

SHORT NOTES*

GENERAL WORKS

Zbysław Wojtkowiak (ed.), *Poznań – Wilnu. Studia historyków w roku tysiąclecia państwa litewskiego* [Poznań for Vilnius: Historians' Studies in the Year of the Millenium of the Lithuanian State], Poznań, 2010, Wydawnictwo Poznańskie, 270 pp., maps, tables

This is a collection of studies written to mark one thousand years from the first source reference to Lithuania. Krzysztof Pietkiewicz ['The beginnings of Lithuanian statehood, pp. 145–84'] describes the process by which the Lithuanian state came into existence. The author emphasises the quick (within the course of the life of a single generation) transformation from tribal organisation to that of hereditary monarchy. He also points to analogical phenomena occurring within East-Central Europe, both earlier (Bohemia, Poland, Rus') as equally later (the state under Bogdan Khmelnytskiĭ in the Ukraine). Jarosław Nikodem ['The Krewo Act and its significance', pp. 111–43] has considered the character of Polish Lithuanian relations during the period of the Union of Krewo (1386) up until that of the Union of Wilno-Radom (1401). In his view the word *applicare*, defining the relation of Lithuania to Poland, did not represent incorporation but a personal union of the two states. The author shows that the Polish political elite did not cherish aspirations for the annexation of Lithuania. Zbysław Wojtkowiak ['Lithuania's northern border in the Middle Ages. *Limites inter Litvaniem et Livonia* of 1473.', pp. 213–70] recalls the oldest known description of the border between Lithuania and Livonia, containing also a detailed breakdown of its delimitation (division into two sections, the means by which the border was marked in the field). Grzegorz Błaszczuk ['Polish-Lithuanian military cooperation in the defence of the south-eastern borderlands up to 1569', pp. 15–46] involves himself in a study of border defence against Tatar attacks. This was chiefly taken up by Polish units, as on the territory of the present-day Ukraine there was no standing Lithuanian army (besides a small garrison at Kiev). This fact resulted in a tightening of bonds between the local population and Poland,

* Authors of short notes: Jacek Adamczyk (JA), Daniel Boćkowski (DB), Monika Jusupović (MJ), Bartosz Kaliski (BK), Urszula Karpińska (UK), Adam Kożuchowski (AK), Olga Linkiewicz (OL).

the effect of which could have been to a certain extent the quicker acceptance by this population of the incorporation of the Braclav and Kiev lands within Poland in 1569. Maria B. Topolska [‘The position of women of the “noble nation” in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the sixteenth–eighteenth centuries’, pp. 185–211] reminds one that both Lithuanian laws (the privilege of 1457, statutes of 1529, 1566 and 1588) as equally the practices of social life guaranteed women personal protection as well as property rights. We can find in the sources many women who functioned as founders and cultural patrons, as well as independently managing estates and being involved in court cases. Jan Jurkiewicz [‘Jerzy Ochmański as a researcher into the life and work of Michał Römer’, pp. 47–78] draws attention to materials for a biography of Römer (1880–1945) – a Polish political activist in Lithuania – which Ochmański (1933–96) assembled in 1963. In spite of the fact that no book was to ultimately result from this, Ochmański, a historian of Lithuania, brings one close to the figure of Römer and his idea for cordial Polish-Lithuanian relations. Marcei Kosman [‘The Chronicler of the Wilno Academy. On the biography of Ludwik Piechnik S.J.’, pp. 79–109] in turn deals with the figure and activities of the Jesuit historian (born 1920), paying particular attention to his four-volume *Dzieje Akademii Wileńskiej* [A History of the Wilno Academy] (Rome, 1984–90), presenting the history of the academy from its creation up until 1773. (JA)

Krzysztof Stępnik and Dariusz Trzeźniowski (eds.), *Studia postkolonialne nad kulturą i cywilizacją polską* [Post-colonial Studies into Polish Culture and Civilisation], Lublin, 2010, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, 379 pp.

The volume under discussion is an unusually broad chronological and thematic attempt to view Polish culture from a post-colonial perspective. There are discussed in the extensive introduction the methodological bases for colonial studies and the history of their spontaneous development in recent decades in the West – first and foremost in English speaking countries. What is characteristic and fairly untypical is that the authors concentrate on the arguments *against* the application of this research approach to the history of Polish culture. As it appears the main argument *for* the study of Polish culture from this perspective is the conviction that such an influential current cannot simply be ignored any longer (if one does not count a dozen or so scattered articles, particularly recently in the journal *Teksty Drugie*) and that it is worth evaluation regardless of the doubts still held by editors. An especial problem for the authors of the introduction was the zigzagging between the two viewpoints, which find more or less an equal reflection in

the studies contained in the volume. According to one, Polish culture appears like a dominating culture saturated by a colonial spirit, while according to another it is an object of colonising procedures on the part of the partitioning powers. Unfortunately we do not find in this volume a text that has set itself the task of examining this contradiction or at least an examination of the arguments pointing to both solutions.

The volume, which is the aftermath of an academic conference organised by the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (2008), comprises a dozen or so sketches covering selected problem areas from the Old Poland epoch up until the present day. The majority of the studies are purely literary in character – which, unfortunately is not sufficiently made clear by the editors. Certain authors draw highly generalised conclusions upon the basis of exclusively, or almost exclusively, literary works.

Chronologically the volume opens with the article by Tadeusz Piersiak [‘Muscovy and Muscovities in the eyes of the “Sarmatian” Polish gentry’], whose supplement is the essay by Dariusz Trzeźniowski [‘Russification as a seeming threat: On the ineffectiveness of the Russian colonial project in Poland (in the 19th century)’]. It is particularly this second text that demonstrates the paradoxes of a post-colonial research perspective into the consciousness and culture of Poles: for it unearths, this not being in any way a novelty, the tangle of Polish feelings of superiority, traumas and fears in relation to Russians (and all this, unfortunately almost exclusively on the basis of literary works).

More convincing, if the matter concerns the legitimacy of applying a post-colonial perspective, is the essay on the analogical phenomenon of the coming together of Polish and German culture [‘Germanness contra Slavism: the assimilation of Poles or autonomy?’] by Ewa Skorupa. However, here the object of reflection is first and foremost the German point of view, presented in addition in a most fragmentary way.

Besides, we can find in the volume two essays devoted to the Paris lectures of Adam Mickiewicz (by Marta Ruszczynska and Michał Kuziak), a study on the *Kroniki* [Chronicles] of Bolesław Prus (Bartłomiej Szleszyński), two studies (by Katarzyna Łozowska and Tadeusz Bujnicki) of the Eastern Borderlands (where the post-colonial perspective appears as a far more convincing interpretive proposition), an essay on Polish and German interwar superpower-colonial ambitions, as well as, chronologically the last, texts on modern Polish novelists (Jarosław Marek Rymkiewicz – by Dorota Wojda, Andrzej Stasiuk – by Magdalena Piechota, Paweł Huelle, Stefan Chwin – by Natalia Lemann). In addition the volume contains two articles that are purely methodological (on cultural anthropology by Maciej Rajewski and on Jacques Lacan by Lena Magnone) as well as a translation of a fragment of the classic text by Frantz Fanon *Black Skin, White Masks* – without doubt fascinating and constituting a monument to a consciousness most exceptionally deeply

marked by colonial experience, yet which within this volume functions rather on the principle of being a decorative detail.

A separate position is here taken by a short, though highly promising, text on the reactions of the Polish press to the visit of the king of Siam, Chulalongkorn (Rama V), to Warsaw in 1897 (Przemysław Deles). It seems that this text could constitute an introduction to considerations on to the reception granted non-European 'exotica' in Poland, which would for certain be a valuable and pertinent reference to the post-colonial research perspective – something, unfortunately, the authors of this volume have failed to devote any more attention to. (AK)

Włodzimierz Bonusiak and Wioletta Zawitkowska (eds.), *Rzeszów – w 655. rocznicę lokacji. Studia z dziejów miasta i regionu* [Rzeszów – on the 655th Year of its Foundation: Studies into the History of the Town and Region], Rzeszów, 2010, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego, 184 pp.

The book is the fruit of conference organised by the University of Rzeszów to mark the 655th anniversary of the granting of Magdeburg law to the town. It contains 16 articles, which are expanded versions of the conference papers given. The articles cover the period from the times Rzeszów was founded to the present epoch. The first text, by Feliks Kiryk, describes the granting of Magdeburg law against the background of the founding of other towns in Red Ruthenia. The study by Wioletta Zawitkowska, commencing from the same times, depicts the owners of Rzeszów. Her article is enriched by illustrations of the coats-of-arms of the owners, divided into sections on the individual families that were the owners of the city up until the seventeenth century. This subject is continued by Konrad Krzyżak in his description of the figure of the owner of Rzeszów in the seventeenth century, Hieronim Lubomirski. The early modern epoch is also examined by other researchers. Józef Półćwiartek, in discussing the significance of agriculture to the Rzeszów economy, describes the farmed areas, their type, as well as examining the problem of animal husbandry. Jerzy Motylewicz presents the development and conditions for Jewish settlement, their influence on the town's development and particularly their economic role. The period of Rzeszów's history within the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth is concluded with an article by Jan Kwak, who, on the basis of an inventories of real estate as well as wills, has recreated the topography of the city in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and also the material culture of its inhabitants.

The five articles devoted to the history of Rzeszów under Austrian partition do not give the full picture of the city's development across the

expanse of the long nineteenth century. Jerzy Kuzicki has concentrated on the reminiscences of the participants in the November 1830 Uprising who were interned in Galicia, in order to create both an image of the city and its environs contained in these recollections, as equally the involvement of Rzeszów inhabitants in the Uprising. To a degree political history concerns the article by Sabina Rejmann, who has analysed the image of Franz Joseph I and his family within the resolutions of Rzeszów Town Council for the years 1889–1914, considering, as one would have expected, the representation to be flattering for the monarch. A larger time perspective is adopted in the research of Jadwiga Hoff, who, on the example of the life and work of Klementyna Arvayowa (1857–1937), a publicist and social activist, has attempted to sketch a picture of the situation of women in Rzeszów in the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century. A transfer from social problems to economic ones is the article by Danuta Pustelak, investigating the economic expansion before the First World War of a single family, the Jędrzejowicz family, which settled in Rzeszów in the mid-eighteenth century. Originating from Armenian merchants, they became the owners of landed estates and an imposing palace in the city. Purely economic matters are dealt with by Jan Basta in presenting the history of banking institutions in Rzeszów from the early modern period right up until 1918.

The twentieth-century history and development of Rzeszów is only illustrated in a few aspects: the sources as to Rzeszów's fate during World War II, preserved in the collections of the Institute of National Remembrance (Elżbieta Rączy), the demographic development of Rzeszów during the Polish People's Republic (Włodzimierz Bonusiak) as well as the popularising activities of the Association of the Friends of Rzeszów from 1979 to 2004 (Edyta Czopp). The book is concluded with an article by Andrzej Bonusiak on the modern concepts for the city's development.

This modest – when compared to other 'anniversary' publications devoted to the history of towns – volume, both in terms of its size as well as content, provides one with merely a sketch of Rzeszów's history over the course of almost 700 years. Striking is the lack of articles on culture treated as a main subject of research. (MJ)

Andrzej Radziwiński, Dariusz Karczewski and Zbigniew Zyglewski (eds.), *Sanctimoniales. Zakony żeńskie w Polsce i Europie Środkowej (do przełomu XVIII i XIX wieku)* [Sanctimoniales: Female Religious Orders in Poland and Central Europe (to the Turn of the Nineteenth Century)], Bydgoszcz and Toruń, 2010, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Kazimierza Wielkiego, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, 516 pp.

This collection of studies is the fruit of the international conference organised in 2004 by the Institute of History of the Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz and the Institute of History and Archival Science of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. However, not all the papers given then have been published. The texts on the medieval and modern period have been divided into six sections (list of contents at: <http://www.wydawnictwoumk.pl/prod_k_0_0_73502_Sanctimoniales._Zakony_zenkie_w_Polsce_i_Europie_Srodkowej_.html> [Accessed 25 June 2011]).

The first part is devoted to the legal questions of the monastic life of women in Poland from the thirteenth century to the beginning of the seventeenth. Here are discussed, on the basis of the monastic rules, the statutes of general and monastery chapter, visitation documents (of the Norbertines, Dominicans and Cistercian nuns, nuns of St Clare), the legal norms regulating nunnery life, their upholding of these norms, and the relations with male monasteries. In the second part, composed of articles by Czech and Polish researchers (published in their respective languages), are to be found works devoted to the network system of nunneries and the organisation of convents in Hungary, Bohemia and Moravia. Similar questions relating to Silesia, presumably because it chiefly deals with the period of the founding and beginnings of the nunneries under consideration, are to be found in the chapter on the Polish lands. Alongside general questions, such as the foundation processes or endowment, there may be found in this section minor matters on, for example, Tertiaries at the Observant Franciscans house in Lwów (Tadeusz Trajdos) or the dispute instigated by the Brigittine Sisters in Gdańsk over their property (Sławomir Kościelak). Interesting is the text analysing the relations of the princes of Opole towards nunneries, including the taking of vows amongst the local princesses (Wojciech Dominiak).

The next part is devoted to the social structures of the nunneries. The majority of articles are on the medieval Silesian convents, as these have the best (particularly – from amongst those examined – the Wrocław Dominican sisters) sources for research into this problem, though, consequently, they have been analysed many times previously. In relation to early modern times Aleksandra Wilczewska has discussed the social and ethnic origin of the

Norbertines sisters at Żukowo, located near to Gdańsk. Only in the next part, in which there are to be found articles on the quite broadly understood concept of 'everyday life' (here are also matters of mentality and the death of nuns) in nunneries in early modern times, is there presented again – following on from the first part – research into nunneries located in the main cities of Poland (Cracow, Poznań). The last part is entitled 'Literate culture', though not all the articles are devoted to the topic; for three concentrate on archives and libraries, in which there are preserved nunnery documents (only in part being the work of the convents themselves), and the former monastic libraries dispersed as a result of suppression.

The work under consideration presents to a large degree both the state and current within research into female religious orders as conducted in Poland and the Czech Republic, as well as showing the clear domination of research into Silesian convents for the medieval period. Not that this should come as a surprise, for we have at our disposal for this region the least scattered and the most easily accessible (in state archives) source base. (MJ)

MIDDLE AGES

Dariusz Adam Sikorski, *Instytucje władzy u Prusów w średniowieczu (na tle struktury społecznej i terytorialnej)* [Baltic Prussian Institutions of Authority in the Middle Ages (Against the Background of Social and Territorial Structures)], Olsztyn, 2010, Ośrodek Badań Naukowych im. Wojciecha Kętrzyńskiego w Olsztynie, 356 pp., maps, series: Rozprawy i Materiały Ośrodka Badań Naukowych im. Wojciecha Kętrzyńskiego w Olsztynie, 254

The subject of the book is the functioning and the scope of authority of tribal institutions (tribal assembly, kinship, so-called tribal leaders, priests) in Prussia from the appearance of the oldest source information (ninth century) to the stabilisation of the rule of the Teutonic Order (fourteenth century). According to the author the institutions under consideration constituted a well organised system of authority, in which the most important place was taken by the tribal assembly, i.e. the gathering of all the members of a tribe or of a settlement (demesne). The assemblies decided on matters of contact with the external world (including matters of war and peace), settled internal disputes and appointed leaders to govern individual territories when the assembly was not convened. During the period of threat brought about by the Teutonic conquest of Prussia there occurred a strengthening in the role

of the tribal assemblies at the cost of the assemblies of the populations of smaller territorial entities, as well as an increase in the significance of the leaders, who fulfilled the function of military commanders; never, however, did the traditional political structures transform themselves into an apparatus of authority characteristic for an early form of state. (JA)

Barbara Butent-Stefaniak and Dorota Malarczyk, *Obieg pieniężny na Śląsku we wczesnym średniowieczu (od X do połowy XII wieku)* [Coin Circulation in Silesia in the Early Middle Ages (from the Tenth to the Mid-twelfth Century)], Wrocław, 2009, Zakład Narodowy im. Ossolińskich, 357 pp., ill., maps, tables, English sum.

For around half a century Polish numismatists have published findings from various regions of the country. The work under consideration belongs to this current. This is a continuation and revision of the book by Marian Haisig *Wczesnośredniowieczne skarby srebrne z Małopolski, Śląska, Warmii i Mazur* [Early Medieval Silver Treasures from Lesser Poland, Silesia, Ermland and Masuria] (Wrocław, 1966), that presented the state of knowledge as of 1965. The work under review has an extensive (pp. 21–187) inventory of coin finds which covers 103 finds with 22,369 coins and their fragments. The authors claim that the finds are located more than likely on trade routes: the length of the Oder and on the roads from Wrocław through the Kłodzko Valley to Bohemia. In terms of structure (the domination of collective coin finds with coins initially oriental, from around the year 975 successively displaced by Western European coins, and from the third quarter of the twelfth century by Polish ones) the material under discussion recalls that of Pomerania and Greater Poland. However, the Silesian finds are, in comparison to these regions, later (from the mid-tenth century) and smaller in number. (JA)

Jerzy Piekalski and Krzysztof Wachowski (eds.), *Ulice średniowiecznego Wrocławia* [Streets in Medieval Wrocław], Wrocław, 2010, Uniwersytet Wrocławski, Instytut Archeologii, 440 pp., 244 ill., 39 maps and diagrams, 31 tables, 18 annexes, English sum., title page and illustration captions equally in English, series: *Wratislavia Antiqua*, 11

The work is a collection of studies written by 17 authors: archaeologists, a historian, architecture historians, geologists and biologists; its subject matter being the streets of medieval Wrocław – their distribution, paving, frontage

development as well as the various items found during archaeological digs. In the concluding article Jerzy Piekalski [‘The image of the street in the public space of medieval Wrocław’, pp. 407–11] has presented three phases in the city’s development and that of its streets. In the tenth to twelfth centuries Wrocław was a polycentric town with the main concentrations of population in the stronghold at Ostrów Tumski (German: Dominsel) and on the right bank of the Oder (Ołbin/Elbing). Its layout and construction was generally scattered and wooden; in the stronghold the street surfaces were that of fascine or wood from the dismantling of the old embankment. In Ołbin there were dirt roads, only at the wettest places were wooden footbridges built. In the thirteenth century, as a result of an increase in the level of the Oder due to climatic changes and the start of the engineering of the river, the centre of settlement moved to higher land, upon which the founded town was constructed. Its streets were initially dirt or covered with wood taken from the dismantlement of the old houses, the construction was on the whole scattered and wooden. Waste was thrown onto the streets, consequently the largest group of archaeological finds originate from this very, thirteenth-century, period, and comprise: waste materials from construction and production activities, fragments of clothes, shoes, weapons, horse harnesses, spurs, as well as things that were lost: ornaments, keys, merchant weights and coins (a catalogue of antique movables, pp. 355–406). In the fourteenth century the city authorities obliged the inhabitants to take their refuse outside of the city as well as to maintain tidiness and order on the streets which had been paved. During this period there became widespread a close construction arrangement of buildings in the frontages of streets, composed of brick buildings. (JA)

Krzysztof Boroda, *Studenci Uniwersytetu Krakowskiego w późnym średniowieczu* [Students of Cracow University in the Late Middle Ages], Kraków, 2010, Wydawnictwo “Avalon”, 403 pp., tables, diagrams, annexes, genealogical tables, indexes, English sum.

The book deals with the students of Cracow University of the period from which the oldest sources derive: their number, territorial and social origins, conditions of life, academic aspirations, contacts with the inhabitants of Cracow as well as their group identity. The author shows the growth of the group under consideration: numerically (from around 110 to around 330 matriculated annually), in relation to territorial origin (initially the Polish Kingdom with Masovia, Upper Silesia and present-day eastern Slovakia, in the second half of the fifteenth century also eastern and southern Germany, Lower Silesia, Royal and Teutonic Prussia, central Slovakia), as well as the percentage of students obtaining the degree of bachelor or master. The

author emphasises the social differentiation amongst students (burghers at the beginning of the sixteenth century constituted around 60 per cent of those matriculated and around 80 per cent of bachelor and master graduates). The proportion of students, 10 per cent, of peasant origin cited in the subject literature he considers, given the high costs of studying – to be highly inflated. The contacts of students with the inhabitants of Cracow were chiefly economic in character. Boroda is of the view that one may not talk of a single group identity for the students of Cracow University in the late Middle Ages or for that matter about a way of life that would be characteristic for them as a whole. (JA)

Piotr Wróbel, *Dubrownik w latach 1358–1526. Organizacja przestrzeni* [Dubrovnik throughout the Period of 1358–1526. The Organisation of Space], Kraków, 2010, Towarzystwo Wydawnicze “Historia Iagellonica”, 431 pp., maps, plans, tables, indexes, English sum.

The book concerns the city-republic of Ragusa during the period when it found itself under Hungarian domination (from 1458 Hungarian and Turkish). The subject of the research is space, understood by the author both literally (urban space, the territory of the republic) and metaphorically as the areas of life regulated by law, customs, institutions and ideology. The author shows that the political system of Ragusa recalled that of its earlier sovereign, Venice, with a closed group of nobles, whose adult members sat on the most important organ of authority – the Great Council. From the fifteenth century, as a result of proliferation of the nobility, the Council of *Rogati* grew in importance. The author describes the system of administrative offices and public services in the Republic, showing that this system, besides the favourable economic situation and the non-intervention of the Hungarians and Turks in the internal matters of Ragusa, allowed for the peaceful expansion of the state’s territory and a far reaching reconstruction of the capital (new buildings, a sewage and water system, road paving, aqueducts, fortifications). The city was the scene of varied ceremonies, the main aim of which was the arousal of pride within the inhabitants of belonging to the Republic and its society. (JA)

Wioletta Zawitkowska (ed.), *Kobiety o kobietach. Studia i szkice. Średniowiecze i czasy nowożytne* [Women on Women. Studies and Sketches: The Middle Ages and Early Modern Times], Rzeszów, 2010, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego, 150 pp., English sum.

The book is the effect of a series of open meetings organised by Rzeszów University. The six studies published are based on papers given as well as three texts that were not presented at the meetings. All the articles are written by women and deal with the situation of women in the Middle Ages and the early modern epoch.

The overwhelming majority of the texts concern the Middle Ages. Alicja Szymczakowa in the book's introduction deals with the position of women in medieval Poland, analysing the factors that influenced it. The author devotes a lot of attention to marriage and the appearance of women in court records. Anna Pobóg-Lernatowicz has concentrated on the socio-economic activities of women living in Silesia, and namely their participation in economic and financial transactions, on professional and charitable activities. She has also pointed to information on the social and economic activity of women contained in the lives of the saints. Anna Sochacka deals with the religiosity of women at the end of the Middle Ages, emphasising their role in religious culture. On the example of Barbara Czyżowska, a high noblewoman, the author has created a model of religious life for women from this social stratum. Similarly several other female historians have dealt with historical figures. Katarzyna Niemczyk describes the first three marriages of Elżbieta Pilecka (queen, and third wife of Ladislas Jagiello), Maria Koczerska – the fate of Queen Sophia of Halshany, with particular attention being paid to her political role. Bożena Czwojdrak turns her attention to the women with whom the Cracow castellan Dzierśław Rytwiański was involved, while Beata Możejko concerns herself with the engagement of the subsequent bishop of Warmia Maurycy Ferber to Anna Pilemann. Anna Odrzywolska-Kidawa's text is of a somewhat different character, for she analyses the advice given by Mikołaj Rej in the *Żywot człowieka poczciwego* [The Life of an Honest Man] as to a choice of wife. The last text by Bogdana Petryszak looks at the links women had with the Lwów municipal chancellery in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, not only in the capacity of supplicants but also as informal collaborators and relatives of the clerks.

The volume under discussion presents women in the various social roles they performed, portraying a fairly rich picture of their life in the Middle Ages and early modern epoch. The majority of the articles are, however, far in content from the perspectives and approaches of gender studies, an area which is almost unrepresented in Polish research into the distant past. (MJ)

EARLY MODERN TIMES

Listy Jana Jerzego Przebendowskiego podskarbiego wielkiego koronnego do Jana Szembeka podkanclerzego i kanclerza wielkiego koronnego z lat 1711–1728: “...Jako sobie pościelemy na tym sejmie, tak spać będziemy...” [The letters of Jan Jerzy Przebendowski, Grand Treasurer of the Crown to Jan Szembek Deputy Chancellor and Grand Chancellor of the Crown of 1711–1728: ‘As we make our bed in this Sejm, so we shall lie...’], ed. Adam Perłakowski, Kraków, 2010, Księgarnia Akademicka, 199 pp., indexes

This is the second part of the edition of the correspondence of Jan Jerzy Przebendowski, following the edition of his correspondence with Adam Mikołaj Sieniawski (2007). In the introduction there is a short sketch of Szembek’s figure and his activities, mention is made of the source basis and the principles of editing. The letters in the work come from the ‘Szembek Files’ held at the Czartoryskis’ Library in Cracow, supplemented by letters from the the Kórnik Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences. There are 65 letters published in their entirety, of which the largest number are from the years 1716 and 1718. This edition will undoubtedly lead to a development in research into the still poorly analysed times of Augustus II. (MJ)

Hieronim Stroynowski, *Mowa Hieronima Stroynowskiego kano-nika kijowskiego o Konstytucyi Rządu ustanowionej dnia trzeciego i piątego maja r. 1791, czytana na posiedzeniu publicznym Szkoły Głównej W. X. Lit. dnia pierwszego lipca r. 1791* [The Speech of Hieronim Stroynowski the Kiev Canon on the Constitution of Government Passed on the Third and the Fifth of May 1791, Read out at the Public Sitting of the Main School of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania on the First Day of July 1791], ed. Ewa M. Ziółek, Lublin, 2010, Towarzystwo Naukowe Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego imienia Jana Pawła II, 87 pp., 2 facsimiles, series: Źródła i Monografie, 346

The edition of Hieronim Stroynowski’s speech is preceded by an introduction in which there is a fairly extensive biography of the author, a Piarist, professor of Wilno University, later a rector of the said academy and bishop of Wilno. The publisher has devoted a further subchapter to Stroynowski’s academic

work. The introduction concludes with a presentation of the source and an editorial note. The speech itself is an extensive tract, composed of two parts and supplemented with an answer to the doubts expressed in the questions. The edition is a supplement to the published source base for research into the reception of the Constitution of the 3rd of May. (MJ)

Anzelm Weiss, *Raporty dziekanów o stanie kościołów diecezji poznańskiej w 1797 roku* [The Deans' Reports on the State of the Churches of the Poznań Diocese in 1797], Lublin, 2010, Wydawnictwo Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego, 340 pp., bibliog., indexes, ills., German sum.

The aim of the work is to show the state of the diocese of Poznań in the altered political situation of the post-partition period, following the reduction in the territory of the diocese, the transfer of its centre of administration, and the appointment of a new bishop. The research is based on the documentation held at the Archiwum Archidiecezjalne w Poznaniu [Archepiscopal Archive in Poznań]. Among the documents of special interest is a book of the deans' accounts, or those of the chaplains who replaced them, on the state of parish churches in the districts under their jurisdiction. This does not simply refer to the state of the church buildings but of the entire parish. These documents allow one to research the state of affairs within the diocese during the period of post-partition transformation. Their edition is the fundamental aim of the work and – together with the editorial introduction – takes up the second dominant part of the book. The first part is an extended factual introduction to this publication. The author describes the situation of the Poznań diocese as well as its organisation with particular consideration for the position of the dean. He also presents the figures of the initiator of writing down the accounts, Bishop Ignacy Raczyński, and those who actually performed the task.

Anzelm Weiss's book has much significance for further research into the Poznań diocese in the post-partition period, as well as in general for work into the situation within the Prussian partition. (MJ)

Urszula Augustyniak and Andrzej B. Zakrzewski (eds.), *Praktyka życia publicznego w Rzeczypospolitej Obojga Narodów w XVI–XVIII wieku. Materiały XVIII Konferencji Komisji Lituanistycznej przy Komitecie Nauk Historycznych PAN w dniach 22–23 września 2009 roku* [The Practice of Public Life in the Commonwealth of Both Nations in the Sixteenth–Eighteenth Centuries. Materials of the 18th Conference of the Lithuanistic Board of The Polish National Historical Committee, 22–23 September 2009], Warszawa, 2010, Komisja Lituanistyczna przy Komitecie Nauk Historycznych PAN, Instytut Historii PAN, Instytut Historii UW, Instytut Historii Prawa UW, Wydawnictwo Neriton, 198 pp., tables, 3 diagrams, English sum.

The work under discussion comprises three parts: the first concentrates on parliamentary practice, the second on the judiciary, and the third on the confederations. The majority of the texts are published in the form that they were presented at the conference, only the papers of Andrej Radaman and Tomasz Ciesielski have been significantly expanded and altered.

The last of these authors has examined the breaking up of the Crown Tribunal in 1749. Here he describes at length the functioning of the tribunal, and in particular its utilisation in the struggle of political factions at the beginning of the reign of Augustus III. Ciesielski in detail describes the preparation for the resumption of the Lithuanian Tribunal as equally the Crown Tribunal as well as the course of events during the inauguration of both institutions. Matters of the court system as well as its functioning have been examined also by other researchers. Ewa Dubas-Urwanowicz has discussed the connection between the origin of the Crown Tribunal and plans for a reform of the judiciary advanced by the nobility, while Natalia Starczenko the question of the said reform and judicial practice during the first interregnums. Starczenko has considered it necessary to reevaluate opinions on violence in modern society, the control of which could be only by public institutions. Wioletta Zielecka, in analysing issues of inheritance dealt with in Lithuanian courts, has drawn attention to the division of estates as well as the participation in this of women.

In the part devoted to parliamentary practice the authors' attentions are concentrated on the dietines. Andrej Radaman has analysed the work of the dietines of the Nowogródek voivodeship for the years 1565–1632. He has assembled fundamental facts on the voivodeship along with the composition, course and scope of the work of those dietines and other nobility conventions. He has also undertaken a reconstruction of the administrative elite of Nowogródek. Robertas Jurgaitis has presented the functioning of the Vilnius dietine for the years 1717–95. He has drawn attention to the precedence

enjoyed by this dietine in Lithuania, and has calculated the frequency and length of its sittings. The author's main area of interest was the dual role of the dietine as an organ of local government and as an element within the parliamentary system. Jolanta Choińska-Mika has conducted a review of the literature on Crown dietines and has pointed out those directions and problem areas in need of further research.

In the final part Ramunė Šmigelskytė-Stukienė presents the local organs of the Confederation of Targowica in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, reconstructing, among other things, the composition of the Confederation authorities and their range of activity. It results from the research conducted that leading functions were allocated to individuals who already before the confederation had held district offices. A text by Henryk Wisner has been added to the volume, this being an expanded version of his conference paper. The author deals with the conventions of nobility as well as their organisation.

The work gives us a picture of many aspects of practical politics as conducted in the Commonwealth. From which there emerges the gentry's interest in the efficient working of local government institutions and the participation of this group in the shaping of state policy. (MJ)

Radosław Dobrowolski and Mariusz Zemło (eds.), *Śladami unii brzeskiej* [In the Footsteps of the Union of Brest], Lublin and Supraśl, 2010, Wydawnictwo Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego, 634 pp., ill., series: Acta Collegii Suprasliensis, 10

The book is a collection of 29 articles written by researchers from Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine and Russia (list of contents at: <http://www.poczytaj.pl/index.php?akcja=spis_tresci&ksiazka=174457> [Accessed 25 June 2011]). The work commences with an introduction by the provincial of the Basilian Order in Poland, Father Ihor Harasym on the subject of Christian unity. The articles are divided into three parts which regard matters of doctrine, history and art.

In the first part, in seven articles, there are examined general questions, the shaping of Greek Catholic theology (pointing to its sources in Eastern Christianity), the polemics between Catholics and Orthodox preceding union, and the functioning of the union at local level. Attention is also drawn to religious literature as a source for, i.a., research into theology or the use of the Ruthenian language in Orthodox and Uniate Church books. The most extensive is part two (14 articles) devoted to the history of the Uniate Church right up until communist times. The presented research is concentrated, from one angle on the Basilian Order, and then – regardless of the period under consideration – on the fates at the local level (town, parish, diocese, region) of

the Greek Catholic Church and the Uniates themselves. The articles contained in part three are chiefly on Uniate painting in the seventeenth and eighteenth century, analysed mainly on a regional level (Podlasie, Volyn). The significant attention paid to the Basilian Order, the monastery at Supraśl and the whole region of Podlasie, both in this part and the book as a whole, results from the aims of the Cultural Association Collegium Suprasliense, the conference organiser, of which the reviewed work is the result.

The volume ends with an article by Mariusz Zemła, acting as a form of conclusion, on the poor level of academic knowledge amongst students on the question of the Union of Brest. The author expresses the hope that the volume in hand will herald a return of interest in the subject. (M)

Andrzej Karpiński, Edward Opaliński and Tomasz Wiślicz (eds.), *Gospodarka, społeczeństwo, kultura w dziejach nowożytnych. Studia ofiarowane Pani Profesor Marii Boguckiej* [Economy, Society, Culture in Early Modern History. Studies Given in Honour of Professor Maria Bogucka], Warszawa, 2010, Wydawnictwo DiG, 470 + 38 pp., bibliog. of Maria Bogucka's works from 1997 to 2009, photos

The area of interest of this collection of studies dedicated to Maria Bogucka, a researcher into the economy, society and culture of the early modern Commonwealth and Europe, has been subjugated to her research interests. The foreword by Andrzej Karpiński contains a biography, chiefly academic, of Maria Bogucka.

In the first part of the book, devoted to Gdańsk and the Baltic area, varied topics are examined: the role of Marienburg and Königsberg as capitals of the Teutonic Order state (Janusz Małek), the fifteenth-century Gdańsk shipping trade (Henryk Samsonowicz), servants in Gdańsk in the first half of the seventeenth century (Edmund Kizik), Royal Prussia elections and deputy participation in the diets of 1650 to 1703 (Stanisław Achremczyk). This part ends with a depiction of the course taken by the border between the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Courland (Almut Bues), enhanced by reflections on the significance of the border in the modern epoch.

The second part of the collection ['General history'], contains three articles. Here we have considerations on the image of the Netherlands in the English press in the first half of the 1650s (Anna Kalinowska), on the career of the British diplomat James Scott and his missions in Saxony, the Commonwealth and Gdańsk (Grzegorz Chomicki), and finally on the beginnings of Brazilian civilisation in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (Marcin Kula).

Much broader in scope is part three, which covers the history of women and the family. Here are articles on marriage in medieval Poland (Małgorzata Delimata), both the social and personal dimension of childlessness in the Poland of old (Dorota Żołądź-Strzelczyk), though it chiefly concentrates on the history of women. Woman is presented within the context of a late medieval Polish town (Agnieszka Bartoszewicz), as equally her image as portrayed in the funeral sermons of Observant Franciscans of the Saxon epoch (Filip Wolański). Analysed is the history of gender as depicted in the works of the Victorian writer William Edward Hartpole Lecky (Alicja Kusiak-Brownstein). Two texts are devoted to women placed on the summit of the social hierarchy, namely Elżbieta Sieniawska (Kazimierz Maliszewski) and Amalia Brühl Mniszczek.

Part four ['The history of towns and provinces'] concentrates itself first and foremost on towns and cities. Also in this part, the questions dealt with by the articles are most varied in scope, making it difficult to point to a common denominator. Beside a presentation of the relations between the powerful monastery of Jasna Góra and the town of Częstochowa developing in its shadow (Małgorzata Wilska), we can find reflections on linguistic communication in multiethnic Lwów in the late Middle Ages (Andrzej Janeczek), on the influence of World War I on the industrial development of Warsaw (Jan Molenda), on the form of government of the small town of Urzędów in the early modern era (Marian Surdacki) or on 'unlawful appropriation' in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries of the hereditary office of *vogt* of Lublin by the Cracow patriciate (Ryszard Szczygieł). The authors of two articles have gone beyond the examination of a single case: Wojciech Iwańczak has studied the image of towns (chiefly German) in cartography from the cusp of the Middle Ages and the early modern era, and Michał Kopczyński has analysed the influence of the famous book by Stanisław Szczepanowski *Nędza Galicji w cyfrach i program energicznego rozwoju gospodarstwa krajowego* [The Misery of Galicia in Figures and the Programme for the Dynamic Development of the National Economy] (1888) on the stereotype of this province.

Part five ['The history of culture'], more modest in relation to the output of Maria Bogucka devoted to this area of research, is the most coherent in its editorial composition. In general it is devoted to image and stereotype. The recently deceased Gerard Labuda speculates on questions of iconology and iconography, Marek Kunicki-Goldfinger on the image of the 'ideal' journey in Mikołaj Rej's the *Żywot człowieka poczciwego* [The Life of an Honest Man], Andrzej Klonder on feasts in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century phrase books. The stereotype of the royal hunting monopoly is taken up by Agnieszka Samsonowicz, while Tomasz Wiślicz confronts the stereotype of the 'idle peasant' with the work of peasants on Sundays in the early modern period.

The subsequent part concentrates on the history of crime, researched chiefly in court records. Here are to be found studies into the trials of witches

in the early modern epoch as equally in Europe as a whole (Małgorzata Pilaszek), as in the court of the small locality of Nidzica (Jacek Wijaczka), into the confessions of accused in the sixteenth and first half of the seventeenth century (Marcin Kamler), and finally articles investigating the judicial court system (Andrzej Karpiński, Henryk Wisner).

The volume is concluded with three articles dedicated to Old Polish political culture. These include both postulates on research into the relation between the denominational situation and noble democracy in the sixteenth and seventeenth century (Wojciech Kriegseisen) and a study into 'friendship' between the Catholic hierarchs of the Commonwealth at the turn of the seventeenth century, as equally an analysis into political corruption in Poland in the years 1770s to 1780s on the basis of the expenditure of the Russian embassy on this very goal (Dorota Dukwicz).

The book, as the matter is more often than not with *Festschriften*, is a collection of extremely diverse texts, the arrangement of which is, as a rule, a serious undertaking for the editors. (MJ)

Jarosław Stolicki, Marek Ferenc and Janusz Dąbrowski (eds.), *Inter maiestatem ac libertatem. Studia z dziejów nowożytnych dedykowane Profesorowi Kazimierzowi Przybosiowi* [Studies on Modern History Dedicated to Professor Kazimierz Przyboś], Kraków, 2010, 422 pp., English sum.

The book was compiled by colleagues, associates and students of Kazimierz Przyboś (list of contents at: <<http://www.wanax.pl/index.php?p1092,inter-maiestatem-ac-libertatem-studia-z-dziejow-nowozytnych-dedykowane-profesorowi-kazimierzowi-przybosiowi>> [Accessed 25 June 2011]). The articles included relate to his research interests. The majority of the texts are consequently devoted to the political history of the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Commonwealth, the history of diplomacy and military matter. There is equally included a publication of sources: the ten *universals* issued in connection with the Tatar incursions into Red Ruthenia in the seventeenth century, the records of Jerzy Bałaban's legation to Transylvania in 1643, an inventory of the village of Cisów of 1767, as well as two letters by Bonawentura Niemojowski to Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz, presenting the emigration situation following the November 1830 Uprising. All of these are preceded by forewords. There are several articles that go beyond the main theme of the work, either by referring to other epochs (like the 'Ukrainian question' as examined during World War II in the Polish Home Army weekly *Biuletyn Informacyjny*; the relations of Adam Mickiewicz to Tadeusz Kościuszko, or more broadly – the question of Polish political emigration in

the nineteenth century), or with regard to broadly understood culture and traditions within the early modern period. (MJ)

Marzena Dyjakowska, *Crimen laesae maiestatis. Studium nad wpływami prawa rzymskiego w dawnej Polsce* [*Crimen laesae maiestatis: A Study into the Influences of Roman Law in Old Poland*], Lublin, 2010, Wydawnictwo Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego, 280 pp., bibliog., index of sources

The work discusses the influence of Roman law on the understanding of lese-majesty within the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, as well as the views expressed on this matter in Polish legal literature. The study is based on the writings of Roman lawyers, European legal sources, medieval legal literature as well as sources from the modern period, canon law sources, and Polish legal compendiums including those published in the series *Volumina legum* or contained in the Lithuanian Statute III.

The work, composed of four chapters, is devoted to the doctrine and functioning of *crimen laesae maiestatis* in Europe and Poland, chiefly in the early modern period. Discussion in the first chapter is on the Roman roots of this doctrine and the Roman legal measures for crimes of lese-majesty. The author begins her considerations from an analysis of the concepts concerned in order to move on to a detailed analysis of the legislative process and punishment. The second chapter presents the influences of Roman law on doctrine and law in Europe in relation to crimes against the state – from the codification of Germanic laws to the end of the eighteenth century. The two final chapters illustrate the author's research into Polish legal doctrine from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century and the court trails for *crimen laesae maiestatis*. The author discusses the legal literature, analysing the types of crime that belonged to this group, their penalty, views on the subject of sanctions including the degree of responsibility deemed to be applicable to a perpetrator's family. The book is concluded with considerations on the application of Roman law within these trails. Dyjakowska claims that the influence of Roman law on criminal law in the Commonwealth was less than it was on the study of law itself, though it may be observed in court practices. (MJ)

Krzysztof Gajdka, *Literatura, propaganda, służba. Ludzie pióra w otoczeniu Radziwiłłów birżańskich w pierwszej połowie XVII wieku* [Literature, Propaganda, Service: Writers in the Milieu of the Birzhai Radziwiłłs in the First Half of the 17th C.], Warszawa, 2009, Wydawnictwo Naukowe *Semper*, 268 pp., bibliog.

The aim of the study is a presentation of the literary circle of the Birzhai branch of the Radziwiłł family. Gajdka starts his work from a description of the biographies of individuals connected with the Radziwiłłs, who engaged in literature. He draws attention, i.a., to their social origin, denomination and education, and is particularly interested in the role they played at the Radziwiłł court. The author tries to isolate those who were the most strongly linked with the dukes and to systemise this grouping. A separate chapter is devoted to two poets: the to date poorly documented Olbrycht Karmanowski and Daniel Naborowski, drawing especial attention to the problematic question of the latter's descent. In the third part Gajdka undertakes an analysis of the works of the Radziwiłł literates, particularly their common features. He also describes other elements of the court life of the individuals examined, in particular the events that were to find reflection in literary works.

The author underlines the significant number and high level of the writers surrounding the Radziwiłłs. Having analysed their output, he claims that works noting events from courtly life dominated, often of a light-hearted jokey nature, though also ones even bawdy in content or based on a witty idea. There were also educational-moralising works, and the composing of numerous panegyrics and propaganda poems. Considering the important role of correspondence as a source of information, the author recognises it as a significant part of the writers' service. Often they also had to translate documents and other ducal letters. Gajda's work, in depicting the Radziwiłł court from an interesting angle, may be of use for historians and researchers into the literature of the period. (MJ)

Karolina Targosz, *Jacob Breynius 1637–1697: “Botanicus celeberrimus” w wymiarze europejskim* [Jacob Breynius 1637–1697: “Botanicus celeberrimus” within a European Dimension], Kraków, 2010, Polska Akademia Umiejętności, 230 pp., ills., index of persons, English sum., series: Polska Akademia Umiejętności, Komisja Historii Nauki, Monografie, 17

The work is devoted to the life and achievements of the Gdańsk botanist Jakob Breyne (the father of the better known Johann Philipp Breyne), who studied newly discovered overseas plants and was the author of the works

Centuria and *Promodus*. It is composed of five studies, of which four were published earlier.

In the first two articles the author concentrates on a biography of Breyne, and in particular on his contacts with foreign academics and an analysis of the reception of his works within Europe. In considerations as to a classification of Breynius to a specific historical epoch, he is said to owe more to an affiliation with the Baroque than the Enlightenment. Three studies focus on an analysis of his works, and more precisely on the botanical illustrations (a detailed comparative analysis of Breynius's zoomorphic and anthropomorphic orchidaceae and those of another contemporary botanist, the royal physician, Martin Bernhardt de Bernitz) as well as the frontispieces. The author questions the hypothesis of a separation between the world of the academic and the artist. As with almost all of Karolina Targosz's works, this equally is one that belongs as readily to the history of science as it does to the history of art culture. (MJ)

Konrad Ajewski, *Stanisława Kostki Zamoyskiego życie i działalność 1775–1856* [The Life and Activities of Stanisław Kostka Zamoyski 1775–1856], Warszawa, 2010, Towarzystwo Naukowe Warszawskie, Stefan Zamoyski Educational Trust, 726 pp., ills., index of persons, English sum.

The aim of the work under review is to complete the gap in historiography that is the lack of a complete biography of this eminent representative of the social, intellectual and political elite of his day. The book is based, first and foremost, on Zamoyski's diaries, his correspondence and various forms of notes, as well as speeches, press reports and the recollections on him of his contemporaries.

Ajewski devotes the first chapter to Zamoyski's childhood and youth, right up until his marriage and travel to France and England. In the second chapter he deals with his family life, concentrating on, i.a., the details of courtly life, his journeys and offspring. The public activities of the Zamoyskis are dealt with separately, namely their participation in uprisings, cultural life, education and administration. The successive, sizeable parts of the book focus on their participation in the field of culture, art and science. The author describe their interest in architecture, sculpture, gardens, music and theatre, their passion for collecting, patronage as well as their involvement in erecting monuments and the preservation of national heritage. The family context has been so widely dealt with that this biography of Stanisław Kostka is in part simultaneously a monograph on the Zamoyski family during the first half of the nineteenth century. Ajewski devotes the next chapters to

Zamoyski's work on his entail estate (of which he was the 12th entailer), both in the development of education (in Zamość, and later in Szczepreszyn, the founding of agricultural schools for peasants) as equally on his own estate. The penultimate chapter, also lengthy, is devoted to Zamoyski's political activities following the partitions, during the Napoleonic era and Congress Poland, including his involvement (as Senate President in the Congress Kingdom of Poland) in the work of the Committee of Inquiry and Court of *Sejm*, called by Tsar Nicholas I in 1827 to try the members of the secret anti-tsarist Patriotic Society. Lastly, the author presents the entailer's final years spent abroad.

Ajewski draws attention to the extreme and divergent evaluations of Zamoyski's political activities and decisions, claiming also that he was underestimated by his contemporaries. The author himself considers him to be an ambivalent figure, often controversial and difficult to understand, though undoubtedly exceptional all the same. (MJ)

Bogdan Wachowiak (ed.), *Prusy w okresie monarchii absolutnej (1701–1806)* [Prussia in the Period of Absolute Monarchy], Poznań, 2010, Polska Akademia Nauk, Instytut Historii im. Tadeusza Manteuffla, Wydawnictwo Poznańskie, 1016 pp., ill., tables, genealogical tables, indexes, German sum.

This is the second, long awaited, volume of *A History of Prussia* (after *Dzieje Brandenburgii-Prus na progu czasów nowożytnych* [A History of Brandenburg Prussia on the Dawn of Modern Times], 2001) prepared by the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences. It has been written by five authors (Zygmunt Szultka, Andrzej Kamiński, Grzegorz Kucharczyk, Dariusz Łukasiewicz, Bogdan Wachowiak). It synthetically covers the period from the coronation of Elector Frederick III as King of Prussia, through defeat in the Napoleonic Wars and the subsequent loss of territory. This was a period of the Prussian monarchy becoming independent and developed, of an increase in its territory, state reform, and of a growth in its international standing and position. The work is divided into three parts, relating to the chronological periods and characterised – in accordance with the accepted historiographical scheme of things – as: the government of the first kings (1701–40), European power under the rule of Frederick II (1746–86), the period of the French Revolution (1786–1806). The authors' aim was to present all the aspects of the historical process, as well as the position of the state within the international arena. It is worth noting that the synthesis, despite its academic textbook quality, is not merely based on studies but also source materials.

All three parts are divided into chapters devoted to different aspects of Prussian history. The most extensive are those fragments depicting foreign policy. Particular attention is here directed toward the relations between Prussia and Poland as well as Austria. The authors discuss the role of Prussia within the German Reich, her involvement in the war over Silesia, and in particular the events and changes connected with the Seven Years War. Much attention is paid to Prussia's involvement in the partitioning of the Commonwealth as well as the introduction of Prussian administration within her partition. The authors have obviously forgotten not about Prussia's relations with Russia or with revolutionary, and subsequently Napoleonic, France.

We may also find in each of the three parts chapters on Prussia's internal situation particularly the development of absolutism and militarism from the groundbreaking coronation of 1701. The reforms presented concern the military, administration, finances, the judicial system and the law. Attention is also drawn to the unwillingness on the part of society towards these reforms. Separate chapters are devoted to changes in the estates system resulting in its disappearance, the territory and population of Prussia as well as changes occurring in these areas as a result of state expansion. There is a chapter on the economy in each part of the book. Here discussion concerns the development of individual sectors and the policies implemented in these areas by the authorities. The authors draw attention to the influence of militarism and of the Seven Years War on the economic situation of the state. The work also contains chapters on the Jewish population and the denominational policy of the Prussian authorities. The final chapter – basing itself on an already outdated construction of academic syntheses – presents the development of Prussian culture, also according to a 'classical' formulation with division into education, intellectual culture, literature, the fine art. This is supplemented by an examination of the Prussian mentality, 'everyday life', and, of importance for the Polish reader, the presence and reception of Polish culture in Prussia. In the conclusion Bogdan Wachowiak presents the main paths of Prussia's development within the period under consideration. (MJ)

NINETEENTH CENTURY

Stefania Sokołowska and Irmina Ossowska (eds.), *Bibliografia historii Polski XIX i XX wieku* [A Bibliography of Nineteenth- and Twentieth-century Polish History], tome iii: 1865–1918, vol. 2, Warsaw, 2010, Wydawnictwo DiG, XVII + 1 + 419 pp., indexes

This volume covers the periodicals from the area of Prussian partition as well as the so-called Western and Northern Lands (German territories

incorporated into Poland following World War II), and also periodicals in Polish published within Germany as well as studies into all of these publications. The bibliography also takes into consideration periodicals published in Germany, one-day special editions and calendars in German in as far as they concern localities and areas situated within the present borders of Poland.

The initial chapters are devoted to bibliographies, periodicals catalogues and calendars as well as materials and studies relating to the entire territory of the Prussian Partition. Subsequent chapters cover periodicals published within the following territories: the Posen Province, West and East Prussia, Pomerania and the Brandenburg border region, Silesia, Germany. In each of these chapters the bibliographic descriptions are divided into materials and studies on the journalism of the given area as well as into periodicals, one-day special editions and calendars, while these in turn – in accordance with the year of publication – are divided into two periods: 1865–1914 (up until the outbreak of World War I) and 1914–18 (up until its ending).

The predominant arrangement within the volume is alphabetical, only materials and studies are arranged chronologically in order to show the development of academic research into the field of journalism. Attempts have been made within the realms of possibility to take into consideration both the achievements of Polish historiography as equally those of German historiography.

The principles which have directed the authors in the assembly, selection and utilisation of the materials gathered, as well as in the construction of individual bibliographic descriptions, are presented in depth in the introduction. It is worth, however, noting that the fundamental principle adopted within the publication in the preparation of descriptions first and foremost on the basis of an examination of originals, has, in many cases, been impossible to uphold as a result of the extremely poor state in which the periodicals have been preserved, or simply their absence. The authors have, consequently, decided to give information as to where the only or least incomplete edition of a periodical may be found. Archives and libraries located within these areas suffered immense destruction during World War II; the greatest damage concerned publications from Western Pomerania and Eastern Pomerania. Copies of certain titles have been impossible to find, and others unable to be accessed, while in the case of many only single copies have been found, therefore their description is based on the data from catalogues, bibliographies and studies both Polish and German.

As a result of modest finances research was conducted first and foremost in the largest Polish academic libraries. All in all it was possible to assemble in this volume descriptions of 3,122 periodicals, 281 calendars, 360 one-day special editions as well as 601 studies on journalism (not counting the monographic works located in the literature of individual titles).

The publication under description is the first bibliography of periodicals, one-day special editions and calendars published within the territory of the

Prussian partition as well as the 'Western and Northern Lands' for the years 1865–1918 that represents not only an assembly of titles but also has rectified many mistakes that appeared in earlier published studies.

Five indices are attached to the body of published materials: an index of periodical, one-day special edition and calendar titles, an index of names and the titles of collective and anonymous works, an index of places, an index of printing houses compiled on the basis of localities, as well as an index of institutions, enterprises, social and political organisations. In the geographical index the places have been included under their current Polish names. Their German names, in force at the time, as well as their former Polish names (if they existed) have also been given. Under the Polish names from this period there have been indexed those places which at present are located within the boundaries of larger towns and cities, while under the German names those which now constitute a part of larger entities, while in those days they did not have an equivalent name in Polish.

At present the staff of the Department of Nineteenth- and Twentieth-century Retrospective Bibliography at the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences are conducting work into the third volume of the second tome of the Bibliography, which will be devoted to periodical publications from the Austrian partition. (UK)

Henryk Marek Słoczyński, *Światło w dziejarskiej ciemnicy. Koncepcja dziejów i interpretacja przeszłości Polski Joachima Lelewela* [Light in Historical Darkness: Joachim Lelewel's Concept of History and the Interpretation of Poland's Past], Kraków, 2010, Towarzystwo Wydawnicze 'Historia Iagiellonica', 615 pp., bibliog., index of persons

Henryk M. Słoczyński's book is the broadest monograph in Polish historiography of the academic work of Joachim Lelewel. The author has placed before himself the task of analysing the entirety of the written output of this most famous of Polish Romantic historians; someone who at the same time constituted an eminent politician and an individual surrounded within the Polish patriotic tradition by the designation of 'a great man'. At the same time Słoczyński's aim was a measuring up of this tradition, first and foremost in relation to the historiographical output of communist Poland and its treatment of Lelewel. The approach adopted by the author to existing research (Lelewel has undoubtedly enjoyed more attention than any other historian whatsoever) is (with few exceptions) unequivocally critical. Firstly, for Słoczyński almost the whole output of historians writing about Lelewel during communist Poland is saddled with the sin of ideological bias, a bias

that dictated – on political orders – an examination that searched within Lelewel's writings for 'progressive' elements or even explicitly proto-communist ones. This tendency, started in the Stalinist epoch, when the communist authorities were forcibly looking for ideological legitimacy, was to continue in only a moderately altered form right up until the mid-1980s. Hence the motif which therefore develops throughout the whole book and which in parts almost dominates over the flow of the narrative is the unmasking of the distortions, misconceptions and heightened interpretations of almost the whole of the existing literature on the subject. Unfortunately the said eminently critical stance at times transfers itself into Słoczyński's relations to Lelewel himself. In places one gains the impression as if the author had difficulties in controlling his polemical passion, resulting in him applying the standards to his hero from the first half of the nineteenth century that he applies to historians from the second half of the twentieth.

The book painstakingly reconstructs the whole written historical output of Lelewel within a chronological-problematic arrangement, bringing to light a mass of problem areas that have been passed over in existing literature. One of the key issues in the book is the covering of the evolution in Lelewel's views on history and the actual political-social situation in the late 1820s and later – when the academic found himself in forced political emigration in Belgium. The author shows that Lelewel – for certain the most versatile Polish historian of his day and a pioneer into research into historical geography and numismatics – in his youth had professed the ideas of 'philosophical history' in the spirit of the Enlightenment and had connected this stance to his personal situation, inducing him to total loyalty in relation to the Russian authorities as well as a distance with regard to any revolutionary ideas whatsoever. His dismissal from the department at the University of Vilnius is seen as a turning point in his career, as is subsequently his ambivalent role in the uprising government of 1830/31. Next the author follows the development of Lelewel's views in the direction of the idealisation of Poland's past, in particular the history of the early Middle Ages (the so-called rule of commons) – wherein he reproaches him for numerous inconsistencies, and in places suggests even a conscious betrayal of academic standards in the name of a questionable patriotism. The author reconstructs and interprets in a similar way the favourite idea of the later Lelewel: the originating of his idealised Slavs in the semi-mythical Dacians (Getae), meaning that this said idealisation had deeply religious bases.

The work under consideration is for certain courageous, ambitious and a very thorough book, which in relation to research into Lelewel's writings and possibly generally into Polish historiography of the first half of the nineteenth century appears to constitute an important breakthrough. Consequently it follows to bemoan that the author, despite his undoubted erudition and hunger for knowledge, has to such a limited degree incorporated the

international background to Lelewel's writings and his intellectual inspirations, while devoting so much attention to a fierce and highly emotional polemic with interpretations that he himself admits are devoid of any academic value whatsoever. (AK)

Marcin Cybulski, *Rosja i Rosjanie w pamiętnikach Polaków (1863–1918)* [Russia and Russians in the Memoires of Poles (1863–1918)], Warszawa, 2009, Wydawnictwo Naukowe *Semper*, 257 pp., bibliog., index of persons, annex

Marcin Cybulski's book is an attempt to view anew an old subject: Polish-Russian relations following the January 1863 Uprising. In addition the author refers in his considerations to a sophisticated methodological set of instruments taken from anthropology, literary studies and sociology, ones that were unavailable to researchers of several decades ago. Unfortunately these new tools, in contact with an old subject matter, do not appear overly useful and have not resulted in innovatory conclusions – the stereotype of Russians that emerges from the pages of the book, although reconstructed on the basis of extremely modern methods, seems for all that to be one well known.

The book comprises two, almost equal parts. Chapters I-III constitute an extended introduction to the author's characteristic reflections, that is analyses of the image of Russia and Russians within Polish diary writing of the second half of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth. In the first chapter there are methodological considerations; in the second the historical backcloth; in the third an extensive analysis of the Polish approach to Russians in the course of earlier epochs. Going along with the findings of Polish researchers, Cybulski notes down the stereotype of a Russian saturated with the Polish nobility's sense of superiority, though one that nevertheless only gains in intensity with the beginning of the seventeenth century (the protracted presence of the Russian army on the lands of the Commonwealth) and unequivocally – together with the epoch of the Great *Sejm* – takes on a political character. He subsequently follows the evolution of this stereotype during the first half of the nineteenth century: its grounding in the epoch of Romanticism and its acquisition of cultural-racist features (Russianness as 'Asianness') but also specific nuances (the note of sympathy for the masses – the victims of tsarist despotism). In this way the author brings the matter to times more contemporary to him and concludes with a significantly shorter and more concise sketch on the evolution of the stereotype of Poles in Russian culture and literature.

The analytical part of the book only in fact begins in the fourth chapter, which is devoted to the memoirs of Polish exiles within the Empire; the next chapter is involved with diarists from Congress Poland; while Chapter VI –

doubtlessly the most original and interesting of the whole book – those recollections about pre-revolutionary Russia from the interwar years. Each chapter brings with it an analysis of several dozen diaries, each time grappling with the basic difficulties of this type of research: with the fairly sketchy and stereotypical nature of recollective accounts of Russia and Russians, ones (as a rule) devoid of deeper reflection. This analysis is on the whole historical-literary in character and does not bring with it any significantly new findings in relation to the existing literature on the subject, a literature meticulously described in the first part of the book – roughly speaking, the author confirms the entirety of the theses of his predecessors. Of interest is the differentiation of Russians described into social and professional groups (administrative officials, gendarmerie, soldiers, teachers) and also the attention drawn to cases of national apostasy – particularly in the context of mixed Polish-Russian marriages.

In the afterword the author compares the Polish stereotype of a Russian with that of a German and Ukrainian, and also emphasises the fundamental durability of the former and the permanence of these fundamental features from old Polish times right up to the twentieth century. The only period when this established viewpoint was to be revised falls, Cybulski notes, on the epoch of the revolution of 1905–7: a period of united struggle against the tsarist despotism. As it appears the category of national stereotype that dominates within the pages of the book has to some extent forced such conclusions – not that this in anyway means that these conclusions have not been sufficiently validated by the author. (AK)

Bogumił Wojcieszak, *Tymczasem ciężko... Studia i szkice z dziejów polskiej kultury politycznej w XIX wieku* [Difficult for the Time Being ... Studies and Sketches from the History of Nineteenth-century Polish Political Culture], Toruń, 2010, Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, 303 pp.

This is a book that represents a genre increasingly rarely encountered within Polish historical writing. It would follow to place it halfway between a collection of monographic and contributory articles, an essay and an erudite tale. Devoid of academic equipment it makes up for this loss with source and interpretive curiosity as well as by its transparent lively style of narration. The book is the fruit of the author's dispersed though penetrating studies, which in addition do not hide his ideological and polemical passions. Since the matter concerns the epoch of the partitions, such passion may seem somewhat archaic, yet Bogumił Wojcieszak effectively enlivens the ideological-political dilemmas of the nineteenth century. The title 'Difficult for the time being...' refers obviously to the political situation under the

partitions, while the main motif which unites the sketches herein contained is Polish political activities for independence.

The first part [‘Not only poets are needed’], concerns the less known aspects of Polish political-social activist work in the Grand Duchy of Posen. The author’s approach to the subject – one highlighted by the title itself – is here fairly traditional and concentrates on the organisational-practical side of activities on the part of the Duchy’s Polish inhabitants. The most interesting appears the sketch [‘The last political Icarus of the Grand Duchy of Posen’], which is devoted to Jakub Krauthofer, one of the leaders of the 1848 uprising.

Part two [‘*Salve Polonia redux*: Napoleonic Reminiscences in the Posen Province’], certainly the most original and interesting in the whole book, is devoted to the fates of former Napoleonic soldiers who settled in the Posen Province, and also the perception of Napoleon’s intervention in Spain as seen by Polish participants, the press as well as within Polish culture at a later period – first and foremost in *The Ashes* by Stefan Żeromski. Of particular value appears the hunger with which the author follows the transformation of the individual events and themes of the history of Polish military formations in Spain initially into recollective and journalistic and then literary legend.

Part three [‘We are like Caryatids’] treats the literary and book-publishing culture of the so-called Stolen Lands (particularly in Lithuania and Belarus) in the epoch following the January Uprising (1863–1905). The author’s considerations here concentrate on, among others, the publishing house run by the writer Eliza Orzeszkowa as well as the reception of Henryk Sienkiewicz’s *Trilogy*. (AK)

Jan Sobczak, *Nicholas II – the Last Emperor of All the Russians: The Study of Personage and the Evolution of Power*, translated by Iwona Hetman-Pawlaczyk, Olsztyn, 2010, Centrum Badań Europy Wschodniej, 329 pp., bibliog.

The reviewed work is an English edition of Jan Sobczak’s book *Mikołaj II – ostatni car Rosji: studium postaci i ewolucji władzy* (Pułtusk and Warsaw, 2009), which is the crowning of many years of research interest on the part of the author. *Nicholas II* is a classic political biography chronologically arranged, recreating the history of the book’s hero from his earliest youth to his tragic death at the hands of the Bolsheviks. Despite its considerable length, the lively narration and selection of materials means that this is a book that would also satisfy a ‘popular’ taste in historical writing. In accordance with the rules of the genre, the historical-political background serves to explain the character and main motifs directing the hero as well as his immediate entourage, more or less to the same degree in which the analysis of the tsar’s personality serves to elaborate the main problems affecting the Russia of his rule – and therefore

equally the reasons for the collapse of tsardom. It is worth noting that Sobczak's book is the first work in Polish historiography that has attempted a biography of Nicholas II on such a scale. Besides, the book has appeared at a moment when the tradition of writing about Nicholas from a perspective dominated by the situation that led to the creation of the USSR on the ruins of his empire has been clearly exhausted and overexploited. This is particularly visible in the latest Russian historiography, whose findings are used many times by the author. It also follows to remember that the image of Nicholas in the subject literature is undergoing a constant reappraisal not only as a result of ideological controversies but also factual ones – which one may consider as sensational in the case of a ruler of a world empire. A characteristic feature of Sobczak's book is its clear bias toward the earlier years of Nicholas' life and rule, the presentation of his personality and character as well as his political ambitions and visions of his own rule. In addition the author devotes a lot of space to Nicholas' little known – or rather distorted by earlier historiography – reformist initiatives and plans. Yet we are to learn surprisingly little about his last years from the book. And given the obvious responsibility the tsar had for leading Russia into the 1914 conflict, the conducting of this war and consequently the outbreak of revolution in 1917, these years are widely considered key to an evaluation of his rule. There is relatively little devoted to this epoch in the Polish version, while in the English version the history of Nicholas' rule and life simple break off at this key moment, which one has to admit to be a most unfortunate 'shortening' in translation. Both versions give a markedly 'warmer' image of the last tsar, while in the English version the impression is, unfortunately, that the most controversial period of his rule has been simply ignored. That said it is worth noting that Sobczak's book in combining the narrative qualities of a classic biography with solid source and academic research, belongs to a current within Polish academic writing on Russia, one devoid of ideological-emotional frenzy. (AK)

TWENTIETH CENTURY

Jerzy Gaul, *Niemieckie służby wywiadowczo-informacyjne wobec radykalnego ruchu niepodległościowego w Królestwie Polskim 1914–1918* [German Intelligence Information Services in Relation to the Radical Independence Movement in Congress Poland, 1914–1918], Warszawa, 2010, Wydawnictwo DiG, 291 pp., bibliog., index of persons, German sum.

Jerzy Gaul's book is the first attempt in Polish historiography at a complete presentation of the activities of German intelligence services in Congress

Poland during the period of World War I – in relation to Polish society as a whole and in particular in relation to political organisations striving for Polish independence, the *Polska Organizacja Wojskowa* (Polish Military Organisation, POW) and to Józef Piłsudski. Therefore, this is indirectly a book about the relations of the authorities of the German Empire to the so-called ‘Polish question’. However, as the author shows, it is rather difficult to talk of a coherent and long-term German policy – for this was the product of the changing military situation as well as the influences of various conflicting centres of influence.

The book has been written on the basis of extensive research. The author has made use of archive resources assembled at the Bundesarchiv (Deutsches Reich in Berlin, and the Militärarchiv in Freiburg), Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv in Vienna, at the Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych (Central Archives of Historical Records), the Archiwum Akt Nowych (Central Archives of Modern Records), the Archiwum Polskiej Akademii Nauk (Archives of the Polish Academy of Sciences), and the Centralne Archiwum Wojskowe (Central Military Archives) in Warsaw, as well as from the personal archive of one of the heads of German intelligence taken by the NKVD (along with its owner) in 1945 and preserved at the Central Archive of the Federal Security Service in Moscow.

The fundamental core of the book are four chapters arranged chronologically. The first of these covers the period from the outbreak of the war to the taking of Warsaw by the Germans (August 1915) and the establishment by them of their own administration for the occupied territories. The second chapter – up until the creation of the Kingdom of Poland in November 1916. Chapter three – until the arrest of Piłsudski in July 1917, while the fourth goes up until the end of the war, the disbanding of the German administration and the departure of the governor, Hans von Beseler.

The author pays especial attention to charting the evolution of German relations to Polish military formations – Piłsudski’s legions as well as Polish sabotage behind the Russian front and the attempt to organise a Polish army under direct German authority from 1916 to 1917; this being in the face of the worsening military situation for the Central Powers and the dramatic loss of manpower. One of the most valuable aspects of the book is the tracing of the divisions within German administration in the light of its relations with the Legions and POW as well as – at times most effective – its attempts to influence Polish public opinion. Nevertheless the author’s basic findings confirm the already long known – and fairly obvious – fact that the turning point in German military attempts for Polish cooperation was the so-called ‘oath crisis’, when Polish public opinion decisively and permanently returned in its support for the Entente. (AK)

Andrzej Szczerski, *Modernizacja. Sztuka i architektura w nowych państwach Europy Środkowo-Wschodniej 1918–1939* [Modernisations: Art and Architecture in the New States of Central and Eastern Europe 1918 to 1939], Łódź, 2010, Muzeum Sztuki w Łodzi, 508 pp., ill., indexes, English sum.

The subject of the book is ‘modernising projects’. In the various chapters are described the changes, attitudes and works which have been taken by the author as representative for the spreading of ideas of modernity within East-Central Europe. The creation, following World War I, of new states in the region constituted a catalyst for new cultural phenomena. The first chapter deals with the activities of several artistic groups in post-revolutionary Hungary as well as in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (SHS). An environment involved in propagating the new social order concentrated itself around the authorities of the Soviet Republic of Hungary, chiefly those of the Marxist philosopher and literary critic, the commissar for education, György Lukács. Szczerski describes their activities using, as an example, the preparations for the celebration of May Day in 1919 in Budapest. The author continues his reflections on politically and socially involved art on the part of Yugoslav avant-garde artists who, from 1921 to 1926 issued the periodical *Zenit*. Here was propagated the idea of the new man – Balkan ‘barbarian’, who was to bring the symbolic revival of Western European civilisation. The group’s activities concentrated around *Zenit*, which, although only a marginal phenomenon in the art of the new state, was to become part of the broader debate centring on the place of the Kingdom of SHS in Europe. The social-cultural changes connected with the creation of two towns – Zlín in Czechoslovakia and Gdynia in Poland, are discussed in the second chapter. Although both undertakings were linked to the rapid development of industry: in Zlín the shoe factories of the ‘Bata’ corporation, and in Gdynia with the port facilities, they constitute autonomous and incomparable phenomena. The last part of the book is devoted to the modernist architecture of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, whose significance for the shaping of these modern states has hitherto not been discussed in Polish literature. The state-forming and nation-forming significance of architecture in the Baltic states during the 1930s is compared by the author with several examples of modernism in Czechoslovakia, Romania and Poland. These he treats as key from the development viewpoint of the individual countries.

The work is based on an analysis of iconographic materials and selected press articles. Its findings have been also presented at an exhibition entitled ‘Modernisation 1918–1939. Future Perfect’, which was opened in March 2010 at the Museum of Art ms2 in Lodz. The exhibition curator was Andrzej Szczerski, the work’s author. (OL)

Stanisław Gieysztor, *Moja Warszawa* [My Warsaw], ed. Aleksandra Sołtan-Lipska, Warszawa, 2010, Muzeum Historyczne m.st. Warszawy, 796 pp., ill., index, annex, series: Biblioteka Warszawska

Since 2005 within the series Biblioteka Warszawska [Warsaw Library] have appeared studies and source publications on the history of the capital of Poland. A part of them have a biographical character. Most recently (2011) have been published the letters of the writer Maria Komornicka, earlier the diaries of the acting mayor of Warsaw Sokrat Starynkevich (2005), and the memoirs of Krystyna Machlejd (2006) which constitute an interesting source for research into the lives of Warsaw's elite connected with the Lutheran Church at the end of the nineteenth century and first half of the twentieth century. Stanisław Gieysztor's recollections of Warsaw deal with a similar period. The author, born in 1883, completed hydraulic engineering studies at Lwów Polytechnic. He was involved in publishing, journalism and politics. For years he was active in various political and independence organisations (the National League, the Bartosz Paramilitary Squads, Government Delegation for Poland). The first part of the book covers childhood spent on an estate in Podlasie, at his grandparents' house in Warsaw and in the various Warsaw flats of his mother. The text, dated 1949, alternates between recollections written from the perspective of a child, a novelistic family saga and a historical tale. During his education at the Russian secondary school described in the chapter 'School times', Gieysztor's views and social-political outlook were formed, ones connected with the national-democratic movement. Before the 1905 Revolution the author operated within a youth conspiratorial organisation subordinated to National Democracy. In the third part the reader can also find a description of ways of spending free time in Warsaw at the turn of the twentieth century. Equally interesting source material may be found in another part written most probably at the beginning of the 1950s. The courtyards, streets and squares that demarcate the centre of the world described are a Warsaw enclosed in a district of streets between Marszałkowska Street and Trakt Królewski (The Royal Way). This world bordered the Jewish district (described in a separate chapter), whose inhabitants and their inflow to the modern Warsaw aroused anxiety and reluctance in Gieysztor.

The author bequeathed the memoirs to the historian Aleksander Gieysztor, a distant relative. After his death (1999) the manuscript was included into the collections of the National Library. The publication is supplemented by photographs from the Historical Museum of Warsaw. (OL)

Barbara Zbroja and Konrad Myślik, *Nieznany portret Krakowa* [Cracow – an Unknown Profile], Kraków, 2010, Wydawnictwo WAM, 320 pp., ill., index

The book is divided into almost ninety short chapters, each of which is a description of one place or object in Cracow during the first half of the twentieth century. The points, plotted on the map of the city from 1939, were located in various parts of Cracow – first and foremost in the Centre, Zwierzyniec, in Kazimierz and Podgórze. These are not Cracow's landmarks – those that draw in the masses of tourists. From the collections of the National Digital Archives and various Cracow institutions: the State Archive, the Museum of the History of Photography and the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków – the authors have selected photographs of institutions and places of day-to-day contact between various social groups: streets and squares, cafes and restaurants, hotels, markets and market halls, shops, public baths, stations, schools and parks. Photographs of events mentioned by the pre-war Cracow press, including the floods of 1926 and 1931, construction and renovation works, public celebrations are also described. The photographs were taken by photographers from the 'Światowid' agency, operating within the framework of *Ilustrowany Kurier Codzienny* [The Illustrated Daily Courier], a part of Marian Dąbrowski's press corporation. The descriptions were based on materials from the archives of the State Archive in Cracow. These are chiefly Architecture and Planning Portfolios and press publications (*Ilustrowany Kurier Codzienny, Czas, Nowy Dziennik, Architekt*). (OL)

Krzysztof Marcin Zalewski, *Naród, religia, rasa. Muzułmańskie ideologie i ruchy narodowe pogranicza w Południowo-Wschodniej Europie: przykład Sandżaka nowopazarskiego w XX wieku* [Nation, Religion, Race. Muslim Ideologies and Borderland National Movements in South Eastern Europe: the Example of the Ottoman Sandżak of Novi Pazar in the Twentieth Century], Wydawnictwo TRIO, Warszawa 2010, 263 pp., series: W Krainie PRL

The book is a historical and sociological analysis of the complicated fates befalling the small Muslim community residing in Sandżak, a region lying on the borderland of Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is a work about – as the author emphasises – the creation of national Bosnian consciousness, of a Slavic speaking Muslim society. The author places this process within the complicated picture of the changes that occurred in Yugoslavia up until the moment of its collapse as well as afterwards during

the melting pot that was the civil war between the nation states that had formerly comprised the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The transfer from 'a Muslim nation' to 'Bosnian' identity, strengthened by the creation of the language 'afresh', is a change that should cement the new direction for this small community.

The work comprises three parts. In the first is described the history of the creation of Sandžak from the times of the Ottoman Empire to the establishment of communist Yugoslavia with considerations for the complicated political-religious structures affecting this small community. In the second part is an analysis of the changes that occurred under the influence of the ethnic policy in force in the Yugoslav Federation, right up until the moment of recognising 'the Slavic speaking Muslims' as a separate nation from the Serbs inhabiting the same areas. In the final part one comes across a most interesting analysis of the reconstruction of the identity of Serbian and Montenegrin Muslims into a Bosnian national minority. (DB)

Jacek Leociak, *Doświadczenia graniczne: studia o dwudziestowiecznych formach reprezentacji* [Liminal Experiences: Studies into Twentieth-century Forms of Representation], Warszawa, 2009, Instytut Badań Literackich PAN, Fundacja Akademia Humanistyczna, 399 pp., ill., index

The book explores liminal experiences, which in the twentieth century – as a result of two world wars – involved millions of people. Liminal experiences, i.e. those final or extreme ones, are linked to a sense of threat and the experiencing of trauma. Involvement in them brings with it change, increased knowledge about oneself, one's own possibilities and limitations. The author compares these experiences to a contact with *sacrum* and draws attention to the ambivalence accompanying them. The sources of extreme experiences – the meeting of man with death and the macabre – in the same way as the experience of otherness simultaneously induce fear and fascination.

Leociak makes use of the notes and images of both individual and group experiences. In the first part of the book he analyses the urban expanse of Warsaw, depicted through the prism of its inhabitants' war experiences. September 1939 is presented via the recording of two positions – 'the romantic heroism' of the mayor of Warsaw, Stefan Starzyński and 'the ironic criticism' of Karol Irzykowski, a writer and literary critic. Biographical accounts are the basis for the part describing the divided city, seen from the perspective of a passenger of an 'Aryan' tram running through the ghetto. The second chapter entitled 'Bombardment' is an analysis of notes on the destruction of various cities in the course of both world wars. The author also recalls the accounts

of the victims as well as of the perpetrators. In the part devoted to corporality as well as death motifs, fear of death and suffering, chiefly images have been interpreted – photographs of wounded First World War soldiers and ones from the Lodz and Warsaw ghettos. The iconography and text are sources for an analysis of extreme experience – ‘meeting a corpse’. In this chapter the author discusses the rituals connected with death, contact with the deceased in various cultural contexts (autopsy, war trenches, camps and ghettos).

The starting point for the work’s considerations is the assumption that liminal experience – discussed particularly in Holocaust literature – may be described and interpreted. Leociak uses various sources – chiefly photographs and biographical materials – through which he attempts to understand the reality researched, and not to reconstruct and explain facts. The book is a truly valuable interdisciplinary study. (OL)

Jacek Leociak, *Ratowanie: opowieści Polaków i Żydów* [Rescue: The Tales of Poles and Jews], Warszawa, 2010, Wydawnictwo Literackie, 314 pp., ill.

Poles’ relations toward Jews during World War II – chiefly as a result of the books of Jan Tomasz Gross, Barbara Engelking-Boni and Jan Grabowski – have become one of the most important topics of public debate in Poland over the last few years. Thanks to these publications and owing to a number of social changes, the argumentation and level of comment differs significantly from that accompanying the discussions at the beginnings of the 1990s. However, the debate still ‘ignores the real significance of facts and passes over sources’, claims Jacek Leociak. At the same time the attitudes to providing Jews with help – as the author writes further on – in the light of the accounts of event participants are often very difficult to unequivocally evaluate. Consequently Leociak’s book appears all the more valuable and – even if it does not generate such heated discussion as was the case with the above mentioned authors – certainly worth reading.

The work makes use of accounts from the archives of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw (the accounts of victims and eye-witnesses from 1945 to 1967) as well as the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education in Los Angeles (the accounts of witnesses or those saved recorded after 1994 for the Institute). Through an exhaustive use of sources, the author describes the attitudes, motivations, strategies for providing help and the way in which these attempts were presented. In the first part the reader is acquainted with the argumentation underlying the giving of help, serving to substantiate requests for financial support. Leociak also analyses the popular image of a Jew, one present in the

majority of the accounts used. Three types of narrative characteristic for the Polish intelligentsia are presented on the basis of several interviews given the Shoah Foundation in Los Angeles: objectivising individual attempts, 'professional' style; the 'story-telling' narrative, having its roots in gentry tales, associating itself with the traditions of the Commonwealth of many nations, as well as the 'novelistic' type, creating reality on a literary model. Further chapters in the book deal with a detailed analysis of several cases – of key motifs, attitudes as well as the stories covering these same events, recalled from the perspective of various people and their individual experiences. (OL)

Marek Radziwon, *Iwaszkiewicz. Pisarz po katastrofie* [Iwaszkiewicz: A Writer after Catastrophe], Warszawa, 2010, Wydawnictwo WAB, 578 pp., bibliog., indexes, tables, series: Fortuna i Fatum

The book is a political biography of Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz (1894–1980), the eminent poet and prose writer. The writer's rich and varied literary output is only peripherally treated, and his private life almost completely passed over. Attention is placed on his political choices. Radziwon examines them in the context of the catastrophe of the title; namely, that as a result of the First World War and the Bolshevik Revolution Iwaszkiewicz was forced to leave the Ukraine. He was to feel attached to the eastern borderland region for the whole of his life, he saw in it a private paradise lost. His later life, particularly after World War II, was subordinated to his desire for stabilisation. He did not want to lose the professional and material position he had achieved prior to 1939 (for several years he worked in diplomacy and had become the owner of a villa outside Warsaw surrounded by a large garden). In the period of communist Poland, he was for many years the head of the Polish Writers' Union, a monopolist professional organisation. Under Stalinism and later, he performed an important role in the international (i.e. communist) movement of defenders of peace, but there are extremely rare concessions within his writing to the demands of socialist realism. He was also not a member of the communist party; he liked to present himself as a member of the apolitical, supranational 'republic of poets'. Nonetheless he sanctioned and endorsed with his person the cultural policy of communists, allowing himself to be used in provisional propaganda campaigns. In a period of heightened tension and conflict between literary circles and the authorities he avoided taking a clear position on matters. That said on several occasions he intervened at the highest state and party levels in the defence of persecuted and endangered literary colleagues. He did not, however, ever make a clear gesture of support for the opposition within which his writing colleagues were active. On the

pages of the periodicals he ran (particularly *Twórczość*), he promoted ambitious Western European literature and published eminent works by Polish writers. The paradoxical profile of Iwaszkiewicz, one full of contradictions, has been sketched with an expert knowledge of the epoch and a fair amount of empathy for the protagonist's ideological choices. Radziwon does not justify all of his decisions but sensibly avoids passing final judgement on the writer's attitude. He raises many questions not providing them with answers. (BK)

Władysław Bartoszewski, *Życie trudne lecz nie nudne. Ze wspomnień Polaka w XX w.* [Life Difficult but not Boring. From a Pole's Recollections of the Twentieth Century], interviews conducted by Andrzej Friszke, Kraków, 2010, Znak, 571 pp.

The book reveals the richness of the spiritual and intellectual experience of the Polish intelligentsia in the twentieth century. Władysław Bartoszewski (born 1922) is not merely a witness but an important participant in the key moments of Poland's political history. He was a prisoner of the Auschwitz concentration camp (1940–1), subsequently working in the structures of the Polish underground state, organising help for Jews in hiding from persecution (for which he received the medal Righteous among the Nations). After the war he was active in the Polish Peasants' Party, which the communists tried to eliminate. He was imprisoned several times (1946–8 and 1949–54). He has published numerous works on the history of the Second World War. He secretly cooperated with Radio Free Europe and the émigré monthly *Kultura*, published in Paris, supplying the manuscripts of books and articles to the West. From 1976 he was to take part in all the initiatives of the democratic opposition, he was interned under martial law (1981/2). After 1989 he was a diplomat and minister of foreign affairs. In his memories from this long life journey he describes the ideological motifs for his civic involvement, revealing the details of many opposition undertakings. He recalls a large number of people with whom he has had dealings – politicians of the Second Polish Republic, underground activists from the Second World War period, leading writers and intellectuals both Polish and foreign, including Jan Józef Lipski. (BK)

Jan Józef Lipski, *Dziennik 1954–1957* [Diary 1954–1957], ed. Łukasz Garbał, foreword by Andrzej Friszke, Warszawa, 2010, Więź, Instytut Dokumentacji i Studiów nad Literaturą Polską. Oddział Muzeum Literatury im. Adama Mickiewicza, Towarzystwo “Więź”, 325 pp.

Lipski's diary from the period of 'the thaw' discloses previously unknown aspects of the political changes of October 1956, the most important breakthrough in the history of the Polish People's Republic. Jan Józef Lipski (1926–91), who took part in the Warsaw Uprising (1944), was a literary scholar. Linked to the socialist movement he lasted during the period of Stalinism in the form of spiritual opposition to totalitarianism. In 1956, as his diary entries show, he belonged to the leading figures of the reform orientated circle of the weekly *Po prostu*. During the course of the numerous behind-the-scenes political activities described in the book (talks with high ranking representatives of PZPR [Polish United Workers' Party], meetings at intelligentsia clubs, etc.) he attempted to bring to fruition the registration of an independent list of candidates for election to the *Sejm* (the parliamentary election fell on 20 January 1957). The new grouping in power with Władysław Gomułka at its head, enjoyed such popular social support that they did not need to go along the route of compromise with groups of dissatisfied radical young intellectuals. Consequently, in the election deputies were selected from a single list of candidates imposed on the electorate by PZPR. The defeat in the electoral demands of the *Po prostu* grouping was interpreted by Lipski as the end of both the period of political thaw and de-Stalinisation. (BK)

Andrzej Walicki, *Idee i ludzie. Próba autobiografii* [Ideas and People: An Attempt at Autobiography], Warszawa, 2010, Instytut Historii Nauki PAN, Oficyna Wydawnicza ASPRA-JR, 463 pp., photos, tables, index, sum. in English and Russian, series: *Fontes Rerum ad Historiam Scientiae Spectantium* (Series Recentior), 19

The author, born in 1930, is an eminent representative of the so-called Warsaw school of the history of ideas, an expert on Russian philosophy (particularly *narodnichestvo* and slavophilism). For many years he lectured at foreign universities. He concentrates in his discursive, polemical autobiography chiefly on a presentation of his academic path, though he also uncovers the inside story of his private life. Walicki, having studied at Warsaw University from 1949 to 1953, attempted to maintain spiritual independence. He practised the *Ketman* described by Czesław Miłosz in *The Captive Mind*,

i.e. the hiding in official and public situations of his anti-communist convictions and pretending to be involved in the building of the new system. The young philosopher experienced from the Association of Polish Youth acute ideological pressure. At the time he was bothered by doubts as to whether Stalinism did not in fact represent a certain truth, if not moral, then at least historical. The recollection of this destructive force of Stalinist 'ideaocracy' was to determine his future intellectual choices and was to influence his evaluation of communist Poland as a whole. Walicki admitted that in Poland post 1956 there was a process of detotalitarianisation. He attempted to utilise the effects of the 'thaw'. He was of the view that Poles, in developing the enclaves of intellectual and academic freedom that October 1956 had given them, would contribute to the weakening of the ruling socialist ideology. This is why Walicki criticises the activities of the democratic opposition (he rejects the conviction in force in opposition circles that considers the Polish People's Republic [PRL] to be a state with totalitarian features) as equally the 'Solidarność' Trade Union. He noticed in the trade union movement anti-communist fundamentalism, an aversion to pluralism, and intolerance. The author maintained the position that the most desirable would have been the support of a gradual, evolutionary liberalisation of the PRL system. He is to this day of the view that freedom and democratisation in the political sphere as postulated by the opposition cannot be identified with the freedom as such which he has striven for. He consequently criticises the tactics of the opposition, which has utilised moral pressure, he expresses condemnation for its moves, ones irritating the authorities and inducing them to unnecessary repression. Walicki bravely asks questions about the reasonableness of the romantic attitudes that dominated during the period of the most turbulent political changes (1976–81 and later). He himself is inclined toward the idea of positivist labour. He is also a huge advocate of Polish cooperation with modern-day Russia. He values very highly Russian culture considering it to be one of the currents of West European culture, something that differentiates him from a significant part of the political elite that emerged from the transformation of 1989. (BK)

Andrzej Friszke, *Anatomia buntu. Kuroń, Modzelewski i komandosi* [The Mechanics of Revolt. Kuroń, Modzelewski and the Commandos], Kraków, 2010, Znak, 912 pp., tables, ill.

The book depicts the activities (up until 1968) of two leading opposition figures of the 1960s – Jacek Kuroń and Karol Modzelewski. The family inspired leftwing traditions meant that both joined the communist movement early on in life and were especially active in 1956 within the revolutionary critical current of the October 'thaw'. From 1958, Kuroń was to realise his own

radical leftwing educational concepts within the General Karol Świerczewski 'Walter' Scout Troop he organised (his subordinates were later some of the 'commandos'). Kuroń's dissatisfaction with the internal situation of the communist Poland – the condition of citizen freedoms and economic matters – were to find expression in 'An open letter to the party' (1965), written in conjunction with Modzelewski. For this proclamation, rightly considered by PZPR (The Polish United Workers' Party) as an opposition ideological platform, both activists were first excluded from PZPR and then sentenced to three years imprisonment. The 'commandos' circle, with Adam Michnik at the head, basing themselves on, among other things, the ideological output of Kuroń and Modzelewski, continued in their criticism of the system. At meetings of the Association of Socialist Youth they attempted to gain the support of Warsaw University students. In 1968, during a mass action of repression by the security service, the most active 'commandos' were arrested (including once again Kuroń and Modzelewski) and charged with inciting the youth protests and strikes that had taken place at Polish universities in the spring of 1968. Andrzej Friszke has made use of the extensive police materials (investigation files and records, surveillance materials, i.e. information from secret informers cooperating with the authorities, the minutes from interrogations, etc.). He has recreated in an amazingly detailed and broad fashion the environment that shaped the opposition: he presents the ideological debates, the group ethos as well as the biographical-social bonds that linked the group members. A lot of space has been devoted to the individual strategies for resistance that were employed by those arrested both during investigations and before the court itself. This impressive book is an example of the thoughtful and skilled use of police files and records containing 'sensitive details' for research into individual attitudes in relation to PRL. (BK)

Debata robotników z Gierkiem. Szczecin 1971 [The Workers' Debate with Gierek. Szczecin 1971], ed. Michał Paziewski, Warszawa, 2010, Towarzystwo "Więź", 326 pp., tables, ills.

A symbolic event beginning the rule of the new grouping of Edward Gierek, the First Secretary of PZPR [Polish United Workers' Party], was the meeting of the party-government leadership on 24/25 January 1971 with the Strike Committee of the Szczecin Shipyards. A strike of occupation had broken out on 22 January after the press had given false news that the shipyard workers, in an act of support for Gierek, would be going to work on the Sunday. Other plants within the Szczecin agglomeration joined the shipbuilders. The meeting with the strikers took place on the initiative of party leaders: Gierek, Prime Minister Piotr Jaroszewicz, Minister for Defence Wojciech Jaruzelski and Minister of Internal Affairs Franciszek Szlachcic. It was possible to diffuse the

tension in the city, while the strikers noted a prestigious success – for this was the first time in the Eastern Bloc that the leaders of a ruling party had met with protesting workers and talked to them on their conditions – publically, openly, and on a subject of matters important for them. The transcript of the many hours of nocturnal discussion has been reconstructed from the original recordings, then supplemented with detailed notations, and confronted with the accounts of the 19 living members of the Strike Committee, with Edmund Bałuka at the head. This stenographic record, compiled by Michał Paziewski, is an exemplary source edition. (BK)

Dokumenty władz NSZZ “Solidarność” 1982–1989 [Documents of the Authorities of the ‘Solidarność’ Trade Union 1982–1989], introduction, selection and edition by Jan Ołaszek, Warszawa 2010, 345 pp., Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni Przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, series: Archiwum Solidarności – Dokumenty, 47

This collection of documents contains 164 of the most important enunciations of ‘Solidarność’, forced, by the declaration of martial law on 13 December 1981, to embark on underground activity. The book contains documents issued by its organs: the Temporary Coordinating Committee (TKK), the Temporary Council (TRS), the National Executive Committee (KKW) as well as by the leader of ‘Solidarność’ Lech Wałęsa (annotated with biographic entries and explanations). These bodies within the circles of intellectuals, workers and the activists of the illegal structures of ‘Solidarność’ as well as of those of other underground groupings were considered not only as the leadership of the trade union movement but also of Polish society as such. Their communiqués, announced on the pages of ‘second circulation’ press and the airwaves of Radio Free Europe, contained a project for an independent citizen society. TKK, TRS and KKW made their opinions known on matters of economic reform and workers’ rights, political repression, international affairs. They demanded a democratisation of all aspects of life, pronounced moral judgements on the subject of the authorities’ decisions. They defined the horizons of political aspirations for the moderate current of the anti-communist opposition. The proclamations outlined the conditions for dialogue with the authorities – demanding the end of martial law, the freeing of political prisoners and the ceasing of repressions against the activists of independent citizen associations and trade unions. Numerous individuals involved in the activities of TKK, TRS and KKW of this period were to represent ‘Solidarność’ during the Round Table negotiations in 1989, and were to participate in the transformation of the political system. (BK)

Włodzimierz Borodziej and Jerzy Kochanowski (eds.), *Bocznymi drogami. Nieoficjalne kontakty społeczeństw socjalistycznych 1956–1989* [Via the Back Lanes: Unofficial Contacts of Socialist Societies 1956–1989], Warszawa, 2010, Wydawnictwo Trio, 314 pp., ill., indexes, series: W Krainie PRL

The volume, containing ten articles by young historians from Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Germany, is the effect of a joint research project on the subject of mass tourism, illegal trade and independent cultural transfer between the inhabitants of socialist countries. Post 1956 the total control of citizens was already impossible. There arose routes for the exchange of goods and ideas that were independent of the authorities. The deep-rooted political and economic differences between the countries of the Eastern Bloc meant that contacts of this type became reasonable and rational. Tourism, to which five texts are devoted, was consequently in no way a symptom of prosperity but a form of economic activity directed chiefly at trade. Poles were noticeably numerous and active in this area. With the exception of the years 1980–3 when cross border contacts were curbed (the period of ‘Solidarność’ and martial law) they enjoyed the greatest degree of freedom to travel within the borders of the Eastern Bloc. They were also the most motivated to engage in ‘trade tourism’ – communist Poland was wrestling with an acute economic crisis. Polish tourists drained, consequently, the markets of neighbouring countries, particularly the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia. In 1989 this contributed to a certain degree to the political destabilisation of these countries. Towards the end of the 1980s Polish tourists were even active on the Black Sea, operating on the trade route connecting the Middle East via Turkey with the USSR. Skilful manipulation of the differences both in currency exchange rates and prices was, for certain enterprising individuals, an opportunity for huge financial rewards. These undertakings entered into for purely economic reasons did not result in social contacts or a bringing closer of the various societies, they did not at all reflect themselves in cultural exchange. Only one article depicts such unofficial cultural contacts. Namely, Poland post 1956 was the only place in which independent private artistic galleries could be set up. It was in these very galleries that artists from Czechoslovakia and Hungary, those ill disposed towards the conventions of socialist realism, ones denied access to public exhibition space and marginalised in their own countries, were able to exhibit their works. (BK)

Błażej Brzostek, *PRL na widelcu* [PRL on a Fork], Warsaw, 2010, Wydawnictwo Baobab, 372 pp., ill., photos

This lavishly illustrated and carefully and attractively produced book describes the most important features of Poland's culinary culture during the years 1945–89. The constant increase in consumption and its simultaneous poor quality – on the one hand, and on the other the nationalisation of restaurants and other eating establishments during the period of the ‘battle for trade’ in the second half of the 1940s and the rapid forced industrialisation under Stalinism resulted in far-reaching changes in the nutritional habits of Poles. The buying of meat, particularly of a better quality, always caused problems for the individual consumer. In the 1960s an element of official economic policy was the propagating of a vegetarian diet, discouraging meat consumption and popularising margarine over the butter in short supply. In 1950 working class families spent 70 per cent of their income on food. Even though this was to successively fall, in the period of the crisis of 1980 it was to again have risen to 50 per cent (here again the rationing of food was reintroduced). The home cooking of an average Pole was fatty, based on dishes made from flour and potatoes, with a sizeable input of bread, in general of poor quality and baked in nationalised bakeries. The noble tradition of fine and sophisticated dining had disappeared. In the first part of the book the author, with an anthropological approach, rare amongst historians dealing with contemporary history, discusses what was eaten and drunk. In the second part he describes how Poles ate their meals – in general not at set times, most often at home, but also collectively (e.g., at work canteens, cheap cafeterias). The final part of the book has been devoted to places of mass consumption – bars, buffets, works canteens and inns. During Stalinist period these were the only institutions that could be officially criticised. (BK)

Dariusz Jarosz, *Mieszkanie się należy... Studium z peerelowskich praktyk społecznych* [A Flat Is to Be Given: A Study of Social Practices under PRL], Warszawa, 2010, Oficyna Wydawnicza ASPRA-JR, 387 pp., bibliog.

This is a study into the housing policy of the Polish People's Republic combined with a presentation of the routes leading to the urban settlement of Poles over the period 1945–89. The chronic lack of accommodation constituted the most important daily problem of this period. Immediately after the war 43 per cent of the housing stock was either destroyed or damaged. For the years 1944–56 accommodation was treated within economic policy as a welfare benefit and was allocated by the local administration on the

basis of the regulations on public management of real estate; council housing developed. Housing needs were treated as consumer needs. State building programmes only served the needs of workers from the priority branches of heavy industry. In 1956 the development of cooperative housing association building was supported; there was a noted limitation in council housing. At the same time cost-saving norms were imposed on the construction industry. After 1970, with the post-war population boom having reached adulthood, housing was advanced to the status of economic priority; it had ceased to be treated as a burden to the state budget and was now considered a stimulus for economic growth as well as a significant element in the legitimisation of the system. Cooperative housing associations right up until 1980 had to satisfy not only the needs of their members but also the organs of local administration. How did Poles obtain flats? The legal route represented many years of waiting, which resulted in a choice of unconventional approaches, not overly legal in nature. Jarosz shows the positive correlation between employment in certain branches of the economy, participation in authority (even at local level), Party membership and the chance of obtaining a flat. Paradoxically income level did not differentiate people in relation to access to this most sought after commodity. Jarosz illustrates how the socialist macrostructural order (equality and social justice) attempted to regulate the procedure for flat allocation. It was to lose out, however, to the microstructure (informal contacts and associations, often of a corruptive or even criminal character). (BK)