

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TO THE PROCESS
OF DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE LIFE IN OPOLE SILESIA AFTER 1989

The sociopolitical changes in Poland which took place in 1989 gave rise to the fall of the Communism in the whole of Central and Eastern Europe. The process was also naturally extended over Opole Silesia, where a particular role was played by the Bishop of Opole Diocese, the Rev. Alfons Nossol. If John Paul II's pilgrimage to Saint Anna's Mount on 21 June 1983 could be considered the most significant event of the first decade of A. Nossol's service as a bishop, then the successive two decades were rich in a great number of his achievements. The paper discusses the situation relating to the language in the Catholic Church in the 20th century, with a special inclusion of the fact of the removal of the German language from the liturgy after 1945, as well as the restoration of it to be part of the priest's service in 1989. It also brings to closer light the background of Bishop A. Nossol's performing the holy mass in Krzyżowa on 12 November 1989. Apart from that, the author mentions the role which the Bishop of Opole played in establishing the University of Opole in 1994 and his support for the efforts to leave Opole Voivodeship as an individual province on the administrative map of Poland in 1998.

MICHAŁ LIS

THE SOCIAL BASIS AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE GERMAN MINORITY
REVEALING ITSELF IN OPOLE SILESIA IN 1989

One of the elements distinguishing Opole Province (also called Opole Silesia) in Poland is the German minority, homogeneously inhabiting the area of the Upper Odra River. The Poland's National Census of 2002 proved that its members constitute 69.9% of the whole German population living in Poland and 10.03% of the population of the Province. The author accepted the aim of the paper to be explanation of the genesis of the minority, its social basis and the circumstances of its revealing itself after the fall of the Communist system.

In his four-part argumentation, the author shows, first, the native population as the Polish minority in the German Regency of Opole. Its size, on the basis of declarations relating to the Polish language chosen as the mother tongue, or using both the Polish and the German languages, was assessed, following the censuses, to be over 535.7 thousand in 1925 and almost 365.6 thousand in 1933. After the War, when the German population had been displaced, as a result of the nationality verification project carried out in the area of the former Opole Regency the confirmation of declared Polish nationality was obtained by almost 851.5 thousand people. From 1952, part of the verified citizens began to acknowledge their closer relations with the German culture and character, which gave rise to their submitting applications for permission to leave for the Federal Republic of Germany. Until the fall of the system – including the illegal emigration – this had led to the transfer of over 468 thousand inhabitants from the historical Upper Silesia to Germany.

Following the democratization of Poland, the German minority, whose basis in Opole Silesia was the native population, revealed its existence. In the first period, its leaders were said to have collected 200–250 thousand declarations of membership. The author shows the stages of the minority's organizing itself: first – in the atmosphere of uncertainty, hence including extreme behaviours, then – in the conditions of normalization of the relations between Poland and the Federal Republic

of Germany, as proper realization of the right of a minority to preserve, express, cherish and develop its ethnic, cultural and language identity, without being in danger of enforced assimilation.

STANISŁAW SENFT

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN OPOLE SILESIA 1989–2009

The appearance of foreign enterprises and international companies made, after 1989, for a vital factor in the then economic changes and new directions of cooperation. Although the first formal-legal frameworks which made the flow of foreign capital as well as establishing firms with its participation possible had already been formed in the period of declining People's Republic of Poland, still it was the transformation that followed after the fall of the real socialism which sped up that process, which – additionally – was facilitated by appropriate legislation. A particularly dynamic growth in the number of companies with foreign capital took place in the first decade (1991–2000); at the beginning of the 21st century it was relatively less significant.

Opole Province did not and does not belong to particularly attractive areas for investment in Poland. It does, however, distinguish itself by a peculiar character that results from the past of the Region, the origin of a part of its inhabitants and family connections with relatives living abroad. The number of economic units, most frequently in the form of joint venture companies with limited liability, amounted to 39 towards the end of 1991, in 1995 – to 525, in 2000 – to 991, and in December 2009 – to 1354. They were established, primarily, in large urban centres and in the counties and communes which are, in their majority, inhabited by the native population. From the very beginning there dominated the German capital, not only as regards the number of firms, but also the engaged start-up capital. With only a few exceptions there prevailed small and medium-sized enterprises which can be classified as typical family-run companies. They played a positive role in the activation of local markets, yet could not be the 'driving wheel' for the economy as a whole. Initially, in the branch structure, there dominated industrial and craft production, later – due to the construction of new supermarkets – trade was in the lead. The foreign capital appears also in construction industry, hotel and gastronomic services, and branches such as transport, banking, social insurance and the mass media.

WANDA MUSIALIK

IN SEARCH OF A NEW IMAGE OF THE PROVINCE. THE PAST – A REVIVIFYING OR CURSED LAND?

The last two decades have opened to the inhabitants of Opole Silesia the possibility of shaping their own subjectivity and creating a new image of their region. Taking as the starting point the concept entitled „Opolskie kwitnące” („Opole Region in Bloom”) which was put forward by the local government and which is a proposal of new forms of promoting the Region in separation from its past, the author undertakes to analyze the role of the regional tradition in the last twenty-year period. She underlines that the heritage to date which has made references to the ethos of the Silesian Uprisings has been marginalized. Its place has been taken over by new forms of references to the past, although various groups prefer their own sets of symbols and signs. The paper presents

the main forms of commemoration as well as citizens' forms of making reference to traditions in the shape of knights' confraternities and activities dedicated to reconstructions of historical events.

EWA DAWIDEJT-JASTRZĘBSKA

THE NEW ELEMENTS IN THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF NYSA AFTER 1989.
THE MONUMENTS AND COMMEMORATIVE TABLETS

The paper deals with new permanent commemorations (in the form of monuments and tablets) which have appeared within the public space of Nysa since 1989. The material discussed by the author relates to over 40 commemorations. The analysis concerns primarily the objects themselves and the message they carry. Following the political breakthrough, in the cultural landscape of Nysa there appeared references to this part of the national tradition which was passed over in silence or even forbidden in the times of the Polish People's Republic since it was connected with crimes and misdeeds of the Soviet Union and the historical-cultural heritage of the displaced from the Former Eastern Lands of Poland. These commemorations are an expression of homage to the glorious military deeds or martyrdom of the nation.

The largest number of the permanent commemorations within the cultural landscape of Nysa in the years of the transformation have been related to the time of the city's German national status. They are dedicated to the activity of monastic centres and their founders (St Arnold Janssen, Blessed Samaritan Maria Luiza Merkert), also to the discoverer of stains on the Sun (Christoph Scheiner), to poets (Joseph von Eichendorff, Max Herrmann-Neisse), to a Nobel prizewinner (Konrad Emil Bloch), to a famous zoologist (Bernhard Grzimek). The tables making reference to the post-War history of Nysa commemorate the 50th anniversary of a school, poets connected with Nysa (Jerzy Kozarzewski, Wanda Pawlik) and also rising the St Jacob and St Agnes Church to the rank of a basilica.

WIESŁAW DROBEK

THE MORPHOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF SMALL TOWNS IN OPOLE SILESIA
IN THE TIME OF THE SOCIOPOLITICAL SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION
(UJAZD AND KORFANTÓW)

The paper aims to show the influence of the sociopolitical system transformation process on the morphological structure, in the sense of the urban-architectonic space (both in the physical and symbolic dimensions), of the two smallest towns (numbering below 2 thousand inhabitants) of Opole Province, that is Ujazd and Korfantów.

Ujazd is one of the towns in Opole Silesia which has managed to maintain its civic rights uninterrupted since the date of its foundation (1223), whereas Korfantów possessed the civic rights from the 14th century till 1742 and in the years 1867–1945, and did not regain them until 1993. Located in Strzelce County, Ujazd was inhabited in 90% by the local population after World War 2, while the community of Korfantów, belonging to Nysa County, formed as a result of population transfers after the War.

Both places were assigned industrial and service providing functions towards the end of functioning of the Polish People's Republic. The passage from the centrally-planned to free-market economy brought about numerous changes in them, including their urban-architectonic space. Direct transformations connected with the change in the ownership structure of subjects, liquidation of part of companies, undertaking business activity, manifested themselves – among others – in the form of decapitalization of some buildings, occupying areas designed for investment, setting up new objects of determined architectonic look. Indirect alterations, in turn, resulting from unemployment and the growing problem of social differentiation find their expression, among others, in the division into better and worse parts of the town, into uncared for tenement houses and newly-erected residences.

ZDENĚK JIRÁSEK

OPAVA SILESIA IN THE PERIOD OF TRANSFORMATION AFTER 1989

Basing on the case of Opava Silesia, the paper discusses the fundamental problems of the Czech state relating to its transformation from the Communism to democracy. These transformations, in the period of the last two decades, have extended over the areas of administration, politics and economy. The social and cultural policies have also undergone far-reaching alterations. The administrative changes have had the all-national character and consisted in increasing the level of self-governing capacity of communes, counties and lands (Opava Silesia is part of Moravian-Silesian District).

Following the breakthrough of 1989, all over the region of Opava Silesia there appeared citizens' forums, giving rise to the formation of democratic parties that have been wielding power until today. Initially, the parties of the communist National Front lost their significance. In certain communes, the Folk Party managed to regain part of its former influence relatively quickly. The communists have not disappeared from the political stage either and, at the moment, can count on relatively stable support, particularly in the areas of Teschen and Bruntal. As regards the economic factor, this heterogeneous region has gone through a number of various forms of privatizing, in the effect of which there has been a relatively high unemployment rate, especially in the western part. The change of the political power has also been accompanied by far-reaching social transformation which consists in a new and regionally varied stratification of different groups. Changes of the cultural character have gone far as well. For example, a good number of cultural organizations and institutions have ceased to function. On the other hand, development of higher education has been recorded.

LEOKADIA DROŽDŽ

THE POLISH IN THE CZECH SILESIA AFTER 1989

The year 1989 and the events of the „Velvet Revolution” exerted a strong influence on the social life of the Polish national group in the Czech Republic. There were a series of all-national factors of the political and economic character that contributed to that state of things. The author presented several questions which have a direct impact on the life of Poles in the Czech Republic, including the participation of the group in the works of commune governments and legislative organs, the activity of local authorities and state institutions in relation to the Poles in the Czech Republic, the work of Polish cultural institutions, such as schools, theatre and the press, *Ośrodek Dokumentacyjny*

Kongresu Polaków w Republice Czeskiej (Documentation Centre of the Polish Congress in the Czech Republic).

The functioning of this group is accompanied by more and more threats. The school system is developing with difficulty. The system of double place-names raises a lot of negative emotions in Zaolzie. Having the Polish identity is not attractive to the young generation who develop a different vision of nationality from that of their parents and to a lesser and lesser extent declare their belonging to the Polish national group.

JÓZEF SZYMECZEK

THE SILESIAN EVANGELICAN-AUGSBURG CHURCH AFTER 1989

The Silesian Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic is the follower of the pre-War Augsburg Church. At the beginning of the 1990s its congregation amounted to 33 thousand followers. Since the time of its establishment in 1923 it was a Polish institution which – in the interwar period – defended its autonomy against attacks of Czech evangelists. After the war it managed to preserve its independence due to its farfetched loyalty towards the communist state.

It was this background, as well as the attitude to the character of functioning of the communities that gave rise to conflicts within the Silesian Church at the beginning of the 1990s. They resulted in a split and establishing Lutheran Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession, with the congregation of about 10 thousand followers. At present the number amounts to 5 thousand members.

ROMAN KASZPER

„GŁOS LUDU” (THE PEOPLE’S VOICE) AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SOCIOPOLITICAL SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA (1989–1990)

The paper discusses the fate of „Głos Ludu” (The People’s Voice) – a paper of the Polish minority in Czechoslovakia in the years 1989–1990. The daily had been an organ of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia until 1989 and presented the ideology of this party in its columns, informing (on a limited scale only) of the history and problems of Poles in Czechoslovakia. Initially, in a similar way, the public was informed about the November events in Prague and authorities’ dealing with the students’ demonstrations, not refraining from condemning the students’ actions and demands.

It was not until the last days of November that there began to appear voices to change the line of the paper and that of the Polish organizations. Accordingly, transformations of the democratic nature began inside the daily and also within the Polish organizations themselves from the December of 1989. They lasted until the middle of 1990. In the case of The People’s Voice they were of the formal character (the publisher was PZKO) and of the substantial one (problems of the Polish minority were undertaken and texts devoted to its history were published).

ALEKSANDRA TRZCIELIŃSKA-POLUS

SILESIA AS AN OBJECT OF QUERIES AND QUESTIONS PUT DOWN BY GERMAN DEPUTIES OF THE 12TH TERM OF THE BUNDESTAG

The twelfth term of the Bundestag was the first one after the unification of two German states and lasted from 20 December 1990 till 10 November 1994. The author attempts to answer the following questions: Is it possible, on the basis of available documents released by the Bundestag (queries and questions put down by the deputies as well as the answers to them), to determine whether Silesia is an important element of the German policy towards Poland? and Was Silesia, as a region, significant in the internal politics of Germany?

In the light of the analysis carried out, it follows that Silesia was an object of strong interest on the part of German deputies for historical reasons (as a land which used to be part of the German state in the past, where traces of German cultural heritage have remained); also, due to the fact that the region is inhabited by the largest group of the German minority in Europe, who live in homogeneous concentrations and whose existence had been questioned in Poland until the turn of the 1980s and the 1990s. An additional fact was that it is a region from which a large number of native inhabitants had been displaced or were forced to emigrate. After settling down in Germany, they cultivated, very often up to this day, the German culture, traditions and customs, staying active in various organizations, circles and societies which, in turn, are subsidized in most cases from the state central budget.

MARIA KALCZYŃSKA

THE DIASPORA OF EURO-SILESIA IN GERMANY. A CASE STUDY OF THE BIOGRAPHY OF LEON JOŃCZYK – AN ARTIST AND SOCIAL ACTIVIST OF MUNCHEN

The aim of the paper is to essay to describe the biography of a person belonging to the European Diaspora of Silesians in Germany, who was connected not only with the Polish culture, but also had his share in the process of transformation of migration societies of the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century.

Among the contemporary Silesian Diaspora located on the territory of Germany one can clearly distinguish three areas of the cultural identification of that community. The first group – post-War migrants belonging to the group of the so-called „Displaced”, or holding the German citizenship, who had already been able to integrate in Germany and their Silesian character has – to a large extent – sunk in the German culture. The second group are Silesian Poles who – due to economic reasons – left Poland and hid their origin (often in a bashful way), yet who always remained firmly connected to their Polish character.

Still, in recent years, it can be observed, there has appeared a third option which allows speaking of Silesians inhabiting Germany as of Euro-Silesians. The group do not underline their regional specific character in any decisive manner, they rather try to integrate with the Western society. Among them there are people of art, whose works and activity in the field of culture are most universal as far as their reception in the contemporary global environment is concerned.

The people made reference to above belong now to the intellectual elites in their professional communities, but had to cover a long way of building their careers very early so as to achieve pro-

fessional and social success on the European ground. Within the area of European culture, artists dealing in disciplines such as graphic arts or painting are perceived as peculiar creators, since they are invested with sensitivity that can be attributed to a few only. Their artistic messages, due to the fact that they concern the extra-linguistic sphere, can readily be absorbed by a broad circle of receivers. They are capable of creating masterpieces of supra-regional and supra-national value. Owing to their talents they have succeeded in abandoning the narrowly-conceived Silesian regionalism and entering the realm of European and world art.

STANISŁAWA SOCHACKA

THE SILESIA PROBLEM AREA IN THE ACTIVITY OF THE COMMISSION
FOR PLACE NAMES AND PHYSIOGRAPHIC OBJECTS
(WITH PARTICULAR INCLUSION OF THE YEARS 1989–2009)

The aim of the paper is to show the genesis and the history of Komisja Nazw Miejscowości i Obiektów Fizjograficznych (Commission for Place Names and Physiographic Objects) and to discuss the problem area of Silesia in the context of the Commission's programme and lines of development of studies conducted by it. There are four periods of activity distinguished as far as this opinion-giving organ is concerned, that is: 1934–1939, 1946–1953, 1954–1989, 1989–2009. In each of the periods the Commission had other goals to achieve and tasks to realize, which was dictated by the demands of the moment. The most interesting part of the works carried out by this organ was its reorganization after 1989, working out a set of regulations to secure the mode of making changes to place names and submitting applications, and also elaboration of *Wykaz urzędowych nazw miejscowych Polski* (The List of Official Place Names of Poland). Local communities immediately reacted to the political changes after 1989. The activity of the inhabitants of Silesia proved fairly high as well. The paper presents the motives which the Silesian population had in applying for the names of their places to be altered. They were chiefly historical, religious, cultural, esthetic and administrative-communicational reasons.

*MONIKA CHOROŚ
ŁUCJA JARCZAK*

THE INTRODUCING OF BILINGUAL PLACE NAMES IN OPOLE SILESIA
AFTER 1989

The aim of the paper is to show the processes which made it possible for the German minority inhabiting Opole Silesia to express and accentuate their individual character, among others, through their endeavours to officially have signposts introduced bearing bilingual names of places. In the initial period of formation and organization of this movement, that is around 1989, the postulate was not articulated in a clear manner. Until the moment of passing the act on national and ethnic minorities in the Republic of Poland the majority of representatives of the German minority, both rank and file members and the leaders, had opted for using newer German names, that is christenings. It was the Act on national and ethnic minorities and the regional language of 6 January 2005, which finally settled the problem of introducing bilingual place names. Thus, it is allowed to use

place names in the German language in Opole Silesia on condition that they do not make references to those given to the places in the years 1933–1945. Signposts bearing the name of the place in two languages are present in 15 communes of Opole Province (Radłów, Cisek, Leśnica, Tarnów Opolski, Chrzastowice, Izbičko, Dobrodzień, Jemielnica, Kolonowskie, Ujazd, Zębowice, Biała, Strzeleczyki, Murów, Walce). Out of the remaining communes, some were entered into the Register of Communes and commenced the procedure of introducing the German names, and part applied to be entered into the Register of communes on the territory of which place names in the language of the minority can be used.

MAREK P. CZAPLIŃSKI

THE EPIDEMIC OF TYPHUS IN BYTOM IN THE YEARS 1897–1898
AND THE PREVENTION OF IT. THE QUESTION OF PEOPLE'S ACCESS TO CLEAN
DRINKABLE AND USABLE WATER

Providing water of good quality for a large and densely populated city as Bytom was at the end of the 19th century, was a serious challenge to the municipal authorities. The situation was made worse by the fact that Bytom lies in an industrial and mining basin, and especially the latter branch, which exploited the resources under the city, caused the natural sources of water to disappear from the area of the city on account of the fact that the underground water flowed deeper and deeper inside the earth. Due to this fact the major part of the water resources to satisfy the inhabitants' needs had to be supplied from outside the city, even from outside the industrial basin.

Drawing water from the mine Carsten Centrum was the cause of severe epidemic of typhus which broke out in the Summer of 1897 and lasted until the beginning of 1898. It covered the area of Bytom and its environs, where the intake of water from that mine was in use. A solution in this situation was the possibility of connecting Bytom to the water-pipe fed from mine Rozalia, which was a supplier of water for Katowice County. In the following years other solutions were sought for to provide Bytom with clean drinkable water and water for household use and satisfy the needs of the city in this sphere.

DARIUSZ CHROBAK

THE PHENOMENON OF A LANGUAGE ISLAND. THE HISTORY OF THE FORMER
GERMAN LANGUAGE ISLANDS IN UPPER SILESIA AND IN GALICIA

The article constitutes a historical analysis of a series of language islands, which for the most part have already ceased to exist. The paper starts with an attempt to define what a language island is. Further on, an overview is presented of the development of German language islands with consideration given to various aspects (historical, territorial and political) which affect the existence of language enclaves. Both religious factors, linked to the emergence of centres of religious practice, such as monasteries, and political ones, impacting the migration of peoples and their settlement in historic Galicia, have been discussed. The mentioned dialectology allows for a thorough analysis of the cultural and linguistic aspects determining the structure of a language island and its operational specificity. Additionally, the history of settlement, together with its foundation and legal background,

provide a closer overview of the first language islands which appeared in the defined historical territories, only part of which lie within the current borders of the present-day Republic of Poland. The distribution of settlement groups, their division into different territories as well as the subsequent stages in the migration of settlers outline the area where German language centres were formed.

*ANNA BEREŚ
DUŠAN JANÁK*

REFLEXIONS OF CLASSICS ON THE CZECH AND THE POLISH SOCIETIES
OF THE 1930S (ON THE BASIS OF AN ANALYSIS OF THE CONTENT
OF „PRZEGLĄD SOCJOLOGICZNY” AND „SOCIOLOGICKÁ REVUE”)

The paper is a result of the joint realization, by Silesian University in Opava and PIN – Silesian Institute in Opole, of the project under the title *Česká a polská společnost 1918–1938*. Sociologické diskuse a polemiky, within the programme called Czech-Polish Forum 2009. As the starting point, the authors make a presentation of contemporary reflexions on the role of the Classics in sociology and – on a broader scale – in social sciences, particularly bringing closer the considerations and conceptions by N. Smelser, S. Warner, J. Alexander and P. Baehr. The second part of the paper contains a discussion of the condition of the Polish and the Czech sociology against the background of the contemporary sociopolitical situation in Central and Eastern Europe. Apart from that, it includes selected facts from the history of development of this branch of science in both countries. In the next part, the method which the authors applied in order to identify the content of „Przeгляд Socjologiczny” (The Sociological Review) and „Sociologická revue” (The Sociological Review) of the years 1918–1938 was presented. The key part of the paper contains selected results of the conducted studies, including a discussion of the main areas of interest on the part of sociologists writing for the periodicals being analyzed.

PIOTR RETECKI

THE PROCESS OF POPULATING THE COUNTY OF WAŁBRZYCH WITH POLISH
NATIONALS FROM FRANCE AND GERMANY IN THE YEARS 1945–1948

The paper deals with the problem area of re-emigration and repatriation of the Polish population residing in France, Germany and Belgium till the years 1945–1948, part of whom – on the power of three Polish-French agreements and the propagandist action conducted by the Polish Government – returned to Poland. Some of them were directed to settle in Wałbrzych County. Due to the economic profile of this area the settlers recruited from the Polish nationals, together with their families, who had worked in French, German or Belgian mines (the majority of transports left France from the mining departments of Nord and Pas-de-Calais). On the spot, in Wałbrzych County, their contact with the population displaced from the Former Eastern Lands of Poland, especially those coming from the oil-bearing basin of Drohobycz and Boryslaw, caused a real „culture shock”. The shock had a mental background: the „French” were accustomed to living within a different social structure that prevailed in the West, in which the Church played an important role, but did not impose its particular denomination onto anybody and was separated from the state. They also knew a different education-

al system. Generally, the Poles in the West, primarily those who had been staying in France, were influenced by the Left-wing doctrine. In Poland, they were perceived as advocates of the Communism, who had been expelled from France and come to Poland to establish the „Communist system”. The „Wesfalian” community in Wałbrzych County, on the other hand, was not charged with supporting the regime, but their members – due to their German past – were often stigmatized by society that was brought up in the anti-German spirit by the propaganda of the Polish People’s Republic.

FRANCISZEK JONDERKO

THE SILESIAN FAMILY. THE CULTURAL AND SOCIAL FEATURES.
(THESES AND ASPECTS OF STUDIES)

The family is the nucleus social cell, within which there go on basic processes of „culturalization” and socialization. By the Silesian family the author understands a family residing in the region for many generations. Studies on the family understood in this way have been developing along two paths: the first current, related to Katowice, deals with workers’ families from agglomerations in an industrial district; the other – connected with Opole – concentrates on rural families of Opole Province. Making a review of studies, the author underlines the fact that before 1989 the multi-aspectual Upper-Silesian identity had not been perceived. Many-sided conservatism, consisting – among others – of diligence and thriftiness, patriarchal and many-generation character, religiousness and faithfulness to their own „little mother-country” are still enumerated to be the characteristic features of the Silesian family. That set of features has begun to undergo changes, sometimes progressing towards degradation, following the political and economic breakthrough of 1989.

MARZENA MUSZYŃSKA

TERMS REFERRING TO CHILDREN IN THE DIALECTS OF SILESIA. AN ANALYSIS
OF LEXICAL TRANSFORMATIONS – RESULTS OF A SURVEY

The paper contains an index of Silesian lexis in the range of terms with reference to children, drawn up on the basis of the files in possession of PIN – Instytut Śląski (State Scientific Institute – Silesian Institute) in Opole. The sample used for the subject analysis (about 450 entries) is made, in their majority, of lexems dating from the 20th century, collected until the 1980s. The studies were carried out in 2009, mainly in Opole Silesia, in several counties neighbouring on one another, that is: Opole (Zawada, Polska Nowa Wieś, Nakło), Strzelece Opolskie (Ligota Czamborowa), Krapkowice (Malnia), Kędzierzyn-Koźle (Mechnica), as well as in Gliwice County (Rudno). They allowed perceiving the lexical transformations occurring in the Silesian dialects in contemporary times. The young generation of Silesians (respondents of about 30 years of age), in around 60% of the cases, do not know the dialect lexis referring to children, which was presented to them. The terms which were known to a few of that group only were, in the majority of cases, acknowledged to be old-fashioned, functioning, in a way, in the language of the local community of the examined place, chiefly in the language of the old generation.

DONAT PRZYBYLSKI

„THE COMMUNITY OF JOY”, I.E. ABOUT THE RADIO-RUN CONCERT
OF COMPLIMENTS – ONE OF THE PHENOMENA IN THE LOCAL CULTURE
OF OPOLE SILESIA

Radio Opole is one of the few radio stations (apart from those based in Katowice and Białystok) that have maintained The Radio Concert of Compliments) on the air. The programme, which still enjoys high popularity with listeners (up to 200 thousand listeners per one million of the inhabitants of the Province), testifies to the changes going on in the sphere of customs in Opole Silesia and to intertwining of the traditional culture with the mass culture.

The programme under analysis appeared on the air in 1952 and since then has not undergone any greater alterations. Initially, it was a twenty-minute live programme, which on the turn of the 20th and the 21st century came to last four hours. During the programme the readers in the studio read out a series of wishes and compliments connected with birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and the like, which are followed by a song selected by senders of the wishes. Initially, that concerned mainly „round” anniversaries, whereas in recent decades there have dominated wishes on the occasion of the 18th birthday. A relatively big change has been observed as regards the repertoire of songs, which used to be dominated by the style of pop music. Recent years have seen more and more songs performed in the German language.