

# Reviews

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*“Studia Judaica”*. *Biuletyn Polskiego Towarzystwa Studiów Żydowskich (Bulletin of the Polish Society for Jewish Studies)*, vol. 1, No. 1, editor in chief Józef A. Gierowski, Kraków 1998, Księgarnia Akademicka — Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 144 pp., illustr.

The proposal to consolidate the group of scholars engaged in Judaic research in Poland was formulated for the first time during the conference on *Jews and Judaism in contemporary Polish research*. The conference, organised by the Jagiellonian University's Interfaculty Centre for the History and Culture of Jews in Poland and the Polish Academy of Learning, was held in Cracow on November 21–23, 1995<sup>1</sup>. The following year, 57 scholars from all over Poland set up the Polish Society for Jewish Studies, with its seat in Cracow. The aim of the Society, as its statute says, is to conduct, promote and popularise research into the history and culture of Jews, especially Polish Jews, and to co-operate with Polish and foreign institutions and societies of a similar character<sup>2</sup>. “*Studia Judaica*”, the first number of which has appeared recently, is the Society's organ.

In the preface the editorial board encourages scholars to send in essays, documentary material, polemical articles and reviews concerning Jewish subjects in literature (especially biblical, intertestamental, rabbinical and also modern literature), and the Jewish aspect of hermeneutics, bibliography, archeology, history, culture and comparative religion. The periodical will also publish reports on the most interesting symposia and conference, bibliographic and phonographic reviews and surveys of artistic events. The first issue shows that the periodical will be of an historical and literary character.

Before any research is started, the researcher must acquaint himself with the available literature; this is why the first two articles of “*Studia Judaica*” are devoted to Jewish historiography. In the first, Jerzy Wyrozumski concisely presents the state of research on the history of Jews in Poland in the Middle Ages. The article is supplemented by a bibliography for 1988–1998 compiled by S. Gąsiorowski. The second article, written by Daniel Grnberg, discusses Jewish historiography in pre-war Poland. The next text, contributed by Tadeusz Kopyś, is devoted to the assimilation of Hungarian Jews in 1867–1918, a subject little known in Poland. The interesting question of Hebrew literary texts in synagogical liturgy is discussed by Krzysztof Pilarczyk. The documentary section contains two significant texts: Pope John Paul II's speech on manifestations of intolerance in the Church, made during the symposium on *The Roots of Anti-Judaism in the Christian Environment*, and reflections on the Shoah, a document of the Vatican Commission for Religious Contacts with Judaism. The documentary section contains another two source materials: a translation of the Aramaic inscription discovered at Tel Dan in 1993 (ed. Przemysław Nowogórski), the oldest written document mentioning Israel by name, and a unique list of the property of a Jewish merchant, Gerszon Leybowicz, made after his tragic death at Żółkiew in 1746 (ed. Patrycja and S. Gąsiorowski).

<sup>1</sup>Żydzi i judaizm we współczesnych badaniach polskich (*Jews and Judaism in Contemporary Polish Research*), materials of a conference held in Cracow on November 21–23, 1995, ed. K. Pilarczyk, Kraków 1997, 452 pp.

<sup>2</sup>Statut Polskiego Towarzystwa Studiów Żydowskich (Statute of the Polish Society for Jewish Studies), Chapter I, clause 2.

The other sections present reports on four conferences and symposia devoted to: anti-Judaism (Vatican, 30. 10.–1. 11. 1997), the culture and history of German Jews (Mülheim, 24–26. 11. 1997), the Bund (Warsaw, 28–29. 11. 1997) and Jewish mysticism (Jerusalem–Haifa, 8–10. 12. 1997), as well as reviews of interesting publications brought out last year, e.g. *Jerozolima w kulturze europejskiej* (*Jerusalem in European Culture*), *Księga słów Pańskich Jakuba Franka* (*The Book of the Lord's Words by Jakub Frank*) and *Żydzi i judaizm we współczesnych badaniach polskich* (*Jews and Judaism in Contemporary Polish Research*). The issue closes with a review of selected 103 publications on Judaic subjects, brought out in Poland in 1997.

"Studia Judaica" is a semi-annual review. The editorial board intends to publish monographic issues devoted to selected aspects of the history and culture of Jewish civilisation and also to present the activity of the Polish Society for Jewish Studies and the work of its members. "Studia Judaica" will publish contributions in official U.N. languages and, beginning with the next issue, English summaries of its articles. It is to be hoped that scholars engaged in research into the history of Jews and Judaism will seek to have their studies presented in "Studia Judaica".

Stefan Gąsiorowski