

by emphasizing that the embodied knowledge gained thereby is “rooted in practice [that] grew intuitively and organically,” an experiential mode of cognition whose validity is “impossible to either 'prove' or 'disprove' on a theoretical level” (150). Yet she asserts that Grotowski’s practice-based research nevertheless articulates a radical conception of the self that constitutes a “deliberate and literal unsettling of the boundaries between self and other” whose social, political and theoretical implications deserve to be further explored.

Throughout her compelling argument about the significance of embodied memory in Grotowski’s contested legacy, Laster addresses issues of tradition, identity, transmission, and creativity that are critical to understanding his work but have eluded conventional scholarship that privileges theory over practice. She thereby opens up promising possibilities for future investigations of Grotowski’s groundbreaking yet largely underestimated contribution to embodied practice as a way of knowing within the field of performance studies. Δ

MORE BOOKS

Real Heroes: Inspiring True Stories of Courage, Character, and Conviction, by Lawrence W. Reed. Wilmington, DE: ISI Books (www.isibooks.org), 2016. xii + 279 pages. Drawings of book subjects. ISBN 978-1-61017142-7. Paper. \$12.00 plus postage from the publisher.

This is not an academic book, yet academics can benefit from reading it. It consists of the life stories of forty remarkable individuals, from antiquity to the present day, whose lives spelled “achievement” in diverse areas, from spirituality to economics, from physical to moral courage, persistence, love of liberty—in short, all the features that human beings admire and consider heroic when served in large doses. The book opens with Cicero and Cato the Younger, and ends with a person totally unknown: one Larry Cooper who spent twenty-eight years in jail for aggravated assault and other trespasses. Some Nobel Prize winners are included in the book, but not many—in particular, no writers who won

the Nobel Prize. There are economists like Ludwig Erhardt and masters of spirituality like St. Augustine. Three Polish persons are noted: Marie Curie, Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko, and Capt. Witold Pilecki. One suspects the latter’s story of “bravery beyond measure” would not have made its way into this book, were it not for Terry Tegnazian and her Aquila Polonica Publishing House.

O jedność Europy: Antologia polskiej XX-wiecznej myśli europejskiej (For the sake of Europe’s unity: An Anthology of Polish writings on European unity), edited by Sławomir Łukasiewicz. Introduction by Łukasz Machaj and Marek Maciejewski. Warsaw: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2015. 290 pages, photographs, index of names. ISBN 978-83-63743-38-3. Hardcover. In Polish.

Printed on expensive paper and lavishly bound, this volume consists of eighteen essays written by Polish diplomats, politicians, historians, literary scholars, and assorted activists of the twentieth century. In addition to the predictable “Poland and Europe” type of essay, the collection contains some worthwhile analyses of the political situation in Europe before and after World War II. Altogether, it seems more appropriate for freshmen and high school students rather than as a voice in international debates. The reason is obvious: none of the authors has wielded enough political power to be noticed by anyone outside his country. The Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs seems to specialize in this sort of book—addressed to no one in particular, whose usefulness in education remains uncontested but whose role as an international voice is dubious.

Citizens and Statesmen: An Annual Review of Political Theory and Public Life, vol. IX, edited by Bradley C. S. Watson (brad.watson@email.stvincent.edu). Latrobe, Pennsylvania: Center for Polish and Economic Thought at Saint Vincent College, 2016. 200 pages. ISBN 978-0967371771.

A political and philosophical journal published by a small college. Would that every college in this country and in Poland embarked on a similar enterprise. Vol. IX contains articles on the place of religion in

American public life, the Founders' understanding of the Constitution, the Federal Reserve Bank, and a review of Adam Bellow's *The State of the American Mind*.

Przywracanie pamięci (Restoring memory), by **Adam Wierciński**. 2nd ed. Opole: Opole University Press, 1997. 153 pages. Bibliography, drawings. ISBN 83-85678-79-4. Paper. In Polish.

While after the Second World War Poles unquestionably surrendered Lithuanian, Belarusian, and Ukrainian territories to the nationalities that have claimed them, a good deal of Polish memories and culture is associated with these territories, acquired by the Polish state by dynastic arrangements in the fourteenth century. These memories concern architecture, universities founded by Polish kings, notable Polish families that lived there, and simply the landscape and the land itself. This book taps into these memories. Chapter after chapter, important events and personalities are recalled, especially those that come from the formerly Polish Lithuania. Leaders like Józef Piłsudski, poets such as Adam Mickiewicz and Czesław Miłosz came from families rooted in Lithuania for centuries. It is not a question of genetic but cultural background. No matter where you were born, the culture you embrace decides your nationality, and you have the right to reminisce about your fathers and grandfathers. The book does just that.

Sweet Days and Sour, by **Rafal Pomian**. Ottawa: Baico Publishing Inc. (info@baico.ca), 2016. 225 pages. ISBN 978-1-77216-065-9. Paper.

A fascinating novel about conemporary China, fast-moving and amazingly knowledgeable about Chinese customs and life. The author has produced a thriller showing that the Chinese are subject to the same human vanities and emotions as the rest of us. A Chinese dictator decides to destroy the western world and he almost succeeds, but human emotions interfere. The author is a talented yet unknown novelist who deserves reviews in the major media.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

David Craig is a Professor of English at Franciscan University of Steubenville. He also is the author of nine collections of poetry.

Jude P. Dougherty is a Professor and Dean Emeritus of Philosophy at the Catholic University of America. The author of many books and articles, he is presently Editor of *The Review of Metaphysics*.

Roman Graczyk is a Polish journalist and writer. He worked for *Tygodnik Powszechny* in 1983–1991 and held the position of Editorial Board's Secretary in 1988–1990. His books include *Cena przetrwania? SB wobec Tygodnika Powszechnego* (2011).

Virginie Magnat is an Associate Professor of Performance at the University of British Columbia. Her monograph *Grotowski, Women, and Contemporary Performance: Meetings with Remarkable Women* (Routledge 2014, <http://www.routledge.com/9780415813594>) and its companion documentary film series, featured on the Routledge Performance Archive, are grounded in four years of embodied research and multi-sited fieldwork supported by two major research grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

James R. Thompson is Research Professor of Statistics at Rice University and author of fourteen books on statistical and historical subjects.

Bronisław Wildstein is a Polish novelist and journalist. His articles frequently appear in the leading Polish periodicals.



We encourage our readers to look up the **Sarmatian Review** **Facebook** **Page**.
Facebook.com/SarmatianReview.