

SHORT NOTES*

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GENERAL WORKS

Tadeusz Stegner (ed.), *Dziedzictwo Świętego Włodzimierza* [The heritage of Saint Vladimir], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, Gdańsk, 2016, 171 pp., Summary in Ukrainian and Polish, ill.

This compilation of conference papers is a product of a Polish-Ukrainian scientific meeting held on 16 May 2015 in Gdańsk. The book comprises two texts not delivered on that occasion: an address by Rt. Rev. Mitrata Józef Ulicki delivered at the unveiling of St. Vladimir Monument in Gdańsk, and an article by the late Andrzej Zbierski on the origins of the Kievan Rus' (first published 1988). The editors have not updated the notes to the latter; the essay is actually a survey and is mainly an archival reference today. The book opens with an article by Włodzimierz Mokry, dealing with Vladimir's Baptism in the historical and theological context. The author unrestrainedly passes from the medieval theological issues pertinent to Kievan Rus' to the Solidarity movement. In the following paper Paweł Sekuła referring to the associations between Gdańsk and Rus' in the Middle Ages mostly focuses on trade routes, and less on the relations between the two hubs. Agnieszka Groniek discusses the Vladimirian iconography in Ukrainian seventeenth-century art, pointing to the fact that no canonical representations related to the Saint developed at that time in the region. Serhij Holovaščenko recapitulates the Ukrainian Bible study tradition, with particular emphasis on the contribution from Peter Mohyla. Olena Matušek analyses Baroque texts describing the Baptism of Rus'. Zbigniew Opacki presents the place and role of the Orthodoxy in Russia in Marian Zdziechowski's thought. Magdalena Nowak deals with a historical period closer to our time, portraying the Metropolitan Andrej Šeptycky; Aleksandr Lipatov examines in his study the historical policy of present-day Russia. Igor Hałagida deals (his article being an introduction to the problem) with the lay Greek Catholics movement and its significance for the Greek Catholic Church in the late years of the People's Republic of Poland. The volume is concluded with Tadeusz Stegner's essay on Polish-Ukrainian coexistence after the Second World War. The book in question cannot be easily categorised. It testifies to a thorough awareness of the most recent

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occurrences, which could be heard in the papers and presentations delivered. Yet, in spite of the expected editorial standards, a somewhat careless style reappears here and there and the edition lacks appropriate proofreading. While reading this book, one might ponder whether it is a collection of scholarly articles or, perhaps, pieces of opinion journalism. (AG)

Michał Tymowski, *Europejczycy i Afrykanie. Wzajemne odkrycia i pierwsze kontakty* [Europeans and Africans: mutual discoveries and first contacts], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń, 2017, 428 pp., Summary in English, bibliog., index, ills., maps

The author has embarked upon a story of first encounters and mutual discoveries between the people of Africa and those of Europe (chiefly, the Portuguese) between the late fifteenth and the early sixteenth century – a period in European-African contacts that was marked with ‘a peculiar spontaneity’ ensuing from the Europeans’ unpreparedness for encountering ‘the Alien’ at the West African coast (only very few would reach the continent’s interior). Of the four chapters, the first describes the encounters between the Europeans and the African people. It opens with a subchapter on fear of the unknown and alien, and how it was overcome. The author next discusses the descriptions of deaths during the voyages, the reasons why the sailors and travelers were losing their lives, and how these incidents affected the actions further taken by the Europeans as well as the Africans. A struggle, clash or conflict resulting in the death of an outsider or aboriginal inhabitant leads to another thread – namely, the methods of communication between the two groups. The chapter ends with considerations on the first impressions from the contact, trading activities, and gifts donated between the parties. The second chapter deals with the encounters in question, commencing with analysis of the role and significance of shared feasts in the mutual relationships. The organisation and course of the first encounters is described; discussed are the places where trading took place. Finally, there follow considerations on travels to Europe made by Africans other than slaves and legations sent by African rulers to Portugal. The third chapter concerns the situation of African slaves in Portugal and, on the other hand, of the Europeans who lived among the Africans on their native continent. Discussed at this point is also the role of women in the contacts between Europeans and the people of Africa (though it might seem unconcerned, this particular thread is justified by the historical records). Chapter Four describes how the image of ‘the Alien’ emerged out of the encounters between the two groups of people, and thus offers some conclusive remarks. The book under review is undoubtedly interesting and valuable. A multidimensional analysis

of the sources has enabled to render the reader acquainted with the important and interesting topic of the first contacts between the inhabitants of Europe and Africa in the period discussed. Although the picture is somewhat one-sided (for a number of reasons), Tymowski endeavours to portray both parties of the process, to the extent possible. Commendably, rich iconographic material has been used. (AG)

Andrzej Kołakowski, Andrzej Mencwel, Jacek Migasiński, Paweł Rodak, and Małgorzata Szpakowska (eds.), *Wśród ludzi, rzeczy i znaków. Krzysztofowi Pomianowi w darze* [Amongst people, things, and signs. Studies dedicated to Krzysztof Pomian], Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2016, 604 pp. (pp. 563–604: bibliography of Krzysztof Pomian's publications, 1953–2015, by Jacek Krawczyk), ill. (mostly, colour)

A voluminous book offered to Krzysztof Pomian (b. 1934), philosopher, historian of mentality and ideas, considered to be one of the most eminent Polish intellectuals of the latter half of the twentieth century, on the occasion of his doctorate renewal ceremony (held by the head team of the Faculty of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Warsaw). The volume is composed of four parts; the first could be directly used as a prolegomena to a future intellectual biography of the dedicatee. As is the case with many publications of this sort, the texts contained in it vary in genre and provenance. It is very rare, though, that a collection of studies, even if dedicated to so outstanding a figure, has so many outstanding contributors. Against the several eminent historians (Jerzy Jedlicki, Andrzej Friszke, Henryk Samsonowicz, Wiktoria Śliwowska), philosophers and sociologists prevail – most of them being Polish authors, with a few prominent exceptions (incl. Jacques Revel, Hayden White, Andrej Portnov). It would probably be premature to state that this collection makes up a cohesive portrait of a man and scholar; his enormous output will certainly call for a more systematic approach. Yet, to state that virtually all these essays deal with subjects, motifs, and topoi the donatory would find close to his own focus is, hopefully, legitimate. All of them (a rare thing, again), refer to Pomian's work or achievements; in particular, they illustrate the dilemmas of individuals when confronted with the total systems of ways in which their experience is processed. This studious edition comprises, moreover, a bibliography of Krzysztof Pomian's publications, compiled by Jacek Krawczyk. (GK)

Tomasz Maćkowski (ed.), *Florilegium historicum amicorum munera. Profesorowi Krzysztofowi Maciejowi Kowalskiemu w sześćdziesiątą piątą rocznicę urodzin przyjaciele, koledzy, uczniowie [Florilegium ... To Professor Krzysztof Maciej Kowalski on his sixty-fifth birthday anniversary, from his friends, colleagues, and students]*, Ekodom, Gdańsk, 2016, 494 pp., Summaries in Polish of papers written in languages other than Polish, ills.

This large-format commemorative book is meticulously edited with use of art paper and quality print. Yet, the editors have made some apparently awkward decisions. In respect of the arrangement of the content, there are forty-three articles altogether, organised into five chapters (instead of the apparently logical sections). With no appendices present, only the texts published in the languages other than Polish have an abstract added. The book opens with two very short texts: a presentation of Kowalski the man and the scholar (by Barbara Klass) and Walter Koch's portrayal of the Kowalski's epigraphic output, both forming an introduction. Chapter One – 'Inventio et interpretatio' starts with Irina Kolesnik's essay on things as the subject of study; the turn towards things is set in a broader methodological context, and viewed as part of the history of historiography. Volodymyr Vaščenko follows up a specific aspect of the topic, describing the human body as a 'historical artefact' in the context of Kowalski's theory, studies by Bruno Latour, and Ukrainian historiography. Rafał Stobiecki ponders on what he names the 'gad-getisation' of history, focusing on gadgets and products of culture (such as computer games) that make use of history in a variety of ways. The article by Tomasz Jasiński concerns, for a change, linguistic similarities in the poetic excerpts of Gallus Anonymus and in the verse of Hilarius (Hilary of Orléans). Edward Skibiński attempts to demonstrate that Master Vincentius (Wincenty Kadłubek) used for the purposes of his chronicle the studies of Alan of Lille. Wojciech Wrzosek considers the foundations of historical thinking as sought by Josef Mitterer in his *The Beyond of Philosophy: Against the Dualistic Principle of Cognition*. Barbara Klass deals with Adam Naruszewicz and aspects of the history of material culture; Aleksandra Kuligowska portrays Karl Lohmeyer; Eugeniusz Koko writes about Franciszek Rawita-Gawroński; finally, Arnold Kłonczyński depicts Adam Heymowski. The next section ('chapter') – 'Inscriptiones et campanae' includes Joachim Zdrenka's essay on the possibility to reconstruct the décor of buildings based on archival material. Subsequently, Marcei Tureczek deals with inscriptions on bells; Adam Górski presents the Hoverden collection (a reading of 6,092 gravestones from Silesia, plus drawings showing selected items); Gintautas Zalenas writes about the Włodkowski bell foundry; Antoni Barciak focuses on the inscriptions in the Elevation-of-the-Holy-Cross Church in Stara Wieś near Bielsko-Biała.

Further on, Violetta Julkowska reflects upon photographs by Hanna Zaworonko-Olejniczak of the graves of Polish émigrés in France in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Finally, Marta Trojanowska describes the history of a Przemyśl table commemorating the Battle of Grunwald (1410). The third chapter, named 'Imagines et symbolae', begins with Tomasz Panfil's text on the goat featured in the emblem of the City of Lublin. Emblems and coats-of-arms are dealt with by Paweł Stróżyk, whose focus is an abutment featuring the Anjou coat-of-arms in the Corpus Christi Church in Poznań. Anna Sieradzka describes male home clothing in the latter half of the seventeenth century. Elżbieta Kal offers an essay on Gdańsk painting after the Second World War. Monika Jankiewicz-Brzostowska discusses, in turn, the reception of medieval notions and concepts of fire, identifiable in Polish Lands. Lastly, Piotr Koprowski discusses the characteristics and the reception of icons. Chapter Four is entitled 'Rerum secreta' and comprises an article by Leszek Kajzer dealing with research on the manor house in Drobin, Płock Masovia; then follows Tomasz Marcin Duchnowski's text on the use of movable artefacts in reconstruction of the equipment of soldiers and the course of events in the First World War. Subsequently, Ireneusz Milewski discusses the ideology in the minting industry of the Constantine period; Jarosław Dutkowski explores the iconography of the coins of the Wrocław Bishop Jan Turzo; Aleksandra Piwek points to instances of retardation in the sacred architecture of Gdańsk. Grażyna Nawrońska writes about the pilgrim's flasks made in the mediaeval age in Elbląg (Elbing); Heiko Schäfer, on the finds of lead commodity seals in Hither Pomerania; Tomasz Macowski, on fifteenth-century Pomeranian lead cloth seals; lastly, Arkadiusz Dymowski, on buttons styled after ancient coins. The last section – 'Pomerania, Polonia, Europa et orbis' – contains Anna Pająkowska-Bouallegui's essay on Constantius II and why he never ate fruits; Paweł Karp describes Gdańsk in 1433 in the context of Polish-Hussite expedition against the Teutonic Knights; Wiesław Długokęcki deals with a dispute between the Starosty of Marienburg (Malbork) and the 'embankment jury-men of [the isle of] Wielka Żuława [Groß Werder]', on the one hand, and the city of Gdańsk, on the other, over flood protection measures, with King Sigismund I the Old intervening. Waldemar Kowalski writes about the craftsmen of Pińczów in the first half of the seventeenth century; Tomasz Moskal explores the book collection of the parish of Tarłów (Opatów county, central Poland); Monika Chojnacka presents the Pomeranian village of Charbrow and its proprietors over ages. The article by Józef Arno Włodarski concerns the participation of Jakub and Ludwik Wejher in the wars of 1648–54. Anna Łysiak-Łątkowska deals with culinary in libertine texts. Marek Stażewski reports on the municipal government in Sztum (Stuhm) in the years 1809–10. Two contributory articles appear at the end: Tadeusz Stegner's, related to nineteenth-century hotels (as part of the history of everyday life), and Łukasz Męczykowski's, on anti-tank mines as the Home Guard's equipment. This

outline of the content suffices to suggest that the book is diverse as far as the topics are concerned. In parallel, its arrangement is chaotic, to an extent – the editors' idea to divide the submitted material into 'chapters' is rather illegitimate. The editorial work lacks competence and consistency; notably, there are errors appearing in the footnotes. Absence of any index is a serious shortcoming. Summaries are only appended to texts other than those written in Polish. While some of the articles are exhaustive, many of them are contributory or, worse even, form a bundle of loose remarks. (AG)

MIDDLE AGES

Piotr Pranke and Miloš Zečević, *Handel interregionalny od X do XII wieku. Europa Środkowa, Środkowo-Wschodnia, Półwysep Skandynawski i Półwysep Bałkański. Studium porównawcze* [Interregional trade from the tenth to the twelfth century. Central and East-Central Europe, Scandinavian Peninsula, Balkan Peninsula. A comparative study], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń, 2016, 234 pp., Summaries in English and Russian, bibliog., ill., table

The book has come out in aftermath of the National Programme for the Development of Humanities (NPRH) grant, whose name is reproduced in the title. The publication is rather eclectic. The introduction, filled with scholarly terms, foreshadows a study whose focus is the theoretical description of the development of trade in the territory stretching between Ottonian Empire and the Byzantine Empire. Chapter One discusses the theories concerning trade and exchange of merchandise, beginning with the worldwide system in Immanuel Wallerstein's concept, and ending with long-term cycles in Kondratiev-Schumpeter's approach. While the particular issues are discussed in an approachable way, certain pieces of information provided in the footnotes should have been made part of the core text; if reedited in this way, the book would have become more readable. The selection and layout of the graphs and maps does not seem to be quite right overall. Weltered and not always clearly related to the text, they in effect nowise make the reading easier. Chapter Two tries to answer the question, who the merchants were; what the itinerant fair, fair trade, and customs duties were about and like. The subsequent chapter compares the Scandinavian trade against its Balkan counterpart. The last comprises lists of privileges/charters and customs-related sources (in the form of a long table). The authors' aspirations reached high, a far-reaching international cooperation being, declaratively, part of the picture. Yet, the outcome is rather incoherent. The extensive theoretical introduction does not translate well into the argument

in the subsequent sections. The tables are compiled ineptly and, more importantly, attest to a poor visual sense of their authors. The absence of adequately clear demarcations between the sets of data causes that the rulers, being the issuers, blend with cities and/or types of benefit – this making it difficult to identify, basically, which document is related to which ruler. As one goes along the sections, the keynote or central idea of this book never becomes any clearer or more identifiable; instead, the publication looks like a set of connected separate studies of a lesser sort. This effect is reinforced by the conclusive summary, which is definitely too short. While the book touches upon a really important issue and its potential usefulness is unquestionable, a second edition would be welcome, giving the authors an opportunity to more broadly explore some of the points and render the discussion generally clearer. (AG)

Jerzy Rajman and Dorota Żurek (eds.), *Klasztory, miasta, zamki w życiu i twórczości Jana Długosza* [Cloisters, cities, and castles in Jan Długosz's life and output], Księgarnia Akademicka, Kraków, 2016, 498 pp., Summary in English, bibliog., index, tables

Contributed to by several authors, this is, essentially, a peculiar biography of the Polish fifteenth-century author and thinker. Twenty-two chronologically arranged articles cover various aspects of his life and environment. Following a brief introduction by the volume editors is Bożena Czwojdrak's article on Brzeźnica, Długosz's birthplace. Franciszek Leśniak discusses the locality of Nowy Korczyn, where the chronicler's family lived afterwards. This is followed by three articles on Jan's environment and milieu: Dorota Żurek describes his college mates, Anna Pobóg-Lenartowicz deals with the Canons Regular, Jerzy Rajman on councillors and the city council. Beata Wojciechowska describes the role of another hub, Wiślica, in Długosz's life; Zdzisław Noga's focus is on Jan's involvement in the acquisition of the Duchy of Siewierz by the Bishop of Cracow; Dominika Burdzy reports on his activities in Sandomierz. Jerzy Sperka identifies the reasons behind Długosz's fall into disgrace in 1461 and his sojourn at Melsztyn. Katarzyna Niemczyk takes a look on his educational activities. Stanisław Kołodziej confronts Długosz's opinions on the castles in the Land of Cracow against what has been found in archaeological research. Jacek Laberschek describes Długosz's account of the development of the urban areas of Cracow, Kazimierz, and Kleparz. Marcin Starzyński describes the sources of Długosz's knowledge of Cracow and the descriptions of the city in his works. Tomasz Graff discusses the ways in which the mediaeval author exalted Cracow above the other urban hubs. Further on, Wojciech Mrozowicz points out that Jan Długosz knew and, probably, visited in person several towns

in Silesia. Tomasz Nowakowski analyses information on towns in Kuyavia; Janusz Szyszka's focus is the towns in Red Ruthenia; Karol Nabiałek writes of the county (powiat) of Lelów. Maciej Zdanek's essay covers Cistercian cloisters in Lesser Poland (Małopolska). Krzysztof Polek points to the possibility of using Długosz's works in examination of economic history. The final text, by Jacek Urban, is about Jan Długosz's death and funeral ceremony. The essays submitted by the authors are essential and factual, altogether composing a coherent study on Jan Długosz and his output. The authors often refer to manuscript records and confront them with their existing editions; archival material has been used a great deal in their analysis. The book, as it seems, penetratingly presents a number of issues associated with the mediaeval historiographer and chronicler. The title of the book, for a change, somewhat misses the point as it is too narrow to embrace the array of problems actually covered. And, it should be regretted that no maps have been included: even a few of them would doubtlessly have helped grasp the content, particularly for those not excellently versed in the geography of the regions discussed. (AG)

Mateusz Bogucki, Witold Garbaczewski, and Grzegorz Śnieżko (eds.), *Nummi et humanitas. Studia ofiarowane profesorowi Stanisławowi Suchodolskiemu w 80 rocznicę urodzin* [*Nummi et humanitas. Studies dedicated to Professor Stanisław Suchodolski on his 80th birth anniversary*], Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii PAN, Warszawa, 2017, 626 pp., ill.

This commemorative book is composed of twenty-eight articles, including nine in English, four in German, one in Czech, and fourteen in Polish. With all this editorial impetus, no index has been appended whatsoever. As regards abstracts, English summaries are added to the texts in Polish as well as to the Czech article; the articles published in English and German have each a Polish summary appended, for a change. The editorial team have clearly taken a pragmatic approach: the reader with no command of either of the Slavic languages is thus advised about the content of the articles, though it seems that summaries provided in more than one language would have been a better solution. The book begins with Jarosław Bodzek's essay on Byzantine coins excavated during the archaeological research carried out by the Jagiellonian University in the Roman Agora area in the ancient city of Nea Paphos (three coins are concerned – namely, two follises of Heraclius, and a cut and countermarked follis of Constans II). Mariusz Mielczarek explores the genesis and exemplifications of the image of goddess Victoria featured on coins minted in the middle of the twelfth century by Kara Aslan of the Artuqid dynasty which ruled the north of Mesopotamia. Wolfgang Hahn describes the Roman minting industry in the late

eight century in the context of papal authority over the process. Simon Coupland deals with forgeries of coins in the Carolingian time, pointing to no hard evidence of vast amounts of falsified coins appearing. Jens Christian Moesgaard turns the spotlight on coins with effigies of Charlemagne and Louis the Pious, considering the idea behind their issuance. Henryk Samsonowicz deals with aspects of early mediaeval economy. Dariusz Adamczyk writes of networks of redistribution of silver dirhems in the east of Europe. Tuukka Talvio analyses Joachim Lelewel's remarks on the coins of Aethelred II, pointing to their continuous usefulness in research of numismatics. Peter Ilisch describes the earliest denarii of Otto and Adelheid, while Klaus Giesen's study concerns the German denarii which feature the mysterious name of Eilard, and attempts to identify the figure. Luboš Polanský focuses on the coins of Duke Boleslaus with the legend of *Mogiln civitas*, identifying the ruler as Boleslaus the Brave (Bolesław Chrobry) and the location, highly probably, with Mogilno in Greater Poland (Wielkopolska). Barbara Butent-Stefaniak and Dorota Malarczyk describe the treasure of silver coins dating to the tenth century, presently within the Ossolineum collection. Agnieszka Murawska offers some remarks on the (not surviving) treasure from Kleszczewo, in the context of early twentieth-century correspondence. Arkadiusz Tabaka, Łukasz Kaczmarek and Jan Mařík deal with a denarii from the locality of Tarnowo, presenting a catalogue of the coins as well as an interesting description of the archaeological investigations. Adam Kędzierski and Dariusz Wyczółkowski refer in their essay to the treasure of flat silver circles from Kalisz-Dobrzec. Ivar Leimus and Mauri Kiudsoo analyse a Dbg 1304 coin, found not far from the village of Köue: in spite of the earlier opinions, the coin, minted after 1066, was actually produced in Denmark, and not in Germany. Piotr Chabrzyk describes the denarii of Duke Władysław Herman, whereas Witold Nakielski – the Wrocław denarii featuring John the Baptist's head, and Grzegorz Śnieżko – the type-1 denarii of Duke Bolesław III Wrymouth (Bolesław Krzywousty). Further on, we encounter Kenneth Jonsson's account of a treasure discovered at Gandarve in the island of Gotland, which has become an important source for research into the imports of coins to Sweden and Gotland, in connection with the fading out of these imports shortly after the treasure was hidden (i.e. around 1060). Jan Videman describes the denarii of Prague Bishop Ota (in office 1140–8). Witold Garbaczewski suggests that the royal denarii of Bolesław II the Bold (Bolesław Śmiały) featured the *sacrum palatium* motif; the coin served as a token to emphasise the ruler's independence of the Sacred Empire. Tadeusz Szczurek and Andrzej M. Wyrwa describe the bracteates found as part of archaeological and architectural research of St. Nicholas's Church in Tarnowo Pałuckie, suggesting that they were minted by the Cistercians of Łekno. Adam Musiałowski presents a study on a 'Stronczyński 161' bracteate; Jørgen Steen Jensen describes a piedfort of Eric of Pomerania; Borys Paszkiewicz

deals with a 'Jerzyk' coin minted in Kłodzko. Lastly, a study follows by Dalia Grimalauskaitė and Ivan Sinčuk on an eighteenth-century treasure comprising copper *szelągs* of King John II Casimir (Jan Kazimierz) from the Vitebsk area, while Zbigniew Bartkowiak considers whether the weight of a coin enables one to identify at which mint it was produced. The commemorative collection in question is definitely valuable: its contributors have touched upon numerous and most diverse threads and issues related to mintage. Yet, with its specialised focus, it will be useful mostly to research in numismatics. While the editorial work has been done pretty well, the aforementioned absence of any index is definitely a shortcoming. (AG)

Paweł Kras and Tomasz Gałuszka, *Proces beginek świdnickich w 1332 roku. Studia historyczne i edycja łacińsko-polska* [The trial of the Beguines of Świdnica (1332). Historical studies and a Polish-Latin edition of its records], trans. by Adam Poznański, Wydawnictwo Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego, Lublin, 2017, 298 pp., Summary in English, bibliog., index

Dedicated to the memory of Professor Izabela Skierska, the publication has been compiled under a National Science Centre grant. The book is composed of two parts, the first containing scholarly studies on the Beguine Sisters and the related issues, the second being a Polish-Latin edition of the *Examination of the witnesses in the case of the Hooded Sisters at Świdnica*, i.e. the so-called 'Świdnica Case Record'. Preceded by a nineteenth-century edition prepared by Bolesław Ulanowski, this new edition has been based, inter alia, on the Vatican manuscript of the hearing record in question. The first part, consisting mainly of studies authored by Paweł Kras, opens with an introduction discussing the current and past research into the case. Chapter One deals with the model of female piety associated with the Beguines. The second chapter discusses the Council of Vienne, 1311–12 (and its consequences over time), and the Free Spirit heresies. The clergy of the time approached the Beguines and the Beghards with growing distrust. The subsequent chapter presents the content of the examination at the trial, based on the Record; this includes the procedure of hearing, the record compilation method, and the further history of the Record manuscripts. The subsequent chapter discusses the history of the Beguines of Świdnica, their organisation and functioning. At this point, the author (Kras) tries to discern a broader movement, if not organisation, of Beguines to which the Świdnica-based sisters were subject. The next, fifth, chapter describes the congregation's religious and ascetic practices. Chapter Six, penned by Tomasz Gałuszka (and being a reprint from a 2016 commemorative book dedicated to Professor Krzysztof Ożóg), presents the intellectual and spiritual formation of John of

Schwenkenfeld, the inquisitor who was responsible for the trial in question. A recapitulation written, again, by Paweł Kras closes the first part. The second part opens with a concise description of the manuscripts, analysis of the text (pointing to the differences in the content of each of the manuscripts), and the rules of the present edition. All these sections have been compiled by Tomasz Gałuszka (the description of the mss. is coauthored by Kras). This is followed by remarks and comments to the translation and a somewhat strange discussion of the problems related to the translation work (by Adam Poznański). This introductory section is followed by the critically edited translation of the Record; the edition is bilingual and features the original text and the translation set one beside the other. A facsimile copy of the Cracow text and the Vatican text are added (the latter black-and-white only). The editorial work on the text has been well done by Gałuszka. The translation is complemented with a rich scholarly apparatus, compiled by Kras. (AG)

Beata Możejko and Ewa Bojaruniec-Król (eds.), *W epoce żaglowców. Morze od antyku do XVIII wieku* [The age of sailors. The sea from the antiquity to the eighteenth century], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, Gdańsk, 2016, 268 pp., Summary in English, ills., tables

This interdisciplinary study deals with the sea in a historical context. Of the twenty-eight articles collected, one is in Czech and two in English. Their arrangement is chronological, beginning with antiquity. The first essay, by Bogdan Burliga, discusses the prejudices towards 'people of the sea' in Greek texts of the classical age. Andrzej Wypustek writes of the Roman wars in the sea in the context of archaeological discoveries at the coast of Sicily. The group of texts covering mediaeval topics starts with Jędrzej Szerle's article on Polish military auxiliary forces in Orderic Vitalis's *Historia Ecclesiastica*. This is followed by several studies, including Jakub Morawiec on voyages in the poetry of skalds; Waldemar Ossowski on merchant vessels on the Baltic; Michaela Antonín Malaniková on the sea in Bohemian chronicles and voyage records. There is, moreover, an essay by Henryk Samsonowicz about the policies pursued by the Hanseatic cities, and Julia Możdżeń's description of Caspar Weinreich's records. The subsequent articles are the following: Martin Nodl's on the perception of sea by inland people who never saw a sea before they first set off on a voyage, and Balázs Nagy's on sea in late mediaeval Hungary. Paweł Karol Gąsiorczyk explores the presence of the English in the Mediterranean Sea in the fifteenth century; Danuta Quirini-Popławska writes of voyages to the Holy Land. Agata Świerczek explores the influence of sea on late mediaeval people; Andrzej Woźniński interprets the painting *The Ship of the Church* at the Artus's Court in Gdańsk; Paweł Sadłoń describes the clashes and feuds

occurring between Gdańsk and Denmark in the period 1491–1509. Justyna Wubs-Mrozewicz takes a closer look on the sixteenth-century conflicts between Gdańsk and the local merchants associated with the activities of the privateers. Julius Žukas writes about the trade pursued by Klaipeda (Memel); Aleksandra Barwicka-Makula, about King Sigismund III Vasa to his native Sweden in 1593; Dariusz Kaczor, on sailors taken to Gdańsk courts-of-law. Then on, Ryszard Skowron discusses the idea of a Polish-Portuguese trading company, put forward in 1623. Ewa Barylewska-Szymańska describes the property and possessions of the widow of Salomon Peterssen; Ewa Łaczyńska describes the maritime disasters on the Baltic Sea in the eighteenth century; Andrzej Groth reviews the Gdańsk fleet in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century; Tomasz Bednarz summarises the archaeological research of the Porcelain Vessel from the Bay of Gdańsk (the W-2 wreck, originally discovered in 1965; presently listed with the Register of Underwater Archaeological Stations as wreck F53.27). Monika Jankiewicz-Brzostowska raises the subject of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Dutch and Flemish paintings in the collection of the National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk. Jerzy Zajadło tells the story of the Zong Massacre of 1781, ended with a trial for indemnification ‘due’ from the insurance company for the (ailing or moribund) slaves thrown off into the ocean. Gabriela Majewska summarises a mid-eighteenth-century Swedish account of a trip to the Baltic cities. These doubtlessly interesting texts do not in effect form a cohesive whole – this being all the more evident with the chronological, rather than subject-related criterion, employed in the arrangement of the material submitted. The publication is altogether interesting – not so much as an eclectic whole but rather as a reference compendium of (selected) articles. (AG)

Aleksandra Filipek-Misiak, *W ogrodzie cnót. Problematyka cnót w wybranych średniowiecznych kronikach klasztornych na Śląsku i w Czechach* [In the Garden of Virtues, Vices and Sins. Virtues in selected monastic chronicles in Silesia and Bohemia], Księgarnia Akademicka, Kraków, 2016, 280 pp., Summary in English, index

The book is essentially a reedited version of a PhD thesis submitted at the University of Wrocław, under the tutelage of Professor Przemysław Wiszewski. (The author had been awarded with the Diamond Grant). The study researches into the concept of virtue as well as vices and sins and vices as described in the three Silesian and Bohemian chronicles: the Book of Henryków (*Liber foundationis claustrae sanctae Mariae Virginis in Heinrichow*), the Žďár Chronicle (*Cronica Domus Sarenensis*) and the Catalogue of the Abbots of Sagan (*Catalogus abbatum Saganensium*). The introductory section explains the meaning and significance, and the history, of the notions of virtue and sin in the Middle

Ages, using the reference literature and recapitulating the historical records. The following analysis of the sources deals with each of them separately, with a systematised description of the monks/canons, dukes, knights, burghers, and peasants. The chapters are divided into subchapters which include subsections, each concluded with a summary. The proposed narrative has certain weak points: it seems that a problem-related depiction would have been much more attractive and better highlighting the perceptions of virtue in each of the texts concerned. With the 'textbook-like' concept assumed, the output is three mini-studies on each of the aforementioned chronicles, with a conclusion added to summarise the findings. The book lacks, moreover, a stronger linguistic bias. We cannot learn from it much about how the terms used in the chronicles might or ought to be understood, which is regrettable as the matter is definitely worth a deeper consideration. All the more so that some of the conclusions the author comes to are rather banal – including the very final conclusion whereby the character of a chronicle determines the lines along which the chronicler's argument with respect to virtues proceeds. There is only an index of persons provided, which is a shame, given the proposed concept: with the detailed types of virtues and sins scattered across the text, an index of these particular items would have definitely been helpful. All in all, a potentially useful publication, but chiefly for researchers specialising in the three chronicles concerned, rather than as a study exploring the subject-matter of virtues. (AG)

EARLY MODERN TIMES

Księgi celne Korony z drugiej połowy XVI w./Customs Books of the Polish Crown from the Second Half of the 16th Century, ed. by Szymon Kazusek, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jana Kochanowskiego, Kielce, 2017, 383 pp.

The usefulness of customs books in research into the economic history of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth needs no argument. The present edition, comprising a total of twenty-one such books, or registers, from thirteen customs houses (or chambers) from the period 1581–92 is of value for economic and social historians. The customs houses in question were located in the voivodships of Poznań, Cracow, and Sandomierz. The presented material has already been used in earlier research, primarily including the now-classical study penned by Roman Rybarski. The present edition offers entire records, in uniformed spelling and form of presentation. It can be regretted that this publication has neglected all the marginalia – the pieces of information taken down by the customs scribes, some of them very telling in respect of collection of duties and customs officers themselves. The records of customs registers

are furnished with critical apparatus, including textual notes and (very brief) footnotes, the latter mostly identifying the persons and localities being referred to. The entire critical apparatus is two-language, Polish and English. The source material is preceded by the editor's introduction, which is objectionable in several aspects. It contains a number of evident logical and semantic errors, not to mention linguistic ineptitudes. The overly detailed description of physical appearance of each of the registers is a tiresome reading (if necessary at all). A short section of the introduction dealing with estimation of the source's credibility focuses on a number of details of minor importance (such as linguistic abilities of the scribes). Instead, no analysis of the source has been attempted that would have otherwise demonstrated its useful quality for research. The question should be addressed whether bilingual critical editions of source materials of this sort really makes a sense. Apart from the language and style, which do leave much to be desired, it is quite apparent that a reader with no command of Polish will not find the edition much useful. Hence, the question who is the projected consumer of the English texts comprised in this book remains pretty open. (MC)

Dominik Kadzik, *Utrzymanie królewskiej teściowej. Wizyta Marii Bawarskiej podczas wesela Zygmunta III Wazy z Anną Habsburg (23 maja – 16 czerwca 1591)* [How to provide for a royal mother-in-law. Mary of Bavaria as a guest at the wedding party of Sigismund III Vasa and Anne Habsburg], Towarzystwo Wydawnicze 'Historia Iagellonica', Kraków, 2017, 247 pp., tables, charts; series: Pragmateia, 9

The author has set as a goal for himself to depict an important political event in its time, the marriage of Polish King Sigismund III Vasa and Archduchess Anne Habsburg, from a perspective that is untypical to Polish historiography. The event is investigated through the prism of history of everyday life, with a focus on the people who were involved in the organisation of the sojourn of the one who was to become the king's mother-in-law, Archduchess Maria Anna of Bavaria, and the way in which the supplies and stores for the court were organised. In terms of historic records, the monograph is based on royal accounts. Of the two parts, the first describes the preparations for the arrival of Archduchess Maria Anna, the second deals with her stay in Cracow. In this context, broader questions are posed regarding the functioning of the royal court and the Cracow local market. The visit was arranged by individuals permanently employed with the court, supported by a pretty large group of outsiders. The foodstuffs were imported, for the most part, from the royal demesnes, not all of them located not only in a close proximity of Cracow. Part 2 is somewhat less analytical: the quantities of foods

purchased for Maria Anna's court and for the courts of her travelling companions are specified in considerable amount of detail. The argument is illustrated with tables and charts. (This particular section lacks a broader referential context, though). Altogether, the monograph interestingly complements the research on the functioning of royal courts in early modern age: an interesting piece of reading not only for expert scholars but also for any non-professionals interested in the daily life of early modern royal courts. (MC)

Słowa Pańskie. Nauki Jakuba Franka z Brna i Offenbachu [Lord's Spell. The teachings of Jakob Frank from Brno and Offenbach], ed. and with an introduction by Jan Doktor, Żydowski Instytut Historyczny im. Emanuela Ringelbluma, Warszawa, 2017, 484 pp.

The figure and teachings of Jakob Frank are very well known not only to historians but to broad public as well. A re-edition of the apostate messiah's lectures, this source edition is the first such extensive volume, containing all the known utterances of Frank based on available manuscripts and source quotations from nineteenth-century monographs by Hipolit Skimbrowicz and Aleksander Kraushar which were based on no-more-extant documents. A complete edition of the material under discussion is very convenient for anyone interested in the topic. However, this particular edition does not fully correspond with the requirements of a scholarly source edition. It does not specify which of the surviving manuscripts has been used: it might be guessed that the editor has compiled several existing manuscripts without marking this fact, or making any specific reference(s). Footnotes are added, and the editor primarily identifies the Old Testament excerpts quoted by Frank, while there are clearly no references to the related Jewish mystical writings, and a number of specific terms remain unexplained. The source edition is preceded by an introduction, which, however, gives more cause for comment than the critical apparatus applied. Jan Doktor presents Jakob Frank the man and the history of the compilation of his *Book of the Words of the Lord* in a complete abstraction from any modern reference literature. Instead, he repeatedly and abundantly refers to nineteenth-century studies of Polish historians and to his own articles, whilst completely ignoring the studies published recently in English or Hebrew. The vision of the Frankist movement he presents fundamentally diverts from what is described in the most recent research. Some (hypo)theses proposed by Doktor, such as Frank's command of Polish, are questionable at the least. All in all, the book would suit dilettantes willing to learn more about Frank's teachings; it should not, however, be used in scholarly research or as a student teaching aid. (MC)

Konrad Bobiatyński, *W walce o hegemonię. Rywalizacja polityczna w Wielkim Księstwie Litewskim w latach 1667–1674* [Fighting for hegemony. The political rivalry in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in 1667–74], Instytut Historyczny UW and Wydawnictwo Neriton, Warszawa, 2017, 319 pp.

In research terms, this book seeks to analyse the internal situation in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania during the reign of Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki. The central theme is the rivalry for political hegemony. The monograph is very traditional in character, being a chronological account of a rich source material. An extensive use of historic records is the study's unquestionable value: the author has analysed the respective correspondence, tribunal files/court records, and dietine (*sejmik*) records. The analysis does not limit to political struggles or games that took place at the central level but extends to the fighting occurring in district dietines. The description of the events starts with the year 1667: still before Michał Korybut was elected king, the year was marked with the major and most fateful reshufflings and shake-ups in the Lithuanian political arena. There are four chapters; the first illustrates the political situation before Michał came to power; the argument at this point is based on the known reference literature. The subsequent sections are founded on a reliable source base, though. Chapter Three is the only section focused on the problem being discussed rather than chronology; it highlights the importance of the army in Poland-Lithuania's home policies, which seems to be not quite a novel approach. Bobiatyński has definitely successfully complemented the facts-based knowledge on the political situation in the Grand Duchy in the latter half of the seventeenth century. In regard of its detailed character, though, the monograph is basically targeted at a narrow group of researchers specialising in the Grand Duchy's political history. (MC)

Mariusz Sawicki, *Dom sapieżyński 1666–1685. Droga do hegemonii w Wielkim Księstwie Litewskim* [The house of Sapieha, 1666–85. The road to hegemony in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania], Uniwersytet Opolski, Opole, 2016, 275 pp.; series: Studia i Monografie, 535

The study analyses in detail the careers of several members of the house of Sapieha – namely, Kazimierz Jan, Benedykt Paweł, Franciszek Stefan, and Leon Bazyli. The issue is analysed in its political, military, and economic aspects. Drawing upon an extensive source base, the monograph investigates the manuscript material stored in Polish archives (the State Archives of Historical Records [AGAD] and the Czartoryski Library, *inter alia*) as well as in foreign

ones – Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Belarusian, German, and French collections included. The three chapters deal in a chronological fashion with the major turning points in the brothers' political careers. As Sawicki demonstrates, critical for the development of these careers was the support eventually offered by the Sapiehas to Jan Sobieski at the election and, later on, King John III's support in their conflict with the Pac family. The brothers' hegemonic position was established also through decomposition of the fraction of their opponents, which was initiated by the demise of Michał Kazimierz Radziwiłł, and then, of Michał Kazimierz Pac. The Sapieha brothers' careers were accelerated by their intelligent use of the opportunities offered by the central-level posts they held. The reader's attention is likewise drawn to the importance of economic policy; the author uses some new archival examples to illustrate the argument (otherwise known from studies by other authors) emphasising the relevance of leaseholds, leases and tenancies in sustaining the cliental bonds. The chapter dealing with the economic policies pursued by the brothers is the most disappointing section, as it only enumerates the estates and their leaseholders. With no description provided of their profile or economic importance, the reader cannot learn anything else about these estates. In his account of the careers of the Sapieha brothers, Sawicki points to the already-known mechanisms which were crucial to political success in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The descriptive method employed and the entire focus on political occurrences cannot really make the reader aware of why the Sapieha family (rather than any of their peers) proved so successful by applying the methods typical of their time. (MC)

Urszula Świdarska-Włodarczyk, *Homo nobilis. Wzorzec szlachcica w Rzeczypospolitej XVI i XVII wieku* [*Homo nobilis. The model of nobleman in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Poland-Lithuania*], Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa, 2017, 239 pp.

The monograph under review describes the model of nobleman that was prevalent in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The author's considerations have been inspired by the definition of the 'noble(man) model' that draws from sociological findings. Świdarska-Włodarczyk assumes that the model in question was based upon the genealogical, personality-related, profession-related, and social/societal conditions and determinants. The source base consists of artistic literary works and husbandry guidebooks (based mainly on modern source editions). The method of analysing the material is naïve and literal, with no source criticism employed. The chronological framework of the proposed considerations remains undefined. Rather than being a result of in-depth research

into the sixteenth/seventeenth-century realities, the publication is based on source quotations adapted to the pre-assumed thesis. The author basically seeks to contrapose the 'historical truth' with our contemporary stereotypes that disavow the role of the nobility (*szlachta*) in Poland-Lithuania and its role as carrier or positive values. The book is full of presentations and generalisations, and most of the terms and notions it analyses are comprehended in a modern and colloquial or quotidian sense. In spite of the very interesting issue embarked on, this monograph adds nothing new to the research on sixteenth- or seventeenth-century nobility. One may actually wonder why so poor a study has been published by the PWN Scientific Publishers. (MC)

Hanna Paulouskaya, *Grodzieńskie kroniki klasztorne XVII i XVIII wieku. Formy gatunkowe i aspekty komunikacyjne* [Monastery chronicles of Grodno, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Genre forms and communication aspects], Wydział 'Artes Liberales' Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego and Wydawnictwo DiG, Warszawa, 2016, 183 pp.

Early modern monastery chronicles have repeatedly been used in historical studies. The monograph by Hanna Paulouskaya is not a strictly historical study, though. In her analysis of the chronicles, linguistic and literary study methods are applied. Chronicle is approached as a type of expression; hence, analysed are mainly the communication-related aspects of the functioning of the chronicles in question. The subject of research is, specifically, a collection of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century chronicles from the monasteries of Grodno (Hrodna). Manuscripts have been used from the monasteries and convents of Discalced Carmelites, Jesuits, Bernardine Friars and Bernardine Sisters, Bridgettines, and Dominicans. The innovative research method applied is the monograph's decisive value. Moreover, its approachable style and clarity of argument render the reading considerably easier, especially to those without a linguistic background. There are seven chapters, discussing the history of the religious congregations, describing in detail the outer appearance of the examined records, discussing their authors and readers, the compositional structure of the chronicles, the topics they covered and the method and style used for the purpose. From a historian's viewpoint, the sections on the chronicles' authors are the most attractive. Described is the community formed by the multiple authors, their collective identification, their attitudes towards the town and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The analysis of the chronicles' contents is no less interesting: Paulouskaya demonstrates that the world of local monks and friars was not restricted by the cloister walls. Furthermore, the thematic scope of the chronicles illustrates the way(s) in which history was comprehended

by seventeenth- and eighteenth-century religious imagination. The study may inspire further historical-linguistic research on monastery chronicles regarded as a form of expression. (MC)

Alicja Bielak and Wojciech Kordyzon (eds.), *Figura heretyka w nowożytnych sporach konfesyjnych* [The figure of Heretic in modern-age confessional disputes], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Sub Lupa and Wydział 'Artes Liberales' Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2017, 364 pp.; series: Reformacja w Europie Środkowo-Wschodniej, 5

The book is an aftermath of a conference entitled *Heretyk – to już tego mieczem, ogniem, klątwą, dzwonkiem* [A 'heretic' – draw your sword on him, set fire on him, curse on him, use the bell], which was held in 2016 by the Faculty of 'Artes Liberales', University of Warsaw. The purpose of the debate was to consider for what purpose(s) and in what ways the figure of heretic was conceptualised in the early modern age. Most of the eleven articles included in the volume are written by young scholars – historians, art historians, literary scholars, and philosophers; in spite of their age, their contributions are certainly valuable. The lecture delivered by Wojciech Kriegseisen on the Protestant noblemen's attitude to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth is introductory, whereas the core part of the volume includes three sections. The first, 'Polemics', comprises articles by Izabela Wienczek, Joanna E. Koziół, Alicja Bielak, and Wojciech Kordyzon. Philological (Bielak) and historical analyses (Kordyzon) of a variety of polemical texts are complemented with a very interesting discussion (by Wienczek) of title pages of polemical writings. Section 2 deals with the images of Heretic: visual representations of heretics are analysed by Izabela Przepałkowska and Paulina Kowalczuk. The last section focuses on the various conceptualisations of the notion of 'heretic', including animalistic epithets describing religious dissenters in sermons (Anna Jungiewicz, Anna Pawłowska), and censors' interventions in Polish translations of the Bible (Tadeusz Rubik). These articles are complemented by records of three discussion panels attended by recognised scholars in the field of history of the Reformation and Protestantism. The panels discussed the intellectual elites in sixteenth-century Poland-Lithuania (Steffen Huber, Katarzyna Meller, Maciej Ptaszyński); the Polish Renaissance author Mikołaj Rej (Janusz Maciuszko, Paweł Stępień); anticlericalism in the Old Polish period (Urszula Augustyniak); and, the Society of Jesus's attitude toward the Polish Brethren (Michał Choptiany, Stanisław Obirek, Piotr Wilczek). Although not of a strictly scholarly nature, these talks were valuable and interesting: most notably, several methodological questions have been posed in the course of the discussion. (MC)

Małgorzata Ciszewska, *Tuliusz domowy. Świeckie oratorstwo szlacheckie kręgu rodzinnego (XVII–XVIII wiek)* [Tullius the domestic way. Secular family-circle elocution among the nobility, seventeenth–eighteenth century], Instytut Badań Literackich PAN, Warszawa, 2016, 579 pp.; series: Studia Staropolskie. Series Nova

This monograph seeks to reconstruct the elocutionary and rhetorical models of the major ceremonies and celebrations held at Polish noble homes in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The considerations are based on the period's theoretical expositions, and rhetorical patterns, most of them preserved in manuscript form. The author has carried out a widespread query in Polish, Belarusian, and Lithuanian archives and libraries. Of the three sections, in the first, entitled 'The Polish orator in the theatre of life', discussed are the orations related to life-cycle events, including the birth of a child, wedding party, taking the veil, as well as secular funeral orations. The subsequent section discusses orations delivered during religious holidays – Christmas, New Year, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, and the Lent season, Easter, Pentecost, as well as on name-days. The last section describes a variety of short speeches given at welcoming and farewell-bidding, by visitors on a sojourn or during banquets or feasts. The source material gathered is pretty extensive; a portion of it is published in the annexes attached. While these records are the monograph's strongest advantage, its interpretative facet does leave a lot to be desired: the study merely lacks any in-depth interpretation of the texts concerned. As it seems, the selection of the sources was originally the fundamental problem: there is a number of similar source quotations. While adding to the book's volume, such repetitions do not inform the interpretation at all. The long-winded descriptions of the ceremonies also seem redundant, all the more that they glean from known reference literature. The proposed analysis of the sources lacks any reference to the religious divisions. Since the author has abundantly used Jesuit materials, it can be supposed that the orations analysed are connected, for the most part, with the Catholic rites and ceremonies. (MC)

Ewa Gąsior, *Sejm konwokacyjny po śmierci Jana III Sobieskiego* [The Convocation Sejm convened after John III Sobieski's death], Wydawnictwo Sejmowe, Warszawa, 2017, 314 pp.

The book is the first scholarly monograph investigating in detail the Convocation Sejm assembled during the interregnum following the death of King John III Sobieski. It is a typical parliamentary monograph describing in a chronological

order the events occurring between 29 August and 28 September 1696. The underlying source query was done in Polish (incl. Warsaw, Lublin, Cracow, Gdańsk) and foreign (Lviv) archives, and based mostly on investigation of the Sejm-related journals, with a total of twenty-four such documents gathered for the purpose. There are four chapters. The first, introductory, chapter describes the political situation in the first days of the interregnum which followed the demise of John III, based to a considerable extent on known literature. The following section discusses the dietines (*sejmiks*) preceding the Sejm, describing in detail the issues considered at their sessions: the election of monarch, security of the state, taxes, economic and financial issues, issues concerning non-Catholic religions, aliens, and the royal family. The author has compiled a list of the deputies elected at the dietines concerned. Given this context, a poor research in the Lithuanian dietines appears noticeable. The subsequent two chapters chronologically discuss a detailed course of events at the Convocation Sejm itself. While certainly filling a research gap, the monograph is too verbose and insufficiently analytical; its detailed approach makes it a reading challenge. All in all, the publication proves that finding a new method and formula for scholarly description of the parliamentary assemblies and sessions in Poland-Lithuania has become a must. (MC)

Władysław Konopczyński, *Stanisław Konarski*, ed. by Zofia Zielińska and Piotr Biliński, Ośrodek Myśli Politycznej and Muzeum Historii Polski, Kraków and Warszawa, 2016, 453 pp., index of persons

This present volume is a re-edition of the 1926 biography of Konarski by Władysław Konopczyński, the most prominent inter-war Polish historian of the early modern epoch. The study, chronologically organized and written in a remarkably passionate and energetic style, covers all spheres of Konarski's various activities, focusing however on his politics and pedagogy. As the editors inform us, Konopczyński's book remains unchallenged, both in terms of the research conducted by the author and, as they claim, his analysis of Konarski's achievements. There are only a very few newer monographs written about Konarski, which bring little new additional evidence into light, except for his 77 letters discovered in Rome and published in 1962. Interestingly, the second monograph, focused on Konarski's educational activities, was authored by William John Rose, and published in London in 1929. The present edition is supplemented with 116 previously unpublished letters by Konarski and his associates. Father Konarski (1700–73) was a Piarist priest, educator, writer, translator, and political and educational activist. He is popularly considered as one of the key figures in the early phase of the Polish Enlightenment, his main

achievement being the foundation of Collegium Nobilium, an elite Warsaw school which was famous for its modern curriculum and educational methods. He is also famous for his advocacy of political reforms of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and his writings and teaching greatly inspired the second generation of the Polish Enlightenment and the post-1772 reformist movement, which was crowned by the Constitution of 1791. Konopczyński's book presents him and his achievements most favorably, stressing his patriotism, determination, and laboriousness; and revealing the author's temperament in the sharp criticism he expressed against his numerous contemporaries. Apparently, the idea behind the present edition is a twofold rediscovery, i.e. to view Konarski as a key figure of the Enlightenment, and Konopczyński as one of the leading figures of Polish historiography in the first half of the twentieth century. (AK)

NINETEENTH CENTURY

Rafał Kowalczyk, *Odwrót Wielkiej Armii Napoleona z Rosji w 1812 roku* [Napoleon's Grande Armée retreat from Russia in 1812], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź, 2016, Summaries in English, French, Russian, and Ukrainian, 184 pp., 154 ill., 2 maps

This book concerns one of the most famous and controversial episodes in military history. It analyses Napoleon's strategic and fateful decisions, and the process of decomposition of his army following its retreat from Moscow, between October and the end of November 1812. The book is predominantly based on the analysis of Polish memoirs, relations, press, and letters of Napoleon's Polish soldiers. The Russian historiography of the war is also carefully analyzed. This creates a coherent and impressive picture of the campaign, although French and other Western sources, as well as the historiography of the subject, are manifestly underemphasized. Moreover, the book's relation to the previous publication by the same author (*Katastrofa Wielkiej Armii Napoleona w Rosji 1812 roku*, 2007), a much thicker and more comprehensive study, seems unclear: the subject of the present work appears to be almost identical to the three last chapters of the previous book. The author argues in his Introduction that the present publication is just the first in a series aimed at supplementing and developing his theses from the previous book. (AK)

Dominika Skiba, *Cyganeria artystyczna i cyganowanie w romantycznej Warszawie* [The artistic bohemia and 'going bohemian' in the Romantic Warsaw], Wydawnictwo Ossolineum, Wrocław, 2016, 287 pp.; series: Na jeden temat

This study, by a young scholar (b. 1987) associated with the University of Wrocław, is based on a PhD thesis that has won a mention from the National Centre for Culture. Of the two extensive parts, the first ('The face aspects of some lachrymose comedians') profiles the most important local actors of the Romanticist age (primarily, Seweryn Grzegorz Filleborn, Włodzimierz Wolski, Seweryn Zenon Sierpiński, Roman Zmorski, Józef Bogdan Dziekoński) while the second ('Scenes and venues') describes the places of special significance for the development of the theatrical art); these are organised into six subsections named chapters. There is an introduction ('Provincial bohemian few-kopeck theatre') and a conclusion ('Tear-off the effulgent mask, and spit onto things holy'). This essayistic study evokes the history of Poland's first artistic modern-style bohemia. Many of the profiles of those first comedians turn into portraits of independence conspirers. With her ambitious approach to the subject, the author skilfully displays her knowledge and insight. She has made use of before-unknown documentary resources. Noteworthy are the dialogical and, at the same time, critical references to the precursory works related to the topic – namely, those by Adolf Nowaczyński and, primarily, Stefan Kawyn (the comedy play *Cyganeria warszawska* and its title-sake historical-literary study, respectively); as a deeper context, the critical works of Maria Janion are taken into account. A selective reference literature, index of persons, and a dozen illustrations are appended. Written with bravado and deeply thought-out, the study certainly deserves being read by a public much broader than experts in the field or period. (GK)

Krzysztof P. Woźniak, *Rajmund RembIELiński. Wizjoner i menedżer Łodzi przemysłowej. Raporty z lat 1824–1830* [Rajmund RembIELiński. A visionary and manager of industrial Łódź. Reports, 1824–30], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź, 2016, 513 pp., indices of persons and geographical names, 19 tables, Summaries in English and German

Rajmund RembIELiński (1775–1841) was a politician, freemason, government official and administrator in both the Grand Duchy of Warsaw and the so-called Congress Kingdom of Poland. He was the prefect of the Płock department (1808–15), the head of the Mazovian Voivodship Commission (1816–30, and 1832); a deputy to the Sejm of the Congress

Kingdom and its Marshall in 1818, 1820, and 1825. He is best known as a propagator and organizer of state-sponsored industry in the Kingdom, particularly in the area of Łódź, which he supervised in the 1820s. It was his initiative to invite skilled workers from abroad, mainly from Germany, to the region that was to become Poland's largest textile industry centre for the next 150 years, offering them land, housing, and state loans. Rembieliński and his activities were the subject of a 1989 volume edited by Alina Barszczewska-Krupa. The present book is not a standard biography, as its main merit is the publication and interpretation of the annual reports of the Section for Industry of the Mazovian administration over which he presided. The first chapter analyzes his activities in the years 1823–30 as the head of the Section and a devoted animator of the industrial development of Poland. The second chapter describes a number of his associates and collaborators at that time. Chapter Three analyzes the annual reports of the Section to the central government in Warsaw. The author suggests that the reports, of a narrative-statistical structure, were one of the main methods by which to gain the support of the government for the active involvement of the state in promoting industry, as well as to secure the financing of the process. They cover the years 1824–30 (1827 is missing). They were first prepared for publication prior to the Second World War, but the outbreak of the war stopped the effort and the originals were burnt during the Warsaw uprising in 1944. The author reconstructed them from a number of copies made in the 1930s and earlier, and supplemented his evidence with materials obtained in a number of Polish and German archives, libraries, and museums. (AK)

Krzysztof K. Daszyk, Tomasz Kargol, and Tomasz Szubert (eds.), *Rok 1846 w Krakowie i Galicji: odniesienia, interpretacje, pamięć* [The year 1846 in Cracow and Austrian Galicia: references, interpretations, memory], Towarzystwo Wydawnicze 'Historia Iagellonica', Kraków, 2016, 314 pp.

A collection containing a dozen studies related to the Cracow uprising of February 1846, part of which was the 'Galician slaughter' (*rabacja galicyjska*), grouped into three sections. These occurrences have been gaining new meanings and significances in Polish public debate over the last decade; no surprise, then, that historians are resuming the topic. Most of the authors of the studies contained in the volume under review are (rather expectedly) Polish. The section entitled 'Interpretations' is perhaps the most disillusioning one: having suggested to offer new readings of the events in question, it in fact offers (re-)reproduced or merely compiled threads from the existing reference literature. The section on 'Memory' provides a considerable portion of interesting analyses, including the Galician slaughter as viewed by the émigré circles

as well as by Polish historiographers of the Partitions period, the Ukrainian historiographers (Marian Mudryj), or as researched by German historians (the study by Austrian scholar Christoph Augustynowicz). With the wheat separated from the chaff, the book as a whole furnishes the reader with considerable synthetic knowledge whilst also rectifying the previous findings (though the form of presentation is not thoroughly original). (GK)

Alicja Kulecka, *Ku społeczeństwu obywatelskiemu. Czas walki i polemik 1863* [Towards a civil society. The time of struggle and polemics 1863], Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2016, index of persons, Summary in English, 299 pp.

This book concerns the developments in the Russian part of partitioned Poland before and during the January uprising (1861–4). Its main goal is to reconstruct and analyze the revolutionary ideology of the Polish resistance movement against the Russians, as manifested in the press, pamphlets, and manifestos of the time, as well as reflected in the memoirs of contemporaries. The author focuses on the question of organization of the future society of liberated Poland, as imagined by the revolutionaries. More specifically, the problems associated with mass mobilization of the peasants for the revolutionary movement, in context of the modernization and democratization processes, are discussed. Importantly, the author also attempts to contextualize the Polish revolutionary movement, both intellectually and practically, within the framework of the then-contemporary European debates concerning the issues of citizenship, patriotism, and political activism. The book provides a broad discussion of the Polish historiography on the uprising, which has incessantly attracted the attention of historians and essayists, following its downfall and until today. The first two chapters present the situation before the uprising (1861–3), focusing on the policies of Aleksander Wielopolski, the head of the Polish Kingdom's government. Chapter Three examines the policies of the underground Polish National Government during the uprising. Chapters Four and Five discuss the attitudes of the peasants toward the movement, and the idea of mass mobilization of the population. (AK)

Dziennik Maryi S. [A diary of Marya S.], ed. and with an introduction and notes by Robert Kotowski, Muzeum Narodowe, Kielce, 2017, 223 pp., index, facsimiles, photographs, portraits

A diary written down by a teenage girl from a landowning family between April 1869 and November 1873 – later on, the first wife of the novelist Henryk

Sienkiewicz and mother of his children. Apart from short contributory studies (incl. by Agnieszka Kowalska-Lasek, published in a yearbook of the National Museum in Kielce (xxvii [2012])), Marya (Maria) Szetkiewiczówna's diary has basically remained unknown, while it definitely deserves a penetrating reading. Many of the notes refer to their authoress: her lifestyle, tastes and inclinations, favourite readings. We can learn quite a lot about the author's emerging and evolving outlook on the world – her views and attitudes towards her time and the people surrounding her. Szetkiewicz was a landowner family originally rooted in Lithuania, and pretty characteristic in their ideological choices. The life of Maria's father, Kazimierz (born 1827), reflects the experience of Polish patriots of the time: suspected of having helped the anti-Russian insurgents in 1863–4, he was expelled for several years and barred from settling back in Lithuania. The character of Kazimierz, a thoroughly educated man who considerably stood out in his environment, was decisive in awakening the diarist's intellectual interests. The diary is an illustrative record of how the period's social and behavioural conventions were overcome by the adolescent author; hence, emancipation of women is one of the keywords or leitmotifs. The text of the diary is preceded by a comprehensive introduction. Several pictures, an index and a brief (but helpful) references list are attached. Meticulously edited and with unknown photographs, the document in question is an important contribution and source material of use in Henryk Sienkiewicz's biography. It moreover offers a subjective insight into the mores and morals of the late decades of the nineteenth century. An arresting voice of its time, representative of an emerging generation. (GK)

Krakowska szkoła historyczna a Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne. Studia historiograficzne [The Cracow School of History and the Polish Historical Society. Studies in historiography], ed. by Piotr Biliński and Paweł Plichta, Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne and Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków, 2016, 361 pp.

The so-called Cracow school of history is typically associated with the names of Walerian Kalinka, Józef Szujski, Michał Bobrzyński, and Stanisław Smolka – a group of Polish historians active in the Jagiellonian University in the second half of the nineteenth century. They earned fame – being dubbed by contemporaries as ‘the new school of history’ – for their reinterpretation of Polish national history, marked by their profound criticism of some national myths and their fundamental rejection of the Romantic legacy. Their achievements, which were deemed scandalous by a part of then-contemporary public opinion, continue even today to be a controversial issue in the Polish historical discourse. The present volume offers a much broader definition, basically embracing all Cracovian historians before the Second World War. The Polish

Historical Society (initially the Historical Society) was founded in 1886 in Lwów; and its first initiative was the establishment of the *Kwartalnik Historyczny* [Historical Quarterly] in 1887. In 1912 the Cracow branch of the Society began its operations. Out of the nineteen essays included in the present volume, two concern the history of the Polish Historical Society before the Second World War (by Tadeusz Kondracki and Julian Dybiec), and one examines its history in the first 13 years of communism (by Tadeusz Rutkowski), and six discuss the achievements of particular scholars involved in the activities of the Society. Two essays (by Maciej Janowski and Marek Āurčanský) present the Cracow School of History (in the commonly-understood sense of the term) in the Central-European context, and one (by Krzysztof Zamorski) in the broader European context, particularly in terms of the historicist tradition. The essays by Zofia Zielińska and Jolanta Kolbuszewska regard the views of two contemporary opponents of the Cracow School: Szymon Askenazy and Tadeusz Korzon. Zbigniew Romek and Rafał Stobiecki attempt to discern the influence of the nineteenth-century Cracovian historians upon the historical debates and historical textbooks in today's Poland. In short, the volume offers a rather loose collection of papers, embracing the analysis of the Cracovian historians' achievements, reconstruction of their relations with other historical milieus and traditions, and their methodological inspirations that have survived till our time. The reader should bear in mind that the legacy of the Cracow school has been intensively studied by historians of historiography in Poland, mostly because of the long-lasting scandalizing effect of some of their writings. In this context, what seems most striking about the present volume is its emotionally detached and ideologically neutral approach. This broader and more neutral approach perhaps reflects the effect of the passage of time on what were once the most controversial issues in Polish national history. (AK)

Aleksandra Łubczyńska, *Działalność wydawnicza Narodowej Demokracji w Galicji w dobie autonomii (1892–1914)* [Editorial activities of the National Democracy in Austrian Galicia in the autonomy period, 1892–1914], Jasne, Pruszcz Gdański, 2016, 559 pp., index, facsimile reproductions

This extensive monograph describes the editorial and publishing system that evolved around the National League and then around the Democratic National Party in Galicia – the radical independence-oriented milieu and, later on, the largest nationalist grouping in the Polish lands in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The study is composed of six chapters meticulously and systematically showing how the publishing activities of one of the most influential political milieus emerged and evolved at the turn of the twentieth century. The publications and their

behind-the-scenes, the technical aspects behind the system's creation and the involved individuals are analysed. This source-based study explains, to a considerable extent (though indirectly, since this was apparently not the objective), what factors basically underlay the enormous success of the National Democracy, the largest nationalist movement in the Polish territory in the early twentieth century. The short answer is: probably, it was a modern response to the new aspirations of a number of social groups. Enriched with an extensive reference list, index and annex, the publication is indispensable for researchers of the phenomenon of the National Democracy and Polish nationalism – as a broader, cultural concept. It makes an important contribution to the history of Polish intellectual culture in the early years of the twentieth century, including the development of literature and its reading at the century's turn. (GK)

Tomasz Krzemiński, *Codziennosc mniejszych miast Pomorza Nadwiślańskiego końca XIX i pierwszych dziesięcioleci XX wieku. Zmiany warunków materialnych i przeobrażenia obyczajowości* [Everyday life in smaller towns of Vistula Pomerania at the end of the nineteenth and first decades of the twentieth century. Changes in material conditions and transformations of customs and behaviour], Instytut Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2017, 410 pp., indices, bibliog., Summary in English, ill.

In 1772, Vistula Pomerania was incorporated in Prussia. The region was affected before then by momentous social and political processes, which came well ahead of the similar developments in the rest of the Polish territory. Briefly described in the introductory chapter, the processes in question included increased participation in political life, democratisation of social relations, departure from the feudal relationships in the economic life, industrialisation, development of rail transport – all this resulting in crystallisation of Polish national awareness among the lower social strata. By the end of the nineteenth century, the region witnessed an increasingly stronger Polish-German rivalry. Beside these two most powerful political elements, the Young Kashubian movement emerged. The author's major focus is on material transformations: the appearance of towns and cities, development of municipal utility infrastructure (water-supply and sewerage systems), which are described with use of much statistics. The narrative is enriched with numerous references to the period press and recollections of the residents of Pomeranian hubs such as Chełmno (Kulm), Chełmża (Kulmsee), Chojnice (Konitz), Grudziądz (Graudenz), Kościerzyna (Berent), Toruń (Thorn), and more. There is virtually no subject of importance that Krzemiński has neglected.

In fact, we find sections on hygiene and medical care, means of transportation, nutritional customs and what was en vogue in this respect (the popularity of black coffee), and restaurants, the changes in the model of family and the roles of males and females, harlotry and depravity, schools and, finally, political life. Labour, in the fields of trade and crafts, is also researched: at least since the beginning of the twentieth century, work was an important aspect of human identity. The author finds that the awareness of labour rights was ever-growing, and tries to make up a hierarchy of professions (officials, teachers, post-office workers and railwaymen being top-ranked). The year 1914 implied a collapse of the stabilised life in Vistula Pomerania: shortages in supplies appeared; women got attracted into industrial work and business to an unprecedented extent; open ethnic conflicts occurred. The warfare over, joblessness appeared as an aftermath of the Polish-German customs war. All in all, the book offers a number of interesting and detailed information on provincialism in the mental and economic dimensions – in an impressive perspective of several decades: from the Prussian state, through the German Empire, up to the Second Republic of Poland. The documentary quality of this study is certainly extremely high. (BK)

Jadwiga Szczawińska-Dawidowa, *Listy do Jana Władysława Dawida (marzec – kwiecień – maj 1905)* [Letters to Jan Władysław Dawid (March–April–May 1905)], ed. from manuscript, with an introduction and commentaries, by Justyna Myszkowska, Biblioteka Publiczna Miasta Stołecznego Warszawy – Biblioteka Główna Województwa Mazowieckiego, Warszawa, 2017, 287 pp., bibliog., index, ill.s.; series: Prace Biblioteki Publicznej m.st. Warszawy – Biblioteki Głównej Województwa Mazowieckiego, 25

A collection of thirty-six letters written by Jadwiga Szczawińska-Dawidowa, a charismatic figure of leftist cultural life, noted pedagogue, editor of *Głos* and other periodicals, to her husband Jan Władysław Dawid – another key figure among the radical intelligentsia of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The letters date to March, April, and May 1905 – the time the Revolution and the rebellious attitudes were ‘on a roll’; the time was marked by mass political rallies that led to a great school strike (just to mention such spectacular occurrences). Beside the threads of importance for the biographies of some key figures in the socio-political life of the period, the correspondence offers a number of valuable and penetrating descriptions of important persons, the writer Benedykt Hertz among them. The letters are filled with enthusiasm and great expectations among progressive activists, but they also evoke the first sings of doubt about how the revolution would further

develop: the doubt that will further turn into a major trauma of the generation. Scholars focusing on this particular period have obtained a valuable source and important complementation of the studies by Bohdan Cywiński, Stanisław Kalabiński, Feliks Tych and, primarily, Andrzej Mencwel (*Etos lewicy*), concerning the milieus of Polish leftist intelligentsia of the Revolution time. The publication is enriched with a series of interesting (many of them before-unknown) photographs. (GK)

Bogusław Dybaś, Rudolf Jaworski, and Mariusz Wołos (eds.), *Bolesław Wicherkiewicz i jego wizja sprawy polskiej w 1915 roku* [Bolesław Wicherkiewicz and his vision of the Polish cause in the year 1915], Stacja Naukowa PAN w Wiedniu, Wiedeń, 2016, 194 pp., indices of persons and geographical names

The book brings to light an original, yet almost completely forgotten, document dating to the First World War: namely, a memorial authored by Bolesław Wicherkiewicz, a world-famous ophthalmologist, professor with the Jagiellonian University, and a proactive activist and politician of the Superior National Committee [NKN] in the late 1914/early 1915, entitled *Über die Lage der Polen in den drei Teilmächten und über die polit. Orientation während der Kriegszeit 1914/15*, whose copy has been found in the Austrian National Library in Vienna. The document quite accurately evidences the aspirations, expectations, and mental horizons of the group in the Polish elite which considered the Central Powers – Austro-Hungary, in the first place – to be the engine of a future fulfilment of their own interests. Wicherkiewicz discusses in a detailed fashion the situation of the Poles under each of the three Partitions, emphasising the differences between the areas; demonstrating the influence of Poles on the other Slavic nations, he outlines, in optimistic terms, the war-related perspectives. The document in question illustratively demonstrates how the distrust towards the national and cultural aspirations of Polish Jewry grew across the Polish political class. Bolesław Wicherkiewicz died on 7 December 1915, and thus could not experience how a number of his theses were getting verified later on. His testimony is published in its original (German) version as well as in a translation into Polish, with an introduction by Bogusław Dybaś, Director of the Scientific Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Vienna, and a critical discussion by Rudolf Jaworski, an eminent German historian, Professor Emeritus with the University of Cologne, with contributions from a team of scholars and translators associated with the said Scientific Centre. Indices of persons and geographical names are attached. (GK)

Agnieszka Jagodzińska, *‘Duszozbawcy’? Misja i literatura Londyńskiego Towarzystwa Krzewienia Chrześcijaństwa wśród Żydów w latach 1809–1939* [The ‘soul-saviours’ indeed? The mission and literature of the London Society for Promoting Christianity amongst the Jews, 1809–1939], Austeria, Kraków, 2017, 524 pp., annexes, bibliog.

This important study is the second penned by the cultural scientist associated with the University of Wrocław’s Department of Jewish Studies, one of the young generation’s most eminent scholars in the broad area of Jewish studies. At first glance, the addressed subject is a niche topic of interest to a narrow circle of specialists: the activities and ideological output of Protestant religious missions operating among Jewish people from the early nineteenth century until the outbreak of the Second World War. The missions altogether involved several dozen people and can be regarded as episodic in the broader context of the achievements of the London Society for Promoting Christianity as well as against the background of religious relations in the Polish lands in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Yet, this is but a superficial description of the issues recounted in the book. Of the four extensive chapters, only the first, basically an introductory section, is a traditional historical exposition. The other chapters attempt, in a comprehensive fashion, to analyse the Society’s writings specifying its objectives, tasks, and how the plans to convert members of the Jewish community were put into practice. The author has developed a dedicated research questionnaire, which in combination with in-depth analysis of the source material supplies new impulses for study of the religiosity and, definitely, the mores and morals of Polish Jewry; it moreover shows the evolution of the Protestant ‘missionary work’. For this reason, the extensive introduction, describing how the author’s research catalogue was built and describing the analytic tools in use, deserves attention. With all its values as a discourse analysis and a study in historical anthropology (particularly, Chapter Three – ‘Mission reports’), the study never loses its qualities as a penetrating historical reconstruction. This excellently written book is complemented with annexes offering a representative sample of the Society’s written works and publications, a list of acronyms and abbreviations, references and bibliography, plus useful lists of tables, charts and diagrams used in the argument. (GK)

Wojciech Puchta, *Powszechna Wystawa Krajowa we Lwowie w 1894 roku* [The Universal Provincial Exhibition in Lwów, 1894], Chronicon, Wrocław, 2016, 302 pp., Summaries in English and Ukrainian, index of persons, bibliog., tables, maps, ill.; series: Kulturoznawstwo historyczne, 1

The book under review places itself in the historiographic current described as exhibition studies: with no dedicated methodology developed, it builds upon economic history, history of art, and social history. The phenomenon of nineteenth-century exhibitions can be regarded from a variety of standpoints. Wojciech Puchta proposed to interpret the Lwów Exhibition in terms of manifestation of Polishness in autonomous Galicia. This province of the Habsburg monarchy, still ruled at the time by conservative, aristocratic circles loyal to the emperor, coped with the new political currents that lay emphasis on Polish patriotism. An initiative of the Society of Merchants and Industrialists, the Exhibition was a swan song of the formation of Galician conservatives and a showcase of legitimacy of the 'organic labour' concept – thus a dual demonstration. The capital city of Vienna was to see and appreciate that Galicia is no more a backward region: the economic and technological progress reached as far as there. (The event was ceremoniously opened by Archduke Karl Ludwig, the Emperor's brother). Galician peasants visiting the Exhibition were to see the Polish husbandry and management culture, thereby encouraging those hesitant and irresolute people to trust the Poles, their culture and civilisation. It was peasants that had produced the objects displayed at the Exhibition and were the central figures in its ethnographic section: the makers (also as construction workers who built the pavilions) and exhibits at the same time. As Puchta demonstrates, the message behind the event was clear: the visitor was meant to grow convinced about the need for national solidarity in the economic life as a fundamental value in peaceful rivalry with the other nations. Highlights of total of thirty-four domains were displayed: agriculture, horse and cattle rearing, hunting, meaning, breadmaking, ceramic industry, metalworking, woodworking, furriery, papermaking, forestry, chemical industry, electrical engineering, architecture, printing and typography, teaching and education, fire-fighting equipment, hospital management, road construction, through to works of art and banking. Eighty-nine per cent of the exhibitors were Galician; Polish diaspora in the United States were also represented. A retrospective exhibition of Polish paintings and sculptures, the first-ever so large, was prepared for the purpose: featuring 2,302 pieces made since the late eighteenth century, it was designed to show to the visitors that Polish art was a supra-Partition phenomenon, one of European importance. Among the accompanying events, twenty-eight conventions of professional groups were held (incl. those of pedagogues,

men-of-letters and journalists, shoemakers, lawyers, drilling technologists, balneologists, pharmacists, plus members of the 'Sokół' ['Falcon'] Gymnastics Society). The highlight of the event was the presentation of the giant-sized panoramic painting of Jan Styka, portraying the victorious battle fought in 1794 by Polish insurgents against the Russians in Raclawice. The absorbing book under discussion is distinct with its broad perspective: the reader is offered a socio-political profile of the phenomenon of the 'Polish (and, Ukrainian) Piedmont' with its capital city in Lwów, which is woven around the period's major exhibition events, international and those held in Polish lands. (BK)

Stanisław Zieliński, *Liga Narodowa na Rusi 1890–1920. Fragment historii pracy polskiej na kresach południowo-wschodnich* [The National League in Ruthenia, 1890–1920. A detail in the history of Polish labours in the south-eastern borderland area], ed. and with an introduction by Adam Wątor, Uniwersytet Szczeciński, Szczecin, 2016, 116 pp.

A reminiscence written by one of the most important activists with the National Democracy movement: Stanisław Zieliński was active in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century in the *guberniyas* of right-bank Ukraine – namely, those of Kiev, Podolia, and Volhynia. His account spans between the late 1890s and the birth of the Second Republic of Poland. The book opens with a biographical introduction by Adam Wątor, a historian from the University of Szczecin. While Zieliński's ideological involvement is apparent, the description he offers is factual and not embellished with patriotic fantasizing. The reminiscence draws an elaborate picture of the history of the local Polish colony against the background of the emerging Ukrainian national movement. Reflected in this account are the basic characteristics and the consecutive stages in the development of Polish nationalism: from its student-milieu roots (the Polonia corporation, in the first place) through to the attainment of primacy by the nationalists among the Polish diaspora in these lands. One also finds a number of delectable, and not infrequently unique, descriptions of historic persons and occurrences. Among the things described in the sixteen subchapters is the functioning of *Dziennik Kijowski* – the largest Polish daily newspaper in the region (Zieliński was the editorial board's secretary), and of *Przegląd Polski* – a periodical issued in Kiev (with Zygmunt Raczkowski and Stanisław Pieńkowski among its contributors), which later on became a mouthpiece of the Polish opinion in the area. Another interesting thread is the activities of the Polish Executive Committee in Ruthenia, a body that coordinated the actions of the Polish colony in what was referred

to as 'Ruthenia' (Pol.: *Ruś*). The book, meticulously edited as it is, contains a list of selected reference literature. (GK)

INTERWAR PERIOD

Endre L. Varga (ed.), *Dwa bratanki. Dokumenty i materiały do stosunków polsko-węgierskich 1918–1920* ['Two friends so fine'. Documents and materials on Polish-Hungarian relations, 1918–20], Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych, Warszawa, 2016, 762 pp., index of persons, ills.

The book is a collection of more than 600 documents testifying to animated relations, though not free of tensions and crises, developed between the revived Republic of Poland and the Kingdom of Hungary in the first years after the Great War. The documents have been selected, and meticulously edited, by Endre L. Varga, an outstanding Hungarian researcher dealing with the history of Poland, retired member of staff of the Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Budapest. Two points of reference probably had a bearing on these relations: the Polish-Bolshevik War and the communist coup in Hungary in the spring of 1919. The political elites of both nations united in a strong anti-communist accord – and the consequent conviction that extreme Left should be isolated by a sanitary cordon from any influence on home politics. In spite of the (still) prevalent common belief, the political establishments of both countries were deeply divided: for the entire interwar period, Hungary sought to have its borders revised, whilst Poland wanted its borders stabilised for most of the period. The two countries looked out for different perspectives for the continent. The bulk of the materials used in this anthology is bureaucratic documentation, including for military and diplomatic-service purposes, which attests to the above-specified phenomena and renders many of them more precisely defined. There are articles originally published in the Hungarian as well as Polish press, surveys of industry press, communications from abroad, and addresses delivered by the period's key politicians, excerpts from diaries or memoirs (by General Jan Romer and others), plus a handful of sources of a different sort (leaflets, list of volunteers, etc.). All in all, an indispensable reading for historians of diplomatic service and experts in political history of both nations – and, certainly, for anyone interested in this tempestuous period. A bibliography of works by Varga, index of persons, and a selection of photographs (featuring, mainly, Hungarian politicians of the time) are attached. (GK)

Sławomir Dębski (ed.), *Polskie dokumenty dyplomatyczne. 1919 (styczeń–maj)* [Polish diplomatic documents. 1919 (Jan.–May)], Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych, Warszawa, 2016, lxxvi + 986 pp., annex, list of abbreviations, index of persons, subject index

Another volume in the vast editorial project embarked on by the Polish Institute of International Affairs [PISM] to offer an extensive selection of sources related to the diplomatic service and the history of Polish foreign policies, edited by Sławomir Dębski and a team of outstanding historians. The documentation for the volume has been collected from several dozen sites the world over (each of the preceding volumes has used at least a dozen such places of collection). The present volume comprises a total of 430 documents, varied in character, including official matter, circulars, positions or stances, reports, minutes of sessions, cryptograms, notes, and the like; there are also informal sources such as notices, comments, instructions, or letters. The central event of the period, which has defined the arrangement of the documents within the volume, was the organisation of the Polish delegation to the Paris Peace Conference and the team's activities. A portion of the materials refers to the emerging Polish-Bolshevik War (January 1919). The documents altogether illustrate the process of formation of Polish foreign service which was to survive until the outbreak of the Second World War, while also comprehensively elucidating a dozen of other episodes of importance in the Polish history of the period. The book forms a highly useful source for historians dealing with the history of the Second Republic and the history of Polish diplomatic service in general. (GK)

Artur Bajerski, *Szkolnictwo wyższe międzywojennej Polski. Ujęcie geograficzne* [The tertiary school and education system in the interwar Poland in its geographic aspect], Uniwersytet Adama Mickiewicza, Poznań, 2016, 200 pp., bibliog., tables, ills.

This interesting, and successful, discussion of the development of university-level school system and education in the Second Republic of Poland (1918–39) draws on in-depth statistical and demographic analysis, with emphasis on geographical and cultural differences between the university hubs. There are four chapters, of which the Introduction and Chapter One offer a lapidary exposition of the spatial mobility of the students as well as the academic teaching staff. Chapter Two sketches a pattern of development of the modern university (following the Humboldtian model). Chapter Three outlines the major development directions of the period's education

system. The subsequent chapter discusses the migrations of the scientific staff (including members of the Polish Academy of Arts and Science [PAU]) and the staffing potential of the tertiary schools, with special focus on the Universities of Lwów and Poznań. Chapter Five discusses the migrations among students and what has been described as the regionalisation of academic centres. The next chapter describes the determinants behind the schooling processes. Finally, Chapter Seven summarises the whole content of the book. The author skilfully presents a series of changes experienced by the tertiary education system in the interwar Poland. The case of the Poznań University – which, though established after the First World War, very soon became one of the key scientific centres in the revived country – shows how efficiently the state was able to address the challenges of the time; the response of the local milieu attests to the region's aspirations. Free of overt local patriotism, the author can appreciate the restrictions with which this particular academic hub struggled at the time. With his exquisite expertise in the literature and thorough knowledge of the relevant documentation, Bajerski proficiently moves through the intricacies of state policies, regardless of the ideological and world-outlook-related fluctuations. A quite useful list of references is provided, along with an index of tables and drawings used in illustrating the argument. All in all, a monograph not only for expert use. (GK)

Joachim Bartoszewicz, *Zagadnienia polityki polskiej* [The issues in Polish politics], selected and with an introduction by Krzysztof Kawalec, Narodowe Centrum Kultury, Kraków and Warszawa, 2016, 326 pp.

The book offers the first so voluminous and comprehensive collection of texts, issued by a renowned publisher, authored by one of the most influential activists of the National Democracy. Joachim Bartoszewicz was a senator and chairman of the Chief Management of the National Party (Stronnictwo Narodowe [SN]) in the 1930s. The anthology is worth of close reading for several reasons. It builds upon a selection of texts from the late 1920s entitled as above (*Zagadnienia polityki polskiej*, Warszawa, 1929), but offers much more. The events of the Versailles Conference certainly put an end to a chapter in the activities of this indisputably uncommon and remarkable organiser and political journalist, who was associated with *Dziennik Kijowski* (1906–12) – one of the major journals in what was Polish eastern borderland area (before and after the Partitions). Bartoszewicz was moreover a prominent member of the Paris-based Polish National Committee, Roman Dmowski's trusted man, and a witness to several occurrences of key importance for his time. While holding no official post in the state administration of the Second

Republic, Bartoszewicz held a number of prominent functions within his political formation. On the other hand, describing him as an intellectual who went his separate way would be an overstatement. His biography, immortalised also in his writings (the major ones including *Walka o Polskę* [The struggle for Poland], *Sprawa polska* [The Polish cause], *Znaczenie polityczne Kresów wschodnich dla Polski* [The political significance of the Eastern Borderland for Poland]) demonstrates a set of attitudes basically typical of National Democrats: admiration for a strong state (based on a homogenised nation), anti-Semitism (exacerbating year by year), and a cultural Francophilia (of crucial relevance to the elder generation of ND activists). The publication is elaborately edited in terms of back matter; a biographical note by Krzysztof Kawalec forms an introduction. The study offers a representative sample of Polish nationalist(ic) journalism of the period. (GK)

Władysław Grabski, *Idea Polski. Wybór pism* [The idea of Poland. A selection of writings], with an introduction by Piotr Koryś, Ośrodek Myśli Politycznej and Narodowe Centrum Kultury, Kraków and Warszawa, 2016, 558 pp.

The book is a collection of several dozen texts, mostly programming ones, of the outstanding politician of the Second Republic time. The articles and other texts are grouped into three sections, entitled, respectively: (i) 'The idea of Poland' (excerpts from the publication so entitled, a sort of opus magnum); (ii) 'Crisis and development' (mostly, articles concerning the socio-political crisis of the 1930s), and, (iii) 'The agrarian question – the nation – Polish politics'. The valuable introduction by the volume's editor Piotr Koryś, economist and historian, comprehensively outlines the figure of Grabski in the context of his time. As remarked there, most of the texts deal in technical terms with economic and business-related issues. Even the two sections with a predominant ideological purport propose a wealth of technocratic ideas and solutions. Born 1874, Władysław Grabski, initially a landowner social activist, then an economist and politician, loosely linked to the National Democracy (he departed the formation in 1911, in connection with an anti-Semitic campaign), grew to become an important actor of Polish political life in the early years of the twentieth century. (His brother Stanisław Grabski was a leading figure of Polish nationalism in Austrian Galicia). The texts by this original publicist and commentator are recommendable not only to researchers dealing with economic history, as they form an introduction to the intellectual output of one of the most eminent politicians of the two interwar decades. The collection is certainly the (so far) most important supplement to the biographies of the father of the interwar monetary reform (to mention those by Marian M. Drozdowski, Janusz Szkodlarski, Katarzyna

Lutyńska, and Jacek Łętocha). In Koryś's approach, Grabski is portrayed, somewhat teasingly, as a solitary intellectual and singular politician. The writings contained in the volume under review make one believe that such a portrayal makes some sense. (GK)

Aneta Dawidowicz, *Mysł polityczna Stronnictwa Narodowego 1928–1939. Wspólnota ideału czy alternacja koncepcji* [The political thought of the National Party, 1928–39. A commonality of an ideal, or alternation of a concept], Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin, 2017, 410 pp., index of persons, bibliog.

This study, written by a researcher associated with the Lublin school of research in political thought (other members of the circle being Jan Jachymek, Ewa Maj, or Waldemar Paruch), aspires to analyse the Polish political thought, mostly twentieth-century, in combination with an attempt to construct heuristic political-science models. There are seven chapters that include subchapters describing aspects of the functioning of the National Party (Stronictwo Narodowe [SN]) and elements of its ideology. The latter include the sources of the underlying political thought, the role of the concept of 'nation' and its related issues, the position of ethnic minorities, the vision of the state's political system, economic views and concepts, and Poland's place in international relations. The SN was the largest nationalist party in the interwar Poland (with more than 200,000 members since 1928). The monograph systematises and structures our knowledge on this formation, its leading exponents and their contribution to the history of Polish political thought – the knowledge that has been intensively developing in the last two decades. The catalogue of research issues is strikingly poor, as it basically appears limited to the questions and dilemmas posed in previous publications. Objectionable is also the hermetic, if not pseudoscientific, jargon whose use often hides the author's reluctance for controversial topics, such as SN's attitude toward political violence as a power-winning strategy, or the militarisation of rightwing policy in the Second Republic – as are certain aspects of her methodological conservatism. However, worthy of attention is certainly the reliable scientific query which encompasses an almost whole body of available sources (though never confronted with foreign studies on Polish nationalism). This specialist study has a comprehensive bibliogra-
phy and name index attached. (GK)

Piotr Łopuszański, *Warszawa literacka w okresie międzywojennym* [The literary Warsaw in the interwar period], Prószyński Media, Warszawa, 2017, 431 [+1] pp., [16 pp.] tables, ill.

This monograph by a publicist and author (with the respected monograph of the theatre and film actor Gustaw Holoubek [*Gustaw Holoubek. Filozof bycia*] to his credit), describing the literary life in interwar Warsaw, addresses an essential social expectation. The interwar period of 1918 to 1939 has apparently not ceased attracting attention not only among specialists. The study is composed of an introduction and nine well-written chapters telling the story in a chronological framework. The Warsaw literary world is portrayed through the prism of personalities, rather than literary groups or milieus. Łopuszański has a penchant, and perhaps a special gift, for extracting enjoyable threads in the sphere of social life, morals and manners; the literary works themselves seem not to be central to his interest. The reader finds here a number of references to important discussions and debates of the period but, regrettably, no in-depth discussion on any such point. Chapters Eight and Nine will tell us a lot about who disliked whom, where the most important authors dwelled and how they dined, whereas the attempts of the Sanacja regime at managing literature in an authoritarian manner are overly neglected. The period's press, not only literary journals, has been comprehensively used, for a change. This erudite study – and a readable book, in fact – is probably of use to experts, though its reading public will possibly be broader. It might be doubted, however, whether it will contribute to any progress in the research in this eventful period. A list of sources and a dozen of unknown photographs are attached; there is no index of persons, though. (GK)

Wacław Makowski, *My i Wy. Wybór pism* [Us, and You. A selection of writings], selected, edited, and with an introduction by Arkadiusz Górniewicz, Ośrodek Myśli Politycznej and Narodowe Centrum Kultury, Kraków and Warszawa, 2016, 686 pp., index of persons

An anthology of texts by the outstanding lawyer and respected specialist in the criminal law, a professor with the University of Warsaw, activist of the (broadly taken) Piłsudski camp, the last Speaker of the Sejm in the Second Republic of Poland (designated for the post by the Camp of National Unity [OZN]). Wacław Makowski is mainly remembered for his co-authorship of the Criminal Code of 1932 and the 'April' Constitution of 1935. Ten texts selected for the purpose are, by all indications, representative of the output of this author, once prominent in the Sanacja authority author.

The published materials fairly clearly show how the Piłsudski-ite camp evolved, its left-wing circle included, toward authoritarianism, and what attempts were made to find a constitutional solution between the fascist-inclined option promoted at the time by the National Democracy and the temptation for a communist social project strongly communicated from behind the eastern frontier. Particularly emphatic in this respect are the two texts reprinted in this collection, 'A new Poland in the new Europe' and 'The principles of the new Constitution'. A conservative interpretative direction of Makowski's thought proposed by the editor, is somewhat objectionable. I nonetheless find this meticulously edited book recommendable to anyone interested in the political thought, and the legal and political output, of the late Second Republic. A short biographical note and index of persons are attached. (GK)

Henryk Cimek, *Polityka komunistów wobec chłopów i ruchu ludowego w Polsce w latach 1918–1937* [The communist policies with respect to peasantry and peasant movement in Poland in the years 1918–37], Uniwersytet Rzeszowski, Rzeszów, 2017, 222 pp., index of persons

This study, yet another penned by the historian currently associated with the 'Aleksander Gieysztor' Academy of Humanities in Pułtusk (before then, a long-time worker of the Higher School/University of Pedagogy in Rzeszów and the University of Rzeszów), probably the most reliable historian researching in the history of Polish communists in the interwar period (1918–39). The book has five chronologically arranged chapters which systematically inspect and scrutinise the evolution of the policies pursued by interwar communist formations with respect to the peasant movement, as well as the specificity of the peasant issue in the Second Republic of Poland. Most of the new findings and recognitions are doubtlessly provided in Chapter Five, which covers the so-called 'peasant front' period of 1935–7 and the later years, when the communist parties, groupings and formations won a considerable social support and backing for the first time after Poland was reinstated as a sovereign state. In parallel, the time was one of the flourishing fascist Right in Poland. This led to a political polarisation that often triggered political violence, in turn. Altogether, the book provides a number of unknown facts – to be 'digested' by historians specialising in other areas. A useful final section systematising the author's conclusions and tentative findings, biographical notes of the major activists, a list of tables, reference literature, and index of persons crown the volume. (GK)

CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

Jan Engelgard and Maciej Motas (eds.), *Archiwum Narodowej Demokracji* [The National Democracy archive], *Myśl Polska*, Warszawa, 2017, 276 pp., ill.; series: Biblioteczka Myśli Polskiej, 3

This third volume in a series published by the editorial staff of the right-wing weekly *Myśl Polska* offers a collection of several interesting documents concerning, in particular, post-war history of the political activists connected with the National Democracy (as a broad concept). A set of critical studies opens the book, including on political violence during the Revolution of 1905 (the essay by Marzena Zawodzińska), the Byelorussian issues addressed by *Myśl Polska* in the years 1905–10, and two biographical accounts: one dealing with the correspondence of Fr. Józef Warszawski (a Jesuit who was chaplain with the Nation's Confederation, a partisan formation rooted in the National Radical Camp Falanga [ONR Falanga]), penned by Mirosław Pakaszewski; the other being Piotr Kaszubowski's essay on Stanisław Chełchowski, an outstanding landowner activist from the beginning of the twentieth century. The source material published in the volume seems to be the most valuable, though. These include: (i) Soviet documents related to Zbigniew Stypułkowski, a prominent activist with the National Party [SN] and one of the accused in the Trial of the Sixteen – a show trial of the leaders of the Polish Underground State, held in Moscow on 18–21 June 1946; (ii) letters of Wincenty Lutosławski, the founding father of so-called national philosophy, to Roman Dmowski, the National Democracy leader; and, (iii) excerpts from the diary of Józef Wójcik (kept in the 1970s), an influential activist of the PAX Association – the post-war formation of the Catholic supporters of the communist regime, led by Bolesław Piasecki. A few previously unknown photographs are published in the book. The publication is meticulously edited. With excessive journalistic vein clearly audible here or there, this collection of testimonies showing the attitudes of the key figures of the Polish twentieth-century Right, at the nodal moments of their political choices will certainly be of use not only to experts in the field. (GK)

Michał Gniadek-Zieliński, *Narodowe Siły Zbrojne, 1942–1947* [National Armed Forces, 1942–7], Capital Sp. z. o.o., Warszawa, 2017, 611 pp.

Authored by a young scholar, this first comprehensive monograph of the National Armed Forces [NSZ], doubtlessly illustrates the author's fascination with the history of the controversial formation in question. A number of unknown facts are presented; for a dozen of episodes of key

importance, facts related to their organisational documentation complete the heritage picture. The distorted opinions present in the literature regarding the origins of the formation are rectified: apart from a series of minor distortions or inaccuracies, the author convincingly argues that the commander team's background was the National Party (Stronnictwo Narodowe [SN]) and, to an extent lesser than so-far believed, the Polish Organisation (ONR ABC). This probably exhausts the list of strong points of this, somewhat pedantic, publication. The author does not enter into polemics with the authors of existing monographs or studies (Zbigniew R. Siemaszko, Krzysztof Komorowski, and others); his references to the literature seem to be mostly casual. The proposed flattened, not to say contorted analysis of the organisation's ideological output leaves much to be desired, as does the almost complete lack of any attempt to critically review the black chapters of this largest party-based militia in the independence-oriented Underground – for example, the manslaughter in the area of Borów in 1943. One of the largest conspiratorial organisations (with some 100,000–150,000 members as of 1944), ideologically rooted in Polish radical nationalism, the NSZ definitely deserves a focused and comprehensive monograph. This big book, whose whole sections are filled with secondary rationalisation interspersed with hagiographic elements, is a poor response to such a need, though. Calling, basically, for critical expert reading, the book differs from the abundant apologetic literature with its use of considerable source base, including a number of unique items. (GK)

Jan Pisuliński, *Przesiedlenie ludności ukraińskiej z Polski do USRR w latach 1944–1947* [The deportations of Ukrainian people from Poland to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in 1944–7], Libra, Rzeszów, 2017, 590 pp., indices of persons and geographical names, bibliog.

Jan Pisuliński, *Akcja specjalna 'Wisła'* [The Special Action 'Wisła'], Libra, Rzeszów, 2017, 458 pp., indices of persons and geographical names, bibliog.

Jan Pisuliński is a historian associated with the University of Rzeszów (where he is head of the of General Contemporary History within the Institute of History), regarded as leading expert in twentieth-century Polish-Ukrainian relations. A distinguishing characteristic of his studies is their grounding in a reliable evidence base and methodology. His recent study on the deportations of Ukrainian people from Poland to the Ukrainian SSR is a second revised edition of the monograph published in 2009 by the University of Rzeszów; the revision has extended to a number of previous findings.

There are eight chapters, of which the first describes Polish-Ukrainian relations before 1944; the second discusses the origins, provisions, and behind-the-scenes of the Polish-Soviet agreement of 9 September 1944 on the status of the residents of the disputed territory; the third deals with the organisation of the displacement apparatus. Chapters Four to Seven describe the consecutive stages of the resettlement action according to the territorial division and imposed timeframe of October 1944 to May 1947.

The findings comprised in the study on the Special Action 'Wisła' convincingly demonstrate that the action was not devised as a means to inhibit the activity of the Ukrainian underground forces, let alone the homicidal acts – such as, in the author's perception, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army's (UPA) action in Volhynia; it was, instead, a sort of collective revenge, which turned into an act of ethnic cleansing. UPA members did not kill anybody since March 1948, whereas the Ukrainian underground groups were entirely eradicated in the area by 1949. As demonstrated by Pisuliński, the Polish military formations virtually did not fight the UPA until 1947: their activity predominantly focused on struggling against the Polish underground troops, along with supporting the organisation and legitimisation of the new authorities. As suggestively demonstrated in this book, a minor part of the local Ukrainians fostered the Ukrainian conspiracy for independence. Moreover, a considerable amount of data is quoted to make it apparent that the number of Ukrainians who joined the formations connected with the communist authorities – including the Polish Workers' Party [PPR], the Civic Militia [MO], and the Security Office [SB] – in some districts (incl. Włodawa, Chełm, or Biała) far exceeded their membership in the military underground formations. It is a matter of fact, though, that the Lemko people, not involved with the Ukrainian underground, fell victim to the cleansing action.

Both studies demonstrate in an evident manner that the actual purpose behind the 'Wisła' Action as well as the resettlement of the Ukrainian people to the Soviet Union was to eliminate non-ethnic Polish citizens from the region. In regard of this argument, the book *Akcja specjalna 'Wisła'* is the first scholarly, and comprehensive, monograph of these repressions (a decade ago, Jan Pisuliński published a collection of conference studies on these occurrences). The author skilfully 'moves around' the period; using his comprehensive knowledge, he compares the policies pursued by the communists ruling Poland at the time against those of the Soviet Ukraine. His knowledge on the historical contexts of the decisions made and implemented in the 1940s is excellent. Both studies include lists of sources and studies, and indices of personal names and localities. And, both ought to join the body of fundamental studies on post-war Poland. (GK)

Mariusz Zajączkowski, *Pod znakiem Króla Daniela. OUN-B i UPA na Lubelszczyźnie, 1944–1950* [Under the sign of King Daniel. The Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN-B) and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army in the Lublin region, 1944–50], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Lublin and Warszawa, 2016, 680 pp., index of persons and geographical names, bibliog., ill.

This study by the historian associated with the Lublin Branch of the National Remembrance Institute [IPN] follows up his monograph on the operations of Ukrainian nationalist partisans during the Second World War, ending with the ‘Wisła’ Action (i.e., *Ukraińskie podziemie na Lubelszczyźnie w okresie okupacji niemieckiej 1939–1944* [Lublin, 2015]; based on a PhD dissertation submitted at the Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences [ISP PAN, Warszawa, 2012]). The present monograph consists of eight chapters, organised into several dozen detailed subchapters and smaller units, across which the activities and fates of the ‘protagonists’ in what is today considered the Lublin Land are followed. As Zajączkowski demonstrates, apart from the notorious Volhynian slaughter, it was in this region that Ukrainian underground troops committed their severest crimes. The author has primarily used Polish and Ukrainian records – and, to a lesser degree, the documents gathered in Russian archives. The detailed research questionnaire, which is specified in the introduction, seems at times to attempt to cover every single episode related to the Ukrainian partisan forces. Moreover, the author’s inclination for numbers and names that probably mean nothing to nobody today is somewhat disturbing. Yet, the discipline of argument is kept rigorously; with all the bias for historic detail, this extensive study is pretty readable. Well documented and thought-through, this book should not be read only by experts in the field: it shows the dynamism of inter-ethnic and religious violence, and explores its cultural and social context, never reducing the argument to a univariate analysis – and shunning any easy moralising position. There is a list of acronyms and abbreviations, bibliography, a list of illustrations (mainly from police sources) and index of geographic names and persons. (GK)

Helena Datner, *Po Zagładzie. Społeczna historia żydowskich domów dziecka, szkół, kół studentów w dokumentach Centralnego Komitetu Żydów w Polsce* [After the Holocaust. A social history of Jewish orphanages, schools, and university student circles as reflected in the documents of the Central Committee of Jews in Poland], Żydowski Instytut Historyczny im. Emanuela Ringelbluma, Warszawa, 2017, 359 pp., indices of persons and geographical names, bibliog., ills., facsimiles, photographs; series: Z dziejów Centralnego Komitetu Żydów w Polsce

This selection of documents, another one published in the ambitious series compiled by the Jewish Historical Institute, is preceded by a short (but abounding with threads and topics) monograph of the situation of Jewish children after the Second World War and the Holocaust. With the war over, Jewish children called for physical and psychological rehabilitation – but this was rather typical for the children who have been through the war, and survived. A major idea behind the orphanages arranged by the Central Committee of Jews in Poland [CKŻP] was, moreover, to restore a sense of safety, dignity, and purpose in life through good and well-tested educational and upbringing practices – primarily, those promulgated by Janusz Korczak. Helena Datner, sociologist and historian, describes the history of the schools organised by the CKŻP as a looking glass of the situation of the entire Jewish community in the post-war territory of Poland. Her detailed study, systematised into two extensive parts (1. – ‘Department of Education’; 2. – ‘Department of the Youth’), shows the crisis and actual decline of the Yiddish language, describes the social and cultural background of the situation of the Jews in Poland after 1945 – and, their hasty departure from their earlier national and religious identities, caused by the trauma and the intensifying attitudes among Polish society, basically hostile towards the Jews. An eminent scholar researching into the fates of Polish Jewry after the Holocaust, Datner does not shun strict judgements, and she poses a series of essential research questions about the condition of Polish post-war society in its entirety. The way she investigates and ‘scans’ the sources, not infrequently unknown ones, is thorough and meticulous. An editor’s note is added, along with a list of abbreviations, a comprehensive bibliography, a list of illustrations, plus indices of persons and geographical names. (GK)

Łukasz Krzyżanowski, *Dom, którego nie było. Powroty ocalałych do powojennego miasta* [A house that has not been there. Survivors back in their (post-war) town], Czarne, Wołowiec, 2016, 376 pp., ill.

Łukasz Krzyżanowski, assistant professor at the Institute of Eastern Europe, Freie Universität, Berlin, graduate of the Institute of Sociology, University of Warsaw (under Prof. Marcin Kula) and Institute of Sociology at the Jagiellonian University, is a native of Radom. It is his family and topographical background that has considerably inspired his book, which is a story of the further lives of Jews who returned after the Second World War to their local homeland. Compared to a number of urban hubs of what had been the Second Republic, Radom was not very heavily affected because of the war; many surviving residents decided to return home when the warfare was over. The treatise opens with a thorough and erudite introduction describing the history of Radom and the fates of the Jewish community before and during the war. Then follow four, no less extensive, parts dealing with the issues of 'Cities', 'Violence', 'Local community', and 'Property'; this is followed by a conclusion. Even for a reader closely acquainted with the history of interwar Poland, the scale of post-war aggression against the Jews may seem astonishing (acts of intimidation, battery, devastation and illegal appropriation of property, and manslaughter), especially that the locally dominant political force in the interwar years was the Polish Socialist Party [PPS], while the Piłsudski-ite circles, tending to fight anti-Semitic attitudes, were influential throughout the period. On their return, the Jews faced, at best, an overwhelming indifference, if not overt hostility. The study under discussion demonstrates that the wartime occupation had a heavy bearing on the Poles' attitudes towards Jews: the war has basically dissolved all the ties between the Polish and the Jewish communities. The author combines an ambitious methodological approach (with its creative references to several trends in social research and historical sociology) with an animated narrative, very personal as it is at some points. The study has already won recognition among various assemblies and was nominated for the Jan Długosz Award and the Kazimierz Moczarski Historical Award for the year 2017. (GK)

Piotr Kendziorek, *Program i praktyka produktywizacji Żydów polskich w działalności CKŻP* [The programme and pragmatics of the productivisation of Polish Jews as part of the activities of the Central Committee of Jews in Poland], Żydowski Instytut Historyczny im. Emanuela Ringelbluma, Warszawa, 2016, 293 [+1] pp., ill.; series: Z dziejów Centralnego Komitetu Żydów w Polsce

This yet-another volume published in the ambitious series prepared by the Jewish Historical Institute presents a topic that, although interesting in research terms, has remained somewhat unrecognised over the years. 'Productivisation' of Jews, the slogan that denoted their professional mobilisation, had been an aspect of the programme of comprehensive change in the structure of the Jewish community living in the territory of Poland at least since the late eighteenth century – the time of the 'Great Diet' (1788–92). The study is composed of two extensive sections. The first is essentially a monograph of the subject, presenting the history of the idea of productivisation in its historical and ideological aspects. The second discusses thirty-four documents of relevance to the topic, varied in form and content: from short ideological dissertations – such as those by Adolf Berman on Borokhovism (so named after Dov Ber Borokhov [1881–1917], Russian-Jewish intellectual, Zionist activist and the trend's leading theoretician), regarded as the scientific theory behind the problem of productivisation, to conference reports, memos of departments involved and of Jewish committees, or enunciations produced across the levels of Jewish (quasi-)self-government bodies. This otherwise quite useful study might be found not quite reader-friendly owing to its somewhat hermetic language specific to a monographic introduction to the topic. Altogether however, the volume (as well as the series as whole) definitely deserves attention of anyone interested in post-war history of Poland. (GK)

Martyna Rusiniak-Karwat, *Nowe życie na zgłiszczach. Bund w Polsce w latach 1944–1949* [New life in ruins. The Bund in Poland in the years 1944–9], Instytut Studiów Politycznych PAN, Warszawa, 2016, 269 pp., index of persons, bibliog., ill., annexes, Summary in English

Established in 1897, the All-Jewish Workers' Party, known as the Bund, enjoyed support from at least a third of the Jewish population in the Second Republic of Poland. During the Second World War, the Bund was active in the ghettos, including in the Warsaw Ghetto. The organisation joined

the armed resistance against the German occupiers. In 1944, it obtained consent from the Polish communists to have its structures rebuilt and to seek support 'in the Jewish street' – that is, among Polish Jewry; this opened the last chapter in the history of the Bund in Polish lands. Martyna Rusiniak-Karwat has made use of the party's documents from Polish, U.S. and Israeli archives, as well as on the memories and accounts of witnesses. Her book recapitulates the history of the Bund and the basic points of its political programme (Jewish cultural autonomy within the Polish state; use of the Yiddish language; fighting Zionism; maintaining bonds with the Jewish proletariat). In the post-war period, the Bund collaborated, traditionally, with the Polish Socialist Party (PPS), while remaining politically dependent on the Polish Workers' Party (PPR), whose role in the shaping of the country's political scene was decisive. The situation of Polish Jewry after the Holocaust did not foster the popularity of the Bund, as convincingly demonstrated by the author. Some of the organisation's outstanding leaders had been killed during the war, others remained abroad as émigrés. Worse still, the time-honoured 'Bundian' remedy against the Jewish problems proved unsatisfactory, especially after the pogrom of Kielce (1946). Although contradicting the party's ideology, the idea to emigrate to Palestine – particularly after Israel declared independence in 1948 – was opted for by some of the members. No surprise, then, that the number of members in 1944–8 did not exceed 2,000. Bund-affiliated organisations for children and youth, the Skif and the Cukunft, did not develop as the party's leadership team might have wished. The critical view prevalent in the Bund on the hegemonic and antidemocratic strivings of the communists did not prevent the organisation's liquidation enforced by the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR) in January 1949. By that time, political unity had ceased to be part of the Bund's reality: as shown by the author, the Bund of Poland was in ideological dispute with the Bund centres in Western Europe and the U.S. Not only is the book under review an important work in Jewish studies: it investigates the conditions and possibilities of maintaining a political independence under (the Polish version of) the Stalinist regime. (BK)

Stanisława Sowińska, *Gorzkie lata. Z wyżyn władzy do stalinowskiego więzienia* [The bitter years. From a top power position into a Stalinist jail], Ośrodek Karta, Warszawa, 2017, 379 pp., index of persons, ill.; series: Świadectwa. Polska XX wiek

A book of memoirs of a Polish communist activist from the Second Republic period, who shortly after the Second World War climbed up to the top levels of the communist authority (being an associate of General Marian Spychalski, she was promoted to head of the Studies Bureau with the Main

Directorate of Information of the Polish Army) but afterwards, entangled in brutal party games, ended up imprisoned by the communists. The story she tells of herself is powerful at each stage of its development; unknown episodes are extracted from the history of Polish communism and the emergence of what was named the 'people's rule'. It is, certainly, a voice exhorting for a deeper and more versatile reflection on the communist period in Poland, transcending the political divisions. The dilemmas of one ideology-based formation are shown, along with aspirations of the 'new social groups' (workers, in the first place) who were politically empowered in the earliest post-war years. In the recent time, all criticism of the period in question is expressed with an 'inherent' moralistic tone. The fate of an individual who initially contributes to the construction of a police state machinery and afterwards painfully clashes against it is described by Sowińska's story without an irritating pathos or re-rationalisation or entanglement in increasingly unclear internal disputes. The volume can serve as an exquisite source illustration to a series of important recently published books, especially those by Katherine Lebow, Magdalena Fidelis, and Padraic Kenney. The book is meticulously edited by Łukasz Bertram, contains a helpful note from the editor and an afterword by Andrzej Paczkowski. Biographical notes, index of persons, and photographs (never published before) are appended. (GK)

Mariusz Bechta (ed.), *W sieci. Powojenne polskie siatki wywiadowcze (AK – NIE – DSZ – WiN, PSZ) w latach 1944–1955* [In the net. Polish post-war intelligence networks, 1944–55], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2016, 502 pp. + 32 (ills. on flyleaf), indices, bibliog., summary and references attached to each article

Intelligence, which drew from the experiences of the Home Army (Armia Krajowa [AK]), was the indispensable element in the post-war Underground's preparations for fighting against the communist rule. Intelligence operations provided information to the conspiratorial structures at home as well as to the Allies and the Polish Armed Forces in the West (in case a war erupted). The collection under review contains nine articles by ten authors, dealing with the intelligence networks of the Home Army and the organisations that came in lieu of it: the Armed Forces' Delegation for Poland [DSZ], the NIE organisation (acronymed from *Niepodległość* = 'Independence'), and Freedom and Independence (Zrzeszenie 'Wolność i Niezawisłość' [WiN]), in the years 1944–56 (with the climax of their activity in 1945–7). The studies are written by experts in the field, including Wojciech Frazik, Kazimierz

Krajewski, Piotr Niwiński, Tomasz Łabuszewski, and others. The series is complemented, as a counterpoint, with Patryk Pleskot's treatise describing the structure of the counterintelligence of the Ministry of Public Security [MBP]. Neglected have been the intelligence operations of the nationalist underground (National Armed Forces [NSZ]/National Military Union [NZW]). The volume appears, *prima facie*, as a highly specialist work describing but a segment in the broad picture of conspiracy and social resistance after the war. Scholars specialising in social and political history, and even in gender studies, may find it beneficial. A number of females were involved in the intelligence activities. One of them, Barbara Sadowska, ran in the late 1945/early 1946 an intelligence group 'Liceum'; she was arrested in 1946 and sentenced, in 1947, for nine-year term, in a show trial of as many as thirteen accused, and was eventually released in 1953. The narrative of the studies focuses on personal links and relations between the units, networks, and individuals (agents). One can learn more about the intelligence courier routes linking Poland and the West. Described are the connexions and the reach of the intelligence networks, using to this end mainly the files of communist investigations against the most wanted 'spies'. (The Stalinist spy-mania lasted until 1956, but there was a reasonable core to it: as shown by the authors, all the intelligence networks in question had, in 1945–7, their [unexpectedly] numerous agents in the security apparatus, huge as it was in terms of membership). Annexes containing documents (reports, analyses, notifications, dispatches – mainly concerning the Polish Army) are attached to almost all of the articles, which is a strong point of this publication: the reader is thus enabled an insight in the morale of the soldiers, food and equipment supplies. Many officers from before 1939 still served with the Army, which was affected at the time by a gradual top-down Sovietisation, with the consequent numerous internal conflicts. Evidently, intelligence reports often resorted to anti-Semitic clichés of the 'Pole: honest and patriotic, versus Jew-the-communist-lackey' sort. The volume is furnished with an impressive amount of biographical notes and photographs of the major organisers of the intelligence networks (on the flyleaf), many of whom were heroic figures. (BK)

Władysław Pobóg-Malinowski and Waclaw Jędrzejewicz, *Listy 1945–1962* [Letters, 1945–62], ed. by Sławomir M. Nowinowski and Rafał Stobiecki, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2016, 784 pp.; series: Dokumenty, 61

This collection comprises as many as 235 letters, many of them quite extensive, exchanged from mid-1945 to December 1962 between two prominent members of the Piłsudski camp. Their authors remarkably differed from each other

in a number of aspects: Pobóg-Malinowski, born 1899, was in the interwar Poland a fledgling research scholar (primarily, with the Institute for Research in the Recent History of Poland). Until the collapse of the Second Republic, he used (as he himself described it) “the quill at the Commander’s service” to carve a position for himself among those whom he names his “loved colleagues” and “comrades in arms” (cf. his once-famous article ‘Skoro nie szablą, to piórem’, published in the émigré monthly *Kultura* [1960, no. 5, pp. 106–11]). A little older than his pen-pal (b. 1893), Jędrzejewicz, member of the elitist circle of Piłsudski’s close associates, had been a several-time minister and one of the leading figures in the Piłsudski-ite camp. Their letters quite vividly testify that Pobóg-Malinowski was in the process of establishing himself in the post-war émigré circle while Jędrzejewicz acted as one of the mentors of the Polish diaspora; among other things, he joined the Polish Independence League, which was the most prominent representation of the Piłsudskites in exile. The editors conscientiously recount the biographies of both men and the details of their acquaintance. Their correspondence offers a number of important facts and episodes from their lives; the behind-the-scenes of the Second Republic are not as widely referred to (though both men were passionate about the history of that period). Attentive readers will find there a series of interesting psychological portraits of the key figures in the Piłsudski camp, along with aspects of critical attitude towards Polish emigration circles. Both Pobóg-Malinowski and Jędrzejewicz considered themselves at some point to be guardians of the memory of Józef Piłsudski (whom they invariably call ‘the Marshal’), and were ready to make things subject to this perspective. The letters contain a number of delectable threads that need being decoded in more precise terms, which may be a time-consuming job for experts. A map emerges out of this correspondence of a rather shredded and considerably polarised world of Polish émigré communities, which apparently tended to take on a life of their own, while remaining entangled in the disputes of yore. Attached is a very useful list of studies on the life and output of Władysław Pobóg-Malinowski, a breakdown of selected studies on Waclaw Jędrzejewicz, and a list of publications referred to in this voluminous correspondence. (GK)

Jerzy Giedroyc and Leszek Kołakowski, *Listy 1957–2000* [Letters, 1957–2000], with an introduction by Paweł Kłoczowski, ed. and notes by Henryk Citko, Instytut Dokumentacji i Studiów nad Literaturą Polską. Oddział Muzeum Literatury im. Adama Mickiewicza, Towarzystwo ‘Więź’, and Association Institut Littéraire ‘Kultura’, Warszawa, 2016, 384 pp., index of persons; series: Archiwum ‘Kultury’, 16, Biblioteka ‘Więzi’, 324

This collection comprises altogether 342 letters exchanged by Jerzy Giedroyc and Leszek Kołakowski, two luminaries of Polish twentieth-century culture. While the two gentlemen need no introduction to our readers, the moment they began writing to one another seems interesting and worth specifying: autumn 1957 marked, namely, Kołakowski’s divorce with communism and the beginning of his further ideological evolution. The exchange lasted till the death of Giedroyc, the editor of Paris-based *Kultura* monthly, though it was much less intense after 1979 (with only nineteen letters sent in the 1990s). Even though there are some larger letters, especially those discussing the important texts by Kołakowski – who at some point entered the circle close to *Kultura* (his publications including, inter alia, *Hope and Hopelessness*, or *Education to Hatred, Education to Dignity*), most of the letters are quite to-the-point in respect of sorting out daily business. There is a dozen bibliographical-and-societal bites. Another dozen-or-so are comments regarding the situation in Poland. At times, the two men are at dispute with each other. Typically of the series, the book is meticulously edited (comprises an editorial note and an index of persons), and is an excellent commentary to Polish twentieth-century intellectual history. (GK)

Piotr Witek, *Andrzej Wajda jako historyk. Metodologiczne studium z historii wizualnej* [Andrzej Wajda as a historian. A methodological study in visual history], Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin, 2016, 712 pp., index of persons, bibliog., Summary in English

The book summarises the long years of research of the Lublin-based historian and film expert specialising in the creative output of the outstanding Polish film director Andrzej Wajda. Witek proposes a visual culture perspective on Wajda’s work. His recent study is composed of three extensive parts, dealing respectively with ‘Historical documentaries’, ‘Historical feature films’, and ‘Historical television drama’, preceded with an introduction (of forty-odd pages) and ended with a final section that summarises the conclusions and re-contextualises Wajda’s productions against the history of Polish motion

picture. The study is set in a broader postmodernist perspective: of particular relevance are the critical studies of Hayden White and the research of Polish (Poznań-based) scholar Ewa Domańska – thus, the established research in the areas of discourse, semiotics, and visual culture. The monograph goes somewhat apart from the classical film-studies research and history of ideas, offering instead a catalogue of unobvious research questions. An innovative methodological study, underpinned with a reliable and many-sided documentary background, the book offers multiple creative analyses. The extensive arguments proposed by Witek are worth confronting with the classical historical accounts of Polish and international cinema and filmmaking where Wajda appears as an iconic figure. A helpful bibliography and reference list is added, as is an English summary and an index of persons. This original, perhaps even pioneering, study might foreshadow a methodological breakthrough in the research in mass culture and the formation of collective concepts and ideas. The book has been nominated for the award granted for ‘the best monograph on motion picture’ by the Polish Society for Film and Media Studies, as well as for the Jerzy Giedroyc Prize awarded by the Rector of Lublin’s Maria Curie-Skłodowska University [UMCS]. (GK)

Przemysław Gasztold-Señ, *Zabójcze układy. Służby PRL i międzynarodowy terroryzm* [Devastating connexions. The secret services of post-war communist Poland and international terrorism], Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa, 2017, 421 [+1] pp.

The author, a young historian (born 1985) is one of the few scholars associated with the National Remembrance Institute [IPN] who systematically deal with the history of the Cold War, with the involvement of the security apparatus and politicians of the People’s Republic of Poland in the relationships with the Middle East and the ‘Arab world’. Consisting of five chapters, this popular-science treatise deals with a number of known and unacknowledged episodes in the history of post-war communist Poland. Polish security services are shown also in the context of the Warsaw Pact in terms of one of the most active factors of the state’s external policy, without demonising their role. The mechanisms of functioning of the special services are exhaustively studied: reconstructed is the way the convalescence centres for terrorists operated, the emergence of a special grants system, circumventing the visa procedures, assistance in establishing businesses, extensive trading in weaponry, and illegal interests. The connexions extending to Western Europe and to as far as South America or Africa are assiduously traced, the close relationships with the secular regimes in Libya, Syria, and Iraq being pointed out. Gasztold-Señ demonstrates how the Polish special services, on consent of the political leadership team, made efforts to effectively interfere

in the policies of several Arab countries. These well-developed relationships came to an end in the late 1980s as Poland's communist authorities began re-establishing their relations with Israel. These efforts were crowned with diplomatic relations entered into with Tel Aviv in February 1990. The argument underpinned with a vast multilingual query and the dynamic narrative (never departing from a disciplined focus) are definitely the strong points of this valuable study. (GK)

Robert Kulmiński, *Tu pali się ktoś: za siebie i za nas pali się z własnej woli pośrodku własnego narodu. Ryszard Siwiec. Jan Palach. Zdeněk Adamec* [Someone's burning there: for himself, and for us, he's burning out of his own will, in the midst of his own nation. Ryszard Siwiec. Jan Palach. Zdeněk Adamec], Libron, Kraków, 2016, 238 pp., index of persons, bibliog.

The book is not a typical historical treatise, though it contains extensive historiographic analyses of the self-immolation incidents referred to in the title. These suicidal acts were committed with the intent to draw the others' attention to a supra-individual problem, one that affected the collectivity – a nation or a country. Chapter One presents the dramatis personae – the men who took their own lives (Siwiec in 1968; Palach in 1969; Adamec in 2003) by incinerating themselves in a public place. These facts are situated in the context of other, analogical cases occurring in the post-war period in the European cultural circle. The following chapter, anthropology-oriented, describes self-immolation (and burning oneself to death) in terms of a show with its own (unwritten) script, taking place and getting fulfilled in a deliberately chosen symbolic place. Such an act calls for presence of an audience. The author analyses the behaviour of the desperados: their announcements of suicide, the self-destructive act, and the content and character of the messages left (in the form of a letter) by each of the suicides. Their intent was to trigger, by means of such a document, further changes – chiefly, moral ones – in the society and in the world. The subsequent chapter analyses the mass-media discourse (word and image) accompanying all the three instances under discussion. The case of Ryszard Siwiec was unique, as information blockade was imposed on it for a number of years. In contrast, Jan Palach had an official state funeral ceremony organised, and a death mask sculpted; the narrative of his deed soon assumed a heroic purport (though the state propaganda promoted a current that discredited the act he had committed). The acts committed by altruist suicides are re-updated and commemorated (monuments, commemorative plaques, documentary footages, publications, streets named after the heroic characters), on which the author ponders as well. The case of Zdeněk Adamec is rather singular, the author argues: the young man was condemned as an

ill man, which he had not at all deserved. The last section offers a strictly sociological analysis of twenty-five interviews on self-arsons Kulmiński has held with students from Prague, Czech Republic. (BK)

Jarosław Dulewicz, *Miasta w ruchu. Codziennosc w uprzemyslawianych ośrodkach miejskich w Polsce w latach siedemdziesiątych XX wieku* [Cities, busy and astir. Everyday reality in Polish urban hubs subject to industrialisation in the 1970s], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2016, 328 pp., Summary in English; series: Monografie, 114

Poland's cities and towns underwent after 1945 a development that was mostly propelled by large industrial investment projects, whose location and scale was arbitrarily decided by the top-level authorities; the latter were driven by the state's interest, rather than the region's. Industry became an extremely powerful citygenic factor, as becomes apparent with the book under review. The first chapter is introductory: described are the economic changes taking place in Poland between 1945 and 1980 (industrialisation and urbanisation), with particular emphasis on spatial mobility of the population in Poland (the course, direction, character, types, and scale of the migrations taking place at the time). The subsequent three chapters propose a comparison of the cases of two nearby towns located in the same region (Kielce Land). Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski is a town with a long industrial tradition; the local foundry has been in operation since the beginning of the nineteenth century. In 1969, the authorities resolved that a new smelter plant be erected beside the 'old' one; the project was completed in 1976. In the seventies' decade, the metallurgical sector's headcount increased from 10,700 to 17,500 locally, while the town's overall population leaped upward by 20 per cent. In contrast, Kozienice was a small urban hub, situated in a poorly urbanised district. In 1968, the construction of country's largest coal-fired power plant started there, *in cruda radice*. This was followed by a doubling of the town's population: in Edward Gierek's time (1970–80), it grew from 8,000 to 16,000. In the course of his multivariate analysis, Dulewicz demonstrates the differences and similarities in the development of the two urban hubs. The analysis extends to anything of relevance: the number of residential units delivered for use, the functioning of workers' hostels, the development of the water- and gas-supply networks, number and quality of shopping and services outlets, medical care and school system, condition of roads and pavements. Apart from the material dimension, also the mental sphere of the fast change taking place in both Kozienice and Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski is taken

into account: how the comers from rural areas adapted to the urban living conditions, along with the contrary process of ruralisation of urban areas by transferral by the incomers of the customs and habits characteristic of rural people. Dulewicz would not have neglected the issues of religious life, conflicts occurring between the settled and the immigrant people (including at workplaces), or the social pathologies such as excessive use of intoxicating drinks or common crimes. The everyday life and specific local character of both towns is portrayed exquisitely; an impressive statistics is combined with information drawn from personal reminiscences, the press of the time, and the numerous complaints made by the locals to, or against, the offices. The two towns portrayed illustrate the problem described as under-urbanisation, characterised by enormous disproportions between industrial investment projects and the condition of technical infrastructure – mainly, residential housing. The industry thus implanted in the People's Republic was incapable of transforming the legacy of social arrangements or settings; they were petrified instead: for instance, not all the women willing to work could find a job, since the heavy industry had no suitable offer for them. Quite significant for the period was the category of bi-professionals: a *chłoprobotnik* – 'farmer-and-factory-worker' – who would dwell and basically work in the countryside whilst treating his 'parallel' employment with a (nearby) factory as a source of extra income. Altogether, the book under review is an excellent example of well-thought-over and cognitively fruitful historical comparative studies. The monograph's definite (but only) weak point is that it comprises no maps whatsoever of the cities or the region discussed. (BK)

Konrad Rokicki (ed.), *Partia, państwo, społeczeństwo* [The Party, the State, the Society], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2016, 503 pp., bibliog., index of persons, Summaries in English

This multi-author volume presents the output of a research project pursued by the National Remembrance Institute [IPN] on the structures and activities of the Polish United Workers' Party [PZPR]. The communist Poland was a dual state, with the ruling party represented across the levels of government: in the offices, public administration, scientific and economic institutions, educational establishments, and the repressive apparatus. Its functioning was propelled and enabled by millions of people. For this reason, research into the Party is, essentially, one into the Polish society after 1944. While this is not clearly illustrated by each of the sixteen texts in this collection, a few articles that are particularly extensively documented and rich in content are worth of our attention. Piotr Gontarczyk deals with non-ideological incentives behind the joining of Polish Workers' Party [PPR] in the years 1944–8. Growing

rapidly in numerical force (a million members as at end 1948), the PPR seized and intercepted all the institutions and areas of social life, thus (re)establishing itself as the party in power. This omnipresent organisation distributed a variety of privileges among its followers. Material benefits and advantages took prominence, especially at the outset: consequently, the Party compelled the state apparatus and local governments to provide benefits in kind. Zealous Party members could count for allocation of coal for the winter, a portion of butter from the UNRRA packages, or even for glossing over financial or sexual abuses against their inferiors. In Gontarczyk's view, in the period covered, the PPR did not care about purity of its ranks: it was the number, rather than quality or ideological awareness, of members that counted. Moreover, Gontarczyk points out to the fact that some justified their membership with a peculiarly comprehended good of the community they were part of – such as protecting and satisfying the needs of the crew at their workplace, or of their own professional group – which was a sort of (declaratively) altruistic incentive. The essay by Mirosław Szumiło depicts a group portrait of the First Secretaries of the Voivodship Committees of the PZPR from the years 1948–70 (ninety-two individuals altogether). His statistical analysis takes into account the age, seniority with the Party, and education background. Until 1956, communists of the pre-war Communist Party of Poland [KPP] generation prevailed among the provincial First Secretaries; they were relatively young (aged 41–45, on average) but poorly educated. In the Stalinist period, every fourth former KPP member holding the post in question came from an ethnic minority (Ukrainian, Byelorussian, or Jewish). After 1956, the First-Secretary personnel grew Polish, their education slightly improved – but KPP-men were still dominant. Their group became coming of age, though; at the latest stage of Gomułka's rule, they were gradually replaced by activists who started their careers with the PPR. A thorough replacement of the First-Secretary staff took place only after the year 1970. Of the other studies deserving special attention is the one by Robert Spatek, on the deposition of Gomułka as a stage in the evolution of the PZPR; also, Marcin Żukowski's article on how PPR and the PZPR were funded and supported financially; and, a description of the PZPR structures getting democratised after 1956 (by Piotr Ośko). Eryk Krasucki's essay, dealing with the famous 1956 novel *Obrona Grenady* by Kazimierz Brandys, which reflected the Thaw-related longings of the young generation of Poles, is diverse topic-wise against the other texts in this volume. (BK)

Maria Koczerska and Piotr Węcowski (eds.), *Aleksander Gieysztor*, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2016, indices of persons and geographical names, 647 pp.

Aleksander Gieysztor (1916–99) was one of the most prominent Polish historians of the second half of the twentieth century. He graduated from the History Faculty of Warsaw University in 1937, where he also worked after the war. During the Second World War he was involved in the activities of the Information and Propaganda Bureau of the Home Army, and became its head in 1944. He was a German prisoner of war after the Warsaw Uprising, and briefly also a political prisoner in Stalinist Poland. In the post-war era, he earned international fame for his studies on medieval Poland and Europe, and particularly his book on the Slavic mythologies. He also served as the first director of the Royal Castle in Warsaw after its reconstruction and, as a public intellectual, was involved in attempts to seek a compromise between the Communist Party and the opposition in the 1980s. Gieysztor promoted and tutored a large number of students, many of whom are still active in Polish academia. The present volume is a collection of essays dedicated to his memory. It contains eleven essays concerning his biography, political and scholarly activities, and his academic achievements. His involvement in Polish-Russian scholarly relations seems to be emphasized. The essays are supplemented with twenty-five commemorative papers by his associates, students, family members, and friends. Finally, the book includes a broad collection of his letters from the years 1937–98 to various addressees (predominantly other Polish historians), which should constitute precious evidence for a subsequent study in social history. (AK)

Magdalena Nowicka-Franczak, *Niechciana debata. Spór o książki Jana Tomasza Grossa* [Unwanted debate. The dispute around the books by Jan Tomasz Gross], Sedno, Warszawa, 2017, 428 pp., index of persons

Apart from those by Piotr Forecki, Elżbieta Janicka, and Tomasz Żukowski, this is one of the most important studies evidencing and analysing public discourses around the books of Jan Tomasz Gross. Authored by a sociologist associated with the University of Łódź, the book consists of two chapters, of which the first analyses the stigma of ‘alienness’ (primarily, of an intellectual as a voice from the outside) and ‘Jewishness’ (as the category employed in description of the debater) in contemporary critical reflection (beginning with Michel Foucault, Edward Said, through to the works of Hannah Arendt and Daniel Goldhagen). The second chapter contextualises the reappearing debate

around the books of J.T. Gross as they come out. Nowicka-Franczak sheds light on the main threads and topoi of the dispute and successfully confronts them with the more general studies in memory and critical reviews of/reconciliations with the past. Her analysis of the material concerned is balanced; the proposed methodological and theoretical considerations and speculations are dosed in a sparing manner. The conclusions do not imbue one with optimism: the two polarised camps have basically never come to terms over a common platform of understanding or agreement. Consequently, it repeatedly cannot be concluded whether any debate has taken place at all. Against the background of the journalistic uproar produced around Gross's publications, the very small participation of professional historians in these discussions remains striking. As the author convincingly demonstrates, the multiple discussions were rapidly turning into a polyphony of dispersed and mutually exclusive, often strongly antagonised, positions. The study includes a very useful list of reference literature, a list of published materials around the debates in question, and an index of persons. (GK)