

torikerin, die in dem Bestreben, die Kenntnisse über die Geschichte ihres – heute wesentlich kleineren – Landes zu verbessern, einfach zu dick aufgetragen hat. Das Verhältnis zwischen der polnischen und der litauischen Hälfte der Adelsrepublik war extrem komplex und ist weder mit „Einverleibung“ noch mit „völlige Gleichstellung“ angemessen umschrieben.

Freiburg i. Br.

Martin Faber

Anna Penkała-Jastrzębska: „To Marry a Foreigner ...“. Migrations and the Marriage Policy of the Nobility of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. (Series of the Friedrich Christian Lesser Foundation, Bd. 43.) Friedrich-Christian-Lesser-Stiftung – Verlag Steffen Iffland. Mühlhausen/Thür. – Nordhausen/Thür. 2021. 504 S. ISBN 978-3-930558-39-1. (€ 25,-)

The reviewed monograph by Anna Penkała-Jastrzębska is a result of a project carried out by the Author in 2018–2021 at Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena and Friedrich-Christian-Lesser-Stiftung and was published in the same year both in Polish¹ and in English translation. The subject of the work are migrations related to marriages performed by the magnates and the wealthy Polish and Lithuanian nobility to persons from outside the Commonwealth in the seventeenth–eighteenth centuries.

The monograph consists of an introduction, seven chapters, and a conclusion, as well as an annex and bibliography. The Polish edition also contains a personal index, which was not included in the English translation. In the introduction, the author tries to present the purpose of her work. Unfortunately, the narrative of this section is very confusing, and the reader has to puzzle out the successive goals set by the author. The main purpose of the monograph is formulated only at the very end of the Introduction “[...] the main goal of the presented work was to establish the most important factors that determined the migration process as a result of international marriages” (p. 30). Moreover, the descriptions of the subsequent goals are interspersed with the conclusions of the research conducted, making the Conclusion almost a repetition of the findings already presented in the Introduction.

In chapter 1, P.-L. presents the legal conditions of marriages between the Polish and Lithuanian nobility and magnates with persons from other countries, based primarily on the existing literature on the subject.

The next five chapters present the phenomenon in chronological order, divided into periods corresponding to the reigns of successive rulers—kings of the Vasa dynasty and Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki (chapter 2, up to 1674), John III Sobieski (chapter 3), Augustus II (chapter 4), Augustus III (chapter 5) and Stanisław August Poniatowski (chapter 6). In this part of the work, the narrative is based on data acquired by the author during numerous searches in Polish (Warsaw, Cracow, Wrocław, Kórnik, Poznań, Łódź, Rzeszów, Toruń) and foreign (Dresden, Vienna, Minsk, Kyiv, Lviv) archives and libraries. The sources used are several documents regulating the terms and conditions of negotiated and contracted marriages (including so-called preliminary points, marriage contracts, life annuity agreements), correspondence, as well as manuscript newspapers. P.-L. does not specify which research methods she used, as in the introduction she only mentions the quantitative method (p. 17).² In the following chapters, the author analyzes various aspects of international marriages—the reasons why efforts were made to enter into a particular union, the negotiations, the functioning of the marriage after the wedding, including the

¹ ANNA PENKAŁA-JASTRZĘBSKA: “Za cudzoziemca iść ...”: Migracje a polityka małżeńska szlachty państwa polsko-litewskiego, Kraków 2021.

² Such information can be found in the Polish version of the monograph, in which the author declares to use primarily qualitative, biographical and prosopographical methods, with only a supplementary quantitative method (ibid., p. 17).

question of the place of residence, as well as the more or less successful assimilation of the newcomer in the new environment.

The narrative of the individual chapters shows a very good knowledge of the source base, and the author does not spare examples to illustrate the issues she discusses. She manages to show the role of the royal court, including the queens consorts themselves and sometimes also the kings in arranging international marriages and the goals that guided this, the role of changing social arrangements, as well as to outline changes over time in the number and nature of marriages—she shows that, at the beginning of the period under study, it was the men who brought wives from outside the Commonwealth, but from areas immediately adjacent to it. The change occurred in the second half of the seventeenth century and was related, in part, to the arrival in the Commonwealth of numerous military men serving there. P.-L.'s conclusion that it was women who generally adapted better in the new environment is also extremely interesting.

In chapter 7, the author presents a chronological list of marriages of representatives of the Polish and Lithuanian wealthy nobility and magnates to foreigners. The list, as P.-L. herself admits, is incomplete (p. 358). It includes for each marriage the date of its conclusion, the name of the husband and wife, along with additional information (date of death, other marriages, offices held) and the source from which the information was taken. The list, which is arranged in the form of a table, notably lacks sequential numbers to make it easier to use. Moreover, the list, while valuable in its own, should have taken the form of an appendix to the work rather than a separate chapter.

The annex contains an edition of 17 documents—marriage contracts concluded between representatives of the Polish and Lithuanian nobility and magnates with representatives of foreign aristocracy. These documents are interesting in themselves and published carefully, nevertheless it is not clear what criteria the author used for this selection.

The major weakness of the reviewed work is that it is a translation of a work written, however, probably with the Polish reader in mind. This is evident in the manner of the narrative, which discusses the problem only from the perspective of the Polish-Lithuanian state, but without placing it in a broader context. Also striking is the lack of wider use of non-Polish-language literature on the subject, especially in the Introduction, where the author presents the methodology and context of her research, or in the Conclusion, where she could have related the results of her research to those of researchers working on the same phenomenon, but in other geographical areas. There are also doubts about leaving in the text Polonized versions of the names of foreign-born persons who married representatives of the Polish and Lithuanian magnates and wealthy nobility, such as Karol III Wittelsbach (p. 13), also appearing as Karol III Filip Wittelsbach (p. 136), Karol Krystian Wettyn (p. 13), or Jan Fryderyk Reich-Graf von Flotow (p. 337) which, for a non-Polish-speaking reader, may be problematic to identify.

Also missing is an attempt to differentiate the picture of the marriage policy pursued by the wealthy nobility and magnates in the Crown and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Although they formed a unitary state, there were both legal and cultural differences between them, which one could try to exploit and thus obtain a more differentiated picture. Perhaps in the case of the subject under review, such differences between the Crown and Lithuania did not exist, but nevertheless the failure to pose this question, especially in the context of limiting the perspective of the research to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth only, should be considered a shortcoming.

In conclusion, the reviewed work is not distinguished by methodological innovation, and it also contains a number of minor or major deficiencies. Nevertheless, it also contains quite a number of valuable findings and fills a gap existing in Polish historiography, and, thanks to its translation into English, makes it possible to introduce the results of the author's research into the international scientific discourse, which must undoubtedly be considered valuable.