

## SHORT NOTES\*

Acta Poloniae Historica  
120, 2019  
PL ISSN 0001-6829

### GENERAL WORKS

*Wspólne dziedzictwo. Rzeczpospolita Obojga Narodów w polskiej, litewskiej i ukraińskiej historiografii XIX – XXI wieku* [Common Legacy. The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the Polish, Ukrainian, and Lithuanian Historiography from the Nineteenth till the Twenty-First Century], ed. by Mariola Hoszowska, Joanna Pisulińska, Paweł Sierżęga and Leonid Zaszkiłniak, University of Rzeszów Press, Rzeszów, 2019, 283 pp.

The present volume provides an overview of themes, methods, and attitudes of historiography concerning the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in three of its successor states during the last two centuries. As the selection of authors (twelve Polish, three Ukrainian, and one Lithuanian) indicates, the volume is focused on the eastern part of the Commonwealth: the issues of the subsequent unions of Poland with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the legacy of the Commonwealth for the territories of today Lithuania and Ukraine (the Belorussian perspective is obviously missing and makes this combination painfully incomplete). The only essay that escapes this scheme is the one by Tomasz Maćkowski, regarding Royal Prussia in Polish historiography of the inter-war period. Moreover, two introducing essays by the most distinguished Polish specialists in history of historiography – Jerzy Maternicki and Andrzej Wierzbicki – concern topics distantly related to the main subject of the volume. The first one discusses a methodological question of the ‘image of the past’ as an object of study, and the second one the theories of foundations of the early medieval Polish monarchy by conquest, which were highly popular in the nineteenth century. The remaining essays provide quite a balanced perspective, embracing synthetic analyses (for example of the so-called Varsovian school of history, the Polish émigré historiography, or the East-Slavic historiography in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and the contemporary Lithuanian historiography), discussion of the most influential Polish authors of a given period, and interpretations of the oeuvre of lesser known historians. Clearly, the book focuses on political history and the history of ideas, putting aside all other aspects of the common past. This is why, perhaps, it testifies for

---

\* 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).

the strong and apparently unshakable divisions of the national perspectives. The book privileges the writings of historians who stressed the supranational character of the Commonwealth and its legacy. Regrettably, however, no attempt to introduce a comparative perspective that would involve parallels and analogies between the national approaches is offered. (AK)

*Żydzi polscy w oczach historyków* [Polish Jews in Historical Research], ed. by Adam Kaźmierczyk and Alicja Maślak-Maciejewska, Jagiellonian University Press, Kraków, 2018, 263 pp., index of persons

This eclectic volume aims at presentation and discussion of the present state of Jewish studies in Poland. The fourteen essays included regard various themes, methods, approaches, and types of evidence adopted by the specialists in the field in the last decades. The topic is introduced by the first essay, by Antony Polonsky, providing an overview of the achievements and main trends in the research area. The following essays concern studies on the Jewish communities in Cracow, several types of sources for medieval Judaism, the emigration to Israel, Jewish cultural life in the Second Polish Republic, various aspects of the Holocaust, and post-World War Two conversions to Catholicism. They are accompanied by two studies on the nineteenth-century press, regarding the anti-Semitic periodical *Rola*, and the idea of assimilation in the Jewish journal *Ojczyzna*, published in Lviv in the last decades of the century. Obviously, the overview is far from completeness, and its main merit is in the presentation of the methods and approaches related to various kinds of sources, which seems to be potentially of great interest to other scholars. (AK)

Urszula Glensk, *Hirszfelowie. Zrozumieć krew* [The Hirszfeld Family. Understanding the Blood], Universitas, Kraków, 2018, 496 pp., photos

At last, a genuine biography of Ludwik Hirszfeld has come out. An outstanding figure in Polish and international science, Hirszfeld authored classical studies on typhoid fever, heritability, childhood diseases, serological conflicts and transplants. Urszula Glensk, author of several noted studies (including two prize-winning books on the history of Polish reportage, entitled *Historia słabych* [A History of the Frail] and *Po Kapuścińskim. Szkice o reportażu* [After Kapuściński. Essays on Reportage]), a literary scholar associated with the University of Wrocław, has broken the 'memorial-building' convention of writing of uncommon scholars or scientists. First of all, she emphasises the importance of personal and family relationships, apparently legitimately

demonstrating the extent to which the first years of one's life and his/her immediate environment shape a man's life. Second, the role of Ludwik's wife is highlighted as an equal partner in the couple, which *de facto* formed an outstanding scientific team. The study is composed of five chapters, based on what the author considers the key dates in the history of Ludwik and Hanna Hirszfeld: their births (both were born in 1884) and family life in the late nineteenth century; the early days of the First World War; the rebirth of independent Poland in 1918; the outbreak of the Second World War (1939); and, lastly, the liberation in 1945. The couple spent their post-war years in Wrocław (until 1945, the German city of Breslau), where Ludwik died in 1954. His widow Hanna, an outstanding paediatrician and medicine professor with the University of Wrocław, outlived him by ten years (died 1964).

The reader's attention is refocused from a vision of a solitary 'blood professor' struggling with the adversities of fate toward a history of complicated intimate accounts of the lives of the characters featured in the book. In spite of its reader-friendly style, the book is not a popular-science one; the author has collected and skilfully applied methodological concepts: from contextual biography-writing through to memory studies, using to this end aspects of modern knowledge on blood studies, immunology, and eugenics. The book offers an attractive narrative on the tempestuous history of post-war Wrocław and heterogeneous academic circles in the city. The story also covers the complicated fates of acculturated Polish Jews before and during the Second World War; Ludwik Hirszfeld considered himself primarily as a Pole. In 1942, he fled from the Warsaw Ghetto (where he had intensely researched into typhus fever; his memories, entitled *Historia jednego życia* [A History of One Life], published in 1946, became a best-selling book. Glensk has taken advantage of the unique 'Hirszfeld Archive' and a number of other sources, where personal relationships are of special interest, along with a number of before-unknown photographs. (GK)

Marek Górlkowski, *Noblista z Nowolipek. Józefa Rotblata wojna o pokój* [A Nobel Prize-Winner from Nowolipki Street. Joseph Rotblat's War for Peace], Wydawnictwo Znak, Kraków, 2018, 507 pp., index

This historical reportage by a long-standing reporter, editor, and columnist with *Gazeta Wyborcza* daily, repeatedly nominated for journalistic prizes (incl. the Grand Press), is composed of five parts, split into a total of forty-four chapters. The book recalls a man who is a not-too-well remembered figure in Poland: born in 1908, Józef Rotblat, an eminent Polish physicist of Jewish descent, took part in the Manhattan Project, and then on – together with Albert Einstein, Bertrand Russell, and others – founded and developed the

Pugwash movement that strove to eliminate the arsenal Rotblat himself had codeveloped. Górlkowski's biography, traditionally written, chronologically discusses Rotblat's entire life; it moreover shows the Jewish district of Warsaw and Rotblat's uneasy youth years. Resulting from the Poland's (re-established as a state in those days) negative attitude towards Jews, he sought education with a private Free Polish University [Wolna Wszechnica Polska] and not at any of the state-sponsored universities. The acquaintances he established in that period appeared useful in the later years, when the Manhattan Project was underway.

Rotblat devoted the latter half of his life to fighting what he *de facto* once co-produced. He was a cofounder, and for many years chairman of the Pugwash Conference for Science and World Problems – a scientists' movement promoting disarmament and peace, whose central objective has been to bring about complete nuclear disarmament. The study under review deserves interest among readers as it combines an entertaining personal history of an eminent physicist, entangled with the lot of the Jews in Poland – before, during, and after the Second World War. It is not only its literary qualities that justified the book's nomination for the Juliusz Prize (as an outstanding reportage). A prologue, conclusion, calendar, detailed notes, biographical notes and an index are attached. (GK)

Jacek Małczyński, *Krajobrazy Zagłady. Perspektywa historii środowiskowej* [Landscapes of the Holocaust. A Perspective into Environmental History], Instytut Badań Literackich PAN, Warszawa, 2018, 247 pp., bibliog., ill.

The author shows a new direction in Holocaust research, part of the post-humanities trend. The study has three chapters, comprising smaller (sub) studies. Chapter 1 is entitled 'Postcards from Auschwitz. The Idea of Landscape in the Third Reich – Forms of Representation as an Idyll, Garden-Town, with the Nordic Landscape Idea'; chap. 2 deals with the role of nature in memory museums (Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bełżec, above all); chap. 3 is on Shoah landscapes in contemporary art. The author follows several key theses of post-humanist critics (primarily, J. Donald Hughes), showing how environmental history knocks the witness/observer out of comfortable perception customs and showing new cognitive aspects revealed while telling genocide stories. This innovative study can be expected to be read widely among those interested in methodological novelties and the peripheries of the Holocaust process – in subjects and topoi that are known and repeatedly referred to, yet with a new light shed on them they gain invigorating cognitive values. This is yet another scholarly book documenting that Holocaust studies form one

of the most vivid areas in modern Polish humanities. A list of illustrations and a very helpful references list are included. (GK)

Anna M. Brzezińska, *Spór o średniowiecze. Z rozważań nad tożsamością kulturową Europy: Jacques Le Goff, Jerzy Kłoczowski, Aron Guriewicz* [A Dispute Over the Middle Ages. Considerations on Europe's Cultural Identity: Jacques Le Goff, Jerzy Kłoczowski, Aron Gurevich], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź, 2018, 216 pp., bibliog., index of persons

The author has embarked on an ambitious task. Her study in the area of history of historiography is primarily based on extensive study of the output of Aron Gurevich, Jacques Le Goff, and Jerzy Kłoczowski. Her study is composed of four synthetic chapters, of which the first outlines the intellectual biographies of the three scholars mentioned in the title, their ideas and scholarly interest in the Middle Ages, differences in their research and methodological approaches. Chapter 2 is an actual introduction as it tries to analyse the category of Middle Ages in European cultural memory, as it evolved between the late nineteenth century until the end of the twentieth, with special emphasis on the appearing waves of reluctance toward the epoch as well as fascination with it as a point-of-reference in public debates. Chapter 3 discusses historiographical disputes around the Middle Ages and its basic categories: Christianity and hierarchy; feudalism and loyalty toward monarchy; honour and Europe (as an epitome, in the period's thinking). The fourth, and last, chapter, is a zoom-in on the attitudes of the titans of European historiography toward socio-political life, their political choices, public attitudes – in terms of the public institutions they founded or otherwise. Thus it is, largely, a cogitation on the output of twentieth-century historiography, the phenomenon of 'medievalism', the influence of the French *Annales* school with elements of intellectual history of the Russian, French and Polish societies, facing the era of terror of totalitarian temptations. Lastly, the study attempts at confronting the medieval cultural heritage in France, Russia, and Poland. A rich bibliography is attached (including interviews with Jerzy Kłoczowski), along with a index of persons. (GK)

## MIDDLE AGES

Stanisław Rosik, Sylwia Jędrzejewska, and Karol Kollinger (eds.), *Hierofanie, wierzenia, obrzędy... Kultura symboliczna w średniowieczu między pogaństwem a chrześcijaństwem* [Hierophanies, Beliefs, Rituals: The Symbolic Culture in the Middle Ages, between Paganism and Christianity], Materiały V Kongresu Mediewistów Polskich [Materials of the Fifth Congress of Polish Medievalists], ii, Uniwersytet Rzeszowski, Rzeszów, 2018, 252 pp., ills., English summary

This publication, another one following from the Fifth Congress of Polish Medievalists, is composed of two clearly different parts. The first, focused on symbols and idols, opens with an article by Aleksander Musin, Mariya Zheltova, Ol'ga Tarabardina and Elena Tianina on artefacts, Neolithic and dating to early Iron Age, which were used as amulets in medieval Novgorod – including stone implements adapted as amulets, by adding signs or tokens (incised Christian symbols), or by casing or framing. The article discusses a wide array of such objects and sets a guideline for further research on the issue. The subsequent text, authored by Paweł Szczepanik, discusses early medieval anthropomorphic figurines from the territory of North-Western Slavdom, pointing out that such objects are known to the entire Baltic Sea region. The author remarks that the figurines were probably used for purposes of “some hard-to-specify ritual actions”. Janusz Cieślik discusses Svetovid, an idol from the Zbrucz/Zbruch River, emphasising that – in spite of some recent research – the idol is probably original, and was plausibly made in the eleventh, rather than late ninth/early tenth century (as has traditionally been assumed). Lastly, Andrzej Pleszczyński deals with the image of the Tree-of-Life Cross from Wrocław's Holy Cross Church, pointing to medieval and pagan elements of the sixteenth-century historical treasure.

In the part two, focused on tombs, graves and the netherworld, Kamil Kajkowski describes the symbolism of early medieval deposits of horse skeletons in Polish lands. While stressing the importance of these rare finds, the author cannot specify the origins of the phenomenon. It however seems that it can be associated with some form of actualisation or staging of a certain, rather indefinable, myth. Andrzej Janowski poses the question whether chamber graves dating to the tenth and early eleventh centuries, found in the areas of Poland and Rus', were connected with Christianity; his reply is ambiguous. Mariusz Bartnicki deals with the funeral ritual of Rus'sian rulers in the twelfth and thirteenth century, describing the evolution of funeral rituals caused by changes in the religiosity. Funerals of rulers had an important role in the building of the authority of dynasties. Finally, Katarzyna Skrzyńska writes of

a burial ground in Czekanów, pointing to the fact that it was used for a long time by the local community; certain earlier – including pagan – forms of commemoration of the dead were adapted to newer times.

All in all, the book is doubtlessly interesting, with the diversity of the studies collected in it. (AG)

Andrzej Buko (ed.), *Początki chrześcijaństwa na pograniczu mazowiecko-ruskim* [The Origins of Christianity at the Masovian-Rus'ian Borderland], Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii PAN, Warszawa, 2019, 388 pp.

This collection, edited by Andrzej Buko – one of the most eminent Polish archaeologists, whose professional activity has spanned several decades – focuses on a particular region in East Central Europe, the Rus'ian-Masovian borderland, in the early medieval period. A peripheral territory in respect of Poland and Kievan Rus', it was initially an arena of pagan practices and, later on, of rivalry and overlapping of Western and Eastern models. Of a rather modest size, the book is admirable with its broad thematic approach and interdisciplinary coverage. Apart from a description of the environment and a historical introductory remarks, we can find a breakdown of earlier and more recent research, particularly in the areas of ceramics and funeral rituals and ceremonies – quite typically for an archaeological study. (RR)

Mateusz Bogucki, Peter Ilisch, and Stanisław Suchodolski (eds.), *Frühmittelalterliche Münzfunde aus Polen. Inventar, i: Grosspolen*, Institut für Archäologie und Ethnologie der Polnischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Numismatische Kommission der Länder in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Warszawa, 2017, 954 pp., ill.

Presenting an inventory of Polish numismatic finds dating to the Middle Ages, the volume (formally marked as the first, but actually the last in a five-volume series) is focused on Greater Poland (Wielkopolska) region. Each of the volumes relates to a different region of Poland, within its present, post-WW2 borders: ii – *Pommern* [Pomerania] (Warszawa, 2016); iii – *Masovien, Podlachien und Mittelpolen* [Masovia, Podlachia, central Poland] (Warszawa, 2015); iv – *Kleinpolen* [Lesser Poland] (Warsaw, 2013); v – *Ermland und Masuren* [Warmia and Masuria] (Warsaw, 2016). This monumental edition has been co-edited by a Polish and a German team, consisting of the most outstanding experts in medieval numismatics from both countries. The chronological framework extends from the early Middle Ages (for Europe), preceded (for Poland alone)

by the prehistoric period – between the sixth and the twelfth century. An extremely broad scope of old coins has been included, with professional descriptions attached to the illustrations. (RR)

Janusz Lewandowicz, *Klasztory, mnisi, mniszki. Obraz życia monastycznego w „Registrum epistularum” Grzegorza Wielkiego na tle prawa cesarskiego i kościelnego* [Monasteries, Monks and Nuns. The Image of Monastic Life in Gregory the Great’s *Registrum epistularum*, in the Context of the Imperial and Ecclesiastical Law], Wydawnictwo Benedyktynów, Tyniec, 2018, 440 pp., Latin, Polish, and Greek material indices, index of names and sources, bibliog.

The study examines the image of male and female monastic life in Pope Gregory the Great’s letters. The rich collection of letters was confronted with relevant documents – Justinian’s Law (the Code [*Codex Constitutionum*] and the *Novellae Constitutiones Post Codicem*) and the legislation of local synods. The author seeks to determine whether the Empire had a dominant role in controlling the functioning of monasteries and cloisters in the West, or its legislation merely complemented the decisions and arrangements of the Church, as reflected in the letters and statutes of the synods.

Of the six chapters, the first discusses the terms and notions – specifically, how to understand phrases such as *habitus monachus* and other words or phrases appearing in the letters and pieces of legislation concerned. Chapter two presents the ecclesiastical and state jurisdiction, in legislative and practical aspects. Chapter three discusses the founding of monasteries and their economic foundations: the construction of monasteries/cloisters, their mergers and raising funds for their functioning. Chapter four discusses the rules of joining religious congregations (age, ruling principles of life) and of leaving them – whether by joining another convent, voluntary abandonment of the monk’s life, or exclusion. Chapter five focuses on the community’s internal hierarchy. There, we encounter abbots, their duties and limitations, abbesses, and other monks and nuns. The last chapter deals with everyday life in the monastery; the problems of chastity, indigence, liturgy and prayers are discussed. The attached annex discusses the constraints in receiving candidates. The conclusive remark is that St. Benedict’s monastic Rule was not a key text in Gregory’s monastic activities, with the important role of the imperial legislation and synodal documents.

The book by Janusz Lewandowicz will certainly be of use to experts dealing with monasticism in the Middle Ages and to those interested in the functioning of legislation in that period. (AG)



Antoni Grabowski, *The Construction of Ottonian Kingship. Narratives and Myth in Tenth-Century Germany*, Amsterdam University Press, Amsterdam, 2018, 294 pp.

The book offers a view on the first several dozen years of the rule of the Saxon dynasty, through the prism of historiography: beginning with the period's chroniclers (particularly, the output of Liudprand of Cremona) and those who continued their work, through to the historians of the Third Reich period, ending with Gerd Althoff. Member of the staff of the Polish Academy of Sciences' Institute of History [IH PAN], the author confronts the historical accounts against the findings of modern scholars, pointing, on the one hand, to a deep abyss separating them and, on the other, to a continuity and durability of certain views. Grabowski approaches the statements and opinions of historiographers, medieval and modern alike, as a myth that was meant to justify the rule of the House of Liudolfings (Liudolfinger) in the Reich. He focuses on a few specific moments related to the dynasty: the bringing of Henry I and Otto I to the throne; the crackdowns on internal opposition; and, the defeat of the Hungarians at Lechfeld. Apart from accounts from the Ottonian time, the author finely uses a comparative method, making use of medieval historiography. (RR)

Piotr Okniński, *Narodziny miasta komunalnego. Struktury ustrojowe, ramy przestrzenne i podstawy gospodarcze Krakowa w XIII wieku* [The Birth of a Municipal City. Institutional Structures, Spatial Framework and Economic Foundations of Cracow in the 13th Century], Instytut Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2018, 204 pp.

This fairly small book by a medievalist, member of the Polish Academy of Sciences' Institute of History [IH PAN], is a revised version of his PhD thesis submitted at the University of Warsaw (tutored by Sławomir Gawlas). As a point of departure, the model of Western city proposed by Weber is used in the author's analysis of development of municipal structures of the city of Cracow in the thirteenth century. The subtitle well reflects the book's problem-related structure. The legal and institutional problems related to Cracow are first considered, then comes the development and organisation of the urban space and, lastly, the city's economic functioning. The fourth (and last) chapter goes somewhat beyond the assumed chronological frame as it discusses Vogt Albert's rebellion of 1312. Written in a clear and approachable manner, the book is rather laconic in style. (RR)

Jan Mikołaj Wolski, *Kultura monastyczna późnośredniowiecznej Bułgarii* [The Monastic Culture of Late-Medieval Bulgaria], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź, 2018, 232 pp., indices of names, geographic and ethnic names, bibliog., English summary; series: Byzantina Lodziensia, 30

This brief monograph is based on the author's doctoral dissertation on the monastic culture in Bulgaria in the period 1185–1396. The book has two chapters, both divided into a number of subchapters; there is an introduction, a conclusion and an annex comprising excerpts from the *Nomocanon* (CIAI 1160).

Chapter one specifies the body of sources used in the publication. Indicated are the texts which were of importance in the lives of the monks – the books they read, for which purpose the author has explored inventories of monastic libraries and normative texts decreeing what they were supposed to read. The source base is complemented with the regulations of the congregations, the lives of monks and saints, and donation documents.

Chapter two is subdivided into three sections, the first presenting the ideals of monastic life – renunciation of the world and oneself, penance and prayer. Then, styles of monastic life are discussed: coenobitism, anachoretism (eremitism), hesychasm, and semi-anachoretism – being the different degrees of separating oneself from the world – along with lifestyles considered incorrect and erroneous, referred to as idiorhythmias. At last, the relationship between the monks and the broader community is addressed: their tasks as protectors and defenders of the state, their priestly and pastoral activities, and the role of monasteries as the centres or hubs of economic, literary and educational activities.

Bulgaria is virtually the only focus of this book. As it seems – and the author confirms it, in the very concise concluding remarks – it would be helpful to compare the situation of Bulgarian monks against the nearby Byzantium and Serbia. Also, looking beyond the strictly Orthodox circle, at the monastic cultures of the West of the European continent, would have been worthwhile. (AG)

Karol IV Luksemburski [Charles IV of Luxembourg], *Liber de gestis meis*, translated into Polish by Magdalena Nowakowska, with an introduction, afterword, notes, and bibliography by Anna Paner, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, Gdańsk, 2019, 178 pp., index of names, bibliog.; series: Fontes rerum Bohemicarum

This translation of *Vita Caroli imperatoris*, also known as the *Liber de gestis suis*, is yet another translation of the text into a modern language. The book opens

with a (quite modest) explanation of why the word *suis* was replaced by *meis* in the title. Anna Paner's remark that Charles's message is 'very personal' is far from convincing.

Although the introduction to *Liber* is rich in content and rather accurate, there are two important elements lacking. The manuscripts are not discussed – their number is only mentioned. And, there is no broader description of the existing and available editions. It is hard to keep track of what is, namely, an edition of the text, and edition of its medieval translation, and what is the translation itself. The basis of the translation is only referred to in a reference footnote, though the introductory section would have been the right place for it. Moreover, there is no explanation provided of why the edition in the 'Fontes rerum Bohemicarum' series has been chosen as the version to be translated, while another edition (the one by J. Pavel) has been used in several moments.

The translation is preceded by the Latin original, in its entirety. Why? Hard to guess, actually. Instead of the logical concept of a bilingual version, the original and the translation are separated. The actual source of the original text is unknown, while the translation in itself is correct (and complemented with extensive footnotes).

The afterword outlines the figure of Charles IV. This penetrating description lacks literariness at some points, and we are never told what the opinion of the author, A. Paner, is. With all that, this section presents the history of Charles's life quite well. (AG)

#### EARLY MODERN TIMES

*Najdawnniejsze przywileje królewskie miasta Bielska z XV i XVI w.* [The Earliest Royal Privileges Granted to the Town of Bielsk from the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries], ed. by Waldemar Bukowski and Dorota Michaluk, Muzeum Rolnictwa im. ks. Krzysztofa Kluka, Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych, Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Podlaskiego – Departament Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego, Ciechanowiec, Warszawa and Białystok, 2018, 115 pp., ill., source texts in Latin and Ruthenian, and as translated into Polish (by Waldemar Bukowski, Krzysztof Pawłowski, Jarosław Zawadzki, and Krzysztof Pietkiewicz); series: Lokacje miast podlaskich

*Przywileje królewskiego miasta Łosice 1505–1779* [Privileges of the Royal Town of Łosice, 1505–1779], ed. by Andrzej Buczyło and Jarosław Zawadzki, Muzeum Rolnictwa im. ks. Krzysztofa Kluka, Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych, Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Podlaskiego

wództwa Podlaskiego – Departament Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego, Ciechanowiec, Warszawa and Białystok, 2018, 81 pp., ill.; source texts in Latin and Ruthenian, and as translated into Polish (by Jarosław Zawadzki and Rafał Górny); series: Lokacje miast podlaskich

These two volumes open an editorial series on towns in the voivodeship of Podlachia [Podlasie] in modern era prepared jointly by the Central Archives of Historical Records, the Museum of Agriculture in Ciechanowiec, and the Marshal Office of Podlaskie Voivodeship. The idea to initiate such a series seems to have been quite apt. In the modern period, typical of Podlachia was a rather dense network of small towns, most of them functioning based on somewhat different rules compared to Western European towns. These two volumes will facilitate further research on towns in the Podlachia region. Volume one contains seven earliest charters granting diverse rights to burghers of Bielsk. The Latin documents are published alongside their Polish translations. The source-based edition include an extensive introduction discussing the town's history, with emphasis placed on spatial development, rights of the burghers, the role of a local government, and the economic development. Volume two focuses on the locality of Łosice; its structure is identical as that of the former. In the introductory section, the editors summarise the history of the town. The source-based edition includes ten documents dated 1505 to 1779. (MC)

Wojciech Tygielski, *Dylematy włoskiego emigranta. Giovanni Battista Jacobelli (1603–1697), śpiewak i kapelan nadworny, kanonik warmiński* [Dilemmas of an Italian Emigré. Giovanni Battista Jacobelli (1603–97), Singer and Court Chaplain, Canon of Warmia], Muzeum Pałacu Króla Jana III w Wilanowie, Warszawa, 2019, 443 pp.; series: Silva Rerum

The character portrayed in Wojciech Tygielski's most recent book is Giovanni Battista Jacobelli, a musician and court chaplain to the Vasa-dynasty monarchs on the throne of Poland-Lithuania, and Canon of Warmia. The direct impulse for the author's interest in this particular figure was the finding of a collection of letters Jacobelli would send from the Commonwealth to his closest relatives staying in Italy. The editor has resolved not only to publish the letters but also to inquisitively portray the man. Jacobelli's biography has been reconstructed based on a variety of sources, analysed in a pretty critical way. Taking a distanced approach towards the sources and demonstrating ambiguities, the author masterfully shows the behind-the-scenes of a historian's job. The activities of the Canon of Warmia are described against a wide background of

his time. The stages of Jacobelli's career are described, based on a meticulous reconstruction of its path – basically his court activities and then membership of the Chapter. Very interesting are the sections discussing Jacobelli's life, his correspondence with his Italian relatives, the role he played in family conflicts. Added to the biographical description is a bilingual, Polish-Italian, edition of the Jacobelli family's correspondence, including seventy-two letters; forty-seven were penned by Giovanni Battista himself, who was the addressee of the remaining letters dispatched by members of his family. The book is an excellent reading – not only for historians dealing with the Italian diaspora in Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth but also for non-experts willing to expand their knowledge on the period concerned. (MC)

Kirill A. Kochegarov, *Ukraina i Rossiia vo vtoroi polovine XVII veka: politika, diplomatiia, kul'tura. Ocherki* [Ukraine and Russia in the Second Half of the Seventeenth Century: Politics, Diplomatic Service, Culture. Studies], Kvadriga, Moskva, 2019, 424 pp.

Kirill Kochegarov's most recent volume of studies deals with the (widely-understood) Ukrainian-Russian contacts in the second half of the seventeenth century, seen from the perspective of the history of diplomatic service and social history. Of the eight articles included in the volume, as many as five were previously printed in various journals. Kochegarov focuses on a broad array of diplomatic issues concerning the situation of Ukraine in the latter half of the seventeenth century. The book has two parts, the first analysing Ukraine's political position in Eastern Europe. A detailed discussion is made of Mikhail Rodkevych-Portyansky's mission of 1667; the Ottoman power over Right-Bank Ukraine in 1677–8; the Eastern European countries' attitude toward the Zaporozhian Sich; the operations of Moldavian Hospodar Duka in Right-Bank Ukraine and his relations with Russia in the years 1681–3. A selection of critically edited source materials follows, including diplomatic instructions and correspondence kept presently at the Russian State Archives of Ancient Documents (RGADA). In the second section, the author shifts his focus to the history of Ukraine seen from the perspective of its integration with Muscovy, presenting on this occasion the relevant studies in social history (as a broad concept). As many as two chapters of this section deal with Hetman Petro Doroshenko and his contacts with Muscovy. The paragraphs discussing Muscovite-Ukrainian medical contacts are particularly interesting: described is the establishment of the first commercial pharmacy in Kiev and contacts between Russian physicians and Ukrainian hetmans. (MC)

Berndt Strobach, *Der Hoffjude Berend Lehmann (1661–1730): Eine Biographie* [Berend Lehmann, a Court Jew (1661–1730): A Biography], De Gruyter, Oldenburg, 2018, 482 pp., annex (containing source materials)

Berend Lehmann was one of the major court Jews (*Hoffjuden*) active in the German Reich in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century. In the context of the history of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, he is known for his financial involvement in supporting the Saxon candidate for the throne. Strobach points out to the fact that research has so far produced pretty mutually contradictory images of Lehmann, depending on individual historian's views. The monograph mainly seeks to provide a comprehensive biography of Lehmann, based on hitherto-unknown source materials, thus producing an 'unbiased' image of this figure. Years of research have enabled the author to amass a rich historical material, though it has to be stressed that 'Christian' documents, concerning mostly Lehmann's financial activities and operations, have overwhelmingly been used. The biography has been arranged into ten chapters. In a chronological sequence, analysed are the consecutive stages of Lehmann's financial career, which is depicted against a broad background of the history of Jews in Halberstadt and in Saxony. The annex contains twenty source documents related to Lehmann's activities. Strobach has managed to provide a quite detailed description of the character's financial activities, but when reading more and more about these aspects, one gets an impression that the biography is much biased in terms of subject selection, and that the author's approach towards the available sources is at times somewhat naïve. In spite of the description of the life of the Halberstadt Jewry and Lehmann's personal involvement in diverse projects of the local religious community (such as publishing the Talmud), his image, as obtained by the reader, is one-dimensional as primarily the 'Christian' aspects of Lehmann's activities are shown. (MC)

Joanna Schmidt, *Zdrowie mieszczan w dobie oświecenia: polityka zdrowotna właścicieli miast prywatnych z pogranicza polsko-litewskiego* [The Health of Burghers in the Time of Enlightenment: Health Policies of Owners of Private Towns in the Polish-Lithuanian Borderland], Książnica Podlaska im. Łukasza Górnickiego, Białystok, 2018, 165 pp.

The study is a master's thesis which was awarded first prize in a contest for best M.A. dissertation on culture and history of the Podlachia [Podlasie] region, held by Książnica Podlaska and the University of Białystok's Faculty

of History and Sociology. The monograph is modelled to have been a score-winning dissertation; it contains linguistic flaws, mainly due to unsatisfactory proofreading. The first two chapters are introductory (though they occupy almost a half of the book): based on generally known studies, the author outlines the development of towns in the Polish-Lithuanian borderland, between the sixteenth and the eighteenth centuries, and sketches a group portrait of their owners. As it seems, the publisher could have got rid of these sections. The core part of the book is much more interesting: basing on previously not-too-well-known diverse sources, Schmidt analyses the organisation and functioning of the Christian healthcare institutions in private towns. The localities of Białystok, Tykocin, Siemiatycze, Ciechanowiec, and Zabłudów are analysed in a more detailed fashion. The functioning of local hospitals, the social position of physicians, illnesses and methods of treating them are discussed. The policies of privatetown owners aiming at enhancing the sanitary standards of their estates is analysed separately. The study offers some interesting detailed findings regarding individual towns, which may be used in follow-up research. Altogether, however, publishing a master thesis without a hint of elaboration does not seem to be a good idea at all. (MC)

*Sejm Niemy: między mitem a reformą państwa* [The 'Silent Sejm': Between a Myth and the State Reform], ed. by Michał Zwierzykowski, Wydawnictwo Sejmowe, Warszawa, 2019, bibliog., 407 pp.

The volume under review is an aftermath of an anniversary conference held on the tercentenary of the Polish Sejm called 'Silent' [Polish: *Sejm Niemy*] at the Warsaw's Royal Castle. It seeks to discuss the origins, course and consequences of the assembly and its place in the historical memory. Composed of fifteen chapters (articles), the publication is moreover equipped with a collective bibliography, specifying all the important studies on the Silent Sejm. The articles are synthetic and they show all the major aspects of the event. The Sejm session in question is depicted against an extensive background of its time; most of the texts are founded upon previously-unknown source materials. The first five chapters (by, respectively, Andrzej K. Link-Lenczowski, Mindaugas Šapoka, Tomasz Ciesielski, Krzysztof Kościelniak, Adam Perłakowski) discuss in broad terms the origins of the Silent Sejm. Alongside the military events, the analysis extends to the period's political events in the Crown as well as in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The subsequent chapters (by Michał Zwierzykowski, Robert Kołodziej, Wojciech Kriegseisen, Gintautas Sliesoriūnas) discuss the course and the resolutions of the Sejm. The final section is a historiographic essay showing how this particular Sejm session has been described in synthetic

studies on the history of Poland. A well-thought-over layout and thematic diversity make this book a reliable compendium of knowledge on the piece of parliamentary history it discusses. (MC)

*Antologia okolicznościowej poezji politycznej bezkrólewia i wojny o tron polski (1733–1735)* [Anthology of Commemorative Political Poetry From the Period of Interregnum and the War for the Throne of Poland, 1733–35], ed. by Rafał Niedziela, Towarzystwo Wydawnicze Historia Jagellonica, Kraków, 2019, 281 pp.

The anthology contains a total of sixty-seven pieces of poetry discussing the political situation in the period of Interregnum and the war over the throne of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth that followed the death of King Augustus II Wettin. The pieces – rhymed, rhythmic and versed – were written in Polish and referred generally to Poland (the editor would not make it certain, though, whether ‘Poland’ stands for the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth or just ‘the Crown’, i.e. Poland alone). Niedziela has, somewhat astonishingly, ‘censored’ these pieces of verse to an extent, resolving not to publish those he considered “permeated with vulgar or coarse expressions”. Of the three chronologically-determined sections, the first comprises poetry of the Interregnum period, the second from the war over the throne (until the summer of 1734), and the last – from the moment of gradual decomposition of Stanisław Leszczyński’s faction (ended autumn 1735). Most of these pieces were written in the circles associated with Leszczyński [King Stanislaus I of Poland in 1704–9 and 1733–6] and was used in the struggle against the Wettin faction. Each quoted text is preceded by a brief summary and detailed bibliographical information. Moreover, two annexes are attached, the first comprising a set of another sixteen poems; the second, a timeline of the major political events of the Interregnum period, seems irrelevant. The book would primarily be of interest to experts in political history; yet, they basically do not need to be reminded of crucial historical facts. (MC)

*Konfederacja barska 1768–1772* [The Confederation of Bar, 1768–72], ed. by Adam Danilczyk, Wojskowy Instytut Wydawniczy, Wydawnictwo Neriton, Warszawa, 2018, 136 pp.

The inspiration behind this book, being a collection of studies based on hitherto-unknown source materials, was the anniversary (in 2018) of the Confederation of Bar. Composed of six articles discussing various aspects of the Confederation, the publication provides an opportunity to broaden facts-based knowledge on the event and its contexts. The article by Rozalia Kosińska



discusses the sentiments prevalent amongst the nobility in face of the threat of a war against Russia. Adam Danilczyk and Maciej Trąbski discuss military issues – the political decisions and relevant military techniques and technologies among them. Andrzej Haratym and Mikołaj Piotr Borkowski analyse the actions taken on the local level, in the county of Orsza and voivodeship of Greater Poland [Wielkopolska]. Svetlana Mulina discusses the histories of the Confederates taken into captivity by the Russians. These studies are quite exiguous, forming altogether no coherent whole. While most of the articles analyse hitherto-unknown historical sources, the facts described tend to be extremely minute, which makes the reading very difficult for non-experts. As it seems, apart from broader factual knowledge, the book contributes nothing new to the interpretations of the Confederation of Bar. (MC)

*Między Konstytucją a Targowicą: korespondencja i pisma polityczne prymasa Michała Jerzego Poniatowskiego* [Between the Constitution and Targowica: Correspondence and Political Writings of Primate Michał Jerzy Poniatowski], ed. by Angela Sołtys, Rambler, Warszawa, 2018, 209 pp.

The study consists of two basic parts, the first analysing the political activities of Primate Michał A. Poniatowski. Although historiographers have already taken interest in this historic figure, no monograph has ever been published yet. The study edited by Angela Sołtys fills this gap only partly. Rather than analysing the entire biography, the author focuses on discussing M.A. Poniatowski's political activities, beginning with July 1792 – the moment the Confederation of Targowica took over the power. To be more exact, the focus is on the contacts between the 'Generality of Targowica', Primate Poniatowski, and the royal court. The argument is based upon previously-unknown source materials kept at the Primate's political archive (the Archive of the Polish Province of the Congregation of the Missionaries, in Cracow-Stradom) and the Private-Office Archive of King Stanislaus Augustus and the Rev. Gaetano Ghigiotti. Based on the proposed detailed analysis, a nuanced portrayal of the Primate's activities has been drawn. Emphasised is his politically pragmatic attitude, along with the differences in views between him and the Targowica leaders. The second part consists of a source edition, mostly including Poniatowski's correspondence. Let us stress that hitherto-unknown documents presently kept at the Missionaries' Congregation Archive in Cracow make up the most of the source edition. (MC)

## NINETEENTH CENTURY

Halina Rusińska-Giertych, *Kultura książki polskiej we Lwowie w okresie oświecenia* [The Polish Book Culture in Lviv of the Enlightenment], University of Wrocław Press, Wrocław, 2018, 388 pp., bibliog., English summary, indices

The book is a highly comprehensive and informative study of the intellectual life in Lviv of the second half of the eighteenth century and first three decades of the nineteenth one. It is based on the extensive (if not complete) research of the contemporary publications and archives in Poland and Lviv. Its main achievement, apparently, is in the attempt to reconstruct and analyze the popular aspect of the Enlightenment as a process of dissemination of the ideas of learning, acculturation and entertainment through readership, and the promotion of thereof by the local aristocracy and booksellers. It is commonly believed in the Polish historiography that because of the first partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth Lviv and eastern Galicia did not have the opportunity to fully participate in the Polish Enlightenment movement with its literary and educational fever. The present book challenges this thesis by arguing that the Austrian rule - the reforms of Joseph II, the influx of German bureaucrats, the opening of the German university in Lviv, which acquired the status of the capital of the newly formed Austrian province - still constituted a powerful challenge for the Polish elites of the province, which remained quite immune to the efforts at its Germanization, but responded with a combination of spontaneous and orchestrated cultural activities, most notably epitomized by the rise of the local literary production and literary market in general.

Eight chapters of the book carefully reconstruct the intellectual and social life in Lviv of the time, with all its cultural and educational formal and some informal institutions, including theatres, associations, libraries, printing houses, journals, and bookstores. This is combined with an analysis of the local literary production, its authors' achievements, and the marketing activities of the local presses, including its aesthetic aspects. Finally, the book attempts to estimate the number and social composition of recipients of the local literary production, their preferences and reactions to particular publications. Evidently, what the author defines as the 'book culture' is rather the literary culture, or perhaps the culture of readership. (AK)

*Polscy odkrywcy, badacze i eksploratorzy Syberii i Azji Środkowej. XIX – początek XX wieku* [Polish Discoverers, Researchers, and Explorers of Siberia and Central Asia in the Nineteenth and the Early Twentieth Century], ed. by Grzegorz Pełczyński, University of Wrocław Press, Wrocław, 2018, 336 pp.

Siberia and Central Asia (as well as the Caucasus) enjoy a dubious reputation in the Polish historical imagination. They earned an ill fame as a destination of thousands of Poles exiled by the tsarist governments for their involvement in the Polish national movement and the national uprisings. Many of them, forced to hard physical labour, struggling against wild nature, and cut off their families, or serving as conscripts in the Russian army, never returned. However, the tsarist regime recognized social divisions also among the exiled prisoners, and Poles typically constituted their elite. Hence, they often occupied privileged position among the exiled, developed friendly relations with the local people of education and wealth, and established a new life and career. Nostalgia and melancholy were paralleled by fascination with wild nature, and with local cultures, and thus the Poles were pioneers in scientific and ethnographic exploration of the vast colonial possession of the Russian Empire. The present volume is devoted to a number of lesser known figures of this kind. It is composed of nineteen essays, grouped in four parts. Part one concerns Catholic clergy and its scholarly and religious activities. Part two regards travellers and researchers. Part three, composed of just two essays, deals with economic entrepreneurship. The last part is composed of essays regarding artistic and literary achievements of the exiled. One third of the essays included is authored by Russian scholars. Regrettably, and for unknown reasons, only one of them is translated into Polish (this results in some curious inconsistencies, as some Polish texts render Russian names in Polish transcription, and vice-versa). Moreover, the final essay by the editor of the volume has little to do with its main theme, as it concerns a series of Polish documentary movies released in 2005. (AK)

Alicja Urbanik-Kopeć, *Anioł w domu, mrowka w fabryce* [An 'Angel' at Home, a 'Busy Bee' at the Factory], Wydawnictwo Krytyki Politycznej, Warszawa, 2018, 287 pp.; series: Seria Historyczna, 33

A cultural scientist and graduate of Polish and English Studies, presently faculty member of the Polish Academy of Sciences' Institute of the History of Science, the author deals in her book with a known subject that has, however, never yet been discussed in so much detail and with such a panache. Initially written as doctoral dissertation, tutored by Professor Małgorzata

Szpakowska, at the University of Warsaw's Institute of Polish Culture, the book contains four richly illustrated chapters. While it starts with descriptions and analysis of women's emancipation projects, beginning with the mid-nineteenth century (chapter 1) – a topic quite extensively discussed in Polish historiography – the study basically concerns the conditions, lifestyles, and everyday life of female workers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. With a rather modest research catalogue dealt with, one has to bear in mind that the subject-matter in question – apparently so obvious, given working-class studies being *en vogue* in the past – has so far remained untouched in a number of aspects.

First of all, the author seeks to determine where Polish female workers came from, where they worked and how much they were paid, who took care of their children while at work, in the factory. She seeks to establish whether they could write and/or read (and to what extent, if so), whether (and when, if yes) they made use of these skills; what happened when they fell ill, delivered their babies and sought for help. Were they able to successfully fight for such assistance? She would not shun sensitive topics, such as prostitution among women workers (chapter 3). It can be said, without much exaggeration, that Urbanik-Kopeć renders the entire world of Polish female workers at the turn of the century. Also, she tries to answer the question – apparently paradoxical but particularly interesting – why the women's emancipation movement, which was largely post-noble and bourgeois in its character, invited female workers into its ranks so late and mostly without much zeal. The scale of women's presence in the Kingdom of Poland's proletariat was only revealed by a census carried out in 1897: it appeared then that out of 160,000 workers employed in the country, 40,000 were female. In some sectors – such as textile industry, with some 75,000 employees in total, women accounted for over 40 per cent. More women than men worked in the factories of Żyrardów, Łódź, or Warsaw.

Written skilfully, even daringly in certain moments, the book combines methodological refinement with conscientious historical techniques. One may at times be cross at somewhat too-fast extrapolations: the author presents general, more or less relevant, conclusive thoughts about Polish female workers but looks in detail only at those of Łódź, Warsaw, or Żyrardów. But these are secondary flaws: more important is the method, the skill of delving with use of apparently banal questions, and dexterity in discovering certain non-evident mechanisms of social life. Altogether, the book is an important study in social history, women's history, and history of Poland (in the period concerned). (GK)

Alicja Urbanik-Kopec, *Instrukcja nadużycia. Służące w XIX-wiecznych polskich domach* [A Manual of Abuse. Female Servants in Nineteenth-Century Polish Households], Wydawnictwo Sonia Draga, Warszawa, 2019, 310 pp., ill.

The author of a brilliant dissertation entitled *Anioł w domu, mrówka w fabryce* (2018) [see review above] has gone ahead and focused on female servants, the most marginalised social group among nineteenth century woman workers. This study is composed of three large parts, preceded by an introduction (entitled ‘Who Were the Servants?’). Part one deals with the institutions that formed the public opinion of the time (chap. 1 – ‘En Route’; chap. 2 – ‘In the Town’; chap. 3 – ‘At Church’). Part two (‘At Home’) reconstructs the household environment (for the gender relations, in the first place). Part three (‘In the Street, At the Gate’) focuses on the phenomenon of prostitution.

Although a lesser amount of sources has been employed, compared to Kopec-Urbanik’s aforementioned debut-making study – here, mainly press and, to a lesser extent, personal accounts are used – also this study offers a number of fresh conclusions, in an attractive form, interesting also for readers not quite familiar with the period concerned. It is perhaps with an even greater zeal that the author reconstructs the sources of Polish social conservatism and a peculiar patriarchy, never falling into journalism lined with ideology. It might actually be the first study to reinstate the subjectivity of this particular social group. Recalled are the real names and the faces of servants, but first of all, the women described in this book get their dignity back. It is, largely, a story of daily violence and structural exploitation to which the women liberating themselves from their traditional roles had been subjected. A brief conclusion section, bibliography and listed sources (incl. photographs) and a list of endnotes are attached. (GK)

Atanazy Raczyński, *Dziennik* [Diary], vol. 1, trans. and ed. by Aleksander Wit Labuda and Michał Mencfel, Adam Mickiewicz University Press, Poznań, 2018, 762 pp., index of persons

Atanazy Raczyński (1788–1874) was a truly cosmopolitan aristocrat and intellectual, and a diplomat in the service of the King of Prussia. He was born in the most powerful family of Greater Poland (Wielkopolska), and married Anna Radziwiłł of the equally rich, and even more aristocratic, family which brought him large estates in Habsburg Galicia. During his long life he served in the army of the Grand Duchy of Warsaw (1807–9), as a member of the parliament of the Grand Duchy of Poznań (1827–30), and as a Prussian envoy to Denmark (1830–4), Portugal (1842–8), and Spain (1848–52). His was

particularly famous as an art collector and connoisseur (his collection is the pillar of today National Museum in Poznań), a friend and patron of artists and writers, and the author of two pioneering studies: on the modern German art, and the art of Portugal. Due to his position in the Polish and Prussian high society, his diplomatic missions, and his cosmopolitan spirit, he met a number of the most influential people of his time. What was unique for him, was his full adaptation into the German culture, paralleled by his career as a Prussian diplomat and unshaken loyalty to the Prussian monarchy. Politically he was a devout conservative, deeply antagonized against the revolutionary and romantic tendencies of the age. As his diary reveals, he was a passionate observer and commentator of the political life and social changes of his age. A sensitive intellectual, he was no less disappointed by his family life and marriage than he was by the advances of democracy and revolutionary spirit, and thus he sought refuge in numerous affairs, friendship, and his love for the arts, and in his habit of writing a diary.

The present edition covers just the first half of life of this tenacious memoirist – up to the year 1830. It is a translation of the sole preserved copy of the diary (the original was burnt in Berlin in 1943) from its original languages: German, French, English, and Polish. Even though the volume is 762 pages long, it still involves numerous omissions (as we are informed, these mostly consist of citations from the press and literature which the author included with his comments). Hopefully, the edition, armed with an impressive critical apparatus, should be continued. (AK)

Jolanta Skutnik, *Czuła pedagogika. Edukacyjny walor dzieł i działań Izabeli z Flemmingów Czartoryskiej* [Tender Pedagogy. The Educational Aspect of the Activities and Achievements of Izabela Czartoryska née Flemming], University of Silesia Press, Katowice 2019, pp. 556, bibliography, English summary

Princess Izabela Czartoryska née Flemming (1746–1835) was one of the most famous and best known aristocrats of her time, a leading figure of the Czartoryski family, which played the crucial role in the Polish political life in her lifetime. Except for being a daughter, wife, mistress, and mother of the most powerful Polish politicians of the time, occupying a respective position in the life of the high society, she was also an author, and the founder of an art collection that is now the pillar of the Czartoryski National Museum in Cracow. The present study by Jolanta Skutnik analyses her activities from the pedagogical perspective, which perfectly suits the sentimentalist rhetoric of Enlightenment that shaped her protagonist's mentality. The basic analytical concepts employed are these of social participation, interpretation

of heritage, and cultural mediation. Eventually, the author hesitates between the attempts to grasp the princess' personal contribution in what she defines as her pedagogical activities, and her involvement in the broader Czartoryski political program, in which education played a crucial role.

The first part of the book focuses on theatre, and the theatrical aspects of the salon as an institution of the aristocratic socialization, and holidays as an occasion for manifestations of cultural values and political ideas. The second part of the book concerns the contemporary idea of the museum, and the evolution of the princess' collection from an object of entertainment for her family and associates to the first Polish art collection open for the public. The third part regards the education of the princess, the education of her children, and the educational activities and writings of her own and her husband, the head of the military academy established by the last Polish king Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski. The main idea advocated by the book is that the Enlightened cult of reason and rationality, which fascinated many Poles of the age, but also antagonized numerous adherents of tradition, was purposefully tempered and mitigated by the ideas of humanism and the love for mankind, as stressed by the Czartoryskis and particularly by the princess. Clearly, the interpretation provided may seem imprinted by the fascination of the author for her protagonist, and her trustfulness towards the highly idealized discourse of the time, and the numerous compliments paid by the contemporaries to the truly exceptional, and powerful princess. (AK)

Andrzej Fabianowski, *Mickiewicz i świat żydowski. Studium z aneksami* [Mickiewicz and the Jewish World. A Study with Annexes], Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2018, 399 pp., English summary, index of persons

The book is the first comprehensive study seeking to reconstruct and analyse the attitude of Adam Mickiewicz, the great Polish Romanticist poet, towards Jews, Judaism, and the Jewish world. The author, a professor at the Faculty of Polish Studies, University of Warsaw, takes us along these lines in a total of eight large chapters, following the poet's route across Europe. Based on geography, chronology, and subject-matters concerned, we depart from Nowogródek, Mickiewicz's birthplace, and travel via Vilnius and Kaunas (chap. 1) to St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Odessa (chap. 2), and subsequently, to Rome and Dresden (chap. 3). Paris is covered extensively (chaps. 4 and 6), Lausanne (chap. 5) and, lastly, Burgas – then within the Ottoman Empire (chap. 8).

The book is enriched with eleven annexes that describe the context of the 'Jewish question' in Polish territories in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Each of the essays is worth reading attentively; taken

together, they discuss, in a most competent fashion (in the context of Polish humanities in the recent years), the 'Jewish question' in Polish public space from the decline of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth till mid-nineteenth century. Risking no exaggeration, it can be concluded that Mickiewicz's attitude to the Jewish world, with its diverse facets, mirrored the Poland in which the Polish 'national poet' lived and wrote. Thus, every possible aspect is present: from Judeophobia (quite modest in Mickiewicz, given his contemporary local realities), through to philosemitic traces.

This analytical study uses, primarily, philological techniques; it is the tradition of philological studies that the author basically refers to, but this does not restrict his argument. From now on, it is hard to think of any later study concerning the topic(s) in question which would not take into account Fabianowski's findings, hypotheses, and erudite considerations. A summary in English is provided, along with a bibliographical note and a thoroughly collated index of names and characters. (GK)

Adam Mieczysław Skałkowski, *Aleksander Wielopolski w świetle archiwów rodzinnych*, i: *Margrabiego lata przedhistoryczne*, ii: *Margrabiego i Polski tragedia* [Aleksander Wielopolski in the Light of Family archives, i: The Margrave's Prehistoric Years; ii: The Tragedy of the Margrave and Poland], with an introduction and by ed. Mariusz Nowak, PIW, Warszawa, 2019, 411 + 512 pp.

This monumental biography of one of the most controversial politicians of the Polish nineteenth century was first edited in 1946 but has remained almost absent in Polish historical awareness ever since. Apart from a vestigial number of copies, the actual reasons must have been deeper. The first volume (chaps. 1 to 16) of this detailed dissertation primarily attempt at reconstructing the early stages of the future politician's life: his youth and coming-of-age in an aristocratic environment, straightening-out the Wielopolski entail, and subsequently, the organic (1836–45) and revolutionary work (1845–9) periods, journeys to Italy, and disputes over the estate (incl. the Świdziński bequest affair) lingering on for years. Volume 2 (chaps. 1–10) is marked by the politically tense period preceding the January Insurrection of 1863–4 (the excellent essays 'In Power, Against the Society' and 'Winning Over Hearts and Minds' are included), the course of the uprising ('Impressment and Insurrection'), and the last years of Wielopolski's life.

The study includes a number of extensive notes – be it in the form of micro-essays, source excerpts or attachments – and a meticulous index of persons. A.M. Skałkowski was one of the most eminent researchers into the nineteenth-century; now in oblivion, he was the most versatile student of Szymon Askenazy. Hence, restoring the memory of him is quite a right



thing to do. His vision of Wielopolski – a charismatic man, excelling with his intellect and the force of his character, blended with egotistic traits of a statesman – will remain undeniable for a long time yet. While the reading of this extensive study can be difficult for a contemporary reader (due to a somewhat archaic language used by the author and the density of historical details), this classical book is worth reading indeed. Mariusz Nowak, who has reminded us of Skałkowski and edited the book under review, deserves a special word of appreciation. (GK)

Franciszka Ramotowska, *Warszawa przed-styczniowa. Przebudzenie: “rewolucja moralna”* [Warsaw Before January 1863. The Awakening: A ‘Moral Revolution’], ed. by Dorota Lewandowska and Małgorzata Osiecka, Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych, Warszawa, 2018, 312 pp.

This study, penned by a respected scholar specialising in January Insurrection of 1863–4, is made up of seven chapters elaborately describing the consecutive stages of patriotic radicalisation that preceded the outbreak of the uprising. Apart from chapter 1, showing a socio-historical image of Polish society – with a detailed analysis of, inter alia, the condition of the public education system, a review and characterisation of the Kingdom of Poland’s authorities – the subsequent sections, arranged by subject and observing narrative chronology, describe the groups which were involved in the patriotic upheaval (chap. 2 – ‘The awakening’); the role of Narcyz Jankowski’s mission (May 1858–July 1860); the split and polarisation of the pro-uprising patriotic camp (chap. 4 – ‘After the break-up’); the high point of patriotic demonstrations (chap. 5 – ‘The culmination’); attempts at pacifying the social attitudes under the rule of Count Aleksander Wielopolski as head of the civil government (chap. 6 – ‘The Polish time’); and, lastly, the patriotic mobilisation turning into clandestine action (chap. 7 – ‘From overt action to sliding into the underground’). One more section, an epilogue, is followed by a detailed calendar of events pointing to what happened afterwards, including the uprising’s defeat. The monograph was published posthumously – the author, an outstanding archivist and scholar keen on the January Insurrection period, died in 2003. Her study can be regarded as a crowning of years of research and the *opus vitae* (before it, Ramotowska wrote a dozen highly esteemed studies on the circumstances of the rebellion’s outbreak). Although the uprising of 1863–4 no longer stirs up much emotion among scholars or, primarily, the public interested in the history of Poland, Ramotowska’s book will certainly become part of the history of historiography as a classical study in political mobilisation before the era of masses, which for Polish lands means the Revolution of 1905. (GK)

Maria Konopka, *Polski rynek wydawniczy Lwowa w dobie autonomii galicyjskiej* [The Polish Publishing Market in Lviv at the Time of Galician Autonomy], Universitas, Kraków, 2018, 437 pp., English summary, index of persons

The book is a highly ambitious attempt to reconstruct the entire publishing production in Lviv in the time of Galician autonomy (1867–1914). It may be seen as a continuation of the above-discussed book by Rusińska-Giertych (whom its author fully ignores), even though its method is slightly different, and indeed it focuses more on books, and the relations between its authors, editors, and publishers, leaving aside other cultural institutions, and the problems of the reception of literary production. Although it hardly brings any grand new interpretations, its merit rests with a highly detailed analysis of the publishing business, its organization, the profiles of particular editors, printing houses, and entrepreneurs. Thus, what it stresses is rather the limitations and difficulties than dreams and ambitions of authors and their publishers. Its method is partly statistical, as the author tried to divide the entirety of Lviv's publications of the time (having formulated a sophisticated definition of what should, and what should not be considered as a properly Lvivian publication) into disciplines, and to establish a statistical overview of their synchronic and diachronic relations. Moreover, nearly half of the book is occupied by the indices encompassing the full lists of booksellers, printing houses, editors, journals, other institutions, authors, and other individuals who sponsored particular publications. Indeed, one can hardly imagine a more informative and complete guide through the backyards of the literary production of the time. (AK)

Jerzy Gaul, *Czarno-żółty miraż. Sprawa Józefa Piłsudskiego w monarchii habsburskiej: 1896–1918* [A Black-and-Yellow Mirage. Józef Piłsudski's Affair in the Habsburg Monarchy, 1896–1918], Agencja Wydawnicza CB, Warszawa, 2018, 387 pp., tables, indices, bibliog.

A study penned by an eminent expert on Józef Piłsudski, staff member at the Central Archives of Historical Records [AGAD] and a long-standing faculty member of the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce. For a dozen years now, Jerzy Gaul has been collecting Polish-related materials in Austrian and German archives. The monograph in question is composed of eight extensive chapters describing in a chronological and subject-oriented way Józef Piłsudski's relations and connections with the Habsburg monarchy.

The author puts an emphasis – more intense, perhaps, than the other Piłsudski's biographers – on his radical revolutionary beginnings (chapter 1 –

‘A revolutionary, 1896–1908’), linking the about-faces Piłsudski tended to make later on, and his specific trait of a charismatic nonconformist, to his tempestuous left-oriented youth. He shows, agreeing or polemising with the other authors (notably, Ryszard Świątek as the author of *Lodowa ściana, Sekrety polityki Józefa Piłsudskiego 1904–1918* [Icy Wall. The Secrets of Józef Piłsudski’s Policies, 1904–18], Kraków, 1998), the Legions Commander’s advanced relations with the Austrian intelligence service, reminding – and, repeatedly, reconstructing Piłsudski’s brilliant career as a warfront commander. The study comes out as a result of a dozen years of scrupulous archival and documentary search, and the meticulous reconstruction of a number of unknown episodes is its highest value. The book will be found valuable by those interested not only in Piłsudski himself but also in the complex Polish-Polish relations at the turn of the century. An attempt at a brief evaluation of the attitudes of the one who later became Marshal of Poland is provided in the epilogue section. An extensive and meticulous bibliography, index of names and subject index are attached. (GK)

Teresa Chylińska, *Karol Szymanowski. Romans, którego nie było. Między Tymosząwką i Wierzbówką* [Karol Szymanowski: a Love Story That Never Happened. Between Tymoszkówka and Wierzbówka], Polskie Wydawnictwo Muzyczne, Kraków, 2018, 300 pp.

A study written in the style of historical reportage, based however on an enormous and multilingual query, follows up the threads of an episode from the monumental work by the musicologist Teresa Chylińska, the most eminent expert in Karol Szymanowski’s musical and writing output (*Karol Szymanowski i jego epoka* [Karol Szymanowski and His Time], vols. 1–3, Kraków, 2000). An editor of sixteen volumes of the composer’s correspondence as well as his literary works, also of his complete compositions, now dwells on the acquaintance between Szymanowski, who was born to a Polish landowning family, and Natalia Davydova, a Russian aristocrat. The friendship between a young man and a young woman – turning with time into a long-lasting dalliance – first evolved at two provincial manors, in the localities of Tymoszkówka and Wierzbówka (in what later became Ukraine), before the Great War broke out, and later on, virtually all across Europe (primarily, in Vienna and Rome). The story features a whole array of personalities from the Polish and Russian cultural milieus, ‘starring’ Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz, Arthur Rubinstein, Grzegorz Fitelberg, Kasimir Malevich (Davydova was the artist’s secretary), Nikolai Berdyaev, and Lev Shestov – to name the leading figures. There are fifteen chapters (plus an epilogue) showing the stages in the lives of both central characters, set against the background of the traditional world getting decomposed (the outbreak of the Russian Revolution, emergence of the Soviet

Union and a revived Poland). Natalia took her own life in 1933; Karol passed away in 1937. The story told in this book emerges as an ‘action love-story’ but it is essentially a sort of documentary reportage showing the entangled biographies of two outstanding though mutually different creative personalities. The book is based upon pedantic reading and analysis of the extremely useful letters exchanged by Davydova and Szymanowski, and a painstaking reconstruction of a broad context of the period. It importantly contributes to the history of East European intellectual classes and the complicated history of the region’s intelligentsia. The afterword is by the teatrologist and musicologist Józef Opalski. (GK)

### INTERWAR PERIOD

Brigitte Gautier and Maciej Urbanowski (eds.), *Zagadkowy Ksawery Pruszyński* [Ksawery Pruszyński the Enigmatic], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, Kraków, 2018, 180 pp., index of persons; series: Francuski Łącznik

A volume in the series run by scholars of the University of Lille (the academic centre known for its Polish Studies) and the Jagiellonian University is a collection of studies on Ksawery Pruszyński (1907–50), the outstanding reporter, correspondent and writer of the interwar period. Given his hybrid views, ambiguous as they were since his early youth, which evolved due to his travel experiences and personal traumatic experiences, among which were the Spanish Civil War of 1936, the dynamism of Polish-Jewish relations in the 1930s, the threat posed by Germany, and so on, Pruszyński is considered a hard-to-analyse case.

The studies, written primarily by Polish authors, representing various academic institutions and following diverse methodological and worldview approaches, expressly confirm this view of the man. In the first part, entitled ‘Reportages’, the essays focus around the two most notorious reportage cycles (Justyna Zych and Monika Bednarczuk write of *Palestyna po raz trzeci* [Three Times Palestine]; Maciej Urbanowski, Krzysztof Biedrzycki and Łukasz Pawłowski cover *W czerwonej Hiszpanii* [In the Red Spain]). In the part entitled ‘Political Journalism’, Rafał Habielski and Andrzej Nowak take a look at Pruszyński’s political output. The third and last part, ‘Belles-lettres Works’, features five authors – among them, two of the Lille University – who analyse selected threads in literary-critical terms: from Pruszyński’s preferred literary genres (Marta Wyka), through the issue of war (Marzena Karwowska), up to his complicated attitude toward France (Barbara Sosie); there is also a study by Anna Saignes on the work entitled *Russian Year – The Notebook of an Amateur Diplomat*, and Brigitte Gautier’s comparative essay juxtaposing Pruszyński

against André Malraux. In the introduction, Gautier and Urbanowski remark that Pruszyński the man and his ideological attitudes, world-outlook flip-flops, elude simple categorisation. He was much empathic towards those who participated in the Spanish Civil War and condemned the anti-Semitic terror of the 1930s, whilst in parallel combining the cult of what may be termed Polish-Eastern-Borderland identity with understanding for the laws, aspirations and maladies of ethnic minorities. During the Second World War, Pruszyński made a rapid shift again (among other things, he severed the cooperation with Mieczysław Grydzewski and joined the communists, whilst defending Poland's right to the Eastern Borderlands). An index of names and a very helpful chronological and biographical sketch on Ksawery Pruszyński are attached. (GK)

Czesław Brzoza, *Żydzi Krakowa międzywojennego. Kalendarium* [The Jews in the Interwar Cracow. A Timeline], Towarzystwo Wydawnicze Historia Iagellonica, Kraków, 2018, 826 pp., bibliog., index of persons, list of abbreviations

This extensive timeline has been compiled by Professor Czesław Brzoza, a noted historian and documentalist associated with the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, illustrates the history of a 25–26 per cent share of the city's residents, which in absolute numbers stood for a community of between 45,000 and 64,000 (the figure from the population's last days). The book shows the role, position, and dynamism of Cracow's Jewish community and its uniqueness, compared to the other ethnic-and-religious groups. The characteristic traits are a higher-than-elsewhere role of the assimilated Jews and of the phenomenon of acculturation, given the other Jewish communities of the time; a strong influence of radical Zionists (Revisionists); and, somewhat different strategies of coping with the anti-Semitism growing in the 1930s (to mention the cooperation with the ruling *Sanacja* camp until the outbreak of the Second World War). Polarisation and severe party-related and social splits within the local Jewry are well depicted. The everyday life, from the observed customs and mores to the criminal world, is portrayed not as comprehensively; the tabloid press, well established in Cracow (with the infrastructure and staff dating to the Austro-Hungarian monarchy time), has not been satisfactorily used. The study was written based on several years of library and archive queries (apart from Cracow archives, those of the Jewish Historical Institute and the local religious community have been used); notable is the wide use of the press, above all the *Nowy Dziennik* daily – one of the few Jewish newspapers published continuously during the entire Second Republic period. A list of abbreviations, glossary of terms and notions used

in the book, index names and important organisations referred to in the core text, and a bibliography are attached. Altogether, an indispensable monograph for scholars specialising in the period. (GK)

Adam Danek, *Demokracja nacjonalistyczna. O myśli politycznej Zygmunta Cybichowskiego* [A Nationalist Democracy. Zygmunt Cybichowski's Political Thought], Ośrodek Myśli Politycznej, Kraków, 2018, 411 pp., bibliog., index

This monograph by Adam Danek, PhD holder in social sciences, a Jagiellonian University graduate and, presently, faculty member of Cracow's Ignatianum University, is the first so comprehensive elaboration on the biography and ideological heritage of Zygmunt Cybichowski (1879–1946), a constitutional lawyer and political scientist; as experts tend to add, sneeringly, he was the only university professor in Poland to have publicly declared support for the National Radical Camp [ONR]. The author, who a few years ago edited a collection of Cybichowski's major writings (*Na szlakach nacjonalizmu. Wybór pism* [On the Routes of Nationalism. Selected Writings], Kraków, 2017), seems to be one of the best-prepared scholars to tackle the controversial lawyer's ideas. How has he handled the task? The monograph consists of five chapters, primarily focusing on analysis of Cybichowski's political-system reflections (his philosophical and theoretical inspirations [chap. 1]; issues of nation and nationalism [chap. 2]; authority relations in the constitutional thought [chaps. 3 & 4]; Poland in Cybichowski's considerations [chap. 5]). We certainly encounter a systematic exposition of the author's views and ideas on political and constitutional system and arrangements, effectively portraying him as a theoretician in his own right, though not as creative as it might have seemed. It would also be difficult to conclude that Cybichowski has influenced, in any essential way, the theoretical reflection of the parties he supported. After the publication, in 1939, of his *Na szlakach nacjonalizmu. Rozważania prawnopolityczne* [On the Routes of Nationalism. Legal and Political Considerations], he established a friendly footing with the National Party [Stronnictwo Narodowe], which was fascist-oriented at the time, and at the beginning of the Second World War, he supported formations collaborating with the Third Reich. The monograph confirms that within the extreme right movement there existed a broader theoretical reflection, but usually their political programme boiled down to a totalitarian dictatorship, in one form or another. Albeit it is otherwise known that Danek largely sympathises with the views of Cybichowski, the discourse is presented in an incisive, systematic and reliable fashion. All the attempts at critically reviewing a 'nationalist democracy' are however less convincing (cf. section 'A question of democratisation', pp. 282–6), disclosing the author's helplessness in face of Cybichowski's

paradoxes and logical pirouettes (in Danek's words, Cybichowski did not support the degenerated version of nationalism, which he termed 'chauvinism', opting instead for the racial legislation, discrimination based on ethnicity and religion, mass displacements, and the like). A book for those interested in the issues concerned, it contains a short list of references and an index. (GK)

Robert Rudnicki, *Wiesław Ignacy Renke (1912–1944). Życie i działalność kierownika politycznego Obozu Narodowego* [Wiesław Ignacy Renke (1912–44), His Life and Activities as Political Leader of the National Camp], Prohibita, Warszawa, 2018, 349 pp., ills., bibliog., index

The monograph by Robert Rudnicki, graduate of the Faculty of Philosophy and History, University of Łódź, teacher and contributor to the local press, describes a historical figure that might be termed second-rank. Wiesław I. Renke (1912–44) ranked amongst the leading activists with the National Radical Camp [ONR], but in Piotrków Trybunalski – a town in the Łódź voivodeship which played no significant role in the development of the organisation. During the Nazi occupation, Renke associated himself with the Polish Organisation (created by extreme nationalist circles); in 1944, he took part in the Warsaw Uprising and was killed. Renke (as the title indicates) was a political, or organisational, leader of the 'National Camp' – initially, the Camp of Great Poland [OWP], then the ONR, the 'ONR ABC' and its affiliated formations. This marked his more ambitious responsibilities, since this function in the fascist-inclined factions of the nationalist movement was an equivalent of a Communist political officer or commissar. Nonetheless, two of the three chapters (1 – 'The Patriotism of Tomorrow'; 2 – 'Fighting for a Great Poland') deal with a more-or-less minute reconstruction of the ONR in Piotrków Trybunalski, rather than the activities of Renke himself. In this respect, the initial sections are the most successful, with a number of biographical trivia (of value also for other scholars). Yet, there is a number of hagiographic moments—such as "he would always behave very well at school" (p. 35), while a moment later we come across a "hooligan prank in which he indirectly took part, ended up in him being expelled from school" (do.), which is followed by a whole paragraph full of more or less reasonable justifications. The book is nevertheless worth recommending – not because of the apologetic phrases repeatedly cropping up, but to be able to understand, or at least get to know, how Polish provincial areas were growing politically and socially radical, in what ways political violence (towards Jews, but not only) contributed to these developments, and why it had critical consequences for the later period. In sum, the author has successfully dealt with the enormity of

the facts concerned. The book is rich in illustrations and has a reader-friendly bibliography, as well as an index. (GK)

Patryk Tomaszewski, *Uniwersytet Stefana Batorego w Wilnie w latach 1919–1939. Studium z dziejów organizacji i postaw ideowych studentów* [The Stephen Báthory University in Vilnius, 1919–39. A Study in the History of Its Organisation and Ideological Attitudes of Its Students], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń, 2018, 615 pp., bibliog., list of abbreviations, index of persons, ill., tables, English and Russian summary

This voluminous monograph describing the student life at Stephen Báthory University [Polish, Uniwersytet Stefana Batorego; abbr. 'USB'] in Vilnius, penned by a researcher associated with the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń is worth of attention for several reasons. Since the emergence of the Second Republic of Poland in 1918, the Vilnius University was a major academic hub and never lost its high-ranking position. It was moreover a vivid place where students of virtually all the ideological currents of the time met and shared the space. Composed of eight subject-based chapters and several dozen subchapters (sections), the study partly fulfils the task signalled by the title. The institutional and formal aspects of the academic associations, societies and groups active with the USB are described in a reliable and overwhelmingly adequate manner. Those seeking more information are provided with the necessary guidelines and adequate source references; in this respect, the monograph, though concerning one specified academic institution, is impressive. Without much exaggeration, it can be said that Tomaszewski has successfully researched and identified most of the existing relevant sources – in particular, the documentation of the student community's life, which he conscientiously reconstructs in his book, kept at the Lithuanian Central State Archives. On the other hand, his presentation of the attitudes and behaviours of the students (of both sexes) is poorer. Limiting himself to referring to the facts, often known and repeatedly described in the literature, the author does not reach far beyond this limit. This is true for almost all the political groups concerned, though he is keener on and fond of the right-wing spheres – from the monarchists and Catholic integralists to the young Polish fascists. Albeit the study does not fully meet its assumed purpose, scholars specialised in the issues it covers would be its competent readers; when read carefully, it might prove very helpful to those interested in the period concerned. A systematic bibliography, list of abbreviations, list of figures and tables (very useful!), and brief abstracts in English and Russian are attached. (GK)



Agnieszka J. Cieślíkowa, *Czerwona Pomoc w Polsce 1924–1938. Przybudówka – przykrywka – przyczółek* [The Red Aid in Poland, 1924–38: Annex – Cover – Foothold], Instytut Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2018, 299 pp., bibliog., index of persons

This monograph on the International Red Aid [Russian acronym 'MOPR'], set up in 1922, is the first systematic study on the organisation. Interestingly, although most of the aspects of the history of international communism have already been comprehensively highlighted, unresearched areas are still discovered. Written by an experienced scholar associated with the Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences (Warsaw), the study has four extensive chapters divided into several dozen subchapters discussing the foundation, development, operation and, lastly, dramatic dissolution of the MOPR in 1938. The Polish section, most frequently known as the 'Red Aid' (*Czerwona Pomoc*), operated in close association with – in fact, in continuous dependence of – the Communist Party of Poland [KPP], and so was often, though mistakenly, regarded as an extension of the party. The author has done a painstaking work as she burrowed through Polish and Russian archives, paying attention to the stages of formation and functioning of MOPR in the Second Republic of Poland, its contribution to the building of a 'unified front' or participation in the 'Spanish action' (providing assistance to the republican Spain). Analysed in detail is the organisation's composition, leadership team, number of members, dynamism of development and the organisation's finance; reconstructed are its direct relations with the KPP. Altogether, the book offers a thorough review of the existing knowledge and a remarkable dose of information. The study offers a review of the organisation's structure in provincial Poland and a synthetic insight in MOPR's ethnic sections in Western Byelorussia and Western Ukraine. Interestingly, the organisation's long-lasting internal crisis is shown, its closure by the authorities of the Republic of Poland coming as a complementary act. An important facet of this study is its skilful rendering of the politico-social background of MOPR's functioning – the anti-Semitic hysteria peaking in 1918–23, the increasing authoritarianism in Poland after the May Coup of 1926, and the Polish police's counteraction to the communist propaganda, with attempts at counterpropaganda launched as part of the response. A specialist publication, the book is nonetheless worth recommending to researchers of the Second Republic's political history. A brief but rationally compiled bibliography is provided, along with an index of persons. (GK)

Wiesław Balcerak, *Z dziejów polityki wschodniej Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej* [Aspects of the History of Eastern Policy of the Second Republic of Poland], Instytut Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2019, 157 pp., bibliog., index of persons

Written by an outstanding expert in Polish foreign policies, initiating and running academic events, member of the Polish Academy of Science's Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History and, later on, Rector of the Masovian Higher School of Humanities and Pedagogy in Łowicz), the study is a synthetic summary of his research into the Eastern aspects of Polish foreign policy.

The book consists of six chapters being essays arranged by chronology and content, enriched by subject-based list of references and a index of persons. The sixth chapter ('The time of dramatic solutions') concludes and summarises the study's content. Based on archive query in the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Poland, and Geneva's League of Nations Archives, the monograph is certainly not the last word in the research on the Second Republic's Eastern policy. Albeit it apparently neglects a number of findings from the last two decades – such as Timothy Snyder's controversial argument concerning Poland's diversionary plans to smash the Soviet Union – the study is certainly a neat reminder of the research catalogue and a synthetic take of Polish foreign policy, providing altogether a helpful compendium for scholars specialising in the Second Republic of Poland. (GK)

Leon Mitkiewicz, *Litwa i Polska. Stosunki wzajemne do roku 1939* [Lithuania and Poland: Their Mutual Relations Before 1939], with an introduction and ed. by Waldemar Rezmer, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń, 2018, 170 pp., bibliog., maps, index of persons

This synthetic study on Polish-Lithuanian relations between the thirteenth century and the outbreak of the Second World War was penned by Colonel Leon Mitkiewicz, an outstanding military-man, the last Polish military attaché in Lithuania and, later on, an important associate of General Władysław Sikorski. Completed in the 1960s, the work was due to be published in the year 1969 by the emigration publishing house Veritas, but the plan was of no avail. There are five synthetic chapters, discussing, in a chronological sequence, the subsequent stages of development: the medieval state (chap. 1); the formation of a political vocabulary and the very notion of Lithuania in the nineteenth century (chap. 2); 'Lithuania' as the ethnographic idea, new intelligentsia and its role, until the outbreak of WW1; the interwar period, culminating in the Polish-Lithuanian crisis of 1938 (chap. 3).

The study offers a Polish, though not a nationalist, vision of Polish-Lithuanian relations. It is out of fondness and, at the same time (possibly) in good faith that the author does smuggle several bits-and-pieces of Polish mythology and a considerable dose of related sentiments (“things might have gone different, perhaps, had ... Marshal Piłsudski’s great plan ... been put into practice”, remarks he).

The monograph, to be appreciated mostly by experts, contains a conclusion section, bibliography, list of maps and index of persons. The introduction by W. Rezmer, portraying the figure of Mitkiewicz, is valuable. (GK)

### CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

*Kołyma. Polacy w sowieckich łagrach. Wspomnienia i dokumenty* [Kołyma. Polish Inmates in Soviet Labour Camps. Memoirs and Sources], selected and edited by Sebastian Warlikowski, Zona Zero, Warszawa, 2018, 495 pp., index of geographical names, list of abbreviations

A collection of a dozen memoirs and some sources depicting the conditions shared by citizens of the Second Republic of Poland (primarily, of Polish ethnicity), once they were deported far into the Soviet Union resulting from the Soviet aggression on Poland of 17 September 1939. It was already during the transports to Kolyma that a hierarchy developed among the deportees where criminals established themselves as the ‘elite’ and members of prewar genuine elites were pushed down to the very bottom. One such journey normally took a fortnight or so, and the passengers suffered cattle-like conditions. In the Kolyma River basin, far in the east of the Soviet Union (in the Republic of Yakutia and the Magadan District, in the first place), where the deportees were accommodated in barracks of labour camps, the conditions were much severer: the winter there lasted ten months, the temperatures rarely exceeded six degrees Celsius; in the summer, between mid-June and mid-August, the heat rose to forty degrees. To reach for gold and uranium, the Soviet system made use of hundreds of slave labour camps. It is assumed that between 1937 and 1953, forced slave labour and extreme conditions killed between two and four million people. Of 12,000 Poles deported in 1940–2, a mere 583 were released to join General Władysław Anders’s army.

The collection mostly consists of accounts of individuals of a lower social background: peasants, craftsmen; intelligentsia and clerks appear to a lesser extent, which results in the specificity of the documents concerned (including their form). Since most of the accounts were collected after 1989, some of the facts referred to in these documents – heard from relatives or known from other sources – melt into one story. Researchers working with such

documentation are generally aware of this, whilst editors should explain their reasons in an explicit manner. None of these shortcomings or inadequacies are of relevance to the fact that for a considerable portion of Polish population (including those not directly affected), deportations to the Soviet Union remain one of the great social traumas of the twentieth century. What is more, the sources of mythology and national phantasms remain unprocessed. A glossary of labour camp terms and prison language, some of the accounts as well as drawings are included. Attached are a list of localities and geographic names, and a list of abbreviations and acronyms. (GK)

Marek Hańderek, *Unia 1940–1948. Dzieje zapomnianego ruchu ideowego* [*The Union, 1940–8: History of a Forgotten Ideological Movement*], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2019, 424 pp., ills., bibliog., index of persons; series: Monografie, 142

While reading on the fates of Polish intelligentsia during the Second World War, one at times comes across the name ‘The Union’ [Unia], referring to an organisation some of the intellectuals were associated with. This underground movement set up in 1940 apparently attracted an astonishingly large number of individuals (to name Henryk Batowski, Artur Górski, Stefan Jaracz, Stefan Kieniewicz, Zofia Kossak-Szczucka, Mieczysław Kotlarczyk, Tadeusz Kudliński, Janusz Pajewski, Konrad Sieniewicz, Władysław Siła-Nowicki, Jerzy Turowicz, Karol Wojtyła [later, Pope John Paul II], Jan Zachwatowicz, Jerzy Zagórski, Wojciech Zukrowski). The organisation extended to diverse circles, including former officials active in prewar Poland, engineers, landowners, clergymen, Catholic activists, writers, and so on. The book under review discovers this terra incognita in Polish historiography, plotting the Union on the map of civil and armed anti-German underground, and showing its members’ participation in the Polish underground state organisation. The Union was a novel political construct, and this was decisive about its conspiratorial success, with thousands of people taking the oath and becoming members. In 1943, the Union merged with the Labour Party [Stronnictwo Pracy], a Christian democratic party that apparently remained predominant within the Union till 1946. The monograph deals with the activities of the Union’s founding fathers (Jerzy Braun, Jan Hoppe, Kazimierz Studentowicz), its ideological roots (Christianity comprehended as theocracy; a romantic conviction whereby the Polish nation is a Messiah of mankind; the typology of civilisations after Feliks Koneczny) and social programme. The book is not a praise of the Union: instead, it demonstrates its origins rooted in a critical reception of communism as well as the liberal democratic world (laicism, imperialism, masonry, Nazism, parliamentary democracy were stigmatised by its members on equal footing,

as maladies of the modern time). Furthermore, the organisation would not part with Catholicism-based anti-Semitism (even in the face of the Holocaust it would see no place for Jews in a future Poland). Otherwise, the Unionists were socially radical as they wanted the residues of former class divisions removed, opted for divulgation of means of production (by way of extensive nationalisation, or transfer of work establishments under the rule of collective units such as cooperatives or local governments), full employment in the economy, pacifism in international relations, an alliance of nations between the Adriatic Sea, the Baltic Sea, and the Black Sea. Marek Hańderek admits that the Union was a product of the specific occupation-time conditions and that those who would have fully identified themselves with its doctrine ('believers') were not at all numerous, a few hundred at most. Other Union sympathisers joined in 1945 the broad Christian Democratic current, or left Poland for good. (BK)

Katarzyna Person, *Policjanci. Wizerunek Żydowskiej Służby Porządkowej w getcie warszawskim* [The Policemen. An Image of the Jewish Ghetto Police in the Warsaw Ghetto], Żydowski Instytut Historyczny im. Emanuela Ringelbluma, Warszawa, 2018, 295 pp., annexes, indexes, bibliog., ill.

This systematic historical study on the activities of the so-called Jewish Ghetto Police (Jüdischer Ordnungsdienst) in the Warsaw Ghetto, the first such in years, is written by a historian, graduate of the University of Warsaw and University of London, presently working at Warsaw's Jewish Historical Institute – one of her current responsibilities being coordination of the project to publish the Underground Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto. Her focus is the Holocaust in the territory of Poland and the fate of Polish Jews abroad, with several important publications to her credit. The study is composed of ten chapters, reconstructing the origins, organisation, and daily functioning of the 'Jewish police'. Fascinating histories of several lawyers are told – one of them being Leon Berenson, an outstanding political defender in the Second Republic period (chap. 1–2) – along with descriptions of pathologies related to the service in question: mainly violence, omnipresent corruption and demoralisation, lackeying the Nazis (chap. 3). The author takes a meticulous look on the opinions which accompanied the functioning of the Ordnungsdienst (chap. 4), collects the comments and accounts of the policemen, including their later self-justifications (chap. 5), analyses the reactions of ghetto inhabitants to the policemen's behaviours and misdemeanours (chap. 6). The last chapters (6 to 9) describe the events occurring in the summer and autumn 1942 in the Warsaw – the so-called "Great Aktion" – and what happened with the policemen after that. The last chapter (chap. 10) describes post-war

attempts at judging the policemen. In a sentence, the content of this book is history and analysis of mechanisms of getting entangled in crime, and of genocide. Greatly positive about the book is the author's attentive and comprehensive reading of the known accounts, their confrontation (once again) and the skill of recounting them in a lapidary manner, without hastily passing an opinion. A brief conclusion, interesting annexes, acknowledgments, bibliography, list of illustrations, personal and subject index round off the book. (GK)

Krzysztof Trojanowski, *Świnie w kinie? Film w okupowanej Europie* [*'Swines at the Movies'? Motion Pictures in Occupied Europe*], PWN, Warszawa, 2018, 383 pp., ill., bibliog., English summary

This study by a Romanist specialising in twentieth-century French culture, associated with the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, offers a synthetic take of an important though often mythologised and hence unacknowledged, fragment of the history of European (and, perhaps, international) cinema. This extremely interesting monograph is composed of three chapters, of which the first – a sort of extensive introduction – describes the conditions in which European cinema developed under Nazi supervision. The other sections, beginning with chapter 2, address the main thematic threads, cinematic infrastructure and the movie-star industry getting born at the time, along with the propagandist elements in European cinema of the time; the last two chapters (5 & 6) recall the post-war account clearances, and the later histories of the chief protagonists.

As the author has shown, the Second World War marked a period that saw rapid development of popular culture. For quite obvious reasons, the Nazi movies and film industry are the central focus of the book. The industry was unprecedentedly expanded by Joseph Goebbels, the Minister of Propaganda and Public Enlightenment, a top leader and ideologist in the Third Reich, who was personally fascinated with cinema. Trojanowski takes a closer glance at the cinema schedules and images of popular movie stars, meticulously analyses the audiences and their expectations; he has successfully found a whole lot of anecdotes and trivia, which altogether portray the mechanisms of rapid development of cinema at the time. Not only does it fill the gap in the knowledge on the period – in terms of what films were made, what subjects they touched upon and highlighted, or missed and neglected. Analytical and meticulous approach of the researcher, his quitting of stereotypical generalisations are among the strong points of this publication. A martyr-oriented story on yet-another front of fighting against the Nazi occupiers turns into a mini-dissertation across the domains of cultural sciences and sociology. Apart from being a compendium of knowledge, the study demonstrates that

art(s), including popular art(s), is not liable to obvious evaluation to the extent one's personal behaviour in moments of extreme test and trial. As we can learn, shoddy movies were predominant then, along with (more expectedly) tabloid cinema; Trojanowski tries to find the answer to why the people were actually going to cinemas at the time at all. Focusing a lot on the specific conditions in the occupied Poland (reminding that the Nazi occupation there was much severer than anywhere in Western Europe, among other things), the study offers a cross-section approach to a broader European context as well. It would be good if this book – original in multiple ways, including the way the material is presented – does not end up put on the shelves used by cinema historians only. A brief summary, annex, references list and abstract in English are attached. (GK)

Natalia Budzyńska, *Dzieci nie płakały. Historia mojego wuja Alfreda Trzebińskiego, lekarza SS* [The Children Didn't Cry. A History of My Uncle Alfred Trzebiński, a SS-Doctor], Wydawnictwo Czarne, Wołowiec, 2019, 390 pp.

Natalia Budzyńska is a journalist specialising in culture, arts, and religion. She has made herself known to broader public as the author of a book on the mother of St. Maximilian Kolbe (*Matka męczennika* [The Mother of a Martyr], 2016) and a biography of Friar Albert Chmielowski (*Brat Albert. Biografia*, 2017). This time, she resolved to face a very personal and hard-to-tackle subject: by means of the book under review, she shares with the reading public a story of Alfred Trzebiński, a medical doctor with the SS – a rotten apple in her own family. Alfred Albrecht Josef Trzebiński was born on 29 August 1902 to an aristocratic family of a mixed Polish-German descent. As was quite customary in the Greater Poland (Wielkopolska) region, ethnicity was of lesser importance in the Trzebiński family when it came to choosing a spouse. Every branch of the family defined its identity in a different way, bringing up and educating their children respectively into Polish or German culture. Alfred opted for the German identity, and joined the SS ranks in 1932. He became an NSDAP member a year later; apparently, his partly-Polish background proved not to be much of an obstacle in his party career. In 1941, Trzebiński, then ranked an SS-Hauptsturmführer, was appointed a *Lagerarzt* ('camp physician') at the KL Auschwitz; after a few months in this capacity, he was transferred to the Majdanek camp and, lastly, ended up as an SS garrison doctor at KL Neuengamme. It was at that latter concentration camp that a series of tuberculosis-related pseudo-medical experiments was launched at that time. While he would not personally participate in these practices, moments before the camp's evacuation, on order of the camp's commander, he joined the squad executing the inmates at a former school building in Hamburg. After

the war, Trzebiński was deemed guilty and sentenced to death – and was eventually hanged on 8 October 1946.

Rather than being a biography of a criminal uncle, the book tries to lead the reader through the author's own search and to understand why Alfred chose a path so much different from the others in his family. With this new genre of historical writing, authors tend to encounter difficulties they cannot easily tackle. Budzyńska every now and then comes across familial myths. The reportage convention she has assumed gives her a possibility to show uncle Alfred's biography and opportunity to gradually discover the family secret. Let us remark that she shuns going sentimental and avoids cheap literary tricks, thereby oftentimes coming to conclusions that especially the Polish reader would find unobvious. Analysing the actual relationship between Alfred and her grandfather Jerzy, Budzyńska writes: "And so they would meet: Alfred only having eyes for the 'Great Germany', and Jerzy only having eyes for the 'Great Poland'. They did have one thing in common, though – and it was anti-Semitism." (p. 33). The book's last section describes Trzebiński and his family fleeing, trying to make his life anew, getting arrested, taken to court, sentenced, and finally executed by hanging. The book has thirteen chapters, each analysing an essential episode, many of them crucial for understanding Trzebiński's attitudes. An epilogue, concise bibliography, and endnotes are attached. The sources used in the monograph include valuable personal testimonies, the accounts of former prisoners of the Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, relevant documentation from KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme, and the Archives of Majdanek State Museum. (GK)

Mordechaj Canin [Mordechai Tsanin], *Przez ruiny i zgliszczca. Podróż po stu zgładzonych gminach żydowskich w Polsce* [Through Ruins and Cinders. A Journey Across a Hundred Annihilated Jewish Communities in Poland], trans. from Yiddish by Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska, Wydawnictwo Nisza, Żydowski Instytut Historyczny, Warszawa, 2018, 527 pp., index of persons

An active journalist already before the Second World War, Mordechai Tsanin arrived in Poland, his home country, in 1946–7 as a correspondent of *Forverts*, a Yiddish newspaper published in the United States, in order to document the annihilation of Polish Jewry. His testimony was a reportage written just after the Holocaust, at the time when the new post-war order was taking shape. The remains of the Jewish world – synagogues, prayer houses – were turned into cereals depots, schools, or cinema-theatres; private properties formerly owned by Jews was swiftly taken over by non-Jewish residents. Impersonating a British army officer, the author heard more from the people he talked to than he could have expected. Tsanin's story oftentimes sounds



like an account of never-affected prewar anti-Semitism, blended with a fear that the former proprietors might be back there one day to claim the return of their property.

It was almost everywhere than Tsanin could hear the recurring phrases such as: “They were everywhere around here, in Poland ... much too many of them. ... Very cunning people, them. ... And, dishonest” (p. 106). As is the case with any such testimony, the book under review needs to be subjected to historical analysis so that the possible errors or factual inaccuracies can be pointed out, fast generalisations taken note of. However, it is not the precision of facts that seem to be prominent (any such inaccuracies are usually corrected through meticulous editorial process): the rendering of the atmosphere of the time is crucial. Rather than being (mostly) a story of a devouring ethnic enmity, the story is also – or, perhaps, primarily – about the emptiness left by the ‘Jewish world’, dodges and sidesteps, fast forgetting about who was your ‘neighbour’ yesterday.

This poignant account is preceded by two excellent bibliographical sketches. An introduction penned by Monika Adamczyk-Grabowska, who has translated Tsanin’s work into Polish, deals, to a considerable extent, with the post-war Yiddish culture and the figure of Tsanin as its representative and exponent, problems with translating this particular text and the formal aspects of the surviving manuscript, and an essay by Łukasz Krzyżanowski, describing the phenomenon of Polish Jews returning to their homeland, hometowns and homesteads. A very important, vividly and ‘wolfishly’ written book, it is a semantically complex historical document. Its meticulous edition, prepared by a team of outstanding experts, is rounded off by an extensive index of personal names and a glossary. (GK)

Bogusław Kopka, *Gulag nad Wisłą. Komunistyczne obozy pracy w Polsce 1944–1956* [The Gulag on the Vistula River. Communist labour camps in Poland, 1944–56], Wydawnictwo Literackie, Warszawa, 2019, 316 pp., index, bibliog., ill.

In his most recent book Bogusław Kopka touches upon an extremely delicate subject in the recent history of Poland: the labour camps that were set up right after the end of World War 2, organised with use of the existing prison infrastructure inherited after the German Nazi occupiers and used by the post-war communist authorities of Poland to keep prisoners-of-war, German displaced persons, as well as political opponents. The author based his extremely conspicuous query on the archival material produced by the period’s services responsible for internal security and enriched with recollections of former inmates/prisoners. As a result, the reader is given a comprehensive image of this particular fragment of Poland’s post-war history, framed in a wider

international context. The origins of these *lagers* and concentration camps is described, thus enabling to juxtapose and compare the Soviet and Nazi mode of action with the Polish one. Particularly powerful are the sections regarding German people getting imprisoned in the camps, as a stage in the resettlement action. The way these people were handled by the Polish camp crews was not much different from the conditions prevailing in any German Nazi camp during the war. After 1949, once the resettlement of German people was completed, they were replaced in the camps by Polish inmates – among them, a number of former Home Army or independence-oriented Underground soldiers, all dealt with equally inhumanely. (HW)

Maryla Hopfinger and Tomasz Żukowski, *Lata czterdzieste: początki polskiej narracji o Zagładzie* [The 1940s: Polish Narrative of the Holocaust Begins], Instytut Badań Literackich PAN, Warszawa, 2019, 298 pp., index of persons, English summary

This is a collection of a few extensive studies on the shaping of cultural narratives on the Holocaust and Polish-Jewish relations during the Second World War. As Maryla Hopfinger signals in the introductory section (pp. 3–5), wartime relations between Poles and Jews were addressed openly and in an in-depth manner in the first post-war years. An overwhelming majority of the essays in this interdisciplinary collection suggestively confirm this observation. A standard review of attitudes and opinions based on Polish underground and ‘reptile’ press is provided by sociologist Ewa Koźmińska-Frejłak of the Jewish Historical Institute [ŻIH]; Wojciech Wilczyk, a noted photographer, evokes one of the earliest literary reportages on the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto. The case studies by Anna Zawadzka and Elżbieta Janicka (both of the Institute of Slavic Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences), and by Katarzyna Chmielewska (PAS’s Institute of Literary Research), analyse selected examples of how the post-war narratives were getting shaped. While Zawadzka refers to early literary and textbook representations of the Holocaust, Janicka offers a detailed discussion of Maria Kann’s notorious text *Na oczach świata* [In the Eyes of the World] (1943), and Chmielewska does the same with Kazimierz Wyka’s study *Życie na niby* [Pretending to Live] (1946). Helena Datner’s (ŻIH) essay, presenting a catalogue of opinions from the war days and recalling the responses of Polish intellectuals (mainly from leftist circles, though) concerning post-war anti-Semitic attitudes, forms a sort of epilogue. The book is an important compendium, not only for historians of post-war public discourses, offering a critical perspective. Notes on the authors, a brief summary in English, and an index of persons are attached. (GK)

Katarzyna Chmielewska, Agnieszka Mrozik, and Grzegorz Wołowiec (eds.), *Komunizm: idee i praktyki w Polsce 1944–1989* [Communism – Ideas and Practices in Poland, 1944–89], Instytut Badań Literackich PAN, Wydawnictwo IBL PAN, Warszawa, 2018, 516 pp., index of persons, Eng. summ.; series: Komunizm. Idee – dyskursy – praktyki

The book comprises thirteen texts by thirteen authors, arranged into four units: ‘Power’, ‘Emancipation’, ‘Communism and Anticommunism’, ‘Oppositions’; here, I will neglect this internal arrangement. On the one hand, these articles are thematically diverse, in an interesting manner, whilst on the other, they appear somewhat homogeneous thought-wise. The authors offer their extremely critical approach toward Polish historiography of the last three decades. To their minds, it was affected, *en bloc* and *en masse*, by extreme anticommunism, which distorts the view of the past, and, oftentimes, nationalism, with a similarly adverse effect. Common to these texts is, moreover, their proposed understanding of discourse, with the limits of the discourse under analysis rarely being strictly delimited. In fact, analysis may extend to any ‘cultural text’ (including those beyond the chronological limits drafted by the scholars) and the authors would not care about justifying the legitimacy of its presence. Worse even, the relevant sources (for instance, official documents) tend at times to escape their attention; not much would we hear about the ‘discourse regulators’: the censorship office, or the function of the socialist state’s executive apparatus. It may sometimes be inferred that instead of logic or discipline, the governing force beyond the proposed arguments is freedom of association – especially with regards to terms or notions (the articles by Katarzyna Chmielewska and Grzegorz Wołowiec). Hence, those articles that opt for a critical source analysis deserve relevant attention – namely, those by Anna Artwińska (on Teresa Torańska’s *Oni* [Them: Stalin’s Polish Puppets], a collection of interviews with Polish Stalinist activists); Kajetan Mojsak (on prose works of Jerzy Andrzejewski and Kazimierz Brandys from the 1970); Bartłomiej Starnawski (on Jacek Kuroń and Karol Modzelewski’s *An Open Letter to the Party*); Krzysztof Gajewski (on a guide for underground anticommunist activists *Mały konspirator* [The Little Conspirer]). A panorama of novels for adolescent girls is shown by Eliza Szybowicz. The review of heterosexual intercourse episodes in the movies made in communist Poland, by Tomasz Żukowski, is inspiring. Historians of education may find useful the article by Anna Sobieska on socialist educational ideals, while historians of ideas would take interest in Paweł Rams’s essay on the reception of Stanisław Brzozowski’s ideas and works after 1945. The conclusion proposed by Anna Zawadzka based on her study on the intelligentsia, whereby Polish intellectuals the 1970s moved in the 1970s to ‘counterrevolutionary’ positions, sounds

interesting. With all this appetising richness, the reader frequently gets a *déjà vu* impression – or, actually, *déjà lu* (to mention the articles by Agnieszka Mrozik and Aránzu Calderón Puerta, both on the emancipation of Polish women after the Second World War). (BK)

Michał Zawisza, *Robotnicy przemysłowi w województwie kieleckim w latach 1945–1949* [Industrial workers in the Voivodeship of Kielce, 1945–9], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2019, 309 pp., index of persons, tables, bibliog.; series: Monografie, 143

The book portrays the social group of industrial workers from the Voivodeship of Kielce area in a specific moment in the history of Poland. While a legal political opposition and post-war military Underground still functioned, the communist authorities had just started implementing their plan of a political/constitutional, social, and economic transition, which peaked during the Stalinist era. As the author convincingly demonstrates – based on extensive archival, library and press research – the period 1945–9 was unique seen if against the other post-war times. The relative political pluralism of the time caused that the workers much more frequently expressed their protest against the surrounding reality which oftentimes fell behind the propaganda image promoted by the ruling communist party. It was only the Referendum of 1946 and the parliamentary election of 1947 that made the attitudes of various social groups change, with workers increasingly frequently assuming adaptive positions. Industrial workers of the Kielce region did not vary from the country's average, according to Zawisza's findings. They were affected by the same problems that gnawed the other regions of Poland – low income and poor living conditions. The fluctuation of workers was enormous, absenteeism becoming poignantly problematic during farming work days. It is however worth noting that, with no tradition behind them of interwar protests, factory crews in Kielce Voivodeship did not express their discontent through strike action in the early post-war years – with only few such actions recorded for the period in question. (HW)

Anna Adamus, Krzysztof Gajewski, Ágota Lída Ispán, Dariusz Jarosz, Csaba Kovács, Grzegorz Miernik and Ewelina Szpak (eds.), *Listy do władzy 1945–1989. Studia przypadków* [Letters to the Authorities, 1945–90: Case Studies], with an introduction by Dariusz Jarosz, Wydawnictwo IH PAN – Oficyna Wydawnicza Aspra, Warszawa, 2019, 275 pp., index of persons, English summary, bibliog.

Polish citizens made a broad use of the opportunity to write letters (complaints, denouncing letters, and requests) to the authorities of communist Poland, and they did it even in the Stalinist period. In Dariusz Jarosz's opinion, such a source deserves to be more favourably approached by historians. Hence a research project that has yielded the book under review. The title of this monograph is misleading, though, as it does not discuss 'cases' of individual senders of letters. The letters are regarded by the editors as a mass source of use in investigating social processes and attitudes of entire groups, rather than fates of individual people (though the latter are indeed reflected in these letters, certain fates appearing really appalling). Most of the articles are written by D. Jarosz's associates. Anna M. Adamus discusses selected social problems in Polish rural areas in 1951–80 (deprivation of the aged, poor condition of healthcare institutions). Health aspects are discussed also by Ewelina Szpak, who shows how in 1945–89 the society's health awareness increased (the expectations towards Polish healthcare institutions). Grzegorz Miernik analysed letters written at the moments of political crisis in Poland (1956, 1970), noting an important feature of these sources: more often than during peace periods did they refer to general matters, problems of the whole nation. Dariusz Jarosz points to two moments when letters written by ordinary people brought about an adjustment in the authorities' policies: in 1951, in the aftermath of malpractices during the collectivisation (so-called "Gryfice affair") and in 1972–3, when small units called *gromadas* were liquidated and replaced by larger but less numerous communes (*gminy*), as part of reorganisation of the country's territorial administration. Krzysztof Gajewski's article on the death and funeral of Stalin in light of the Polish Film Chronicle stands out among the other contributions. There are two articles in English: Csaba Kovács describes how the last wave of collectivisation of the Hungarian rural areas was reflected in the complaints submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture in 1960. Ágota Lída Ispán deals with complaints received by the Hungarian people's control committees regarding thefts, abuses in cooperatives, and more. The summary, by D. Jarosz, is particularly valuable as it assesses the quantities of the letters written to the central authorities of the People's Republic of Poland; the year 1955 appears to have been the peaking moment as regards the number of letters sent to the authorities and offices of various

levels. All in all, in the 'real socialist' system letters were an important means of communication between those in power and citizens; every single letter (unless containing calumnies and/or threats, which did happen) being a proof of the trust the authorities enjoyed among the senders. (BK)

Andrzej Paczkowski and Patryk Pleskot, *Góry i teczki. Opowieść człowieka umiarkowanego: biografia mówiona Andrzeja Paczkowskiego* [Mountains and Files: the Story of a Moderate Man. Andrzej Paczkowski's Oral Biography], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2019, 467 pp., index of persons, bibliog.

Andrzej Paczkowski (born 1938) is one of the founding fathers of historiography of post-war Poland. In the 1970s and 1980s he was involved in the dissident activities of the democratic opposition, and this episode in his life has been rather widely known to us. In a memoir interview conducted by Patryk Pleskot, he talks about his familial roots, studies, career as a scholar, and his love for mountains. Paczkowski's father was an activist with the Communist Party of Poland [KPP], dismissed from the party ranks in 1934, and his mother came from a Jewish worker family. After the Second World War his parents both joined the Polish Socialist Party [PPS] and after 1948 became members of the Polish United Workers' Party [PZPR]. They never became important activists, or prominent party members; nor were they victims of the communist system. Their attitude toward the party's policies during the Stalinist regime was doubtlessly critical. Paczkowski studied history, focusing on the history of Polish press before 1939. Since the late 1960s, he maintained social relationships with the student milieu called 'Komandosi' [The Commandos], who a few years later set up the Workers' Defence Committee [KOR]. The way Paczkowski looks at this circle is unique as it combines the perspectives of an eyewitness and historian. He proves able to embed his individual biography in the political as well as social context, evaluate his own role among the dissidents. Driven not so much by modesty but rather scholarly cautiousness, he critically reconstructs the incentives of his own acts and deeds. The oral story is an excellent source useful in examining the attitudes of the humanistic intelligentsia in the People's Republic of Poland (the dialectics of resistance and adoption, rebellion and submission, courage and fear), along with the history of Polish mountaineering (Paczkowski was a many years' member of the Alpine Club and then the first Chairman of the Polish Alpinist Association, est. 1974). The evolving story loses on charm when the interviewer and the interviewee start discussing together Paczkowski's contacts with the Security Service. Their co-analysis of the documents is simply boring; one would get the impression that his

encounters with security officers were of momentous importance. In fact, these were merely episodes in the long life of Andrzej Paczkowski, a life full of political and academic experiences. (BK)

Andrzej Zawistowski, *Stacja Plac Dzierżyńskiego, czyli metro, którego Warszawa nie zobaczyła* [Dzerzhinsky Square Station, or, the Underground Warsaw Has Never Seen], Trzecia Strona, Warszawa, 2019, 271 pp., ill., maps, bibliog.

It is with extreme minuteness of detail that the author reconstructs the history of the Warsaw Metro, beginning with the first plans developed in the two interwar decades and the late 1950s when the quite-realistic ideas from earlier in the decade were eventually shifted into a rather vague future time. The Second World War over, the Metro construction ideas finally saw a real chance of a successful outcome. As part of the Six Years' Plan, Warsaw was expected to obtain, within a couple of years, a few underground-train lines (depending on the finally implemented idea) – with significant (though mainly propaganda-oriented, as Zawistowski demonstrates) assistance from the Soviet Union. In the Stalinist period, however, the role of such a project could not be limited to serving the rank-and-file inhabitants of Warsaw. The Army almost immediately joined the planning project and enforced to include the military functions in the underground railway design (considering the functionality of the tunnels and the stations to serve as bunkers, if need be). The projected cost grew enormously – mainly due to the 'deep underground' concept having been steamrolled – with the effect that the entire project was challenged. Finally, toward the end of the fifties, as the final delivery date of the first fragments of the construction was shifted again and again, the works were withheld completely. The constructors' and planners' efforts have produced some still-surviving elements of what is presently Line One of the Warsaw Metro, such as the location of the Centrum station. The ideas for development of this particular means of public city transportation in the capital city of Poland are juxtaposed with other like projects the world over. (HW)

Marcin Markiewicz, *Odwilż na prowincji. Białostoczczyzna 1956–1960* [The Thaw in a Province: the Białystok Region, 1956–60], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu – Oddział w Białymstoku, Białystok and Warszawa, 2019, bibliog., ill., indexes, 376 pp.

The author does not try to persuade the reader that the region of Białystok was the lifeblood behind the political Thaw of 1956, but demonstrates that

an important and in-depth social change occurred at the decline of Stalinism there as well. First, however, he sketches the background: the region was badly struck during and after the war; communism came across armed resistance which lasted for a long time and was eventually brutally suppressed; the relations between local Poles and ethnic minorities – notably, Lithuanians and Byelorussians – were tenser than elsewhere in Poland at the time. The divisions were class-based; the region's western part favoured right-wing orientations, cultivated the nobility's and National Democratic traditions, while the eastern part was definitely peasant-based, partly Orthodox, and the new communist authorities were faster accepted and accommodated there. In general terms, as regards the living standards, the population's incomes and consumption levels are concerned, the voivodeship was ranked last in Poland (low share in trade flows, low consumption of electricity, short railroads, low number of libraries or kindergartens). Social activity was lower than elsewhere, too; hence, the moments in which the region's dwellers came into the streets to voice their demand for a political change are quite interesting. (The book shows several such events, one of them being a rally at Białystok's Medical Academy on 24 October 1956 – student communities, or district-level National Council meetings, being portrayed as the driving force). The ruling communist party quite easily got control over the sentiments of discontent, especially as the local intelligentsia circles were narrow and dependent on the authorities as the distributor of funds and posts. The divisions within the communist party, as characteristic to Warsaw (the Natolin vs. Puławy faction fighting), never appeared in Białystok at all. The book's layout is typical of a social history study: analysed are the changes taking place in the party, youth organisations, relations between the authorities and the Churches, with a focus on milieus of former anticommunist-underground soldiers. Peasants are dealt with quite at length, as those who eagerly took advantage of the option to liquidate production cooperatives. The author proposes an interesting hypothesis whereby the dislike towards the Byelorussians, which evinced itself in late 1956, was in fact anti-Soviet, serving as a means of discharging hostility against the Soviet Union. A skilful use of the existing considerable knowledge on the 1956 upheaval, a sense for the processual nature of the phenomena under discussion, and caring for local historical details are all among the strong points of Marcin Markiewicz's book. (BK)



Małgorzata Choma-Jusińska, Marcin Kruszyński, and Tomasz Osiński (eds.), *Życie codzienne w PRL [Everyday Life in Post-War Communist Poland]*, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Lublin and Warszawa, 2019, 527 pp., index of persons, index of places, bibliog., English summary

A strong point of this voluminous book is its thematic diversity, which proves how actually useful the notion of ‘everyday life’ is, or can be, in historical research. Among the twenty-three articles, I should like to point out to just a few. Jakub Muchowski offers an advantageous review of studies on everyday history published in the recent years in Eastern Europe. Natalia Jarska discusses the reasons behind marital conflicts in Poland in the 1960s and 1970s (premature marriage without adequate financial/material support – esp., no available place to live; overly strict division of gender-based social roles, with the resulting (over)burdening of women with housework). Agata Kusto shows how the municipal authorities of Lublin took advantage of the local singing groups for propagandistic and image-related purposes, whilst at the same time supporting them financially and helping to cultivate the folk culture. *Kapitan Żbik* [Captain Żbik], a comic story remembered by several generation of Polish readers, is the topic of Dorota Skotarczak’s interesting essay (the comic being potentially useful in research on strategies of the shaping of the image of the militia and public prosecutor’s office in the society, along with criminal offences, the way the period’s apartments looked, and more). Robert Spałek discusses the lyrics of Polish rock bands as a source useful in studying the attitudes, strivings and dreams of Polish youth of the time. Rock music was in the 1980s a ‘safety valve’ for the young generation; supported, to a possible extent, by the state, it was expected to draw the youth back from political manifestations. Among the twenty-three contributors, two authors are non-Polish: Cosmin Budeancă of Romania, and Estonia’s Eli Plive. Their texts deal with national martyrdom and political persecution – the threads virtually absent in the texts by Polish authors. Does this mean that Polish historiography no more focuses on crimes against the nation and, finally, refocuses on things typical, ‘everyday’, ordinary, non-dramatic, but interesting all the same? In other words, things that constituted everyday lives of millions of Poles after 1945? Well, perhaps. (BK)

Patryk Pleskot, *Georges Mink w słowach, dokumentach, obrazach. Tam i... z powrotem* [Georges Mink in Words, Documents and Pictures. There... and Back], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej, Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni Przeciwno Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2018, 278 pp., bibliog., index of persons, photos

A portrait of the noted social and political scientist, social life researcher, a Frenchman with Polish roots, the book is an in-depth interview conducted by the National Remembrance Institute's Patryk Pleskot, expert in Polish-French relations. Of the nine chapters in the book, the initial sections draw the pedigree of the families Ejsman and Mink and the history of their emigrations to France. Then, the interlocutors turn their attention to Georges's political initiation and his research in Poland and the 'Solidarity' movement time; lastly, they end up discussing the position and role of East Central Europe in the politico-economic transition of the late 1980s/early 1990s. Their talk evidences complex attitudes of Western intellectuals towards the change taking place in ECE region: most of them had leftist sympathies and sought for ways to revive socialism in Eastern Europe. For Mink personally, Czechoslovakia was equally important as Poland. He recalls an unobvious role of the communist security services which intended to penetrate the circles of Western scholars but *de facto* instilled Western social sciences in the communist system; hence, their activities elude unanimous labelling. This smartly conducted talk revolves around a number of threads; one of the important ones is Georges's relationships with Polish oppositionists (these sections particularly deserve recommendation). The narrative keeps a proper balance between personal threads and more general issues, such as the sociologist's interests and his individual input in the development of knowledge on the region.

A list of abbreviations/acronyms, painstakingly compiled bibliography and specification of G. Mink's output, all attached, considerably facilitate the reading and are helpful to the future scholars; the same is true for the index of persons, plus a number of photographs provided. (GK)

Anna Bikont and Helena Łuczywo, *Jacek* [Jacek], Wydawnictwo Czarne, Wydawnictwo Agora, Warszawa, 2018, 740 pp.

The book is the first comprehensive biography of Jacek Kuroń, one of the major figures in the history of Poland in the second half of the twentieth century. It is composed of thirty-five sections in the style of historical documentary. The authors, two outstanding journalists with the *Gazeta Wyborcza* daily (one being its leading reporter, the other – co-founder and subsequently de-facto chief editor during the first two decades of the newspaper's publication) describe their former preceptor, one of the patrons of the democratic opposition in the

communist Poland, co-founder of the Workers' Defence Committee [KOR] and the first 'Solidarity' trade union.

As is commonly known, the life of Jacek Kuroń was so full of contents and facts that would be sufficient enough to make a few voluminous biographical books: some really great historical events and individual, personal tragedies set against their background; visions that changed the milieus and environment; down to funny anecdotes and irritating personal shortcomings or weaknesses. The book moreover offers a description of particular sympathies, loves and – rarely – antipathies the story's central character once triggered in his contemporaries. The final chapters, possibly the most moving of all, describe Jacek's illnesses and his passing away. Although written in a popular style, at times with an unmasking drive – the authors verify a whole lot of details in Kuroń's life – the story is based on years of extensive and penetrating query. It is certainly the most complete profile of one of the most lively figures and most influential personages in Polish public life of the latter half of the twentieth century. The book was awarded the 2019 Historical Prize by the *Polityka* weekly in the 'Memoirs' category. (GK)

Dorota Skotarczak, *Otwierać, milicja! O powieści kryminalnej w PRL* ['It's the Militia, Open the Door!'. Detective Novel in Communist Poland], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Szczecin and Warszawa, 2019, 232 pp., bibliog.; series: Dziennikarze, Twórcy, Naukowcy

Published as part of the National Remembrance Institute [IPN] series 'Journalists, Creative Artists, Academics', this seven-chapter book makes it apparent that the emergence of the detective/crime sub-genre specific to post-war communist-ruled Poland, featuring the heroic characters of brave Civic Militia functionaries, placed a bet on the popularity of detective novels among Polish readers. Born in the aftermath of the political thaw later in the fifties and colloquially termed 'Militia novel' (*powieść milicyjna*), these works praised the domestic police officers who chased criminals – the latter portrayed in contrast to the lifestyle propagated by the communist authorities: 'private operators', smugglers, or even loafers. The quality of these novels varied, the author stresses: along with completely poor ones, there appeared at times fairly good and very good novels (to mention the author Zygmunt Zeydler-Zborowski and the character of his stories, named Stefan Downar). In any case, with their strongly negative image prevalent in the society, the readers mostly found it rather hard to identify themselves with 'Militia novel' characters, most of whom were Civic Militia [MO], Security Office [UB] or Security Service [SB] functionaries. With the omnipresent praise of collectivity (as, for instance, in the course of investigation process), these novels could not enjoy much

popularity. One of the chapters quite interestingly shows that even with such 'rationed' subject-matters the communist censorship was at work and there were issues or questions which were simply banned. Skotarczak suggests that the 'Militia novel' be treated as a historical source: the realities of communist Poland it portrays are far from the propaganda-driven image which functioned as the paramount official message. (HW)

Agata Szydłowska, *Paryż domowym sposobem. O kreowaniu stylu życia w czasopismach PRL* [Paris, the Domestic Way. How Lifestyle Was Created in Periodicals of Communist Poland], Muza, Warszawa, 2019, 365 pp., ill.

Design historian by education, the author describes the role played in post-war communist Poland by women's and cultural magazines – such as the weeklies *Przyjaciółka*, *Kobieta i Życie*, *Przekrój* and the monthly *Ty i Ja*. Apart from the latter, these periodicals were issued almost over the entire People's Republic period, being the 'bibles of good taste' and 'guidebooks' for the general reader, helping in getting through the time of persistent shortages. Fashion and cuisine were the most popular thematic areas. Szydłowska analyses not just what these magazines communicated but also their structure, types of advertisement they published, as well as the references to the current political occurrences. The narrative focuses on the period of 1945 to 1970 – the time when the role and perception of women and family by the authorities changed, which was directly reflected in the contents published in the press. Of the six chapters, the opening one discusses the history of selected periodicals. The work of editorial boards is described quite extensively, the sections on the struggles with the censors seeming particularly interesting (cf. the one entitled 'Majakovskij's tram'). The other chapters deal with the creation of a new lifestyle offered to the 'new citizens' in the realities of post-war communist Poland, and which was assumedly meant to be different from the capitalistic consumerism. In reality, the propositions propagated by the magazines in question were *de facto* an ersatz of the would-be lifestyle. (HW)

Wiktor Woroszyński, *Dzienniki* [Diaries], iii, Ośrodek KARTA, Warszawa, 2019, 842 pp., photographs, index of persons

The book is the third, and last, volume of the diary of a very important witness of Poland's post-war years. In the Stalinist years, Wiktor Woroszyński was a leading figure of the 'new order'; in the later years, he gradually departed from communism and involved himself in actions contesting the authority of the ruling Polish United Workers' Party [PZPR]. A third volume of his

daily notes was written down between January 1988 and February 1996, six months before Woroszyński's death: a fascinating record of the moment of political upheaval and social breakthrough. His apartment was one of the important social salons in Warsaw in the late eighties/early nineties. A poet and prose writer whose acquaintances and friends included those associated with the receding authorities as well as the pre-1989 opposition camp, Woroszyński made detailed notes from meetings, conversations and what he and the others have just read – altogether drawing a unique panorama of Poland at that very time. An excellent source describing aspects of political life (the strike actions of 1988, critiques of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki's cabinet), socioeconomic change (queues at meat shops, a bookstore assistant in Warsaw's Nowy Świat St. – a lady called Zosia – helping him get under-the-counter books), or a Polish intellectual's private life. The intensity of life in that extremely interesting period is outward striking. Woroszyński never ceased being active, moving around everywhere: he wrote books, translated poetry, wrote letters, attended meetings, watched theatre performances and movies (he was an extremely harsh critic), signed a series of petitions, visited people and was visited. His diary is an excellent piece of literature, beside anything else. The editorial aspect of the publication is worth emphasising, as the notes have been edited with unusual intelligence and care. (HW)

Elżbieta Lubomirska-Stadnicka (with Agnieszka Przychodnia),  
*Na krawędzi epok 1922–2017* [At the Verge of the Epochs:  
1922–2017], Rosikon Press, Warszawa, 2018, 352 pp.

Memoirs of Elżbieta Lubomirska-Stadnicka, a Polish aristocratic lady, give a good insight in the histories of the upper classes in the context of three periods: the interwar years, the German Nazi occupation, and the post-war period. And it is not a martyrologic story, by any means. Elżbieta Stadnicka née Lubomirska, married to Count Józef Stadnicki, was born on 17 October 1922 in Kruszyn, the eldest daughter of Władysław Stefan and Róża, née Broel-Plater. In the course of the Second World War, Elżbieta joined the ranks of the Home Army in the Nowy Sącz Inspectorate area (as a courier and liaison officer, *nom-de-guerre* 'Wilga') with partisan troops of a local Union of Armed Struggle/Home Army [ZWZ-AK] outpost. She actively contributed to the resistance movement organised by that particular branch of Stadnicki family: their house in Kruszyn was the scene of intensive conspiratorial effort, a shelter and care for many of those wanted by the Gestapo. The war over, Elżbieta and her husband Józef were deprived of the right to the land and all the real estate, including their own house, and of the right to employment;

given all this, they settled down in Krynica (a mountain resort in the south of Poland), where they eventually had five kids. Although the family suffered considerable chicanery from the Security Service [UB] in those years, and its individual members found themselves impoverished, the author never got depressed. In 1960, Józef Stadnicki, whom Elżbieta met during the war, was killed in a road crash, leaving her alone, with the children. In 1965, she remarried Jean Ollier and settled down in France. Until her death in 2017, she was a social activist engaged in helping her compatriots and the local poor. This is a story about a cultural capital and the anchoring owed to the family; also about intricate fates of some great aristocratic families. The memoirs, though divided (somewhat schematically) into three chapters ('Childhood Years'; 'Wartime and Post-War Years'; 'In France') are by no means schematic: they render an important fragment in the history of Poland, the story being told in a subjective but compelling manner. (GK)

Tomasz Kozłowski, *Koniec imperium MSW. Transformacja organów bezpieczeństwa państwa 1989–1990* [The Decline of the Interior Ministry Empire: the Transition of Polish State Security Authorities in 1989–90], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2019, 321 pp., index, bibliog.

Composed of six chapters (arranged by chronology and problems), the book deals with the transition of the state security authorities of what was the People's Republic of Poland into secret/intelligence services of the Third Republic – a process that took place in the late 1980s and early 1990s along with the switch of the country's political system. The author does an excellent job in that he leads the reader through conspiracy theories and insinuations or ambiguities developed around these events (to mention the once-famous 'file burning', or the 'Bolek' and 'Olin' affairs [i.e., respectively, allegations that Solidarity leader Lech Wałęsa collaborated with the communist security services as an agent, and the accusation of post-communist Prime Minister Jozef Oleksy of collaboration with Russian secret service]). A wide spectrum of sources has been drawn on, including archives (Central Archives of Modern Records, the National Remembrance Institute Archive, the Chancellery of the President of the Council of Ministers' Archive, the Hoover Institution Archives), through the relevant literature and the period's press. Whilst setting the facts in appropriate order, the book demythologises certain events against a broadly drawn background of communist security authorities under transition. The narrative begins with the taking over of the office of Interior Minister by General Czesław Kiszczak. Political events and occurrences of the transition period and legal aspects of the secret services' reform are

dealt with quite extensively. Of extreme importance to the narrative is the depiction of the transition and of the emergence of the State Security Office [UOP] in the perspective of domestic as well as foreign policy. We can learn about the ideas and proposals for change put forth by all the political circles involved. The work of verification committees is dealt with extensively: the functionaries who were verified with positive result and those who did not pass the verification test are portrayed. (HW)

Krzysztof Gajewski, *Reprezentacje komunizmu. PRL z perspektywy badań literackich i kulturowych* [Representations of Communism. The People's Republic of Poland from the Standpoint of Literary and Cultural Studies], Wydawnictwo Instytutu Badań Literackich PAN, Warszawa, 2018, 314 pp., index of persons, bibliog.

Communism ('real' socialism, People's Republic of Poland) has become the object of studies not only among historians but also among representatives of the 'new humanities' which draw upon the output of multiple domains – historiography, philosophy, literary studies, and media studies. A historian would not find in the book in question any of the things s/he would have been accustomed to come across in books on the past – such as new facts and/or new interpretations of the known facts. In any case, this collection of eleven studies by a young scholar are worth looking at, in view of the method of analysing various 'cultural texts' (including, in specific, peasants' letters to the authorities and state offices, a newsreel from 1966, a guide for democratic opposition members entitled *Mały konspirator* [The Little Conspirer], a memoir interview with the dissident Jan K. Kelus, novels by Andrzej Stasiuk, blogs on post-war communist Poland). Gajewski is convinced that historiography is a sort of literariness, a method of representing the world analogous to fiction. Hence, historical sources, particularly letters, are a literary product, written in a specified way which can be brought to light and analysed. While this thought is not new, it may sometimes produce interesting effects, and the book under review is a case in point. This does not however go hand in hand with the author's predilection for proposing general conclusions. His micro-studies offer a view of small segments of the past, and at times just reproduce the knowledge on post-war communist Poland we have already drawn from, simply, historiographic works. (BK)

Zuzanna Bogumił and Andrzej Szpociński (eds.), *Stare i nowe tendencje w obszarze pamięci społecznej* [Old and New Trends in the Domain of Social Memory], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Scholar, Instytut Studiów Politycznych PAN, Akademia Pedagogiki Specjalnej im. Marii Grzegorzewskiej, Warszawa, 2018, 394 pp.; series: Współczesne Społeczeństwo Polskie wobec Przeszłości

A collection of studies, offering rich and diverse material, the book is an extensive record of a panel on modern studies in historical memory, held as a separate section of the 16th Sociological Convention assembled in 2016 in Gdansk. The book is composed of three parts, the first including three studies summarising the modern studies on historical memory (by Zuzanna Bogumił, Andrzej Szpociński, and Barbara Markowska). Part two and three comprise studies describing, in more detail, the changes in the forms of commemoration (essays by Krzysztof Malicki on the youth, Joanna Gubała-Czyżewska on the Holocaust memory in Łódź, Marta Karkowska on the Warsaw Uprising and Agnieszka Jarosz on commemorating the Katyń massacre within the area of Warsaw); institutional forms of commemoration (Kamila Baraniecka-Olszewska on the Volhynian massacre, 1943–4, Zuzanna Maciejczak on murals in the Warsaw area of Muranów, Karolina Obrębska on The Rev. Jerzy Popiełuszko Museum, and Łukasz Skoczylas on commemoration of the ‘organic work’ idea and practices in Poznań); and, local strategies of memory (Kamila Biskupska on Wrocław, Małgorzata Głowacka-Grajper on the Warsaw Battle against the Bolshevik army at the Radzymin battlefield, 1920, and, Ewa Szczecińska-Musielak on the Warsaw district of Wola).

The study is a reliable compendium of theoretical knowledge and methodological considerations, embedded in a helpful critical apparatus, and a detailed survey of case studies. It demonstrates how extensive theoretical consideration is involved in this relatively young though extremely dynamic, in the context of Polish humanities, domain of knowledge. Each of the studies – and each one is worth reading (not only by sociologically-oriented historians) – has a biographical note attached; notes on the authors are included as well. (GK)