

ENCYKLOPEDIA WIEDZY O KSIĄŻCE. Edited by *Aleksander Birkenmajer*, *Bronisław Kocowski*, and *Jan Trzynadłowski*. Wrocław: Zakład Narodowy im. Ossolińskich, 1971. xxii, 2874 columns. Illus. 380 zł.

The *Encyclopedia of Book Science* is one of the finest achievements of Polish scholarship. It compares favorably with publications of similar scope such as *Lexikon des gesamten Buchwesens* (Leipzig, 1935–37) and *Das Lexikon des Buchwesens* (Stuttgart, 1952–56), as well as with more specialized encyclopedias devoted to bibliography, printing, or librarianship. It is the first such comprehensive encyclopedia in the Slavic countries.

The *Encyclopedia* covers the following fields: bibliography, bibliophilism, bibliography, librarianship, journalism in relation to book science, documentation, printing, illumination, illustration, binding, cartography, book trade, paper industry, script, manuscripts, and publishing. Within this framework, neither chronological nor geographic limitations are imposed. Although the *Encyclopedia* deals with modern problems, the approach is primarily historical. Its universal character is expressed in articles devoted to all European and North American countries, selected Asian countries, and the African, Australian, and Latin American continents, as well as to international biographies, institutions, and events. A selected general international bibliography is also included.

Despite this universal character, however, it is a Polish encyclopedia. The contributors are exclusively Polish scholars and librarians; the potential readers are mainly Poles; and topics related to Poland are in the majority, and are discussed in greater detail than others. For example, individual Polish cities are treated separately, while foreign cities are not. The *Encyclopedia* is a compendium of two centuries of Polish scholarly work and research, although research undertaken especially for this volume is also included.

This heritage of scholarly work is well reflected in the history of printing in Poland during the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries. It rests on the research of J. S. Bandtkie (1768–1835), J. Ptaśnik (1876–1930) and other representatives of archival and historical research methods; and, on the work of J. Lelewel (1786–1861), K. Piekarski (1893–1944) and contemporary scholars led by A. Kawecka-Gryczowa, K. Budzyk, and T. Mikulski, who employed the typographic method. Polish achievements in the field of bibliography are also significant. The theoretical foundations were laid by J. Lelewel and further developed by bibliographers A. B. Jocher, Karol and Stanisław Estreichers, L. Biernacki, K. Muszkowski—initiator of the *Encyclopedia*, S. Vrtel-Wierczyński, W. Hahn, H. Hleb-Koszańska, G. Korbut, A. Łysakowski, H. Sawoniak, and others. The rebirth of Poland after World War I created a favorable climate for developing library science and librarianship. In this respect the *Encyclopedia* represents the achievements of such internationally known scholars as L. Biernacki, A. Birkenmajer, J. Grycz, K. Muszkowski, I. Treichel, and H. Więckowska, many of whom are contributors. Among the areas still insufficiently covered by Polish scholarship are the history of books in nineteenth-century Poland and studies on manuscripts and illumination, although in the latter field the works of Z. Ameisowa ought not to be overlooked. This inadequacy prompted the editors to include a more thorough presentation on these topics. Less extensively covered are journalism, printing, modern aspects of international librarianship, and some others.

The preparation of the *Encyclopedia* took twenty years (1951–71). During this time, several principal editors and contributors died (K. Muszkowski, J.

Grycz, H. Horodyski) or retired (A. Birkenmajer). The long time span in preparation, changes in personnel, gradual development of editorial policies, and employment of over five hundred contributors resulted in varying levels of presentation and up-to-dateness. But in general the editors should be praised for structural uniformity. The work is divided into 6,000 relatively short, descriptive articles and several long surveys pertaining to major areas and countries. The subject surveys include a statement of the problem, a general historical outline or subdivision by countries, and a history of the topic in Poland. Surveys of countries discuss the various fields of book science, stressing practical aspects such as bibliography, documentation, book trade, printing, libraries, librarianship, and so forth. The selection of headings does not always yield an easy approach to subjects, and this situation is aggravated by the lack of full indexing. Only a name index and subject outline are included. The latter, however, groups single entries under broad subject categories. This interesting approach, in my opinion, creates an extraordinarily useful book science handbook. Cross references are satisfactory. The articles are not signed, but both the editors, with their areas of responsibility, and contributors are listed.

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THE MEANING OF CZECH HISTORY. By *Tomáš G. Masaryk*. Edited with an introduction by *René Wellek*. Translated by *Peter Kussi*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1974. xxiii, 169 pp. \$9.95.

Publication of selections from Masaryk's writings was an excellent idea, for his work is often quoted but has not been readily available. This volume contains excerpts from several of Masaryk's books, including a speech on Jan Hus and the Czech reformation (delivered in 1910), the main chapters of *The Czech Problem* (*Česká otázka*), published in 1895, and two short texts on Palacký and Havlíček. We are warned, in the introduction, that "the selections are, on occasion, slightly abridged by dropping allusions to contemporary events that would require elaborate explanations." The omissions are unfortunate, however, because Masaryk's ideas, based on a practical approach, are frequently very close comments on contemporary events.

The introduction focuses on Masaryk's life and philosophy, mainly prior to the First World War, but it could have centered on the controversy surrounding the meaning of Czech history ("smysl českých dějin"). The controversy began in 1895, with the publication of *The Czech Problem*, and was not limited to discussions between intellectuals. On the contrary, the controversy stirred Czech public opinion, and Masaryk, even as president of the country, did not hesitate to take part in the quarrel. Historians, such as Joseph Pekař (*Masaryk's Czech Philosophy*, 1912) and Jan Slavík (*Pekař contra Masaryk*, 1929), were also directly involved in the controversy.

*The Czech Problem* is very illuminating and deserves to be read. By studying the Czech renaissance, Masaryk developed a political and moral program for the Czech nation. In the book on Palacký, he values moral strength and the influence of persuasion. He leans more toward the spiritual struggle of Chelčický, than toward the physical violence of Žižka. Rejecting both radicalism and reactionism as too negative, he expresses his sympathy for the views of Havlíček and his