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ARTICLES

B. Paszkiewicz — About the Mother of Lestek Bolesławic and the Beginnings of the Mazovian Mint

The article deals with twelfth-century Polish coins (bracteates) bearing the inscriptions BOL — VAR and BOL — ANA and up to now differently attributed and identified by scholars. A thorough analysis enabled the author to ascribe the coins in question to Lestek, the Duke of Mazovia and the son of Bolesław the Curly; the time of their minting is estimated as 1182–1186 and the place as Płock. The coin with the BOL — VAR inscription depicts the investiture of Bishop Werner by Duke Bolesław the Curly, while the coin with the BOL — ANA inscription shows Lestek's parents — Bolesław the Curly and Wierzchosława–Anastazja. The author used these findings for proposing a more exact date of the birth of Duke Lestek (probably 1158).

A. Sołtan — *Contubernium Philosophorum* — The Cracow Foundation of Andrzej Noskowski, the Bishop of Płock

The author examines the Dormitory of Philosophers intended for students of Cracow University and founded in that town in 1558 by Andrzej Noskowski, the Bishop of Płock. Upon the base of the foundation act and the dormitory's certificate the article presents the origin of the foundation, its targets and plan of functioning, i. e. sources of endowment and principles of utilising them, the manner of electing the senior and the *provisor*, the conditions to be met by students wishing to live in the dormitory, the binding daily rules (obedience towards superiors, the wearing of regulation apparel, care of the dormitory and its outfitting, the keeping of silence and order, moral conduct and progress in learning) and sanctions to be applied for their violation (reprimands, fines, exclusion from the dormitory). The foundation of the Dormitory of Philosophers was one of the stages in the educational activity pursued by Bishop Noskowski. Its purpose was to solve the problem of the insufficient number of teachers in Mazovia and to render Mazovian schools independent *vis a vis* the Cracow Academy.

Roman Nowacki — Oswald Balzer as a Defender of Culture and the Rights of the Polish Nation

Oswald Balzer (1858–1933), an expert on the history of Polish law and political system and professor at Lvov University, was one of the leading individualities who at the turn of the nineteenth century shaped views concerning the history of the Polish nation. In 1897 he gained the repute of an outstanding polemicist after the publication of his response to an open letter by Theodor Mommsen. Opposing Mommsen's thesis about the "cultural inferiority" of the Slavs, Balzer presented their contribution to the development of civilisation. In 1902 he took part in a court trial concerning the Morskie Oko Lake and adjoining terrains, which in the past belonged to the Commonwealth, and subjected the "evidence" of the Hungarians, vying for the area, to a crushing critique. Consequently, Galicia was granted the whole of the controversial region. Oswald Balzer also reacted adamantly to the Germanisation campaign increasingly pursued by Prussian state. His speeches, articles and polemics drew attention to the steps made by the Prussian authorities, warned the Polish nation against their effects, and called for social solidarity, producing extensive social resonance and intensifying patriotic feelings.

R. Michalak — The Organisation of the Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland after the Second World War (1945–1956)

The author concentrated his attention on the inner life of the discussed Church, indicating its chief accomplishments during the first post-war decade: the organisational and material reconstruction of the Church after losses caused by the war, the changing frontiers of Poland and population migrations, as well as the enactment of a new Domestic Law in 1954. The latter event was accompanied by a dispute whether the decisive role in managing the Church should be played by the clergy or the congregation. The article emphasises the difficulties associated with the fact that the faithful were scattered in various parts of Poland and with the insufficient number of clergymen. Finally, the author discusses the ecumenical activity of the Reformed Protestants, co-operating mainly with the Methodist and Evangelical–Augsburg Churches.

DISCUSSIONS

P. M. A. Cywiński — Traces of Shamanism in the Religiosity of Early Mediaeval Pruthenians

Taking into consideration the most recent studies on literature the author analyses a fragment of an agreement signed between the Teutonic Order and the Pruthenians on the Dierzgoń river in 1249, and concerning the participation of “quasi-priests” (*quasi-sacerdotes*) in the burial ritual performed by the pagan Pruthenians. The “quasi-priests” who led the spirits of the deceased into the netherworld and described this journey to the gathered mourners, were involved in shamanistic activities. This finding speaks in favour of a hypothesis about animistic currents in the pagan beliefs of the mediaeval Balts.

J. Bardach — A New Synthesis of the History of Ukraine from the End of the Eighteenth Century (in connection with *Historia Ukrainy od czasów najdawniejszych do końca XVIII wieku* / *History of Ukraine from the Ancient Times till the XVIIth Century* by Natalia Yakovenko)

B. Stoczewska — From the “Ethnic Substrate” to the Nation (on the margin of *Historia Ukrainy 1772–1999. Narodziny nowoczesnego narodu* / *The History of Ukraine 1772–1999. The Birth of a Modern Nation* by Jarosław Hrycak)

J. Kiliás — Investigations and Discussions Conducted by Miroslav Hroch Concerning the Origin of Modern Nations

The author discusses the conceptions proposed by the Czech historian Miroslav Hroch concerning the origin of modern nations and his polemic with Ernest Gellner. In this dispute Hroch, in contrast to Gellner, accentuated the pre-modern roots of contemporary nations and the rule of “objective” (cultural and social) factors in nation-creating processes. In the opinion of the author, despite often extreme statements the debate carried out by the two scholars was not the outcome of a fundamental difference of views, but the result of the divergent meaning ascribed to particular elements of nation-creating processes, taken into consideration both by Hroch and Gellner.

REVIEWS

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