

SURVEY OF DOMESTIC LITERATURE (SELECTION)

A carefully published, richly illustrated publication by Lena Kaletowa, *Bibliotheca viva. Opowieść o 200-letnich dziejach i zbiorach Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej we Wrocławiu* (Bibliotheca viva. The story of the 200-year history and the collections of the University Library in Wrocław) (Kaletowa, 2020), is largely devoted to the construction of the new building of the Wrocław University Library, located in one of the most beautiful parts of the city – the Frederick Joliot-Curie boulevard on the Odra river. In the first part of the book, the author outlines the difficult history of the library, beginning with its discovery in May 1945, in a ruined city, undemolished with its book collection in the German City Library, which became the first seat of the University Library. Then, post-war efforts over several decades for a new library building are described, in a situation of deteriorating conditions for storing the collections, including the valuable special collections. The turning point was the year 1999, when an architectural competition for the design of a new library was announced. The author presents the social lobbying developed for the construction, describing in detail the design work and the selected project, as well as the construction works completed in 2011. The book ends with a presentation of the treasures of the library – the most valuable objects of the special collections.

In the bilingual Polish-English album publication *Tradycja i Nowoczesność* (Tradition and Modernity) (Strojek et al., eds., 2020), the implementation of the project of expansion and modernization of the Public Library of the Capital City of Warsaw is presented, beginning with the decision by the library management to rebuild the library in 2005 and the competition for an architectural concept. The introduction outlines the history of the library and its center, as well as the schedule of activities aimed at its modernization. In the chapter on Architectural design, the designers are given the opportunity to characterize in their own words the assumptions and visions accompanying the design. In the subsequent chapters, the effects of the first and second stages of the library expansion are described and presented in numerous photographs. One of the many interesting solutions is the creation of a Rest Room – a place of relaxation for readers.

The main purpose of Renata Aleksandrowicz's research presented in the dissertation *Książka w życiu seniorów na początku XXI wieku* (The book in the life of seniors at the beginning of the 21st century) (Aleksandrowicz, 2020) was to understand and describe the reading behavior of active seniors. The first, introductory part of the book introduces the problem of old age against the background of contemporary social and cultural changes. The second, main part covers the analysis of the results of the author's own research conducted among students of the University of the Third Age at the University of Wrocław. The basic techniques used in the work were face-to-face questionnaire interview, participant observation, and analysis of documents of the University of the Third Age, whose enrollees were the surveyed seniors. The results of the research indicated, inter alia, the dichotomous nature of the use of new technologies (from the reluctance to acquire information competencies to openness to new technologies and information sources), the universality of reading books, the diversity of reading choices resulting from environmental diversity, and the treating of reading as a cultural value, sometimes of a prestigious nature.

The publication *Wojewódzka i Miejska Biblioteka Publiczna im. Zbigniewa Herberta w Gorzowie Wielkopolskim w latach 1946 – 2020* (The Zbigniew Herbert Provincial and Municipal Public Library in Gorzów Wielkopolski in the years 1946 – 2020) (Jaworski et al., eds., 2021) is an extensive, carefully published monograph concerning the Provincial and Municipal Public Library in Gorzów Wielkopolski. The authors outline the complicated path of the library's structural changes, beginning with the Poviats Public Library established in 1946 in Gorzów Wielkopolski. In the subsequent chapters the instructional, methodological and informational-bibliographic activity of the library in Gorzów is presented in a historical perspective, while the library collections are characterized and their collection and development discussed, along with their research and publishing activities, library computerization and digitization processes, and services. The current, important cultural and scientific role of the Gorzów library in the region is also described in the book and connected with the library's expansion. In 2006, the implementation of the project "Extension of the historic building of the Provincial and Municipal Public Library in Gorzów Wlp." was launched, including the construction of a modern building next to the historic building, which housed the library, and connecting both buildings. The implementation of the project was awarded the 2nd place award in the competition of the Polish Association of Construction Engineers and Technicians "Construction of the Year 2007" and the award of the Lubuska Chamber of Construction "Lubuski Mister Budowy – 2007 edition" for modern construction and architectural solutions, adapted to modern civilization requirements in the category of public facilities.

Józef Grycz is undoubtedly one of the most important creators of Polish librarianship in the twentieth century. Andrzej Meżyński has presented a comprehensive biographical monograph on this figure, based on extensive archival material. In the publication *Józef Grycz (1890-1954). Organizator polskiego bibliotekarstwa* (Józef Grycz (1890-1954). Promoter of Polish Librarianship) (Meżyński, 2020), the author presents the successive stages of Józef Grycz's professional and private life chronologically, in fifteen chapters divided into four parts (*Nauka i początki aktywności zawodowej; Józef Grycz w Warszawie w latach 1930 – 1939; Pod okupacją niemiecką w latach 1939 – 1945; W Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej w latach 1945-1954*) (Studies and beginnings of professional activity; Józef Grycz in Warsaw in the years 1930-1939; Under the German occupation in the years 1939-1945; In the Polish People's Republic in the years 1945-1954). The book exemplifies the thesis formulated by the author in the introduction: „Grycz's advantage was not political support, but professional and scientific advantages, and his undiminished faith of a state citizen and social activist in the sense of building Polish librarianship as a field necessary for the development of culture. The fact that Grycz was always apolitical turned out to be his weakness in a situation where he wanted to take positions determining the directions of development of Polish librarianship” (p. 16). The outstanding achievements of the biography's hero, documented in the book and still important in Polish librarianship, include, among others: the development of alphabetical cataloging regulations in Polish libraries (first edition in 1934), work on the decree on libraries and the passage of its enactment in 1946, participation in research on the losses of Polish libraries during the Second World War, and the development of the first textbook for librarians in the post-war period.

Questions about the situation of libraries in the crisis arising during the pandemic formed the impulse to conduct the research presented in the publication *Biblioteki publiczne w kryzysie. Doświadczenie pierwszego etapu pandemii* (Public libraries in crisis. Experiencing the first stage of the pandemic) (Kisilowska, 2021). The presentation of the research is preceded by chapters in which the author, based on the global literature on the subject, discusses the theoretical foundations and research experience in the field of the functioning of libraries in crisis situations, presents the chronology of the development of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic on a global scale and in Poland and its impact on the functioning of public libraries, and analyzes the available data showing the impact of the pandemic on the society and the cultural sector in Poland. In the study described in the second part of the publication, a questionnaire was used, addressed to Polish public libraries, consisting of open-ended questions regarding the following issues: internal communication and team work, communication with the institutional environment, and communication with users. In addition, questions

were asked about an individual assessment of the impact of the pandemic on the situation of libraries. The research results showed, among other things, that the most frequently chosen course of action by libraries was to transfer some of their activity to the Internet, which allowed for maintaining contact with the reader, providing them with access to cultural and educational activities, and providing various types of information.

The Warsaw bibliological community has prepared an extensive collection of studies by researchers from all over the country, presented to professor Barbara Bieńkowska, librarian and cultural historian, entitled *Książki mają swoją historię* (Books have a history) (Puchalski, ed., 2021). "The articles presented in this volume prove that research on the broadly understood culture of books and other media in a historical context is successfully continued both in Poland and abroad" (p. 17). The texts were placed in three thematic sections, preceded by the biography of Barbara Bieńkowska and the bibliography of her publications. The section *Bibliology – theory and practice begins with an article by Bożena Koredczuk about the need to develop a new paradigm of bibliology, tentatively called media studies bibliology. In this section a historical sketch on the Polish Bibliological Society by Andrzej Mężyiński is also presented. The most extensive section, on book and press research covering twenty-one works, is represented by, among others, articles by Grzegorz Nieć on the first stages of the history of the Czech book, Maciej Matwijów about the manuscript collections of public life materials created during the reign of King Stanisław August, and a description by Janusz Kostecki of the censorship of imported Polish calendars brought to the Russian partition in 1865-1904. Among the texts of the section From the history of book collections, libraries and reading there is an article by Anna Kamler presenting the recommendations of the 17th-century writer Jakub K. Haur on the creation of libraries and noble archives, and a sketch by Anna Dymmel describing the home library of Colonel Stanisław Ciesielski from Samokłęska, tutor to the sons of Prince Adam Czartoryski.*

The conviction that it is possible to shape culture in the library (literary, reading, theater, digital) accompanies the authors of the publication *Wiedza, gust, kompetencje. Kultura literacka, teatralna, czytelnicza i cyfrowa we współczesnej bibliotece (na przykładzie województwa lubuskiego)* (Knowledge, taste, competencies. Literary, theater, reading and digital culture in the contemporary library (on the example of the Lubuskie Voivodship)) (Buck et al., 2020). The first two chapters contain definitional suggestions and considerations on the latest reading trends. In the third, main chapter of the book, entitled *Czytelnik. Widz. Kreator. Kształtowanie i współtworzenie kultury w bibliotece* (Reader. Spectator. Creator. Shaping and co-creating culture in the library) numerous examples of animation works in the libraries of the Lubuskie Voivodship are presented, divided into three thematic parts. The thematic part *Tekst na scenie – scena w bibliotece* (Text on the

stage – theater in the library), describes, among others, the project “Pacynkowa Wieczorynka” (Puppet Evening), addressed to the youngest public, implemented at the Library Center for Children and Youth – Mr. Kleks’s Library in Zielona Góra, while in thematic part “Maker space” describes examples of the implementation of the makerspace idea in libraries, understood as a space with tools which serves to realize one’s own ideas (e.g. the Creativity Club in Świebodzin or the Young Artist Club in Żagań). The section *Słowa. Dźwięki. Obrazy* (Words. Sounds. Pictures) presents, among others, the project “Młodzieżowa komiksomania” (Youth Comics) carried out at the Public Library in Świebodzin. The publication is supplemented by statements from Lubuskie librarians reflecting on the tasks of a modern public library and its culture-forming role.

The collection of articles *W poszukiwaniu wzorów i wzorców osobowych wykonawców zawodów bibliotekarskich i informacyjnych* (In search of patterns and individual models of executors of the library and information profession) (Kurek-Kokocińska, Tokarska, eds., 2021) is the aftermath of the conference of the same title, which took place in December 2019 in Katowice. The volume opens with a theoretical and research-based sketch by Stanisława Kurek-Kokocińska, in which the author, based on the literature on the subject, identifies potential model-creating factors and reconstructs the model of a librarian in contemporary librarianship. The historical aspect of the issue is presented, among others, by Tomasz Stolarczyk in an article describing the routine of a religious librarian in the Middle Ages and the Early Ancient period, and Jadwiga Konieczna, who studies the image of a librarian presented in the literary works of the Polish People’s Republic. Other articles include an analysis of the competency and personal profile of employees in libraries of various types based on international and national standards and resulting from various studies on the image of a librarian (Anna Tokarska), and of the characteristics of a librarian’s personal routine based on job advertisements in German libraries (Agnieszka Łakomy-Chłosta).

Cultural practices referred to as electronic participatory culture form the subject of Krzysztof Gajewski’s work *Tryumf amatora. O społecznościowych praktykach tekstualnych w świecie mediów elektronicznych* (The triumph of the amateur. On social textual practices in the world of electronic media) (Gajewski, 2020). „The electronic culture of participation, which is the main focus of this work, emerged from digital virtual spaces, and even if it has found its way into the non-computer world, «real», to «actual» (in the real world, according to the language of the network), it never would have been created if personal computers had not spread and a global computer network had not been born” (pp. 11-12), the author writes. The research methodology referred to as media anthropology was adopted for the work, to which the introductory chapter of the book is devo-

ted. In the second chapter, selected technologies of information processing, transmission and preservation important for the Internet culture of participation (artificial intelligence, visual technology, social network) are analyzed. The third chapter is devoted to genres characteristic of the era of participation, such as electronic commentary, meme, fake news, while the fourth considers textual forms of larger dimensions, such as home pages, science blogs, social networks, and Wikipedia. The monograph ends with an analysis of textual phenomena of over-text dimensions (lifestreaming practices, user accounts on the website, the discussion forum).

The dissertation of Anna Kazimiera Folta-Rusin, *Twarz i ciało książki. Wizualne manifestacje tekstów a problemy interpretacji* (The face and body of the book. Visual manifestations of texts and problems of interpretation) (Folta-Rusin, 2020) "... proposes to look at the method of creating literature as a production process in which not only the author is involved, but also the publisher, editor, graphic designer and printer." (p. 12). The book focuses on visual manifestations of prose published in Poland after 1989. The author defines the concept of manifestation of a literary text as a way of materializing it, giving it a specific form. Chapter One, *Wizualne manifestacje a interpretacja* (Visual manifestations and interpretation), is devoted to theoretical, definitional and methodological issues. In the second chapter, *Twarz książki zamiast zwierciadła okładki* (The face of the book instead of the mirror of the cover), the author analyzes the representations on the front cover, while the third one deals with blurbs, i.e. advertising notes, as well as short text forms placed in various places on the cover and the author's pictures appearing on the back of the volume or on the flaps. The fourth chapter is devoted to the interpretation of the internal components of the book - inserts, artwork, illustrations. The work is of an interdisciplinary nature, the author used literary and bibliological tools as well as methods of analysis created by art historians and cultural anthropologists.

The most important goal of the author of the book *Dostłownie. Liternicze i typograficzne okładki polskich książek 1944-2019* (Literally. Lettering and typographic covers of Polish books 1944-2019) (Górski, 2020) is "... an encouragement to look carefully at projects – one that notices not only the formal features of the study (typeface, arrangement of the typographic layout or the method of hierarchy of texts). What is most interesting is in the meanings. Depending on the shape of the letter, they can be the actors of the cover composition – they represent a forest or lace adorning a lady's dress from the end of the 19th century. They can be built up by a graphic artist from fragments of a glacier or from a sausage" (p. [401]). The reproductions of 873 book covers presented by the author are an integral part of the work, which is divided into the chapters *O tytule, Definicje, Problemy, Przykłady* (On the title, Definitions, Problems, Examples). The publication carefully published by the Karakter publishing house uses an interesting

typographic arrangement, referring to, inter alia, incunabula – in the margins parallel to the main text there are additional examples, supplements, quotations in a smaller font, as well as additional illustrative material.

The National Library has once again presented a fragment of its valuable collections of documents on social life in the publication *Żydowskie druki ulotne w Siedlcach, Chełmie, Białej Podlaskiej 1919-1931. Katalog*. (Jewish leaflets in Siedlce, Chełm, Biała Podlaska 1919-1931. Catalog.) (Łętocha et al., eds., 2020). At the same time, it presents another catalog of Jewish leaflets from the collections of the National Library. The volume includes 455 reproductions and accompanying descriptions of posters and leaflets printed in the years 1919-1931 in three cities of the then Lublin Province: Siedlce, Chełm and Biała Podlaska. The publication presents posters and leaflets illustrating the rich social, political and cultural life of the Jewish community, e.g. posters inviting the public to political meetings, recruitment at schools, historical papers, theater performances, balls, sports events. Posters and leaflets also document the creation and operation of political parties, educational and cultural societies, charity organizations and hospitals. The study is bilingual - an extensive introduction and descriptions are published in Polish and English, and are complemented by indexes of organizations, institutions, associations and companies, as well as an index of printing houses where the documents discussed were printed.

The two-volume catalog of incunabula of the National Library *Catalogue of incunabula in the National Library of Poland* (Spandowski, ed. 2020a, b), prepared by Michał Spandowski in cooperation with Sławomir Szyl-ler, was published in English, suitable to the international nature of research in this field and enabling its use by a wide group of researchers around the world. The catalog includes provenance entries showing the turbulent history of the incunabula gathered in the National Library. The entries also contain descriptions of gothic, renaissance, and seventeenth and eighteenth-century bindings prepared by Maria Brynda. A carefully edited book, based on Aleksandra Toborowicz's graphic design, it has received distinctions and awards, including the Silver Award In Print in the Published Media Design category of the international A' Design Award & Competition.

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