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ARTICLES

Tomasz Grabowski — Egypt between Rome and the Seleucids at the Beginning of Second Century B.C.

The author discusses the circumstances and consequences of the two alliances made by Egypt with Rome, whose support was sought in 200 B.C. owing to the encroaching threat of a partial partition by the Seleucids and Macedonia, and subsequently in 196 B.C. when attempts were made to establish relations with Antiochus III. Both moves proved to be unsuccessful: after the first alliance, Rome opposed Macedonia but did not prevent the seizure by Antiochus of the majority of the non-Egyptian lands of the Ptolemies; in the wake of the second alliance, the Romans defeated Antiochus and did not support Egypt's claims to the lost terrains. In seeking the reasons for the slight effectiveness of the diplomacy pursued by the Ptolemies, the author accentuates the weak political position of Egypt, caused by domestic issues.

Mirella Kurkowska — Popular Literature as a Source for Social History. The Popular German Novel of the Biedermeier Era (the First Half of the Nineteenth Century)

The author indicates that popular literature has, on the one hand, preserved the manner of thinking and assorted aspects of the social reality of a given epoch, and, on the other hand, provided the reader with ready-made patterns of behaviour; hence, it constitutes a prominent source for studying social history. In German-speaking countries the functions fulfilled by popular literature were particularly distinct in the first half of the nineteenth century. This phenomenon was the outcome of an increased readers' market, a multiple growth of the number of titles and copies of popular works, as well as the emergence of new types of this literature and the expansion of the old ones.

Adam Dziurok — Upper Silesians in Nazi Organisations during the Second World War — an Outline of the Problem

In an analysis of the reasons for the lack of resistance on the part of the Upper Silesians against their inclusion into the Deutsche Volksliste and their relatively numerous participation in Nazi organisations the author underlines the special role of the utilitarian factor — a striving towards the retention of, or obtaining well-paid jobs, and the preservation of the traditional lifestyle. A. Dziurok maintains that the instrumental treatment of the declaration of belonging to the German nation is indicated by a partial waning of the activity of local branches of Nazi organisations and the use of the Polish language in public, growing since 1943. Against this backdrop there stood out a relatively small group of Upper Silesians — steadfast Nazis, frequently recruited from among the prewar social margin, for whom participation in the Hitlerite apparatus of power was associated with social promotion.

MISCELLANEA

Andrzej Majewski — The Datation of the Truce of Dywilino

The author draws attention to divergencies in the dating of the truce of Dywilino (Deulino) in Polish historical writings. Emphasis is placed on the fact that all the sources mention the date of 11 December 1618 as the day of the signing of the truce, which was to be in force since 3 January 1619 to 3 July 1633 (according to the Gregorian calendar). A. Majewski is of the opinion that the departure from this date, occurring in historiography, is the outcome of a mistaken translation of dates from the Julian calendar, used in the sources, into the Gregorian one.

DISCUSSIONS

Jarosław Nikodem — The Assumption of Power by Jagiełło in 1377

A polemic with researchers who claim that the first-born son and foreseen successor of Olgierd, the Duke of Lithuania, was Fedor and not Jagiełło, the future King of Poland. In the opinion of the author, a careful interpretation of the sources (especially the Ruthenian letopis as well as documents and chronicles of the Teutonic Order) does not entitle to formulate this particular hypothesis and several other excessively bold proposals.

REVIEWS

COMMUNICATIONS

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