

Wojciech Tygielski: Italians in Early Modern Poland. The Lost Opportunity for Modernization? (Polish Studies – Transdisciplinary Perspectives, Bd. 11.) Lang Ed. Frankfurt am Main 2015. 539 S. ISBN 978-3-631-64134-7. (€ 84,95.)

Wojciech Tygielski's book is a translation of his monograph *Włosi w Polsce XVI-XVII wieku: utracona szansa na modernizację* from 2005 and deals with the role of Italian immigrants in the Early Modern Polish-Lithuanian State in the 15th-17th centuries. The 18th century is taken into consideration to a lesser extent, because of its specific political and cultural conditions. According to the point of view of Early Modern Poles, Italian immigrants are treated as a homogenous group, independently from both regional provenience and former stays in other foreign countries.

The aim of the study is to analyze 'the mutual interaction between the immigrating national group and the [...] Old Polish society, dominated by nobility' (p. 24). Italians represented a relevant group for many reasons. Their immigration occurred on a relatively large scale. Due to the lack of sources allowing a statistical analysis, T. suggests on the basis of Italian compendia that there could have been something more than 1000 ennoblements in the early Polish-Lithuanian State. In Cracow the number of Italians who became citizens or simply served the royal court may included a couple of hundreds people from the 16th till the 18th century. (pp. 257-258). Secondly, Italians came from a developed region and could therefore contribute to the modernization of Poland. Moreover, they represented a highly diverse group in regard to their skills. Finally, Italian immigrants preserved a separateness in relation to the rest of Old Polish society. This depended from the fact that they were considered as providers of services and goods and not as equal partners to the nobility, which was in Poland the strongest social layer.

T.'s monograph is based mainly on edited sources and historiography. Among sources one should mention travel diaries, political pamphlets, guilds' and towns' records, diplomatic and personal correspondence. Within historiography the role of Italians has been discussed by specialists of different fields: from economic, social and political history to musicology, art, literature and theatre history. Due to the general character of the work, one should not blame the author for using archival sources only to a small extent.

An evidence of the author's reliability is that the bibliography has been updated in comparison to the Polish edition. For example T. includes the findings of Alina Żórawska-Witkowska¹ about the Italian musicians at the court of Augustus III. However, in some issues he could have undertaken a bigger effort. For example, while stating that the influence of Italian cuisine in Poland was limited, T. relies on old and general statements of Janusz Tazbir (p. 371), whereas detailed studies and source editions by Jarosław Dumanowski appeared in recent years.²

The construction of the book is clear. In the first chapter the author sketches the Italian presence in Poland on the basis of highly significant narrative sources: historical works, correspondence and diaries of noblemen as well as texts produced by Cracow burghers.

The second chapter deals with the knowledge and opinions of Italian people about Poland. The image of this country began to change in the end of 15th century, as the Polish-Lithuanian State turned from an exotic and backward country into an attractive political and commercial partner. An important role in forming the expectations of future Italian emigrants to Poland was played by foreign students and diplomats staying in the Peninsula

¹ ALINA ŻÓRAWSKA-WITKOWSKA: *Muzyka na polskim dworze Augusta III* [Music at the Polish Court of August III], part 1, Lublin 2012.

² See e. g. JAROSŁAW DUMANOWSKI: *Tatarskie ziele w cukrze czyli Staropolskie słodczyce* [Calamus in Sugar, i. e. Old Polish Candy], Warszawa 2011; STANISŁAW CZARNECKI: *Compendium ferulorum albo Zebranie potraw* [Compendium ferulorum or a Collection of Dishes], ed. by JAROSŁAW DUMANOWSKI and MAGDALENA SPYCHAJ, Warszawa 2009.

as well as by Italian scholars, entrepreneurs and artists that had already emigrated to Poland.

The third chapter sketches the activity of Italian immigrants, among whom there were artists, merchants, physicians, bankers and financiers, diplomats and political advisers, servants, scholars and religious dissenters. In this regard the author stresses that Queen Bona's stay in Poland particularly contributed to the deepening of Polish-Italian contacts. Attempts at quantitative assessment of the Italian presence in Poland bear a hypothetical character due to the lack of systematic sources. However, based on the example of the city of Cracow, T. points out that the period 1550-1651 was the most favourable for newcomers. From a social point of view, the royal court as well as those of the magnates played an important role in recruiting and employing Italian immigrants.

The fourth chapter mainly investigates the interplay between immigrants and the receiving society, understood as a two-way process: Polonization of Italians and Italianization of Poles. First, T. analyses the relationship within the Italian community, pointing out that the immigrants felt a sort of group responsibility. Differences in regional provenience became less important while being far from home. In spite of collaboration and mutual help, conflicts also occurred. T. poses the question whether Italians could enter Polish elites. In this regard, otherness and (generally) non-noble status were unfavourable for immigrants. However, some of them achieved ennoblement or the so called *indygenat* (i. e. the bestowal of local noble status to foreign nobility). After considering the role of the Italian language, which remained more popular than French until the end of the 17th century, T. focuses on literary influences and presents the reception of authors who were particularly important for the creation of an Italian stereotype, such as Callimachus and Machiavelli and the treaty *Il cortegiano* by Baldassarre da Castiglione.

The fifth chapter focuses on the attitude of Poles towards Italian immigrants. In this regard a major change occurred by mid-17th century. Even though Italians had already been criticized much earlier, the worsening of the economic situation caused a wave of xenophobia. In spite of this Italians were generally not perceived as a danger by the high nobility, since they provided fundamental services to this social layer. According to common stereotype, Italian immigrants were considered as cunning, greedy and sensual.

The sixth chapter answers to the general research question of the book, namely, why Old Polish society proved to be resilient to models and inspirations coming from Italy. While focusing on this question, the author takes into consideration other minorities functioning in the Commonwealth as well as Italians in other European countries. Thanks to both diplomatic stays and studies at Italian universities, the Peninsula was seen by Poles as an attractive place and the cradle of an ancient civilization. However, Polish noblemen and clergy were interested more in observation and selective adaptation of Italian models than in the transformation of Old Polish society according to Italian solutions. In this regard the social inferiority of immigrants may have played a decisive role. Moreover, Polish nobility proved to be more closed than analogous social layers in other countries. Changes also occurred in qualitative terms. As the economic situation in Italy started worsening, impoverished people with law qualifications mostly became immigrants. Artistic inspirations were particularly strong. In the civilisational sphere Italians contributed among other things to the organisation of banking and post services. Almost no influence occurred in politics and models of social behaviour. Even though the presence of Italian newcomers in Poland represented a lost chance for modernization, it still had deep effects in comparison to other ethnic minorities.

The duty of a reviewer is also to draw attention to a few inaccuracies. For instance the Theatines did not belong to the Franciscan Order, but represented a distinct congregation of the regular clergy (p. 150). Even though the critical apparatus matches the requirements of scientific monographs, some flaws can be observed. References to *Polski Słownik Biograficzny* and *Dizionario biografico degli Italiani* in the footnotes lack the name of the author and the year of publishing. Moreover, T. sometimes mentions other historians with

no exact bibliographic references, e. g. Gottfried Schramm (p. 380). A major defect of the book is the lack of indexes. A 500-pages monograph, filled with personal and geographical names, simply should not be published without them.

In conclusion it must be said that T. masters a huge amount of literature and makes a proper use of diverse sources. The work provides a synthetic view on the activity of the Italian immigrants in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and interprets it originally and convincingly. At the same time, the author hints at less investigated issues and sketches a road map for further research. The translation is accurate, elegant and respectful towards Polish historical terminology. This book proves to be extremely useful not only for readers versed in Polish history, but also for specialists in other fields, and represents therefore an important achievement for the popularization of Polish culture and history abroad and should be warmly welcomed by the scientific community.

Poznań

Andrea Mariani

Eckhard Jäger: Die Insel Rügen auf alten Karten. Vier Jahrhunderte Kartografiegeschichte 1532-1885. Druck- und Verlagsgesellschaft Husum 2014. 255 S., 124 graph. Darst. ISBN 978-3-89876-740-8. (€ 42,95.)

Eckhard Jäger, ein profunder Kenner der Geschichte der Kartografie von Mitteleuropa, versucht in einer ausführlichen Monografie eine Bilanz der topografischen Darstellung der Insel Rügen im Spektrum vielfältiger Karten bis an die Schwelle zum Industriezeitalter zu vermitteln. Die nahezu vollständige Dokumentation ist das Ergebnis langjähriger Recherchen in mittel- und nordeuropäischen Offizinen. Die Insel stand 1648-1815 nahezu durchgängig unter der Herrschaft von Schweden.

Die klar strukturierte Publikation dürfte den Bestand erreichbarer Karten fast vollständig erfassen und versucht auf solcher Basis die Entwicklungslinien im Einsatz der Kartografie über die Zeiten hinweg herauszustellen. Eine Bibliografie der 1797-1888 erschienenen Rügen-Reiseführer, ein Glossar einschlägiger Begriffe der Kartografie und ein Register der Kartenzeichner, -stecher, -drucker und -verleger runden das eingängige Werk ab.

Die meisten Karten richten sich in einem ersten Katalog auf die Insel selbst, mehr kurzrisch folgen in einem zweiten Katalog – meist als Ausschnitte – diverse Seekarten zur Ostsee vor Rügen. Das weitergehende Interesse gilt den Landkarten. Die Kataloge zeigen durchweg die jeweilige Karte auf einer rechten Seite des querformatigen Buches, manche – infolge des Maßstabes vom Original – im typischen Ausschnitt, während dazu auf der linken Seite gegenüber detaillierte Erläuterungen zusammengestellt werden. Die Karten sind – wie ihre Vorlage – auch in Farbe wiedergegeben und lassen durchaus eine gute Druckqualität erkennen. Die innere Beschriftung ist trotz nötiger Verkleinerung vielfach lesbar. Die systematisch angesetzten Kommentare richten sich in prägnanter Weise auf die Herkunft, den Inhalt und die Ausgestaltung. Die Erfassung der Karten reicht von zuvor ungedruckten bis zu häufig wiedergegebenen Ausfertigungen.

Es kommt dem Autor darauf an, jene Landkarten vorzuweisen, welche die gesamte Insel – mit ihren charakteristischen Umrissen – wiedergeben, darunter solche, die weitere Landesteile von Vor- oder auch Hinterpommern einbeziehen. Die Karten von einzelnen Ortschaften, darunter militärischen Stützpunkten sowie von singulären Gemarkungen auf Rügen, sind nicht das Thema der Untersuchung, sodass selbst die schwedische Matrikelaufnahme der einzelnen Dörfer fast nur beiläufig aufgenommen wird. Diese Vermessung von Pommern 1692-1709 gilt immerhin als erstes Katasterwerk auf deutschem Boden und hat im internationalen Vergleich einen fortschrittlichen Stellenwert. Es sei erwähnt, dass der Verein „Insula Rugia“ jüngst eine digitale Synthese der Schwedischen Matrikel auf der