

examines archival and statistical data concerning Protestant communities (Mateusz Superczyński researched the parish in Chełmno from this angle, while Agnieszka Zielińska collected data on towns in the Cuiavian-Pomeranian region). The volume closes with a separate chapter on Protestant architecture, in which Piotr Birecki summarises the development of Protestant art and architecture across the Cuiavian-Pomeranian region over the centuries. Each article includes a separate bibliography. A joint index of personal names is included at the end. (MJO)

*Żywyoty historyczne. Tadeusz Łepkowski, Marian Małowist, Janusz Tazbir, Aleksander Gieysztor w wywiadach z lat 1986–1989* [Their Historical Lives. Tadeusz Łepkowski, Marian Małowist, Janusz Tazbir, and Aleksander Gieysztor interviewed in 1986–1989], questions asked and answers commented by Bronisław Geremek, Jerzy Jedlicki, Henryk Samsonowicz, Ryszard Stemplowski, Henryk Szlajfer, Michał Tymowski, and Tadeusz Wasilewski, with an introduction and notes by Ryszard Stemplowski, Kęty, 2020, Wydawnictwo Marek Derewiecki, 140 pp.

When Ryszard Stemplowski (today, a professor) was made editor-in-chief of the journal *Estudios Latinoamericanos* in the middle of the 1980s, he decided to hold a series of conversations with the doyens of historiography, all of them associated with Warsaw. The project has been accomplished only partly, for he managed to interview only four of these men, all deceased now – namely, Marian Małowist (1909–88), Aleksander Gieysztor (1916–99), Tadeusz Łepkowski (1927–89), and Janusz Tazbir (1927–2016). The interviews were first published in the aforementioned periodical, in a Spanish translation; more than thirty years later, they were published in a (small) book form, entitled *Las vidas históricas. Conversaciones con Tadeusz Łepkowski, Marian Małowist, Janusz Tazbir y Aleksander Gieysztor* (Warszawa, 2019). Finally, they have come out in their original wording. In the introduction, Stemplowski discusses the circumstances in which these conversations were held and then published, introduces the interlocutors, and reflects on their output and the age in which they happened to live. The author's students and professor colleagues, who later on became outstanding scholars themselves, have contributed to these interviews. A few motifs tend to reappear: the interviewees' family background and intellectual formation, the experiences related to the war and communism, and the attitude to the Marxist research methodology. It can be regretted that the latter thread is not highlighted enough in the talk with Gieysztor: as opposed to Małowist or Łepkowski, Gieysztor would not declare himself as a follower of the trend, though he must have sought

certain trade-offs in his creative activity (as the author mentions in the introduction). However, the leitmotiv in these interviews is the similarities between the history of Poland and the history of the Iberian world – the Pyrenean Peninsula, the Lusophonic western Africa and the Hispanophonic America, the question close to the project's initiator. Łepkowski and Małowist were the experts in these issues, but the other two interlocutors had a lot to say in this respect as well. The Tazbir interview is a gem indeed, not only in this particular respect. Though not without editorial flaws, the book is a valuable contribution to the history of Polish historiography and a record of the time when the interviews were made: it shows what, and how much, could be said in the final years of communist Poland about the then-recent past in a scientific journal. In this respect, Gieysztor's confessions related, for instance, to the reconstruction of the Royal Castle in Warsaw appear to be really interesting. (RR)

#### MIDDLE AGES

Stanisław Turlej, Michał Stachura, Bartosz Jan Kłoczek, and Adam Izdebski (eds), *Byzantina et Slavica. Studies in Honour of Professor Maciej Salamon*, Kraków, 2019, Historia Iagellonica, 464 pp., English sum., ills, maps, separate bibliog. for each article

The book dedicated to Professor Maciej Salamon is worthy of attention. Consisting of thirty-five articles (incl. twenty-nine in English, four in German, and one each in French and Italian), it deals with a variety of issues related to Professor Salamon's research interests. Although the title phrase *Byzantina et Slavica* might suggest that the texts would equally concern both mentioned areas, it is Byzantium that appears to be the main focus. The articles cover aspects of history and archaeology, offering a diverse set of approaches to the subjects concerned.

The texts are rather short, which, in some cases, is to their detriment – as is the case with Marcin Bohm's study on the role of Conrad of Querfurt in Henry VI's politics. While the article mostly describes Conrad's career, its summary style causes the interesting issues to disappear in the superficial presentation of the events. Some texts are not hampered by shortness, though – for instance, Robert Suski's article on Aurelius Victor's career, after Ammianus Marcellinus: here, the author focuses on the selected problem and discusses it extensively. Such is the case also with Mirosław J. Leszka's article on representations of the rulers of the Bulgars in Liudprand of Cremona's works.

However, the anthology lacks an article that would stand out. The editors have not tried to group the studies and arrange them in a sequence – let alone to provide an index. With the diversity of the proposed topics, it would all