

## SHORT NOTES\*

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### GENERAL WORKS

*Dzieciństwo i starość w ujęciu historyków* [Childhood and Advanced Age in Historians' View], ed. by Anna Obara-Pawłowska and Małgorzata Kołacz-Chmiel, Wydawnictwo UMCS, Lublin, 2016, 312 pp.

This collection includes seventeen essays (in Polish and English) on various aspects of the life and social status of children and the elderly from the early medieval to the inter-war period, in Poland, France, Ukraine, Germany, and Britain. The essays are organized chronologically: from the medieval Ruthenian chronicles, the reports of the Dubrovnik envoys to Paris, and the analysis of the ideas of Gregory of Tours, up to the celebrations of the veterans of the 1863 Polish uprising in the inter-war Poland. The specific problems discussed involve the legal status of children, contemporary perception of infants and the elderly, charity, demographical data, the organization of the health-care institutions, folklore traditions, and the astrological omens concerning infants' names. Generally, the essays are located half-way between original research, a synthetic presentation of the problem, and the analysis of historiography of the problem. Each essay includes an English summary and bibliography. The editors' introduction is disappointingly humble and uninformative. (AK)

*Historie alternatywne i kontrfaktyczne. Wizje, narracje, metodologia* [Alternate and Counterfactual Histories. Visions, Narrations, Methodology], ed. by Ewa Solska, Piotr Witek, and Marek Woźniak, Wydawnictwo UMCS, Lublin, 2017, 180 pp.

This collection of nine essays addresses the highly popular problem of alternative past in a particularly broad way. As the introduction by Ewa Solska suggests, their understanding of alternative histories is not limited to counterfactual scenarios in historiography proper, but includes a number of non-canonical and overtly constructivist approaches to the past, such as art-based research, proper alternative histories, and literary fiction. Thus, in

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contrast to a number of comparable collections published in the last decade, the present essays predominantly escape the problem of the cognitive value of counterfactuals, as well as that of their actual uses in historiography, instead concentrating on their ideological and emotional messages. In her ambitious overview of all competing visions of history Solska still arrives at a fairly conservative conclusion that “it is reasonable when historians consider counterfactual reasoning as an experimental form of thought” (p. 29). The next essay, by Jakub Muchowski, combines the analysis of the ideas of Frederic Jameson (*The Politically Unconscious. Narrative as a Socially Symbolic Act*) with that of contemporary Polish historical fiction considering ‘alternative’ pasts, and attempts at reconstructing the vision of Polish society of today, as well as the formal limitations of the counterfactual thinking, they represent. The following essays, by Piotr Witek, Dorota Stokarczyk, and Jacek Szymala, regard alternative images of the past in Polish cinema, film history, and visual history. The essay by Andrzej Dubicki considers the uses of counterfactual thinking in political sciences. The essay by Paweł Chilczuk analyses historical video games, and the modes of alternating the past they offer. (AK)

*Między nauką a sztuką. Wokół problemów współczesnej historiografii* [Between Scholarship and Art. About the Problems of Contemporary Historiography], ed. by Ewa Solska, Piotr Witek, and Marek Woźniak, Wydawnictwo UMCS, Lublin, 2017, 459 pp.

This impressive collection of twenty seven essays is dedicated to Jan Pomorski, professor of the Marie Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin and an eminent specialist in the history and theory of historical scholarship, on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of his professional career. A brief essay presenting his achievements, and the main trends in his research, preceded by his elegant portrait, and followed by the complete bibliography of his writings, opens the volume. The *tabula gratulatoria* concludes it. In contrast to what the title promises, slightly more than half of the essays included in the volume have to do with the problems of contemporary historiography or theory of history. Actually, a much broader scope of topics is covered, even though unsystematically. Chronologically, they begin with a highly innovative and insightful interpretation of the medieval Polish chronicles (‘the *bricolage* of medieval Polish historiography’). This is followed by an analysis of the nineteenth-century Polish historiography on the origins of the Polish statehood; the role of gossip during the First World War; early female Polish historians; the challenge of Marxism and the Polish historiography under communism; and some controversies concerning émigré Polish historiography of that period. The other essays concern a variety of issues related to the problems of historical thinking, the impact of history on contemporary culture, and its

representations as shaped by particular policies. These include: the problems of historical narration and the representations of time, the newer trends in organization of museums, the relation between landscape and historical monuments, digital humanities and cyber poetry, the uses and representations of history in contemporary design and industry, the sociological aspects of the idea of historical memory. In short, the volume, filled with essays penned by some of the most distinguished Polish historians, even though slightly incoherent, offers a fascinating reading for all interested with the presence of the past in contemporary culture, popular imagination, and theoretical reconsiderations. (AK)

Jan Żaryn, *Polska pamięć. O historii i polityce historycznej* [The Polish Memory: On History and Politics of History], Patria Media Adam Chmielecki, Gdańsk, 2017, 363 pp.

A collection of several dozens articles, interviews, and minor enunciations serialised into seven sections, written by Jan Żaryn, a professor with Warsaw's Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University [UKSW] and one of the most influential creators of what is called politics of history of Poland's political Right. Journalistic texts are predominant, most of which come from the history supplement of the right-wing weekly *Sieci*. A professional historian finds it difficult to argue with the opinions and evaluations proposed by this author, as they are a sort of moralising pieces of reading, using the corresponding poetics: an extremely simplified vision of the world; narcissism in respect of the author's own community, combined with a specific aura of martyrdom that denies dispute with other groups, and a contorted view of political opponents who seem to corner the author, and the ones he feels affinity with, from everywhere. However, all this – even if unwise – does impact the socio-political realities of present-day Poland. The social groups recognised by the author as 'carriers of anti-values', often simply inimical to Polish national community, are liable to stigmatisation in his texts. Identifying the author's worldview and system of values is not a difficult thing; Żaryn is a historian by profession, in any case. Referring his articles to historical research and the present state of knowledge, be it in popular-science terms, is much tougher a task. Well, a pity. (GK)

## MIDDLE AGES

Izydor z Sewilli [Isidore of Seville], *Historia Gotów, Wandalów i Swebów oraz kroniki wczesnośredniowiecznej Hiszpanii: Kronika po Hieronimie, Kronika saragoska, Kronika królów Wizygotów, Chronologia królów Gotów, Kronika “do Sebastiana”* [History of the Goths, Vandals, and Suevi, with Early Medieval Chronicles of Spain: Chronicle after Jerome, Saragossa Chronicle, Chronicle of the Kings of the Visigoths, Chronology of Gothic Kings, Chronicle “to Sebastian”], ed. by Artur Foryt, Avalon, Kraków, 2017, 179 pp., bibliog.

This small-sized book contains translations of Isidore of Seville’s *Historia Gothorum, Wandalorum et Suevorum* and a few early mediaeval Spanish chronicles – by Hydatius, Maximus of Saragossa, Alphonse III, and two anonymous continuators of Isidore. The compilation and translation is by Artur Foryt, translator and history lover (which the reader is not told of in the book). The publication has been prepared based on the editions in the series ‘Monumenta Germaniae Historica’ and ‘Patrologia Latina’. Observing the formal constraint, the slip-ups and lapses appearing in these translations would not be enumerated here; suffice it to say that they are repeatedly misleading. Having read the whole thing, one ponders about the translator’s command of the language of the original *and* the language of the translation. What is more, imitation of the Latinate inversion and use of (rather questionable) archaisms does not render a good service to these translations. The introduction, fairly voluminous (pp. 7–32), is potentially of use to readers unfamiliar with the subject-matter as it is almost entirely based on popular Polish publications: it places an emphasis on a school textbook-like political history of the Iberian Peninsula and on an anachronously perceived credibility of records, while neglecting the relevant aspect of source study and analysis. That the specificity of mediaeval historiographic works is alien to the translator, is evident. The publication does not speak well for the publishing house, which has apparently done no good job – in terms of proofreading and scholarly aspects. (RR)

Robert Kasperski, *Reges et gentes. Studia nad dyskursem legitymizującym władzę nad wspólnotami wyobrażonymi oraz strategiami ich konstruowania we wczesnym średniowieczu (VI–VII w.)* [*Reges et gentes. Studies in the Discourse Legitimising the Rule over Imagined Communities and in the Strategies of their Construction in the Early Middle Ages (Sixth–Seventh Centuries)*], Instytut Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2017, pp. 339, list of abbreviations, bibliog., abstract in English, index of persons

Robert Kasperski has already come off as an author of a dozen studies on identities of the peoples inhabiting the succession kingdoms in the West in the early Middle Ages. His most recent book follows up this line of research, focusing on the identities of the barbaric peoples (*gentes*) and the images of their ruling monarchs (*reges*). The author assumes that the unity of barbaric tribes was political rather than genetic – which means that it was based not so much on a common origin as it was on belief in such an origin. The book is divided into five parts, which might function as separate studies. The first, theoretical, offers a critique of the ethnogenesis model developed by Reinhard Wenskus, arguing that it was not as innovative as it is usually assumed. The discussion between the Viennese School founded by Wenskus and the Toronto School is touched upon. The two subsequent chapters analyse the historiographic works of Isidore of Seville, focusing our attention on the issue of independence of the Visigoths with respect to the Roman Empire and on the models of ideal monarch (using the example of Suintila, as contrasted with Gesalec). Part four focuses on the significance of long hair worn by the kings of the Merovingian dynasty (apparently related to the rulers' overt sexuality and their placing themselves above the law). The last chapter deals with two approaches on the ethnogenesis and identity of the Goths, developed chronologically close to each other, described by the author as a 'debate between Jordanes and Procopius of Caesarea'. Kasperski recalls the outcomes of anthropological and ethnological inquiries and makes use of rich comparative material, extending to peoples and geographies as remote as North American Indians. (RR)

Edmund Kotarski, *Kultura medialna średniowiecza. Europa łacińska* [*Media Culture of the Middle Ages. The Latin Europe*], Semper, Warszawa, 2017, 336 pp., index of names

Known so far mainly by his studies on boatbuilding and marine science and industry in Modern Age, Edmund Kotarski has now embarked on an interesting and difficult topic, described as media culture in the Middle

Ages – spanning from the year 476 until the end of the fifteenth century. The introduction defines media as forms of communication. Consequently, there are five chapters; the first concerns so-called personal media: among other aspects, rhetoric is covered – its history, the ways it was taught, and the practical uses of the skills primarily by preachers and singers of various kinds (for instance, *Minnesängers* and *troubadours*). The next chapter is on writing; discussed is the history of this form of communication, since Antiquity, and the history and production process of codices. Then follow more detailed remarks, such as how sermons and songs were written down – and, the same with respect to other forms of written-down stories: chronicles or annals. The interesting issue of how images were combined with written texts is addressed as well. The subsequent two chapters are on visual media, in the sacred space and in the space of power. Bas-reliefs, paintings, panels and plaques, sculptures, and pieces of stained glass are described; tympani and doors are discussed in a detailed manner. As for authority, paintings at rulers' residences, seals, coins, gonfalons and ensigns are discussed. Multimedia is the topic of the last chapter: liturgical rituals and theatre, including mystery plays, simultaneously used multiple forms of message transmission. Rituals connected with the ruler (coronation, ritual compliance) are covered as well; remarks on knighthood rituals are added. Rather than using historical records, the author prevalently refers to modern studies and second-hand knowledge. Artificial scholarship is encountered here and there: introductory section preceding the chapters are full of references to other humanistic sciences, alternated with quotations from, for instance, Polish poets Wisława Szymborska or Mieczysław Jastrun. Such remarks do not make the analysis any deeper, nor do they bear any importance to the narration. Altogether, the study makes no major contribution to the issues in question, tending instead to flatten a number of problems. Kotarski's book may be of use as a concise synthetic review of studies on the issues it was meant to deal with – yet, still with a sense of insufficiency. (AG)

Hanna Kóčka-Krenz, Marzena Matla, and Marcin Danielewski (eds.), *Tradycje i nowoczesność. Początki państwa polskiego na tle środkowoeuropejskim w badaniach interdyscyplinarnych* [Traditions and Modernity. The Origins of the Polish State in the Central European Context in Interdisciplinary Research], Wydawnictwo UAM, Poznań, 2017, 325 pp., ills., photographs, maps, charts, abstracts in English

The book was compiled as an outcome of a conference held under the same title in June 2015. Following a brief introduction, the articles are arranged

into three thematic groups; historiography being the first. This part contains Edward Skibiński's article on the origins of Polish state in the opinions of the chroniclers Gallus Anonymus, Master Vincentius, and the author of the *Greater Poland Chronicle*. This review does not contribute much to the current state of research. Tomasz Jasiński's essay on the ancestry of the Piasts according to historiographers shows the shallowness of the Norman theory and merely mentions the theory of the dynasty's Moravian origin. Aspects of history of historiography are covered also by Roman Michałowski, who discusses Professor Aleksander Gieysztor's opinion about the beginnings of Poland as a state. A group of texts follows concerning other lands or regions. The first in this group, by David Kalhous, covers the discussion from the 1950s between Czech Marxist historians and archaeologists on the society of Great Moravia. Marzena Matla addresses the issue of the beginnings of the Přemyslid domination. Dániel Bagi writes on the beginnings of the Árpád monarchy. The section is concluded with an article by Vratislav Vaníček on the role and importance of *družyna/družina* – the retinue being professional military force in service of a chieftain or ruler – in the emergence of statehoods in Central Europe. The section on archaeology opens with a brief account by Hanna Kóčka-Krenz on research related to the Millennium of the Baptism/Polish state. Next, Michał Kara offers a summary of his earlier studies (*Najstarsze państwo Piastów – rezultat przełomu czy kontynuacji? Studium archeologiczne* [The earliest state of the Piasts: a result of a breakthrough or continuation?], Poznań 2009; and, *Historiografia i archeologia polska o mechanizmach formowania się władztwa Piastów. Próba zestawienia ważniejszych poglądów* [Polish historiography and archaeology on the mechanisms of formation of the Piast dominion], published as part of *Instytucja "wczesnego państwa" w perspektywie wielości i różnorodności kultur* [The 'early state' institution in the context of multiplicity and diversity of cultures], ed. by Jacek Banaszkiewicz, Michał Kara, and Henryk Mamzer, Poznań 2015). Wojciech Chudziak and Ewelina Siemianowska investigate the annexation of Middle Pomerania to the Piast-ruled state. Marcin Danielewski writes about Kujavia, based on the existing settlement research. Ivana Boháčová proposes a study on archaeological research in the early Bohemian state. Nad'a Profantová tells us what can be found with respect to the ninth-/tenth-century Bohemian elite based on archaeological excavations. The first text of the subsequent section, co-authored by Luiza Handschuh, Małgorzata Marcinkowska-Swojak, Anna Philips, Ireneusz Stolarek, Piotr Kozłowski, and Marek Figlerowicz, is on obtainment and analysis of fossil DNA, being a sort of introduction to the subject-matter. The ensuing article, by Janusz Piontek, discusses the population of the Oder and Vistula basin on the grounds of anthropological studies. The section, and the book, ends with a presentation of the objectives of the project (which has been completed, according to the NCN database), penned jointly by Luiza Handschuh, Marzena Matla, Anna Juras, Andrzej Legocki, Piotr Kozłowski, Józef Dobosz, Tomasz Jasiński, Janusz



Piontek, Hanna Kóčka-Krenz, and Marek Figlerowicz. This final text shows, in a sense, the problems of the whole publication: it comes late and does not contribute much. The articles have been selected according to criteria which are hard to explain. (AG)

Józef Dobosz, Marzena Matla, and Jerzy Strzelczyk (eds.), *Chrzest Mieszka I i chrystianizacja Państwa Piastów* [The Baptism of Mieszko I and the Christianisation of the Piast-Ruled State], Wydawnictwo UAM, Poznań 2017, 338 pp., photographs

The recently celebrated 1050th anniversary of the baptism of Mieszko I, the first historical ruler of Poland, yielded a number of publications – journalistic, public outreach-oriented, and scholarly or scientific. One among them is the collection of materials of the conference organised by Poznań-based mediaevalists in September 2016 (preceded by two volumes on the Church at the turn of the second millennium and the Christianisation of the ‘Younger Europe’). There are fourteen texts penned by scholars from Poland as well as Czechia, Germany, and Hungary, shedding light on Mieszko’s conversion from historical, historiographical, religious-studies, and archaeological perspectives, and touch upon the origins and beginnings of Poland as a state and the Church in Poland. The material is divided into four segments. Part 1 – ‘Before the Baptism of Mieszko I’ comprises studies on paganism among Polish tribes (Leszek P. Słupecki) and conjectured missions in Polish territory before 966 (Krzysztof Polek). Part 2 – ‘Around the Baptism of Mieszko I’ offers articles on the tenth-century baptism ritual (Maksymilian Sas), archaeological traces of early Christianity (Hanna Kóčka-Krenz), the Central European context of the Christianisation of Poland (Vratislav Vaníček), personal impulses and motivations behind Mieszko I’s and Vladimir the Great’s baptisms (László Tapolcai), and, the idea of holy (or sacred) war and how it related to mission (Darius von Güttner-Sporzyński). Part 3 – ‘From Baptism to Christianisation and the Organisation of the Church’ includes studies on the pace of Christianisation of Poland in the light of archaeology (Przemysław Urbańczyk), the early organisation of the Church in Poland (Dariusz A. Sikorski) and its connections with the Reich (Marcin R. Pauk), and, Mieszko’s last marriage and the relationships with German aristocracy contracted through and in connection with it (Grzegorz Pac). The book ends with Part 4 – ‘Baptism and Christianisation in Tradition, Memory and Art’ with articles on the reception of Mieszko’s baptism in mediaeval art (Jarosław Jarzewicz) as well as in modern (Maciej Michalski) and nineteenth-/twentieth-century historiography (Marek Cetwiński). All the articles are in Polish, with English abstracts attached. The introduction, by Józef Dobosz, is in both language versions. (RR)



Przemysław Urbańczyk, *Bolesław Chrobry – lew ryczący* [Boleslaus the Brave, a Roaring Lion], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń, 2017, 401 pp., bibliog., indexes of persons, geographic index, English summary, 45 ills.

The new book by Warsaw archaeologist and historian Przemysław Urbańczyk is a biography of Boleslaus I the Brave/Bolesław I Chrobry (ruled 992 to 1025), the second historical and the first crowned ruler of Poland, of the Piast dynasty. With several such biographies so far produced by Polish historiographers, this one offers no major surprises. The author has basically quit his own work on the sources, whose interpretation involves difficulties; rather than that, he recounts the findings proposed by the literature, including recent studies. He uses this in his considerations of the participation of Piast rulers in the 'geopolitical' game in early mediaeval Europe. A well-known image emerges of Boleslaus's empire as a 'colossus on clay legs' which met with a crushing disaster a few years after the ruler's death. In sum, the study does not contribute much to our present knowledge, nor does it even summarise it in a convincing fashion. One would not even find in it sensational arguments or statements, as otherwise customary with this author and, possibly, expected by the reader (albeit worthy of note is the emphasis placed on the associations between Poland and Scandinavia, as is the passage on Boleslaus's short rule in Bohemia – pp. 179 ff). Instead, the author's literary ambitions have surfaced, as testified by the book's title, borrowed from Thietmar of Merseburg (VI, 8), or by the colourful portrayal of the epoch concerned in the introduction. His narrative is chronological, according to the periods of Duke/King Boleslaus's rule. The publication is decorated with photographs of historic monuments of the period and furnished with a rich bibliography. The inconsistent use of names of historic figures, in Polish and 'original' forms alternately, is striking. (RR)

Michał Tomaszek, *Dzieje opatów Moyennoutier. Święci i relikwie w narracji o historii klasztoru* [A History of the Moyennoutier Abbots. Saints and Relics in the Narrative on the Monastery's History], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin, 2017, pp. 324, bibliog., index of persons, geographic index, English summary

A book whose focus is Moyennoutier – a Benedictine monastery founded in the seventh century, situated in the Vosges of Lorraine. The abbey bred several eminent figures, such as Pope Leo IX and Humbert of Silva Candida. Analysed is the hagiography of the abbey's founder Saint Hidulf (Hydulphe),

which is associated with the Moyenmoutier hub (whose core developed in the tenth and seventeenth centuries). Tomaszek uses the hagiography as a point of departure for his considerations on the cult of relics and the relationships linking the monks to the saints. Rather than trying to identify the historical realities, the author shows the shaping of the memory of the Holy Patron through the consecutive re-editions of the work – a process that was not always disinterested. The issue is depicted against a broad comparative background, every phenomenon related to the cult of relics being comprehensively and systematically discussed. The book has four chapters; the first describes the mechanisms of ‘regaining the Saint’ – that is, translations and inventions of his relics. The second discusses the Saint’s role as the patron of the monastic community. Chapter 3 is on ‘communication with the Saint’ in the form of visions, miracles, and signs. The fourth and last chapter deals with ‘reciprocal relationships between the saints’, which stands for a hierarchy of diverse cults and, at times, a peculiar rivalry between them. Altogether, the book contributes a lot to the seemingly well-known problems. Vividly and interestingly written, it may appear not easy to read for readers unfamiliar with the matters under discussion. (RR)

Jan Tyszkiewicz and Krzysztof Łukawski (eds.), *Pierwsze wieki chrześcijaństwa w Polsce: do roku 1200* [The First Ages of Christianity in Poland: Before 1200], Akademia Humanistyczna im. Aleksandra Gieysztor – Akademickie Towarzystwo Edukacyjno-Naukowe “Atena”, Pułtusk, 2017, pp. 159, indices of churches, names, places and ethnicities

This short book is yet another publication appearing in connection with the anniversary of 1,050 years of the ‘Baptism of Poland’, in aftermath of a conference hosted by the Pułtusk Academy of Humanities on 29 June 2016. The contributors’ idea was to offer a broader insight into the Christianisation of Poland, exceeding the confines of the Baptism as such. The book opens with an article on the role of sacred books in Poland between the tenth and the twelfth century, written by the late Edward Potkowski. Jan Tyszkiewicz deals with family in Poland under the Piasts’ rule. Maria Starnawska describes the cult of relics and its importance to the process of Christianisation of the society of Poland in the tenth to twelfth centuries. Kazimierz Pacuski focuses on burg-city (stronghold) churches in northern Masovia, deeming them to have been the nuclei of the emerging network of parishes and seeing their role as significant in the Christianisation of the region. Renata Adamczyk-Nowak deals with pilgrimages in Polish lands in the twelfth century. Jerzy Kaliszuk presents the role of the saints of Cologne who have hitherto been believed to be worshipped in the territory of Poland. In his article outlining

the issues of religiosity in twelfth-century Poland, Marek Stawski presents basic and well-known aspects of the topic. Grzegorz Rostkowski discusses the problem of appearance of eastern names in the first generations of the Piasts, offering, essentially, a lexicon of the historic figures. Attached as an annex, the final article, by Małgorzata Walerczuk, deals with eggs and painted eggs in mediaeval Slavic rites, offering a rather general review of beliefs related to eggs and their significance in magic and wizardry, for example. A list of selected literature relating to the first ages of Christianity in Polish lands complements the volume. The publication gives the impression of being a precipitously compiled jubilee book. The texts, some of them by renowned authors, do not heavily contribute, at the bottom, to the existing knowledge; rather than that, they boil down to banal conclusions (if any at all). It would be more useful for the reader to use other publications by the same authors instead. (AG)

Marzena Matla, *Czeskie wpływy w życiu religijnym i piśmiennictwie państwa piastowskiego w X–XI wieku* [The Bohemian Influence in the Religious Life and Literature of the Piast State in the Tenth and Eleventh Centuries], IH UAM, Poznań 2017, 443 pp., bibliog., English summary

The book is a contribution to the long-lived discussion on the origins of the Polish state, recently entering into a new stage. Poznań-based mediaevalist Marzena Matla views the issue from the perspective of Bohemian influence on Polish Christianity and literature. The chronological framework is set based on the activities of two Polish duchesses of the Přemyslid dynasty, Dobrava (*Doubravka*) and Judith of Bohemia. This quite voluminous study is meant as a source-based analysis and a summary of the existing state of knowledge, whilst at the same time setting out the new directions for inquiry. Worth of emphasising is the author's discussion with the most recent research of Polish archaeologists as well as with Czech mediaevalists. First, the problem of Mieszko I's baptism is analysed, highlighting the role of Dobrava in the earliest phase of Christianisation of the Piast-ruled country and minimising the importance of German influence. Then the author passes on to the cult of Bohemian saints in Poland in the tenth and eleventh centuries (due to the extensive literature on St. Adalbert available, this particular figure is omitted in the argument). The final chapter deals with the earliest Polish literature: the author argues that Polish and Bohemian annals writing initially developed regardless of each other; it was only in the later period that information was exchanged between the annalists. The question of Bohemian influence on Polish ecclesial vocabulary is neglected in this study. Regrettably, the book has no index. (RR)

Jan Gancarski (ed.), in cooperation with Tomasz Leszczyński, *Handel w średniowieczu w miastach południowo-wschodniej Polski, wschodniej Słowacji, północno-wschodnich Węgier i zachodniej Ukrainy w świetle badań archeologicznych i historycznych* [Trading in the Middle Ages in the Towns of South-Eastern Poland, Eastern Slovakia, North-Eastern Hungary, and Western Ukraine – in Light of Archaeological and Historical Research], Muzeum Podkarpackie, Krosno, 2016, 270 pp., summaries in English

This book is a result of a conference held (under the same title) on 14–15 November 2013 at the Museum of Podkarpackie Region in Krosno. Of the nine articles it contains, four are in Polish, one in Slovak and the others in Ukrainian. The first, by Leszek Poniewozik, discusses problems related to municipal parishes in the Lesser Poland (Małopolska) province under the rule of King Casimir III the Great (Kazimierz Wielki) in the context on their location on the Polish-Hungarian borderline; altogether, thirteen such localities are covered (incl. Bobowa, Lanckorona, Tymbark). Subsequent to a detailed discussion of the histories of each of the parishes is an analysis, using tables and maps, whose outcome does not exceed quite general statements. Andrzej Gliwa's article deals with the localities of Strzyżów and Czudec, commencing with a detailed presentation of the current state of research on the topic, and discussing the history of these centres – since the time they were villages, through their incorporation as cities (discussed in more detail) and their further history, as urban centres, until late in the Middle Ages. The subsequent study in the book, by Dominika Mazur, concerns the business contacts and economic relations linking Cracow and Lwów in the mediaeval time. It however seems that the topic is too large, even in terms of the concept proposed by the author. She starts by discussing the trade routes connecting the two cities and then describes the history of trade in both of them. However, the discussion altogether boils down to a casebook presentation of the issue, with use of mainly the earlier (sometimes very old) reference literature. The article by Tomasz Leszczyński presents the outcome of archaeological research carried out at the market square in Krosno, offering a detailed discussion of the objects found during the project. There is however a tint of exaggerated local patriotism which is the backbone of certain formulations concerning the city's rank and importance for Central European trade. The essay authored by Ján Hunka and Marián Soják deals with the importance of East Slovakian towns which for most of the period under discussion (eleventh to sixteenth century) remained under Hungarian rule. The authors point to a high role of these hubs in trading with Poland, Ruthenia, and Silesia. The text is general in nature, and its conclusions are potentially disputable given the scarce archaeological material at the authors' disposal, at some points. Further

on in the book one finds studies in Ukrainian. The first of them, authored by Олександр Моця (Oleksandr Moця) and Андрий Петраускас (Andrij Petrauskas), offers a brief presentation of archaeological findings regarding trade in tenth-century Ruthenia, based on excavations in Korosten. Юлія Мисько (Julija Mis'ko) deals with excavations done at Černivci and Khotyn, the centres which gained in importance with the development of the trade route connecting Cracow with Black Sea. Святослав Терський (Svjatoslav Ters'kij) discusses the trading activities in the towns of Halyč and Volhynia, based on the collections kept at the Lviv Historical Museum. Lastly, Роман Берест (Roman Berest) describes salt mines and trading in salt in the area of what is today Subcarpathian Ukraine. This pretty meticulously edited publication leaves something to be desired: namely, the articles lack important research queries, while some of the conclusions are next to trivial. Still, scholars focused on specified issues can find useful information there. (AG)

*Kronika halicko-wołyńska. Kronika Romanowiczów* [The Halyč-Volhynian Chronicle. The Chronicle of the Romanovyč House], ed. and transl. by Dariusz Dąbrowski and Adrian Jusupović, Avalon, Kraków, 2017, 328 pp., indices of names, places, and ethnicities, bibliog., summary in English and Ukrainian.

While an important publication, the translation of the *Halyč-Volhynian Chronicle* has a certain flaw to it which makes it significantly deteriorated. A long penetrating introduction opens the book; we can read there on the *Chronicle's* historiographic context, extant manuscripts and previous editions. Typical introductory elements are also present, such as discussion on the authorship and sources of the *Chronicle*, and recapitulation of the existing translations. The authors propose that the name *Chronicle of the Romanovyč house* be used, as the work is strictly connected with the dynasty. However, the suggestion crops up right in the middle of the text, which might cause the reader to miss out on the remark (which spans less than half a page); actually, the authors use both names – *Halyč-Volhynian Chronicle* and *Romanovyč Chronicle* – are used alternately. The translation is embedded in an extensive critical apparatus, whose volume much exceeds the chronicle's text. Notes explaining the nuances of the text prevail; several philological notes are inserted (marked with letters and nowise specified in the commentary sections). The very concept of this book works to its disadvantage. It is obvious that a bilingual edition would have been a much more apt option. The decision to separate the original and the translation is all the more strange that Adrian Jusupović and Dariusz Dąbrowski are responsible, in parallel, for a critical edition of the chronicle's text as part of the 'Monumenta Poloniae Historica. Nova Series XVI', with largely coinciding introductions and notes. A considerably greater number of

textual notes is the only major difference between the two editions. Moreover, the reader of the translation willing to confront it with the critical edition cannot do it readily as the publications offer no discernible text partitions. A running-head arrangement, or rendering the text setting clearer and easier to use in some other way – possibly, by inserting cross-references to specific pages of the edition – would certainly have made the publication(s) more fulfilling and purposeful. (AG)

Andrzej Dąbrówka, Edward Skibiński and Witold Wójtowicz (eds.), *Nobis operique favete. Studia nad Gallem Anonimem [Nobis operique favete. Studies on Gallus Anonymus]*, Instytut Badań Literackich PAN, Warszawa, 2017, 515, [4] pp., index of names, summaries in English; series: *Studia Staropolskie. Series Nova*, 46 (102)

This anthology came as a result of 27th Meetings of Mediaevalists, held from 4 to 6 June 2014 at the Institute of Literary Research, Polish Academy of Sciences. The book contains twenty articles arranged in four parts, complemented with a record of the attendees' discussion, an excursus by Edward Skibiński, and a material for use in Gallus's bibliography. The editors' declared goal was to sum up the research on the chronicle *Gesta principum Polonorum* and its author. Part one, focusing on the question of Gallus's identity, opens with Dorota Gacek's review of existing research into Gallus the individual. It is a sort of concise guide to studies and opinions of other researchers, itself proposing no new findings. Subsequent to it is Maciej Eder's attempt at establishing Gallus' relations with other authors through stylometric examination. The author indicates that owing to a linguistic similarity, there is a possibly strong association between Gallus as the 'Monk of Lido'. This conclusion is however restricted by the size of the collection of texts under investigation, which (as the author himself remarks) does not make any final judgment legitimate. Adam Krawiec tries to tackle the problem of Gallus's identity based on the chronicler's awareness of geography and geographical space. There are certain apparent differences between Gallus and the Monk of Lido in this respect, as well as in the method used by these authors in presenting pieces of information. Part two, entitled 'Politics', begins with Janusz Sondel's article on the Roman Law as reflected in the chronicle. The chronicler appears to have had some knowledge of the legal terms and the law itself, but is (rather unjustly) evaluated lower by the author compared to Master Vincentius (Wincenty Kadłubek), who was better-versed in the subject. Marek Cetwiński writes of the presence of Gregorian ideas in the Gallus chronicle. Ryszard Grzesik writes of the south-eastern border of the dominion of Boleslaus I the Brave (Bolesław Chrobry). Norbert Delestowicz deals with Gallus's portrayal of Duke Boleslaus II the Generous (Bolesław Szczodry). Stanisław Rosik describes

the mechanisms of subjugation of East Pomerania by Boleslaus III the Wry-mouthed (Bolesław Krzywousty), using the chronicle as a source that helps reconstruct the course of events that took place after its 'plot' ends. László Tapolcai proposes that Boleslaus III be viewed as a saint ruler-knight, which is apparently attested by the songs about fishes, the victory over Henry V, and the crossing of the Sudetes 'within three days and nights'. In an article also dealing with the sphere of the sacred, Paweł Koziół points to the special role of lent and repenting in the chronicle's narrative, which heavily adds to a coherent character of the work. Aesthetics of text, as a broad concept, is the focus of part three. It opens with Katarzyna Chmielewska's article on the role and presence of knowledge on antiquity and presence of antique works in the chronicle – namely, the Bible as well as 'pagan' texts. Przemysław Wiszewski makes an (unsuccessful) attempt to demonstrate that, rather than being a unitary text, the Gallus chronicle has passages inserted independent of the remainder. Edward Skibiński presents introductory remarks on Gallus's poetics, while Tomasz Jasiński emphasises the chronicler's remarkable talent as a poet. Much in the same spirit, Piotr Stepień expresses his opinion that the chronicle's passages without a cursus are pieces of verse. Piotr Bering traces para-theatrical elements in the chronicle, whereas Witold Wójtowicz argues that traits of orality in Gallus are part of a narrative strategy that was meant to win applause among the readers – rather than attesting to the narrative's associations with spoken culture, as was believed before. The subsequent part deals with the chronicle's reception. Wojciech Mrozowicz writes of the references to Gallus made in the Silesian texts – *The Polish chronicle*, *The Chronicle of the Dukes of Poland*, and the *Kamieniec Annals*. Mariusz Kazańczuk discusses Bartosz Paprocki's use of the Gallus work; Maciej Gaździcki tells us how the chronicle was used the nineteenth-century novelist Józef Ignacy Kraszewski. This is followed with grotesque and ill fitted record of the discussion that should have been omitted as many statements do not belong to the sphere of academia. All in all, the publication misses the purpose declared by the editors. It offers no summary; many of the texts open new fields for research, but among them only the issues related to the later reception of the Gallus chronicle can, in point of fact, be regarded as valuable and enriching the existing research with new and useful insights. (AG)



Andrzej Marzec, *Pod rządami nieobecnego monarchy. Królestwo Polskie 1370–1382* [Under the Rule of an Absent Monarch. The Kingdom of Poland in 1370 to 1382], Societas Vistulana, Kraków, 2017, 272 pp., bibliog. index of names, summary in English; series: *Maiestas, Potestas, Communitas*, 6

The book deals with the reign of Louis, known in Poland as ‘the Hungarian’ (Ludwik Węgierski), as king of Poland. Its five chapters discuss the consecutive stages of power-wielding by this monarch. Chapter one, being an introductory section, presents the method of ruling in Poland in the late 1360s and early 1370s – covering aspects such as territorial administration, the judiciary, international relations, economy, and the political scene. Chapter two describes how Louis gradually came to power, and reports on the discussion on the succession and the course of the ruler’s coronation. The relationship between the king and the elite, with the resulting Privilege of Kassa [then in Hungary; now Košice in Slovakia], 1374, is subsequently discussed. The fourth chapter discusses the issue of heredity – namely, preparation of the succession. The political intrigue aiming at ensuring power to Louis’s daughter is described; this is reflected in the last chapter, where the story is told of Sigismund of Luxembourg’s failed endeavours for taking over the rule in Poland and appointment of Jadwiga as the successor to the crown. The book is a study on how power was wielded and exercised in Poland at the end of the fourteenth century. It is a classically written and insightful study in political history, making a genuine use of the literature. The author is, clearly, a well versed expert in the topic. It may be regretted, though, that the book offers no deeper (potentially, quite fruitful) consideration of Louis’s policies in Hungary. (AG)

Janusz Grabowski, Rafał Mroczek, and Przemysław Mrozowski (eds.), *Dziedzictwo książąt mazowieckich. Stań badań i postulaty badawcze. Materiały sesji naukowej zorganizowanej przez Zamek Królewski w Warszawie – Muzeum i Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych, 27–28 października 2016 r.* [The Legacy of Dukes of Masovia: Present State of Research and Research Postulates. Materials of the Scholarly Session Organised by the Royal Castle in Warsaw – Museum and the Central Archives of Historical Records, 27–28 October 2016], Zamek Królewski, Warszawa, 2017, 384 pp., ill., index of names, summaries in English; series: *Zamek Królewski w Warszawie – Muzeum. Studia i Materiały*, 7

The book has come out in the aftermath of a conference on *The legacy of Masovian Piasts*, held in October 2016. The book’s title fairly well reflects its

content, formed of twenty articles (all written in Polish). Henryk Samsonowicz, author of the opening essay, proposes general considerations on the heritage of Masovian dukes of the Piast dynasty, as a sort of introduction to the publication. The subsequent article, by Agnieszka Tetrycz-Puzio, proposes an evaluation of thirteenth-century Masovian dukes: the rulers are presented one after the other, in a sort of lexicon form. Tomasz Nowakowski discusses the mentions of the land of Masovia in the chronicle of Jan Długosz. Tomasz Jasiński writes of the Hanseatic-Ruthenian trade and the Piast rulers' role in it. Janusz Grabowski presents, in turn, a sort of list of consecutive non-dynastic (morganatic) marriages entered into by the Piasts of this particular lineage in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries; the marriages in question are discussed one after the other. Close to this topic is Marek Cetwiński's article on the marriages of Piasts of the Silesian line with those of the dynasty's Masovian branch. Marta Piber-Zbieranowska explores the wives of Piast rulers and the political importance of the duchesses in the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries, with a particular focus on the methods of their rule in Masovia during the regency period. Leszek Zygnier deals with bishops whose background was the Masovian branch of the house of Piast – namely, Henryk Siemowitowic (i.e. 'son of Siemowit'), Aleksander Mazowiecki ('of Masovia'), and Kazimierz Bolesławowic ('son of Boleslaus'). The texts in the subsequent group deal with history of art and archaeology; hence, Przemysław Mrozowski discusses the artistic patronage exercised by Masovian dukes, while Piotr Lasek writes of the castles in the domain of the dukes of Masovia. Maciej Trzeciński and Zbigniew Polak show in what ways the archaeological material implies the need to revisit the traditional image of how towns and cities developed in the province, indicating that their erection in Masovia was not founded upon the existing social or settlement structures. Making use of the excavations' results, Rafał Mroczek demonstrates that Masovia was located on a trade route linking the East and the West; these contacts informed the local material culture in many ways. Patrycja Ewa Herod discusses the Masovian dukes' legislation in respect of criminal law. Two other articles discuss relevant aspects of sigillography: Łukasz Włodarski writes of a previously unknown seal of Henryk Siemowitowic, Bishop of Płock, from 1391; Marcin Hlebionek describes the hitherto-unknown seal of Duke Casimir II appended to the 1435 Treaty of Brest document. There is no thematic grouping to the remaining texts. Konrad Szuba writes about the importation by Siemowit III of hermit Augustinian monks and the foundation of three cloisters for them. Sobiśław Szybkowski discusses the correspondence between the dukes of Masovia and the Council of the City of Gdańsk in 1466–1526, showing how the correspondence evolved between the mediaeval and the Renaissance period. Adam Szweda's article deals with Masovian-Prussian border courts after 1466, whose primary task was to preserve good relationships between the two states by means of settling border disputes. Jarosław Nikodem describes the role of Masovia in

Lithuanian policies until the death of Grand Duke Gediminas. Finally, the article by Tomasz Jaszczolt concerns the Drohiczyn and Bielsk Lands under the rule of Duke Boleslaus (Bolesław) IV in the years 1440–4. The book ends with a simple family tree of the Masovian Piasts. (AG)

Maciej Badowicz, *Studium z dziejów wina w państwie zakonu krzyżackiego w Prusach XIV–XV wieku. Produkcja, dystrybucja, konsumpcja* [A Study in the History of Wine in the Teutonic Order's State in Fourteenth- to Fifteenth-Century Prussia. Production, Distribution, Consumption], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, Gdańsk, 2017, 141, [3] pp., ill., bibliog.

The book deals with an interesting issue of the position of wine in mediaeval society. As explained by the author in the introduction, the period of his special focus spans from about 1309 to, roughly, 1455. Prussia is considered as the entire territory under the Teutonic rule, which covers Gdańsk Pomerania or Kujavia. The book opens with a discussion of relevant literature which – albeit extensive – remains definitely unsatisfactory, according to Badowicz. There are four chapters, in line with the threads indicated in the title. So, the first two concern the manufacture of wine. The story starts with an overall presentation of vineyard cultivation and general rules of wine production. Such an introduction, no doubt targeted at readers unfamiliar with the subject-matter, allows for discussing the topic proper – namely, manufacture of wine in Prussia. Geological and climatic determinants made wine manufacture largely restricted to the area of Vistula belt. While significant in itself, the production did not suffice for the Teutonic Knights to become self-sufficient in this respect. It is moreover evident that in some areas under the Order's rule the basics of wine manufacture were known long before the Knights first appeared there. Chapter two – 'Distribution of wine in the Teutonic Order's State in fourteenth- and fifteenth-century Prussia' – deals not merely with the distribution but, perhaps even more widely, with imports of the beverage from other countries. Commercial determinants and legal regulations regarding the trading in wine are presented, along with methods of its transportation within the Teutonic state. The last chapter deals with consumption of wine. Discussed is a panorama of various wines which appeared on Teutonic tables, with descriptions (wherever possible) of their history and character. The annexes attached include, *inter alia*, a table specifying the cost of purchase of wine in Elbing (Elbląg) in 1404–10, or a list of persons dealing with vineyards in Thorn (Toruń) as of 1394. The short book under review is nice to read; it can be regretted that the author has not analysed the presence of wine in the whole region in more detail – since he frequently refers to the documentation concerning the imports and consumption of the beverage at

the court of Cracow. This would have made the study much longer, but more valuable as well. (AG)

Sławomir Gawlas and Paweł Źmudzki (eds.), *Symboliczne i realne podstawy tożsamości społecznej w średniowieczu* [Symbolic and Real Foundations of Social Identity in the Middle Ages], Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2017, 577 pp., ill.

A conference on the problems of collective identity in the Middle Ages was held at the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences [IH PAN] in Warsaw on 27 to 29 January 2011. The long-awaited publication of its materials has finally come out. The nineteen studies contained in the volume introduce us, with a flourish, into an extremely extensive group of problems and into the research conducted by leading Polish mediaevalists. Let us take a glance on the volume's content. The large introductory article by Sławomir Gawlas discusses the debate that has continued over dozens of years on the origins of Polish national identity, and offers an intriguing interpretation of mediaeval tales on Julius Caesar. Paweł Źmudzki sheds in his study a new light on the recently hotly debated issue of cultural meanings attached to the names of Poland and its inhabitants. Roman Michałowski argues that in the perception of pagan communities Christianity was connected with a better welfare in the earthly life, and this is why pagans resolved to assume baptism, as a general trend. We are moreover offered considerations on the output of Liudprand of Cremona (Antoni Grabowski), the identity of the Goths under Theoderic the Great (Robert Kasperski), the models of dynastic power and authority (Zbigniew Dalewski), the role of women in constructing an ancestral identity (Aneta Pieniądz), Polish-German relations as communicated in Gallus Anonymus's chronicle (Andrzej Pleszczyński), the legend of 'Casimir the Monk' (Inga Stembrowicz), the monastic community of Petershausen (Marcin R. Pauk), liturgical memory (Grzegorz Pac), and, late mediaeval visions of the origins of Poland (Piotr Węcowski). (RR)

Andrzej Pleszczyński, Joanna Sobiesiak, Karol Szejgiec, Michał Tomaszek, and Przemysław Tyszka, *Historia communitatem facit. Struktura narracji tworzących tożsamości grupowe w średniowieczu* [Historia communitatem facit. The Structure of Narratives Creating Group Identities in the Middle Ages], Chronicon, Wrocław, 2017, 285 pp., bibliog., index of persons, English summary

This is a multi-author work compiled by five mediaevalists of the middle and younger generation, representing the Maria Skłodowska-Curie University in

Lublin (unfortunately, it has been left for the reader to guess who of them is responsible for which chapters). The study analyses mediaeval narrative sources concerning collective identity. We can trace the problem using the rich and diverse source material from Bohemia, France, Rus' (or Ruthenia), and Poland. In terms of methodology, the authors make use of the historiographic research of Jacek Banaszkiewicz and memetic studies of Richard Dawkins. Of the three main sections, the first deals with the origins of communities – the Bohemian state, the Cistercians of Lubiąż, and the Houses of Normandy and Anjou. The second refocuses us on broader issues related to the *identitas* of the Bohemians, ancestral and monastic communities, and, 'manly' Poles versus 'effeminate' Ruthenians. The last part touches upon the stereotypes associated with groups 'excluded' from Christian communities: the pagan Slavs, Jews, and homosexuals. The collective identity in the Middle Ages, as the authors argue, was dualistic, founded on contradistinctions: '(belonging to) us' vs. 'them/alien ones', masculine vs. feminine, and so forth. (RR)

Piotr Czarnecki, *Geneza i doktrynalny charakter kataryzmu francuskiego (XII–XIV wiek)* [The Genesis and Doctrinal Character of French Catharism (Twelfth to Fourteenth Centuries)], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, Kraków, 2017, pp. 429[1], bibl., English summary

Catharism was one of the central problems of the heyday and late Middle Ages. In the recent years a 'deconstructionist' current has appeared, particularly among the French authors, which undermines the credibility of the Catholic sources related to the history of the heresy in question, thus, consequently, challenging its eastern (Paulician and Bogomil) genesis, the dualist character of the doctrine, and the very existence of Catharism as an organised religious group that deliberately parted with the Church's doctrine. Piotr Czarnecki, historian and religious scientist at the Jagiellonian University, seeks in his post-doctoral thesis (under review) to polemicise against the paradigm. A penetrating and unbiased analysis of the available records and sources leads the author to confirming the traditional view of the Catharist heresy. Czarnecki emphasises the reliability of Catholic records and their compliance with the sources produced within the Albigensian circles (and among their competitive Waldensians). Altogether, an image emerges of Catharism as a dualistic heresy that developed under the influence of Bulgarian Bogomils and functioned in two basic varieties: one targeted on rank-and-file believers and the other, whose use was restricted to 'perfect privies'. There is no index attached, which is regrettable. (RR)

Leszek Słupecki, Paweł Sierżęga, Andrzej Rozwałka, and Michał Dzik (eds.), *Recepcja i odrzucenie. Kontakty międzykulturowe w średniowieczu* [Reception and Rejection. Intercultural Contacts in the Middle Ages], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego, Rzeszów 2017, 308 pp.; series: Materiały V Kongresu Mediewistów Polskich, 1

The 5th Congress of Polish Mediaevalists was held, under the slogan 'Reception and rejection. Intercultural contacts in the Middle Ages', in September 2015 in Rzeszów (for my report on the event, see APH 112). A dozen out of the several hundred papers delivered at the Congress have recently been published as vol. I of the conference proceedings. The collection contains introductory texts by Leszek P. Słupecki, Wojciech Fałkowski, and Marek Konopka, followed by a section of plenary lectures delivered by Polish mediaevalists and invited foreign guests, Jonathan Shepard and Rudolf Simek, as well as the lectures presented by Professors Andrzej Buko, Władysław Duczko, Andrzej Pleszczyński, Jerzy Strzelczyk, Stanisław Suchodolski, Przemysław Urbańczyk, and Jerzy Wyrozumski. The volume ends with papers on the mediaeval studies pursued in Lwów in the nineteenth century and prewar period. Since the volume in question does not reflect the affluence of papers presented at the Congress, it can be expected that more of its proceedings will be published. (RR)

Janusz Grabowski, Tadeusz P. Rutkowski (eds.), *Kościół w Polsce a sąsiedzi. Prace dedykowane Profesorowi Markowi Kazimierzowi Barańskiemu* [The Church in Poland and Its Neighbours. Studies Offered to Professor Marek Kazimierz Barański], Wydawnictwo Neriton, Warszawa 2017, 332 pp., *tabula gratulatoria*, bibliog., list of illustrations, 16 ill.

On the occasion of the seventieth birth anniversary of Professor Marek Kazimierz Barański, the noted mediaevalist and, in the past, activist with the anti-communist democratic opposition, a conference was held in autumn 2013 in Warsaw. The proceedings were published more than three years later, making up a commemorative book containing seventeen articles authored by specialists in the history of Poland and Central Europe of various periods (not limited to the Middle Ages). A scientific and political portrait of Barański is sketched by Marek Cetwiński and Tadeusz P. Rutkowski. Henryk Samsonowicz has submitted an article on civilisation partitions in mediaeval Europe. Janusz Grabowski discusses the iconography of the Piasts of Masovia. Franciszek Dąbrowski deals with the *cursus honorum* in the Dukedom of Boleslaus V the Chaste/

Bolesław Wstydlivy (thirteenth c.). The remaining contributions (coming from Anna Pobóg-Lenartowicz, Tomasz Resler, Katarzyna Chmielewska, Maria Starnawska, Teresa Chynczewska-Hennel, Marek Stawski, Roman Stelmach, and two foreign scholars Libor Jan and Martin Homza) focus on the history of the mediaeval Church – particularly, monasticism and the cult of saints. The studies by Krzysztof Lewalski and Martyna and Marek Deszczyński go beyond the mediaevalist chronological horizon. Observing the custom, the editors have included a *tabula gratulatoria* and a list of Professor Barański's scientific publications. (RR)

### EARLY MODERN TIMES

Filip Wolański (ed.), *Staropolski ogląd świata. Sarmacki sensualizm* [An Old Polish View of the World. The Sarmatian Sensuality], Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, Toruń, 2017, 370 pp.

This collection of studies has been produced following a namesake conference, held at the University of Wrocław. The editor's intent has been to draw the readers' attention to the potential of study of senses in the Old Polish age. The volume contains twenty-five articles arranged into three separate thematic units. The first, 'Faith and the senses', discusses aspects of the senses in a religious context. The second, 'The senses in Old Polish discourse', primarily analyses references to the senses contained in a variety of written texts. The last part, 'Sensuality in Sarmatian everyday life', comprises studies on tastes and flavours, scents and fragrances, and views, typical of the daily life. The book offers a wide spectrum of issues related to understanding, perception, and description of the senses in the Old Polish age. A somewhat awkward aspect of this publication is that it does not define its central issue or message in detail. Along with some very interesting studies on aspects of Old Polish sensuality, there are articles which merely mention Old Polish sensuality in the opening section whilst actually focusing on a different problem. Some of the studies are noteworthy, though: particularly attractive is Justyna Bąk's analysis of the period's ideas of sensualism in the afterlife. The last section, dealing with the 'dailiness' of the senses, is definitely the most cohesive and thereby the most interesting. This includes Jacek Chachaj's contribution entitled, 'How the people of the Church might have smelled?'. Analysed are the sensual experiences in travel (essays by Adam Kucharski and Anna Markiewicz). The research into culinary tastes in the Old-Polish period (Bernadetta Manyś, Bożena Popiołek) is interesting as well. (MC)



Giovan Battista Fagioli, *Diariusz podróży do Polski (1690–1691)* [A Diary of My Trip to Poland, 1690–1691], translated from the MS, with an introduction and footnotes, by Małgorzata Ewa Trzeciak, Muzeum Pałacu Króla Jana III w Wilanowie, Warszawa, 2017, 171 pp., ill., bibliog., index; series: Silva Rerum

Travel reports are historic documents historians willingly make use of. The most recent release in the Silva Rerum source edition series is a diary by Giovan Battista Fagioli, who arrived in Poland-Lithuania in 1690 as secretary to Nuncio Andrea Santacroce. His account is interesting primarily because of the author himself – a noted writer, author of a number of satirical texts, who was valued for his apt observations and ability to wittily describe the situations. The Introduction by Małgorzata Ewa Trzeciak introduces in more detail the man and his work, known more to literary scholars than historians. This is the first edition encompassing Fagioli's notes on the Commonwealth as well as the towns he visited on his way, including Venice, Padua, Vienna, or Mikołów/Nikolai. The remarks on Poland-Lithuania concern the official life of the royal court. Fagioli moreover takes note of a variety of curious details in the life of Warsaw's urban community, reporting on executions, fires, religious celebrations. His diary is a piece of interesting reading not only for historians specialising in the period but also for anyone interested in (for instance) the history of seventeenth-century Warsaw. (MC)

Urszula Augustyniak (ed.), *Katalogi testamentów mieszkańców miast z terenów Korony i Wielkiego Księstwa Litewskiego do 1795 r.* [Catalogues of the last wills of urban residents in the territory of the Crown and Grand Duchy of Lithuania, before 1795], Wydawnictwo Semper, Warszawa, 2017, vols. 1–7, index of persons, index of geographical names, subject index

This seven-volume source edition comes out in the aftermath of an international project aiming at cataloguing the last wills or testaments of burghers residing in Crown and Lithuanian towns. How useful such documents are in research into social history, taken broadly, is needless to argue. However, such sources tend to be sparse, and historians willing to use a testament has to carry out painstaking source queries, sometimes with no expected outcome. The source publication in question arranges the bulk of sources in an order and is a sort of archival inventory compiled in order to make it easier for researchers and scholars to get hold of the source material they need. The edition deals with testaments of burghers, which is of importance because Polish historiography has so far used last will records made by nobles. Let us

hope that such editions and publications will contribute to resume the research on Poland-Lithuania's towns/cities and their residents, which recently have been somewhat neglected. The catalogues all specify the place of 'oblation' (i.e. entry in the appropriate records; respective archive reference numbers are quoted), the testator, the language and date of making the record. The edition includes catalogues of last wills from municipal registers of Wilno, sixteenth and seventeenth century (edited by Kamil Frejlich); testaments made by urban residents of Volhynia, end sixteenth to early eighteenth c. (Natalia Bilous); those of residents of Brześć [Brest] and Grodno, sixteenth to early eighteenth c. (Natalia Sliż); of dwellers of Lwów, sixteenth and seventeenth cc. (Oksana Vinnyčenko); from court registers of small Polish towns, before 1525 (Agnieszka Bartoszewicz, Krzysztof Mrozowski, Maciej Radomski, Katarzyna Warda); from the municipal registers of Cracow, before 1550 (Jakub Wysmulek), and those of Poznań, latter half of sixteenth–seventeenth c. (Andrzej Karpiński). It may be regretted that the project's authors and contributors have not made accessible the documents referred to in this edition through a widely available source base. (MC)

Michał Sierba, *Radziwiłłowskie dobra Orla (1585–1695)* [Orla, the Radziwiłł Estate (1585–1695)], Białoruskie Towarzystwo Historyczne, Białystok [2017], 416 pp., ills.

The estate of Orla, one of the most important Radziwiłł-owned demesnes in the Podlachia (Podlasie) area, was never addressed in a monographic form before; Michał Sierba has decided to fill this gap. The chronological framework is set between 1585 and 1695, the period when Orla was propriety of the Radziwiłłs of Birże (Biržai in Lithuania today). The author has made use of quite an appreciable source material, based on his queries in Polish, Lithuanian, Belarusian, and Ukrainian archives. The basic problem about this monograph, however, is that it lacks a precise underlying research query, apart from the author's declared intent to "present the history of the Orla estate in a multiplicity of aspects" and the will to explain the role of the demesne for the princely house of Radziwiłł. With such an imprecise research query, the study proposes a number of interesting minor hypotheses but is altogether unsatisfactorily synthetic; the content is primarily based on summarised source material, very rich and (at times) interesting as it is: suffice it to mention the demographic considerations showing the development of Orla in the 1630s. The author has moreover determined a number of interesting details in respect of the town's topography, buildings and edifices. In turn, his answer to the question of the role of Orla for the Radziwiłł family is utterly unsatisfactory; while we are told what sort of income the demesne yielded, such income is never compared with the other Radziwiłł demesnes; neither is the

family's income specified in its entirety. Some of the aspects discussed contain apparent errors and suggest that the author is not knowledgeable of relevant literature (the functioning of the Jewish community, names of officials, and the hierarchy of the Jewish autonomy within Poland-Lithuania). The chapter on dominion officials (incl. establishment of factor as a separate office – the fact being ignored that factors were general leaseholders or lessees) leaves much to be desired. The use of terms inadequate to the realities described (such as national groups, Poles, Lithuanians, Germans). Originally a doctoral thesis, the study has not been properly edited or adapted to the requirements of a book-format publication. (MC)

Henryk Gmiterek, Dariusz Kupisz, Leszek A. Wierzbicki, Wiesław Bondyra and Jerzy Ternes (eds.), *Deputaci Trybunału Koronnego 1578–1794. Spis* [Deputies to the Crown Tribunal, 1578–1794. A List], Parts 1–5, Instytut Historii UMCS, Wydawnictwo Sejmowe, Warszawa, 2017, 324 + 332 + 324 + 410 + 360 pp.

The publication is an outcome of a team research project carried out in the years 2012–15. This exhaustive breakdown of the Crown Tribunal deputies (called *deputats* in their time) from the period 1578–1794 is divided into five volumes, based on the chronological criterion (i.e., Part 1: 1578–1620 [ed. by Gmiterek]; Part 2: 1621–60 [Kupisz]; Part 3: 1661–1700 [Wierzbicki]; Part 4: 1701–50 [Bondyra]; Part 5: 1751–94 [Ternes]), each arranged in the same fashion. The core section is preceded by an introduction. Part 1 describes, at some length, the origins and the functioning of the Crown Tribunal (Gmiterek). The subsequent sections present brief descriptions of Tribunal sessions, according to the chronology. Apart from the names, of both clerical and secular deputies, each list contains notes on the offices they held. The other arrangement criterion applied is geography. Since the Tribunal records were destroyed during the Second World War, compilation of a list of deputies called for a series of painstaking archive queries and use of numerous and diverse sources. Information on how the Tribunal function was sought from private collections as well as municipal registers presently kept at Polish and Ukrainian archives. Such a complete list of deputies is an archival much demanded by historians. It however seems that it would have been more practical to have it available as a Web database. This would enable the users to complement the resource: with the dispersed sources available, the information on certain Tribunal sessions might hopefully be supplied with supplementary source material. (MC)

Leszek Andrzej Wierzbicki, *Senatorowie koronni na sejmach Rzeczypospolitej w XVII w.* [Senators of the Crown at *Sejm* Assemblies in the Seventeenth-Century Commonwealth], Wydawnictwo Sejmowe, Warszawa, 2017, 203, [2] pp.

The volume presents a list of senators attending Poland-Lithuanian *sejm* assemblies in the seventeenth century. Its content is basically reproductive, as it quotes the earlier findings of other researchers – rather than posing any research queries, analysing or describing the circle of senators active at the parliamentary assemblies. The book consists of three basic chapters. As remarked in the Introduction, the author's interest only encompasses the Senators of the Crown (i.e. the Kingdom of Poland); we are not told why those of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania have been neglected. Then, primarily based on the existing literature, the *sejms* and the attending senators are listed; the names of all seventeenth-century senatorial offices are enumerated as well. The third core section offers a breakdown of names of senators who attended the parliamentary sessions, with the dates of birth and death and mention of the assembly he attended. The book reproduces the legacy knowledge, while the seventeenth-century parliamentarianism is already fairly well described; the existing lists of officials and the *Polish Biographical Dictionary* enable to describe the senators in question in a fairly detailed manner. Therefore, it should be considered why any such breakdowns should be published at all. As it seems, chapter three of the Wierzbicki book might serve as a sort of source annex to a would-be monograph describing the activities of the senators at the *sejm* assemblies concerned. (MC)

Maciej Jasiński, *Stanisław Lubieniecki i astronomia kometarna XVII stulecia* [Stanisław Lubieniecki and Seventeenth-Century Cometary Astronomy], Instytut Historii Nauki im. L. i A. Birkennmajerów PAN, Warszawa and Gdańsk, 2017, 391 pp.; series: Bibliotheca Helvetiana, 2

Janusz Tazbir's study (*Stando lubentius moriar. Biografia Stanisława Lubienieckiego*, 2003) has made Stanisław Lubieniecki the younger very well known as a Polish Reformation activist. Until very recently, not much was known on his activities as an astronomer. Maciej Jasiński has embarked on a critical discussion of Lubieniecki's astronomical achievements, using his work *Theatrum Cometicum*, a compendium of astronomical and general knowledge, as the basic source. The other material was Lubieniecki's correspondence, kept at present in Leiden, Amsterdam, and Paris. The book under review has seven chapters, discussing, first, the *Theatrum Cometicum* and subsequently presenting in detail the history

of letters exchanged by Lubieniecki with the major astronomers of his time. Then follows a discussion (spanning four chapters) of Lubieniecki's attitude towards several of his contemporary astronomical theories, such as Otton von Guericke's electric comet theory, the heliocentric theory, the impacts of comets on human life, or comets as God's signs. Jasiński's approach to the existing studies dealing with Lubieniecki's astronomic activities is highly critical. In this book, his activity is shown against a broad background of the period's intellectual history. Based on his detailed analysis of *Theatrum Cometicum*, the author comes to the conclusion that Lubieniecki did not develop any astronomical views of his own, nor did he have appropriate knowledge that would have enabled him to discuss with his contemporary leading authorities in the field. Instead, Lubieniecki primarily transmitted astronomical knowledge to a broader circle of readers. The monograph under discussion is written in an accessible and very interesting way, and excellently complements the earlier studies that pictured Lubieniecki primarily as a Reformation activist. (MC)

Anna Kalinowska and Paweł Tyszka (eds.), *Maria Kazimiera Sobieska (1641–1716). W kręgu rodziny, polityki, kultury* [Queen Marie Casimire Sobieska (1641–1716). Family, Political and Cultural Contexts], Zamek Królewski – Muzeum, Warszawa, 2017, 311 pp.; series: *Studia i Materiały*, 6

Marie Casimire Louise de La Grange d'Arquien, Queen of Poland as Marie Casimire (Maria Kazimiera) Sobieska, nicknamed 'Marysieńka', needs no introduction as she is one of the best-known figures of the historical modern period in Poland. Her biography has been examined by numerous historians yet. The series' most recent volume contains thirteen papers presented at a conference held by the Royal Castle in Warsaw on the tercentenary of the Queen's death. The papers are authored by researchers of renown, along with young authors on the verge of their scholarly career. The collection is interdisciplinary as it contains research done by historians, historians of art, and literary scholars. The texts deal with multiple aspects of the Queen's life; many of them present hitherto-unknown source materials. The opening article, by Paweł Tyszka, discusses 'Marysieńka's' activity as the administrator of the Zamoyski family fee tail. Mariusz Sawicki, Robert Kołodziej, Adam Perlakowski, and Anna Czarniecka analyse different aspects of the Queens political activity. In her interesting analysis, Aleksandra Skrzypiec deals in detail with the conjectured plans for Marie Casimire's third marriage. It would have seemed that 'Marysieńka's' biography, political involvement, and private life have previously been described in vast amounts of detail and this particular figure would not require considerable attention. Yet, the editors have managed to

prepare an interesting and cohesive collection of studies (a rare thing with conference-based compilations) that sheds a new light on the Queen. (MC)

Kirił Koczegarow [Kirill Kočegarov], *Rzeczpospolita a Rosja w latach 1680–1686. Zawarcie traktatu o pokoju wieczystym* [Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Russia, 1680–6. The Perpetual Peace Treaty], ed. Tomasz Szwaciński, Muzeum Pałacu Króla Jana III w Wilanowie, Warszawa, 2017, 639 pp.; series: *Silva Rerum*

This new volume appearing in the *Silva Rerum* series edited by the King John III Museum of Wilanów, is a translation of a monograph originally published in Russia in 2008. The Polish edition is different from the original one, though: more sources and research have been taken advantage of, and certain postulates proposed by Polish reviewers have been taken into account. The monograph shows the preparation, signing, and ratification of the perpetual peace entered into between Russia and Poland-Lithuania in 1686. Apart from a number of source editions, the argument is founded on manuscripts kept at Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian archives. The eight basic chapters show, in a chronological order, the occurrences immediately preceding the conclusion of the treaty as well as the peace negotiations; the relevant aspects include Polish-Russian relations before the war against the Ottoman Empire, internal fights in Russia in 1682–5, Russia's and the Commonwealth's foreign policies, John III Sobieski's Moldavian expedition, Boris Šeremetev's ambassadorial mission. Kočegarov discusses the rich source material in much detail, showing a broad diplomatic background and complicated internal strives which eventually brought about one of the most important treaties in the history of Poland-Lithuania. (MC)

*Korespondencja i gazetki rękopiśmienne Jędrzeja Kitowicza z lat 1771–1776* [Jędrzej Kitowicz's Correspondence and Handwritten News-Sheets from 1771–1776], ed. by Tomasz Ciesielski, Sławomir Górzyński, and Filip Wolański, DiG, Warszawa and Bellerive sur Allier, 2017, 424 pp.; series: *Monumenta Poloniae Epistolaria*

Researchers have hitherto dealt with the Rev. Jędrzej Kitowicz as the author of a diary and of a 'description of mores and morals'. Since mid-nineteenth century, faint mentions in various publications helped make his 'third work' known – namely, a set of manuscript news-sheets and letters (exchanged mainly with the Rev. Michał Lipski, Great Scribe of the Crown and Canon of

Gniezno) from the years 1771–6, the latter being kept at the Polish Library in Paris. The volume under review is the first complete edition of this material. The edited source texts are preceded by an extensive introduction which discusses the recent biographical findings regarding Kitowicz (such as e.g. his date of birth), his contacts and cooperation with Lipski. The source material is divided into three parts, the first containing material related to the biographical facts, including certificates of birth and marriage for Jędrzej and his parents, taken from the parochial registers of the Warsaw Holy Cross parish. The following two sections comprise records from the Paris manuscript, incl. the correspondence with Lipski and handwritten news-sheets, plus letters to various unidentified persons. The last section contains twelve letters written by Kitowicz to Józefa Zarębina, presently at the Kórnik Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The book comprises a number of new, previously unknown facts on Kitowicz. The diarist's news-sheets and letters will be much appreciated by historians dealing with political history and (broadly understood) social history of the latter half of the eighteenth century. (MC)

Stanisław Alexandrowicz, Jarosław Łuczyński, and Radosław Skrycki, *Historia kartografii ziem polskich do końca XVIII w.* [A History of the Cartography of Polish Territories until the Late Eighteenth Century], Instytut Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2017, 447 pp.; series: Nauki Pomocnicze Historii. Seria Nowa

This volume, yet another in a series of textbooks on sciences ancillary to history published by the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences [IH PAN], deals with the history of cartography of Polish lands in the modern period. The study has primarily an ordering function as it describes the existing maps covering the area of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth as well as the areas which were not part of Poland in the pre-modern period but are incorporated today. The detailed considerations are preceded by an introduction presenting a historical overview and describing historical maps and the way in which Polish territory is shown in them. Then follows a chronological description of the maps concerned. Analysed are Polish as well as foreign publications; special maps (mining, military, etc.) and publications with vistas of towns are discussed separately. Complementary to the considerations regarding the lands of the once-Commonwealth is the analysis of maps of regions being presently part of Poland but remaining outside its borders between the sixteenth and the eighteenth century (these being Silesia, West Pomerania, and New March). A genuine summary of the present-day state of knowledge on Old Polish cartography, the book will certainly be of use for a number of scholars, and will most hopefully be used with success in teaching. (MC)



Aneta Markuszewska, *Kompozytorki i patronki muzyki w XVII i XVIII w. Wybrane portrety* [Women Composers and Patronesses of Music in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. Selected Portraits], Muzeum Pałacu Króla Jana III w Wilanowie, Warszawa, 2017, 212 pp.; series: *Silva Rerum*

This publication is not strictly a scholarly study. Specialising in research into the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century opera and keyboard music, the author's idea has been to introduce to the reader the female composers and women who popularised music in early modern period. Markuszewska analyses the relevant musical material, memoirs from the period, diaries, and correspondence; she is moreover well versed in the international literature. It is in a most accessible fashion, attractive also for those without much knowledge on musical history and theory, that she presents her selected characters. These include Francesca Caccini, Barbara Strozzi, Elizabeth-Claude Jacquet de la Guerre, Antonina Padoani Bembo, Queen Maria Kazimiera Sobieska (Marie Casimire de La Grange d'Arquien), Princess Maria Klementyna Sobieska, Isabella Leonarda, Maddalena Laura Lombardini Sirmen, Maria Antonina Walpurgis, and Maria Martines. They came from various backgrounds, their musical education varied; they were active either as singers, instrumentalists, or patronesses of (male) musicians. The so diverse biographies juxtaposed with one another makes the reader learn a lot about musical currents and fashions, the social functioning of music, and the position and potential of woman in early modern society. Altogether, the book is of use to professional historians as well as amateurs fond of history of music. (MC)

## NINETEENTH CENTURY

Alicja Nowak, *Kupowanie nadziei. Loteria w Królestwie Polskim (1815–1867)* [A Hope-Selling Business. Lotteries in the Kingdom of Poland in 1815–67], Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2017, 334 pp., ill.

Lottery is an issue that belongs not only to financial or treasury matters, or lower-class entertainment, in a broad sense. The study by Alicja Nowak of the University of Warsaw [UW] reliably presents the phenomenon, basically in respect of the former half of the nineteenth century, though the author's perspective extends to the long century in its entirety. The seven thematic chapters are divided into subchapters arranged by subject rather than strictly observed chronology. Presented are diverse aspects of the functioning, role,

and importance of lotteries held within the Kingdom of Poland in the period 1815–67. Reliably documented and vividly written, the study leaves a bit to be desired as far as its concept goes. While the area under investigation resides at the border of several, perhaps even a dozen, aspects of social life (as Nowak remarks in the introduction), only a few types of sources have been used in this particular monograph. An abridged version of the author's doctoral thesis submitted at the UW, the book contains an English summary, a glossary of key terms related to the phenomenon of lottery and raffle games, a short list of officials, and a tabular statistics regarding the share of lotteries in the Kingdom's income. (GK)

Agata Rybińska, *Granice integracji. Religijność Żydów wrocławskich w drugiej połowie XIX wieku (1854–1890)* [Boundaries of Integration. The Religiosity of Breslau Jewry in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century (1854–90)], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, Wrocław, 2017, 264 pp.; series: Bibliotheca Judaica, 11

A study by Agata Rybińska, theologian, Biblicist, and literary scholar associated with the Department of the History of Jews, Institute of Cultural Studies at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University [UMCS] in Lublin, is worth of attention for a number of reasons. Language and religious practices were doubtlessly the two crucial determinants of the peculiar character of nineteenth-century German Jewry. Since these factors restricted the integration of the Jewish minority with their Christian fellow-countrymen, the author focuses on analysing selected religious texts from the period. These include writings of rabbis and teachers associated with Breslau – exponents of the *Wissenschaft des Judentums* movement, their occasional addresses, prayer books, handbooks, scientific and press articles, reports on educational activities, and tomb inscriptions from the earliest fields of the Jewish cemetery in (today's) Ślężna St. These sources reflect the language-based image of the world and a partial linguistic acculturation of Breslau Jews. Preservation of identity remained critical for them, whereas the religion and religious language, the liturgy and religious practices, usually set the inviolable boundaries of integration. The introduction to the study portrays the Jewish community of Breslau; chapter 1 deals with the visions of the Enlightenment *Bildung* ethos as confronted with the Jewish educational model (*Da'at*); chap. 2 describes the religious cult in the face of appropriable religious literature (prayer books, in the first place); chap. 3 discusses death-related rituals (incl. the symbolism of tombstones and sepulchral inscriptions). With its narrow subject area, the author's research was based on extensive queries through a dozen archives and libraries in Europe (chiefly, Germany) and Israel. The monograph is part of the prestigious series 'Bibliotheca Judaica' edited by University of

Wrocław's Marcin Wodziński. The annexes attached comprise biographical notes of outstanding Breslau rabbis, teachers and cantors, a layout of the prayer book by eminent priest and guide Abraham Geiger, a list of Hebraisms of Heinrich Miro and Jacob Freund, items of sepulchral onomastics, a list of abbreviations, and reference literature. The book is definitely useful not only for experts in Jewish problems. (GK)

Tadeusz Paweł Rutkowski, *Józef Polikarp Brudziński (1874–1917)*, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2017, 377 pp., ill.

The book is the first biography of a pioneer pediatrician, social and political activist, and the first rector of the twentieth-century incarnation of the Polish University of Warsaw. Brudziński, a graduate of the Universities of Tartu, Moscow, and Cracow, is still remembered today due to his research on infectious diseases in children, and particularly their neurological syndromes. Four indications of meningitis bear his name. Locally, his name is associated with two hospitals for children, which he organized: the Anne-Marie hospital in Łódź, and the Charles-Marie hospital in Warsaw. The years 1904–10, when he was the director of Anne-Marie, brought him international fame for his research, the honor of being the founder of the first Polish journal in pediatrics, and the reputation of a skilled organizer and manager. He then persuaded a philanthropist Sophie Szlenker, to build a hospital for children according to his original project in Warsaw – the Charles-Marie hospital. He also published extensively on the organization of medicine and scholarship. This was probably why, in October 1915, he was elected rector of the Polish University of Warsaw, being re-opened by the Germans, after the evacuation of the Imperial Russian university with the retreating Russian army. Highly successful in this field, he was again appointed as the speaker of the Warsaw City Council in the summer of 1916. However, the German occupation, despite his obvious achievements and popularity, was also the most controversial period of his activities, until his early death in December 1917. Acting as the rector of the University and representative of the City Council, Brudziński was involved in the number of negotiations with the German authorities, whose policies concerning Poland remained ill-hearted and undecided. His political involvement provoked numerous malcontents among Polish patriotic public. The book is organized chronologically in chapters covering Brudziński's youth, his activities as director of the two hospitals, rector of the University, and politician. It is based on the materials from the archives of Warsaw, Łódź, and the University of Cracow, as well as those published in the inter-war time by a leading Polish historian of the time Marcelli Handelsman. It is supplemented with a number of annexes (pp. 231–368) including Brudziński's

memorandum on the organization of the university, his speeches as rector, speaker of the City Council, and member of the Polish delegations to Berlin and Vienna during the War, and obituaries after his death. (AK)

Adam Wątor, *Z myślą o Niepodległej. Działalność polityczna i społeczna Zdzisława Konrada Próchnickiego 1875–1939* [For the Independence of His Motherland: Political and Social Work of Zdzisław Konrad Próchnicki, 1875–1939], IH US, Szczecin, 2017, 190 pp., ill.

A biography of a major activist and co-founder of the National Democracy in Austrian Galicia, penned by an eminent researcher of the nationalist movement in Polish lands in the nineteenth and twentieth century, associated with the University of Szczecin. Following the chronology, the story opens with the youth and the beginnings of Próchnicki's activity are shown (incl. as member of a junior-high school conspiratorial circle and activist as a student), followed by his vigorous activity with the National League [LN] and, later on, the Democratic-National Party (incl. as a leading activist with the Society for Peasant School affiliated to the LN, almost since its inception in the early 1890s until the 1920s). Then came the First World War years, followed by Poland's reinstated independence; Próchnicki was active with several organizations since the early thirties. The book contains a series of previously-unknown illustrations and an extensive annex, quoting, *inter alia*, Próchnicki's important address (of 2 December 1895) at the Mickiewicz celebrations that initiated the period of an almost hegemonic influence of nationalists at the Jan Kazimierz University in Lwów for the subsequent fifty-or-so years, with short interruptions. An advantage of the research concept assumed by Wątor is the resulting depiction of a career trajectory characteristic of a Galician political activist. The book is an important contribution to the history of peasant movement in Galicia, under the Habsburg rulers and afterwards, and as such is very useful to scholars specialising in Polish nationalism. The author has unveiled the behind-the-scenes of several important episodes in the history of Poland; particularly, the sections concerning the Galician autonomy period are worth systematic reading. The edition style is modest yet studious. (GK)

Joanna Sosnowska, *Opieka nad dziećmi w Łodzi w latach I wojny światowej* [Children Care during the First World War in Łódź], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź, 2017, 495 pp., ill.

In 1914 Łódź had some 0.5 million inhabitants, of whom the majority belonged to the working classes. The speedy development of the city in the previous decades, which earned it the status of the largest textile industry center in

the Kingdom of Poland, and the second in the Russian Empire, resulted with a number of problems typical for the fast industrialization of the nineteenth century. Infant mortality was particularly high, education of the working masses was rudimentary. After a fierce battle at the western outskirts of the city, Łódź was captured by the German army on the 6 of December 1914, and remained under the German occupation till November 1918. The Great War was particularly harsh for the city, plundered by both armies, and deprived of its markets. Industrial production fell dramatically, and so did the number of inhabitants, troubled with poverty, starvation, epidemical diseases, and requisitions. The book by Joanna Sosnowska is a study in the social policies in time of the collapse of social norms and crisis. It focuses on the attempts of the local authorities, charity organizations, and the churches, to bring relief to the orphans, the homeless and poor children – by providing them with shelter, food, medicines, and cloths. The subsequent chapters are organized according to the types of organizations involved. The author emphasizes the high level of spontaneously organized help, the engagement of doctors, teachers, women, and the local authorities. The political parties and the labor unions, she claims, remained relatively inactive, concentrating on the aid for the grown-ups. The book is based on extensive research in the local archives, on the press sources, official memoranda and instructions of the authorities, and on memoirs. An important source was also the study of the city during the Great War by Mieczysław Hertz, an industrialist, social activist, and member of the local authorities, published in 1933. The present book is to be considered as yet another study in the series that has been published on the anniversary of the Great War in the last few years. Among them, the monograph by Aneta Stawiszyńska (*Łódź w latach I wojny światowej*), and the collections of essays edited by Jolanta A. Daszyńska (*Łódź w czasie Wielkiej Wojny, Bezbronne miasto*) deserve to be mentioned. The book by Sosnowska – a pedagogue and director of a kindergarten – seems impressively well documented, professionally written, and insightful. (AK)

#### INTERWAR PERIOD

Grzegorz Nowik, *Odrodzenie Rzeczypospolitej w myśli politycznej Józefa Piłsudskiego 1918-1922* [The Rebirth of a Polish Republic in Józef Piłsudski's Political Thought, 1918–22], part 1: *Sprawy wewnętrzne* [Internal Affairs], Warszawa, 2017, 506 pp.

The volume is the first in the announced series of studies dealing with 'home affairs' in Józef Piłsudski's political thought shortly before the revival of the

Second Republic and in the first years of the young Polish state. Grzegorz Nowik is a respected military historian, presently Deputy Director of the emerging Józef Piłsudski Museum; in short, a man apparently very well prepared to tackle the topic. The book is composed of six chapters, of roughly equal length, dealing with aspects of thoughts and ideas close to Piłsudski's mind. Chapter 1 analyses the genesis of these thoughts and ideas; chap. 2 deals with the role of independence and of the state; chap. 3 – the position of national agreement (so-called national consolidation) between the major political forces; chap. 4 – the position of republic and democracy; chap. 5 – the socialist background of Piłsudski's ideas and the politician's relationship with this ideological trend; finally, chap. 6 considers a series of minor issues, under the rather enigmatic slogan 'experience'. Intended as helpful in setting the issues concerned in an order, the study is regrettably disappointing with its textbook-like presentation of the central character – no doubt one of the most outstanding Polish politicians at the turn of the twentieth century. Virtually, no previously unknown source has been used. Chapter 6, which tries to identify and analyse the ruptures and evolutions in Piłsudski's thought and political pragmatics certainly deserves more attention, for a change. This particular section shows the image of Piłsudski in Polish political culture of the time, whilst also attempting to embed this major figure among the period's other Polish politicians. Reference literature is provided, along with an index of persons, and some before-unknown photographs. The publication is affected, though, by a rather careless editorial work. (GK)

Julian Nowak, *Wspomnienia z ławy rządowej* [The Time I Sat on the Government Bench], ed. by Henryk Walczak, *Ośrodek Myśli Politycznej*, Kraków, 2017, 160 pp., indices; series: *Biblioteka Klasyki Polskiej Myśli Politycznej*, 106

The book offers recollections of a prominent Cracow-based scholar, veterinarian and microbiologist associated with the Jagiellonian University's Faculty of Medicine, primarily known for his political activity connected with the Cracow-based *Stańczykites'* milieu. In the period referred to as Galician autonomy, Julian Nowak held a number of posts of prominence with the Galician administration; his political career peaked as he was nominated Prime Minister in 1922 (i.e., in the Second Republic). His notes describe, for a large part, the backstage of Poland's politics in the tempestuous years of consolidation of the revived state (1919–23), the establishment of the legal and political conditions of the functioning of national and ethnic minorities within it, the deepening of conflicts between parties and ideological circles, especially the emerging Piłsudski-ite and National Democratic camps; in brief, a portrayal of the political polarisation of the early years of the Second

Republic. Nowak shows the circumstances of the assassination of President Gabriel Narutowicz (which he eye-witnessed) and the Government's – and, more broadly, the establishment's – response to the event, as well as the trial of the killer, Eligiusz Niewiadomski. This subjective report is worth attentive reading – all the more that historians generally tend not to evaluate the role of Prime Minister Nowak in these occurrences in positive terms. On the contrary: it is his alleged tardiness and indolence that is usually to blame for the escalation of a series of processes that destabilised the young state. This volume of recollections offer the reader an insight in the practical politics of the Second Republic's yearly years. A useful, erudite introduction by Henryk Walczak is attached. (GK)

Edward Kołodziej, *Polska i inne państwa wobec problemów reparacji i długów zagranicznych w latach 1918–1939* [Poland and Other States towards the Problems of Reparations and Foreign Debt between 1918 and 1939], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Scholar, Warszawa, 2017, 176 pp., bibliog., index of persons, index of geographical names

This is a handy synthetic historical study on a series of important episodes in the history of reparations and foreign debt after the First World War. The three chapters are subjected to chronological narrative. Chapter 1 concerns the period 1919–23 and the Ruhr Basin issue; chap. 2 is on 1924–9 and the Davis Plan; chap. 3 covers the economic crisis of the late twenties/early thirties and the Young Plan – all with particular focus on the Polish case. The author convincingly demonstrates that implementation of any of the international treaties was thoroughly unrealistic, downright unfeasible. The only way out was to settle the liabilities by way of balances of trade, which, given the unceasing commercial wars waged by national states throughout the Interbellum, proved unrealistic as well. What is more, Kołodziej argues, all the arguments were known to economists and to the influential political decision-makers. It is moreover shown how the states which pursued revisionist policies with respect to the Paris order – Germany in particular – skilfully dealt with the problem of reparations. The thread of diplomatic efforts of the Second Republic basically accompanies each of the topics covered. A useful and instructive study, much recommendable for Polish politicians and policymakers of today (if any of them ever uses it!). (GK)



Kamil Kijek and Konrad Zieliński (eds.), *Przemoc antyżydowska i konteksty akcji pogromowych na ziemiach polskich w XX wieku* [Anti-Jewish Violence and Contexts of Pogrom Actions in Polish Territories in the Twentieth Century], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin, 2016, 263 pp., indexes

This collection of studies (the first in an expected series of several volumes) has been produced by a team dealing with collective violence against Jews in Polish lands in the nineteenth and twentieth century. The authors' underlying assumption is that anti-Semitism, describable as stereotypisation and mythologisation of Jews as an alien group, was expressed through hostile attitudes and social practice; these, in turn, manifested themselves in various ways, depending on the social and historical context – also, as eruptions of aggression called pogroms. The volume opens with two theoretical articles, one by Joanna Tokarska-Bakir on the most recent anthropological theories of violence, and the other by Mikołaj Winiewski on collective violence from the standpoint of social psychology. The other articles are historical: Grzegorz Krzywiec describes the response of the National Polish Committee [KNP] in Paris in 1917–19 to the signals regarding the pogroms taking place in Polish lands then. The Committee downplayed the news, believing they were exaggerated and avoiding demonstration of anti-Semitic attitudes to the public opinion in the West. In parallel, the Committee imputed that Jews deliberately hindered the rebuilding of the country. Dmowski went as far as suggesting that the violent acts had been provoked by Jews themselves. Katarzyna Kocik discusses the ways in which violence against Jewish people was described by *Mysł Narodowa*, the National Democrats' leading journal, between 1921 and 1939. The author points out that the so-called Christian nationalism propagated by its editors did not entail condemnation of violence or racist theories. Alicja Gontarek deals with the Sanacja camp's policies in respect of the national movement in 1926–35, and places (shared) responsibility on the governing team for its popularisation of anti-Semitic ideas, the symptoms of which she can spot even before the death of Marshal Józef Piłsudski. To her mind, the Sanacja defended Jews for tactical, rather than fundamental, reasons. The article of Russian scholar Alexander Friedman deals with the portrayal of Poland in the Soviet propaganda before 1939. The Second Republic was introduced to Soviet public as a fascist and anti-Semitic country. The closing study, by Paweł Wieczorek, concerns anti-Semitic riots occurring in Lower Silesia in 1956; a considerable number of Jews resided there, deliberately resettled in 1945. As we are shown, the Jews became an easy scapegoat of the Thaw months, as their community was blamed for Stalinism (poverty, terror, humiliations of Polish national pride). (BK)

Ewa Pejaś, *Mysł polityczna Kazimierza Czapińskiego w latach 1918–1939* [The Political Thought of Kazimierz Czapiński as it Evolved in 1918–39], Wydawnictwo Sejmowe, Warszawa, 2017, 348 pp.

This carefully compiled monograph deals with the activities and political thought of Kazimierz Czapiński, a prominent leader of the interwar Polish Socialist Party [PPS], member of *Sejm*, publicist and educationalist, one of the first Polish experts on European fascism and critics of the Stalinist version of communism. The book consists of eight chapters compiled according to the topics covered. Chapter 1 outlines Czapiński's biography; chap. 2 describes his views on the political system of the Second Republic of Poland; chap. 3 analyses his attitude toward right-wing parties then active in Poland (National Democracy and the Sanacja circle); chap. 4 discusses his views on the Catholic Church; chap. 5 describes Czapiński's original views on education; chap. 6 – his outlook on the Second Republic and on the international relations; chap. 7 – on the Soviet system and communism; lastly, chap. 8 – on the assumptions and methods of European fascism (with emphasis on Italian fascism and German Nazism). The author has compiled a reliable bibliography, which testifies to the course of Czapiński's political career as well as output as a publicist and political commentator: he had his texts published in the two major journals of the PPS, *Robotnik* and *Naprzód*. Worthy of note is the author's conscientious reconstruction of the consecutive stages in the evolution of Czapiński's thought. On the other hand, the proposed research questionnaire, rather poor as it is, and the resulting clichéd depiction of the man himself and the PPS in the period in question, are perforce somewhat griping. All in all, owing to Kazimierz Czapiński's role in the history of Polish political thought, the study is useful, not only to experts on the period it refers to. (GK)

Sebastian Pilarski, *Między obojętnością a niechęcią. Piłsudczycy wobec Czechosłowacji w latach 1926–1939* [Between Indifference and Reluctance. The Piłsudski Camp's Attitude to Czechoslovakia in 1926–39], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni Przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Oddział w Łodzi, Łódź and Warszawa, 2017, 453 pp.

This monograph by a scholar associated with the Łódź branch of the National Remembrance Institute [IPN] who combines interest in the post-war communist Poland (particularly, of the later period) and the history of Polish-Czech relations, focuses on the attitude of Józef Piłsudski's political camp toward Czechoslovakia in the Sanacja regime years. The study consists of four

large parts, basically arranged by chronology and describing the dynamics of Polish-Czechoslovak, later also Polish-Czech and Polish-Slovak, relations. Chapter 1 is an extensive introduction; each of the parts prevalently unfolds an argument based on the main political events, preceded by a brief outline of the international context and concluded by a synthetic summary – a structure that definitely facilitates the reading. As Pilarski remarks, the relations of Poland's ruling camp with the southern neighbour have always been charged with a sort of paternalism and deeply-rooted cultural clichés which with time became increasingly hostile. While the author apparently nowhere states it in a straightforward way, it was Poland that was chiefly responsible for the deteriorating relations between the two states, irrespective of their bilateral dynamism – the history of these relations having been marked with historical grievances from the years following the First World War (and earlier on), the care extended by Prague over political émigrés from Poland, or the Czechoslovaks' warm attitude to the Ukrainian cause, which was massively perceived by Poles as a kind of diversion. Shortly before the Second World War broke out and the Third Reich invaded Czechoslovakia, the Second Republic of Poland began pursuing an outright irredentist policy against Czechoslovakia aiming at breaking the country, if not at becoming its occupier. A dozen-or-so episodes are evoked in this context, including the Sanacja politicians contacts (known basically to experts) with Slovak fascists and nationalist politicians. Based on reliable sources, primarily from Polish and, partly, Czech and Slovak archives, the study includes a contentful conclusion summarising the conclusions, along with a list of abbreviations, and index, and a helpful list of reference literature. (GK)

Anna Augustyniak, *Irena Tuwim. Nie umarłam z miłości. Biografia [Irena Tuwim. I Haven't Died of Love. A Biography]*, Trzecia Strona, Warszawa, 2016, 272 pp., ill.

A biography of the poet and prose writer – and, above all, outstanding translator of English and German. Irena Tuwim was a younger sister of Julian Tuwim. Anna Augustyniak, a respected biographer (author of a biography of the poet Antoni Słonimski – *Hrabia, literat, dandys. Rzecz o Antonim Słonimskim*, 2009), describes Irena's private life in the twelve genuinely documented chapters. For obvious reasons, the broader context is no less important: a history of a Polish woman of Jewish descent, going through several historic turns. It is nowise a sentimental story. A valued poet, member of the Skamander group, and a very promising translator (known for her masterly translations of A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh books), Tuwim survived the Second World War as an émigré in France and then in Canada, Britain, and the United States; she eventually returned to Poland in 1947. The biography under review is

worthy of note not only because of the dramatic, vivid life of Irena and her family but also owing to the arresting storytelling style which intertwines the skilfully used Irena's correspondence with drawn-out story, and to an extremely objective biographical argument. The fortunes of an emancipated woman and an uncommon author are evoked; Tuwim's talents and skills primarily manifested themselves in her translations. Irena was overshadowed by several males who were close to her, her famous brother in the first place. A number of before-unknown illustrations and a bibliography are attached. (GK)

Michalina Grekowicz-Hausnerowa, *Chleb dziennikarski ma smak rozmaity... Wspomnienia* [The Taste of a Journalist's Bread Varies. My Recollections], ed. and with an introduction by Karolina Grodziska, Polska Akademia Umiejętności, Biblioteka Naukowa PAU w Krakowie, Kraków, 2017, 341, [3] pp.

Edited by an experienced scholar and editor, these recollections of Michalina Grekowicz-Hausner, a noted journalist from L'viv, are worth reading for a number of reasons. The book is composed of twenty-nine essayistic sketches written with a journalistic verve. The author does not fit into our standard thinking of the period. A daughter of Stanisław Wasilewski, the known writer and publicist, and a relative of the family of Artur Hausner, a prominent socialist activist, Hausnerowa was a self-taught author. The editor recalls and reconstructs in detail Michalina's family relationships – the factor that had left a significant, possibly decisive, mark on her offbeat life. A journalist with several popular local journals (incl. *Gazeta Poranna*, *Gazeta Wieczorna*, *Dziennik Ludowy* – an influential socialist daily, *Ilustrowany Kurier Codzienny*, *Świat Kobiet*, and more), Hausnerowa was a go-ahead woman. An important experience in her life was her membership with the Marine and Colonial League, along with numerous travels she made as a reporter – the best-known among them being her trip to Romania in 1930. She survived through the war as a blue-collar worker (toy painter, to be specific), and moved afterwards to Szczecin and then to Cracow where she established her renown as a valued member of the journalist circle. Her biography, as she recounts it in an intense, vivid and passionate manner, renders the reader acquainted with the behind-the-scenes of a number of occurrences of significance, which however calls for verification by scholars specialising in the period. Comprehensive descriptions of several dozens public figures of the time are worthy of note indeed. The manuscript, deposited at the Scientific Library of the Polish Academy of Learning [PAU] and the Polish Academy of Sciences [PAN] in Cracow, waited several dozens years till it was edited and, apparently, has lost nothing of its cognitive quality. This valuable document tell us more about its age than a number of monographs on the subject. A conscientious editorial

work, the edition comprises a useful bibliography and an index of persons offering, in fact, short biographical notes on the individuals concerned. (GK)

Magdalena Mizgalska-Osowiecka, *Żydzi w samorządzie miasta Częstochowy w latach 1927–1939* [Jews in the Municipal Government of the City of Częstochowa, 1927–39], self-published, Warszawa, 2017, 206 pp.

This monograph of the Jewish community of Częstochowa after the coup of May 1926 is authored by a graduate of the University of Warsaw and the University of Southampton, presently a doctoral student with the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences. The book is an ambitious dissertation concerning a local Jewish community, their participation in the sociopolitical life of their hometown, and their attitude toward the religion that was predominant in the Second Republic of Poland. There are five chapters set, basically, in a chronological sequence and according to the local government's calendar. The history of the Częstochowa Jewry has been meticulously reconstructed based on participation of the community's members in the town's government. The reader receives a plenty of valuable information and facts concerning the shaping of the local elite, the headhunting and development process. Yet, I would not say it is a comprehensive (micro-)study of a provincial community: it lacks sufficient courage in breaching the mainstream takes on the subject-matter and extending the research questionnaire. Astonishingly enough, the author carefully bypasses the sphere of commercial contacts; save for certain exceptions, she evades discussion on the role of the Catholic Church in forming the attitudes of Częstochowa locals, particularly in the thirties. On the other hand, though, the study renders the reader acquainted with a number of new threads; it is noteworthy not only due to its meticulous edition: a reader-friendly narrative is another important advantage. The illustrations are skilfully chosen; the annexes attached (incl. biographical notes of all Jewish town councillors) prove to be interesting. (GK)

Marcin Jakub Wichmanowski, *Mysł polityczna Polskiego Stronnictwa Ludowego Piast 1913/14–1931* [The Political Thought of the Polish Peasant Party 'Piast' in 1913/14–31], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin, 2017, 442 pp.

This is a standard dissertation in political thought, with all the qualities and limitations of this genre. There are six thematic sections, of which chapter 1 deals with the sources of peasant thought, chap. 2 – the material background behind the peasant movement. Chaps. 3 to 6 deal with specified aspects of

the political thought of the Polish Peasant Party 'Piast' [PSL 'Piast'] – the largest and most influential party in Polish countryside: from the state's constitutional system, the position of citizens in the postulated state system, through to the visions of economy and state security. An advantage of this approach is, certainly, a well-thought-over and conscientious narrative which combines an objective and information-dense argument proposing the major points and meticulously analysing the stages of formation of the ideological skeleton as well as political 'infrastructure' of the peasant movement. This analysis-oriented and repeatedly scrupulous study regrettably somewhat summarily darts at times through the important issues of political radicalisation of Polish rural areas – among them, so-called overpopulation or political violence. Otherwise, some vividly disputed matters are approached in a static manner, as if neglecting at several moments the political upheaval of the mid-1930s. Hence, what the author terms 'situational analysis' often proves defective in this book. The study was written at the Department of Political Thought, Faculty of Political Science, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University [UMCS] in Lublin – possibly, the country's major centre of historical research in political thought of the Second Republic of Poland. The book offers an easy reading experience, the entire argument, extensive as it is, is basically uncontaminated by jargon or newspeak otherwise typical of political scholars, which is quite an achievement of the author. A long list of sources, studies and editions is attached (use has been made primarily of the Central Archives of Modern Records [AAN] in Warsaw, the National Archives of Cracow, and the Archive of the Department of the History of Peasant Movement, Warsaw), quotes from political press of (mainly) the peasant current, and shorthand reports of parliamentary sessions. (GK)

*Archiwum Ringelbluma. Konspiracyjne Archiwum Getta Warszawy* [The Ringelblum Archive. A Conspiratorial Archive of the Ghetto of Warsaw], iii1: *Pisma Pereca Opoczyńskiego* [The Writings of Percec Opoczyński], ed. by Monika Polit, Żydowski Instytut Historyczny, Warszawa, 2017, 492 pp., glossary of terms, bibliog., index of persons, index of geographical names

This volume, yet another in the renowned series publishing documents from the Emanuel Ringelblum Archive, contains thirty texts of the writer and intellectual Percec Opoczyński (1892–1943). Part I consists of his prewar writings, whereas Part II offers texts and writings from wartime years. Altogether, the reader is basically offered a chronicle of the author's creative effort and a document of the fate of a committed intellectual who matured throughout the two interwar decades but was appreciated after his death, as a matter of fact. The editor mentions that in spite of numerous endeavours, he never

managed to get any of his larger-volume works published with one of the major Jewish literary magazines of the time – *Ringen, Di Wog*, or, most notably, *Literarisze Bleter* (1924–39). The war, the Nazi German occupation, and the Warsaw ghetto meant for Opoczyński a collaboration with the organisation Oneg Szabat and writing reports for the ghetto’s archive. He survived the great extermination action of July 1942 but was killed just a few months later, in January 1943. His life and output forms, by all means, a weighty fragment of Polish literature of the period, in a broad sense – though, in this particular case, forming part of Jewish studies. For researchers of the literary life, the publication makes an essential contribution to the Jewish output of the Shoah time, not to be neglected when it comes to reconstructing the backrooms and nuances of the latter. A brief list of abbreviations and a short introduction to Opoczyński the man and author, by Monika Polit, plus an editorial note, complement this valuable edition. (GK)

#### CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

Stanisław Adler, *Żadna blaga, żadne kłamstwo... Wspomnienia z warszawskiego getta* [No humbug, no Lies... Memoirs from the Warsaw Ghetto], ed. and with an introduction by Marta Janczewska, Centrum Badań nad Zagładą Żydów, Warszawa, 2018, 432 pp.

This important document, another one edited by the Warsaw-based Centre for Holocaust Research [CBnZZ], is – quoting a detail from the author’s notes – “a chronicle of fear, uncertainty, and everyday attempts to survive”. Adler was a member of the upper crust of the Warsaw Bar. During the German occupation, he joined several institutions of the Judenrat, ending up with what was colloquially called the Jewish Police Service – as its high-ranked functional officer. His notes are not as dramatic as those of Cael Perechodnik, for example, but they do illustrate the Jewish strategies of survival in a suggestive and, seemingly, emblematic fashion. The abundance of facts and the ability to view the reality in a reflective and, in parallel, brutally realistic way, all this based on penetrating eyewitness observations, make this testimony respected among Shoah researchers. Raul Hilberg, for instance, considers Adler’s memories one of the most penetrating and inspiring pieces of reflection on the Warsaw ghetto he has ever happened to read. The introduction by Marta Janczewska, founding member of the CBnZZ, seems no less valuable than Adler’s own account. (GK)



Tadeusz Obremski, *Wśród zatrutych noży. Zapiski z getta i okupowanej Warszawy* [Amidst Poisoned Knives. Notes from the Warsaw Ghetto and the City under Occupation], ed. and with an introduction by Agnieszka Haska, Centrum Badań nad Zagładą Żydów, Warszawa, 2018, 288 pp.

Tadeusz Obremski (born 1900) was a co-owner of a prosperous shoemaking company H. Obremski i S-owie [H.O. and Sons]. He felt at home with the socio-cultural realities of the Second Republic of Poland, and the outbreak of the Second World War must have been a thorough shock for him. His jottings from the occupation period, made when he was in hiding at the 'Aryan side', form a document that is peculiar in some way. The notes were kept in a secret place and transferred after the war to the author's family by a Pole who offered them shelter; the author and those closest to him, his wife and a daughter, were killed in mysterious circumstances in June 1944. The notes were largely made by an entrepreneur who with time turned into an obsessive documentalist trying to possibly completely describe the tragedy of his community. His description is, largely, a piercing and emotional record – possibly, one of the most complete pictures of Jewish experience on the Aryan side. It fully depicts everyday realities and the relationships between those offering shelter and those remaining in hiding, and shows to what extent the keeping of Jews in Warsaw was a lucrative financial undertaking. The book is altogether one of the most valuable testimonies of those recently published by the Centre for Holocaust Research [CBnZZ]. (GK)

*Zapisy terroru I. Warszawa. Niemieckie egzekucje w okupowanym mieście* [Chronicles of Terror, I. Warsaw. German Executions in the Occupied City], ed. by Leszek Zaborowski, Warszawa, Ośrodek Badań nad Totalitaryzmami, 2017, 270 pp.; *Zapisy terroru II. Warszawa. Zbrodnie niemieckie na Woli w sierpniu 1944 r.* [Chronicles of Terror, II. Warsaw. German Atrocities in the District of Wola in August 1944], ed. by Leszek Zaborowski, with an introduction by Piotr Gursztyn, Warszawa, Ośrodek Badań nad Totalitaryzmami im. Witolda Pileckiego, 2017, 284 pp.

The series 'Chronicles of Terror' prepared by the 'Witold Pilecki' Centre for Totalitarian Studies, an institution set up two years ago, is meant to publish testimonies of, primarily, victims and witnesses of the German Nazi and the Soviet occupation of Poland. The purpose behind the research project in question, at least as defined by its initiators, was to make materials documenting the experiences of thousands of Poles available to a broader

public and, subsequently, to foreign scholars. The first two volumes ('pilot' ones, in a way) comprise accounts dating between early September 1939 and July 1944. Volume I is divided into six chapters containing accounts of several dozen people, mostly victims or witnesses of the German terrorist acts. The leitmotif is the executions carried out by the Germans in Warsaw and thereabouts throughout the occupation. The rationales behind these terrorist acts varied – from brutal deterring repression to death sentences. Most of the texts demonstrate that executions were part of the everyday realities of Warsaw under occupation. Volume II comprises tens of accounts of the 'pacification' of the Warsaw district of Wola in August 1944 as part of suppressing the Warsaw Rising. According to various calculations, some 25,000 to 60,000 people were executed by firing squads within less than a month, among them mainly civilians and insurgents incapable of fighting. The book offers stories told by those who had 'survived their own death' along with those who watched other people getting killed. In addition, collected have been accounts of witnesses to the covering of the crimes' tracks by the Germans. Both volumes focus on ethnic Poles, once again testifying to the vast persecutions that affected the civilians. Yet, do they contribute any new cognitive quality, given the thousands of testimonies published right after the war as so many times afterwards? A vast majority of these accounts have been written down years afterwards. If the edition were more careful, almost each of the documents (those reproducing the same stories rejected), could probably have provided material for examining the trauma and the methods of tackling the past, rather than the scale of the terror – the latter being known for dozens of years now. Albeit, at first glance, both volumes required considerable funding, they leave a lot to be desired in terms of editorial work. A more extensive and rigorous critical apparatus, reaching beyond the brief biographical notes of the authors, would have been a favour to many of the accounts. The introductions to both volumes are unsatisfactory, as they are journalistic rather than critical historical. All in all, mixed feelings prevail about these books. (GK)

Monika Napora, *Gadzinowe narracje. Mechanizmy i strategie kreowania propagandowego obrazu świata w "Dzienniku Radomskim" 1940–1945* ['Reptile' Narrations. The Mechanisms and Strategies of Creating a Propagandist Image of the World by *Dziennik Radomski Daily*, 1940–5], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2017, 295 pp.

The author, a researcher associated with the Department of Recent History, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University [UMCS] in Lublin, reflects upon a daily

newspaper published under the German occupation in the Polish language in Radom (*Kurier Radomski* having been its forerunner). A brief introduction and five chapters, concluded with a summarising final section. The focus is on wartime and occupation-time episodes and on literature referred to as 'reptile'. Three types of discourse dominating in the propaganda are discerned: political, canvassing, and anti-Semitic. Although some of the threads are described in an abridged or perfunctory manner, the query for *Kurier Radomski*, as well as *Dziennik Radomski* has been carried out meticulously. The study seems to be innovative in several ways: primarily, it skillfully combines all-encompassing analysis of press discourse and an attempt to elaborate a new research catalogue, using to this end several methodological techniques. A bibliography of mediocre size, encompassing documentations from several branches of the National Remembrance Institute [IPN], systematically catalogues the press and critical studies or editions. (GK)

Bartłomiej Kuraś and Paweł Smoleński, *Krzyżyk niespodziany. Czas Goralenvolk* [An Unforeseen Cross. The Time of the Goralenvolk], Wydawnictwo Czarne, Wołowiec, 2017, 158, [3] pp., ills., photographs

Composed of thirteen voluble and skilfully written essays, the book is a pendant to the study by Wojciech Szatkowski entitled *Goralenvolk. Historia zdrady* [The Goralenvolk. A history of a treason] (2012) – a past-confronting, reporter-style book which made exquisite use of historic records. Kuraś and Smoleński are noted publicists and reporters associated with the *Gazeta Wyborcza* daily. They have used a wealth of personal accounts and testimonies. The narrative treads refer to the consecutive stages of constituting the idea of a *Goralenvolk*. The authors reconstruct historical concepts of revival of the nation out of a common folk and the concept of *góral szczyzna* (highland culture and lifestyle) in Polish culture at the turn of the twentieth century (chap. 'A people that is simply one of genius'); the Nazi racial investigations in Podhale region ('Racial composition and culture'); the attempts at forming mountaineer Waffen-SS units ('The Highlander Legion'); the history of the Tatra Volunteer Rescue Service ('*Tatra Bergwacht*'); the post-war 'squaring of accounts' in Podhale area ('Against Krzeptowski-ism' and 'The guilty and the not-guilty'); and, lastly, the individual fates of wartime heroes and their antagonists ('Tracking down' and 'Who is a good *góral*?'). The leaders of the collaborative mountaineer folk's movement: Wacław Krzeptowski, leader of the so-called Highlanders' Committee and would-be *Goralenfürst*, and his chief acolyte Henryk Szatkowski, come to the fore in this story. In their meticulous report, the authors recall the other figures from the circle, including numerous members of the Krzeptowski family. Evoked are also those whose biographies were very different (one such

being Home Army [AK] member Józef Krzeptowski), thereby showing, as it were, possible alternative scenarios to what actually happened. The reader receives a suggestive, bitter and touching illustration of the tangled knots of history of the region and its inhabitants. For some, membership of the *Goralenvolk* enabled fairly unrestrained conspiratorial work to the benefit of the country under occupation; in some cases, Jews prosecuted by the Third Reich's apparatus could find efficient shelter. The book offers an in-depth insight in the undesirable inheritance of the Second World War in the region considered a nursery of things Polish. A brief bibliography and a dozen of (mostly unknown) photographs complement the noteworthy content. (GK)

Klementyna Suchanow, *Gombrowicz. Ja, geniusz [Gombrowicz. A Genius, Me]*, vols. 1–2, Wydawnictwo Czarne, Muzeum Literatury im. Adama Mickiewicza, Wołowiec, 2017, 583 + 599 pp.

The two-volume work is a biography of Witold Gombrowicz one of the greatest writers and cultural practitioners of the twentieth century. Klementyna Suchanow is a literary scholar, translator, and women's activist, one of the most outstanding experts in the life and works of Gombrowicz; she has assiduously researched into a dozen-or-so important episodes of the writer's life (and penned a book on his adventures as an émigré in Argentina – *Argentyńskie przygody Gombrowicza*, 2005). Among Polish twentieth-century writers, Gombrowicz is probably the most comprehensively described and analysed author. His oeuvre is, as is known, a record of a specific personal experience and, at the same, a never-ending literary and artistic (self-)creation. It is all the more worth noticing that Suchanow's take on Gombrowicz's biography does not boil it down to what he wrote in his books, and even less so to his day-to-day notes – as those composing the recently-famed *Kronos* (also edited by Suchanow). The biographer has successfully evaded the red herrings suggested by the writer; like some dispassionate researcher, she reports to us what she has learned about him. In this context, the opening section is the weakest point in this monumental work, as if the biographer were looking for evidence in the earth and in heaven that a great man was born. The remainder of the book tells the story in an orderly manner, systematically and methodically, as expectable with a genuine written biography. She does not circumvent inconvenient threads, though avoids emphasising them. It is definitely not a groundbreaking book as far as Gombrowicz studies are concerned, but explains and adds a lot. Volume I presents Gombrowicz's family home and the genealogy of the family, Witold's school years and his young years in the Second Republic, as well as the backstage and reflections of his voyage through the Atlantic and his first years in Buenos Aires. Volume II, containing chapters nos. VII to XI (of varied lengths), primarily focuses

on Gombrowicz's émigré life and activity as a writer. The book is largely indebted to Suchanow's contacts with Gombrowicz's widow Rita and with Jerzy Jarzębski, an eminent Gombrowicz scholar. The volume in question also comprises a bibliography by work, archives (several dozen resources, in Poland and abroad), private archives and conversations (with tens of individuals), correspondence (published and unpublished), recollections, and critical editions or studies; lastly, an index of persons, and editorial note, and a pretty amble earlier-unpublished collection of photographs and maps. (GK)

Jan Ciechanowski, *Przegraní zwycięzcy. Wspomnienia ambasadora Polski w Stanach Zjednoczonych w czasie II wojny światowej* [The Defeated Victors. Recollections of the Ambassador of Poland to the United States during the Second World War], transl. by Wojciech Tyszka, with an introduction by Andrzej Chwalba, Wydawnictwo Literackie, Kraków, 2017, 667, [2] pp., photographs

This is the first critical edition in the Polish language of the recollections of Jan Ciechanowski, Polish Republic's Ambassador at Washington in the years of the Second World War, first published as *Defeat in Victory* in 1947. A diplomat and economist before then, Ciechanowski was promoted to Counsellor of the Polish Embassy in London (1921–5), Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the Government-in-Exile presided by General Władysław Sikorski. Ciechanowski proved to be one of the greatest members of Polish diplomatic service in his time. A descendant of a landed-gentry family, he graduated from the University of Birmingham and proved extremely fit for the role he was assigned. During the Second World War it fell to his lot to run probably the most important diplomatic outpost of the Government-in-Exile. After his dismissal, an émigré ever since, he remained on the other side of the Pond until his death. A major figure in Polish history of the Second World War period, Ciechanowski successfully sank into oblivion in the course of the subsequent fifty years. The book has forty chronologically arranged chapters, beginning with Ciechanowski's accreditation as Ambassador in March 1941 up to official recognition of the Provisional Government of National Unity by the United States in the summer of 1945. Most of all, the notes made by Ciechanowski as Ambassador form a commentary of an eminent mediator and diplomat; he portrays the first-rank actors of the American political scene, with President Roosevelt and members of his administration in the lead. Described is a number of key meetings, including the famous meeting between Roosevelt and Jan R. Kozielski (known as Jan Karski), plus a number of jottings from diplomatic talks. The book is decently edited;

it is furnished with an annex containing several documents illustrating the individual stages of Ambassador Ciechanowski's activity, and a few unknown illustrations. Apart from anything else, this important document marks the end of a certain political project. (GK)

Joanna Szymoniczek, *W cieniu wojny. Polski Czerwony Krzyż w latach 1945–1972* [In the Shadow of War. The Polish Red Cross Between 1945 and 1972], Instytut Studiów Politycznych PAN, Warszawa, 2016, 279 pp., summaries in English and German, bibliog., index of persons

The book is a successful combination of the history of an institution (Polish Red Cross) and political history – in particular, the history of Polish-German relations. As a topic, the Polish Red Cross [PCK] has been underexploited by historians, hence the study in question makes a breakthrough. The PCK was established in Poland in 1919; by the thirties, it became an instrument of preparing the society for the impending war. During the German Occupation, activities of PCK were tolerated (but only so in the Generalgouvernement). In the West, specifically – in the Allied countries, its counterpart organisation in exile was re-established, in parallel. The Second World War over, the domestic PCK regained its autonomy but appeared short-lived: in 1948 the Communist authorities deprived it of a considerable portion of wealth – including hospitals, mother and child care outlets, emergency stations, and the like. The organisation was subjected to Stalinisation; this lot was shared by a number of social organisations at the time. Albeit a mass organisation, PCK was controlled by political centres. It is nonetheless apparent that PCK proved extremely merited as far as popularisation of blood donation and propagation of hygiene at schools were concerned. The war overshadowed the organisation's activities until as late as 1972, the date Poland entered into official diplomatic relations with West Germany. The monograph considers three dimensions in PCK's activities: (i) the organisation's branch in Germany after 1945 (extending care to Polish displaced persons, searching the lost Polish children, helping repatriate the displaced/found individuals); (ii) contribution to the action of reunifying German families 1955–9, by helping such family members exit Poland; (iii) indemnifying Polish victims of German Nazi medical pseudo-experiments (1960–72). PCK not always followed the ideas of the International Red Cross; for instance, PCK's Information and Search Office for a number of years did not respond, as a rule, to queries sent from Germans residing in the West concerning the whereabouts, or date of death/place of internment, of their compatriots from Poland. For political reasons, PCK generally shunned cooperation with its German counterpart – to the detriment of both parties. (BK)

Hubert Wilk, *Między pragmatyzmem a oczekiwaniami. Społeczeństwo, władza i samochody w Polsce 1945–1970* [Between Pragmatism and Expectations. Society, State Power, and Cars in Poland, 1945–70], Wydawnictwo Instytutu Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2017, 395 pp., ill., tables, bibliog., index of persons

The book displays an important but rare characteristic of being a genuinely pioneering study. It traces the development of motorism before 1970, the aspects concerned being automotive industry, legal regulations and social practice related to owning a motor vehicle (motorcycles do not fall within the scope of the study). The period 1945–70 was one when the numbers of private cars were growing the fastest in the whole history of Poland, although the common automotive boom only appeared in ‘the Gierek decade’ (1971–80). An own car was a determinant of social prestige, object of desire – and, a trouble for the authorities and for the socialist economy which found it hard to satisfy the consumption-oriented endeavours of the nation in this respect. The book, filled with illustrations, press quotations, and reminiscences, offers a bulk of hard quantitative data regarding the phenomenon of motorism. After the Second World War, Poles used decommissioned (meaning, worn) military automobiles or cars imported as part of the UNRRA scheme. Stalinism did not favour private cars (manufacture of tractors and trucks was of preference), and only the political Thaw made partial satisfaction of the consumers’ demand in this respect. The title of the chapter discussing the story, ‘Gomułka-style second gear’, well reflects the central authorities’ temperance with respect to the plans of automotive enthusiasts. Poles in this respect were finally given access to mass-produced cars, though the assortment was extremely modest, limited to just a few constructions (for example, the production of the small car named Mikrus was commenced in 1958 and discontinued in the next year). A sign of hope for motoring devotees in the sixties appeared with an opportunity to have a car imported from abroad via the PEKAO bank which dealt with the business (this monopoly holder charged the customer with a margin of 100 per cent of the vehicle’s price, though). The book broadly describes the ways in which Poles were acquiring their private cars in the Gomułka decade, dealing with the bureaucratic system of allotments, privileges, and more or less informal ways of circumventing the restrictions generated (whether deliberately or unwillingly) by the state system. The chapter on the Pole’s paths to an own car offers a fascinating review of social practices under the ‘real socialist’ system (in 1955–70 the number of private cars in Poland increased from 20,000 to as many as 453,000). Some of the most determined individuals constructed cars on their own – and such vehicles were definitely the cheapest option. But the story does not end with a car: any vehicle has to move along something, and has to be mended. Thus,



aspects of motoring such as quality of the roads, road culture and safety (car accidents, alcohol consumption among drivers), petrol station network (out of 1,080 fuelling stations operating across the country in 1965, only sixty were open 24 hours), repair and parking garages are covered in this book as well. Altogether, Hubert Wilk's book makes an important contribution to the social history of the communist system in Poland. (BK)

Dariusz Jarosz, *Rzeczy, ludzie, zjawiska. Studia z historii społecznej stalinizmu w Polsce* [Things, People, Phenomena. Studies on Social History of Stalinism in Poland], Wydawnictwo Instytutu Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2017, 296 pp., bibliog., index of persons

A scholar employed for many years with the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences [IH PAN], Dariusz Jarosz is one of the major participants of the historians' debate on the People's Republic of Poland – an author who basically speaks through his scientific books, avoiding journalistic discourse. He consistently deals with social history, which is the history of ordinary people; his opinions or conclusions are not obstructed by ideological nationalistic constructs, and his point is not to depict a black image of communist Poland – contrary to what some political or Catholic Church historians tend to do (more or less consciously). Jarosz, instead, endeavours to describe the responses of whole groups and social strata to the authorities' doings, describe their awareness and attitudes. Therefore, the collection in question (composed of earlier published studies, revised and updated) has a polemical purport with respect the trend predominant in Polish historiography, and achieves this through the selection of topics and sources. The articles deal with aspects of Stalinist impact on the natural environment, the state's response to elemental disasters, and how the elderly and war veterans were treated by the Stalinist social care system. Touched upon is also the overwhelming problem of shortages of meat, readership and books as a political instrument in the Stalinist system, and how migrants from rural areas were dealt with by urban dwellers. (BK)

Anna Maria Adamus, *Problemy wsi w Polsce w latach 1956–1980 w świetle listów do władz centralnych* [Problems of Polish Countryside in 1956–80, in the Light of Letters Sent to the Central Authorities], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2017, 374 pp. and 16 ill., bibliog., indexes, annexes; series: Monografie, 127

Letters sent to the central, Warsaw-based, State or public institutions – the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party [PZPR], the Polish Radio and Television, the Office of the Council of Ministers, the State Council, the Central Council of Labour Unions [CRZZ], or the Supreme Chamber of Control [NIK] – form an important source for historians of communist Poland, but are rarely used as a basic source. Though never commissioned by the receiver, these letters display, through their form or language, the senders' endeavour to adapt to satisfy the State or communist Party agency's expectations. Being a form of individual expression, such letters reflected subjective problems of the writing individuals. Yet, a group of letters addressing one subject makes one figure out what the phenomenon or issue dealt with by their authors might essentially have been. The letters testify to the citizens' trust towards the authorities, and in fact reinforced the rulers' legitimisation; hence, such communications could not have been entirely ignored by those in power. The book under review demonstrates that epistolographic material can provide a good basis for in-depth description of an important subject-matter, particularly given the conditions of distorted articulation of social opinion, so characteristic of the Communist rule. (As we are told, some 480,000 letters were received by the authorities in 1955 alone – a record-breaking quantity; in the subsequent years, the figure oscillated around 200,000 per year). The book's first section ('Writing to the Authorities') provides an excellent methodological and source-analytical introduction to the problem of letter as a means of communication between the citizen and the authorities in Poland after 1945. We can learn which institutions, in specific, received the people's letters and what happened with these letters afterwards: institutional receivers worked on the incoming correspondence (compiling summaries, extracts, conclusions and reports, and sent them to the competent central authorities). A letter would usually have been sent because of one's sense of grievance or injustice, and a hope for a change of the personal situation, notably in its material or living-standard aspect. The sender would often be willing to improve the functioning of an institution or office, which, in the opinion of the letter's author, wrongly served its purpose. Some authors simply expressed their political views or, outright, hostility towards the authorities (such letters were often destroyed, especially if anonymous). The institutions did not ignore signals from citizens, frequently intervening and undertaking

verifying proceedings; cases were at times referred to law enforcement authorities; above all, Party/State authorities were notified of public mood and reactions to authorities' decisions. Part two, 'Problems of rural people in the light of their letters to the central authorities', is an extensive record of what afflicted Polish peasants after 1956. The selection of the issues concerned has been based on the criterion of their universality in the extant epistolographic material. The most acute problems included excessive contributions to the State (compulsory supplies of produce), difficulties encountered in the trading in land, insufficient electrification and land improvement, shortages in rural retail outlets, poor quality of local authorities (corruption, dishonesty, etc.), no attractive cultural offer provided for the young generation, and so on. The authors, notably female, often complained about drunkenness in their communities and family problems stemming from it. The book unveils the tough realities of ordinary people's life, and importantly contributes to the discussion on acceptance of the communist system by its citizens. (BK)

Karolina Bittner, *Partia z piosenką, piosenka z partią. PZPR wobec muzyki rozrywkowej* [The Party and the Song are One, United. PZPR vs. Popular Music], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2017, 327 pp., bibliog., index of persons; series: Monografie, 130

This excellent work is the first such extensive historical elaboration on Polish popular music after 1945. Popular music, consisting of music industry and the circle of musicians – the performers and the composers, as well as listeners – that is, consumers of this art, was an object of the cultural policy of the Polish United Workers' Party [PZPR]. The communist government sought to influence the quality and type of musical production, determined the conditions for presentation of pieces of music (playing them) on the radio, television, and on stage. The authorities wanted to shape the musical tastes of Polish people, through banning certain types of music and promoting other types instead. Karolina Bittner's study shows how these endeavours were practiced. Importantly, she places the processes and phenomena characteristic of Polish musical industry within the history of music as such. Of significance to the culture of the People's Republic of Poland was that there was a permanent duality in its music market: the official circulation, supported by the State (folk music, for example) and the unofficial one, functioning with no support from the authorities and at times fought by them with use of administrative means (e.g., the ban on jazz music in the Stalinist period), functioned in parallel to each other. The picture is complemented by economic peculiarities: even those artists who were doted on by the government had no managers or impresarios well until the 1980s, and thus had to seek interest in their works

from the Radio or TV on their own. The popularity of artists did not directly translate into their income received from their artistic activity, since they were liable to a 'verification': their fees depended on how they were categorised as performers (for instance, the 'S' category stood for soloists, who were paid very well; the lowest category, 'G', was attached to musicians performing at eating places). No system of royalties from recordings or publications of musical pieces (with the artist's percentage share in the income) was in existence until the eighties; instead, the artist received his fee or royalty for the record made, whose amount was not related to the number of copies produced. Stage artists mainly made a living on performing at concerts (again, not the size of the audience but the number of concerts mattered: the more concerts given, the higher the income). This mostly paradoxical world of popular music in Poland after 1945 is depicted in this book in a fascinating manner. Jazz ceased to be a cursed type of music by 1954, and within a few following years its Polish variety turned into an export commodity. The history of 'teenage' music – for which local musicians coined the 'Englishised' name 'big beat', in lieu of 'rock and roll', to avoid adverse associations among officials, was pretty similar. During the 1967 Rolling Stones concert in Warsaw special militiamen groups were put on guard to prevent the public from manifesting overly 'impulsive' or 'spontaneous' behaviour (as otherwise inherent in the reception of such art); but it was just a few years later that Polish youth could join the rock music festival in Jarocin, which by the eighties became a symbol of the young generation's freedom. At that time, it was no more the long hair worn by the attendees or drugs circulating among them that posed a concern to the authorities: they refocused on Catholic clergymen's attempts to influence the young people. During the martial law in the early eighties, some well-known bands, so far 'suspicious' (Maanam, Lombard, TSA, and other), were suddenly offered an opportunity to give many concerts: the government thus made an instrumental use to calm the young generation down. This move stimulated, in turn, the development of the 'independent stage' initiatives (punk music). Apart from the abovementioned phenomena, Bittner deals at length with song festivals, describes the development of the phonographic industry in post-war Poland, and the activity of the Censorship Office in controlling the lyrics (or even the performing style). The reader is moreover furnished with detailed information on the artistic biographies of a number of well (e.g. Maryla Rodowicz) and less known artists. (BK)

*Studencki Komitet Solidarności we Wrocławiu 1977–1980* [The Student Solidarity Committee in Wrocław], vol. 1: Kamil Dworaczek, *Monografia* [A Monograph], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu & Ośrodek “Pamięć i Przyszłość”, Wrocław and Warszawa, 2017, 262 pp., index of persons, bibliog.; ii: Kamil Dworaczek and Tomasz Przedpełski, *Relacje* [Accounts], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu & Ośrodek “Pamięć i Przyszłość”, Wrocław and Warszawa, 2017, 324 pp., index of persons, biographical annex; iii: *Dokumenty* [Documents], Kamil Dworaczek and Tomasz Przedpełski (eds.), Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu & Ośrodek “Pamięć i Przyszłość”, Wrocław and Warszawa, 2017, 341 pp., index of persons

The first Student Solidarity Committee [SKS] was formed in 1977 in Cracow in response to the tragic and puzzling death of Stanisław Pyjas, a student at the Jagiellonian University who collaborated with the dissident organisation Workers’ Defence Committee [KOR]. Such Committees emerged in several academic centres, becoming the seed of political opposition in the academic milieu. The Wrocław Committee was set up in December 1977, and soon became one of the major such circles across Poland’s university-level school. The first two volumes in the series concerned are reissues of the already-published (2011 and 2012) books, thoroughly revised and complemented. The monograph by Kamil Dworaczek places the formation of the SKS in Wrocław in the context of political events, describes actions of the secret police against the activists, the scale and the character of repressive measures taken against them, and the Committee’s activities as such – self-education, protest actions, relations with other dissident/opposition centres (not only student ones). Volume 2 comprises accounts of forty-two individuals, mostly former members of Wrocław’s SKS, gathered years afterwards. These recollections are edited and arranged into narrative threads forming chapters, such as ‘The paths to opposition’, ‘Courage and fear’, ‘Our magazines’, ‘People of authority’, ‘Socialising’. The volume in question contains the richest material of use for further historical research, exceeding the limits of political opposition, and helps take an in-depth look at the incentives and purposes of the students’ participation in the protest movement and political contestation. The third volume contains altogether 114 documents – including the Wrocław SKS’s own documents, agents’ denouncements, Security Service (secret police) reports, all flawlessly edited. (BK)

Tomasz Kozłowski, *Anatomia rewolucji. Narodziny ruchu społecznego "Solidarność" w 1980 roku* [The Anatomy of a Revolution. The Birth of the 'Solidarity' Social Movement in 1980], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2017, 471 pp., English summary, annexes; series: Monografie, 128

'Transdisciplinary' is how the author calls his own research approach. His description of the August 1980 developments in Poland, perceived in revolutionary terms, makes a wide use of the resource of notions and ideas provided by social and political sciences, and in particular introduces the notions of 'social movement' and 'social movement brokers', 'protest diffusion', 'social mobilisation', and 'revolutionary situation', in an attempt to define them in the context of the country on strike in the year 1980 (chapter 1). To tell the story of the beginnings of *Solidarność* required evoking a number of already-known facts (chapter 2), but the author furnishes them with a penetrating analytical commentary combining a macro- and micro-view, taking into account the role of social masses and groups, as well as individuals excelling amidst the crowd – the strike leaders and oppositionists (Lech Wałęsa, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, and others). This will make the book a reference for long years as far as the origins of the Solidarity trade union are concerned. Chapters 3 to 6 analyse four constituents of the revolutionary situation in question. These include: the public mood, which referred to the infringed sense of the citizens' (nation's) dignity; the twenty-one postulates of the strikers from the 'V.I. Lenin' Gdańsk Shipyard as a force uniting the people in the protest (*vis unitiva*); the activity of the dissidents; and, the atrophy of power (the authorities). This and the subsequent sections offer daring and extensive comparisons with revolutionary occurrences taking place in the twentieth century in other countries, including outside Europe. Chapter 7 offers numerical data depicting the scale of mobilisation for strike. The subsequent three chapters describe the first wave of strikes (Lublin area, July 1980), the coastal area as a 'free self-governing republic-on-strike' (in August), which would not have so expanded if not for the 'free word' (freedom of speech) resulting from the effort of the 'underground' publishers and the printers at the Gdańsk Shipyard. An important factor that kept up the social mobilisation of Poles after the three agreements with the Government were signed (in Szczecin, Gdańsk, and Jastrzębie) was the task to organise an independent labour union at the workplace. Emergence of the organisation across thousands of establishments or plants enabled – as argued in the last chapter – the revolution to persist, and yield fruit. Tomasz Kozłowski's portrayal of the 'Polish August 1980' is presently unique in Polish historiography. (BK)

Jan Olaszek *et al.* (eds.), *Yesterday. Studia z historii najnowszej. Księga dedykowana prof. Jerzemu Eislerowi w 65. rocznicę urodzin* [Yesterday. Studies in Recent History. A Book Dedicated to Professor Jerzy Eisler, on the 65th Anniversary of His Birth], with an introduction by Jan Olaszek and Jerzy W. Borejsza, Instytut Historii PAN – Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2017, 1037 pp., index of persons

Born 1952, Jerzy Eisler is one of the leading researchers in the field of the history of Poland after 1945. Now with several groundbreaking books to his credit, his initial focus was on twentieth-century France and radio-broadcasting in Poland. For many years now, Eisler has been employed with the National Remembrance Institute [IPN] and Polish Academy of Sciences' Institute of History [IH PAN]. A one-man-institution, he has tutored eight doctoral theses, has been member of editorial boards of several periodicals of importance to the recent history, and proved himself a prolific author and reviewer. The volume dedicated to Professor Eisler contains texts by fifty-two authors (mostly, Polish, and natives of Warsaw), arranged according to several thematic threads. These are: France and Polish-French relations; the political and social history of Poland after 1945; culture, mass media, and sports in twentieth-century Poland; the 'Polish months' of crisis in Poland under communism, biographies, Catholic Church, between history and today. As is usual with such *Festschrift* volumes, lighter-weight texts, with scarce notes, many of them being versions of earlier-published texts, appear alongside serious and extensive dissertations of high importance. Among the latter, worth reading are definitely the articles by (*inter alia*): Marek Wierzbicki (on the rebirth of independent scouting in 1980), Konrad Rokicki (on Jerzy Putrament's political novels), Beata Bińko (on political experiences of the Kersten couple, Krystyna and Adam – both outstanding Polish historians), or, Robert Spalek (a portrait of Władysław Gomułka). The selection of the authors and the editors' effort to prepare the articles make *Yesterday* ... not only a worthy homage paid to the contributors' master and friend: it makes an important contribution to the historiography of the People's Republic of Poland. There is also a biographical dimension to it (attached to the volume is a bibliography of Eisler's works for the period 1980–2016). (BK)



Marcin Bukała and Dariusz Iwaneczko (eds.), *PRL na pochylni (1975–1980)* [Poland on a Slipway, 1975–80], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu Oddział Rzeszów, Rzeszów, 2017, 862 pp., index of persons, Eng. summaries of all articles, tables

This is doubtlessly the major attempt in Polish historiography to describe the second half of the ‘Edward Gierek decade’ – the period that has left a mark in the nation’s common memory as a time of crisis and, at the same time, one of extraordinary prosperity of Poland as a state and nation, thanks to the endeavours of state propaganda. The thirty-five articles composing the book are grouped into several thematic units, including power and authority, society and opposition, economy, foreign policy, Catholic Church, opinion journalism and propaganda. Of several valuable articles, the recommendable ones are: Mirosław Szumiło’s description of fractions and internal relations within the Polish United Workers’ Party [PZPR] leadership team in 1971–80; Krzysztof Lesiakowski’s discussion of the position and role of the Supreme Chamber of Control [NIK]; Dariusz Jarosz’s attempt at a multidimensional evaluation of the Polish people’s standard of living in 1976–80, pointing out to the undisputable achievements and deficiencies of the socialist welfare state. Worthy of note is Marcin Graban’s description of the functioning of the economy’s private sector; Karol Nawrocki introduces us in a fascinating manner to the beginnings of organised crime in the Tri-city [Gdańsk-Sopot-Gdynia] area (the local mafia); Michał Sempołowicz deals with direct contacts between the PZPR’s Voivodeship Committee in Gdańsk and the regional committee (*obkom*) of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in Leningrad; Mariusz Krzysztofiński focuses, for a change, on the contacts of Przemysław Bishop Antoni Tokarczuk with the democratic opposition. Michał Przeperski tries to identify the difference(s) between the propaganda line pursued by *Polityka* weekly and that of the other magazines or journals, and thereby describes the specificity of the periodical edited at that time by Mieczysław F. Rakowski. Paweł Szulc delves into the last great campaign of the period concerned – Mirosław Hermaszewski’s space flight of 1978. However extensive, this single volume does not of course encompass all the important social aspects of the decade (for instance, science and technology, education and agriculture are almost completely neglected), and yet it provides an excellent summary of the existing knowledge whilst also introducing a number of new findings, including in regard of what was going on outside Warsaw, in the country’s provincial areas. (BK)

Jerzy Kulczycki, *Atakować książką* [Attacking with a Book], ed. by Małgorzata Choma-Jusińska and Paweł Ziętara, with an introduction by Andrzej Paluchowski, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2016, 320 pp., index of persons, ills.

Jerzy Kulczycki (1931–2013) was born in Lwów to an intelligentsia family; his father was an investigating magistrate. The family was deported in 1940 to Kazaxstan, and Jerzy's father was eventually killed by the NKVD. Like many Poles at the time, Jerzy made all the way from the Asian steppes, through the Polish Army's Cadet School in the Middle East, to Britain, where he settled down in 1947 and completed his studies. Apart from his career, he was involved in activities supporting Polish émigrés, acting in many capacities and places – including the Polish Hearth, Polish Social and Cultural Association [POSK], Association of Polish Students and Graduates in Exile, and the Christian Democratic Labour Party [Stronnictwo Pracy]. The year 1964 marked the first publication of a book (penned by Zbigniew Brzeziński) by the publishing house he had established. The publisher, named Odnowa ['Renewal', 'Renovation'], issued books dealing with history of Poland, focusing on analysis of the communist system, and with the Catholic social teaching, was an economic success. Another enterprise Kulczycki dealt with was an Orbis bookstore he ran in London, which turned into a major centre of sale and free distribution of Polish emigration books to compatriot readers arriving from Poland. The free distribution was enabled owing to permanent financial support discreetly provided by the United States' Government. Orbis moreover exchanged books with Polish scientific institutions and libraries, to the benefit of both parties to such transactions, and in spite of customs and police restrictions. The bookseller and publisher's memories draw an image of Polish London of the 'Second Great Emigration' time, filled with interesting details. Kulczycki tells a story of political disputes, hardships of an émigré's life where one has to begin from the scratch while in exile, pressures exerted by the political police (that is, Poland's Security Service). He outlines portraits of many important people he had encountered, such as the Christian Democratic leader Karol Popiel, or General Władysław Anders. Some facts are definitely lesser known – one such being the Polish student association's support for the poet Czesław Miłosz in the 1950s, during his domicile in France, or some details of CIA's book programme based on distribution of 'free word' in Eastern Bloc countries. The book is based on a transcript of a recorded account, and its perfect edition is mostly respectable. (BK)

Jerzy Giedroyc, Witold Jedlicki, *Listy 1959–1982* [Letters, 1959–82], ed. and with an introduction by Marek Kornat, Instytut Dokumentacji i Studiów nad Literaturą Polską – Oddział Muzeum Literatury im. Adama Mickiewicza & Towarzystwo “Więź”, Warszawa, 2017, 774 pp., index of persons; series: Archiwum Kultury, 18 / Biblioteka “Więzi”, 336

In 1957, Jan Józef Lipski (1926–91), the driving force behind the Crooked Circle Club (Klub Krzywego Koła), recommended his friend and Club-mate, philosopher and sociologist Witold Jedlicki (1929–95), in writing, to Jerzy Giedroyc, the Paris *Kultura* editor. Jedlicki left Poland in 1962 and moved to Israel, where he regularly exchanged letters with Giedroyc. This is how one of the most interesting epistolographic series in Giedroyc’s resource of some fifty thousand letters was born. The exchange of thoughts and opinions between these two correspondents remained very intensive until 1970, by which time they sent each other more than 400 letters. In 1962, Jedlicki delineated in *Kultura*, with considerable sociological astuteness, the political divisions inside the Polish communist party’s elite, referring to the two fighting factions as, respectively, *chamy* [‘boors’, ‘louts’] and *Żydy* [pejorative for ‘Jews’]; his essay *Chamy i Żydy* is reprinted in the book under review. Moreover, he had a book on the Crooked Circle Club published with Giedroyc’s publishing house *Institut Littéraire*. The eminent intellectual from Poland fuelled Giedroyc’s belief that developing and putting into practice a concept to trigger a ferment in Poland’s communist party through supporting revisionism, understood as undogmatic Left-oriented currents of thought, was a must-do. Expectedly, in his letters to Jedlicki, Giedroyc repeatedly requests him to send an original or translated text to be published in *Kultura* or as a book, or to provide some information. In parallel, Giedroyc entreated his numerous correspondents in a number of countries to join and cooperate (Czesław Miłosz was one of them). The letters sent from Paris reveal the process of change in *Kultura*’s strategy. On his part, Jedlicki shared with Giedroyc his thoughts on the émigré life, remarks on the books and other texts he had read, living and health troubles. A pamphlet is attached to this edition comprising a 1963 discussion between émigré analysts and commentators (Jan Nowak, once-head of Polish Section of the Radio Free Europe, among them), on the one hand, and Witold Jedlicki, on the other. (BK)