

made clear, and the reasons why Finnish architecture did not influence European architecture in general are given. He contrasts the axial symmetry and straight lines of early Le Corbusier and Mies van der Rohe with the Finnish penchant for asymmetry and sculptural masses—a transformation of functionalism. Originally founded on the use of industrial forms and production processes—emphasizing the utilitarian, the uniform, the anonymous, and the mass-produced—functionalism in actuality produced expensive, elitist, isolated works of art.

The well-known architecture of Alvar Aalto was influenced in 1927–28 by Gropius's Bauhaus building, which was a freely formed composition. But his 1930s elegant and daring "freeform" constructions were far from Bauhaus principles. Le Corbusier's "five-point plan" had only a limited following in Finland. In addition to the work of Aalto, the work of thirty-six other architects is evaluated, and the famed town-planning project of Tapiola is discussed. Continuously enlightening, Salokorpi's book has an excellent selection of plates and unusually informative plate notes.

Both books are concise and intelligent, and Smith's book has the virtue of introducing the English-speaking reader to an almost unknown facet of modern art. The extremely small type is the only flaw in these pocket-sized volumes, making the reading unnecessarily strenuous.

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OSTATNIE LATA DRUGIEJ RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ (1935–1939). By *Hanna and Tadeusz Jędruszczak*. Warsaw: Książka i Wiedza, 1970. 423 pp.

Professor Tadeusz Jędruszczak is the director of the Institute of Military History in Warsaw. He is the author of two previous books, *Polityka Polski w Sprawie Górnego Śląska, 1918–1922* (Warsaw, 1958), an excellent study of this complex problem, and *Piłsudzczy bez Piłsudskiego* (Warsaw, 1964). His wife, Dr. Hanna Jędruszczak, has published several articles on labor and wages in interwar Poland. We can therefore assume that hers was an important contribution to the book under review. The authors attempt to present an overall view of Poland in the years 1935–39. It is an interesting study and gives the reader a great deal of important information. It should be treated, however, as the authors themselves acknowledge, as only a tentative synthesis. The book is, moreover, directed both to the specialist and to the general reader.

The authors admit that while the international situation and thus foreign policy were the dominant problems for Poland in these years, they could not always deal adequately with these subjects because of the unsatisfactory state of studies on the interwar period. This helps to explain why their discussion of these two problems constitutes the weakest part of the book. They could, however, have made more extensive use of some recent Polish publications, such as Henryk Batowski's *Kryzys dyplomatyczny w Europie (jesień 1938–wiosna 1939)* (Warsaw, 1962), Marian Wojciechowski's *Stosunki polsko-niemieckie, 1933–1938* (Poznań, 1965) (both cited in the bibliography), and Jerzy Kozeński's excellent study, *Czechosłowacja w Polskiej polityce zagranicznej w latach 1932–1938* (Poznań, 1964) (not cited).

There is much useful information on the economic, social, and political structure of the country. Here, however, too much emphasis is placed on the working class, which constituted only a small part of a population, 70 percent of which lived on the land. The Polish Communist Party, which receives a great deal of attention, had

only 11,200 members in 1933—that is, without the Ukrainian and Belorussian members (17,800 altogether, see p. 24). Moreover, as the authors admit, it was rent by internal conflicts and, particularly in the early years, unable to understand the problems of independent Poland. It was finally dissolved by Stalin in 1938. The characterization of Piłsudski as a man who aimed at total military dictatorship is negated by his attempts to work through the parliamentary system, at least up to 1930. The authors admit also that tendencies in this direction after his death were opposed by a large number of his followers.

In their discussion of the social structure the authors note but do not adequately discuss the emergence and role of a new technical and business intelligentsia. They do not cite or make use of a most interesting source on this subject, *Czy wiesz kto to jest?* (Warsaw, 1938), a unique Polish “Who’s Who.” This compendium lists and describes outstanding members of this strata, many of whom came from the peasant and working classes. These were the people who built Gdynia and made it the largest port on the Baltic Sea, and who worked on the development of the “Centralny Okręg Przemysłowy” or COP (Central Industrial District), which in its coordinated long-range planning was unique in Eastern Europe. In their discussion of the economic achievements of interwar Poland the authors give it some praise and admit that COP laid the foundation for the development of this region after 1945. They do not, however, believe that Poland’s economic problems could have been solved by the means employed during that period. One might note that without major foreign investments, which were unavailable, or the adoption of socialism, which was at that time unacceptable to the majority of the people, these problems could not have been solved. In the situation as it existed, a great deal was accomplished against all odds.

With all these drawbacks, this book is an important and welcome addition to the sparse scholarly literature on interwar Poland. The authors fully realize the enormous importance of this period for the development of contemporary Poland.

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THE POETS OF PRAGUE: CZECH POETRY BETWEEN THE WARS.

By *Alfred French*. London, New York, Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1969. ix, 129 pp. \$5.75.

There is no question that the Czech poets Seifert, Nezval, Halas, Hora, Holan, and the Catholic Zahradniček rank among the finest lyric poets of the twentieth century. Unfortunately Czech poetry has suffered the fate of most East and Central European poetry—which is, to paraphrase Robert Frost, that the original poetry is lost in translation. Nevertheless, translations are better than nothing. Alfred French’s study of the leading Czech poets between the two world wars not only presents an excellent account of the experimentation in Czechoslovakia during that period but also manages to convey the spirit, if not the word, of some dozen or so Czech poems in English translation.

French has selected the most representative members of the Czech group and analyzes those poems that he feels influenced Czech poetry during the twenty-year period before World War II. His discussion of Seifert is perhaps the best in the volume, but his failure to include Seifert (and Halas) in his bibliography is baffling. It is this failure to provide adequate information (including biographies,