

SHORT NOTES*

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MIDDLE AGES

Roman Stelmach (ed.), *Katalog śląskich dokumentów joannickich przechowywanych w Narodowym Archiwum w Pradze* [A catalogue of Knights Hospitaller documents kept at the National Archive in Prague], Wrocław, 2012, Archiwum Państwowe we Wrocławiu, 322 + [16] pp., ills., tables, indices: names and geographic locations; stamps; notarial marks

This publication is a breakdown of regesta (summaries) of a total of 1,222 documents dating to mid-thirteenth century till the early nineteenth century, most of which come from former Hospitallers' houses of Silesia. Each such *regestum* specifies the document's date and place of issue (in today's and original version), its brief Polish summary, the data regarding the form of document preservation (original document or copy), the material the document is made of, its size, stamps, archival shelfmarks – current and earlier, and bibliographic information. The publisher reminds that Hospitallers' estates in Silesia belonged to Bohemian priory since 1325, and hence during the Reformation time, documents of houses being eliminated were transferred to the priory in Prague. The collection was nationalised after WWII. (JA)

Krzysztof Mikulski and Wiesław Nowosad (eds.), *Księga ławnicza miasta Nowego nad Wisłą (1416–1527)* [The *Schöffnenbuch* of Nowe nad Wisłą (Neuenburg an der Weichsel), 1416–1527], Toruń, 2012, Towarzystwo Naukowe w Toruniu, 460 pp., indices, cover sheet, Table of Contents and Introduction in Polish and German, series: Towarzystwo Naukowe w Toruniu. Fontes, 106

This is an edition of one of the earliest *Schöffnenbuchs* in the East Pomerania area (along those of Gdańsk/Danzig and Puck/Putzig). The source features records regarding, in the first place, economic and property-related matters

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(trading in realties, inheritances) involving burghers of Nowe nad Wisłą and nobles residing in the surrounding area. It is a source of considerable information on the region's economic life, genealogical relations, and the topography of the town. The register is kept today at the State Archives of Bydgoszcz. The present edition has been based on the Polish editorial instruction compiled by Adam Wolff. (JA)

Robert Kasperski, *Teodoryk Wielki i Kasjodor. Studia nad tworzeniem 'tradycji dynastycznej Amalów'* [Theodoric the Great and Cassiodorus: Studies on the formation of the 'Amal dynastic tradition'], Kraków, 2013, Towarzystwo Wydawców i Autorów Prac Naukowych Universitas, 298 pp., index, appendices

The historical tradition of Ostrogoths, as recorded in Jordanes's *Getica*, has for Robert Kasperski become an area of polemics with the preconceived or stereotypical notions elaborated by German and Austrian twentieth-century historians. These tended to stress the antiquity of the Gothic monarchy, the role of dynasty and charisma in its history; and, the concept of three types of 'Germanic kingship' – i.e. 'tribal kingship' (*Volkskönigtum*), 'sacral kingship' (*Sakralkönigtum*) and 'military kingship' (*Heerkönigtum*), the latter stemming from the former two. As observed by the author, on the basis of Jordanes, no real existence of an archaic monarchy of Goths is determinable, whereas the phrases *claritas sanguinis Amali*, *fortuna* and *felicitas*, with respect to Ostrogothic rulers, are derivable from the Roman tradition, rather than from a 'sacral kingship'. At last, Theodoric's attempt to assign Eutharic Cilliga as his successor – a Visigoth who proved capable of controlling Italia, Spain, and the Gothic part of Gaul – seems to basically challenge the dynasty's peculiar role in creating an Ostrogoth political community. (JA)

Mirosław J. Leszka, *Symeon I Wielki a Bizancjum. Z dziejów stosunków bułgarsko-bizantyńskich w latach 893–927* [Simeon I the Great and Byzantium: Aspects of the history of Bulgarian-Byzantine relations in 893–927], Łódź, 2013, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, 368 pp., ill., maps, indices, English and Bulgarian sum., series: Byzantina Lodziensia, 15

The study deals with relations between Bulgaria and Byzantium in a period when both were political entities of equal rank. The Byzantine provenance of most of the sources regarding the period in question is the reason why the relations between these two states are better known compared to the other

aspects of Tsar Simeon I's policies. As M.J. Leszka emphasises, the ruler came of age and received his education in Constantinople. His conversancy of the Byzantine realities, whilst enabling him to pursue efficient policies, rendered Bulgaria open to taking over in the period in question of its southern neighbour's various civilisation achievements. The author emphasises an evolution of Simeon's Byzantine policy – from defending the status quo (until 907), through striving for gaining a position equal to imperial (assumption of the dignity of *basileus*), up to Simeon's attempt at conquering Byzantium and establishing a universal Bulgarian-Greek empire after 917. (JA)

Adrian Jusupović, *Elity ziemi halickiej i wołyńskiej w czasach Romanowiczów (1205–1269). Studium prosopograficzne* [The elites of Halych and Volhynia lands in the Romanovych period, 1205–1269: A prosopographic study], Kraków, 2013, Wydawnictwo Avalon, 352 pp., map, tables, appendix, indices, Russian sum., series: Monografie Pracowni Badań Nad Dziejami Rusi Uniwersytetu Kazimierza Wielkiego w Bydgoszczy, 2

The book consists for most part (pp. 101–303) of biographical notes of ninety-five boyars from Halych and Volhynia area, who are mentioned in available sources dating to the lifetimes of the local Romanovych-house rulers, Prince Daniel of Halych Land and Prince Vasilek of Volhynia. Apart from the name, the notes specify the sources-based details regarding the background, family connections, wealth and belongings, clerical, courtly and military careers, plus birth and death dates (indicative – if not verifiable with the sources) for each of the boyars. The author stresses in his summary that insofar as the rulership of Ruthenian princes could at times have extended to varied geographies, boyars, for a change, always remained attached to the region where there their landed estates were located and their relatives resided; they acted to the benefit of their land and enjoyed support from local community. Considerable political autonomy of the Halych knighthood leaders, often operating against the ruler, has been observed; it was only the change related to the Mongolian invasion that enabled Daniel to have opposition exponents executed and to reinforce his power and authority. Volhynian boyars were more loyal toward their prince; Jusupović is of the opinion that while subordinate to the younger of the brothers, they could count on assuming Halych offices after the death of the elder and following the unification of the two lands by Vasilek. Due to written document being a rare thing in thirteenth-century Ruthenia, the study has been based on narrative sources which in general, the author believes, genuinely portray the social (inter)relations and power mechanisms. (JA)

Jarosław Nikodem, *Witold, wielki książę litewski (1354 lub 1355 – 27 października 1430)* [Vytautas, Grand Duke of Lithuania, 1354 or 1355 – 27 October 1430], Kraków, 2013, Wydawnictwo Avalon, 511 pp., index

The argument of this political biography of the ruler focuses not so much on fact finding (the relevant facts are otherwise mostly well known) as on insight into the personality of Vytautas (in Polish, Witold) the man and the incentives behind his actions. Following the findings of earlier historiographers (and verifying them on this occasion), the author has found a number of Vytautas's virtues and assets as a statesman: ambition, capability of constructing wide-ranging political concepts and persistency in delivering them, ability to draw conclusions from failures or fiascos, skill to get people enlisted, and gift for self-promotion. (What remains disputable is the ruler's military skills: apart from many victories, Vytautas had a few serious defeats to his credit.) J. Nikodem also polemicises against the opinions of earlier historians who perceived Vytautas as a trusted associate of Ladislaus Jagiello, and one who was devoted to the interests of his own state and those of the Polish-Lithuanian union. In Nikodem's opinion, the relations between the monarchies were actually marked with dislike and deep distrust, interspersed with reciprocal respect. Vytautas's main political purpose was to defend his personal and dynastic interests through maintaining of a possibly broadest authority in Lithuania whilst simultaneously increasing the state's influence in its political surroundings. The union with Poland also served this goal; within this political arrangement, regardless of various formal concessions, Vytautas practically preserved his almost unrestrained rule in Lithuania. The Duke appreciated the importance of the union as an instrument of contacts with the Teutonic Order, also of promoting Lithuanian interests in the West, and as a means of keeping Jagiello at a distance from matters Lithuanian. Yet, in case of need, Vytautas did take actions independent of Poland, or even hostile with respect to it, as when entering into collaboration with the Teutonic Order, Bohemian Hussites, Sigismund of Luxemburg and the papacy (the project to set up a Lithuanian ecclesiastical metropolis, independent of Polish archbishoprics). The ruler's home policy also reinforced his own position – mainly by eliminating large provincial duchies within the state; coming to hegemony in Eastern Europe was no less advantageous. The author admits that these actions brought Lithuania a remarkable prestige-related and political advantage; however, since Vytautas has left no male successor, their dynastic aspect faded away with the ruler's death. According to Nikodem, the subsequent rebellion of Duke Švitrigaila was not a direct follow-up of Vytautas's policy. (JA)

Michalina Broda, *Lekarze w państwie Zakonu Krzyżackiego w Prusach w XIV–XV wieku* [Physicians in the State of the Teutonic Order in Prussia, 14th–15th century], Kraków, 2013, Towarzystwo Autorów i Wydawców Prac Naukowych Universitas, 226 pp., table, English sum.

The book deals with activities of physicians in Teutonic Prussia in the period between the earliest dated mention, 1323, until the conclusion of the Thirteen Years' War in 1466. The author has gathered information on doctors with university-level medical education background, most of whom dealt with internal diseases, as well as on wound healing and eye specialists whose practice was not always based on formal educational qualifications. Physicians were hired to serve at monastic houses (mainly, at the Grand Master's court), and in big towns (Danzig [Gdańsk], Thorn [Toruń], Elbing [Elbląg]). Most of them came from Prussia and Germany; there was an Italian, a Bohemian, and two Jews from Poland among them too. Since they were a rather scarce group, their practice went beyond the limits of their expert fields. Not much is known today about their curing practices; the sources mainly tell us of phlebotomy (blood drawing). Some prescriptions have survived (listing the medicines and specifying their applications), along with recommendations of rules of healthy eating. Apart from their medical activities, some doctors took part in diplomatic missions. The table in pp. 179–202 is a breakdown of ninety-one physicians, known by names, from the area and period in question. (JA)

EARLY MODERN TIMES

Urszula Augustyniak (ed.), *Państwo świeckie czy księżę? Spór o rolę duchowieństwa katolickiego w Rzeczypospolitej w czasach Zygmunta III Wazy. Wybór tekstów* [A secular or priestly state? A dispute over the role of Catholic clergy in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth under Sigismund III Vasa: Selected source texts], Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Semper, 688 pp., bibliog., index

The most recent research on the political discourse of the former half of the seventeenth century has already paid attention to anticlerical attitudes among the nobility. There has been no in-depth research on this problem to date. Urszula Augustyniak's most recent publication can provide an excellent basis for further detailed investigations. It is a collection of thirty-two source texts showing a critical attitude of Polish-Lithuanian nobility toward the Catholic clergy, and the clergy's role in the Commonwealth's political

life. The body of source texts is preceded by the introductory monograph of the subject-matter, showing the historical background and discussing the source material presented. The editor demonstrates that anticlericalism has its roots also in the noble culture and shows how this ideological current co-formed the political discussion of the first Vasa-dynasty rulers' period. The source edition exercise has covered complete pieces as well as selected fragments; the choice was based on, primarily, the thematic and ideological criteria. While some of the texts contained in the book have been known to researchers, none has been published before. Certain anonymous texts have been attributed to their authors (*Głos anonimowa ewangelika* [A comment by an anonymous Evangelical]); research preceding the editorial effort has rectified certain incorrect attributions (e.g. *Pobożnego ewangelika do braci tegoż wyznania narodu polskiego i litewskiego przestroga i napomnienie* [An admonition and exhortation of a pious Evangelical to his brethren of the same confession in the Polish and Lithuanian nation]). Furthermore, the editor has managed to reach for some unknown, including anonymous, texts, found dispersed in *silvae* or copy-books now kept in numerous libraries and archives. The book's high editorial standard is also worthy of note; the texts are furnished with complete critical apparatus. The publication is very important as it encourages discussion on, or even a revision of, the theses related to the importance of Catholic Church in Old-Polish society, confessionalisation and, indirectly, the shape of Sarmatian culture. (MC)

Jerzy Dygdała (ed.), *Codzienne kłopoty, wielkie interesy i podwójna elekcja. Korespondencja radziwiłłowskich urzędników z księżną Anną z Sanguszków Radziwiłłową i jej synem Michałem Kazimierzem z 1733/1734* [Daily trouble, big deals, and a double election: The 1733–1734 correspondence between Radziwiłł officials and Princess Anna Radziwiłł, née Sanguszko, and her son Michał Kazimierz], Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo DiG, XXXII + 226 pp., bibliog., index, series: Biblioteka Badań nad Wiekami Osiemnastym. Studia i źródła. Źródła, 4

Anna Radziwiłłowa (Radziwiłł), née Sanguszko, was a major figure in the political life of the former half of the eighteenth century – and an excellent proprietress managing her ancestral estate. The source compendium under review is a collection of letters written to Anna, her son Michał Kazimierz 'Rybeńko' Radziwiłł and Franciszka-Urszula Radziwiłłowa, née Wiśniowiecka, by Radziwiłł officials. The 119 letters include forty written by Jan Antoni Czarniecki (commissioner), seventeen by Jan Antoni Siła-Nowicki (commissioner and plenipotentiary assigned with special tasks), ten by Tomasz

Mogilnicki (counselor), sixteen by Stanisław Michał Grodecki (rafting supervisor), twenty-five by Krzysztof Mioduszewski (steward of the Warsaw palace), eight by Kazimierz Rymśa (proxy). Two letters by Anna Radziwiłł, to Jan Czarniecki and Józef Mogilnicki (Tomasz's brother), are also contained. The publisher's intent was to present the sources illustrating the daily life, business operations, and great politics affairs. However, the subject area has been determined by the very narrow chronological line set between February 1733 (first news received on the death of King Augustus II) and May 1734 (J.A. Czarniecki resigns his office). There is more of the *double election* than *daily trouble* or *big deals*. The election of Augustus III is the central issue focused on by the correspondents; everyday business or estate management issues play second fiddle, in a way.

The editor's choice might be disappointing for historians dealing with social or economic problems. However, the collection perfectly fits Polish research of the eighteenth century, with its still predominant political history, as a traditional concept. The book is an excellent teaching aid, since the publisher has applied simplified editorial rules, in order to facilitate the reading for the students: Old-Polish transcript has been quit, foreign words or phrases have been translated. A sophisticated reader, familiar with eighteenth-century Polish, might find such measures irritating. The content-related footnotes are, in turn, definitely of use, especially for those not specialising in political history of the eighteenth century. (MC)

Andrzej B. Zakrzewski, *Wielkie Księstwo Litewskie (XVI–XVIII wiek). Prawo, ustroj, społeczeństwo* [The Grand Duchy of Lithuania, 16th to 18th century: Its law, political system, and society], Warszawa, 2013, CAMPIDOGGIO Marcin Trepczyński, 324 pp., bibliog.

The research on the history of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania has a long tradition in Polish historiography. Polish historians have been particularly keen on legal, constitutional and political differences between the Duchy and the Crown. The study by A. B. Zakrzewski perfectly fits in this current of Polish historiography. The author's goal was to describe certain elements of the political system and law of the Lithuania of yore and to emphasise its identity; the chronological framework is set between the sixteenth century and the year 1791. The author has made an effort not only to analyse the written law but also the praxis, which not infrequently differed from the letter of the law. The argument is primarily based on a very broad subject literature, with sources being used to a lesser extent. The use the author has made of the literature in several languages is a great value of this book.

It critically assesses Polish, Lithuanian, Belarussian and Russian studies, showing at a number of places how the contemporary political situation informed the evaluation of the relations between Lithuania and the Crown. The study contains fifteen chapters, which discuss the system of the state and its law, the territory, the society, the functioning of the major state institutions (the treasury, the king, the parliament, officials). The initial chapters propose a new periodisation of the Grand Duchy's history, remarking that the period before the conclusion of the Union of Lublin saw a modernisation of the state. Thus, the study deviates from the trend, still present in Polish historiography, to describe the Lithuanian reforms in terms of following or imitating the Crown's constitutional models. This new periodisation finely illustrates Zakrzewski's narrative method: in analysing detailed issues, this author endeavours to demonstrate various interpretative options and different influences the Duchy's political and legal system was subject to. Most of the arguments encountered in this study have been formulated before; still, this monograph is valuable, as the existing historiography has not offered a systematic presentation of constitutional or structural differences, and now the gap has been filled. Valuable for Polish researchers seems also the critical discussion of studies by Lithuanian historians, which are not quite well known to Polish readers due to the language barrier. (MC)

Maria Bogucka, *Między obyczajem a prawem. Kultura sarmatyzmu w Polsce XVI–XVIII w.* [Between the custom and the law: The Sarmatian culture in Poland, 16th to 18th century], Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo Neriton, 302 pp.

Maria Bogucka's most recent study is a *sui generis* recapitulation of her many years' studies concerning the cultural history of the early modern period. She has this time focused on the law and custom. Employment of the sociological definition of both notions has allowed for describing the processes indispensable for explaining the ways certain social and mental structures function, and the development of the law-custom relationship. It is definitions that make Bogucka's study different from many earlier publications on the same issue. Rather than recounting historical anecdotes or describing daily life, she is preoccupied with analysing the social processes. The central issue is how Sarmatism, approached primarily in terms of the nobility's culture, was getting formed. Unsatisfactory emphasis on the contribution of other social groups and, primarily, ethnic groups on the shaping of Old-Polish culture is a deficiency of this study. It would be more interesting to see the Sarmatian culture compared with the developments in Western Europe, for it seems that many a phenomenon described in the book is typical to any culture of

the period in question (as e.g. patriarchalism). The study is first and foremost based on analysis of the subject literature, the basic source material being *silvae rerum* and pieces of belles-lettres. The considerations are arranged into ten chapters, analysing, one by one: the most important occurrences (birth, marriage, death, and funeral); how the family functioned; how the gesture mattered; material culture issues (house, clothing, cuisine); labour and leisure; law and crime; and, Sarmatian sensitivity. In her initial considerations, introducing the reader into the universe of Sarmatian culture, Bogucka presents the framework within which the existence of Poland-Lithuania's inhabitants was getting formed, as well as structures and social ties in the nobility's state. Most of the issues discussed in this book were covered by the earlier literature; the most interesting and innovative prove the considerations on the significance of gesture in Sarmatism, with theatricality of Sarmatian culture being emphasised. (MC)

Stanisław Roszak, *Koniec świata sarmackich erudytów* [The end of the world of Sarmatian erudite men], Toruń, 2012, Stowarzyszenie Oświatowców Polskich, 218 pp., index, bibliog., English sum.

Meant as a certain type of culture of knowledge, oriented toward philological-historical enquiry, erudition was a phenomenon typical to the first half of the eighteenth century. The author focuses on the people who formed a 'republic of erudite men' in the Saxon period of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The most important among them were exponents of the Załuski, Sapieha, Radziwiłł, and Jabłonowski families. The study is founded on extensive source base: the queries have been made in Poland (Central Archives of Historical Records [AGAD], National Library, the libraries of Kórnik, Poznań) and in foreign archives (Dresden, Vilnius, Vatican). The first sections of the study show a group of men-of-learning, portraying the patrons (Sapieha, Radziwiłł) as well as intermediaries (secretaries and magnate assistants) and executors (librarians and editors). Next, described are contacts between Polish-Lithuanian erudite men with foreign milieus (in Dresden, Stettin, France, and Italy). Chapter 3 analyses the related correspondences, mainly of the Załuski brothers – exchange of letters being recognised as the basic ritual in 'the republic of the learned'. Then, the major editorial projects initiated by the erudite milieu are discussed (editions of laws, a library catalogue, a compendium of oratorical art, Polish chronicles, historical sources); again, the Załuski brothers played a central part. The concluding chapter analyses the topics appearing in the learned men's correspondence. The focus is, primarily, on description of the form and rules of creating Saxon erudite men, and on how they acted. The reader more concerned by history of ideas might say s/he has expected more from this book. Repetitions and digressions on

threads other than directly correlated with the subject-matter is the study's apparent shortcoming. (MC)

Jan Doktor, *Misjonarze i Żydzi w czasach mesjańskiej zawieruchy 1648–1792* [Missionaries and Jews in the messianic turmoil period, 1648–1792], Warszawa, 2012, Żydowski Instytut Historyczny im. Emanuela Ringelbluma, 314 pp., bibliog., indices, series: Prace Zakładu Varsavianistycznego w Żydowskim Instytucie Historycznym im. E. Ringelbluma. Monografie

Jan Doktor has had a long record researching into Jewish messianic movements and the related conversions. His most recent publication revisits these problems, and summarises the author's long-term research. The reader who is familiar with the author's previous publications will take note that its large portions were published before. The dissertation has two basic parts: the first describes Christian missions among Jews (actions conducted by, mainly, Pietists and chiliasts). The activities of the *Institutum Judaicum* are described in detail; the organisation's materials form a lion's share of the book's source base, thus highlighting the specificity and inventiveness of Pietistic missions. The second part draws the portraits of converts – both those who stayed loyal toward their new faith and those who resumed Judaism a few years later.

The author has managed to exploit some heretofore-unknown sources showing the biographies of converts. Of special interest is the argument concerning Johan Kemper (Moshe ben Aharon of Cracow), which is based on the convert's before-unknown autobiography. The study as a whole draws upon German-language Christian sources. The thesis boosted by this author, for years now, claiming that this is the only material showing the phenomena being described, is rather unreliable. It may seem that a number of polemicising Jewish sources are unknown to J. Doktor. Similarly, he is not familiar with the recent, especially the Israeli studies – being of primary importance to the issues in question; hence, his analysis is based on the classical, though not-quite-up-to-date studies of Gershom Sholem. Let us add, moreover, that the sources have been subject to uncritical analysis, the conclusions being drawn so as to fit the argument (such as e.g. the questionable ascription of Sabbataic beliefs to certain converts). Indication of certain source materials is the study's only real value. Beside this, the reader has, unfortunately, received a work that is not in line with the most recent research trends, pushing forth quite a number of very questionable theses. It is regrettable that this only existing elaboration of the thus important problem in the Jewish history, available to a broader Polish reading public, shows quite a contorted picture of the phenomena described. (MC)

Przemysław Zarubin, *Żydzi w aglomeracji Krakowa w czasach stanisławowskich. Przemiany prawne, gospodarcze i społeczne* [The Jews in the Cracow agglomeration in the time of King Stanislaus Augustus: Legal, economic and social changes], Kraków, 2013, Księgarnia Akademicka, 403 pp., bibliog., indices

The Cracow Jewish community was one of the largest and most important Jewish communities in Poland-Lithuania, and this is why it has been attracting researchers for long years now. Przemysław Zarubin's book is the first monographic study of the Cracow hub in King Stanislaus Augustus's period. The choice of the period was led by the will to describe the situation of the Jews in a period of change, when the Jewry's position was undergoing a redefinition. Viewed against the research legacy, the study under review excels with its use of a broad definition of the Cracow agglomeration (incl. Cracow, Kazimierz, the *jurydyka* settlement, the villages near Cracow). Second, its argument is based upon quite a broad source base; however, only Polish-language sources have been used (incl. Central Archives of Historical Records [AGAD], State and Church archives in Cracow). The Christian-Jewish relations as described by Zarubin are primarily viewed through the prism of legal regulations and conflicts with the Christian community.

The book is composed of three sections. The first focuses on the judiciary. Analysed in detail are the types of courts at which Jewish people ever appeared (*kahal* courts, the voivode's and *podwojewodzi's* [*vicepalatinus's*] courts, borough court, magnus procurator's court, *Asesoría*, landed gentry's courts, municipal courts, confederate courts, civil-military committees, Austrian courts). The following part was dedicated to the Jews' economic activities. Following the route set by the classical Jewish historiography, the author is mainly focused on the legal situation and describes in detail the Jewish community's struggle for gaining the right to perform various professions. The last section of the book, on social issues, seems the most interesting and the most analytical approach-wise. Of special interest is the argument regarding the social position of converts. It is based, let us emphasise, on before-unknown ecclesial sources. The Zarubin book has significantly broadened our facts-based knowledge on Jews in Cracow agglomeration. Several interesting hypotheses have been proposed (e.g. the position of Jewish courts, and of converts); of value is also the author's taking note of the hitherto-unused source materials. Yet, the factual particularity and lack of analytical recapitulation or a general argument makes the reading rather uneasy and is the reason why the book in question may primarily be used as a guide to a very diverse archival material. (MC)

Adam Perłakowski, *Kariera i upadek królewskiego faworyta. Aleksander Józef Sułkowski w latach 1695–1738* [The royal favourite, his career and fall: Aleksander Józef Sułkowski in 1695–1738], Kraków, 2013, Historia Jagellonica, 328 pp., bibliog., index, ill.

The career of Aleksander Józef Sułkowski, one of the closest associates and favourites of King Augustus III Wettin, often connotes his spectacular fall. In his most recent book, Adam Perłakowski outlines this historic figure; in fact, this is the first biographical elaboration of the royal favourite. The destruction of the Sułkowski family's private archive during WWII and dispersed existing sources are the main reasons why this character has not been described at length ever before. Perłakowski is the first to have used in his research the materials stored at present in Dresden, Vienna, Poznań, Cracow, as well as Vilnius and Lvov. Thus extensive a source base, elaborated on and subject to critical analysis, is the study's unquestionable value. The author is succoured by a good command of extensive reference literature.

Arranged according to chronology, the study consists of five chapters, analysing, respectively, how Sułkowski's career began, the coronation period and how the Wettin ruler's position in the Polish court was getting strengthened, the climax of Sułkowski's career (1734–7), how his role of royal favourite translated into supporting individuals from the Crown and Lithuania, and the reasons and circumstances of his dismissal. The biography of Sułkowski is reconstructed in detail, with the focus on his political activities, regrettably putting aside the aspects of his artistic activity (he ran an operatic and ballet ensemble, and cared for art collections), but dealing with military affairs. This biography paints the portrait of a typical courtier and king's favourite, not so much involved in great politics, but taking an active part in the court's life instead. It seems that Sułkowski's primary objective was to preserve his place at the side of the king. His fall is associated with his conflict with Brühl, the other favourite of Augustus: as shown by the history of Sułkowski's resignation, Brühl turned out to be the agiler player in the court politics. (MC)

Irena Bieńkowska, *Muzyka na dworze księcia Hieronima Floriana Radziwiłła* [Music at the court of Prince Hieronim Florian Radziwiłł], Warszawa, 2008, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 504 pp., bibliog., appendices

The musical life at magnate courts in Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth is not too willingly elaborated on by musicologists – the reason being, in the first place, the poor condition of the source material preserved. Hence, Irena Bieńkowska's study appears extremely valuable. Reconstructed is the artistic life at the court of Hieronim Florian Radziwiłł in the time the magnate ran

his own court, i.e. 1733–60. The author has focused on Biała Podlaska and Slutsk, the two major eighteenth-century Radziwiłł hubs. Extensive source base has been exploited: Bieńkowska makes use of Polish as well as foreign archives (incl. Minsk, Paris, Vilnius, Dresden, other). Notably, the study has critically taken advantage of very different types of source: musical manuscripts have been used along with inventories, maps, and correspondence. The study consists of five chapters. First, a concise biography of Hieronim Florian Radziwiłł is presented, with certain before-unknown facts from the magnate's life being described for the first time. Next, we become familiar with how the musical and theatrical life was organised, and with the conditions of the artists' functioning at the court. The subsequent three chapters deal with music and theatre rooms, and musical ensembles; also, the music repertoire is reconstructed. Bieńkowska argues that the Prince's court set the stage for animated musical life; its geographical distance from Europe's major cultural centres has not discouraged the princely hub from holding artistic performances kept up to the top European standard.

Irena Bieńkowska's study offers a thoroughly source-based and reliable reconstruction of the musical life of H.F. Radziwiłł's court; yet, its useful value goes beyond the circle of musicologists. In analysing the musical life, the author also shows the mechanisms of magnate court's functioning. Historians without a musicological verve will find the sections on the conditions of the musicians' employment and work particularly attractive. These findings are all the more valuable that no monograph has ever before been compiled about the court of Prince Hieronim Florian Radziwiłł. Moreover, we can learn a number of interesting details concerning the work of town musicians employed at Biała Podlaska and Slutsk. The annexes provided – a dictionary of the Radziwiłł-house artists and a calendar of ceremonies held at the court – are found extremely useful as well. (MC)

NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY

Józef Kalasanty Szaniawski, *Kręte drogi myśli politycznej Józefa Kalasantego Szaniawskiego (1764–1843)*. *Wybór pism* [The ambages of Józef Kalasanty Szaniawski's (1764–1843) political thought: A selection of writings], ed. Sebastian Paczos, Poznań, 2012, Wydawnictwo Poznańskiego Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Nauk, 526 pp., series: *Prace Komisji Historycznej – Poznańskie Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk*. Wydział Historii i Nauk Społecznych, 71

Józef Kalasanty Szaniawski seems to be an exceptionally offbeat figure against the rather unattractive Polish political philosophy of the former half of the

nineteenth century. The fact that apart from screeds taking by the handful from the baroque period as well as from the German critical philosophy, Szaniawski the censor in the Congress Kingdom of Poland wrote up-to-date political reports, is not remembered by many today. Whether he would have liked to see himself as a tamer of Polish irredentism, one cannot really say, having read this volume. Still, he by all means remains a remarkable character. J.K. Szaniawski practiced political journalism in a creative fashion, whilst combining his ongoing political activity with that pursued in the field of social philosophy, as a broad concept. Beside the intellectual quality of his texts and the role they have played in the history of Polish political philosophy, their careful reading allows for grasping a certain subtle aspect, often escaping the attention of historians: a change in the mentality of the period's elite. The initial modernisation-focused enthusiasm gave way to anxieties and insecurity in the early capitalist world. Szaniawski is an author who from the very beginning identified the tensions caused by sudden social change.

This collection of texts is divided into two parts; the first – 'Philosophical writings. Seven essays on aesthetics' – contains, i.a., the well-known analysis of Johann Gottlieb Fichte and the essay 'On the nature of office-holding in a community'. The second section collects political-social essays and letters, e.g. to Feliks Łubieński, along with a few other Szaniawski's publications, once broadly commented, including 'The justification for censorship of print' or the probably no less famous article 'Shall the insurrection of the year 1830 succeed?'. An ample biographical introduction is added; the volume's meticulous editorial work is worth emphasising. (GK)

Nina Kapuścińska-Kmieciak and Jarosław Kmita (eds.), *Świat dziecka ziemiańskiego. Antologia źródeł* [The world of landowning gentry's kids: An anthology of sources], Łódź, 2012, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, 219 pp., index, ill.

This book is as promising as it is disappointing. History of childhood – with its relevant psychological, sociological and anthropological aspects – is a quite perfunctorily known topic, particularly in Poland. Apart from some general compilations and brief chapters in synthetic studies on the so-called daily life, no monograph on this matter has actually been written. Save for methodological problems related to the interdisciplinary nature of the subject-matter, the reason is, seemingly, the dispersed and hardly available sources. Children rarely tend to produce written sources which are subsequently used by researchers into the past. Hence, the initiative of N. Kapuścińska-Kmieciak and J. Kmita, making one expect to see the gap at least partly covered, ought apparently to be applauded. Unfortunately, it seems that the book they have produced is a side-effect of large-scale works of its editors that otherwise

specialise in the history of the Polish landowning gentry. The book appears not to offer much out of what its title heralds. It basically contains diaries of, merely, two girls very closely related to each other. It is clearly hard to recognise it as an anthology, or to discern in this material some traits typical to the landowning gentry's world: both young females had the luck to be born into families that ought to be recognised as aristocratic, rather than gentry.

The first of the diarists, Helena Potocka (1864–1948), daughter of Stanisław Jan and Maria Józefa née Ostrowska, wrote down her diary during her trip to the seaside resort of Blankenberge in Belgium, between August and October 1871. She did it with her grandmother in her mind, with whom she was spending no less time than with her parents. Thus, by noting down her impressions from the journey, she wanted to stay, as it were, possibly close to her beloved Grandma and thus cancel the effect of separation. The other woman, Ludwika Ostrowska (1851–1926), the youngest kid of Aleksander and Helena née Morstin, made her diary notes in 1869–71 – the time she entered adulthood rather than was a child. Both ladies were aristocrats (daughters of their count fathers, to be specific); the males of their families performed privileged sociopolitical functions: Ludwika's father chaired the Landed Credit Association (*Towarzystwo Kredytowe Ziemskie*, associating proprietors of noble estates); her brother Józef presided the Real Politics Party (*Stronnictwo Polityki Realnej*) and during WWI was member of the Regency Council – the Kingdom of Poland's rump government operating under the German-Austrian occupation. Helena and Ludwika were educated at home, the most powerful aspect of which – apart from music (Ludwika says in her diary she played the piano every day) – was probably a command of languages. Neither ever got married, remaining much involved, instead, in social-working and charity activities – quite typically to women of their sphere. Ludwika eventually made Helena her inheritress.

Of the two diaries, the one of the elder author, Ludwika, seems to be definitely more abounding in information (and more extensive), at least for the reader who is not an expert in child psychology. We learn from it a lot about the domestic life of a multigenerational family, the circle of interests, acquaintances, and regimen of the young aristocrat. Clearly, it ought not to be neglected that diary is a form of image-building and self-creation, for which it seems symptomatic that the author made some of the notes in English and German. Hence, in spite of all its simple-mindedness, Ludwika's diary prevalently offers a serious tone, with the ambition to meet the milieu's expectations, parallel her brothers, and get educated. The text abounds with remarks such as: "I overall have an impression that I did very little yesterday; today, it needs being improved on." The 'labour' in question basically boils down to reading and piano playing.

In sum, the book under review is incomplete content-wise and primarily calls for being extended and continued. This is actually heralded between the

lines by the publisher, informing in the foreword that Ludwika Ostrowska resumed her habit of keeping a diary in the course of WWI and this later work is “definitely much more interesting” than the one presently published. (AK)

Nina Kapuścińska-Kmieciak, *Zdrada małżeńska w dziewiętnastowiecznych pałacach i dworach ziemiańskich* [Marital infidelity in nineteenth-century landed gentry’s palaces and manors], Łódź, 2013, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, 445 pp., bibliog., index of names, English sum.

Nina Kapuścińska-Kmieciak is the first Polish author to have attempted at a systematic elaboration of the fascinating and hard-to-approach topic set at the borderline of social history, history of morals and mores, and psychology. As noticed by the author (p. 27), adultery was a taboo subject in the nineteenth-century society; even though much was written on it in general terms and in belles-lettres works, not quite much is known about the specific instances: the people remained thoroughly low-key on this issue at that time. Raising it was avoided even during divorce trials. Relevant mentions in diaries or letters are rare and often enigmatic; hence, “it is at all impossible to try and determine how frequent the instances of unfaithfulness were”. And yet, the author has set as a task for herself not only to reconstruct and analyse the notion of marital infidelity in the official discourse but also its position in the Polish gentry’s real life. She has made use to this end of a broad source base: compendia and reference manuals, pieces of journalistic writing, medical and legal press, civil registers and notarial deeds, private letters, diaries, and belles-lettres.

The book contains four analytical chapters. The first considers the notion of marital infidelity from the legal and moral standpoint, from the perspective of legal regulations in the three partition areas, the canon law and teaching of the Catholic Church, and the competitive visions of morality: conservative versus emancipatory. The latter, as the author remarks, focused around the idea of ‘double morality’ whereby fidelity was perceived as, primarily, a virtue typical of women. Husbands were dealt with more forbearingly in this context; ‘male’ blemishes such as alcoholism, proneness to gambling, domestic violence and profusion were reproved first and foremost.

Chapter 2 discusses, consecutively, the reasons, consequences, and methods to counteract marital infidelity, as seen by the contemporaries – most of all, guide authors and moralisers. In other words, it is a catalogue of good advice: how to behave to prevent the spouse from cheating on his wife or husband.

The next chapters, on infidel husbands and wives, and on their lovers, endeavour to counterbalance the theory with real-life examples. Hence,

we can learn a little about adulterous spouses: who committed adultery, against whom, and in what circumstances. But these examples mainly come from the life of the aristocracy whose exponents could take more liberty in this area, and whose love affairs were disputed broadly. But what we can learn about in the first place is the opinions of contemporaries. A careful reader will find certain paradoxes standing out: for instance, the affairs between Polish women and French males in the Napoleonic period (with the case of the Emperor's lover Maria Walewska at the forefront) enjoyed a peculiar approval, growing legendary in some cases; at the same time, affairs involving Russian or German partners were generally condemned. A sort of preferential treatment was applied with those women whose high-life affairs enabled their deceived husbands to pursue a spectacular career. Men, in turn, were relatively easily pardoned for their affairs with divorced and married women, whereas seduction of maidens by married men was severely reprobated: such affairs made it difficult for a miss to marry.

There is also an attractive (though insufficient) subchapter on love affairs involving servants and peasant women. In such cases, somewhat conversely, squires' affairs with unmarried girls were treated indulgently whereas seduction of peasant wives oftentimes led to tragedies, with some of the seducers getting killed. Intriguing is the author's ascertainment that, insofar as the journalism and guides generally perceived adultery as caused, upon the whole, by the cheated-on wife or husband, the memoirs and letters treated such instances in most cases (if at all mentioned them) as a natural phenomenon, a result of curiosity and adventurous attitude or, simply, a form of sexual satisfaction.

N. Kapuścińska-Kmieciak's book offers an interesting and, easy to guess, at times amusing piece of reading, although its language is not always typical as it combines scholarly terms with phraseology of the sources. A coherent and logical structure and the narration interspersing period citations, descriptions of individual instances of adultery, methodological afterthought and the author's findings are apparently the study's strong points. On the other hand, what has been ascertained in this book may at times arouse doubts as the author continuously refers to the period's opinions which she has deftly interlaced with her own argument; it is repeatedly not quite clear whether a source is merely being reported on or analysed, in parallel. In spite of the author's efforts, the relation between the falsified or idealised morality and the real-life practice remains notoriously unclear. This particular problem is naturally not unique to the nineteenth century, but this is a topic for a separate book. (AK)

Marta Sikorska-Kowalska (ed.), *‘Wolność czy zbrodnia?’ Rewolucja 1905–1907 roku w Łodzi na łamach gazety ‘Rozwój’* [‘Liberty, or crime?’ The Revolution of 1905–1907 in Lodz as seen by *Rozwój* magazine], Łódź, 2012, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, 354 pp., index

Marta Sikorska-Kowalska, a researcher in the history of the nineteenth century, associated with the University of Lodz, has prepared a selection of texts on the Revolution of 1905–7 in Lodz and its environs, published in the local daily magazine *Rozwój*. Initially unallied, the magazine was subsequently closely associated with the National Democracy. A few dozen edited texts have been classed thematically into the problem-oriented and chronological sections: ‘Strike’; ‘Reinforced protection’; ‘Gentlemen, your doings are wrong’; ‘Election is coming’; ‘The associations’; ‘Eradicating cholera’; ‘The weekly chronicle’. The titles of chapters and, likewise, the slogan quoted in the book’s title, are taken from articles published in *Rozwój*; they vividly render that hectic time when, in the opinion of many historians, Lodz became a centre of revolutionary movement in Polish lands. Yet, the perspective assumed by the *Rozwój* editorial board was peculiar: rather than a chronicle of revolutionary events, one encounters there a record of counterrevolution. The streets of Lodz, apparently the subject of revolutionary transformation, is seen by the daily’s publicists as an arena of, virtually, an apocalyptic disaster that is overwhelming the agglomeration. The meticulous footnoting and an index attached much facilitate the reading of this extremely useful source of the history of early-twentieth-century mentalities and of the beginning of mass politics in the Polish lands. (GK)

Janusz Faryś *et al.* (eds.), *Dziennik Juliusza Zdanowskiego, I: 22 VI 1915 – 29 IV 1917* [Juliusz Zdanowski: A diary, i: 22 June 1915 to 29 April 1917], Szczecin, 2013, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego, 378 pp., index

The volume edited by a team of Szczecin historians is a fragment of a really extensive political diary, extending to more than thirty years of jottings made by Juliusz Zdanowski (1874–1935), a leading exponent of the National Democracy. Zdanowski joined the National League in 1905, then was member of the Supreme Council of the Democratic-National Party in Warsaw and, apart from some other functions he held, remained an outstanding figure of the nationalist right wing in Poland till his latest days. The diarist was of a landowning background, owned a model farmstead in Śmiałowice, County of Miechów, and in parallel was an activist with group farming organisations

in Kielce Voivodeship. During the Great War – the period covered by the present volume – he was active with the *Międzypartyjne Koło Polityczne* [the Interparty Political Circle] and, before Poland regained independence, was made representative of the Government appointed by the Regency Council, affiliated to the Generalgouvernement and run by Jan Kanty Steczkowski. In the Second Republic, Zdanowski was an outstanding National Democracy activist: in January 1921, he acted as Deputy Chairman of the Executive Board of the Popular National Union [*Związek Ludowo-Narodowy*, ZLN]; later, he was a leading activist with the Christian Association for National Unity; after the 1922 election, he became Chairman of the ZLN Senators' Club. It was at his home that the so-called 'Lanckorona Pact' was signed on 17 May 1923. Zdanowski's public activity almost withered after the coup d'état of May 1926, and especially after 1928 – the moment the National Party [*Stronnictwo Narodowe*] was set up, dominated by young-generation nationalist politicians. Zdanowski's wife Aniela Godlewska (1882–1970) was engaged from her earliest years in the activities of organisations associated with National Democracy. The diary as a whole spans the years 1915–35. This multivolume editorial project promises to be one of the most important sources of the history of Polish National Democracy. A short foreword introduces the reader to the entire diary. Careful editorial work, a reliable list of acronyms and index of names are the noteworthy features. A few photographs of the diary's protagonist are attached. (GK)

Maciej Wojtacki (ed.), *Prace Komisji Konstytucyjnej Sejmu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej II kadencji (1928–1930)* [The proceedings of the Constitutional Committee of the 2nd-term *Sejm* of the Republic of Poland, 1928–1930], Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo Sejmowe, 720 pp., appendices, bibliog., index, English sum.

Compiled and edited by Maciej Wojtacki, a young historian associated with the Nicolaus Copernicus University, this selection of documents pertaining to the proceedings of the Polish *Sejm*'s Constitutional Committee (2nd term of office, 1928–30), is, primarily, a basic source for political system and constitution historians. The collection of texts consists of two parts, the first showing discussions around a revision of the March Constitution (1921), the second comprising detailed records of amendments finally included in the Basic Law resulting from the debate. The study is basically founded on stenographic accounts of the Constitutional Committee meetings and stenographic reports on the *Sejm* meetings. Since the documents have been soundly and reliably edited by M. Wojtacki, the study is very useful not only to historians of law or political systems. There are eight annexes appended for the respective stages

of the Committee's proceedings, including the relevant rules-and-regulations and correspondence exchanged by the body's members. On the whole, if read carefully, this collection of specialist constitutional documentation forms a very good commentary to the political occurrences of 1928–30. (GK)

Sprawozdania miesięczne wojewody łódzkiego rok 1938, cz. 1: Legalny ruch polityczny i narodowościowy [Monthly reports of the Voivode of Lodz, year 1938; part 1: The legal political and national movement], ed. Jacek Walicki, Adam Sitarek *et al.*, Łódź, 2012, Uniwersytet Łódzki, Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych, 361 pp., ill., index

Reports of voivodes (province governors) – similarly to those of lower-rank government officials – form a particular source for historians of political life in the Second Republic. Given the fact that the archives of political parties have been destroyed, or at least suffered serious deficits, documentation of this kind is, along with political press, the virtually most reliable source of use in research on the period. Considerable value added to this collection of reports is the careful, painstaking editorial work applied to it by Jacek Walicki, a scholar of the Centre for Jewish Research, University of Lodz. The introductory essay penned by Walicki is valuable as a competent survey of the literature as well as an instance of critical reflection on source. The year 1938 covered by this volume was, moreover, an extremely important moment in the political history of the last years of the Second Republic – due to a tense international situation and to the no less complicated internal political relations. Apart from a list of abbreviations and index, the book features a series of hitherto-unknown illustrations. (GK)

Józef Kordian Zamorski, *Dzienniki (1930–1938)* [A diary, 1930–1938], ed. Robert Litwiński and Marek Sioma, Warszawa and Dziekanów Leśny, 2011, Instytut Józefa Piłsudskiego, Wydawnictwo LTW, XII + 569 pp., tables, ill., index, series: Biblioteka Niepodległości, 13

The diary of Kordian Zamorski is one of the most significant memoirist sources of use for knowledge of the history of the *Sanacja*, respective segments of the state authority, Piłsudski-ite elite – especially its military circles, and, virtually, the Second Republic's political history in its last pre-war years. Zamorski was probably the most famous policeman in the interwar Poland. Before his appointment in 1935 as Commander-in-Chief of the State Police, he had

walked up almost the whole ladder of military career. His biography is a good illustration of the individual stages in the careers of individuals from Józef Piłsudski's circle. Kordian Zamorski was born in 1890 in Galicia to a petty-nobility family. A graduate of a Lvov high school, he (intermittently) studied painting with Józef Mehoffer at the Cracow Fine Arts Academy. Before WWI broke out, he joined an independence conspiratorial organisation and subsequently became strictly attached to the Piłsudski's circle. Between mid-1914 and July 1917 he served with the First Brigade of Polish Legions, and was promoted to higher and higher command posts. Following the Oath Crisis of 1917, he deserted from the Austrian army and joined the Polish Military Organisation, as Commander for the Cracow District. In the time of struggle for the borders, part of which was the Polish-Bolshevik conflict, his career accelerated, leading in the first years of the revived Poland to promotions to the very top positions with the Polish Army. Amidst the Piłsudski-ites, he passed as the most loyal among the loyal. After Piłsudski's death, the Minister of Interior appointed Zamorski the Police Commander, the office he held till the outbreak of WWII. His diary contains at least a dozen-or-so important references to the disputes that shaped the policies of the Second Republic's power elite. Notable are the significant gaps in the records he made, as e.g. at the time of the so-called competence injunction between the followers of the President of the Republic and the group around Edward Śmigły-Rydz, later appointed Marshal of Poland, or during the anti-Masonic campaign in the late 1938 (Zamorski was at the time member of a few freemasonry lodges). (GK)

Stanisław Wincenty Kasznica, *Druga wojna światowa. Wspomnienia spisane na podstawie codziennych notatek* [The Second World War: Memoirs written down based on daily notes], introduction by Marta Szczesiak-Ślusarek, Warszawa and Poznań, 2013, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, 272 pp., index, ill., appendix

Stanisław W. Kasznica, 1874–1958, was a lawyer, of intelligentsia background. He joined the national movement in his early youth years (e.g. Association of the Polish Youth 'Zet'). In the Second Republic time, he co-organised and subsequently was elected Rector of Poznań's Adam Mickiewicz University; beside that, he served as a Senator. His memoirs cover the period of 1939–45. In December 1939, Kasznica and his family were deprived of their estate and displaced from Greater Poland to the Generalgouvernement. He arrived in Warsaw in 1942, and began his activity as a lecturer with the clandestine Warsaw University and the University of the Western Lands, and started cooperation with the Government Delegation for Poland. In his memoirs,

imbued with vast amounts of detail, he describes his wandering in exile, the lot of his children, and his own professional and conspiratorial activities. Thus, a unique testimony has been created – one of a state activist, scholar, and a father of five children (one of his sons was killed in September 1939; his three other kids, grownup during the war, took part in the Warsaw Uprising – one of the three, Stanisław Józef, was the last commander of the National Armed Forces [NSZ] and was sentenced in a 1948 show trial to death and eventually executed by a firing squad). This perfectly edited volume of memoirs is preceded by a comprehensive essay of M. Szczesiak-Ślusarek, the editor, describing the lot of all members of the Kasznica family in the twentieth century. Wartime recollections of Stanisław's daughter Eleonora and of his son Andrzej have been appended. (BK)

Renia Knoll, *Dziennik* [A diary], ed. Justyna Leder, Warszawa, 2012, Żydowski Instytut Historyczny im. Emanuela Ringelbluma, 320 pp., bibliog., table, ill.

Renata Knoll was born in Cracow on 12 February 1927, to a Jewish family of modest means. Her recently found notes cover the period of 16 May 1940 to 1 September 1941, i.e. some time before the Cracow Ghetto was set up plus almost six months of its functioning. This teenager girl's diary is not merely one more chronicle of the lot of Cracow Jewry under Nazi occupation. This poignant testimony shows the mechanism of anti-Jewish oppression from the standpoint of a teenage girl who is primarily preoccupied with her puberty problems, and still, day by day, increasingly keenly recognising the occupation-bound dimension of existence. The author reconstructs, at times quite minutely, a considerable fraction of a life she is living, as it were, in defiance of the growing nightmare. Her records become more systematic from some point onwards; we see the girl gaining maturity in a blitz. As we reach the conclusion – it is just a few months' period, let us remind – we encounter a mature woman. For historians, Miss Knoll's notes are also of value due to the author's untypical vicissitudes. She survived the war, while almost all of her family were killed. After the liberation, she left a fascinating account (kept at the Jewish Historical Institute) and afterwards, still in 1945, she went to Israel where there was no trace left of her. For researchers into the experience of the Holocaust, Renata Knoll's diary has remained one of the most piercing sources. (GK)

Waldemar Szczerbiński and Bartosz Lampkowski (eds.), *Żydowski obraz Polski. Polski obraz Żyda* [Jewish image of Poland, the Polish image of a Jew], Poznań and Gniezno, 2012, Wydawnictwo Poznańskiego Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Nauk, Instytut Kultury Europejskiej Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu, 367 pp., ill., English sum., series: Gnieźnieńskie Studia Europejskie. Monografie, 8

The authors of this collection of texts, some of which are published in English, have embarked on an ambitious task to mutually confront the two cultural stereotypes developed in the twentieth century: a Jewish image of Poland and Poles, and a Polish image of Jews. While such juxtaposition arises on its accord when it comes to researching into perceptions of ethnic-religious relations, it is fair to remark that such view is rather sparse. The volume under review offers nineteen texts written by historians, literary scholars and culture experts from Poland and abroad, grouped into three sections: 'The Jewish image of Poland', 'The Polish image of the Jew', and 'Other images of the Jew: their attempted unveilings'. Whilst appreciating the interesting problem tackled in this book, it has to be remarked that the authors and editors have not been successful in delivering all their assumptions. The selection of texts – somewhat causal, it might seem – makes any generalisation difficult. Most of the texts are fragmentary. There are three dominant narrations discernible: one is romanticist-idyllic; the second places Holocaust at the centre, along with pre-war and post-war anti-Semitism; in the third, complex identities come to the fore most of the time. In the first mentioned category, an idealising story of a Polish-Jewish symbiosis, blatantly obvious is unequal treatment of the subjects of history: Jews simply form its background. The texts of this current contain most of the simplifications, if not naiveties – not to say researcher's unconstraint; hence, their value to the reader seems the lowest. In the second, and the most numerous represented, narrative raising the subject of Holocaust, the motif of Jews being rejected by their environment is predominant. Interestingly, this also pertains to those texts which refer to the contemporary times, including the analyses of views of some outstanding figures in Polish culture (e.g. Jarosław Iwazkiewicz, Maria Dąbrowska). The image of Poles that emerges from this section gets clearly blackened, testifying to a powerful and overwhelming, never-processed social trauma affecting Jews and Poles alike. The third type of narration is definitely represented the most slenderly, with just two texts. The reading of these articles leads to the conclusion that naming what has happened in the Polish-Jewish relations and relationships in the course of the twentieth century still remains one of the central issues for Polish culture, which also means, historiography. (GK)

Stanisław Łoś, *Sprawa ukraińska we wspomnieniach, korespondencji i publicystyce. Wybór pism* [The Ukrainian cause: Reminiscences, letters, journalistic commentaries. Selected writings], ed. Maciej Marszał and Sylwia Wójtowicz, afterword by Marek Łoś, Kraków, 2012, Ośrodek Myśli Politycznej, 432 pp., ills., series: Biblioteka Klasyki Polskiej Myśli Politycznej, 42

Jan Stanisław Łoś (1890–1974), once influential as publicist in the interwar period, is a rather forgotten figure nowadays. The Cracow-based Centre for Political Thought publication series has once again evoked a significant, not to say eminent, figure that has with time become well bygone. Born to a landowner family, educated by the famous Jesuit Scholarship and Educational Institute in Chyrów, later a Law graduate with the University of Vienna, he got involved with the Piłsudski camp before WWI broke out, and became with time one of the most outstanding experts in the Ukrainian question. Following his short career with diplomatic service, he left the public service to devote himself almost entirely to dealing in depth with the issues related to Poland's eastern neighbours. He made contributions to *Biuletyn Polsko-Ukraiński* since 1932; in the late thirties, he had his writings systematically published by *Bunt Młodych*, *Polityka*, and a series of periodicals of importance at the time – including Ukrainian magazines, such as *Nova Zorya* and *Meta*. He undertook a number of confidential missions at the time with the intent to normalise the Polish-Ukrainian relationships. His involvement also extended to diplomatic missions on behalf of Polish government, including negotiations for return of former Prime Minister Wincenty Witos from his emigration in Czechoslovakia before 1939. J.S. Łoś was an active member of the resistance movement during WWII. After the Red Army entered the Polish territory, he was arrested in the autumn of 1944 and remained imprisoned for some time. Released from detention, he got employed with the Catholic University of Lublin, where he worked till his death, climbing up the academic career ladder. His area of research speciality was international issues; he resumed Ukrainian affairs at some point.

The present collection embraces a few dozen texts of various sorts, among which are memoirs excerpts, correspondence with high-level public offices and Church officials, particularly from the 1930s (section 1); memorials written to various ministries in the 1920s and 1930s. The third, and last, section contains political articles and essays originally published in the press – among them, a few well-known texts criticising (among other things) the policies of Polish authorities with respect to ethnic minorities (as in *Polityka*, edited by Jerzy Giedroyc). The book is complemented by an afterword by Marek Łoś, the protagonist's son. The anthology has a pertinent introduction. The editorial work, by M. Marszał and S. Wójtowicz, is almost benchmark. (GK)

Joanna Nowosielska-Sobel, Grzegorz Strauchold, and Tomasz Ślepowroński (eds.), *Prasa regionalna jako źródło do badań historycznych okresu XIX i XX wieku* [The regional press as a source for historical research on the 19th and 20th century], Wrocław, 2011, Oficyna Wydawnicza Atut – Wrocławskie Wydawnictwo Oświatowe, 264 pp., bibliog., series: Studia z Dziejów Prasy

Due to its availability, clearness and multiplicity, and diversity of pieces of information it provides, historians cherish the press as their favourite source. The authors of the book under review seem aware of the source's value and of its limits, and approach the material under analysis as, primarily, expressing the collective awareness of its period and a propagandist and ideological tool. Apart from the methodological coherence, the volume's chief advantage is its region-oriented profile. All the authors come from localities which before WWI were part of the German Empire, i.e.: Poznań, Szczecin, Wrocław, Gdańsk, and Toruń, and have made use of the materials available locally. Their book offers a broad and balanced profile of studies on the German and Polish press in these lands – i.e. Pomerania, Silesia and Greater Poland – between the late decades of the nineteenth century and the 1970s, spanning the epochs of the Empire, the Weimar Republic and the Second Republic of Poland, the Third Reich, through to the People's Republic of Poland. However, somewhat contrary to what the title announces, the articles collected in the volume focus on a few selected issues. The book's leitmotif is 'the image of the alien' in the press – a topic for which the Polish-German borderland is well chosen.

The opening essay is on Henri Rochefort, the French journalist and politician whose activity peaked in the last years of the 2nd Empire and the first years of the 3rd Republic. This otherwise interesting article, but founded on no source background and offering no original value, stays in complete contrast to the other texts. The following studies, by Andrzej Romanow, Tomasz Krzemiński, and Grzegorz Sobel, focus on the 'issue proper', i.e. the 'alien' – that is, Jew or Catholic, in this case – as reflected in the Wilhelmian Empire's press. Then follow the texts by Włodzimierz Stępiński, Robert Stokłosa, and Małgorzata Presiner-Stokłosa, tracing the subject issue in the press of the Weimar Republic (the 'aliens' being Jews and communists), 2nd Polish Republic ('aliens' = Jews) and Third Reich ('aliens' = Poles). Set against this background, Damian Szymczak's essay excels ('Galicjoki z Kongresówy'), showing the image of the dwellers of former Russian and Austrian Partition areas in the interwar press of Poznań. Also, Grzegorz Strauchold's study on the Czech affairs reflected in the Lvov press stands out – being the only text taking advantage of a source based in a territory other than the former German Partition. Viewed in terms of the entire volume, the essay written by Tomasz Przerwa, tellingly entitled 'Nieodzowność obcego w prasie

lokalnej' [The indispensableness of the Alien in the local press] is particularly distinctive. The author points out that the local press in the German Silesia of the former half of the twentieth century (which means periodicals circulating in small, sometimes very small, localities) avoided, as a rule, entering into any ideological disputes, focusing in its entirety on its informative function instead. The only 'aliens' this press addressed or referred to in unfriendly terms were France, Poland, and, occasionally, Czechoslovakia – perceived as enemies of the German state.

The closing studies are those on the press of the People's-Republic-of-Poland period. Authored, respectively, by Adam Makowski, Radosław Ptasiński, Katarzyna Rembacka, Piotr Płacek, Eryk Krasucki, Małgorzata Radomska, and Tomasz Ślepowroński, they identify the responses and propagandist tactics of the press in the so-called Recovered Territories (i.e. former German lands) with respect to the crucial developments in the post-war history, such as: Polonisation of the lands in question in the late 1940s; the Cuban Missile Crisis; the 1968 crisis; and, the opening of the GDR–Poland state frontier. (AK)

Magdalena Semczyszyn, Tomasz Sikorski, and Adam Wątor (eds.), *Nad Odrą i Bałtykiem. Myśl zachodnia: ludzie – koncepcje – realizacja do 1989 r.* [In the Oder River and Baltic Sea region. Polish Western thought: People – concepts – achievements, before 1989], Szczecin, 2013, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu (Oddział w Szczecinie), 771 pp., indices

The so-called Polish Western thought was conceived in the nineteenth century as a political thought current meant to give grounds to Polish claims for Pomerania and Silesia and to propose the ways to obtain these lands for the Polish nation. In the partitions period, the Western thought was defensive (protecting Polish community against Germanisation); it was only Poland's independence regained in 1918 that provided certain conditions for implementation of its threads. The Western programme, sometimes called 'the Piast territorial concept' for Poland as a state, emphasised the regaining by Poland of broad access to the Baltic Sea, re-Polonisation of Silesia, seizure of East Prussia; finally, after 1945, it became an element of Polish *raison d'état*.

The present volume contains as many as forty-four articles. Its first section discusses the major exponents of Western thought (e.g. publicist Adam Doboszyński, historian Zygmunt Wojciechowski, journalist Józef Kisielewski). The second section describes particular Western-oriented concepts in various milieus and political groups (Piłsudski's supporters, followers of Christian

Democracy, popular movement, socialist movement, and émigré milieus after 1945). For the Western thought was conceived within the National Democracy, and was later on taken over by other political traditions, the communist option included (yet, the communist authority's readiness to quit any claim to the Eastern Borderland of pre-war Poland came across resistance from a part of the society). Section three shows diverse aspects of implementation of the Western programme: its institutional enforcers, such as the Polish Western Institute, and Catholic Church, are portrayed; propaganda actions, settlement policy in 'the Recovered Territories', how the image of these lands was created in school textbooks and tourist guides, historical and archaeological research pursued on the origins of Polish nation and state are all discussed, alongside other aspects. The regional studies contributing to this volume mainly focus on the West and Central Pomerania. (BK)

Barbara Klasa, *Obraz Polski i Polaków w historiografii amerykańskiej XIX i początków XX wieku* [The image of Poland and Poles in the American historiography of the 19th and early 20th century], Gdańsk, 2012, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, 314 pp., bibliog., indices

American researchers applied their original and penetrating studies to the history of Poland and Central Europe only in the latter half of the twentieth century. Risking a generalisation, the subject-matter came across a wider response among readers only after the communist system collapsed, save for the community of immigrants from the region. As stated by Archibald C. Coolidge, quoted by the author, Voltaire's *History of Charles XII, King of Sweden*, written in mid-eighteenth century, remained the basic source of educated Americans' knowledge about Poland and Russia in the second half of the nineteenth century. Experts tended to be content with Claude Carloman de Rulhière's *Histoire de l'Anarchie de Pologne et du Démembrement de cette République* (early 19th c.). This is not to say that U.S. authors were not interested in the history of Poland at all; traces of their interest have been penetratingly analysed by Barbara Klasa.

Her book has three parts; the first analyses the general horizon of historical interests and knowledge of educated Americans before WWI. Emphasised is the fact that national history was at the centre, as it long held its legitimising/ideological function for the young American republic. The first significant impulse triggering interest in the history of Poland among non-specialists was the publication of Henryk Sienkiewicz's historical trilogy as translated by Jeremiah Curtin (from 1888 on), furnished by U.S. editors with extensive historical introduction.

The second section meticulously reconstructs academic studies on Poland, fragments of university textbooks, synthetic historical studies as well as journalistic-and-travel accounts. The focus here is mostly on three monographs of the history of Poland written in that period in the U.S.: Luther C. Saxton's *The Fall of Poland* (1851), Louis van Normen's *Poland the Knight among Nations* (1907), and Nerin O. Winter's *Poland of To-Day and Yesterday* (1913).

The last, analytical section deals with issues of the Polish history which the author believes to have been subject to insightful discussions among American historians, and the images of Copernicus, Kościuszko and King John III Sobieski – the three Poles most frequently referred to in these writings. This is doubtless the most interesting part of the book, in cognitive and intellectual terms. The author notes the function performed by mentions and discussions on Poland in U.S. historical narrative, emphasising the role of political and religious views and opinions of the authors under study. The repute that Poles enjoyed as freedom fighters aroused unquestioned affection, which was, unfortunately, counterbalanced by an adverse attitude toward the political system of the pre-partitions Commonwealth. These issues offered the American historians an opportunity for considerations, spun in the spirit of their time, on the national character and the differences between Poles, on the one hand, and Russians and Germans, on the other, as well as for proposing democratic declarations. 'The Polish anarchy' functioned as a political warning especially for the first generation of American professional historians, writing their works with domestic political-systemic discussions in mind. Hence, the question of the 'doom and fall' of the former Commonwealth was the focus of interest, as a demonstrative lesson of political philosophy. Added to it, Protestant religiosity played an important part – an attitude that suggested to certain historians that they perceived the partitions of Poland as having occurred "for the good of mankind", as the author of *Universal History Americanized* put it: what he meant was Commonwealth dwellers getting protected against Catholic integrimism. On the other hand, their Christian zeal enabled the American historians to idealise Sobieski, and the Polish-Lithuanian state in general, as the defender of Christianity against Islam.

B. Klasa's book is unique in Polish historiographic history, one major aspect being the historiographical output other than Polish being the subject-matter. As far as the study's concept and intellectual background is concerned, it may be regarded as a follow-up of Marian Henryk Serejski's *Europa a rozbiory Polski* (1970), the classical study Ms. Klasa refers to many a time. It therefore may be regretted that comparative issues were not exploited at more length – be it in the sections on 'national character', the political system of Poland-Lithuania, or the inter-ethnic relations. This would have allowed to reconstruct and analyse the American historians' views on Polish

history and, furthermore, to plot them on the mental and intellectual map of American historiography. (AK)

Janusz Cisek, *Granice Rzeczypospolitej i konflikt polsko-bolszewicki w świetle amerykańskich raportów dyplomatycznych i wojskowych, 1919–1921* [The frontiers of the Polish Republic and the Polish-Bolshevik conflict in the light of U.S. diplomatic and military reports, 1919–1921], Kraków, 2012, Księgarnia Akademicka, 324 pp., bibliog., indices

Are Poles up to independent existence?, was the question commonly reappearing in the circles of international diplomacy, particularly when the revived country got entangled in yet another conflict with its neighbours. Czechoslovakia appeared against this background as an oasis of socio-political stability, peace-and-quiet, plenty, and ethnic order. The ‘canonically Polish’ interpretations had until then approached such opinions as resulting from a disorientation of the international opinion. Regardless of interpretation, it remains a fact that Poland’s diplomatic position was much degenerated at that time. The dissertation by Janusz Cisek, Director of the Jozef Pilsudski Institute and of the Museum of the Polish Army, is composed of ten chapters on problems related to the Polish-Bolshevik conflict of 1919–20. Described are a dozen-or-so episodes, showing the shaping of the United States’ policy toward the revived Poland. One finds in this study quite a quantity of new material which, it seems, is first seeing the light of day. Although the U.S. supported Poland at the time, the American evaluations of specific advancements made by Polish authorities against the Bolsheviks were far from being unambiguously sympathetic. The study meticulously records the intra-American circulation of information concerning Poland; at some strategic points, indicated is the evolution of the U.S. stances, the role of individual diplomats, the place and significance of anti-Semitic pogroms taking place at the time in the Polish territory, as well as the known mission of Hugh Gibson, of which a few Polish historians have already written. Another topic is the role of anti-Bolshevik hysteria, called the Red Scare, whose importance extended to U.S.’s home policy. J. Cisek’s study is worth of attention owing to a systematic reconnaissance through American archives. It performs slightly weaker, though, when confronted with the American literature on the Administrations of Woodrow Wilson and, subsequently, Herbert Hoover – the U.S. Presidents during whose term the events under discussion occurred. The book’s narration, somewhat overloaded with facts, chronologically reaches the Polish-Bolshevik negotiations in Minsk and Riga in 1921. (GK)

Mikołaj Mirowski, *Rewolucja permanentna Lwa Trockiego. Między teorią a praktyką* [Leon Trotsky's permanent revolution: Theory versus practice], foreword by Adam Michnik, Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo DiG, 480 pp., bibliog., tables, ill., index

The study by Mikołaj Mirowski, a Lodz-based young historian and historical publicist, mostly attempts at coping with a legend, rather than offering an actual intellectual biography of one of the fathers of the Bolshevik revolution. Thus, a reconstruction of a myth is carried out, which does not verify the dominant image of the figure of Trotsky as grounded in the literature. The study is, consequently, of a popularised-scientific sort. As a result, the image of Trotsky outlined in it is unambiguous and free of moral entanglements the protagonist actually tended to fall into. There are nine comprehensive, thematically arranged chapters, with Trotsky's biography being subordinated to an ideological project. The author has risked embarking on a pretty interesting narrative concept as he resolved to almost entirely subordinate the character's personal life to the cause he devoted himself to. There is a certain trait of haste identifiable in some places of this study, with certain important episodes being dealt with superficially. Regrettably, the author has not approached the Polish motifs in Trotsky's biography with more depth. The 1919–20 Polish-Bolshevik war appears virtually instantaneously: the time when the image of Trotsky assumed in Polish journalistic writing and caricature cartoons the proportions of a worldwide daemon. What has been said so far is not to downplay the study under review, which I perceive in generally positive terms. A glossary of terms is attached. (GK)

Mariusz Wołos, *O Piłsudskim, Dmowskim i zamachu majowym. Dyplomacja sowiecka wobec Polski w okresie kryzysu politycznego 1925–1926* [Piłsudski, Dmowski, and the May Coup: The Soviet diplomacy's approach to Poland during the political crisis of 1925–1926], Kraków, 2013, Wydawnictwo Literackie, 472 pp., bibliog., ill., index

Professor Mariusz Wołos, of the Nicolaus Copernicus University of Toruń and the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, is currently one of the most outstanding experts in the Second Republic among Polish middle-generation historians, specialising in the history of Polish-Soviet relations. His recently published study, approachable to read, consists of seven rather ample chapters. The main task the scholar set for himself was to present the position of the Soviet diplomatic service with respect to Poland in the years 1925–6, and to show the mechanisms of operation of Soviet

diplomacy in the period between the fall of the Government of Prime Minister Władysław Grabski and the stabilisation of the *Sanacja* regime in Poland. The study is factual, in the first place. Its main advantage is the extensive source base, consisting of documents from Russian archives (e.g. the Foreign Policy Archive of the Russian Federation and the Russian State Archive of Social-Political History, both Moscow-based). With his own long years' experience of Russia, the author is excellently versed in Russian historical literature concerning the period in question, which is not as obvious a credential with Polish historians in general. Discussion with contemporary Russian historiography remains one of the valuable aspects of the study under review. The book features a number of period-related photographs, many of which have not been known. The book was awarded the prestigious Klio historical prize as a scholarly monograph of the year 2013. (GK)

Konrad Zieliński, *O Polską Republikę Rad. Działalność polskich komunistów w Rosji Radzieckiej 1918–1922* [For a Polish Soviet Republic: The activities of Polish communists in Soviet Russia, 1918–1922], Lublin, 2013, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, 352 pp., bibliog., indices, English and Russian sum.

The almost two 'lean' decades are now followed by Polish historiography taking an interest again in the October Revolution. Biographies of protagonists of those events and thematic monographs that do not reduce the issues in question to an ideological libel have recently appeared. Professor Konrad Zieliński of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, an outstanding expert in Polish-Jewish relations and author of several very important books on this topic (e.g. *Stosunki polsko-żydowskie na ziemiach Królestwa Polskiego w czasie pierwszej wojny światowej* [The Polish-Jewish relations in the Kingdom-of-Poland lands during WWI], 2006), this time describes probably one of the most mysterious episodes in the history of Polish communist movement. The author adroitly problematises the major issues Polish communists in Russia dealt with during the Bolshevik upheaval, until the first years of the Soviet authority. The study focuses around three basic subject-matters: the place and role of Polish communists in the Bolshevik coup, and shortly afterwards; the role, activity, and real influence of the Provisional Polish Revolutionary Committee (abbr. TKRP) and its branch organisations in the course of the Polish-Bolshevik War of 1919–20 and afterwards, during the peace bargaining in Riga; and, the communists' activities among the Polish diaspora in Soviet Russia. The monograph is arranged thematically and chronologically. The activities and operations pursued by the communists

among the Polish community were, apparently, versatile; their social and charity facet: supporting and assisting POW camp inmates as well as nursing home attendees, and Polish colonies scattered across Bolshevik Russia, seems to be the least recognised aspect. The author has excellently captured and described the political and social diversification of the Polish diaspora. The Zieliński's book, for reasons quite obvious, attempts at coping with the myth of the bloody tormentor Felix Dzerzhinsky, and with a daemonic image of the leading revolutionary activists who in the summer of 1920 were ready to install a 'soviet republic' in Poland. Perhaps more importantly, however, K. Zieliński has noticed fair independence of the Polish communists from the Bolshevik authority, including in the time they were creating the TKRP. An extensive bibliography of relevance to the subject, in multiple languages, spanning almost thirty pages, has been appended. (GK)

Zdzisław Iłski, *Formuła wyborcza u progu Niepodległej Polski (do 1922 r.)* [The electoral formula on the verge of Independent Poland (until 1922)], Toruń, 2013, Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, 547 pp., bibliog., index

Zdzisław Iłski is a political scientist and political thought historian associated with the Wrocław University of Technology, with special research interest in the functioning of modern political systems, the history and today's praxes of political parties and movements, the impacts of the press and other mass media. In his most recent book, he deals with an issue situated somewhere in between the history of political systems and political history – the problems Polish historians do not very often tend to tackle. There are nine comprehensive chapters: the first is on European electoral systems in the early twentieth century; chapters 2 to 7 offer the related reflexion of the respective Polish political formations – from National Democracy, through the conservative milieus, peasant and Christian-democratic movements, as well as progressive-democratic movement, up to socialists, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The last two chapters discuss the election legislation and draft electoral laws for the reinstated Poland, including the two major documents of relevance: the Electoral Law of 28 November 1918 and the electoral formula set forth by the Constitution of March 1921. An advantage of the study under review is an accurate juxtaposition and confrontation of the legislation of the partitioning powers and the visions proposed by Polish politicians of various camps. The author gets about these issues artfully and with skill. A less successful aspect of this study is its catalogue of research queries, proposing no new look on the origins and beginnings of the Second Republic, as perceived from such a peculiar perspective. Detailed

descriptions of election-law solutions are, unfortunately, accompanied by a secondary discussion on the very political system of the emerging revived Poland. However, the study is much of use, if not simply indispensable, for scholars specialising in the period. (GK)

Jarosław Tomaszewicz, *Naprawa czy zniszczenie demokracji? Tendencje autorytarne i profaszystowskie w polskiej myśli politycznej 1921–1935* [Democracy: improved, or destroyed? Authoritarian and pro-fascist tendencies in Polish political thought, 1921–1935], Katowice, 2012, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego, 480 pp., bibliog., index, English and German sum.

This study penned by Jarosław Tomaszewicz, political scientist and political thought historian associated with the Silesian University, is composed of sixteen chapters, preceded by a methodological introduction. Although the monograph describes the whole camp of Piłsudski supporters, the peasants' movement, with all its factions, and a few socialist groups, it forms the first synthetic study on the Polish interwar Right, especially its extremist and fascist currents, deemed by the author to be marginal in the political scene. There is a paradox to it, for it ensues from the study under review that the diverse nationalist(ic) movements, including the most extremist of them, flourished in the very centre of public life throughout the two interwar decades – although they could manifest their heyday only during the political crisis of the late 1920s. It is out of the question that not every type of rightist radicalism can be named 'fascist'. It has to be considered, however, whether Tomaszewicz has accurately interpreted the enormous documentary resource he has gathered and fastidiously analysed. Clearly, to comprehend the phenomena of that period, one needs to reach beyond the well-trodden paths of canonical interpretations, the first step for which would be reliable comparative studies going beyond the history of Poland: this aspect is probably the book's severest shortcoming. Furnished with a detailed list of sources and reference literature used, the book – in spite of any deficits – is certainly of use as the best introduction to the subject of research existing so far in Polish literature. (GK)

Jarosław Macała, *Między polityką idei a polityką interesu. Życie polityczne II RP w myśli środowisk katolickich* [Between a politics of ideas and interest-pursuing politics: The political life of the Second Republic of Poland in the thought of Catholic circles], Toruń, 2012, Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, 237 pp., bibliog.

The so-called Catholic politics remained in Poland in its infancy throughout the two interwar decades, in contrast to the high position of the Catholic Church. The book by Jarosław Macała, professor at the University of Zielona Góra, one of today's most eminent specialists in activities of Catholic groups in the Second Republic, deals with this particular political camp. There are five chapters: 'The politics'; 'The visions of relations between the rights and obligations of citizens'; 'Catholic citizen: passive, or engaged?' "Anything is tolerable within one's own camp whilst almost everything is dispraised in the opponents": 'The political life evaluated'; 'The concept of the so-called Catholic party'. The whole thing is clear and approachable. The work, as it seems, aspires to propose a synthetic summary of its author's existing output.

J. Macała outlines, overall, a rather pessimistic image of political Catholicism. Compared to the competitive electoral machinery of the National Democracy, Catholic formations did not ever create an alternative political option that could matter. Catholic milieus failed throughout the twenty years between the World Wars to work out a homogenous 'Catholic party' formula; neither did they ever have a politician of statesman format – although, as Macała confirms, these groups periodically saw in their ranks quite a number of the Republic's significant figures. By the late twenties, Catholic formations became merely the object of brutal struggle for influence between National Democrats and the Józef Piłsudski camp. This being the case, the Catholic association life fared much better. The author tries to grasp what was essential about this, altogether astonishing, disaster of 'Catholic politicality', which has been evident particularly when compared to the role of similar organisations in Austria, or even in Czechoslovakia. He tries to present the objectives and purposes, incentives and limitations of the 'Catholic policy'. The book should definitely become part of reference resource for experts in the history of the Second Republic's political life. (GK)

Krzysztof Stępnik, *Publicystyka polityczna w Polsce (1926–1939)* [Political writing in Poland, 1926–1939], Warszawa, 2012, Wydawnictwo DiG, 290 pp.

Authored by Krzysztof Stępnik, a prominent literary scholar, recently active primarily as editor of manifold collections of studies on distinguished figures

of Polish culture of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century (e.g. Eliza Orzeszkowa, Aleksander Świętochowski, Andrzej Strug), this study is explicit in its unorthodox approach. Two sections, including six comprehensive essays, analyse and propose new readings of texts, mainly books, and some renowned articles, of more than twenty remarkable authors. These authors include publicists and intellectuals from, chiefly, the right side and the centre of Polish political scene. The proposed attempt at innovative analysis of texts, at reaching for their core message, showing the structures of thinking, as well as rhetorical techniques often not realised by the authors themselves (and, for instance, handling historical argumentation, regardless of one's political-ideological affiliation), is formally interesting but adds no new element to our knowledge on the two interwar decades. A grain of goodwill would have allowed to observe, within such a particular section of the interwar-period journalism and political writing, the choices being made by the central protagonists and the tensions experienced by the Polish political scene at the time. The question is, was a purpose so defined worth the whole effort put into such, sometimes meticulous, analysis of the texts? The author composes neologisms showing analytical ambition (such as *faszofile* ['fasho-philés']) or uses established descriptions, e.g. *mocarstwowcy* ('power status adherents'), in an astonishing and misleading way. This is true for publicists of the late *Sanacja* period whom the author rather vaguely describes as *mocarstwowcy*, who in the book are neighbours with the *statyści* ('dummies'). Among the latter, we nonetheless meet e.g. Adam Skwarczyński, who was otherwise one of the main ideologists of the 'power-oriented' evolution of the Piłsudski camp. Instead of making it easier for the reader to comprehend the political splits of the interwar period, such a tangle of confused terms produces, rather, an effect of conjuring the period's social-political reality. While being in itself an interesting exercise in managing literary conventions and rhetorical devices, it finally gives a rather meagre result. The final conclusions, pretty conventional as they are, prove to be of a faint heuristic value. (GK)

Marek Kornat, *Polityka zagraniczna Polski 1938–1939. Cztery decyzje Józefa Becka* [Poland's foreign policy in 1938–1939: The four decisions of Józef Beck], Gdańsk, 2012, Wydawnictwo Oskar, Muzeum II Wojny Światowej, 626 pp., bibliog., indices, English sum.

Professor Marek Kornat of the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, ranks among the most eminent researchers in the field of Polish diplomatic service of the former half of the twentieth century. In his recent study, he revisits the problems appearing in his earlier books: the dilemmas

faced by Polish diplomatic service in the late 1930s. The study consists of seven thematic chapters tracing the main currents of the policy pursued by Józef Beck, the Second Republic's last foreign minister. A reliable presentation of the dilemmas of Polish governing elite in view of the escalating tension in international relations, as last disputed in historical journalism and elsewhere, is the book's basic virtue. Recapitulated is the Polish perception of the way to a conflict, and the stances of the main players on the period's international scene are quoted: those of Germans, Russians, Britons, Frenchmen, plus countries involved in political disputes of the time – e.g. Czechoslovakia. Overall, the monograph is a powerful and important voice in the countrywide and international discussion on the role of Poland in the years immediately preceding the outbreak of WWII. (GK)

Paweł Duber, *Działalność polityczna Kazimierza Świtalskiego w latach 1926–1939* [The political activities of Kazimierz Świtalski, between 1926 and 1939], Poznań, 2013, Wydawnictwo Poznańskie, 506 pp., bibliog.

A *Sanacja*-camp politician, Kazimierz Świtalski, was one of the important figures in Polish politics in the first half of the thirties' decade. Chief of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, Prime Minister (a number of times) and, finally, Voivode of Lesser Poland, an office he held until WWII began, he has certainly deserved a complete biography – the need that has been identified several times after 1989. A few historians specialising in the Second Republic have recently dealt with Świtalski, of which noteworthy are two political biographies by the young historians Jerzy Łukasiewicz and Tomasz Serwatka. Presently, the monograph penned by Paweł Duber is mainly a political biography, for a change. The author has posed a somewhat more modest task for himself, tracing K. Świtalski's activities in the last years of the Republic, especially when compared against the other politicians of the so-called Colonels Group. From the earliest years of his career, Świtalski became famous as the one who was exposed by his patron Józef Piłsudski to grapple on the toughest fronts. The Lodz historian's study shows an eminent politician who nonetheless did not manage to build a power base for himself throughout his career, in spite of having around him a number of talented and devoted men. The posterity has perceived him as Walery Slawek's man. P. Duber's study could be read as a contextual biography of the generation concerned. The monograph well describes the mechanisms of operation of the late *Sanacja* formation. The author sometimes goes astray with historical details, getting into academic polemics with his predecessors, which does not produce the best effect possible. Once this elaborate reconstruction of a fragment

of a political biography has been read, the question crops up: is Kazimierz Świtalski really a figure whose biography calls for being reinstated among the reading public and for purposes of general historical awareness? (GK)

Mateusz Rodak, *Mit a rzeczywistość. Przystępczość osób narodowości żydowskiej w II Rzeczypospolitej. Casus województwa lubelskiego* [The myth and the reality: Crime and criminality in the Jewish community of the 2nd Republic of Poland. The case of Lublin Voivodeship], Warszawa, 2013, Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne, Instytut Historii PAN, Wydawnictwo Neriton, 214 pp., bibliog., index, English sum.

This study, written by Mateusz Rodak, a young-generation historian of the Warsaw-based Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, touches one of the major taboos of the social history of the Second Republic. The financially impaired and culturally marginalised peripheries of any society have always been breeding crime, and will always do so. This being the background, criminal offences – somewhat as in criminal literature – form a mirror for the society to look at itself. This is true also for Jews, whose alleged criminal inclinations ranked among the most popular motifs in anti-Semitic rhetoric, at least from the middle of the nineteenth century onwards. M. Rodak's book is, throughout, of relevance and to-the-point. Unsolved criminal puzzles that fascinated the public opinion in the interwar Poland, or sensational Pitaval-like news are rarely quoted. Instead, the author analyses aspects of social pathologies, mostly neglected to date, related to the special position of minority groups in a national state of the former half of the twentieth century. These themes and issues most frequently tend to be omitted in the main current of public life and rarely making headlines. Rodak investigates them without being intrusively exhibitionistic; neither does he ideologise the phenomena under discussion. Apart from expertly problematising the issue, conscientiously dissecting the accrued stereotypes, this study also offers a methodically surveyed case study from the Second Republic's social history: the pre-war Lublin Voivodeship. The proposed analysis of the rich source material provided by local archives is worth of respect and appreciation (the archives of Lublin, Siedlce, Chełm and Zamość have been used, along with those of Warsaw – including a few institutional archives, e.g. the Jewish Historical Institute archive). Capable use has been made of period's press, nationwide and local, along with diverse memoirist compilations. M. Rodak has moreover entered a discussion with reference literature. The book is equipped with relevant crime and criminality statistics. (GK)

Agnieszka Wróbel, *Żydzi w Gdyni w latach 1926–1939* [The Jews of Gdynia in 1926–1939], Toruń, 2013, Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, 192 pp., bibliog.

This brief monograph by a young author (first printed 2005, in a small number of copies; the present edition being the second) describes an interesting case of the Jewish community in the town of Gdynia in the interwar period. The book owes its originality, in some measure, to the scene of action: the city that, owing to strategic reasons, was granted in the Second Republic a peculiar status of the Polish ‘window on the world’. The monograph’s initial caesura was set by the granting of city rights to Gdynia by Prime Minister Aleksander Skrzyński (10 Feb. 1926) which actually marked the beginning of Jewish community in the town (a scant number of Jews had dwelled in Gdynia before WWI). The outbreak of WWII provides the conclusive caesura. Let us appreciatively remark that the author has managed to gather a series of fascinating pieces of information concerning the history of the local Jewish community numbering some 6,000. The book maintains an even proportion of the social and political history and the history of culture, whilst never going anecdotic, and offering no illusion of multiculturalism – an otherwise common trait with such region-centred studies written from our contemporary perspective. It is to the advantage of this unpretentious monograph that, with a conscientious approach, it ably extracts the phenomenon of a community that, originally enjoying an equal status – which was somewhat based on a social experiment of the early *Sanacja* government (full equality of Jewry in the Second Republic area was only clinched in 1931) – gradually becomes an object of stigmatization from the nationalistic Right and, subsequently, a *de facto* fourth-class people. Thus, this history of Gdynia Jews makes a genuine contribution to the socio-political history of the Second Republic. A short but quite supportive bibliography is attached. (GK)

Stanisław Sierpowski, *Studia z historii Włoch XX wieku* [Studies in the history of twentieth-century Italy], Instytut Historii UAM, Poznań, 2012, 448 pp., bibliog., index, series: Publikacje Instytutu Historii UAM, 109

This volume of studies by Poznań historian Stanisław Sierpowski, a scholar specialising, inter alia, in the history of Italy in the twentieth century, contains his essays from 1976–2012, first published in various magazines. Of the nineteen texts, only one is now published for the first time. Not all of them prove to be evergreen; those going out of date the soonest concern the history of Italian fascism – the field in which Sierpowski had once won his spurs. Time

runs relentlessly especially for the works from the 1970s and 1980s. Most of the valuable material, which has not gone out of date, can, in turn, be found in the essays describing the Polish-Italian relations in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century (incl. the opening article titled 'The Italian response to the children's strike of Września, 1901', and 'Italy and the Polish-German Declaration of 1934'). These topics have been systematically investigated by this author for some fifty years now, Sierpowski being one of the few such Polish scholars. With Italy's incomparably culturally higher position and place in the imagination of the Polish intellectual class, compared to Poland's position in Italy, the contacts between the two countries were not thoroughly one-way. The studies of Sierpowski, including the articles: 'The first official representatives of Italy in Poland-under-revival', and 'Polish-Italian relations against the background of the interwar Europe', have shown why this was the case: a valuable reminder for all those interested. (GK)

Jarosław Pałka, Machteld Venken, and Krzysztof Marcin Zalewski, *Żołnierze generała Maczka. Doświadczenie i pamięć wojny* [General Maczek's soldiers: The experience and memory of the war], afterword by Joanna Wawrzyniak and Piotr Filipkowski, Gdańsk and Zakrzewo, 2013, Muzeum II Wojny Światowej, Wydawnictwo Replika, 374 pp., indices, bibliog., 27 biographical notes of the Witnesses, ill., English sum.

The 1st Armoured Division was formed in February 1942 in the UK as a follow-up to the Polish Armoured Cavalry Brigade (*10ème Brigade de cavalerie blindée*) that campaigned in 1940 in France; General Stanisław Maczek was the commander of both formations. Between July 1944 and April 1945, the 1st Division's trail of battles set off from Normandy, and went through Belgium and Holland, up to Wilhelmshaven. The book concisely describes the armed formation's history, the focus being the accounts of its twenty-seven soldiers: fragments of extensive interviews carried out after 2009, the authors having requested the interviewees to possibly extensively describe their lives. The memories have been arranged into three main threads. The first section shows the soldiers' multifarious paths that had led them to the ranks of the Division: its members included veterans of Polish Defence War of 1939, Polish citizens – deportees who exited the Soviet Union in 1942, prisoners of war (Poles from Pomerania and Silesia – former Wehrmacht soldiers, whose proportion in the Division was as high as 38%), and former German camps' inmates liberated in 1944 and 1945. Part two portrays the Division's warfront everyday life: struggles and combats as perceived by rank-and-file soldiers (the Division inflicted severe losses, up to a third of its manning), relationships

with the people being liberated, attitude to German POWs (not always in line with the articles of war), and how they spent their leisure time. The last section is on the soldiers' post-war personal histories (some of those returning to Poland suffered repressive measures from the communist authorities, others chose to settle down in the countries having been liberated with their contribution, or in the UK). The authors have succeeded in painting a strikingly authentic and genuine group portrait of the 'Maczek's men': mostly straight men, thrown once into the whirls of history. (BK)

Tomasz Sikorski and Marcin Kulesza, *Niezlomni w epoce fałszywych proroków. Środowisko 'Tygodnika Warszawskiego' (1945–1948)* [The steadfast ones in an era of false prophets: The milieu of *Tygodnik Warszawski*, 1945–1948], Warszawa and Radzymin, 2013, Wydawnictwo von Borowiecky, 1006 pp., bibliog., index, 15 biographical notes, ills.

Tygodnik Warszawski (1945–8) was an important forum for discussions between Polish publicists and columnists (residing in their home country) after WWII. The weekly's publications pertained to the essential issues of state and nation, which was not easy, given the growing pressure from the communist authority; the periodical was eventually closed down, with many of its authors and editors detained. The contributors included numerous Christian Democrats, followers of the national ideology (National Democrats), social Catholicism, and outstanding clergymen (e.g.: Jerzy Braun, Paweł Jasienica, Stefan Kisielewski, Feliks Koneczny, Władysław Konopczyński, the Rev. Jan Piwowarczyk, Konstanty Turowski, the Rev. Stefan Wyszyński). In spite of the book's title, they did not form one well-knit milieu, and their personal histories after 1948 proved different. Many texts published in the weekly were openly critical toward the Marxist ideology and the practices of the Polish Workers' Party (PPR) which ruled the country. The book offers an anthology of pieces of journalistic writing. The reprinted articles are arranged into four sections, incl.: social Catholicism; social-and-economic conceptions; foreign affairs; the national tradition. The selection of texts is preceded by a broad introduction on the establishment, functioning and liquidation of the weekly. (BK)

Tadeusz Wolsza, *Więzienia stalinowskie w Polsce. System, codzienność, represje* [Stalinist prisons in Poland: The system, its daily routine, and repressive measures], Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo RM, 294 pp., bibliog., indices, ill., maps

Poland's penitentiary system in 1945 to 1956 encompassed three basic types of institutions designed for depriving the citizens of liberty: penitentiaries or penal institutions (penal-and-inquiry, isolation, *etc.*); camps (incl. labour camps, NKVD-run camps, internment camps, *etc.*); and, special Prisoner Labour Centres (OPWs). The system was quite developed and complex, and was often subject to organisational change. A total of 173,000 people were imprisoned as of 1948 – Poles, in the first place, as well as Ukrainians and Germans (the number of the imprisoned was probably the highest past 1945). At least 20,500 of them did not survive till the end of their term, dying resulting from inhuman treatment by the guardians, malnutrition and famine, contagious diseases and epidemics, accidents at work. Based on numerous recollections of former prisoners and archive material, T. Wolsza's book is a synthetic and comparative take of everyday life in the three aforesaid types of detention. Described is the appearance and arrangement of the cells and barracks, internal rules and regulations, ingredients and quality of meals served, types of repressive measures applied by the prison staff, labour conditions, healthcare conditions, ways of spending free time, the most famous escape and rebellion incidents. The most notorious persecutors and tormentors – officers of the Ministry of Public Security, and the most outstanding prisoners – former soldiers of independence-oriented underground movement, are also portrayed in this book. (BK)

Wojciech J. Muszyński (ed.), *Komunistyczne amnestie lat 1945–1947 – drogi do 'legalizacji' czy zagłady?* [Amnesties declared by the Polish communist regime in 1945–1947: Were they the ways to 'legalisation' or annihilation?], Warszawa, 2012, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, 512 pp., ill., index, appendix (33 documents)

The post-war armed Underground and conspiratorial movement were the factors that destabilised the activities of communist authorities; normally fought back by force of arms, they were also controlled by other methods, such as amnesties. Resulting from the amnesty declared in August 1945, 40,000 people disclosed themselves, 4,900 were released from detentions and prisons (some capital-punishment convicts being pardoned). The opportunity

of the amnesty law of February 1947 was used by 76,500 people, with 20,500 released from custody or prison. Still, amnesty was not an ordinary legal measure meant to have a say in stabilisation of the authority and to reinforce its legitimisation, or collect the banned weapons; the other purpose such actions served was to gather manifold information from those who decided to surface. The knowledge thus gained enabled the security services to prepare further repressive measures against the opponents of the new political system and the remaining conspirers. The book under review contains fourteen studies on various aspects of the policies pursued in this respect by Polish early post-war authorities. A few of the articles are regional studies. One deals with the legendary Home Army colonel Jan Mazurkiewicz, *nom-de-guerre* 'Radosław', who in 1945 made a public appeal to the Underground soldiers to disclose themselves, which cost him a charge of betrayal. The highest number of those taking advantage of the pardon option was recorded for the Lublin Voivodeship. The least trustful attitude appeared among partisan fighters associated with the national movement. Amnesty did not extend to certain political crimes, regarded as the gravest – i.e. what was described as 'espionage'. Although amnesty regulations were not always applied in accordance with the principles of law-and-order, they allowed, at least temporarily, to diminish the severity of repression in the political system being installed in Poland at that time. At the same time, the amnesties broke the united front of the regime's opponents and deepened the divisions within Underground organisations. (BK)

Ewelina Szpak, *Mentalność ludności wiejskiej w PRL. Studium zmian* [The mentality of the rural population in the People's Republic of Poland: A study in its changes], Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Scholar, 310 pp., bibliog.

This book is an ambitiously envisioned analysis of the changes in the attitudes and in the mores and morals of Polish countryside population in the period 1945–89. Founded upon an extensive source base, the study has taken special advantage of personal documents (memoirs, diaries, letters to editorial boards of periodicals for farmers). The author has moreover prepared a total of twenty-three in-depth biographical interviews with rural residents of West Pomerania, Lublin region, and Podlachia. The book moreover makes a broad use of the outcome of sociologic and ethnographic research. Among the many subject-matters and issues touched upon by E. Szpak are the process of individuation and privatisation of everyday life, the development of the idea of leisure time in agricultural population and the ways of its use, changes in the marriage contraction rules, democratisation of the relationships between

the parents and their children, change in the attitude toward one's own body and to diseases (including mental – those affected suffered rejection from their local community to a gradually weaker extent, as a general trend), and decline of folk methods of explaining natural phenomena. The farmer's job gradually ceased in the post-war years to be perceived as a stroke of fate, becoming instead a deliberate professional choice. Although rural religiosity was subject to considerable change, it nonetheless eventually saved its folk community peculiarity in the period under analysis. (BK)

Arnold Kłoczyński, *My w Szwecji nie porastamy mchem... Emigranci z Polski w Szwecji w latach 1945–1980* [Here in Sweden, we have gathered no moss... Polish émigrés in Sweden, 1945–1980], Gdańsk, 2012, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, 473 pp., index, bibliog., English sum.

The number of immigrants from Poland (i.e. Polish citizens, rather than just ethnic Poles) in Sweden was growing throughout the post-war period. 1945 saw Sweden receive in its territory a dozen thousand-or-so Polish citizens, former concentration camp inmates (the vast majority being female), incl. 6,000 to 7,000 Jews, as part of the rescue action. Most of them took the advantage of a few months' treatment and recovery, and eventually returned to Poland, but some decided to stay in Sweden. The following years witnessed no other groups than labour émigrés and refugees (e.g. sailors) – that is, mainly unskilled workers – coming in. Political refugees appeared in that country in the aftermath of 1968: this category consisted of some 3,000 to 3,500 Polish Jews, most of whom were well educated (for instance, 12% of them were physicians, 8% engineers, 7% teachers; a separate chapter describes this particular subgroup). In the 1970s, females prevailed among those immigrating from Poland (seeking marriage opportunities). As of 1980, on the eve of a new immigration wave (caused by political change in Poland – the 'Solidarność Carnival' period, followed by the martial law), Sweden housed 20,000 residents from Poland. A. Kłoczyński's book shows the major aspects of the minority's functioning in their settlement country. Poles generally tended to assimilate well. The book describes in detail the organisational and associational life, and the Polish-language educational system. Specified is the employment and prosperity data for the Polish minority; various symptoms of the community's cultural life, and the scale of crime caused or induced by this community are discussed. Sweden hosted Polish political organisations and parties: related to the Polish emigration hub in the UK, they mostly assumed a strongly anticommunist stance, one example being the Lvov Circle (*Koło Lwowski*). This is one of the reasons why

Sweden became, from 1976 onwards, one of the countries that strongly supported the political opposition in Poland. Kłonczyński has also researched the role of Catholic Church parish structures in the lives of Polish émigrés, and the directions along which Polish communist intelligence services operated with respect to these structures and Polish community members (inclining them to return home, surveillance, observation of political actions aimed against the People's Republic). Instances of footprint left in Swedish public life by Polish émigrés were rather unique (some journalists, or the editor and publisher Adam Bromberg, being such rare specimens). (BK)

Konrad Rokicki (ed.), *Jan Józef Lipski z perspektywy XXI wieku* [Jan Józef Lipski, as seen from the 21st-century perspective], Warszawa, 2012, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej, Stowarzyszenie Wolnego Słowa, 166 pp., index

This collection of eight essays portraying Jan Józef Lipski (1926–91), in several of his life roles: as a Home Army soldier and Warsaw Uprising fighter; columnist contributing to *Po Prostu* weekly and participant of meetings of Warsaw intellectual circles (*Klub Krzywego Koła* [the Crooked Circle Club]); researcher with the Institute of Literary Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences; an anticommunist democratic opposition activist. Since 1961, Lipski, an important figure to the post-war history of Polish intelligentsia, was moreover member of 'Copernicus' Freemasonry Lodge (masons were banned in Poland at the time). In the sixties, Lipski, in association with Paweł Jasienica, arranged milieu protest actions in penmen's circles; for instance, the arrangement for a majority of signatures in support of the 'Letter of Thirty-Four [Intellectuals]' against the censorship in March 1964 goes to his credit. 1976 saw him join the leadership team of the Workers' Defence Committee (KOR); he contributed to the organisation's ideological profile and operational tactics (himself acting as a link between dissident milieus, some of them quite distant from one another), and later was active with Trade Union (NSZZ) 'Solidarność' in Masovia. In November 1987, he was part of a group reactivating the Polish Socialist Party (PPS). He was elected Senator in 1989, in the Third Republic of Poland.

The authors (Andrzej Friszke, Andrzej K. Kunert, Tadeusz Ruzikowski, and others) have described Lipski's numerous fields of activity and reconstructed the universe of values this man adhered to (whilst describing himself as a 'lay leftist', J.J. Lipski was regarded by some as 'the conscience of the opposition'). (BK)