

# Mirosław J. Leszka

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## "Testimonia najdawniejszych dziejów Słowian [Testimonia of the Most Ancient History of Slavs]. Seria grecka... : [recenzja]

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej [bazhum.muzhp.pl](http://bazhum.muzhp.pl), gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

*Testimonia najdawniejszych dziejów Słowian* [*Testimonia of the Most Ancient History of Slavs*]. Seria grecka. Zeszyt 6: *Pisarze wieku XI* [*Writers of the 11<sup>th</sup> Century*], trans. et ed. ANNA KOTŁOWSKA, coll. ALICJA BRZÓSTKOWSKA, Sławistyczny Ośrodek Wydawniczy, Warszawa 2013, p. 370 [= *Prace Sławistyczne*, 137].

It is another volume of the *Testimonia najdawniejszych dziejów Słowian* (*Testimonia of the Most Ancient History of Slavs*) series, which has been published since 1989. The volume contains parts of Byzantine writers' writings about Slavs. The first three volumes (II: *Pisarze z V–X wieku*, Wrocław 1989; III: *Pisarze z VII–X wieku*, Warszawa 1995 and IV: *Pisarze z VIII–XII wieku*, Warszawa 1997) were compiled and edited by Alina Brzóstkowska, who translated them and by Wincenty Swoboda, who wrote comments. After Swoboda's death, the following 5<sup>th</sup> volume (*Pisarze z X wieku*, Warszawa 2009) was prepared by Alina Brzóstkowska alone, while the current volume was compiled by Anna Kotłowska, a young Slavist and Byzantinist from Poznań.

The current volume contains the fragments of seven works: *Chronographia* by Michael Psellos (p. 15–41), *History* by Michael Attaliates (p. 42–61), *Admonition to the Emperor* by Kekaumenos (p. 62–105), *History* by John Skylitzes (pp. 106–269), so-called Skylitzes' follower (p. 270–287), *Materials for a History* by Nikephoros Bryennios (p. 288–293) and *Alexiad* by Anna Komnene (p. 294–349). The two last works have already been translated into Polish by Oktawiusz Jurewicz<sup>1</sup>. Anna Kotłowska has used his translations with slight modifications. The above parts of the book have been complemented by *Notes* (p. 5–10), *Preface* (p. 11–13), *Index of Periodicals and Continu-*

*ous Publications* (p. 350–352), *Index of Places* (p. 353–361), *Index of People* (p. 362–370).

Just like the previous volumes, also this one characterizes itself with reliability of translations (which can be confronted with the original texts contained therein) and with a high level of comments to particular texts (based upon Anna Kotłowska's own research and upon her profound knowledge of scientific literature<sup>2</sup>). This volume will certainly be welcomed by professional scholars and useful as a teaching tool; it will also be of much interest to a wider circle of people interested in the history of the Byzantine Empire and Slavic countries of the Middle Ages. Particularly interesting seems making the Polish reader acquainted with ample fragments of John Skylitzes' work, which is a wealth of information about Slavs and their relations with Byzantium from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> century. I truly encourage the editor to think of publishing yet another volume of the series, dedicated to the works of John Zonaras.

Miroslaw J. Leszka (Łódź)

<sup>2</sup> I appeal for a bilingual (Greek-English) edition of Attaliates: MICHAEL ATTALEIATES, *The History*, trans. A. KALDELLIS, D. KRALLIS, Cambridge, Mass.–London 2012 [= DOML, 16]; L. SIMEONOVA, *Diplomacy of the Letter and the Cross: Photios, Bulgaria and the Papacy 860<sup>s</sup>–880<sup>s</sup>*, Amsterdam 1998 (to explain the fragment of John Skylitzes, presenting the beginning of Christian Bulgaria), a series of articles by P. Рашев, *Цар Симеон. Щрихи към личността и делото му*, София 2007 (important to understand Bulgarian-Byzantine relations during the reign of Symeon I). It should be regretted that the edition does not contain a bibliography of the whole volume.

<sup>1</sup> ANNA KOMNENA, *Aleksjada*, vol. I–II, trans., introduction, comments by O. JUREWICZ, Wrocław 1969 (ed. 2, 2005); NIKEFOR BREYNNIOS, *Materiały historyczne*, trans., introduction, comments by O. JUREWICZ, Wrocław 1974.