Abstracts

Marcin MARKOWSKI, Propagandowy obraz II Rzeszy ukazany w szacie graficznej banknotu 100 marek emisji 7 lutego 1908 roku / A Propaganda Image of the Second Reich, as Shown in the Graphics of a One Hundred Mark Note from the Issue of 7 February 1908

The bank notes which came into circulation from the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries are pearls of graphic art. Using the graphic content and layout as a vehicle for the idea, each of them carries information about the country, expressed by way of commonly recognized symbols. The most extensive presentation of the Second Reich is provided in the graphic content and layout of the one hundred mark note issued on 7 February 1908, the first of three issues of that denomination. At the centre of the averse, a composition of the Prussian and imperial regalia is surrounded by a sunburst of lighter- and darker-hued rays. The averse also features two imperial eagles and the busts of two Roman deities, Mercury, the god of commerce and Ceres, the goddess of vegetation, crops and the harvest. In turn, almost the entire printed area of the reverse is taken up by a figurative scene. A personification of Germania, seated in the shade of two mighty oaks, is presented in the foreground. At her feet lie objects which allude to the German economy. The sea is depicted in the background, with three battleships sailing it in combat formation. In addition, the area designated for the watermark contains a portrait of Wilhelm I Hohenzollern. The iconography of the one hundred mark note, with its set of universal symbols, was intended to demonstrate the power of the united German Empire to the citizens of that state and foreigners alike. The images included in the graphic content and graphic composition point to the country’s real economic and military power.

Eugeniusz Cezary KRÓL, „Z Polską małżeństwo z rozsądku, a nie z miłości”. Polska i Polacy w Dziennikach Josepha Goebbelsa (1924–1939) / „With Poland, it’s a Marriage of Convenience rather than Love”. Poland and the Poles in The Diaries of Joseph Goebbels

The Diaries of the Third Reich’s Minister for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, amount to around 35 000 pages altogether. After myriad obstacles had been
overcome, they were published in print in Germany in 1993–2006, with a separate supplement, consisting of three volumes with indexes of places, persons and subjects, following in 2007–2008. More recently, a three-volume edition of excerpts, translated into Polish and furnished with added endnotes and an introduction, was published in 2013–2014. It focused on Polish issues, taking into account every reference to Poland, even the very smallest. The author of this article analyses Goebbels’ entries in respect of Poland and Poles in detail, paying attention both to their quantitative aspect and to their subject matter. In quantitative terms, short entries, often telegraphic in style, are the most plentiful; those of a medium or more extensive length are very scarce. In view of the immense number of pages of The Diaries which have been preserved and published in print, this is a modest representation. It is, nevertheless, cognitively significant and refers to events important from the point of view of Polish-German relationships and international issues. There are several ‘Polish’ topics in The Diaries; they run, like the proverbial red thread, over several pages or even a dozen or so. They include such matters as Goebbels’ visit in Poland in June 1934 and the Third Reich’s persuading of Poland both to take part in a joint march East and to invade Czechoslovakia in October 1938. The issues relating to the preparations for the attack on Poland in September 1939 in German propaganda are referred to particularly extensively. The author’s analysis is supplemented with numerous notes, both on the subject matter and bibliographical details.

Joanna Szymoniczek, Losy niemieckich cmentarzy wojennych z okresu I wojny światowej / The Fate of the German World War I Cemeteries

War graves and cemeteries depict a nation’s history. Fallen soldiers are buried far away from where they once lived, often in another country and the vast majority remain anonymous. Around 8.5 million soldiers died in World War I, 2 million of whom were German. They found their final resting place in cemeteries and graveyards or, sometimes, in nameless and forsaken graves scattered not only almost right across Europe, but also in many countries in other parts of the world. More than five hundred war cemeteries were located in Poland. Immediately after the war, their existence stirred no major emotions, albeit that there were some people who objected to their non-native character or to the very fact that it was the soldiers of other nations who were buried there. At that time, financial issues were a more significant problem. The number of war cemeteries in Poland was considerable. In accordance with humanitarian law, they had to be maintained by the state on the territory of which they
were located. The authorities were unable to cope with all the obligations. There were a great many cemeteries and their maintenance and upkeep required substantial financial outlays. Efforts were undertaken anyway; involving the local authorities, local inhabitants and young people still at school, they aimed to carry out the necessary work and repairs. The situation began to change at the end of the nineteen thirties. On the part of the Germans, the less-than-ideal state of the German cemeteries was used for propaganda purposes, with reports of visits to Poland being presented in the press, making for an image of poverty, backwardness and a lack of respect for the soldiers’ final resting places. The outbreak of World War II changed the situation of the cemeteries. It was the Germans who then undertook their repair and restoration, on account of both their propaganda value and the fact that many of the newly fallen were also being buried in them. They were not to retain their new appearance for long. Having once again suffered destruction in 1944 and 1945, they were left in that condition over the subsequent decades. While they did not give rise to such emotions and controversies as the German cemeteries of World War II, nevertheless, because they were German cemeteries, they were not accorded the attention and care due to them. There existed an unwillingness to remember that Poles who had been forcibly conscripted to the Wehrmacht were also buried there. It was only the agreement included in the Joint Statement of the Polish Prime Minister, Tadeusz Mazowiecki and the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, of 14 November 1989 and the Polish-German Treaty of Good Neighbourship and Friendly Cooperation (Vertrag über gute Nachbarschaft und freundschaftliche Zusammenarbeit) of 17 June 1991, which, between them, provided a comprehensive solution to all the issues related to the German cemeteries in Poland. While these initiatives emphasised the resolving of the issues related to the German World War II cemeteries, repairs to those from World War I have nevertheless also been underway since the nineteen nineties. However, the needs are so great that the involvement of the German party which has funded these efforts thus far is insufficient. The several decades over which these cemeteries were left without any care brought about their disappear from the landscape, while nature has also taken its course. Soldiers, volunteers and young people from Poland and Germany alike are now attempting to make up for the lost years and restore this element of the past of the Polish lands.
Wanda JARZĄBEK, *Dialog naukowy czy element polityki – spotkania polskich historyków emigracyjnych i historyków niemieckich w 1956 i 1964 roku. / Academic Dialogue, or an Element of Policy. The Meetings of Polish Exile Historians and German Historians in 1956 and 1964.*

The international realities which existed after the end of World War II and, in particular, after the Cold War began, including the status of the authorities of the Republic of Poland in exile and the fundamentals of the Federal Republic of Germany’s foreign policy, ruled out any possibility of establishing political contacts. However, contacts of social nature were possible. Some, though, involved considerable risk, such as, for instance, the undertaking of conversations with communities of Germans expelled from the territories joined to Poland after 1945. The émigrées exposed themselves to criticism on the part of both the émigré milieux as well as those in Poland. Meetings between Polish émigré historians and German historians became one of the forms of contact of this nature. However, browsing through the newspapers of the day leads to the conclusion that they met with mixed reactions among the Polish émigré community. The first meeting was held from 10th to 14th October 1956 in Tubingen and the second, from 17th to 19th March 1964, in London. At both, the German side was represented by numerous professional historians and directors of academic institutes dealing with East Europe and, or including, Poland. Professor Tytus Komarnicki, a pre-war diplomat, was particularly active on the part of the Poles. For the Germans, these contacts were valuable, *inter alia*, because the Polish expatriate milieu in London, as well as those in the U.S. and France, were very knowledgeable as regards archive resources for the period from 1918 to 1945 and had access to a great many documents concerning the history of Poland and held, for instance, by the Polish Institute and the General Sikorski Museum. There were also numerous witnesses to history among those communities, as well as eminent pre-war scholars and politicians. No further bilateral meetings between Polish émigrée historians and German historians were ever held. This resulted, to a large degree, from the fact that their formula had been exhausted. The pre-war generation of Polish historians was passing away. The next generations of Polish émigrée historians moved in general academic circles and were less enclosed within a milieu of their own. The bilateral relations between the FRG and the PRP were changing as well. Interest in a more active Ostpolitik was on a continuing upsurge in Bonn, which resulted in more extensive opportunities for academic contacts as well. The PRP authorities, for their part, were interested in overcoming the state of suspension in relations with the FRG. The domestic academic milieu was changing, too. Both the meetings
were a form of academic contact, but they were also of significance to the reconciliation of the two nations, or to the search for opportunities of overcoming their enmity.


The nineteen seventies number among the most interesting periods of post-war times. They included the Vietnam war, the Hippie movement in the United States, the Socialist movement in Western Europe and the policy of ‘Détente’ in the East-West relationships. It was the extra-parliamentary opposition that gave birth to the extreme-le (terrorist) movements in Germany and worker protests in Poland, which, in turn, set about fighting the authorities and changing the relationships in their country. It was a time of rapid, dynamic changes and involvement. In the opinion of the participants in those processes themselves, they brought about a release, they constituted an apotheosis of a freedom such as they would probably never again experience in their lifetimes. These were the years of anti-authoritarian rebellion, of risking one’s own life and of international contacts of various kinds; they were the years which were to change the two countries and their history forever. The Rote Armee Fraktion (Red Army Faction) in Germany and the Workers’ Defence Committee in Poland were the two groups which spurred the great mobilization of the societies in both countries. They provoked the events which were talked about, which were lived, the events which, transforming themselves into a great cause-and-effect machine, introduced changes that gave rise to effects, we have continued to experience to this day. Both groups had a similar genesis; they were rooted in political opposition and revolutionary purpose and they brought about immense consequences for the two societies, for politicians and for history.
Paweł POPIELIŃSKI, Problematyka otwarcia granicy na Odrze i Nysie Łużyckiej pomiędzy PRL a NRD w latach siedemdziesiątych XX wieku / The Opening of the Border between the People’s Republic of Poland and the German Democratic Republic on the Oder and Lusatian Neisse Rivers in the Nineteen Seventieths

The author describes the circumstances accompanying the opening, in the nineteen seventies, of the border between the PRP and the GDR on the Oder and Lusatian Neisse Rivers, pointing to the backstage politics of the event, which occurred in 1972, in both the domestic and international context. Issues related to the tourism between the two states when no visas or passports were needed to travel across the ‘Border of Friendship’ are outlined as well. The reasons for opening the border and the purpose of travelling across it are detailed, with particular attention being paid to the motives for the citizens of Poland and the GDR alike to undertake a journey to the neighbouring country. The author presents an evaluation of the possibilities offered by these travels in the seventies. In describing the issues related to the opening of the border, he focuses primarily on the political, economic and social aspects, emphasising the role of the official and unofficial contacts between the societies of the two countries. By the same token, he provides proof that the opening of the border constituted an important episode in the contacts and co-operation between our countries and institutions.

Tomasz BROWAREK, Inicjatywy organizacyjne mniejszości niemieckiej w Polsce w latach osiemdziesiątych XX wieku w świetle polityki państwa polskiego / The Organisational Initiatives of the German Minority in Poland in the Nineteen Eighties, in the Light of the Policy of the Polish State

The nineteen eighties saw more than ten attempts to establish German minority organisations in Poland. These efforts were aimed at the obtaining the Polish authorities’ acknowledgement of this minority’s existence, a fact which was denied at that time. None of the attempts succeeded. The refusal was justified by a lack of a social basis for the existence, of such an organisation, as well as by concerns that it might endanger security and public order. The organisers were met with harassment and were forced to emigrate from Poland. Despite these setbacks in the second half of the eighties, these initiatives did not fade out; they just changed their nature. The formation of German ‘friendship circles’ began. They operated on an informal basis, without applying for registration and approval on the part of the authorities.
Their main objective was to stimulate and develop the German national consciousness among those people who declared themselves to be ethnically German. It was more difficult for the authorities to oppose activities of this kind among the Germans in Poland; nevertheless, they still a empted to block any and every manifestation of the German minority, both by way of administrative measures and by exerting pressure on specific individuals. The liberalisation of the Act on Associations of 1989 brought no progress and neither did subsequent a empts aimed obtaining legal status for an organisation, which were supported by an action whereby signatures were collected on the lists of persons of German origin. The situation was not to change until after Chancellor Helmut Kohl’s visit in November that year. It was only then, when the Polish authorities acknowledged the existence of a German minority in Poland, that its legal organisational life began.

Piotr ANDRZEJEWSKI, Paradoks narodowego liberalizmu. Historia i idee Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs / The Paradox of National Liberalism. The History and Ideas of the Freedom Party of Austria

The article describes the history and ideological profile of the Austrian parties of the ‘Third Camp’, namely Verband der Unabhängigen (VdU) and Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs (FPÖ). Its main goal is to analyse the course of those parties’ political life, their triumphs, failures and crises. However, it is an attempt at describing the FPÖ’s ideological profile and determining its ideological affiliations which constitutes the core of the piece. The two fundamental values of the Third Camp are liberty and nation. By tracing the development of party programmes and electoral campaigns from the end of World War II to the 2013, it is possible to observe a where liberal thinking is gradually eroded by nationalist thinking, as well as a considerable shift of emphasis. Using the example of the Austrian parties, the author tries to prove that national liberalism is a paradoxical political ideology which contradicts itself and, in the process, exposes its political parties to internal tensions, splits and inconsistency, something which, in the political world, can be a terminal illness.