

ON THE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND THE LANGUAGE

Andrzej M. Brzeziński, *Organization and forms of international intellectual cooperation within the framework of the League of Nations (1922- -1939)*

The International Commission on Intellectual Cooperation (ICIC) was created as an advisory organ to the Council of the League of Nations in 1922. The main purpose of this new body of the League of Nations was the promotion and organization of general intellectual cooperation as a final means of working for international peace. ICIC initiated the world-wide system of "National Commissions" on Intellectual Cooperation, which eventually existed in forty-one countries (1937). These Commissions constituted the lowest formal link in the entire organizational system founded by the League of Nations with a view to promoting intellectual cooperation. The International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation, as the executive organ of ICIC, offered by French Government and inaugurated in Paris in 1926, promoted new forms of intellectual cooperation like International Museums Office, Permanent International Studies Conference, an action called Moral Disarmament, the cooperation between the most distinguished intellectuals (Entretiens) and others. In 1928 the Italian Government founded the International Institute of the Educational Cinema in Rome, which functioned in the framework of the League of Nations until December 1937. It was a center of the international information, promotion, distribution and exchange of educational films.

Izabela Wróbel, *Activities of the Federal Republic of Germany for the restitution of cultural goods stolen from the victims of National Socialism in the years 1998-2014*

The article presents the most important political, legal, organizational and financial measures taken at all levels of the German state since the end of the twentieth century in order to intensify provenance research regarding cultural goods that are currently held by the German public institutions, but also citizens, businesses and other private entities. The particular aim of this research is to identify cultural goods stolen by the Nazis from their rightful owners. The author describes the recent endeavours in this regard for which the immediate impulse was the so-called Schwabing (Munich) art discovery. The article also discusses the most famous cases of restitution in recent years and their evaluation in Germany, as examples of the implementation of the new state restitution policy and also as yardsticks of changes in public attitudes to this issue.

Elżbieta Kocowska-Siekierka, Protection of historical castles, chateaux and other residences of the nobility in Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic in the years 1918- -2015. The problem of nationalization and restitution

The article takes up the issue of the development of various state institutions which were implemented in order to protect historical castles and chateaux in Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic after the year 1918, due to the confiscation of property. It describes the transformation of regulations governing the right of ownership, associated with historical and political events, which had a significant influence on the status of residential buildings - nationalization processes after both World Wars, the impact of the communist doctrine and the privatization and restitution after 1989. The current state of preservation and functioning of the most representative residences, as places open and available to the public, has to do with administration policy - pursued in the present form after divesting original owners their objects. It has an impact on the modern social perception of the current functions which these residences are supposed to perform as a consequence of transfers of ownership after 1989. The statement is intended to illustrate the process of the development of a strategy for the protection and administration of residences, launched after 1918, by presenting phenomena in both contexts - legal and political, as well as by showing the historical and social aspects of the process.

Łukasz Bugalski, The cultural heritage of Gdańsk. The urban complex of downtown Gdańsk and municipal historical policy

The current municipal historical policy of Gdańsk focuses on the realization of two crucial museum undertakings purported to be a unique materialization of the city's cultural heritage. Their underlying narration, which is told from the European perspective, bases on two great events of the 20th century and seems to disregard the cultural heritage encoded in the urban structure of downtown Gdańsk. But it is precisely this specific urban structure that exerts the strongest influence on the local identity of Gdańsk citizens and the quality of their life. So far the discourse on architecture in Gdańsk has been shaped by the dualistic debate between "tradition" and "modernity" founded on the division into pre-war and post-war accomplishments. This relation does not take full advantage of the possible ways of reading the cultural heritage of Gdańsk and should be replaced by at least three narrations: the historic city, Prussian Danzig and Polish Gdańsk. Only a properly deciphered cultural heritage of the urban complex of downtown Gdańsk can serve as a foundation for outlining a new and more mature municipal and spatial policy of Gdańsk.

Beata Kornatowska, Berliner Philharmonie (1963). A breakthrough in the conception of the concert hall

Whenever improvised music is played, people form a circle – this simple consideration lies at the basis of the idea behind Hans Scharoun's design of a central terraced concert hall, known as vineyard. Established in 1963, the new home of the Berlin Philharmonic is not only one of the best known concert halls of the world, but also a prototype architectural solution as the vineyard configuration has been adopted and developed in many important subsequent concert hall designs since the 1960s. The article is an attempt to present the specifics of the project and the various contexts that influenced its shape. The subject of discussion are the earlier traditions of the concert hall and the democratic turn made by Hans Scharoun, the situation of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra during the Third Reich and shortly after the war, political and social conditions in Berlin in the 1950s and 60s, controversies and obstacles to implementation of the design, acoustic challenges associated with central terraced configuration and the growing importance of the visual perception of music.

Dariusz Łukasiewicz, The bourgeois culture of Prussia between tradition and modernity in the years 1780 -1871

The classic interpretation of the history of Prussian culture is rightly associated with militarism and the spiked helmet. The Prussian "spirit of Potsdam" is commonly contrasted with the "spirit of Weimar", a perspective long exploited in the literature of the subject. However, there are other noteworthy viewpoints. Already in the period of Enlightenment Berlin was a city of the free spirit of learning, intellectuals and journalists. Publications on civilizational, social and economic reforms abounded. The 18th century was a period of departure from pre-modern mechanisms of financing art by court, church and municipal patronage. The emerging art market became governed by the demand and taste of the bourgeoisie and subsequently of the general public, although the middle class remained the leading group in this respect, imposing its standards on the lower social strata. Having become wealthy the bourgeoisie began to imitate aristocracy, among others in lavish and luxurious interior decoration, but with an excess characteristic of neophytes. The development of culture in 19th century Prussia was fuelled by enormous technical progress (e.g. the railway) and immense growth of institutions for the spreading of progress and culture (education system, healthcare, pension scheme). The advance of literacy and the press as well as readership (libraries and reading rooms) facilitated the creation of mass political parties and trade unions in addition to the participation of the masses in the political reality through the means of culture. The previous concentration on religious topics waned, giving way to secular themes publicized by serialized novels in popular press. Nevertheless, until the 20th century sacred art continued as a major influence among the lower classes.

Anna Nadolska, The culture of German landed gentry in interwar Greater Poland. An attempt to characterize the concept

The focus of the article is the culture of German landed gentry during the interwar period in Greater Poland. The author analyzes the culture of German landed gentry based on cultural studies, history and sociology and expounds the concept of "German landed gentry." The article also provides information about families of some German landed gentry living in Greater Poland during the interwar period.

Magdalena Moj, Characteristics of names given to children in the village of Krasiejów in the years 1831-1910

The article presents an analysis of the names given to children in the village of Krasiejów in the years 1831-1910. Through exposition of the issue of the choice of first, second and third names documented in the register books in Krasiejów the author seeks to determine the frequency and scale of conferring particular names as well as the factors that influenced the decision of the parents. The object of the article is to analyze the seasonalness of the occurrence of male and female names, a phenomenon linked directly to the Catholic calendar. The most and least frequent first and second names are discussed. One of the aspects dealt with is the choice of names for illegitimate children.

Gerda Nogal, The literary returns of Eberhard Hilscher as a medium of memory and reconciliation

The article is an analysis of two prose works of the German writer Eberhard Hilscher: *Schwiebuser Geschichten* from a volume titled *Meine Schwiebuser Verwandten und das polnische Mädchen*, published in 2002 and the novel *Die Weltzeituhr. Roman einer Epoche*, which appeared in print in 1983. The object of the analysis is to examine the correlation between memory and identity. The key reminiscence in the texts studied is the experience of the loss of one's homeland after the Second World War.

Magdalena Karolak-Michalska, The impact of the Russian language on the language policy of independent Belarus and Moldova

The purpose of the article is to analyze the position of the Russian language in the policy of independent Belarus and Moldova. The author draws attention to the legal status of Russian and analyzes the number of people who use Russian to communicate in both countries. In considerations on the ethnopolitics of the Russian Federation towards the Russian minority in the CIS countries, attention is focused on the activity of the state to maintain contact with Russians living outside the "historic homeland". Lastly, the author notes that the Russian language plays an important role in shaping the socio-political reality of independent Belarus and Moldova, and its development in these countries corresponds with Russia's policy towards compatriots abroad.

Miron Lakomy, The paradox of cyber development: twice the tech, double the fall?

The rising pace of technological development in the 21st century is frequently met by a widespread "folly", to be always up-to-date with the latest trends and fashions, especially in the sensitive and ever changing area of IT. Humanity continues to develop numerous indispensable and useful technological innovations, but concurrently produces numerous inventions whose implementation in various spheres of human life must give rise to objections. We observe an increasing flood of technological innovations and a blind assimilation of all electronic devices, including some which appear to be completely unnecessary. Almost no one asks: where are the boundaries and at what point do hi-tech pursuits cease to make sense? The pace and scope of development raises legitimate doubts, as it is outpacing the growth of deepened intellectual reflection. Therefore, this paper argues that the more ICTs are introduced thoughtlessly into different areas of life, the greater the challenges, resulting from their improper use, we face. Such correlation is visible at a glance, but so far there has been little effort to understand the causes and strategic consequences of this profound paradox of digital revolution.