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ARTICLES

Ryszard Kulesza — Spartan *Oliganthropy*

In an analysis of the reasons for the sudden decrease of the population of Sparta during the fifth–fourth century B.C. the author based himself on most recent research and combined Spartan oliganthropy with the inheritance system which favoured land concentration and resulted in the loss of civic rights by numerous Spartans. The author recognised as entirely non-historical the conception maintaining that Sparta was governed by a system of equal and indivisible land plots (*kleroi*), passed on from father to oldest son. Its origin was placed in fourth century B.C., and dissemination — in third century B.C. In conclusion the author formulated general remarks concerning the perspective of studies dealing with ancient Sparta, and acknowledged the changed approach towards sources (a diachronic interpretation in place of the synchronic one, dominating until recently) as one of the prime reasons for progress in research during the last two decades and a radical alteration of the image of Sparta during the classical epoch.

Barbara Szymczak — Between Ryńsk and Königsberg. How the Paths of Royal and Ducal Prussia Parted in the Face of the Swedish Peril

The article considers political transformations in both parts of Prussia during the period from the signing of the treaty between Friedrich Wilhelm, the Duke of Prussia, and the gentry of Royal Prussia in Ryńsk (12 November 1655) to the signing of the convention between the Duke and the King of Sweden in Königsberg on 17 January 1656. The author indicated that progressing Swedish conquest of the Commonwealth, including Prussia, weakened the political position of the Duke of Prussia; this protector of part of Polish lands (especially Royal Prussia) who relied on a future considerable reduction of dependence on Poland and sizable territorial gains, turned into a vassal of Sweden. B. Szymczak stressed that Friedrich Wilhelm tried to expand his impact to the north-western provinces of Poland without expressing his support either for the Polish or Swedish side.

Jerzy Gaul — The Secret Mission of Police Commissary General Franciszek Charwat in Warsaw (July–August 1917)

The author examined the mission carried out in Warsaw, at the time seized by the Germans, by a functionary of the Austrian occupation authorities in Poland entrusted with studying the mood prevailing among Polish society and the possibilities for cooperation with the Polish local left wing in view of the radicalisation of social attitudes in the wake of the February Revolution in Russia. In his reports Charwat accentuated the basic divergence between the political goals of the Polish left wing and the Central Powers, especially Germany, as well as the mood unfavourable towards the latter. In the opinion of J. Gaul the Germans tried to discreetly counteract the Charwat mission which had not been coordinated with them; otherwise it would be difficult to explain the arrest of leaders of the Polish pro-independence left wing — Józef Piłsudski and Kazimierz Sosnkowski — on the night of 21 July 1917, just several hours prior to their planned meeting with Charwat.

MATERIAL

Hanna Rybicka — Several Words on a „Roman” from the Home Army. (In Connection with the Book by Wojciech Wiśniewski: *Rzymianin z AK. Rzecz o dr. Józefie Rybickim ps. „Andrzej”, „Maciej” / A Roman from the Home Army. On Dr. Józef Rybicki, Pseudonym „Andrzej”, „Maciej”*, Oficyna Wydawnicza Volumen and Wydawnictwo Marabut, Warszawa 2001)

Zofia T. Kozłowska — Once Again on the Activity of Aleksander Gieysztor (in Connection with Material Devoted to Professor Gieysztor, PH vol. XCI, 2000, fasc. 1)

The author referred to a fascicle of „Przegląd Historyczny” containing articles on assorted domains of the interests and work of Professor Aleksander Gieysztor. Supplementing the information contained therein she discussed heretofore unexamined questions: the Professors's interest in the topic of the second world war, including Polish conspiracy, the Warsaw Uprising and the Katyń massacre, the problem of teaching history in various types of schools (Aleksander Gieysztor was, i. a. the author of school textbooks and a reviewer of history curricula), as well as his activity in scientific societies, especially the Polish Historical Society.

REVIEWS

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