przełomie I i II tysiąclecia* [Christianisation of Europe: The Church at the turn of the second Millennium], Wydawnictwo Naukowe UAM, Poznań, 2014, 292 pp., summary in English, ill.; series: Historia, 226

The study, written by a team of authors, has been produced as part of the National Programme for the Development of Humanities (NPRH) grant. As the editors announce in the introduction, it comes as the first part of a trilogy whose central topic is Christianisation of Europe. The authors are renowned scholars. Of the four sections, the first deals with the origins and beginnings of Christianity in the Roman Empire. The second consists of two essays on the phenomena on the borderline of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam: Rafał Witkowski writes of proselytising and converting individuals and groups (Khazar people) to Mosaic religion, and a brief outline (by Zdzisław Pentek) of the relations between religious minorities and the dominant groups, based on the story of Jews among Christians and Christians (plus, to a lesser degree, Jews) under the Muslim rule is given. The following section deals with aspects

of pagan religions. Stanisław Rosik looks into the Slavs and the Balts; Leszek Paweł Słupecki deals with the Germanic people. The last and broadest section deals mainly with the expansion of Christianity into areas not forming part of the Roman Empire, Ireland being an example; although not within the Empire, the Germanics are covered as well. (AG)

Małgorzata Dąbrowska, *Drugie oko Europy. Bizancjum w średnio-wieczu* [Europe's other eye: Byzantium in the Middle Ages], Wydawnictwo Chronicon, Wrocław, 2015, 362 pp., summary in English, ill.

This is a collection of nineteen texts (written in 1992–2013, one of them published for the first time) of various types, including scientific studies, interviews, and more. The array of the issues dealt with is pretty broad: from the presence of Byzantium in the West in the Ottonian dynasty's time, through the Fourth Crusade, up to the decline of the Eastern Empire. Małgorzata Dąbrowska makes use of the literature that is easily accessible, in most cases. The author follows Ewa Wipszycka's principle to show the 'smartest' studies only. However, some readers might probably be moderately satisfied with the choice she has made. (AG)

Przemysław Mrozowski, Paweł Tyszka, and Piotr Węcowski (eds.), *Europa Jagellonica 1386–1572. Sztuka, kultura i polityka w Europie Środkowej za panowania Jagiellonów* [*Europa Jagellonica, 1386–1572: Art, culture, and politics in Central Europe during the reign of the Jagiellonian dynasty*], Arx Regia – Ośrodek Wydawniczy Zamku Królewskiego, Warszawa, 2015, 280 pp., bibliog., index, summaries in English and German, ill.; series: Zamek Królewski w Warszawie – Muzeum. Studia i Materiały, 5

The book, dedicated to the late Rev. Urszula Borkowska, OSU, is a collection of papers delivered at a scientific session held at the Royal Castle in Warsaw on 11 and 12 January 2013. The ten essays it contains, all written by scholars of renown, cover quite a broad range of research issues related to the Jagiellons. For instance, the relationship between the Jagiellon rulers and Muscovy (Hieronim Grała), or the royal house and the magnates (Piotr Węcowski) are discussed. Whilst historians prevail among the authors, two essays deal with aspects of history of art: 'The Jagiellons and the arts' (Marek Walczak) and an article on residences of King Sigismund I the Old in the context

of his dynastic policy (Tomasz Torbus). Meticulously and nicely edited, the book offers black-and-white illustrations only. All the essays have an English summary added (an exception being Torbus's text, with an abstract in German appended). (AG)

Marcin Grulkowski, Beata Możejko, and Sobiesław Szybkowski (eds.), *Katalog dokumentów i listów królów polskich z Archiwum Państwowego w Gdańsku (do 1492 roku)* [A catalogue of documents and letters of Polish kings from the National Archive in Gdańsk (before 1492)], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, Gdańsk, 2014, 460 pp., bibliog., index

The catalogue has been compiled as part of a National Programme for the Development of the Humanities grant. Originally, a catalogue was meant to cover the chronology until the date of King Alexander I Jagiellon's death (1506), but once the authors found funding to be unsatisfactory, they decided to split the project into two parts. The volume comprises a total of 490 registers (*regesta*) of documents. The editors focused on complete texts of documents and letters, ignoring those extant in fragments. The query was based, as they say, on 'the archival inventories', and so they cannot preclude that some objects stored at the Gdańsk archive might have not been included in the present edition. Each of the published texts is described in terms of place and date of issuance, reference number (shelf mark), source status, material, salutations, issuer data, complimentary closes, witnesses, corroborations, causative formulas, etc. The existing editions are mentioned (some relevant regional and modern publications are missing, though). (AG)

Przemysław M. Szewczyk and Małgorzata Jesiotr (trans.); Monika Ożóg and Henryk Pietras (eds.), *Księga Pontyfików, [i:] 1–96 (do roku 772) / Liber Pontificalis. I–XCVI (usque ad annum 772)* [The Book of the Pontiffs, [i:] 1–96 (before 772)], Wydawnictwo Akademii Ignatianum, Wydawnictwo WAM, Kraków, 2014, 639 pp., bibliog.; series: Synody i Kolekcje Praw / Synodi et Collectiones Legum, 9; Źródła Myśli Teologicznej, 74 Małgorzata Jesiotr, Bogusława Frontczak, and Agnieszka Caba (trans.); Monika Ożóg and Henryk Pietras (eds.), *Księga Pontyfików, [i:] 97–112 (772–891) / Liber Pontificalis. XCVII–CXII (ann. 772–891)* [The Book of the Pontiffs, [i:] 97–112 (years 772–891)], Wydawnictwo Akademii Ignatianum, Wydawnictwo WAM,

Kraków, 2015, 632 pp., index; series: Synody i Kolekcje Praw / Synodi et Collectiones Legum, 10; Źródła Myśli Teologicznej, 75

A year after volume 1 was published, the edition of a Polish version of the *Liber Pontificalis* was completed. The publication was enabled based on a National Science Centre (NCN) grant. The edition includes the *Liber* 'proper' and thus ends with 891, the year Pope Stephen V died. The two volumes are mutually complementary and should be discussed together. The first part opens with an extremely concise introduction to the whole edition (a mere nine pages), drawing the reader's attention to the main issues. However, the rich bibliography collected by the authors is much more useful. The Polish translation is based on the text edited by Louis Duchesne and complemented by publications of sources prepared by Theodor Mommsen (Chronography of 354). The translation, embellished with a reasonable number of content-related notes, is correct. Extensive indexes of churches, persons, and places contained in volume 2 complement the edition. Highly commended is the inclusion of a glossary of terms, particularly given the fact that not all of them are translatable within the core text. Some explanations form in themselves an extensive discussion on the character and meaning of the term in question. ('Amphora' as an entry is somewhat awkward all the same.) (AG)

Tadeusz Jurkowlaniec, *Nagrobki średniowieczne w Prusach* [Medieval tombstones in Prussia], Instytut Sztuki Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Warszawa, 2015, 416 pp., bibliog, index, ill.

The book is a catalogue of tombstones from the territory of medieval Prussia, which is, basically, the land settled by the Teutonic Order around the middle of the fourteenth century. The assumed chronology begins with the first preserved tombstones, dated late twelfth – early thirteenth century. 1525 is the end date, but later tombstones whose 'Gothic' style is recognisable are also included. Apart from the catalogue, the author ponders over problems related to specimens of sepulchral art: the epitaph of Julius Welser; the tombstones in Gdańsk's St Mary's Basilica; the tombstones of Bishop Stryprock, Bishop Linke, or a bishop's tombstone in Chełmno. The role of the symbols of the Evangelists in tombstone iconography is also discussed. The constituent studies are, to an extent, separate essays (abstracts in German are added to each). The photographs and illustrations displayed in the catalogue, whose content is arranged by location, are of satisfactory quality. Apart from a description of the object – its appearance, reconstructed method of making, location and present-day condition – information on the buried person is added. (AG)

Marcin Grulkowski, *Najstarsze księgi miejskie Głównego Miasta Gdańska z XIV i początku XV wieku. Studium kodykologiczne* [The earliest municipal registers of the Main City of Gdańsk, the fourteenth and early fifteenth century: A codicological study], Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne, Instytut Historii PAN, Wydawnictwo Neriton, Warszawa, 2015, 546 pp., bibliog., index, summary in English, ill.; series: *Studia i Materiały do Dziejów Kancelarii w Gdańsku. Seria A, Studia*, 1

The book is based on a PhD thesis submitted by the author in 2009 under tutelage of Beata Możejko. Albeit the output of codicology, a discipline auxiliary to history, has been used in research into sacral and literary texts, it may also be of use, Grulkowski declares, in investigation of pragmatic literacy. The first of the two sections introduces aspects of the issue in question, discussing the original sources (published and unpublished texts), explaining the notion of ‘municipal register’, or ‘city book’. The applicable research methodology is discussed in Chapter 3. Section 2 discusses the casings, external appearance, and internal arrangement of Gdańsk’s oldest registers. A pretty detailed quasi-catalogue is thus formed. The author follows the lines of a questionnaire, describing the casing, the structure of the book, and, lastly, the ‘writing scheme’ used (sheets split by lines facilitating the physical process of writing down the text). A chapter on the chancellery system concludes the volume. (AG)

Radosław Biskup and Andrzej Radziwiński (eds.), *Parafie w średniowiecznych Prusach w czasach Zakonu Niemieckiego od XIII do XVI w.* [Parishes in Medieval Prussia in the time of the Teutonic Order, thirteenth to sixteenth century], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń, 2015, 370 pp., index, ill.; series: *Ecclesia Clerusque Temporibus Medii Aevi*, 4

The book comes with support of an NCN grant, another project based on the same grant being a database on parish churches in the State of the Teutonic Order (<http://www.parafie.umk.pl>). Consisting of thirteen essays, the book deals with a variety of issues related to the history of the parishes. Apart from general outlines or contributions to broader topics (Grzegorz Białuński’s essay on the so-called Grand Primeval Forest [*Grosse Wildnis*] parishes), more detailed studies can be found (such as Radosław Biskup’s discussion of the so-called Uppsala form [15th c.]). An edition (by Marcin Sumowski) of the accounts run by the *witryk* (secular co-administrator of the parish/church and its property) of St James’s Church in Toruń is also

included. The essays are strictly related to the region's history. The authors are, mainly, historians as well as historians of art (Alicja Grabowska-Lysenko, Monika Jakubek-Raczkowska). (AG)

Aleksander Paroń, *Pieczynowie. Koczownicy w krajobrazie politycznym i kulturowym średniowiecznej Europy* [The Pechenegs: Nomads in the Political and Cultural Landscape of Medieval Europe], Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii PAN, Wrocław, 2015, 520 pp., bibliog., index, summary in English, ill.

The book is a revised and expanded (and partly completely rewritten) version of the author's doctoral thesis, successfully completed in 2005 under the supervision of Lech Leciejewicz. The text consists of three parts (not marked in the table of contents but indicated in the Introduction): the first, introductory part (Chapters 1–3) discusses the natural conditions of the region populated by the Pechenegs, the history of the Black Sea and Caspian basin steppes before the Pecheneg people came over, and the people's earliest history. Part 2 (Chapter 4) looks into the organisation and structure of the Pecheneg people, including aspects of their 'economy' as well as 'ethnic identity and system of values'. The third part makes the reader acquainted with the Pechenegs' political history until the decline of this people's importance in the region. The study investigates the Pechenegs in the context of other nomadic people. The events and their course are described without entering into methodological divagations; thus, Paroń's approach remains essentially traditionalistic. (AG)

Przemysław Urbańczyk, *Zanim Polska została Polską* [Before Poland became Poland], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń, 2015, 440 pp., bibliog., index, ill.

The book, another publication by Przemysław Urbańczyk on the state of the earliest Piast rulers, prevalently summarises and reconceptualises the views proposed by this scholar so far, rather than posing new hypotheses. The reader will get to know that there were no Polani people, or that the name *Polonia* was coined at the court of Boleslaus the Brave (Bolesław Chrobry), among other pretty astonishing findings. Written in a fluent manner and with a gusto, the book might even look popular-scientific, even if the numerous (Harvard-formatted) references to the literature be taken into account. The book would however call for a more careful editorial hand. To give an example, the name of Constantine VII Porphyrogenetos appears in a Polonised form

(‘Konstantyn VII Porfirogeneta’, p. 14), twice in the Latinised form (Constantinus Porphyrogenetus) with the variant ‘Porfirogeneta’ added in brackets (pp. 92, 353), and lastly, once, just the Latin form is used (p. 359). (AG)

Stanisław A. Sroka, *Węgry* [Hungary], Wydawnictwo Poznańskie, Poznań, 2015, 380 pp., bibliog., ill., map; series: Początki Państw

Preceded by the studies on Ruthenia and Bohemia, the book comes as another volume in the popular-science series on the origins of countries. It deals with the history of the people and state of Hungary from the very first beginnings up to the twelfth-century decline. Despite its popular character, the book has an extensive bibliography. The focus is on political history, the rulers being portrayed in a chronological order; disputable questions are not avoided. Although the kings are dominant in Sroka’s argument, problems other than dynastic and political have also been covered to an extent: there are chapters on the pagan religion of the Hungarians, the Christianisation, and a ‘literacy-based culture’. A map featuring basic data, a family tree of the Árpáds and a few colour reproductions from the *Chronicon Pictum* (*Chronica de Gestis Hungarorum*) are added (the latter is remarked on the editorial page, but without a full bibliographical note). (AG)

Jakub Morawiec and Łukasz Neubauer (eds.), *Sagi islandzkie. Zarys dziejów literatury staronordyckiej* [Icelandic sagas: An overview of the history of Old Norse Literature], Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa, 2015, 233 pp., bibliog., index, ill.

A work of a team of authors, the book is a meticulously and skilfully compiled panorama of the Icelandic saga as a literary genre. The various types of the saga are discussed. Marta Rey-Radlińska focuses on the *Þættir/Þátr* – short, formulaic pieces, often forming part of larger sagas – as a narrative form. Royal sagas (Jakub Morawiec, Aleksandra Jochymek) and contemporary sagas (Dominika Skrzypek), being texts on events taking place in the thirteenth century, are portrayed; Icelandic hagiography is discussed as well (Joanna Srholec-Skórzeska). The studies are split into reasonably delineated sub-chapters; examples of the types and genres in question are quoted, their formal characteristics discussed, etc. Altogether, the book is an excellent introduction and guide to Icelandic sagas. Moreover, the style used by the authors makes the book potentially useful not just to experts in the field but also to a broader reading public. (AG)

Nikolaj A. Aleksejenko [Nikolai A. Alexeenko], *Sfragistyka bizantyńska. Molibdobule Chersonu* [The Byzantine sigillography: The *molibdobule* from Chersonesos], trans. by Edward Skibiński, ed. by Andrzej B. Biernacki and Edward Skibiński, Instytut Historii UAM, Poznań, 2015, 116 pp., bibliog., ill.

The book offers an extended, written version of a cycle of lectures originally delivered by Nikolai Alexeenko at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. The papers, grouped into five chapters, deal with aspects of Byzantine sigillography. Chapter 1 offers a reliable introduction to the subject, with a special focus on Byzantium. The other chapters refer to specific problems, covering a variety of subject-matters. Chapter 2 discusses legends pictured in seals, and how they are situated amid the 'strata of archaeological excavations' (this mostly being an account of the recent archaeological research leading to successful finds of seals). Chapters 3 and 4 depict Chersonesos and other towns of the region, the city's administration and, in a broader context, its relations and relationships with Byzantium. In the last chapter, Alexeenko refers to the influence of Christianity on the representations on the seals. The book includes a number of black-and-white photographs of seals, mostly clear and of good quality. The footnoting is sparse. The essays are written with zest, in a way that even amateurs can enjoy. A glossary of terms related to the official titles and offices used in Byzantium, attached at the end, is quite useful. (AG)

Zofia Brzozowska, *Sofia – upersonifikowana Mądrość Boża. Dzieje wyobrażeń w kręgu kultury bizantyńsko-słowiańskiej* [Sophia, or, Holy Wisdom personified: A history of idea in the Byzantine-Slavic culture], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź, 2015, 480 pp., bibliog., index, summaries in English and Russian, ill.; series: *Byzantina Lodziensia*, 24

The book is based on a PhD thesis submitted by the author at the University of Łódź (and supervised by Teresa Wolińska). The dissertation and the book have been produced as part of an NCN grant. The author's focus is medieval iconographical and literary representations of Sophia – the Divine (or Holy) Wisdom, encompassing the period from the tenth/eleventh century until the so-called post-Byzantine period (sixteenth/seventeenth cc.), which is based on the character of the Old Church Slavonic sources, including the relevant literature, on the one hand, and the late consequences of several investigated facts or occurrences, on the other. The subject-matter is generally limited to the Orthodox Slavdom, which extends to Bulgars, Serbs, and Ruthenians.

For quite obvious reasons, Byzantium, the seedbed of the cult of Sophia, forms the context of the argument. Organised into five chapters, the study deals with ideas of Divine Wisdom in eastern Christianity, sources of the idea's personification, and representations of Sophia as the inspirer of saints in iconography (illuminated miniatures in manuscripts, seals, other). The motif of the feast of Wisdom is discussed, as is Sophia in the culture of Veliky Novgorod. Sections of the book have been published separately, as essays in Polish or English. The author has made use of a rich bibliography featuring more than 600 studies. Colour illustrations of good technical quality complement the book. (AG)

Jakub Wysmułek, *Testamenty mieszczan krakowskich (XIV–XV wiek)* [Testaments of burghers of Cracow, 14th–15th century], Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne, Wydawnictwo Neriton, Warszawa, 2015, 411 pp., bibliog., index, summary in English, ills.

This study in Cracow testaments (the author has found as many as 537, produced by 447 people in total) is a revised and extended version of a doctoral dissertation, originally submitted under the supervision of Agnieszka Bartoszewicz (2013). Of the four chapters, the first mainly deals with the testaments as such, set in the historical context of 'testament' (last will) in medieval Europe and its beginnings in the Polish lands. Discussed are the reasons why such documents were prepared, the various types of will, and so on. The next chapter offers a sort of sociological view of the authors of testaments, discussing the categories of testators one by one, based on a variety of criteria (affluence, gender, etc.). Chapters 3 and 4 deal, respectively, with family in the light of testaments and religiosity of burghers. A catalogue of wills investigated by Wysmułek is appended. (AG)

Andrzej Dąbrówka and Mikołaj Olszewski (eds.), *Komentarz Jana z Dąbrówki do Kroniki biskupa Wincentego* [Jan of Dąbrówka's commentary to Master Vincentius's *Chronica Polonorum*], Stowarzyszenie Pro Cultura Litteraria, Instytut Badań Literackich PAN. Wydawnictwo, Warszawa, 2015, 350 pp., indexes, ills.; series: *Studia Staropolskie*. Series Nova, 42 (98)

The essays collected in the volume have been produced on the occasion of the Medievalists' Encounters whose recent, 26th edition focused on the commentary authored by Jan of Dąbrówka, a professor with the University of Cracow, to the Chronicle by Master Vincentius (Wincenty Kadłubek)

(*Commentum in Chronicam Polonorum*, ca. 1435). The Chronicle itself was debated at the 2008 Encounters session (cf. Andrzej Dąbrówka and Witold Wojtowicz [eds.], *Onus Athlanteum. Studia nad Kroniką biskupa Wincentego*, 2009). The book under review has three parts. The first, 'Historiography', discusses issues related to the current state of research on the works by Jan of Dąbrówka, characterises the type of historical writing represented by the *Commentum*, and offers remarks on seven lesser historiographic works by Jan that tend to be omitted by researchers. Part two primarily deals with the Commentary; it also discusses the origins and the glossatory nature of medieval historical commentary in the eleventh to fifteenth centuries. The authors of this section refer to the sources originally used by Jan, describe his techniques as a commentator, his intellectual formation, and the philosophy of history proposed in his writings. These most recent studies on *Commentum* and other texts penned by Jan are complementary with the recent edition of the former work (2008). The third part, 'Scientific contributions', includes texts considering the creative follow-ups and diverse depictions offered by Jan as commentator (the examples being the mythical figure of Queen Wanda, or the ethnogenesis of Slavs), his geographical erudition, and more. A transcript of the discussion that took place during the conference is included at the end. Based on this collection of essays, one perceives the *Commentum* as an original text: it was the first Polish 'textbook' designed for use in a university course, and a work embedded in the historiographical reflection of the Cracow intellectual milieu. The authors have managed to strike an appropriate proportion between presentation of the author and his work, on the one hand, and description of the context in which the Commentary was produced, against a broader European historiographical background, on the other. (APW)

Jarosław Wenta and Magdalena Kopczyńska (eds.), *The cinematic discourse on the Middle Ages (in central Europe and beyond)*, Nicolaus Copernicus University Press, Toruń, 2015, 162 pp., bibliog., ill.; series: *Spatia Mediaevalia: studies in the perception of Medieval culture*, 2; Publikacje Centrum Mediewistycznego Wydziału Nauk Historycznych UMK, 6

The second volume in the series 'Spatia Mediaevalia' discusses television and cinematic portrayals of the Middle Ages. The topics collected in a total of ten English-language articles form a rather eclectic whole. The motion picture on the origins of Poland (*Gniazdo*, described by Jarosław Nikodem) appears alongside a portrayal of medieval Japan (Adam Bednarczyk), for instance. The problem visible in the book is not unusual when experts in a given field take

up an issue other than their speciality. Historians specialising in the Middle Ages are not film experts, and *vice versa*. Minor errors with regards to facts or phenomena appear from time to time (as in the misconceived chronology between political events and Sergey Eisenstein's films). Altogether, however, the book is important and useful. (AG)

EARLY MODERN TIMES

Paweł Tyszka, *W cieniu wielkiego kanclerza. Barbara z Tarnowskich Zamoyska* [Overshadowed by the great chancellor: The life of Barbara Zamoyska, née Tarnowska], Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne, Wydawnictwo Neriton, Warszawa, 2015, 372 pp., bibliog., index, summary in English, ill.

The central character in this monograph is Barbara Zamoyska, née Tarnowska, the last wife of Chancellor Jan Zamoyski and mother of Tomasz Zamoyski, Grand Chancellor of the Crown and Castellan of Cracow. While Barbara's husband and son have enjoyed considerable interest among historians, her own life was not dealt with until this biography. Thus, the gap has been at least partly filled, as intended by the author. The book is not a typical biography, though, which would offer a detailed reconstruction of the stages of the character's life. Having regard to the poor condition of the original records, the author has endeavoured to show various aspects of Barbara's life and to dig deeper down into her character. The monograph is based on a collection of Barbara Zamoyska's letters presently kept at the Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych (Central Archives of Historical Records, AGAD). Of the two basic sections of the monograph, the first, building upon earlier studies by Wojciech Tygielski, analyses the extant correspondence in detail, portraying the circle of those with whom Barbara exchanged letters. Discussed are the contents of her correspondence with her husband, son, and other relatives, and with members of the lordly elite, including senators, as well as with scribes or clerks of the Zamoyski administration. The following sections portray the members of Zamoyska's court. The last two chapters describe her patronage activities, in a broad sense: her endeavours in the area of political favouritism and patronage over Church institutions. The author's considerations are concluded with a chapter on Zamoyska's business activities. Tyszka's argument is richly illustrated with quotations from the correspondence, thus offering the reader a fascinating piece of reading, deeply immersed in the realities of the period. Barbara Zamoyska's activities are portrayed against a broad background of social and political history of her time; hence, the monograph is not merely an interesting contribution to the studies on the history of

women but brings much new to the research on the functioning of magnate factions in Poland-Lithuania. (MC)

Tomasz Jurek (ed.), *Dyplomatyka staropolska* [Diplomatics in the Old Polish period], Instytut Historii PAN, Wydawnictwo DiG, Warszawa, 2015, 559 pp., ill.; series: Nauki Pomocnicze Historii – Seria Nowa

Published in the series run by the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, the study has a rather imprecise title as its chronological scope extends to the Middle Ages and the nineteenth century, geographically spanning beyond Poland-Lithuania. This extensive monograph by several authors is a compendium of knowledge on documents compiled in Polish chancelleries between the medieval time and the nineteenth century. The specificity of documents issued by various chancelleries is discussed across the seventeen sections. Polish diplomatics is presented against a broad background of international studies. Three theoretical chapters by Tomasz Jurek and Krzysztof Skupieński are introductory; they depict the history of diplomatics as a science as well as the evolution of documents. Next, documents compiled in central chancelleries are discussed (Waldemar Chorażyczewski), as are the Crown Metrica and the Lithuanian Metrica (Wojciech Krawczuk), Masovian chancelleries (Janusz Grabowski), records of nobility courts-of-law and offices (Janusz Łosowski). Chancelleries of religious institutions are discussed separately, but only with respect to the Catholic Church (Maria Koczerska) and Protestant Churches (Maciej Ptaszyński). The activities of municipal (Janusz Tandecki) and rural chancelleries (Janusz Łosowski) are discussed in detail, which is also the case with private ones (Krzysztof Syta). The last chapters deal with Silesian, West Pomeranian, and Teutonic chancelleries. The book is the first detailed discussion of the history of chancelleries and production of documents in Polish lands, which makes it useful to students learning how to deal with documents as well as to full-fledged historians. (MC)

Historia o szlachetnej a pięknej Meluzynie [A story of the noble and beautiful Melusina], ed. by Roman Krzywy, Wydział Polonistyki Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Sub Lupa, Warszawa, 2015, 308 pp., bibliog., ill.; series: Biblioteka Dawnej Literatury Popularnej i Okolicznościowej, 20

The book is the twentieth volume in the series called *Biblioteka Dawnej Literatury Popularnej i Okolicznościowej* ('The Library of Early Popular and

Occasional Literature’). Funded under a NPRH grant, it is a modern edition of a Polish translation of the story of Melusina, penned by Marcin Siennik, based on the text’s revised edition dated 1731. The annex attached comprises the earliest preserved, though incomplete, edition from 1671. The core text is preceded with an introduction discussing, pretty sketchily, the history of the original text and its Polish translations. General remarks on epic as a genre and marketplace stories are added. The proposed transcription sparsely uses modernising elements. The note on the rules of the present edition describes in detail all the alterations made to the text. Conjectures to the 1731 and 1671 editions, not otherwise explained within the text, are detailed separately. A number of notes have been added to facilitate the reading. Regrettably, no comprehensive bibliography is appended – only the literature quoted in the notes to the translated text is listed. Of the five illustrations, two are taken from an unknown Polish edition, two other show the title pages of the 1671 and 1731 editions, and one shows a map of *Poitwu* (Poitiers) from a seventeenth-century publication. (AG)

Michał Gochna, *Porządki jako największe i najlepsze. Bogusław Radziwiłł w dziejach Węgrowa – rola magnata w funkcjonowaniu miasta prywatnego* [‘Orders, the greatest and best’: Bogusław Radziwiłł in the history of Węgrów. The role of a magnate in the functioning of a private town], Towarzystwo Miłośników Ziemi Węgrowskiej, Węgrów, 2016, 154 pp., annexes (maps, archival documents), ill.

Bogusław Radziwiłł is primarily perceived in terms of his political activity. Studies on the princely magnate’s economic activities are scarce; in point of fact, he owned and conceptually ran a great latifundium. The study in question attempts to discuss this particular aspect of Bogusław’s activity. The concept – a discussion of the role of a magnate as administrator of a private town, seems basically quite attractive; however, Michał Gochna’s study appears disappointing. Of the three basic sections, two (nearly half of the book’s volume) describe the history of the town of Węgrów before Bogusław became its proprietor. Based entirely on the existing literature, the description tells us nothing new. The third section, central to the topic, primarily analyses legal documents issued by Bogusław Radziwiłł. Whilst reliably summarising the pretty voluminous original records and offering vast amounts of relevant detail, the section lacks satisfactory analyses or conclusions. Hiding behind an inductive method, which is apparently based on a detailed description of the selected urban hub, the author limits his argument to Węgrów, thus referring to the literature to an unsatisfactory

extent and avoiding to outline any broader background. All in all, the book is underwhelming. As it seems, the question about the role of magnates as (co-)administrators of private towns in Poland-Lithuania calls for a more broadly analytical approach, even if limited to a single town. (MC)

Testamenty chłopów polskich od drugiej połowy XVI do XVIII wieku [The wills of Polish peasantry, second half of the sixteenth to the eighteenth century], ed. by Janusz Łosowski, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie Skłodowskiej, Lublin, 2015, LVIII + 519 pp.

As original records of use in social history (as a broad concept), testaments or wills have long been taken advantage of by Polish and foreign researchers. So far, several volumes of noblemen's or burghers' wills produced in the area of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth have been published. Testaments written down by peasants have been used to a much lesser degree, mainly owing to their poor availability and dispersed records. The book in question, comprising a total of 326 wills, is the first monographic edition of peasants' wills as a historic source. Most of these documents come from Lesser Poland (Małopolska) and Ruthenian lands; chronologically, they date to the period between the late sixteenth century and 1795. While the initial date is quite natural, as it is based on the condition of extant source materials, the Third Partition as the end date seems to be a more controversial option. As Janusz Łosowski points out in the Introduction, the First Partition and annexation of part of Polish territory to Austria implied no change in the way peasant wills were compiled; hence, the arbitrary choice of the Third Partition as the final date is somewhat disputable. An extensive Introduction, focusing on the type and substance of the records concerned, precedes the body of source texts. Edited by Łosowski, the testaments form an excellent source for in-depth investigation on material culture, economy, religiousness and mentality of peasants in the period preceding the Partitions of Poland-Lithuania. (MC)

Sefer derech ejc ha-chajim. Przewodnik po drzewie żywota (o sposobie zachowania dobrego zdrowia w języku jidysz przez anonimowego żydowskiego doktora w Polsce w roku 1613 drukiem ogłoszony) [*Sefer derech etz ha-chaim: A guide to the Tree of Life (on the method of preserving good health, as published in print in the Yiddish language, by an anonymous Jewish doctor in Poland, in the year 1613)*], trans., ed. and with an introduction

by Ewa Geller, Muzeum Pałacu Króla Jana III Sobieskiego w Wilanowie, Warszawa, 2015, 286 pp., ill.; series: *Monumenta Poloniae Culinaria / Polskie Zabytki Kulinarne*, 5

The fifth volume in the series published by the King John III's Palace Museum in Wilanów, Warsaw, offers the edition of a unique text. Translated and edited by Ewa Geller, the 'guide to the Tree of Life' is a nutritional guide published in 1613 in Yiddish. Its anonymous author was probably a Jewish physician who dwelled in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The guide is the earliest extant secular functional text known to have been written within Poland-Lithuania. The work is extremely interesting indeed, not only to expert linguists (Yiddishists) but also to historians interested in various forms of cultural history of the early seventeenth century. What is more, the excellent translation of the treatise and the approachable form of the publication can make it a fascinating piece of reading to lay readers as well. A foreword penned by Jarosław Dumanowski discusses the principles of early modern dietetics. It is followed by a detailed introduction by Ewa Geller. Focusing on historical and linguistic aspects, Geller's essay is not fully satisfactory: making use of a literature earlier than most recent, and rather general, the author depicts a mostly traditional picture of the Jewish life in the Commonwealth, committing some factual errors and not-quite-satisfactorily demonstrating the specificity of the historic period in question – that is, the late years of the sixteenth and the early seventeenth century. The treatise is divided into eighty-seven chapters, which discuss the specificities of various nourishments and the application of a variety of medical treatments. Textual and content footnotes are appended. The material is professionally translated and edited. All in all, the book is pretty fascinating: on the one hand, it shows the development of medicine and natural science; on the other, it attests to close contacts between the local Jews and Christians in the late sixteenth century. (MC)

Pinkas kahału boćkowskiego (1714–1817) / Pinkas of the Boćki kahal (1714–1817) / פנקס קהל באדקי (תע"ד – תקע"ה), ed. and with an introduction by Anna Michałowska-Mycielska, introduction trans. by Alicja Adamowicz, Instytut Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2015, XXVII + 169 pp., annexes, indexes, map; series: *Źródła do Dziejów Żydów Polskich*, 1

The volume opens a new series based on editions of historic records and documents related to Polish Jewry. The pinkas of the Boćki kahal, whose original copy, edited for publication by Anna Michałowska-Mycielska, is kept

in the collection of the Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych (Central Archives of Historical Records, AGAD), is a peculiar and unique record. Although every Jewish community in Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth kept various series of their registers, a scarce number of these pinkases has survived till our day. The edition in question contains the original Hebrew text, footnoted and preceded with an introduction describing the register's history and the editorial concept. The critical apparatus is bilingual, Polish and English. The pinkas comprises 185 entries dated between 1714 and 1817, covering a number of aspects of the life of the local Jewish community in the shtetl of Boćki. There is a number of resolutions related to tax issues, community budget, the functioning of the kahal, local religious life, and business activities pursued by the kahal's members. While the resolutions are very interesting, the edition is targeted at a pretty narrow group of scholars specialising in the history of Jews in early modern period and having appropriate linguistic skills. It is a pity, indeed, that no Polish or English translation has been included, since the documents would be quite of interest to historians dealing with various aspects of modern history, and to Jewish historians. (MC)

Akta sejmikowe województw poznańskiego i kaliskiego. Lata 1733–1763 [The dossiers of the Dietines of the Voivodeships of Poznań and Kalisz, as for 1733–63], ed. by Michał Zwierzykowski, Wydawnictwo DiG, Warszawa, 2015, XXI + 986 pp., indexes

There is no need to argue that source materials related to the activities of *sejmik* assemblies, or dietines, in Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth are of momentous importance to the research in social and political history of the period when they operated. The fact that such records are scattered in various archival funds makes the historian's job difficult every now and then. Hence the importance of every source edition that includes materials of this sort. The volume under review has been edited by Michał Zwierzykowski, who has more editions to his credit within the series. The book contains a total of 683 documents related to the Dietines of the Voivodeships of Poznań and Kalisz in the years 1733–63 and forty-nine texts dated 1696 to 1732, the latter complementing a previous volume comprising *sejmik* sources. The period covered by the most recent publication was particularly significant in the Commonwealth's history, since most of the crucial decisions were made at local dietines whilst the central Diet (*Sejm*) was paralysed. The book includes the relevant lauda, instructions, 'universal' manifestos, correspondence, protestations, manifestations, accounts, and session reports. The volume meets high editorial standards. The edition is based on original (unabridged) copies. A brief *regestum* is placed before

each of the source texts; attached are textual notes and (pretty concise) content notes. The indexes of personal and geographic names attached further facilitate the reading. (MC)

Dorota Dukwicz, *Rosja wobec sejmu rozbiorowego warszawskiego (1772–1775)* [Russia and the Partition Sejm in Warsaw, 1772–5], Instytut Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2015, 330 pp., bibliog., index, summary in English

The author has embarked on reviewing the Russian intervention – its assumptions, purposes, and mechanisms – in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth's internal affairs during the First Partition years. The diplomatic mission of Reichsgraf Otto Magnus von Stackelberg, who stayed in Warsaw as the Russian ambassador in 1772–5, is the focus of the story. Albeit the First Partition of Poland-Lithuania has enjoyed considerable interest among historians, with a number of studies and contributions appearing in print, the book under review is innovative. First of all, the author makes use of an extensive source material that has not been edited before, and is based on queries done in Russian, Austrian and German archives. Dukwicz's attempt to describe the degree of non-sovereignty of the Commonwealth and the endeavours of Polish-Lithuanian nobility to preserve some political autonomy is pretty interesting. The four chapters, arranged by chronology and topic, discuss: the preparations for Stackelberg's mission to Warsaw; the preparations for the parliament's sessions and its initial deliberations; negotiations over the partition treaty, and the political situation once the cession treaties were ratified. As part of her detailed analysis of political developments, the author argues that Russia altered, to an extent, its policies toward Poland-Lithuania in that period. The important aspects of this shift were Saint Petersburg's collaboration with Berlin and Vienna, boost of the position of King Stanislaus Augustus, and skilful cooperation with the different political factions. The hypothesis whereby the Partition was one of the key elements of Russia's new policy with respect to Poland-Lithuania, rather than the reason behind the policy, seems interesting and certainly calls for further research. (MC)

Ewa Barylewska-Szymańska, *Od piwnic po strych. Wnętrza domów gdańskich drugiej połowy XVIII wieku* [From the cellar up to the attic: The interiors of Gdańsk's houses in the latter half of the eighteenth century], Instytut Historii PAN, Muzeum Historyczne Miasta Gdańska, Warszawa and Gdańsk, 2015,

384 pp., bibliog., indexes, summary in German, ill.; series: Res Gedanenses, Studia i Materiały Muzeum Historycznego Miasta Gdańska, 7

The greatest town in Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and a very strong hub of the local burghers, Gdańsk has for years enjoyed unremitting interest among historians and historians of art alike. A number of studies have been produced dealing with the history of the Gdańsk middle class and the history of Gdańsk's art. Seen in the context of the preceding research, the study in question excels with its research objective. The author has intended to reconstruct and describe the décor and decoration, furnishings and accessories of Gdańsk's patrician and burgher houses in the latter half of the eighteenth century. The study attempts to combine the classical approaches in the history of art and the history of architecture, describing objects as well as their environment – the venues. Art historians have rather sporadically dealt with the second half of the eighteenth century. Ewa Barylewska-Szymańska's considerations are based on quite an extensive source material: property inventories are made use of along with the so-called house visions and the period's press. Containing seven basic sections, the study discusses the construction of houses, describes individual sections and parts of the house (traffic premises, living quarters, working premises, utility and store rooms), and the house equipment market in eighteenth-century Gdańsk. The annexes attached comprise exemplary period inventories of household possessions and tables specifying the furnishings and equipment of the 100 (selected) local most affluent households. A rich iconography complements the argument. The monograph proposes a number of detailed, innovative findings related to the development of the allotments (the significance of home gardens); the ways in which the premises, rooms, or quarters were used (sections designed for lease); the objects in use in Gdańsk at the time, and more. (MC)

Teresa Kostkiewiczowa, *Pamiętniki Stanisława Augusta na nowo odkryte* [Stanislaus Augustus's Memoires rediscovered], Arx Regia – Ośrodek Wydawniczy Zamku Królewskiego, Warszawa, 2015, 174 pp., ill.; series: Zamek Królewski w Warszawie. Studia i Materiały, 4

The monograph is a typical literary-studies work. The author seeks to analyse the Memoires of Stanisław A. Poniatowski (King Stanislaus Augustus) within the perspective of new studies on the varieties of personal document as a literary piece. The memoirs are shown against an extensive background

of eighteenth-century memoiristic pieces; apart from comparing the Ponia-towski piece against other memoirs written in his time in Poland-Lithuania, Kostkiewiczowa refers to personal records made by Tsarina Catherine II and King Frederick II of Prussia. She analyses the ways (phrases or expressions) in which the memoirists addressed the reader, elements of their self-aggrandisement, self-reflection and experiences, areas and types of testimonies. Based on numerous original quotations, Kostkiewiczowa proves that royal memoirs were a peculiar part of the period's memoiristic output. The Polish ruler constructed his reminiscences making use of the intricacies of the art of writing and ways of constructing a story. As Kostkiewiczowa repeatedly emphasises, in spite of his extensive use of the means of expression typical of his time, the author's 'I' is clearly identifiable in the text. The proposed analysis seems to be of interest and use particularly to historians. The Stanislaus Augustus period and the figure of the last ruler of the Commonwealth enjoy unswerving interest among scholars. The detailed analysis of the Memoires proposed by a literary scholar helps evaluate the credibility of this valuable historic record, which has often been used in historical studies, whilst also facilitating its critique. (MC)

NINETEENTH CENTURY

Hanna Jurkowska, *Pamięć sentymentalna. Praktyki pamięci w kręgu Towarzystwa Warszawskiego Przyjaciół Nauk i w Puławach Izabeli Czartoryskiej* [Sentimental memory: The practices of memory in the circle of the Warsaw Society of the Friends of Science and in Puławy of Izabela Czartoryska], Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2014, 516 pp., ill.; series: *Comunicare: historia i kultura*

The author of the book is a literary historian associated with the University of Warsaw's *Instytut Kultury Polskiej* (Institute of Polish Culture, IKP). Research conducted at the Institute has resulted in a number of interesting studies situated on the verge of traditional disciplines, between literary history, anthropology, and history 'proper'. The book under review is a good example of such an approach to humanities. Hanna Jurkowska deals with 'practices of memory' in the late Polish Enlightenment – between the final partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1795 and the 1830 ('November') uprising. This period has mostly been neglected in Polish cultural and literary historiography. Whereas the Napoleonic period has always attracted the attention of political and military historians, the literary and cultural history has tended to concentrate on the more attractive period of Polish Romanticism (after 1830) and on the 'heroic era' of Polish Enlightenment

before the Partitions. Only in the last two decades has the culture of the Polish Enlightenment after 1795 (with a strong sentimentalist tinge and with harbingers of Romanticism steadily growing in force) become the subject of detailed study. The book by Jurkowska forms an instance of this new research interest. Excellently written, with an eye for cultural detail, whose importance is much greater than it might seem at first sight, it guides the reader through various activities of the Warsaw Society of the Friends of Sciences and provides an anthropological guided tour through Puławy with its collection of national and European memorabilia. Analysed are the rituals of the Society of the Friends of Science, with a stress on their theatrical character and the ways in which these rituals acted as communicative practices to convey a vision of Polish history (Chapter 1). Chapter 2 focuses on Stanisław Staszic's book on the geology of the Carpathian Mountains, and how the said book introduced the mountains into the Polish realm of national symbols. Chapter 3 deals with the patriotic contents of the numismatic activities pursued by the Society. Chapter 4 reports on the Society's study of the history of the national alphabet, orthography, and script, perceived by early nineteenth-century scholars as proofs of national maturity. Chapters 3 and 4 deal especially with the Society's interest in the early, pre-Christian and early Christian past of Poland. The zest for the old-Slavonic 'antiquities', although strongly embedded in Enlightenment's intellectual traditions, had a strong sentimentalist flavour; as such, it can be seen as a pre-Romantic(ist) cultural phenomenon.

The second part of the book deals with Puławy. The collection established by Princess Izabela Czartoryska, a member of one of the leading Polish aristocratic families and one of the central characters of Polish Sentimentalist culture, is analysed from a double perspective. Three chapters look both at the Puławy court of the princely Czartoryski family, which was one of the leading Polish cultural and political centres at the turn of the eighteenth century, and at the collections of the Princess. Like in the previous chapters, the author adopts a 'performative' perspective, analysing the cultural practices connected with the court's life and the visits at the museum. Among the interesting primary sources used in the monograph, we should note a visitors' book, containing their comments on Princess Izabela's collection. This 'performative' perspective is, generally, a landmark of the book. It permits to see the two most important intellectual centres of early nineteenth-century Poland as conscious and unconscious producers, through a whole set of cultural practices, of a new vision of national history. (MJ)

Magdalena Micińska, *Książdz Ludwik Ruczka (1814–1896). Opiekun Sybiraków z 1863 roku – polityk galicyjski – proboszcz Kolbuszowej* [Fr. Ludwik Ruczka, 1814–96: A protector of Siberian

deportees, Galician politician, and parish priest in Kolbuszowa], Instytut Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2015, 268 pp., bibliog., annexes, indexes, ill.

Placed in the very northern part of the country, close to the Russian frontier, the small town of Kolbuszowa was part of the Habsburg Galicia in the nineteenth century. In the century's second half, the Rev. Ludwik Ruczka was a parish priest there. Rather unknown today, Father Ruczka, as a young man, had the misfortune to witness the peasant rebellion of 1846. Later, as he settled in Kolbuszowa, he won some renown in his time as an ingenious defender of the Galicians who took part in the Polish anti-Russian ('January') uprising of 1863 and were deported to Siberia. He intervened on their behalf with the Viennese governmental offices, arguing, among others, that the Galicians in question had fled to Russia to avoid military service with the Austrian army. The Austrian Ministry of War intervened accordingly with its Russian counterpart and thus managed to salvage at least some of the deportees. Ruczka established a sort of information centre for the families seeking their relatives who were missing in the uprising. Afterwards, he continued his public activities as a member of the Galician Diet and, later, of the Parliament in Vienna. His outlook combined, in a way not infrequent among Galician Poles of his generation, post-Romantic patriotism and a cult of national heroes (Tadeusz Kościuszko and the Romanticist historian Joachim Lelewel were among its favourites) with full 'practical' loyalty towards the Habsburg Monarchy. For the whole of his life, he was active in the cultural life of his town.

Magdalena Micińska, a distinguished specialist in the cultural history of the Polish nineteenth century, has written a valuable micro-historical study. Her deep human sympathy towards Father Ludwik permits her to describe his career with a subtle psychological understanding; on the other hand, her broad knowledge of the nineteenth-century history helps her avoid parochialism, the cardinal sin of most local history publications. She portrays Fr. Ruczka as someone who had to face the great currents and events in European history. This makes the biography a good vantage point to observe these currents as they appear from the perspective of a provincial Habsburg town. (MJ)

Dariusz Grzybek, *Handel i pokój. Geneza i ewolucja liberalnego pacyfizmu* [Trade and peace: The origins and evolution of liberal pacifism], Towarzystwo Autorów i Wydawców Prac Naukowych "Universitas", Kraków, 2015, 352 pp., ill.

'Free trade breeding liberty and peace' was a common thread of the liberal social and political reflection throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth

centuries. Trade, it was believed, brought about contacts between peoples and nations, created a network of economic connections that eventually made wars financially unprofitable and politically so disastrous that no sensible politician would dare wage a war. In his recent book, Dariusz Grzybek presents an intellectual history of the concept, starting with the Renaissance. He stresses what he calls the paradox of liberal pacifism: on the one hand, its proponents claimed that free trade brought peoples together and thus peace was made between nations. On the other hand, they hoped that a strong liberal empire could be created (England was the most obvious candidate) that could endure free trade and establish a world peace order. Thus, peace was presented both as an effect and a precondition of an international free trade system. The story in the book comes up to the First World War. Norman Angells' book *The Great Illusion* and Jan (Ivan) Bloch's multi-volume study on the future war are the most recent books analysed. Grzybek notices that neither of these authors claimed that war was absolutely impossible; what they actually stated was that a war would be disastrous for everybody, including the winners – and they were right at this point. An appendix reports on the discussions of present-day political scientists on the idea of the so-called democratic peace and discusses the affinities and differences between this idea and the main topic of the book.

The author's main field of interest is history of economic thought (see the review of his other book, below) and he is less interested in cultural history at large. Therefore, in discussing the interrelations between peace and trade, he mainly stresses the economic argument. The sociological aspect – the attempts at tracing the mechanisms of 'politeness' resulting from economic intercourse – is somehow marginalised. Even so, the book is definitely worth of reading: comprehensive and erudite, it presents an important, and often neglected, aspect of European modern thought. (MJ)

Dariusz Grzybek, *Polityczne konsekwencje idei ekonomicznych w myśli polskiej 1869–1939* [The political consequences of Polish economic ideas in 1869 to 1939], Księgarnia Akademicka, Kraków, 2012, 440 pp.; series: Societas, 32

The book discusses the ideas proposed by Polish academic economists between the 1860s and 1939. 'Academic' is an important qualification here. The main thesis, very interesting and convincingly argued, is that the Polish academic economics in the discussed period was, by and large, dominated by a laissez-faire approach. However diverse the political ideas of the economist may have been, the conservative liberal Adam Krzyżanowski, sympathizer of the nationalists Edward Taylor, or the radical nationalist and anti-Semite Roman Rybarski all believed that the classical approach was essentially right and that

the pure economic market was the best tool to allocate resources in, whilst any intervention from the State might basically only make things worse. The merit of this book is that it shows that those whose way of thinking was of the sort were not superficial or ignorant; in fact, many of them were sophisticated and erudite thinkers. Władysław Zawadzki, the Polish finance minister during the Great Crisis, has usually served as a scapegoat for Polish economic historiographers, as he stuck to the liberal orthodoxy in the early 1930s, instead of adopting some Keynesian-like demand-stimulating approach. Grzybek shows Zawadzki as one of the most modern-minded Polish economists, a pioneer of mathematic modelling (following Léon Walras and the Lausanne School) in Polish economics. Whether he was right or not in his economic policies, he was certainly no dunce. The argument of the group of economists in question was that a demand-stimulating policy was a luxury that only rich countries could afford, whereas in a poor country a laissez-faire approach helped keep the resources with the capitalists who could invest them (instead of transferring them to the poor, who would only consume). Thus, the laissez-faire was seen as a sort of modernising ideology, particularly fit for a backward country. On the margins of the Polish academic economics stood certain ideologues of the Catholic co-operativist neo-estate system (Leopold Caro) as well as socialists (Oskar Lange, with his famous 'market socialism' model).

The approach proposed by the author is, pretty obviously, one-sided, precisely because it only focuses on academic economists while bypassing some of the cleverest economic thinkers that were active outside of the academia (Stanisław Szczepanowski). With this caveat, it is a fascinating and intellectually refreshing book, forcing the reader to rethink and revise the customary hierarchies within the Polish intellectual history of the nineteenth and twentieth century. (MJ)

Jerzy Wyrozumski (ed.), *Towarzystwo Naukowe Krakowskie w 200-lecie założenia (1815–2015). Materiały konferencji naukowej, 9–10 grudnia 2015* [The Cracow Scientific Society: On the 200th anniversary of its establishment (1815–2015). Papers of a scientific conference held on 9–10 December 2015], Polska Akademia Umiejętności, Kraków, 2016, 338 pp., ills.

Social history of science slowly gains ground in Poland. The book on the Cracow Scientific Society originated as a collection of papers submitted at an anniversary conference. It did succeed, however (unlike most of such occasional publications), in presenting a general overview of the topic, and so the book comes close to be a collective monograph. The Society was established in 1815, in the short liberal era after the Vienna Congress, and by the late 1840s it was united with the Jagiellonian University in Cracow (this period

is dealt with by Andrzej K. Banach and Janusz Pezda); yet, this bond was separated in 1856. Although the motivation of the Austrian neo-absolutist authorities was most probably to make the society more dependent on state bureaucracy, it turned out to be a lucky move that strengthened the position of the organisation and propelled it to develop broader research activities. It was after the separation that the Society started building its own home, at Sławkowska Street. As Piotr Biliński and Piotr Hübner argue in their essays, the transformation of the Society into the Academy of Learning in 1873 was not the most important turning point in the organisation's history. The structure of the Society, with its branches subdivided into commissions, a library, and editorial functions, developed mainly after its divorce from the University. All this was inherited by the new Academy, so the institutional continuity between the Society and the Academy is undisputable. Many other papers present various ways of scientific and social activities. Three texts devoted to international connections and contexts of the Society deserve attention: Marek Ďurčanský presents the role of Josef and Hermenegild Jireček in the negotiations with the Viennese government regarding the transformation of the Society into an Academy. Jerzy Zdrada traces the international intellectual and cultural contacts of the Society, and Tomáš W. Pavliček analyses the Czech-Polish transfer of the idea of a 'national' academy of sciences. An important aspect of the Society's influence on the educated strata of Cracow and Galicia is analysed by Marcin Maciuk in a paper dealing with the donors and donations for the Society. The essays dealing with various branches of learning pursued by the Society often put the topics into broader cultural contexts: for instance, Marzena Woźny traces the tension between a 'romantic' and a 'positivist' understanding of archaeology.

On the whole, the authors and editors have managed, intentionally or perhaps intuitively, to find a sensible middle road between describing the scientific achievements of the Cracow Scientific Society and presenting the social and cultural role of a nineteenth-century academic institution. Dealing with both these aspects of the Society's history, the volume is thus an ample guide to studying the history of Cracow's academic institutions. (MJ)

Leon Biliński, *O socjalizmie, Stańczykach i polityce narodowej. Wybór pism* [Some thoughts on socialism, the *Stańczyks* faction, and national politics: Selected writings], selection, ed., and with an introduction by Dariusz Grzybek, *Ośrodek Myśli Politycznej*, Kraków, 2014, XXV + 206 pp.; series: Biblioteka Klasyki Polskiej Myśli Politycznej, 76

Issued in the series edited by the Cracow-based Centre for Political Thought, the book is an anthology of texts penned by Leon Biliński (1846–1923),

a leading conservative politician and economist of the Partition era. A lecturer at the University of Lwów, President (chairman) of the Austrian State Railways, Biliński was in office as Austria's Minister of Treasury and afterwards was a short-time member of Ignacy Jan Paderewski's Government of the newly-independent Poland (in 1919); in the last years of his life, he served as President of the Polish-Austrian Bank. The book offers Biliński's critical analyses of the policies of the Cracow conservatives' milieu and of the socialist ideology, along with essays on female labour and social economy – including a series of intervention articles dealing with the then-hot topics. In his introduction, Dariusz Grzybek provides the reader with a psychologically convincing and narratively fair portrayal of this uncommon politician and keen observer. The author of an ambitious monograph on Polish economic thought of the last three decades of the nineteenth century and first half of the twentieth (*Polityczne konsekwencje idei ekonomicznych w myśli polskiej 1869–1939*, Kraków, 2012), Grzybek comprehensively introduces the reader to Biliński's oeuvre and output, and belabours the history of the legacy of this activist who fell into oblivion after 1945. Although targeted mostly at experts, this collection of texts will certainly be of use in comprehensive research of the Cracow *Stańczyks* formation – the group that attained intellectual predominance amongst Polish conservatives in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, and bred numerous though not-pretty-obvious followers. A comprehensive, synthetic monograph of the milieu is still expected to appear. (GK)

Małgorzata Domagalska, *Zatrute ziarno. Proza antysemicka na łamach "Roli" (1883–1912)* [A poisoned grain: Anti-semitic prose works published in the *Rola* weekly in 1883 to 1912], Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne, Wydawnictwo Neriton, Warszawa, 2015, 342 pp., bibliog., index, summary in English

This is the first monograph of the Warsaw weekly *Rola*, by a literary historian and scholar specialising in Polish anti-Semitism. Of the two sections, the first offers a broad introduction to the weekly's political commentaries and other journalistic publications, and the other analyses pieces of belles-lettres published by *Rola*. The activity of the weekly and of its founder and maker is not unknown to the researchers of the Polish lands in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century. However, the material amassed and analysed by Domagalska is impressive: one finds there virtually everything as regards the vocabulary and the imaginarium of Polish anti-Semitism in the later period. The author has studied all issues of *Rola* for each of the years covered. She shows the fiction schemes, topoi, characteristic figures (heroes and antiheroes) of these stories; a whole world of phantasms that

after 1905 spilled over into Polish public life. Rather than explaining why this has been the case, Domagalska mostly settles with describing what she has read – and this is probably one of the major deficits of this study. Nonetheless, it is more than a story of a dark side of the ‘Polish soul’, a heritage no-one is willing to confess to sharing. It is worth reminding that the moment he died, in 1909, Jan Jeleński, the founder and editor of *Rola*, was acclaimed a ‘prophet of the New Poland’ by a number of influential circles. A prescribed reading! (GK)

Dariusz Szewczuk, *Seminaria nauczycielskie w Królestwie Polskim (1866–1915)* [Teacher training colleges in the Kingdom of Poland in 1866 to 1915], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin, 2015, 230 pp., bibliog., index

Written by a historian associated with the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, the study is based on a broad choice of sources (including sizeable archival and printed records, from several centres) and considerable reference literature. Six comprehensive thematic, chronologically arranged chapters discussing the education of candidate teachers, the Russian authorities’ policies toward the group, training courses in pedagogy (formative to the ‘teacher corps’), the trainer staff employed with pedagogy courses and teacher-training colleges (called ‘seminaries’), and the syllabus designed for these colleges. The monograph thus provides a comprehensive panorama of the education of would-be elementary school teachers in the Kingdom of Poland in the period 1866–1915, the policies employed by the Russian authorities at the time and their results. The author offers moreover an interesting analysis of professional qualifications of prospective teachers in an earlier period (the years between the uprisings of 1830–1 and 1863–4, respectively), which enables him to set the issues in question in the context of one-hundred years of the Kingdom’s existence. Hence, the study may, to an extent, be an encyclopaedic compendium of the forms of teacher training employed at the time and place in question, rather indispensable from now on for students of education in partitioned Poland. Altogether, the author provides an interesting outline of the formation of a specific social group in the period of social ‘mass distribution’, taking account of the political change that affected the Kingdom’s territory at the turn of the twentieth century. A useful list of references and an index of personal names are attached. (GK)

Grażyna Kubica, *Maria Czaplicka. Płeć, szamanizm, rasa. Biografia antropologiczna* [Maria Czaplicka: Gender, shamanism, race: An anthropological biography], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, Kraków, 2015, 474 pp., ill.; series: Anthropos

Penned by a researcher working at the Department of Social Anthropology, Institute of Sociology, Jagiellonian University (author of the famous and broadly commented book *Siostry Malinowskiego*, 2006 – a history of ‘modern women’ at the turn of the twentieth century), this contextual biography of the anthropologist Maria Antonina Czaplicka (1886–1921) appears as a next stage of a multi-year plan aimed at transposing onto the Polish soil of the theoretical and research output of the Western history of cultural anthropology. Composed of twenty-nine short thematic and chronologically arranged chapters, the story is set in a broad historical, social, and cultural perspective. The development of anthropology is taken into account along with the complex issue of women’s emancipation as well as the history of scientific milieus – mainly Polish, British, and Russian – with which Czaplicka was active and made her contributions. The study is skilfully conceptualised and has not much in common with traditional biographical narrative; as an added value, it offers a fresh look on the often neglected details of the social reality of the fin-de-siècle epoch. One may go as far as stating that the book is universal in some of its aspects, as a portrayal of a woman researcher at the turn of the twentieth century. The author poses a series of topical questions, of importance not only for anthropology or social sciences. The study certainly deserves a critical, rather than just a specialist, debate. (GK)

Jerzy Gaul (ed.), *Józef Piłsudski. Źródła z lat 1914–1918 w Austriackim Archiwum Państwowym w Wiedniu, i: Archiwum wojny / Quellen von 1914–1918 im Österreichischen Staatsarchiv in Wien, i: Kriegesarchiv* [Józef Piłsudski: Sources from 1914–18 at the Austrian State Archive in Vienna, i: The War Archive], Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych, Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych, Polska Akademia Nauk Stacja Naukowa w Wiedniu, Wydawnictwo DiG, Warszawa, 2015, 380 pp., bibliog., annexes, indexes, ill.

This collection of several dozen documents, reliably edited and prepared for printing by Jerzy Gaul, historian and archivist, illustrates an important fragment in the biography of the man who was to become the Marshal of Poland. As is known, Piłsudski, then the leader of the Polish Socialist

Party (PPS), stayed until 1918 in what was the Habsburg Galicia, once he had recklessly fled from a Russian hospital in 1901. The original records in question show him as a cold-blooded pragmatist focused on developing an independence-oriented platform of use to, and in the service of, the re-emerging state. The volume under review presents documents found in the Kriegsarchiv, a department of the Vienna-based Austrian State Archive where mainly military documentation is amassed. These sources show Piłsudski's and his closest circle's contribution to the organisation of the Polish Legions and the Polish Military Organisation, discuss in detail his relations with the Austro-Hungarian authorities, as well as a series of minor political initiatives. The book comprises a wealth of fascinating documents that help dissipate the black legend attached to Piłsudski's name, which was in circulation at the origins of independent Poland. The selection of records is preceded by an introduction by Bogusław Dyaś and a foreword by Władysław Stepniak. A list of abbreviations and acronyms offers a pretty helpful breakdown of Polonica funds stored at the Archive. A chronological list of the sources, selected literature, an index of personal names and an index of geographical names are added as well. Interesting illustrations, many of them published for the first time, enrich the publication. (GK)

Monika Gabryś-Sławińska, *Konflikty zbrojne na łamach "Tygodnika Ilustrowanego" w latach 1904–1918* [The armed conflicts of 1904–18 as reflected in *Tygodnik Ilustrowany* weekly], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin, 2015, 406 pp., bibliog., ill.

The study contains five exhaustive thematic chapters dealing with a series of war conflicts of the period: the Russo-Japanese War, the Revolution of 1905–7 (being the author's special focus), several armed conflicts in Asia – notably, Turkey, Persia, and China (1908–14), the Balkan Wars, and the Great War (the latter is covered in two subchapters, the caesura being the year 1915). The author offers yet another analysis of the contents of the major Polish weekly of the latter half of the nineteenth and the former half of the twentieth century with a focus on a selected issue that attracted attention of the public opinion. The book is valuable especially for historians and researchers in intellectual culture at the turn of the century, its major advantage being a skilfully condensed, facts-based and unbiased narrative, which is not of a reporting sort. The author is excellently versed in the present-day state of research and expertly conceptualises the issues in question, even though the proposed catalogue of research questions is rather limited. A bibliographical

note is added and reference literature (pretty ample, diligently compiled and worth of appreciation) itemised. (GK)

INTERWAR PERIOD

Paweł M. Sobczak, *Polscy pisarze wobec faszyzmu* [Polish men-of-letters in face of fascism], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź, 2015, 432 pp.; series: Interpretacje Literackie

The erudite essay by Paweł M. Sobczak, a literary historian employed at the University of Łódź, comprises five thematic chapters discussing the attitude of a dozen-or-so outstanding figures of the interwar period (1918–39) toward fascism. Rather than a scholarly synthetic study offering a new approach, the essay offers a discussion on the ideas of those authors, influential as they were in Poland's cultural life in the former half of the century. Literary disputes were quite fierce at the time, oftentimes with a political background; thus, not only the opponents of Nazism (liberal journalists Antoni Sobański, Antoni Słonimski; Christian Democracy affiliate Karol Ludwik Koniński) but also its supporters or well-wishers (Ferdynand Goetel, Jan Emil Skiwski) are described. Konstancy Ildefons Gałczyński, associated with the national radical literary weekly *Prosto z Mostu* (issued 1935–9), was a peculiar case in point. Another specific case was Maria Jehanne Wielopolska, an aristocrat, feminist, and socialist in her young years, who later on glorified the *Sanacja* team's policies, and opposed pacifism and communism. Their ideological choices varied; while frankly remarking the absence in this essay of the leftist viewpoint, one has to admit that the selection is fair, overall. What is relevant, the study moreover quotes some important press publications of the period in an appropriate context and against the European background (Sobczak points to a common appearance of a particular style of the period's publicist polemics, which one would describe today as anti-Semitic). This monograph proves that there is still much to be worked on as far as research of Polish interwar political thought is concerned. Albeit Sobczak tells us about his intent to break the barriers between political history, history of ideas and cultural history, his essay leaves us wanting to read or get to know more. Still, some passages in this book – a fresh reading of the 'radical-national' output of Konstancy I. Gałczyński being a fine example – prove extremely interesting and they might raise anew a discussion on political involvements of authors basically associated or sympathising with the Right. (GK/BK)

Marek J. Chodakiewicz, Jolanta Mysiakowska-Muszyńska, and Wojciech J. Muszyński, *Polska dla Polaków! Kim byli i są polscy narodowcy* ['Poland for Poles!' Polish nationalists: Who were they, and who are they today?], Zysk i S-ka Wydawnictwo, Warszawa, 2015, 560 pp., ill.

The authors' intention has been to compile an extensive, popular scientific synthetic study in the history of the National Democracy. The book discusses in detail various, often unknown, aspects of this Polish nationalistic formation, between its birth in the late nineteenth century and the present. APH reviewers normally do not discuss or review publications of this sort; let us remark, though, that even for a professional reader such a publication is a sign of the time. A hagiographical book has appeared in a broad publishing market, in a large circulation, which idealises the history and the heritage of the extreme Right. There are chapters describing in approbative terms the encounters of National Democratic armed gangs with the revolutionaries in 1905–7, offering a conspiratorial version of the background of the attempt at President Gabriel Narutowicz (1922); there are sections describing the allegedly nationalistic 'Aid to Jews Action' during the German occupation, or a 'nationalist movement in the People's Republic of Poland'. These, and many other, fragments of the book are oddities, given the present-day state of research. The authors find most of the episodes in the history of the National Democracy justifiable and having a deeper, point-blank metaphysical, sense. To name the book a piece of 'polemical history' would be to miss the point; neither is it definable as a party history, for even publications of this sort (one example being Stanisław Kozicki's *Historia Ligi Narodowej (1893–1907)*) have observed certain standards. It is, in fact, a political, journalistic manifesto that supports the *a priori* arguments. Even a superficial insight into the present publishing market tells us that there is a plenty of the like publications; unfortunately, this wave broke into the main current of recent history. The book contains a series of unknown photographs and illustrations that, paradoxically, question its apologetic content. (GK)

Grzegorz Radomski, Michał Strzelecki, Witold Wojdyło, and Małgorzata Zamojska (eds.), *Antologia polskiej myśli politycznej okresu dwudziestolecia międzywojennego* [An anthology of Polish political thought in the two interwar decades], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń, 2015, 220 pp.

The volume is composed of more than fifty source texts that illustrate the development of political thought in the Second Republic of Poland (1918–39).

The texts are grouped into six chapters, according to the ideological criterion – i.e., by political camp. The selection and matching of a material like this is always disputable; the authors have not made the wandering through the meanders of Polish history of ideas much easier to the reader. Prepared by a team of Toruń-based researchers, the anthology was seemingly designed in the spirit of a ‘historical politics’, which nowadays is a popular trend in Poland. The authors’ attempt is, namely, to impose a non-obvious understanding of the political arena of the Second Republic, gravely ignoring the peculiar conditions of the interwar period. Hence, the overemphasis on conservatives, anarchists, or even synarchists – the circles whose influence on the political scene was *de facto* marginal, with communists passed completely unnoticed (as opposed to ‘Polish socialists’, a category not always coinciding with Polish Socialist Party membership), and local fascists (so-called national radicals) going almost unmentioned. When reading the anthology carefully, one may spot certain references to these groups; a non-expert reader (university students possibly being among the projected users) would not find the task as easy. Why some groups are included and some are not, the introductory remarks do not clearly explain. All the same, the selection comprises a dozen-or-so important though less known documents – and this is certainly a major reason to recommend the book. (GK)

Barbara Łętocha, *Afisze Żydów ze Lwowa, Drohobycza i Borysławia wydane w latach 1929–1939 w zbiorach Biblioteki Narodowej / Posters of Jews from Lviv, Drohobych, and Boryslav 1929–1939 from the National Library of Poland*, Biblioteka Narodowa, Warszawa, 2015, 176 pp., ills.

This catalogue showing Jewish posters and placards from the former eastern borderland of the Second Republic of Poland, now in the Polish National Library collection, evokes an important, but frequently neglected, type of documentation of the social or public life. An experienced editor and mass culture researcher, long-term member of the National Library staff, Barbara Łętocha mainly presents socially involved posters. Geographically, the collection is limited to pre-war Lwów (Lviv), Drohobycz (Drohobych), and Borysław (Boryslav), though, essentially, a broad array of the Jewish life in the Second Republic is portrayed. This bilingual (Polish and English) book, reproducing ninety-four posters or placards printed in 1929–39 by local printers, primarily shows the specificity of the life of broad strata of Jewish people populating the region in question. The publication is yet another in the series presenting ephemerae in the National Library collection and edited by a specialist of renown. Albeit targeted at an expert reader, also researchers into popular culture, social and political life of the interwar

Poland will find the book useful as it comprises quite a lot of carefully edited material. (GK)

Aneta Niewęłowska and Lech Wyszczelski, *Obóz piłsudczykowski i jego wizje polityki wschodniej* [The Piłsudski-ite camp and their visions of Polish Eastern policy], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Przyrodniczo-Humanistycznego, Siedlce, 2014, 222 pp., bibliog.

Written by the authors associated with the University of Natural Sciences and Humanities in Siedlce, this synthetic study of the Eastern policy pursued by Józef Piłsudski's political camp brings to our attention not many new threads that would be unknown to historians: what it mostly does is summarise the existing research. The eight chronologically ordered chapters re-establish the research questions and dilemmas already dealt with or known to the researchers specialising in the field: Was the Piłsudski-ite Eastern policy project ahead of its time – or, on the contrary, was it anachronous with respect to the era of masses, nationalisms, and nation-states? Or, was it a manifestation, and another incarnation, of 'Polish imperialism' – as the decisive critics identifying themselves with the Left argued from the very outset? Or perhaps – more prosaically – the project was unlucky about the people that were meant to put it into effect, and thus a chance for success eventually failed. Again: Did the system, bloated with mutual personal resentments, and getting decomposed still before Marshal Piłsudski died, bury Polish federalist designs? There is no ready-made answer to these questions one can get from the book – if there are any such at all. The authors argue that right after the Coup of May 1926, there was considerable chance for some of these projects to be implemented; they describe the boundary conditions and demonstrate that the opportunity got squandered already at that point. They focus to a larger extent on lesser-known undertakings such as the Baltic Union – a 'substitute', they argue, of the Eastern policy in the classical Piłsudski-ite version. The considerations are concluded with a discussion of the 'promethean' projects which have recently attracted interest of a few scholars and were made known internationally thanks to the American historian Timothy Snyder. The book's facts-bound narrative and the argument not overloaded with irrelevant facts will certainly please a number of readers. A reliable bibliography adds to the study's advantages. (GK)

Mariusz Urbanek, *Wieniawa. Szwoleżer na Pegazie* [Wieniawa: A cheveu-léger on Pegasus], Wydawnictwo Iskry, Warszawa, 2015, 354 pp., ills.

A new book by Mariusz Urbanek, a popular publicist and author who for some ten years has been revisiting the figures representing the (broadly defined) milieu established around *Wiadomości Literackie* weekly and the Pilsudski-ite Left. It is in fact the second, significantly extended and enriched edition: the first was issued in 1993, winning common recognition. Compared to the first version, the author's attitude toward Bolesław Wieniawa-Długoszowski (1881–1942) has remained unchanged: Wieniawa is portrayed as the First Ulan of the Second Republic. On the other hand, the roguish-and-romantic portrait he paints was imbued with increasingly dramatic features. Urbanek meticulously screens the urban legends that have basically been related to Wieniawa from the very beginning, and shows that at least some of them did not have much to do with reality. Yet, he emphasises throughout that the borderline between fiction and non-fiction is at times hard to grasp, and points out that most of the vivid stories were backed by a group of admirers or devotees of Wieniawa and, on the other side, of his fierce opponents. This man was, indeed, a blend of two extreme attitudes. He can be described as a devoted citizen, a soldier who fought in the Great War and, thereafter, the Polish-Bolshevik war, an aide-de-camp to Józef Piłsudski – 'faithful as a dog' in this role; lastly, as an active diplomat in the late years of his life: Polish ambassador to Italy and even a very short-timed President of the Republic (in office for just four days, in September 1939). On the other hand, Wieniawa was unique with his variegated, dynamic, and fast life style. And he was thoroughly authentic in all these incarnations. Although the author approaches his character with much affection, there is no trace of idolatry, no mythologisation of the period concerned, in the stories about him he (re)tells. Urbanek's style creates a very suggestive vision of the Second Republic, set at the crossroads of biography and historical reportage. (GK)

Jan Marczak, *Wielki Strajk Chłopski w Majdanie Sieniawskim* [The Great Peasant Strike in Majdan Sieniawski], Muzeum Historii Polskiego Ruchu Ludowego, Warszawa, 2015, 100 pp., ills.

A facts-based book that covers the activities of peasant-movement activists and peasants in the locality of Majdan Sieniawski (now in Podkarpackie Voivodeship), the labours of the local peasant party (Stronnictwo Ludowe), and, in the first place, the 'Great Peasant Strike'. The latter was a mass protest that took place in the village in 1937, with the resulting fifteen peasants

killed and several dozen badly beaten. A great advantage of the publication is that it publishes some unknown, scattered and often ignored, accounts of witnesses to the tragic disturbances. It may seem that some of these testimonies should have been edited somewhat better. The Majdan occurrences have already been described by historiographers but never analysed in depth. Jan Marczak, a local historian, touches upon other aspects of Majdan Sieniawski's history, including from the time of the Second World War, the struggles of peasant partisans against the Nazi occupiers, as well as selected fragments from the post-war period – the so-called People's (Republic of) Poland. Although especially the opening sections comprise quite a number of rather hagiographical passages, the study's documentary quality remains unquestionable. (GK)

CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

Obozy pracy przymusowej [Coerced labour camps], ed. by Marta Janczewska, Żydowski Instytut Historyczny im. Emanuela Ringelbluma, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2016, XXXVIII + 548 pp., CD-ROM; series: Archiwum Ringelbluma. Konspiracyjne Archiwum Getta Warszawy, 24

Getto warszawskie II [The Warsaw Ghetto (II)], ed. by Tadeusz Epsztein, Żydowski Instytut Historyczny im. Emanuela Ringelbluma, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2015, XIX + 670 pp., ill., CD-ROM; series: Archiwum Ringelbluma. Konspiracyjne Archiwum Getta Warszawy, 34
Cwi Pryłucki. *Wspomnienia (1905–1939)* [Memoirs, 1905–39], ed. by Joanna Nalewajko-Kulikow, Żydowski Instytut Historyczny im. Emanuela Ringelbluma, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2015, XXVI + 190 pp., CD-ROM; series: Archiwum Ringelbluma. Konspiracyjne Archiwum Getta Warszawy, 28

The three volumes issued in the series 'The Ringelblum Archive: A clandestine archive of the Warsaw Ghetto', the flagship research project of Warsaw's Jewish Historical Institute, present various types of documents. Volume 24, prepared by Dr Marta Janczewska, an experienced archivist and researcher in the field of Ghetto-related literature, comprises documents related to forced labour camps designed for Jews. The volume mainly includes accounts of former inmates (some eighty archival documents) plus some relevant official documents, including reports produced by the key institutions: the Jewish

Social Self-help, the Joint, and the Warsaw *Judenrat*. Section one offers 'transversal' documents, relating to various districts and describing, among other things, roundups launched to catch and dispatch more people to the camps. The second section presents documents in an administrative and geographic order. Records related to Warsaw prevail, along with those connected with the complex of 'transitory camps', incl. in Bełżec, Chełm/Włodawa, and Wilga (near Warsaw).

Edited by Tadeusz Epsztein of the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, who in fact runs the project as far as coordination of the archival work is concerned, volume 34 is the series' second publication that focuses on documents reflecting the everyday realities of the Warsaw Ghetto. The collected material shows, for the most part, the determinants and conditions of the Ghetto's economics, the complicated environment that was mostly based on permanent shortages and deficits, and inhuman exploitation. There is a section with advertisements, appeals to the residents, reports on the activities of political parties and underground organisations, notices, calls for fight, and military training instructions. The volume also comprises materials related to the Jewish Emergency Service, including the Emergency Medical Service. The book plainly refers to volume 33, which was published earlier as a set of documents describing the daily functioning of the Ghetto.

Volume 28 basically contains one type of documentation – namely, the memories of Cwi Pryłucki (1862–1942), an outstanding politician and social activist, one of the fathers of Yiddish-language press in the Polish lands. Edited by Joanna Nalewajko-Kulikow, a historian and translator from Yiddish, associated with the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, who has also written an introduction to her edition, the book is *de facto* a chronicle of the Jewish political scene from the birth of the so-called mass epoch politics in 1905 until the decline of the Second Republic (1939). Pryłucki was eventually enclosed in the Warsaw Ghetto but did not describe its realities. Fragments of his reminiscences have been saved and published by Marian Fuks, who was the first monographer of the Jewish press in Warsaw; the Jewish periodical *Folks-Sztyme* published excerpts from these memoirs after the Second World War. Israeli researcher Nathan Cohen has once compiled a punctilious analysis of the text. The publication under review offers the first complete and critical edition of these extremely interesting recollections.

Are there any common denominators to the three Ringelblum Archive volumes? The first two mentioned books form a non-systematised chronicle of methodical destruction of the Jewish economic and social life in the Polish territory, primarily in the Generalgouvernement. Cwi Pryłucki's memoirs, with a number of their fascinating passages, appear as a sort of prelude to what the Jews were doomed to face very soon (this becomes clear

particularly in the last fragments, relating to the late Second Republic years). The memoirist describes, among other things, a dramatic countrywide discussion on restricting 'the Jewish influence' and, thereafter, numerous attempts at excluding Jews from public life. What makes these two periods different? It is the degree and scale of violence. While a 'Jewish life' is still vibrant, in its various dimensions, in the last years before the war, the Nazi occupation quickly leads to elimination of Jews from the banking, insurance and transportation sectors, from any large firms, and from management or supervisory boards of companies. Apart from doctors and dentists, there are no Jews performing freelance professions anymore. In effect, 90 per cent of the Jewry within the Generalgouvernement were pushed toward the edge of existential abyss – forced to face famine, incessant maladies, and death of malnutrition. These three volumes and the Archive in its entirety form an indispensable documentary resource for Holocaust researchers in the Polish lands and in the history of the German occupation of Poland. Each of the volumes has a CD attached featuring copies of the documents published in the book. All the volumes in question are solicitously edited. (GK)

Rachela Auerbach, *Pisma z getta warszawskiego* [Writings from the Warsaw Ghetto], ed. and with an introduction by Karolina Szymaniak, Żydowski Instytut Historyczny im. Emanuela Ringelbluma, Warszawa, 2015, 282 pp., ill.

The book comprises a revised edition of the journal and other writings of Rachela Auerbach, a journalist and publicist who made her debut after the First World War, was an associate of Emanuel Ringelblum during the Second World War and afterwards was a central figure in the Yad Vashem. There is a two-part diary (*Dziennik*) and two other pieces, entitled *Brulion monografii o kuchni ludowej* [A draft monograph on the folk cuisine], and the touching *List do bratanka Mundka* [Letter to my nephew Mundek]. An annex is attached presenting a literary piece *Yzkor*. The diary has for a long time been mainly known among literary scholars who consider it one of the most important documents ever generated in the Warsaw Ghetto. The other texts have been virtually unknown, apart from a narrow circle of experts. These records cannot be characterised in a clearly defined manner; the editor calls them a collage of heterogeneous materials of varied type (including leaflets or song lyrics). But not only the form is peculiar: these texts are, primarily, a poignant record, testimony of a woman, a Pole and, above all, a Jewess from the world doomed to annihilation. Karolina Szymaniak, the editor and author of the introduction and a biographical essay included in this book, is a literary scholar associated with the Jewish Historical Institute. For this particular edition she has been awarded the

History Prize of the *Polityka* weekly, 2016 (category 'Diaries, Memoirs and Sources'). (GK)

Jacek Wołoszyn (ed.), *Wysiedlenia jako narzędzie polityki ludnościowej w Europie XX wieku* [Displacements as an instrument of population policy in twentieth-century Europe], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu Oddział Lublin, Lublin, 2015, 384 pp., bibliog., summaries, indexes

A collection of fifteen studies, the book has resulted from an international scientific conference on forcible transfers of people in Europe, which was held in Zamość in 2012. The lead theme is German ethnic cleansings carried out in the Zamość region in 1941–3 in view of preparing the area for a German settlement action. Ingo Haar argues that relocations and displacements did not ensue from twentieth-century totalitarian political concepts but rather from the strife to accelerate the building of ethnically homogeneous nation-states and, as such, had originated in the nineteenth century. Another really valuable fact about the book is that the authors endeavour to define and qualify the relevant terms and notions they use. Piotr Eberhard has undertaken to precisely calculate the wartime and post-war migrations in the Polish territory. Andrzej Gąsiorowski and Sebastian Piątkowski describe the displacements that took place in the Polish lands during the war. In her article, Isabel Heinemann argues that the German action in Zamość Land in 1943 might be perceived as the first implementation of the great Generalplan Ost (this never-delivered design was meant to alter the population relations in that particular region of Europe after Germany's expected victory). The 'Children of Zamość Land' are dealt with by Beata Kozaczyńska, whose essay discusses the lot of the deported Polish children, separated from their parents and displaced to the Generalgouvernement. Rafał Wnuk compares the German and Soviet deportations during the war. Another group of articles focuses on post-war expulsions and repatriations – the returns to the homeland of prisoners-of-war (Janusz Wróbel writes on this aspect) and others. Dorota Sula discusses the functioning of the State Repatriation Office – an important institution that coordinated the receiving of repatriates and the displacing of members of unwanted nationalities. (BK)

Tadeusz Wolsza, *"To co widziałem przekracza swą grozą najśmielsze fantazje"*. *Wojenne i powojenne losy Polaków wizytujących Katyń w 1943 roku* ["The things I saw go beyond the most

daring dreadful visions". The wartime and post-war stories of Poles visiting Katyn in 1943], *Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne, Instytut Historii PAN, Wydawnictwo Neriton, Warszawa, 2015, 349 pp., index, summaries in English, ill.*

After the discovery by the Wehrmacht of the mass graves of Polish army officers shot dead in 1940 by the NKVD, the German propaganda took efforts to use the crime in the struggle against the Soviet Union and the Allied Forces, and to warn the population of the countries allied with Germany against communism. Tadeusz Wolsza's book tells the story of teams of Polish experts – doctors, journalists, writers, workers, army officers – who were once brought by the Germans to the exhumation site at Katyn. Having inspected the site, these special visitors were expected to attest, through press interviews or meetings with workers at workplaces, that it was the Soviets who had perpetrated the crime. According to the author's findings, some sixty Poles have visited the massacre site on the Germans' invitation, mostly under coercion; some with the knowledge and consent of the competent bodies of the Polish Underground State, and some out of their own will (such as collaborator journalists working for the German press for Poles). In 1945, their situation changed entirely: some fled to the West; others, intimidated and threatened with jailing, publicly denied that the NKVD was the perpetrator and laid the blame on the Germans. The book contains altogether fifteen essays: an introduction, ten biographical sketches, and four articles discussing, respectively, the position of the Polish émigré Government in London with respect to the massacre crime, the Polish communists' policies with respect to Katyn, the Katyn massacre thread in post-war trials of collaborator journalists, and how the massacre was treated by the Polish Radio in the Stalinist period. (Thus, some pieces of information and threads reappear across the essays.) (BK)

Robert Witalec, *Franciszek Wilk 1914-1990. Biografia ludowca niezłomnego* [Franciszek Wilk 1914–90: Biography of a steadfast peasant activist], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu Oddział w Rzeszowie, Muzeum Historii Polskiego Ruchu Ludowego, Warszawa, 2015, 375 pp., bibliog., index, ill.

This biography of Franciszek Wilk, an outstanding figure in the peasant movement, partisan fighter during the Second World War and thereafter an émigré activist who returned to Poland to spend his last days there, consists of six sections subdivided into chapters. Robert Witalec, of the Rzeszów Branch

of the National Remembrance Institute, presents the material in a chronological order, which proves a pretty good idea. The analytical section performs at times not as well, but the author's task was admittedly uneasy. His intention was to describe a politician whose biography abounded in turns – some of them so violent that the classical biographistic tools appear insufficient. Given the sort of the story's character, an extensive contextual background would be recommendable, since Wilk was a peasant activist whose biography was pretty extraordinary. He undertook activities among peasant activists as a student at the Lviv's John Casimir University. When still a student, in 1937, he was arrested for having joined an illegal organisation and organising a peasant strike in the Voivodeship of Tarnopol. During the Second World War, he contributed to the development of peasant conspiracy within the *Rewolucyjny Związek Niepodległości i Wolności* (Revolutionary Association for Independence and Liberty). Arrested by the NKVD in February 1940, he was put in Soviet labour camps, then joined the Polish Army and did the route of Middle East and Great Britain. In the UK, he made himself to a major figure in the 'peasant' émigré circle, second to Stanisław Mikołajczyk. The narrative quite successfully focuses on the steadfastness and other heroic features of the man whose story it tells. Whether it is a complete biography of the full-blooded figure, is disputable. The study is nonetheless based on abundant amount of sources, and this is its pretty strong point. Even if one would call some of the proposed opinions into question, the author's truth-seeking effort is unquestionable. A meticulous bibliography, list of acronyms, index of personal names and illustrations are attached. (GK)

August Grabski, *Centralny Komitet Żydów w Polsce (1944–1950). Historia polityczna* [The Central Committee of Jews in Poland, 1944–50: A political history], Żydowski Instytut Historyczny im. Emanuela Ringelbluma, Warszawa, 2015, 376 pp., bibliog., index, ill.; series: Z Dziejów Centralnego Komitetu Żydów w Polsce

The *Centralny Komitet Żydów w Polsce* (Central Committee of Jews in Poland; otherwise named the Central Committee of Polish Jews, CKŻP), the major public (political and social) organisation of the Polish Jewish community, was established in 1944, with 250,000 members in 1945 and 70,000 in 1950. The Committee soon grew to become a very important institution, as it successfully integrated the disunited currents in the Jewish political life. The body formed a 'great coalition' of parties, communists alongside the socialist Bund, as well as Zionists; in June 1948, Jewish religious communities declared their readiness to join. August Grabski's book demonstrates that the CKŻP managed to establish a sort of non-territorial autonomy; while impossible

in interwar Poland, the project remained unique against the other 'people's democracy' countries. Naturally, the Committee supported the communist Government – an attitude that was politically realistic and expressed gratitude for the communists' clearly defined attitude toward anti-Semitic excesses of the Polish 'underground' (post-war armed resistance organisations). The CKŻP influenced all the spheres of Jewish life: culture (publishing projects, theatrical activity, other), economy (cooperatives), education, healthiness (Health Protection Society), and even security (self-defence forces, numbering 2,500 armed men, were organised to protect a total of 390 Jewish institutions across Poland). The Committee activists maintained contacts with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Although a minority, which did not enjoy support from most of the Jewish community, Jewish communists took over the CKŻP in 1949. The book has a section quoting a hundred pages of various documents: official letters, manifestos of Jewish parties, and publicist polemics (ideological disputes between various political orientations did not fade away and continued to determine the daily business of the organisation). (BK)

Andrzej Żbikowski, *Sąd społeczny przy CKŻP. Wojenne rozliczenia społeczności żydowskiej w Polsce* [The 'honour court' of the Central Committee of Polish Jews: Wartime settlements within the Jewish community in Poland], Żydowski Instytut Historyczny im. Emanuela Ringelbluma, Warszawa, 2014, 368 pp., bibliog., index; series: Z Dziejów Centralnego Komitetu Żydów w Polsce

Another important publication in the series related to the research project editing the documentation of the Central Committee of Polish Jews (CKŻP) collected at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. The author, Andrzej Żbikowski, researcher into the history of Polish Jewry and the Holocaust (associated with the Jewish Historical Institute and the University of Warsaw), discusses the sensitive and complex problem of settlements of wartime issues within the Jewish community in Poland – a problem that has been absent in public awareness for a number of years. This primarily includes the cases of participation of some Jews in the annihilation of their fellow ethnic members, a process initiated and carried out by the Third Reich. The book has two parts, the first being a large, problem-oriented essay (of more than 150 pages) offering a historical and social context of the processes under discussion; the second is a no less extensive collection of sources. Most of the documentation focuses on the processes themselves. Settlements within the Jewish community began at a rather late date, mainly due to the migration processes

taking place and the complicated socio-political situation in the Polish lands. The CKŻP set up a *Centralny Sąd Społeczny* (Central People's Court) as a body dealing with such settlements only in late autumn of 1946. The Court heard the cases of those who "in the period of the Nazi occupation [failed to observe] an attitude that is worthy of a Jewish citizen". The system of punishments was fairly extensive, though it was mostly based on honour sanctions, ones that stigmatised socially or downright excluded the ones found guilty from the Jewish community (the array of sanctions included admonition, reprimand, or stigmatisation, through suspended membership with the CKŻP, for up to three years, and, in the most drastic cases, exclusion from the Jewish community). The study aptly renders the mood prevalent among the Jewish people after the war as well as a broader public climate around the accounts to be squared with the Nazis' collaborationists in Poland; and this one aspect makes it an invaluable source. An additional value of this particular volume, and the series in its entirety, is its careful editorial framework. A glossary, an index and a conscientious bibliography all facilitate the reading. (GK)

Elżbieta Kossewska, *"Ona jeszcze mówi po polsku, ale śmieje się po hebrajsku". Partyjna prasa polskojęzyczna i integracja kulturowa polskich Żydów w Izraelu (1948–1970)* ["She can still speak Polish but laughs in Hebrew": Polish-language party press and cultural integration of Polish Jews in Israel, 1948–70], Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2015, 516 pp., bibliog., index, ill.

The study consists of seven chapters covering various episodes in the history of Polish Jews in the first years of the state of Israel. The first chapter deals with the Polish language within the intellectual landscape of the Jewish state; Chapter 2 discusses the press related to the Progressive Party, around which most of the Polish-speaking clustered; the other chapters discuss the press organs of essential importance for the milieu of Polish Jews. The last, seventh chapter tells an unknown story of the epilogue of the Warsaw weekly *Po Prostu*. Although the monograph mainly discusses periodicals and their related milieu, the author's ambition is much greater. The study, essentially, investigates the political history of Polish Jews in Israel, and their cultural and intellectual achievements. It shows how Polish Jews were adapting into the Israeli society, transformations of their views and attitudes (particularly, of former communists) in the context of the local political system and network of interdependencies between political parties. Biographies of journalists and artists of Jewish origin, who left for Israel after the Second World War, are shown. Altogether, the book depicts a history of the Polish diaspora in Israel.

A glossary of selected terms, a list of abbreviations, a useful bibliography and a name index are attached. (GK)

Łukasz T. Sroka and Mateusz Sroka, *Polskie korzenie Izraela. Wprowadzenie do tematyki. Wybór źródeł* [The Polish roots of Israel: An introduction to the subject-matter: Selection of sources], Wydawnictwo Austeria, Kraków and Budapest, 2015, 716 pp., annex, ill.

This is the first comprehensive publication seeking to describe the 'Polish' roots of the state of Israel. Of the book's two parts, the first is *de facto* a monograph of the multiple connections between the contributions of Polish Jews or, at times, also 'ethnic' Poles, and an imagined Zionist community that was taking shape and, thereafter, a Zionist state. This section is composed of four large chapters. The second section has an annex attached comprising a total of sixteen documents illustrating some of the arguments in support of the theories proposed in the book and picturing the diversity within the Zionist/Israeli experience. The extensive archive query certainly deserves recognition. There is a number of new threads unknown to scholars before, many of which should certainly be followed up. Regrettably, the authors did not resist using some showy but missing-the-point arguments, seeking for Polish footprints overenthusiastically at times. The 'Polish roots' sometimes extend into a whole trunk that as if forms the carcass of the Jewish state. The two researchers from Cracow have not problematized the pretty important issue of ousting the Polish input from the Israeli awareness. This book does not seek to address the question why this particular thread has only been functioning marginally, as has been the case with some other cultural 'roots' of the Israelis. Interesting analyses of the belles-lettres and meticulous editing (which is quite usual with Austeria, a Cracow-based publisher) encourage to read the book carefully. (GK)

Joanna Karbarz-Wilińska, Magdalena Nowak, and Tadeusz Sucharski (eds.), *Polacy i Ukraińcy. Historia, która łączy i dzieli / Polâki i Ukraïnci. Istoriâ, âka poëdnue i roz'ëdnue* [Poles and Ukrainians: The history that unites and divides], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Akademii Pomorskiej, Słupsk, 2015, 391 pp., bibliog., summaries, ill.

This publication summarises and sums up two international conferences held in Gdańsk in 2012 and 2013, respectively, by five Polish institutions:

the Pomeranian Academy in Słupsk, the National Remembrance Institute – Branch of Gdańsk, the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, the Baltic Sea Cultural Centre in Gdańsk and the Department of History at the University of Gdańsk. The twenty-eight articles deal with Polish-Ukrainian relations, attempts at diagnosing the present-day state-of-play in this respect, and the developmental opportunities. Each chapter is followed by a transcript of the discussion between the speakers and the audience, as well as summaries in Polish or Ukrainian. A summarising section entitled 'Politics and literary output' forms a conclusion; it includes three essays – by Tadeusz Sucharski, Tomasz Stryjek, and Oksana Weretiuk, the latter being an extended version of her contribution to the debate. The edition is bilingual, as were the two underlying conferences: the texts are published in their original language version and are summarised in the other conference language. Carefully compiled editorial notes are added to clarify the issues tackled by the authors and tell the reader more about the persons featured; these notes are complementary to the bibliography. Biographical notes of the authors are included at the end of the book. In certain respects, the publication is pretty unique, given its character. Such publications are often described as those opening a dialogue space between once-conflicted communities – and there is no exaggeration in such a description in this particular case. Most of the authors are the leading figures in the research into Polish-Ukrainian relationships; their contributions reflect the attitudes of the public opinion of both communities involved. Social scholars will also be satisfied: this voluminous book is certainly, so far, the most complete and most respectable review of Polish-Ukrainian issues of crucial importance, revisited in the last decade. (GK)

Tomasz Krok, *Antymasońska komórka Episkopatu Polski w świetle badań i dokumentów (1946–1952)* [Anti-Masonic unit in the Episcopate of Poland: research findings and documents, 1946–52], Black Antlers Press, Gdynia and Kraków, 2015, XIX + 330 pp., bibliog., index

As the author stipulates upfront, the anti-Masonic group in question did not report to the Roman Catholic Episcopate; he argues, though, that Primate Stefan Wyszyński himself took interest in its activities. The main propellants of the group were Jerzy Krasnowolski and Ludwik Tyborowski, the intellectuals who in the 1930s had been involved in the progressive current, which was a minority trend within the Polish Church, named 'Odrodzenie' (after the group's journal). The two gentlemen collected information about hidden freemasons, tried to track them (including amidst the clergy, in the Catholic University of Lublin, etc.). Their broad acquaintances enabled them

to collect a file comprising many individuals ‘suspected’ of masonry: priests, intellectuals, or students – all until 1952 when the Security Office (*Urząd Bezpieczeństwa*, UB) dismantled the group by arresting its members. After 1956 Krasnowolski joined the PAX Association. The book describes quite a specific, marginal fraction of Catholic life of the time, but shows through it the strength of the anti-Masonic stereotype among the believer community. (BK)

Mirosław Szumiło and Marcin Żukowski (eds.), *Elity komunistyczne w Polsce* [Communist elites in Poland], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Warszawa and Lublin, 2015, 696 pp., bibliog., index, ill.

The book is based on a conference held in 2013 in Lublin, and comprises thirty essays written by young-generation scholars. The first section tries to define ‘power elites’ (government and leadership elites), in sociological and politological terms. Mirosław Szumiło discusses the theory in the context of the communist Poland (‘People’s Republic’) realities, defining four segments of the actual local communist-party elite: the Party apparatus, State apparatus (the government administration, some members of the Council of State, the judicature), the security apparatus, and the military. According to the proposed calculation, before 1970 the communist party elite was a team of up to 120 people, with only a half of them being formally members of the ‘elitist’ structure named the Central Committee (of the Polish United Workers’ Party [*Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza*, PZPR]). The second section offers essays on communists in the Second Republic (i.e., pre-war Poland, 1918–39). Zbigniew Zaporowski describes the functioning of the Communist Parliamentary Fraction in the Sejm (lower house of the Polish Parliament) in three consecutive terms-of-office (1921–35). The Communist Party of Poland (*Komunistyczna Partia Polski*, KPP) was banned but in fact took part in parliamentary elections, renamed – as opposite to the Communist Parliamentary Fraction (*Komunistyczna Frakcja Poselska*) which used its own name. The Fraction numbered two to seven elected parliamentary members and was joined in each of the Sejm terms by a few MPs from other parties. Until the early thirties, MPs freely took advantage of the immunity privilege in organising ‘meetings with voters’ (which in fact were procommunist rallies). The third section of the book contains essays on the central-level People’s Republic’s elite. Robert Spałek describes the major personal and ideological conflicts within the communist party during the Second World War and afterwards. Janusz Wrona portrays a few crypto-communists being top-level members of PZPR’s satellite parties (United Peasants’ Party [*Zjednoczone Stronnictwo Ludowe*, ZSL], Democratic Party [*Stronnictwo Demokratyczne*,

SD], and others). Infiltrated, these smaller parties could not become politically competitive to the communists. Paweł Libera draws a group portrait of members of the PZPR's Central Party Control Commission (1948–71): a body of thirty members (on average) with a long record with the Party, many of whom had been active as early as 1938 or before. Michał Siedziako describes the method of electing MP candidates in the period 1952–85, which took place by way of in-Party arrangements, through the play of interests of the groups involved. The fourth section offers studies on local party elites in Opole, Lublin, Bydgoszcz, and Voivodeship of Cracow. Przemysław Gasztold-Señ describes the activity of what was called the Katowice Party Forum, a dogmatic 'Fronde' that emerged within the communist party in 1981. Section five brings in biographical sketches on Party activists such as the writer Jerzy Putrament, Stefan Staszewski, and Mieczysław F. Rakowski. The book offers plenty of biographical detail and prosopographic analyses, while the lifestyle typical of the elites under discussion has not been described at length. Altogether, the collection proves that the expected turn is taking place with respect to historiographic research of communist Poland, the focus getting shifted from the dissident movement and repression apparatus to the ruling party. (BK)

Andrzej Szczerski, *Cztery nowoczesności. Teksty o sztuce i architekturze polskiej XX wieku* [The Four Modernities: Essays on Polish twentieth-century art and architecture], Studio Wydawnicze Dodo Editor, Kraków, 2015, 264 pp., bibliog., index, ill.; series: To Nie Jest Fajka

In his new book, Andrzej Szczerski, historian and art critic, author and editor of a number of valued studies (incl. *Wzorce tożsamości. Recepcja sztuki brytyjskiej w Europie Środkowej około 1900* [Patterns of identity. The reception of British art in Central Europe around 1900], Kraków, 2002), proposes an original reading of Polish art of the twentieth century. The book consists of ten chapters plus a short but very helpful bibliographical note, an index of names and a list of illustrations. Szczerski discusses four interpretations of modernity related to different historical periods: the last years of the Partitions, the Second Republic (1918–39), the People's Republic, and the regained freedom after 1989. In the author's view, these interpretations are reflected in buildings designed in the so-called Zakopane style; inspirations by the Esperanto language; modernist architecture and avant-garde art of the interwar period; the painting of the fifties and sixties, which commented the Cold War reality; also, the development of hotels and resorts in the 1970s; or, the modernist-inspired industrial design and art of the recent two decades. Altogether, the book is a new and significant contribution to the debate on

modernization processes in the history of Poland. Szczerski's argument is that Polish twentieth-century culture proved capable of discerning and working through, processing, the modern slogans, avoiding imitation and imitativeness. He believes that contradistinguishing 'Polishness' and 'modernity' is not worth it; instead, 'modernity' ought to be accepted as an integral part of the Polish heritage. Szczerski's interest extends to manifestations of modernism that have been neglected, overlooked, or pushed aside. The book comes as another ambitious and thought-provoking proposition of this author. (GK)

Arkadiusz Kierys, *Polska Jasienica. Biografia publicysty* [Jasienica's Poland: A biography of the publicist], Towarzystwo Autorów i Wydawców Prac Naukowych "Universitas", Kraków, 2015, 596 pp.

An extensive biography of Leon Lech Beynar, better known under his penname Paweł Jasienica (1909–70), an outstanding historical publicist, one of the most popular 'narrators' of the history of Poland, the book is authored by a historian who is doubtlessly fascinated by Jasienica. Jasienica's output aroused much controversy among professional scholars, and seemingly still does. However, it became a source of inspiration for lovers of history, and for professional researchers at a later date. In his four-chapter study, Arkadiusz Kierys narrates the biography of the uncommon figure. Born in Russia, Leon L. Beynar settled in Wilno together with his parents, after several removals, and spent the interwar period there. He worked there as a journalist for the radio and then also for the press (*Słowo* daily). Although he was associated with socially active youth circles, such as the legendary *Klub Włóczęgów* (Vagabonds' Club), he was not perceived as an activist-to-be and generally assumed a distanced attitude toward 'great politics'. He joined Wilno-region partisan forces during the Second World War (serving, among others, as aide-de-camp to Colonel Zygmunt Szendzielarz, known under his famous nom-de-guerre 'Łupaszka'). Although we cannot tell for sure how formative that episode was for Beynar's worldview, it certainly had a bearing on his public presence in the years that followed. Kierys portrays Paweł Jasienica as a symbol of intellectual opposition against the communist system in Poland, which however seems to be an exaggeration for some of the post-war periods. Jasienica's writing output initially became known to, and identifiable in, a semi-official space; its mass reception was a complex phenomenon that calls for special focus. It is certain that this author's independence as an individual, combined with a commercial success of his works, particularly in the last years of his life, enraged the topmost circles of the communist authorities. Kierys reminds us how this obsession originated and what its dynamics was. The most interesting points seem to be the least

known post-war episodes, such as Jasienica's activity as journalist in the country's Western Territories; again, his most successful period, the sixties' decade, most completely reflect the dilemmas of Polish 'creative intelligentsia' under communist rule. While the study does not drill deep down into the startling threads in Jasienica's biography, including the famed affair of his surveillance by the Security Service (*Służba Bezpieczeństwa*, SB), which was crowned by the writer's marriage to a secret service agent that spied on him throughout their love affair and marriage (a famous para-biographical film *Różyczka* has been made based on this real-life story), it will certainly vivify the interest in Beynar/Jasienica, who was a complex and tragic figure. (GK)

Jędrzej Chumiński, *Robotnicy polscy 1945–1956. “Stary” i “nowy” ośrodek przemysłowy na przykładzie Krakowa i Wrocławia* [Polish workers in 1945–56: Cracow and Wrocław as model examples of the 'old'- and 'new'-style industrial hub], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Ekonomicznego, Wrocław, 2015, 629 pp., bibliog., annex: 130 tables

The author has intended to describe the diversity among Polish industrial workers in the post-war period, trying to determine whether there is a relation between the social and demographic characteristics of workers from the former Polish lands and the Recovered Territories and (i) their awareness at the threshold of the 'People's Republic' of Poland, (ii) the evolution of attitudes and behaviours, (iii) forms of coexistence with the system, (iv) the scale of social resistance and the strategies applied to adapt to the new realities. Jędrzej Chumiński has carried out an impressive and extensive archival study. Basing on personal files from four establishments (two each from Wrocław and Cracow), he has formed a database featuring 16,100 individuals who took a job after the Second World War; 4,300 of those who worked during the war; and, 2,900 employed before the war. The data concerning the social background, education, political membership, etc., have been subject to statistical analysis. The book opens with a summary description of the chief characteristics of the worker milieu in the Second Republic (1918–39); scarce and elitist as it was, the community excelled in their education, and ability to defend their interests. Post-war industrial workers followed up the community of the group formed before 1939 to a slight degree. The war, territorial change, and especially the economic and social policy pursued after 1945 by the communist authorities resulted in a thorough refurbishment of the composition of the worker stratum. With a considerable number of people joining the ranks of workers, never before associated with the working class, it became disintegrating; its properties, otherwise important from the economic

(education, qualifications, professional experience, incentives for work) and social standpoint (capability of getting self-organised, skill of struggling for one's own interests, resistance to the pressures from the administration and to propaganda), were deteriorating. Inclusion of low-educated people, of rural origin, who were often very young and left without support from their families, along with people demoralised by the wartime conditions, gave the communists an opportunity to gain considerable political support. Hence, the support for communism was apparently not anchored in the internalisation of the communist party's programme but rather, as Chumiński argues, in certain psychological characteristics of some workers – specifically, their high authoritarianism. The other group (the demoralised workers) were ready to support the communist rule out of their opportunism and conformism. The more integrated the workers' milieu was, and the more strictly it observed the traditional values, the more frequently it resorted to collective action in defence of their interests (through strikes or otherwise). Mass action was predominant among teams of crews, rooted out and atomised as they were: workers expressed their dissatisfaction emotionally, thoughtlessly refusing to obey and deliver what they were supposed to. Various aspects of activity of industrial workers are discussed (labour discipline, productivity, output quality, staff turnover) along with aspects of the authorities' policies influencing the situation of workplace environments or workers' groups, such as salary policies, the health-and-safety-at-work issue, and the compulsory 'labour competition'. The activities of the repression and supervision apparatus in the country's economy is discussed quite at length, with a focus of the effects of the Security Office (UB) units being made part of industrial establishments (as 'protection squads'). The book is a methodologically informed and ambitious view of a large segment of post-war society. The author attempts to identify the (economic) reasons behind the economic disaster of the Stalinist economic project, stressing the importance of the human factor. According to his calculations, the category of 'authoritarian non-productive' workers amounted to as many as 75 per cent of the headcounts in the 'recovered' (i.e., former German) lands and just 64 per cent in the 'old' lands. The 'mobile opportunistic' category extended to 10 per cent of the stratum for both parts of post-war Poland. The proletariat, or productive workers, being the economically most valuable category, amounted to a mere 15 per cent of workers in the Regained Territories, as versus 26 per cent in the 'old' Poland. (BK)

Piotr Franaszek (ed.), *Granice kompromisu. Naukowcy wobec aparatu władzy ludowej* [The borders of compromise: Scientists facing the 'people's authority' apparatus], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi

Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2015, 343 pp., bibliog., index, summary in English, ill.; series: Dziennikarze, Twórcy, Naukowcy

The attitude of the 'security apparatus' towards the scientific milieu in communist Poland has become legendary. The legend is two-faced: its 'white' aspect shows academics as mentally independent nonconformists, and oppositionists; the 'black legend' has it that the scientists and scholars were talented but void of thought or ideology, and were ready to commit a gross or a 'lesser' meanness in exchange of an opportunity to go abroad. A strong point of this publication is that it shows, using a dozen biographical cases, that the reality of the scientific life was much more complex. Not every science worker came up short in the clash against the oppressive system: many came away completely unscathed, although they missed the opportunity to deepen their knowledge, obtain a scholarship or grant, be offered a managerial or executive position, and so on. The book comprises articles by fifteen authors, mainly of young generation. The characters portrayed are figures known locally, associated with smaller universities (outside Warsaw), along with persons commonly recognisable in their time, such as the zoologist Jan Kielanowski (member of the Workers' Defence Committee) or Andrzej Burda, a lawyer (General Public Prosecutor in 1957–61). The book aptly recalls the details of political biographies of some outstanding scientists (Eugeniusz Szczepankiewicz, a mathematician from Opole, had suffered four years in prison in the Stalinist period for establishing an anticommunist youth organisation), showing the ways in which the past informed the attitude toward the communist state and its political system. There are a few portraits of scholars who definitely opposed their calling and were active, instead, as secret collaborators of the Security Service. An interesting case in point is described: in the 1940s, Wiktor Herer was an investigator with the Ministry of Public Security, and later on, an official with the economic administration. As a renowned economist, he became an advisor to the (anticommunist) *Solidarność* trade union in 1980. (BK)

Karolina Bittner, *Piosenka w służbie propagandy. Festiwal Piosenki Żołnierskiej w Kołobrzegu 1968–1989* [Sing to serve the propaganda: The Military Song Festival in Kołobrzeg, 1968–89], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu Oddział w Poznaniu, Poznań, 2015, 281 pp., bibliog., index, annex, ill.; series: Studia i Materiały Poznańskiego IPN, 31

The book is an interesting study of one of the most important and long-standing music festivals in communist Poland. As with any like event in the

People's Republic, it had a propaganda dimension, as it was meant to show the Polish Army, emphasise the association of the 'Recovered Territories' with Poland, but also had an entertainment tint to it. The performers were expected to produce at least one (out of the three) songs related to the military – usually, praising the uniform, lauding the everyday service, describing the pleasures indulged by a soldier if let out of his unit for a short time. The lyrics were, obviously, checked and censored before admitted on stage. Apart from Poland, the performers came from the 'fraternal' (allied) armies of the Warsaw Pact. The Festival was first held in Połczyn Zdrój in 1967, and thereafter moved to nearby Kołobrzeg – the town that had been fiercely defended by the German troops in March 1945. The last edition, under the established formula, took place in 1990, but the event continued, restyled, until 1997 (some editions in the nineties taking place elsewhere). The agency in charge of the Festival was the Ministry of National Defence. The awards granted to performers were the Gold or Silver Ring (alluding to the 1945 'Poland's Wedding to the Sea' ceremony), alongside a number of other prizes funded by local authorities. The few-days-long event enjoyed extensive media coverage; parades of singing military troops were held in the city, off the stage. The audiences were attracted by the masters-of-ceremonies, the war film stars Stanisław Mikulski and Pola Raksa. The author shows the decreasing popularity of the festival over the years, which was due to its conservative style as well as the prevalent political considerations. In the latter half of the 1970s, renowned lyrics authors and composers discontinued their contributions to the Festival. Aversion from the public increased in the 1980s (the young generation opposed the obligatory, and indeed coerced, military service). A penetrating analysis of 250 out of the 1,000 lyrics produced at the Festival takes quite a place in the book. (BK)

Jan Olaszek, *Rewolucja powielaczy. Niezależny ruch wydawniczy w Polsce 1976–1989* [The 'revolution of duplicators': Poland's independent publishing movement, 1976–89], Trzecia Strona, Warszawa, 2015, 353 pp., index, bibliog., ill.

The book is the first popular, but observing the rigours of scholarly approach, synthetic study on the phenomenon called 'underground publishing' or, briefly, the samizdat [Polish, *drugi obieg* – second circulation], which was unique in East Central Europe owing to its scale. Dealing with the topic for years, Jan Olaszek has managed to collect many accounts from the contributors of the independent publishing movement, oppositionists and readers of the independent press. This has enabled him to excellently portray the non-formalised and non-bureaucratized phenomenon of illegal printing, which in Poland began in 1976. The author combines extensive knowledge of relevant

facts with anecdotes and stories from the dramatic lives of printers, editors, and readers. The book is arranged according to chronology and categorised problems. Discussed are the beginnings of the local samizdat, how it developed (the major political and literary periodicals), main political controversies among independent milieus, the role of free press in the strikes of August 1980 and during the first *Solidarność* period (until 13 December 1981). The martial law gave the samizdat a fresh impetus, which was reflected in the surge of conspiratorial newsletters (some were published in small towns as well), whilst printing and publishing became less safe. Olaszek enumerates the bestselling samizdat books, discusses the finance and economy of this illegal national economy sector. There is a chapter describing the everyday conspiracy activities (daily business of editorial teams, efforts of the printers, distributors' activities) and the methods used by the Security Service (SB) to eradicate them. For this book its author has been awarded the History Prize of the *Polityka* weekly, 2016. (BK)

Marian Kaleta, *Emigrancka spółka "Szmugiel". Wspomnienia dostawcy sprzętu poligraficznego przemycanego do Polski dla opozycji antykomunistycznej w latach 1978–1989* [‘The Smugglers’, an emigrant company: Memoirs of a supplier of printing equipment smuggled into Poland in 1978–89], ed. by Władysław Tyrański, with an introduction by Patryk Pleskot, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2015, 222 pp., index, ill.

Before he escaped from Poland in 1969, the author of these reminiscences (born 1945) was severely critical toward communism. Expelled several times from school, he attempted, together with a group of young mates, to pick up some weapons and considerable money for his political activity (and twice received a suspended sentence for these attempts, by way of criminal trial). In 1970, an immigrant in Sweden then, he acquired from Polish sailors the news about a workers' revolt in Szczecin, which he forwarded to Jerzy Giedroyc, the editor of *Kultura* monthly in Paris. Kaleta undertook a regular political activity in 1978, as he decided to support the independent publishing movement at home by buying used duplicators (copiers) and sending them to Polish opposition activists (dissidents), initially by smuggling with use of yachts which were arriving (many of them illegally) from Poland. The ships brought alcohols and other goods to Swedish ports and took away printing machineries, money, publications issued in the West (*Kultura* being one of them), and so forth. In 1980, Kaleta established a contact with the Polish Government in exile, based in London, from which he raised funds. With the launch of the martial law, he gave up his professional career and

focused on collaboration with Polish underground opposition, importing duplicators and charity goods to Poland by passenger cars and, since 1985, a heavy-duty lorry. He served the then-illegal *Solidarność* in many other ways as well, forging documents, gaining money, and popularising Polish opposition in Scandinavian mass media. The channel through which Kaleta and his team supplied the dissidents with printing equipment was probably the major such network until 1986, the date the driver was detained and the transport confiscated by the Polish secret political police. Kaleta's reminiscences document various attitudes among Swedish citizens and state with respect to the aid action for Poland, and portray the relationships linking the old (London) and young (Paris, Brussels) Polish emigration hubs. (BK)

Jakub Kazimierski, *PZPR w województwie katowickim wobec NSZZ "Solidarność" w latach 1980–1982* [The Polish United Workers' Party in Voivodeship of Katowice versus the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union 'Solidarity', 1980–2], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu Oddział w Katowicach, Katowice, 2014, 360 pp., bibliog., index

The Voivodeship of Katowice (covering the Upper Silesia and Dąbrowa Basin [Zagłębie Dąbrowskie] area) was a peculiar instance of conflicting relations between the *NSZZ Solidarność* (Solidarity labour union) and the communist party (PZPR). It was Upper Silesia that Edward Gierek, in office as First Secretary of the Party's Central Committee till September 1980, came from. The local PZPR organisation was the largest in Poland. All the same, *Solidarność* (the trade union and social movement) proved strong and even radical there, as was shown by the dramatic days that followed the imposition of the martial law in December 1981: part of the wave of strikes and protests which followed in its aftermath was the bloody pacification of the *Wujek* Coal Mine. Kazimierski outlines the specific situation of the area, defining its economic importance and the axes of crucial social conflicts. Once *Solidarność* emerged, the Provincial Committee of the communist party took resolute action targeted at the new labour union, and declared a propaganda war on it. Poland's balance of payments was dependent upon the coal output, so the authorities endeavoured to incline the miners to work more productively, which aroused resistance among the *Solidarność* ranks. Untypical in the national context was the fact that the local *Solidarność* leader Jarosław Sienkiewicz, who had signed the arrangement between the striking workers' representation and the Government in Jastrzębie (3 September 1980), entered into cooperation with the PZPR authorities, which led to his dismissal as the trade union's member in January 1981. Otherwise, 1981 saw the setting up of a Katowice

Party Forum, being a team of dogmatic communist party activists hostile to *Solidarność*. Based on the archival material and the press, official and trade-union, the book describes political controversies and disputes, and portrays the leading local activists of the Party as well as *NSZZ Solidarność*. (BK)

Tadeusz Ruzikowski, *Międzyzakładowy Robotniczy Komitet „Solidarności”. Relacje i dokumenty* [The Intercompany Workers' Committee of 'Solidarity': Accounts and documents], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2015, 654 pp., bibliog., index, ill.; series: Warszawa Nie?Pokonana, 10

In 1982, the *Międzyzakładowy Robotniczy Komitet Solidarności* (Intercompany Workers' Committee of 'Solidarity', MRKS) was, doubtlessly, the most important political opposition structure in Warsaw. The body emerged spontaneously, a few weeks after the martial law was imposed in Poland (in December 1981), through linkages developed between 'conspiratorial contacts' of a number of industrial establishments within Warsaw, as if ignoring the previous structures of the once-legal *Solidarność* trade union (outlawed by the martial law regime). Remarkable in size, the organisation had considerable funds at its disposal, attracting workers eager to fight, along with (a few) radical intellectuals. The Committee carried out a series of spectacular and famed actions: Jan Narożniak, a printer, was released from surveillance when treated at a hospital after he was shot by Militiamen (the police) in the street; a strongly feculent liquid was spilled at a Warsaw theatre whose team did not observe the boycott announced by the actors and stage directors in support of the *Solidarność* movement. In autumn 1982, the leading MRKS activists were arrested, and put before court in the following year, groundlessly charged with using terroristic methods. The organisation continued to act afterwards, mostly as a team publishing the widely-read underground weekly *CDN – Głos Wolnego Robotnika*, rather than an extensive organisation. The MRKS became a symbol of resistance, and was revived as such in a series of protest actions in downtown Warsaw in 1988. The book under review outlines the history of the Committee and offers a selection of original records: the organisation's own and of the national or local authorities (incl. the repression apparatus's documents, court records, reports from informal collaborators of the secret police). The author has also acquired accounts from a number of individuals once associated with the MRKS structure, intellectuals as well as workers, which, extensively quoted, form altogether a fascinating, multipart story of a radical workers' fraction of Warsaw *Solidarność* movement, whose activities were not always consistent with the policy pursued at the time by Lech Wałęsa. (BK)