

SHORT NOTES*

Acta Poloniae Historica

112, 2015

PL ISSN 0001-6892

GENERAL WORKS

Danuta Quirini-Popławska and Łukasz Burkiewicz (eds.), *Itinera clericorum: kulturotwórcze i religijne aspekty podróży duchownych* [*Itinera clericorum: Culture-making and religious aspects of travel of the clergy*], Wydawnictwo WAM, Kraków, 2014, 728 pp.

Composed of a scholarly conference's papers, this volume offers essays on travels made by clergymen, from the Antiquity until World War I. The editors have chosen this particular area of research due to scarcity of studies on travels of ecclesiastics. While there are studies on laymen's travel, this book (and those potentially to follow, inspired by it) can contribute to filling the gap. The book contains thirty-six essays, written mainly in Polish (except for three in Italian), with a brief English summary following each of them. There is, however, no index, or notes on the authors, attached. The essays are chronologically ordered, the first two focusing on Antiquity, six on the Middle Ages, eighteen on the broadly-defined modern period, and the remaining on the nineteenth and early twentieth century; many of them are set at the turns of the periods. The authors, among whom historians contribute along with historians of art or scholars of cultural studies, investigate a variety of issues. The diversity of subjects and geographies is impressive, spanning between Polish provincial areas and China and Japan. However, it is not certain in each case why an essay has been included, for there are instances of only a vague relation with travel. Moreover, as the notion of 'travel' remains unspecified, essays on Christianisation missions, voyages with an educative purpose, convict exiles or images of remote lands described by authors who have never travelled as far as there – all coincide within the volume. (AG)

Jan Swianiewicz, *Możliwość makrohistorii. Braudel, Wallerstein, Deleuze* [The possibility of macrohistory: Braudel, Wallerstein, Deleuze], Wydawnictwo Fundacja na Rzecz Nauki Polskiej, Toruń and Warszawa, 2014, 480 pp., bibliog., index of persons, summary in English

Jan Swianiewicz's book is an impressively erudite attempt to marry philosophical epistemology and history – not the first and certainly not the last, but

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

made at a time that seems wary of such endeavours (which would explain the ‘possibility’ in the title). For the author, ‘macrohistory’ is another incarnation of a ‘philosophical history’ or a philosophy of history; in other words, it is a science of history capable of formulating general claims, a science in the full sense of the term. The book is primarily concerned with an analysis of three fundamental works: *Capitalism and Material Life* by Fernand Braudel (1967), *The Modern World-System* by Immanuel Wallerstein (1974), and *Capitalism and Schizophrenia* by Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari (1972). Yet, what precedes this analysis is an introduction (seven chapters) worthy of a true historian, in which the author assesses the viability of general propositions (theories) put forward by historians from ancient Greece (mainly Thucydides), through Enlightenment (Giambattista Vico, Voltaire) and the nineteenth century (Hegel, Marx), up until the French *Annales* school of the first half of the twentieth century. In his analysis of Braudel, Wallerstein, and Deleuze, the author focuses on their understanding of capitalism as a ‘currently dominant macrohistorical category’, a term extending beyond economy and economic history and suitable as a description of the entire modern society and its manner of functioning. The author seems to favour the interpretation offered by Deleuze, which posits capitalism as the result of a series of coincidences. This accounts for its lengthy and ‘laboured’ birth, necessary for our perspective on the past, which defines the last four hundred years as a period of ‘accumulation’ of ever new aspects of the rising global capitalist world; such is the only means of imagining the past as linear progress. The author concludes that only thus conceived can capitalism be ‘the condition of contemporary macrohistorical reflection’. (AK)

Władysław Zajewski, *Czy historycy piszą prawdę?* [Do historians tell us the truth?], Wydawnictwo Arcana, Kraków, 2015, 332 pp.

This collection of articles and minor texts penned by an outstanding Polish expert in the first half of the nineteenth century is composed of two main sections – the first containing articles and treatises focusing on various aspects of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, including the already-renowned sketches on the Confederacy of Bar, General Józef Wybicki (Zajewski being his most eminent biographer) and the title essay. The other section offers lesser texts, mainly discussions and reviews of a dozen-or-so books. The author represents a rather conservative methodological approach, introducing the volume’s content with an elegant (though with a sarcastic tint) polemic with the allegedly dominant currents in present-day culture. Leaving aside what the author may mean by ‘postmodern(ism)’, it becomes quite apparent that, with the way he describes these trends, he creates

a 'fitting' enemy for himself and then avidly spars with the phantom; this means that, not really trivialising or downplaying certain cultural tendencies, Zajewski produces a caricatural picture of them. In spite of this, the book makes a pleasant piece of reading, and young entrants of Clío's school will not be the only ones to find in it an array of useful technical giveaways from an experienced research scholar. (GK)

Błażej Brzostek, *Paryże innej Europy. Warszawa i Bukareszt, XIX i XX wiek* ['Little Parises' of another Europe. Warsaw and Bucharest, nineteenth and twentieth century], WAB, Warszawa, 2015, 509 pp., bibliog., index of persons, ills.

This erudite historical essay of the two cities as perceived by their dwellers and aliens, in a *longue durée* perspective, from the early nineteenth century to our day, unfolds its argument around a few metaphors once in common use with respect to Warsaw and Bucharest. Apart from the proud metaphor of 'small Paris', the descriptions 'small New York' and, clearly depreciative, 'small Moscow' were used. Brzostek makes extensive use of memoirist and travel literature in several languages, building thereupon a picture of national (self-)stereotypes (the longings and complexes of Polish and Romanian cultural elites and their unfulfilled ambitions to modernise the country/city, as varying over time), and of the fluctuating borders of civilisations. The narrative is illustrated with numerous photographs of both metropolises. (BK)

MIDDLE AGES

Oddr Snorrason, *Saga o Olafie Tryggvasonie* [The Saga of Olaf Tryggvason], trans. and with an introduction by Anna Waśko, Księgarnia Akademicka, Kraków, 2013, 171 pp.

Anna Waśko of the Jagiellonian University presented ten years ago her translation of two sagas on the discovery of Greenland and America by the Vikings (in a volume entitled *Saga o Grenlandczykach. Saga o Eryku Rudym. Wikingowie na Grenlandii i w Ameryce* [Kraków, 2006]). Her most recent translation has now followed: the Polish reader receives a mother-tongue version of one of the oldest royal sagas, the Olaf Tryggvason Saga, written down by Oddr Snorrason. The core text is furnished with subject notes and preceded by an introduction that familiarises the reader, in a concise and accessible manner, with the complex source studies-related issues. The translation and the commentaries have, altogether, been compiled in a capable manner – both in

terms of the language and style and the author's expertise in the literature. The book offers, let us note, the first-ever Polish translation of a text of the *konungasögur* genre. (RR)

Sławomir Gawlas *et al.* (eds.), *Ecclesia, regnum, fontes: studia z dziejów średniowiecza* [*Ecclesia, regnum, fontes: Studies on aspects of the medieval history*], Instytut Historyczny Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych, Instytut Historii Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Muzeum Historii Polski, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2014, 774 pp.

In this anniversary festschrift for Professor Maria Koczerska, the *tabula gratulatoria* is followed by a concise portrait of this deserving scholar, a bibliography of her publications (1968–2013) and a list of M.A. and Ph.D. theses she has tutored. Not fully matching with the title, perhaps, the volume comprises five subject sections. Investigated are, consecutively, issues related to the Church and 'lay rule' (as a broad concept: an essay on Władysław I the Short's devotion is included, for instance), 'source texts', society, and, lastly, Cardinal Zbigniew Oleśnicki, Jan Długosz, and their circle. All but three of the texts are written in Polish (exceptions are in Czech and French). There are no index or author notes attached. The group of contributors is sizeable (as many as sixty-four), and their selection deserves attention. Most of them are researchers of renown and experience, and this celebratory publication may quite well summarise their achievements and point to further research. The dominant subject-matter is, overall, Poland in the late Middle Ages; essays on missionary activities in the early medieval period, Michael VIII Palaiologos, and other topics, are moreover included. The volume comprises also source-editions of some short texts. (AG)

Antoni Gąsiorowski and Grażyna Rutkowska (eds.), *Memoria viva: studia historyczne poświęcone pamięci Izabeli Skierskiej (1967–2014)* [*Memoria viva: Historical studies in the memory of Izabela Skierska*], Instytut Historii Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Poznań and Warszawa, 2015, 917 pp.

This book, a memorial publication to the late Professor Izabela Skierska (deceased in April 2014), opens with an exhaustive introduction describing the person, her output and achievements, penned by Antoni Gąsiorowski,

her tutor of many years, and reminiscences by her associates and scholar friends, plus a bibliography of Skierska's publications and a concise profile of her research. There are fifty-nine essays in the volume, written mostly in Polish and chronologically arranged. While the authors were not limited as to subject-matter, their contributions were generally expected to be focused around the areas of Skierska's interest as a scholar. An extreme diversity of topics and approaches has thus been produced, the period from the high Middle Ages to the sixteenth century being covered in the greatest detail. The essays touch upon subjects as various as *tabernas* (inns) and drinking intemperance in Duke Břetislav's statutes, the economic role of the Rudawa River, or the holy day as per the rural law until the late eighteenth century. Encyclopaedic texts or review commentaries are also included. (AG)

Krystian Chrzan and Sławomir Moździoch (eds.), *O rzecze i wodzie w życiu codziennym człowieka średniowiecza* [The river and the water in everyday life of the medieval man], Wydawnictwo Instytutu Archeologii i Etnologii Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Wrocław, 2015, 168 pp., bibliog., ill.

The volume publishes papers delivered in the course of the eighth edition of the Bytom Encounters. In line with the pattern of this cyclic event, papers are presented by archaeologists and historians detailing the outcomes of research activities taken from different standpoints. This time, the authors have dealt with aspects of rivers and waters. The essays largely show the archaeological perspective; out of the ten articles, only two may be deemed to be written from a historiographical viewpoint (this having not prevented some archaeologically-inclined authors from launching into areas normally visited by historians). The texts are brief and concise. There is no index attached. The footnotes are not uniformed: archaeologists apply the Harvard Referencing System whilst historians use the one traditionally accepted for historiography. As far as the topics covered and approaches represented, a very traditional perception of the object of study is predominant. Hence an enumeration of the roles of river for the medieval man (essay by Wojciech Mrozowicz), along with a discussion of objects found in rivers. (AG)

Marcin H. Gapski, *Koń w kulturze polskiego średniowiecza: wierzchowce na ścieżkach wyobraźni* [The horse in Polish medieval culture: saddle-horses on the paths of imagination], Wydawnictwo Nauka i Innowacje, Poznań, 2014, 184 pp., bibliog., ill., summary in English

The author of this concise book seeks to show the ways in which the animal was presented by Slavs in their pagan days and afterwards, when christened. The role of horse in the pagan religion, in the lives of the saints and in exempla is described: in the latter two cases, horse appears as a symbolic animal with a specific cultural role attributed to it. Further on, Gapski adds his remarks on the role of horse in ruler's rituals: Christian concepts are blended there with pagan ones. The last two chapters describe the role of horse in the customs and entertainments of knights and an extensive view of the social roles of horse, including attestation to wealth, plus aspects of taboo around horseflesh consumption, present in Poland till this day. Remarks regarding the role of horse in heraldry are made as well. The author has mainly used sources from the area of Poland or its adjacent countries, always with some reference to Polish realities. While he can discern the Indo-European roots of the cultural image of horse, he has not used the potential of comparative study of the issue. It would perhaps be legitimate to have doubts about the author's fascination and admiration for horses. However, there is no doubt that Gapski helps one reinforce the otherwise well-established conviction that the cultural significance and importance of the horse has been enormous in Poland. This is true already for the pagan period (a prophetic role of horse). Images of horse reappear in relics of material culture (statuettes, seals, illuminated manuscripts). (AG)

Mariusz Bartnicki, *Władca i poddani w historiografii ruskiej XI–XIII wieku* [The ruler and the subjects in Ruthenian historiography of the eleventh to thirteenth century], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin, 2015, 344 pp., bibliog.

These considerations on the image of the ruler and on the ruler/subjects relationship in Ruthenian historiography begin (owing to the extant sources and their character) with the eleventh century and end with the political and social change related to the Mongolian invasion and its further consequences. Since it is problematic to strictly determine the groups of subjects, an integral approach is proposed, without detailing the elite (probably, the main addressee of the created image or concept of ruler). Rather than telling us what things were

like, this study focuses on the ways in which the chroniclers and, to an extent, authors of other Ruthenian sources, constructed the images and a universe described. With references to local traditions, the importance and role of the ideology of power drawn from Byzantium (or, an imagination of such ideology) is described. Let us remark that the author does not approach the *latopis* descriptions as an autonomous construction but tries instead to discuss, on their basis, here or there, the 'real' activities of the rulers as well as changes in the relationships between them and their subjects. The book has three chapters, each touching upon the main elements of the construction of the image of ruler and ruler/subjects relationship. Each chapter has several sections, some including subsections as well. The first chapter deals with legitimacy of power – an issue that is investigated from multiple viewpoints, starting from the dynastic tradition, through to descriptions of the forms of appointment of the ruler, ending with the method of presenting the role of the subjects upon the inauguration of the authority. Chapter two refers to the image of good ruler, mainly based on 'posthumous panegyrics'. Portrayed are the first Christian rulers, and Alexander Nevsky. The final chapter describes the extraordinary situation of conflict between the ruler and his subjects. The issues touched upon are quite extensive – from the ruler's sins, to attempts at mediating and description of the mechanics of the conflict. (AG)

Zbigniew Dalewski (ed.), *Granica wschodnia cywilizacji zachodniej w średniowieczu* [The eastern frontier of the Western civilisation in the Middle Ages], Instytut Historii Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Warszawa, 2014, 491 pp., index of persons

The book collects nine long essays (roughly fifty pages each) that attempt to delineate the cultural and civilisational frontier between the East and the West. As is remarked in the introduction, the point of departure is Oskar Halecki's and Francis Dvornik's remarks and considerations on East Central (Central-and-Eastern) Europe and the attempts to determine the space between Germany and Russia: a region – described as the 'borderland' or 'boundary' of the Western civilisation – that has remained under strong influence of the East. As Zbigniew Dalewski notices, modern research on the character of the region as an area of cultural borders is scarce. Pointing to the related studies covering the West of Europe, the editor proposes that their findings be taken advantage of in research on East-Central Europe in the Middle Ages, until the thirteenth century. The essays cover a variety of topics: from the role and significance of Khazaria, through to the tribes inhabiting the area between the rivers Elbe and Oder, the economic history, the role and the character of voivodes in Poland and Ruthenia in historiographical

narratives, Christianisation missions, or the cults of saints. Other issues covered to an extent include St Adalbert (Wojciech), the structures of monarchical Church, or the Gniezno Doors. The approaches and methodologies applied by the contributors are diverse; hence – rather not surprisingly – not all the issues investigated yield an image or concept of ‘eastern frontier’ of the Western civilisation. Most of the studies submitted follow up their authors’ earlier studies and research activities. An index of persons is attached, with a separate index of names in Cyrillic alphabet. (AG)

Zbigniew Dalewski, *Modele władzy dynastycznej w Europie Środkowo-Wschodniej we wczesnym średniowieczu* [Models of dynastic authority in early medieval East Central Europe], Instytut Historii Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Warszawa, 2014, 320 pp., bibliog., index of persons, summary in English

The book approaches the succession of power in the early Middle Ages in the Houses of Árpád, Piast, and Přemyslid, seeking to “understand the concepts of authority and the dynasty in power”. The author treats the dynasties as ‘political constructs’, rather than family associations only. The material used in his research extends beyond the three mentioned houses, touching upon the Ottonians and, much further up, the land of Ruthenia or the West Frankian Kingdom. Of the three chapters, the first discusses the rights of various members of the family to wield authority. The second describes the development of a line within the dynasty potentially predestined to amass the entire power. Such a hereditary kingdom model was apparently inspired, to a large extent, by the example of the East Frankian Kingdom. Chapter 3 deals with the failures of such projects and their replacement by the emerging idea of lordship. (AG)

Dariusz Adamczyk, *Silber und Macht: Fernhandel, Tribute und die piastische Herrschaftsbildung in nordosteuropäischer Perspektive (800–1100)*, Harrassowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden, 2014, 385 pp., bibliog., indexes of persons and geographical names; series: Quellen und Studien / Deutsches Historisches Institut Warschau, 28

This study, by an author who has for many years been associated with the German Historical Institute in Warsaw, concerns a very important and controversial issue of appearance of silver Arabian coins in the dominion of the Piasts. Adamczyk poses questions regarding the role and significance of silver

in the wielding of power by the dynasty. Aspects of the history of trade and the manner in which silver coins were delivered to the territory of Poland are also covered. The book has two parts; a topographic systematisation of the finds (or troves) of coins comes first. With use of sources and archaeological finds, the author endeavours to show the routes along which the coins were transferred to the territory of Poland. Subsequently comes a discussion on how the diminished availability of silver coins influenced the minting by Poles of their own currency. First, the chronology is presented of the relationship between the Arab world and the North (Poland, Ruthenia, Scandinavia, etc.); then comes the geography of minting. Finally, quantitative changes are discussed in the coin finds, depending on the region. Upon such a framework, specific remarks and conclusions are developed. The author focuses on the role of Khazars and shows the relations between the regions of the lands investigated. Comments are made regarding the emergence of centres of power, commerce or trade, and other applications of coins. The detailed layout of the study is arranged chronologically and, to a considerable extent, geographically. The author has clearly invested much effort in compiling this book, which comprises a lot of detailed tables and comments indicative of an interdisciplinary character of the research done. (AG)

Karol Kollinger, *Polityka wschodnia Bolesława Chrobrego (992–1025)* [Boleslaus the Brave's (992–1025) eastern policies], Wydawnictwo 'Chronicon', Wrocław, 2014, 524 pp., bibliog., indexes, ill., maps, summary in English

A revised and expanded version of his doctoral thesis on the eastern policies of Duke Boleslaus I the Brave, K. Kollinger's book exceeds the (customary, given the context) discussion of Poland's political relations with Ruthenia. A rich panorama of the East is shown, featuring the Prussians, the Yotvingians, or even the Swedes. As the author declares, the period's sources were of primary importance to him, with emphasis on antecedence; texts written or transmitted in a later period are of secondary relevance. While drawing on archaeological findings, he makes a clear point that, as a non-specialist in the field, he has limited himself to summarising the expert archaeologists' studies and using their conclusions. The content is chronologically ordered, specifying the problems covered. The first section discusses Boleslaus's policies between 992 and 1015; the second deals with the activities of Bruno of Querfurt in the context of the duke's activities; the following years, until the Kievan expedition of 1018, are dealt with in a separate chapter. The final chapter discusses Boleslaus's policies until his death and (as a separate section) the relations with the Pechenegs. Each of the sections contains a number of digressions

touching upon topics not directly relevant to the central subject-matter. The study under review is particularly detailed. The conclusions stemming from each subsection are itemised separately. The conclusion is formatted as two lists itemising the 'major findings' and 'research postulates to follow'. (AG)

Anna Sochacka, *Regimen – dominium – societas nobilium: z dziejów gospodarki, administracji i polityki w Lubelskiem w średniowieczu* [*Regimen – dominium – societas nobilium: Aspects of the history of economy, administration and politics in the medieval Lublin region*], ed. by Anna Obara-Pawłowska and Dariusz Wróbel, Wydawnictwo UMCS, Lublin, 2014, 386 pp., bibliog., index

Issued in honour of forty years of Professor Anna Sochacka's publishing activity, the book is a selection of seventeen essays by this eminent author (now with minor editorial modifications), two of which are presented for the first time. Ryszard Szczygieł has described Anna Sochacka's achievements and output as a scholar; a concise biographical sketch and a bibliography of her publications is added. The collected essays deal with the history of the Lublin region and its vicinity, in the high and late Middle Ages. The focus is on the borderline of economic and political history, with special emphasis on the nobility, the noblemen/burghers relationships, and the history of the local Church. The author makes use of archaeological research, resisting the luring methodological concepts developed in the recent literature. As she remarks, the paucity of source material has in many a case prevented her from drawing conclusions that would go beyond a handful of basic comments. There is regrettably no mention of the dates the essays were first printed. (AG)

Almut Bues *et al.* (eds.), *Od traktatu kaliskiego do pokoju oliwskiego: polsko-krzyżacko-pruskie stosunki dyplomatyczne w latach 1343–1660: praca zbiorowa / Vom Frieden von Kalisch bis zum Frieden von Oliwa: Diplomatische Beziehungen zwischen dem Königreich Polen und dem Deutschen Orden-Herzogtum Preussen in den Jahren 1343–1660* [From the Treaty of Kalisz to the Peace Treaty of Oliwa: Polish-Teutonic-Prussian diplomatic relations between 1343 and 1660], Wydawnictwo DiG, Warszawa, 2014, 411 pp., index, ill., summaries

Based on a conference held in Warsaw on 24–25 May 2013, the book contains eighteen essays, ten in Polish and eight in German, chronologically ordered

(to an extent). The table of contents lists the titles also in either of the parallel official languages of the conference (German or Polish) as well as in English. Extensive abstracts in two foreign languages are attached to the core texts (for instance, a text published in Polish is accompanied by a German and an English summary). Peace treaties are dominant among the topics covered. The topics and approaches doubtlessly follow up the research on establishment of peace, which are popular nowadays in Germany. Rather than on the very content of the provisions or resolutions, the main focus is on the context of the peace process. Hence the presence of essays on diplomats and negotiators of specific agreements, and on diplomatic relations. Some 'traditional' topics are also visited – like, for instance, edition of peace treaties (the final essay). One of the two texts by Martin Espenhorst, describing the opinions on the Teutonic Order in modern historiography, stands out in this context. (AG)

Sławomir Górczyński (ed.), *Unia w Horodle na tle stosunków polsko-litewskich* [The Union of Horodło in the context of Polish-Lithuanian relations], Wydawnictwo DiG, Warszawa, 2015, 312 pp., ill.

The conference that has inspired this book was held in commemoration of the 600th anniversary of the Union of Horodło by the Association of the Descendants of the Great Sejm and the Museum of the History of Poland. The volume includes essays by Polish scholars alongside those written by their Ukrainian, British, Belarusian, Lithuanian, and German colleagues. A variety of topics and issues are (re)visited, starting with a 'purely' political history, to economic history, aspects of the law, genealogical issues; and, to how the Union was remembered and commemorated in the nineteenth century. The broad variety of the topics makes this publication useful not only to professionals dealing with the Union but also to those with broader scientific interests. Clearly, the conference attendees found aspects of the history of individual families or houses the most interesting, with six essays (out of seventeen) focused on issues of this sort. Whilst the Horodło Union is the central topic, the contributors have made an effort to show it against a more extensive political and European background. The book regrettably lacks an index or author notes. (AG)

Mateusz Goliński, *Przy wrocławskim Rynku: rekonstrukcja dziejów własności posesji*, Part 2: 1421–1500 [At the Wrocław Market-Square: A reconstruction of the history of ownership of the real properties, Part 2: 1421–1500], Wydawnictwo ‘Chronicon’, Wrocław, 2015, bibliog., index of persons, summary in German

The second part of these published studies on the proprietorship of the estates located at the Market-Square in Wrocław, follows the first, encompassing the period 1345–1420 and issued in 2011. It is an outcome of an arduous investigation, based on assessors’ registers and other auxiliary sources, into the history of ownership of individual building plots. The content is arranged according to the Square’s layout of four frontages with “residential properties within the central-point unit” singled out. Each of the entries starts with a list of individuals associated with the piece of realty concerned and the underlying sources; this is followed by a detailed account of the estate’s history. Numerous tables, drawings and schemes are added, helpful to the reader and of use to the way the input material has been processed. The research into the ownership history has enabled the author to take a deeper look on the residents, the community’s family situation, and social changes. Still, the history of the parcels and corresponding buildings – and, consequently, the history of the proprietors and their ownership – remains the core topic. Described is the career and the family and professional lives of the consecutive owners of the properties. We can learn about litigations, inheritance problems, and many other issues. The detailed remarks and abundant footnotes make this study a must-read for professionals having to do with the history of the city and its commerce, as well as social history. The study is also a ‘source guide-book’ to the history of the Wrocław Market-Square, inviting to more deeply inspect the history of the town and its dwellers. The book, let us recommend, should largely be used together with its Part 1, since the entries basically follow up the previously published content. This implies that a bulk of plainly useful data, such as the estimated size of each of the properties, is comprised in the first, rather than the second part of the publication. A detailed index is added, specifying cognomens and references to the professions of the persons mentioned in the sources used. The attached bibliography is common for both parts of the book. (AG)

Anna Galar, *W europejskiej wspólnocie cysterskiej. Udział cystersów z historycznych ziem polskich w Kapitułach Generalnych w Citeaux (XII–XVIII w.)* [Amidst the European Cistercian community. Contributions of Cistercian monks from historical lands of Poland to General Chapters in Citeaux (twelfth to eighteenth c.)], Societas Vistulana, Kraków, 2014, 635 pp., bibliog., index, maps, summary in English; series: Cistercium Mater Nostra. Studia et documenta, 2

The author has been dealing with the Cistercian Order, and participation in General Chapters, for many years now. Her new book is based upon extensive source-based query, which has mainly used archival resources. There are seven chapters plus a pretty detailed introduction and a conclusion; bibliographies and indices of persons as well as of geographical and topographical names are provided. Some of the chapters cover general issues such as the functioning of the Chapter or travels made in order to join its assemblies. There are sections on participation in the Chapter of abbots from 'historical lands of Poland', which means, in this context, any lands subordinate (be it for a short time) to the Episcopal Metropolis of Gniezno. The chapters are subdivided into more detailed sections (and, at times, their subsections); each chapter has a summary attached (some being titled 'Conclusions'). This arrangement helps order the detailed and meticulous exposition and argument. Rather than 'participation' or 'contribution' as such, the functioning of the General Chapter, and anything that relates to travelling to Citeaux, is concerned. The study exceeds the limits of its main topic and is of use for researchers specialising not only in Cistercians but also in many other topics and issues, such as the history of travel, or of dissemination of information. The book is a pretty detailed study, one that makes extensive use of archival sources. This can make it a primary scholarly source for students of Cistercian history. A number of remarks or comments made by the author lead to far-reaching conclusions regarding the dissemination of ideas, knowledge, abilities and competencies in the Europe of the period. (AG)

EARLY MODERN TIMES

Wśród córek Eskulapa. Szkice z dziejów medycyny i higieny w Rzeczypospolitej XVI–XVIII w. [Amidst Aesculapius's daughters. Essays on the history of medicine and hygiene in Poland-Lithuania in the sixteenth–eighteenth cc.], Part 2, Instytut Historyczny Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego and Wydawnictwo DiG, Warszawa, 2015, 370 pp.; series: Fasciculi Historici Novi, 15

This second volume in the series (entitled as above) comprises six dissertations being revised and abridged versions of master theses written and defended at the Department of History, University of Warsaw. All deal with aspects of broadly defined history of medicine, their chronology spanning from the sixteenth to the end of the eighteenth century. The dissertations can be divided into two basic groups: those dealing with a specific illness (Kamil Frejlich's essay on syphilis; Elżbieta Nowosielska's on epilepsy) and those portraying the institutions giving aid to the sick (Klaudia Starczynowska on everyday life in moments of escape from epidemics; Marcin Czajkowski on tending the mentally ill in Warsaw; Karolina Koper on the assistance provision methods as advised by Old-Polish compendia; Joanna Kowalska on medical personnel in Polish royal cities). All the essays are based on a sound source-text foundation, taking advantage of numerous old prints and manuscripts. Most of them raise topics or issues hitherto quite poorly recognised. Especially interesting is the study by Frejlich, which joins the broader discussion on syphilis, demonstrating a European background of the sickness. Compelling is Nowosielska's argument based on descriptions of epilepsy contained in books of miracles and lives of saints. Koper's essay is innovative as it presents the history of life-saving in the latter half of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, with a focus on how the basic methods of offering first aid changed within the period. (MC)

Jan Tyszkiewicz (ed.), *Dzieje Mazowsza. Lata 1527–1794* [A history of Masovia: 1527 to 1794], vol. 2, Akademia Humanistyczna im. Aleksandra Gieysztora, Pułtusk, 2015, 792 pp., indexes of persons and of localities and geographical names

This second volume in the series *Dzieje Mazowsza* discusses the province's history between 1527 and 1794. The editor's design has been to produce a monograph summarising the present-day knowledge on Masovia. As is known, throughout the early modern era Masovia pursued a somewhat different path of economic and political development compared to the other

parts of the Commonwealth. Hence, research on the region's specificity is all the more interesting. The book in question has sixteen articles discussing political, military, economic, cultural, religious, educational, and history-of-art issues. In line with the editors' assumption, rather than offering innovative findings, these essays provide a reliable summary of the research done so far. Each chapter has been compiled by a different author; repetitions have not been completely avoided (Jewish issues are covered twice, by Paweł Fijałkowski and Waldemar Graczyk). The content is arranged chronologically, while a monograph of this sort would have been a simpler reading if arranged by subject. The editors, let us emphasise, have not confined themselves to describing the region's political history but included aspects of social history, history of art, or even history of archival resources. There are interesting considerations on local towns; economic development has been analysed with respect to large hubs as well as small towns (Zbigniew Morawski). The history of the province's religious denominations has also been taken broadly. Apart from the history of Jewish settlement in Masovia (discussed by the two authors), various aspects of the local activity of the Catholic Church are covered in detail (bishops and chapters, education, monastic life – in the essays by Graczyk, Andrzej Sołtan, Radosław Lolo). In spite of some faults in the editorial work, *Dzieje Mazowsza* is altogether a reliable monograph, which will be of use for further monographic research on the province. (MC)

Rejestry popisowe pospolitego ruszenia szlachty Wielkiego Księstwa Litewskiego z 1621 r. [Census registers of the mass mobilisation of the nobility in the Great Duchy of Lithuania, 1621], ed. by Andrzej Rachuba, Instytut Historii Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne, Wydawnictwo DiG, Warszawa, 2015, 174 pp., indexes of geographical names and of persons; series: Szlachta i ziemiaństwo na ziemiach dawnej Rzeczypospolitej

Andrzej Rachuba has for many years been specialising in editing original texts of use in historiographic research on the Great Duchy of Lithuania (GDL). The most recently published edition includes four census registers for the mass mobilisation (*pospolite ruszenie/motio belli*) that took place in the Duchy in 1621. Census registers (*rejestry popisowe*) are the type of source known to historians, proving of special use to scholars dealing with demography, genealogy, social history (as a broad concept), and military history. Research historians have willingly used such manuscript records, the censuses of some voivodeships having already come out in print. The edition in question comprises *motio belli* censuses for four provinces of GDL: the districts (*powiats*)

of Troki, Braslav, Volkovysk, and the Duchy of Samogitia. The censuses were carried out between 5 October and 3 November 1621. Manuscripts presently stored at the National Library of Russia in Saint Petersburg, within the Dubrovsky Collection (the registers for Troki, Braslav, and Volkovysk) and at the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw – the Radziwiłł Archive (Duchy of Samogitia) have been used as the source. The manuscripts have been edited in line with the binding editorial instructions. An introduction presents in detail the off-stage history behind the source documents. (MC)

XVII a. pradžios Lietuvos vietovių istoriniai šaltiniai: 1622 m. Vilniaus ekonomijos inventorius, ed. by Darius Vilimas, Lietuvos istorijos institutas, Vilnius, 2014, 263 pp., index of persons, English summary

Property inventories are an important source for research of social history. The edition under review is a volume in a series focused on inventories. The previous publications are prevalently comprised of inventories of private property, which makes the edition under review, dealing with the royal estates (under the so-called ‘Wilno economy’), all the more important. This source-based edition is founded on an inventory compiled in 1622, prior to transferring the Wilno Voivodeship into the hands of Lew Sapieha; originally ‘oblated’ (entered) in the registers of the Lithuanian Tribunal, the document is presently kept at the Lithuanian State Historical Archives. It comprises detailed descriptions of towns and villages, castles and buildings, forming the estate bequeathed to the voivode. This bilingual edition includes the original text in Polish and its Lithuanian translation by Tamara Bairašauskaitė – a concept that makes the source material broadly useful in the teaching activity at Lithuanian universities. The Lithuanian translation is furnished with content-related footnotes. In line with the Lithuanian custom, the original Polish text is rendered very accurately, with the spelling not modernised. This method of source text editing makes the text attractive to linguists while rendering the reading much difficult for historians. The original text is preceded by a brief introduction describing the document and discussing the rules of the present edition. (MC)

Dariusz Milewski (ed.), *Marszałek i hetman koronny Jan Sobieski* [Jan Sobieski, Marshal and Hetman of the Crown], Muzeum Pałac w Wilanowie, Warsaw, 2014, 387 pp.; bibliog., index of persons; series: Silva Rerum

The recent round anniversary of the Battle of Vienna, 1683, inspired a series of publications primarily focused on Jan Sobieski, later King John III Sobieski. The editor of the book in question set as task for himself to look at the figure of Jan from a somewhat different perspective, with a focus on Sobieski's political and military activities before he was elected king of Poland-Lithuania. The articles comprised in this volume depict the political background and political/social changes taking place in the Commonwealth in the last years of the reign of John II Casimir (Jan Kazimierz) and under King Michael I (Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki). There are fifteen articles categorised into two thematic sections: (i) home politics and affairs (epitomised by 'the Marshal's mace'), and (ii) diplomacy and war ('the Hetman's mace'). Most of the studies are based on source materials hitherto poorly elaborated on, raising subjects enjoying, to date, scarce interest from historians. More specifically, Przemysław Gawron's contribution interestingly analyses the 'journalistic' picture of Grand Hetmans in the time of the Zebrzydowski and Lubomirski rebellions (*rokoszs*). Konrad Bobiatyński describes the hitherto poorly explored Lithuanian contacts of Jan Sobieski. Emphasis is put across the volume on issues of international politics. Interesting, and based not solely on Polish sources, are Natalia Królikowska's considerations on the alliance with the Crimean Khanate. Readers keen on military matters can enjoy the essays discussing various military formations and military science and theory (Zbigniew Hundert on the hussars; Marek Wagner on Jan Sobieski's military writings). A collective bibliography is attached, which may help guide those interested in the political history of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the second half of the seventeenth century. (MC)

Adam Kaźmierczyk, *Rodzilem się Żydem ... Konwersje Żydów w Rzeczypospolitej XVII–XVIII wieku*, Fundacja Centrum Dokumentacji Czynu Niepodległościowego, Księgarnia Akademicka, Kraków, 2015, 324 pp., indexes of persons, geographical names and of subjects, summary in English; series: Studia Judaica Cracoviensia. Series Dissertationum, 5

Conversions of Jewish people to Christianity have always been a strongly controversial issue, which might be the reason for lack of related monographic research in Polish historiography as yet. The synthetic study now proposed

by Adam Kaźmierczyk comes out as the first exhaustive presentation of the phenomenon of conversion in Poland-Lithuania. It is based on a reliable foundation of original sources, with hitherto-unedited Church archives having been used a great deal. The monograph has six chapters, the introductory section consisting of reflections on the scale of conversions taking place among the Commonwealth's Jewry. The increasing importance of conversion in the eighteenth century is depicted in a very attractive fashion. As the author has found, the typical convert was a young man of, mostly, a lower social background. Switching into a new religion was dictated by economic as well as religious factors; some assumed Christianity due to marriage with a Christian partner. One can find an interesting argument on the estate (i.e., social-class) affiliation of converts. Kaźmierczyk refers also to the long-lasting discussion about penetration of Jewish converts into the nobility. He convincingly demonstrates that the phenomenon did appear in Poland-Lithuania but was not typical among neophytes, since individuals of a higher economic status before the conversion could be ennobled as well. A detailed analysis of the policy pursued by the Catholic Church with respect to converts from Judaism has enabled to show that this area of action was completely neglected in the seventeenth century while the demographic growth of the Jewish population and the reoriented papal policy in the following century caused intensified activity of the Church. The monograph under discussion thoroughly broadens our knowledge on how the Jews functioned in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. While this book is extremely valuable for scholars specialising in the early history of the Polish Jewry, all the readers interested in social history (as a broad concept) will find it pretty useful. (MC)

Piotr Kitowski, *Sukcesja spadkowa w mniejszych miastach województwa pomorskiego w II połowie XVII i w XVIII wieku. Studium prawnohistoryczne* [Inheritance succession in the small towns of Pomeranian Voivodeship in the second half of the seventeenth and in the eighteenth centuries. A legal-historical study], Wydawnictwo Neriton, Warszawa, 2015, 320 pp., bibliog., summaries in English and German

This monograph, broadly discussing the inheritance succession in the small towns of former Pomeranian Voivodeship, is not a typical study in the history of law. The author has managed to interestingly portray the history of a purely juridical issue from a theoretical (law-centred) as well as practical (historical) perspective, thus combining the approach typical of the historian of law with the technique applied by cultural historians. Inheritance succession were analysed based on the data for four small towns in Pomerania (Chojnice,

Kościerzyna, Nowe nad Wisłą, Skaryszewy) between mid-seventeenth and the latter half of the eighteenth centuries. The geographical reach and chronological scope have been determined by the condition of extant source materials. With two sections in place, the first discusses jurisprudential issues, showing how individual aspects of succession were defined in the Kulm (Chełmno) Law listings (*zwóds*), and how these laws were applied in judicial practice. The second section reconstructs the material culture of the inhabitants of the lesser Pomeranian towns, describing things being objects of inheritance. Analysis of inheritance-related issues has enabled Kitowski to propose broader hypotheses concerning the functioning of the Kulm Law. The author demonstrates that it was remarkably different from the other laws as 'listed' and binding in the Commonwealth, as far as determining community property, and the sequence of inheriting along direct and lateral lineage, are concerned. Interesting is the proposed hypothesis whereby practical differences in application of individual provisions of the law were, for the most part, caused by the human factor, as poorly educated judges were merely not aware of a number of legal complexities. (MC)

Jacobi Lanhaus, *Opis podróży. Itinerarium (1768–1796)* [A description of my journey. The itinerary, 1768–96], with an introduction, explanatory notes and addenda by Bogdan Rok and Marian Chachaj, deciphered from the manuscript by Bogdan Rok and Marian Chachaj, in collaboration with Maciej Forycki, Księgarnia Akademicka, Kraków and Wrocław, 2014, 508 pp., bibliog., indexes of persons and of geographical names

The itinerary of a journey to Rome penned by Jacobi Lanhaus represents the genre of travel literature. The departure of Jacobi Lanhaus, of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre at Miechów, from Gniezno had to do with a dispute between his Order and the Gniezno Chapter. His itinerary stands out against a number of other similar voyage descriptions with its meticulousness and pedantry in rendering the details of the conditions of the journey and in describing of the cities, sights or events the traveller took part in. The author, let us emphasise, was an ordinary priest of whom not much is known; he was in all probability not part of the clergy elite, which makes the description he has yielded even more valuable as it reflects the mentality of an ordinary clergyman. This source text is a fascinating reading not only for historians researching into eighteenth-century journey-makers but also for non-professionals interested in the daily life in the early modern period. The volume has been edited up to a high standard. The original text was prepared for edition according to the editorial instructions; content-related notes have

been compiled, and difficult terms, including foreign words, translated. The diary is accompanied with a map and a description of Fr. Lanhaus's travel route. Additionally, notes made by Baltazar Pstrokoński, a Gniezno Chapter member who travelled to Rome as an exponent of the other party to the dispute, have been included. The edition under review can be used as an excellent university teaching source; along with the said notes, an attached glossary of foreign and Old-Polish words facilitates its use. (MC)

Adam Perłakowski, Monika Wyszomirska, and Michał Zwierzkowski (eds.), *W podróży przez wiek osiemnasty ... Szkice i studia z epoki nowożytnej* [Travelling through the eighteenth century. Sketches and studies on the modern era], Księgarnia Akademicka, Kraków, 2015, 379 pp., index of persons

The volume is dedicated to Jerzy Dygdała, on his seventieth birth anniversary. The studies collected in it reflect the wide array of research interests of this merited scholar. The eighteen dissertations cover a most diverse variety of aspects of eighteenth-century history. With the project's thematically open-ended formula, the contributions do not altogether form a cohesive whole; all the same, the reader keen on the eighteenth century will find in this book several interesting essays or papers. While most of the essays are fragmentary or exiguous, many of them are based on hitherto-unknown source material. Attached to some articles (those by Tomasz Ciesielski, Tomasz Wiślicz, and Sławomir Augusiewicz) are first-ever editions of so-far-unknown original texts. Issues related to political history are particularly well dealt with. Among certain standard considerations on selected occurrences, attractive seems Robert Kołodziejski's analysis showing the problems encountered by envoys travelling to Grodno to take part in diet (*sejm*) assemblies; Ciesielski's account on Prince Michał Kazimierz Radziwiłł's military activities is no less interesting. There are several essays concerning broadly defined social history. Particularly worth of mention is Wiślicz's essay on the functioning of the peasant self-government in the seventeenth century. Jarosław Dumanowski's reflections on cooking literature in Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth are no less recommendable. (MC)

Urszula Augustyniak, *History of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. State – Society – Culture*, ed. by Iwo Hryniewicz, trans. by Grażyna Waluga and Dorota Sobstel, Peter Lang Edition, Frankfurt am Main, 2015, 573 pp., indexes of geographical names and of persons, maps, diagram; series: Polish Studies – Transdisciplinary Perspectives, ed. by Krzysztof Zajas and Jarosław Fazan, 13

The book offers an English translation of a synthetic monograph originally published in Polish in 2008 (in the series 'Historia Polski PWN'). The author has decided to introduce the foreign reader to a part of the monograph, selecting aspects concerning the state, society, and culture, and putting aside the country's political history. The ten chapters discuss, in succession: a physical and geographical description of the Commonwealth; the system and form of government; the judiciary; public finances and taxes; the military; the Churches; the economy; the society, social bonds and living conditions; public communication – schools and educational system, arts, sciences, and literature. Attached is a chronological breakdown of major political events and a list of Polish monarchs. The monograph shows in an innovative manner the history of Poland-Lithuania: the author offers a critical discussion of the existing historiography, with a focus not only on studies written in Polish, and showing appreciation toward the output of historians from countries being the successors of what was Poland-Lithuania. Augustyniak places a strong emphasis on the federative organisation of the country, devoting much attention to the functioning of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, or the Ukrainian-territory voivodeships within the Commonwealth. Religious and ethnic diversity of the country's society is highlighted. This English version of the book gives the foreign reader a useful compendium on Polish-Lithuanian society, based on the most recent achievements of Polish historiographers. The book can be much of use for academic teachers; also, a broader reading public, in fact, anyone fond of the history of Poland-Lithuania, will find it an excellent piece of reading. (MC)

Monika Maludzińska, *Próżnowanie stało się powszechnym nałogiem. Żebracy i włóczędzy w stanisławowskiej Warszawie* [Lazing has become a common addiction: Beggars and vagabonds in Warsaw in the times of King Stanislaus August], Wydawnictwo Neriton, Warszawa, 2014, 521 pp., bibliog., annexes (including a list of decrees against beggars and vagabonds in Poland, 1496–1795), index of persons, summaries in English and French

During the reign of Stanisław August Poniatowski (1764–95) Warsaw experienced a rapid growth (from ca. 30 thousand to ca. 115 thousand inhabitants) paired with attempts at organising and modernising the city. The migrants were mostly poor, seasonal workers, and servants in search of employment. In the terminology of the era, these were the ‘loose men’ periodically or permanently doomed to homelessness and begging, as well as crime or prostitution. Though both the reign of King Stanisław August and the history of Warsaw in that period have already been described in numerous studies, the book by Monika Maludzińska is the first monograph devoted to beggars and vagabonds as a social and administrative problem for the authorities of the period, who attempted to fight it by applying the contemporary laws.

Though municipal records for Warsaw burned during the uprising of 1944, Maludzińska’s book is based on an impressive foundation of sources – amassed mostly from the Central Archives of Historical Records, the Archives of the Archdiocese and the City of Warsaw, as well as the National Library and the Ossoliński and Czartoryski collections. Sources include royal proclamations, decrees of central and municipal authorities, records of the Sejm and of the courts, private memoranda, testaments, hospital and church documents, and also newspapers.

The first chapter discusses the causes of poverty, as well as common opinions on the phenomenon and attitudes toward the poor in the period. The second chapter, rich in impressive statistical data, presents various categories of beggars (periodical beggars, beggars located by the churches, workers who engaged in begging, crime, or prostitution), the scale of the phenomenon, and daily routines of the beggars. The third chapter, which makes up nearly a half of the book, discusses in detail the struggle of the authorities against begging and homelessness. The year 1758, marking the beginning of the process of claiming these duties from the Church by the state, is the turning point here. The culmination occurs in 1791–2, when the Police of Both Nations is established – the only institution which managed to significantly limit homelessness in Warsaw by swooping on beggars and vagabonds and placing them in the so-called Houses of Charity and Labour (which, however, did not provide them with financial remuneration for the work performed, leading the inmates to escape). As the author observes, the authorities ultimately

failed and the laws remained dead letters. In her view, the causes were, on the one hand, the rapid growth of the population of the city during the period combined with a permanent economic crisis, and on the other, political turmoil – with the Polish-Russian War of 1792 figuring prominently. (AK)

NINETEENTH CENTURY

Maria Korybut-Marciniak, Marta Zbreźniak, Marta Sikorska-Kowalska, Jarosław Kita, and Mateusz Klenspert (eds.), *Życie prywatne Polaków w XIX wieku. "Portret kobiety". Polki w realiach epoki* [*The private lives of Poles in the nineteenth century. 'A female portrait': Polish women in the realities of the time*], 3 vols., Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź and Olsztyn, 2014, 289 + 292 + 260 pp., separate bibliog. per volume

The three volumes bearing the common title '*A female portrait*' are a second entry in the series 'Private lives of Poles in the nineteenth century', published under the auspices of the University of Łódź and the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn. The books include fifty-three essays by historians (as well as historians of art and of literature) from across the country, concerned with women and broadly-conceived women's issues. The editors succeeded in maintaining a consistent format and quality of the texts, while the great breadth of the work and the number of texts included do not entail an all-too-common narrow and superficial perspective on several key themes. Naturally, none of the articles included in the collection exhausts its subject, but most refer the reader to related texts. Though the articles are not organised by theme, indeed almost all can be brought down to several major categories. These are: (i) biographical sketches devoted to both outstanding, but scarcely known, and 'typical' Polish women of the nineteenth century – this group includes texts on female writers, the first Polish female archaeologist, female social activists, wives of politicians, female aristocrats, teachers and land-owners (eighteen articles in sum); (ii) texts in history of literature, discussing literary works by women and female protagonists of literature, both individuals and groups; (iii) women's issues – in the nineteenth-century understanding of the term – in press and journals, pedagogy, medical advice books, photography, and the teachings of the Catholic clergy – one would also place the articles about divorce cases and the legal condition of divorced women and about the patriotism of Polish women in the so-called 'lost lands' (today's Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine) somewhere in the margins of this category;

(iv) group portraits of women: workers from the textile factories of Żyrardów, participants in the January Uprising, members of good-will societies, the prostitutes of Vilnius, and finally, stained glass artists. In sum, *'A female portrait'* offers an impressive panorama of figures, attitudes, and images of women in Polish lands in the nineteenth century. The only grievance is that the editors opted against supplying the collection with a commentary that would provide the readers with basic statistical information, methodology, or the current state of research. (AK)

Polak w carskim mundurze. Wspomnienia Aleksandra Skolimowskiego (1817–1895) [A Pole wearing a tsarist uniform. The memories of Aleksander Skolimowski (1817–95)], ed. by Wiesław Caban and Jerzy Szczepański, Uniwersytet Jana Kochanowskiego, Kielce, 2015, 237 pp.

Since the earliest years of the twenty-first century, Polish scholars have shown significantly increasing interest in the presence of Russians in the Polish territory and the careers pursued by Poles in the tsarist empire. The book in question initiates a series entitled 'Polacy – Syberia. XVIII–XIX wiek' [The Poles and Siberia, eighteenth to nineteenth century]. The memoirs were written by a Polish nobleman who followed a military career with the tsarist army. His decision was heavily informed by the financial situation of his family. 1835 marked his high-school graduation and enrolment with the Corps of Cadets in Saint Petersburg. With the prestigious Nobility Regiment he joined, Aleksander (as he repeatedly remarks) was well trained to command military forces. Promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer, and began his service in September 1838 with the Fifth Battalion of the Dnepr Infantry Regiment. For a dozen-or-so years, he moved together with his troops across the central governorates (*guberniyas*) of the Russian Empire. In 1852, he was ordered to transfer the troops of the 2nd Artillery Division to Warsaw (then part of the Empire) in order to reinforce the local garrison. It turned out during his sojourn in Warsaw that his battalion had been moved to the Orenburg line, where Aleksander was to stay by 1866. He was released from the army in 1870 and, in parallel, promoted to Major-General, with full emolument and honours. He remained in Russia till his very last days. As we learn from the editors (both associated with the Jan Kochanowski University of Kielce), these recollections were jotted down out of his longing for the home country and, partly, because of his desire to make a spiritual testament – primarily, for his children (hence, as one may guess, the load of annoying didacticism). Based on this memoirs book, we can get an insight into the spiritual dilemmas of a Pole in the Russian army. This quite interesting document of its time has

been written from the standpoint of a marginal, at times even stigmatised, perspective. Altogether, one modestly but carefully edited and published. (GK)

Bożena Grzegorzczuk, *Pałace-instytucje dziewiętnastowiecznego Wrocławia – znaki patronatu obywatelskiego* [Palaces-Institutions of nineteenth-century Wrocław – Marks of civic patronage], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń, 2014, 361 pp., bibliog., index of persons, English summary

In nineteenth century Wrocław (Breslau) was the capital and the largest city of the Silesian province of the Kingdom of Prussia. In her book, Grzegorzczuk discusses the organisational, ideological, propaganda, and aesthetic aspects of construction efforts initiated in the city by its inhabitants – the local financial elites – in 1816–95. Among the buildings of interest to the author are the municipal theatre, the Silesian Museum of Fine Arts, the Zoological Garden, the Stock Exchange, the Grain Market, the Deaf and Dumb Institute, the Swimming Baths, as well as a number of privately-owned buildings used by associations, foundations, and masonic lodges. On the other hand, structures raised and financed by the authorities – that is, buildings of the civic and state administration or erected for commercial use (such as railway stations) fall beyond the scope of the author's interest.

In the first chapter, the reader is introduced to the basic terminology (patronage, foundation, sponsorship, etc.). In the second chapter, the author draws a broad historical introduction to the idea of civic activism in the context of the history of Prussia during the Enlightenment, with particular regard for sponsorship of construction works. The third chapter presents the development of Wrocław up to the nineteenth century. The fourth chapter discusses civic associations, social organisations, guilds, and other institutions with a stake in construction works. The fifth chapter describes the circumstances in which buildings were erected and their uses in the first half of the nineteenth century. The sixth chapter addresses the changing attitudes toward the public sphere, the rising nationalism, and the public service organisations in the second half of the century; and the final chapter presents the buildings raised in that period. In her analyses, the author employs the semiotic methodology of Roland Barthes and Umberto Eco, but in reasonable doses. (AK)

Adam Świątek, *Gente Rutheni, natione Poloni. Z dziejów Rusinów narodowości polskiej w Galicji* [*Gente Rutheni, natione Poloni. Aspects of the history of ethnically Polish Ruthenians in Galicia*], Księgarnia Akademicka, Kraków, 2014, 509 pp., index of persons, ill., summary in English; series: Studia Galicyjskie, 3

The study seeks to portray a group of two-tier identity: the inhabitants of Austrian Galicia, who deemed Poland their ideological (political) home country whilst remaining associated with their 'private homeland' of Ruthenia, and with Ruthenian ethnicity (choosing either Polish or Ukrainian national consciousness). Attached to the Uniate Church, they spoke Polish in everyday life. The study in question covers the entire partition period, spotting the full bloom of the formation described as *gente Ruthenus, natione Polonus* especially at the time of the Spring of Nations and the activity of the Ruthenian Congress (*Sobor*) in 1848. This socio-cultural formation began descending from the stage of history forty years later, the result of the strengthening Polish and Ukrainian nationalism. The book takes account of various types of sources: journalism (particularly, the *Dnevnyk Ruskyi* published 1848 in Lwów/Lviv in the Cyrillic and Latin alphabets), political manifestos, memoirist records, artistic works (the poet Platon Kostecki popularised the romanticist myth of a unity of Poland, Lithuania and Ruthenia within a single country; Jan Zachariasiewicz; and others). The author is sensitive to communication of ideas *via* popular culture (discussed are the ways of celebrating the anniversaries of importance to the milieu: i.a., 300 years of the Union of Lublin, 1869; quatercentenary of the death of St John of Dukla). Areas of dispute are shown (education system and the position of the Ruthenian language within it). While Świątek does not clearly define the numerical force of the 'double identity' group, it is certain that this population has left a mark in the political and cultural map of Galicia, demonstrating that ethnic or national antagonisms were not a daily occurrence in the region. (BK)

Monika Kucner and Krystyna Radziszewska (eds.), *Miasto w mojej pamięci. Powojenne wspomnienia Niemców z Łodzi* [The city of my memory: Post-war memories of Germans from Łódź], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź, 2014, 168 pp., bibliog.

Łódź, the second largest city in the Republic of Poland before World War II (with some 700 thousand inhabitants, roughly as many as today) and the biggest centre of the textile industry in the country, also had a German minority, estimated at ca. 10 per cent of the total population, most of

them Evangelicals. In 1939 the Łódź Germans opted for the city to become a part of the Third Reich within the so-called Warthegau (Warta Land). Łódź housed the second largest – and after the 1943 uprising in the Warsaw ghetto the largest – Jewish ghetto in the occupied Europe. The Red Army took the city on 19 January 1945 with a swift assault. The event was preceded by a disorderly exodus of the local German population; those who did not leave were subjected to repression from Polish and Soviet authorities (e.g., compulsory labour) and would in almost all cases depart Poland before the end of the decade.

The collection presented here includes memoirs from six different authors; some were published in German magazines, others were drawn from archives, and yet others made available to the editors by the writers themselves. Aside from the author of the first text, Erich von Luckwald – the German consul to Łódź in 1926–31 – all left Łódź at an early age, which surely explains the peculiar ‘ambiance’ of the memories of a German Łódź that is no more, reshaped into a symbol of lost childhood and youth. The same fact compels the five other authors to focus on the events of 1944–5, and particularly the escape of German townfolk and the claiming of power by Poles and the Red Army, which resulted in the brutal persecution of remaining Łódź Germans. These memories are therefore doubly traumatic: focused on personal suffering, the death of close relatives and the sense of loss brought on by the banishment. Against this backdrop, the (previously unpublished) bureaucratic account by Consul Luckwald makes a striking impression: it is the only one to talk of times of peace, viewed through the eyes of a mature man involved in close relations with the city’s elites and conducting an individual – though cleared with the German Foreign Office – policy of supporting various initiatives of the German minority. It is a valuable source, particularly as Luckwald – whose later postings included Albania and the Free City of Gdańsk – looks at the past with the eyes of a German nationalist for whom time stopped with World War II, and whose sole regrets are that the war was lost and Germany’s ‘Eastern outposts’ had fallen.

As the editors of the collection claim in the introduction, “[t]he literature of remembrance in that period [of the exodus and banishment of Germans from Poland in 1945–8], which additionally propagated and overstated the suffering of the German nation, appeared often in Germany after 1945. The Polish reader had only a limited access to such accounts ...”. Since this collection has the obvious virtue of being one of the first publications of its kind in Poland, the reader should feel disappointed by the somewhat haphazard selection of texts and the manner of their elaboration, which seems not to take that aspect into account. In the introduction, the editors offer a brief and highly superficial outline of the history of Łódź (provided with an extensive bibliography), while the text itself is supplied with notes identifying the persons, places, and events mentioned in the memoirs.

However, no information on the literature of remembrance of the ‘banished’ (*Vertriebene*) Germans in general is given, nor on its political and social function, its authors, or the method applied by the editors in the selection process. Instead, the editors state briefly in the introduction that ‘[i]t would be erroneous to ascribe the stories included in this collection to the cycle of remembrances of the suffering of German victims of World War II as the blame for the situation is never laid on either of the sides involved’. This statement appears to betray a complete misunderstanding of the nature and function of this ‘cycle’ (which largely depended on that feature) and seems a poorly-devised gesture of obeisance to the so-called political correctness and the idea of German-Polish reconciliation. (AK)

Przemysław Waingertner, *Ostatni Lodzermensch Robert Geyer (1888–1939)* [The last *Lodzermensch* Robert Geyer (1888–1939)], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź, 2014, 187 pp., bibliog., annex (photocopies of pictures and documents), summaries in English and Finnish

The grand industrial bourgeoisie of Łódź continues to attract scant interest among Polish historians beyond the University of Łódź (nearly all writings on the history of Łódź in English focus on the history of the ghetto in 1940–5). Until its demise during World War II, this group – composed almost entirely of Germans and Jews – remained deeply self-enclosed, bound by intermarriage and inhabiting the relative margins of the Polish political and cultural life. As a result, they were besmirched as an element foreign to the Polish tradition – brutal capitalists and vulgar *nouveaux riches*. The period after 1945 brought a series of in-depth studies on the history of industry in Łódź, but little is still known of the people who raised it – even after the radical turn of 1989, when *bourgeois* became a term of endearment rather than a calumny, and the fashion for local history meant that the difference between the Łódź elites and those of the rest of the country no longer constituted a stigma.

Przemysław Waingertner’s monograph paints a portrait of Robert Geyer, the last member of one of the great factory-owning families of Łódź. It is written in a lively, at times thrilling tone filled with declarations of a revival and affirmation of the forgotten heritage. Sadly, the work uses new sources very sparsely, leaving the reader with a sense of lack: the reading gives us only the basic facts from the life of its protagonist, a man involved in many business ventures as well as philanthropy and social and political activism. By and large, the only source that sheds light on the details of his personal life are the memoirs of his mother Helena (née Weil), published in Polish in

2002. Perhaps no other sources can be found, or maybe one would have to seek after them among the descendants of the family beyond Poland.

The book is divided into three chapters. The first recalls the history of two previous generations of the Geyer family, starting with Ludwik Ferdynand, who arrived in Łódź in 1828, outclassed the competition during the uprising of 1830–1 by refocusing production from linen to cotton, established the greatest and most up-to-date textile factory in the Kingdom of Poland (the so-called White Factory, the current seat of the Museum of Textiles in Łódź), and then went bankrupt due to the supply crisis during the American Civil War. His sons, Emil and Gustaw, who toiled hard to bring the company back on track, invested in banking, the stock market, and real estate. The second chapter tells the story of Robert Geyer, the director of the family business during the inter-war period, a philanthropist and social and political activist involved in the National Labour Party – a political faction with marginal support, made up of wealthy and influential figures. The chapter ends with the mysterious death of Robert Geyer, who declined to sign the *Volksliste* when Germans entered Łódź in 1939 and was brutally murdered by Gestapo or the political police of the SD on 12th December of that year for reasons unknown – perhaps as a warning for other Łódź Germans. The final chapter of the book may be the most original, as it turns toward Robert Geyer's less familiar interest in Scandinavian culture and his activities as the honorary consul of Finland in 1927–39. It is provided with a very detailed (20 pages!) summary in Finnish (whose contents remain a mystery to the author of this review). (AK)

Magdalena Kunińska, *Historia sztuki Mariana Sokołowskiego* [*The history of art of Marian Sokołowski*], Towarzystwo Autorów i Wydawców Prac Naukowych Universitas, Kraków, 2014, 316 pp., bibliog., bibliog. of the works of Marian Sokołowski, index of persons, summary in English

Marian Sokołowski (1839–1911) became the director of the first institute of the history of art at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow – and, by extension, in Poland – in 1882. Thus, he is a stand-out figure within the discipline on which he exerted a palpable influence during its formative period, both as an academic advisor to the first generation of professional historians of art and as a prominent expert and theoretician of international renown. However, Magdalena Kunińska's book – the first monograph of the figure – is not a classical biography: the author focuses primarily on her protagonist's views on the history of art as a discipline, art itself as an aesthetic and social phenomenon, and the impact she believes these views had on the later history of the discipline in Poland.

The introduction acquaints us with the life of Sokołowski – who managed to play an important role in the uprising of 1863–4 and take part in a series of archaeological trips to the Middle East before he became a scholar – including his education and the personages who influenced him in his youth. The first chapter situates the protagonist against the tradition of *allgemeine Kunstgeschichte* and the theory of art as a garden cultivated by the scholar-gardener which casts a shadow on the history of art as an emerging independent discipline and presents Sokołowski's views on the place of Polish art in Europe. The second chapter describes the formal theory of art of mid-nineteenth century as an attempt at 'sciencing' the discipline and establishing a more rigorous terminology and methodology, and its clash with the idea of beauty and awe engendered in contact with works of art inherited from the Renaissance. The third chapter addresses the issue of reproduction of works of art and the function of art in the society. Subsequent parts of the book describe Sokołowski's attitude toward Heinrich Wölfflin's dominant theory and his shift from a morphological to a psychological approach (*Geselligkeit*), as well as his view of the role of history of art as an inspiration for artists and modern arts, with particular focus on Sokołowski's personal relations with contemporary artists (such as Stanisław Wyspiański). In her conclusion, the author stresses the key role her protagonist played in forming the formal-genetic model of analysis of a work of art and in the rejection of the model of contextual analysis – a change which, she believes, still affects history of art as a discipline in Poland today. (AK)

Andrzej Mencwel, *Stanisław Brzozowski. Postawa krytyczna* [Stanisław Brzozowski: his critical attitude], Wydawnictwo Krytyki Politycznej, Warszawa, 2014, 687 pp.

This book comes as yet-another and, probably, almost comprehensive attempt of the outstanding Warsaw-based historian of ideas at meeting (and comprehending) the figure and output of Stanisław Brzozowski. Mencwel's focus is on some threads that might not have been key for Brzozowski but certainly are so for the literary historian. The ten chapters he proposes is an original take, which would not perhaps tickle everybody's fancy. Already in his high-school years, Brzozowski grew into a distinct figure among the radically-inclined youth; Mencwel's portrayal of his dynamic formative years is the author's achievement. Naturally, Mencwel is an attentive reader of Brzozowski, not afraid of asking his texts questions of importance, even if at risk of interpretative error. This author of reputed studies on Polish culturalism (incl. *Etos lewicy. Esej o narodzinach kulturalizmu polskiego* [The ethos of the Left. An essay on the birth of Polish culturalism], 1990) leads us,

as it were, through two parallel stories: defending the stances and attitudes assumed by Brzozowski, he does his best to portray the man within the context of his time. There are adverse consequences of this method that come to light, making the reader ponder on the limits of cognitive reliability. The most interesting aspect about Brzozowski is probably his unceasing readiness to deconstruct myths, a skill that Mencwel depicts the most evocatively. His book is definitely worth of insightful reading and reflection. As is the case with his other books, this one is a work of a fancier and enthusiast with a literary or even journalistic verve. (GK)

Zygmunt Balicki, *Państwo, naród i ... polityka polska* [The state, the nation and, lastly, Polish politics], ed. and with an introduction by Joanna Kurczewska, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2015, 285 pp., bibliog., index of persons; series: Genealogia współczesności. Historia idei w Polsce 1815–1939

This book is a selection of writings of Zygmunt Balicki (1858–1916), one of the three leading ideologues of Polish nationalist thought – along with Jan Ludwik Popławski and Roman Dmowski. The anthology excellently shows Balicki's whole intellectual outfit and equipment: his skill of entering into polemics with the French and German sociology and psychologism. Balicki referred to 'the Polish nation' in psychocultural, rather than ethnographical or historiosophical (like, respectively, Popławski and Dmowski) terms. The version of nationalism he promoted was associated by him with reason, emotion being ascribed to socialists and liberals, the opponents of nationalism. Kurczewska emphasises the originality of Balicki's vision of collectivism (he even uses the phrase 'theoretical sophistication'), which ought to be considered particularly in the context of the currents of thought of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, rather than merely the Polish political disputes involving conservatives, socialists, and others. This edition of selected texts by the eminent scholar and ideologue is complemented by the opinions of the novelist Eliza Orzeszkowa and the sociologists Ludwik Krzywicki and Włodzimierz Spasowicz, who disputed with the nationalistic catechism professed by Balicki. (BK)

“Izraelita” 1866–1915. Wybór tekstów [Izraelita, 1866–1915. A selection of texts], ed. by Agnieszka Jagodzińska and Marcin Wodziński, Wydawnictwo Austeria, Kraków and Budapest, 2015, 586 pp., index, photographs

This anthology of texts published by the Warsaw weekly *Izraelita* [‘The Israelite’], the once-most important magazine of acculturated Polish Jewry, is worth of attention for a number of reasons. The editors have seemingly undertaken to introduce the periodical and its background milieu to a broader humanities’ public. The authors believe that reinstating the periodical deservedly and appropriately “in the collective memory is an important task for historiographers. Without it, the picture is one-sided and incomplete” (p. 9). The thematic chapters, seventeen in total, are written in collaboration with three reputed researchers: Zuzanna Kołodziejska (monographer of *Izraelita*; has authored six chapters), Marzena Szugiero, and Renata Piątkowska (one chapter each). Whereas a few issues of major relevance are not commented upon, the introductory section offers a helpful introduction to the topic and a virtually complete review of reference literature. As the editors remind us, the *Izraelita* formation began with the Jewish Enlightenment (the Haskalah), a philosophical and political crisis in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century. The weekly’s founders set their sights on coming to grips with the heritage of their ancestors – and, to adapt their magazine to the needs of the Polish Jewish community. Although the periodical was published in Polish, it was mainly targeted, throughout its history, at the Jewish reader. This collection of texts, exquisitely edited by the two eminent experts based at the University of Wrocław, should be read not only by researchers of Judaistic issues but by anyone who is interested in the occurrences at the turn of the century in Poland and, possibly, in the later period too. The book contains a carefully compiled index, erudite notes, and an interesting set of photographs. (GK)

Zuzanna Kołodziejska, *“Izraelita” (1866–1915). Znaczenie kulturowe i literackie czasopisma [Izraelita (1866–1915). The periodical’s cultural and literary significance]*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, Kraków, 2014, 352 pp., index, ills.

Zuzanna Kołodziejska ranks among the excelling researchers of the nineteenth-century Jewish press. A PhD in humanities, graduate of the Warsaw University’s Polish Studies and English Studies, she has several valuable publications to her credit. The weekly magazine *Izraelita* was in circulation between 1866 and 1915: a voice of the Jews who declared their will to actively

contribute to Polish culture. The book's three chapters – all comprehensive, each encompassing a dozen subchapters – are, respectively: 'Izraelita: a profile'; 'Journalism, commentaries'; and, 'Literature'. Rather than a monograph of the weekly, the author offers us a cultural history of the influential milieu of Polish acculturated Jews. Not only has Kołodziejska established a number of new facts but she has shown, in detail, the ideological evolution of the individual journalists. They formed quite a sizeable group, with exponents such as Nahum Sokołow, Izrael-Leon Groszlik, Adolf-Jakub Kohn, Józef Wasercug, Franciszka Arensztajnowa, and including historians – Majer Bałaban, Leopold Blumental, Wilhelm Feldman, or Róża Centnerszwerowa among them. Without these figures, it is hard to imagine Polish culture as it stood at the time. The narrative capably embeds their profiles in the socio-political time and space, embarking on a discussion with the existing literature. With all this in place, the author is intellectually honest: whenever she is at odds with somebody, the reader can be certain that she will credibly quote the opponent's arguments. All this makes the book indispensable for anyone interested in the history of Polish Jews. A modest reference reading list is enriched with a facilitative list of the major Polish Jewish literary works and pieces as for 1865 to 1914, a selection of *Izraelita* mastheads, and a reliable index. (GK)

Katarzyna Sadkowska, *Lwowska krytyka literacka, 1894–1914. Tendencje i problemy* [Literary critics of the Lwów hub, 1894–1914: Trends and issues], Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, 2015, 332 pp.

The author, a literary historian of the Institute of Culture affiliated to the Department of Polish Studies of Warsaw University, approaches selected aspects of literary criticism produced in the Lwów milieu as the cradle of Polish modernism. Composed of twelve comprehensive chapters, the monograph oscillates around the characters and milieus described, focusing less on ideological trends. The narrative concentrates on the emblematic figures such as Karol Irzykowski, Ostap Ortwin (Sadkowska makes use of the recently found archive of the latter), along with the somewhat forgotten critics like Stanisław Womela and Tadeusz Sobolewski. The central collective character is the 'second generation' of Lwów-based critics, born in the 1870s decade and active particularly in 1890–1900. The author treats this group as a specific section within the Young Poland movement and a fragment of a broader European modernistic movement. The formation was distinct with its opposition toward the Cracow modernism, and with respect to the apolitical milieu of the Warsaw *Chimera* magazine. Sadkowska cleverly moves around the dense

intellectual life of Habsburg-ruled Galicia, and can reasonably discern between the dominant humanistic trends of the time, including the philosophy of life, empiriocriticism, or pragmatism. She firmly sets the biographies of Kazimierz Twardowski and other significant personages of Lwów's intellectual milieu against the background of the European thought. All in all, the book is an important and original study in the history of Polish culture, combining intellectual history, elements of social history, and issues typical of literary criticism – altogether deserving attentive reading. (GK)

Artur Górak and Krzysztof Latawiec, *Rosyjska administracja specjalna w Królestwie Polskim 1893–1918* [The Russian special administration in the Kingdom of Poland, 1893–1918], Wydawnictwo UMCS, Lublin, 2015, 211 pp.

Prepared by two historians of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin, this study is a sort of dictionary-guide to various sections of special administration, which included a series of institutions singled out from the competencies of general-purpose authorities (the Governor and the guberniyal government) or formed by the Russian Empire's separate administrative bodies. The emergence of the central administration, as pointed out by the authors, was never inhibited and virtually lasted until the end of the Russian rule, marked by the year 1915, with consequences lasting much longer. The introduction discusses the historical origins of each of the offices, the relations between the general and special administrative bodies, their conflicts, areas of rivalry and competition. The entries are in alphabetical order. They, mostly, generally describe the office, enumerate its responsibilities, and refer to the relevant sources and literature. A pretty helpful index is attached. The book is, altogether, an expert-level reading, virtually indispensable for historians of the nineteenth-century Polish lands (particularly in the century's latter half) and of the Russian Partition. (GK)

Małgorzata Przeniosło (ed.), *Z dziejów samorządu terytorialnego w XIX i XX wieku: zbiór studiów* [Aspects of the history of territorial government in the nineteenth and twentieth century: Collection of studies], Kieleckie Towarzystwo Naukowe, Kielce, 2014, 187 pp.

This collection of ten short studies focusing on various aspects of the functioning of territorial government structures and bodies in the Polish lands, beginning with the late nineteenth century, up until the end of the People's

Republic of Poland, has come out edited by an experienced scholar associated with the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce. Interestingly, whereas the local-government practices in themselves and the reflection upon them has been quite limited with respect to the Kingdom of Poland, this volume contains as many as seven studies focused on the cities within the Kingdom area, especially large hubs such as Kielce or Częstochowa. Whilst the reader might find somewhat awkward the lack of design that would bond the authors' contributions into one, most of the sketches offer unknown (and, often skilfully presented) material – one conspicuous example being the coherent study by Marta Nartowicz-Kot, discussing the birth and operation of local governments in the territory of the former Kingdom of Poland in 1915–19. This interesting collection of materials, though internally varied in importance (the example being a completely irrelevant and superfluous article on territorial government in the German Democratic Republic), will probably be of use to narrow-field specialists. (GK)

Jerzy Gaul and Alicja Nowak (eds.), *Spółeczeństwo polskie w świetle raportów politycznych austro-węgierskiego Generalnego Gubernatorstwa Wojskowego w Polsce 1915–1918: wybór źródeł* [Polish society as portrayed by the political reports of the Austro-Hungarian Military Governorate-General in Poland, 1915–18. A selection of sources], Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych, Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych, Wydawnictwo DiG, Warszawa, 2014, 400 pp.; biographical notes, reference literature, index, ill.

This new publication compiled by a team of researchers led by Jerzy Gaul, an experienced scholar associated with the Jan Kochanowski University of Kielce, comes out as a result of queries done at Viennese archives, especially, the Austrian State Archive. The volume consists, in total, of 134 critically edited documents, which illustrate the ways in which the authorities of the Habsburg monarchy, on the structure's various tiers, perceived the Polish society, from the first moments of the occupation of the southern part of the Russian Partition territory (i.e., from 1915 on) till the end of World War I. We can primarily find monthly political reports of district headquarters installed in the cities and, to a lesser extent, the central documentation of the Civil Commissariat and the Austro-Hungarian Military Governorate-General in Poland. This material gives us an idea of the demarcation disputes, the concepts and ideas varying by level of the administration, fluctuating moods within the authority circle, and diversity of the purposes the occupiers set for themselves. The administration made attempts to mitigate the public

mood swings, excite a positive attitude toward the Habsburg monarchy, and to win over the different social circles. Furnished with a competent and useful introduction, the publication provides a wealth of hitherto-unknown information and materials. Targeted chiefly at experts in the field, the book will be of use to researchers in other areas too. Attached are biographical notes on the authors of a number of reports, a modest reference reading list, several illustrations, and an index. (GK)

Agnieszka Dębska (ed.), *Polski wir I wojny. XX wiek. Zbliżenia* [The Polish First World War swirl. The twentieth century. Approaches], Wydawnictwo Ośrodek KARTA, Warszawa, 2014, 359 pp.

The Warsaw-based KARTA centre has elaborated an original formula of recounting the recent history. A collage of period sources is one of their most popular narrative techniques, calling for sound technical background and knowledge of the realities of the period or era concerned. The study prepared by Agnieszka Dębska is a good example of the genre. Consisting mainly of extracts from original texts, it shows how the Poles of the time perceived World War I: how the war shook and tore up the Polish society, transforming its daily life, opening some horizons whilst narrowing others. Fragments of diaries, letters and newspapers, blended together, produce a rich polyphonic image documenting the changeable living conditions and political circumstances and junctures. With its specific dynamism, the selection heads, clearly enough, for independence ultimately regained and reinstated by the nation, with a most diverse and vivid ethnic and social reality behind it. This skilfully selected and edited resource should no doubt win appreciation not only among experts in the period. A number of valuable illustrations, some of them unique, are moreover shown in this meticulously edited book – such editing standard being usual with KARTA. (GK)

Maciej Górny, *Wielka Wojna profesorów. Nauki o człowieku (1912–1923)* [The Great War of Professors. Human Sciences, 1912–23], Instytut Historii Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Warszawa, 2014, 384 pp., index of persons, ill., summary in English

Based on an extremely extensive query and reference literature in several languages, the book describes the stormy period of intense convolution of national characterology with the human sciences: geography, physical anthropology, and psychiatry/psychology. Górny's special focus is on Eastern and

South-Western Europe, with the local scientists from the rivalling nations fighting against one another. The intellectuals dealing with the aforesaid three sciences tried in this hot period to answer three questions: *Who* is our enemy? *Why* does this enemy hate us? *Why* should *we* also hate him? Anthropologists were granted a special gift because of the war: the multinational masses of captives who could be subjected to anthropometric studies. The outcomes of these ‘examinations’ oftentimes reinforced the theories claiming the superiority of the Nordic race, seeing ‘Mongolisation’ as a sign of degraded race, and so on. Glorifying one’s own nation and depreciating the inimical nation as physically handicapped (and, consequently, intellectually, morally, and culturally inferior) was endorsed by scientists. The categorisation of the anthropological human types became a barrier-building tool, stimulating anti-Semitism and strengthening the division into the racially ideal ‘our people’ or ‘natives’ (for instance, Nordics) and barbarians (crossbreed ones, with Asiatic features). The author indicates, though, that given the specific situation of Eastern Europe, the anthropological discourse mostly served the expansion of the borders of one’s own national community, rather than immuring themselves from the other nations – contrary to what occurred with Western Europe, Germany in particular. (BK)

INTERWAR PERIOD

Leon Wasilewski, *Wspomnienia 1870–1904 (1914). Fragmenty dziennika 1916–1926. Diariusz podróży po kresach 1927* [Reminiscences, 1870–1904. Diary (fragments), 1916–26. A diary of my journey across the {Eastern} Borderland 1927], with an introduction and ed. by Joanna Dufurat and Piotr Cichoracki, Wydawnictwo LTW, Łomianki, 2014, 366 pp.

No substantial biography of Leon Wasilewski has been written yet. This important collaborator of Józef Piłsudski and a prominent expert in ethnic issues within the *Sanacja* political camp; in the earlier years, a leading ideologue of ‘independency-oriented’ socialism – as editor of *Przedświt* and *Robotnik*, the major periodicals of Polish socialism; and, father of the novelist and pro-Soviet communist activist Wanda Wasilewska, has authored a book of reminiscences which was first published in the 1930s by *Niepodległość* magazine, and now are coming out again, meticulously (re-)edited. The volume offers, moreover, a novelty – a passage from Wasilewski’s 1914 diary, as well as some fragmentary notes dated 1916. The most interesting moments in this book refer to the first months and years after the 1926 May Coup. Leon’s notes from his journey to the eastern lands of Poland in 1927, probably unknown to historians at all, now appear in print for the first time. All in all,

this publication pretty well portrays the mental and spiritual horizons, the aspirations and expectations, of the Piłsudski-ite Left. (GK)

Helena Paderewska, *Wspomnienia 1910–1920* [Memories, 1910–20], PIW, Warszawa, 2015, 240 pp.; ill.

These memories of Ignacy J. Paderewski's second wife is certainly a 'source discovery' and an editorial rarity. The author was, in fact, an integral part of the artistic-and-patriotic enterprise – a description that fits well the activities undertaken in the second decade of the twentieth century by the famous pianist and composer who acted as the 'ambassador of the Polish cause' to Western Europe and, primarily, the United States. Demonised at several occasions by her contemporaries (at least a few situations of severe critique of her doings have been reported), Helena does not appear to have been an eminent figure, in the light of her own reminiscences. With such a strong personal commitment to international politics, there are astonishingly few personal opinions or judgements, as if the memoirist focused on a credible account rather than expressing her subjective feelings. 'The artist' or 'Paderewski' is how she usually names her husband. Apart from Paderewski's contribution to Polish politics in the late 1930s, the story told by his wife covers the most intensive period of the musician's public involvement. A vivid portrayal of a woman who sacrificed her life to the benefit of her eminent husband's career emerges from these recollections. Part of what she did in this respect was contributing to the organisation of political salons – first, in Paso Robles, California, and thereafter, in Riond-Bosson near Morges in Switzerland. This carefully edited book offers quite a number of before-unknown photographs. (GK)

Andrzej Nowak, *Pierwsza zdrada Zachodu: 1920 – zapomniany appeasement* [The West's first betrayal: 1920 – a forgotten appeasement], Wydawnictwo Literackie, Kraków, 2015, 603 pp.

The illustrious cognoscente of Polish-Russian relations, associated as a scholar with the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences and the Jagiellonian University, Andrzej Nowak, uses any opportunity to show the peculiarity of the Polish experience with Russia as a neighbour country and the ensuing threats. His new book offers a thorough analysis of international politics – especially, the policies applied by Britain – with respect to Poland, in the period that was key for the-then young country, i.e., the years 1919–21. Professor Nowak says that "this book is about the ability of deluding oneself" (p. 7) in the face of the Bolshevik Russia's invasion on Eastern Europe. There

are four sections: ‘The dream of Independent Poland and “the notions of the world”’; ‘Poland’s crisis: a short course’; ‘The way the Empire’s brain works’; ‘Polish annexes and questions’, each divided into subchapters. The monograph has been based upon enormous and multilingual query (carried out in the UK, the USA, Russia, Switzerland, and Poland), and versatility in the literature. While the reviewers tend to view this work as a novel take on the topic, this is not really the case. Talking about its strong points, the book offers us an exquisite, at times outright reckless reconstruction of certain threads (just to mention the daemonic figure of Lewis Namier, who endeavoured to superimpose the Curzon Line on the revived Poland) having been ‘ruminated’ by Polish historiographers for more than a century now. I found it very doubtful that transferral of this narrative into the international market may be possible; in any case, the book certainly deserves attention from readers. (GK)

Piotr Cichoracki, *Województwo poleskie 1921–1939. Z dziejów politycznych* [The Voivodship of Polesia, 1921–39: Aspects of its political history], Wydawnictwo LTW, Łomianki, 2014, 477 pp.

This new book by the researcher associated with the University of Wrocław focuses on the history of the land of Polesia [Polish, *Polesie*]. The author’s persistence is notable: it is almost twenty years now that he has been taking a close look at the history of this region of the Second Republic of Poland from various perspectives. The six chapters are mostly related to the consecutive crises in the countrywide or nationwide politics: the first is an introduction; the second covers the years 1921–2; Chapter 3 – the parliamentary democracy period, 1922–6; Chapter 4 – the brief period after the Coup of May 1926 (1926–7), Chapter 5 – the parliamentary election of 1928; the sixth chapter deals with the economic crisis of 1928–30; the seventh concerns the historic period usually identified with the activity of the Non-partisan Bloc for Cooperation with the Government [BBWR], 1930–5. The eight, and last, section describes the years following Marshal Piłsudski’s death, until the outbreak of World War II. We are persuaded that the 1928 election was a real breakthrough and the beginning of an internal political polarisation. It was at that period that parties or groups representing national minorities were eliminated from the public life, which is primarily true for the Belarusian and Ukrainian, later also Jewish, movements. As Cichoracki vividly argues, this came as a result of the political decision to ‘intensely Polishise’ the region of Polesia; the other reason being the widespread belief shared by the region’s elite, and accruing since the dawn of Poland’s independence,

that a democratic-liberal state would not be in a position to ensure the sustainability of Polish dominance. The book is moreover an interesting study in the history of administration in the Second Republic, and a penetrating analysis of the actual reasons behind the failure of the state, describable in terms of legitimacy, in this particular area. Putting aside some minor errors, this is one of the best studies in the interwar political history published in the recent years. (GK)

Anna Landau-Czajka, *Polska to nie oni. Polska i Polacy w polskojęzycznej prasie żydowskiej II Rzeczypospolitej* [Poland is not them! Poland and Poles in the Polish-language Jewish press of the Second Republic], Żydowski Instytut Historyczny im. Emanuela Ringelbluma, Warszawa, 2015, 375 pp.

This treatise by Anna Landau-Czajka, professor with the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, and lecturer with the Warsaw University of Life Sciences [SGGW], one of the most outstanding researchers specialising the Polish-Jewish relations during the Second Polish Republic period (1918–39), touches upon the permanently painful problems. The seven problem-focused chapters revolve around the identity issues affecting the acculturated Polish Jewry. The introduction and the first chapter outline the research queries and the research's state-of-play; Chapter 2 is on the attitude of the milieus under examination to the genesis of the Republic; the third analyses 'patriotism' as the notion and its meanings; the fourth seeks to determine the position of Józef Piłsudski in the perceptions and projections of Polish Jews. The fifth section – the longest and, probably, the most interesting one – deals with the stereotype of the Pole as reflected in the Jewish press. The last two chapters analyse the experience of anti-Semitism, proving constitutive for many a Polish Jew. The objectivised and transparent course of the narration helps making it apparent that, apart from certain short periods, the interwar Poland was not overly friendly towards its citizens of Jewish descent. The extremely objectified and clear language used by the author makes one understand how poignant was the identity entrapment suffered by the Jews who wanted to be (or to turn) Polish. This valuable and reliably edited study will certainly be of use not only to experts in the Second Republic of Poland. (GK)

II Rzeczpospolita wobec ruchu prometejskiego [The Second Republic of Poland in the face of the Promethean movement], ed. and with an introduction by Paweł Libera, Centralne Archiwum Wojskowe im. Bolesława Waligóry, Warszawa, 2013, 575 pp., indexes of persons and of geographical names, list of pseudonyms, ills.

This collection of 152 documents related to the ‘Promethean movement’ is edited by a young historian and eminent expert in the area, associated with the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences. The book contains documentation of top public offices, intelligence materials, and a representative selection of journalist pieces. The documents are arranged chronologically, rather than thematically, which influences the way one can read the anthology. Even if read superficially, these documents induce the question whether the Promethean idea was some romantic, post-messianic chimera, a plot machinated by Polish intelligence services, or perhaps, a brutal *Realpolitik* of the reborn Polish state in face of the aggressive neighbour in the East – the Bolshevik Russia; or, was it all of these in one? With the American historian Timothy Snyder, who in his last (and celebrated) book *Black Earth. Holocaust as History and Warning* (New York, 2015) puts forth the statement that Prometheism was the substance of Polish foreign policies in the interwar period, the topic may reappear in the midst of the Polish dispute on history; it certainly calls for a broad-based monograph. Preceded by an exhaustive introduction or, in fact, a small monograph of the movement, the anthology moreover comprises a few reproductions of documents, indexes of persons and geographical names, and – pretty helpfully – deciphered pseudonyms of a number of eminent members of the movement. (GK)

Agnieszka Fronczek-Kwarta, *Polityka finansowa i gospodarcza rządu Władysława Grabskiego w okresie reformy walutowo-skarbowej (1923–1925)* [The financial and economic policies of Władysław Grabski in the currency and treasury reform years, 1923–5], Wydawnictwo Nauka i Innowacje, Poznań, 2014, 385 pp.

This systematic analysis of the financial and economic policies pursued by the Government presided by Prime Minister Władysław Grabski in 1923–5 is the first such in a number of years. Originally prepared as doctoral dissertation at the University of Łódź, the study far exceeds the expectations normally related to such treatises. Emphasis is placed on a subjective position of Grabski till the end of his rule and real participation in politics. Noteworthy is the author’s excellent insight into the Poland’s economic standing, international

relations, and complicated configurations in Polish political arena. The author points out that on the verge of his career, Grabski expeditiously made use of a prosperous international situation and progressing polarisation between the parties, building his self-image as a statesman; later on, not quite expectedly, internal conflicts destroyed this statesman, controversial as he was for many of his contemporaries. The narrative axis consists of economic and financial affairs, with sections focused on political controversies around the Grabski plan and around the minority-targeted policy (until recently investigated by Polish historians, such as the late Jerzy Tomaszewski). Owing to the complicated economic and financial issues discussed, the book will probably reach a limited public; certainly, researchers specialising in the social history of the Second Republic ought to give this study attention. (GK)

Piotr Długołęcki and Krzysztof Szczepanik, in collaboration with Janusz Faryś and Henryk Walczak, *Ministerstwo Spraw Zagranicznych II Rzeczypospolitej. Organizacja, polityka, ministrowie* [The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Second Republic of Poland: its organisation, policies, and the ministers], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego “Minerwa”, Polski Instytut Dyplomacji im. Ignacego Jana Paderewskiego, Szczecin, 2014, 376 pp., bibliog., index of persons, ill.

This comprehensive and generously illustrated compendium describes a major ministry within the several Governments of the revived and wartime Poland (1918–45). The opening three scholarly articles describe, respectively: (i) the organisation of the Foreign Ministry (headquarters, personnel statistics, recruitment of the staff); (ii) composition and number of diplomatic outposts (consulates, legations); (iii) foreign policy visions, as they varied over time, with political disputes between Poland’s major political forces taken into account. The biographical section includes detailed notes of all the twenty ministers of the period concerned, not omitting those who were in office for a mere few days. These portraits were written by experts in the topic, based upon a broad query of the sources, archives included. The portrayals are complemented with a calendar of the ministers’ activities when in office (visits, meetings, diplomatic talks and agreements of importance). (BK)

Jacek Jaguś, *Ludność białoruska województwa nowogrodzkiego II Rzeczypospolitej w percepcji polskich elit regionu: analiza społeczno-polityczna* [The Belarusian population of the Nowogródek Voivodeship in the Second Republic of Poland, as perceived by the region's Polish elite: A sociopolitical analysis], Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, Toruń, 2014, 275 pp.

This is an interesting monograph combining aspects of history of mentality and history of ethnic stereotypes, along with, to a lesser extent, social psychology and political science. Composed of five chapters, preceded by a brief introduction, the study analyses the formation of the image of the Belarusian populace in the perception of the Polish political and cultural establishment. Modest in range, the study offers a number of compelling data, interestingly commented on by the author. Jaguś assumes that the dominant image of Belarusian inhabitants, as shaped in the early years of the Second Republic in the Polish cultural space, had a bearing on the Poles' attitudes towards Belarusians in the later period – primarily, during World War II; going further on, this image essentially informs our contemporary attitudes of Poles *and* Belarusians. The author argues that over the entire period concerned, regardless of the political views, Polish elites maintained a virtually invariable stereotype of the Belarusian as a passive, if not apathetic and, thence, very preservative peasant. The monograph has been based on the documentation of the local administration (primarily, the Voivodeship Office of Nowogródek [now Navahrudak, Belarus]) and records of district (*powiat*) starosties. The regional press and memoirs have been used as well. With some frustrating ambiguities, superfluous repetitions or grandiloquent enunciations, the book is interesting and should definitely be read carefully by specialists in interwar Poland's ethnic policy. (GK)

Adam Kopciowski, *Wos hert zich in der prowinc? Prasa żydowska na Lubelszczyźnie i jej największy dziennik "Lubliner Tugblat"* [Wos hert zich in der prowinc? The Jewish press in the Lublin region and its major daily *Lubliner Tugblat*], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin, 2015, 615 pp.

Penned by Adam Kopciowski, a young historian associated with the Department of Jewish Culture and History at Lublin's Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, being one of the most dynamic hubs as far as research into the history of Polish Jewry is concerned, is worth of note for a number of reasons. The first part of this comprehensive treatise outlines the history of the Jewish press in the land of Lublin from before World War I to the

interwar period (ended 1939), specifying the major projects (more than 120 titles are discussed). An in-depth introduction describes each of the journals and magazines concerned, including occasional publications – also periodicals connected to Lublin and Zamość of the communities in Israel or in the United States. The second section basically tells the story of *Lubliner Tugblatt* in the two interwar decades. Published in the circulation of up to 4,000 copies (dropping, however, to 600–700 in 1938–9), the ‘Lublin Daily’ had a clearly defined profile, described once as ‘tabloid’ or ‘revolver paper’. The third section presents the topics of particular interest to the *Tugblatt*’s editorial board: the daily life, the functioning of institutions and of the ‘Jewish street’, plus everything categorised by the author as ‘sensation’, or bombshell, items. Kopciowski rightly approaches this newspaper as a peculiar chronicle of the ‘Jewish’ Lublin region. The genealogy of the milieu that had brought the paper into being is presented capably, picturesquely; and compellingly; we are led through the vicissitudes of its founders, journalists, and editorial éminences grises. The daily appears set in a broader landscape of the region’s Jewish as well as general press. It might at times seem that the author would like to show us too much, as if he were afraid he might omit some voice of importance. At some points, this makes the matter somewhat chaotic. With this reservation in mind, the monograph is outright fascinating; it portrays the dynamism and development of the local press seen through the prism of the region’s major Jewish newspaper. The author perceives the *Lubliner Tugblatt* as a living organism, often developing in an inimical surrounding, somehow against the grain, in some periods. The book offers us all the best of the characteristics of history of the press, with elements of history of everyday life and mentality. It also brings a valuable commentary to the public-moral and political history of interwar Poland. This carefully edited study contains a plenty of unique photographs, an interesting selection of caricatures, and no less interesting annexes, altogether inarguably deserving acquaintance not only from specialists in the field. (GK)

Urszula Glensk, *Historia słabych. Reportaż i życie w dwudziestoleciu (1918–1939)* [A history of the weak. Reportage and life in the two interwar decades, 1918–39], Towarzystwo Autorów i Wydawców Prac Naukowych Universitas, Kraków, 2014, 515 pp.

In what ways did the reporters describe the pre-war reality, and how did their work evolve into a new literary genre? Researchers investigating into Poland’s interwar period, say nothing of historians, have not posed such questions before. Urszula Glensk does the opposite – and daringly replies the questions. It is with critical cogitation that this literary historian, associated

with the University of Wrocław, reconstructs the reality presented in the pre-war reportages. Reports penned by many an illustrious writer and journalist are confronted in her book against the period's documents and arguments proposed by publicists and commentators of the time. There are three extensive thematic sections, broken down into mini-chapters. This 'history of the weak' is, primarily, a story of efforts and existential hardships of 'redundant', 'dispensable' people, existing on the margin of the 'mainstream society'. The choice of the topic plainly boosts the importance of 'committed reportage' – the pieces written, mostly (but not exclusively), by leftist-inclined authors. In the background, the combats fought against the 'bourgeois morality' by these (mostly, female) characters are depicted. These authors (author-esses) wrote a great deal about social pathologies, such as prostitution, homelessness, infanticide, abandoned newborns, and joblessness. Analysis of these texts helps make it apparent how severe, and unprocessed, trauma of these two decades the economic crisis of the thirties was. Evoked are the journalistic celebrities of the Second Republic: Ksawery Pruszyński, Konrad Wrzos, Wanda Melcer, and forgotten authors – Stanisława Osińska, Herman Rubinraut – recalled. In-depth methodological afterthought on the nature and methods of reading reportage works – as proposed in the introduction and, essentially, across the study – is doubtlessly worthy of attention. The book, one of the most interesting studies on the Second Republic of Poland recently issued, was awarded the *Polityka* weekly's History Prize 2015. (GK)

Kartka z pamiętnika uczennicy: książka pamiątkowa szkoły Haliny Gepnerówny 1901–1944 [A page in a schoolgirl's diary: the commemorative book of the Halina Gepnerówna school, 1901–44], ed., footnotes, selection of illstr., and index of persons by Jolanta Niklewska, Muzeum Warszawy, Warszawa, 2014, 381 pp.

The book is a collection of several dozen memories written by graduates and individuals associated with the female school of Halina Gepnerówna in Warsaw. The school was a pedagogical initiative conceived on the verge of the century; it passed its 'acid test' after the tumultuous period after 1905, and survived till 1939. The school became legendary already in the century's first decade. It went through a transformation that changed its face: from a boarding school for landowners' daughters and a classical female junior high school, it turned into an institution in its own right. The book is structured into thematic modules: 'A history of the School', 'Superior officers', 'Teachers', and 'The school's life'; indexes of names of the teachers, lists of school administration clerks and blue collar workers, and a list of those killed in World War II. Altogether, this publication forms an important contribution

to the history of Polish education, particularly education of young females, and to the history of mentality of the former half of the twentieth century. There are some stirring pieces inside, literary in type or style, reaching far beyond sentimental reminiscences of sentimental or romantic schoolgirls (pieces of this sort are available in the local reader market). Edited somehow conservatively, the book is certainly worth of recommendation – not only to those specialising in the history of education. (GK)

Józef Malinowski, *Stefan Dąbrowski (1877–1947). Biografia polityczna* [Stefan Dąbrowski, 1877–1947: a political biography], Wydawnictwo Rys, Poznań, 2014, 350 pp., bibliog. of Stefan Dąbrowski's works, list of abbreviations, index of persons, ill.

The book by Józef Malinowski, PhD, a researcher associated with the Warsaw-based Polish Academy of Sciences' Archive, concerns the political activity of an uncommon figure. An outstanding personage in the Poznań scientific milieu, Stefan Dąbrowski was a famous physician and biochemist, associated since 1903 with the University of Lwów, one of his functions thereat being head of the Chair of General Chemistry at the Academy of Veterinarian Medicine (1913–20). In the first independence years (after 1918), he moved to Poznań, and was appointed Professor with the local University (1920). There, he ran the Departments of Physiological Chemistry and General Chemistry, among other things. He also acted as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in a very turbulent period of 1937–9. Elected Rector of the University of Poznań in 1939, he was re-elected in 1945, right after the war. The study has four chapters, arranged by the consecutive stages of Dąbrowski's life and, primarily, his public activities, which appear rather typical of his generation – from the involvements in his youth years, through the Great War time (1914–18), World War II, up to his activity as the university rector. In the early years of his public engagement, Stefan combined a nationalistic political involvement with active scientific and teaching activities. Member of the National League since 1905, he grew in the first decade of the twentieth century to become one of the most outstanding nationalist youth activists in Austrian-Polish Galicia. Later on, he contributed to the Rzeczpospolita group (one of its members being Stanisław Stroński). During World War I, he combated against the idea of cooperating with Germany or Austria. Dąbrowski was Deputy Foreign Minister in 1920–1, and an MP with the Lower House (*Sejm*) from 1922 to 1935. Malinowski has artfully managed to provide a considerable stock of previously-unknown material without verging on banality of schematic or stereotypical takes of the era and the formation being Stefan's 'nursery'. This biography is one of a nationalist who passes from his 'lofty and cloudy' youth

to the position of a moderate 'statesman'. The book is furnished with a list of scholarly and journalistic works by Stefan Dąbrowski, a subject bibliography and an index of persons. (GK)

Robert Jastrzębski and Marek Zubik (eds.), *Małe konstytucje: ustawy zasadnicze okresów przejściowych 1919 – 1947 – 1992* ['Small' constitutions: the basic law for interim periods, 1919 – 1947 – 1992], Wydawnictwo Sejmowe, Warszawa, 2014, 178 pp.

This collection of essays by eminent historians-constitutionalists, with pre-eminence of the Warsaw and Wrocław milieus, focused on foundational lower-order deeds called the Small Constitutions – specifically, those enacted in 1919, 1947, and 1992, respectively. Discussed are also other lower-order pieces of legislation. Although these documents tend to be neglected by authors of larger concise presentations of the political system of Poland, many of them have actually set the path of reflection on the polity and regime. In spite of its modest thematic scope, the anthology abounds with new pieces of information; moreover, some of the studies have embarked on reinterpreting the role(s) played by these documents. The style in which this book is written is unquestionably attractive, the argument being, mostly, clear and elegantly proposed, with no items of legalese. Designed, basically, for a narrow group of experts, it does have considerable disseminative potential. (GK)

CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

Magdalena Grzebałkowska, *1945. Wojna i Pokój* [1945: War and Peace], Biblioteka Gazety Wyborczej, Warszawa, 2015, 413 pp., ill.

Once more, a respected reporter with *Gazeta Wyborcza* daily, and author without formal university-level historical education in the field of history, has offered us an exquisite historical book. Divided into chapters corresponding with the months of one year, this study describes the experience of a unique generation. The characters she describes were a few or a dozen years of age in the year 1945 and were part of the last generation who could remember the war-front passing through the country, resettlements, the annihilation of Polish Eastern Borderland, and the first years in the until-most-recently German lands, subsequently named the 'Recovered Territories'. It is a thoroughbred story about the last year of the World War and the first year of a peace – an intricately constructed piece of literature, combining historical reportage and scientific monograph based on press sources and personal talks

with the characters. The contributions made by these people are probably mostly owed to the author. Rather than confining herself to quizzing her interlocutors, she from time to time becomes a no less legitimate character, too – never assuming a patronising manner, an omniscient narrator stance, with respect to the other characters. Unfortunately, a weak point about narratives of this kind is that the story told becomes somewhat shallow. All the same, the end result is excellent: this sagacious book, with many brilliant moments, has revived an entire mental space that has been lost somewhere in the public's memory. With the stories told by individuals hit once by the machinery of the great history, a narrative about the whole generation has been produced. A plenty of unique illustrations are published (photographs being granted, as it were, a subjective status). There is a useful chronology and a somewhat disappointing references list, which does not at all reflect the author's wide reading, erudition, and high humanistic culture. (GK)

Anna Wylegała, *Przesiedlenia a pamięć. Studium (nie)pamięci społecznej na przykładzie ukraińskiej Galicji i polskich "ziem odzyskanych"* [Displacements and memory: a study in social memory/oblivion. The cases of Ukrainian Galicia and Polish 'Recovered Territories'], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń, 2014, 509 pp.

This book by a young sociologist associated with the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences, is an outstanding interdisciplinary study combining research in memory (sociology of memory, in the first place) and mentality studies. Analysed is the collective experience of displacement and its effects, the case study focusing on two urban areas which have had their populations almost completely replaced resulting from the war: the Polish town of Krzyż (formerly, Kreuz in Germany) and the presently Ukrainian, and formerly (mostly) Polish-Jewish town of Zhovkva/Żółkiew. The author has made and systematically analysed more than 150 in-depth interviews, which, adding to her wide and comprehensive reading in several areas, has enabled her to develop a penetrating image of memory/oblivion of the residents of both localities. Of special importance is Wylegała's analysis of the mechanism of displacement and the period of adaptation to the new place, part of it being an oversensitive attitude towards those no-more-present-there: the Germans, the Poles, the Jews. The study moreover penetrates into how the displaced persons' experiences and their memory/oblivion affect the present-day mentalities. The interestingly conceptualised and original approach proposed leads to some quite unobvious conclusions. Conscientious in her effort, the author is emphatic with respect

to the ‘witnesses of history’, which altogether has produced a high-class work – recently (2015) awarded the prestigious History Prize awarded by the *Polityka* weekly. (GK)

Radosław Ptasiński and Tomasz Sikorski (eds.), *Sensus catholicus. Katolicy świeccy w Polsce Ludowej. Postawy – aktywność – myśli. Studia i szkice* [*Sensus catholicus. Secular Catholics in the communist Poland: Attitudes – activity – thoughts. Studies and essays*], Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, Toruń, 2014, 734 pp.

This large-sized collection of studies, dedicated to the memory of the late Tadeusz Mazowiecki, has set an ambitious goal for itself: to describe a milieu that was as much controversial as heterogeneous. The volume comprises forty-two treatises or disquisitions focused on various historical figures and Catholic groups in what was the People’s Republic of Poland, from left-wing orientation through to the Centre and extreme Right; the numerous f(r)actions joined the activities of the PAX Association in the first years of the communist Poland. The essays are grouped into sections: ‘The milieus and their orientations’, ‘The figures’, ‘Activities, attitudes, views, ideological orientations’, plus a section with studies on diverse topics. The collection altogether offers a fairly broad view on Catholic political groupings in the communist Poland, even if one can find quite a number of polemically-inclined studies among them. While reading some of them, it is hard to resist the question how to break out from the vicious circle of mutual accusations, rationalisations and excuses from/because of the past? In some of the cases, the charges and incriminations with respect to the heroes and their milieus seem petty-minded, if not absurd. Some authors have merely opted for deprecating the characters they spotlight. A question that becomes common to these so diverse (and unordered) studies is: Can we understand the reasons behind the choices made by a formation referred to as ‘licensed’ Catholic activists, and, can they be absolved? With all the objections, researchers specialising in social and political Catholicism will now have this book listed as their reading assignment. While the editorial standard is not overly delightful, the edition has been prepared rather carefully. A helpful reference reading list has been attached. (GK)

Andrzej Friszke, *Między wojną a więzieniem 1945–1953. Młoda inteligencja katolicka* [Between the war and imprisonment, 1945–53. The young Catholic intelligentsia], Biblioteka „Więzi”, Instytut Studiów Politycznych Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Warszawa, 2015, 416 pp., index of persons, ill.

This exquisitely written book can be regarded as a retarded prologue to Professor Friszke's pioneering synthetic study on the political opposition in the post-war communist Poland (*Opozycja polityczna w PRL 1945–1980*, London, 1994). The new study portrays a group of Catholic activists, who were born around 1920 and committed themselves to conspiratorial activities under the German occupation of Poland (1939–45). With the end of the war, they abandoned the idea of armed resistance and resolved to influence the course of history, according to their potential and capabilities, whilst cultivating the values of their homes (of bourgeois or, sometimes, noble background). Described in detail are the vicissitudes of several mutually overlapping circles: the contributors of the 'Youth Column' (*Kolumna Młodych*), a section in the Christian weekly *Tygodnik Warszawski* (Wiesław Chrzanowski, and others); members of the religious association Marian Sodality of Academicians, and tertiary student self-government activists (Tadeusz Przeciszewski, *et al.*); the Logophagi ('Word-Devourers') Club of Cracow (Jacek Woźniakowski, *et al.*); the group associated with Bolesław Piasecki's weekly *Dziś i Jutro*; and, camp-followers of Christian personalism (the sociologist Czesław Czapów, and others). Except for *Dziś i Jutro*, these groups were eventually recognised as 'threatening to undermine' the communist system, and fragmentised through arrest and detention. Friszke's study is based on investigative and forensic material – the documents produced by the communist political police (Security Service [SB]). There is more to this book than merely a collective biography of a few elitist young people's circles: it portrays, in a peculiar way, the generation of the Polish intelligentsia which after 1945 faced the necessity to choose between the various forms of resistance, and different adaptation methods. Some of the characters portrayed (one example being Jan Józef Lipski) co-formed in the post-1956 political Thaw period the 'proto-oppositional' Crooked Circle Club; others contributed to the Warsaw-based Catholic Intelligentsia Club (KIK), to mention the outstanding examples. (BK)

Alina Cała, *Ochrona bezpieczeństwa fizycznego Żydów w Polsce powojennej: komisje specjalne przy Centralnym Komitecie Żydowskim w Polsce* [Protecting physical security of Jews in post-war Poland: special commissions affiliated to the Central Committee of Jews in Poland], Żydowski Instytut Historyczny im. Emanuela Ringelbluma, Warszawa, 2014, 461 pp., glossary, list of abbreviations, bibliog.

The violent acts targeted at Jews in Poland shortly after World War II could not find an easy way to get through to the consciousness of the Polish reader. Neglected over the years by historians, it was long underappreciated by the public opinion. The long periods of silence, particularly after 1968, provided the ground for numerous abuses in interpretation, ordinary anti-Semitic forgeries or re-rationalisations. According to a most widespread concept, not only were the Jews the greatest beneficiaries of the communist system but they were its major founders and rulers. With this sort of logic in place, the violence against Jews was a blow against the communist system. All this being the case, the problem has increasingly called for critical analysis. Associated with the Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw, Alina Cała is one of the few pioneering authors. Her new book is composed of two sections: a sizeable (over 150-page) monographic essay introducing the safety and security issues in the period 1944–8, with an emphasis on the genesis and the mechanisms of functioning of the ‘special commissions’ – the specialised units of the Central Committee of Polish Jews [*resp.* Central Committee of Jews in Poland; CKŻP] dealing with security and protection of Jews, with branch offices in the voivodeships and cities. The other section offers several dozen original texts edited for the purpose. There is a glossary, list of abbreviations, and a useful references list. A valued researcher, Cała has no doubt produced a key collection of documents related to the ‘Great Fright’ time (to use the term recently introduced in Polish research on the post-war period by Marcin Zaremba). (GK)

Mirosław Szumiło, *Roman Zambrowski 1909–1977. Studium z dziejów elity komunistycznej w Polsce* [Roman Zambrowski, 1909–77. A study in the history of the communist elite in Poland], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2014, 526 pp.

The book is a political biography of one of the most influential, and mysterious, figures in the early communist Poland. Albeit the author identifies Zambrowski with the local ‘communist elite’, the book is also a monograph

of a faction of Polish intelligentsia. The character's vicissitudes are described painstakingly – from the young Roman's fascination with a leftish radicalism, through the 'professional revolutionist' stage in interwar Poland, up to the peaking political influence in the late 1940s. Resulting from a crisis in the authority circles, his position began to weaken, and the Jewish background, from which he distanced himself over his lifetime, turned out to be an irremovable stigma. The author is particularly insightful about this thread; analyses these and other 'Jewish traces' with an extravagant zeal, as it seems. The upheaval of October 1956 saw Zambrowski play an important part as one among the leaders of the communist-party reformers, so-called 'Puławy faction, but he was gradually pushed aside a few years later. Later on, this former Stalinist efficiently inspired attacks on himself from the anti-Semitic propaganda in March 1968. The figure of Zambrowski has forced the author to face the myth of 'Judeo-Communism'. Yet, Szumiło not always emerges the victor in this confrontation. In any case, his study is based on rich archival resources, including Russian archives, private (primarily, family) collections, and comprises a number of interesting pictures. While not completely free of faults, this study certainly ranks among the most outstanding works of its type. As such, it has been appreciated by the jury of the History Prize granted by the *Polityka* weekly in 2015. (GK)

Jarosław Pałka and Jerzy Poksiński, *Michał Żymierski 1890–1989*, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2015, 384 pp., bibliog., index of persons, ill.; series: Monografie, 106

Jerzy Poksiński once worked on a biography of Michał Żymierski, but after his unexpected death in 2000, Jarosław Pałka completed it. The life of Żymierski abounded with ideological turns. Michał passed his mature examinations in 1910 in Cracow, and enrolled himself with a law faculty, getting involved, in parallel, in the activities of paramilitary independence-oriented organisations. In the First World War years, he grew into an outstanding officer of the Polish Legions. In 1921–3, together with a few other officers sent for the purpose from Poland, he studied with the *École Supérieure de Guerre* in Paris. In 1924, Żymierski took up a top position with the Second Republic's Ministry of Military Affairs. May 1926 did not see him support Józef Piłsudski's coup d'état; soon, he was detained and sentenced for an impropriety occurring upon a purchase of gas masks for the military. His trial was no doubt politically beneficial for the *Sanacja* regime; still, Żymierski was guilty indeed. He was sentenced to five years in prison and was downgraded. Having served his time, he travelled to France and there was recruited, in 1932, by

the Soviet intelligence as an agent. During World War II, he stayed in touch with the Gestapo, and endeavoured – to no avail – to join and contribute to the conspiratorial structures of the Polish Underground State. He was found useful to the Polish communists who made him the commander of the People's Army, and subsequently appointed Marshal of the Polish Army and Deputy Minister of National Defence; he was strongly present in the propaganda. Żymierski did not avoid imprisonment and investigation (in 1953–5). After 1956, he was made Deputy President of the National Bank of Poland. He turned out to be of use for the authorities, again, in the seventies – a model soldier and patriot, a star of the socialist culture. The biography is mainly focused on Żymierski's military-related activities, also shedding some light onto his political choices – the main propellant, in the authors' opinion, being his endeavour to sustain a high financial status. (BK)

Paweł Kowal and Mariusz Cieślík, *Jaruzelski. Życie paradoksalne* [Jaruzelski. A paradoxical life], Znak, Kraków, 2015, 415 pp., ill.

The book under review was preceded by, say, two attempts at a comprehensive biography of the Polish communist leader and the first President of post-communist Poland (the 'Third Republic'). Alongside these, a whole lot of lampoons have been published. Of the recently issued publications, the book by Colonel Lech Kowalski, former assistant to General Jaruzelski, describes him as a Soviet agent – and is, in fact, a thorough indictment against Jaruzelski. The other book, an extended interview by Jan Osiecki (entitled *Generał. Wojciech Jaruzelski w rozmowie z Janem Osieckim*), with a commentary penned by the author, shows the point-of-view close to the interviewee. Paweł Kowal, the noted right-wing politician and historian (author of, among others, the highly-esteemed monograph *Koniec systemu władzy. Polityka ekipy gen. Wojciecha Jaruzelskiego w latach 1986–1989* [The end of a power system: The politics of General Wojciech Jaruzelski's team in 1986–9]), and Mariusz Cieślík, author and columnist with the *Wprost* weekly, have shun from such unambiguous or pronounced appraisements and opinions, endeavouring instead to understand the man – any elements of political bias such a book may imply. The key to understanding the personal transformation of this son of a patriotic family is, apparently, his wartime story: the exile and the joining of the Red Army, which may possibly explain the toxic (though not as clear as many would believe it to be) relationship of this Soviet 'Labour Hero' with the Soviet Union. In the summary, the biographers accept Colonel Ryszard Kukliński's argument whereby the "inborn instinct for discipline and obedience was Jaruzelski's supreme characteristic". The authors emphasise at several occasions that during his direct rule Jaruzelski endeavoured to drag

the country's economy away from a deep collapse, avoiding open conflict. On imposing the martial law, he counted on the Soviet Union to intensify economic aid to Poland. Kowal and Cieřlik show some psychological characteristics of this man: in the critical moments, Jaruzelski's demeanour was always careful, and prevailed owing to his crucial assets: patience, systematic labour, skilfully managed ambitions, and nerves of steel. This biography combines aspects of synthetic historical study and political commentary, with no accusatorial bias. With no new documents published or quoted, the authors make appropriate use of some of the existing articles and books on Jaruzelski and communist Poland, and summarise the previous findings and interpretations. In some aspects, the narrative may seem superficial and the explanations incomplete, but with all these disadvantages, this is the so-far-best political biography of Wojciech Jaruzelski. A good deal of interesting pictures are included in this neatly edited study. (GK)

Natalia Jarska, *Kobiety z marmuru. Robotnice w Polsce w latach 1945–1960* [Women of marble. Female workers and labourers in Poland, 1945–60], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2015, 343 pp., bibliog., index of persons, ills., summary in English; series: Monografie, 102

Based on archival sources and witness accounts, this book is a study in the area of social history and history of women. Analysed is the professional mobilisation of women, the question being considered of to what extent the process can be deemed as implementing the emancipation slogan inscribed on the banners of the communist movement. Described are the assumptions and fulfilment of the female employment policy as well as the public response to this policy between 1945 and 1960. 'Productivisation' of women (females being encouraged to take new or novel, especially industrial, jobs) was promoted before 1948 due to prevalent unemployment, rather than in the name of equality. In the Stalinist period (until 1955), productivisation of women became a significant purpose of the politics; Polish women were promised to have a number of nurseries and daily care centres built (a promise the authorities failed to meet). Within a couple of years, female employment rate outside agricultural jobs doubled. The de-Stalinisation trend implied the question about the rationale behind the employment of women with new jobs and some industrial sectors (for instance, women were fast removed from doing underground work in mines). As a result, joblessness increased among women, but the doors unhinged in the Stalinist years remained open, and the basic mental change was irreversible. One chapter deals with the

case study of a metal factory constructed in Kraśnik near Lublin, with several thousand women of rural background employed. As it turned out, it was women, portrayed by the communist propaganda as a backward element, who implemented the communist idea of productivisation in the industry the most completely (without objections or prejudices). It becomes apparent based on this book that Stalinism, rather than challenging the gender division of labour, has only impaired it: the Revolution remained unfinished owing to inefficient state policies *and* mental resistance from the ruling males. (BK)

Łucja Marek and Monika Bortlik-Dźwierzynska, *Za Marksem bez Boga. Laicyzacja życia społecznego w Polsce w latach 1945–1989* [Follow Karl Marx, no God. The secularisation of public life in Poland, 1945–89], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Katowice, 2014, 375 pp., bibliog., ill.

This large-format volume is a comprehensive elaboration of the problem of secularisation, or laicisation – an important direction in the policies pursued by the Polish authorities after 1945. This study interprets communism as a quasi-religious system having its own saints (the communist party leaders, doctrine, and celebrations (clearly, all secular). The policy executors (Society for the Promotion of Secular Culture [TKKS]; Polish Scouting Association [ZHP]; Militia Family Circles, its members being families of Civic Militia [MO] or Security Service [SB] functionaries; etc.) are described. The authors understand secularisation in a broad sense, extending to designing new urban areas without a place allotted for a temple, to give a specific example. The study basically describes the secular rites and rituals created in the People's Republic. The act of marriage at a Registry Office was free of religious accents; 'conjugal union anniversaries' celebrated by married couples were secular in character. Organised were child christening celebrations (a secular counterpart of baptism, to the authors' minds), 'youngster acknowledgment' ceremonies (held regionally, mainly by Militia Family Circles, as a sort of secular counterpart of the Holy Communion, with nine-year-olds taking a pledge to love their home country, be a good student at their school, and the like). Those aged eighteen and ready to receive their first Identity Card were 'dubbed' citizens (a countertype of the Catholic Confirmation). The researchers also discuss the secular interment and the complete calendar of public holidays, incl. the days celebrating selected professions; 'in lieu' of the Catholic holiday of All Saints' Day, a 'Day of the Dead' was popularised since 1947. The numerous pictures, reproductions, and documents add to the attractiveness of this 'album-like' book. (BK)

Krzysztof Busse, *Utopia i rzeczywistość. Stowarzyszenie PAX w życiu politycznym i gospodarczym PRL i III RP na przykładzie województwa radomskiego (1975–1993)* [A utopia and the reality. The PAX Association in the political and economic life of the People's Republic of Poland and the Third Polish Republic: the Voivodeship of Radom as an illustrative case, 1975–93], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu. Oddział w Lublinie, Lublin and Radom, 2015, 379 pp., ill.

The timeframe of this modestly designed but immensely interesting monograph is set, on the one end, by the two-level administrative division of Poland in 1975 (with *powiats* [districts] abolished); on the other, by the PAX Association turning into an organisation named Civitas Christiana. Notably, this (apart from journalistic pieces) is the first study written about the PAX. Three extensive chapters are chronological and problem-oriented. The organisation being focal in this story had a mere 700-or-so members, the later (into our day) Right-oriented political elite of the Radom Voivodeship passed through it in one way or another. As the author convincingly argues, the PAX in the Radom region chiefly stood for an interest group that sought to secure its own economic position, with no significant influence on high-level politics and a severely restricted impact on local policies. The proposed analysis of the milieu's business activity dynamics seems interesting; we can see the ways in which the organisation skilfully expanded its assets in the region, in spite of the difficulties piled up by the communist administration. With all this, discussed is the formation which tried to outsmart the oppressive system it had largely approved. The young author found it overly easy to perceive this milieu's legacy as a second-rate eclectic output, avoiding a more general assessment. Probably not very much in line with the intended design, the study quite excels in depicting the origins of the contemporary right-wing arena – local and, in a sense, countrywide. This valuable case study has been carried out based on systematic analysis of the resources available at the Civitas Christiana Catholic Association in Radom and a query search through the Warsaw archives. The annexes attached provide some original (period) documentation, a couple of ideological declarations, as well as a Security Service dossier, lists of members, and a considerable amount of before-unknown photographic documentation. (GK)

Patryk Pleskot, *Miasto śmierci. Pytania o morderstwa polityczne popełnione w Warszawie (1956–1989)* [A city of death. Questions concerning some political murders committed in Warsaw, 1956–89], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2015, 345 pp., bibliog., index of persons; series: Warszawa nie?pokonana

The book provides a concise description of the twelve most notorious homicides committed in Warsaw between 1956 and 1989. These murders became famous cases because the public opinion interpreted them as political acts (believing they had been committed on order, or in the interest, of the authorities). The author has taken advantage of the inquisitorial and public prosecutors' files and records, collected at the Institute of National Remembrance archive, and of the witnesses' recollections. He has considered three of these cases indisputable instances of political murder: the kidnapping and manslaughter of Bohdan Piasecki (1957), son of Bolesław Piasecki, the founder of the PAX Association; the fatal assault and battery of Grzegorz Przemyski, a secondary-school senior (1983); and, the killing of the Catholic priest Stefan Niedzielak (1989), the spiritual guardian of the milieu of the Katyn massacre victims' families. Insightful reading of the documents and the present broader knowledge of the local repressive apparatus (i.e., the Militia, the public prosecutor's office, the Security Service) have disposed the author to see one more case as a purported political murder, the remaining eight incidents being furnished with a question mark (though the victims were political dissidents or relatives of opposition activists). In addition, he identified among them two instances of demise 'politicised' by the circumstances and prevalent public sentiments: such was, apparently, the case of Henryk Holland, who suffered from depression and is reported to have jumped out of his apartment's window while searched by the Security Service; Jan Strzelecki, sociologist and advisor to the Solidarity trade union, was battered to death in a holdup in 1988. The study belongs to the domain of research on the communist repression apparatus, whilst it also offers several apt observations in the field of social psychology. It shows how easy collective or mass emotion may imply the perception of certain tragic, though incidental, events in terms of a politically-inspired occurrence. As the content is not arranged chronologically, one finds it hard to trace the historical changes in the functioning of Polish post-war prosecutor's offices or investigative bodies. (BK)

Konrad Knoch, *Pisma liberalne drugiego obiegu w Polsce w latach 1979–1990* [Liberal Samizdat Periodicals in Poland, 1979–90], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2015, 437 pp., bibliog., index of persons, ill.; series: Monografie, 97

This book far exceeds the confines of press studies: it is, in fact, a history of liberal milieus in the end-stage of the People's Republic of Poland, oscillating between political sciences, history, and history of ideas. The central focus is the periodicals published outside of the communist censorship system and contributing to a liberal discourse: *Merkuryusz Krakowski i Światowy* (1979–80), published in Cracow and followed up by *Trzynastka. Pismo chrześcijańsko-liberalne* (a 'liberal Christian magazine'; 1982–7); *Niepodległość* (1982–90; in-house splits led to publishing two periodicals with the same title since 1985); *Kurs* (1983–9); *Stańczyk. Pismo konserwatystów i liberalów* (targeted at the 'conservative and liberal'-inclined reader; 1986–90); *Przegląd Polityczny*, edited in Gdansk (1983–9), and others, among which *Niepodległość* had the highest circulation (up to 10,000 copies). The liberal current, as a whole, was marginal to the samizdat phenomenon. The makers of these periodicals opened the floodgates of the milieus that (gradually) declared the breakdown with socialism as an anachronous and irrational system (which also meant a split with the major, leftist current within the opposition and Solidarity labour union), began holding discussions on economy and the condition of civil freedoms in Poland, and associate – as, for instance, within the Cracow Industrial Society, set up in 1985 and officially registered in 1987. We are introduced into the organisational and publishing problems related to the periodicals, the disputes and alliances between the milieus. And, we can trace the process of ripening of a political trend: from the initiatives to get the classical liberalism works (e.g., by Friedrich August von Hayek) into Polish, recalling the legacy of Polish liberals (Ferdynand Zweig, and others), through developing their own programme concepts (Miroslaw Dzielski's proposal of a compromising settlement with the communist rulers; the monarchical bias of *Stańczyk*), up to the establishment of a political party – the 'Independence' Liberal Democratic Party (1984). This small clandestine party resolutely postulated the regaining of independence by Poland, by violent act or otherwise. The author moreover proposes his appraisal of the major liberal activists and publicists (Miroslaw Dzielski, Witold Gadowski, Robert Kaczmarek, Janusz R. Korwin-Mikke, Janusz Lewadowski, Donald Tusk). (BK)

Natalia Jarska and Jan Olaszek (eds.), *Spółeczeństwo polskie w latach 1980–1989* [Polish society in 1980–9], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warszawa, 2015, 439 pp., bibliog., index of persons, table of contents and summaries in English

This book, rich in contents, is an outcome of an interdisciplinary scientific session (the authors include sociologists, anthropologists, cultural scientists) and describes fragments of the social realities of Poland in the 1980s. A total of twenty-three articles are contained in the sections: (i) 'Accommodative strategies': how low-supply foodstuffs were 'won' (acquired) or produced by 'end consumers' in their own garden parcels in Upper Silesia, migration as a means of resistance against the authority, abuses in distribution of car vouchers; (ii) 'Hungry, old and ill', including two must-read pioneering essays on so-far-poorly-examined areas: therapeutics and health problems of Poles, and, poor living conditions of the elderly; (iii) 'Modernity and self-organisation': the early stage of computerisation in Poland, the motorisation rates, an innovative study on fandom – the subculture of science fiction novel and magazine authors/readers; (iv) 'Youth': the attitudes of young people, including the activities of student self-governments; (v) 'Criminality and the prison system': the wave of protests and rebellions of prisoners, and the reasons behind these occurrences; (vi) 'Catholic religiousness': this section is probably the least interesting, as it is ectypal compared to the previous scholarly findings, still, it offers interesting portraits of two Roman Catholic academic ministries, one in Cracow and the other in Wrocław; (vii) 'National minorities': there, worthy of note is the essay discussing the revived activity of the Jewish minority. All in all, the book remakes the image of the eighties' decade as a stagnant and pessimistic time, showing numerous fields in which new forms of social or public activity were undertaken (setting up s-f lovers' clubs, through to criminal activity). (BK)

Inka Słodkowska, *Komitety Obywatelskie 1989–1992. Rdzeń polskiej transformacji* [Citizen Committees, 1989–92. The core of the Polish transformation], Instytut Studiów Politycznych Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Warszawa, 2014, 468 pp., bibliog., indexes of persons and of localities, summary in English

Characteristic of Polish public life, the citizen committee tradition was revived in 1989 as the leaders of the Solidarity trade union called for establishing such bodies in view of the election campaign for the two Houses of the Parliament (the Sejm and the Senate). The Citizen Committees, established

then as a sort of emanation of the pluralistic Citizen Committee affiliated to the Solidarity Leader Lech Wałęsa (initiated in 1987), the opposition forces managed to install ninety-nine senators and 261 MPs representing them (under the Solidarity banner). June 1989 saw Solidarity dissolve the Committees on the voivodeship level; however, the movement's inner dynamics implied its further development, separately and independently of the labour union. In her historical/political-science study, Słodkowska discusses the emergence of the Committees, their activities and output, based on archival documents, the press, and the accounts she has gathered. The Committees organised local-government elections in 1990, held local and countrywide debates (on ecology, home rule, health protection, entrepreneurship, other). On the communal level, thousands of volunteers and activists were active with these bodies until 1991, setting up democratic institutions, animating civic life – all this being part of the process of regaining the state by citizens. The Committees declared their support for the Government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki (1989–90). Later on, some of them became the hubs around which political parties or associations were getting organised. (BK)