

SHORT NOTES

Acta Poloniae Historica
101, 2010
PL ISSN 0001-6892

GENERAL WORKS*

Stanisław Rosik and Przemysław Wiszewski (eds.), *Cor Hominis. Wielkie namiętności w dziejach, źródłach i studiach nad przeszłością* [Cor hominis: Passions in the History, Historical Sources and the Studies of the Past], Wrocław, 2007, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, 504 p., sum. in English, series: Acta Universitatis Wratislaviensis, Historia, 176

This extensive volume presents studies on sublime and prosaic emotions in historiography, belles letters, diaries, religious literature, in hagiography and biographies of historical figures, in sacred architecture, decorative art, and objects of material culture. The book includes texts by 34 authors who discuss various epochs, from the pre-Christian era to the 19th century. Most studies refer to the Polish past and historical sources, though references are also made to those of France, Scandinavia, and Bohemia. The questions analysed by the authors can be divided into the following groups: 1. the emotions and motivations ascribed by historians to their protagonists, especially in negatively assessed situations (e.g. betrayal, the enemies of Poland); 2. emotions which the historians themselves reveal in their narrations; 3. moralistic literature – leaflets, political treatises, etc. 4. love – its visual symbols in material culture, its literary presentations and finally love and matrimonial troubles; 5. religious Christian and pagan feelings in medieval hagiography, historiography, diplomas and charters, and modern emotions in research on Slavic polytheism; 6. ambiguity and multiplicity of emotions analysed on the examples of patriotic and other feelings, for instance, love of Poland in the literature of the Stanislas Augustus period, emotions of medieval knights, the patriotism of Polish clergy in 19th century Germany, etc. (AK)

* Authors of short notes: Jacek Adamczyk (JA), Wojciech Brojer (WB), Dorota Dukwicz (DD), Krzysztof Kosiński (KK), Adam Kożuchowski (AK), Olga Linkiewicz (OL).

Andrzej Rachuba, Jūratė Kiaupienė and Zigmantas Kiaupa, *Historia Litwy. Dwugłos polsko-litewski* [A History of Lithuania: A Polish-Lithuanian Duet], Warszawa, 2008, Wydawnictwo DiG, 388 p., ill., maps

The book consists of two studies: one by Andrzej Rachuba and another, slightly shorter, by the Kiaupa couple. The publisher Sławomir Górzynski, who proposed the idea, and the authors wanted the book to be a specific discussion on the most important events and controversial issues from Lithuania's history. The authors of the two parts produced their own presentations of Lithuania's history. Stress is placed differently, so the two parts are not parallel. Each presentation covers the whole of Lithuania's history, dividing it into several periods: pagan times, the period up to the Union of Lublin, the period when Lithuania was part of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the partitions, the regaining of independence in 1918, and recent times. Rachuba devotes most space to the early period of Lithuania's links with Poland, up to the Union of Lublin. The greatest difference can be noticed in the presentation of Lithuania's history during World War II and the post-war period. Rachuba gives a shortened version of that period, discussing it on but a few pages. The Lithuanian authors have devoted to it the largest part (38 pages) of their presentation. Colour photographs of important Lithuanian artefacts occupy over 100 pages. (DD)

Jerzy Kłoczowski, *Polska prowincja dominikańska w średniowieczu i Rzeczypospolitej Obojga (Wielu) Narodów* [The Polish Dominican Province in the Middle Ages and in the Commonwealth of the Two (Many) Nations], Poznań, 2008, Wydawnictwo Polskiej Prowincji Dominikanów 'W drodze', 493 + 25 p., 24 ill., 14 maps, 4 diagrams, 28 tables, indexes, contents also in English and French, series: *Studia nad historią dominikanów w Polsce*, 5

This is a collection of Kłoczowski's articles, some of which have been published earlier while others are new. The book deals mainly (p. 15–326) with the Middle Ages. The author draws attention to the Dominicans' specific activity in Poland and Central Eastern Europe and to the dynamic growth of mendicant monasteries in Central Eastern Europe, whose number soared from 250 at the end of the 13th century to 500 at the end of the 15th. He also stresses the Dominicans' missionary work on the border of the 'Latin' world (Ruthenian territories, Lithuania). Thanks to its preaching work, the order played an important role in Poland, instilling religiosity in the whole of society. It achieved this thanks to good co-operation with bishops and to

its contacts with people living near the monasteries (in monastery districts). Kłoczowski devotes much space (p. 233–326) to Dominican schools, especially to the many years of work contributed by two provincials: Jakub of Bydgoszcz (1447–78) and Albert of Siecień (1478–1502). He points out that thanks to these two men, the Polish Dominican province had a relatively high intellectual level and discipline until the eve of the Reformation. The author has devoted separate studies to the monasteries which in the 14th century found themselves outside the revived Polish Kingdom, especially to their role in maintaining the Polish language in Lower Silesia (up to the 14th century), Upper Silesia (to the 19th century) and Pomerania (to the Reformation). He draws attention to the analogy between the constitutional structure of the Dominican order (a meeting of representatives on the level of the province and of the whole order) and the oldest institutions of Polish parliamentarianism, implying that they could have been modelled on the order's institutions. The remaining part of the book, dealing with the 16th–18th centuries, concerns the Polish province and the Ruthenian and Lithuanian provinces set up in the 16th century. The author points out that the rapid rise in the number of monasteries, especially in the 17th century, created the problem of their economic existence, and of the friars' education and discipline. Another characteristic of that period was the gradual restriction of the autonomy of the provinces by the central authorities of the order. (JA)

Cezary Kuklo (ed.), *Rodzina i gospodarstwo domowe na ziemiach polskich w XV – XX wieku. Struktury demograficzne, społeczne i gospodarcze* [The Family and Household in Polish Territories from the 15th to the 20th Century: Demographic, Social and Economic Structures], Warszawa, 2008, Wydawnictwo DiG, 572 p.

The volume contains selected papers by 35 authors presented at a conference held in 2006 at the Department of Socio-Economic History, Historical Demography and Statistics of the Institute of History of the University of Białystok. Most articles concern the early modern period (16th–18th centuries), but several deal with the 19th century and one text concerns the First World War. The authors discuss such questions as matrimonial strategies, family education, inheritance systems, illegitimate children, patterns of attitudes and behaviour (for the family as a whole and for women), the specific characteristics of aristocratic, military and peasant families, and the families of Uniate clergymen. Particularly interesting are the studies on the influence of aristocratic families (in the context of individual careers), on middle-class families of small towns (which have not yet received adequate attention), on the position of domestic servants, the Uniate parish priests, widows, and

the demographic and financial structure of rural families. What makes the book so valuable is the fact that though it discusses most diverse subjects over a long period of time, taking into account practically all Polish lands and all social groups and frequently referring to other countries (especially France, but also Spain), it is extremely cohesive. Most papers are based on solid analytical methods and on the authors' full grasp of legal and economic factors in relations between family members and in the models of bringing up children and arranging marriages. (AK)

MIDDLE AGES

Jacek Banaszekiewicz, Jacek Maciejewski and Joanna Sobiesiak (eds.), *Persona, gestus habitusque, insignium. Zachowania i atrybuty jako wyznaczniki tożsamości społecznej jednostki w średniowieczu* [*Persona, gestus habitusque, insignium: Behaviour and Attributes as Signs of an Individual's Social Identity in the Middle Ages*], Lublin, 2009, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, 166 + 14 p., 13 ill.

This is a collection of studies most of which refer to the 'New Political History' in Gerd Althoff's interpretation. They focus on attributes, gestures and behaviour as signs of social position and social relations. The volume opens with an analysis of legal regulations on dress in the Theodosian Code, that is in the Roman world (Sebastian Ruciński) and in *leges barbarorum* in the Merovingian state. A comparison of these laws with narrative sources shows differences especially in the behaviour of slaves (Przemysław Tyszka). The 'royal gestures' of 11th century monarchs of the Piast and Premyslid dynasties are discussed by Andrzej Pleszczyński who stresses that as regards Boleslav the Brave and Mieszko II (up to 1031) it was important that the gestures were rooted in the Carolingian tradition. The diversity and evolution of the patterns of behaviour are analysed in studies presenting the ideal models of each estate. As regards rulers, the authors stress the importance of the Biblical picture of Christ's gestures and behaviour (Joanna Sobiesiak on St Wenceslas' last pre-death feast; Zbigniew Dalewski on the gesture of prostration). Mariusz Bartnicki points out that in the 13th century it was no longer a warrior- duke who was regarded as an ideal ruler in Galich Rus' but a just, merciful monarch; Bartnicki attributes this change to the political situation, the fact that supreme power in Galich Rus' was in the hands of the Mongols. The volume also includes an analysis of two models of a bishop: an ascetic and a magnate (Jacek Maciejewski), and an interpretation of the diversified incoherent group identity of students of Cracow

University (Krzysztof Boroda). The other studies present the heretics in Simon Grunau's *Preussische Chronik*, who – excluded from the eschatological drama of the Church – were accused of having caused Prussia's fall (Sławomir Zonenberg), and the sinful squire who in a miraculous way was forced by the blessed Dorothea of Montau to make a pilgrimage (Lech Łbik). The last part of the book contains studies on visual presentations, on the interpretation of the chess field (Robert Bubczyk) and on the oldest portraits in Silesia (beginning of the 16th century) showing human figures in a standing position (Aleksander Janowski). The book ends with Andrzej Dąbrówka's study on the role of *topoi* in medieval rhetorical education, in oratorical work and in writing. (JA)

Rafał Simiński, *Od 'solitudo' do 'terra culta'. Przestrzeń jako przedmiot wyobrażeń w Inflantach i Prusach od XIII do początku XV wieku* [From *solitudo* to *terra culta*: Space as an Imaginary Object in Livonia and Pruthenia from the 13th to the Beginning of the 15th Century], Toruń, 2008, Towarzystwo Naukowe w Toruniu, 272 p., 5 maps, sum. in English and German, series: Roczniki Towarzystwa Naukowego w Toruniu, xcii, 2

The author describes how the Germans, from the moment when they arrived in Livonia and Pruthenia to the late 14th and early 15th century, came to know the space in which they settled, organised and evaluated it. He emphasises that medieval people had different attitudes to space; they divided it into the 'external' world containing points subordinated to a hierarchy (Rome, the Holy Land, etc., surrounded by unknown hostile peoples), and their 'own' world with frequently undefined frontiers. To this was added the division into Christian and pagan lands, and a differentiation of geographical horizons which depended on affiliation to social groups which differed in their mobility (merchants, clergy, knights). When the Germans were conquering and settling those two territories they applied the patterns they had brought from Germany; as the settlement proceeded, the zonal borders were gradually replaced by linear boundary. The newcomers viewed the different areas they occupied (arable land, forests, rivers, the sea) according to the profits and dangers they could expect from developing economic activity there. At the same time they formed an idea about the position of their own country in relation to the neighbouring peoples and to Western Europe (a peripheral situation recorded in Livonian sources). (JA)

Rafał Eysymontt, *Kod genetyczny miasta. Średniowieczne miasto lokacyjne Dolnego Śląska na tle urbanistyki europejskiej* [The Genetic Code of a Town. The Medieval Towns Founded Under German Law of Lower Silesia Compared with Town-Planning in Europe], Wrocław and Marburg, 2009, Wydawnictwo 'VIA NOVA' and Herder-Institut, 751 p., 626 ills., sum. in German

The author depicts the history of towns and town planning in Lower Silesia. He emphasises the large scale of the foundation of towns, as a result of which some 500 places received municipal rights in Silesia between the 13th and the 15th century. Eysymontt discusses the history and town-planning of 78 towns. Silesian towns developed from two types of settlements: monarchic residences or (rarely) castellan centres as well as from local market villages. The construction of a church, an inn, a market place and economic privileges which promised a good income were additional factors promoting the foundation of towns. In Central Europe the characteristic of their plan was its repeatability (in the author's view that town-planning prototype were central German towns), but the line of town walls, the relationship of the market square to the rest of the town, and the disposition of the main streets depended on topographic conditions, the size of the town and the location of the main trade routes. In Silesia, most towns were founded by dukes; this was similar to the situation in south-western France, where the *bastides* were founded by English and French kings. (JA)

Roman Czaja, *Grupy rządzące w miastach nadbałtyckich w średniowieczu* [Ruling Groups in Baltic Towns in the Middle Ages], Toruń, 2008, Towarzystwo Naukowe w Toruniu, 140 + 4 p., 9 tables, indexes, sum. in German, series: Roczniki Towarzystwa Naukowego w Toruniu, xciii, 1

This is a study of the members of city councils (and their families) in towns on the southern coast of the Baltic from Lubeck to Reval (Tallin) in the period from the time when their system was finally formed (end of the 13th century) to the beginning of the 16th century. The author points out that since the higher authorities (monarchs or grand masters of Teutonic Knights) did not interfere in elections to the municipal government, it was the richest families (mainly merchants but also beer producers), interconnected by marriage and common interests, that held real power (in city councils and offices) in the 13th and 14th centuries. An additional factor which strengthened the urban elites' sense of identity was their participation in religious ceremonies and society life. The possibilities of joining the elites, which varied in the

13th and 14th centuries, depending on local conditions, increased in the whole region in a later period. Despite the fact that the members of the ruling group identified themselves with the elite, until the end of the 15th century no formal attempt was made to separate them from the wider community of merchants. (JA)

Urszula Sowina, *Woda i ludzie w mieście późnośredniowiecznym i wczesnonowożytnym. Ziemia polskie z Europą w tle* [Water and People in Late Medieval and Early Modern Town: Polish Lands with Europe in the Background], Warszawa, 2009, Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii PAN, 488 + 18 p., 79 ills., one map, indexes, sum. in English

The book deals with Polish towns from the end of the 14th to the first half of the 16th century. It discusses the organisational, technical, economic, social and legal questions which explain how water was gained, distributed and used. The author emphasises the importance of water for the economic development of towns; access to water not only determined transportation and food supply possibilities (water, fish, mills) but also made possible or prevented the development of some crafts, e.g. high quality cloth making. Optimal conditions in this respect existed in Wrocław which lay on many arms of the Oder and its underground waters were not far from the surface. Good quality water was supplied by wells which were placed near the houses of rich townsmen and beer production centres. According to the author they may have been planned during the earliest stages of the foundation of towns. From the end of the 14th century water mains began to be built in Poland (they were destroyed during the Swedish invasion in the middle of the 17th century); they were made of ceramic or wooden pipes and pumps modelled on installations used in mines. Separate chapters are devoted to opinions on the quality of various kinds of water (spring water, rain water, water from wells and rivers) as well as to floods (ways of preventing them and of clearing the damage). The author emphasises that the activity connected with water generated various kinds of social ties. (JA)

Halina Manikowska, *Jerozolima – Rzym – Compostela. Wielkie pielgrzymowanie u schyłku średniowiecza* [Jerusalem – Rome – Compostela: *Peregrinationes Maiores at the End of the Middle Ages*], Wrocław, 2008, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, 558 p., annexes, ill., maps, lists of ill. and maps, bibl., indexes, sum. in English, series: Monografie Fundacji na rzecz Nauki Polskiej

Halina Manikowska's monograph presents great Christian peregrinations in the late Middle Ages. The book was inspired by two accounts written by Peter Rindfleisch, a prosperous merchant from Breslau who described the pilgrimages he made to the Holy Land (1496) and to Santiago de Compostela (1506), documents which testify to the religiosity of Silesia's urban elites at the end of the Middle Ages (Polish translations of both documents are in the annexes). These texts, supplemented by similar documents in High German (especially from Nuremberg), have been compared with two source series. The first series, the devotional, travel and theological literature connected with pilgrimages from the early to the late Middle Ages provided an opportunity to present the history of three great peregrinations, the stages of their development, their specific features and the emergence of writing genres connected with pilgrimages (*descriptiones Terrae Sanctae*, pilgrimage reports, Roman *mirabilia*, *stationes* and *indulgentie*, itineraria, pilgrimage guide books). The other series consists of late medieval accounts by pilgrims (from nearly the same time as Rindfleisch's accounts) but from other circles and regions of the Christian world. This has allowed the author to assess the Silesian (German) townsmen's specific religious and cultural sensitivity at the end of the Middle Ages, on the eve of the Reformation, in comparison with Europe, at a time when new ideas were flowing in from the North (*devotio moderna*) and from the South (humanism).

What interests Manikowska in the pilgrimage reports is mainly human perception, the difference between what pilgrims meet, what they come in contact with (the 'perception potentiality') and what they perceive and describe. The type of perception, assessed not only by what the pilgrims include in their texts but also by what they leave out, is the key which allows the author to define the medieval pilgrims' intellectual formation and religious feelings. This research programme distinguishes the book from the many studies that have been published on this subject. The usually accepted view of pilgrimage as an experience shared by all participants has turned out to be erroneous. Manikowska's book is a perfect illustration of the psycho-cultural mechanism described by Goethe in the aphorism: 'We see what we know', and which Gadamer raised to the rank of a basic hermeneutic category as the 'horizon of comprehension'. For the author, the touchstone of the type of the pilgrims' perception is the way they see the sacred geography

of the goals of their pilgrimage which, alongside perception, has become another key concept of the book. A typical pilgrim perceives mainly the sacred topography for it is important and familiar, and he remembers it from texts, sermons, visual presentations. He does not see the plan of towns, their architecture, historical layers, topographical divisions nor the differentiation of their social functions. It is only at the end of the examined period that the pilgrims-humanists began to perceive Rome as an ancient city and to notice a Muslim culture in Jerusalem. The great pilgrimages began to assume features of modern tourism. The book has been awarded the Klio 2009 Prize of the Historical Books Publishers. (WB)

Tomasz Graff, *Episkopat monarchii jagiellońskiej w dobie soborów powszechnych XV wieku* [The Episcopate of the Jagiellonian Monarchy in the Period of the 15th-Century General Councils], Kraków, 2008, Wydawnictwo Towarzystwa Naukowego 'Societas Vistulana', 368 p., 1 ill., 37 tables, 20 diagrams, index of persons

The author characterises the bishops of Gniezno and Lwów provinces in the period from the opening of the Council of Pisa to the dissolution of the Council of Basel (1409–49). He starts by discussing the age, origin, education and careers of the bishops. He points out that what favoured their career was: noble birth (66 per cent of the bishops were of noble birth), a university education (55 per cent) and especially work in royal chancellery (77 per cent of the bishops from dioceses in Poland and Lithuania). It was not important where a bishop was born; only 29 per cent of the members of the group came from their diocese. The next chapters of the book concern the episcopate's relations with the monarchs. Graff emphasises that the bishops were members of a strict political elite, their election was therefore decided by the king (apart from the reign of Ladislas of Varna). The two archbishops and the bishops of Cracow, Poznań and Włocławek, and periodically also of Płock and Wilno, were among the monarchs' closest collaborators. The last part of the book concerns the bishops' attitude towards the conciliarism. Graff emphasises that most of them supported the conciliarists, nevertheless in 1447, under the influence of the king, they normalised their relations with Pope Nicholas V. (JA)

Agnieszka Teterycz-Puzio, *Henryk Sandomierski (1126/1133–18 X 1166)*, Kraków, 2009, 'Avalon', 166 p., index of persons, sum. in English

In this new biography of Duke Henry of Sandomierz the author compares recently discovered information with the image of the prince created by Jan

Długosz, an image repeated in scientific literature (Stanisław Smolka) and in *belles lettres* (Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz). According to that image, Henry was a pious knight who renounced active politics and marriage in order to fight against the enemies of Christianity. The author points out that Długosz's vision was caused by the fact that very little was known about the prince's life at that time (lack of any information on his offspring; what was known was his participation in an expedition to the Holy Land in 1154, the foundation of the monastery of the Knights Hospitallers of St John at Zagość, the prince's death during the expedition against the pagan Pruthenians). The prince's interests and intentions were invented by the chronicler. It should, however, be remembered that the foundation of the monastery at Zagość may have indicated that the prince wanted to copy the institutions he had seen in the Holy Land. The sobriquet 'Sandomierski' (*Sandomiriensis*) was probably also perpetuated by Długosz in keeping with the annals. In reality the prince was active politically and founded monasteries and churches not only in the Sandomierz region but also in the region of Wiślica and in the lands on the Pilica River. (JA)

Magdalena Biniś-Szkopek, *Bolesław IV Kędzierzawy – książę Mazowsza i princeps* [Boleslav IV the Curly – Duke of Masovia, Princeps], Poznań, 2009, Wydawnictwo Poznańskie, 372 p., 5 ill., genealogical table, indexes, sum. in English

Boleslav the Curly's rule in Masovia has been variously evaluated by medieval chroniclers and contemporary historians; it is presented by the author in a favourable light. Biniś-Szkopek emphasises that during the 35 years of Boleslav's rule in Masovia and Kujawy and the 27 years when he was *princeps* of the whole Poland, there was only one rebellion of junior princes and powerful lords, which means that Boleslav knew how to co-operate with the political elites of the country. This contrasted with the doings of his brothers, Ladislas the Exile and Mieszko the Old, who assiduously tried to strengthen their power, quickly fell into conflicts with younger brothers and powerful lords, which weakened the political position of the senior duke. The author regards the fact that in 1157 Boleslav humbled himself to Frederick Barbarossa at Krzyszkowo as a sign of his conciliatory policy. For his participation in a humiliating ceremony Boleslav gained recognition of his position as senior duke and prevented the return of Ladislas the Exile to Poland. (JA).

EARLY MODERN TIMES

Cezary Kuklo, *Demografia Rzeczypospolitej przedrozbiorowej* [Demography of the Pre-Partition Commonwealth], Warszawa, 2009, Wydawnictwo DiG, 532 p., tables, diagrams, ill., maps, bibl., a Latin-Polish glossary, indexes, series: Instytut Historii PAN, Nauki Pomocnicze Historii. Seria Nova

This is the first comprehensive presentation of historical demography in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth during the early modern period, but the author also goes back to the Middle Ages for the sake of comparison. The book is also to be a manual for students. The author starts by presenting the development of historical demography as a branch of historical science. Next he discusses in detail the sources which can be used to obtain estimates of the density of population, and the population's natural movements, he discusses separately the censuses, those held by state institutions and by the Church, and the parochial registers. He draws attention to the importance and role of records of tax offices. The data of register offices and the research methods used by historical demographers are discussed in consecutive chapters. The third part, the most extensive of the book, presents the latest results of research on the distribution and structure of population in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Stress has been laid on changes in family and household structure over the ages. What has interested the author most were marriages, births and deaths. Kuklo illustrates his conclusions with many tables and diagrams. The book contains many illustrations. (DD)

Waldemar Bednaruk, *Trybunał koronny. Szlachecki sąd najwyższy w latach 1578–1794* [The Crown Tribunal: The Noblemen's Supreme Court in the Years 1578–1794], Lublin, 2008, Towarzystwo Naukowe Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego Jana Pawła II, 324 p., bibl., sum. in English, maps, series: Źródła i Monografie, 331

This is a monograph referring to the history of law and the history of institutions. On the basis of a large amount of sources, it presents the organisation, principles and characteristics of the Crown Tribunal from its foundation in 1578 to the fall of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The author starts with the crisis of the medieval high court, for he regards that crisis and the attempts to overcome it as the genesis of the Tribunal. The first chapter ends with a detailed description of the competence of the Tribunal on the basis

of the law of 1578; the author also writes about the changes made in the 17th century up to the stabilisation of the organisation and competence of the Tribunal in the 18th century. In a separate section he discusses the attempts made in the 18th century to restrict the Tribunal's competence. In the second chapter Bednaruk analyses the internal organisation of the Tribunal. He describes the structure and functioning of the court and, separately, the functioning of the mixed court, *iudicium mixtu*, set up to resolve disputes with dissidents. In separate sections the author presents the role of the marshal and president of the Tribunal. The second chapter ends with remarks on how the Tribunal's decrees were carried out. The third chapter explains how the judges, called deputies, were selected. It also presents the education of the deputies, their rights and duties. The attitude of noblemen to the Tribunal deputies is discussed separately. The book contains tables and diagrams which compare the Crown Tribunal with the Lithuanian Tribunal. They also show changes in the territorial competence of the Tribunal during the period examined by the author. (DD)

Izabela Lewandowska-Malec, *Sejm walny koronny Rzeczypospolitej Obojga Narodów i jego dorobek ustawodawczy (1587–1632)* [The General Sejm of the Commonwealth of the Two Nations and Its Legislative Achievements (1587–1632)], Kraków, 2009, Księgarnia Akademicka, 640 p., diagrams, ill., bibl., tables, index of persons, sum. in English

The study is devoted mainly to the history of the legal and political system. It is a comprehensive monograph, chronologically restricted to the reign of Sigismund III Vasa, of the General Sejm, the most important political organ of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, during this period. Even though the literature on the subject is very rich, the author has once again analysed the terminology and the formal aspects of the organisation of General Sejms, the way of convening them, the dietines, and their organisation, paying most attention to parliamentary debates. She has also analysed the types and legal forms of Sejm resolutions. The two most comprehensive chapters deal with the Sejm's legislative competence and procedure. What is new compared with earlier studies is the author's attempt to characterise the Old Polish legislative technique. In order to create a pattern that could be referred to, the author illustrates her arguments by examples from a number of diagrams showing the Sejm's procedure. (DD)

Henryk Litwin, *Równi do równych. Kijowska reprezentacja sejmowa 1569–1648* [They Were All Equal: The Kiev Parliamentary Representation 1569–1648], Warszawa, 2009, Wydawnictwo DiG, 195 p., tables, bibl., index of persons

The author starts by presenting members of the Kiev dietine, its territorial reach, headquarters and the number of deputies they were allowed to send to the Sejm. He then presents the Kiev Sejm deputies as a group, describing their financial status, their social and ethnic origin, religion, the posts they held. Litwin devotes a separate chapter to the connections and affinities of his protagonists. This has allowed him to describe their links with the court and with local and other magnates and discuss reciprocal links among the nobility. This in turn shows the ties uniting individual noblemen and patrons with their clients. In conclusion the author presents the Kiev deputies' political and family ties. Litwin has illustrated his reflections by a tabular presentation of all deputies he has been able to identify and by extensive bibliographic information. Statistical figures illustrate the Kiev deputies' participation in the Sejm. (DD)

Wojciech Sadowski, *Państwo i władza w oczach szlachty. Postawy polityczne obywateli województwa lubelskiego za panowania Michała Korybuta Wiśniowieckiego i Jana III Sobieskiego* [The State and Power in Noblemen's Views: The Political Stance of Citizens in the Voivodship of Lublin during the Reign of Michael Korybut Wiśniowiecki and John III Sobieski], Lublin and Radzyń Podlaski, 2009, Radzyńskie Stowarzyszenie Inicjatyw Lokalnych – Radzyńskie Towarzystwo Naukowe (Libra), 202 p., bibl., sum. in English

The core issue in the book is the influence of the elites on the opinions and attitudes of noblemen, mainly in the voivodship of Lublin. The volume opens with a chapter which depicts the genesis of the voivodship, its administrative division and social stratification, including the influence exerted by magnate families on the local dietine. The author then names the members of the political elite. Having examined noblemen's activity at the meetings of the dietine, he identifies the leaders, draws attention to their importance, defines their position in the voivodship and examines their influence on the nobility. In Sadowski's opinion, their views were representative of the beliefs of the voivodship's nobility. The most extensive part of the book (chapter 3) discusses the attitude of members of the elite to the most important problems of the epoch, e.g. royal election and the Confederation of Gołęb (1672). Sadowski also analyses the nobility's attitude to Wiśniowiecki and Sobieski

and their policies. The chapter ends with a discussion of the nobility's opinions on the most important state institutions and the attempts to reform them. In a separate chapter the author discusses the nobility's attitude to the monarchs' foreign policy and to military issues. The nobility of Lublin was not greatly interested in foreign policy but military issues aroused their emotions and were always eagerly discussed at dietines. The author portrays the noblemen of Lublin as persons vitally interested in state affairs, mainly conservative and pro-royal. (DD)

Tomasz Hodana, *Między królem a carem. Moskwa w oczach prawosławnych Rusinów-obywateli Rzeczypospolitej (na podstawie piśmiennictwa końca XVI – połowy XVII stulecia)* [Between the King and the Tsar: Moscow as Seen by Orthodox Ruthenians – Subjects of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (On the Basis of Late 16th – Mid-17th Century Writings)], Kraków, 2008, Wydawnictwo 'scriptum', 262 p., append., bibl., sum. in Russian, index of persons, series: *Studia Ruthenica Cracoviensia*, 4

The author tries to reconstruct the picture of Moscow presented in late 16th and early 17th century Ruthenian writings produced in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. An analysis of these sources increased his interest in the attitude which the Orthodox Ruthenian subjects of the Commonwealth had to Moscow and in the specific tension between their religious communion and their linguistic and ethnic affinity with the state of Moscow and the fact that they represented a different socio-political and cultural formation for they belonged to the Polish-Lithuanian state. The study presents the topics in chronological order, divided into three parts; the first deals with the turn of the 17th century, the second with the 1620s, and the third with the period after 1632. The author discusses detailed questions as they were reflected in the sources of each of these periods. He shows that at first Moscow was outside the sphere of the Polish Ruthenians' direct interest (they were no more interested in it than they were in other Orthodox countries). The situation changed in the 1620s and 1630s when King Sigismund III began openly to favour the Uniates; when the situation of Orthodox believers started to deteriorate, they sought a rapprochement with Moscow, especially after the illegal revival of the Orthodox hierarchy. Another change occurred during the patriarchate of Peter Mohyla, who was elected patriarch of Kiev with the consent of the Polish king. Relations with Moscow were then kept at a distance. The author maintains that the relations between the Orthodox inhabitants of the Polish-Lithuanian state and Moscow depended on the policy pursued by the central Polish-Lithuanian authorities towards the Orthodox Church. (DD)

Zofia Trawicka, *Jakub Sobieski 1591–1646. Studium z dziejów warstwy magnackiej w Polsce doby Wazów* [Jakub Sobieski, 1591–1646: A Study in the History of Magnates in Poland under the Vasas], Kraków, 2007, Wydawnictwo Towarzystwa Naukowego ‘Societas Vistulana’, 304 p., ill., list of ill., bibl., indexes

The book is a result of the author’s many years of study on the personality, life and activity of Jakub Sobieski, the father of King John III. Trawicka uses the person of her protagonist to describe the place and role of magnates as a social group in the 17th century Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. She lays stress on the political and economic activity of Sobieski, paying little attention to the other aspects of his activities. Thanks to the research which she carried out in the archives in Poland and in the Central State Historical Archives in Lviv and to the use of latest literature, the author has been able to add many items of new information about the life of Jakub Sobieski and to correct the errors which can still be found in literature. Like most biographies, the book presents Jakub Sobieski’s life chronologically, starting with his family background and descent. Next Trawicka presents Sobieski’s upbringing, education and his youthful peregrinations. In a separate chapter she discusses Sobieski’s economic activity. The most extensive part of the book deals with Sobieski’s political activity in 1613–46. The author has divided it into four sub-sections which present the beginnings of the protagonist’s public work (1613–21), his activity in the period from the Chocim War to the interregnum (1621–32), the interregnum and the first years of Ladislas IV’s reign and Sobieski’s work as a senator. A separate chapter presents Sobieski as a writer and orator. Trawicka also portrays separately Sobieski as a magnate, his lifestyle, his court, arts patronage and family strategy. (DD)

Urszula Augustyniak (ed.), *Administracja i życie codzienne w dobrach Radziwiłłów XVI-XVIII wieku* [The Administration and Everyday Life on the Radziwiłłs’ Estates in the 16th–18th Centuries], Warszawa, 2009, Wydawnictwo DiG and Instytut Historyczny Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 288 p., tables, ill., annexes, bibl., sum. in English, series: Fasciculi Historici Novi, ix

The volume consists of three separate studies written by Urszula Augustyniak’s students. The first two concern the history of women, in the broad sense of the term. Gabriela Pełczyńska (‘Kobiety Iszkołci, czyli dzieje zarządzania majątnością’ [The women of Iszkołc or the history of manor management]) presents the long-term management (from the end of the 16th century to the turn of the 19th) of a Radziwiłł estate by five female owners. The study

is based on property inventories and correspondence. As the author shows, the owners of the Iszkołć estate were efficient administrators; they were independent women who did not have much in common with the typical 'Old Polish woman' model. Anna Lesiak ('Kobiety z rodu Radziwiłłów w świetle inwentarzy i testamentów, XVI-XVIII w.' [The Radziwiłł women in the light of inventories and testaments, 16th–18th centuries]) presents 53 Radziwiłł wives and daughters who have so far been rather ignored in historical literature. Marek Miluński ('Zarząd dóbr Bogusława Radziwiłła w latach 1636–1669' [The management of Bogusław Radziwiłł's estates in the years 1636–1669]) exhaustively examines the administrative apparatus on the estate belonging to the greatest landowner in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 17th century. His study is based on inventories, Prince Bogusław Radziwiłł's correspondence, accounts and bequests. The author reconstructs the structure and activity of the apparatus which administered the *latifundium*, and points out the economic results it achieved. He has been able to name the administrators, describe how they were recruited, depict their internal hierarchy and their relations with their patron. Miluński presents Bogusław Radziwiłł as the founder of an efficiently managed, highly profitable *latifundium*. Each text is equipped with a bibliography and a summary in English. (DD)

Agnieszka Marchwińska, *Królewskie dwory żon Zygmunta Augusta. Organizacja i składy osobowe* [The Royal Courts of Sigismund Augustus' Wives: Their Organisation and Composition], Toruń, 2008, 278 p., bibl., sum. in German and Lithuanian, index of persons, series: Roczniki Towarzystwa Naukowego w Toruniu, xcii, 1

The study has two parts. The more extensive first part is a monograph presenting the question indicated by the title; the second part lists the names of the courts' members according to the functions they performed. In the monographic part the author describes the organisation and structure of the courts of Sigismund Augustus' three wives (Elizabeth of Habsburg, Barbara Radziwiłł, and Catherine of Habsburg), the court officials and courtiers, the court servants and the female court. The comparison of the courts has made it possible for the author to point out the permanent elements of their organisation and establish how durable their structures were. Their organisation was based on Polish models with men outnumbering women by five to one. Each queen's court was modelled on the court of the king, the two being closely linked. In the second part, Marchwińska mentions the names of persons who received permanent remuneration for court services and adds brief information on other questions. The main source she has used were records of tax offices. (DD)

Myron Kapral, *Urzednicy miasta Lwowa w XIII-XVIII wieku* [Officials of the City of Lwów from the 13th to the 18th Century], Toruń, 2008, Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, 420 p., annexes, index of persons, series: Spisy urzędników miejskich z obszaru dawnej Rzeczypospolitej, Śląska i Pomorza Zachodniego, vii: Ziemie Ruskie, part 1: Lwów

This is a successive volume of the series presenting the municipal officials from the territories of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. This time the volume is devoted to the officials of Lwów. The material is divided into eight parts which chronologically present: the lists of hereditary heads of town (*wójtowie*), the annual composition of the city council, of the aldermen (*scabini*), *wójts* and Armenian judges and elders, members of the College of 40 Men (merchants and craftsmen), Ruthenian elders, chancellery and court officials (scribes, council scribes, bench scribes, *lonheriae* scribes, syndics, instigators, and translators); the last part of the book contains two annexes: a chronological list of the presidents of the town court (*wójtowie sądowi*) from the years 1382–1613 and a chronological list of regents who presided over the College of 40 Men. The volume opens with a preface in which the author outlines the structure and competence of the individual organs of the municipal authorities, which functioned on the basis of Magdeburg law modified according to local tradition. The preface ends with a description of the principles followed in the edition. The volume is equipped with an expanded index of persons with information on all municipal posts each person held. (DD)

Edmund Kizik (ed.), *Studia i materiały do dziejów domu gdańskiego* [Studies and Source Materials to the History of the Gdańsk Burgher House], part i, Gdańsk, 2009, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, 228 p., tables, ill., sum. in German

This is the first volume of a planned series which will present the results of an interdisciplinary research conducted at the Laboratory for the History of Gdańsk and the Maritime Past of Poland at the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences. The volume is dedicated to the Gdańsk burgher house and its inhabitants from the late Middle Ages to the middle of the 19th century. It comprises eight articles, each equipped with source annexes and German summaries. The articles focus on the historical sources, their diversity and the ways they have been used in the studies on housing. The volume opens with an introductory article by Edmund Kizik, the editor and chief of the research team, who writes about the ideas and importance of the

research project. The volume also contains another two detailed studies by the same author. The first explains how the records of the local Weta Court can be used, the second is devoted to the inspections of houses carried out in Gdańsk by guilds in the 17th and 18th centuries. Marcin Grulkowski writes about the oldest land registers as a source for examining the rent market. Zofia Maciakowska discusses the importance of maps in research on burgher building. She also presents (together with Wojciech Szymański) the documentation of the Building Inspectorate in Gdańsk. Two more types of sources have been presented: advertisements in *Danziger Erfahrungen* (Ewa Brylewska-Szymańska and Wojciech Szymański) and 18th century property inventories (Ewa Brylewska-Szymańska). (DD)

Anna Ziemlewska, *Ryga w Rzeczypospolitej polsko-litewskiej (1581–1621)* [Riga in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (1581–1621)], Toruń, 2008, Towarzystwo Naukowe w Toruniu, 284 p., bibl., sum. in German, index of persons, ill., series: *Roczniki Towarzystwa Naukowego w Toruniu*, xcii, 3

The book discusses selected questions from the history of Riga when it was under Polish-Lithuanian rule. The author starts by depicting the city's history in the Middle Ages as a background which will make it easier for readers to understand Riga's specific political and economic position in the 16th century. She lays stress on the city's separatist policy towards not only Poland, but also Lithuania, Sweden and the Reich in 1562–76. The second chapter describes the subordination of the city to the Polish king and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the legal status which the city enjoyed thanks to Stephen Báthory's privileges, and the Counter-Reformation policy pursued by the Polish king in Livonia, a policy which, in the author's opinion, was to a large extent responsible for Riga's relations with the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. A separate chapter is devoted to what is known as the 'Calendar Unrests' of 1584–9 which determined the principles by which Riga functioned in the Commonwealth in a later period. The most extensive part of the book deals with the years 1589–1621 when Riga, after paying tribute to Sigismund III, joined in the life of the Commonwealth. The author draws attention to the internal changes which occurred in the city during that period, especially to the emergence of new elites and a modern bureaucratic apparatus. Religious relations in the city, especially its disputes with the Jesuits and Riga's economic position compared with the position of other towns in the Commonwealth are discussed separately. The book ends with a chapter on Riga's participation in the Polish-Lithuanian-Swedish war until the city's capitulation to Gustavus II Adolphus' forces in 1621, an event which ended Riga's connection with the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. (DD)

Krzysztof Benyskiewicz (ed.), *Księga ławnicza Nowego Kramaska 1572–1782* [The Court Records of the Village of Nowe Kramsko 1572–1782], Zielona Góra, 2008, Uniwersytet Zielonogórski, 128 p., genealogical tables, ill., indexes

These are the surviving fragments of the court records of the village of Nowe Kramsko in the western part of Greater Poland. The edition comprises 31 double-sided pages kept in the State Archives in Poznań (27 pages) and in the Raczyński Library (4 pages). The documents are from the end of the 16th century, the first years of the 17th and the second half of the 18th century; one document, probably from 1797, is outside the chronological period mentioned in the title. The whole source text is preceded by an extensive preface which presents the history of the village against the background of the history of the Odra Abbey to which it belonged, its administration of justice and social relations. The editor also discusses the problems he was faced with in editing the documents, the hypotheses concerning the scribes and the character of the documents included in the court records. The preface features the genealogical tables worked out on the basis of data mentioned in the source. The edition includes facsimiles of selected pages of the manuscript. (DD)

Zbigniew Mirosław Osiński, *Lęk w kulturze społeczeństwa polskiego w XVI-XVII wieku* [Anxiety in the Culture of Polish Society in the 16th and 17th Centuries], Warszawa, 2009, Wydawnictwo DiG, 228 p., bibl.

The author discusses anxiety in Old Polish culture, a phenomenon which is difficult to grasp, classify and reconstruct. He says that since anxiety was a permanent feeling, used in contrast to fear, it is easier to find in sources. Osiński's study is based on published texts: diaries, private chronicles, reminiscences, private letters of public figures, literary texts from the epoch, especially Baroque poetry, and also tomb inscriptions. Osiński tries to point out the most serious categories of anxiety, defining them by their causes, e.g. elementary disasters, health, death, or attributing them to God's punishment, auguries, omens, to the world of monsters and demons, the dangers of urban life and of travels. He also discusses the apprehension felt by some people on being faced with persons who are alien by their religion and nationality. Osiński refers in his book to detailed Polish studies devoted to individual causes of anxiety (he pays special attention to the studies by Maria Bogucka, Bohdan Baranowski, Zbigniew Kuchowicz and Janusz Tazbir). (DD)

Bożena Popiołek, “*Woli mojej ostatniej Testament ten...*” *Testamenty staropolskie jako źródło do historii mentalności XVII i XVIII wieku* [‘This Testament as An Expression of My Last Will...’ Old Polish Testaments as a Source to the History of Mentality in the 17th and 18th Centuries], Kraków, 2009, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Pedagogicznego, 416 p., tables, bibl., index of persons, series: Uniwersytet Pedagogiczny im. Komisji Edukacji Narodowej w Krakowie, Prace Monograficzne, 514

This study on the history of mentality is a result of the author’s many years of research. Popiołek starts by describing in detail the structure of a testament, drawing attention to religious questions. She also explains how the funeral ceremony was organised to make it comply with the testator’s will. The analyses presented by the author show that the testament was not only an ossified form indicating the testator’s will, it was also his individual statement. Testaments, apart from containing data referring to the testator, such as his marital status, age, state of health, the functions he had performed and the posts he had held, were also testimonies to his spiritual life and morals. In the next chapter the author focuses on material questions, discusses the ways in which testators disposed of their property, transferred money to the heirs, made religious bequests and contributions to charitable purposes. Very interesting are the author’s reflections on inheritance proceedings and on the ways of guaranteeing life pensions to selected persons. The study ends with remarks on testators’ attitude to family members and nearest persons. The author has shown that testaments are an excellent source for studying Old Polish families, all the more so as they provide information on the durability of marriage, fertility rate and education of offspring. The author backs all her arguments with examples from sources. (DD)

Paweł Klint (ed.), *Testamenty szlacheckie z ksiąg grodzkich wielkopolskich z lat 1631–1655* [Testaments of Gentry from the Castle Court Records of Greater Poland from the years 1631–1655], Poznań and Wrocław, 2008, Wydawnictwo Historyczne, 248 p., list of abbreviations and symbols, bibl., indexes, sum. in English of editor’s note, series: Źródła Dziejowe, xxvii

The book contains 105 noblemen’s testaments which the author found in castle court records of the voivodships of Poznań and Kalisz. Most documents are from the towns of Kalisz (32) and Poznań (29). The testaments were usually registered after the testator’s death. Most of them are drafted by middle noblemen, though some are by landless nobles; those written by the

magnates are rare. The testators are mostly men (as many as 79) usually of old age, although some testaments were written by young but seriously ill persons. Sometimes the last will was written during an epidemic or before a planned war expedition. Most testaments have a typical structure described by Klint in the preface but some interesting atypical documents have drawn the author's attention and he describes them in greater detail. The main aim of the book was to present the rich documentation which can be found in these records. The editor has followed the usual procedure for early modern sources: each document is equipped with short information on its origin and in each case the editor says who registered a given testament. (DD)

Małgorzata Trębska, *Staropolskie szlacheckie oracje weselne. Genologia, obrzęd, źródła* [Noblemen's Wedding Orations in Old Poland: The Literary Genre, the Ritual, Sources], Warszawa, 2008, Wydawnictwo Instytutu Badań Literackich Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Stowarzyszenie 'Pro Cultura Litteraria', 496 p., index of persons, bibl. with the index of incipits, series: *Studia Staropolskie*, Series Nova, 19 (75)

This is not only a study on Old Polish orations; it is, above all, an important contribution to research on Old Polish customs. The volume is divided into two parts; it opens with an extensive discussion on the classification of wedding orations. The first part explains the genre and the customs which required suitable speeches to be made (courtship and the reply to it, engagement, the maidens' evening, moving to a new house, the marriage ceremony and the wedding). The second part provides information on the state of preservation of the texts (manuscripts, prints). Trębska not only analyses individual speeches but also discusses their models and anthologies; she has found texts of orations made by such important public figures as Andrzej Chryzostom Załuski (a lay and Church dignitary and a writer), and Prince Stanisław Herakliusz Lubomirski, an excellent writer. Very interesting is the author's description of how she looked for wedding orations in manuscripts. The author does not claim to have created a full list of wedding orations but wanted to share with readers the results of many years of her work. (DD)

Bogdan Szlachta, *Monarchia prawa? Angielska myśl polityczna doby Tudorów* [A Monarchy of Law? English Political Thought under the Tudors], Kraków, 2008, Księgarnia Akademicka, 724 p., annex, bibl., index of persons

The author analyses various trends in English 16th century political thought, concentrating on the reign of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, the crucial times for the development of English statehood. Apart from chapter II ['Christian Renaissance humanism'] which discusses the beginnings of an independent English political theory against the European background, the other chapters show how English political writers began to hold disputes mainly among themselves, focusing on controversies arising from English political and religious conflicts. Scottish political thought is discussed in quite an extensive but not very systematic annex; the author agrees with the majority of researchers that it was rather linked to European (French) political discourse. (DD)

Grzegorz Jacek Brzustowicz, *Szkoccy "żołnierze fortuny" w ekspedycjach militarnych na tereny Księstwa Zachodniopomorskiego i Nowej Marchii podczas wojny trzydziestoletniej* [Scottish 'Soldiers of Fortune' in Military Expeditions into the Duchy of Western Pomerania and the New March during the Thirty Years' War], Choszczno, 2009, Ares, 186 p., bibl., geographical index, ill., tables

This is a presentation of the participation of Scots in military operations in territories belonging to the Duchy of Pomerania and what was formerly the New March during the Thirty Years' War, especially in 1627–8 and 1630–3, when Scottish formations fought for the king of Denmark and the king of Sweden. The author also speaks of individual careers of Scottish officers in Swedish and Austrian armies during the remaining period of the Thirty Years' War. The study is based on published Scottish soldiers' diaries which have not yet been used in Polish historiography. The author has also made use of archival materials kept in the State Archives in Szczecin, the Státní ústřední archiv in Prague and Riksarkivet in Stockholm. The book opens with a chapter which discusses Scotland's military history and its army in the 17th century, including its arms and war tactics. In two chapters he then discusses in detail the participation of Scottish military units on the Danish side and their expedition in the service of the Swedish king. The author examines the Scots' participation in individual battles, e.g. at Stralsund and Wolgast (1628) and at Kolberg and Schivelbein (1630); he names many Scottish participants and analyses the details of the military operations which they carried out. The book is richly illustrated. (DD)

Robert Piętek, *Garcia II, władca Konga a Kościół katolicki* [Garcia II, the Ruler of Congo, and the Catholic Church], Warszawa, 2009, Wydawnictwo Neriton, 245 + 5 p., 8 ill., 4 maps, index of persons., sum. in English and French

The book deals with relations between Capuchin missionaries and the ruler of a primitive state. The author draws attention to the characteristics of the rule of Garcia II (1641–61); he points out that the arrival of the Capuchins broke the Portuguese' monopoly in Congo's contacts with Europe and made it possible to expand the Christianisation of the country from the capital to the provinces. In return for the monarch's support, the Capuchins rendered him various services: they carried out diplomatic missions, mediated in internal conflicts, liquidated traditional religious centres which were autonomous of the ruler, and ran schools. The missionaries' foreign origin and their complete material dependence on the king were expected to guarantee their loyalty. But conflicts soon arose because the two sides had different interests: the missionaries were not interested in obtaining the pope's consent to a change in the rules of succession to the throne in Congo (and the establishment of a hereditary monarchy), they criticised the ruler and his milieu for their unchristian customs. The conflicts impeded mutual contacts but Garcia II did not withdraw his support for the mission. (JA)

NINETEENTH CENTURY

Hubert Chudzio, *Polityk Hotelu Lambert. Generał Ludwik Bystrzonowski (1797–1878)* [A Hotel Lambert Politician: General Ludwik Bystrzonowski, 1797–1878], Kraków, 2008, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Akademii Pedagogicznej w Krakowie, 319 p., index of persons, ill., series: Akademia Pedagogiczna im. Komisji Edukacji Narodowej w Krakowie, Prace Monograficzne, 500

The book written by Hubert Chudzio, a historian and journalist, is the first biography of a little known though typical, activist and soldier of the Great Polish Emigration. Like many contemporary Poles, General Bystrzonowski combined military service for Poland and France (he fought in the November 1830 Uprising in Poland, in Algeria in 1840, in Hungary in 1849 and in the Crimean War) with political activity in the service of the Hotel Lambert party and Prince Adam Czartoryski. On behalf of Prince Czartoryski he took part in many diplomatic missions in practically the whole of Europe and in the

Middle East. During these travels the general amassed a large ethnographic collection thanks to which his name still appears in exhibitions devoted to 19th century travellers. As the author points out, with some regret, his protagonist was not a prominent or ambitious person; what distinguished him was his energy and devotion to the cause represented by Prince Czartoryski as well as his admiration for his protector, even though he was never in the group of persons the prince trusted most. The story is arranged chronologically, it is divided into six chapters, the last of which deals with the general's family and financial matters. The author has made use of many archival sources gathered in Warsaw, Kórnik, Cracow and Paris, including the diary Bystrzonowski kept for several score years with a view to writing reminiscences, an idea he never put into effect. (AK)

Julia A. Słupska, *Ksawery Branicki (1816–1879). Emigracja: polityka i finanse* [Ksawery Branicki (1816–1879). Emigration: Politics and Finances], Warszawa, 2008, Neriton and Instytut Historii PAN, 216 p., ill., index of persons, sum. in French

This first biography of a person who, though untypical, played an important role in the Great Polish Emigration, fills an essential gap in studies on a formation which seems to have been well researched. Having joined the Russian army at an early age, Ksawery Branicki quickly became a person well known in the aristocratic and artistic milieus of St Petersburg, being on friendly terms with such famous figures of this world as Lermontov and Prince Gagarin. After the death of his father he left the army, travelled in Europe and never returned to Russia. Having established contacts with the Polish emigration in Paris, he decided to settle in France, and after some time obtained French citizenship. He was an atypical figure among the émigrés for he combined political activity with success in business: he invested in real property (Montrésor still belongs to his family), in banks (he was a co-founder of the Crédit Foncier bank) and in the quickly developing railways. He sponsored many Polish political and cultural ventures, both the revolutionary *Trybuna Ludów* [La Tribune des Peuples] and Mickiewicz's legion as well as the conservative Władysław Zamoyski; he was a collector of Polish art. Branicki never associated himself unequivocally with any political party but he exerted influence on the authorities of the Second Empire, mainly thanks to his friendship with Prince Napoleon (known as Plon-Plon), cousin of the emperor and friend of all movements fighting for national liberation. He took part in many diplomatic missions on behalf of the emperor. After the emperor's fall he did not withdraw from politics but ran for a seat in the Senate, being one of the few émigrés who treated their French citizenship seriously.

The book, a classic, chronological biography, lays stress on Branicki's financial and political activity in France. The author has made wide use of Polish and French archival sources gathered in state and family archives. (AK)

Lech Trzeciakowski, *Otto von Bismarck*, Wrocław, 2009, Zakład Narodowy im. Ossolińskich – Wydawnictwo, 359 p., sum. in English, index of persons

The new biography of Bismarck written by a distinguished expert in the history of Germany is a traditional, classic political biography. Trzeciakowski presents the life of his protagonist from the childhood, through the successive steps of his political career, up to his enforced resignation and death. The preface acquaints readers with literature on Bismarck, especially with works by Polish authors. The individual chapters discuss the turning points in Germany's 19th century history and the successive stages in Bismarck's political activity. The author keeps to the traditional presentation of the psychology of his protagonist, stressing his emotional ties with family members, friends and collaborators, the atmosphere at home, and education. Trzeciakowski has gained much valuable information thanks to the research in Familienarchiv Bismarck Friedrichsruh and the study of sources which have not been used so far. It seems that the author's main ambition must have been an impartial assessment of the political achievements of the controversial chancellor. Aware of the many objections to Bismarck, Trzeciakowski does not conceal his appreciation for Bismarck's achievements but he says that the chancellor 'was a master as far as short-term aims were concerned but he frequently ignored the far-reaching consequences of his actions' (p. 323). Trzeciakowski calls Bismarck a 'white revolutionary' but does not say to what extent he was responsible for the growth of nationalistic, militaristic and imperial trends in the united Germany, confining himself to generalities. (AK)

Joanna Goszczyńska, *Synowie Słowa. Myśl mesjanistyczna w słowackiej literaturze romantycznej* [Sons of the Word: Messianic Thought in Slovak Romantic Literature], Warszawa, 2008, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 220 p., bibl., index

The book is on the border line between the history of literature and the history of social thought for the authors discussed by Goszczyńska were not only poets but also publicists and politicians. Goszczyńska writes about Slovak literature in the mid-nineteenth century, an era which witnessed the emergence of Slovak national consciousness and of the modern Slovak

language. The title has been borrowed from Samo Bohdan Hroboň's poem *Slovopieseň*. The author first examines the concept of messianism which she distinguishes from mission-promotion, for the latter has nothing to do with soteriology but endows a nation with exceptional qualities which predestine it to play a special role in history. The main part of the book is devoted to traces of messianic thought in the works of three Slovak authors: Samo Bohdan Hroboň, Michal Miloslav Hodža, who were poets, publicists and national activists, and Ľudovít Štúr, a politician and poet who codified the literary language, a man about whom, as Goszczyńska admits, 'practically everything has already been said'. In the case of Štúr Goszczyńska focuses on his little known work, the treaty *Das Slawenthum und die Welt der Zukunft*, which was not translated into Slovak until 1993. A separate chapter deals with the attitude of the three Slovak writers to folklore, including the highland robbers such as the famous Janosik. The chapter also contains reflections on Slovak writers' reactions to the modernisation processes. The last chapter seems to break with the principle adopted by the author and discusses the alleged messianism in Ľudovít Štúr's *Starý a nový vek Slovákov* [The Old and the New Age of the Slovaks]. Goszczyńska denies this was messianism, despite the work's evident connection with Adam Mickiewicz's *Księgi narodu polskiego i pielgrzymstwa polskiego* [Books of the Polish Nation and of the Polish Pilgrimage]. (AK)

Joanna Pisulińska, Paweł Sierżęga and Leonid Zaszkiłniak (eds.), *Historia – Mentalność – Tożsamość. Miejsce i rola historii i historyków w życiu narodu polskiego i ukraińskiego w XIX i XX wieku* [History – Mentality – Identity: The Place and Role of History and Historians in the Life of the Polish and Ukrainian Nations in the 19th and 20th Centuries], Rzeszów, 2008, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego, 703 p., ill.

The volume contains 49 papers (30 Polish and 19 Ukrainian) read during a conference which was organised in Rzeszów in 2007 by a Polish-Ukrainian team directed by Jerzy Maternicki and Leonid Zaszkiłniak. This is a continuation of the work of a team which in 2003–7 published five volumes of studies under the title *Wielokulturowe środowisko historyczne Lwowa w XIX i XX wieku* [The Multicultural Historical Circles of Lwów in the 19th and 20th Centuries]. The texts vary in length and discuss diverse subjects. They have been grouped in five chapters: one is devoted to general and methodological questions; four deal chronologically with: the late Enlightenment period and Romanticism, Positivism and Neo-Romanticism, the inter-war period and the post-World-War II period. Most studies discuss specific aspects of historiography in the works of such Polish and Ukrainian historians as Joachim Lelewel,

Adam Naruszewicz, Ludwik Kulczycki, Tadeusz Korzon, Karol Szajnocha, Szymon Askenazy, Stepan Tomashivskiy, and Mykola Vasylenko. They are accompanied by papers which sum up the achievements of individual historians (Mykhailo Hrushevskiy, Leon Pniński), schools (e.g. the Cracow school) and the directions of historical studies (Promethean ideology, neo-romantic trends in Ukrainian historiography at the turn of the 20th century, the latest syntheses of the national histories of both countries). The volume also contains analyses of the historiography of individual regions (Red Ruthenia, Western and Eastern Ukraine), historical figures (metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky), myths and stereotypes (as they were presented in the press of the Polish National Democracy, the myth of national heroes) and questions of national consciousness in both countries (their reflection in celebrations of national anniversaries and national days). (AK)

Stanisław Milewski, *Intymne życie niegdysiejszej Warszawy* [Warsaw's Intimate Life in Bygone Days], Warszawa, 2008, 'Iskry', 256 p., bibl., ill.

Stanisław Milewski's book is a fascinating, extremely attractive guide to the Varsovians' customs during a period of over 100 years, from the era of Stanislas Augustus (though the author does not ignore earlier epochs) to the First World War. It can therefore be said that the book deals with the times when Warsaw from the 'parochial' capital of the Polish-Lithuanian state became a provincial metropolis in the Russian Empire. The author has no innovative ambitions and does not promise to shed a new light on the subject or use new methods, but his book is a mine of knowledge about the Varsovians' intimate life. By 'intimate life' Milewski means various kinds of public phenomena from the sphere of broadly conceived popular culture, phenomena usually regarded (at least in that epoch) as prosaic. The panorama described by Milewski is indeed very broad: he speaks of all kinds of spectacles (from the theatre, the circus, animal fights, parades and public ceremonies to public punishments), of coffee houses, dance houses, gambling dens, pubs, inns and markets; street, domestic and factory accidents and fires; of prostitutes, policemen and thieves, beggars, the first persons ordered by a Polish court to pay alimony, and matchmakers. The author makes this world more understandable to readers thanks to the use of three categories of sources: the press, court registers and diaries. Ideological and political questions appear only sporadically. It is best to read the book as a compendium or guide to the questions raised in the studies mentioned in the extensive bibliography. (AK)

Mariusz Kulik, *Polacy wśród wyższych oficerów armii rosyjskiej Warszawskiego Okręgu Wojskowego (1865–1914)* [Poles among Senior Officers of the Russian Army in the Warsaw Military District (1865–1914)], Warszawa, 2008, Neriton, 210 p., sum. in English and Russian, indexes, biographical notes

Mariusz Kulik's detailed analytical book based on many Polish and Russian archival sources deals with a question which has not yet been sufficiently researched. As Kulik points out, until quite recently the view that there were practically no Polish officers in the Russian army in ethnically Polish territories still lingered on in many Polish studies which attributed this fact to Russian regulations, the Russian aversion to the employment of members of the 'rebellious Polish nation' and the fixed quota of posts given to Catholics. The author says that this is not true; he has identified over 250 senior Polish officers in the Warsaw Military District and about 200 others who were probably of Polish origin. Kulik has applied diverse criteria to identify the Poles in the Russian officers' corps (religion, surname, place of birth, service in the Polish Army after 1918 or residence in the Second Polish Republic) for nationality was not recorded in official Russian documents. In 1865–1914 the Warsaw Military District referred to in the title consisted mostly of ethnically Polish territories; it was an extremely important district in the Russian defence system, being a potential theater of military operations against Germany and Austria-Hungary, which it actually became in 1914. The district had from 100,000 to 250,000 soldiers and nearly 8,000 officers. The author pays great attention to the Polish officers' double loyalty: to the tsar and to Polish society which was ready to forgive them for serving in the Russian army but would never excuse their conversion to the Orthodox faith. Kulik shows that many Polish officers were appreciated and trusted by their commanders and their number in high posts usually exceeded the quota set by the authorities, although it was exceptional for a Pole to occupy a rank above that of colonel. (AK)

TWENTIETH CENTURY

Piotr M. Majewski, *Niemcy sudeccy 1848–1948. Historia pewnego nacjonalizmu* [The Sudetan Germans 1848–1948: The History of a Certain Nationalism], Warszawa, 2007, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 554 p., indexes, ill., sum. in English, German and Czech

The Sudetan Germans' separatism comes to mind when one speaks of pre-war Czechoslovakia's internal problems or the international situation at the end

of the 1930s. Piotr Majewski presents this question against the background of the emergence of modern nations in East Central Europe. In his opinion, if we narrow research to the interwar period we shall not understand the reasons for the Sudetan Germans' radical stance and the substance of the Czech-German ethnic conflict. This is why the author begins his story with the 'Spring of Nations' and ends it with the expulsion of the German minority from Czechoslovakia. The main part of the book, touching upon the role of a national minority, based on the author's extensive research into sources, is a reconstruction of events that took place during the interwar period. The author has made use mainly of documents from the National Archives in Prague (Státní ústřední archiv). He convincingly explains the genesis of the radical attitude of the German minority and the evolution of political movement from liberalism to totalitarianism. He presents and interprets sources in an interesting way, keeping his distance from the reality which he describes. The book has been awarded the Klio 2008 Prize of the Historical Books Publishers. (OL)

Ewa Geller and Monika Polit (eds.), *Jidyszland. Polskie przestrzenie* [Yiddishland: Polish Areas], Warszawa, 2008, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 369 p., ill., sum. in English

This collective work devoted to Yiddish culture in Poland is but one of the many valuable, interesting books brought out recently by the Warsaw University Press. The articles have been grouped in sections referring to the linguistic, borderline, historical, social and post-Holocaust areas. Most papers end with a short description of the state of historiography and research proposals for the future.

In an article entitled 'Co się czytało w jidysz?' [What was being read in Yiddish?] Olga Zienkiewicz refers to the collections of the Jewish Historical Institute. After the Second World War, the Institute's library took over the publications, books on various subjects, papers and periodicals that had belonged to the libraries in interwar Poland, especially those of Warsaw. Eleonora Bergman's short essay deals with the still little known history of two Jewish scientific institutes active in interwar Poland: the Jewish Scientific Institute (Yidisher Visnshaftlekher Institut – YIVO) set up in 1925 in Wilno and the Institute of Judaic Studies established in Warsaw three years later. The materials produced by these two institutes can supply researchers with valuable information (they can be found at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York, in Vilnius and at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw). The area of the Jewish district in Warsaw is the subject of an article by Aleksandra Geller. Making use of the well-known documentary film *A Day in Warsaw* (one of the six short films produced by Yitzhak and Saul Goskin

in 1938–9), Geller analyses the way the Warsaw Jews were presented and evaluates the applicability of a film as a source for studying the past. In an article 'Jidysz a modernizacja' [Yiddish and modernisation], Marcin Wodziński points out that the Jewish Enlightenment movement, the *Haskalah*, did not adopt an explicit attitude to the Yiddish language. Very interesting is also the paper in which the author, Joanna Nalewajko-Kulikov, writes about the Social and Cultural Society of Jews in Poland, taking the periodical *Folks Sztyme* as an example. This organ of the Central Committee of the Polish Workers' Party was launched in Lodz in 1946. The author is interested above all in the period of the Society's increased activity, from the 'Gomułka Thaw' of 1956 to the conflict in the Middle East in 1967.

The book has been beautifully edited; it contains colour reproductions of illustrations from the collections of the Jewish Historical Institute, and notes on the authors of individual articles. (OL)

Ireneusz Piotr Maj, *Działalność Instytutu Wschodniego w Warszawie 1926–1939* [The Activity of the Eastern Institute in Warsaw, 1926–1939], Warszawa, 2007, Instytut Studiów Politycznych PAN, Oficyna Wydawnicza Rytm, Fundacja 'Historia i Kultura', 336 p., index of persons, annexes, photos., series: Seria Wschodnia

Ireneusz Maj's work is a monograph of the Eastern Institute which was set up in Warsaw in 1926 on the initiative of persons rallied around Józef Piłsudski. It was the statutory duty of the Institute to acquire and popularise knowledge about eastern countries and nations, that is those lying east of Poland, especially the non-Russian nations of the Soviet Union. But the Institute also had more ambitious tasks. It followed the principles of what was known as the Promethean movement, which was an element of Poland's policy towards the Soviet Union. It envisaged cooperation with the elites of some nations of the Caucasus, Central Asia and Ukraine, and support for their aspirations to emancipation. Stress was also laid on the ideological education of Polish society (especially students), the national minorities and immigrant milieus. The author describes changes in the Institute's activity, resulting from the character of Polish policy in the 1930s – it was gradually becoming more political and ideological, and even of intelligence nature. The monograph presents the genesis, development as well as the main aims and plans of the Eastern Institute. It contains source annexes, photographs and short biographies of persons connected with the Institute. The author discusses the ways in which the state shaped social consciousness through state-inspired institutions, one of the most interesting questions in the social history of the Second Polish Republic. It is a pity that he has confined himself to an analysis of just one centre. (OL)

Regina Renz, *Kobieta w społeczeństwie międzywojennej Kielecczyny. Dom – praca – aktywność społeczna* [Woman in Kielce Region Society during the Interwar Period: Home – Work – Social Activity], Kielce, 2008, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Humanistyczno-Przyrodniczego Jana Kochanowskiego, 217 p., tables, ill., photos.

The author has been for years conducting research on the Kielce region, especially its intelligentsia in the Second Polish Republic. The book presents the private lives and occupational activity of women from various classes and social groups, women not only from towns and intellectual circles, but also from rural areas and small towns, both Polish and Jewish. On the basis of rich sources, the author analyses the women's social roles, their choices in life, their attitudes. Of particular interest are the documents from the Diocesan Archives in Kielce (including a questionnaire on the parishioners' morals in 1920–9). The author's final conclusions do not change the existing picture of the women's situation in interwar Poland but the source material presented in the book expands our knowledge of life in the Polish provinces in this period. The appendix contains interesting photographs. (OL)

Renata Nowaczewska, *Dobroczytna Ameryka: walka ze skutkami Wielkiego Kryzysu w latach 1929–1937* [Magnanimous America: The Struggle against the Effects of the Great Depression in 1929–1937], Warszawa, 2009, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 353 p., tables, index of persons, annexes

'There are not many countries in which ... the welfare system is more complex and confusing than in the United States of America'; these words by Lester M. Salamon (*America's Nonprofit Sector: A Primer* [New York, 1992]), recalled by Renata Nowaczewska (p. 275) aptly characterise the specific connection between social and economic issues in the United States and the consequent, exceptionally strong social concerns and worries during a crisis. The author focuses on the discussion on social welfare and the distribution of duties in this respect between the state authorities of various levels and private institutions. Nowaczewska analyses the role of non-governmental organisations, their programmes and the state's attitude towards charity during the administrations of presidents Herbert C. Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt (the New Deal policy and the emergence of the welfare state). She describes the confrontation between the traditional values of American society and the situation brought about by the crisis: the necessity of extending and receiving help. Renata Nowaczewska has examined the Ruth Lilly Special Collection (Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis) and has also carried out research

in the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg and in the library of the John F. Kennedy Institut für Nordamerikastudien Freie Universität in Berlin. Thanks to her scrupulous research she has been able to verify the current opinions on the transformation of the social welfare system and to assess the work of charitable organisations. The book contains an extensive source annex. (OL)

Janusz Wróbel and Joanna Żelazko (eds.), *Polskie dzieci na tularczych szlakach 1939–1950* [Polish Children on Exiles' Routes 1939–1950], Warszawa, 2008, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, 340 p., photos., indexes

The evacuation of Polish civilian population and the 'Anders Army' from the Soviet Union to the Middle East started in the spring of 1942. The formation of the Polish army in the USSR under the command of General Władysław Anders and the release from prison camps of citizens of the Second Polish Republic was possible thanks to the Polish-Soviet agreements concluded in the second half of 1941, after the German invasion of the Soviet Union. The Poles were evacuated to Iran, Palestine and Lebanon and from there some emigrated to Australia and South America. There were 20,000 children among the evacuees. The book discusses their fate during the war and in the first post-war years. The book also includes nine articles by historians who specialise in the history of Polish emigration, nine accounts, as well as selected documents on the situation of the Polish exiles. Thanks to the cooperation established by the Polish government-in-exile with allied governments and charitable institutions, Polish children were sent to welfare centres in various corners of the world untouched by war, e.g. to South Africa, New Zealand, and Mexico. After the war, when the Second Republic's eastern territories were incorporated into the Soviet Union, most children remained abroad, melting into the local society. The book is equipped with unique photographs, including reproductions from children's diaries and illustrations of life in Siberian camps. (KK)

Zofia Wóycicka, *Przerwana żałoba. Polskie spory wokół pamięci nazistowskich obozów koncentracyjnych i zagłady 1944–1950* [Interrupted Mourning: Polish Disputes over the Remembrance of Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camps 1944–1950], Warszawa, 2009, Trio, 416 p., index of persons

The main subject raised by Zofia Wóycicka is the post-1945 process of formation of collective remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust. The author is interested mainly in three questions. One of them is the nature of collective

memory. She asks what collective remembrance really is and what elements it consists of. Referring to the methodological proposals put forward by Maurice Halbwachs, Jay Winter, Pieter Lagrou, Astrid Erll, Barbara Szacka, Robert Traba, Jan Assmann, and Aleida Assmann, Wóycicka distinguishes dominant memory from popular memory. In undemocratic systems dominant memory is created above all by the apparatus of power. Popular memory consists of the inhabitants' individual memories and their ideas of the past. A separate chapter deals with the place which survivors of Nazi concentration camps occupy in post-war society. Secondly, Wóycicka tries to reconstruct the stages in which the 'official memory' of the Holocaust was created. The years 1949–50 marked a turning point. It was then that a 'martyrological-heroic' interpretation was imposed, an interpretation which stressed the role played by communists in the resistance movement in concentration camps. A model example was the museum exhibition at Buchenwald (DDR). A similar exhibition was organised in Auschwitz in 1950. Thirdly, the author shows how the identity of the victims of Nazi concentration camps is blotted out of people's memory through ideologisation or the 'nationalisation' of memory. During the times of People's Poland concentration camps were presented mainly as places of Polish martyrdom, the memory of Jewish victims was obliterated. A similar process occurred in the Soviet Union (such as the museum exhibition in Babi Yar), which points to the similarities of the 'politics of the past' in the countries of the communist bloc. To sum up, Zofia Wóycicka's book is an important study of 'social memory'. It is also an interesting contribution to the discussion on how memory of the past influences people's attitudes and behaviours. (KK)

Krzysztof Brzechczyn (ed.), *Obrazy PRL. O konceptualizacji realnego socjalizmu w Polsce* [Pictures from the Polish People's Republic: The Conceptualisation of Real Socialism in Poland], Poznań, 2008, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu. Oddział w Poznaniu, 257 p., ill., index of persons, series: *Studia i Materiały Poznańskiego IPN*, 3

The volume contains 15 articles written by leading researchers into the history of People's Poland who analyse the theoretical concepts that have been used by historians. The first part ['The conceptualisation of real socialism in Poland'] presents the concepts of Józef Maria Bocheński, Randall Collins, Leszek Kołakowski, Stefan Kurowski, Leszek Nowak, Jadwiga Staniszkis and Andrzej Walicki. The second part ['The problems of researching Poland's most recent history'] discusses the attempts to analyse Poland's recent past by methods used in anthropology, philology, political science,

'post-colonial theory' and in studies on social mentality. Among the most important questions raised in the book are: Leszek Kołakowski's analysis of communist state philosophy (an article by Justyna Kurczak), the space of privacy in the political system of the Polish People's Republic (Ryszard Sitko), the question of autonomous civic ties in Leszek Nowak's studies (Krzysztof Brzechczyn), relations between ideology and the system of real socialism (Lidia Godek), militarisation of the economy (Jan Sielezin). Most information on the 'narration' which dominates in historiography is provided in the articles by Dariusz Stola and Rafał Stobiecki. Stola draws attention to the fact that what dominates in historiography is narration from one conflict to the next one and that stress is laid on factors which legitimise or delegitimise the political system of the Polish People's Republic (PRL). The book ends with Stobiecki's reflections on 'memories of the PRL in people's minds'. The book is a valuable methodological guide to contemporary historiography. It can also be interpreted as a demand for interdisciplinary research into recent history. (KK)

Andrzej Werblan, *Stalinizm w Polsce* [Stalinism in Poland], Warszawa, 2009, Towarzystwo Wydawnicze i Literackie, 199 p., index of persons

Andrzej Werblan's book is one of the most frequently quoted studies on Stalinism in Poland. Its first edition appeared in 1991. The present edition is an enlarged, amended version; it includes a new section which presents the events of 1956. One of the reasons why the book has aroused great interest is its author's biography. Andrzej Werblan was one of the most important functionaries of the party apparatus during the times of People's Poland. As editor-in-chief of *Nowe Drogi*, a periodical of the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR), and director of the Institute for the Basic Problems of Marxism-Leninism, he was regarded as the chief ideologist of the PZPR. In 1974 he was nominated professor at the Silesian University in Katowice. It can be said that 'Stalinism in Poland' is, to some extent, an autobiographical book. Werblan discusses the following questions: the Marxist genesis of Stalinism; the sources of the system's legitimization; the beneficiaries of Stalinism; the predominant moods during the period of Stalinism; and the effects of the nationalisation of the economy. He points out that during the Stalinist period the greatest benefits were derived by the rural poor and a part of the 'new working class', but he also draws attention to the fact that 'apathy' and feelings of 'weariness' were widespread. Given Werblan's life story, it is intriguing that in his opinion 'Polish society showed great resilience and resistance towards Stalinism', mainly 'for national and religious reasons'. This diagnosis will undoubtedly remain an important point of reference for

researchers into Stalinism. A serious drawback of the book is that it ignores the literature published during the last decade.

The end of the book can be interpreted as a defence of the achievements of People's Poland – of the modernisation of its industry (despite the mistakes that were committed) and of the attitude of at least some representatives of the PZPR apparatus (including the stance of the author). (KK)

Anna Machcewicz, *Kazimierz Moczarski. Biografia* [Kazimierz Moczarski: A Biography], Kraków, 2009, Znak, 341 p., tables, ills.

Kazimierz Moczarski, author of the famous book *Conversations with an Executioner*, was born into a teacher's family. In 1932 he completed law studies at the University of Warsaw. Parallel to his law studies, he studied at the Higher School of Journalism for three years. He then worked as a clerk in the Ministry of Social Welfare. During the occupation he was active in the Bureau of Information and Propaganda of the Home Army High Command and also in the Directorate of the Underground Struggle – the Polish Underground State's body i.a. for the pursuit of collaborators and blackmailers of Jews. After the war he was among those who tried to find opportunities for legal activity under the new system. Despite his conciliatory stance, he was arrested on 11 August 1945 and accused of anti-state activity. In January 1946 he was sentenced to 10 years in prison. In 1947 the sentence was commuted to five years, but in November 1948 a successive investigation was started against him. For two and a half years he was tortured, for the authorities wanted to force him to confess his guilt. In November 1952 he was sentenced to death. Though the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment, he was kept in a death cell for over two years. In 1949, for 255 days, he shared a cell with the executioner of the Warsaw ghetto, SS Gruppenführer Jürgen Stroop. Moczarski was released and rehabilitated during the 'Gomułka Thaw'. At the end of the 1950s he took an active part in social activities (e.g. in the anti-alcohol campaign). His book *Conversations with an Executioner*, reminiscences of the time he spent with Stroop, is a unique analysis of totalitarian mentality. It appeared after his death, in 1975. After Andrzej K. Kunert's book *Oskarżony Kazimierz Moczarski* [The Defendant Kazimierz Moczarski] published in 2006, Anna Machcewicz's study is yet another biography of this legendary officer of the Home Army. Machcewicz has made use of little known domestic archives of his daughter Elżbieta Moczarska and many accounts (among them one by the film director Andrzej Wajda). This is the fullest biography of Kazimierz Moczarski available. (KK)

Agata Mirek, *Siostry zakonne w obozach pracy w PRL w latach 1954–1956* [Nuns in Labour Camps in the Polish People's Republic in 1954–1956], Lublin, 2009, Wydawnictwo KUL, 736 p., tables, photos., indexes

The book represents the current of research into forced labour camps during the period of Stalinism, a current which was initiated after 1989 by, among others, Włodzimierz Borodziej, Jerzy Kochanowski, Bogusław Kopka, and Tadeusz Wolsza. Agata Mirek's extensive study describes the fate of nuns sent to forced labour camps in 1954–6. The choice of dates is not accidental. At the beginning of August 1954 the authorities began to close down convents in the Western Territories (pre-war German territories incorporated into Poland in 1945) and to evacuate the nuns who had conducted welfare and educational work there. The operation was given the codename 'X-2'. It is still open to dispute whether the authorities carried it out to test anti-Church policy. This is a question asked also by Agata Mirek. According to her, the liquidation of convents could be planned by all communist countries. In six chapters the author discusses the following questions: the attitude of communist ideology to the Catholic Church and monastic life (with examples from various countries in East and Central Europe), the communist authorities' policy towards the Church and nuns' orders in 1945–54, operation 'X-2', the transfer of nuns to forced labour camps, political changes in 1956 and the liquidation of forced labour camps. The book is equipped with tables and illustrations. The author has made use of many sources, including previously unknown documents of various religious orders. (KK)

Bogusław Tracz (ed.), *Współzawodnictwo pracy w życiu gospodarczym, społeczno-politycznym i propagandzie PRL* [Socialist Emulation in the Economic and Socio-Political Life of the Polish People's Republic and in Its Propaganda], Katowice, 2008, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej, Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Oddział w Katowicach, 318 p., ills., indexes, sum. in English and German

Socialist emulation was one of the forms in which society and the economy were organised in communist countries. In Poland it was initiated on the Soviet model beginning from the miner Wincenty Pstrowski. The first socialist rallying calls appeared as early as 1945 and attempts to resuscitate the idea were made as late as the 1980s. By the end of the 1940s socialist emulation had spread to all trades and occupations, even to kindergartens, schools and medical institutions. From 1949, a special series entitled 'Biblioteka

Przodowników Pracy' [The Shock Workers' Library] presented the life stories and achievements of leading so-called 'shock workers', the icons of communist propaganda. They led May Day marches, were presented in the press and film chronicles as the vanguard of the working class, and were awarded valuable prizes (e.g. radios, motorcycles and even flats). The 18 articles included in the book are papers from a historical conference devoted to the question of socialist emulation. Some of them are innovatory analyses based on previously unknown sources, such as the articles dealing with: the influence of socialist emulation on work discipline (by Jędrzej Chumiński), the promotion and degradation of shock workers (Hubert Wilk), the biography of the famous shock worker Bernard Bugdoł (Zenon Szmidtkę), the growth of resistance to socialist emulation (Bogusław Tracz), pictures of shock workers on postage stamps and in propaganda films (Marcin Zaborski and Jadwiga Kotulska), the attempts to adapt socialist emulation to rural work (Marcin Markiewicz), return to the idea of socialist emulation in the 1970s and 1980s (by Joanna Sadowska, Robert Ciupa and Adam Dziuba). As Bogusław Tracz, the editor of the volume, points out, the authors used socialist emulation to analyse the specific characteristics of the system of central planning. (KK)

Krzysztof Lesiakowski, *Strajki robotnicze w Łodzi 1945–1976* [Workers' Industrial Actions in Lodz 1945–1976], Łódź, 2008, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, 376 p., bibl., index of persons

Strikes were not forbidden in the communist system, but they were frowned upon. According to a definition presented during a congress of Trade Unions held in Lublin in 1944, a strike was a permissible form of struggle for a better life if it was organised in a private enterprise. The workers employed in state-owned works could protest only against the negligence of the administration of their factory or their legal trade union. Kazimierz Lesiakowski shows that this definition was in force as long as the Polish People's Republic (PRL) existed. He stresses that the question of industrial actions in the PRL, when practically the whole economy was in the hands of the state, deserves the interest of researchers, for they occurred not only in periods regarded as turning points in the history of the PRL (the years 1956, 1970, 1976, 1980) but also during the times of relative stability. Lesiakowski focuses on workers' strikes in Lodz, one of the most important industrial towns in Poland. The book covers the period from 1945 to 1976. 1945 was the year when the structures of power were laid down. It was also a period of intensive activity by workers who put forward many economic and organisational demands (to a smaller extent also political ones). The year 1976 marked a turning point in the history of the PRL; it was the year when, as a result of workers'

industrial actions in Radom, Ursus and Płock, a democratic opposition was formed (Workers' Defence Committee). Lesiakowski distinguishes strikes from revolts. According to him, a manifestation even by only a few workers is a strike if it is a concerted, coordinated action. He analyses the motives, aims, scope and methods of strikes and the addressees of the workers' demands. He also tries to show the fate of frequently forgotten strike leaders. The book is a valuable contribution to the social history of the PRL, especially its working class. (KK)

Andrzej Krzywicki, *Poststalinowski karnawał radości. V Światowy Festiwal Młodzieży i Studentów o Pokój i Przyjaźń, Warszawa 1955. Przygotowania, przebieg, znaczenie* [The Post-Stalinist Carnival of Joy: The World Fifth Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship, Warsaw 1955. Preparations, the Events of the Festival, Its Significance], Warszawa, 2009, Trio, 335 p., bibl., ill.

From 31 July to 14 August 1955 Warsaw hosted the World Fifth Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship. Originally, this was to be a political mobilisation of the younger generation, but the organisers soon lost control of the events and the festival turned into a spontaneous joyous play. Andrzej Krzywicki's book consists of six parts. In the first part the author describes the history of the 'peace and friendship' festivals. From the first festival held in Prague in 1947 the festivals always promoted the idea of youth's participation in the 'struggle against imperialism' and expressed support for the policy of the Soviet Union. In the second and third part the author discusses the organisation of the Fifth Festival. He draws attention to the fact that for the first time since the War detailed maps of Warsaw were available. Their sale was previously forbidden for military reasons. The fourth part of the book deals with the events of the festival, the influence exerted by the festival on arts, journalism and customs. The festival departed from previous socialist realist conventions. In the fifth and sixth parts Krzywicki presents foreign papers' opinions on the festival, on Warsaw and its inhabitants. He analyses the influence which the Festival exerted on the consciousness of the younger Polish generation. He thinks that the Fifth Festival can be regarded as a symbolic end of Stalinism in Poland. Krzywicki's book, based on the author's extensive research into sources, adds a great deal of information on the 'thaw' in the communist bloc. (KK)

Jerzy Eisler, *“Polskie miesiące”, czyli kryzys(y) w PRL* [‘The Polish Months’: The Crisis or Crises in the Polish People’s Republic], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2008, 232 p., bibl., index of persons, series: Monografie, 47

This book by Jerzy Eisler, a leading researcher into the history of the Polish People’s Republic (PRL), is a summing up of many years of his work on the ‘Polish calendar’, a calendar made up of such turning points in the history of People’s Poland as: June and October 1956, March and August 1968, December 1970, June 1976, August 1980 and December 1981. In the preface the author says that although he has been conducting research on the PRL for a quarter of a century, he is still unable to say whether the ‘Polish months’ were successive crises or whether they can be regarded as the same crisis experienced by an undemocratic, non-sovereign authority, a crisis which made itself felt from time to time. Eisler is rather inclined to think that the ‘Polish months’ had so many features in common that ‘in fact one can speak about one crisis, a crisis of a dictatorial – totalitarian up to 1956, while later authoritarian power with clear totalitarian inclinations’. By crisis Eisler means above all political crisis, changes at the top level of power. He points out, however, that three dimensions could usually be noticed during the ‘Polish months’: a political crisis (mostly a result of the struggle for power by various factions of the Polish United Workers’ Party), a social crisis, manifested in demands for a democratisation of the system, put forward by a large part of society, and an economic crisis. In his analysis of the ‘Polish months’ Eisler tries to determine the role of political provocations. He also analyses the Soviet Union’s influence on political changes in the PRL. The book presents important source facts, proposes new interpretations and can serve as a compendium of knowledge on the most important events in Poland’s post-war history. (KK)

Milena Przybysz, *Wyspy wolności. Duszpasterstwo akademickie w Łodzi 1945–1989* [Islands of Freedom: Academic Priesthood in Lodz 1945–1989], Łódź, 2008, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, 197 p., bibl., index of persons, photos.

Modern academic priesthood experienced an extremely dynamic development in the Second Polish Republic (1918–39), especially in the university centres of Poznań, Wilno, Cracow and Lublin. After World War II the Church initiated its activity in new Polish university centres, Opole, Szczecin, Gdańsk and

Wrocław, which were expanded after the War. The author concentrates her attention on academic priesthood in Łódź, an interesting choice, for the town was one of the most important industrial centres in People's Poland, and after the war it witnessed a steady growth in the number of students and scholars. Pastoral work among them was conducted by the Jesuits. It was organised by the charismatic chaplain of the Home Army Father Tomasz Rostworowski SJ, who had taken part in the Warsaw Uprising. During the Stalinist period the activity of academic priests was severely restricted and Rostworowski was imprisoned. Academic priesthood was revived after 1956. From 1963 it was carried out in Łódź by the Salesian order. As the author shows, the priests conducted formative work (Masses, Advent and Lent retreats, pilgrimages), they also worked in the educational field (tuition and help for poorer students), the cultural field (discussions, book promotion), and the artistic field (organisation of students' choirs and theatre groups). Academic priesthood evolved from the middle of the 1960s. An important role was played by the changes introduced after the Second Vatican Council (as an example let us mention the religious song festival, 'Sacrosong', held in May 1969). In the 1970s academic priesthood was a forum of meetings for young intellectuals who later on formed a democratic opposition. In the second half of the 1970s and in the 1980s great popularity was gained by scientific courses conducted by such influential, opposition figures as Władysław Bartoszewski and Bohdan Cywiński. As the title indicates, the centres of academic priesthood were becoming real 'islands of freedom'. The author has based her book on an extensive archival research and has made use of little known chronicles of some academic priesthood centres. (KK)

Joanna Wojdon, *"W jedności siła". Kongres Polonii Amerykańskiej w latach 1968–1988* [Unity Is Strength: The Polish American Congress in 1968–1988), Toruń, 2008, Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, 500 p., bibl., ill., index of persons

The Polish American Congress (PAC), set up in 1944, is still the largest organisation of Americans of Polish origin. Its history can be divided into three stages, each of which is linked to the organisation's actual chairmanship. Joanna Wojdon's book is a continuation of her earlier work which dealt with the years 1944–68 (*"W imieniu sześciu milionów". Kongres Polonii Amerykańskiej w latach 1944–1968* ['In the Name of Six Million': The Polish American Congress in 1944–1968]). In her new book the author focuses on the presidency of Alojzy Mazewski (1968–88). The most important activities developed by PAC during that time were: their efforts to raise the prestige of the Polish ethnic group in the United States and to consolidate the group, to extend support to the immigrants, to overcome stereotypes and

to help the democratic opposition in Poland. The book consists of three parts. In the first one the author discusses the organisation of PAC, in the second she presents the most important cultural and educational initiatives launched by the Congress, in the third part she reconstructs the diplomatic activity of its leadership (including economic help for Poland). According to Joanna Wojdon, thanks to the activity conducted by PAC, the Polish Americans in the United States have, despite their growing assimilation, retained 'all features of an ethnic group'; they are conscious of their origin and of the distinctness of their culture. The author has made use of many unknown sources from the Immigration History Research Center in Minneapolis, the Józef Piłsudski Institute of America in New York, and the Central Archives of American Polonia in Orchard Lake. Joanna Wojdon's new study and her earlier book fill in the gap in research on American Poles. (KK)

Ewa Kępińska, *Migracje sezonowe z Polski do Niemiec. Mechanizmy rekrutacji, rola rodziny i zróżnicowanie według płci* [Seasonal Migrations from Poland to Germany: The Mechanisms of Recruitment, the Role of Families, Gender Criteria], Warszawa, 2008, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 318 p., bibl., annexes, maps, sum. in English, series: Studia Migracyjne

The book discusses seasonal migrations from Poland to Germany at the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century. The author, a sociologist from the University of Warsaw, compares these migrations with those which took place at the turn of the 20th century, during the interwar period and the times of People's Poland. Being a sociological study of seasonal migrations, the book naturally also provides a great deal of interesting information on the history of contacts between Poles and Germans in the 20th century. It is made up of six parts. In the first and second parts the author presents basic sociological concepts connected with migrations, theoretical assumptions and research methods. In the third part she outlines the historical background. She tries to determine the geography and scale of migrations, starting from the end of the 19th century. In the next parts of the book she analyses the socio-demographic features of contemporary seasonal migrants and depicts their households and their families. She attaches great importance to the question of gender, being of the opinion that it will allow us better to understand the process of migrations and the migrants' behaviour. What is particularly valuable about the book is that the author follows migration routes over a long period of time. Another interesting feature is that the book depicts Polish-German relations from the point of view of German employers and their Polish employees. This shows how family and local

traditions are formed, how they are transferred from one generation to the next one, irrespective of the political system or the activity of individual governments. (KK)

Henryk Markiewicz, *Jeszcze dopowiedzenia. Rozprawy i szkice z wiedzy o literaturze* [More Additions: Treatises and Essays on Literary Knowledge], Kraków, 2008, Wydawnictwo Literackie, 445 p., bibl., index of persons

This new book by Henryk Markiewicz, a well known literature historian, has two parts. In the first, theoretical part the author discusses such questions as the literariness of historiography, Marxism in literary research, post-modern theory of literature, literary anthropology, and cultural theory of literature. In the second part Markiewicz presents literary essays on the works of Antoni Słonimski and Czesław Miłosz. Particularly interesting is the chapter entitled 'O antropologii literackiej' [On literary anthropology] in which the author outlines the directions of this new discipline on the borderline between anthropology and theory of literature. He raises such questions as collective mentality, behaviour, symbols, the constitutive rites of a given social or ethnic group, and also such specific elements as imagination, creativity, emotionality. Markiewicz devotes much attention to the value of literature as an historical source. He points out that even though literary anthropology is a risky venture, the risk is worth taking. Literature can be an important testimony of the past for it shows elements which are not present in official documents. Henryk Markiewicz's book is an important contribution to the methodological debates held by Polish humanists (not only historians). It also contains many valuable reflections on prominent Polish 20th century writers. (KK)