

**ROBERT MARCIN SOLIS: *PROBLEMATYKA KOŚCIELNA
W PAMIĘTNIKARSTWIE POLSKIM XIX WIEKU*
[THE ISSUE OF CHURCH IN POLISH MEMORIALS
IN THE 19TH CENTURY], LUBLIN 2018, p. 141**

A diary is a prose form of presenting events recorded by their participant or witness after a certain period of time, and aims at presenting events and external circumstances¹. Diaries are classified as primary sources. Hence, I reckon that collecting research material as a source database was an extremely important task (considered to be source materials)².

As the author writes in the Introduction (p. 9): a diary, a memory, a report, a journal, and an interview are the main forms of works included in the memoirs, i.e. diaries³.

The memoirs of the 19th century take an important and significant place in the contemporary literary production, however, these diaries are not fully used as a historical source.

The goal of Rev. Dr. Robert Solis was to characterize widely understood reality that was present in selected journalistic materials (25). Apart from the sources, the author also took advantage of rich source literature.

The reviewed publication consists of three chapters. In the first chapter entitled *Zagadnienia wprowadzające (Introductory issues)* (p. 13–32), the author demonstrated that although knowledge concerning the memoirs as a source of research into church issues is increasingly deeper, it is still insufficient. It is a specific field of intellectual culture, hidden as if in the shadow of the classic and priority journalistic activity.

Rev. Solis defined in an exhaustive way the basic terms that constituted the essence of considerations of the issue of church in the Polish memoirs in the 19th century, such as: *diaries and their types, e.g. entire life, fragmentary and thematic recollections, journals, letters, local correspondence and intervention letters containing autobiographical elements or revealing the author's personality* (p. 14).

¹ *Encyklopedia powszechna [Universal Encyclopedia]*, ed. M. Karolczuk, Kraków 2009, p. 64.

² K. Duraj-Nowakowa, *Pisarstwo naukowe. Między rzemiosłem a sztuką [Scientific literature. Between craft and art]*, Sosnowiec 2015, p. 283.

³ *Słownik wyrazów obcych [The dictionary of words of foreign origin]*, ed. E. Sobol, Warszawa 2002, p. 707.

The reviewed study is dominated by songs which can be qualified as diaries of the entire life that were created for and addressed to children and grandchildren. When using diaries in studying the issue of church, appropriate ways of their internal and external analysis must be assumed, which make it possible to understand the content of a given document and its interpretation. The author rightly recognized that publishing only objective judgments on the religious life of a human being or society solely on the basis of diaries is a big problem.

In the subsection called *Kościół Katolicki XIX wieku (The Catholic church of the 19th century)*, the author presented church as a sacral and organizational institution, pointing out that its history in the reviewed century referred to the period between the outbreak of the French Revolution to the death of Pope Pius X and the outbreak of World War I. The Catholic faith in Poland in the discussed century was one of the main factors which united the nation and gave some traces of humanism to the aspirations held by the Polish nation to live in a free state. Without taking account of the church activities, it is impossible to understand the solidarity and willpower that the Poles demonstrated while seeking their freedom.

The second chapter – *Kościół na ziemiach polskich (The church on the territory of Poland)* (p. 33–78) – is concentrated on the clergy, and the pastoral and charitable activities run by them. The information included in this chapter concerns theological seminaries in the three partitions. The author described the curricula of the alumni, mentioned the names of lecturers and confessors, and outlined the timetables of the classes and the structures of daily prayers.

The author also described the patriotic activities of priests, starting from the end of the 18th century – their participation in the November Uprising, conspiracy activities, pastoral service in prisons, and the participation of priests in the preparations for the January Uprising.

In the subsection *Biskupi (Bishops)*, the issues related to their pastoral service and private life were outlined. The author recalled the figures of, i.a., W. Skarszewski, the bishop of Lublin, K. Cieciszowski, the bishop of Zhytomyr, and J. P. Woronicz, the bishop of Cracow (the future Metropolitan of Warsaw) and A. Skarbek Ankiewicz, the Metropolitan of Lviv.

This chapter also discussed the issue of teaching the catechism, presented the charity activities and the economic base of the Catholic church.

In the third chapter *Kościół powszechny (The universal church)* (p. 79–122), the author reported in an interesting way the content referring to the universal church in 13 countries (Italy, the Habsburg Monarchy, Germany, France, Turkey, England, Russia, Spain, Portugal, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru), taking both the positive and negative activities of its particular branches into consideration.

The study of Robert M. Solis opens with *Przemowa (Foreword)* written by Rev. Edward Walewander and *Wstęp (Introduction)* by the author, and closes with *Zakończenie (Conclusion)*, which provided a general reflection on changes and directions in the Polish memoirs of the 19th century regarding the issues of church.

Unfortunately, due to the fact that the source database is dispersed and incomplete, the author hereof was unable to characterize the undertaken threads and issues in a full and exhaustive manner. Despite these minor disadvantages, I believe, however, that the amount and type of the material presented herein proved the complexity and importance of the addressed issue. The database of the analyzed material was sufficient to identify the major and some more specific problems considered in this reviewed article.

Bibliografia (Bibliography), divided into sources, auxiliary literature and **Index osobowy (Personal index)** is also wide and extensive. In its final part the author listed the works published as part of “Biblioteka Pedagogiczna Katedry Pedagogiki Porównawczej Wydziału Nauk Społecznych KUL im. Jana Pawła II – Seria A: Studia” (“The Pedagogical Library of the Department of Comparative Pedagogy of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin – Series A: Studies”) edited by Rev. Edward Walewander – 44 papers in total.

In terms of its structure, the book evokes admiration in terms of its transparency and a substantively justified shape. It is read with interest and pleasure, not only because of the important subject matter included therein – it was also carefully written in the Polish language. Certainly, the paper will prove to be an invaluable help for graduate students and doctorate candidates.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Duraj-Nowakowa K., *Pisarstwo naukowe. Między rzemiosłem a sztuką*, Sosnowiec 2015.

Encyklopedia powszechna, ed. M. Karolczuk, Kraków 2009.

Słownik wyrazów obcych, ed. E. Sobol, Warszawa 2002.

Solis R. M., *Problematyka kościelna w pamiętnikarstwie polskim XIX wieku*, Lublin 2018.

PIOTR KOWOLIK

The Jesuit University Ignatianum in Kraków