

Monika Krogulska-Krysiak

"W kręgu sporów polsko-litewskich na przełomie XIX i XX wieku: wybór materiałów, t.1-2", Kraków 2009 : [recenzja]

Echa Przeszłości 12, 203-207

2011

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, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

not only on the Russians, but also on members of Belarusian and, obviously, Ukrainian communities. The cited facts fully substantiate the argument that the leaders of the January Uprising, regardless of whether they had formed alliances with the Reds or the Whites, had every reason to defy Mikhail Bakunin's postulates that after the abolition of Tsar's rule in 1863, the inhabitants of the Taken Lands should be allowed the freedom of choosing Poland or Russia as their home country. In their opinion, that choice could never have been made independently by the Ukrainians or the Belarusians whose fate was decided by the Orthodox clergy. If this situation were to materialize, we can assume that the realm of influence exercised by the Orthodox Church would be even greater than during the elections to the Duma and the State Council.

The book ends with Chapter VII which paints a collective portrait of parliamentary deputies. The presented information provides a solid basis for further analyses of Polish gentry's political activity in the Duma and the State Council. I strongly believe that Roman Jurkowski is the most competent candidate for portraying the activity of Polish deputies residing in the Taken Lands during the successive terms of the Russian Duma and the State Council. There is a pressing need for such an analysis since the existing body of work addressing the topic is largely outdated (I'm referring mostly to the works of Zygmunt Łukawski and Mirosław Wierchowski), while other publications tackle only minor aspects of the problem.

Wiesław Caban
(Kielce)

W kręgu sporów polsko-litewskich na przełomie XIX i XX wieku. Wybór materiałów, t. 1-2, (The Polish-Lithuanian Conflict at the Turn of the 19th and 20th Centuries. A Selection of Source Texts, vol. 1-2), selected and edited by Marian Zaczyński and Beata Kalęba, Jagiellonian University Press, vol. 1 – Kraków 2004, p. 214; vol. 2 – Kraków 2009, p. 244.

The first volume of the book entitled *W kręgu sporów polsko-litewskich na przełomie XIX i XX wieku* was published in 2004 by Jagiellonian University Press. The following part of the anthology was published in 2009. It is a compilation of selected sources that make a reference to complex Polish-Lithuanian relations. Chronologically, both volumes cover the years from 1883 to 1919. The oldest text is the article "Objaw litewski" (The Lithuanian Symptom) which was printed in 1883 in *Dziennik Poznański*, Vaclovas Biržiška's piece, "Golgota litewska" (The Lithuanian Golgotha), initially printed in *Głos Litwy* in 1919, is a more contemporary feature. The discussed anthology is the first source study devoted to Polish-Lithuanian relations

during the exceptional period that witnessed the rise of Lithuanian national identity. Researchers dealing with the problematic aspects of Polish-Lithuanian relations will be happy to learn that the publisher is planning a continuation of the series.

There are 16 source texts in the first volume which opens with the article "Objaw litewski". This feature began the famous polemic with the Lithuanian *Aušra*¹ in *Dziennik Poznański*. Other materials in the discussed collection also touch upon the argument between the two periodicals, including *Aušra* and *Dziennik Poznański* by *Aušra*'s editor Jonas Basanavičius (also from 1883) and a series of articles entitled "W sprawie litewskiej" (In the Lithuanian Cause), published in *Dziennik Poznański* in 1884. These texts give an introduction to the Polish-Lithuanian problem, as they make the first published reference to the conflict. The following source publication is "Głos Litwinów do młodej generacji magnatów, obywateli i szlachty na Litwie" (The Lithuanian Appeal to the Young Generation of Magnates, Citizens and Nobles in Lithuania) (2nd edition, Kaunas 1906) by Adomas Jakštas [pen name of priest Aleksandras Dambrauskas]. The article is an important voice in the Polish-Lithuanian dialogue or, as noted by its authors, a fervent attempt to establish such a dialogue. The pamphlet provoked a wide-ranging discussion, evidence of which is also included in this volume in the form of numerous Polish responses. Konstancja Skirmuntt (pen name Futurus) referred to Adomas Jakštas's manifesto in her work entitled "O prawdę i zgodę. Z powodu «Głosu Litwinów do magnatów, obywateli i szlachty na Litwie» i odpowiedzi na nią młodego szlachcica litewskiego" (For Truth and Conciliation. A Young Lithuanian Nobleman's Reply to «The Lithuanian Appeal to the Young Generation of Magnates, Citizens and Nobles in Lithuania») (2nd edition, Lviv, 1906). It is believed that the argument with Adomas Jakštas was initiated by Szymon Meysztowicz, a young member of Lithuanian nobility, who revealed his views on Poland's and Lithuania's shared past and future in the article "Głos Litwinów" (The Lithuanian Voice) (reprint from Krakow's *Czas* of 1903) and the pamphlet "Przenigdy! Odpowiedź na "Głos Litwinów do młodej generacji magnatów, obywateli i szlachty na Litwie" (Never! A Reply to «The Lithuanian Appeal to the Young Generation of Magnates, Citizens and Nobles in Lithuania») (Krakow, 1903). Adomas Jakštas's pamphlet and the contrary opinions juxtapose the arguments of both sides to this conflict, which is an enormous advantage. However, the credentials of the pamphlet's author are not given consistently throughout the anthology with the name Adomas Jakštas-Dambrauskas and the pen name Aleksandras Dambrauskas being used interchangeably in the table of contents and bibliographic notes. The citation style requires greater consistency. The first volume features texts written by Roman Skirmuntt under a fairly

¹ For more information about the debate involving *Aušra* and *Dziennik Poznański*, see: J. Ochmański, *Litewski ruch narodowo-kulturalny w XIX wieku (do 1890 r)*, Białystok 1965.

obvious pen name of Ro...munt. These pamphlets are entitled “Nowe hasła w sprawie odrodzenia narodowości litewskiej” (New Slogans In the Cause of the Lithuanian National Revival) (published in Lviv in 1904) and “Głos przeszłości a potrzeba chwili (Stanowisko szlachty w Litwie i Rusi)” (A Voice of the Past and the Present Need. The Standpoint of Nobility in Lithuania And Russia) published in 1905 in Lviv. The first volume also contains Tadeusz Korzon’s article “Notatki krytyczne” (Critical Remarks) (reprint from the Warsaw-based *Gazeta Polska* of 1904), as well as Michał Römer’s essay “Litwini w Prusiech Książęcych” (Lithuanians in the Duchy of Prussia) (published in *Świat Słowiański* in 1911 as well as in the form of a separate pamphlet). The essay is a very valuable piece of work that gives an account of the Lithuanian national revival on Lithuanian territory annexed by Prussia. This text is not strictly related to the Polish-Lithuanian conflict, therefore it stands in contrast to the remaining articles in the collection. The reviewed publication could benefit from amalgamating another article by Römer, entitled “Stosunki etnograficzno-kulturalne na Litwie” (Ethnographic and Cultural Relations in Lithuania) (Krakow 1906), which is more consistent with the tone of the discussed anthology. The first volume closes with Beata Kalęba’s “Kilka słów o litewskim odrodzeniu narodowym” (A Few Words About Lithuanian National Revival) which highlights the most important events relating to the Lithuanian national revival for the benefit of readers who are not acquainted with the national movement in modern-day Lithuania.

The second volume consists of 17 texts. Similarly to the previous volume, it presents the opinions voiced by both sides to the Polish-Lithuanian conflict as well as those expressed by impartial advocates of mutual settlement. The members of the latter group look into the personification of the state idea, among them Konstacja Skirmuntt in “Nasza «tutejszość»” (Our Local Roots) (Warsaw 1907) and Henryk Gierszyński, whose pamphlet entitled “W kwestii polsko-litewskiej” (About the Polish-Lithuanian Issue) (Chicago 1897) makes a reference to the Polish tradition of statehood and acknowledges Lithuania’s national aspirations. A similar tone is adopted by Feliks Konieczny’s “Polska a kwestia litewska” (Poland and the Lithuanian Issue), initially published in *Świat Słowiański* in 1910, where the author worked as an editor. Radical Lithuanian viewpoints are presented by Jonas Šliūpas in “Litwini i Polacy” (Lithuanians and Poles), published in 1887 in New York. The two articles authored by Józef Albin Herbaczewski, a declared supporter of Lithuanian nationalism and a great advocate of Polish-Lithuanian reconciliation (“Tragizm odrodzenia narodowego Litwy” /The Tragedy of Lithuania’s National Revival/ and “Litwa i kwestia polska” /Lithuania And the Polish Issue/, both reprints from *Świat Słowiański*, dated 1909 and 1910, respectively), offer a fascinating glimpse of the conflict. Other noteworthy contributors are Jan Baudouin de Courtenay (“Kwestia alfabetu litewskiego w państwie rosyjskim i jej rozwiązanie” /The Lithuanian Alphabet in Russia and A Solution to the

Problem/, Krakow 1904) and Vaclovas Biržiška (“Golgota litewska”) who discuss the Lithuanians’ struggle for the right to publish books in the national language.

The anthology compiles source texts of limited availability, mostly reprints of press articles, jobbing prints and journalistic pamphlets printed in Vilnius, Lviv, Tilsit, Warsaw, New York, Chicago, Kaunas and Krakow. Although the publication presents the opinions voiced by both sides to the Polish-Lithuanian conflict, the exclusive use of national and ethnic criteria would be a gross simplification since both collections feature authors who are conscious of their Lithuanian ethnicity (among them Jonas Šliūpas and Jonas Basanavičius), as well as Lithuanians who fit Mickiewicz’s definition of “gente Lituanus, natione Polonus” (Szymon Meysztowicz and Roman Skirmuntt). Political opinions vary across those groups. This approach enabled the editors to deliver a multifaceted presentation of the problem which greatly enhances our understanding of the Polish-Lithuanian conflict at the turn of the 20th century. It provides the researcher community with improved access to Lithuanian journalistic output of that period. As an additional advantage, the choice of materials is inclusive of articles by Michał Römer, Konstancja Skirmuntt, Józef Albin Herbaczewski, Czesław Jankowski, Petras Vileišis, Jonas Šliūpas and Jonas Basanavičius, the most prominent journalists who reported on the Polish-Lithuanian conflict. Beata Kalęba and Marian Zaczyński deserve the highest praise for the enormous amount of work they put into compiling source materials. The chosen texts complement one another, in particular in the first volume which features debates surrounding Adomas Jakštas’ pamphlet and selected articles from *Aušra* and *Dziennik Poznański*. This approach has been abandoned in the second volume, but it does not detract from the outstanding value of the publication. It is regrettable that Jan Witort’s reply to Jonas Šliūpas’ “Litwomani” (Lithuomaniacs), published in *Przegląd Literacki* (supplement to the *Kraj* weekly newspaper)² in 1889, did not find its way to the anthology.

The second volume of the reviewed work includes articles that are not strictly related to the main subject of Polish-Lithuanian relations. Marian Zdziechowski (“Przed pomnikiem Katarzyny” /Before Catherine’s Monument/), Alexander Meysztowicz (“List otwarty obywatela z Litwy do profesora Zdziechowskiego w sprawie obecności szlachty litewskiej pod pomnikiem imperatorowej Katarzyny” /An Open Letter From a Lithuanian Citizen to Professor Zdziechowski About the Presence of Lithuanian Nobility at the Monument of Empress Catherine/) and Czesław Jankowski (“Z powodu Uroczystości wileńskiej. Głos jednego z wielu” /About the Vilnius Ceremony. One of

² See: J. Witort, „Litwomani”, *Przegląd Literacki*, supplement to *Kraj*, issue No. 32 of 11 (23) August 1889; ibidem, No. 33 of 18 (30) August 1889; ibidem, No. 34 of 25 August (6 September) 1889; ibidem, No. 35 of 1 September (13 September) 1889; ibidem, No. 36 of 8 September (20 September) 1889.

Many Voices/) discuss the ceremony of unveiling tsarina Catherine's monument in Vilnius in 1904 which was attended by Lithuanian nobility. This event stirred outrage in the Polish community³, and it provoked a discussion on the Polish elites' right to participate in the ceremony. Although they provide for an interesting reading, the above articles seem to be weakly connected to the primary subject of the book.

The books include bibliographic notes, and the entire text is augmented with footnotes. As emphasized by the authors, the texts were deliberately left without comments for an unbiased presentation of political, historical and cultural thought in Poland and Lithuania at the turn of the 20th century. The reviewed publication has immense academic value owing to the excellent choice of source materials. It is a helpful tool for researchers investigating the history of Polish-Lithuanian relations.

Monika Krogulska-Krysiak
(Olsztyn)

Rikskansleren Axel Oxenstiernas skrifter och brevväxling, Senare avdelningen, Bd. 13: Brev från Jacob Spens och Jan Rutgers, utgivna av Arne Jönsson, Stockholm 2007, pp. 643.

The thirteenth volume of the second series of the monumental collection of Chancellor Axel Oxenstierna's diplomatic correspondence is a much-awaited publication. The collection dates back to 1888 when volume one of the first series of letters written by the chancellor himself came out in print¹. In the most recent body of work, the letters to the chancellor authored by Sir James Spens and Jan Rutgers have been edited by Arne Jönsson, professor of classical languages at Lund University.

It is highly unlikely that the thirteenth volume will be the last part of the impressive publishing effort spanning more than 120 years. The collection of letters written and received by the chancellor during his 40-year reign comprises 500 volumes. The previous publication accounted for the letters authored by Axel Oxenstierna until 1636, while the correspondence addressed to the chancellor included letters from King Gustav II Adolf and

³ For further information about this event in contemporary literature, see: R. Jurkowski, *Ziemiaństwo polskie Kresów Północno-Wschodnich 1864–1904. Działalność społeczno-gospodarcza*, Warsaw 2001, pp. 515–536; idem, Aleksander Meysztowicz, „Fragment Wspomnień – Książę Mirski”, *Białoruskie Zeszyty Historyczne*, vol. 21 (2004), pp. 218–249.

¹ Sixteen volumes have been published as part of the first series, the most recent being *Rikskansleren Axel Oxenstiernas skrifter och brevväxling*. Avd. 1, Bd. 16: *Brev 1636–1654*, Del 1 och 2, utg. av H. Backhaus, Stockholm 2009. I would like to thank Ms. Ewa Berndtsson of Riksarkivet in Stockholm for providing me a copy of the reviewed publication.