

General History in Polish Historiography 1945-1974

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WESTERN AND NORTHERN EUROPE IN THE 16TH-18TH CENTURIES

Polish historians have been writing for a long time works on general history and, especially, on the history of countries of Western and Northern Europe. Consequently, those Polish historians who got interested in these problems after World War II, had their predecessors. Indeed, quite a number of works devoted to general history were written in Poland in the interwar period. To start with, one should stress that in the *Great General History*, published in the 1930s, volume 5 (part 1 and 2) and a part of volume 6 — all in all more than 1,200 big-size pages — were devoted to the history of Europe in the 16th-18th centuries.¹

The following scholars studied the history of Western and Northern Europe: the 16th century — Bolesław Olszewicz, Kazimierz Chodynicki, Zdzisław Morawski, Kazimierz Chłędowski; the 17th century — Wacław Sobieski, Adam Szelaḡowski, Kazimierz Piwarski; the 18th century — Józef Feldman and Władysław Konopczyński. Their works quite frequently dealt with the

¹ *Wielka Historia powszechna* [The Great General History], vol. V, part 1: *Odkrycia, Humanizm, Odrodzenie i Reformacja* [The Discoveries, Humanism, Renaissance and Reformation], by K. Chodynicki, and K. Piwarski, Warszawa 1938; vol. V, Part 2: *Wojny religijne i absolutyzm* [The Religious Wars and Absolutism], by K. Piwarski and W. Konopczyński, Warszawa 1938; vol. VI, Part 1: *Od Wielkiej Rewolucji do wojny światowej* [From the Great Revolution to the World War], by J. Feldman, J. Iwaszkiewicz and M. Kukiel, Warszawa 1936.

relations between Western States and Poland; as a rule, however, they shed much light on the policy of those States in general. It is also worth noting that e.g. A. Szełągowski devoted a three-volume work to the history of the French Revolution,² and W. Konopczyński published a history of English parliamentarism.³

As regards the postwar period, apart from the few historians who were able to publish immediately after the war works that had already been prepared before the war, most scholars did not set to work in this field until more than ten years after the war. This was due not only to the problem of reconstruction of the apparatus of historical research, for the most part destroyed during the war, but also to the problem of research trips abroad. In the hard postwar years, such trips were very rare. Strikingly, therefore, new works in the field of general history began to appear, as has already been mentioned, only some fifteen years after the war.

Before proceeding to review in chronological order monographs dealing with the problems of Western and Northern Europe, we ought to stress that centuries in question (16th–18th) have been presented in the published general histories. Thus the history of Western Europe was discussed in volume III of the *General History*, written by Zbigniew Wójcik.⁴ This big volume, published for the first time in 1968, has already had a second, revised edition. Volume IV which is to cover the 18th century is, unfortunately, only now printing.

Apart from the PWN (Polish Scientific Publishers), another publishing house, the PZWS (State School-Book Publishers), has also engaged in publishing works devoted to general history. In view of the character of the latter publishing house, the series inaugurated by it has to a greater extent the character of University textbooks. In that series, the general history of the 16th

² A. Szełągowski, *Rewolucja Francuska 1789–1793* [*The French Revolution 1789–1793*], vol. I, Lwów 1934. Volume II, already set in print, was destroyed in 1939; volume III, remaining in manuscript form, was lost.

³ W. Konopczyński, *Dzieje parlamentaryzmu angielskiego* [*History of English Parliamentarism*], Warszawa 1923.

⁴ Z. Wójcik, *Historia powszechna XVI–XVII wieku* [*General History of the 16th–17th Centuries*], Warszawa 1968, 2nd edition 1973.

and the first half of the 17th century has been prepared by Andrzej Wyczański.⁵ The author has written a book in a style slightly different from that used in the former publication: he first discussed demographic, economic, social and general problems and then presented separately the history of the various countries. A similar way of writing was also used by Adam Kersten and Jarema Maciszewski, the authors of the next volume of *General History*, published by the PZWS in 1971 and containing the history of the second half of the 17th and the whole 18th century.⁶

In all the cases cited above, we have to do with synthetical presentations based, of course, on extensive foreign-language literature and written by authors who only exceptionally engaged in source studies of certain problems of general history. The history of the 16th–18th centuries is approached in a similar manner by the authors of histories of individual countries, appearing in the series of one-volume histories of European and non-European countries, published by the Ossolineum Publishing House in Wrocław. Without discussing these monographic outlines in greater detail, let us just recall that published so far in this series have been the histories of England, Austria, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, Sweden and the United States.

As regards the monographic works relating to the 16th century, it must be admitted that Polish historians have devoted the most attention to France. Relatively early, already in 1954, was published A. Wyczański's work presenting the attempts of the French policy to establish closer relations with the Jagiellonian States in order to secure an ally in the rivalry with the powerful Hapsburgs.⁷ The author has utilized French and Polish archive material, he has also added to his book a summary in French which makes it possible for historians not knowing Polish to get

⁵ A. Wyczański, *Historia powszechna. Koniec XV w. — połowa XVII w.* [*General History. From the End of the 15th to the Middle of the 17th Centuries*], Warszawa 1965.

⁶ A. Kersten, J. Maciszewski, *Historia powszechna, 1648–1789* [*General History, 1648–1789*], Warszawa 1971.

⁷ A. Wyczański, *Francja wobec państw jagiellońskich w latach 1515–1529* [*France and the Jagiellonian States in the Years 1515–1529*], Wrocław 1954.

acquainted with the principal conclusions of the work. Another historian, Stanisław Grzybowski, engaged in research concerning the history of France in the second half of the 16th century, and devoted his attention to cultural problems above all. He published articles on Reformation in France and on Huguenot pacifism. His main work in this field, however, concerns the social views of Huguenot publicists in the above-mentioned period. Basing himself on a large body of Huguenot publicism, the author has presented successively the attitude of representatives of that religious group towards the nobility, the townspeople, and especially to the common people (*menu peuple*), towards the problems of trade and tradespeople, finally towards the peasants.⁸

As for the history of England in that period, one should cite here Henryk Zins' work concerned with economic history.⁹ On the basis of English and Polish archive material and extensive literature, the author has presented England's trade relations with the Baltic countries in a particularly important period when a new configuration of forces was taking shape after the First Northern War.

Relatively little attention has been devoted to the history of Reformation in Germany and in other European countries apart from France. The person of Erasmus Desiderius is an exception in this respect: several of his works have been translated into Polish and, as a rule, preceded by more or less comprehensive introductions. Particularly noteworthy is Henryk Barycz's introduction to *The Praise of Folly*, published in Polish translation.¹⁰

The already-mentioned S. Grzybowski took up the person of Martin Luther, presenting his biography, formulated rather one-sidedly in a monograph of popular character.¹¹ In an introduction

⁸ S. Grzybowski, *Badania nad Odrodzeniem i Reformacją we Francji* [Studies in the Renaissance and Reformation in France], „Odrodzenie i Reformacja w Polsce”, vol. IV, 1958; *Pacyfizm hugenocki w XVI w.* [The Huguenot Pacifism in the 16th Century], „Odrodzenie i Reformacja w Polsce”, vol. VII, 1962; *Poglądy społeczne publicystów hugenockich 1559–1598* [The Social Views of Huguenot Publicists 1559–1598], Wrocław 1964.

⁹ H. Zins, *Anglia a Bałtyk w drugiej połowie XVI w.* [England and the Baltic in the Second Half of the 16th Century], Wrocław 1967.

¹⁰ Erazm z Rotterdamu, *Pochwała głupoty* [The Praise of Folly], translated by E. Jędrkiewicz, introduction by H. Barycz, Wrocław 1953.

¹¹ S. Grzybowski, *Marcin Luter* [Martin Luther], Warszawa 1966.

to Luther's selected writings, Andrzej Ściegienny made an attempt of presenting Luther's views.¹²

An important work was devoted to Baltic problems by W. Koнопczyński.¹³ The author, who had studied these problems already before the war, presented this question beginning with the Middle Ages; however, he discussed it in greater detail only from the 16th century, concentrating his attention chiefly on the 17th and 18th centuries. The book, based on the Polish, German, Russian, Swedish, Danish and English literature of the subject, is a concise summing-up of historical knowledge in this field as it looked in the 1940s.

Speaking of larger synthetical works, one should cite here the comprehensive study by Stanisław Edward Nahlik from the border line of law and history.¹⁴ The author deals with the evolution of diplomatic forms, of the ceremonial that developed in the 16th–18th centuries, and with the literature of that period discussing the objectives and tasks of diplomatic service. A wider problem, in the field of economic history has been presented by Jerzy Topolski.¹⁵ The author has also dealt in this work with the widely discussed problem of the economic depression in the 17th century.

A question of major importance to both economic and political history has been taken up by S. Grzybowski in his work based on a large body of sources, both manuscriptal and printed.¹⁶ The author has presented the beginnings of England's colonial policy, its dependence on the political configuration in Europe and the first troubles of England with the colonies established in the West. A brief French summary makes it possible for a foreign reader to get an idea of the author's main conclusions.

¹² A. Ściegienny, *Luter* [Luther], Warszawa 1967.

¹³ W. Koнопczyński, *Kwestia bałtycka do XX wieku* [The Baltic Problem up to the 20th Century], Gdańsk 1947.

¹⁴ S. E. Nahlik, *Narodziny nowożytnej dyplomacji* [The Birth of Modern Diplomacy], Wrocław 1971.

¹⁵ J. Topolski, *Narodziny kapitalizmu w Europie XIV–XVII wieku* [The Birth of Capitalism in Europe of the 14th–17th Century], Warszawa 1965.

¹⁶ S. Grzybowski, *Polityka kolonialna Tudorów i pierwszych Stuartów* [The Colonial Policy of the Tudors and of the First Stuarts], Wrocław 1970.

As regards the achievements of Polish historiography in the general history of the 17th century, we ought first of all to point to the works by Józef Leszczyński, devoted to the history of a small and little-known nation in the centre of Europe, namely the Slav Lusatians, living in the territory of the present German Democratic Republic.¹⁷ Without listing all his papers in this field, published in Polish, Czech and German journals, one has to single out two important works. The first deals with peasant movements in Lusatia in the period after the Thirty-Years' War (such movements, as it is known, appeared in nearly all territories over which the war spread); the second is a comprehensive source treatise on the state system of this small country after it came under the rule of the Saxon electors.¹⁸

W. Czapliński has presented the Brandenburg policy in the years 1632–1648 or, rather, one particular aspect of that policy. The same author has also dealt with certain fragments of the Danish policy.¹⁹

A relatively great number of Polish works have been devoted to the history of wars in the 17th century; many of them deal with wars waged by the Swedes in Poland's territories. A part of these works were published in the periodical publication: *Studia i materiały do historii wojskowości* [Studies and Materials Pertaining to Military History]; from among those, let us cite here papers by Jerzy Teodorczyk and by Paweł Stok.²⁰

¹⁷ J. Leszczyński, *Przejście Górnych Łużyc pod panowanie saskie* [The Passing of Upper Lusatia under Saxon Rule], „Śląski Kwartalnik Historyczny Sobótka”, vol. XVII, 1962.

¹⁸ J. Leszczyński, *Der Klassenkampf der Oberlausitzer Bauern in den Jahren 1635–1720*, Bautzen 1964; by the same author, *Stany Górnych Łużyc w latach 1635–1697* [The States of Upper Lusatia in the Years 1635–1697], Wrocław 1963.

¹⁹ W. Czapliński, *Polska a Prusy i Brandenburgia za Władysława IV* [Poland, Prussia and Brandenburg in the Times of Ladislaus IV], Wrocław 1947; *Dania a układ polsko-brandenburski w 1605 roku* [Denmark and the Polish-Brandenburg Treaty in 1605], in: *Europa, Słowiańszczyzna, Polska*, Poznań 1970; *Sprawy skandynawskie a zatwienienie lenna pruskiego w latach 1609–1612* [Scandinavian Problems and the Settlement of the Prussian Feud in the Years 1609–1612], „Śląski Kwartalnik Historyczny Sobótka”, vol. XXVI, 1971.

²⁰ J. Teodorczyk, *Wyprawa szwedzka z Meklemburgii do Prus Królewskich wiosną 1627* [The Swedish Expedition from Meklemburg to Royal Prussia in the Spring of 1627], in: „Studia i Materiały do Historii Wojskowości”, vol. VI, part 2, 1960; by the same author, *Bitwa pod*

The Polish-Swedish war of 1655–1660 has been presented in two expert monographs: one by Stanisław Herbst,²¹ the other by Jan Wimmer, published in the collective work on this War. This volume contains also other works such as Tadeusz Nowak's and the study by S. Herbst discussing in detail the battle of Warsaw which is the object of interest to historians of at least three countries: Poland, Germany and Sweden. Finally, it is worth noting that the latter three studies have also been published in Swedish.²²

Michał Komarzyński has taken up the problems of French policy under Louis XIV, chiefly in the economic sphere. He first published a synthetical outline in which he attempted to characterize briefly the trade relations between France and Poland, pointing out that French imports to Poland surpassed as a rule Poland's exports to France in which raw-materials, such as grain and timber, predominated. In 1968, Komarzyński published a study in which he analyzed the importance and proportions of imports of grain to France, especially in the years of wars or bad crops, hard for the French economy.²³

The same author also dealt with certain purely political problems of relations between the two countries and in a scholarly work written for a broader public presented the whole story of

Gniewem r. 1626. Pierwsza porażka husarii [The Battle of Gniew in 1626. The First Defeat of the Husaria], *ibidem*, vol. XII, part 2, 1966; P. Stok, *Bitwa pod Kliszowem w r. 1702* [The Battle of Kliszów in 1702], *ibidem*, vol. VI, part 2, 1960.

²¹ S. Herbst, *Wojna obronna 1655–1660* [The Defensive War of 1655–1660], in: *Polska w okresie drugiej wojny północnej 1655–1660*, vol. II, Warszawa 1957.

²² J. Wimmer, *Przegląd operacji w wojnie polsko-szwedzkiej 1655–1660* [A Review of Operations in the Polish-Swedish War of 1655–1660], in: *Wojna polsko-szwedzka 1655–1660*, Warszawa 1973; T. Nowak, *Operacja krakowska króla Karola X Gustawa 17 IX–19 X 1655* [The Cracow Operation of King Carolus X Gustavus, 17 September — 19 October, 1655], *ibidem*; S. Herbst, *Trzydniowa bitwa pod Warszawą 28–30 VII 1656* [The Three-Days' Battle of Warsaw, 28–30 July, 1656], *ibidem*, pp. 296–330. The same studies in Swedish, in: *Polens krig med Sverige 1655–1660, Carl X Gustaf — Studier*, vol. V, Stockholm 1973.

²³ M. Komarzyński, *Stosunki handlowe między Francją a Rzeczpospolitą Polską za panowania Ludwika XIV* [Trade Relations between France and Poland under the Reign of Louis XIV], Katowice 1966; *Polska w polityce gospodarczej Wersalu* Katowice 1966; *Polska w polityce gospodarczej Wersalu, 1661–1715* [Poland in the Economic Policy of Versailles, 1661–1715], Wrocław 1968.

the French prince's unsuccessful candidature in the Polish election after the death of John III Sobieski.⁴

As far as the 18th century is concerned, Polish historians have been interested above all in Polish-Saxon relations in the period of union between the two countries and in the related problems. In 1962, a volume of studies on these matters by Polish and German historians was published in Berlin. Among the works by Polish historians, those by Kazimierz Piwarski, Józef Gierowski and Józef Leszczyński are particularly noteworthy.²⁵

Poland's most distinguished expert in the history of the first half of the 18th century, J. Gierowski, has also taken up problems of European diplomacy in that period. The volume of his collected studies²⁶ contains, among others, the following: *Attempts to Tighten the Polish-Saxon Union, Prussian Policy towards Poland after the Treaty of Utrecht, The Bargains over Military Aid to Venice and the Dauphin's Mission, Austrian Exertions to Secure Poland's Participation in the War with Turkey*, — all off them based on extensive source material and on literature in many languages. The same author has dealt in a concise study with the 1714 Treaty of friendship between Poland and France.²⁷ It must be admitted that even quite comprehensive textbooks fail to mention this treaty; however, the author — on the basis of ample material assembled in German, French, Soviet, Austrian and Polish archives — has brought out the importance of the treaty and presented the reasons for which it had disappointed the hopes of the monarchs who concluded it. A comprehensive summary in French is added.

²⁴ M. Komaczyński, *Akcja eskadry francuskiej admirała Barta przeciw żaglowcom gdańskim w r. 1697* [The Action of Admiral Bart's French Squadron against the Sailing Vessels of Gdańsk in 1697], in: *Studia gdańsko-pomorskie*, Gdańsk 1964; *Księcia Contiego niefortunna wyprawa po koronę Sobieskiego* [Prince de Conti's Unfortunate Expedition for the Crown of Sobieski], Warszawa 1971.

²⁵ K. Piwarski, *Das Interregnum 1696/97 in Polen und die politische Lage in Europa*, in: *Sachsen und Polen während des Nordischen Krieges 1700-1721*, Berlin 1962; J. Gierowski, *Personal oder Realunion? Zur Geschichte der polnisch-sächsischen Beziehungen nach Poltawa*, *ibidem*; J. Leszczyński, *Die Oberlausitz in den ersten Jahren des Nordischen Krieges (1700-1709)*, *ibidem*.

²⁶ J. Gierowski, *W cieniu Ligi Północnej* [In the Shadow of the Northern League], Wrocław 1971.

²⁷ J. Gierowski, *Traktat przyjaźni Polski z Francją w r. 1714* [The Treaty of Friendship between Poland and France in 1714], Warszawa 1965.

The policy of France in the later part of the 18th century has been studied by Emanuel Rostworowski.²⁸ On the basis of a thorough analysis of French and Polish sources, Rostworowski opposed the Western historians' view according to which the support of France for the candidature of Stanisław Leszczyński for the Polish throne had only been an appearance. Rostworowski demonstrated that France had actually been anxious to obtain the support of the still great Polish State which, under suitable government, could become an important partner of France in the implementation of her plans in Central Europe. Finally, as regards the policy of Augustus II, King of Poland and Saxon Elector, also worth mentioning are studies by Jacek Staszewski,²⁹ based on material from the archives of Saxony (Sächsisches Landeshauptarchiv in Dresden) and Poland.

Among the works dealing with the late 18th century, Konopczyński's book on Frederick the Great's attitude towards Poland,³⁰ should be mentioned in the first place. It is a sort of summing-up of studies of that distinguished Polish historian, deceased more than 20 years ago; it was written right after his return from the concentration camp of Sachsenhausen. The Polish scholar has presented in a vivid and clear manner the policy of Prussia's ruler with regard to his eastern neighbour, the policy crowned with the first partition of Poland in 1772 and the cutting-off of Poland from the sea. It should be stressed that this is a work of synthetical character, utilizing the numerous earlier source studies by the author himself as well as the rich

²⁸ E. Rostworowski, *O polską koronę. Polityka Francji w latach 1725-1733* [For the Polish Crown. The Policy of France in the Years 1725-1733], Wrocław 1958.

²⁹ J. Staszewski, *Stosunki Augusta II z Kurią Rzymską w latach 1704-1706* [The Relations of Augustus II with the Roman Curia in the Years 1704-1706], Toruń 1955. Among other works by the same author, one should also cite: *Zamach stanu w Saksonii w 1703 roku* [The Coup d'Etat in Saxony in 1703], *Upadek Beichlinga* [The Fall of Beichling], *Portrait de la cour de Pologne et de Saxe*, „Studia Historyczne”, vol. XII, 1969, fasc. 1, and: *O miejsce w Europie. Stosunki Polski i Saksonii z Francją na przełomie XVII i XVIII wieku* [For a Place in Europe. The Relations of Poland and Saxony with France at the Turn of the 17th-18th Centuries], Warszawa 1973.

³⁰ W. Konopczyński, *Fryderyk Wielki a Polska* [Frederick the Great and Poland], Poznań 1947.

literature of the subject. Two studies by Emanuel Rostworowski are a sort of complement to Konopczyński's work.³¹

A few more works dealing with the second half of the 18th century deserve to be mentioned. They include Zofia Libiszowska's book³² on the life of the small group of Poles residing in London at that time. Some of the studies in this volume may interest a Western historian, e.g.: *London in a Polish Report, Could William Pitt Save Poland?, English Society and the Constitution of 3 May*, and others. Also worth citing is Jerzy Łojek's work³³ in which the author, on the basis of little-known archive material presents the endeavours of the Polish king to inspire favourably the West-European press. The author also inserts in his work a considerable amount of contemporary correspondence in French pertaining to the subject. Finally, the third book worth noting is that by Henryk Kocój,³⁴ presenting comprehensively, on a solid source basis, the attitude of the Saxon court towards the attempts of the Patriotic Party to carry out at the Great Sejm a reform of Poland's system of government, towards the Constitution of 3 May, and towards the election of the Saxon Elector as the successor of Stanislaus Augustus.

Marian Henryk Serejski's book³⁵ closes, so to say, the achievements of Polish historians with regard to the period under review. It is true that the author discusses for the most part the European opinion in the 19th and 20th century in relation to the partitions of Poland; yet in the first chapters of his work, he also presents

³¹ E. Rostworowski, *Na drodze do pierwszego rozbioru. Fryderyk II wobec rozkładu przymierza francusko-austriackiego w latach 1769–1772* [On the Way to the First Partition. Frederick II in the Face of the Disintegration of the French-Austrian Alliance in the Years 1769–1772], „Roczniki Historyczne”, vol. XVIII, 1949, pp. 181–204; by the same author, *Podbój Śląska a pierwszy rozbiór Polski* [The Conquest of Silesia and the First Partition of Poland], „Przegląd Historyczny”, vol. LXIII, 1972, pp. 389–409.

³² Z. Libiszowska, *Życie polskie w Londynie XVIII wieku* [Polish Life in 18th-Century London], Warszawa 1972.

³³ J. Łojek, *Polska inspiracja prasowa w Holandii i Niemczech w czasach Stanisława Augusta* [Polish Press Inspiration in the Netherlands and Germany in the Times of Stanislaus Augustus], Warszawa 1969.

³⁴ H. Kocój, *Polska a Saksonia w czasie Sejmu Czteroletniego* [Poland and Saxony at the Time of the Four-Years' Sejm], Kraków 1961.

³⁵ M. H. Serejski, *Europa a rozbiory Polski* [Europe and the Partitions of Poland], Warszawa 1970.

the attitude of the public opinion in 18th-century Europe towards the liquidation of the Polish statehood.

In conclusion, I would like to draw the reader's attention to source publications that appeared in Poland in the postwar period and include certain data for the history of Western and Northern Europe. In the first place, one should cite here the successive volumes of the well-known publication *Acta Tomiciana*, pertaining to the history of the first half of the 16th century. Five volumes of this publication have appeared so far: vol. XIV, XV, XVI — part 1 and part 2, XVII. All together, they cover the years 1532–1535, inclusively.³⁶ Like in the previous volumes, most of the documents are in Latin, a considerable number in West-European languages. While the documents concern for the most part Polish history, many deal directly with the history of other States.

A certain amount of information on 16th- and 17th-century Germany and France can also be found in the diary of the Polish mission sent to France in 1573 to bring Henry de Valois³⁷ and in the diary of Albrycht Stanisław Radziwiłł, Grand Chancellor of Lithuania in the 17th century; of the latter, three volumes have been published so far, covering the years 1632–1647; the last volume covering the years 1647–1656 is now printing.³⁸ It is worth noting that this voluminous diary is written in Latin and therefore intelligible to Western historians.

As regards publications relating to the 18th century, Western and Baltic historians will certainly be interested in the reports of the French residents in Gdańsk in the 18th century, published by the Gdańsk Scientific Society. Two volumes have appeared so

³⁶ *Acta Tomiciana, Tomus quartus decimus, A. D. 1532*, Poznań 1952; *Acta Tomiciana, Tomus quintus decimus, A. D. 1533*, Poznań 1957; *Acta Tomiciana, Tomus sextus decimus, A. D. 1532 pars prima* ed. V. Pocięcha, Poznań 1960, *pars secunda*, ed. V. Pocięcha, Poznań 1961; *Acta Tomiciana, Tomus septimus decimus*, coll. V. Pocięcha, ed. V. Urban et A. Wyczański, Vratislaviae 1966.

³⁷ *Diariusz poselstwa polskiego do Francji po Henryka Walezego w 1573 roku* [*Diary of the Polish Mission Sent to France to Bring Henry de Valois in 1573*], ed. by A. Przyboś and R. Żelewski, Wrocław 1963.

³⁸ Albrycht Stanisław Radziwiłł, *Memoriale rerum gestarum in Polonia 1632–1656*, ed. A. Przyboś and R. Żelewski, vol. I, 1632–1633, Wrocław 1968; vol. II, 1634–1639, Wrocław 1970; vol. III, 1640–1647, Wrocław 1972, vol. IV, 1647–1656, Wrocław 1974.

far.³⁹ The reports are published in the original French version. The activities of these residents and the importance of their reports have been discussed in an article by Edmund Cieślak.⁴⁰

(Translated by Jan Aleksandrowicz)

³⁹ *Les rapports des Résidents français à Gdańsk au XVIII^e siècle*, ed. by E. Cieślak and J. Rumiński; vol. I, 1715–1719, Gdańsk 1964; vol. II, 1720–1721, Gdańsk 1966.

⁴⁰ E. Cieślak, *Z działalności francuskiej placówki konsularnej w Gdańsku w XVIII w.* [*Activities of the French Consular Office in Gdańsk in the 18th Century*], „Rocznik Gdański”, 1969.