

Mariusz Pawelec

THE RECEPTION OF SAMUEL DAMBROWSKI'S SERMONS IN SILESIA  
(BETWEEN THE 17<sup>TH</sup> AND THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY)

The study is devoted to the history of reception of the evangelical volume of sermons by Samuel Dambrowski (1577–1625) in the area of Silesia, beginning from the 17<sup>th</sup> until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Despite the fact that the postil had initially been published in Toruń in the years 1620–1621, after 100 years it was reissued (1728–1729) and won great popularity with Lutherans in Silesia. The volume entered the canon of household readers at homes of Polish-speaking evangelicals who resided in Silesia. A great number of subsequent reprints of the postil issued by printing houses of Brzeg during the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, as well as the enormous popularity the work enjoyed being in circulation until the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, rightly justify the term of „long-lasting phenomenon” with reference to it. The „longevity” of „Dambrówka” can be attributed to its simple language, rich in anecdotes, the author's avoidance of detailed exegesis of the biblical text, and also a small number of references to the historical reality of the epoch.

Dambrowski's postil played a very significant role in Silesia, similarly as in Masuria, as regards maintaining the presence of the Polish language, though rendered in its strongly archaic fashion, as well as strengthening Lutherans' religiousness. Although the author did not come from Silesia and did not address his sermons to Silesian Lutherans, his postil outdistanced other volumes of sermons, including those rooted in the Silesian environment. An expression of strong ties with the work was the predominant conviction, especially in Teschen Silesia, that the postil had been present there nearly since „times immemorial”. It stood by the Teschen Lutherans in the times of the most severe denomination-based prosecutions, in this way contributing to its emotional treatment and to its becoming a lasting component of the Evangelical ethos.

Joanna Banik, Renata Kobylarz

„.... they trampled the dignity of the German nation”.  
„Rassenschande” in Opole Regency (1939–1945)

The authors deal with the problem of „Rassenschande” in Opole Regency during the Second World War. Realization of the racial policy in Opole Silesia encountered difficulty resulting from the complicated ethnic relations in this area. The fact that throughout its history the territory had changed its national status a few times and its inhabitants were descendants of Poles, Germans, Czechs and Jewish, and mostly did not feel the need of being labeled with concrete national identity, did not make it easier at all to subject them to the same legal decisions as those applicable to the more uniform, as regards the nationality status, regions of Germany. This caused, for example, serious difficulty passing verdicts in cases of „disgrace to the race”. The severity of the punishment for „Rassenschande” was greatly influenced by subjective opinions of Nazi decision-makers and the views that the latter held on the question of gender. The side which was regarded more active, thus held responsible to a much greater extent, was the male. As it follows from the material presented in the article, orders and repressions proved not an adequate deterrent here, since „Rassenschande” was a fairly frequent occurrence in Opole Silesia. It did not occur here on a mass scale, though. Forbidden

relationships were maintained despite the vision of draconian punishments and a peculiar public ceremony of „disgrace”. From the perspective of the 60 years that have elapsed, „mixed” unions testify to a failure of pseudo-scientific indoctrination.

Tomasz Panek

#### RATIONALIZATION OF THE PROCESS OF LEGITIMIZATION OF THE AUTHORITY.

#### THE MYTH OF THE REGAINED LANDS IN POLITICAL STATEMENTS ISSUED BY THE POLISH COMMUNIST LEFT IN THE USSR AND IN POLAND IN THE YEARS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The paper is an attempt at embedding the myth of the Regained Lands in the context of political declarations from the Polish emigration and home centers having the communist roots. Within the myth in question, its determined planes were distinguished, such as: esthetic, geopolitical, historical and socio-ethnical, which were then juxtaposed against the definition of political legitimization in the aspect of its rationalization. The presentation of the genesis of the myth of the Regained Lands ends with a statement on instrumental treatment of contents drawn by the Polish communist movement from the earlier concepts of the interwar and occupation periods, which concerned the German question and which underlined the disparity between the views represented by the communist environments in the pre-war Poland and their postulates of the time of the Second World War.

The distinction between the USSR-based emigration and the home conspiracy was preceded by showing the most significant facts from the 20<sup>th</sup>-century history, which seriously determined the attitudes of the Polish communists towards the questions under analysis. The evolution of the Western thought, as implemented by communists, remained under a strong influence of both internal factors (programs of antagonistic independence-promoting factions) and external ones (directives coming from the Soviet management). Eventually, the myth of the Regained Lands became an element that substantially legitimized the subjects wielding power in Poland after the Second World War. This found its reflection in a number of domains related to spheres distant from the broadly-conceived politics.

Joanna Hytrek-Hryciuk

#### „THE ARRIVAL OF THE RUSSIANS DISRUPTED THE RELIGIOUS LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY IN AN ABRUPT MANNER”. THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN LOWER SILESIA TOWARDS THE RED ARMY AND THE POLISH ADMINISTRATION IN THE YEARS 1945–1947. AN OUTLINE OF THE PROBLEM AREA

The members of the Evangelical Consistory of the Silesian Church Province were evacuated from Wrocław which was getting ready for a siege on 22 January, 1945. The majority of them went *via* Görlitz to Stolberg in the Harz Mountains. There were, however, nearly two thirds of the ministers who stayed behind in the fighting and bombarded city. They, under the guidance of Bishop Ernst Hornig and Dean Joachim Konrad, undertook to secure the spiritual and material needs of almost 200 thousand people remaining in the stronghold. The ministers who survived the military actions and did not flee before the approaching front-line troops, witnessed, or themselves fell victims to, murders, acts of violence and rapes, robberies and devastation perpetrated by the detachments of the Red

Army. They were often forced to work physically for the needs of the military units being stationed in the region.

In May 1945, the Polish administration allowed the clergymen to carry out temporary activity. At the same time, the administration of the Evangelical Church in Lower Silesia was taken over by the authorities of the Evangelical-Augsburg Church. The Presidium of the Evangelical Church in Lower and Upper Silesia ended its activity in 1947. Despite the necessity of functioning during a most difficult time of the last months of the Second World War and the first post-war years, the activity of the evangelical church was dynamic and played a vital role.

Adam Dziuba

### „THE COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED POLISH WORKERS’ PARTY WILL FIX YOU A JOB”. THE REDUCTION OF THE PERSONNEL OF THE SECURITY SERVICE IN STALINOGRODKIE PROVINCE IN 1955

One of the vital elements of the political „thaw” of the mid-1950s in Poland were the transformations within the state security services. In the years 1954–1956, there followed a considerable narrowing of the area of its competences. Moreover, it was subjected, in a much tighter way, to the influence of the party management, its organizational structure being changed, and the personnel being reduced. It was already the year 1954 that saw the beginning of the personnel reduction process. However, the climax of the latter fell on the first months of 1955, when more than 500 functionaries lost their employment. The essence of the policy of the United Polish Workers’ Party was not to leave the people without help and to find satisfying employment for them. The biggest problem, though, were low qualifications of the functionaries made redundant: Security Bureau officers were not required to possess specialist knowledge or skills, but rather to be politically engaged and absolutely disciplined to carry out orders of their superiors. Another obstacle was the short time to implement a mass reduction of the personnel, which made it extremely hard to find substitute employment. The Central authorities of the Party decided that all the authorities of all the lower levels, that is the provincial and local ones, would be made responsible for finding jobs for the former security system functionaries. They also suggested that the pay in new employments should not be lower than the average for the country. The committees of the then Stalinogrodzkie Province succeeded in realizing the recommendations and finding suitable posts for the majority of former functionaries. In order to do so they did not only make use of the posts at their disposal within the so-called „party-member-reserved”, but also forced managements of state companies and institutions to employ individual ex-security officers. In many cases the newly-employed were not required to have any professional qualifications necessary to hold the given post. As a result, a number of Security Bureau officers obtained managerial positions in the administration and economy, which was satisfying to the former „securitas” who landed well-paid jobs. Apart from them, the Security Bureau was also satisfied with the new developments as by means of their former functionaries they were still able to influence the institutions employing them, as well as the Party that gained a numerous group of influential workers.

Jarosław Neja

## „ALL THE CHANGES WILL BE EXECUTED IN AN ORGANIZED WAY.” A FEW REMARKS ON THE REDUNDANCY IN THE SECURITY APPARATUS IN 1956 (A CASE STUDY OF KATOWICKIE PROVINCE)

In the Spring of 1956, when in the wake of the „thaw” there followed a stronger and stronger social dislike of the communist repression apparatus, only a few functionaries of the Security Bureau could see their future in bright colors. It seemed that the days of the security apparatus were numbered and the fate of its officers – doomed. In November 1956, the Committee in charge of Public Security was liquidated. The changes, however, were executed upon orders from the powers on top, upon the initiative and close supervision from the party-state authorities. The social hopes and expectations that all the officials responsible for crimes or brutal methods of dealing with citizens would be punished according to their wrongdoing were in vain in most cases.

At the beginning of May 1957, as a result of the reorganization of the security apparatus, which had been in progress since the previous November, over 9 thousand functionaries found themselves outside its structures. Turning „civilian”, they received aid from the state which took care of their material security and offered employment to them. Installing the former functionaries in new „civilian” professions turned out a time-consuming operation, requiring cooperation on the part of many institutions. Nevertheless, it was put into life in a very effective manner. Since the majority of persons made redundant did not have proper vocational preparation for the new positions, the state organized training courses for them. As graduates of the courses, the former functionaries obtained suitable professional titles. All in all, of all the Security Bureau functionaries who were made redundant between November 1956 and April 1957, the above-mentioned courses were attended by 1,909 people. In the years 1957–1959, part of them returned to the service in the structures of the Security Bureau. It turned out fairly soon that the salaries in the new workplaces were lower than they had expected. Moreover, the „branch” past of the new employees of mines, steelworks, railways and the like was still felt to be burden in their lives as their new working environments, in which they endeavored to adapt themselves, mostly unfriendly to them, did not let them forget about their former activity.

Rafał Riedel

## THE PROBLEM OF IDENTITY IN THE CONDITIONS OF POST-NATIONAL SOCIETIES.

## THE TRANS-CULTURAL CHARACTER OF SILESIA IN THE TIME OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

The present analysis attempts to identify the influence of global social processes – mainly those of trans-cultural and multicultural character – as determiners behind shaping of individual and mass identities. The post-national character of contemporary societies appears to have its consequences not only in relation to forming of a new model of being a citizen, loyalty and identity on the level of the European Union, but finds its reflection in a regional and local scale. It makes for a favorable context in free defining of people's own identifications, e.g. in the scale of Silesia.

In the present paper, the identity is perceived as a process, a dynamic category, which is subject to incessant interactions, on the level of the individual and that of a group, with significant determiners of social, political, economic and cultural character. An important reference point for the analysis is offered by reflections by Juergen Habermas and Joseph

Weiler, which allow the paper to be enriched with the categories of an ethnic nation and a civic nation, as well as with the notions of *demos* of differentiated geometry, especially appropriate in the context of the supposed conflict of loyalty that the individual is exposed to in connection with parallel identities felt by him/her.

In the concluding part, the author expresses a view on the currently occurring favorable circumstances to develop regionalisms and local identities (such as the Silesian one, for instance), which – in the context of the post-national character of contemporary identities, can make use of optimal conditions for their development.

Marek P. Czapliński

### THE EPIDEMIC OF CHOLERA IN OPOLE COUNTY IN 1831 (IN THE LIGHT OF RELATIONS OF A COUNTY PHYSICIST DR JOSEPH ZEDLER)

The paper undertakes to discuss the problem of the outbreak of epidemic of cholera in Upper Silesia in 1831. The involvement of the Prussian authorities in prevention and fighting the plague is shown, especially with respect to the decisions issued. The author presents the course of falling ill with cholera and fighting with the plague in Opole County on the basis a report drawn by Doctor Joseph Zedler

Wojciech Szwed

### THE HISTORY OF THE RAILWAY LINE KŁODZKO–WAŁBRZYCH UNTIL 1913

The paper, which was prepared on the basis of examination of archival materials kept at the Kamieniec Ząbkowicki Branch of the State Archives in Wrocław, as well as that of the press of the period, deals with the question of the construction and usage of the railway line Kłodzko–Wałbrzych. The line was built in the years 1876–1880 as a fragment of a larger investment, that is Silesian Mountain Railway designed to connect Berlin and Vienna.

Preparations for this historic project had been in progress since the 1850s, including making plans related to the delineation of it and assessing costs of the enterprise. All this aroused a very strong interest on the part of representatives of towns lying in the Sudetes Mountains and Nowa Ruda industrial basin, who even lobbied for the project in Berlin. However, despite promises from the German state to provide subsidies, the enterprise could not be implemented before 1866 due to provisions made by the Austrian government. A relevant act was passed in 1874 and shortly afterwards ground works were commenced.

Initially, there were 9 trains running along the line every day. Later the number was raised to 13, which necessitated adding the second track to the existing one. The works were finished in 1913, when it acquired its present shape.

Dariusz Janiszewski

### THE ROLE OF THE POLISH-GERMAN BORDER IN THE LIVES OF INHABITANTS OF LUBLINIEC COUNTY IN THE 1930S

Lubliniec County of the 1930s did not differ from other frontier counties. The problems of unemployment, wage-earning emigration and smuggling, encountered there affected the whole frontier area. The inhabitants of the County, trying to overcome mass poverty, many a time violated the existing law. In the majority of cases, leaving for Germany to find seasonal employment was made across the so-called „green border”. The money brought home by seasonal workers allowed them and their families to survive the wintertime. Another way to improve the modest family budgets was smuggling. There were many people involved in it and they – in most of the cases – used the smuggled articles to satisfy their own needs, or resold them to their neighbors. Officers of the Frontier Guards were sent to fight the smuggling „trade”. However, the border crossings and special customs roads, which were created, could not change the attitude of the local community in this respect. Excellent knowledge of the area and personal contacts inside the local community, who very often protected smugglers, resulted in the fact that this form of criminal activity was impossible to eradicate. The end of the 1930s was characterized by preparations for the coming military conflict.

Mirosław Leśniewski

### THE MILITARY AIRFIELD IN NOWA POLSKA WIEŚ (1936–1945)

The construction of the military airfield in Polska Nowa Wieś (Neudorf O/S.) was commenced in 1936. According to the plans prepared by the Headquarters of the Military Forces the place was designed to accommodate one of many air force bases deployed in the frontier area of Silesia in the 1930s, and was meant as a base of the Luftwaffe getting ready for the war against Poland. The whole investment was realized „under cover” of constructing an airfield designed to popularize air sports and techniques of civil defense among the German youth. Already in 1937, the airfield was officially opened, although its construction was still in progress.

By 1939 four large hangars and many brick and wooden buildings of the technical services use had been completed. In the summer of 1939, there were squadrons of battle aircraft installed there, which – till the mid-September of 1939 – went to battle over Poland. During the remaining period of time of the Second World War Fliegerhorst Neudorf O/S. played the role of a training airfield designed for future military personnel of the Luftwaffe. The following schools were run here in succession: from 1939 to 1941 – Flugzeugführerschule (FFS) A/B116 and from 1941 until the end of 1944 – FFS A/B 4. At the very end of the War, the airfield served German fighters on their mission to eliminate bombers of the Allied Forces which bombarded the industrial area of Silesia. In January 1945, the airfield garrison was evacuated because of the front line drawing closer. Two months later Neudorf and the airfield were occupied by detachments of the Red Army.

Zbigniew Bereszyński

### THE STORMY HISTORY OF THE OPOLE MONUMENT OF ST. CATHERINE

One of the strongest units of „Solidarity” Independent Self-Governing Trade Union in Opole Region was that established at Zakłady Naprawcze Taboru Kolejowego (Repair Works

for Railway Rolling-Stock) /ZNTK/ based in Opole. In May 1981, the union members of this „Solidarity” organization gave rise to the initiative of founding a standard for their organization of the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union „S”. Making references to the old tradition of the trade, it was also decided to found a monument dedicated to St. Catherine, regarded as a patron saint of the working environments related to railways. Thus, on 10 October, 1981, there was held a double ceremony of consecrating the standard and unveiling of the monument of St. Catherine on the premises of the Works.

After the introduction of the Martial Law, the communist authorities seized the standard of the ZNTK unit of „Solidarity” Trade Union. The monument itself got damaged when the lettering and the symbols of the „Solidarity” Union were torn away from it. It was at that time that the monument proved of paramount importance to the community of ZNTK workers, as a material symbol of continuing „Solidarity” tradition. Part of the ZNTK „Solidarity” Union activists engaged in conspiracy activity during the Martial Law, consisting mainly in issuing leaflets and the bulletin „Sygnały Wojenne” („War Signals”). In the Spring of 1982, three activists of ZNTK „Solidarity” Union: Eugeniusz Wolnicki, Marian Ziomek and Edward Moliński, were detained by the Security Service. The first of them was later arrested (after having been interned prior to that) and was tried in the so-called „trial of the Opole twenty”. M. Ziomek was detained at a center for the interned. However, despite all kinds of repressions, the conspiratorial activity at ZNTK continued until the final victory of the „Solidarity” movement in 1989. After 1989, the monument was restored to its original state.

Joanna Krajewska-Majcher

#### THE UNION OF GERMAN STUDENTS IN POLAND BASED IN OPOLE

A fairly large group of German students found themselves staying within the borders of the Polish state after the First World War, when Poland regained its independence. The students, who continued their education at Polish university centers, managed to organize themselves into a students' movement quickly enough, copying the model of students' corporations active in Germany at that time. They established Verein Deutscher Hochschüler in Polen and maintained close contacts with the Union of German Students' Associations in Germany (Verband der Vereine Deutscher Studenten – VVDSt), from which they took over – apart from the ideology – numerous traditions and organizational structures. Some of the activists of the Union continued their activity in Germany after the War.

In Poland, on the turn of 1989, there were established two Unions of German Students (Verein Deutscher Hochschüler) – VDH Ratibor based in Racibórz and VDH Oppeln based in Opole, which were associated in the German VVDSt: the first one beginning in 1999, and the latter – from 2002, respectively. According to the statute, VDH is to be „a politically independent, liberal as regards denominations, mixed students' corporation”. The aim of the organization is to cultivate and popularize the German language, cultural heritage and traditions of the German nation.

Unions of German students in Eastern Europe are intent, primarily, on maintaining the internal traditions within students' corporations, rejecting their nationalistic past.

Małgorzata Wojtkowiak-Jakacka

#### CERTAIN DEMOGRAPHIC PROBLEMS OF WAŁBRZYCH IN THE LIGHT OF THE NATIONAL CENSUSES OF 1988 AND 2002

The article casts some light on a few selected problems related to the demographic situation of Wałbrzych, that is the ageing of the population, the scale of the internal and external migrations, the unfavorable indexes of natural movement and structure of the city's inhabitants' education. Wałbrzych is a city which has become a peripheral one, severely affected with problems in consequence of restructuring. Apart from the unfavorable demographic changes, it also has had to deal with high levels of unemployment, pauperization and disability. The above-mentioned problems have been implied, to a great extent, by the restructuring process of Wałbrzych region, making for the negative effects of the latter. On the other hand, the positive effects of the restructuring process, which were mentioned in the paper, include – primarily – improvement of the quality of the natural environment.

Elżbieta Nieroba

#### **ON THE NEO-INDUSTRIAL WAVE – NEW AREAS OF MAKING USE OF THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE OF UPPER SILESIA**

Monuments of technology can build a positive picture of a region in the eyes of its inhabitants, and also promote its image in the country and outside it, as a place keen on cultivating history with its simultaneous making use of the skill of using the assets of the past to dynamically develop for the future. The paper deals with new ways of making use of the industrial heritage of Upper Silesia. Experience of the countries that succeeded in putting their post-industrial areas to new use can be taken advantage of to create and realize the Polish strategies of transformation. The industrial heritage of Upper Silesia is a highly attractive tourist and educational offer, and – at the same time – this rich collection of material and non-material values provides a perfect distinctive element at the time of progressing globalization. The variety of monuments and objects located in this area promotes development of tourist industry and fuels local economic growth. It also allows promoting scenic attractions and places connected with the history of the region, as well as is of great importance in the process of regional education. Last but not least, it creates possibilities and conditions of preserving the unique identity of Upper Silesia in contemporary world.

Gabriela Pardubicka

#### **„THE WORLD IN WHICH ONE CAN SAY ‘I LOVE YOU’” – PSZÓW IN THE THOUGHT OF THE REVEREND JERZY SZYMIK**

In his poetic works, the Reverend Jerzy Szymik fixes his local mother country in the form of Pszów – a town located in the south-eastern part of Śląskie Province, surrounded by picturesque ravines. The inhabitants of this place, established at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century on the grounds of the German law, for centuries have mainly been dealing in agriculture. From the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, due to the picture of Holy Mother of Pszów, which has been kept in the parochial church as an object of cult, they have also been taking care of numerous pilgrims coming to see the painting. The other important place in the topography of Pszów is the mine, which has been exploited since the 1860s.

It is in this cultural landscape and in the grey atmosphere of the former Polish People's Republic that the identity of the Rev. J. Szymik had been taking shape. The article undertakes

to analyze the presence of the heritage of the profanum and the sacrum of Pszów in the poet's works and also provides its characteristics.