

SHORT NOTES*

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GENERAL WORKS

Krzysztof Łęcki, *Według Tukidydesa. Rozważania socjologa literatury o „Wojnie peloponeskiej”* [According to Thucydides. Reflections of a Sociologist of Literature on *History of the Peloponnesian War*], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego, Katowice, 2019, 332 pp., bibliog., English and French sum.

Thucydides of Athens remains an inspiration for students of history, politics, literature, and philosophy all over the Western world. The present study is an attempt at interpretation of his famous *History of the Peloponnesian War* from the point of view of the sociology of literature. Its main merit is clearly its erudition: one can get the impression that the book is a guide to the comments and citations regarding Thucydides made by a variety of scholars, philosophers, and poets. It seems that the author gathered evidence suggesting all possible interpretations of his protagonist's monumental work. The impressive variety of opinions and comments on all aspects of Thucydides' heritage by other authors, representing a true *mélange* of disciplines and approaches, makes it difficult however to determine if the author himself promotes, or indeed offers, any particular interpretation of his own. Neither is it easy to grasp what makes his approach representative of the sociology of literature. Instead, an illuminating, even if chaotic, introduction (which encompasses one third of the book), is followed by a chronological overview of the most important, or simply interesting, moments in Thucydides' narrative. This selection does not seem highly original, as it is dominated by issues typically associated with 'the father of historiography': democracy and leadership, social divisions and tensions, the nature of the rivalry and hatred between Sparta and Athens, and the reasons for continuation of the exhausting conflict, as well as Thucydides' moral and psychological judgments. Again, the author's narrative would be easier to follow if he abandoned his habit of packing his text with an overwhelming number of citations. As it is, quotations from Thucydides and the commentators on him constitute by far the largest part of the book, and they starkly overwhelm the author's argumentation, and indeed his voice, which does however shine through with wit and unexpected

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associations which regularly take us to contemporary history, politics, and literature. Hence, it seems unlikely that the book would be of great help for specialists in historiography or indeed the sociology of literature, except for the fact that it truly encourages its readers to start their own adventure with Thucydides. (AK)

Sylvia Konarska-Zimnicka, Lucyna Kostuch, and Beata Wojciechowska (eds), *Medicina antiqua, mediaevalis et moderna. Historia, filozofia, religia* [*Medicina Antiqua, Mediaevalis et Moderna: History, Philosophy, and Religion*], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jana Kochanowskiego, Kielce, 2019, 356 pp., bibliog., English sum.

Composed of twenty-three texts (including two in Slovak) chronologically spanning from antiquity to the nineteenth century, the book opens with an essay by Anna Maria Wajda on biblical mentions of treatment or healing and medicine. This awkward text does not have much in common with history or science, mainly expressing its author's views regarding morals and mores. The subsequent article, by Krzysztof Tomasz Witczak, a much more valuable text, concerns Indo-European sources of the Latin names of illnesses. Elwira Kaczyńska deals with the earliest surviving agreement with a physician, ensuring the patient free-of-charge medical care, and coming from Idalion in Cyprus. Krzysztof Narecki writes of the death of Heraclitus of Ephesus. Lucyna Kostuch's focus is the healing of elephants and the importance of these animals in antique medicine. Anna Pająkowska-Bouallegui deals with the health condition of Julian the Apostate and the endeavours to keep him fit. Jerzy Jastrzębski writes of the medicine in early Christian monasteries in Upper Egypt and Basel of Cappadocia. Anna Głusiuk takes a look on pregnancy described in Metrodora of Byzantium's treatise *On the feminine diseases of the uterus*. Igor Rosa writes about the beaver costume in the antique and mediaeval medical tradition. Beata Wojciechowska addresses the conception of man in Vincent of Beauvais' *Speculum naturale*. Sylvia Konarska-Zimnicka's article deals with Jathromathematics, an astrological medicine practiced among late mediaeval scholars in Krakow. Paulina B. Lewicka's focus is the Arabic handbook of medicine from fourteenth-century Cairo, written by Shams ad-Dīn Muḥammad Ibn Ibrāhīm Ibn Sa'īd al-Akfānī as-Sinjārī and entitled *Ghunyat al-labīb fī mā yusta'mal 'inda ghaybat aṭ-ṭabīb* (A wealth of information for the intelligent man on what is applicable whilst there is no doctor around). Wioletta Szafarczyk describes wines as medicaments in Old Polish armorials. Piotr Kardys discusses the historical records regarding the Holy Spirit Hospital in Wiślica. Jacek Pielas reports on the issue of the mentally ill in the land law and the practice of functioning of noble families in sixteenth- to eighteenth-century Poland-Lithuania. Katarzyna Justyniarska-Chojak writes

about Hieronim Powodowski's *Recepta duszna i cielesna przeciw powietrzu morowemu* [A spiritual and corporeal prescription against the miasma] in the context of Polish medical treatises. Tunde Lengyelova explores the case of the spouses Tamás Nádasdy and Ursula née Kanizsai as an exemplary instance of efficacious treatment of infertility in sixteenth-century Hungary. Joanna Usakiewicz deals with Arnold Geulinex, the philosopher. Diana Duchonova reports on the medicine practiced at the court of Palatine Mikuláš Esterházy. Paula Wydziałkowska describes the miracles made by Our Lady of Kodeń. Małgorzata Delimata-Proch's article is on children's illnesses and accidents as portrayed in Stanisław Józef Kłossowski's *Cuda y łaski za przyczyną ... Józefa świętego ... w Kolegiacie Kaliskiej* [The Miracles & Graces by intercession ... of Joseph the Saint ... at the Collegiate-Church of Kalisz]. Krzysztof Paweł Woźniak recounts the magical practices among nineteenth- and twentieth-century Carpathian shepherds. The anthology ends with Marzena Marczevska's article on sicknesses in Polish folklore texts.

The book is a collection of articles of diverse quality. The reader is shifted between para-scientific essays to pieces of serious philological research. A definite opinion regarding the value of the whole thing is difficult to express then. There is a number of texts worth of attention in themselves, not as part of the anthology under review. (AG)

Andrzej Wierzbicki, *Jak powstało państwo polskie? Hipoteza podboju w historiografii polskiej XIX i XX wieku* [How Was the Polish State Formed? The Hypothesis of Conquest in the Polish Historiography of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries], Instytut Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2019, 336 pp., bibliog., indices

Before dendrochronological methods were introduced in the second half of the twentieth century, there was scarcely any evidence available to historians as far as Poland's early history was concerned. A few German and Byzantine authors, and one Jewish merchant from Spain, briefly described Prince Mescó (Mieszko) and his state in today's Greater Poland, as well as his decision to marry a Czech princess and to accept Christianity in 965–6. This latter point is also confirmed in a copy of a single document from the Vatican's archives. This document, however, calls the prince Dagome (or Dagone) and presents his newly christened realm as composed of places that no specialist so far has been able to locate on any map. In short, as the author of the most recent history of Poland put it, Poland (or the polity that was to become Poland, i.e. the Piast monarchy) emerges like Athena jumping out of Zeus' head, and we know next to nothing about how Mescó's state was formed, who were his predecessors, what were his motivations, etc. What we have, instead, are various legends concerning the Piast genealogy, available in Polish chronicles

starting with the one written in the twelfth century by the anonymous author called Gaul.

Such a situation invites both historians' humility as well as speculations. It is easy to guess that this humility is untenable, but the scale of its defeat, as the present book demonstrates, may still seem astonishing. Andrzej Wierzbicki has carefully reconstructed and analysed the writings of more than forty Polish historians (and about a dozen German ones) who commented extensively on the origins of the Piast monarchy between the mid-eighteenth century (when the legendary history of the Piasts was first questioned by modern historiography) and today, i.e. the first two decades of the twenty-first century.

Chronological caesurae are not the single misleading aspect of his book's title. The second one is the Conquest Hypothesis: while it is indeed omnipresent in the book, in fact it does not constitute its only subject, which in the end is the origins of the Piast monarchy in all the versions imagined by the analysed authors. The popularity of the hypothesis among Polish historians (erroneously called a theory, as the author rightly emphasises) that the Polish state was a product of conquest seems to be based on three interrelated but independent factors. First, there was a popular myth amongst the Polish-Lithuanian nobility of the early modern epoch according to which the nobles differed from their compatriots by blood, as descendants of the legendary Sarmatians, who were believed to have arrived in what was to become Poland-Lithuania from the steppes north to Caucasus. Second, as Polish historiography was entering its modern, professionalised phase at the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the idea that states were formed due to foreign invasions was simply popular among European historians, of whom the most famous was probably Augustin Thierry, whose books on the origins of England and France attracted much popular interest. Importantly, Thierry and his followers also believed that the foreign conquests of the past were the origin of the social divisions still functioning in their time – with the nobility being descendants of the invaders. The third, and perhaps the most fascinating, source of the conquest hypothesis was the alleged natural disposition of the Slavs, as formulated by Johann Gottfried Herder. Herder admired the Slavic people for a number of virtues, but he believed they lacked political talents and the ability to form durable political organisms. The first of these factors hardly influenced professional historiography, except for the fact that the nineteenth-century conservatives were allergic to any conquest hypotheses, because they believed them to undermine national unity and shed a negative light on the reputation of the nobility, which made these hypotheses attractive for the progressive-leftist authors. In short, the problem was as much theoretical and methodological as it was political. A solution to the dilemma, chosen by a number of authors, was to avoid the unpleasant implications of the idea that the Polish state might have been founded by foreign invaders while still saving the theoretical

principle, by suggesting that the invasion had actually come from some neighbouring Slavic tribe.

Wierzbicki's present book is the fullest and most comprehensive and detailed study of all the interpretations, hypotheses, and theories on the origins of Polish statehood formulated in the last 250 years. As the book demonstrates, the problem incessantly occupied the imagination of subsequent generations of Polish historians, and while it has been marginalised, it certainly remains unsolved. Arguments concerning archaeology, genealogy, geographical etymology, and the indefatigable reinterpretations of the few available documents have been employed to both formulate and repel claims on the origins of the Piasts, the Polish nobility, and Polish statehood as products of the invasions by the Varangians, Celts, Western and Eastern Slavs, and finally Moravians. On the other hand, numerous authors have taken the position that it was the fear of a foreign invasion, be it Varangian or German, that was the main stimulus for the formation of the Piast polity.

This book is clearly conceptualised, lively, written in a witty fashion, and highly informative. The only aspect it leaves underemphasised is the psychological obsession with origins and its place on the mental map of Polish historiography (except for the fragments concerning polemics against German historiography). It seems that the author is himself disappointed with the inability of Polish historiography to produce a standard (and convincing) interpretation of the problem. Obviously he has his own sympathies and antipathies, but still one might expect him to demonstrate more understanding for the historians who have decided not to come up with some new hypothesis, and simply left the question of the origins of Polish statehood unanswered. (AK)

John Connelly, *From Peoples into Nations. A History of Eastern Europe*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 2020, 968 pp., bibliog., index, appendix with statistical data

John Connelly is a specialist in the history of education in East-Central Europe. His present book is a voluminous, impressive master-narrative embracing more than two centuries in the history of the region from the Balkans to the Baltic states (although he also briefly comments on the history of its people dating as far back as to the first century). His main focus is the birth, transformations, and triumphs of the national idea and nationalist movements. Some parts of the book may seem just like a standard political history of Poland, Bohemia, Hungary, etc.; whereas some are more analytical and rhetorical in their treatment of nationalist politics. The style is always vivid and eloquent, although the line of argumentation may occasionally seem difficult to follow, as the author frequently jumps from one country and epoch to another, and from historical detail to generalizations with too great an ease.

Connelly's understanding of nationalism is broad, and more historical than theoretical: it concerns all efforts to organise political activity around the ideas of national unity, identity, and uniqueness. What seems paradoxical in his approach is that on the one hand he agrees with the standard Western perception of Eastern Europe as space dominated (or indeed defined) by nationalist politics and sentiments, and on the other he refuses to assume the popular Western approach to East European nationalism as a sort of anomaly or plague, essentially different from its Western counterpart. "Nationalists", he argues, "are no more resistant to understanding than any other actors in history". His method seems to be simply an attempt (or more precisely, a series of attempts) to explain nationalist sentiments and policies as responses to the real needs and fears of a given population in their historical context. Accordingly, he refuses to see nationalism merely as the triumph of irrationalism, or to view the multinational empires that ruled over the region for a large part of the period in question as a practical (and, as many Western historians suggest, desirable) alternative to the follies of nationalism. The highly praised Habsburg monarchy, he observes, "had no response other than naked force" to ethnic nationalism which, of course, quickly learned the advantages of referring to violence.

The originality of this book rests, among other things, on its open rejection of the most popular theoretical approaches to nations and nationalism as "desperately general and focused upon Western Europe". The rise of East European nationalism, Connelly argues, typically did not have much to do with the modern state apparatus or developed capitalism, but rather with the fear thereof. 'Czechs and Slovenes knew nothing of such parameters and made their history without and against them' – he claims with an arrogance equalling that of Gellner or Hobsbawm, but armed with more historical evidence. It seems that the idea of this book was based on Connelly's observation that "Hobsbawm's idea that language and history were not decisive criteria [in the formation of nations and nationalism] would have struck virtually everyone in East Central Europe as nonsensical".

From Peoples into Nations is a complex and fascinating read, as informative and illuminating as it is full of controversial details and interpretations. It will certainly become standard reading for students of East Central European history, and an object of debates among specialists in the field. The largely nonsensical statistical tables in the annexes (in which aggregated data for entities like 'Hungary' or 'Poland' are provided for the period stretching from the end of the nineteenth to the end of the twentieth century) should hopefully be omitted. (AK)

Roman Baron, *Misja życia. Praski polonista Marian Szykowski (1883–1952) a idea polsko-czeskiego zbliżenia na polu kultury* [A Life Mission. The Prague Polonist Marian Szykowski (1883–1952) and the Idea of Czech-Polish Affiliation in the Area of Culture], Wydawnictwo Instytutu Historii PAN and Historický ústav AV ČR, Warszawa–Praha, 2019, 369 pp., ill., annexes, Czech and English sum., bibliog., indices of persons and geographical names

Marian Szykowski was a philologist, theatre scholar, expert in the Romanticist age and researcher in comparative literature. A graduate of the University of Lwów (Lviv), he moved to Cracow before the First World War to study at the Jagiellonian University. In 1923, he was invited by Czechoslovak authorities to take the chair of Polish language and literature at Prague's Charles University. He set up there an Academic Circle of Friends of Poland, acted as an intermediary in Polish-Czech contacts, organising visits of Polish literary scholars, historians, and poets in Czechoslovakia. In the 1920s and 1930s, he would repeatedly visit his home country, giving lectures in favour of Polish-Czech rapprochement. There was a political purport to this aspect of his activity; Szykowski can be perceived as an informal ambassador of Poland. He was granted Czechoslovak citizenship in 1930. In 1940, the authorities of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia closed down tertiary schools, which put an end to Szykowski's lecturing activity. His biography penned by Roman Baron is, in many respects, a benchmark work. Using a rich resource of historical records, the author meticulously determines the facts of his protagonist's life as well as his importance for the history of Polish and Czech literature (Szykowski researched the influence of Polish literary Romanticism on Czech national rebirth). Let us emphasise that the biographer shows a broad context of Polish-Czech cultural relations in the first half of the century, depicting the cultural institutions, periodicals, Czechophile/Polonophile circles in both countries, and so on. An ample appendix is attached, including a timeline of Szykowski's life, a bibliography of his works, and a list of subjects of his lectures from the years 1923–50. The book moreover offers a selection of sixty letters to different persons and institutions from 1912–52 (though the author gives no reason for why he has chosen these particular letters). (BK)

Ignacy Matuszewski, *Nie ma wolności bez wielkości. Pisma wybrane* [There is no Liberty without Greatness. Selected Writings], i: *Nadzieja (1912–1942). O Polskę całą, wielką i wolną* [The Hope, 1912–1942. For an Integral, Great and Free Poland], 752 pp., ii: *Katastrofa (1943–1946)* [The Disaster, 1943–1946], ed. by Sławomir Cenckiewicz, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Wydawnictwo LTW, Wojskowe Biuro Historyczne, Warszawa, 2019, 1120 pp.

The book is a collection of several hundred articles penned by Ignacy Matuszewski (1891–1946), a major figure in the Sanacja camp elite, member of the so-called Piłsudski's Colonels Group. In the early 1930s this narrow circle defined Polish politics, and indeed public life in general, for better or worse. Colonel Matuszewski, who after the 1926 Coup of May established himself as a leading representative of the Piłsudski camp's right wing, had all the advantages to belong to its strictest elite. A close associate of Piłsudski's after 1926, he held high-ranking public positions, including head of the Ministry of Treasury (1929–31). In 1937, however, he was pushed away from the internal circle of power; conflicted with the milieu of Foreign Minister Józef Beck and Marshal Rydz-Śmigły, he was eventually put out to pasture.

Sławomir Cenckiewicz, the editor of both extensive volumes and presently head of the Military Historical Institute, portrays Matuszewski as a prophet of a Sovietisation and collapse of Poland. Actually, Matuszewski was strongly convinced that Poland could not afford a war against Germany and thus placed a bet on the need to come to an agreement with the Germans. He was frightened, above all, with a vision of two former partition lands, Russia/Soviet Union and Prussia/Germany, coming to terms with each other at the expense of Poland. Although one should basically avoid yielding to the simplified vision prompted by Cenckiewicz, many of these pessimistic theses were confirmed in practice. While the authoritarian and hierarchical vision of Poland proposed by Matuszewski in, especially, the first volume, seems original given the period's political climate, his articles in volume two show that he was away from the post-war reality, displaying political wishful thinking, if not a scheduled anachronism. Yet, both volumes well illustrate the author's unconventional gift as a columnist and the broad scope of his interests, including poetry, arts and history, despite having received no formal education. In particular, Matuszewski's portrayal of his American period (the years 1941–6 he spent in New York City) makes a good illustration of the dilemmas of Polish 'irreconcilable' émigrés. This important anthology would certainly be of use in a would-be biography of this not-quite-successful though no-doubt talented politician. (GK)

Michał Ostapiuk, *Komendant „Bury”. Biografia kpt. Romualda Adama Rajsa „Burego” (1913–1949)* [Commander ‘Bury’. A Biography of Captain Romuald Adam Rajs, Nom-de-guerre ‘Bury’, 1913–1949], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2019, 360 pp., bibliog., index of persons, list of abbreviations/acronyms, ill

A biography of Captain Romuald Rajs, nom-de-guerre ‘Bury’, an officer with anti-communist underground in Poland and one of the most controversial among the so-called ‘cursed soldiers’ (*żołnierze wyklęci*), the book consists of seven chapters that reconstruct in detail the consecutive stages of his life: from his family home and early youth to his death in a Białystok prison in 1949. Though fascinated with the character portrayed, the author does not offer us any new facts with respect to the controversies aroused around his protagonist.

A systematic and varied source material is definitely a strong point of this study. Ostapiuk has mainly made use of archives from the National Remembrance Institute and the recollections or memoirs of soldiers. Rajs’ family as well as eyewitnesses have also provided him with interesting material. However, he has used none of the Byelorussian archives, and his criticism of sources leaves much to be desired.

This biography evokes no previously-unknown facts related to the most controversial events related to Rajs – namely, the ill-famed pacifications of five Byelorussian villages (Zaleszany, Wólka Wygonowska, Szpaki, Zanie, and Końcowizna), with at least seventy-nine killed. The author has a penchant for historical detail and therefore focuses on the trial of those responsible for the actions, specifies their scopes of responsibility, minutely shows the apprehension of ‘Bury’ and how he behaved during the investigation and trial. However, the sections where Ostapiuk embarks on explaining homicidal crimes and ordinary criminal acts are poorer. He tends to settle any doubts to the advantage of his protagonist; these sections offer bizarre opinions rationalising not only the homicidal actions but common crimes as well. This book would have perhaps not deserved as much attention, if not for the fact that judgments and opinions contained in this publication have been presented as Poland’s official position in judicial proceedings or quoted as expert opinions. The book in question shows where ideologisation and extreme politicisation, as well as historiography getting entangled in current politics, might lead. (GK)

Przemysław Prekiel, *Ludwik Cohn. Od PPS po KOR* [Ludwik Cohn. From the Polish Socialist Party to the Workers' Defense Committee], Wydawnictwo Kto Jest Kim, Warszawa, 2019, 282 pp., index of names

Ludwik Cohn (1902–81) was an eminent Polish socialist, social and political activist. After the Second World War, he was active with the re-established Polish Socialist Party [PPS]; later on, he was an active member of the clandestine democratic opposition in the communist Poland, pursuing in parallel his career as a sought-for barrister, acting as a defender in political trials. The study in question is a product of meticulous query which has enabled the author to find a series of before-unknown or unsaid facts. It portrays the man, first, as a promising politician of the younger generation of PPS leaders, and evokes a series of facts from the consecutive stages of his life. The last, and the most active, period of Cohn's activity in public life, as part of the democratic opposition after October 1956, with an emphasis put on his involvement with the Workers' Defense Committee [KOR] and the Helsinki Commission, is highlighted the most, for obvious reasons. Prekiel, who is a publicist associated with the socialist review *Przegląd Socjalistyczny*, describes a number of events from Cohn's interesting life, his entangled personal peripeteia and acquaintances, but above all offers a solid lecture on the dilemmas of Polish socialists after the Second World War, of whom some joined the post-war leadership team whilst others endeavoured to act on their own, trying to reconstruct the pre-war party structures; others were active in the political underground.

Not all of the book is an easy reading. Since Cohn has not left many recollections, his biography has been reconstructed based on the accounts of his associates, friends, and acquaintances; such an exercise called for special attentiveness and sensitivity on the biographer's part. Such a technical challenge offers an opportunity to view one's individual history through the prism of an entire generation. The researcher's reconstruction effort certainly calls for appreciation, as does the meticulousness and reliability in deciphering this complicated biography, and a laudable perseverance in addressing other than en-vogue subject-matters. The study should certainly be read by those interested in Polish twentieth-century public life – in particular, the history of Polish socialism. Attached is a rich bibliography and a painstakingly compiled index of names. (GK)

Weronika Kostyrko, *Tancerka i Zagłada. Historia Poli Nireńskiej* [A Dancer and the Holocaust. A Story of Pola Nireńska], Wydawnictwo Czerwone i Czarne, Warszawa, 2019, 438 pp., tables, photog.

A result of many years of minute query supported by extensive research, the book is an extensive biography and, in parallel, a sort of historical reportage. An experienced journalist and reporter (associated for many years with *Gazeta Wyborcza* daily), the author scrupulously picks out from the sources the pieces of information that enable her to draw a multidimensional portrait of this maverick artist. Pola Nireńska (1910–92), born into an orthodox Jewish family as Pola Nirensztajn, was a Polish-Jewish dancer and choreographer who made a name for herself primarily as an icon of modern-style dance. She developed her talents at the legendary Mary Wigman school in Dresden; after Hitler came to power, she left for Austria and then went to the United Kingdom; subsequently, she emigrated to the United States. During the Second World War and the Holocaust, she lost almost all of her family; this traumatic experience stigmatised her entire life, ended by a suicidal jump from the balcony of her apartment.

Not only does this reportage-style book evoke broadly-unknown facts concerning Nireńska and her second husband Jan Karski, it also offers an insight into the author's technique, including methods of collecting testimonies and documents from the private life of the portrayed individual. The biography is not a set of catchy historical/biographical stories or anecdotes (as it sometimes happens with portrayals of such characters); rather than that, it attempts at describing a world that irreversibly came to an end with the outbreak of the Second World War. The description is set in a broad historical, political, cultural, and social context. In such a depiction, the post-war years marked not an attempt to reconstruct oneself but rather, a history of coping with the trauma.

The picture that emerges from this story is one of an artist completely absorbed by dance and, in parallel, an emancipated woman bestowed with an intense emotional life; lastly, a Polish Jewish woman touched by the Holocaust. The author makes the artist's bisexual identity one of the key threads of the story. The sexual/moral threads, thriftily concealed by Nireńska herself and by her family over her entire lifetime, are not neglected or diminished in Kostyrko's book. This biography is altogether a sort of alternative story, different from the one in public circulation, where the dancer sticks to her husband, the legendary courier of the Polish Underground State. This erudite book hooks on several domains of culture and largely tells a story of the tempestuous twentieth century, while primarily being a story of an emancipated woman on her way to freedom and independence – until her mysterious and tragic death in 1992. (GK)

Noach Lasman, *Wspomnienia z trzech światów* [Recollections from Three Worlds], selected and with an afterword by Andrzej Niziołek, Wydawnictwo Miejskie „Poznań”, Poznań, 2019, 695 pp., facsimiles, photog., portraits

This autobiography of Noach Lasman (1924–2018), a Jew from Poznań who after the Second World War made a name for himself as an Israeli geologist, records the fates of his family and, to a considerable extent, the community of Poznań Jews in the first half of the twentieth century. Lasman emigrated from Poland to Israel in 1957. Since the mid-1980s, he has published several autobiographical books describing his recollections, reflections, and observations from the years 1927–58. The book under review is a selection from his five separate books and other minor texts, never before published in Poland.

While a few small texts by Lasman have been published in Polish, this particular book is a new quality. Rather than being limited to portraying the author and his relatives, it discusses fates of dozens of people and several communities annihilated by the Holocaust. A dozen-or-so chapters cover aspects of the history of pre-war Poznań, the tenebrous occupation time during which the author's family was exterminated, and the ambiguous post-war years. The Lasman family arrived in Poznań after the First World War and their encounter with German-speaking Jews of Poznań triggered a cultural shock. The reader will probably be impressed with the description of the local anti-Semitism: a detailed set of more or less sophisticated acts of persecution, happening also in the everyday life. One also finds a suggestive image of a transformation of a *shtetl* in Podlachia, where the author happened to stay for some time during the Second World War, into a ghetto by the Nazis, followed by descriptions of slave labour, deportations to the Treblinka extermination camp, and living in hiding. The description of antisemitism in the Second Polish Army, which Lasman joined at a later stage of the war (chapter 'Private Lasman'), is deepened by the image of post-war insecurity and a failed attempt at rebuilding a Jewish life in Poland, ended with an emigration to Israel.

Although the author describes the Polish reality critically, his memories are saturated with the assumptions of Polish propaganda from before the outbreak of the Second World War and from the later period. On the one hand, they testify to the author's progressive acculturation and, on the other hand, to his failed integration with Polishness. While the author reconstructs these episodes in a distanced manner, his account demonstrates how deeply his personal and collective experience was immersed in his personal daily vicissitudes – and those of his relatives. This monumental publication should become a canonical piece of memoirs covering the first half of the twentieth century. (GK)

Magdalena Krzyżanowska-Mierzewska and Aldona Wiśniewska, *Olga, córka „Wilka”* [Olga, Daughter of ‘Wilk’], Wydawnictwo Agora SA, Warszawa, 2019, 300 pp., facsimiles, photog., portraits

A family saga of the Krzyżanowskis, describing the history of a noble and intelligentsia family whose members were involved in underground activities during the Nazi occupation and in post-war Poland’s dissident democratic opposition. It may serve as an illustration of certain theories proposed by the sociologist Józef Chałasiński on the landowning-and-noble background of Polish intelligentsia. Aleksander Krzyżanowski, nom-de-guerre ‘Wilk’ [‘Wolf’], commanded the Home Army (*Armia Krajowa*, AK) troops in Vilnius region; his wife Janina, a physician, offered shelter in her apartment to a group of underground fighters, including a special-operation paratrooper from the Great Britain (*cichociemny*, a Silent Unseen), for which she was put in the infamous Pawiak prison. Their daughter Olga, who was then a teenager, was decorated by the Polish Underground State with the Cross of Valour (*Krzyż Walcznych*) for defeating the confiscation of some essential papers whilst her neighbours were arrested by the Gestapo (her grandmother Stefania helped her to this end). These and other picturesque episodes have been written down by the journalist Aldona Wiśniewska.

These accounts should not however be read as a history of one family, or as an extensive biographical material of an important person of the democratic opposition in post-war communist Poland. The story’s background can be regarded as a contextual biography of Polish left-inclined intelligentsia: portraits of several generations and, at least, a few periods: the pre-war period, the Nazi German occupation and Stalinism, the years marked by the rule of Władysław Gomułka and the decade of Edward Gierek, and, lastly, the age of ‘Solidarity’ and of the great upheaval until 1989/1990. While of all the individuals concerned, Olga Krzyżanowska (1929–2018), Vice Speaker of the Sejm and then the Senate, comes to the fore, the study sketches a broader phenomenon. Altogether, this is an important, original and uneasy to classify, commentary to the second half of the twentieth century, which should not escape the scholars’ attention. (GK)

MIDDLE AGES

Wolin. The Old Town, i: *Settlement Structure, Stratigraphy & Chronology*; ii: *Studies on Finds*, ed. by Marian Rębkowski, Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii PAN, Szczecin, 2019, 357 & 577 pp., photog., ill., diagrams

This monumental and archeologically innovative study on the medieval Isle of Wolin has been edited by the archaeologist Marian Rębkowski, Director of the Institute of Archeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences. It was preceded by a book on the Slavic burghwall of Lubin on the isle of Wolin (M. Rębkowski (ed.), *Lubin. Early Medieval Stronghold at the Mouth of the Oder River*, Szczecin, 2018). Wolin is situated between the Bay of Szczecin, the isle of Uznam/Usedom, the Baltic Sea, and West Pomerania. As aptly indicated in the introduction, the isle, shrouded with numerous legends, played since the early Middle Ages an extremely important part in the historiography of Northern Europe. (The book by Monika Rusakiewicz, *Wineta. Korzenie legendy i jej recepcja w historiografii zachodniopomorskiej do XVI wieku*, Wrocław, 2016, is worth adding to the survey of the relevant literature.) Archeological research in the area of Wolin has been pursued in the modern era; Polish researchers took over after the Second World War, as Wolin was made part of Poland. Until very recently, there has been no synthetic monograph published covering these explorations. The two-volume publication in question deals with the Old Town in the town of Wolin on the Dziwna River, in the south-eastern part of the isle. Volume 1 describes the structure of the population, the stratigraphy and chronology of the finds, the oldest of which date to the late ninth century; volume 2 contains studies on individual artefacts, grouped by material they were made of (glass, clay, metal, timber, stone, etc.). (RR)

Monika Jakubek-Raczkowska, Juliusz Raczkowski, and Piotr Oliński, *Księga klasztorów ziemi chełmińskiej w średniowieczu* [A Book of Monasteries and Convents of Medieval Chełmno/Kulm Land], i: *Chełmno/Kulm*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń, 2019, 296 pp., maps, ill., bibliog., indices of personal and topographical names

The book is a meticulously edited catalogue of the monasteries and convents of Chełmno/Kulm: those of the Franciscans, Dominicans, and Cistercian Benedictine nuns. A set of introductory essays on the relations of these convents with their secular environment (the authorities and the society) and describing their spirituality, arts, and intellectual and mental culture, is followed by the core discussion. The introduction is in two languages, Polish

and English; there is a set of photographs and illustrations (regrettably, black-and-white only) inserted between these two versions.

The catalogue is split into two parts, dealing respectively with historical and historical-and-artistic issues. The first describes the name, location, affiliation (in religious congregation terms), the history of the convent, its cast of members, legal basis, relations with the territorial superior, economic foundations, religious life and religious impact, monuments of written culture created on the premises – for each convent concerned. The second part shows the monastic complexes in more detail (incl. the church's title, location, characteristics of its architecture, the history of the building and associated facilities, bibliography and documentation covering the church's designs and plans), furnishings and decoration of the churches (the structure and its dating, localisation – original and today's, description, the history of specified historical monuments, bibliography and photographic documentation). Apart from numerous maps, the catalogue comprises a series of photographs (in colour).

The publication is an invaluable aid in research into the monasteries and convents of medieval Chełmno/Kulm. It should be hoped that the following volumes, which are to describe the convents of the region will be no less successful. (AG)

Adam Izdebski, *Średniowieczni Rzymianie i przyroda. Interdyscyplinarna historia środowiska* [Medieval Romans and Nature. An Interdisciplinary History of the Environment], Towarzystwo Wydawnicze Historia Jagellonica, Kraków, 2019, 255 pp., bibliog., table, maps, ill

It is in its very first sentence that the book represents itself as a new concept, something described (but not strictly defined) by the author as a piece of 'environmental history'. The American environmental history school has possibly been a strong, intellectually dominant, inspiration. Hence, the brief introduction, apart from concisely discussing the purpose behind the study, mostly seeks to establish the possibly accurate equivalents for the English terms used in environmental history. Such considerations make no novel contribution to the subject-matter; what is more, the reader might at some point call into question the author's scientific competencies. The book is meant to introduce the reader to environmental history being history of interactions between humans and natural environment. In parallel, it seeks to answer the question to what degree the Byzantines were Romans.

The book is composed of two parts, of which the first presents the history of (the American) environmental history and its European equivalents. A separate chapter discusses the author's own methodology. Finally, he explains his understanding of the social-and-natural system; yet, the proposed definition is not quite precise or exhaustive enough. Part two attempts at showing

a social-and-natural continuity between the eastern part of the Roman Empire and what was later to become the Byzantium. It opens with a chapter on the history of research into the Mediterranean and Byzantine world as part of environmental history. A dedicated chapter discusses the sources used by the author; the subsequent two chapters describe the changes in the landscape of Anatolia. The role of climate change is described in the next chapter, whereas the last tries to answer why, and how, the Byzantium inhabitants managed to keep the continuity of nature and the landscape.

A strange method of quoting reference studies is questionable. A prevalent portion of references in the notes refer to the publication (be it a book or article) without specifying pages. In some cases though, with no explanation, the pagination is provided. The book is thoroughly messy, and it is only its attentive reading that enables one to highlight which territory, and period, is of particular interest to the author (Byzantium's borders were fluctuating). Izdebski would often refer to a 'late antiquity' or 'early Middle Ages', but in his narrative the border between the epochs is identifiable in the eighth century. The general impression is that we deal with a popular-science book and a handbook inspired by American studies; there is considerable flippancy to it as regards the author's acquaintance with the output of Polish science (for that matter) which this book tends to largely and unjustifiably ignore. (AG)

Beata Wojciechowska, *Flebotomia i purgowanie, czyli o leczeniu w wiekach średnich* [Phlebotomy and Purging, or Medicinal Treatments in the Middle Ages], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jana Kochanowskiego, Kielce, 2019, 187 pp., bibliog., index of names, ill., English sum.

This short book is, to an extent, a monograph of Avicenna and his medical knowledge. Of the three chapters, the first describes the humours theory, the Persian physician's thought providing a point-of-reference to the considerations of this theory. Phlebotomy, the theory behind the operations, deals with the system of veins and their relation with pathological states, as well as the thoroughly practical procedure of bloodletting. The final chapter discusses selected methods of treatment, medicaments, diets, and other treatment procedures applied in the mediaeval period.

The book forms a contribution or a guideline to follow-up research (as the author remarks in the introduction). While not contributing a lot to the domain concerned, the book (re)arranges and discusses the pieces of information on the period's medicine taken from diverse sources. Apart from Avicenna, Tomasz of Wrocław, Vincent of Beauvais, and others, are recalled. This may become an interesting and valuable reading for those interested in the topic and looking for a popular-science book for themselves. The pleasing visual artwork has to be appreciated. (AG)

Szymon Wierzbiński, *U boku bazyleusa. Frankowie i Waregowie w cesarstwie bizantyńskim w XI w.* [At the Side of the Basileos. The Franks and the Varangians in the Eleventh-Century Byzantine Empire], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź, 2019, VIII+232 pp., bibliog., indices, English sum.; series: Byzantina Lodziensia, 37

This study in military history is based on a doctoral thesis submitted in 2013 at the University of Łódź and deals with foreign mercenaries serving with the Byzantine army in the eleventh century, who were referred to with the collective names of the Varangians (those from Rus' [Ruthenia] and Scandinavia) and the Franks (those from the West of Europe). The introduction formulates the problem in question, discusses the state of research and the source base consisting of records produced in diverse cultural circles: Byzantine, Arab, Armenian, Ruthenian, Scandinavian, and Latin. The core section is divided into seven problem-related chapters, each including brief subchapters. Chapter one discusses the structure of the Byzantine in the tenth and eleventh centuries. Chapter two describes the circumstances of the establishment of the Varangian Guard in the context of the threat from the Seljuk Turks. Chapter three concerns the situation in the mercenaries' native regions, situated in the territories of Rus' and Scandinavia, Normandy and Southern Italy, and the British Isles. Chapters four and five deal, respectively, with the history of the Varangian Guard (with special focus on Harald Hardrada) and the 'Frankian' troops. Chapter six concerns the economic aspects of the functioning of the mercenaries. The seventh and last chapter deals with the portrayal of the mercenaries in Byzantine sources (this being discussed vaguely and in a somewhat old-fashioned manner). Attached is a list of abbreviations/acronyms, bibliography, English summary, abstract, and indices. (RR)

Rafał Rutkowski, *Norweska Kronika Mnicha Teodoryka. Północna tradycja historyczna wprowadzona w nurt dziejów powszechnych (koniec XII wieku)* [The Norwegian Chronicle of Theodoric the Monk. A Northern Historical Tradition Entering the Current of Universal History (End of Twelfth C.)], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń, 2019, 378 pp. bibliog., index of names, English sum.; series: Monografie Fundacji na rzecz Nauki Polskiej

This study of the twelfth-century chronicle by Theodoric the Monk is a modified version of a doctoral dissertation submitted at the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences. The book's five chapters are complemented with a rudimentary introduction and a brief conclusion.

The first chapter presents the man and his work, beginning with the manuscript tradition, through the facts of his life and erudition. Explained is the chronicle's title and the work is compared with other twelve-century historiographic texts produced in the Icelandic/Norwegian circle. The chronicle's complicated relations with the other historiographic monuments are pointed out, including the sources used by Theodoric himself and texts of later authors who made use of his work. The chapter is prevalently an introduction proper to the remainder of the book (and as such complements the introductory section). Rutkowski meticulously describes the numerous problems related to the condition in which the chronicle's copies (seventeenth-century ones only) have been preserved and to the quality of critical editions of the texts.

Chapter two considers whether in this particular case one has to do with an ecclesiastical history or a history of the kings. Although Rutkowski finds the latter option more accurate, he highlights that the borderline between a sacred history and a secular one was quite fine in the Middle Ages. He also compares Theodoric to the other 'Norwegian synoptic chronicles', including the *Historia Norwegie* and the *Ágrip*. The scholar chronologically confronts the stories appearing in these three sources, indicating the similarities as well as the differences between them.

The next chapter, starting with Theodoric's references to the old songs, points to the influences of Plato and Boethius on the chronicle. The reader is directly referred to the texts of these philosophers and led into the inspirations regarding interpretation and understanding of history.

Chapter four analyses the description of the baptism of Saint Olaf, pointing to the references to Hieronymus' chronicle (*Hieronymi Chronicon*) or the Donation of Constantine. The comparison of Olaf to Constantine the Great ensued from the source-related problem faced by Theodoric: he had no satisfactory information as to the circumstances of the christening of the monarch of Norway and the Roman Emperor.

The last chapter deals with the martyrdom of Olaf and the topos of the frigid North. As to the latter point, the author points to the awareness of the Norwegians that their specific geographical background implied certain cultural patterns, with aspects of barbarism ascribed to them.

Apart from his own propositions, Rutkowski conscientiously reports throughout the book on the state of research. His knowledge of the relevant literature and about the subject-matter concerned is excellent. This erudition does not however outshine the author's argument but instead, adds context to his research propositions, making them resound even stronger. This doubtlessly highly valuable study offers quite a many-sided approach. Rutkowski treats Scandinavia as an element of a larger whole, rather than a centre of the world or a 'world entire'. (AG)

Janusz Bieniak, *Zarębowie i Nałęczsze a królobójstwo w Rogoźnie* [The Zaręba and Nałęcz Families and the Regicide in Rogoźno], Wydawnictwo DiG, Warszawa, 2018, 232 pp., genealogical tables

A work by the doyen of Polish genealogical studies, a professor emeritus with the Nicolaus Copernicus University of Toruń, deals with the regicide whose victim in the winter of 1296 was King Przemysł II. The author considers this event, not without some exaggeration, to have been a turning point in the history of Poland – one that paved the way for emergence of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the shifting of the frontier eastwards. Bieniak moreover openly declares his off-scientific intention to cleanse the names of Zaręba and Nałęcz, the families that in the thirteenth century were charged – falsely, to his mind – with responsibility for this crime. He therefore seeks to determine, as exactly as possible, the time and the circumstances in which regicide charges were first formulated against these two families. Hence the book's structure, evidently modelled after a lawsuit pattern: an account of the discrepancies in the verdict and portraits of the defendants are followed by the case's files, the course of the events, the charge and prosecution; the summary finally comes like a sentence of acquittal. However, particularly the reconstruction of events, which is largely founded upon the scholar's imagination and guesswork, triggers considerable doubt. The considerations of the familial connections between the study's characters are the most reliable moments, for a change. An index and genealogical tables have been attached; no bibliography or list of references is added, though. Let us remark that the typesetting work is careless (the margins being very narrow), and so is the binding. (RR)

Kronika książąt polskich [A Chronicle of the Dukes of Poland], trans. and ed. by Jerzy Wojtczak-Szyszkowski, Wydawnictwo i Drukarnia Świętego Krzyża w Opolu, Opole, 2019, 211 pp.

Attributed to Canon Piotr of Byczyna, the *Chronicon principum Poloniae* is a chronicle embracing the history of Poland since its fabulous beginnings up to the fourteenth century, largely focused on Silesia as a province of the then-fragmented Poland. It was written down around 1385 based on the information drawn from Gallus Anonymus' *Gesta principum Polonorum* and the Silesian *Chronica Polonorum* (late thirteenth c.). The first Polish translation, based on Zygmunt Węclewski's edition (published in the series *Monumenta Poloniae Historica*, vol. III, Lwów, 1878, pp. 423–578, reprinted 1961), is disappointing. It is a work of a professor emeritus affiliated with the University of Warsaw's Institute of Classical Philology. His scarce competence as regards working with a mediaeval source is evident; as a result, the publication does

not even meet the rigours posed for popular translations. The introduction is meant to convince the reader about the age-old Polish character of the region of Silesia, thus resembling the post-war rough-hewn propaganda around the Recovered Territories. The translator has uncritically accepted the editor's considerations as to the chronicler's nationality, turning them outright into a 'humorous exercise-book' stuff. The information on the source is reduced to a minimum. There is no reference to either of the several fundamental works (e.g., Roman Heck, '*Chronica principum Poloniae a Chronica Polonorum*', *Sobótka*, 31 (1976), 2, pp. 185–96; Wojciech Mrozowicz, '*Sicut eadem narrat cronica. W sprawie recepcji Kroniki Anonima zwanego Gallem na średniowiecznym Śląsku*', in Andrzej Dąbrowka, Edward Skibiński, and Witold Wojtowicz (eds), *Nobis operique favete. Studia nad Gallem Anonimem*, Warszawa 2017, pp. 307–14). The translation as such is basically correct, although mistaken titles of the rulers and names proper do stand out (for example, St Hedwig was a duchess [księżna], rather than a princess [księżniczka], p. 17; Denmark is 'replaced' by Dalmatia, p. 18; Włocławek renamed as Wrocław, p. 34; a number of toponyms are left untranslated, e.g. Bellovacum, p. 61). Lastly, the sparse content-related notes left much to be desired (np. Marcin Polak/Martinus Polonus is imputed the late title 'of Opava' [Martinus Oppaviensis], p. 31, note 17); also, the translator is ignorant of the fact that the name 'Gets' was used in the Middle Ages with respect to the Prussians – p. 93, note 44). Even a popular translation *should not* be misleading to the readers. As a side conclusion, there remains a need to prepare a new critical edition of both the *Chronicon principum Polonorum* and the *Chronica Polonorum*. (RR)

Michał Skoczyński, *Contrata Masoviae. Dominikanie na Mazowszu od XIII do XVI wieku* [*Contrata Masoviae. The Dominicans in Masovia from the Thirteenth to the Sixteenth Century*], Dominikański Instytut Historyczny, Kraków, 2019, 494 pp. abbreviations, bibliog., indices of places and persons, material index, maps, ill.; series: *Studia i Źródła Dominikańskiego Instytutu Historycznego w Krakowie*, 19

This quite extensive and classically constructed book is a history of the functioning of the Dominican Order in the land of Masovia. Chapter one deals with the process of founding the monasteries, which appeared in two consecutive waves (Płock, Warka, Sochaczew; Płock, Łowicz). Chapter two describes the economic foundations of the functioning of the individual convents, pointing to the sources of income and discussing the financial situation of each of the centres. Chapter three presents and explains the internal situation of the congregations, the conventual authorities, individual monks, and the process

of recruitment of professed monks, the discipline, as well as the condition of libraries and collections. The last chapter describes the monasteries' relationships with their environment, including the ministry and the specified social groups – from the ruling dynasty through to peasantry and the heretics. A short conclusion and annexes (not specified in the table of context) round off the book. The annexes namely include: a list of monks associated with Masovian monasteries between the thirteenth and late sixteenth/early seventeenth centuries (the last specified dates being 1602 and 1603). There are a few maps too (incl. a map of Masovia with the Dominican convents and borders of cloistral precincts plotted), as well as a set of photographs and illustrations; lastly, a list of priors.

While perhaps not necessarily readable in its entirety, the book is an extremely useful collection of information on the monasteries, owing to its very schematic but well-ordered arrangement of the material related to the Dominicans of Masovia. (AG)

EARLY MODERN TIMES

Najstarsze pamiętniki Żydów krakowskich [The Earliest Diaries of Cracow Jews] with an introduction by Agata Paluch and Leszek Kwiatkowski; Meir ben Jechiel Kadosz z Brodu, *Zwój pana Meira* [The Scroll of Rabbi Meyer], with an introduction, trans. and ed. by Leszek Kwiatkowski; Jom Tow Lipmann Heller, *Zwój nienawiści* [Scroll of Enmity], with an introduction, trans. and ed. by Agata Paluch, PWN, Warszawa, 2019, 194 pp., facsimiles; series: Żydzi. Polska. Autobiografia, 3

This source edition comes out as the third volume in the project 'A canon of memoirs of Polish Jewry', being a series of twenty-seven memoirs and other autobiographical texts written by Jewish authors residing in Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (since the sixteenth century), in partitioned Poland and twentieth-century Poland. The series is published thanks to cooperation between the University of Wrocław's Department of Jewish Studies, the POLIN Museum in Warsaw, and the Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN Publishers. It offers Polish translations of Jewish autobiographical materials, mainly Hebrew and Yiddish ones. *The Scroll of Rabbi Meyer* and *Scroll of Enmity* are two texts dating to the first half of the seventeenth century. The former presents the history of a young Jew imprisoned by a Polish nobleman, the latter shows the life history of Yom Tov Lipmann Heller, who held the office of Rabbi of Cracow, among others. These texts represent a type of literature typical of the Ashkenazic area, the so-called family scrolls; they are the only sources of the sort that come from the area of Poland-Lithuania. Although they are

known from earlier research, this is their first critical edition meeting the modern standards. The source texts are preceded by in-depth introductions broadly discussing the historical background and the history of the scrolls. The philological remarks, analysing in detail the linguistic issues, are no less interesting. The translations satisfy the high professional standards: the texts are translated from their original languages (Hebrew, Aramaic), using a technique that reflects the original texts, mainly based on juxtapositions of biblical quotes. These sources are particularly interesting to historians not working on the Jewish history and having no command of Jewish languages, as they show the Jewish life in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth from the standpoint of the internal records which mostly tend to be neglected by Polish scholars. (MC)

Listy hetmańskie rodu Potockich [Hetman Letters of the Potocki Family], i: *Korespondencja Mikołaja Potockiego: hetman polny koronny 1637–1646, hetman wielki koronny 1646–1651* [Correspondence of Mikołaj Potocki as Field Hetman of the Crown (1637–1646) and Grand Hetman of the Crown (1646–1651)], ed. by Maciej Franz, Wydawnictwo DiG, Edition La Rama, Warszawa–Bellerive-sur-Allier, 2018, 435 pp., indices, English sum.; series: Monumenta Poloniae Epistolaria

The first volume in a planned serial publication of historical records named ‘hetman letters of the Potocki family’ contains letters of Mikołaj Potocki, who in 1637–51 held the office of Field Hetman and Grand Hetman of the Crown. The edited texts are preceded by a brief discussion of the military and political history of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. On the basis, primarily, of the existing literature, the editor describes Potocki’s biography in many details. With its languid style, the description is not easily readable, and repeats much information from the introductory section. The core section comprises 218 letters written or received by Mikołaj Potocki, presently kept in several archives and libraries. The research was conducted at the Central Archives of Historical Records, the Archive of Science of PAU/PAN Library in Cracow, the State Archives in Cracow, the National Library in Warsaw, the PAN Library in Kórnik. Included are also letters from Ukrainian (Lviv and Kiev) and Russian (Moscow and Saint Petersburg) archives. The fact that such a considerably dispersed source material has been gathered is a great asset of the publication. The edition offers a complete set of letters, furnished with content notes, a name index and an index of geographical names. (MC)

Korespondencja wojskowa hetmana Janusza Radziwiłła w latach 1646–1655 [Hetman Janusz Radziwiłł's Military Correspondence], Part 1: *Diariusz kancelaryjny 1649–1653* [The Chancellery Journal, 1649–1653], ed. by Mirosław Nagielski, Konrad Bobiatyński, Przemysław Gawron, Krzysztof Kossarzecki, Andrzej Adam Majewski, and Dariusz Milewski, Wydawnictwo Neriton, Warszawa, 2019, 890 pp., indices

Although Janusz Radziwiłł has held a number of important functions in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, until now he did not arouse considerable interest among historians. The book in question, compiled by a team of military historians associated with the University of Warsaw, aims at rendering a broad circle of interested readers more familiar with this historical figure. The first volume of edited letters consists of the so-called chancellery journal, being the records of incoming and outgoing letters at the Janusz Radziwiłł's chancellery between June 1649 and February 1652. The edition is based on the journal kept presently at the Central Archives of Historical Records [AGAD] in Warsaw; the missing (or corrupt) parts have been completed based on chancellery journals kept today at the Jagiellonian Library in Cracow and the Russian National Library in Saint Petersburg. The source material is preceded with an introduction presenting Radziwiłł's biography and discussing the sources included in the volume's second part. In line with their own interests, the authors highlight the importance of this material in analysing the military campaigns of mid-seventeenth century. The correspondence can also be used in research on social history (as a broad concept) and daily lives of different population groups in Poland-Lithuania; these aspects should perhaps have been stressed even more clearly. An index of geographical names and index of persons are added. (MC)

Listy hetmańskie rodu Potockich [Hetman Letters of the Potocki Family], ii: *Korespondencja Stanisława Rewery Potockiego: hetman polny koronny 1652–1654, hetman wielki koronny 1654–1667* [Correspondence of Stanisław 'Rewera' Potocki as Field Hetman of the Crown (1652–1654) and Grand Hetman of the Crown (1654–1667)], ed. by Piotr Kroll, Wydawnictwo DIG, Edition La Rama, Warszawa–Bellerive-sur-Allier, 2019, 308 pp.; series: Monumenta Poloniae Epistolaria

Another volume in the series featuring 'hetman letters of the Potocki family' contains the correspondence of Stanisław 'Rewera' Potocki, who from 1652 to 1667 was in office as Field Hetman of the Crown and Grand Hetman of

the Crown. As is standard with the series, the publication is divided into two major parts. In the first part, the editor gives a synthetic portrait of Stanisław Potocki. Heavily drawing upon the existing literature, this section primarily discusses his political and military activities, both during his term of office and in the earlier years. The next section features letters written or received by S. Potocki. Those with whom he exchanged letters included Jerzy Sebastian Lubomirski, Stefan Koryciński, Andrzej Trzebicki, Bohdan Khmelnytsky, and Samuel Świdorski. The materials come from the archives of Poland (Central Archives of Historical Records [AGAD], National Archives in Gdańsk and Cracow, Czartoryski Library, Jagiellonian Library), Ukraine (National Library of Ukraine) and Russia (National Library of Russia in Saint Petersburg). This complete edition is provided with content notes, an index of geographical names and one of personal names. (MC)

Żydowski samorząd ziemski w Koronie (XVII–XVIII wiek). Źródła [Jewish Territorial Self-Government in the Crown in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. Sources], with an introduction and ed. by Adam Kaźmierczyk and Przemysław Zarubin, Księgarnia Akademicka, Kraków, 2019, 679 pp., indices

The volume comes as a follow-up of a project funded by the National Programme for the Development of Humanities, which was meant to collect documents related to the functioning of the Jewish self-government in the Kingdom of Poland. Composed of several degrees, the Jewish self-government in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was a world phenomenon. Today, however, research into its activities is a difficult exercise since a vast majority of internal Jewish sources has not survived. Hence, ‘external’ Christian sources tend nowadays to be increasingly used in research in the organs of Jewish autonomy. Since the source materials were considerably dispersed, their edition was a pretty tough task; this adds special importance to the edition under review. As part of the ‘Jewish self-government in the Crown (Seventeenth-Eighteenth Century)’ project, extremely extensive queries have been carried out in castle and land registers, private archives, and municipal archives from the entire area of the Kingdom of Poland. The editors’ introduction discusses the rules of functioning of district administrative units (*ziemstwo, galil*) in the Crown. The authors make use of hitherto-unknown source materials, edited and published in the volume. There are altogether 256 documents, arranged into three parts. The first contains materials published by the Commonwealth authorities and mainly related to enforcement of taxes by intermediation of the *ziemstwa*. Part two comprises internal Jewish documents, the persons concerned having had them translated and entered in the appropriate castle or land registers. The editors point to numerous inaccuracies in these translations

and difficulties in understanding certain places in those documents. Part three presents court records and all the other documents that do not fit the other two parts. Each document is preceded by a short abstract (*regest*) in Polish and English. Moreover, indices are attached (subjects, persons, and geographical names). The book offers a selection of documents collected within the aforesaid project, the other materials being available online: <http://www.ziemstwa.judaistyka.uj.edu.pl/>. (MC)

Akta sejmiku kowieńskiego z lat 1733–1795 [The Records of the Dietine of Kowno/Kaunas, 1733–1795], ed. by Monika Jusupović, Instytut Historii PAN, Wydawnictwo Neriton, Warszawa, 2019, 660 pp., bibliog., indices, tables, ill.

Records of noblemen's dietines have long aroused much interest among historians editing historical sources. The edition in question, inspired by the research postulate put forth by Walerian Kalinka in 1880, covers materials related to the functioning of the Dietine of Kowno (Kaunas) between 1733 and 1795. The Dietine's political history and specificity in the period concerned is briefly discussed in the editor's introduction, along with the types of documents contained in the volume. The reader without expert knowledge on how the dietines functioned in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania may miss the explanation of some basic terms (such as confederate instrument or *sufragia* [vote of support]), or a brief discussion of the types of dietine and the differences between them. The edition comprises, in total, 202 documents referring to 116 noblemen's assemblies, of which as many as forty-five were credentials (*kredensy*) for various county-level officials. The volume moreover contains 'Kowno instructions', manifestos against the Dietine, laudas, and scarce 'universal proclamations' preceding the assemblies. This edition offers documents never published before and, primarily, contained in castle and landed registers of Kowno, presently kept at the Lithuanian State Historical Archive in Vilnius. The editor has moreover done research at the Central Archives of Historical Records [AGAD], the Czartoryski Library, the Ossoliński Library, as well as in the archives of Moscow, Saint Petersburg, and Dresden. The documents are edited in line with the editorial instructions laid down by Kazimierz Lepszy. The book will certainly enrich our knowledge on the functioning of Kowno Dietines assemblies and will prove to be much of use to scholars analysing the political system of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. (MC)

Mateusz Wyżga, *Homo movens. Mobilność chłopów w mikroregionie krakowskim w XVI–XVIII wieku* [*Homo movens. The Mobility of Peasants in Cracow Micro-Region in the Sixteenth–Eighteenth Centuries*], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Pedagogicznego, Kraków, 2019, 468 pp., maps, diagrams

This monograph tries to determine the scale of peasant migration and their contribution to a social change. The study belongs to an international trend of research into the significance of migrations in the pre-industrial age. It seeks to verify the ‘mobility transition’ model for Poland, a concept that merges the intensity of migration and modernisation processes. Quite diverse and rich sources have been used, including documents produced by municipal institutions, guild files, personal inventories, rural parish registers, and customs records. The proposed analysis is based on quantitative (statistical) and qualitative methods. The monograph is split into five major parts, which analyse, respectively: migrations as a typical element of individual stages in the peasants’ lifecycle; the geography of daily life; factors behind the decision to migrate; the migration policies of families, local communities, and rural institutions involved; migration strategies; and, social networks in operation. A high mobility of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth’s society is demonstrated; especially interesting is the reasoning about network building and family migration policies. The analysis shows, firstly, that the peasants formed quite an essential element in urban areas. Secondly, the social class (estate)-based divisions in Poland-Lithuania were, in practice, much less sharp than so many pieces of previous research would have made us believe; in fact, diverse populaces functioned on the borderline of social estates. (MC)

Karol Źojdź, *Wszyscy ludzie króla. Zygmunt III Waza i jego stronnicy w Wielkim Księstwie Litewskim w pierwszych dekadach XVII wieku* [*All the King’s Men. Sigismund III Vasa and His Followers in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the First Decades of the Seventeenth Century*], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń, 2019, 454 pp.

The study seeks to describe how the faction supporting King Sigismund III Vasa functioned in the years 1603–21. Consisting of four chapters, an introduction and a conclusion, the book is based on a broad set of sources. The author has done research in Polish, Ukrainian, Russian, Lithuanian, Belarusian, and Swedish archives. Chapter one, being an introductory section, defines the notions of clientelism, faction, and power elite, which will be used as the argument unfolds. Chapter two analyses in detail the king’s relations with

Lithuanian elites and presents the king's political objectives, starting with his election as a monarch. The reasoning concerning the composition and influence zones of the faction of leading Lithuanian regalists is interesting; discussed at this point are the factions of the Radziwiłłs of Nieśwież, the Sapiehas, the Chodkiewicz, the Woynas, and the Wołłowicz. The final chapter is on the king's policies, including the appointments and the royal faction's activities at dietine assemblies held in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The conclusive section discusses the political situation in the Duchy after the death of Hetman Jan Karol Chodkiewicz in 1621. The monograph considerably enriches the existing Polish research in Poland-Lithuania's political system and in the phenomenon of clientelism. (MC)

Ada Arendt, *Archeologia zatroskania. Staropolskie kalendarze w działaniu* [Archaeology of Concern. Old Polish Calendars in Action], Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2019, 344 pp., facsimiles, photog., ills, maps; series: *Communicare – historia i kultura*

The monograph deals with the functioning of calendars in Poland-Lithuania. Of the two major parts, the first is theoretical: inspired by the new research trends in archaeology and the humanistic 'material turn', the author describes the 'archaeology of concern' – a method used further on in the study. It aims at discovering semantic strata, one by one, and describing a complex of practices related to daily life. The subsequent chapter discusses the existing state of research on Old Polish calendars. The core part discusses two case studies: calendars from 1668–9, which belonged to Bazyli Łuszczewski, and those from 1696 and 1701, owned by Mikołaj Ludwik Garbiński. In spite of a modern research method applied, this part of the study proves pretty disappointing. The introduction describes the owners of the calendars, and these portraits are quite insufficient. Analysed are the notes made by these owners in their calendars, including the methods of note making, their sense of locality, weather forecasts, family connections, and more. The physical look of the calendars is discussed in detail as well. The proposed analysis is ahistorical in a number of points; the author demonstrates scarce awareness of the specificities of the age being referred to, and discusses Old Polish sources in an uncritical fashion. The study contains a number of minor substantive errors and some bizarre statements: the Commonwealth's Jews are said to have used the Julian calendar (p. 83); otherwise, the noblemen were wont to enter private documents in parish registers (p. 137). (MC)

NINETEENTH CENTURY

Alicja Maślak-Maciejewska, *Modlili się w Templu. Krakowscy Żydzi postępowi w XIX wieku* [They Prayed in the Temple. The Progressive Jews of Cracow in the Nineteenth Century], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, Kraków, 2019, 473 pp., bibliog., indices, English sum., annexes

The book by Alicja Maślak-Maciejewska is a study of the life and legacy of the progressive Jewish community in Cracow. The community was, as the author describes, epitomised by the Progressive Society, established in 1843, and its life was centred around the progressive synagogue (The Temple), opened in 1861. While the progressive Jews were but a minority of the Polish Jews generally and also within the Cracow Jewish community (the author estimates that up to 5 per cent of Cracovian Jews were progressivists), their position within the educated class was nevertheless remarkable. The book is a coherent and detailed study, based on a variety of archival evidence and contemporary press, and embracing various aspects of the progressive Jewish life. It is, moreover, a product of many years of research, dating back to the author's PhD and MA theses. It is a pity that the author has not extended her research into the inter-war period, for her book seems to be filling a gap in the literature on the subject, as no other study on the Progressive Jews of Poland goes that far in analysing the (alleged) interrelations between theological doctrine, practice, and everyday life. The problem Maślak-Maciejewska approaches is a Weberian one, as she suggests it was religion that determined the progressives' individual and group mental patterns.

The book opens with a chapter discussing the idea (and concept) of progress in Judaism and the theological and political controversies it provoked. This is followed by the reconstruction and analysis of the functioning of the Progressive Society. Next, the complicated relations with the Orthodox community of Jews in Cracow are discussed. The subsequent chapters concern the social composition of the progressivists, their identity, their charitable and educational activities, their synagogue and liturgy, and the activities of women from the progressive families. The last two chapters examine progressive rabbis (the 'doctor-rabbis'), and finally the progressive intellectual and theological network, with Cracow located at the intersection of influences from the more powerful communities of Warsaw, Lviv, Prague, Wrocław (Breslau) and Vienna.

The book includes seven annexes. Two of them are complete lists of the Progressive Society members; and the others – a sermon, a press article, and a satirist poem – aimed at illustrating some of the most typical activities of the progressivists. (AK)

Agaton Giller, *Podróż więźnia etapami do Syberyi w roku 1854* [A Deportee's Journey to Siberia, 1854] Graf_ika, Kraków, 2019, 264 pp.

Agaton Giller (1831–87), the author of these memoirs (originally, in three volumes, of which volume 2 has perished), was an outstanding figure in Poland's independence movement during the January Uprising of 1863–4, as, *inter alia*, member of the National Government. Forced to emigrate, he established a Polish school in Irkutsk, Russian Empire; co-founded a Polish Legion in Turkey and co-created the Polish Museum of Rapperswil. The book under review is but an excerpt from his not-quite-long but very intense life: sixteen months of a journey across the former lands of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, all the way to Siberia, where he was taken under charge of anti-Russian activity.

Giller's memoirs, written down in 1866, can be read as a story of a Siberian convict: being a bourgeois, he had to make all the way on foot, shackled in chains and tied to a metal rod. This picture epitomises Polish martyrdom complemented by colourful ethnological observations regarding the lands of former Poland-Lithuania and western parts of the Russian Empire. The genre, somewhat forgotten today, was an essential element of the Polish national literary tradition. Notwithstanding the biographical and adventuresome threads, this is primarily one of the last manifestos of the pre-insurrection non-ethnic Polish nationalism.

Not only does Giller describe the history of Polish nation but he primarily attempts to show the Polish identity, also in opposition to the tyrannous neighbours. He shows how the associations between tradition, religion, and everyday life tended to interweave, thereby producing a unique amalgam of diversity and cultural toleration, which apparently was a discerning feature of the historical Polishness. He deals a great deal (particularly in part three) with reconstructing the cultural and religious mosaic of the Poland of yore: his study is permeated with enthusiasm and optimism in respect of the future, which can rarely be encountered in Polish books of the time. Giller summoned the Poles to cherish the tradition and patriotism, considering this to be a sufficient remedy to their tender spots and, at the end of the day, the major measure with which to contribute to a rebirth of Poland. Altogether, the book is a valuable, if not canonical, document which tells us a lot of the intellectual horizons of the author and his milieu. (GK)

Mariusz Mielczarek and Manolis I. Stefanakis, *Rhodes. The Ancient and Mediaeval Monuments in 1882–1884 and Count Karol Lanckoroński*, Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii PAN, Warszawa 2019, 176 pp., photog., ill., maps

The central character of this book is Count Karol Lanckoroński (1848–1933), Polish archaeologist and historian of art, and his black-and-white photographs from the 1880s, donated to the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences by his daughter Karolina (1898–2002). They document the antique and mediaeval monuments in the south-western part of Rhodes. Lanckoroński's contribution to the studies of this Greek island was never taken note of before, never before were his photographs brought up to daylight. The book is composed of an introduction, a biography of Count Lanckoroński, a chapter describing his expedition to Rhodes, an edition of the photographs (based on primary-source analysis), a bibliography/references, plus sixty-four illustrations. The authors are Mariusz Mielczarek, head of the Łódź branch of the Institute of Archeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, and Manolis I. Stefanakis of the University of the Aegean. (RR)

Piotr Szlanta, *“Polakożerca” kontra “wrogowie Rzeszy”. Cesarz Wilhelm II i Polacy 1888–1918* [A ‘Polonophobe’ versus ‘Enemies of the Reich’. Kaiser Wilhelm II and the Poles, 1888–1918], Wydawnictwo Difin, Warszawa, 2019, 206 pp., ill.

The author, a respected scholar of Germany and international relations of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with particular focus on the colonialist age, recalls the attitudes of William (Wilhelm) II Hohenzollern, commonly recognised as the most anti-Polish of the Second Reich's emperors. Composed of seven chapters, this synthetic dissertation is rich with versatile documentary material, partly unknown to researchers, based on which the Emperor's attitude towards Poles is analysed in a comprehensive manner, taking into account the evolution of William's views. The author skilfully points to the evolution and formation of a negative image of Poles, with a focus of its effects on the Second Reich's political life. Worth of attention is his analysis of the process culmination in the years 1907–8, when the Prussian Landtag debated the expropriation act. The monograph is moreover a study of an authoritarian ruler who reluctantly, if not inimically, responded to the aspirations of a democratising and liberalising German society. The reasons and attitudes of the involved forces and political camps in respect of the ‘Polish cause’ have been meticulously measured and juxtaposed, their dynamic formation shown along with the border points and limitations of

the period's public discourse. Polish historians' attention would be attracted by the polemic against the ardent tirades of Polish members of the Prussian parliament. National persecution of the Polish minority was a fact and, at the same time, an organic element of the German modernisation project. In parallel, as Szlanta points out, they formed part of the Polish national movement's mythology developing under the partitions.

The study, which is strictly related to another valuable monograph by the same author, *Wilhelm II. Ostatni z Hohenzollernów* [William II, the Last of the Hohenzollern House, 2015], is based on an extensive, mainly German-language, archival material. Comprehensive use has been made of the sources, along with the literature, iconography, the period's press, diaries, and memoirs. (GK)

Janina Konarska, *Dwór na wulkanie. Dziennik ziemianki z przełomu epok 1895–1920* [A Manor on the Volcano. A Female Landowner's Diary at the Turn of the Epochs, 1895–1920], selected and edited by Anna Richter, notes and afterword by Andrzej Chojnowski, Wydawnictwo Ośrodek KARTA, Warszawa, 2019, 408 pp., tables, photog., map, portraits; series: Świadectwa XX wiek

This diary by Janina Konarska, née Fulda, is composed of notes made by the only daughter born into a respectable landowning family, into which the big politics intruded one day: initially, as the Revolution of 1905, which she describes as days of chaos and trauma, then the Great War, and, lastly, the rebirth of Polish statehood. Konarska's account deserves attention as, firstly, a description of her coming-of-age (including in political terms) as a member of the privileged class. Her diary is arranged according to the stages in her life, including the childhood and early youth years (spent in Radom), marriage and adulthood (in Kluczewsko).

Konarska's diary is so interesting because she portrays her social class against the background of a stormy age, suggestively commenting the political choices of the social stratum she was part of: the fear of the revolutionary upheaval in 1905; the piercing experience of the First World War; the joy of regained independence; and, the panic associated with bolshevism and an anti-Semitic wave connected to it. The diary abounds with interesting observations, including notes on the books she read, descriptions of her travels, interesting figures from her milieu (who become even more interesting as history accelerates). This testimony will be of use to experts as well as to less sophisticated readers; however, no index is attached, which does not facilitate the reading. Let us hope that the editors of this, otherwise excellent, series will come to their senses and improve on this important technicality in the subsequent volumes. (GK)

Michał Römer, *Miłość z lupanaru. Dziennik intymny wileńskiego adwokata* [Love of Bawdy-House. An Intimate Diary of a Vilnius Barrister], selected by Agnieszka Knyt, notes by Rimantas Miknys and Jan Sienkiewicz, Wydawnictwo Ośrodek KARTA, Warszawa, 2019, 358 pp.

Born into a noble family, Michał Römer (1880–1945) was a lawyer, social activist, and politician. In 1915, he joined the Legions commanded by Józef Piłsudski. As a member of the most progressive circles in Vilnius, he opted for cooperation between Poles and Lithuanians, denied the Russian autocracy, criticised Polish nobility, and belonged to the Freemasonry. After Poland regained independence, he chose Lithuania as his homeland; for many years, he held the post of Rector of the University of Kaunas. He kept his diary from 1911 until his death. In 2017–18, a six-volume edition of a large portion of the diary was published by Ośrodek KARTA. The book under review is untypical: a by-product of the said edition, it mainly consists of the records that reflect the diarist's love relationship with Anna Wolberg (some of them being published for the first time). While such an approach to a historical source might seem inappropriate, the effect is surprisingly positive. The reader has received much more than a literary record of a love affair. Anna was a young Latvian woman from a rural family. The author met her in 1911 in a house of ill repute where she had been involved shortly before then, and got her out of there. Römer would willingly visit brothels in the company of members of his social class, and openly reported on these adventures in his notes. Social tensions and the morals-and-mores of the age are evidently reflected in the lovers' relationship. Anna was educated into a Protestant culture; she could read and write but never received a formal education. Michał perceived Catholicism in terms of a cultural good but himself was trammelled by the conservative customs of his stratum; he lived in separation from his wife and did not want to get the relationship legalised as he feared being disinherited by his father. Initially, there was a language barrier between both lovers (they would communicate in German); later on, the simple woman became Michał's advisor. The story ends in 1914, with Anna's death from tuberculosis. (BK)

INTERWAR PERIOD

Continuities and Discontinuities of the Habsburg Legacy in East-Central European Discourses since 1918, ed. by Jagoda Wierzejska and Magdalena Baran-Szołtys, Vienna University Press, Vienna, 2020, 221 pp., indices

This book is a collection of ten essays regarding various aspects of the Habsburg and post-Habsburg literary culture in Galicia, Bohemia and Bukovina – with a heavy emphasis on Galicia, and particularly its capital Lviv. The opening essay by Alois Woldan, which clearly lies outside the volume’s chosen timeframe, concerns the legacy of Jan Nepomucen Kamiński, a largely forgotten but extremely productive translator, dramatist, and adapter of German literature, who was active in Lviv in the first half of the nineteenth century. The next one, by Nadja Weck, analyses the functioning and architectural changes of the Lviv Central Railway station after 1914. The essay by Jagoda Wierzejska analyses the Polish interwar literature on Lviv, and particularly the Polish-Ukrainian conflict for the city in 1918–19. The essay by Ievgeniia Voloshchuk discusses three Galician protagonists, whom she qualifies as ‘eccentric’, in the writings of Thomas Mann, Joseph Roth, and Stefan Zweig. The essay by Francisca Solomon presents the Yiddish literary legacy in the ex-Habsburg province of Bukovina. In the next essay Danuta Sosnowska argues that the Czech émigré authors after the Second World War (Milan Kundera being her chief object of interest) who decided to write in more than one (that is not only in the Czech) language, did so because of the multinational traditions dating back to the Habsburg Austria. In the next essay Halyna Witoszynska analyses the images of public gardens and parks of Lviv in the literary legacy of Polish and Ukrainian authors. The essay by Magdalena Baran-Szołtys discusses itinerary images of Galicia, past and present, in the narratives of Martin Pollack, Andrzej Stasiuk, and Ziemowit Szczerek. The essay by Larissa Cybenko analyses the writings of Yurii Andrukhovych, a successful Ukrainian author from Ivano-Frankivsk whose fiction regularly touches the issue of the Western Ukrainian identity, employing the concept of geopoetics. The last essay, by Katarzyna Kotyńska, concerns the Habsburg legacy as present in contemporary Western Ukrainian detective stories. (AK)

Stanisław Ossowski, *Dzienniki* [Diaries], i: 1905–1939, edited by Róża Sułek, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Scholar, Warszawa, 2019, 285 pp., index of persons, fascimiles, photog.; series: W Kręgu Stanisława Ossowskiego

Stanisław Ossowski (1897–1963) was an outstanding sociologist, one of the founders of Polish sociology, preceptor of a whole generation of scholars, professor with the Universities of Łódź (1945–7) and Warsaw (1947–63), a charismatic figure in Polish post-war academic circles and, altogether, one of the most eminent Polish intellectuals in several decades of the twentieth century. He kept his diary for almost his entire professional life, with only short interruptions; the first volume (under review) represents the first and formative period in this author's biography. The notes dating to these years are a peculiar collection of commentaries made by a young leftist intellectual on the verge of his career. As announced, volume two is to cover the period 1939–49, volume three – the period from 1949 to 1963. The volume under review covers primarily the academic activities of the young researcher: his travels and scholarships (France, Italy, United Kingdom; in the latter, he joined the milieu of Bronisław Malinowski at the London School of Economics and the Oxford University), personal experiences (during the interwar period, Ossowski taught at Warsaw junior high schools, incl. Cecylia Plater-Zyberkówna private school for girls; in the period's late years, he became a lecturer at the University of Warsaw and some other tertiary schools), the books he read, and remarks related to his private life. The latter include brief descriptions of his family home and first experiences as a student. In the same period he made acquaintance with his later wife Maria Ossowska, née Niedźwiedzka, who established herself as an outstanding philosopher and ethicist.

Ossowski was an important figure for Poland's sociological milieu: an authority, witness, and spiritual leader. (An introduction to the diary, using an earlier article by Professor Antonina Kłoskowska, one of his students, portrays the man and his importance to Polish sociology.) His diary offers an intellectual commentary to a few of his own works written during the interwar period, including his fundamental dissertation entitled *Więź społeczna i dziedzictwo krwi* [Social Ties and Blood Legacy] (1939). His impact on Polish philosophy (particularly, aesthetics), sociology, and social psychology is now being reminded by the series 'W Kręgu Stanisława Ossowskiego' [In the Milieu of Stanisław Ossowski] – a research project pursued by the University of Warsaw's Institute of Sociology, seeking to document the scholar's and his milieu's output, along with publishing Ossowski's unedited writings.

The first volume provides a veritable repository of information on the Warsaw scholarly milieu of the former half of the twentieth century, quite essential as far as the history of Poland's intellectual life in the said period is concerned. A detailed though unobtrusive scientific apparatus is the book's

strong point; together with the editorial introduction, it will certainly be of use to scholars and biographers. An index of names is attached. (GK)

Jan Jacyna, *Zagłada caratu* [The Annihilation of Tsarism], Wydawnictwo LTW, Warszawa, 2019, 228 pp., ills

There are plenty of Polish memoirs regarding the fall of the Romanov dynasty and the Russian revolution. Importantly, General Jacyna's memoir renders the viewpoint of someone who was at the centre of the events, as a member of the Russian imperial elite. This man is worth reminding as he eludes a standard categorisation and breaks many stereotypes concerning his time. Jacyna was born on 27 December 1864 in Petersburg, into a noble Catholic family. Having graduated, in 1876, from the prestigious St Catherine Junior High School, he enrolled with the Marine Engineering School (renamed as the Marine Board's Technical School). Ever since, he pursued a rapid career that took him to the Ministry of the Navy's Main Committee, a professorship at Petersburg's Naval Academy, and to the tsarist family, as a private tutor.

He subsequently completed his career as a teacher and joined the Russian army with which he served until 1917, getting promoted to Major-General (in 1911). A few years before the First World War broke out, he was appointed co-curator of municipal schools on behalf of the Petersburg municipal office. It was then that he established numerous contacts in the upper echelons. Although was never active politically, his extensive contacts among the imperial elite enabled him to run an open house that was visited by many an influential aristocrats, high-ranking civil servants, leading industrialists and 'productive intellectuals', including Count Dmitry A. Tolstoy, Konstantin P. Pobiedonostsev, Vyacheslav K. von Plehve or Count Sergey Witte – to recall the very major figures. The salon run by Jacyna's wife was visited by members of the governing family and ambassadors of foreign states as well as the Polish diaspora. Jacyna's role and position heavily contributed to the later evacuation from Petrograd quite a large group of the local Polish colony together with their properties.

Endangered by detention, he left the city in mid-1918 and arrived in Warsaw. He joined the Polish Army and started his rapid career on the Polish soil – first with the Ministry of Military Affairs and then with the Polish Shipping League. In 1921, he ran the Polish Military Acquisition Mission in Paris. Commonly regarded as an excellent organiser, he acted as Aide General to Józef Piłsudski until 1922.

The memoirs present in ten chapters an extensive perspective on the genesis of the Russian revolution, as seen and depicted by the memoirist, and a description of the House of Romanov. As an active participant of the events, Jan Jacyna describes the outbreak of the Great War, its role in the

decomposition of the tsarist system, and the key episodes from the war. The sections concerning the outbreak and the vicissitudes of the revolution, and the early days of the Bolshevik rule, seem to be the most interesting. The author is incessantly a consummate commentator and keen observer of the events; the remarks he makes are anything but stereotypical depictions. The last and, probably, the most intimate, chapter evokes the last months of his stay in Russia.

First published in 1930, the memoirs did not arouse the deserved discussion; in fact, the author's biography and his personal experience did not quite fit the patterns of the time. Today, it appears as an extremely interesting source, full of colourful episodes and valuable descriptions, portraying the realities of an epoch (or, perhaps, more than one epoch) coming to an end and the beginnings of Bolshevism, and as such should become of interest not only to specialists. (GK)

Larry Wolff, *Woodrow Wilson and the Reimagining of Eastern Europe*, Stanford University Press, Stanford, 2020, 286 pp., index, bibliog.

This book attempts to shed a new light on what appears a very well researched subject, or to be more precise, two subjects: Woodrow Wilson as US president; and his impact on the peace settlement in Europe after the First World War. Wolff reconstructs the American President's actions and decisions before and during the Paris Peace Conference in the context of his earlier career as a scholar, his religious and political attitudes, and his personal sources of information. The latter problem constitutes the core of Wolff's argumentation, and he convincingly demonstrates that Wilson's attitudes towards particular countries and peoples of the region changed over time, analysing the reasons behind his attitude changes and who influenced them.

In the first chapter Wolff analyses Wilson's attitude towards the Ottoman Empire. He argues that Wilson's hostility against it, which he inherited after Gladstone (whom he had admired in his youth), initiated his interest in and desire to 'liberate' Eastern Europe. Chapter two deals with Wilson's policies concerning Austria-Hungary which, as the author claims, were modelled after his antipathy against the Ottomans. Chapter three offers an overview of the President's personal contacts with Eastern Europeans. It is perhaps the most amusing part of this book, as it reconstructs the innumerable approaches and appeals to the President by representatives of the local elites (such as Paderewski, Masaryk, or the Romanian Queen Maria), all of whom expressed their respect, admiration, and gratitude to him in the hope of winning his sympathy for their respective causes. Wilson, as Wolff demonstrates, was not immune to flattery, and was eventually trapped in what he considered bonds of friendship and loyalty to various representatives of Eastern European nations.

The next chapter shows the President faced with the fact that his principle of self-determination did not work as perfectly as he imagined, and was leaving remarkable 'national minorities' dissatisfied. A professor of political studies himself, Wilson was the first President to rely so heavily on scholarly expertise in his policymaking; and Wolff argues that what he wanted the most were maps that would tell him to whom a given piece of land should belong. His experts, however, forming the so-called Inquiry, were scarcely capable of providing him with the information he needed, as Eastern Europe was still largely unknown to American scholars at that time. Wilson had to rely on 'mental mapping' more than on any professional expertise, which eventually contributed to the predominance of his personal sympathies and antipathies.

Overall, the book regularly emphasises Wilson's lasting popularity and respect among Eastern Europeans with a sort of patriotic pride. However, it remains in accord with the majority of publications on Wilson in presenting him as both an idealist and megalomaniac, a man both delighted and confused with his status of 'the biggest man in the world' (as a Polish peasant from the Tatra Mountains addressed him). His desire to repair 'the wrongs of history' and to do 'everything in [his] power to accomplish justice' seems to have been founded on naivete and a sense of superiority. The fact that Wilson was not only the first, but also the last US President to become so idealistically dedicated to East European matters somehow escapes the picture. (AK)

Leszek Kania, *Wyroki bez apelacji. Sądy polowe w Wojsku Polskim w czasie wojny z Rosją Sowiecką 1919–1921* [No-Appeal Verdicts. Polish Army's Field Court-Martials during the 1919–1921 War against Soviet Russia], Oficyna Uniwersytetu Jeleniogórskiego, Jelenia Góra, 2019, 674 pp., bibliog., annexes, biographical notes, list of abbreviations, indices, ill

Leszek Kania from the University of Jelenia Góra has embarked on a tough expert topic, one that calls for knowledge of the Great War and the post-war period circumstances and contexts. Field court-martials in the Polish Army seems at first glance to be a subject-matter for military specialists, not quite appealing to a broader public.

This particular study excels with its meticulousness and reliability, and with proficient handling of several areas of research. It is composed of seven chapters which de facto show the formation of the judiciary apparatus of the freshly-reborn Polish state. Apart from the broadly sketched issues of the military judicial system, including military special jurisdiction and prison organisation system, the author shows the formation process of a modern state and its apparatus based on particular cases studies. In this respect, individual chapters, including the one on the Polish-Bolshevik War of 1919–21 itself,

split into two stages, can serve as excellent documentary material. Though not directly, Kania polemises with another important recent study, *Civil War in Central Europe, 1918–1921: The Reconstruction of Poland* by Jochen Böhrer. Kania's study does not avoid drastic or dramatic episodes of the time, such as pogroms and killings of Jews (as in Pińsk in 1919), assaulting and torturing of Byelorussians, and a series of particularly violent acts against peasants. Judicial decisions from the period concerned are analysed fastidiously and expertly indeed. The study illustrates some of the ways in which the new state dealt with these extraordinary situations, both on a higher level, involving military commanders, and in 'on-the-spot' warfront situations. This expert publication is worthy of attention not only from those interested in the period concerned but also in the conditions in which a modern Polish state was getting established. Biographical notes, a list of the Judiciary Corps officers, interesting annexes, a bibliography, list of abbreviations/acronyms, index of names, and a list of photographs and drawings are attached. (GK)

Maciej J. Nowak, *Narutowicz – Niewiadomski. Biografie równoległe* [Narutowicz – Niewiadomski: Parallel Biographies], Iskry, Warszawa, 2019, 216 pp., ills

Maciej J. Nowak is a historical columnist (associated mainly with the Polish edition of *Newsweek* weekly), who has for years been dealing with the interwar period and the way it is seen in Polish contemporary public life.

The study is composed of three chapters, the first juxtaposes the two eponymous characters featured in the memorable events of December 1922: Gabriel Narutowicz, the first President of reborn Poland, and his assassin-to-be, Eligiusz Niewiadomski, painter and intellectual. Chapters two and three are comprehensive portraits of Gabriel Narutowicz and his killer. The findings presented by the author are largely based on those by other scholars (incl. studies by Marek Andrzejewski and Patryk Pleskot, among others); however, he has made almost no use of Paul Brykczynski's *Primed for Violence. Murder, Antisemitism, and Democratic Politics in Interwar Poland* (2016), one of the most important recent studies concerning the assassination of President Narutowicz. The other sources used were the period's press and memoirs, in which M.J. Nowak is well-versed.

In its narrative layer, the book is based upon a concept of two biographies juxtaposed and compared against each other; in parallel, confronted are two perceptions of public life – a leftist democrat's and a nationalist extremist's one – set against the background of stormy events of the time. If, however, such a juxtaposition may suggest a volume of unobvious, if not astonishing, conclusions, as a number of striking similarities are discerned in both biographies, the conclusions proposed by the author appear to be rather cut-and-dried,

not much diverting from those already present in the historiography. This deftly written historical essay will no doubt commend itself to the reader interested in the period, but can appear somewhat disillusioning to scholars. The number of newly proposed problems is limited whilst the basic questions remained the same: responsibility of the press, effects of polarisation in an unconsolidated parliamentary system, role of political elites in fanning the conflict in order to attain short-term goals, and so on. Altogether, it is a well-made piece of reading, not overloaded with facts; let us hope that this book will incite somebody to make further research the indisputably interesting period of early *Interbellum* (1919–23). (GK)

Elżbieta Kaszuba, *Państwowotwórcza rola Polskiego Radia w II Rzeczypospolitej w świetle pisma „Radio” / „Antena”. Wybrane zagadnienia* [The State-forming Role of the Polish Radio in the Second Republic of Poland, in the Light of the *Radio/Antena* Magazine. Selected Problems], Wydawnictwo Księgarnia Akademicka, Kraków, 2019, 460 pp., bibliog., index of names.

Over a dozen-or-so years of its functioning in the Second Republic of Poland, the Polish Radio had the number of its subscribers increased by several hundred per cent. While the year 1925 saw slightly more than five hundred subscribers, by 1939 the number of registered radio-sets accounted for over one million. It is estimated that the actual number exceeded 1.5 million, if the illegal ones be included: altogether, a herd of several million listeners. No surprise, then, that the Radio became an important element of identity building and a centre around which public opinion was taking shape. Its programme line was identical with the policy lines pursued by the country's consecutive ruling teams. The year 1935 was a breakthrough point: it was then that the company owning the Polish Radio was nationalised. The politicians thereby received an extremely important instrument with which to mould the attitudes and opinions. In parallel, the Radio became a propaganda arm of the Piłsudski camp, which after the Coup of May 1926 wielded indivisible power in Poland. Owing to enormous gaps in the Polish Radio archives (caused by the war damage), the *Radio* weekly, issued between December 1926 and September 1934 (re-titled as *Antena*, it was published continually until 30 September 1939), was used as the main source in constructing the narrative. Given the scarcity of other satisfactory sources, the weekly became fundamental for reconstruction of the Radio's programme line. As a country that reappeared in the maps after more than a hundred years of inexistence, Poland was reborn as a multiethnic state. One of the main tasks for the broadcast station to be dealt with was to build a community of the freshly restored statehood. Hence, a number of shows broadcasted to target

specified regions or ethnicities. This ‘radiophonic regionalism’ policy consisted in matching the radio programme with the specific needs of the country’s regions; hence, a special emphasis placed on the listeners in Pomerania and Silesia, the most ‘sensible’ territories. The State-related identity was built based upon an extensive calendar of festive days and historical anniversaries. The major figures and events featured the kings of the Houses of Piast and Jagiellon; of the elected monarchs, Stephen Báthory and John III Sobieski excelled; the major historical events included the defeat of the Turks near Vienna in 1683, the Third-of-May Constitution, the anniversaries of Polish national insurrections of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Enormous importance was attached to the then-most-recent history: the shaping of the Second Republic’s frontiers, Józef Piłsudski taking over the power from the Regency Council (11 November 1918), and the Polish-Soviet war of 1919–20. (HW)

CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

Relacje o pomocy udzielanej Żydom przez Polaków w latach 1939–1945 [Accounts on the Assistance Provided to Jews by Poles, 1939–1945], i: *Dystrykt warszawski Generalnego Gubernatorstwa* [Warsaw District of the Generalgouvernement], ed. by Sebastian Piątkowski, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2019, 536 pp., list of abbreviations, bibliog., indices

This source edition comprises a total of 194 accounts, most of which have been collected since the mid-1960s in the form of interviews seeking to establish the forms in which assistance and help was provided by Poles to Jews and Poles of Jewish descent in the area of so-called Warsaw District of the Generalgouvernement in the wartime period of 1939–45, as part of the National Remembrance Institute’s [IPN] Central Research Project on ‘The history of Jews in Poland and Polish-Jewish relations in the years 1914–89’. A vast majority of these documents had nonetheless been collected and prepared as part of an extensive countrywide investigation pursued by public prosecutor Waław Bielawski with what was the Main Commission for Research on Nazi Crimes in Poland, in 1984 to 1992; this collection is presently kept at the IPN archives.

The testimonies have been given mostly by Poles, in few cases also by Jews. The sources mainly describe events from Warsaw and thereabouts, though towns and localities of the Warsaw District, primarily in Masovia and Podlachia (the former primarily including Garwolin, Grójec, Łowicz, Mińsk Mazowiecki, and Sochaczew, and the latter – Sokołów Podlaski and Siedlce) have been

included as well. These testimonies document the mechanisms and scale of such auxiliary activities of the extremely complicated process of rescuing the Jews, especially as the Shoah went on. All the sources contain meticulous scientific apparatus to indicate the behind-the-scenes of each single document, wartime fates of their authors and, in some cases, the histories of individuals – the rescuers and the rescued alike. A list of abbreviations/acronyms, bibliography, indices of geographical and personal names are attached. The study certainly deserves appreciation from specialised researchers. (GK)

Nie tylko „Po Prostu”. Prasa w dobie odwilży 1955–1958 [Po Prostu, and Not Only. Polish Press under the Thaw of 1955–1958], ed. by Michał Przeperski and Paweł Sasanka, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2019, 551 pp., list of abbreviations/acronyms, index of names, notes on authors

This collection of articles concerning the Polish press in the period around October 1956 is divided into three parts. Part 1, entitled ‘The authorities and the journalists’, with contributions from historians and not only, focuses on a number of issues that situate the journalistic circles (taken broadly) in the context of the State authorities during the upheaval of October 1956. The articles deal with the censorship system, attitudes of the ‘communist party apparatus’ towards the press, reportages published in literary weeklies, and the journalists’ milieu in the year 1956. The fact stands out, addressed by several authors, that increased independence of the journalist circles directly stemmed from the struggles inside the ruling team. Michał Przeperski points to the age of authors getting published in the period’s press: in his opinion, it was young people that set the tone for the journalism in the time after October 1956. Apart from a ‘loosening of the sentiments’, the censorship institution survived the upheaval almost intact, for a change. An amendment to the Act on Censorship was planned, but the idea remained on paper. Part two (‘Nationwide press’) is wholly devoted to diverse aspects of the functioning of newspapers, journals and magazines, their struggling with the censorship, and national minorities’ press. A few texts add some new facts to the legacy knowledge (the abolishment of the student weekly *Po Prostu*; censor’s interventions in the Catholic weekly *Tygodnik Powszechny*). Of special interest are the articles dealing with the press of Poland’s Russian and Jewish minorities. As Grzegorz Berendt notes, the Jewish community was given, for the first time, the opportunity of real influence on the content published in the *Folks-Sztyme* newspaper. The regional perspective is dealt with by the volume’s third part. Of special interest are two texts on the press organs of the voivodeship-level committees of the ruling Communist party, based,

respectively, in Rzeszów, Bydgoszcz, and Białystok, which in the context of the October 1956 resolutely opted for reforms. These three organs proactively joined the political and social discussions of the time, thereby revealing the disputes inside the party's activist circles. With the retrograde step that denied the 'October liberty', which was epitomised by the closing down of *Po Prostu*, the situation in the local press became closely examined on the regional level as well. This meant a tightened policy towards the 'naughty' or 'rebellious' journalists, which resulted in considerable personal reshufflings at various levels of the editorial offices. (HW)

Rok 1939 w dzienniku Hansa Franka [The Year 1939 as Depicted in Hans Frank's Diary], trans. by Viktor Grotowicz, introduction and ed. by Paweł Kosiński, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2019, 168 pp., index of persons

The book is composed of excerpts from the notes of Hans Frank (1900–46), a lawyer by education who joined the Völkisch movement and, since the failed Munich putsch of 1923, was connected personally with Adolf Hitler, becoming his informal legal advisor (since 1925); in 1926, he joined the NSDAP. In the Third Reich, Frank was made Minister of Justice, which meant, an official responsible for paralysing and atomising the German juridical circles. Immediately after the war campaign in Poland came to an end, Frank was made head of the Generalgouvernement (GG). As the actual ruler of this part of Poland, he was one of the major co-authors and practitioners of Nazi German occupation policies. There is no slightest doubt that he was responsible for the extermination policy toward the Jews and homicidal practices with respect to the other groups of people, applied by means of ruthless exploitation, plundering, pillage, and destruction of works-of-art across the GG.

With its modest size, the book contains interesting documents concerning the beginnings of the German occupation, the relationships within the German administrative apparatus (taking shape at that time), and a selective review of attitudes with Polish society. There are altogether thirty-three documents from the first volume of the diary of the Governor General, plus three documents from meetings of various GG's leadership teams. The volume opens with an introduction by Paweł Kosiński, a historian associated with the Warsaw branch of the Institute of National Remembrance. He basically describes the history of the diary, which make currently a total of forty volumes (rather than thirty-eight, as provided by Frank to the American authorities in 1945) and reports on the existing, selective editions of the material. He also depicts a portrayal of the Nazi dignitary; interestingly (not a broadly known fact),

Frank had fairly good contacts with Polish juristic milieu, which played some role during the occupation. This selection of notes is, in itself, a sort of introduction to an unabridged Polish edition of Hans Frank's diary. Although the diary as such has been already used by historians researchers (the late Professor Czesław Madajczyk has referred to it many times in his works), its meticulous edition would certainly become quite a valuable documentary material for Polish scholars. (GK)

Chaim Aron Kapłan, *Dziennik 1939. Megila życia* [A 1939 Diary. The Megilah of a Life], trans. from Hebrew and ed. by Blanka Górecka, Wydawnictwo Żydowskiego Instytutu Historycznego, Warszawa, 2019, 290 pp., ill.

Chaim Aron Kapłan was born in 1880 in Horodyszczce (Minsk guberniya), into a traditional Jewish family. He got a secular education at the teacher training seminary in Vilnius. Later on, he moved to Warsaw where he set up a family and established a private six-grade elementary school, which was in operation until the outbreak of the Second World War. As a teacher, he promoted Hebrew as the language of instruction, he also authored several valued textbooks and learning aids, and contributed to Jewish press in Poland and abroad.

Kapłan kept his diary initially as a means of recording the details of daily life. Since the war's outbreak in 1939, his notes become an eyewitness account to the life under occupation and, not long later, to the annihilation of the Jews. The diary's text as such is a testimony well known to scholars researching the wartime fates of Polish Jews (its excerpts from the wartime period were published in English in 1965, and also in several other languages), but the edition initiated by the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw can now reach a new group of readers. The new edition seeks to publish the subsequent occupation-time volumes of the diary, ending with the one covering the year 1942; also the pre-war part, of 1933–9, will come out in due time.

This diary is an essential source, and sometimes of key importance in understanding the Nazi occupation reality – however bitter and uneasy its reading might be for the Polish reader. Born in today's Belarus, Kapłan did not consider himself a Polish Jew, and this peculiar perspective made him sensitive to various forms of enmity towards Jews in Poland, and enabled him to look at a larger distance at the Polish Jews' attitudes, as well as to instantly see and appreciate the uniqueness of the Jews' situation after the outbreak of the Second World War. Already in 1939, he realised it would be an exceptional period in the Polish Jewish history, maybe even bringing an end to the Jewish presence in Polish lands.

The diary shows a whole array of attitudes in Polish society, among the Jews enclosed in the ghetto, and among the Nazi occupiers. Seen in such

a perspective, the Holocaust appears not as a sudden decision of Third Reich leaders but as a process and a natural result of the consistently pursued policy. It may be hoped that the book will be a publishing event. (GK)

Stanisław Głowa, *Mrok i mgła nad Auschwitz. Wspomnienia więźnia nr 20017* [The Darkness and Fog above Auschwitz. Reminiscences of Inmate no. 20017], ed. by Joanna Pawłowska, Wydawnictwo Replika, Poznań, 2019, 264 pp., ill.; series: Piekło Obozów

Stanisław Głowa, born in 1898 in Igołomia (Cracow voivodeship), was largely associated with the Poznań area. He did not particularly excel among his generation. Before the outbreak of the Second World War and during the Nazi occupation, he was a lower-ranking social service officer, and was politically involved, since his early youth years, with the Polish Peasant Party [PSL].

His real story began in the spring of 1941, the year he got arrested, together with his workmate, when transporting food for children, and then sent to KL Auschwitz as inmate no. 20017. As the war neared its end, he was evacuated to KL Sachsenhausen, where he was kept, as a 'functional prisoner', until the camp's liberation on 3 May 1945. After the war he lived in Cracow, where he continued his social, incl. cooperative, activities, and eventually died in 1987. Shortly after the war, he appeared as one of the major witnesses in trials of Nazi criminals; among other things, he submitted a testimony before the Supreme National Tribunal during the trial of Rudolf Höss, former Commander of KL Auschwitz.

The author's recollections are worth of attention also from the readers with a specialist knowledge, precisely owing to its typicality. The story of inmate no. 20017 substantively and scrupulously renders the consecutive stages of survival under inhuman conditions, his 'promotions' to the higher positions in the inmate hierarchy, the opportunities, scope, and scale of involvement in the camp's resistance movement and, above all, the mechanisms of the prisoners' dehumanisation.

The account, published years ago in an abridged version, has now been complemented with documents collected at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum Archive; these included testimonies by Głowa himself and some photographs owned by his family. While re-edition of this important testimony is a value in itself, the editorial work and the historical commentary attached regretfully leave much to be desired. (GK)

Justyna Kowalska-Leder, *Nie wiem, jak ich mam cenić... Strefa ambiwalencji w świadectwach Polaków i Żydów* [I Don't Know how I Should Appreciate Them... A Zone of Ambivalence in Testimonies of Poles and Jews], Instytut Badań Literackich, Uniwersytet Warszawski, Warszawa, 2019, 407 pp., bibliog., index of names

Justyna Kowalska-Leder (University of Warsaw's Institute of Polish Culture) made herself known to the readers over ten years ago, with her valuable study *Doświadczenie Zagłady z perspektywy dziecka w polskiej literaturze dokumentu osobistego* [The Holocaust Experience in the Eyes of a Child, as Presented in the Polish Egodocuments] (2009); she has moreover a dozen-or-so minor publications to her credit.

The study under review consists of two parts: the first is entitled 'Within the Area of Visibility' (The Road Led along Our Streets, Right Past Our House... around Stanisław Żemis' Diary); the second, 'In Hiding', analysing three diaries: (1) Brandla Siekierkowska's *This War Was Lasting Too Long, Perhaps...*; (2) *She Has Understood She'd Prevail now...* around the Testimonies of Karol Rotgeber, Calek Perechodnik, and Jerzy Feliks Urman; and, 3. *Come over Tonight for a While, If You Want to...* The diary of Melania Weissenberg.

The book is yet another study on the behaviour of Polish people towards the Holocaust, in its consecutive stages, representing an array of attitudes: from moral complicity to various forms of (co-)participation in the Shoah. This monograph is rich in interpretations, entering into debate with the now-classical studies and the ever-increasing source-based knowledge; it primarily highlights the dynamic and multi-aspect relationship between the rescuers and the rescued in a situation of long-lasting non-profit aid. The author convincingly argues that a "long-timed assistance relationship" unveils collective mechanisms characteristic of the time, quite often reaching for deeper layers of the cultural heritage of modern and traditional images of the Jews, the role and position of peasants in Polish culture, the social and political exclusion of certain social layers or groups (particularly, women), aspects of civilisation retardation and, last but not least, material impoverishment of provincial areas.

Apart from the diary by Calek Perechodnik and the partly known one by Stanisław Żemis, these testimonies have been brought into light from archives, primarily the Jewish Historical Institute's archive. The author skillfully confronts the Polish school of diaristic analysis, stemming from Florian Znaniecki and, later on, Józef Chałasiński, Jan Szczepański, and Witold Kula, against the most recent foreign studies, including those by Philippe Lejeune, which in the Polish humanities have mainly been adopted by Jacek Leociak. The study has a valuable conclusive section entitled 'Polish Memory of the

Holocaust: Escaping the Ambivalence', which not only recapitulates the conclusions drawn by the author but also skillfully reconstructs the nuances of the discussion around the Righteous Among the Nations. This uneasy piece of reading is indispensable for the Second World War researchers. (GK)

Czesław Miłosz, *W cieniu totalitaryzmów. Publicystyka rozproszona z lat 1945–1951 oraz teksty z okresu II wojny światowej* [In the Shadow of the Totalitarian Systems. Dispersed Articles and Journalistic Essays, 1945–1951 and Texts from the Second World War Period], ed. by Aleksander Fiut (chief editor), Mateusz Antoniuk, Stanley Bill, Karina Jarzyńska, Ewa Kołodziejczyk, and Marzena Woźniak-Łabiniec, Wydawnictwo Literackie, Kraków, 2018, 877 pp.; series: *Dzieła zebrane Czesława Miłosza*

The book is, probably, a complete collection of the early post-war texts (save for the manuscripts and correspondence, still being prepared for edition) by Czesław Miłosz. It contains diverse literary and journalistic forms, mostly articles, along with literary essays and sketches, open letters, responses to questionnaires and reviews, plus a short (and forgotten) play entitled *Prolog*, all written in the years 1945–51 and in the final months of the Second World War. Many of these texts were earlier dispersed in hard-to-reach Polish or (rarely) foreign periodicals, and thus can become quite a surprise also to those familiar with Miłosz's writings. The several hundred texts can be read as a polyphonic record of the author's creative struggles and internal dithers, in their relation to the socio-political reality of the time: the author squares accounts with the preceding period (the Second Polish Republic, its fascist and nationalist trends) and makes references to the current situation. As an official with the communist Poland's embassy and consulate, first in New York City and then in Washington, Miłosz rendered in his works the tensions between stereotypes on America, sheer ignorance, and expectations regarding a confrontation between East Europe's inhabitants and the Soviet totalitarian system. In other words, this is the Miłosz facing the challenges of fascism and communism, and encountering the Anglo-American culture. In a short, biographical perspective, the publication can be seen as an extensive commentary to the essay *Ketman*, first published in the Paris *Kultura* journal (1951) a chapter in *The Captive Mind*, which became a key source helping to understand the post-war Polish elites and the history of Polish twentieth-century intelligentsia. (GK)

Dagmara Grajczak, *Działalność Konsulatu Generalnego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Londynie w latach 1939–1945* [Activities of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in London, 1939–1945], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Lublin–Warszawa, 2019, 247 pp., annex, list of abbreviations/acronyms, bibliog., index of geographical names, index of names, photog., portraits

The book describes the activities of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in London since its opening until the end of the Second World War, the major findings relating to the period between September 1939 and July 1945. Between the setting up of the Consulate and the war's outbreak, its work mainly focused on extending care to the small Polish community residing in the British Isles and intensified business contacts between the United Kingdom and Poland. This was strongly associated with developing a network of honorary consulates. The changed political reality forced a reshuffling of the priorities. First of all, the number of Poles who after the conflict's outbreak arrived in Britain in five consecutive waves of migration grew sharply, totalling an estimated 90,000–95,000. This being the case, one of the main tasks for the Consulate to tackle was to take care about the refugees. As it soon turned out, however, handling such a great number of claimants caused great trouble to the officials and clerks. Another problem was the need to provide support to the huge herd of refugees, many of whom had no means of subsistence whatsoever. With its much modest budget, the Consulate could not meet these needs. Hence, The Citizens' Committee for the Welfare of Polish Refugees was set up, with funds provided by the Polish Government-in-Exile based in London. An important aspect of Consulate's activity was its care of Polish prisoners who were supplied with Polish-language press and literature and received legal assistance. Broad-based actions were targeted at the Polish diaspora in Soviet Russia, along with assistance and care extended to children and youth (particularly as regards education) as well as Polish Jews. Once the war broke out, the Consulate took over a part of the propaganda tasks, previously conducted, in their entirety, by the Polish Embassy in London. The Consulate's officials took active part in the setting up of a network of propaganda outposts under the auspices of the Ministry of Information and Documentation. With propaganda purposes in mind, it was decided to make use of the honorary consulates (never previously engaged in such tasks). In cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, the Consulate General carried out a conscription action in the UK, jointly establishing a Consular Draft Board for the purpose. (HW)

Bruno Kamiński, *Fear Management. Foreign Threats in the Post-War Polish Propaganda. The Influence and the Reception of the Communist Media (1944–1956)*, Peter Lang GmbH, Berlin, 2019, 385 pp., summary, list of abbreviations, bibliog., list of illustrations, ills, index of names, series: Geschichte, Erinnerung, Politik: Studies in History, Memory and Politics, 25

This book capably combines aspects of the history of emotions with the history of a propaganda. Using the example of ‘external enemy’, the author shows how the communist rulers, with use of the propaganda apparatus, endeavoured to legitimise their power by means of ‘fear management’. Information was modified so as to highlight the ‘threat’ from the outside. The respective chapters deal with ‘the German fear’, ‘the American threat’, and a ‘spy-mania’. Fear was, doubtlessly, a type of emotion that associated the Poles in the first decade after the Second World War. Actions of the Ministry of Public Security and of the Soviet services operating in Poland, targeted against diverse groups of Polish society, and the emotions thus triggered were even more intensified by appropriate propaganda measures targeted at all the residents of Poland. Fear management was meant to demonstrate that there was no alternative to the chosen pro-Soviet direction of Polish politics. The figure of the ‘nazi german’ [spelled in small letters] bore the characteristics which in the course of the first post-war decade could be found in the propaganda targeted against the ‘spies’ or ‘Western capitalists’. Fear management was moreover meant to mask the enormous economic and social problems of the time. Fear was also accompanied by rage; efforts were made to use this disposition to encourage workers to intensify their efforts at work establishments. All these actions were aimed at integrating Polish society around the group of pro-Soviet political activists. The social attitudes towards these propaganda actions took a sinusoidal course, which was correlated with the economic situation and a diminished real threat of outbreak of a worldwide armed conflict. On the one hand, in a society where the extremely fresh reminiscence of the war was still present, some of these actions certainly hit on fertile ground. On the other, the need to resume normality immunised the people, at least in part, against of the propaganda pursuits. (HW)

Bernadetta Stano, *Artysta w fabryce. Dwa oblicza mecenatu przemysłowego w PRL* [An Artist in the Factory. Two Faces of Industrial Patronage in Polish People's Republic], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Pedagogicznego, Kraków, 2019, 431 pp., bibliog., Eng. sum., source annex, list of abbreviations/acronyms, list of illustrations, ills

The study deals with the relations between the State and artistic circles in Polish People's Republic, with industrial patronage as an exemplary case in point. It is based upon the existing literature and archival materials, including documents and exhibition catalogues. Between 1952 and 1989, a number of institutions, including trade unions, industrial associations, enterprises, the military and the cooperative movement all held their own disposable funds dedicated to all sorts of cultural activities. The following issues are addressed in the four subject-focused chapters: definition of social patronage and the concrete problem of industry as the patron of arts; artistic events *en-plein-air* resulting from the cooperation between artists and industry; a set of case studies, being descriptions of concrete actions run by artists on initiative of social patrons; and, the artists' real participation in the factory's daily life. The author shows the ways in which the authorities, who held the funds and measures, exerted pressure on the circles associated with visual arts by means of industrial patronage. This was so in the course of events *en-plein-air*, as the artists entered into informal association with their patron – that is, industry. On the one hand, the grant system made their livelihoods safeguarded; on the other, they delivered detailed orders placed to them in line with the currently binding cultural policy of the ruling communist party. Such actions were diligently controlled by the bodies responsible for the arts (notably, the branches of the Association of Polish Visual Artists) as well as for industry (works' committees of the Polish United Workers' Party). As Stano emphasises, it is impossible to unambiguously estimate the artistic value of individual actions taken on the initiative of industry, the latter being virtually identical with the State. The actions in question indisputably propagated the art among the workers, while the artists created their works in a way so as to make them more approachable for the less skilled or knowledgeable consumer. The 'worker of the art', the visual artist employed with the industrial plant, took special care about it. (HW)

Małgorzata Chrobak, *Bohater literatury dziecięcej i młodzieżowej z okresu PRL-u. Między kreacją a recepcją* [The Characters of Children's and Youth Fiction in Communist Poland. Between Creation and Reception], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Pedagogicznego, Kraków, 2019, 275 pp., index of names; series: Prace Monograficzne. Uniwersytet Pedagogiczny im. Komisji Edukacji Narodowej w Krakowie, 900

This monograph focuses on the characters of children's and youth fiction literature from the years 1956 to 1989. Analysed are the novels by Edmund Niziurski, Adam Bahdaj, Irena Jurgielewiczowa, and others. The proposed considerations depart from the reception of post-war communist Poland and the types of narrative in children's and youth prose in the first two decades of the twenty-first century that, according to the author, have been predominant in our contemporary portrayals of the post-war Poland. For one thing, there is a critical trend which almost completely rejects anything of the bygone-age lineage. At the same time, no less present and strong is a nostalgic trend rooted in an emotional attitude towards the childhood years that happened to coincide with the 'real socialism' age. The latter inclination is visible in the books by authors such as Michał Rusinek, Marcin Prokop, Grzegorz Kasdepke, or Anna Onichimowska. Chapter two deals with the youth and young people in a sociological and psychological perspective. The literary culture of young readers is one of the major issues, and Chrobak reconstructs their favourite 'reading lists'. The literary rituals and habits emerging around the books under discussion were no less essential. Another important point in these considerations is the youth press where short stories and comics could be read. Chapter three considers the model path that youth fiction characters apparently followed. The point-of-departure here is the myth of Telemachus, son of Odysseus, and the late seventeenth-century novel featuring the character – namely, François Fénelon's *Les aventures de Télémaque* [translated into Polish as *Podróże i przypadki Telemaka, syna Ulissesowego*], which became prototypical for the youth adventure novel: the character development schema proposed in it turned with time into a typical one for the other characters. The development thread in Polish children's and youth literature was strongly implied by the social issues. The characters usually walked the path that might be described as 'from an adventurer to a scout'. The final chapter analyses the characters' attitude to their surrounding reality of communist Poland. A number of threads drawn from these realities have been identified in the novels under analysis. (HW)

Zbigniew Siemiątkowski, *Między złudzeniem a rzeczywistością. Oblicze ideowe PZPR pod rządami Władysława Gomułki* [Between an Illusion and the Reality. The Ideological Facet of the Polish United Workers' Party under the Rule of Władysław Gomułka], Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, Toruń, 2018, 357 pp., bibliog., list of abbreviations/acronyms, index of names, biographical notes

Zbigniew Siemiątkowski, so far mainly known as author of books on secret intelligence services, looks in detail in his new book at the period between the death of Joseph Stalin in March 1953 and the revolt of December 1970, primarily in their ideological dimension. The hopes for a change in the functioning of the political and social system that aroused almost in parallel with the death of the Soviet dictator became concrete resulting from the events of October 1956. Each of the four chapters analyses the ideological turn that took place among members of the leading communist party – the Polish United Workers' Party (and not only). The titles of the chapters – 'Waiting for things to come', 'Hope', 'Disillusionment', and 'In quest' – very well reflect the emotions surrounding the group for which a number of negative features of Poland's political system became evident after 1953. A central character is Władysław Gomułka, with whom great expectations were associated for acceleration of a change toward democracy. However, it was this man's traits of character and his growing despotic aspirations that the power wielding system was gradually degenerated, which finally led to its collapse resulting from two severe social crises – those of March 1968 and December 1970; this marked also a defeat of the reformers active after October 1956. Siemiątkowski analyses the attitudes of the revisionist circles, whose central exponents were, in his opinion, the philosopher Leszek Kołakowski and the fiction writer and poet Wiktor Woroszyński. Analysing the reasons behind the group's failure, he points to the growing political influence of the 'partisan faction' led by Mieczysław Moczar. This group consisted of the Party members, many of whom during the Second World War had joined the ranks of the People's Guard [Gwardia Ludowa; GL] or the People's Army [Armia Ludowa; AL] and now represented nationalist views. Moczar's group could not resist a new team of activists who, instead of ideology, placed a bet on pragmatism (within the 'socialistic' framework). The technocrats assembled around Edward Gierek offered to modernise the State, primary by improving the people's living standard. This was much appreciated by the Poles who were tired with the tedium and inanity characteristic of the Gomułka time. (HW)

Tadeusz Paweł Rutkowski, *Historiografia i historycy w PRL. Szkice* [Historiography and Historians in Post-War Communist Poland. Essays], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2019, 504 pp., list of abbreviations/acronyms, index of names

The volume is a collection of a dozen essays or sketches concerning Polish historiography between 1945 and 1989, arranged into three parts. Part one focuses on the relations between historians and the works they created, on the one hand, and the policies of Polish communist authorities, on the other. Part two presents the findings regarding the functioning in the period concerned of the institutions associated with historical sciences. Lastly, the third part includes several biographies of Polish historians. This interesting collection is an important complementation of the author's research conducted over a dozen-or-so years on the historiography in post-war communist Poland. A number of these articles are exiguous but altogether all of them form an important contribution to the discussion on the condition of historical sciences in the post-war period, abounding with new information. Important events such as scientific congresses or conventions are dealt with quite broadly. According to Rutkowski, it was on the occasion of such assemblies that the foundations were built for Polish historiography which functioned at that time under the specific political conditions. The descriptions of the 10th and 12th conventions of Polish historians – held respectively in 1969 and 1984 – and the 13th International Congress of Historical Sciences in Moscow (1970) follow diverse records produced by the organising institutions and security services. A great interest on the part of the State authorities in the topics addressed and in the course of individual meetings of the attending historians is quite evident. Part 1 also includes texts on the actions of the 'public security' apparatus with respect to the milieu of historians in the first post-war decade, the impact of the March 1968 events on Polish historical sciences, and the celebrations of the centenary of the January Insurrection of 1863. In the latter essay Rutkowski goes beyond the description of the events from the early 1960s: he shows how the authorities as well as Polish historiographers dealt with the event that was 'sensitive' from the standpoint of the country's political situation and with its historical description. In the part dealing with scientific institutions active in communist Poland, one should mention the section concerning the Jewish Historical Institute during the riots of March 1968, and the Warsaw University's Institute of History in the former part of the 1980s. Lastly, the biographical part contains four biographical sketches portraying, respectively, Natalia Gąsiorowska, Jan Borkowski, Aleksander Gieysztor, and Kazimierz Rosen-Zawadzki. (HW)

Agata Zborowska, *Życie rzeczy w powojennej Polsce* [The Life of Objects in Post-War Poland], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2019, 347 pp., bibliog., subject index, attachments; series: *Communicare – historia i kultura*, 39

The book offers three case studies focusing on three types of material objects: 'found', 'guest', and 'new'. With use of methods characteristic for studies on material culture, Zborowska shows certain hitherto-unknown aspects of the earliest post-war history of Poland (based on the 'turn to things', an extremely popular trend in modern humanities) as an excellent complementation of the existing narrative that primarily focuses on political history. The records used by the author mainly consisted of memoirs, diaries, and recollections, complemented by archival documents. In spite of a clear distinction made in this study, and its consequent structure, the aforesaid notions 'found', 'guest', and 'new' are interpenetrative. Chapter 1 analyses looting or pillage as a phenomenon of 'taking over' one's objects, pointing to its timeless nature. It was not characteristic of the Second World War but always appeared in the aftermath of an event. There is an extensive argument regarding the formation of ownership and understanding what is 'private' versus 'State-owned' and the way in which the former owners were getting 'erased'. Chapter 2 is on 'guest' things, that is, objects left in the 'Recovered Territories' (integrated into post-war Poland) the moment their previous owners 'abandoned' them. These 'formerly German' objects gained new meanings in the hands of their new owners, oftentimes completely altering their character. Appropriation by the new residents of such 'guest' things was usually supported by moral arguments. This often referred to the new territorial acquisitions in their entirety: the Poles believed that these lands, attached to Poland under the Yalta conference were basically 'theirs' as a satisfaction for the losses incurred in the aftermath of the war. Chapter 3 describes things 'new' – that is objects that got into post-war Poland thanks to foreign aid as well as newly-launched ones. In the first post-war decades, these things shaped the imagined idea of the West and set the determinant of luxury for long. In parallel, usually contrary to their donors, these objects not always functioned according to their intended purpose: instead of those most in need of them, they would all too often go, for instance, to the black market (which was in full bloom at the time). The post-war reality, analysed via the objects, shows moreover the weak position of the period's authorities and State institutions. State-owned things were treated as belonging to no-one: 'found', rather than 'stolen'. Given the indolent attitude of the authorities, Poles had to 'organise' (arrange) a number of objects for themselves (such as household equipment), thus following the State which tended to 'solve' the permanent supplies and replenishment problems in much the same way. (HW)

Agnieszka Chłosta-Sikorska, *Między propagandą a rzeczywistością. Mieszkanki Nowej Huty w latach 1956–1970* [Between the Propaganda and the Reality. Female Residents of Nowa Huta, 1956–70], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Pedagogicznego, Kraków, 2019, 455 pp., bibliog., list of tables, index of names

The book is the first comprehensive look at the female problem in a model socialist town of Nowa Huta (later on, district of Cracow). This multithread monograph fills in one of the quite major research gaps in Polish historiography, using for the purpose a diversity of archival sources and the existing literature. Chapter one focuses on outlining the political and social background behind the emergence of the town and conglomerate of Nowa Huta. The propaganda efforts made by the State authorities at the different levels to make the image of the emerging new venue attractive enough to encourage people to start a new life next to Cracow are largely discussed. One of the major tasks to tackle for Nowa Huta was that of a 'social transformation' by creation of a new socialist man. This extended as well to a 'new woman', an *udarnitsa* devoted to her establishment and the 'socialist idea', meant to counterbalance the female residents of Cracow. These actions, broadly based on stereotypes, never brought about the expected outcome: on the contrary, the differences and mutual dislike deepened. A new society also stood for new relationships inside the society, between females and males, and inside families; this issue is dealt with in Chapter two. Ever since, the couples were to be based on a partnership idea, with identical distribution of privileges and household duties. The facilitations promised by the State were to be fulfilled through a smooth departure from the patriarchal relations. Unfortunately, the indolent attitude of the authorities in this respect, including no institutional support in childcare, made the expected 'equality of rights' an empty slogan. The most severe maladies of the female dwellers concerned scarcity of accommodation units and shortages in supplies (as described in Chapter three). In these areas, the dissonance between the propaganda-painted image and the reality was particularly deep. The newcomers were quartered in miserable conditions at workers' hostels, and their families were often split. The alimentation outlets and retail shops offered no support to Nowa Huta women. Originally meant to unburden them from their household chores, in practice they caused even more problems, oftentimes determining the relationships inside married couples. Career, activities with the Communist party and/or labour unions, and other activities in the social space are covered in Chapter four. It becomes clear how marginalised the actual needs of the female locals were, and how the female activists were squeezed out to insignificant low-ranking positions. Chapter five deals with ways of spending leisure time, celebrating and solemnising, and participating in culture. Particularly as regards culture, as a broad concept,

many an initiative that was broadly publicised in the propaganda remained on paper only. All the same, those which became flesh enjoyed enormous popularity among the local females. Chapter six deals with the dark side of Nowa Huta: drunkenness, prostitution, sexually transmitted infections all turned into a veritable scourge, especially in the first years of the construction of the conglomerate, which consisted of an integrated works complex combined with the urban area. While the situation did improve as the years passed, scarcity of satisfactory financial outlays on social aid institutions made the problems extremely hard to tackle. The women of Nowa Huta crashed into the extremely tough realities, combined with the expectations incited by the intrusive propaganda, not to be satisfied by the State itself. (HW)

Jerzy Kochanowski, „*Wolne miasto*” Zakopane 1956–1970 [The ‘Free City’ of Zakopane, 1956–1970], Wydawnictwo Znak, Kraków, 2019, 333 pp., bibliog., list of illustrations, ills, index of names

The book mainly deals with the social and political realities of the mountain town of Zakopane and the Podhale region under the rule of Władysław Gomułka. The author demonstrates that during these twenty-odd years, the ‘capital of the Polish Tatra Mountains’ enjoyed a unique status in the countrywide context of the time. This came as an effect of several factors. In the first place, the town’s ‘sideway’ position with respect to the mainstream of life made Zakopane much more free or liberal place than the other areas of Poland. The networks of local involvements (familial, social, land-related, and more) found it fairly easy to work out for themselves the most beneficial solutions possible, in opposition to the State’s official policies. These developments incidentally revealed the weakness of the local party and local authorities, almost completely dominated by opportunists and time-servers. From the standpoint of the Podhale people, the most important moment came with the rapidly increasing numbers of tourists arriving in the Tatra Mountains region. This triggered even greater-than-ever resources of entrepreneurship in the Zakopane locals, all the more that the State tourist infrastructure was not prepared to receive such large amounts of visitors, and often dictated sluice-gate prices. In this situation, in disregard of the binding construction regulations, the private accommodation base saw an unprecedented, almost mass-scale, development; the facilities were often built without the obligatory permits and contrary to the law in force. A breakthrough in the development of tourist facilities came with the World Championships in Nordic skiing held at the foot of the Tatra Mountains in 1962. While the Championships ended up in a fiasco in sports and organisation terms, for the town itself the event brought a considerable modernisation and tourism impulse since it reinforced the attractiveness of Zakopane. The replacement of the ruling

team in Warsaw implied changes in the local level; reshufflings extended to Zakopane. After the initial attempts at regulating the problem of illegal construction projects and private tourist facilities, with small successful outcomes, by the mid-1970s Zakopane resumed its peculiar 'local standard' with increasing inflows of tourists. As the author stresses, the phenomena in question did not come to an end with the end of the communist system: instead, they have resolutely continued till this day. (HW)

Adam Makowski, *Między iluzją a realiami. Towarzystwo Rozwoju Ziem Zachodnich w latach 1957–1970* [Between an Illusion and the Reality. The Society for the Development of the Western Territories, 1957–1970], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego, Szczecin, 2019, 372 pp., bibliog., list of abbreviations/acronyms, index of personal names, index of geographical names, English sum.; series: Rozprawy i Studia, 1068

This extremely interesting study shows how the scheme for development of specified parts of Poland and, in effect, the whole of the country, was elaborated in the aftermath of the 1956 transition and the related invigorated 'regional' social responsibility. The focus is on grassroots social activity and its expressions as part of the Society for the Development of the Western Territories [Towarzystwo Rozwoju Ziem Zachodnich; TRZZ], set up on 26 May 1957 on the debris of several institutions and organisations which were abolished in the Stalinist period. Organisational reshuffles in the first half of the 1950s brought about a number of adverse factors for the lands freshly integrated into Poland, including extremely low investment outlays, which in the western and northern voivodeships of post-war Poland were the lowest countrywide. The upheaval of 1956 implied a breakthrough in the local awareness of those neglected regions of Poland which turned into 'the 1956 thaw of our own' initiatives and a rebirth of the so-called 'western thought', with the organisational convention of the TRZZ as its ultimate emanation. Field structures of the organisation mushroomed almost immediately, mostly in the western and northern voivodeships. In the organisation work of the local centres where academic circles appeared to be observably weak, local social-and-cultural societies or associations became heard and popular. The establishment of the TRZZ obstructed the registration of Catholic clubs and associations, which implied a tepid response from the Church hierarchs. The development of the organisation was definitely associated with Władysław 'Wiesław' Gomułka, who right after the Second World War was appointed Minister for the Recovered Territories and acted as a sort of patron of the 'Polish western thought' ideology. It should be noticed, in any case, that the Society's

operations and importance were in their decline as the leadership team led by Comrade 'Wiesław' neared its end. A mere few months after TRZZ was set up, it appeared that the potential of a real shaping of the formulated intentions and objectives were overly modest owing to a limited set of instruments and empowerments available. Yet, its members played an important part in elaborating the State's policy towards the Western Territories – not as part of their activities with the organisation but through the efforts with diverse scientific and expert assemblies. In parallel, TRZZ's influence in favour of the development of local communities was not to be underestimated. Scientific and popularising work discovering the past and the culture of the Western Territories developed very strongly. Wherever there was no tertiary school in place, the Society acted on a 'by proxy' basis, forming scientific institutions. (HW)

Władysław Bułhak, *Wywiad PRL a Watykan 1962–1978* [The Intelligence Services of Communist Poland and the Vatican, 1962–1978], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2019, 840 pp., bibliog., list of abbreviations/acronyms, index of names, English sum.

In his latest book, the author, an expert in the history of Polish intelligence services describes the actions taken by the secret services of Communist Poland in the Vatican during the pontificates of the Popes John XXIII and Paul VI. This extremely interesting period in the history of the Roman Catholic Church – framed with two spectacular events: the Second Vatican Council and the election of Cardinal Karol Wojtyła as Pope John Paul II – was from the standpoint of the intelligence services a time of extremely intense efforts. Over eight hundred running pages are used to reconstruct the intelligence network and the methods used by the Polish intelligence services in order to infiltrate the Apostolic See. Since the work of secret intelligence services was based on a spy network, which was characteristic for the Communist bloc countries, the author's narrative places a strong emphasis on the functioning of the network of collaborators. Its construction, headhunting process, and the main resource of personnel consisting of journalists and clergymen are shown. Analysis of several dozen cases of agents leads to the statement that the intelligence services of Communist Poland operated in an efficient manner. The work of the analysts is also taken into account, and their competencies evaluated. The manning of the positions of heads of the departments responsible for working out the Church structures in detail is shown as well. Intelligence cooperation between the services from other 'socialist' countries and disinformation operations targeted at secret

intelligence services of Western countries are discussed in some amount of detail. The book is based on archival materials of Polish intelligence services kept at the National Remembrance Institute archives. Bułhak has carried out a reliable criticism of the records, particularly with respect to the informants. Although this rather extensive study abounds with information, fluency of the narrative makes the book an easy reading. (HW)

Jan Skórzyński, *Okrągły Stół. Wynegocjowany koniec PRL* [The Round Table: A Negotiated End of Communist Poland], Znak Horyzont, Kraków, 2019, 362 pp., index of persons, bibliog., ills

In the Polish historiography, the Round Table of 1989 is a unique event of special importance. On the one hand, the negotiations between the communist authorities and the exponents of the democratic opposition seem to have been fairly precisely described by historians; on the other hand, they are still exposed to (sometimes, diametrically) diverse interpretations; controversies around this particular event are often politically imbued. Such debates are anything but trivial: they basically try to identify whether the conception of the Third Republic [III Rzeczpospolita] was 'immaculate' or rather, 'desecrated'; in other words, they concern the degree of legitimisation of a democratic state that has been built on the debris of the communist Poland. Jan Skórzyński (born 1954), historian presently associated with Warsaw's Collegium Civitas, participated in the 1980s in the independent (i.e. illegal, 'underground') publishing circles. A journalist with many years of experience, he wrote his first book on the 1989 breakthrough in 1995 (*Uгода i rewolucja. Władza i opozycja 1985–1989*). He contacted the most important eyewitnesses, and collected their testimonies. All these circumstances made the book under review unique: it is a mature and deeply thought-over synthetic historical monograph with aspects of political-science analysis. Skórzyński excellently shows the non-simple way to an agreement between the authorities of Poland (General Wojciech Jaruzelski) and the social movement, i.e. the Solidarity trade union – treated, after the imposition of martial law on 13 December 1981, *per non est*. The author precisely shows a not-completely-consistent tactic of the 'society's representation' (Peace Nobel laureate Lech Wałęsa and his advisors, especially Bronisław Geremek, plus the Catholic Church) and the communist authorities. The researcher recalls postulates, conceptions, errors and hesitations – in other words, fears and hopes of political actors. He shows the degree to which both sides were subject to stereotypes concerning their partners, and how they overcame these stereotypes. In sum, we have received a portrait not of Polish society of the time but of its elites (and counter-elites) that, in spite of stratified enmity, proved capable of acting responsibly. It is a pity, though, that the book's narrative starts in the year 1985 (without an

introductory section on the shocks of the early 1980s). Another weak point of the study is that Skórzyński avoids evaluation of the contributions made by the other authors, particularly those who assumed a different position. Skórzyński's polemics against the other historians is implicit, rather than direct: he makes use of relevant quotations, recalls the participation of concrete individuals (politicians) in the preparation and course of the Round Table negotiations. And, he fights the black legend of the Round Table, but in parallel shows stains on its 'white' legend, in a reliable and just manner. (BK)