

reader a lucid reflection on those variables that have shaped the discourses on the public/private dynamic, and the diversity of aesthetic forms and strategies emerging in response to it. The book's scope and tone welcome reading by both scholar and nonscholar alike because this collection offers an authentic, compelling look into the complex shifts in Polish identity as those personal, collective, and cultural transformations have become manifest in the history of its literary artifacts. I would assert that the cumulative effect of these essays and their arrangement here has fulfilled the editorial vision for this volume as opening a new space for intellectual and transnational exchange. Δ

## MORE BOOKS

*Cztery szkice z przeszłości matematyki. Euler, Cantor, Sierpiński w Moskwie, Dwie Warszawy* (Four essays on the history of mathematics: Euler, Cantor, Sierpiński in Moscow, Two Warsaw), by **Jerzy Mioduszewski**. Kraków: Impuls ([www.impulsoficyna.com.pl](http://www.impulsoficyna.com.pl)), 2013. 185 pages. ISBN 978-83-7850-280-7. Paper. In Polish.

A distinguished Polish mathematician writes about Leonard Euler, Georg Cantor, Waclaw Sierpiński, and many others. But he also writes about himself, his life, his wonderment at encountering mathematics' milestones. Personal stories are interwoven with discoveries in the world of mathematics, while Polish history (a good chunk of recent history witnessed by the author himself) supplies an incisive commentary on the abstract problems of mathematicians. This is a book about those whose mathematical world was shattered by the all-too-real invasion of Western and Eastern barbarians. Put another way, it is a history of Polish mathematics in the twentieth century. We usually remember the fallen soldiers and the Zamość Polish Catholic children taken away from their parents and either gassed or sent to Germany to be raised as Germans, but we forget that every single profession paid a hecatomb in World War Two. Here you will read about those Polish mathematicians who died in their thirties instead of their eighties. Truly a unique chronicle of what one big war can do to a society and its best representatives.

**Religion and the Cold War: A Global Perspective**, edited by Philip E. Muehlenbeck. Nashville: Vanderbilt Univ. Press ([www.VanderbiltUniversityPress.com](http://www.VanderbiltUniversityPress.com)), 2012. 313 pages. ISBN 978-0-8265-1853-8. Softbound.

Fourteen authors consider religion as a historical factor in the cold war. Countries examined include the United States, Germany, Britain, Korea, Iraq, Ethiopia, the USSR, Bosnia, South Vietnam, Pakistan, and Poland. On Poland, Leszek Murat considers the "institutionalized atheism" demanded of security officers. As guardians of socialism, the UB (political police) were supposed to be ideologically pure, i.e., devoid of religious attachments. They were to be perfect *homini Sovietici*, "[men] averse to responsibility, opportunistic, aggressive toward the weak and loyal towards the strongest, intellectually incapacitated, deprived of dignity, and totally subordinate to the Party" (252). Murat then identifies factors that in practice made it difficult to always strip officers of religion. Recruiting among peasants and workers meant tapping a cohort "raised in the Catholic faith since the cradle" (257). Recruits could not always reconcile the contradiction between the demand for unconditional faith in the rectitude of the party and its own failings, between legal guarantees of religious freedom and its practical suppression. Finally, even party rhetoric was quasi-religious, invoking its "spirit" and "mission," its "sacred duty" to communism, etc. Despite this, the UB still needed its own security bureau to root out religious "degeneracy" in its ranks. A very useful essay on the struggle against religion even among the irreligious. (*John M. Grondelski*)

**Melchior Wańkowicz: Poland's Master of the Written Word**, by Aleksandra Ziolkowska-Boehm. Trans. By Agnieszka Maria Gernand. Foreword by Charles Kraszewski. Lanham-Boulder: Lexington Books ([www.rowman.com](http://www.rowman.com)), 2013. xiii + 229 pages. Index, bibliography. ISBN 978-0-7391-7590-3. Hardcover.

A biography of a popular Polish writer who is generally considered to be particularly skillful in writing reportages and columns.

(continued on Page 1822)

*kobiecej* (Poznań: Wydawnictwo Poznańskie, 2009), 9.

<sup>2</sup> *Formiści. Studia z historii sztuki*, vol. 14 (Wrocław: Zakład Narodowy im. Ossolińskich, 1972); “Glina i światło,” *Glina i światło* (Wrocław: Wydawnictwo Dolnośląskie, 1999), 237–45; *Weneckie tęsknoty. O malarstwie i malarzach renesansu* (Warsaw: Wydawnictwo W.A.B., 2003).

<sup>3</sup> *Weneckie tęsknoty*, *passim*.

<sup>4</sup> Władysław Tatarkiewicz, *Historia Filozofii*, vol. 1 (Warsaw: Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1993), 33.

<sup>5</sup> Jacek Sempoliński, *Władztwo i służba. Myśli o sztuce* (Lublin: Drukarnia L – Print, 2001), 357.

<sup>6</sup> Legeżyńska, 270.

<sup>7</sup> Mircea Eliade, *The Forge and the Crucible* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978), 32.

<sup>8</sup> Adam Zagajewski, *Dzikie czereśnie. Wybór wierszy* (Kraków: Wydawnictwo Znak, 1992), 160.

## MORE BOOKS (continued from Page 1815)

***Polish Armies of the Partitions: 1770-94*, by Vincent Rospond.** Oxford, UK: Osprey Publishing, 2013. 48 pages. ISBN 1-84908-855-8.

No. 485 in Osprey’s “Men-at-Arms” series, this short and well illustrated book offers brief histories and descriptions of various Polish military units in the final years of the Polish Commonwealth, until the third partition erased Poland from European maps. In 1795 the nascent Polish democracy succumbed to Russian, Prussian, and Austrian authoritarianism, with all the retrograde consequences for European history this would entail even after Poland’s recovery of independence 123 years later.

The book begins with a historical summary that includes a map of the country’s progressive partition (5); this would have been enhanced if it were in color. This is followed by descriptions of Polish and Lithuanian military in three periods: prior to the first partition; from the first to second partitions; and from the defense of the May 3 Constitution until the end of Polish freedom. Prior to the first partition, we are presented with the Commonwealth’s armies and the Bar Confederation. In terms of organization, the Commonwealth was understaffed, with many soldiers “on leave at any given time”; this

compelled reliance on “private armies” of local magnates” (7). The Bar Confederates had “no central organization” (11) or uniforms. A four-page description of Polish and Lithuanian Crown forces between the first and second partitions follows. Finally, there is an extended treatment of the Polish and Lithuanian forces “at the beginning of the 1792 War in Defense of the Constitution” (16), detailing specific cavalry, dragoon, and infantry units. Under “Miscellaneous Crown Troops” (37–38) a short description appears of Kościuszko Insurrection forces (garrison of Kraków, Warsaw militia, Volunteers of 1794). There is also a half page on the “Army of the Targowica Confederation” (43). The book ends with a twenty-eight-item select bibliography that includes both English and Polish sources. Eight full-color plates, more than thirty black-and-white illustrations, and twenty-five tables detailing uniform specifications (especially colors) of various units round out the booklet. Students of militaria and designers of authentic costume reproductions will find this little book useful. The whole series aims at describing “the uniforms, equipment, history and organization of the world’s military forces, past and present,” with detailed full-color artwork. (*John M. Grondelski*)

***Monsieur Cogito précédé de Inscription et suivi de Rapport de la Ville Assiégée*, by Zbigniew Herbert. Oeuvres poétiques complètes II. Trans. by Brigitte Gautier.** Lille: Le Bruit du temps, 2012. 477 pages. ISBN 9782358-730471. Paper. Bilingual (French/Polish).

This is a complete bilingual edition of Zbigniew Herbert’s poetry in French. Handsomely printed with financial help from the Polish Instytut Książki.

***Nature morte avec bride et mors*, by Zbigniew Herbert. Trans. by Thérèse Duchy.** Lille: Le Bruit du temps, 2011. 224 pages.

A French translation of *Martwa natura z wędzidłem*.

