

***Studia Śląskie (Silesian Studies)***  
**vol. 70, Opole 2011**

**ARTICLES**

**Aleksander Kwiatek, Czechoslovakia in the political thought of Wojciech Korfanty (an outline of the problem area)**

**Summary**

The issue indicated in the title has not been the subject of individual analyses so far. The source basis of this article consists – in its major part – of press publications by W. Korfanty. The material has both a biographical and more general value, offering a valuable source of studies into Polish-Czech (Czechoslovakian) political relations.

During the Interwar period, W. Korfanty belonged to the group of declared supporters of many-sided cooperation with Czechoslovakia. He justified his orientation with political, economic and also cultural reasons, which were dictated by the commonwealth of interests shared by the two states. He also justified the concept of close cooperation by putting forward the idea of defense of the order accepted in the Treaty of Versaille, as well as by stressing the necessity of forming a block capable of opposing the Germany's politics. Having been brought up in the tradition of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Slavophilism, he was known to be an ardent advocate of the Polish-Czech union commenced – first – on the economic basis and later – taking on the federation-like form.

**Barbara Techmańska, The education of children and youth of Jewish origin in Legnica in the years 1946-1968**

**Summary**

The Jewish school system in Legnica began to be formed as early as 1946, before the introduction of legal acts meant to regulate the relevant organizational principles. The need to establish educational centers soon after the end of the War appeared as a result of the strong migration movement and arrival in the city of a large group of Jews from Wrocław. Legnica became, after Wrocław, Dzierżoniów and Wałbrzych, another place of permanent or temporary abode for people of this nationality. Jews – as the only minority – created a school education system in Legnica, which covered both elementary school education (there were three schools of this level in 1947) and the secondary one as well. Apart from this, Jewish children were taken care of as there was pre-school education offered to them (the kindergarten was of the national character until 1955). In 1949, following an inspection by officers of the School Inspectorate, it was ordered to close down a denominational school and a Hebrew one. In consequence, there remained only one school, named after J. Perec, in the educational market of Legnica. In 1959, there was established Secondary Grammar Comprehensive School No. 3 in the city, where Jewish was the language of instruction. The complex of Jewish schools functioned until 1968. Then, political reasons and the migration of

Jews connected with the atmosphere following the ‘March’ events brought about its liquidation.

### **Adriana Dawid**

### **The anti-German propaganda in the activity of the Regional Board of the Society for the Development of the Western Lands in Opole (1957–1971)**

The aim behind the activity of Towarzystwo Rozwoju Ziemi Zachodnich (Society for the Development of the Western Lands) /SDWL/ which functioned in the years 1957–1971 was, beside popularizing the Polish past of the areas annexed to Poland in 1945, to carry out a campaign against the West-German militarism and revisionism. These ideas found particular support among the Polish activists before the War, who dominated the active body of the Opole branch of the Society. The program-related aims of the SDWL were realized through various forms of activity, among others, lectures, seminars, meetings with Polish activists, exhibitions, competitions, concerts, sports events, excursions. Together with party-based and social institutions there were organized conferences and trainings devoted to anti-German and anti-revisionist subjects. The anti-West-German campaign was also run on the basis of editing activity: books and information bulletins were published, „Kalendarz Opolski” (The Opole Calendar) was issued on a regular basis, as well as the quarterly „Wczoraj Dzisiaj Jutro” (Yesterday Today Tomorrow). By propagating a negative picture of the Republic of West Germany, its positive counterbalance, i.e. the Republic of East Germany, was readily created. The Opole branch of the SDWL severely criticized the program of the so-called connecting families and accused the Catholic clergy of popularizing the pro-German option among the inhabitants of Opole Silesia. The activity of the SDWL was in line with the state propagandist trend established in the People’s Republic of Poland and developed in the spirit of utmost loyalty to the communist party authorities.

### **Ewa Dawidejt-Jastrzębska, Wiesław Drobek, Cieszyn and Český Těšín – trans-border partnership of twin cities**

#### **Summary**

The object of the analysis made in the article is the cooperation of the cities of Cieszyn (Teschen) and Český Těšín (Czech Teschen) located on the border between Poland and the Czech Republic. Teschen was divided into two separate cities by the state border in 1920. For practical reasons certain forms of cooperation between the two (especially as regards water, gas and electric power supply, or access to places of religious cult) existed even during the periods of conflicts between the two states, including ones over the borderline. The possibilities of making free contacts between the communities on the either side of the border became radically restricted due to political developments in 1980 (the formation of the Solidarity movement).

Again, some closer contacts between the communities were re-established in 1991 and a broader cooperation was commenced in 1996, following the signing of the agreement on partnership of the two cities. The establishment of the Euroregion Śląsk Cieszyński–Těšínské Slezsko (Teschen Silesia) in 1998 made it possible to enliven the cooperation. This particularly

concerns realization of trans-border enterprises based on the means which are jointly obtained from the European Union.

The accession of Poland and of the Czech Republic to the European Union (2004) raised high hopes with respect to liquidation of the negative effects of the division of 1920, with the specific character resulting from the belonging to different states being simultaneously preserved. Joint actions aiming at overcoming barriers in communication between the two cities were on the rise then, including both the natural conditions (the river) and the sphere of consciousness (resentments and prejudices). Each of the cities separated by the Olza River began to take into consideration the need to cooperate with the twin city in the field of their development strategies: there appeared even fragmentary concepts of spatial management of the frontier areas. Entering the Schengen zone (2007) created new possibilities of cooperation (especially in the sphere of communication and common care for safety on the part of relevant services in both cities), although it also brought about new problems (e.g. ones with reference to differing regulations in each state, relating to legality/illegality of possessing small amounts of drugs, running of amusement arcades, sales of smart drugs).

### **Brygida Solga, Contemporary socioeconomic transformations and the continuance of historical borders**

#### **Summary**

The article undertakes to discuss the problem of influence of borders on transformations of the socio-cultural landscape of frontier areas, as well as the problem area of continuance of borders.

Each border makes a barrier that restricts the flow of people, goods and money, and – sometimes – also possibilities of mutual cultural and ideological interrelations. The establishment of a border or an alteration of its function means transformation of the type of economy, settlement and population structure, and – after a longer period of time – the landscape of the frontier areas as well. The economic integration and political cooperation that has been in progress for a few years now is diminishing the traditional significance of borders in the economic and social sense. Despite this, the historical borders existing between the territories of many states for quite a long time are often clearly recognized, in contemporary spatial system, in the form of ethnic and cultural differences, deployment of technical infrastructure or the level of economic development. In a sense, Silesia is such an area, as its internal and external borders were subject to a number of successive changes in the past. Despite a number of historical references, many of them being fairly distant, the consequences of relevant past transformations are visible today. Opole Region provides good examples in this respect, its differentiation resulting – on the one hand – from its location on the socio-cultural frontier; on the other one – from the processes that occurred after World War 2. One of the elements of this differentiation is the phenomenon of double citizenship together with the complex historical, political-legal and social conditionings.

#### **MISCELLANEA AND MATERIALS**

**Stanisława Sochacka****On the Polish and German names of mills in Silesia**

The aim of the paper is to draw attention to the rich collection of the names of mills and mill settlements in Silesia as registered in *Słownik etymologiczny nazw geograficznych Śląska* (The Etymological Dictionary of the Geographical Names of Silesia). The collected material shows how significant flour-milling was in the history of material culture in this region and what type of services for local people it provided. The analysis included – in a parallel way – the Polish and the German names, establishing the similarities and differences between them as regards the motifs relating to their meanings and word-formation.

**Monika Choroś, Łucja Jarczak****The municipal onomastics in Opole from the 15<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> century****Summary**

The first names given to the streets of Opole were not of any official character: they were created spontaneously by the residents with reference to the topography of the terrain, neighboring places, municipal objects, professional or national groups. From the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century a clear influence of the authorities on the municipal onomastics was visible, which caused a rapid increase in the number of names of the commemorative nature.

Provisional political actions resulting from the current demand have also been characteristic of this sphere, manifesting themselves, among others, in selecting street patrons from among personages and events that were significant to the current authorities (they are of the cyclical character and depend on socio-political changes marked out by the successive dates: the establishment of the German Empire – 1871, the taking over of power by national socialists, the years 1945, 1950, 1956, 1980 and 1989). Generally, they are connected by the choice of temporary ideological values, whose symbols given personages, social and political organizations, historical events and geographical names linked with them, as well as military formations were).

Throughout the whole period following the War, the names commemorating figures connected with Silesia, including national local Polish activists and persons who rendered great services to contemporary Opole made a distinctive group of the street patrons.

**Małgorzata Iżykowska*****Which I am commending to your charity. How they asked for money in the country church in Upper Silesia on the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> century*****Summary**

The paper deals with the issue of formulating requests for money in the Roman Catholic Church in Silesia on the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The author analyzed two parish announcements books (from the years 1879-1916) in the village of Szymiszów near Strzelce

Opolskie. The obtained material clearly indicates that there were considerable financial burdens imposed on the parishioners as regards the needs of both the local parish church and different charity institutions supported by the Church. The officially specified taxes of established amounts had to be paid unconditionally. However, while determining the quota, the possessions owned by given families were taken into account. It was also only too often that voluntary donations were collected for various purposes, which were usually accompanied by a compulsory registration of such donations on a list. That actually considerably reduced the idea of voluntarism. On the other hand, at the same time, one may also see a cash flow in the opposite direction: in the situation of a lack of any social insurances it was the Church that performed the role of an institution which enabled the elderly to survive or provided a kind of funeral benefit to families of deceased parishioners.

**Piotr Palys, The question of the Church in the Polish-Czech conflict over the Land of Racibórz and the Land of Głubczyce in the years 1945-1947**

**Summary**

In the years 1945-1947, in the context of the territorial claims concerning the southern parts of the County of Racibórz and the County of Głubczyce, the Czech side repeatedly made strong references to the fact of the many-century-long belonging of these lands to Olomouc Diocese, although during the Interwar period the Czech services had been removed completely from the churches in these areas. Following the defeat of Germany and taking over the territory by Poland, all the laws and duties pertaining to jurisdiction and ownership in the counties of Racibórz and Głubczyce that had remained within the province of Olomouc Ordinary to date were taken over by the Polish Church administration. At the same time, however, the Czech language was restored to some churches of the Upper Silesia and Moravia frontier. The administrative authorities strove, in turn, after a complete detachment of the inhabitants of the borderland from any influence of the Czech Church, the most spectacular effect of those endeavours being the displacement to Czechoslovakia of the last general curate in charge of the Prussian part of Olomouc Archdiocese, Joseph Nathan, who resided in Branice. It was also demanded that vicars of Bolesław, Pietrowice Wielkie and Samborowice, who were performing church services in the Moravian dialect, should be removed, which eventually did not take place. The location of the parishes in the borderland, regulated by the *jus canonicum* (canonical law), which used to belong to the Olomouc and Prague archdioceses was finally settled by Pope Paul VI's bulla of 28 June 1972 that definitely annexed them to Opole Diocese.

**Jolanta Goląb-Kowalska, The share of the PPR, PPS and PZPR in the system of power in Pszczyna County in the years 1945-1950**

**Summary**

The article shows the organizational structure and activity of the workers' parties in the County of Pszczyna in the years 1945-1948. In its first part, the numbers of party members

were presented for the following parties: *Polska Partia Socjalistyczna* (PPS) /The Polish Socialist Party/, *Polska Partia Robotnicza* (PPR) /The Polish Workers' Party/, *Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza* (PZPR) /The Polish United Workers' Party/. The highest growth in the membership of the PPR and PPS occurred in the years 1947-1948. The unification of the two parties took place at the expense of the socialists – verification of the members before joining another party resulted in the fact that there were finally fewer than six thousand members in it. In the second part of the article, the author concentrated on presenting the social composition of the workers' parties. It follows from the analysis that the number of peasants, who dominated in Pszczyna County, was low in comparison with other social groups. A characteristic process was a constant rise in the number of intelligentsia, first in the PPR and then in the PZPR, at the expense of workers. In the third part, the author presented the relevant party structures and party activists, concluding the article with a presentation of the parties' activities in preparation to the referendum and general election.

**Dariusz Węgrzyn, The backstage of an election success. The part played by the Security Office in the election campaign and in the general election to the Constituent Sejm of 1947 in Koźle County**

**Summary**

The article presents the share of the political police in the preparations to carry out the general election to the Constituent Parliament (The *Sejm*) in the area of Koźle County on 19 January 1947. A particular stress was laid on the description of the actions undertaken by *Urząd Bezpieczeństwa* (UB) /Security Office/ with reference to the structures of the legal opposition party – *Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe* (PSL) /The Polish Peasants' Party/, as well as to those of threatening the society so that the inhabitants of the County should openly and manifestly vote in favour of *Polska Partia Robotnicza* (PPR) /The Polish Workers' Party/ and that being in alliance with the PPR on the common election list. Simultaneously, the author also shows the scale of the UB's actions, such as recruitment of members of the Election Boards, men-of-confidence, or even candidates participating in the election.

The conclusions that are derived from the above-presented analysis of the available archival materials dealing with the examined subject area indicate that the inhabitants of the County were threatened and forced to make their political choices which, most probably, did not suit their genuine preferences.

**Zbigniew Bereszyński  
Preparations for the Martial Law in Opole Silesia**

The Martial Law introduced in the night of 12/13 December 1981 had been preceded by a many-month political, organizational and legal preparations carried out by the apparatus wielding power in the Polish People's Republic, kept secret from society. From 18 August 1980 Sztab Komendy Wojewódzkiej Milicji Obywatelskiej (the Staff of the Provincial Commanding Headquarters of the Civic Militia) based in Opole had been coordinating actions

of Służba Bezpieczeństwa (SB) /Security Service/ and Milicja Obywatelska (MO) /Civic Militia/ within the operation framework „Summer-80”. From November 1980, there were made successive applications to isolate (intern) trade union and opposition activists in case a serious internal threat occurred. In the period between August and December 1981, similarly as on the territory of the whole country, there were introduced, in the area of Opole Province, several states of intensified alertness or higher readiness to act by units of the Civic Militia. Among the functionaries of the MO and SB there was aroused and maintained the feeling of threat from the opposition forces. It was planned to call to life a self-defense formation consisting of activists of Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza (PZPR) /The Polish United Workers' Party/ and of former functionaries of the MO and SB. An element of the preparation for the imposition of the martial law in Poland was the activity of army-based operation groups being established since the end of October 1981. The operations under the cryptonyms „Element” and „Ring” carried out by the MO, SB and the Army forces in November and December 1981 were of the similar character.

### **Paweł Popielński, The national identity of the youth of the German minority in Upper Silesia**

#### Summary

The author undertook to present the problem area related to the identity and national identification of young Silesians – the young generation of the German minority in Upper Silesia. The research conducted in this region among the youth of the German minority points to the fact that the young Silesians have, in many cases, serious difficulty determining their identity and national identification. In the sociological sense it is hard to speak about one group of Silesians of German origin. The scale of regional-national identification is a very complex issue here. The identification of young Silesians extends between the poles of ‘Polishness’ and the ‘German character’. The author, by describing the above-mentioned sociological phenomenon, indicates the causes of the problems with the identity and national identification. The youth of the German minority feel related to the Polish and the German cultures to a varying degree, although it can happen that they do not manifest any relations with either of them. This is a generation strongly affected by the mass culture. On the other hand, young people are conscious of the relations of the region and – in this way – of their own families with the German culture and the German state. A progressing assimilation of the young with the Polish culture and the Polish nation can be noticed as well and also the fact that part of them aspire to being ‘citizens of the world’, Europeans. In many cases, the Silesian character remains the most stable and the only unquestionable component of the identity. It is perceived as regional membership, while the ‘German character’ is national and state membership defined in a variety of ways.

### **Stanisław Koziarski, The transport system of Silesia**

#### Summary

The historical province of Silesia incorporates three present-day Provinces (*Voivodeships*) of Lower Silesia, Opole and Silesia. These provinces are characterized by the most favourable indexes of density of roads and railways in the country, as well as those of motorization as regards the number of motor vehicles per 1,000 inhabitants. The article deals with the basic branches of transport, especially the network of roads, railways, the inland waterway along the Odra River and the airports. The changes in the transport network of the region was shown in a historical framework for the years 1945-2009, concentrating on the investments connected with transport, which were realized particularly after 1990. In the region, there is observed a disproportion in investments in individual branches of transport. The majority of investments are carried out toward the development of the network of motorways, express roads and ring roads. The opening of the market of air transport and the considerable share in it of low-cost airlines have resulted in the development of airports in the region (Katowice-Pyrzowice and Wrocław-Strachowice). To a small extent the modernization involved the railways network of Silesia, which – due to the drop in the size of passenger and freight transport – was affected by the process of liquidation of railways of secondary and local importance.

## REVIEWS (1,5)

### **Leokadia Drożdż, The history of the education system of the Polish minority in Cieszyn Silesia in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (a rational bibliography)**

#### Summary

The Polish education system in Cieszyn (Teschen) Silesia is one of the problem areas which is most frequently discussed by different authors dealing with the history of the Polish minority in Czechoslovakia. The article makes a review of book publications of the scientific and scientific-popular character which were prepared on this subject in centers in Poland and the Czech Republic. It also offers an analysis of the construction of individual items and their main interest areas.

### **Grzegorz Strauchold, A republic of people or a republic of Poles? Around the book by Piotr Madajczyk and Danuta Berlińska *Polska jako państwo narodowe. Historia i pamięć***

#### Summary

The First Republic of Poland was a multi-national state. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century plenty of European states were shaped as national phenomena directed towards providing maximal security of interests of the ruling states. That influenced the popularity among them of states in which patriotism was wholly identified with the Polish nationalism. At that time Poles led their fight to survive generally as a nation, which influenced the common occurrence among

them of the attitude, where patriotism was completely identified with the Polish nationalism. That, in turn, affected the shape and the policy of the Polish state reborn after the First World War. The atrocities of the Second World War suffered from the invaders – Germany and the Soviet Union – resulted in strengthening the xenophobia among Poles, which ended in perceiving other nationalities co-inhabiting the country as absolute enemies of Polishness. In consequence, after the annexation of the German eastern lands to Poland in 1945, the action of thorough polonization was carried out there, connected with many-year attempts at ‘re-polonizing’ the native population of Silesia that had remained in their local homelands. The book by P. Madajczyk and D. Berlińska tells about that politics and its causes rooted deeply in the history.

**Anna Bereś, Olaf Gwiźdż, Paweł Sadło**

**The displaced from the Former Eastern Lands of the Second Republic of Poland in Opole Silesia 1945–2005. The demographic and social aspects (assumptions of empirical research)**

From 1946, in Opole Silesia, there formed different types of demographic-national and social structures, functioning in varied spatial systems and depending on the national and regional descent of the inhabitants. In 1950, the displaced made 23,8% of the inhabitants of the Province, the native population constituted 54,1%, and the group of immigrants – 20,3% of the whole population. As a result of complicated historical processes there formed the society of Opole Silesia, characterized by a varied socio-demographic structure, identity, different historical experience, aspirations, attitudes and views. Inasmuch as the research on the native population of Silesia makes a strong point in the workshop of the scientific environment of researchers who deal with Opole Silesia, there is still a kind of blank spot as regards demographic and sociological research on the displaced population.

The individual character and changeability of the socio-demographic structures of the displaced population express themselves in the differences in the natural flow of the population, in the size and the structure of families, the level of educating and education, migration processes, family relationships, living and work conditions. The shaping of the intergroup relations between the Silesians, the displaced and the settlers ran is a specific way as well.

The article describes the assumed realization of a project which will make an attempt at making a many-sided and detailed analysis and evaluation of the role that the displaced population played in the socio-demographic and economic structure in Opole Silesia. The main motive behind undertaking the research on the proposed project is to recognize the role played by this community in the socio-demographic development of Opole Silesia, with particular inclusion of formation of social bonds in a local environment and inter-group relations, the shaping of which is – in the fundamental dimension – dependent on the national and regional origins.