

## SHORT NOTES\*

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### GENERAL WORKS

Wiesław Kozub-Ciembroniewicz (ed.), *Uczeni żydowskiego pochodzenia we współczesnych dziejach Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego* [Scholars of Jewish descent in the contemporary history of the Jagiellonian University], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, Kraków, 2014, 382 pp., ill.

The title of this partly scientific and partly commemorative publication is somewhat misleading: in fact, the three opening historical essays (pp. 19–61) follow the history of the Jews who had studied at the Jagiellonian University since the 1720s and lectured there from 1767 onwards as well as the Hebraist research done at the University since the fifteenth century. Of special value seems to be the essay on Jewish student organisations active at the University in the interwar period, when Jews accounted for up to 32 per cent of all the students attending (as of 1923). The final section (pp. 307–61), in turn, treats of the most recent Judaic and Holocaust studies pursued at the University since the 1980s. Thus, primarily the central section (pp. 61–306) corresponds with the title. The twenty-nine biographical sketches portray significant graduates of Jewish background, mostly those who later on pursued their careers as scientists, lawyers, or physicians. The informative value of these portraits is outstanding, though they tend to be somewhat gratulatory and bouquet-like. Whilst acceptable when discussing the achievements of outstanding graduates, the tone appears glaring when used in the opening studies, particularly in the essay on anti-Semitic attitudes at the University in the interwar period. By the late thirties, these resentments brought about radical anti-Jewish instructions imposed by the academy authorities, with the resulting decrease in the proportion of Jewish students attending. (AK)

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## MIDDLE AGES

Krzysztof Bracha and Wojciech Brojer (eds.), *Ambona. Teksty o kulturze średniowiecza ofiarowane Stanisławowi Bylinie* [The Pulpit. Studies in Medieval Culture, dedicated to Stanisław Bylina], Instytut Historii Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Warszawa, 2016, 295 pp.

This commemorative book, offered to Stanisław Bylina, is composed of eleven essays and a bibliography of Bylina's studies from 1962–2015. The subjects of most of the texts are diverse; some of the authors (Wojciech Brojer, Beata Wojciechowska, Paweł Kras) clearly refer to the dedicatee's output. Roman Michałowski deals with early medieval missionary activities – more specifically, St Ludger of Münster's views on the topic, as expressed in his *Life of Gregory*. Zbigniew Dalewski has revisited the figure of St Adalbert and his relationships with the House of Přemyslid, and argues that it initially was a much larger group, extending to the Slavnikovic; with time, it was reduced to the family's main line. Marek Słoń describes the foundation of Poznań in the context of the Dominican foundation, the hospital and the location of the town; the text is a rejoinder to the findings reported by Tomasz Jurek (cf. 'Przebieg lokacji Poznania', in Zofia Kurnatowska and Tomasz Jurek [eds.], *Civitas posnaniensis: studia z dziejów średniowiecznego Poznania* [Poznań 2005, Prace Komisji Historycznej, Poznańskie Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk, Wydział Historii i Nauk Społecznych, 62], 173–91). According to Słoń, there was a strict correlation between the location (i.e. foundation) of a municipal commune and the erection of the 'Blackfriars' convent, the parish church and the hospital. Maja Gąssowska describes the history of the Cistercian Nuns' Monastery in Rewal, West Pomerania, from its establishment in the thirteenth century till the Reformation. Wojciech Iwańczak deals with the image of Poland in medieval Italian cartography; this essay would have been much more complete with some relevant iconography. Wojciech Brojer refers to Stanisław of Skarbimierz's sermon 'on superstitions', whilst Beata Wojciechowska also happens to focus on Stanisław's collection of sermons entitled *Sermones sapientiales*. Paweł Kras proposes an account of Jan Hus's preparation for the journey itself, to the Council of Constance. Krzysztof Bracha's essay tells us about the vision of preaching drawn in Johannes of Wünschelburg's *Tractatus de superstitionibus*, and shows how the ideals faced the reality. Halina Manikowska presented a thorough analysis of the Wrocław community's letter to Pope Pius II of 30 April 1459, raising doubts as to its authorship; appended is a Polish translation of the letter in question. The closing essay is one by Hanna Zaremska, on rabbi Mojżesz Minc (Moses Mintz) and his activity in the Poznań Jewish religious community. (AG)

Tomasz Jurek (ed.), *Andrzej Łaskarz. Dyplomata, duchowny 1362–1426* [Andrzej Łaskarz. Diplomat and priest, 1362–1426], Setidava Wydawnictwo Miejskiej Biblioteki Publicznej, Konin, 2015, 155 pp.

Apart from being a monograph on Andrzej Łaskarz, the book advertises the city of Konin, to some extent. In spite of its utilitarian character, this publication is a valuable contribution to the research on the figure of Łaskarz and his time. The book opens with Tomasz Jurek's preface entitled 'Europe and Poland at the turn of an epoch', whose 'effortless' style makes it useful for the popular reader rather than expert scholars. This is followed by Tomasz Gidaszewski's outline of the character's biography – starting with remarks on Łaskarz's family background and ending with his death. Paweł Dembiński describes the Poznań Cathedral Chapter in Łaskarz's time, the circumstances of his election as bishop, his relationship with respect to the Chapter, and the body's supposed composition. Adam Kozak presents, in his own words, a "research reconnaissance regarding the documents related to Łaskarz as the Bishop of Poznań": the categories of the documents are described and their documentary value interpreted, with respect to Łaskarz the individual. This is complemented by Jurek's recapitulation of his own remarks and comments (presented earlier in the article 'Kazanie kanonika Mikołaja Ciotczanego na zgon biskupa poznańskiego Andrzeja Łaskarzyca (1426)', *Roczniki Historyczne*, lxxx [2014], 169–84) on the sermon delivered by Mikołaj Ciotczany after Łaskarz's death (a translation of the entire sermon forms a considerable part of Jurek's text). Jerzy Łojko and Paulina Łojko-Wojtyniak's essay deals with the heraldic embellishment of the parish church in Gosławice. The topic is tackled in a broad context, including Łaskarz's biography, the history of the village of Gosławice, the site arrangement of Łaskarz's local residence; all these aspects are used to reinforce the description of the character and reasons for the numerous coats-of-arms forming the decorative setting of the church. The book is concluded by a substantial summary, penned by Jurek. (AG)

Błażej Cecota, *Arabskie oblężenia Konstantynopola w VII–VIII wieku: rzeczywistość i mit* [Arab Sieges of Constantinople in the seventh and eighth century: reality and myth], Byzantina Lodziensia XXI, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź, 2016, 218 pp., bibliog., summary in English

The book is based on the author's PhD thesis tutored by Mirosław Jerzy Leszka and defended in 2013. Described is the background behind the sieges of Constantinople, with an emphasis on how these occurrences influenced

Byzantium and the Umayyad state. A distinction is set between the operations that formed part of a larger project and those whose main purpose was the seizure of the city. The book has five chapters, the first two describing the overall situation in Byzantium and the Umayyad Caliphate in the period. The actual analysis of the issue heralded by the title begins with the third chapter, which describes the first beleaguering of Constantinople, of 674–8, and the city's defence system; also relevant with respect to the later period, these findings are not repeated in the sections discussing the later events. Chapter 4 discusses the siege of 717–8 – specifically, the preparations for the war, the campaign, the attitude of the Bulgarians to the occurrences happening, and the relationships between the caliphate and the Khazars and the Tang dynasty in the context of warfare with respect to the Byzantine capital city. The last section concerns the undocumented sieges of Constantinople dated 654–5 and 663/666–7 (668?), as well as the memory and reception of the warfare. On the one hand, the image of the Emperors as defenders of Christianity was gaining shape, and the role of divine intervention in the perception of the battles was emphasised; on the other, a specific image of Constantinople was drawn in Arabic hadiths. The study deals with the subject in a pretty summary manner. The reader would like to get a more in-depth analysis, or a more extensive use of the records, in a number of moments (comparative analysis would have also be useful – particularly with respect to the divine intervention motif). Although the subject-matter is interesting and the author's effort evident, the study definitely leaves a feeling of dissatisfaction. A more extensive presentation of the reference literature would also have been of use at a number of points. (AG)

Jarosław Dudek, *Chazarowie. Polityka – kultura – religia. VII–XI wiek* [Khazars: politics, culture, religion, seventh to eleventh century], Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa, 2016, 504 pp., bibliog.

According to the publisher's statement, the book is the first monograph by a Polish author on the history of Khazars. It includes seven chapters plus (reconstructed) breakdowns of the rulers of the Huns, Turks, Bulgars, and Khazars. The first chapter, dealing with the ethnogenesis of the Khazars, describes the geographic land that once became home to the tribe, its dwellers across the history, and the eventual appearance of Khazars; some research is done in the etymology of the people's name. The following section describes the birth of the Khazar state and the third, its wars against Muslims. Chapter 4 explores the importance of Khazaria within the period's trade network, including aspects of the trade routes, types of commodity traded, and the history of the city of Atil. Subsequently, described is the organisation of

the state between the seventh and the tenth century, with a discussion of the character and significance of the title of *k[h]agan*, and the ruler's ceremonial. The problem of 'pair of rulers' is visited, also in the context of 'double monarchies' present in other nomadic peoples. Chapter 6 discusses the religions of Khazaria – the traditional beliefs (shamanism) and Judaism as the confession adopted by the Khazars. Dudek also writes of Christianity and the attempts at Christianising the Khazars, and the presence of Islam. The last chapter covers the appearance of new peoples within the limits of the Khazar state and, more extensively, the Khazarian zone of influence: the Hungarians, the Pechenegs, the Oghuz and the Rus' people. Related to this issue is the description of the collapse of the Khazarian state. Making use of a number of diverse records and sources, the study is well-founded upon the reference literature. Clearly, a single work of this sort cannot be complete; while the attentive reader will discern certain deficiencies, they are not a serious flaw, taking into account the scale of problems tackled by the author. Hopefully, the book will initiate further studies in the history of Khazars. (AG)

Tomasz Janiak (ed.), *Chrzest – św. Wojciech – Polska: dziedzictwo średniowiecznego Gniezna. Katalog wystawy* [Baptism, Saint Adalbert, Poland: the heritage of mediaeval Gniezno. Exhibition catalogue], Muzeum Początków Państwa Polskiego, Gniezno, 2016, 252 pp.

The publication is a catalogue of the exhibition held at the Museum of the Origins of the Polish State in Gniezno between 11 March and 23 October 2016. It is composed of two parts, the first being a collection of articles on the Christianisation of Poland, the figure of St Adalbert (Wojciech), and the stronghold of Gniezno in the medieval period; the second part forms the catalogue proper. The following texts are included: Jerzy Strzelczyk, 'Gniezno – the capital and metropolis in the early medieval period', being a revised version of his earlier essay 'A tribal hub – the capital of the state of the first Piasts – a metropolis – the capital of a principality' (in Marian Aleksandrowicz [ed.], *Gniezno, pierwsza stolica Polski, miasto Świętego Wojciecha: katalog wystawy zorganizowanej w dniach od 29 września 1994 do 31 stycznia 1995 roku przy współudziale Muzeum Archidiecezji Gnieźnieńskiej i Archiwum Archidiecezjalnego w Gnieźnie* [Gniezno 1995], 13–25); Dariusz Andrzej Sikorski, 'The Baptism of Poland and the origins of the Church in Poland (till the first half of the eleventh century)' – summarising and recapitulating the author's earlier related studies; Miłosz Sosnowski, '*Est in parte regni ciuitas magna* – St Adalbert in Gniezno'; Tomasz Sawicki, 'Gniezno. The central hub of the early Piast state in the light of archaeological research'; Tomasz Janiak, 'The Romanesque cathedral in Gniezno'; Jakub Adamski, 'The cathedral in Gniezno: the *Mater*

*ecclesiarum Poloniae* and a Central European Gothic work'. These articles or essays, with a much limited number of notes or references, are targeted at non-expert readers. However, a reference reading list is attached to all of them; the texts by Sawicki, Janiak, Adamski, and Szulc are furnished with rich illustrative material (which is vastly an integral part of the argument, rather than merely an ornament). The catalogue has been edited by Tomasz Janiak, Dorota Malarczyk, Zbigniew Bartkowiak, and Mateusz Woźniak. Also the catalogue section consists of two parts, the first offering colour photographs, mostly of high quality (an 'infamous' exception being the first picture in the series – cat. I.3). The second section provides descriptions of all the objects displayed at the exhibition, including those not reproduced in the catalogue. However, none of the objects is analysed or discussed in more detail. The publication under review is rather eclectic. There is no clear link between the articles and the catalogue section; one could even think these are two separate books merged into one just because of a 'unifying' title. This observation is legitimate as, in the first place, there are no references in the 'text' section to the catalogue's iconographic material. Moreover, some of the texts are, essentially, secondary in reference to their earlier published versions. (AG)

Henryk Paner, *Gdańsk na pielgrzymkowych szlakach średniowiecznej Europy* [Gdańsk on the pilgrimage routes of medieval Europe], Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk, 2016, 590 pp., bibliog., ills., summary in English

The book has a dual function. For one thing, it is a catalogue of pilgrim signs kept at the Gdańsk Collection of Pilgrim Keepsakes; secondly, it discusses and presents the phenomenon of pilgrimage as such, plus some related threads. The author carries on with his research interests: earlier he focused on the Marian cult among Gdańsk residents and, more broadly, Pomeranians. Paner's new book deals with pilgrim signs and keepsakes as well as so-called profane signs. The signs covered are mainly heraldic, organisational, amatory, and satirical. Of the other pilgrim keepsakes, the author mentions ampoules, bells, rattles, whistles, medallions, crosses, roods and crucifixes, a memento from Volto Santo, Lucca, and keepsakes of St Wilgefortis, plaques and badges, mirrors, flasks, small portable reliquaries, horns, and hooks. As remarked by the author in the introduction, the Gdańsk collection of pilgrim signs is unique not only due to the number of objects it has (totalling some 1,200): importantly, they are very well documented. First, the history of the research on pilgrim signs in Europe is presented, with a description of the researchers and authors dealing with the topic. The next chapter discusses the origins of pilgrimages as well as the objects referred to as pilgrim signs. Subsequently, a catalogue part follows, with individual objects grouped by sanctuary (being

their presumed original home). The headings of some of the subchapters are question-marked, but it is not always pretty clear what the doubtful aspect is. For instance, in the description headed 'Saint Hubert: Saint-Hubert-en-Ardenne?' one would not tell based on the content what is it that the doubt actually refers to; the catalogue part, in turn, has no such question marks, or suggested uncertainties. This is not to say that the origin is known of each particular pilgrim sign. For example, with a sign featuring Moses (pp. 217–18), presented under a title without a question mark, a doubt is related to the country of origin ('France?') and, more specifically, the locality of origin ('Champmol?'). The cataloguing data include a black-and-white photograph and a drawing of the object, plus the following identifications: 'GKPP' (= Gdańsk Collection of Pilgrim Keepsakes); 'No. SAZ' (i.e. Historic Monument Records System); 'MAG catalogue no.' (i.e. Archaeological Museum, Gdańsk); 'Monument location, description of context'; 'Country of origin'; 'Locality of origin'; 'Name and description of representation'; 'Description (in the extant part)'; 'Dating'; 'Size (extant part; in millimetres)'; 'Weight (extant part; in grams)'; 'Method of fixing'; 'Raw material'; and, 'Execution technique'. The presentation of pilgrim signs is followed by a discussion, in the subsequent chapters, of the aforesaid other keepsakes as well as profane signs. An identical set of columns in the catalogue is applied to all the objects covered. The catalogue section is followed by smaller-sized studies. The first of them considers the existence (and proposed location) of some forgotten sanctuaries in Pomerania. Pointing to certain groups of surviving pilgrim signs, Paner indicates that local sanctuaries might have been their original home. Subsequently, a discussion 'statistics and topography of finds from European sanctuaries' follows. The author strives to demonstrate that the finds in question were part of some incidentally lost signs, which is suggested by the fact that they were found in port areas and other public places (such as marketplaces). The next chapter describes 'The pilgrimages of Gdańsk residents and of other dwellers of Pomerania', showing, based on the artefacts, the popular destinations of pilgrimages, short or long-distance routes. The final conclusions are preceded by a chapter discussing the results of metal-science testing of the keepsakes, based on which – as Paner finds – no conclusion can yet be drawn. Let us note that the 'Summary' in English is quite minute: rather than following the book's content, it is, to an extent, an autonomous discussion of the author's key findings. Hence, no reference therein to some of the motifs (such as the metallurgical text). The book is worthy of note: it definitely broadens our knowledge of pilgrim signs. As to minor deficiencies, the choice of the iconographic material is not always clear or obvious. There is a lot of good photos (either taken by the author, or downloaded from the Web). However, with their quality all too often blatantly poor (as e.g. on p. 335), they did not contribute much to the central argument. (AG)

Bożena Czwojdrak and Agata Aleksandra Kluczek (eds.), *Kobiety i władza w czasach dawnych* [Women and power in early times], Uniwersytet Śląski, Katowice, 2015, 476 pp., bibliog.

The book comes as an aftermath of a conference held by the Institute of History, University of Silesia, Katowice, and the Museum in Rybnik, under the title as above. Included are some articles not delivered at that time: twenty-five texts altogether, including one in Belarusian and one in Czech. The topics covered stretch from antiquity to the modern era; the texts are arranged chronologically, beginning with the Roman times which are dealt with in, i.a.: Agnieszka Dziuba, 'A lover, mother, or a sophisticated politician? The secret of Servilia'; Andrzej Gillmeister, '*Cum tacita virgine*. Vestal virgins – femininity – religion in the Republican Rome'; Danuta Musiał, 'Messalina, or, enslaved by a stereotype'. Andrzej Komp's study entitled 'The Roman woman/the Byzantine woman: What can the classical studies offer the gender studies of today?' is a step into the second section, whose focus is on Byzantium; the essays include Teresa Wolińska's 'Antonia, the most gifted to achieve the impossible of all women worldwide', and Mirosław J. Leszka's 'Zoe, with her coal-black eyes: the fourth wife of Leo VI the Philosopher'. The subsequent group of texts concerns the West European Middle Ages, beginning with 'The facets of women's authority, in light of their creative output in the Middle Ages' by Jerzy Strzelczyk, and 'A royal mother, wife, and lover: Ælfgifu of Northampton' by Jakub Morawiec. There is an essay about Rus' (Zofia Brzozowska, 'A Polotsk matriarchate? The female rule in a Ruthenian principality in the 1130s–1150s'). The other texts deal with the late medieval period and the modern times – more specifically, royal widows and their legal-and-political situation (Grażyna Rutkowska, 'The status of widows of Polish Jagiellonian kings'), conflicts in the British Isles (Zuzanna Kowalska-Sobieraj, "'Women's rule is in conformity with the divine and natural law". John Leslie, Bishop of Ross, in defence of Mary Stuart's honour'). In spite of a rather broad selection of topics, the collection lacks an (otherwise expected) exchange of comments or remarks between the articles. The authors focusing on Byzantium tend to neglect Western Europe, and *vice versa* – thus neglecting also the potential benefit for their respective arguments. Most of the researchers shun theoretical considerations (Gillmeister's article being an exception). Many of the articles boil down to quasi-biographical stories of individual women. At times, however, the biography becomes a starting point for in-depth considerations on the role and position of women (Musiał). In some articles, women are not really the topic but instead, a pretext enabling the author to write about men (as in Marek Ferenc's 'Women in the life of King Sigismund Augustus'). This eclecticism causes that some individual articles appear more interesting than the anthology as a whole. (AG)

Krystian Zbigniew Żelazny, *Księstwo Siewierskie. Prawo i ustroj a zakres suwerenności względem Korony Królestwa Polskiego* [The Duchy of Siewierz. Its laws and organisation in the context of sovereignty with respect to the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Śląsk, Katowice, 2015, 108 pp., bibliog., ills.

This monograph of the Duchy of Siewierz consists of six chapters. The first describes the territory's history till 1443. The second discusses the 1443 sale of the land by Waclaw (Wenceslaus) I to the bishop and chapter of Cracow and the waiver of the rights thereto by George of Poděbrady to the benefit of the king of Poland. Chapter 3 is composed of subchapters describing the Duchy's social system: 'The Duke'; 'The clergy'; 'The nobility'; 'The bourgeoisie'; 'The peasantry'; 'Socially privileged professions (miners [gwareks], forgers [kuźniks]; millers; brewers)'; 'The Jews'. The subsequent chapter discusses the local judiciary system, and consists of subsections: 'The Municipal Court of Siewierz. The Sub-prefect [*starosta*] and the Magistrates' Court of Siewierz'; 'The city courts of the Duchy of Siewierz'; 'The *modus procedendi* in the Duchy of Siewierz's courts-of-law (proceedings at first-instance court; appeals proceedings; the Tribunal of Siewierz)'. The fifth chapter discusses the situation of the Duchy as a "subject of the international law, and its interrelations with the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland" – this being a modest attempt at explaining the Duchy's political situation: dependent on the king, the unit enjoyed autonomy. The final chapter deals with the incorporation of the Duchy in the Commonwealth: its two subsections discuss the reasons and course of the incorporation and the attempts at restoring the duchy. A guide to the Dukes of Siewierz is annexed. The author has neglected some relevant original records, apparently due to their corrupt condition; yet, he should have *used*, rather than just mention, the sources kept at the Czartoryski Library. Generally, Żelazny's considerations are based on the findings of other authors. The book can doubtlessly help systematise our knowledge on the Duchy of Siewierz. However, the opportunity to view the related aspects in a broader, especially comparative, fashion has been neglected; one obvious example is the chapter on the Duchy's legal status. In the introductory section, the author points to the entity's resemblance of Andorra (p. 16); but there is not much more in this respect that we can find in the said five-page chapter. (AG)

Jakub Morawiec, *Między poezją a polityką. Rozgrywki polityczne w Skandynawii XI wieku w świetle poezji ówczesnych skaldów* [Between poetry and politics. Political affairs in eleventh-century Scandinavia in the light of the period's skaldic poetry],

Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego, Katowice, 2016, 672 pp., bibliog., index, summaries in English and German

This book seeks to describe the political changes that took place in Scandinavia in the eleventh century, based on the poetry of the local skalds. Analysis of these pieces is meant to help the reader better understand the situation of their authors and the ways in which these texts reflected the political situation of the time. The pieces are analysed in this study with no reference to the context in which they are preserved within the sagas. Of the study's two parts, the former concerns a 'theory of skaldic art'. The first chapter characterises the skalds' poetry, the second draws an ideological background of the skaldic verse. The author shows the ways in which faith informed the situation of this poetry: albeit strictly related to pagan ideas, the creative output of skalds flourished in the Christian age. Not only the position of this poetry in a pagan society is discussed but also its later adaptation to Christian needs. The third chapter is on the *hieros gamos* motif – the marriage between the ruler and a character personifying the Earth. Funereal poetry is the subject of Chapter 4. Lastly, we are introduced into the skalds active in the eleventh century. The second part draws a picture of eleventh-century Scandinavia, which emerges from the skalds' pieces. We can learn more about the battle of Øresund, then the image of Olaf Haraldsson as king of Norway, Canute the Great's conquest of England, the political elements of the cult of St Olaf, the rivalry between Harald Sigurdsson ('Hardrada') and Sven Ulfsson (Sweyn Estridsson), Harald's 1066 expedition to England, and (the section's final chapter) the rule of Magnus Olafsson ('Barefoot') in Norway. This very interesting and pretty detailed study is not easy to read at some points, being a meticulous analysis. The visual setting of the book deserves special appraisal: it is uniquely nice and clear with respect to the way the text is laid out and the running head constructed; the graphic ornaments are well used. (AG)

Georgi Minczew, Małgorzata Skowronek, and Jan Mikołaj Wolski (eds.), *Sredniowieczne herezje dualistyczne na Bałkanach. Źródła słowiańskie* [Medieval dualist heresies in the Balkans. Slavic sources], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź, 2016, 268 pp., index, résumé; series: Series Ceranea, 1

The volume is the first in the 'Series Ceranea', which is meant to propose editions of original sources as well as monographs. The book under review represents the former type, being a collection of Slavic anti-heretic texts. This bilingual edition features on the opposite pages the original text (based on previously issued editions) and its Polish translation. The book opens with Georgi Minczew [Minchev]'s essay on 'Slavic anti-heretic texts as a source for

cognition of dualist heresies in the Balkans'. This introduction to the selection of source texts discusses the dualist heresies and their history, with emphasis on the Bogomils. Slavic anti-heretic texts are next discussed. With respect to the existing literature of the Bogomils, it is absolutely impossible, Minczew states, that any rich and lost body of such texts has ever existed. Lastly, the Bogomilist heresy is presented, from cosmology to Christology and Mariology, with a discussion of the moral, ethical and social doctrine. The anthology includes the *Anathemas from the Bulgarian Synodicon for the Sunday of Orthodoxy* (the so-called *Tsar Boril's Synodicon*), *On Bogomil the Priest from Slavonic Kormcha*, or the *Life of Saint Theodosius of Tarnovo* written by patriarch Callixtus I. Apart from these complete texts, some fragments and even single paragraphs cut out from a larger whole are included. The texts are equipped with critical apparatus, each of them is preceded with a brief note on its origin and character, also listing the existing editions or translations and a list of reference literature. One also finds a heresiological glossary where terms related to the heresies are explained. Subsequently follow indices of quotations, biblical references, personal names and specialist terms, including an index of biblical citations and references. A summary in English complements the anthology. The book has some pretty conspicuous typesetting errors. With the fragments of the *Polemical oration against heretics* by Cosma the Presbyter, the translation is not correspondent with the original from pp. 76–7 on. A shift, initially, of a few lines gradually expands, and there are pages where you have to flick through the book to find the corresponding passage. The two versions go apart so considerably that on pp. 120–5 we meet a continuous translated text, spread on both odd and even pages. This problem, affecting all the longer texts included in this edition, makes its use remarkably difficult. Thus, one of the undisputable advantages of this publication has remained potential only, if not turned into a disadvantage. (AG)

Krzysztof Kwiatkowski, (in collaboration with) Maria Molenda, *Wojska zakonu niemieckiego w Prusach 1230–1525: korporacja, jej pruskie władztwo, zbrojni, kultura wojny i aktywność militarna* [Armies of the Teutonic Order in Prussia, 1230–1525: the corporation, its Prussian rule, the men in arms, the culture of war, and military activity], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń, 2016, 660 pp., bibliog.; series: *Dzieje Zakonu Niemieckiego*, 3

An introduction to the history of the Order's military activities, the study has come out as volume 3 in the series 'History of the Teutonic Order'. It mostly deals with two issues: the armament and attire of the troops, and

a broad “spectrum of structural aspects of the Order’s military activity” (p. 15), including the organisation of military actions. Chronologically, the book spans between 1128–30 and 1525. Chapter 1 presents the history of the Order in Prussia; chapter 2 deals with the “cultural background of the Order’s presence”, part of which was the crusading idea. The next section is about the organisation of the Order, its rule in Prussia and the rule’s legitimisation. Then follows a discussion of ‘social and economic grounds’ for the Order’s activities with respect to the inhabitants of, and comers to, Prussia. The types of activities pursued by the Order (short campaigns called the *Reisen* [Polish, *rejzas*], etc.) and individual stages, from planning an expedition to dissolving the army, are discussed separately. The two subsequent chapters deal with the attire (with a contribution from Maria Molenda), and the arms and equipment of the army. A brief summary and a detailed survey of the literature conclude the monograph. The chapters are divided into subchapters, the latter being organised into sections (marked on page margins). Along with the core text, the author makes a number of excurses, some running over several pages. A detailed subject index and a clear graphic layout and artwork are quite laudable. As declared by the author, the popularisation aspect of the publication should come to the fore. The notes are limited to bibliographical references on margins of the pages. Also the writing style is tailored to ‘ordinary’ reader – as is evident also with full-page charts featuring, for instance, the attires of the brethren, and complemented with detailed descriptions. All the same, the detailed character of the study and the technical, learned language employed by the author seemingly make it targeted mostly at a professional reader (for whom the lack of reliable notes would definitely be a weak point, though). Yet, there are sections – such as the descriptions of kitchen utensils, firewood, etc. – a professional reader would find irrelevant, primarily due to the style of presentation. All this makes this publication – an outcome of the author’s great effort, doubtlessly interesting as it is – somewhat hard to categorise: is it a scientific study, or a piece of popular-science literature? (AG)

Agnieszka Januszek-Sieradzka, Henryk Gmiterek, Wojciech Iwańczak, and Paweł Kras (eds.), *Elity i masy w społeczeństwach Czech i Polski w średniowieczu i wczesnych czasach nowożytnych* [Elites and masses in the societies of Bohemia and Poland in the Middle Ages and the early modern period], Wydawnictwo KUL, Lublin, 2016, 478 pp., summary in English

The book, dedicated to the memory of Sister Urszula Borkowska, is an outcome of a conference of the History of Bohemia and Polish-Czech Relations Team, Committee for Historical Sciences, Polish Academy of Science,

which was held (under the same title) on 6–8 October 2014. Of the twenty-four articles, four are in Czech. There are four sections: ‘Early and modern historiography, historical sources’; ‘Those horrid Hussites’; ‘Does urban air make you free?’ ‘Topmost authorities’, ‘Church – religion – faith’; and, ‘Culture into economy’. The predominant issues are related to late mediaeval and modern Bohemia, save for the essays by Marie Bláhová (on the intellectual elites in the Přemyslid Bohemia) and Ivan Hlavaček (on attitudes toward books between the tenth and the thirteenth century). With a clearly defined orientation and focus proposed by the authors, the collection offers a diversity of content and viewpoints: some Bohemian rulers are viewed through the opinion expressed by Jan Długosz (Jerzy Grygiel); the career of Jan Rokycana is discussed (Anna Paner); or, urban elites in medieval Bytom are portrayed (Antoni Barciak). Two survey essays complement the anthology, Jiří Lach’s on the reception of the interwar historiography of Bohemia and Paweł Kras’s on the categories of ‘elites’ and ‘masses’ in Polish studies on Hussitism. One would have expected a larger comparative effort on the part of the authors, which the title seems to herald. For example, the section on towns deals for the most part with Poland-related questions (save for Jan Dvořák’s essay on subservient towns in Moravia in the former half of the seventeenth century). This makes the book a collection of regular articles. Those dealing with the subjects it covers will no doubt find there a wealth of interesting material. An English abstract is attached to each of the articles. The essay by Tomáš Knoz additionally features a table and colour illustrations. (AG)

Włodzimierz Czarnecki, *Nobiles Chelmenses. Wybrane rodziny w późnym średniowieczu i wczesnej nowożytności. Studia osadniczo-genealogiczne* [*Nobiles Chelmenses. Selected families in the late Middle Ages and early modern era. Studies in settlement and genealogy*], Studio Kropka dtp – Piotr Kabaciński, Stary Toruń, 2016, 340 pp., index, summary in English

Following up the author’s earlier study on the Chełm Land’s nobility before mid-sixteenth century (*Szlachta ziemi chełmskiej do połowy XVI wieku*, Białystok 2012), this book is based on a file of settlements in Chełm Land compiled by Czarnecki for use in research into local colonisation. It basically deals with the region’s noble families. The essays on individual families are modelled according to a pattern. The author starts with the estate with which one or more individuals are associated, and draws a picture of the family on this basis. A brief introduction is meant to shed light on the choices made by the author and to present the research state-of-play. Then, the core section follows, with a discussion of the families including: the heritor of Busówno; the heritors of Chłaniowo; the leaseholders of Chojeniec and

the heirs of Chojno; the Czarnołożki family, of the coat-of-arms Ciołek; Czerniejowski family, coat-of-arms Korczak; the heritors of Gany, Laszczki, and Równianki; *knyaz* Hurkowicz family of Kraśniczyn; Kołaczkowski, coat-of-arms Janina; the heritors of Leszczany and the leaseholders of Chutcze and Nowosiółki; heritors of Masłomęcz; the servants of the royal village of Mieniany; Podhorodyński family, coat-of-arms Korczak; heritors of Przewały and Matcze; Sienicki family, coat-of-arms Bończa; Świerszczowski family, coat-of-arms Korczak; the heritors of Świerszczów (Hrubieszów area); Święcicki family, coat-of-arms Jastrzębiec; the heritors of Ternow (Tarnów); and, the heritors of, respectively, Uchanie and Żdżanne. The book is equipped with a list of sources (which is not a complete bibliography, due to the missing secondary sources) and, extremely helpful, genealogical tables. The descriptions are, to a considerable extent, detailed extracts from the records (mainly, of court cases), preceded by an introduction related to the original estate or 'substance' being the point of departure for further considerations. "The book is not for reading but a reference", the author aptly admits in the conclusion. What it definitely does is offer a good insight in the sources which thus ought to become even more helpful in further genealogical work and exploration of historical problems overall. (AG)

Andrzej Sikorski and Tomasz Sławiński (eds.), *Studia genealogiczne poświęcone pamięci Profesora Włodzimierza Dworzaczka* [Studies in genealogy, dedicated to the memory of Professor Włodzimierz Dworzaczek], PIOMAR Piotr Maroński, Warszawa, 2016, 428 pp., index

Dedicated to Professor W. Dworzaczek (who died in 1988), this anthology comprises eight studies concerning, mainly, genealogical issues and chronologically spanning a period from the Middle Ages (thirteenth century) up to the nineteenth century. The opening article, by Piotr Andrzej Dmochowski, describes the casting of offices in Lesser Poland (Małopolska): the argument is based on a diploma confirming the foundation of a Cistercian monastery in Przemęt. To a large extent, this forms an introduction to further research into Lesser Poland's officials and clerks in the early thirteenth century. Then follows Jerzy Sperka's text on the Biberstein family: with their background in Meissen, they resettled into the Ruthenian area of the Crown of Poland. The family's history and major exponents are shown, perforce, in a concise form. The subsequent essay, authored by Marian Wolski, is about the Bronowski family, of the coat-of-arms Tarnawa: the members are chronologically discussed and their mutual relationships portrayed, until the late sixteenth/early seventeenth century. There are five genealogical tables, and a number of (black-and-white) photographs. Tomasz Sławiński's essay deals with the

state-of-play in research into the genealogy of the Olszowski family, coat-of-arms Wilczekosy. The family's history is extensively pictured, with its various lines and problems with identification of the relations; a total of fourteen genealogical tables and numerous black-and-white photos complement the story. Next, Tomasz Jaszczolt's article tells a story of the Wojna family, coat-of-arms Ślepowron. Chronologically, the emphasis is on (but is not limited to) the fifteenth and sixteenth century. Apart from photographs, scanned documents and four genealogical tables, the study is completed with two annexes comprising, respectively, an edition of the foundation documents for the churches of Our Lady's Nativity and the Saints Peter, Jacob, Nicholas, and Anna in Dąbrówka; and an edition of a document issued by King Sigismund I the Old, confirming the subjection of the Wojna family to the courts of Bielsk. Sławomir Karp describes the origins, the legend and the varieties of the Karp coat-of-arms. His story extends, in parallel, to the Karp family, and (among other aspects) rebuts the hypothesis of the family's foreign, Spanish or Italian, origin. In turn, Andrzej Sikorski shows the history of the Kampenhausen family in Poland, from the earliest stage of their arrival in Poland (in the eighteenth century) till the extinction of the line in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century; the essay is complemented by a genealogical table. Lastly, Piotr Mysłakowski writes on a 1831 homage oath register from the Lipno District, featuring 3,164 items. The text is, mostly, an edition (with no in-depth analysis) of the parliamentary resolutions and other documents regarding homage registers and a list of all the persons named in the Lipno District register. The publication is definitely of use for genealogy and heraldry researchers; based on it, more extensive studies can be further be pursued (which is outright declared by some of the authors). (AG)

#### EARLY MODERN TIMES

Jerzy Dygdała (ed.), *Od Augusta Mocnego do Augusta III. Doniesienia z Warszawy Andrzeja Cichockiego z lat 1732–1734* [From Augustus the Strong to Augustus III. Andrzej Cichocki's reports from Warsaw, 1732–4], Wydawnictwo Muzeum Pałacu Króla Jana III w Wilanowie, Warszawa, 2016, 494 pp.

Written newspapers have already been used by researchers as original sources, but never published yet. This recent edition includes reports from Warsaw compiled by Andrzej-Franciszek Cichocki, Metrics (i.e. Records)-keeper of the Crown [*metrykant koronny*], in 1732–4. The first addressees were Anna Radziwiłł, née Sanguszko, her son Michał Kazimierz, and Christian Klosmann, member of the Toruń (Thorn) city council. The newspapers offer a variety

of information. Cichocki describes the political occurrences in detail; interestingly and importantly, many of the details he refers to are not-well-known, of a behind-the-scenes sort. Aspects of the 1730s redevelopment projects of the capital city of Warsaw are dealt with quite at length. These newspapers also form a peculiar criminal and social life chronicle of the period's Warsaw. The edited and published specimens are presently kept at the Central Archives of Historical Records and the State Archives in Toruń. The publication is meant to be of use not only to professional historians but to a broad reading public. The text is furnished with content-related notes (no text-related notes present). An index of personal names and an index of localities help use the publication. Inserted in the text, translated versions of Latin expressions or of less typical Old Polish phrases hinder the reading, to an extent (appropriate notes should have been compiled instead). (MC)

*XVII a. vidurio Maskvos okupacijos Lietuvoje šaltiniai, iii: 1658 ir 1663 m. Vilniaus miesto tarybos aktų knyga*, compiled by Elmantas Antanavičius, ed. by Algimantas Kaminskas and Milda Kvizikevičiūtė, Lietuvos Istorijos Institutas, Vilnius, 2015, 289 pp.

This is another volume in a series of source publications concerning the Muscovian occupation of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The original source is, this time, the register of entries of the Wilno municipal council, the main body of documents being dated 1658 and 1663; single deeds, from 1646, 1655, 1656, 1680, 1681, and 1683, respectively, have been entered on an incidental basis. The documents are quite diverse, covering multiple aspects of everyday life and municipal policies pursued under the specific occupational circumstances. The material seems to be potentially of special interest to historians of daily realities. The documents are preceded by brief editorial notes and furnished with content-related footnotes. An index of personal and geographic names, including entries covering the urban topography of Wilno, is attached. As with the preceding volumes, the source text is rendered accurately in the original language, which in this particular case is Polish and, secondarily, Latin. With the original spelling preserved, the reading is made somewhat difficult, though. (MC)

Hanna Węgrzynek (ed.), *Regestr osób żydowskich spisany w miesiącu styczniu roku 1778 w Warszawie* [A register of Jewish persons, written-down in the month of January 1778, in Warsaw], Instytut Historii PAN, Centrum im. Anielewicza Instytut

Historyczny UW, Warszawa, 2016, 221 pp.; series: Źródła do dziejów Żydów Polskich, 2

The book is a new volume in the series published by the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences (IH PAN) and the Mordechaj Anielewicz Centre, Institute of History, University of Warsaw. It is an edition of a list of Jews dwelling in Warsaw as of 1778 – a hitherto very little known source. The circumstances of its compilation are unknown; the register's [*regestr*, in Old Polish] purpose might have been fiscal. Apart from the names, the degree of kinship and where each individual originally came from are quoted. The document fundamentally broadens our knowledge regarding the (not too well known) history of Jewry in Warsaw. The list is shown in a tabular form, its content is rendered very accurately, without modernising the spelling of the Jewish names. Two maps are attached, one showing Jewish settlement areas within Warsaw and the other the locations of the Warsaw Jews' original abodes. The editor's introduction is largely objectionable. It outlines the history of Warsaw Jewry, discusses the earlier historiography and, in a pretty basic manner, the content of the source in question. The essay does not broaden the existing knowledge on Jews in Warsaw; its style is chaotic, with numerous repetitions, banal statements, alongside grammatical errors and misspellings. The hypotheses proposed by the author testify to a poor knowledge of the realities of the period and a bias on presenting not-quite-proven facts. That eighteenth-century Warsaw recognised a 'registration of residence' with respect to Jews – meaning that the register includes persons who actually did not reside in Warsaw but were 'allocated' thereto – is rather untrue. Also, the hypothesis whereby Warsaw became a centre of the Yiddish culture in the second half of the century is not too fortunate. (MC)

Jerzy Michalski, *Rousseau and Polish Republicanism*, trans. from Polish by Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski, Instytut Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2015, 143 pp.

Jerzy Michalski, who died a few years ago, is a classical figure in Polish historiography. His interests as a researcher focused on the eighteenth-century political history. Michalski's essay on Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Considerations on the Government of Poland* (*Considérations sur le gouvernement de Pologne*), 1771, analyses in detail the Swiss philosopher's treaty written on commission of the Bar Confederates. His excellent knowledge of source materials and great erudition has resulted in showing the Rousseau treatise against a wide background of European thought and its development. Michalski sheds a new light on the *Considerations* ..., thereby drawing our attention to a number of similarities between Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and West European

countries. Although the study was first published in 1971, it remains relevant today. Most of the author's arguments and findings remained so far unknown to foreign researchers, due to language constraints. The present translation into English enables non-Polish readers to get acquainted with the ideas and propositions of Polish historiography. (MC)

Grzegorz Błaszczyk, *Herbarz szlachty żmudzkiej* [A book of heraldry of the Samogitian nobility], 6 vols., Wydawnictwo DiG, Warszawa, 2015

This six-volume publication seeks to present an armorial of the nobility of Samogitia for the seventeenth century. The author has included under the category of Samogitian nobles all the owners of any estate or property within the territory of Samogitia. The book mainly shows the national, religious (denominational) and material structure of Samogitian nobility. One of the research queries posed by Błaszczyk concerns the range of Polish settlements in Lithuania; this may cause concern, especially that the author's definitions of 'Polishness' and 'Lithuania' with regard to the seventeenth-century realities are unclear. The armorial's original source is a military census dated 1621, 'chimney' (i.e. per-residential-house) tariffs of 1667 and 1690, and last wills. The roll-of-arms is arranged alphabetically, each of the families being described according to an identical pattern. Citations from original sources concerning the family are quoted and the etymology of the surname described. The latter section seems the least interesting: based on lexical elaborations, it applies 'hard' national criteria with descriptions of surnames (such as 'of Polish/Lithuanian origin', instead of 'based on the Polish/Lithuanian language'). This is followed by a brief history of the family, with a focus on the consecutive generations. The extensive archive-based query and the author's knowledge and discernment of the sources (Błaszczyk has been researching the history of Samogitia for a number of years) have resulted in a description of a number of less-known Samogitian families. (MC)

Joanna Kodzik, *Ceremoniał polskiego dworu królewskiego w XVII wieku z perspektywy niemieckich uczonych* [The ceremonial of the Polish royal court in the seventeenth century, as viewed by German scholars], Muzeum Pałacu Króla Jana III w Wilanowie, Warszawa, 2015, 262 pp.

This study excels among Polish historical monographs with its sound theoretical foundation. The author has intended to analyse the Polish court realities with use of Talcott Parsons's theory of systems. The chronology embraces the

period from 1641–1720. The analysis is based upon German-language treatises on the functioning of the royal court. The underlying concept approaches court in terms of a social system. While the theoretical assumptions behind the monograph are interesting, the conclusions drawn thereon are rather far from satisfactory. Kodzik namely argues that the Polish court, similarly to its Western European counterparts, partook in a symbolic communication expressed through the ceremonial. The courtly community of the Polish court was apparently driven by values such as (opportunity of) access to the King himself, holding the titles, priority/precedence and adequate treatment, and ‘staging’ of one’s position. The author seemingly does not place enough emphasis on the differences between Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and West European countries. The book has moreover a number of repeated fragments; the long theoretical introductions, not all of them necessary, blur the core argument at several points. (MC)

Wojciech Krawczuk, *Samuel Pufendorf and some stories of the Northern War 1655–1660*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, Kraków, 2014, 163 pp., index of personal names and notions, bibliog.; series: Jagiellonian Studies in History, 5

This book is a ‘side-effect’ of the author’s translation into Polish of a work entitled *De rebus a Carolo Gustavo Sueciae rege gestis commentationum libri septem ...* (‘Seven Books on Deeds of Charles Gustav King of Sweden’) penned by Samuel Pufendorf, one of the best-known seventeenth-century German historians and political authors. Living in 1632–94, Pufendorf enjoyed, since 1677, the function of court historiographer to the Swedish court and, after 1686, a peer function to Prince (Grand Elector) of Brandenburg-Prussia. Ordered by Charles XI, the *De rebus a Carolo*, describing the history of the Northern War, commonly known in Poland as the so-called ‘Swedish Deluge’, was originally published in 1696 in Nuremberg and, with support from Swedish subsidies, soon afterwards translated into German and French, which made the book, in the West, the best-known history of the Swedish-Polish war (which was joined by Denmark, Prussia, and Russia). As Krawczuk stresses, Pufendorf’s advantage against his contemporaries and, to an extent, modern historians of the war was founded on his access to royal Swedish archives, which was a rare thing at that time. In a sophisticated and non-clichéd manner, the book analyses selected threads in Pufendorf’s work: his sense of time, the moral appraisals passed by him, the diplomatic facet of the war, legends related with the war, and the ‘war on water’: marine wars and operations of redeployment of troops across the rivers. Although he obeyed Swedish instructions, Pufendorf preserved far-fetching independence, the author emphasises, and was indeed very critical toward his hero, King Charles Gustav. Also, Krawczuk

stands by the statement, somewhat astonishing nowadays, that the Pufendorf work has remained a unique source of knowledge on the course of the war – particularly, the actions of Swedish diplomatic service in the course of the war; in spite of the time lapse, and the more than two-and-a-half thousand items written on the topic ever since, none of the modern-time historians can match Pufendorf as the Northern War historiographer. (AK)

Anna Pieńkowska and Maciej A. Pieńkowski, *Sejmiki mazowieckie wobec problemów wewnętrznych Rzeczypospolitej w latach 1661–1665* [Masovian dietines and Poland-Lithuania's internal problems in 1661–5], Napoleon V, Oświęcim, 2015, 149 pp.

The monograph seems to promise a discussion of the activities of the dietines (*sejmiks*) operating in Masovia (*Mazowsze*) in the middle of the seventeenth century. However, the title appears misleading: this is, rather, a study on various aspects of the region's history; in spite of apparently being an academic work, the book is mostly popularisation-oriented. The bibliography includes a long list of manuscript sources whose use is not clearly confirmed in the argument. The monograph consists of three basic sections; the first deals with the history of Warsaw and Masovian deputies and senators under the rule of John II Casimir. The second describes the attempts at launching constitutional reforms at the diets held 1658–60, and how the Masovian *sejmiks* behaved in this context. The last section covers issues related to military activities within Poland-Lithuania. The reader is most of the time offered a summary of the reference literature, learning not much about the Masovian nobility's attitude towards the issues under discussion. As a general conclusion, perhaps not all studies, especially if penned by young historians, deserve being published as monographs. (MC)

Monika Jusupović and Adam Danilczyk (eds.), *Korespondencja polityczna Stanisława Augusta. Wiedeń, i: 1788–1790* [King Stanislaus Augustus's political correspondence. Vienna, i: 1788–90], Instytut Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2016, 245 pp.

This edition of the letters exchanged by Viennese diplomats of King Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski is one of the several parts of a broad editorial project to present an array of political sources from the Partitions and the Four Years' Szym period. Polish historiographers have been dealing with research into political history of the latter half of the eighteenth century for a number of years now; as a traditional concept, the subject-matter has been tackled by numerous expert researchers. The editors have designed the present publica-

tion to be of use for a narrow group of professionals – experts in the reign of Stanislaus Augustus. This narrowing of the circle of readers has partly shaped the edition: there are no content-related notes explaining or clarifying the events described in the text and no subject index. The volume includes a total of 285 letters, including those by Szymon Corticelli, Pius Kiciński, Ignacy Pokubiata (Pokubiatto), and Franciszek Ksawery Woyna. The letters mainly deal with political events. Most of them are presently kept at the Central Archives of Historical Records (AGAD) in Warsaw. The question remains debatable whether it is really necessary to publish sources of the like sort in a book form, as most experts are probably knowledgeable of the AGAD resources. It seems that the edition should have been made readable for a possibly broad group of users. (MC)

Anna Grześkowiak-Krwawicz (ed.), *Pamiętniki Stanisława Augusta i ich bohaterowie* [The *Memoirs* of King Stanislaus Augustus and the characters portrayed], Ośrodek Badań nad Epoką Stanisławowską, Muzeum Łazienki Królewskie, Warszawa, 2015, 352 pp.

These thirteen studies by the most outstanding experts in politics and culture of the latter half of the eighteenth century are focused on the *Memoirs* of King Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski, which is one of the key sources in this respect. Edited by Anna Grześkowiak-Krwawicz of the University of Warsaw, the collection offers a transversal insight into the epoch that has entailed manifold far-reaching consequences. The essays shed light on some of the characters shown in the *Memoirs*, including the Author himself (the sketch by Zofia Zielińska) and the royal family (essays by Urszula Kosińska and Angela Sołtys); an excellent outline by Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski focuses on Catherine II of Russia. Described are the political stances of the French, Prussians and the English, and those of the king's personal rivals – to mention the compelling 'double portrait' of Franciszek Ksawery Branicki and Stanislaus Augustus, penned by Dorota Dukwicz, and Marek Dębowski's sketch on Franciszek Ryx, the theatrical entrepreneur. Altogether, we are provided with a group portrait of the leading characters and with an insight in their time as read through the prism of the particular source in question. The book is more than meticulously edited, including the illustrations and a name index provided. It certainly deserves attention not only from experts in the period. (GK)

## NINETEENTH CENTURY

*Dziennik ks. Adama Jerzego Czartoryskiego, 1813–1817* [Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski's diary, 1813–17], ed. by Małgorzata Karpińska and Janusz Pezda, Wydawnictwo DiG, Warszawa, 2016, 488 pp.

Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski was an eminent nineteenth-century diplomat and political activist and, later on, became one of the most outstanding, virtually emblematic, personages among Polish political émigrés. These excerpts from his diary date to the years marking his political climax: apart from other offices, he served as Russian Empire's foreign minister. We are led to the period 1816–17, when this stage of Prince's career was at a decline; after tsar Alexander I's death, he in fact opposed the Russian authorities. The edition is meant to include two volumes, with 1827 as the end point. This particular piece of memoirist output ranks among the most interesting testimonies of the period and is an important contribution to the history of the monumental figure of Czartoryski. Worthy of note is a detailed introduction (penned by Małgorzata Karpińska, a researcher at the University of Warsaw), describing the Prince's biography and outlining the current state of research into his activities. In fact, this section can also be used as a set of editorial instructions – a rather rare occurrence with texts of this kind. Meticulously compiled indices of personal and geographical names and a summary section complement this elaborate edition. (GK)

Grażyna Gzella, *Obrażające i podburzające pismo. Lech. Gazeta Gnieźnieńska (1895–1914)* [An outraging, inciting journal: *Lech. Gazeta Gnieźnieńska, 1895–1914*], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń, 2015, 248 pp., name index, references, ills., summary in German

This book stands out positively amongst the monographs dealing with nineteenth-century history based on analysis of the period's press. The research has mainly been based on original archival materials, rather than analysis of materials published in the newspaper. The topic has been conceptualised in line with the interests of the author, who specialises in censorship and press law – that is, in the context of the Prussian press law, whose infringement was what the newspaper editors were blamed for. As a result, an original study has been compiled, which is certainly of use as a contribution in further research into the legal aspects of the functioning of the press (which are discussed, in general terms, in chapter one). How typical the history of the magazine was in this respect, is hard to judge; yet, one may infer from the book's argument

that *Lech* (whose brief history, taking into account the biographical notes of the consecutive editors, is told in Chapt. 2) was a particularly rebellious and inexorable team and milieu. The editorial board were habitually sued by the readers who felt offended as well as by the authorities getting stubbornly criticised and ridiculed (Chapt. 3 to 5). As the court registries, researched by the author, tell us, *Lech* had to deal with up to twenty-six trials at a time. Of the eighty cases sued against the newspaper and researched by Gzella, the editors were found not guilty ten times, against seven incidents of settlement concluded with the complainants, twenty-three verdicts passed for 'incitement of disobedience' or 'gross licence'. Overall, within the period 1900–14, the *Lech* editors were sentenced to four years and three months of custody and 4,125 marks of fine; the severest penalty, nine-month detention, was (quite patently) inflicted for *lèse-majesté*. None of these prevented the team from pursuing their subversive activities – even when the printers had to replace the editors when under detention. (AK)

Marek Król, *Towarzystwa oszczędnościowo-pożyczkowe w guberni kaliskiej do 1914 roku* [Savings-and-lending societies in Guberniya of Kalisz before 1914], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź, 2016, 408 pp.

This interesting monograph of civic life in Polish provincial areas focuses around an issue that tends to be neglected in historical research: strivings to secure cheap loans. The study by Marek Król, a researcher associated with the University of Łódź, has three exhaustive chapters portraying the relevant sections of social and economic life in an agricultural governorate (*guberniya*) of what was the Kingdom of Poland (within the Russian Empire). Chapter 1 is an extensive introduction discussing the unique phenomenon of savings societies in the Guberniya of Kalisz; the second and third chapter deal with lending cooperatives and their loan-facility structure, as aspects of functioning of these organisations. Apart from a number of detailed economic mechanisms, the study shows how the 'manor' and the 'presbytery' were taking over the authority over the provincial regions. The sources of the social and, consequently, political success of the National Democracy, the period's largest mass political formation is a very interesting thread – though, regrettably, unsatisfactorily explored, especially in terms of the role of local credit societies in the movement's development. While the study is meant to be used primarily by specialists, it will be of use to anyone interested in the mechanisms of societal life in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. A helpful bibliography, two annexes and a number of tables are included. (GK)

Helena z Czartoryskich Stanisławowa Plater-Zyberkowa, *Wspomnienia z młodości* [Memories from my youth years], with an introduction and ed. by Barbara Wysocka, Biblioteka Kórnicka, Kórnik, 2015, 255 pp.

The memoirs record the events and episodes spanning between 1860 and the early twentieth century (the author, Helena Plater-Zyberk, née Czartoryska, married to Stanisław Plater-Zyberk, lived in 1855–1936) and focus mainly on the vicissitudes of the aristocratic houses of Czartoryski, Działyński, and Zamoyski. To a considerable extent, it is a story on the lives and fates of some of the influential landowning and aristocratic families in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century from the standpoint of an adolescent girl brought up into a patriotic family, with a network of connexions almost across Europe. The author interestingly describes the attitudes of individuals representing her own sphere, allowing the reader to understand their views and emotions. Big politics is a rare guest on these pages, but it does imprint its lasting mark on the personal histories of the author and the related families. The volume is a valuable source for researchers interested in the period, particularly those specialising in its mores and customs, and material culture. A careful editorial effort has made this testimony even more interesting – not only to specialists. (GK)

Szczepan Wierchosławski (ed.), *Modernizacja – polskość – trwanie. Społeczne, kulturowe i polityczne aspekty aktywności Polaków na przełomie XIX i XX wieku* [Modernisation, Polishness, endurance: the societal, cultural and political aspects of activity of the Poles in late nineteenth and early twentieth century], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Instytut Historii PAN, Toruń, 2015, 312 pp.

The volume consists of fourteen separate studies focused on a variety of issues related to the life of Polish people in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, particularly in the Prussian Partition – an area the least (re)visited by authors of synthetic monographs of Poland's history. The essays on Polish vacationists in Sopot (then, Soppot) near Danzig, a biography of a bicycle-maker from Thorn, a study on church construction industry in Pomerania, and the sketch on cartography in the Second Republic of Poland are probably the most original among them. The other studies deal with the material situation of peasants, Pomeranian landowners, the petty nobility in Kashubia, the clergy in the Kingdom of Poland, teachers in Austrian Galicia, and the women's movement. Altogether, the book seems to suggest that

its ambition has been to embrace a possibly most extensive societal and geographic spectrum of the period's soci(et)al activity, as virtually declared by the editor in the introduction. He namely states, using a somewhat bombastic tone, that the nineteenth century has in Poland been undeservedly ill-famed as an era of lack of independence and political freedom, whilst in reality it was the time when the Polish territories benefited from enormous progress in all the fields. In particular, a modern Polish nation eventually emerged, which, "having regard to its spiritual and emotional predispositions, did not capitulate to anybody". Whether such an argument may inspire any broader discussion is not quite certain; yet, an interested reader will certainly find a lot of inspiring information in a number of texts contained in this anthology. (AK)

Jolanta Kolbuszewska and Marta Sikorska-Kowalska (eds.), *Historycy a socjalizm. Polska lewica niepodległościowa spod znaku Klio* [Historians facing socialism. Polish independence-oriented leftist 'Clio's offspring'], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź, 2014, 233 pp., name index, references, ill.

The book presents a collection of texts by seven authors who were, in one way or another, associated with the so-called independence-oriented Left [Polish, *lewica niepodległościowa*] before 1914 – which primarily means the Polish Socialist Party (PPS), mainly in Galicia. These authors include Zofia Daszyńska-Golińska (1866–1934), Ludwik Kulczycki (1866–1941), Wilhelm Feldman (1868–1919), Feliks Perl (1871–1927), Emil Haecker (1875–1934), Józef Dąbrowski-Grabiec (1876–1926), and Stanisław Loewenstein (1890–1944). Their selected texts are preceded by exhaustive biographical sketches. According to the editors, the publication is meant as the first in a series. Apart from the fact that the book comes out at a moment when the left(ist)-oriented tradition does not enjoy much interest, or even experiences hostility, among historians, the decision to place an emphasis on lesser known authors, rarely discussed in monographs dealing with Polish political and soci(et)al thought, should be deemed highly apt and valuable. It therefore should be hoped that the anthology will prove of special value to students and researchers of the period in question. For a change, advertising this book as providing a (more or less complete) image of left-oriented historians' views on the past can be deemed disputable: the selected authors were not chiefly historians, whilst the anthologised texts do not primarily focus on (aspects of) history. Save for Wilhelm Feldman, the other authors dabbled with historical writing on a short-timed basis; some of them were active as pedagogues. The texts themselves are not scientific or scholarly in character but rather popularisation-oriented or merely journalistic, appealing to a possibly broadest reading public (as emphasised by the editors in the introductory section). Thus, the

book forms an interesting though piecemeal survey of the left-oriented socio-political thought with history at its background, rather than an ideologically biased, leftist-coloured historiographic compendium (as the title seems to suggest). Moreover, with the potential reader in mind, furnishing the texts with (very thorough as they are) biographical notes on the authors, rather than providing an analysis of the source materials edited and published, seems not overly apt. It should be hoped that the book will indeed initiate a series; as for now, it primarily makes one realise a lack of modern and synthetic elaboration on left(ist)-oriented literature and intellectual milieus in the late nineteenth/early twentieth-century Poland; clearly, the same is true with respect to academic left(ist)-oriented historiography. (AK)

Aneta Bóldyrew, *Spółczesność Królestwa Polskiego wobec patologii społecznych w latach 1864–1914* [The society of the Kingdom of Poland in the face of social pathologies, 1864–1914], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź, 2016, 367 pp., bibliography

The book's chronology covers the (so-called Congress) Kingdom of Poland with regards to intensive social transformation related to the abolishment of serfdom and intense industrialisation and urbanisation of at least some of its regions. The changes, whose scale was unprecedented, formed the basis for fervent debates and discussions with various social and political ideologies clashing one another. Although the topic abounds with literature, Aneta Bóldyrew's book is an original complementation of the previous research, as it concerns an essential and interesting fragment of the realities of the time, one that has so far been only incidentally studied. The author basically deals with three interrelated aspects, deemed 'pathological': alcoholism; prostitution; and, unwanted homeless children, infanticide and juvenile crime. Discussed are also the endeavours with respect to prophylaxis and social rehabilitation of the affected strata, taken by the administration and charity organisations. Why the author has assumed such a narrow concept of societal pathology – narrower than accepted now and then – is not quite clear. Perhaps she has decided that crime amongst adults, homelessness or beggary have already been studied to a satisfactory degree. In any case, the choice could have been broader, since the book is an extremely reliable and well-founded study. One of its strengths is the diverse and extensive body of sources and records: archival materials of the Kingdom's central administration and of the (Russian Empire's) *guberniya* administration are confronted with press coverage, incl. some 900 articles and notes from a total of seventy-two newspapers or magazines, also with popular-science and medical brochures, plus pieces of journalistic writing and reminiscences, or even interviews made in mid-twentieth century by members of the Faculty of Ethnography, University

of Łódź, with residents of the city who could still remember the time before 1914. As a result – this being a rare and commendable thing – the book presents facts related to the phenomena researched: the ‘pathology’ as such and the attempts to prevent it and alleviate its effects, while also discussing how these phenomena were reflected in the discussions and journalism of the period. This juxtaposition is driven by the underlying questions that were posed at the time but have not been satisfactorily answered until today: namely, the questions concerning the reasons behind societal pathologies, the ways of defining and combating them. (AK)

Kajus Augustyniak (ed.), *Sienkiewicz dzisiaj. Eseje o twórczości autora Trylogii* [Sienkiewicz today. Essays on the work of the author of the Trilogy], Narodowe Centrum Kultury, Warszawa, 2016, 340 pp.

A collection of, quite diverse, twenty-three essays prepared on the occasion of the Sienkiewicz Year (2016 – the novelist’s birth and death anniversary), the book includes studies by outstanding Sienkiewicz scholars (Tadeusz Bujnicki, Jolanta Sztachelska) along with new interpretations of the popular writer’s output (incl. the essays by Dariusz Gawin) and a series of riveting contributions, some of them innovative. Apart from the essays by Ryszard Koziółek and Jan Tomkowski, there are (regrettably) no studies offering a critical insight into the work and heritage of Sienkiewicz – a deficit that is, in fact, part of a more general tendency in Sienkiewicz studies. In spite of its commemorative role, the book, as a whole, is valuable – also in terms of its editorial design. A selective reference literature, indices of persons and novelistic characters as well as Sienkiewicz’s works, are added. Piotr Gliński, a sociologist, presently Minister of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, has authored an introduction. (GK)

Marek Kornat (ed.), *Jan Bloch, pacyfizm europejski i wyobraźnia Wielkiej Wojny. Studia i rozważania* [Jan Bloch, the European pacifism, and the imagination of the Great War. Studies and consideration], Instytut Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2016, 496 pp.

This is a small collection of studies related to Jan Gotlib Bloch (1836–1902), an outstanding figure from the late nineteenth/early twentieth century. Forgotten for almost half a century, Bloch was an entrepreneur who specialised in great infrastructural projects. He was a railroad builder, organiser of the societal life in Polish lands (under partition), his favourite pastime being research activities pursued in the spirit of nineteenth-century positivism.

The book in question comprises papers of a scientific conference held in December 2014 in Warsaw. Introduced by Marek Kornat, the set of texts is divided into two sections – the first containing studies portraying the title character and the formation of his ideological profile (essays by Andrzej Żor, Marek Kornat, Grzegorz P. Bąbiak); the second describing Bloch and his views against the background of the epoch and analogous ideological currents, with particular focus on Germany and France (Dariusz Grzybek, Rafał Dobek, Grzegorz Kucharczyk). The materials collected show a fascinating personality active in the borderland of (broadly defined) economy and science; a devoted and very influential intellectualist. Although two popular biographies of Bloch (by Żor and Ryszard Kołodziejczyk) have already been published, the studies under review are evidence that there are still numerous gaps to be filled as far as the biography of this pretty extraordinary figure is concerned. Altogether, the book is modestly though meticulously edited and published. (GK)

#### INTERWAR PERIOD

Marcin Król (ed. and with an introduction by), *Konserwatyści polscy 1918–1939. Wybór pism* [Polish conservatives, 1918–39. A selection of writings], Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2014, 189 pp., name index, references

The book is the most recent volume published in the series *Genealogia współczesności. Historia idei w Polsce* [The genealogy of contemporaneity. A history of ideas in Poland], as part of which a series of volumes have been published: Zygmunt Krasiński's *Listy polityczne* [Political letters], Florian Znaniecki's *Upadek cywilizacji zachodniej* [The collapse of Western civilisation], Ludwik Gumplowicz's *System socjologii* [A system of sociology], Kazimierz Kelles-Krauz's *Marksizm a socjologia* [Marxism and sociology], Zygmunt Baliński's *Państwo, naród i polityka polska* [The State, nation, and Polish politics], Mieczysław Szerer's *Śmiertelni bogowie. Rzecz o demokracji i dyktaturze* [Mortal gods. On democracy and dictatorship], and an anthology entitled *Kooperatyzm, spółdzielczość, demokracja. Wybór pism* [Cooperatism, cooperative activity, and democracy. A selection of writings]. Apart from recalling the output of Polish authors from the nineteenth and the former half of the twentieth century (who are well known to political thought scholars), or perhaps even a hope for enlivening the debates of today, the purpose behind the series has seemingly been to compile a compendium of use for students who would prefer it compared to the older, not as easy accessible editions. As Marcin Król notices in his vivid and passionate introduction, the anthology offers writings from a period when conservatives actually did not exist as a political formation, or, in any case, their influence was marginal – this very fact making them original

authors, affected by a specific pessimism. A wide use has been made of texts penned, among others, by Adolf Bocheński (1909–44), Stanisław Estreicher (1869–1939), or Jan Bobrzyński (1882–1951). These journalists and scholars sympathised with the Józef Piłsudski camp that ruled in 1926–39 but could not efficiently influence or inform the situation and remained strongly critical toward a number of actions taken by the Government. There were two major issues their writings focused on: the political system (in which aspect they were pretty close to the Piłsudski-ite circle's views) and the geopolitical situation of Poland (in which respect their stance was singular). Why none of Marian Zdziechowski's, or Władysław Studnicki's, writings have been included, remains unclear; the editor discusses both at length in the introductory section, which is generally favourable and, at times, even downright nostalgic in respect of the authors under discussion. This might be so because their views have been singled out and condemned to failure. (AK)

Andrzej Smolarczyk, Wojciech Śleszyński, and Anna Włodarczyk (eds.), *Wychować lojalnych obywateli. Polityka oświatowa państwa polskiego na Polesiu* [Educating the locals into loyal citizens. Poland's educational policy in Polesia], Instytut Historii i Nauk Politycznych Uniwersytetu w Białymstoku, Avalon, Kraków and Białystok, 2016, 167 pp.

Situated in the outskirts of interwar Poland, Polesia [Polish, Polesie] has recently become, along with Volhynia, one of the most earnestly researched regions of the Second Republic. This collection of over thirty documents and testimonies related to the education policies pursued by the Polish authorities offer a good illustration of the evolution that occurred during the two decades of interwar Poland: from the federative ideas, originally fostered by the Civil Board for the Eastern Territories (1919–20), up to the (gradually propagated) incorporation policy, which was strenuously implemented particularly in the last years of the Second Republic. The selection includes sources of official provenance and other testimonies, such as a choice of preserved school essays and letters written by disciples and teachers. Edited by an experienced research team associated with the University of Białystok (who have also penned an introduction), the book offers us an insight into broader societal processes that accompanied the modernisation of state structures, development of the education and school system, demographic changes within the Polish society, and the evolution of the attitudes of individual minority groups. A list of reference publications on the Second Republic's education system is attached, alongside summaries in English and Russian. The book is basically designed for a specialist reader, but anyone interested in the history of interwar Poland will make a good use of it. (GK)

Maria Rostworowska, *Szczerzy artysta: O Karolu Hubercie Rostworowskim* [A sincere artist. A portrait of Karol Hubert Rostworowski], Wydawnictwo Znak, Kraków, 2016, 510 pp.

Carefully compiled, written with a clear empathy for the character in question, though without dodging cumbersome topics, the study is the first comprehensive biography of the Polish playwright and poet Karol Hubert Rostworowski. The study is composed of fifty-six short chapters, with a predominant chronological narrative. The biographical sections are definitely the best, which is not so true for those describing the intellectual profile of the Catholic author who was important especially in the first half of the twentieth century. The author seems to avoid passing her own opinions, usually using instead extensive quotations from other authors. While the reader might find such a cautious approach somewhat irritating, Rostworowska is, admittedly, extremely conscientious in her selection of quotes. The political activity of the artist, particularly his involvement with the nationalistic Great Poland Camp (1926–8), is portrayed less convincingly. Since this is an important caesura in the writer's artistic development, connected with his ideological transformation (before then, he was associated mostly with the Christian Democracy and the *Głos Narodu* daily), the issue would call for more attention. Definitely, a great advantage of the book is its use of domestic archives of the Rostworowski family house (Karol Hubert's three sons – Jan, Marek, and Emanuel were all outstanding figures in Polish twentieth-century culture), along with those kept at the Jagiellonian University. An engaging book, featuring a number of family photographs drawn from the archives. A model edition, and a perfectly redacted book indeed. (GK)

Andrzej Sieroszewski, *Wacława Sieroszewskiego żywot niespokojny* [The turbulent life of Wacław Sieroszewski], ed. by Andrzej Z. Makowiecki, Wydawnictwo Iskry, Warszawa, 2015, 467 pp.

The book is a biography of an important figure in Polish literature and politics of the former half of the twentieth century. Authored by Andrzej Sieroszewski, a valued expert in Hungarian studies and professor with the University of Warsaw, who was, importantly, the novelist's grandson, the book was prepared for a number of years before its author died a sudden death in 2012. The story has been brought to the late 1920s; the present publication is based, to a significant degree, on the manuscript, processed and edited. Of the twenty-four chapters, arranged according to a chronology, the last two ('Under the star-sign of Academy'; 'The last unquiet decade') have in fact been added by Andrzej Z. Makowiecki, a Warsaw University professor specialising in the literary life of the Second Republic of Poland.

The biography places Waclaw Sieroszewski – who was an important figure in the independence-oriented current within the Polish Socialist Party (PPS) – within a more general scheme once proposed by Bohdan Cywiński. The author of *Rodowody niepokornych* [The origins of the disobedient (1971)] has namely offered a classical portrayal of the history of Poland in the second half of the nineteenth century in a generational framework: a somewhat outmoded concept today. The difficulties related with it are unveiled especially in the subsequent sections, where the portrait of Sieroszewski, a writer and an outstanding publicist (using the pseudonym ‘Sirko’), is situated in the context of the period’s literature, while his role in social and political life of the Second Republic is somewhat downgraded. After 1935, Sieroszewski was among the elder generation of independence activists who supported the totalitarian inclinations of the power elite that aimed at a ‘consolidation of the nation’ (Sieroszewski presided the Polish Academy of Literature since 1933). Whereas a fluent narration makes the reading easy, the author has neglected a number of questions which should be related to Sieroszewski. The edition is meticulous, furnished with a helpful calendar, diligently compiled notes and a bibliography. Expertly selected and matched illustrations are definitely a strength of this publication. (GK)

Jerzy Łazor, *Brama na Bliski Wschód. Polsko-palestyńskie stosunki gospodarcze w okresie międzywojennym* [A Gateway to the Middle East: Polish-Palestinian economic relations in the interwar period], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2016, 285 pp., index of persons, bibliog., ill., summary in English; series: Monografie, 115

In 1935, Palestine, a rather small mandate territory of Great Britain, was a major importer of Polish goods outside Europe, second only to the United States. This fact is not so astonishing given that every fourth Jewish dweller of Palestine before the Second World War came from Poland. The book researches the relations between commerce and migration. Based on meticulously collected quantitative data related to various aspects of trade exchange, the author argues that the arrivals of immigrants from Poland positively influenced the bilateral relations: the transactional costs between the country of their origin and the mandate territory were reduced; Polish-Jewish capital was flowing into Palestine, stimulating further exchange; lastly, the immigration enabled Polish investments in the banking sector and transport industry (an airline and two sea transport lines were created, all of them proving profitable). Yet, doing business based on family or social ties did not make the

trade operations much professional. Palestine apparently missed its chance to become a large market for Polish products, though the trade exchange balance was generally positive for the Polish partners. The country on the Jordan River exported oranges to Poland. The monograph does not neglect the cultural bonds between Poland and Palestine. The latter country was en vogue at the time, as the destination for tourists and pilgrims (reports on the Promised Land were penned by a number of Polish writers and journalists, including Janusz Korczak, Zofia Kossak-Szczucka, Maria Kuncewiczowa, Ferdynand Ossendowski, Ksawery Pruszyński, Melchior Wańkowicz, and others). (BK)

Michał Trębacz, *Izrael Lichtenstein. Biografia żydowskiego socjalisty* [Israel Lichtenstein. A biography of a Jewish socialist], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Łódź, 2016, 250 pp.

Based on a rich array of sources, this study by a young Łódź-based historian (based on his PhD thesis, submitted at the University of Łódź in 2015) researches into a figure that has hitherto been almost completely unknown in the political history of twentieth-century Poland. In fact, Lichtenstein occupied a major position among the Jewish community living in the Polish territory. There are five chronologically ordered chapters, whose narrative follows a triple pattern that encompasses: (i) the political biography of the remarkable socialist activist, the leader of the regional Bund in Łódź and the countrywide head of the organisation; (ii) the process and mechanisms of emancipation of Polish Jews; and, (iii) the ideological genealogy of a political experiment based on the (very successful) cooperation between Polish and Jewish socialists in Łódź in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Associated with the local branch of the Institute of National Remembrance (IPN), presently one of the most resilient centres of research in the history of Polish Jewry, Trębacz transparently, and pretty strikingly, shows the controversies that accompanied Bund's ideological evolution in Poland and elsewhere. While the topic is somewhat limited, the reader is rewarded with a comprehensive presentation of diverse original sources of relevance, matter-of-fact argument, and a conscientious discussion with the rich reference literature. The sources used by the author include those from Polish archives, the N.Y.C.-based YIVO and the archives library of the Internationaal Instituut vor Social Geschiedenis in Amsterdam. A reliable bibliography is added, which apart from archival documents contains press pieces and studies in a number of languages. Altogether, the book is a successful means of recalling one of the outstanding 'Jewish street' figures. What it also does is portray a fragment of the process of empowerment of the Jewish community, so far almost completely neglected by Polish historiographers. (GK)

## CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

Adam Sitarek, *'Otoczone drutem państwo'. Struktura i funkcjonowanie administracji żydowskiego getta łódzkiego* [A barbed-wire enclosed state'. The structure and functioning of the administration of the Jewish Ghetto in Łódź], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Łódź, 2015, 340 pp.

A first comprehensive monograph of one of the largest 'Jewish Ghettos' (200,000 inmates, with only 5,000 to 7,000 eventually surviving) in Europe during the Second World War. Four large chapters, respectively, deal with Jewish self-government between the outbreak of the war (1939) and the formation of the Ghetto; the structure of the Jewish administrative apparatus in the Ghetto; the Jewish administration during the Holocaust; and, the Ghetto officials, especially members of the team led by Chaim-Mordechaj Rumkowski, the factual head of the Ghetto, as well as his rivals, Dawid Gertler and Aron Jakubowicz. Adam Sitarek, a scholar affiliated with the University of Łódź's Centre for Jewish Research, a quite resilient unit recently, offers us a holistic picture of the situation in the Litzmannstadt Ghetto, painted with use of extensive and extremely abundant sources, this alone being a sufficient reason for why it deserves being read carefully. A list of acronyms, a list of tables, references, and an index of persons are attached. The book is winner of a *Polityka* weekly's prize for 2015 (as a 'debut-making historical book'). (GK)

Mieczysław Tryczyk, *Miasta śmierci. Sąsiedzkie pogromy Żydów* [The cities of slaughter. Pogroms of Jews committed by neighbours], Wydawnictwo RM, Warszawa, 2015, 500 pp.

Dealing with a dozen-or-so cases of anti-Jewish pogroms of the summer of 1941, this hard-hitting study by a young author is composed of seventeen sections (organised a little chaotically, though). The book opens with an exhaustive essay, entitled 'Nationalism in interwar Poland: sketches on the ideology' but in fact primarily comprised of descriptions of court-trial accounts (so-called August trials) from a dozen localities in north-eastern Poland (Jedwabne, Radziłów, Wąsosz, Szczuczyn, Goniądz, Rajgród, Kolno, Suchowola, Brańsk, Jasonówka, and more). Added is a fragment of Hayim Nahman Bialik's poem *In the City of Slaughter* (Polish, *W mieście pogromu*) and a list of archival material used in the research. The study would deserve careful reading except for the conspicuous technical deficiencies extending to large sections, such as no critical analysis provided of the original sources.

The study is designed basically for experts, the material processed is definitely worth the researchers' attention. (GK)

Lucyna Tych and Andrzej Romanowski, *Tak, jestem córką Jakuba Bermana. Z Lucyną Tychową rozmawia Andrzej Romanowski* [Yes, I am Jakub Berman's daughter. Lucyna Tych talks to Andrzej Romanowski], TAIWPN Universitas, Kraków, 2016, 232 pp.

The book offers an extended interview with Lucyna Tych, daughter of the prominent communist activist Jakub Berman and wife of the outstanding historian Feliks Tych (herself not too well known to the public opinion), conducted by Andrzej Romanowski, a historian affiliated with Polish Academy of Science's Institute of History and the Jagiellonian University. The conversation unfolds around forty 'reference' issues that involve the interviewer and the interviewee, on an almost equal footing, in a deliberation over the vicissitudes of the lives of Mrs. Tych and her relatives, set against the tempestuous historical background of twentieth-century Poland. This book will certainly be an engaging reading for many – all the more that the interviewer, who often assumes a contrary position toward his interlocutor, can trigger in her a considerable portion of offbeat reflection and observations, never falling into condescension, resorting to no aggressive, or moralising, tone. Altogether, the book bears an important witness, and itself contributes, to Poland's twentieth-century intellectual and societal history. Carefully edited, the publication is furnished with a helpful index and a set of unique photographs. (GK)

Bartłomiej Noszczak, *Etos gniewu. Antykomunistyczne organizacje młodzieżowe w Warszawie (1944–1989)* [The ethos of anger. Anti-communist youth organisations in Warsaw, 1944–89], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2015, 894 + 64 pp. (ills.); series: Warszawa nie?pokonana, 11

The spontaneously emerging conspiratorial organisations joined or (co-)originated by young people marked the resistance against the takeover of power in Poland by the communist forces. Based on the political police files, forensic documents, and memoirs, the monograph portrays the phenomenon of youth opposition – based on several dozen examples from Warsaw alone – across the communist period (1944–89). Most groups of this sort emerged after 1956. The book describes their origins, structure, political purposes and objectives, methods and effects of their activity. Such organisations were mostly founded

by boys aged sixteen to eighteen, most of whom were secondary (including grammar) school students, some attended vocational schools. Before 1956, many of those young men were of working-class background; from the 1960s onwards, conspirers from intelligentsia families tended to prevail. The largest organisations numbered several dozen members before 1956; in 1956–80, none was larger than a dozen-or-so people. Ephemeral character was characteristic of this form of conspiracy (only one group was active for as long as 1.5 years), as was not-too-well-grounded programme-related thought (hoping for a third world war to happen), ill-preparedness for the possible giveaway (getting caught and subjected to severe investigation). The forms of activity did not change remarkably over the years (distribution of leaflets, painting slogans on walls – such as ‘We’ll avenge Katyń!’, etc.), minor sabotage, destruction of communist symbols (red flags, monuments), listening to Western radio stations. In the Stalinist years, some organisations carried out ‘military training’ and tried to acquire firearms (with the resulting incidents of shooting a militiaman). It was only after 1980 that conspirers gained the possibility to publish their own ‘underground’ magazines, and boast organisations of, in some cases, several hundred active members (one example being the *Federacja Młodzieży Walczącej* [Fighting Youth Federation]). Before 1954, the repression apparatus imposed severe punishments on the conspirers (a total of 209 were sentenced to absolute imprisonment, with ten years’ term in some cases; with the Thaw, only deferred sentences were adjudicated). The book reviewed is, partly, a compendium – a sort of dictionary of the youth opposition, introducing into academic circulation some before-unknown individuals while also enabling to assess the phenomenon in question in *longue durée* terms – as a heritage of Polish Underground State and the Home Army tradition (dating to the Second World War and the German occupation), showing generational changeability but also permanence of anticommunist attitudes. According to the author’s estimate, the conspiracy, described in such terms, was joined by around one thousand young people over the period researched. (BK)

Robert Żurek, *Kościół rzymskokatolicki w Polsce wobec Ziem Zachodnich i Północnych 1945–1948* [The Roman Catholic Church in Poland confronts the Western-and-Northern Territory, 1945–8], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Szczecin, Warszawa, and Wrocław, 2015, 614 pp., index of persons, bibliog.

The Polish Catholic Church’s attitude toward its German counterpart in the territories annexed to Poland based on the Potsdam treaty (1945) forms one of the toughest chapters in twentieth century Polish-German relations.

The author's intention has been to verify the opinion, popular among German historiographers, that Polish Catholic Church began neglecting and discriminating the German Catholic believers since 1945, and ruthlessly Polonised the areas attached to Poland (most of the German dwellers left the land by the end of 1947; yet, the German dioceses were abolished only in 1972). The author's focus is the actions and attitudes of Polish Catholic ecclesial hierarchy (incl. August Cardinal Hlond, the Primate – a figure disliked by German historians – and the apostolic administrators appointed by him in 1945) and secular Catholics. Żurek argues that the Primate, whose inclination was definitely nationalistic, perceived Polonisation of the Church structures as the only way for the Church to become able to operate in the Western-and-Northern Territory (also called the Recovered Territories), since Polish communists were not quite interested in sustaining it (criticising the Pope for his 'pro-German' bias, they expected the Polish Church to assume an unambiguously national stance). The ecclesial administrators, it is argued, would not support the State's displacement policy; the Rev. Bolesław Kominek, the administrator for Lower Silesia, went as far as protecting the local Germans. In general, Polish hierarchs avoided ethnic, or nationalistic confrontation, although it is quite clear that shortly after the war national antagonisms were not easy to fade out or eliminate, owing to the memory of the wrongs suffered. The book, strongly polemical against the German historiography, shows how vibrant Polish-German stereotypes are, even in the field of historical sciences. (BK)

Ewelina Szpak, *'Chory człowiek jest wtedy, jak coś go boli'. Społeczno-kulturowa historia zdrowia i choroby na wsi polskiej po 1945 r.* [A man is sick when he is in pain'. A socio-cultural history of health and illness in the Polish countryside after 1945], Instytut Historii PAN, Warszawa, 2016, 341 pp., bibliog., ill., summary in English

Until the end of 1971, the State free-of-charge healthcare system did not extend to Polish individual farmers, who formed a majority in the country's rural areas – the exception being infants and children, not to mention the staff of State-owned collective farms (the PGRs). Regular farmers had even to pay for treatment of tuberculosis (till 1958). The ideological discrimination practiced by the State was not the only reason for the inferior health condition experienced in the rural areas. Their dwellers, as the author argues, had a different idea about health and illness: they did not understand that sicknesses can and should be prevented, considering a morbidity, in some cases, to be a punishment from God (a 'verdict of destiny') rather than a consequence of lifestyle misconduct. Rural populace tended to recognise

pain as the most convincing symptom of illness. The author's attempt was to describe the institutional as well as mental aspects of the functioning of the healthcare system in the countryside, including healthcare outlets, birthing rooms, the activities of quack-doctors and barber-surgeons, personal hygiene habits, mass catering institutions (canteens at PGRs), attitude toward preventive vaccination, gradual disappearance of herbal medicine, and spread of pharmacotherapy. Sanitary education, promoted by the State, gradually changed the traditional methods of infant care and even culinary habits prevalent among rural women. The author has used archival materials, sociological reports, and results of ethnographic research. Three selected regions are described in more detail, including West Pomerania, Cracow Voivodeship, and Lublin Land – based on the author's interviews with former rural doctors, paramedics, and patients. One chapter describes the countryside dwellers' attitude to tuberculosis, cancer, physical as well as mental disabilities, with a focus on stigmatisation phenomena suffered by the affected from their rural neighbours. All in all, the book can be regarded as an introduction to a not-quite-well-researched topic in the area of social history. (BK)

Jan Strzelecki, *Żywe konflikty. Wybór pism* [Living conflicts. A selection of writings], ed. by Kamil Piskała, with an introduction by Andrzej Mencwel, Wydawnictwo Krytyki Politycznej, Warszawa, 2015, 630 pp.

Jan Strzelecki (1919–88) was a unique figure among Polish (resident, non-emigrant) left-oriented intellectuals. A philosopher, sociologist, and essayist, he was member of the Polish Socialist Party (PPS; to 1948) and thereafter, for thirty years, the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR). At the same time, he was an expert in Catholic personalism (though he considered himself an agnostic), and a critic of Marxism in its Leninist/Stalinist version. Strzelecki joined the dissident circles of 'Democratic Opposition' in 1976, and became an advisor to the 'Solidarity' labour union. The edition under review contains the texts he penned between 1938 and 1988 – including some of his major, often reprinted essays (on the 'theses on socialist humanism', 1946; a journal of personal readings from the Stalinist period; the 1971 essay *Próby świadectwa* – on the conspiratorial experience under German occupation), alongside completely unknown ones (such as reportages published in *Orkana Ugorze*, a pre-war young leftists' periodical). The anthology is organised into four sections: the first comprising agenda statements and political essays from the Second World War period and the author's PPS membership years; the second, testimonies of his own time – the author's personal wrestling with the Nazi and communist ideologies, evidence of his search for spiritual freedom; the third, essays on thinkers Strzelecki considered important

(Erich Fromm, Antonio Gramsci, Jean Jaurès, Emmanuel Mounier, Stanisław Ossowski); lastly, the fourth section is composed of miscellaneous texts (e.g. interviews with Strzelecki from the 1980–1 ‘Solidarity’ period). The first such voluminous and critical edition of Jan Strzelecki’s output, the edition is furnished with an extensive bibliography of the author’s publications and a best-ever-written introduction to the world of thoughts of this ‘confirmed socialist’ (as he was wont to describe himself). (BK)

Piotr Grzelczak, *Poznański Czerwiec 1956. Walka o pamięć w latach 1956–1989* [The Poznań June of 1956. A struggle for memory: 1956 to 1989], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Wydawnictwo Nauka i Innowacje, Poznań, 2016, 582 pp., index of persons, bibliog., summary in English, ill.; series: Centrum ‘Instytut Wielkopolski’, 6

The study’s focus is on the post-history of the 28 June 1956 strike (and the revolt) of the inhabitants, which means the conflict seen through its assessment, interpretation, and commemoration. The author shows how the ‘Poznań June’ was promoted as a historical event of a countrywide rank. Between June and October 1956, the Stalinist interpretation of the strike prevailed, depicting the occurrence as having resulted from a provocation instigated by imperialist agents. This narration was abandoned in the autumn of 1956, to which the trials of the participants and their defence attorneys’ speeches broadcasted on the radio heavily contributed. Władysław Gomułka regarded the strike action as a legitimate protest of the working class. In 1957, the first anniversary of the occurrence was officially celebrated, in the same spirit. However, the subsequent official commemoration of the revolt came only in 1981. Grzelczak describes the few grassroots commemorating initiatives, suppressed by the ruling party and the political police, along with some unofficial methods of sustaining the memory of the event cultivated by the residents of Poznań and Greater Poland (based on variety of documents: personal materials, letters, leaflets, occasional poetry). Over the years, the State fought those who were the ‘media of memory’ about the workers’ strike, having them laid off and/or inspected by the Security Service (SB). The censorship authority eliminated any references, allusions or mentions of the June 1956 events in the public space. The ‘Democratic Opposition’ dissidents officially referred to them since 1976 (a holy mass was celebrated on the twentieth anniversary – in Warsaw, not in Poznań; occasional articles were published in censor-independent press). The memory of ‘Poznań June’ became public domain during the ‘Solidarity’ period, 1980–1. The inde-

pendent labour union's efforts made the unveiling of a Poznań '56 victims monument possible. The eighties saw the authorities resume the 'policy of oblivion', consisting in ignoring and denying the events in question; however, the scale and strength of the conceptualised public memory – the independent political and historical interpretations of the rebellion – was already overwhelming. (BK)

Przemysław Gasztold-Seń, Natalia Jarska, and Jan Olszsek (eds.), *Drugi obieg w PRL na tle samizdatu w państwach bloku sowieckiego po 1956 roku* [The 'second circulation' in communist Poland, viewed in the context of samizdat in Soviet Bloc countries after 1956], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2016, 614 pp., index of persons, summaries in English, bibliog.

This voluminous book, compiled as a result of an international conference, contains texts by twenty-six (incl. eighteen Polish) authors and summarises the achievements of Polish historiographers in the research of the so-called 'second publishing circulation', also pointing to a potential for further comparative studies, the potential objects being opposition/dissident milieus or even countries. The 'second circulation' (Polish, *drugi obieg*), meaning duplication of periodicals and books outside the State censorship system, came to its peak in Poland after 1976, with the then-advanced technologies used for the purpose. Other Soviet Bloc countries knew, mostly, the so-called samizdat – with texts rewritten using typewriters, in a (very) limited number of copies. The book has a few sections. 'Interpretations' includes studies on the 'second circulation' in light of a sociological theory of social movements (Adam Mielczarek); in the context of the 'underground' (illegal) book and press market (Mateusz Fałkowski); uncensored book publications as an element of political and ideological identity of the opposition community (Natalia Jarska, Jan Olszsek). The second section, 'Monographic and synthetic studies', proves extremely interesting and valuable; it comprises concise articles concerning, inter alia, the two conspiratorial magazines issued by the Polish 'Ruch' organisation in 1969–70 (Piotr Byszewski); the Workers' Defence Committee's (KOR) *Biuletyn Informacyjny* ('Information bulletin') (Andrzej Friszke); illegal prints of the dogmatic current within the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR) (Przemysław Gasztold-Seń). The latter publications were political in nature: their authors attacked some members of the communist party's authorities, accusing them of submissiveness to the opposition and/or Jews, criticising the retreat from a 'genuine communism', etc. The section entitled 'Actions of the political police' offers (among others) articles on the methods of fighting the independent publishing movement

by the Polish Security Service (SB) (Grzegorz Waligóra, Grzegorz Wołk). The methods of combating, infiltration, repression, and disinformation yielded limited effects: the phenomenon was too common and extensively present for the SB to be able to control it. The contributors to the last section, 'The West and the emigration' (Patrik Pleskot, Benjamin B. Fischer, and others) have embarked on evaluating the scale of assistance offered by the United States to 'Solidarity' in general and the 'second circulation' in particular. (BK)

Maciej Krzywosz, *Cuda w Polsce Ludowej. Studium przypadku prywatnego objawienia maryjnego w Zabłudowie* [Miracles in communist Poland. A private Marian revelation in Zabłudów – a case study], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Białystok, 2016, 477 pp., ill., indices, bibliog.

In May 1965, Jadwiga Jakubowska, a fourteen-year-old from the Podlasie village of Zabłudów (this small locality officially enjoyed a municipal status) saw Our Lady appearing in a meadow. This private revelation soon became shared property of all those who willed to believe. The news quickly circulated around, closer and further; pilgrims and gawkers began visiting the Mariophany site. A fortnight later, in the face of the coming parliamentary election, the local authorities resolved to 'reinstate the normality' and forcefully disperse the crowd praying amidst the meadow. The Motorised Reserves of Civil Militia (ZOMO) troops used as the task force had to recede against the large group of believers, after a short 'battle'. In the aftermath of this failure, the authorities applied different methods to restrict the traffic of people, including sanitary quarantine (under the pretext of alleged epidemic, the young visionary and her family were discredited). The dramatic events in Zabłudów are described in the study in the context of other miraculous phenomena in post-war Poland. The related actions taken by the public administration (and the repression apparatus) are discussed, as is the attitude of the Catholic and Orthodox Churches with respect to the (unacknowledged) revelations, and the conflicts incited by the Mariophany phenomena in a local community. The study under discussion discovers a marginal but extremely interesting current in Polish folk religiosity, and is a good example of benefits implied by interdisciplinary (anthropological/sociological) approach to the subject-matter, supported by field research (interviews with the locals). (BK)

Grzegorz Gąsior, *Praska Wiosna w Bratysławie. Kierownictwo Komunistycznej Partii Słowacji w okresie próby reformy systemu*

*politycznego w Czechosłowacji w latach 1968–1969* [The Prague Spring in Bratislava. The leadership of the Communist Party of Slovakia during the attempted reform of the Czechoslovak political system, 1968–9], Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2015, 339 pp., bibliog., index of persons

This is the first Polish publication that comprehensively attempts at describing the political change that took place within the Communist Party of Slovakia within the Prague Spring period (the Slovak national historiography would willingly use the phrase ‘Czech and Slovak Spring’), the Warsaw Pact military intervention in August 1968 and the ‘normalisation’ based on rejecting the Spring’s achievements (civil liberties, institutional change in the State). The first chapter excellently depicts the social and economic specificity of the Slovak part of Czechoslovakia and the ensuing political determinants, including a weaker democratic spirit compared to the Czech area, stricter authoritarianism, stronger attachment to the Catholic and Protestant Churches as the bulwarks of the national spirit, and a (facts-based) sense of impairment compared to Bohemia. This makes it easier to understand the society’s satisfaction with the federalisation of Czechoslovakia in October 1968. Gąsior’s argument is, traditionally, focused on the mechanics of strives among top authorities, within the communist party – i.e., what the leading figures in the Slovak politics (Vasil Biľak, Gustáv Husák, Jozef Lenárt, and others) did at the time; the relationships between the Churches and the State authority and the ethnic tensions between Slovaks and Hungarians are by no means neglected, though. (BK)

Radosław Domke, *Przemiany społeczne w Polsce w latach 70. XX wieku* [Social changes in Poland in the 1970s], Oficyna Wydawnicza Uniwersytetu Zielonogórskiego, Zielona Góra, 2016, 430 pp., indices, bibliog., ill.

The political history of Poland in the 1970s decade has been researched in more detail than the period’s social history. Radosław Domke now tries to do something about this disproportion. He has set quite ambitious goals for himself, drawing a broad perspective to depict social changes taking place in the main social and professional strata: workers, farmers, and the intelligentsia. His focus is on civilisation advancement, the scale of migrations from rural to urban areas, and the scope of the country’s urbanisation. Much focus is placed on modernisation of the mores, change in the model of the family (departure from the conservative pattern of man as the head of family; popularisation of professional career for women, including wives

and mothers). As the author argues, in the seventies we had to do with a civilisational leap forward in material terms (one example being the spread of motorisation: at the end of the period concerned, every fourth Polish family had a car). The unprecedentedly wide opening to the world (through intensified tourist exchange, particularly with the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia; a generally increased social mobility) also implied a positive change. The nation's educational level increased; however, the morals and mores remained as before, whereas laicisation, in its version promoted by the State during the Władysław Gomułka decade, came to a halt. The seventies' decade, the author concludes, saw the emergence (or, perhaps, strengthening) of a socialist middle class, which partly overlapped with the power-wielding elite. In spite of the official ideology of unity and equality, the social groups were antagonistically disposed toward one another (unequal access to increasingly scarce goods was mainly responsible for the differences), which eventually contributed to the eruption of social conflict in August 1980. The author has used not only archival sources and numerous sociological studies but also cultural texts from the period concerned (literary works, cinematography, daily press). As a result, the study zooms in on a variety of social phenomena, which is definitely its strong point, even though some of them are approached rather superficially. (BK)

Artur Kubaj (selected, edited, and with an introduction by), *Szczecińskie posiedzenie KKP NSZZ 'Solidarność', 18–19 listopada 1980 r.* [The Szczecin Meeting of KKP 'Solidarity', 18–19 November 1980], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Szczecin, 2016, 301 pp., index of persons, bibliog., annex (ills.)

Szczecin became one of the three large 'epicentres' in the strike wave that shook the country in August 1980; the city moreover had a great symbolic significance as the scene of the powerful workers' protest in December 1970/January 1971. A dissonance between Gdańsk and Szczecin first sparked in September 1980, since Szczecin had signed an understanding with the Government negotiators one day ahead, thus breaking the solidarity with the Gdańsk strike committee. The Szczecin strike action leader Marian Jurczyk rivalled against Lech Wałęsa of Gdańsk. A working meeting of the 'Solidarity's' top authority, the National Coordinating Committee [Krajowa Komisja Porozumiewawcza (KKP)], held 18–19 November 1980 in Szczecin was meant to reinforce the union's unity. The book comprises seventeen documents related to the meeting, which (expectedly) include resolutions postulating salary rises and the like and, moreover, a stenographic record of the Committee's deliberations and a record of an interesting meeting of Wałęsa and

other ‘Solidarity’ activists with thousands of inhabitants of Szczecin, at the City Stadium. The book shows the historical social movement *in statu nascendi*, with the associated local conflicts, the horizon of endeavours of the trade union’s activists and their advisors (Jacek Kuroń, and others); its editorial elaboration is excellent (‘Solidarity’s’ original documents are confronted with those produced by the political police – the forces that combated ‘Solidarity’). A set of previously not-widely-known photographs documenting public meetings attended by Wałęsa is a valuable addendum. (BK)

Grzegorz Majchrzak, *‘Solidarność’ na celowniku. Wybrane operacje SB przeciwko związkowi i jego działaczom* [‘Solidarity’ in the crosshairs. Selected operations of the Security Service against the union and its activists], Zysk i S-ka, Poznań, 2016, 309 pp., bibliog.

Grzegorz Majchrzak is one of the most hardworking and persistent researchers specialising in the combating of ‘Solidarity’ Independent Self-governing Trade Union by the communist authorities between 1980 and 1989. His focus is on the organisation not as a mass-scale social or public movement but as the target of the political police – the Security Service (SB) – whose activity included secret operations, repressive measures, provocations, and disinformation. As is shown by the collection of twenty-one essays under review, this peculiar perspective implies considerable cognitive qualities. It is with cautiousness and distance that the author describes some of the famous operations pursued by secret services against the union’s activists, verifying, in parallel, a number of related myths or half-truths. The author’s scope of observation includes the ‘Solidarity’ convention in autumn 1981; the suppression of the strike of cadets at Warsaw’s Fire Fighters Training College; an in-camera meeting of the union’s leaders recorded by a secret collaborator of the Security Service (Radom, December 1981); the several years’ search for Zbigniew Bujak, the leader of the union’s Region of Masovia; attempts to form a neo-‘Solidarity’ by the communist authorities; and, various ventures undertaken by the propaganda apparatus to discredit Lech Wałęsa in the public opinion. The author’s critical reading of the documents has helped reinstate, for historiographic use, an image of the unique trade union that resisted yielding to the authorities’ control and preserved independence, not losing its authentic character over the several years of functioning in conspiratorial conditions, preserving its ability to mobilise followers and its own symbolic value. (BK)

Andrzej Boboli, *'Przewodnia siła stolicy'. Komitet Warszawski Polskiej Zjednoczonej Partii Robotniczej 1975–1990* ['The capital city's guiding force': The Warsaw Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, 1975–90], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa 2016, 400 pp., index of persons, bibliog., summary in English; series: Monografie, 118

The Warsaw Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR) operated in the shadow of the party's Central Committee but remained closer to Poland's centre of power than any of the provincial (voivodeship-level) Committees. This ambivalence, the Warsaw organisation's weakness and strength, is excellently depicted in the monograph, which proposes not only an analysis of the functioning of the Party's instances at the voivodeship level – considering its numerical force (reinforced by a number of cultural and scientific workers), internal structure, and personal cast – along with a portrait of the city under PZPR's, not always successful, management. The Warsaw Committee's responsibilities overlapped with those of the local administration, usually with the decisive say on the part of the former. The book's type of narration is traditional – strictly chronological, with a focus on political history, but the documents confronted with the witnesses' accounts collected by the author have produced an interesting cognitive effect, showing a large instance of the ruling communist party in a dynamic perspective – from its flourish in Edward Gierek's time (200,000 members as of spring 1980) to a decline following the Round Table arrangements. The author skilfully portrays the everyday reality of *the Comrades'* rule over the capital city, alongside crisis (the extremely severe 'winter of the century', 1978–9; the emergence of 'Solidarity', 1980). In-depth portraits of the most important First Secretaries of the Warsaw PZPR organisation: Józef Kępa, Alojzy Karkoszka, Stanisław Kociołek, and others, appear interesting. We can learn a lot about the lifestyle of the Party's elite, their privileges – material and nonmaterial (in-kind), emoluments, and career paths that have led them to the capital city-based Committee. Discussed are also the strategies of leaving the organisation under the new political system, in 1989–90. (BK)