

SHORT NOTES*

Acta Poloniae Historica
118, 2018
PL ISSN 0001–6829

GENERAL WORKS

Marek Cetwiński, *Drogi i bezdroża dziejopisarstwa* [Roads and Off-Roads of Historiography], Studio AB, Olsztyn, 2017, 456 pp.

Collections of minor works penned by historians are more and more frequently published in Poland. This is a third such anthology as far as Professor Marek Cetwiński is concerned, offering an edition of scattered articles, the earliest of which was first published in 1992 (the places of original publication are given in the introduction, pp. 7–12). Based in Wrocław and Częstochowa, Cetwiński started his scholarly career with studying the chivalry of Silesia, and proved himself a veritable polyhistor who daringly crosses the rigid limits of historical periods. While small and elusive, his studies are by no means banal. They made us aware how much our view of the past is dependent on the worldview of the historians we draw our knowledge from. At the same time, Cetwiński appears as a methodological purist who exhorts to develop a certain, rather than ‘the only probable’, reconstruction of the past – an exercise that tends to be perceived in ideological terms. He moreover points to a variety of long-living ideological patterns, some of which have persisted since antiquity. Grouped into six parts, the fifty-plus studies collected in the volume form a sort of *silva rerum* – as customary with this author. The first part contains studies on the role of ambition and imagination in the historiography of yore (from Wincenty Kadłubek to Adam Mickiewicz). The second deals with the impact, strong as it is, of past events on the present time. The third is on Upper Silesia; the forth describes ‘histories of ordinary people’. The fifth and penultimate offers reflections on some researchers into the past, from Zorian Dołęga Chodakowski to Karol Modzelewski. In the conclusion, the author seeks to answer the question, ‘What kind of historiography Poland needs these days?’. The answer is, in brief, one that unveils the secrets of its own technique and reliably presents the past conflicts, never attempting to intensify new ones. (RR)

* Authors of short notes: Maria Cieśla (MC), Antoni Grabowski (AG), Bartosz Kaliski (BK), Adam Kożuchowski (AK), Grzegorz Krzywiec (GK), Rafał Rutkowski (RR), Hubert Wilk (HW).

Marcin Wodziński, *Historical Atlas of Hasidism*, cartography by Waldemar Spallek, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 2018, 265 pp.

The Atlas presents, in a completely innovative way, the history of one of the most important religious movements that was active inside Judaism. The history of Hasidism is a very popular subject in Jewish historiography; the existing descriptions did not precisely determine its geographical distribution, though. Inspired by the spatial turn in social sciences, Wodziński presents the history and the present day of Hasidism using spatial terms and references. This research method has enabled to describe a number of unknown aspects of the functioning of Hasidism, and to show how much the movement's spirituality was determined by geography. The atlas is divided into nine chapters, all illustrated by maps and photographs. The first three focus on the emergence of Hasidism and its dispersal, and the grounding of Hasidic dynasties; in this context, the functioning of Hasidic courts has previously mostly been shown from the standpoint of the followers, rather than the *tsaddikim*. The following two chapters discuss the functioning of the Hasidic court and prayer houses in the towns (large and small), with maps showing the locations of prayer houses within the urban topographies and information on the furnishings of these institutions. The subsequent chapter deals with the development of Hasidism in the United States in the first half of the twentieth century. The Polish reader will find the last chapters particularly interesting as they describe the functioning of Hasidic courts in the States after the Second World War, and how they were rooted in the geography and space of pre-war East Central Europe. The development of Hasidism in Israel is analysed separately. (MC)

Krzysztof Tarka, *Miedzy Lachami a Budrysami. Szkice ze stosunków polsko-litewskich w dziejach najnowszych* [Between the Lachs and the Budrys. Essays on Polish-Lithuanian Relations in the Recent History of Both Nations], LTW, Łomianki, 2018, 272 pp.

The collection of a dozen essays penned by a University of Opole historian specialising in Polish political emigration after 1945 renders us better acquainted with a series of important episodes in Polish-Lithuanian history, traced down to the fourteenth century. Based on the existing historiography of Polish-Lithuanian relations, a chronic conflict between the two nations is seemingly identifiable. Tarka seeks to cope with this partial perspective, firstly by recalling the territorial dispute that lasted over almost the entire nineteenth century and after the year 1918 adversely affected the Polish-Lithuanian

relationship. Vilnius is another case in point: the historical capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was finally incorporated into the (recently-emerged) Poland. The Second World War added to the long-drawn-out conflicts new wounds in the historical memory of both countries and nations. As evidenced by the author, both communities strove for resolvedly different, contradicting ends. When in the late eighties and early nineties Poland and Lithuania regained sovereignty and independence, the frozen disputes and resentments opened up. The two countries once again faced the question, 'Confront each other, dig up the past and open up old wounds – or, closely cooperate, collaborate, and ally?'. The study, reliably edited, offers a reconnaissance of the known problems, weighing and balancing the arguments and reasons, and opens up some new perspectives. Such a long-extending historical (re) view, contextualising a neighbourly conflict – also in the European context – is certainly noteworthy. (GK)

MIDDLE AGES

Anna Palusińska (ed.), *Hellenizm a chrześcijaństwo w późnej starożytności i w średniowieczu* [Hellenism and Christianity in Late Antiquity and in the Middle Ages], Wydawnictwo KUL, Lublin, 2017, 151 pp., bibliog., index of persons, Eng. summaries

Six authors from the Catholic University of Lublin have shed some light on the important process of transition from the pagan antiquity to Christian Middle Ages. Their contributions analyse the effort of the Fathers of the Church aimed at adapting the output of antique philosophy to the needs of the new faith. The proposed approach is based on Hellenistic-Byzantine, rather than Latin, premises, though the collection does contain references to the Western cultural circle. The studies deal with the stoic and Christian understanding of divine Providence (the Rev. Tomasz Stępień); the metaphor of statues in the concepts of Plotinus and Origen (Fr. Dydak K. Rycyk, OFM); the philosophy of Themistius (Monika Komsta) and of Gregory Palamas (Anna Palusińska); the rhetoric of Cicero (Artur Mamcarz-Plisiecki); and, the influence of Aristotelian idea of immateriality on Thomas Aquinas (Reet Otsason). Although interesting, the collection is far from exhaustive. The book is furnished with an index, which is rare about Polish multi-author publications. (RR)

Artur Różański (ed.), *Gemma Gemmarum. Studia dedykowane Profesor Hannie Kóćce-Krenz [Gemma Gemmarum. Studies Dedicated to Professor Hanna Kócka-Krenz]*, vols. 1–2, Wydawnictwo Poznańskiego Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Nauk, Poznań, 2017, 1454 pp., ills, *Tabula Gratulatoria*, bibliographies, Eng. summaries

Professor Hanna Kócka-Krenz is an outstanding archaeologist based in Poznań, author of a hundred and a few dozen studies on Baltic goldsmithery, fortifications in Greater Poland (Wielkopolska), and ethnogenesis of the Slavs. The renown she enjoys among Polish historians and archaeologists has now been attested by the monumental commemorative book. The two large volumes, totalling approximately fifteen hundred pages, comprise more than eighty scientific articles. The publication includes four sections, the first portraying Kócka-Krenz as a scholar and scientist, the second offering studies by mediaevalist historians. The third (and largest) part deals with issues related to architecture, the area which is close to the Dedicatee's heart. The last includes articles on various topics, relating mainly to archaeology. The collection is presented in a nice hardback edition. (RR)

Darius von Güttner-Sporzyński, *Święte wojny Piastów* [The Holy Wars of the Piasts], PWN, Warszawa, 2017, pp. 304, bibliog., index of persons

Darius von Güttner-Sporzyński is a mediaevalist at the University of Melbourne. The book was first published in English as *Poland, Holy War, and the Piast Monarchy, 1100–1230* (Turnhout, 2014); the present Polish version does not include the passages that the local readers might find obvious, whilst a regard of the author looking at the history of Poland from an external perspective remains. In contrast to the scholars who earlier on dealt with Polish participation in the Crusades – one of them being Mikołaj Gładysz with his *The Forgotten Crusaders. Poland and the Crusader Movement in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries* (Leiden and Boston, 2012) – Güttner-Sporzyński purposefully uses the category of 'holy war'. Contrasted against 'crusade', the term triggers doubts as it is not source-based and emotion-imbued. Compared to the Gładysz book, the chronology of *The holy wars of the Piasts...* is narrower, limited only to the pre-Teutonic age; its author focuses more on the Baltic Sea region than the Holy Land. Following the introduction, describing how the idea of crusade war developed, presented is the involvement of the Polish rulers in the fight against the Pomeranian, Polabian, and Prussian paganism – and, above all, the eastern expedition of Duke Henry of Sandomierz (d. 1166). It is the latter that Güttner-Sporzyński identifies the mysterious ruler of the

Lechites from John Kinnamos's chronicle with. The footnotes are placed at the book's end, rather than (as customary) on the bottom of each respective page, which does not facilitate the reading. (RR)

Krzysztof Ratajczak, *Szkolnictwo w Wielkopolsce na tle sąsiadów w okresie średniowiecza* [Education and the School System in Medieval Greater Poland Compared with the Neighbour Countries], Wydawnictwo Naukowe UAM, Poznań, 2017, 368 pp., bibliog., indices of names and places, Eng. summary; series: Psychologia i Pedagogika, 254

The study explores education and the school system in mediaeval Greater Poland (Wielkopolska) from adoption of baptism by Duke Mieszko I to the early sixteenth century. The territory under investigation is framed by the Rivers: Noteć, Obra, Prosna, and Warta. The author has made use of numerous documents, including forensic, Church council records and synodal statutes, or benefice records. Of the five chapters, the first deals with the educational activities pursued by the Church with respect to the lay and the clergy in the whole 'Christianitas'. This section offers an introduction as it presents a general panorama of the topic concerned between the third and the sixteenth century. We are told about the syllabuses and monastic legislation in the area of education. The subsequent chapter deals with the reception of this legislation in Poland in the period concerned, including direct reception (at synods and elsewhere) and indirect reception – through foreign studies which confronted the experiences of Wielkopolska residents with the realities of the other lands. Described is also the influence of colonisation, which refers to the arrivals and settlements of foreigners together with their specific experiences and knowledge. Chapter three discusses cathedral and collegiate schools, whereas chapter four describes parish schools. The last chapter concerns monastic schools. The book concludes with a chaotic and unclear annex listing source-based mentions of Greater Poland's schools. The core part of the book looks too-hastily compiled; repetition and information chaos make its reading difficult. The 'neighbour countries' mentioned in the title remain basically undefined, as the book offers no broader view on the situation in the Wielkopolska region as compared with the other provinces or territories. The remarks proposed in the first chapter are not consistently followed up further on in the book. All this makes the study seem carelessly written. (AG)

Błażej Śliwiński, *Ziemomysł Inowrocławski. Książę kujawski. Brat Leszka Czarnego i króla Władysława Łokietka (ok. 1247 – początek października/25 grudnia 1287)* [Ziemomysł of Inowrocław, Duke of Kuyavia. Brother of Leszek the Black and King Ladislaus the Elbow-High (c. 1247 – Early October/25 December 1287)], Avalon, Kraków, 2017, 238 pp., ills, index, bibliog.

In the recent years, Polish publishing market has seen an increasing number of mediaevalist biographies. The ‘premier league’ monarchs were followed by minor rulers, the knowledge about whom is often drawn from single laconic mentions in historical sources. This puts a question mark over the purpose behind framing their activities into the literary genre of biography. Such is the case of the title character of the book under review, penned by Błażej Śliwiński, a mediaevalist from Gdańsk. Ziemomysł was the second son of Kuyavian prince Casimir, son of Conrad (Kazimierz Konradowic), and was definitely outshined by his two brothers, Duke Leszek the Black (Leszek Czarny) and, particularly, Ladislaus the Elbow-high (Władysław Łokietek). As a ruler, he was forced to straddle between Gdańsk Pomerania, the Teutonic Order, and the other provincial dukes, which led to his loss of power for a few years. Ziemomysł lived shortly, and not much is known about him. The scarcity of source material is complemented, wherever possible, with multi-storey hypotheses, non-source-based knowledge, and psychologising. This spirited biography polemises, in particular, against the view of the old historiography whereby the duke supported ‘the German element’. All in all, the argument portrays a ruler who was run-of-the-mill and impressionable. (RR)

Jerzy Sperka and Karol Kollinger (eds.), *Średniowieczni władcy i ich otoczenie* [Medieval Rulers and Their Milieu], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego, Rzeszów, 2018, 384 pp., bibliog.; series: Materiały V Kongresu Mediewistów Polskich, 5

The Fifth Congress of Polish Mediaevalists was held in September 2015 under the slogan ‘Reception and Rejection: Intercultural Contacts in the Middle Ages (for my account on the event, see APH, 112 [2015], pp. 445–7). The proceedings are being published gradually, the consecutive volumes corresponding with the sessions at which thematic papers were delivered. Volume five focuses on the figure of mediaeval ruler and those who were closely related to him (her), and influenced his (her) decisions: officials, clients, and servants. The issues in question are contained in thirteen papers, plus an introductory section by Jerzy Sperka. Apart from Piotr Boroń’s article on Slavic officials second in rank to the ruler, and Michał Pawlak’s text on the

Byzantine physician Demetrios Pepagomenos, all the other articles focus on the late mediaeval history of East Central Europe. (RR)

Norbert Delestowicz, Wojciech Lorek, and Robert T. Tomczak (eds.), *Poczet wielkich mistrzów krzyżackich w Malborku 1309–1457* [A Guide to the Grand Masters of the Teutonic Order at Marienburg, 1309–1457], Avalon, Kraków, 2018, 342 pp., bibliog.

The Order of Brothers of the German House of Saint Mary in Jerusalem emerged in the Holy Land right after the Third Crusade. Once the Order, commonly known as Teutonic, was imported into Prussia in the thirteenth century, it formed a resilient state which played a fundamental role in the history of its neighbours – Poland, Lithuania, and Ruthenia. (In Poland, the Teutonic Order has gone down in history, and become part of common awareness, as *Krzyżacy*.) The book, co-authored by three young historians from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, contains biographical notes of seventeen Grand Masters of the Teutonic Order. The chronological scope has been restricted to the period when the Masters resided at the capital town of Marienburg (today, Malbork in Poland), i.e. 1302 to 1457 – the dates marking the final transferral of the Order's activities into the Baltic region and the Thirteen Years' War, respectively. The list opens with Siegfried von Feuchtwanger (1303–11) and ends with Ludwig von Erlichshausen (1450–67). The biographies are complemented with a useful breakdown of the most important literature. (RR)

Wojciech Mrozowicz (ed.), *Czeska historia Śląska. Ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem Oleśnicy i Księstwa Oleśnickiego* [A Bohemian History of Silesia, with Special Focus on Oleśnica and Dukedom of Oleśnica], EDYCJA – Książki Naukowe i Specjalistyczne, Wrocław and Oleśnica, 2017, 434 pp., illus, bibliog., Eng. summary

On the occasion of the Oleśnica Czech Year 2017, an interesting conference on mediaeval and early modern history of Silesia was held in Oleśnica, under custody of mediaevalists from the University of Wrocław and the Team for the History of Czech and Polish-Czech Relations, Polish Academy of Sciences, and attended by scholars from a number of Polish and Czech centres. The main focus was the Dukedom of Oleśnica, which before the mid-fifteen century was property of a separate line of the Silesian Piasts and subsequently became ruled by the Poděbrad dynasty (Münsterberg; more specifically, Dukedom of Ziębice [Münsterberg] and Oleśnica [Oels]). This

perspective has allowed the more-than-thirty authors to broadly view the clashing Polish-Bohemian influences in the region. The impetus with which the subject-matter is approached and spectrum of the issues concerned are impressive. The volume opens with studies concerning the relations and connections between Silesia and Bohemia in the Middle Ages (eleventh to fourteenth century). The parts two and three deal with the Poděbrad rule in Oleśnica and its portrayal in the old and present-day historiography. Papers on the material heritage of the Dukes of Oleśnica are included at the end. An extensive bibliography of studies on the history of Oleśnica is included. (RR)

Jarosław Nikodem, *Litwa [Lithuania]*, Wydawnictwo Poznańskie, Poznań, 2018, bibliog., 535 pp., 15 ills; series: *Początki Państw*

Penned by Professor Jarosław Nikodem, Poznań-based expert in late mediaeval history of East Central Europe, this rather voluminous book discusses the history of Lithuania from the earliest period until before the Union of Krewo of 1385, in a popular science form. Clearly defining himself as a neopositivist, the author assumes a position with respect to historical discussions going on for dozens of years around the Lithuanian history, thus taking the reader into the origins of the country, its political history and relations with adjacent countries, religious beliefs, and the Grand Ducal dynasty. A chapter on Lithuanian economy would have perhaps been of use as well. One of the advantages of this study is that it renders the reader acquainted with the discussions taking place in Lithuanian historiography, which is not too well known to Polish readers. Written in a vivid, often humorous, language, the book offers quite a pleasant reading experience. (RR)

Dariusz Majewski (ed.), *Pontyfikat. Odzyskana perła płockiego średniowiecza* [The Pontifical: a Pearl of Medieval Płock Retrieved], Płocki Instytut Wydawniczy, Płock, 2016, ills

The book records a conference which was held, under the identical title, on 13 October 2015 – just a few months after the Płock Pontifical, seized by the Germans during the Second World War, was regained. What happened to the Pontifical in the early post-war years is not known. In 1973, it became part of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, which until 2015 refused to return the monument to the rightful owner. The book opens with a text by Wojciech Kowalski, who at the publication date was Plenipotentiary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, describing the legal basis behind the retrieval of the Pontifical and pointing to the historical determinants of restitution of robbed properties. Weronika Liszewska and Jacek Tomaszewski

present an initial codicological and conservational analysis of the monument, describe the look of the Pontifical, the history of its bindings, and propose its palaeographical analysis. A rich set of illustrations to this text is attached at the book's end. The following articles are much more superficial, not penetrating deeply into the research details. Leszek Misiarczyk describes the Pontifical in general terms, discussing its content. The next text, authored by Andrzej Rojewski, concerns the history of pontificals. The musicological aspects of the Płock Pontifical – namely, the songs and scores it contains – are described by the Rev. Andrzej Leleń, a musicologist. Henryk Seweryniak proposes a theological reflection on the Pontifical. Targeted not at historians, the publication mainly seeks to popularise the fact that the Płock Pontifical has been retrieved, rather than to answer scientific or research queries. In contrast to this general purport, the Liszewska and Tomaszewski text points to the need to carry out a thorough research into the Pontifical. (AG)

Jacek Banaszkiewicz, Andrzej Dąbrówka, Halina Manikowska, and Piotr Węcowski (eds.), *Przeszłość w kulturze średniowiecznej Polski* [The Past in the Culture of Medieval Poland], vols. 1–2, Instytut Historii PAN, Wydawnictwo Neriton, Warszawa, 2018, 1356 pp., ills, indices, bibliog.

This monumental study by a team of authors has been compiled based on a several years' grant allotted to the Department of Medieval Studies, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, in collaboration with medievalists from other scientific institutions. Memory of past events has been approached in a comprehensive manner, not only from a purely historiographical perspective but also from the religious, institutional, university-related, and material standpoint. The twenty-one authors discuss the past not as an entity established once for ever but something that is subject to permanent modification by the posterity, the primacy being given to records treated in the past as specious or ideologically infected. The argument is rich and multithreaded, far from a handbook concept. Proposed are new views on sources that seemingly are well recognised – one example being an analysis of Gallus Anonymus's chronicle in the contexts of dynastic histories (Jacek Banaszkiewicz) or chivalric epic (Witold Wojtowicz; and, from a different perspective, Wojciech Michalski). There are studies on much lesser-known works, to mention the thirteenth-century chronicle of Alberic of Trois-Fontaines (Antoni T. Grabowski) or certain late mediaeval annals (Banaszkiewicz). Zbigniew Dalewski makes a reckless, and fairly successful, attempt at engraining the monarchial ideology of the first Piasts in the Old Testament tradition. Piotr Węcowski, Jerzy Kaliszuk and Marcin Starzyński write about royal treasures, Church and municipal archives. Andrzej Dąbrówka, Jakub Kubieniec, Anna

Zajchowska, Maciej Zdanek, Halina Manikowska and Dorota Gacka trace the dispersed tracks of the past in liturgical and university texts as well as in sermons and hagiographies. Volume two appears even more unobvious and astonishing, primarily because of its source base. Halina Manikowska, the editor, refers to 'the past in action', actualised in communication and social relations. The studies comprised in this volume discuss the coronation ritual (Dalewski), relics of saints, testimonies made at courts (Manikowska; the latter article with Adam Kozak), prayer recollections (Roman Michałowski), municipal documents (Piotr Okniński), and monastic communities (Michał Tomaszek); Paweł Włodkowic's writings are elaborated by Wojciech Brojer, and the identity of the Jewish diaspora is discussed by Hanna Zaremska. One can be certain that the publication will soon become a classical and permanent point of reference for researchers in the history of Poland. Both volumes are available free of charge online. (RR)

Paweł A. Jeziorski, *Proskrypcja i banicja w miastach pruskich późnego średniowiecza* [Proscription and Banishment in Late Medieval Prussian Towns], Instytut Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2017, 334 pp., ills, indices of names, places, subjects, bibliog., German summary

Written as part of the National Science Centre [NCN] grant, the book presents and explores the sources regarding proscriptions and banishments in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, with a focus on registers of the proscribed and the banished of the Prussian towns subjected to the Kulm (Chełmno) Law – namely, Chełmno/Kulm, the New City of Toruń/Thorn, Bartoszyce/Bartenstein, and those under the Lübeck Law: Elbląg/Elbing and the Old City of Braniewo/Braunsberg. The study consists of two parts, the first having four chapters. The terms 'proscription' and 'banishments' are explained in the first place; proscription was a calling-out procedure, a means of administrative coercion aimed at enforcing the accused to appear before court, whereas banishment stood for expulsion – the punishment for a crime or offence committed. Then, a description follows of mediaeval registers of proscribed and banished individuals from Central Europe and Prussian towns. The remarks and findings proposed in this section form the basis for the subsequent discussion of the registers as the source for investigation of the issue of crime in urban areas. Indicated are the crimes implying banishment or proscription. The perpetrators as well as violence in everyday life of local communities are also dealt with. The last chapter in part one discusses the question of absolution through annulment of the punishment or by way of pardon granted by the newly-elected Grand Master of the Teutonic Order. Part two provides an edition of a list of the proscribed and the banished as per

the Elbing court register until 1566 (State Archives of Gdańsk, fond Records of the City of Elbląg, ref. no. 369.1/131; resp. section: pp. 53–84), prepared according to the rules of the Toruń school of historical source editing. The book is meticulously edited, illuminated with a number of colour illustrations and furnished with extensive indices, related to part one (index of persons) and part two (persons, geographical names, subject) separately. (AG)

Jacek Laberschek, *Sieć wodna średniowiecznego Krakowa i jej gospodarcze wykorzystanie* [The Water Network of the Medieval Cracow and its Economic Use], Instytut Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2016, 182 pp., maps

The author has intended to prepare a comprehensive study on the hydrographical network of the Cracow settlement complex between the Middle Ages and the early modern period. Laberschek has managed to reconstruct the course of the Vistula River in the mediaeval period and determine the human influence on the water network in the region under study in the later period. Of the two parts, the first, much smaller, deals with the period preceding the incorporation of the town, i.e. before 1256. Discussed is the course of the bed of the Vistula as well as its tributaries – the Rivers Sanka, Rudawa, Prądnik, Dłubnia, Wilga, Dwinia, and Srawa (Serafa). The subsequent part, consisting of six chapters, deals with the period before the mid-sixteenth century. Described is the flow of the Vistula, its branches and arms, the economic uses of the locality of Stara Wieś, the flood threats and inundations. The subsequent chapter discusses transport-related functions of the river, lakes and ponds within the flood zone. Chapter four and five describe the isles situated on the Vistula and the ‘cultural aspect of the river, respectively. Discussed are the solemn entries to the city, during which the locals stayed on the bank of the river. We learn that horseracing was held there, as were executions of the condemned men. However, these events are mentioned superficially, so the section looks like a collection of titbits rather than an in-depth study of the given issue. The author mainly focuses on the tributaries of the Vistula, which are discussed on more than sixty pages in part two. Not only the courses of these rivers but also the ways in which they were used economically, millraces, etc., are described. Four maps are attached; legible and meticulously made, they feature the water network and the developments in the Cracow agglomeration from the fourteenth to the sixteenth century. The book is of use to specialists and researchers in Cracow matters. (AG)

Małgorzata Kołacz-Chmiel, *Mulier honesta et laboriosa. Kobieta w rodzinie chłopskiej późnośredniowiecznej Małopolski* [Mulier honesta et laboriosa. Woman in the Peasant Family of the Late Medieval Lesser Poland], Wydawnictwo UMCS, Lublin, 2018, 350 pp., index of places, bibliog.

The book aims at presenting a possibly complete picture of the life and functioning of woman in peasant families in the period concerned. The chronological framework marks the elaboration of the Statutes of King Casimir III the Great (Kazimierz Wielki) in the middle of the fourteenth century, at one end, and the change in the countryside due to the manorial economic system and personal serfdom of peasants introduced on a large scale in mid-sixteenth century, at the other end. The author analyses sources from Lesser Poland (Małopolska) – to be exact, from the pre-Partition Voivodeships of Cracow, Lublin, and Sandomierz. The underlying material mainly consists of fifteenth-century registers of Church officials, complemented by a number of other materials, such as registers of rural courts of justice. The book consists of five chapters, in line with the five stages in the life of mediaeval woman. The first began with the birth and ended with marriage. Discussed are the woman's relationship with her parents, her rights after being orphaned, and the problem of premarital relationships. The subsequent chapter describes the situation of woman in marriage: the scope of husband's authority, conflicts, and sentimental relations. Matrimony is dealt with in a separate section. The next chapter deals with widows or, as the author names them, self-reliant women: their position in the family and society, remarriages. The last chapter describes woman's labour: her duties within the house and household, contract work or other types of economic activity. Kołacz-Chmiel is aware of the problem posed by scarcity of relevant sources; a number of remarks or observations have of necessity remained hypothetical, not to be proved. She also indicates that the position and functioning of women in the period in question cannot only be viewed through the rigid framework of gender and patriarchy. Women relatively often crossed the limits of social roles ascribed to them, though such cases were exceptional. (AG)

Zdzisław Noga (ed.), *Kraków międzynarodowy* [Cracow, An International Urban Hub], Towarzystwo Miłośników Historii i Zabytków Krakowa, Kraków, 2017, 168 pp., index of names; series: Kraków w Dziejach Narodu, 36

This fairly small book is a record of the third session of the Society of the Lovers of History and Landmarks of Cracow, held on 7 May 2016. As

the title suggests, aspects of multi-ethnicity of Cracow across the centuries are covered, each of the articles concerning a specified ethnic group. The first text is by Zdzisław Noga and describes the Germans in the Old Polish period, focusing on the background of local German burghers and waves of migration into the city. Conflicts erupted from time to time between the ‘Germans’ and the ‘Poles’; the former got ‘Polonised’ with time, as a general trend. Danuta Quirini-Popławska dealt with the Italians in Cracow until the eighteenth century: Italian artists, merchants, entrepreneurs, royal courtiers coexisted with lecturers and students at the Cracow Academy. The text is largely a catalogue of the Italians who have left the most lasting marks on the city’s history and culture. Leszek Hoído deals with Cracow Jewry between the fourteenth and the eighteenth centuries; he describes the history of the religious communities of Cracow and Kazimierz, as well as Jewish editors and publishers and their activities. Áron Petneki writes of the Hungarians in Cracow, providing a general historical background and a detailed description of the Hungarian kings who visited the city or resided there, along with courtiers, clergymen, pilgrims, students, and merchants. Waldemar Kowalski describes, in his article with no footnotes, the history of the Scots in Poland between the sixteenth and the eighteenth century. Finally, Andrzej A. Zięba presents the history of the Armenians in Cracow between the fourteenth and eighteenth centuries: their relations with the royal court, Armenian monks, merchants, students, and lecturers. All in all, the book is an overall survey of the presence of ‘foreigners’ in Cracow. (AG)

Danuta Quirini-Popławska and Łukasz Burkiewicz (eds.), *Sacrum w mieście*, vol. 1: *Średniowiecze i wczesna epoka nowożytna. Wymiar religijny, kulturalny i społeczny* [The Sacred in the City, vol. 1: The Middle Ages and Early Modern Age. The Religious, Cultural, and Social Dimension], Wydawnictwo Akademii Ignatianum, Kraków, 2016; ills, maps, summaries (in Polish for non-Polish texts; in English for the rest)

This anthology deals with the sacred, or *sacrum* (as a broad concept) in the urban space in the religious, cultural, and social contexts; irrespective of its title, it encompasses the ancient age as well. Of the eighteen articles, six are in English and one in Italian. The book opens with a brief sketch by Henryk Samsonowicz on the annalist Jan Długosz as a man of the Renaissance. This popular-science text does not go well with the rest of the book. Leszek Zinkow presents the outcome of archaeological excavations at the temples of the Greek city of Naucratis in Egypt. The author points to certain problems related to the coexistence of two cultural and religious hubs, the Greek and the Egyptian

one, within one city. Rafał Hryszko explains in his study the meaning of the notion of *sacrum* in the concept of ideal city put forth by Francesc Eiximenis, a Franciscan monk born in Valencia and living in fourteenth-century Valencia in the Crown of Aragon. Svetlana V. Bliznyuk writes about the charity budget of the Genoa commune at Famagusta. The assistance's beneficiaries were initially to be churches and hospitals but eventually extended to a broader public. The Genovese colonies are dealt with by Rafał Quirini-Popławski, whose article is on the relics of Pera which were exported to Genoa before the conquest of Constantinople by the Turks. Wojciech Mruk describes the role and importance of Jerusalem's Temple Mount to the Christians and to the Muslims before the Crusades. Nicholas Coureas describes how Canon 9 of the Fourth Council of Lateran functioned in Cyprus. In case various rites appeared within a diocese, the canon admitted that a representative of a rite different than Latin could be made vicar. Łukasz Burkiewicz describes the manufacturing of sugar in Kolossi, Cyprus, which was supervised by the Order of St. John. Szymon Tracz sheds more light on the three paintings by Sano di Pietro from the Lanckoroński Collection at the Wawel Castle in Cracow. These three small panel paintings feature the Madonna with the Child, a bust of Christ in a thorn crown, and the Madonna with the Child assisted by Saint Agnes, Saint Catherine of Alexandria and Angels. Danuta Quirini-Popławska and Andrzej Zaręba describe the funeral ceremonies and places where the dead were buried in Venice in the late Middle Ages and early modern period; Jan Kopiec describes the ducal necropolis in Bytom. Magdalena Biniś-Szkopek describes, for a change, the functioning of the consistory court in Poznań in the early fifteen century. Tomasz Graff embarks on describing the Baroque-era piety using the example of the testament of Marcin Wadowita, Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Vice-Chancellor of the University in Cracow during the Vasa monarchs' rule. Luca Bernardini discusses the opinions on the Orthodox religion among the participants of Polish invasion of Russia in early sixteenth century; Gaetano Platania describes the act of obedience to the Pope on the part of Michał Krzysztof Radziwiłł, King John III Sobieski's envoy to Rome in 1680; Alessandro Boccolini writes of the solemn arrival of Christine of Sweden in Rome. Justyna Łukaszewska-Haberkowa investigates the influence of Jeremias Dexel's *Civitas Aeternitatis* on the writings of the Rev. Jan Poszakowski. The book ends with an essay by Kazimierz Dopierała on popes as defenders of the faith and 'builders' of Rome. The authors took a much relaxed approach toward the declared issue of the *sacrum*. The texts are not arranged into an order and so the reader leaps from the late Middle Ages to the seventh century, and then again, to early modern period. The articles are not sent into a by-subject order. It may be doubted whether there was any actual purpose behind inserting the opening text by Samsonowicz or the conclusive essay by Kazimierz Dopierała. (AG)

Michał Słomski, *Urzędnicy i personel zamku arcybiskupów gnieźnieńskich w Łowiczu (XIV w.– 1531 r.)* [The Officials and the Staff of the Gniezno Archbishops' Castle in Łowicz (fourteenth century – 1531)], Instytut Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2017; 295 pp., bibliog., indices of names and places, map, Eng. summary

This brief book includes seven chapters, and deals with the mechanisms and methods of managing the 'grand ecclesiastic property' by the officials. Also, the functioning of castles in the period concerned is discussed. The chronological framework is set between the fourteenth century and the year 1531, the date of Jan Łaski's death. Due to a relative lack of sources for the earlier period, the author has focused on the fifteenth and the sixteenth centuries. His description of Łowicz was meant to imply conclusions regarding the other episcopal castles of the time. The introduction discusses the purpose of the study, state of the art in research into episcopal castles and a survey of the sources. Chapter one describes the town and the hunting demesne before the early sixteenth century; chapter two discusses the administration of ecclesiastical estates; chapter three describes the way the demesne and the Castle was administered in the fourteenth century, which, as the author argues, had its specificity at the time. The following chapter deals with Starosts of Łowicz between the fifteenth century and the year 1531; its subsections describe the relevant terms, scope of power, competencies of starosts, and more. Chapter five portrays the starosts as a social group, describing (among other aspects) their family ties with archbishops and their background. Chapters six and seven respectively discuss the offices at the Castle (burgrave, judge, collector, scribe), the chaplains and the Castle personnel. The last chapter mainly concerns the chapels and the functioning of a fraternity affiliated to St. John the Baptist's Church. An important section is the annex (ranging almost forty pages) presenting the figures of the Castle officials and other staff, using a form based on the studies of Sobiesław Szybkowski and Marta Czyżak. Attached is also a map of Łowicz and Skierniewice demesnes in the early sixteenth century and a map of the villages from which the Castle servants arrived (as of 1512). (AG)

EARLY MODERN TIMES

Archiwum Ringelbluma. Konspiracyjne Archiwum Getta Warszawy [The Ringelblum Archive. A Conspiratorial Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto], vol. 35: Emanuel Ringelblum, *Żydzi w Warszawie* [The Jews in Warsaw], Part Two: 1527–1795, ed. by Paweł Fijałkowski, Warszawa, 2018, 361 pp.

Emanuel Ringelblum is nowadays primarily known as one of the founders and contributors to the Warsaw Ghetto Archive. His wartime activities and subsequent tragic death have somewhat outshone his earlier, pre-war scientific output. In the 1920s and 1930s Ringelblum researched into broad aspects of social history of the Warsaw Jewry. The first volume of his monograph, concerning the Middle Ages, originally published in 1932, was very critically received by Polish historian circles. The author nonetheless continued his research activity and gathered the materials for the second part, meant to deal with the early modern period. The completion of this work and its publication was prevented by the outbreak of the war. Fortunately, the rough work and the first versions of the monograph have survived as part of the Archive. The volume in question, being basically a Polish translation from the Yiddish original, is an edition of Ringelblum's manuscript texts on the history of the Jews of Warsaw between 1527 and 1795. Whilst not a complete monograph, consisting for a considerable part of notes reflecting the author's ideas of the particular sections, the publication is enormously important, and interesting. Ringelblum had used a wealth of archival materials which were subsequently destroyed during the Second World War. The topics he tackled, with a focus on the social history of the local Jewish community, issues related to trade and the structure of the professions, attractive as they are, have been somewhat neglected in today's historiography. Ringelblum's work is a very interesting historical source which is potentially very useful in historiographic analyses. (MC)

Ojcowskie synom przestrogi. Instrukcje rodzicielskie (XVI–XVII w.) [Fathers' Admonitions to Their Sons: Parental Instructions (the sixteenth–seventeenth cc.)], with an introduction and explanatory notes by Dorota Żołędź-Strzelczyk and Małgorzata E. Kowalczyk, Wrocław, 2017, 580 pp.

Przestrogi i nauki dzieci. Instrukcje rodzicielskie (XVIII w.) [Admonitions and Teachings Targeted at Children. Parental Instructions (the eighteenth c.)], with an introduction and explanatory notes by Dorota Żołędź-Strzelczyk and Małgorzata E. Kowalczyk, Wrocław 2017, 463 pp.

This two-volume source edition, containing a total of sixty-seven source texts (thirty-eight and twenty-nine in vol. 1 and vol. 2, respectively) deals with educational instructions targeted at children. The underlying query was carried out at the archives at home (incl. Warsaw, Cracow, Poznań, Toruń, Kielce, Rzeszów, and more) and abroad (Vilnius, Kyiv, L'viv, Luck, Vienna, and Berlin). Most of the edited texts are pieces of educational or upbringing guidance designed for young men intending to make their educational journeys (very few were written down in other circumstances). Both volumes comprise instructions that have already been known and published (for example, Stanisław Lubomirski to Aleksander Michał Lubomirski and Jerzy Sebastian Lubomirski; Stanisław Kryski to his sons) along with those previously unknown and discovered during the source inquiry (e.g., instruction by Waclaw Piotr Rzewuski). The source texts are presented in a very accessible manner. Each text is preceded by a brief description of its author and the recipient(s), information on the manuscript and edition, and reference reading on the original authors. All the source texts are published in Polish; their German, French, or Latin counterparts have been translated. Textual notes are added to explain Old Polish words or phrases. All this makes the publication an excellent teaching aid in university courses. It can be regretted that the editors have not launched, in parallel with the book edition, a database which would have enabled to complement the resource of education sources on an ongoing basis. (MC)

Ewa Dubas-Urwanowicz, *Mężowie stanu, awanturnicy czy zdrajcy. Dzieje rodu Zborowskich w XVI w.* [Statesmen, Adventurers, or Traitors? A History of the Zborowski Family in the Sixteenth Century], DiG, Warszawa, 2018, 794 pp.

The book attempts to present a summary of advancement and subsequent fall of a middle-noble family in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The author tries to answer a series of research questions regarding the family policies and deliberate development of an ancestral line and a family of prestige; how the political activities influenced the family's position; the importance of religious (denominational) elements; the building of prestige and a clientele group. The Zborowski family yielded several major officials; Samuel Zborowski – the man known in the Polish tradition primarily as a rowdy fellow who was beheaded for having killed a noble – was also born into it. The monograph is based on sixteenth-century historiographic works, parliamentary journals, correspondence, and so on. With its more than 700 pages, this is a voluminous and pretty detailed book, which makes its reading difficult. It contains a wealth of detailed information which primarily seems to be of potential interest to genealogists or historians specialised in the political story of Poland-Lithuania. Much less can be learned about the mechanisms influencing the social advances in the sixteenth century. With its not quite successful structure, the monograph analyses the issues in a chronological order, primarily focusing on a detailed reconstruction of political events and meticulous description of family colligations for each of the Zborowski generations. Such concentration on vast amounts of detail makes it difficult for the reader to find appropriate answers to the questions about the mechanisms behind the noblemen's careers. One may also ponder whether the interpretive framework proposed by Dubas-Urwanowicz is really adequate to the sources she makes use of: sixteenth-century historiography ought to provide material showing the mentality of its authors, rather than a basis for reconstructing the Commonwealth's political history. (MC)

Anna Grześkowiak-Krwawicz, *Dyskurs polityczny Rzeczypospolitej Obojga Narodów. Pojęcia i idee* [Political Discourse in the Commonwealth of the Two Nations: its Concepts and Ideas], Fundacja na Rzecz Nauki Polskiej, Toruń, 2016, 451 pp.

This monograph analyses the political discourse of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The author assumes that a conversational or modern understanding of the political language used in early periods leads to numerous misinterpretations. Hence, the study has primarily sought to discuss the major

concepts used in Poland-Lithuania's political discourse. This is a pioneering, and most successful indeed, attempt at a monographic description of the language of the political discourse in question. The terms such as the Commonwealth/republic, law, freedom/liberty, the *forma mixta* system of government and the separation of powers, concord, virtue, patriotism, ancientness, and ownership have been studied in detail. Period treaties and political writings form the basis of the author's considerations. The proposed analysis applies no linguistic tools: rather than that, the author is interested in what ideas were associated with the specified concepts and which of them contributed to the Commonwealth's political discourse. Since the study under review concerns the period between the Union of Lublin (1569) and the Partitions of Poland-Lithuania (1772–95), another question is how the concepts and ideas altered or modified their respective meanings in time. In most of the sections, the functioning of the political concepts is described separately for the latter half of the eighteenth century, thus emphasising the significance of the social and political change taking place in the age of Enlightenment. The analysis is presented against a broad European background, which allows the author to portray the local specificities – including as regards the understanding of words such as Commonwealth/republic, or patriotism. The author describes a number of known and apparently plain concepts; however, their in-depth analysis, in a broad context of modern sources, demonstrates that they are not always well understood or interpreted nowadays. The argument on 'concord' is an excellent case in point: as we can learn, when it came to political compromise, it was the good of the Commonwealth, rather than satisfaction of all the partakers of the discussion, that proved to be of superior value. (MC)

Aleksej I. Šalanda (ed.), *Mir Radzivilaŭ: Zamak, mjastéčka, grafstva (1568–1813)* [The Mir of the Radziwiłłs: the Castle, the Town, and the County (1568–1813)], Muzej 'Zamkavy Kompleks Mir', Minsk, 2017, 336 pp.

Mir was one of the major residences of the Radziwiłł family in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Beside the castle, which served as the princes' residence, a small town functioned, which was known for fairs, held in it several times in a year. The collection of source texts in question is meant to render the scholars familiar with the history of the castle, its adjacent town and the County of Mir. Presented are materials presently kept at the archives of Poland (Central Archives of Historical Records [AGAD]), Belarus (National Historical Archives of Belarus) and Lithuania (the Wróblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences). This dispersed material is now collected into one volume, which will make the job much easier for a number of historians. Following the title, the three sections discuss the castle, the town, and the county. The

first comprises sources (a total of thirty documents) related to the castle as the Radziwiłł family's residence; these mainly include inventories of movable property and privileges of various sorts. Another batch of documents (twenty-five in total) pertains to Mir the town; these include municipal inventories, legal acts, decrees or ordinances of the proprietors, and materials related to the burghers. The third and last section is connected to the history of the County of Mir, mostly concerning the local manorial farms: inventories, lists of tax, and legal documents are included. The volume contains a number of interesting source materials; its diversity is worth emphasising. The book can be of use to scholars who deal with social history, in a broad sense of the term. (MC)

Janusz Antoni Wiśniowiecki, *Ilias polski (1700–1710)* [The Ilias {scil. Iliad} of Poland], ed. by Przemysław P. Romaniuk and Jacek Budrowicz-Nowicki, Wydawnictwo Neriton, Warszawa, 2018, 329 pp.

The book is the first complete and critical edition of Janusz A. Wiśniowiecki's work being a fundamental source for research into the period of the Northern War and the civil war within the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Previously known only to a narrow circle of experts, the work was once attributed to Ignacy Olszowski and functioned under the title of *Kroniczka litewska* [A tiny Lithuanian chronicle] or *Pamiętnik Ignacego Olszowskiego* [The diary of I.O.]. The present edition is founded on several recently discovered manuscripts that have enabled to determine who the actual author was and, effectively, prepare the edition of the entire work. There is an introduction which briefly describes the history of the Wiśniowiecki family and of the individual manuscripts. This section is mainly of use to scholars specialising in the political history of the Saxon-dynasty period; for a non-specialist, it may prove difficult to read. Wiśniowiecki's piece is a smart description of the political occurrences of the years 1700–10. Apart from reporting on the events, the author assesses and explains a number of them. The volume's editorial standard is commendable. The source text is furnished with textual and subject-related footnotes, which makes it useful in scholarly activities as well as in university-level teaching. (MC)

Anna Penkała, *Przeciw prawu, tradycji i obyczajowi: sprawy procesowe szlacheckich małżeństw w ksiągach sądów grodzkich z terenu województwa krakowskiego w czasach saskich* [Against the Law, Tradition, and Morals: Court Proceedings of Noble Matrimonies as Reflected in the Municipal Court Registers from the Voivodeship of Cracow Area under the Saxon Rule], Wydawnictwo Libron, Kraków, 2018, 195 pp.

The author sets as a goal for herself to describe the functioning of noble married couples in the context of the legal regulations, mutual arrangements between the spouses, and the binding customs. The study is based on the records of municipal [*grodzki*] and lands [*ziemski*] tribunals from the former Voivodeship of Cracow, dating to the former half of the eighteenth century. The selection of the source material implied a focus on nobility of modest means, which is worth stressing as hitherto magnate matrimony have mostly been analysed. The monograph has three chapters, respectively discussing the disputes occurring during the courting period (inappropriate courtship, arbitrary matrimony, covert nuptials, and so on), conflicts around property ensuing from the contracting of marriage, separations and divorces. Founded upon extensive and diverse source material, the study touches upon a number of interesting issues that otherwise have tended to be neglected by scholars. The argument regarding divorces between noble spouses is interesting: Penkała demonstrates that matrimony were broken in these circles for a variety of reasons (illness, violent conduct, etc.). However, the analytic aspect of the monograph is disappointing. The historic sources gathered by the author are described in a clear and articulate manner, while the study lacks an attempt to synthesise the explanations or pose some broader hypotheses. (MC)

Katarzyna Kuras, *Dwór królowej Marii Leszczyńskiej. Ludzie, pieniądze i wpływy* [The Court of Queen Marie Leszczynska: its People, Money, and Influences], Historia Iagiellonica, Kraków, 2018, 337 pp.

The monograph is a collective biography of the members of the Versailles court of Marie (Maria) Leszczyńska. The study basically seeks to determine the rules that governed the membership of the court, and to identify the factors which stabilised the court system or caused its erosion. The biographical method is key to this analysis. The reader can learn a great deal about the court's structure, while the proposed 'outsider' description does not enable to more closely 'get acquainted' with the people working beside the Queen. The monograph has seven chapters, the first of which is introductory and presents the figure of Queen Marie, primarily basing on the available literature.

The following chapters describe the hierarchy and organisation of the court, the careers of the courtiers, the gratifications for the service at the court, the values of the courtiers and the relationships between them; the Queen's and her courtiers' influences, and the lives of the courtiers after their Queen's death. It ensues from the author's research that employed at the court were members of the most exquisite French families alongside destitute noblemen who treated the cooperation with the Queen as a prospective path of social advancement. An interesting characteristic in the functioning of the court was the fact that honours and gratifications were available not only to representatives of the most distinguished families. The chapter on the values that incentivised the courtiers is somewhat disappointing. Pleading scarcity of sources or literature as an excuse, Kuras offers a rather superficial description of the courtiers' endeavours to keep their afforded rank, presenting these activities in terms of the highest courtly value. (MC)

Dariusz Rolnik, *Leonarda Marcina Świeyowskiego (1721–1793), ostatniego wojewody podolskiego, życie codzienne i publiczne oraz jego myśli o Rzeczypospolitej* [The Public and Private Life and Ideas on the Republic by Leonard Marcin Świeykowski (1721–93), the Last Voivode of Podolia], Uniwersytet Śląski, Katowice, 2016, 756 pp., bibliog., index of people, Eng. and Russian summaries

This elegantly published volume is the first biography of Świeykowski, a provincial politician and official who, as the author emphasizes, has remained almost unnoticed by Polish historians. However, Rolnik argues that his protagonist deserves our attention precisely because of his alleged mediocrity. He was typical of his times in terms of his activities and his political philosophy. Nine chapters of the book carefully analyse his life and career, as he rose from a lower official of relatively humble origin to become the Voievode of Podolia and a man of remarkable fortune. As Rolnik stresses, Świeykowski was a talented administrator, who first made money as an agent of the Lubomirski family and then, having established landed property of his own, as a protégé of the last king, Stanislaus Poniatowski. He was able to secure his social and economic position via a series of legal operations (involving conflicts with his neighbours), and advantageous marriages (including arranging the marriage of his daughter to a member of the powerful Potocki family. As Rolnik informs us, even though he owed his position to the King, he turned against him after the Constitution of May 1791 and joined the Russian-sponsored Confederation of Targowica, becoming a chief advisor to one of its leaders, Szczęsny Potocki. He was lucky not to live to see the second partition and the defamation of his sons during the Kościuszko uprising in 1794. Still, he was a successful social climber, and the founder of a powerful family, while

himself a descendant of a petty nobility. The most interesting part of the book is the analysis of Świejkowski's political views, as expressed in his letters, and in a number of pamphlets he wrote in his final years (attached to the book as a ninety-page appendix). As Rolnik emphasizes, his life strategy was careful opportunism, and his political philosophy is interesting because it represents the provincial attitude to the changing trends during the turmoil in the last decades of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Rolnik argues that his last political decision – to abandon the king to whom he owed his career and join the conservative opposition – was actually the first one he made on ideological grounds rather than for purely tactical purposes. According to Rolnik, however, the reason was not his love for the traditional political values of the nobility, but his sense of exclusion and resentment against the elitist group of reformers, who concocted the Constitution of 1791 without consulting, or even informing, any of their provincial supporters, who thus felt betrayed, ignored, and disrespected. Hence, this book seems to be, among other things, an interesting and inspiring contribution to the study of the turbulent years between 1788 and 1793, which are heavily mythicized in traditional Polish historiography. (AK)

Wiesław Mateusz Malinowski and Jerzy Styczyński, *Polska i Polacy w literaturze francuskiej (XVI–XIX w.)* [Poland and the Poles in French Literature, the sixteenth–nineteenth cc.], Uniwersytet Adama Mickiewicza, Poznań, 2016, 477 pp., illus., index of persons, bibliog.

This book is a slightly revised and extended translation of *La Pologne et les Polonais dans la littérature française (XV^e–XIX^e siècles)*, which was published in 2008. It is a collection of 156 source texts (or fragments) by 108 French authors from the fourteenth century to the First World War years who commented on, elaborated, or fantasized about Poland and all things Polish. Of these, 116 appear in the Polish translation for the first time. The book presents pieces of poetry, drama, fiction prose, and journalism. Naturally, the collection is focused primarily on those events and aspects of Poland which most aroused the interest of the French public in Polish themes: royal marriages, military campaigns, the Napoleonic period, and the Polish national uprisings. It also captures the sensitivity of the French for Polish motifs in art and literature; for example in the compositions of Frederick Chopin. All the texts are preceded by short commentaries on their authors and the circumstances that inspired them. Regrettably, the authors limited their selection to authors of fiction, neglecting political writers or historians, nor do they give any serious synthetic introduction, instead offering only a brief comment on the study by François Rosset on 'The Polish myth' in French literature. (AK)

Paweł T. Dobrowolski, *Świat ze słów: angielskie miesięczniki XVIII wieku. Media, informacja i opinia publiczna* [A World Made of Words: English Eighteenth-Century Monthly Periodicals. Mass Media, Information, and Public Opinion], Muzeum Pałacu Króla Jana III w Wilanowie, Warszawa, 2018, 374 pp.; series: *Silva Rerum*

This book has aimed at describing the importance of monthly in the building of the modern public sphere and public opinion. The proposed analysis is based on nine English periodicals published in the years 1730–80. Well-versed in the literature, the author presents his analysis against a broad background of research into press and the most recent studies in the broadly defined field of the humanities. Discussed is the method of communicating the information content, in an attempt at presenting the circle of periodical press readers. The analysis does not focus on an external description (i.e., aspects such as the practiced profession or wealth status) but aims at presenting the readers' intellectual horizon. The author has managed to interestingly discern and systematise aspects of 'information cacophony' offered by the English magazines. Each of the thirteen chapters deals with a different type of information. Dobrowolski shows the importance of the reports on international developments, economic affairs, or criminal incidents; he moreover analyses the reading public's literary and theatrical tastes. Interesting are the considerations regarding obituaries published in the magazines and the attitude toward charity, which show the ways in which the releases on the deceased and on charity institutions mainly served to solidify the image of an affluent society that was always ready for sacrifice. Written in an accessible language, the monograph is a useful reading for experts on the period as well as non-professionals interested in eighteenth-century intellectual history. (MC)

NINETEENTH CENTURY

Maciej Junkiert, *Nowi Grecy. Historyzm polskich romantyków wobec narodzin Altertumswissenschaft* [The New Greeks. The Historicism of Polish Romantics and the Birth of the *Altertumswissenschaft*], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Adama Mickiewicza, Poznań, 2017, 279 pp., Eng. summary, index of persons, bibliog.

This book is a study on the impact of the ancient Greek traditions on the ideas and rhetoric of three Polish Romantic authors: two historians (Lelewel and Grodeck); and the most famous poet of the period, Adam Mickiewicz. It is inspired by the methodology of reception studies, first elaborated by

Hans Robert Jauss and then developed by Charles Martindale, who studied the reception of Virgil in early modern European literature. Among the Polish scholars whose work the author acknowledges are Tadeusz Sinko, who wrote about the classical motifs in Mickiewicz's oeuvre in the inter-war time, and more recently, Jerzy Aixer. The book is based on the assumption of the specific model of reception of antiquity proposed by German historicism, and the German school of ancient studies (*Altertumswissenschaft*), as developed in the late eighteenth and the early nineteenth centuries, which Junkert contrasts with the contemporary English and French traditions. He argues that this model was particularly well received by scholars active at the University of Vilnius. Politics, he claims, was clearly interwoven into the background, as ancient Greece was viewed as both an inspiration and a pattern to be followed by the modern societies, which were supposed to compete for the status of the Greeks' most gifted successors. Thus Junkier limits his choice of texts under analysis to those by the most prominent authors, whom he considers as particularly impressed by the historicist attitude. The first chapter considers the 'Greek myth' in the more recent literature on the subject. The second chapter examines the writings of two historians (Lelewel and Groddeck), focusing on their images of ancient Athens and Sparta and their readings of Thucydides and Herodotus. The third chapter discusses the lectures Mickiewicz delivered as an instructor in Lausanne and at the College de France in Paris. The book is certainly an innovative and inspiring invitation to revisit the legacy of one of the most durable and influential intellectual and aesthetic traditions in Polish history. (AK)

Bartosz Działoszyński, *Cywilizacja. Szkice z dziejów pojęcia w XVIII i XIX wieku* [Civilisation: Essays on the History of the Concept in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries], Uniwersytet Warszawski, Warszawa, 2018, 324 pp.

A scholar associated with the University of Warsaw, Działoszyński proposes an analysis of the notion of civilisation, beginning with the middle of the eighteenth century and ending with latter half of the nineteenth (around 1880). Texts by intellectuals and creative artists of various nationalities and fields of expertise are evoked, the English, American, French and German authors prevailing. Philological analysis and philosophical interpretation, inspired by the discourse proposed by the *Annales*, and – partly – studies of the Warsaw School of the History of Ideas, are heavily drawn on. The twelve chapters start with meticulous tracing of the emergence and history of 'civilisation' in West European thought; subsequently, the concept is confronted with the writings of Polish authors (Stanisław Staszic in the Enlightenment period;

Cyprian K. Norwid of the ‘Romanticist’ nineteenth century) and relevant Russian literature (Čaadaev, and others). The last chapter, concluding the content-related considerations, deals with the concept of ‘civilisation’ as an intrinsic historical-cultural type, as articulated by the Russian thinker Nikolaj Danilevskij: the concept being considered original, if not precursory to the twentieth-century theories on civilisation. The author astutely portrays this one of the major notions in the history of ideas, displaying his rich philological background. This interdisciplinary study is useful and, indeed, extremely helpful in finding one’s bearings in the world of notions belonging to a series of centuries. A useful references list, indices of persons and concepts, and a list of illustrations complement the book. (GK)

Piotr Z. Pomianowski, *Rozwód w XIX wieku na centralnych ziemiach polskich. Praktyka stosowania Kodeksu Napoleona w latach 1808–1852* [Divorce in Nineteenth-Century Central Polish Lands. The Napoleonic Code as Applied in Practice in 1808–52], CAMPIDOGLIO, Warszawa, 2018, 447 pp.

The book is the first systematic description of the divorce practice as it functioned in the Polish territory after the Napoleonic Code, admitting divorce, was put into effect. The analysis proposed by Pomianowski is based on extensive source material which notably encompasses extant verdicts of first-instance civil tribunals (incl. those located in Bydgoszcz, Kalisz, Cracow, and Warsaw), civil registers and documents attached thereto. Apart from a detailed analysis of the laws and regulations, discussed are the parties to the litigations, the courses of trials and the background behind divorce lawsuits, with a number of quotes from rulings and witness testimonies. The book has eight chapters plus an extensive comparative introduction and a conclusion section. The reader is moreover provided with a description of the divorcer population and a list of all the divorce cases (amounting to approx. 2,000), plus a number of illustrations. The study is polemical against the conviction, prevalent among historians that civil divorce virtually did not catch on in Polish society of the former half of the nineteenth century. The argument abounds with quotations of court decisions and statements of witnesses. Basically targeted at experts, the study – with its significance and the importance of the problems it addresses – notably, the reception of Napoleonic civil law – exceeds the limits of narrow ‘trade’ discussions. A carefully compiled bibliography and annexes complement the publication. (GK)

Marta Maj, *Historia narodowa jako element wsparcia republikanizmu francuskiego w XIX wieku (J. Michelet, E. Quinet, E. Lavisse)* [National History in Support of French Republicanism in the Nineteenth Century (J. Michelet, E. Quinet, E. Lavisse)], Uniwersytet Adama Mickiewicza, Poznań, 2018, 186 pp., Eng. summary, bibliog.

In Poland, studies on the French historiography of the nineteenth century are rare, despite its enormous impact on the modes of writing and rethinking history in both contemporary Europe and Poland, and despite the intensive relations between the nineteenth-century French historians and their Polish colleagues. Thus this book seems to be an innovative and refreshing invitation to rediscover what was once a powerful intellectual tradition, shaping national culture both in France and in all the countries that looked at France as a trendsetter and a centre of civilization in the nineteenth century. It is remarkable that this attempt has been made by a non-historian, i.e. a lawyer, and at the early stage of her academic career. Regrettably however, the book hardly offers a deep and intellectually inspiring interpretation of the writings under analysis. This is primarily due to the method of presentation chosen by the author (divided into innumerable one-to-three-page long subchapters), and her focus on the idea of republicanism – an idea as broad as it is indefinable. What the book presents instead is rather an overview of the activities and writings of three remarkable historians – Michelet, Quinet, and Lavisse – stressing their political views and their powerful impact on the minds of their contemporaries. The book opens with a long chapter briefly summarizing the political and constitutional developments in France from the Revolution up until the fall of the third Republic, as well as addressing the concept and idea of republicanism from Montesquieu onwards, with some superficial historical analogies. This is followed by three chapters discussing the life, career, political involvements, and writings of the three selected historians. Their engagement in contemporary politics and ideological debates are analysed in detail, whereas their texts are touched upon only briefly, with references to republicanism as the idea around which the modern political French identity was supposedly organised. The book is particularly strong in tracing their presence in contemporary French public life and discussions in the media, testifying to their established position in the French national culture. In short, the book seems to be an interesting example of the reception of the traditional historiography by a non-specialist, and a study in its contribution to constitutional and political matters, proving that this contribution may be actually more durable than their actual scholarly achievements. (AK)

Katarzyna Luksa, *Gabriela Balicka (1867–1962). Działalność polityczna, społeczna, naukowa, edukacyjna* [Gabriela Balicka (1867–1962): Her Political, Social, Scientific, and Education Activities], Wydawnictwo Sejmowe, Warszawa, 2017, 310 pp.

This is the first so extensive biographical study of Gabriela Balicka, wife of Zygmunt Balicki, co-founder and one of the main ideologists of the National Democracy, herself the most eminent nationalist activist at the turn of the century (founder of the National Women's Organisation, among other things). The study is composed of six large chapters and a conclusion. The argument is woven around the political and chronological aspects, with all its implications. Gabriela Balicka is introduced to the reader as a loyal agent of the ideology of the formation she represented. She might have been shown as an autonomous and original activist who consistently built her own position, but this would have seemingly cross the confines assumed by the author. Particularly doubtful is the overly modest research questionnaire, as is the author's explicit reluctance to try and revisit certain general opinions regarding Polish nationalism and the position of women in it. The reader is at times pawned off with generalities, which is irritating. With the bar set a little higher, Balicka's sociological and pedagogical output could have been approached deservedly seriously. The extensive source base is certainly an advantage of this book: it primarily includes first-ever-published documents from private collections that reveal a series of unknown facts from Balicka's life – above all, her vicissitudes during the Second World War and in post-war communist Poland. (GK)

Piotr Łopuszański, *Bolesław Leśmian w Warszawie* [Bolesław Leśmian in Warsaw], Skarpa Warszawska, Warszawa, 2017, 264 pp., ills

The book offers a sort of individual adventure of the literary scholar and noted populariser with one of the greatest twentieth-century poets of the Polish language, a panegyrist of Polish folklore and rural universe. The study's ten extensive chapters focus on Leśmian's association with Warsaw – first of all, aspects of his presence in the capital city. Quite obviously, the study enters into a dialogue with a whole series of studies and monographs dealing with the outstanding verse writer who was only 'rediscovered' in the middle of the 1950s. The author has determined and rectified many untrue or imprecise facts (for example, Leśmian was born in Hrubieszów, and not in Warsaw); verifies the hearsays of Leśmian's blood relation with Henri Bergson; altogether, he has provided the first 'Warsaw-oriented' intellectual biography of the poet. In this respect, Łopuszański has drawn out a number of before-unknown

facts, and has successfully found many manuscripts and prints by Leśmian, dispersed around the world. The book is, moreover, a chronicle of Warsaw, the city undergoing a change in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. A role of importance in this portrayal is assigned to the Jewish threads in the poet's life, which he otherwise kept concealed. Leśmian's background was a Polonised family, in his maternal as well as paternal descent. It is, in parallel, a chronicle of cultural anti-Semitism in Polish public life at the turn of the century, with its height in the 1930s – the decade marked by press campaigns launched against the writer, in which the weekly *Prosto z Mostu* and, personally, Alfred Łaszowski excelled. Several dozen hitherto-unknown photographs and selected bibliography are attached; the book is furnished with no table of context or index, though. (GK)

Przemysław Prekiel, *Stanisław Dubois (1901–1942), Kto jest Kim*, Warszawa, 2017, 260 pp., ills

The book is the first biographical study portraying one of the leaders of the Polish Socialist Party [PPS], member of the Parliament of the Second Republic of Poland. Having lived a 'colourful' though short life (cruelly interrupted by his execution by the Nazi Germans in 1942), Dubois proved himself to be an outstanding personality of his time. The author, a journalist and publicist keen on the history of left-wing currents (contributor to *Przegląd Socjalistyczny* and other periodicals), has embarked on a really difficult task, since the relevant source material is dispersed and restricted. His book is a precise account of, primarily, the events of Dubois's entire life, aptly highlighting the features of his character. His personality was moulded in opposition to the entire generation (note the skilfully followed motif of Norbert Barlicki, a teacher of Polish and, later on, outstanding activist associated with the left wing of the PPS). Detailed focus on historical aspects and the author's personal passion for seeking scraps of information on the story's character are among the advantages of this book. Revealed is a series of previously unknown facts; interesting documents are described and analysed, including a considerable portion of information on Dubois's activities as an MP and councilman with the Municipality of Warsaw. Valuable is also the episode related to Antoni Opechowski, instigator of riots against the election of Gabriel Narutowicz as President of the Republic in December 1922; as a Gestapo agent, Opechowski unmasked Dubois at Warsaw's Pawiak prison, which led to the latter's imprisonment in Auschwitz and his execution there by a firing squad in 1942. The study at times clings on to rigid historical patterns and thus lacks, in some places, a broader context of the period. This well-written book should certainly become of interest to scholars specialising in the Second Republic and the history of the Polish twentieth-century Left. (GK)

Szczepan Wierzchołowski, Aneta Niewęgłowska and Tomasz Krzemiński (eds.), *W kręgu dwóch kultur. Społeczeństwo polskich ziem zachodnich w XIX i XX stuleciu* [Between Two Cultures: The Society of the Polish Western Borderlands in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries], UMK Press, Toruń, 2017, 296 pp.

The present volume is a continuation of *Modernizacja-polskość-trwanie. Społeczne, kulturowe i polityczne aspekty aktywności Polaków na przełomie XIX i XX wieku*, which was published in 2015 (see *Acta Poloniae Historica* vol. 114). It consists of fourteen coherent and elegantly written essays addressing various issues concerning late nineteenth and early twentieth century life in the German part of partitioned Poland (the Prussian provinces of Posen and West Prussia), and next in the Second Polish Republic and in the People's Republic. Generally, it is an exercise in social history, combined with political history (in particular insofar as the problem of German-Polish antagonism is concerned). The opening essay by Przemysław Ołstowski discusses the scholarly literature on the subject and the state of research. The following essay, by Szczepan Wierzchosławski, presents the life history of a Polish worker of the humblest origin, who earned remarkable fame due to the publication of his memoir in 1930. The essay by Dariusz Łukasiewicz touches upon the problem of housing, urbanization, and urban space in nineteenth century Prussia – issues closely related to both the essay by Aneta Niewęgłowska concerning health conditions and medical policies, and the detailed study by Janusz Dragacz on the Polish institutions in the contemporary spa resort of Sopot (Zoppot) before 1939. The next study concerns the industrial and agricultural exhibitions and fairs in the city of Bydgoszcz (Bromberg) between 1866 and 1910. The essay by Edmund Kizik presents the Polish-German married couple Gulkowski, social activists who were involved in promoting folk art and crafts among the Kashubians. The essay by Andrzej Romanow regards the Polish press in the city of Danzig up to 1918, followed by Aleksandra Kłoput-Wiśniewska's analysis of the musical societies of Bydgoszcz, and then the essay by Agnieszka Szkudlarek presenting the female associations in West Prussia and Posen at the turn of the twentieth century. The study by Tomasz Krzemiński concerns the Polish-German relations during the First World War in Pomerania (West Prussia), and the one by Marek Stażewski elucidates on the issue of Polish citizenship and the legal status of ethnic Germans in the Second Polish Republic. Tomasz Łaszkiewicz discusses Polish-German relations in the region of Kuyavia, and Sylwia Bykowska presents the celebration of the 950th birthday of Gdańsk in 1947, then in the newly-established communist Poland. (AK)

Sławomir Buryła (ed.), *Pogromy Żydów na ziemiach polskich w XIX i XX wieku* [Pogroms of Jews in the Polish Lands in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries]; vol. 1: *Literatura i sztuka* [Arts and Letters], IH PAN, Warszawa. 2018, 462 pp.; illus

This is the first volume in a prospective series meant to present the results of an international research project joined by more than seventy contributors from Europe, the United States, and Israel, under the lead of Artur Markowski (University of Warsaw; the POLIN Museum) – a scholar specialising in the history of East European Jewry. The present, landmark volume, edited by Sławomir Buryła, a literary scholar, offers a set of studies on the representations of pogroms and mass violence against Jews in an array of artistic manifestations or reflections – mainly in *belles lettres* and arts. Of the two parts, the first, co-authored mainly by literary scholars and historians of culture, analyses the phenomenon of pogrom in literary testimonies and memoirs – beginning with the ‘Warsaw Pogrom’ of 1881, through to the ones of Jedwabne (1941) and Kielce (1946). Dealing with many more aspects in a broader temporal framework, part two deals with representations in motion picture (including documentaries), drawings and photographs (to mention Marta Koszowy-Krajewska’s excellent study on Julie Pirotte). In spite of the popular perception, the scale of anti-Jewish violence was not unknown in the course of the two centuries, and it did not leave artists and cultural practitioners indifferent. The problem lay elsewhere: all too often was the issue kept within the confines of niche milieus, without worming its way through to the public debate forum. This multi-voice study, a joint work of a number of valued authors, well coincides with the other numerous studies on twentieth-century ethnic violence, being an important contribution from Polish scholars – not only in its documentary aspect. (GK)

Monika Gabryś-Sławińska, Mariusz Korzeniowski, Krzysztof Latawiec, and Dariusz Tarasiuk, *Leksykon uchodźstwa polskiego w Rosji w latach I wojny światowej* [A lexicon of Polish emigration in Russia during the First World War], UMCS, Lublin, 2018, 426 pp., illus

This valuable lexicon of the Polish diaspora in Russia at the time of the Great War and the first months of Russia’s revolution and civil war covers the persons, organisations and institutions connected with the Polish emigration, along with certain institutions and figures of Russia: from extreme right (i.a., the nationalist weekly *Gazeta Polska* and a National Democracy’s colony in Moscow), through the milieu of Polish democratic-liberal intelligentsia

gathered around Aleksander Lednicki, and that of Janusz Korczak (associated with the Left) and his circle, up to the revolutionary ‘salons’ of various provenances. The experience of the First World War seems to be a still unknown and ‘unprocessed’ issue to Polish historiography, in many of its aspects; the lexicon in question is a large step forward in this respect. The ten chapters systematically show the scope, scale, and multidimensionality of Polish presence in Russia of that very time. Aid, repatriation, and charity organisations had a responsible role to play. The involvement of the former tsarist family’s members in the support provided to emigrants from Poland remains unknown. The entries, extensive as they are, and biographical notes prepared by a team of scholars, notably literary scientists and historians, associated with the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University [UMCS] in Lublin, are complemented by a considerable iconographic material; a selected bibliography list is attached to each of the entries and put together at the volume’s end. (GK)

Paweł Bezak and Stefan Artymowski (eds.), *Ku jedności. Listopad 1918 roku* [Towards a Unity. November 1918], PWN, Warszawa, 2018, 256 pp., ills

A collection of excerpts from documents, memories, letters, leaflets, propaganda texts, and daily press) as well as diverse iconography (incl. wartime postcards, lithographs) related to the emergence of independent Poland in 1918, the publication would be basically useful in university teaching, if not for its glaring anachronisms. The authors, historians by background (Institute of History, University of Warsaw) and museum workers (Warsaw-based Museum of Independence), have neglected a dozen-or-so recently published important studies regarding the history of the First World War (just to recall Kazimierz Badziak’s *W oczekiwaniu na przełom. Na drodze od odrodzenia do załamania się państwa polskiego, listopad 1918 – czerwiec 1920* [Awaiting a breakthrough: On the way from the rebirth to the breakdown of the Polish state, November 1918–June 1920] (Łódź, 2004), or the study by Włodzimierz Borodziej and Maciej Górný, *Nasza Wojna. Imperia 1912–1916* [The war of ours. The Empires of 1912–16] (Warszawa, 2014) – not to mention the studies by foreign authors. What is more, they assiduously and laboriously reproduce textbook patterns and, worse even, stereotypical takes. There is no historical commentary whatsoever to (and, therefore, no suggested understanding of) the wave of violence and discrimination affecting the minorities: the Jews, Ukrainians, and Byelorussians. The Lwów pogrom of December 1918 is not even mentioned; ‘instead’, we can see an anti-Semitic picture related to this event (p. 104), with a rather enigmatic description attached. Modest mentions can be found of class conflicts, of the traumatic experience of the war shared

by the civilian community, and political contradictions amidst which the new state was emerging. The attentive reader will still find in this source material much more than the authors have indicated in their introduction (and the title), whereas reading their commentaries can simply end up in a waste of time. Solicitously edited as it is, with a set of interesting illustrations, the book leaves much to be desired as far as its scholarly content is concerned. Technically, the latter is complemented with a calendar of events, a brief (and somewhat arbitrary) bibliography and an index of names. (GK)

Kamil Kacperski, *Koncepcje systemu wyborczego do Sejmu na ziemiach Królestwa Polskiego w latach 1917–1918* [The Concepts of the Sejm Election System in the Territory of the Kingdom of Poland in the Years 1917–18], Wydawnictwo Sejmowe, Warszawa, 2018, 296 pp.

The study, another one in the output of Kamil Kacperski, a University of Warsaw scholar, combines his cross-functional legal expertise with a meticulous political-sciences analysis. The book's six concise chapters trace the vicissitudes of the legislative initiatives based on which the members and experts of the Interim Council of State, the Regent Council, the Governments presided by Jan Kucharzewski and Jan Steczkowski, the Council of State, and the Regent Council's Parliamentary (Sejm) Committee intended to improve and re-establish the election system workable with the representative bodies within the Kingdom of Poland between January 1917 and September 1918. It was an instance of an interesting confrontation between several lawmaking traditions, which however foreshadowed the first disputes around which discussion evolved in respect of the domestic election system or, in more broad terms, party system. Excerpts from this study have previously been published in the parliamentary review *Przegląd Sejmowy* and in other sector-related periodicals. While of use mainly for specialists, the researchers focusing on the evolution of the constitutional system and, above all, the shaping of a domestic parliamentary system will find in it a considerable portion of information usable for those willing to deepen their knowledge on the origins and early years of Second Republic of Poland. (GK)

Elżbieta z Zaleskich Drożyńska, *Na ostatniej placówce. Dziennik z życia wsi podolskiej w latach 1917–1921* [At the Last Outpost. A Diary of a Life in Podolian Countryside in the Years 1917–21], LTW, Łomianki, 2018, 352 pp.

This diary, penned by a wealthy woman landowner, describes ongoing events in the public life scene, along with a series of remarks regarding her private life. The former aspect is worth focusing on. A considerable portion of these notes offers descriptions of war events, riots and march-pasts of military troops, the Bolshevik revolution and the civil war. Educated to once become a mistress-of-the-house, Drożyńska organised Polish schools, ran a hospital, offered shelter to refugees, and proved herself as a keystone figure and inspirer of a variety of cultural actions of benefit to the entire community. Leaving aside the sentimental or love-story threads, and the dramatic family-related themes (such as her father's violent death), the diary offers an essential testimony of the decline of the landowners' class in the time of radical transition. While the author is not, perhaps, a most penetrating observer of social relations, she repeatedly manages to show, as if in passing, the socioeconomic ruptures which, in result, legitimised the later Soviet rule. The Bolshevik revolution wiped out the landowning class, leaving the field clear for new resentments. Altogether, the diary is an important document illustrating the last years of the war and the emerging Second Republic society. (GK)

INTERWAR PERIOD

Jakub H. Szlachetko, Karol Dziura, and Kamil Piskała (eds.), *Leksykon piłsudczykowski* [A Piłsudski-ite Lexicon], vol. 2: *Słownik biograficzny M–Ż* [A Biographical Dictionary, M–Ż], Uniwersytet Gdańsk, Gdańsk, 2017, 382 pp., illus

Compiled by scholars associated with the University of Łódź, the volume introduces us to the first- and second-rank activists and close associates of the Piłsudski-ite camp: altogether, forty-eight characters that had a key role in the development of Poland's political system after the coup of May 1926. The selection of the characters, as any such selection, may raise doubts. On the other hand, however, it seemingly rather ably shows the diversity of life experiences and a pluralism of views appearing inside this never fully integrated milieu. As is known, people from very different political circles, in Poland and among émigrés, petitioned to join or expressed their sympathy for the Pilsudski camp (just to mention Zdzisław Stahl, the first leader of the fascist-inclined Camp of Great Poland (in 1927–32); Prince Janusz Radziwiłł, leader of Wilno's conservatives; or, Kazimierz Zakrzewski, outstanding historian and founder of

Polish syndicalism). All the descriptions in the persons are reliable, without shunning controversies, if any. Each of the entries has a bibliographical note appended. Altogether, an indispensable guide to further prosopographic research on the formation in question. An index of names and photographs (of selected persons concerned) is attached. (GK)

Marcin Klimek, *Mord belwederski czyli zabójstwo żandarma Koryzmy, ochroniarza Marszałka Piłsudskiego* [The Belweder Murder, or, the Assassination of Gendarme Koryzma, a Guard of Marshal Piłsudski], LTW, Łomianki, 2018, 284 pp.

A minor episode from the history of the Second Republic, the mysterious assassination of a twenty-year-old gendarme, Sergeant Franciszek Koryzma, a guard of Józef Piłsudski, committed in the night of 4/5 December 1928, has so far virtually been neglected by scholars. Although the investigation was extremely complicated, with the emotions whipped up by popular press (primarily, the daily *Ilustrowany Kurier Codzienny* and the tabloids of the twenties, such as the *Republika* issued in Łódź) and abounding with multiple and most diverse hypotheses, it was basically confined to identifying the incident in terms of social-and-moral crime. Indeed, there was no clear political background to the killing, and the incident fell into oblivion with time. The behind-the-scenes of the crime and, mainly, the police's investigation as depicted by Klimek show Poland of the late 1920s in a somewhat different light compared to the 'delirious twenties' cliché. The authoritarian system, getting formed and stiffened, with the key role assigned to the military-men, has been confronted with the mass culture – that is, with the expectations of the increasingly democratised public opinion. The author is inclined toward a 'thriller' thread, highlighting Piłsudski's alleged entanglement in the murder; all in all, the study, as if not completely deliberately, shows the climate of the early years of the Sanacja regime, and of the country moments before the authoritarian regime grew exacerbated and the Great Depression. A well-written piece of reading, the book will please non-professionals as well. (GK)

Jan Marczak, *Wielki Strajk Chłopski w Majdanie Sieniawskim* [The Great Peasant Strike at Majdan Sieniawski], Muzeum Historii Polskiego Ruchu Ludowego, Warszawa, 2018, 99 pp.

This collection of accounts, testimonies and recollections reminds the activities of peasants and peasant activists from the locality of Majdan Sieniawski in interwar Poland, the activities of the Peasant Party [Stronnictwo Ludowe] and the events of the Great Peasant Strike of August 1937. A strong point

of this book is the accounts of witnesses to the tragic occurrences that took place in Majdan and, partly, in the County (*powiat*) of Jarosław. A grandson of Mikołaj Marczak, outstanding peasant activist and chairman of the Peasant Party at the time, the author quite naturally focuses on the martyrdom-related threads of the events: the strikers' demonstration was brutally suppressed by the police and military troops, with personal input from Deputy Minister of the Interior, Jan Paciorekowski. Apart from it, certain aspects of the locality's history during the Second World War and in the post-war period are raised. The role of violence, including political violence in the Second Republic – against peasants and ethnic minorities is continually a great topic waiting for its historians. The documents collected and edited by Marczak can certainly enable closer acquaintance with these phenomena. A breakdown of reference literature and an index of persons are attached. (GK)

Stanisław Ciesielski, *Rewolucja Stalina* [Stalin's Revolution],
LTW, Łomianki, 2017, 466 pp.

A University of Wrocław scholar, Stanisław Ciesielski is probably the most important Polish historian among those exploring the history of the Soviet Union. The book's nine chapters deal, respectively, with the country's industrialisation, economic plans designed by the Soviet elite, attempts at upgrading the rural areas, the Four Years' Plan, armaments (usually approached by scholars as separate field), slave labour system, social change, and, cultural revolution. As the author points out in the introduction, this is not a lecture on the Soviet Union's history, and certainly not a history of Stalinism; instead, the study attempts at viewing the period in question as one of a modernisation, which otherwise is not a novel concept. The study plainly corresponds, in many an aspect, with the numerous studies penned by Australian scholar Sheila Fitzpatrick and, in a broader manner, with the entire 'revisionist' trend in Western Sovietology, which perceives the modernisation as the key to understand the Stalinist system. Rather than offering new facts, the study (re)arranges the existing knowledge in an order; it is useful, though, mainly as an introduction to the subject that is lively disputed in international historiography, as it points to some prospective areas of research. The book is equipped with a (concise) bibliography, list of tables, list of abbreviations, and index of names. (GK)

August Zaleski, *Wspomnienia* [Memoirs], ed. and with an introduction and notes by Krzysztof Kania, Krzysztof Kloc, and Przemysław Marcin Żukowski; transl. by Elżbieta Gołębiowska, Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych, Warszawa, 2017, 263 pp.

These memoirs of an outstanding diplomat (Poland's envoy to Athens, Rome, and to the Genoa Conference of 1922; later on, President of the Republic of Poland in exile) basically describe the years preceding the First World War and the interbellum period. Structurally, the book is composed of nine chapters plus an *addendum* comprising excerpts from a series of historical episodes. The introduction, co-authored by the three editors, draws a portrait of the man who was pretty influential in Polish politics until the former half of the 1920s. Zaleski was one of the few Polish politicians who started their careers before the First World War, was educated in England, which heavily informed his views – and determined the role he was to play, especially, in the course of the Great War, when he acted in Britain as an informal representative of Piłsudski's followers. It is perhaps such moments in these memoirs that bring most of the new facts-based knowledge. Altogether, the volume is an important contribution from a politician and diplomat who professed liberal values at the time when there was no more liberalism in Poland. A reliable and knowingly prepared edition of the manuscript kept at the collection of the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in London, the book certainly deserves attention. (GK)

Hanna Świda-Ziemba, *Uchwycić życie. Wspomnienia, dzienniki i listy 1930–1989* [Catching the Life. Recollections, Diaries, and Letters, 1930–89], Ośrodek KARTA, Warszawa, 2018, 348 pp.

The memories, penned by Hanna Świda-Ziemba (1932–2012), an outstanding Polish sociologist and public life commentator, complemented with interviews and letters, form altogether an arresting combination. Not only can we follow the course of Świda-Ziemba's life but we can also watch an interesting portrait of a twentieth-century Polish woman intellectual. Her youth years are highlighted, set in the scenery of Wilno – then, a Polish town – which was Hanna's home during the Second World War, with all the dramatic experiences of the time. Characteristic of her notes is fervency and a realistic approach combined with a somewhat idealistic vision of devotion and commitment to the Fatherland. Her maturing – personal, also as a citizen and a scholar – shown through the prism of biographical materials can be treated as a universal path-of-life pattern of an independent (female) intellectual in post-war Poland.

A thought-over composition is an advantage of this book; early notes skilfully combined with utterances from the last years of Hanna's life enable a deeper reflection. There is a chronological gap, though: no specific reference to the period 1953–69 leaves one unsatisfied. A summary portrait of Świda-Ziemba is sketched in an essay written by Elżbieta Zakrzewska-Manterys and Aleksander Manterys, her former students. The bibliography attached (compiled by Róża Sułek) is another advantage of this publication. The book will be of interest mainly to sociologists and historians researching into the post-war communist Poland, though it should be read by anyone who seeks confrontation with the twentieth century in its peculiar Polish dimension. (GK)

CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

Małgorzata Szejnert, *Wyspa węży* [The Island of Snakes], Wydawnictwo Znak, Kraków, 2018, 391 pp.; ills

The book is a historical reportage concerning an important but forgotten episode from the Second World War. The political circle of General Władysław Sikorski took steps at some point to square accounts with the Second Republic's military elite for the defeat in the Defensive War of September 1939. The vicissitudes of those who criticised or opposed Sikorski's policy are described; among them were Ignacy Raczkowski, members of the Szejnert family (primarily, Stefan, the author's father), a group of high-ranking Polish Army officers (incl. General Stefan Dąb-Biernacki, Stanisław Rouppert – the chief military physician, or Ludomił Rayski – high aviation officer with the Ministry of Military Affairs, Lt. Col. Roman Umiastowski); or, politicians holding high military ranks – among them, Marian Zyndram-Kościakowski, Michał Grażyński, Jerzy Niezbrzycki ('Ryszard Warga') – an influential Polish Army intelligence officer, and Adam Doboszyński, leader of the National Party [Stronnictwo Narodowe] (in exile); all were kept in isolation in the locality of Rothesay, in Scotland. While the author avoids sentimentalising the biographies of these men, her book is not a regular historical reconstruction. Szejnert shows how those involved and their families viewed and perceived these events and incidents. General Izydor Modelski appears to have been a villain in all this affair. Excellently written and documented as it is, the book certainly makes the reader better acquainted with an important episode in the history of Poland, and suggestively outlines the climate of Polish émigré milieus (so-called Polish London). It moreover largely explains the disagreements and conflicts within Polish anti-communist émigré circles. It can be expected that the study, carefully edited and featuring many previously unknown photographs, will be largely read. (GK)

Marek Edelman, *Nieznane zapiski o getcie warszawskim* [Unknown Notes on the Warsaw Ghetto], ed. by Martyna Rusiniak-Karwat, Instytut Studiów Politycznych Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Zeszyty Literackie, Warszawa, 2017, 216 pp.; illus

The publication consists of three notebooks containing hitherto-unknown recollections of Marek Edelman (1919–2009), a fighter hero and documentalist of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of April 1943; in the post-war period, Edelman made a career and a name for himself as a cardiologist, and Democratic Opposition activist. The book is a result of conscientious work of a team of a dozen contributors. It contains a foreword by the author's son, Aleksander Edelman, explaining the circumstances of finding the notebooks, and, notably, an extensive commentary by Martyna Rusiniak-Karwat of the Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, an outstanding researcher into the Bund. This section occupies a half of the volume, introducing the Cukunft youth organisation affiliated to the Bund, the archive of the Bund and what happened to its sections, and a biography of Marek Edelman. His Ghetto reminiscences form the most valuable part of the book, along with descriptions and profiles of a dozen Bund activists and their corresponding organisations (incl. Skif). A selected bibliography, abstract, list of abbreviations and list of illustrations are appended. Being a mine of information on the period concerned, the book should be included in university library collections. (GK)

Jacek Leociak, *Młyny boże. Zapiski o Kościele i Zagładzie* [God's Mills. Notes on the Church and the Holocaust], Czarne, Wołowiec, 2018, 197 pp.

Jacek Leociak is a literary scholar whose main focus is documentary, memoiristic as well as fiction-narrative texts related to the Holocaust – the annihilation of the Jews during the Second World War. He has been dealing, in this context, with the Warsaw Ghetto for a number of years. In 2011, Leociak founded the Polish Centre for Holocaust Research, affiliated to the Warsaw-based Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences – being one of the two such institutes, along the Jewish Historical Institute. The Centre has developed a wide scientific, editorial and publishing activity, providing new interpretations that undermine the until-recently prevalent perceptive paradigm of the War, positioning the Poles as, by and large, victims of the German Nazi occupation. The book in question undermines the martyrological paradigm and the prevalent conviction about the glorious chapter in the history of the Catholic Church – its clergymen being believed to have joined a widespread action of rescuing the Jews. An essayistic book, *Młyny boże*

... gathers threads already touched upon by this author in press releases or as part of his teaching activity. Now, in a single volume, they form a new, thought-over and (so to put it) 'explosive' whole. The present state of research allows for re-determining certain facts or making them known (for example, we are told that the Rev. Józef Puder, a convert from Judaism, was denounced to the Germans as a Jew by another priest – Stanisław Trzeciak, a belligerent anti-Semitic publicist, and was consequently imprisoned). The author looks at the Catholic Church as the outcome of a *longue durée*. Anti-Jewish prejudices from the Late Antiquity lasted, in his opinion, until quite recently (the Second Vatican Council marking a breakthrough), recurring in texts used in the liturgy and catechesis. Anti-Judaist/anti-Semitic content communicated in the Catholic teachings, present in periodicals published by the Church before 1939 (clergymen often being 'sowers of hatred' at that time), did not disappear with the outbreak of the Second World War. Anti-Semitism facilitated acceptance of the Nazis' anti-Jewish actions and, at times, pushed the Poles to partake in the Holocaust. The book is an accusation – journalistic but based on historical arguments – of the Catholic Church (Pope Pius XII and the Polish Catholic hierarchs, including Primate August Hlond) of a tacit acquiescence to the Holocaust. (BK)

Katarzyna Madoń-Mitzner (ed.), *Relacje polskich więźniów obozów nazistowskich systemu Mauthausen-Gusen* [Accounts of Former Polish Inmates of the Nazi Concentration Camps of the Mauthausen-Gusen System], Ośrodek KARTA, Warszawa, 2018, 384 pp.

This publication is a second, revised edition (the first was awarded a Historical Prize by *Polityka* weekly in 2011) of the book on the extreme existential experience shared by the inmates of a Nazi concentration camp. The experience is told by a hundred former prisoners of Mauthausen-Gusen. Their stories – testimonies, statements, confessions – are arranged chronologically and, partly, thematically. The respective sections present the pre-war life stories of the interlocutors, their path to the camp, their first and last days inside the camp, the liberation, and return home. Subject-based chapters evoke the consecutive stages of their lives as inmates, with the characteristic elements and components of the camp existence – the chronic hunger prevalent in that isolated space, extended system of terror, mutual relationships between inmates; also, the functioning of the 'affiliated' units called sub-camps, Gusen being one of them. The volume has been meticulously edited by Katarzyna Madoń-Mitzner and her associates (Monika Kapa-Cichocka, Ewa Kubaczyk, Piotr Filipkowski, Magda Szymańska, Jarosław Pałka, and Paweł Pęciak). Rather than a chronicle of the camps in question, or a story of the 'site' told

by its former ‘residents’, the focus is on individual sentiments and feelings: it is demonstrated how the camp realities were experienced by concrete individuals, above all, the victims. The witnesses represent diverse backgrounds and localities, education, professions, and worldviews; as a result, the camp experience is viewed from different perspectives. The publication has come out as part of the international Mauthausen Survivors Documentation project, whose Polish partner is the Warsaw-based KARTA Centre. (GK)

Ksawery Jasiak, Krzysztof Kawalec, and Piotr Stanek (eds.), *Koniec wojny na Śląsku. Rok 1945* [1945: The End of the War in Silesia], IPN, Warszawa, 2018, 256 pp.; ills

Compiled by authors working at the Universities of Wrocław and Opole and the Opole Branch of the National Remembrance Institute [IPN], the study describes the developments of the first six months of the year 1945 in the region of Silesia, in a few contexts: military and political, legal-and-constitutional, through to socioeconomic. Composed of two parts, it offers problem-focused studies in the first and reminiscence accounts and testimonies in the second. The fourteen sketches depict the situation of the Silesians, including members of the German minority and the circles of Silesian autonomists during the first months of the new rule, just after the Red Army entered the land. These studies do not go beyond the generally accepted pattern whereby the region’s history is described in terms of repressions and the trauma related to the brutality of the Nazi authorities, and the repressions applied in the first post-war years by the newly-installed Soviet authority and its subordinated Polish administration. In a few cases, however, evoked are the fortunes of certain individuals and their families, in a longer perspective. This biographical framework depiction seems to excel among the numerous studies penned by historians, lawyers or archivists describing the socio-political situation in Silesia in the year 1945, the history of the local units of the NSDAP, and reconstructing the image of the war as reported by the residents of the German part of Silesia, including former inmates of the ill-famed POW camp of Łambinowice. The second part of book is filled with reminiscence material, particularly, accounts and documents forming a characteristic pattern demonstrating the originality of the region compared to the remainder of Polish territory of the year 1945. Meticulously edited, the book contains previously unpublished iconography dating to 1945. (GK)

Paweł Smoleński, *Syrop z piółunu. Wygnani z akcji „Wisła”* [The Absinthe Syrup. The Expelled in the ‘Wisła’ Action], Wydawnictwo Czarne, Wołowiec, 2017, 223 pp.

This collection of seventeen historical reportages by a journalist, reporter and writer associated with the *Gazeta Wyborcza* daily, editor of its historical supplement *Ale Historia*, tells the life stories of the Ukrainians and Lemka people displaced as part of the ‘Wisła’ Action of 1947. The author approaches these occurrences not only as an instance of ethnic cleansing but primarily as a genocidal crime, rather than a brutal preventive action – as Polish authors tended to describe it until the 1980s. The book under review records diverse experiences from the period. The narrative is mainly based upon the most recent literature – and, notably, on a collection of interviews with protagonists of the events. Most of the displaced persons were deported to Masuria and West Pomerania. The author extensively cites the accounts of Polish soldiers, including those concerning the organisers of the cleansing actions; among them is Stefan Mossor, a high-ranked officer in pre-war Poland and a Legionnaire with Józef Piłsudski; or, General Karol Świerczewski. This suggestively shows a continuity in the thinking of Polish military elites, at least since the late 1920s. A series of moving witness accounts – including those by Jan Pucuła of Solec Kujawski, Mikołaj Kursa, or Natalia Kuźma – presently a resident of Toronto, Canada – have been confronted with the findings of historians dealing with Polish-Ukrainian relations, such as Jan Pisuliński and Grzegorz Motyka; or, the major ‘defender’ of the displacement action, Czesław Partacz. The lot of those kept at the Jaworzno camp form the story’s epilogue. This essential publication helps understand the puzzling complexity of the history, or intertwined histories, of the Poles, Ukrainians, Jews, as well as the heritage of several ideological orders that still cannot be forgotten, let alone digested. (GK)

Stefan Korboński, *W imieniu Kremla* [In the Name of the Kremlin], ed. by Maciej Korkuć, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – KŚZpNP, Warszawa, 2017, 396 pp.; series: Z Archiwum Emigracji, 5

Stefan Korboński (1901–89) was a barrister and politician active with the agrarian (or peasant) movement. After 1939, he represented the Peasants’ Party within political institutions of the Polish Underground State, and headed the conspiratorial Directorate of Civil Resistance [KWC]; in the spring of 1945, he was the Government Delegate at Home – that is, Deputy Prime Minister of the Polish Government-in-Exile. In June 1945 he was arrested by the NKVD and released shortly afterwards. He soon resumed public political activity, as a leader of the Warsaw branch of the Polish People’s Party [PSL]. The memoirs

book under review was written during Korboński's emigration, in the 1950s. His recollections span from 1945 to November 1947, the latter date marking his secret departure from Poland – at the moment he and the entire Party was denied any opportunity to act in public. This new edition of Korboński's records is critical, furnished with hundreds of biographical notes. The author was acquainted with a number of politicians representing various ideological currents – yet, he would not reveal all the names of his interlocutors, in order to protect them. A valuable quality of this book is its engrossing narrative and aptness of the author's observations – some of them dating to before 1939. Korboński travelled across 'post-Yalta' Poland and considered the incorporation of the Recovered Territories an equitable fact; he noted down all the manifestations of normalisation of life within the country, along with acts of political terror committed by the NKVD and the Polish public security apparatus; talked to party activists (including communists), intellectuals, and ordinary people – appreciating the enthusiasm of the country's rebuilding and the bitterness caused by the loss of the Eastern Borderlands. The memories is actually a diary (based, probably, on Korboński's daily jottings), showing the points-of-view of ordinary Poles as well as democratic political elites; he considers the Pogrom of Kielce, 1946, to have been the communist authorities' provocation. Owing to its thematic abundance and the author's penetrating perception, *W imieniu Kremla* is one of the very important sources regarding the history of Poland under the 'people's democracy'. (BK)

Misja UNRRA w Polsce. Raport zamknięcia (1945–1949) [The UNRRA Mission to Poland: a Closure Report, 1945–9], ed. and with an introduction by Jacek Zygmunt Sawicki, Werset, Lublin 2017, 180 pp.

The *Report on the UNRRA's actions in Poland, 1945–1949* is an important document compiled in late 1949 and early 1950 as a summary of the actions taken by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, which dealt with charity aid in Poland right after the Second World War. The report moreover documented the scale of material losses the country suffered during the war. The document was made part of the 'open files' resource in 1976. It often tends to be neglected in public debate that, being one of the major beneficiaries of the UNRRA programme, Poland took advantage of support amounting to a sixth of the organisation's budget. The report discusses the methods, scope, and statistical particulars of the aid which amounted as of 1946 to as much as 22 per cent of the GDP. The document has been edited and preceded with an extensive introduction Professor Jacek Z. Sawicki. The book is probably the first so rich source of knowledge on the UNRRA and its activities in Poland. The *Mówiąc Wieki* historical magazine has extended

its media patronage to the book. The volume comprises a bibliography, an extensive annex, and indexes of persons. The document, sensational in a number of respects, ‘x-rayed’ multiple unknown aspects of social life in the earliest post-war years, meticulously edited by an experienced editor (Sawicki permanently contributes to the KARTA Centre, among his other activities), invites insightful reading by experts in the period concerned and, certainly, by a broader public. (GK)

Konrad Rokicki, *Kluby studenckie w Warszawie 1956–1980* [Student Clubs in Warsaw, 1956–80], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – KŚZpNP, Warszawa, 2018, 135 pp., ills, index of persons, bibliog.; series: Warszawa Nie?pokonana, 15

A product of its time, student culture was a specific current within mass culture in communist Poland. Providing the young generation with free-of-charge education, the State, naming itself ‘socialist’, enabled the formation of a social group consisting of those having more spare time than the other groups of employees. The de-Stalinisation meant that the State quit the ambition of fully controlling the lives of young people. A fruit of the political Thaw, student clubs became spaces of relatively unrestrained artistic expression: music, particularly jazz, was played live there (and not from LPs); the goers danced and watched or performed cabaret and student theatre shows; also, higher culture was nurtured there – discussion meetings were held featuring fiction authors, movie directors, and so on. Clubs were the seedbed for positive snobbery and ‘socialist elitism’; visitors could read student periodicals there (made by, and for, young academicians). The author has determined that between 1956 and 1980, as many as thirty-seven clubs for university-level students operated in Warsaw alone, a few of them being of a central rank: ‘Stodoła’ and ‘Riviera-Remont’ invited students from the local University of Technology; ‘Karuzela’, those from the University of Warsaw; ‘Medyk’ hosted Medical Academy students; ‘Hybrydy’ was open to everyone; other such places were associated with specific faculties or departments or even with student residence halls. The largest of the clubs reported to the Polish Students’ Association (ZSP) – the organisation that mainly dealt with social and cultural affairs of the student milieu. The clubs were obviously not out of touch with Poland’s political realities, but political and educational tasks superimposed on them by initiators and activists were treated as necessary evil. ‘Hybrydy’ was an important point in the political map of the capital city and, virtually, the whole of Poland: several popular performing artists made their debuts in this very ‘behemoth’ (in Rokicki’s words), among them Ewa Bem, Marek Grechuta, Wojciech Mlynarski, Czesław Niemen, Jan Pietrzak. ‘Hybrydy’ artists performed outside Warsaw as well, for common public. Due

to scarcity of relevant sources, the book mainly deals with clubs regarded as 'central' while offering an opportunity to get acquainted with Polish student culture as a whole, particularly during its heyday in the 1960s. The 1980s decade saw a decreasing artistic standard in a number of clubs, which mainly offered space for discotheques and consumption of alcohols. In general, the clubs were not profit-focused, so their existence and good functioning was dependent on the attitude of political authorities – the ZSP and city rulers (for instance, despite its popularity, 'Stodoła' moved several times from one address to another). A number of colour reproductions of posters and photographs, whose value can be appreciated thanks to a non-typically large format of the book, add to the publication's quality. (BK)

Radosław Ptaszyński, *Stommizm. Biografia polityczna Stanisława Stommy* ['Stommism'. A Political Biography of Stanisław Stomma], Wydawnictwo ZNAK, Kraków, 2018, 704 pp., illus

The book is an extensive political biography of Stanisław Stomma, Polish lawyer, academician, and political activist. The author, a young scholar associated with the University of Szczecin, focuses his narrative around so-called 'Stommism' – a term coined to denote a specific policy-making style pursued by the man who presided the 'Znak' Deputies' Group over a number of years. 'Znak' was the only legally operating opposition formation in communist Poland. There are altogether eight chapters which concisely describe Stanisław's young years and his first academic and other professional experiences, and his experiences during the Second World War. These summary descriptions are followed by what Ptaszyński considers focal in Stomma's biography – namely, his activities in post-war Poland. The sections dealing with this part of his life are arranged chronologically, starting with the country's rebuilding after the war and the Stalinist period (1945–56), then covering the period of 1956 to 1961, the 'small stabilisation' years (1961–7), the time between the two political crises – i.e. 1968 to 1976. Beside these, the author discerns two periods of Stomma's peaking political influence: the 1980s, marked by Stomma's activity with the Primatial Social Council and the 'Dziekania' Club; and, the period following the year 1989, when he was in office as a Senator, affiliated with the Democratic Union – later, Liberty Union – party. The author's attentive perception of Stomma's activities, including as a political commentator, in terms of the personal and political context (which changed in time), definitely calls for appreciation. To this end, Ptaszyński has made a skilful use of the National Remembrance Institute [IPN] resources, which helped him reconstruct the peculiar ambience of the sixties, for that matter: in the parliamentary environment, top-level government circles, as well as in the local Catholic milieu. The Church-related thread is not as highlighted, in spite

of the author's access to ecclesial archives never before available to scholars and to the relevant correspondence (incl. letters to/from Jerzy and Anna Turowicz). It is astonishing, moreover, that analysis of the position and role of the Churches and religion in the public space has been neglected. Instead, the view of Stomma's activities as integrated in a broader political landscape and a serious approach towards the moments in his life when he was no more a foreground actor rank among the strong points of this study. Again, the analysis of Stomma's intellectual formation can be regarded as unsatisfactory. As a result, his entire practical output and involvement remain, as it were, 'disconnected', occurring in an empty space. The theoretical assumptions, the actual beliefs or convictions of the story's central character remain unknown to the reader. Ptaszyński's book seems, in a number of its sections and subject areas, an exhaustive, accessibly written and satisfactory biography – but in fact it is not an intellectual biography. Stomma's young years and personal formative development remain clearly underestimated. (GK)

Łukasz Garbal, *Prezydent opozycji. Krótka biografia Jana Józefa Lipskiego* [President of the Opposition. A Short Biography of Jan Józef Lipski], IPN, Warszawa, 2017, 464 pp.

Born in 1926 (died in 1991), Jan Józef Lipski was a personage without whom the history of Polish political opposition, beginning with the early 1950s, cannot be well understood. Lipski was a cofounder of the Crooked Circle Club, contributed to the 'Letter of the 34' and the petition in support of the students expelled in 1968 from the University of Warsaw. 1976 saw Lipski among the cofounders of the Workers' Defence Committee [KOR]; later on, he and his associates set up the Society of Scientific Courses [TKN]. He joined the 'Solidarity' movement, becoming one of its activists from its earliest days, including a membership with the trade union's Masovia Region's Board. Garbal proposes a dozen-or-so hypotheses regarding the facts of Lipski's biography and the history of the initiatives he animated. Probably, not all of these hypotheses will prove to be well-informed. In any case, it was already in the 1960s that Lipski was considered a man of moral authority in the dissident circles. Lipski was an interesting case of a left-oriented activist who never got fascinated with communism, or yielded to infatuation by Marxism. The author recalls occurrences from Lipski's biography he considers the most important – including the mythologised episodes like Lipski's activity with the Masonic lodge 'Copernicus', the behind-the-scenes of the 1989 parliamentary election, or the sickness that led to Lipski's death. Although the biography is mainly political, our attention is drawn to the part played by Lipski's wife, Maria. Owing to its narrative style, *Prezydent opozycji* ... is a popular-science book. A more extensive version is being prepared, under

the title *Jan Józef Lipski. Biografia źródłowa* [J.J.L.: a source-based biography], jointly by the National Remembrance Institute [IPN] and the Polish Literature Documentation and Studies Institute (the latter being a unit of the 'Adam Mickiewicz' Museum of Literature). For the time being, the book under review, composed of forty-plus chapters and narrational in style, adroit and, at times, daring, focusing on the important episodes in the history of Poland, certainly deserves being read with attention – not only by experts of post-war communist Poland. (GK)

Jan Olaszek, *Przeciw PRL. Szkice z dziejów opozycji demokratycznej* [Counteracting the PRL. Essays in the History of the Democratic Opposition], Trzecia Strona, Warszawa, 2017, 247 pp., bibliog., illus

At the turn of the twenty-first century, the recent history of Poland enormously gained in popularity, which is partly owed to the popularising activities of the National Remembrance Institute [IPN]. Apart from the Warsaw Uprising of 1944 and the post-war underground armed resistance, the history of the political dissidents – termed the 'Democratic Opposition' – has drawn special attention; one of the reasons being that non-communist elites of the Third Republic were rooted in them, in one way or another. Born 1985, Jan Olaszek has distinguished himself as an excelling scholar; he has several books to his credit dealing with the Democratic Opposition in post-war communist Poland, along with editions of a few source collections related to the history of the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union 'Solidarity'. A collection of twenty-nine articles (of which twenty-five were first published in 2010–17 in the daily press or historical periodicals), Olaszek's new book (in question) has been meant to help popularise knowledge on the Democratic Opposition, with a focus on certain aspects of its spectrum – which namely include the revisionist trends within the ruling communist party (the Polish United Worker's Party [PZPR]), the Workers' Defence Committee (KOR), and the main or central, Warsaw-based current of the underground 'Solidarity'. A couple of these essays are biographical, describing persons such as Wojciech Onyszkiewicz (cofounder of the KOR), the historian Adam Kersten (fervent advocate of communism and member of the PZPR in his youth, later on – underground editor, publisher and printer), Colonel Stanisław Dronicz (officer with the Polish Army; retired since 1982, he was active as an author and publisher of a conspiratorial magazine targeted at soldiers). Other texts concern various circles or milieus – including the conservative-liberal magazine *Res Publica*, the ways in which the communist central government used anti-Semitism to support its struggle against the dissidents, or some high-profile episodes in the history of clandestine 'Solidarity'. While the popularising intention

can be deemed fulfilled, the complete negligence of the right-wing circles, whose contributions to the Democratic Opposition were remarkable, might be seen as distorting the broader picture of this particular period in Polish history. (BK)

Andrzej Zawistowski, *Bilety do sklepu. Handel reglamentowany w PRL* [Shopping Tickets. The Rationed Retail Sales System in Communist Poland], Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa, 2017, 544 pp.; references, index of names, index of goods

The ‘tickets’ (food stamps, or ration cards) were a symbol, one of the many, of the daily realities in Poland under communism. The rationing of foodstuffs and of a number of other basics in Poland between 1944 and 1989 came as a necessity for the authorities, whereas it became an extremely burdensome aspect of everyday reality for the society. The author has contained his findings in this respect in a voluminous (over half a thousand pages) study. Based on a really extensive archival research and the existing literature, a very interesting book has come out, one of fundamental importance to all the researchers dealing with the social history of the People’s Republic of Poland. The history of the rationing is described across the chapters, with special focus on the Second World War – the period in which the United Kingdom launched, in Zawistowski’s opinion, a model rationing system. For the communist Poland, two reference periods have been determined – 1944–61 and 1976–89. In the early years, the authorities repeatedly altered the ‘dietary standards’ for individual groups of people as well as the categories of those entitled to receive the rationed goods. This implied an irresistible impression that the rulers of Poland were not completely in control of the system. Enormous deficiencies were certainly a serious obstacle. As the author convincingly demonstrates, the Ministry in charge of the rationing was not even capable of bringing about sufficient deliveries to cover the demand based on the decreed apportionments. The last fifteen years of the People’s Republic is discussed much more at length. At that time, the Government and the ruling communist party, led by Edward Gierek, in face of fast-approaching economic turmoil, resolved to launch a ration-coupon system for a range of foodstuffs. In the eighties’ decade, immersed in a crisis, rationing of goods was commonplace. The situation characteristic of the fifties, when shortages affected rationed commodities as well, reappeared – now, in a severer form, as the list of rationed goods was extending virtually day by day. In his attempt to answer the question why in the realities of communist Poland the rationing system effectively brought about no positive outcome, Zawistowski makes an essential observation. Wherever a rationing system was once introduced – as in the UK, or the United States – a role of paramount importance was assigned to the

respective nations that were ‘integrated’ into such a system. As opposed to these experiences, in post-war Poland, a variety of preparatory strategies were pushed forward to circumvent rationing, almost in parallel with the launch of food stamps; at the same time, the authorities had to put considerable effort into the ‘sealing’ of the strongly ‘leaking’ system – to no avail, though. (HW)

Dariusz Jarosz and Maria Pasztor, *Nie tylko Fiat. Z dziejów stosunków polsko-włoskich 1945–1989* [Not Only the Fiat. Aspects of Polish-Italian Relations, 1945–89], Scholar, Warszawa 2018, 506 pp., index of names

The book is a follow-up of the authors’ previous study on Polish-Italian relations (*Skazani na podległość* [Doomed to submission]) in the years 1945–58. This time, however, Jarosz and Pasztor take a closer look at the relations between the two nations in the entire post-war communist period; the new book draws greatly on the threads of its preceding one. The point of departure is similar for both, as the authors seek to describe the history of relations between two countries that belonged to the opposing political blocs. The study is founded on a reliable source base, as the underlying research was done in Polish as well as Italian archives; relevant source publications, literature and press have been used. Based on these extensive historical sources, the authors unfold their narrative, organised into two basic parts concerning the periods of 1945–58 and 1959–89, respectively. Each part contains three chapters, dealing respectively with political, economic, and cultural issues. It is quite apparent that identification with the two divergent camps was decisive as regards the character and the course of political contacts, which in turn determined the nature of actions taken in the economic and cultural areas. As far as commercial exchange is concerned, Poland supplied the Apennine Peninsula with coal and foods, receiving in exchange, primarily, mechanical-engineering products, production/assembly lines, and licences (Fiat taking prominence among them). Polish-Italian economic cooperation varied in intensity within the period concerned; it was only in the latter half of the 1960s that actions in this respect intensified remarkably. Similar time caesurae are identifiable for the cultural cooperation. (HW)

Filip Gańczak, *Polski nie oddamy. Władze NRD wobec wydarzeń w PRL 1980–1981* ['We will not give Poland up']. The Authorities of the German Democratic Republic and the Events in the Polish People's Republic in 1980–1], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – KŚZpNP, Warszawa, 2017, 277 pp., bibliog., index of persons, annexes, Eng. and German summaries

The strike wave that swept Poland in the summer of 1980 and the emergence of the independent labour union named 'Solidarity' shook the political system of the People's Republic of Poland. These developments aroused deep distress in the East Germany's leadership team and concern about the possibility that the communication lines between the GDR and the Soviet Union might be cut. In response to the crisis situation in Poland, which was called a 'counterrevolution', Berlin took four important decisions: (i) the contacts between the German and Polish nations were restricted – including by suspension of the agreement for visa-free regime for tourists crossing the frontier zone (in force since 1971, as a token of Polish-German friendship); (ii) the Polish economy was supported by food supplies and a favourable credit of DM 250 Mio.; (iii) GDR's authorities lobbied with the USSR for a military intervention in Poland; and, (iv) support was provided to those in the Polish authorities who opted for martial law as a cure for the crisis. The East German leaders considered the limitations and restrictions related to martial law still unsatisfactory, and called upon General Wojciech Jaruzelski to be even more consistent in eradicating the 'counterrevolution'. In his description of the relations between the two countries in those crisis years, Filip Gańczak uses a political-science decision-making model created by Ziemowit Jacek Pietras. Gańczak draws a profile of the East German decision-maker centres, with a special role assigned to Erich Honecker, Secretary General of the communist party, who was capable of taking decisions on his own, encountering no opponents within the party's elite. Decision-making situations – the circumstances in which the solutions were accepted, and their effects – are described. In effect, the argument is logical and intellectually disciplined. All the three decision-making areas were at least consulted with the Soviet communist party's leaders. The fact, quoted by the author, that the GDR in 1982 granted Poland's Interior Ministry commodity aid in the form of 360,000 hand tear-gas grenades assumes the proportions of a symbol. (BK)

Andrzej Friszke, *Sprawa jedenastu. Uwięzienie przywódców NSZZ „Solidarność” i KSS „KOR” 1981–1984* [‘The Eleven’ Case: the Imprisonment of the Leaders of the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union ‘Solidarity’ and the Social Self-Defence Workers’ Defence Committee, 1981–4], Znak Horyzont – Instytut Studiów Politycznych Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Kraków, 2017, 639 pp., ills, bibliog., index of persons

A group of bearded men look at the reader from the photographs included in this book: interned detainees and prisoners, deprived of their liberty upon the launch of martial law in Poland on 13 December 1981. A dozen of them (incl. Andrzej Gwiazda, Jacek Kuroń, Adam Michnik, Karol Modzelewski) were taken to court by General Jaruzelski’s regime, and sentenced after a great political trial. The efficient punishing of the opposition leaders for their, allegedly violent, strife for a change of the state system was meant to prove that the introduction of martial law was a right move, and would have made long-term suspension of civil liberties legitimate. However, the case was not an easy task to handle for a government that cared about at least a semblance of the rule of law, endeavoured to regain credibility among the Western states, and to not irritate the relationship with the Apostolic See. Most of the accused were intellectuals who knew how to defend their reasons. Andrzej Friszke (b. 1956) was one of the most outstanding historians specialising in the recent history of Poland, and an exquisite author. His skill of combining minute analysis of the activities of political actors (the Church, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Polish United Worker’s Party [KC PZPR], the Ministry of Internal Affairs’ Investigation Bureau, the underground ‘Solidarity’ – in a broad sense) and the attitudes of individuals, is excellent. Long-term imprisonment – internment and, subsequently, detention under criminal charge – was a tough experience for the ‘Eleven’, of whom only few had been through a like experience before. None among this group would have supported, in his testimony, the public prosecutor office’s arguments; some, Michnik for example, despite colossal hindrances, communicated with public opinion at home and abroad (to mention his famous *Letters from Prison*). The political emigration played an enormous symbolic role in the history of Poland, but rarely efficiently influenced the political developments at home. Knowledgeable of this fact, the communist authorities employed a number of steps in order to ‘facilitate’ for ‘Solidarity’ activists to leave Poland once martial law was proclaimed. A plan to this end with respect to the ‘Eleven’ was prepared in 1983, but was eventually given up in face of the joint refusal from the accused and a reasonable attitude of the negotiators representing the Catholic Church. 1984 saw the initiation of a trial of the Workers’ Defence Committee [KOR] activists, yet it was suspended on the following day. The

KOR leaders were released, and thus could influence the course of events in Poland. Their unshakeable attitude might have won them additional moral capital that proved useful in their further activities in favour of the Democratic Opposition. (BK)

Łukasz Sołtysik and Grzegorz Waligóra (eds.), *Ogniwa zakładowe i sekcje branżowe NSZZ „Solidarność” 1980–1989* [Company Units and Branch Sections of the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union ‘Solidarity’, 1980–9], IPN – KŚZpNP, Oddział we Wrocławiu, Wrocław and Warszawa, 2018, 399 pp., index of persons, bibliog., Eng. summaries [attached to each article, untitled in the Eng. version]

Composed of thirteen articles written by eleven authors, the book opens a broad area in which there has been little research: the daily functioning of the trade union ‘Solidarity’ on the company level. It was only in the recent years that, owing to the commitment of the Institute of National Remembrance [IPN] and the once-actors of the movement – former ‘Solidarity’ members (presently retired, some of them outright ‘veterans of the Underground movement’), that in-depth regional studies on ‘Solidarity’ were enabled. In 1980, every second Polish state-economy sector worker joined the trade union. Every factory, coal mine, school or institution was a small community with a specific social composition, associated in its own unique way with its seat town and region. The book in question has shown how multiform and heterogeneous the ‘Solidarity’ of the period 1980–1 (and later on) was, how diverse were the problems it had to face or tackle. Police documents and enterprise archives, independent press and, primarily, accounts of witnesses and actors form the basis of the articles published in the book. Some of them are worth special attention: Zbigniew Bereszyński’s article on the ‘Małapanew’ Steelworks in Ozimek, (the then-)Voivodeship of Opole, and Paweł Gotowiecki’s on the ‘Marceli Nowotko’ Steelworks in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, Voivodeship of Kielce. In-Union sections occupy a great deal of the book. As is known, ‘Solidarity’ had its territorial organisation, grouping its members by place of work rather than occupation or area of production. Branch sections were tolerated by the Union’s leadership team as they facilitated the formulation of a common position by representatives of various jobs or professions: there were the metallurgists’, miners’, education workers’, healthcare workers’, etc., sections, with as many as 145 such ‘horizontal agreements’. At the same time, however, the sections made it difficult for ‘Solidarity’ leaders to pursue a uniform policy towards the state authorities. Kamil Dworaczek deals with the Railwaymen’s Section in 1980–1: how powerful this body

was is attested by its membership – as many as 80 per cent of all railroaders within Poland, altogether some 300,000 people, were ‘Solidarity’ members. The railroads were, moreover, essential to the state defence system. Hence, unionist railroaders could not be ignored. Yet, Dworaczek would not tell us why so resilient a sectoral organisation never re-emerged under the martial law. Jan Jurkiewicz’s focus is, in turn, the ‘Solidarity’ in the Silesian-Dąbrowa Region. It was there that one of the tree countrywide agreements was signed which put an end to the strike wave of August 1980. The region was coal mine-dominated and its importance for the nation’s economy was enormous. The local leader Jarosław Sienkiewicz, an associate of Lech Wałęsa, represented a controversial leftist policy, looking favourably on the ruling communist party (the Polish United Worker’s Party [PZPR] was discredited in the eyes of the nation) while criticising the Catholic Church. With Sienkiewicz’s short but noted political career at the background, Jurkiewicz describes the problems shared by the unionist miners, pointing to the fact that the emergence of ‘Solidarity’ units in the coal mines brought about the reappearance in the adits of religious objects, mainly statues of Saint Barbara, which were consecrated during religious ceremonies. The article by Tomasz Kozłowski demonstrates, based on convincing statistics, that the change initiated by the ‘Solidarity’ in Poland embraced the judicial apparatus as well. In spite of a stricter political control than in the other areas of administration and economy, also the judiciary generated their independent trade union, which was joined by the office staff, court-appointed guardians, judges and assessors. Apart from social affairs, the union made demands for rendering the judiciary independent of political power; interestingly, these particular demands were articulated more strongly than those for increased pay. The most ardent activists of the ‘Solidarity’ in judicial institutions joined overt opposition circles under the martial law regime, demanding a thorough reform of the law system in Poland. Setting up ‘Solidarity’ units within the Ministry of Internal Affairs was a very difficult task. The political authorities hindered the establishment of a trade union among the Ministry’s civil workers; the Citizens’ Militia [MO] did not manage to set up their union at all; some uniform-wearing union members or activists were detained in detention centres after martial law was launched on 13 December 1981. The bloodless revolution had its limits and restrictions. The volume is excellently edited, which is noteworthy. (BK)

Marta Kurkowska-Budzan, Marcin Stasiak, *Stadion na peryferiach* [A Stadium in the Periphery], TAIWPN Universitas, Kraków, 2017, 396 pp.; ills

Being a rare case of an exquisitely successful combination of methodologies of diverse humanistic sciences, this book is unique in the area of Polish historiography. The authors have sought to answer the question about the importance of sports to inhabitants of Poland's provincial areas. Based on the accounts (several dozen interviews) gathered by the authors and memoiristic sources, an extremely interesting story has emerged on upcountry Poland, with physical activity as the point of departure. Sports are seen, in this context, as a catalyser of the change taking place not only in the 'physicality' of the provinces (improvement of the condition of these areas) but also, and more importantly, of the cultural change. The study shows how the provinces were overcoming taboos such as participation of girls and women in physical education classes. PE teachers were assigned a considerable role in the process. The authors describe the great passion and willingness to compete amongst the provincial youth for whom physical activity became, in some cases, a fast track to a successful career, including in sports. The structure of the book is of special importance: dissimilar to a classical historiographic take, the assumed methodology is explained in detail in the last chapter (entitled 'Supplement, or, How we were getting to know the outskirt-area stadiums'). The said structure directly results from the applied methods, which have been drawn from social sciences: the grounded theory and symbolic interactionism. The authors believed that imposing a theoretical model beforehand might cause that the researcher would be 'orientated' toward a concrete result. To avoid such an effect, they resolved to discuss the theoretic background in the concluding chapter. (HW)

Paweł Dobrosielski, *Spory o Grossa. Polskie problemy z pamięcią o Żydach* [Disputes around Gross. Polish Problems with the Memory of Jews], Instytut Badań Literackich, Warszawa, 2017, 333 pp.

Cultural scientist and philosopher, and translator from English, employed at the University of Warsaw's Institute of Polish Culture, the author positions Jan Tomasz Gross as a central figure in Polish collective memory at the end of the twentieth and beginning of the twenty-first century: a somewhat problematic, yet probably defendable, choice. (A similar argument has previously been proposed by Joanna Michlic and Andrzej Leder). Dobrosielski categorises Polish reading public into 'interpretive communities', and it is according

to this criterion that he, quite convincingly, shows the development of the public debate. Even if the figure of Gross is not strictly related to the texts analysed in the book, the model so assumed facilitates the reading. The book's five chapters are preceded by an introduction, not-quite-extensive but very helpful in understanding the subsequent argument, enumerating the relevant theoretical aspects and explaining the analytical apparatus and tools (incl. anthropology of memory and discourse analysis, Stanley Fish's interpretive communities theory) and describing the character of the research material. The subsequent chapters analyse the role of figures and demography in the discussions on Gross's books (the disputers' implied intentions and system of values being usually implied), categorisations and the labelling of the debaters, the keys used by the interlocutors, the methods and styles of discussing the books, all this arranged by chronological stages. Proposed are penetrating reconstructions, a problematisation and interpretation of Polish ideas of the past in the output of the Polish-American sociologist and historian; it has to be borne in mind, though, that his books are limited to a single thread of Polish collective memory, primarily consisting of Polish-Jewish relationships and the issue of anti-Semitism. The study is original and, doubtlessly, innovative in many of its sections. It analyses the conditions and the potential of talking about certain issues or affairs of essence to Poles; the important aspects include mental blockages, politicisation, or even extreme ideologisation, and the persuasive power of certain messages. Not only does the author reconstruct the reception of Gross's writings but, first of all, shows the shaping of a symbolic *imaginarium* and the creation of collective identities. There is no doubt that this is one of the most important studies describing the Polish public discourse undergoing a change at the turn of the century, of use also in historical research in the language of politics and public life. (GK)