
PUBLICATIONS

Reviews

Piotr GOŁDYN, *Obrazki z dziejów oświaty w Wielkopolsce Wschodniej* [Pictures from the History of Education in Eastern Wielkopolska]. Volume II, Kaliskie Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk, Kalisz 2015, pp. 123

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Another publication by Piotr Gołdyn, representing the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, from the Pedagogical and Artistic Department, Kalisz Branch, from the series *Obrazki z dziejów oświaty w Wielkopolsce Wschodniej*, is in the reader's hands. It is worth mentioning that the first volume was published in 2014 and "was received very positively" (p. 7), as the author saw during the meetings promoting the first volume. It may be this admiration of new readers accelerated the work on the second notebook. "The author's work to date shows a particular interest in the history of education in the region of Eastern Wielkopolska and a good understanding of historical sources in the scope of the issues discussed. It is these sources that have contributed to the creation of a study devoted to the pictures of education in Eastern Wielkopolska."

As in the first volume, the author introduced the term "picture" instead of "chapter." Assuming that a picture is "a short work [...] presenting a small fragment of reality,"¹ it is only after they have been put together do the pictures – presented in the work as stories unrelated to each other – give a certain picture of mainly universal and primary education in the region of Eastern Wielkopolska in the twentieth century. On the other hand, the exclamation "O!" that begins each title, is much more encouraging to read about – as Prof. Iwonna Michalska pointed out in her editorial review – "certain small but interesting events" concerning the functioning of these schools.

In order to define the region more precisely², the author decided to adopt a territorial criterion, assuming a broad definition of Eastern Wielkopolska (p. 8). He developed this issue in volume I in greater detail³.

¹ *Słownik 100 tysięcy potrzebnych słów* [A Dictionary of a Hundred Thousand Necessary Words], (ed.) J. BRALCZYK, Warsaw 2005, p. 477.

² S. MICHALSKI, *Metodyologiczne przesłanki badań regionalnych i ich społeczno-wychowawcze aspekty* [in:] *Stan badań i potrzeby badań nad edukacją i wychowaniem w Królestwa Polski w latach 1815-1915*, (ed.) R. KUCHA, K. POZNAŃSKI, Lublin 1989.

³ P. GOŁDYN, *Obrazki z dziejów Wielkopolski Wschodniej*, bk. 1, Kalisz 2014, p. 7.

In accordance with the research intention, the subject of study are episodic events from the history of education in the area of Eastern Wielkopolska, covering several periods, starting from the Second Republic of Poland through the years of war and occupation and the period of People's Poland until the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries. Therefore, the substantive criterion of an interesting, most often unique episode, concerning only one specific facility (p. 8), determined the abandonment of the chronological approach.

The layout of the publication consists of a table of contents, 27 pictures, the first of which is the introduction and the last one is the conclusion, and a list of abbreviations.

The diversely-themed work is divided into 25 pictures numbered from 25 to 50, which constitute a continuation of volume I. The first picture of the second notebook presents the Timorese scouting team from the primary school in Ciążeń, or more precisely, the fame that accompanied its creation in 1951. In subsequent pictures commemorating the reality of the PPR, attention was drawn to actions connected with, for example, the competitions of the School Savings Fund in Pietrzykowo, to the activity of the Social Fund for the Construction of the "Tysiąclatka" School in Ruchenna, as well as to examples of maintaining cooperation between schools and delegations of countries of people's democracies, which took place, among others, in Konin and its surroundings. Picture 30 describes attempts to diversify the form of "small holidays for students" in a Zagórze primary school, and more precisely whether it was possible to build an ice rink at a temperature of 0°C. Later, the author focuses on the correspondence between students from Witów and Vilnius, published in the local press. The next picture presents the history of "packages from America for teachers and students in Łądek." The thirty-third episode is devoted to the activity of the student cooperative from Dębno Królewskie in the interwar period. In 1938, Władysław Paterkowski, the head of Public School No. 3 in Koło, passed away. This fact became the leading theme of picture thirty-four. The content of the next episode was filled with the course of elections to the Student Council in Lisiec Wielki. Picture thirty-six shows an episode from the history of a school that no longer exists, in the village of Lipiny. The author uncovered a report dated 15 December 1938, reporting on the efforts made by Polish parents to acquire a Polish-Catholic teacher for the institution, and on the opposition of German parents of the Evangelical denomination. Further in the book, the three-year operation of the Children's Educational Home in Koło was noted. At first glance, it is a story like many others, but in this case, it concerns pupils whose parents were imprisoned for their communist political views. Finally, after the liquidation of the Home in 1930, the children ended up in the care of Janusz Korczak. The School of Agricultural Education in Grzymiszew operated three times longer than the school mentioned above, as shown in picture thirty-eight. The next episode is devoted to "Spasowiacy" – graduates of the Waclaw Nałkowski State Teachers' Courses in Warsaw, run by Władysław Spasowski. The author presents the profiles of four "Spasowiak" teachers, connected with the town of Turek. In the next picture, he describes the head of the primary school in Patrzykowo and his achievements in preparing gymnastic equipment on his own. Demonstration lessons with a presentation of teaching aids for physical education teachers were observed by members of one of the Wielkopolska centres of the Polish Teachers' Union. It is the activists of the PTU, or more precisely the instrumentally talent-

ed trade unionists from Słupiec, who are the subjects of picture forty-one. The next sketch concerns some “nonsense” that occurred during a purchase of wood for the construction of a school in Brdów. In the “extraction” of episodes from the daily life of the Polish People’s Republic, there was of course agitation for the benefit of the production cooperatives. This phenomenon was described by the author using the example of the activation of teachers from Sławno. The next picture is devoted to the activation of youth members of the Union of Socialist Youth (ZMS) in Kolno and their special involvement in the implementation of contributions to the “Youth for Progress” Bank Programme in 1972-1973. Further on in the work, the author prepared short biographies of the first graduates of the seven-class Public School in Zakrzewek. He then described the preparations for the opening of a Catholic school in Wólka Czepowa in September 2004. Picture forty-seven shows the fate of the banner of the oldest educational institution in Turku. Picture 48 shows the activity of the Pedagogical and Social Complex in Cieniny Kościelny, which dealt with the classification of primary school students into secondary schools based on class criteria. In the next sketch, attention was drawn to the Kramsk Society of Polish-Russian Friendship and particularly its activities in the course of preparing for a visit of a guest from Baku. The last picture presents the history of the banner of the Regional Education and Upbringing Section of the “Solidarity” Trade Union in Konin.

Episodes from the Koło District constitute a significant part of the content of the publication, because, as the author himself says, “it was not possible to maintain certain proportions as regards the number of stories from a given area” (p. 8).

Historical sources are a valuable part of the volume. Each picture includes a bibliography. The archival sources collected by the author come from the State Archives in Poznań, Konin Branch, the School Inspectorate in Koło, the Presidium of the Gromadzki National Council in Osiek Wielki, the Polish Institute and the Sikorski Museum in London. To discuss the history of education in Eastern Wielkopolska, source materials from school archives, including school chronicles, protocols and personal files, were very helpful. They were particularly appreciated by the author once again⁴ as a source of historical school chronicles, fragments of which are included in the reviewed book. Collections from private archives, such as that of Marianna Sztuba, also proved useful. The aesthetic value of the work is enhanced by iconographic sources included in the book. Apart from one table, there are also 48 various format portrait, group, occasional, photographs of places and objects and illustrations from source records, e.g. A school certificate, pages of a cheque book of the Socialist Youth Association in Konin, propaganda posters. Among the traditional sources used by the author, it is worth noting press materials, mainly the local newspaper called *Gazeta Kolska* and pedagogical magazines, i.e.: *Wychowanie Fizyczne i Higiena Szkolna*, *Miesięcznik dla nauczycieli, wychowawców i lekarzy szkolnych* and regional periodicals such as *Studia i Materiały do dziejów Wielkopolski i Pomorza* and *Polonia Maior Orientalis*. In line with new trends, the author also included electronic materials in his book, and in order to analyse picture twenty-five, he used another category of

⁴ P. GOŁDYN, *Kronika szkolna jako nie(d)ocenione źródło do dziejów oświaty regionalnej* [in:] *Badania historyczne w pedagogice Konteksty źródłowe*, (ed.) W. SZULAKIEWICZ, Toruń 2015, pp. 111-131.

sources in research on the history of the People's Republic of Poland⁵, namely a documentary film produced by the Polish Film Chronicle (p. 12). The bibliography under each picture is drawn up in the following order: archival sources, printed sources, narrative sources, electronic material, literature.

In many of the pictures, the author's contribution is to present the episode in the historical sense, i.e. its past and present history.

The author of book II, however, did not avoid certain errors and shortcomings, which are worth noting. The objection may refer to, to the dissatisfaction of the inquisitive reader, a failure to provide the name of the place of storage of the Chronicle of the Education and Upbringing Section of the Konin region (p. 121). Another inaccuracy is the use of the term "public school" [*szkoła powszechna*] to refer to the current term "primary school" [*szkoła podstawowa*]. For example, on p. 108, one can read the sentence: "At the turn of 1948 and 1949 in the public schools of that time," which should read "At the turn of 1948 and 1949 in the primary schools of that time." The change of name from public to primary school took place in the 1948/49 school year as a result of the structural reform of the school system.⁶

The reviewed book by Piotr Gołdyn combines the features of a scientific publication and a study prepared with a view to popularising knowledge for the needs of regional education. Undoubtedly, it may attract the interest of teachers, students, graduates and supporters of various types of schools and institutions, as well as students of social science and humanities faculties. It should be used by lovers and popularisers of regional history, as well as by those who have a marginal knowledge of the history of education in Eastern Wielkopolska and are generally unprepared to receive content typical of scientific works. To some extent, this position is an innovative approach to the presentation of historical sources, it introduces new sources into circulation, reinterprets ones that are already known, and should therefore arouse curiosity among researchers of the recent history of upbringing.

The issues raised in the book in an accessible way, related to the organization and functioning of primary education, the history of care institutions, youth organizations and teachers' trade unions, exemplify certain "extracted" elements of the everyday school life in the eastern part of the Wielkopolska region. All that remains is to wait for the next book announced in the "Closing Picture."

Maria Radziszewska

⁵ For more on this subject, see: T. SZAROTA, *Baza źródłowa, wiedza pozaźródłowa i literatura przedmiotu w warsztacie historyka współczesności*, „Studia i Materiały. Polska 1944/45-1989. Warsztat badawczy” 2004, no. 6, p. 11.

⁶ M.J. RADZISZEWSKA, *Nauczyciele szkół powszechnych i podstawowych na Warmii i Mazurach (1945-1956)*, Krakow 2011, p. 42.