

practical, as the writer admits that it was easier for her to publish poetry written in the language of a stateless people rather than the poems she had written in English.

Rewakowicz points out that these writers were disappointed with their reception in post-Soviet Ukraine: “They yearned for a wholesale embrace there, but encountered for the most part a silent gaze” (187). This sense of estrangement is certainly an important aspect of the group’s self-image, and Rewakowicz is correct in pointing it out, but it also would have been worthwhile for her to shed more light on how and where they were accepted in post-Soviet Ukraine. She does mention the affinity between them and the Kyiv School of poets, and briefly explores issues of exile in both groups. Interestingly, she attributes this affinity to the fact that both groups became “historicized” by the subsequent younger generation of writers in Ukraine. This perhaps indicates that any rejection of the New York Group in post-Soviet Ukraine was not caused so much by the Group’s members having lived outside Ukraine but by a generational conflict.

The New York Group played a role in the literary life of 1990s Ukraine. Boychuk’s journal *Svito-Vyd* was a forum for presenting the works of the *simdesiatnyky* generation, including those of Oleh Lysheha. Andiewska and Tarnawsky were well accepted by their younger colleagues. Yurii Izdryk and Yurii Andrukhovych included Tarnawsky in their now-legendary 1992 “encyclopedia” issue of the journal *Chetver* that listed what they deemed to be relevant to a newly post-Soviet Ukraine. Most recently, the New York Group has become a major subject of interest for Ukraine’s youngest generation of scholars. It also made an important connection with contemporary Ukrainian literature through the New York City-based poet Vasyl Makhno. Rewakowicz stresses the relevance of this by quoting one of Makhno’s poems, and analyzing Makhno together with Vadym Lesych and other Ukrainian writers who wrote about New York City.

Jurij Solovij’s painting titled *The New York Group* was an excellent choice for the monograph’s cover. A New York artist

originally from Lviv, Solovij has contributed to Ukrainian modernism by creating covers for the poetry volumes of several of the Group’s members. The New York Group has served the same purpose as the generations of Ukrainian intellectuals since the end of the nineteenth century. Their goal has been to maintain and develop Ukrainian culture’s relationship with modern times. The Group has discharged this obligation during a crucial yet bleak time in Ukrainian culture. Rewakowicz’s monograph makes clear that they generously and profoundly answered their calling.

MORE BOOKS

Debaty Artes Liberales: Intelligent, humanista, intelektualista, vol. VIII, edited by Katarzyna Tomaszuk. Warsaw: *Artes Liberales* at UW Press (www.al.uw.edu.pl), 2014. 163 pages. ISBN 978-83-63636-29-6. Paper. In Polish and English.

A series of recorded conversations, slightly edited, between Polish, Buryat, and Russian intellectuals concerning history and memory. What makes these conversations uniquely interesting is that they are not “official statements” such as those found in well thought-out articles and books, but rather spontaneous reactions to intellectual challenges that arise when scholars sit down to chat freely with one another with no preplanned strategy on how to treat their intellectual or political adversaries. *Artes Liberales*, a unique department in the University of Warsaw, specializes in and promotes such discussions owing to the inspiration of Professors Jerzy Axer, Jan Kieniewicz, and Piotr Wilczek. One imagines that this was the mode of discussion practiced at medieval universities where scholars who were also monks gathered to draw inspiration from each other’s ideas and criticism. Certainly the atmosphere of camaraderie and openness evident in these discussions is extremely rare nowadays, and mostly absent at other European and American universities where open-to-all debates are usually staged by organizers and the kind of discussion presented here is reserved for semi-private circles of *odinakomysliashchie*. It would be rare at American universities to find the

degree of academic freedom manifested at Warsaw's *Artes Liberales*.

Four debates are recorded in this book: The Educated Classes and Political Power in Eastern Europe in 1918–1981; National Humanities in the Global Context: Polish and Russian Experience; The Role of Scholars and Intellectuals in the Dialogue between Cultures and Civilizations; *Coda*, or Accidental Interdisciplinarity: On Experiencing the World and Discovering the Future. The debates are followed by an English summary.

***Scriptorum Seu Togae et Belli Notationum Fragmenta. Accesserunt Peristromata Regum Symbolis expressa (Fragmenty pism, czyli uwagi o wojnie i pokoju. Zawierają dodatkowo królewskie kobierce symbolicznie odtworzone)*, by Andrzej Maksymilian Fredro.** Translated into Polish by Jagoda Chmielewska and Bartłomiej Bednarek. Preface by Zbigniew Rau. Introduction by Marek Tracz-Tryniecki. Warsaw: Narodowe Centrum Kultury and Centrum Myśli Polityczno-Prawnej im. Alexisa de Tocqueville'a (13 Płocka Street, 01-231 Warsaw, Poland), 2014. 843 pages. Illustrations, index. ISBN 978-83-7982-063-4. In Latin and Polish.

This monumental seventeenth-century work by one of Sarmatism's leading representatives articulates the Polish perception and practice of political liberty. Fredro writes in the tradition of the Roman Republic rather than the Athenian democracy. At the same time, his text resembles Machiavelli's *The Prince* and Lord Chesterton's *Letters to his Son* because it contains a wealth of practical advice on how the political class should behave in order to build and maintain a strong state and achieve personal prosperity.

Fredro's "republic of nobles" does not deny the existence of a vast sea of peasantry that made republicanism of the titled possible. Fredro was also aware that the nearly perfect democracy prevailing among the nobles was threatened by the magnates, who began to form a separate class in the seventeenth century.

***Senator Stanley Haidasz: A Statesman for All Canadians*, by Aleksandra Ziolkowska-**

Boehm. Toronto, CA: Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in Canada, 2014. 214 pages. Photographs. ISBN 978-0-8851-1-2. Paper.

A sensitive biography of a Canadian of Polish background who started his adult life as a doctor and later became a senator in the Canadian Parliament. In addition to the biographical part, the book records exchanges between Haidasz and other members of Canada's political establishment.

Letters

Workers' Rights in Canada. Workers' Rights in Poland

(In Memoriam: Brian Hunt, First President of our OPSEU Union Local)

My deepest thanks for the April 2015 issue of *The Sarmatian Review*. I couldn't stop reading the *Requiescat* for Zbigniew Romaszewski. It brought back a flood of sometimes-distant memories from the 1980s in Canada and Poland. During the 1980s I helped to found a Union Local at a very troubled environmental management agency, responsible for managing thousands of square miles of land and water in southern Ontario, Canada.

Unfortunately the manager of the largest division at the agency managed his division by requiring that his employees spy on other employees and report to him about their activities. I refused to spy or report on the activities of other employees, and as a result was not promoted for fifteen years, after which I was hired in a different division under a progressive director where employees worked cooperatively with each other.

This manager continued to operate in a cruel and callous way. A woman who was sexually abused by some of his spies came to me for advice. I told her that if she went to the police without a union, it would be her word against five or six men. She eventually reported the abuse to this manager, and he offered to settle the matter by laying her off so that she could collect unemployment insurance while she looked for another job. Then he laid her off at a time when it was very difficult to find work. Many similar unjust decisions were made by this manager.