Polish-German Annual Nr. 23

Abstracts

Letter from the Editor
Professor Jerzy Holzer dies

Articles
1. Marcin Markowski, The Graphic Design of Paper Money Issued in the Territories Occupied by the German Army During World War I.
2. Sylwia Bykowska, Crime and Punishment as a Ritual. Trials of Stutthof Criminals in Gdansk
3. Joanna Szymoniczek, The Institutionalization of Cooperation in Maintaining War Graves
5. Piotr Andrzejewski, Anti-Polish Sentiment in the NPD’s Newspaper After 1990
7. Lesław Tobiasz, Immigrants and Socio-Cultural Changes in the Population of Contemporary German-Speaking Switzerland

Documents

Reviews
Marcin MARKOWSKI

*The Graphic Design of Paper Money Issued in the Territories Occupied by the German Army During World War I*

The occupation authorities set up their own institutions that issued their own legal tender banknotes in the territories of the Russian Empire and the Kingdom of Romania occupied by the German army during World War I. The introduction of paper money with a new graphic design began in the middle of 1916.

Lower denominations of ostrubles and ostmarks, designed for areas east of the Ober-Ost, had the poorest layout of all the money issued by the Germans in the occupied territories in the East – they were embellished only by an ornamental drawing. In contrast, the highest denominations—100 ostrubles, 100 and 1,000 ostmarks—had a very extensive iconography, which distinguished them from paper money earmarked for the occupied territories in Eastern Europe. Banknotes intended for the General Government of Warsaw had the most national character due to the presence of the White Eagle on the intense red background. In contrast, apart from the language, paper money intended for other occupied territories did not have any graphic features that would be targeted at ethnic groups such as the Lithuanians, Latvians and Romanians. The layouts of these banknotes contain references also to the Greek and Roman mythologies. These references include male and female busts and a group of characteristic attributes that suggest that these are images of Demeter, Athena, Hermes and Ares.

Sylwia BYKOWSKA

*Crime and Punishment as a Ritual. Trials of Stutthof Criminals in Gdansk*

This article attempts to analyse the trials held against the guards of the Stutthof concentration camp and the public execution of eleven criminals sentenced to death. The proceedings were held before the Special Criminal Court in Gdansk from 25 April to 31 May 1946. The sentence was carried out on a hill called Biskupia Góra (Stolzenberg) on 4 July of...
that year, in the presence of a crowd numbering in the tens of thousands of people. These events are shown as a ritual, which did not only punish Nazi perpetrators, but also fulfilled important social and political functions. Attention is also paid to the role of the city of Gdansk, which was undergoing another transformation in its history after the end of World War II, in the process of the settlement of the Nazi crimes.

Ewa POGORZAŁA

_Controversy Surrounding the Teaching of German as a Language of a National Minority in Poland after 1989 – Maintaining National Identity or Learning a Language_

This article attempts to analyse the problems of teaching German in Poland as a language of a national minority. According to the Polish law, the aim of such language classes is to maintain the national identity. As early as in the 90s of the twentieth century, however, when people were allowed to learn German as a minority language, there were allegations that some of them would send their children to these lessons without feeling _de facto_ any relation to the German minority; they just wanted their children to learn a foreign language. During more than two decades of teaching German as a minority language, a number of interpretation problems appeared in the Polish education system concerning the principles of this teaching and persons entitled to receive education in this form. Applications for the admission of children to a German language course are treated as a declaration of nationality. A controversy also arises about the amount of additional financial resources provided for the organization of the minority language classes from the educational part of the general subsidy that is often compared to the funds allocated by the German authorities on the activities of the Polish diaspora and Poles in Germany. At present, the German minority in the Opole region undertakes a number of activities to promote bilingualism and thus overcome the conflicts around the German language, and to draw attention to the benefits of knowing more than one language as a first/second language, and not just as a foreign language.

**Keywords:** German minority in Poland, Germans in Poland, teaching minority languages, German as a minority language

Lesław TOBIASZ

_Immigrants and Socio-Cultural Changes in the Population of Contemporary German-Speaking Switzerland_

The author analyses the problems of socio-cultural changes in the German-speaking
population of Switzerland. In particular, he focuses on the processes that result from the presence of numerous immigrant communities. The analysis relates mainly to the period after the collapse of communism in Central and Eastern Europe. At the same time, the transformations in the German-speaking population of Switzerland are shown on the background of historical processes that have shaped the Swiss multiculturalism and multilingualism. The analysis takes into account the complex interactions between different multilingual areas of the country and external impacts resulting from socio-cultural processes outside its borders, especially in Germany. The German-speaking part of the multicultural Swiss Confederation is currently experiencing a period of rapid social changes. These changes relate to the sphere of culture, language, economy and politics. The German-speaking Swiss are trying to redefine their identity and role in the world, full of different challenges and threats. One of them is the approach to immigrants and the culture they represent. It can be assumed that in the next few years, the Swiss—in fear of the inflow of other cultures—will seek to limit immigration processes, while strengthening the processes for the effective integration of newcomers in the multicultural society.

**Keywords:** German-speaking Switzerland, immigration, multiculturalism, European integration, national identity

**Piotr ANDRZEJEWSKI**

*Anti-Polish Sentiment in the NPD’s Newspaper after 1990*

In his article, the author investigates the phenomenon of anti-Polish sentiment in *Deutsche Stimme*, which is the most prominent monthly newspaper of the far right-wing party, *Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands* (German National Party, NPD). Anti-Polish sentiment is described as a mix of attitudes and behaviours that are hostile towards the Polish state, nation, citizens and culture. This definition includes all discriminatory statements, press releases and all other anti-Polish activities. The anti-Polish sentiment is present in *Deutsche Stimme* on three levels. The first one touches on the area of historical revisionism. The second one focuses on economic factors and immigration, and the third one is centred around long-term stereotypes that are rooted in history. The article presents different ways of expressing the anti-Polish sentiment and contains a selection of illustrations from the NPD’s monthly.

**Keywords:** *Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands*, NPD, *Deutsche Stimme*, anti-Polish sentiment, far-right politics
The Approach of the Polish Government in Exile to German War Crimes in Poland, 1939-1943. Notes on the Problem

The policy of the Polish government in exile during World War II has been the subject of numerous studies, but it still seems reasonable to trace their relation to crimes committed on Polish soil. The aim of this article is not to present the whole problem, but just outline the attitude towards German crimes. It must be remembered that the Polish government was also confronted with the occupation policy of the Soviet Union and the crimes committed in Volhynia and Galicia by Ukrainian nationalists. The final caesura of the article is the President’s decree of on punishment for war crimes released on March 30, 1943.

The Polish government was of the opinion that the crimes should be punished primarily on the level of individuals who committed them, but the consequence of the criminal policy of the Third Reich should be the adoption of such a post-war policy against Germany that would guarantee compensation for victim countries, including compensation for material damage, and lead to a change in the German mentality, which was blamed partly responsible for the policy of the Third Reich. Such an attitude was shared by the anti-Hitler coalition countries.

On the practical level, the Polish government’s policy had several stages. Initially, they collected information, tried to make it public and sought the cooperation of other countries. Despite numerous doubts were reported, they decided to amend the Polish criminal law to allow punishing war criminals more proportionally, as they thought, to the committed acts. The government’s activity probably influenced the attitude of the Allies, although it is difficult to accurately recognize and describe this issue. As a result of the situation after World War II, the new Polish authorities pursued a policy of punishing the guilty. Due to the international situation, i.e. the growing conflict between the coalition partners, many criminals escaped punishment.

The Institutionalization of Cooperation in Maintaining War Graves

Resting places of fallen soldiers – war cemeteries – are monuments to soldiers' heroism, and thus are of special significance not only for those who have lost their loved ones, but also for entire nations, countries and communities. Therefore, such cemeteries are created under the provisions of relevant authorities, and then put under the special protection of the public.
These issues are closely regulated by international law established throughout the twentieth century. Cemeteries are protected by the state on whose territory individual objects are placed. However, the problem of cemeteries is more and more often the responsibility of social organizations. According to the international humanitarian law of armed conflict, specific tasks in this respect are assigned to the tracing services of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, who deal with the registry of exhumation, inhumation and body transfer, hold deposits, establish the fate of victims of war and issue death certificates. Institutions that deal with exploration, keeping records, exhumation of remains and the construction or reevaluation of the graves of fallen citizens buried outside the borders of their own countries include the Council for the Protection of Struggle and Martyrdom Sites, the German People's Union for the Care of War Graves, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Austrian Red Cross (Österreichisches Schwarzes Kreuz), the American Battle Monuments Commission, the US Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad and the Italian Commissariat General for the Memory of Killed in War (Commissariato Generale per le ONORANZECaduti in Guerra). For political reasons, tasks related to war cemeteries are assigned to social organizations, because their actions are believed to be more effective and less bureaucratic than those of states.

**Keywords:** war cemeteries, historic monuments, material heritage, international humanitarian law of armed conflict, the German People's Union for the Care of War Graves