

Włodzimierz Appel (ed.), *Ulrich von Wilamowitz-Moellendorff i jego mała ojczyzna. W osiemdziesiątą rocznicę śmierci wielkiego kujawianina* [“Ulrich von Wilamowitz-Moellendorff and his ‘Small Homeland’. On the Occasion of the Eightieth Anniversary of the Death of the Great Native of the Kujawy Region”], Strzelno: Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne, Koło w Strzelnie, 2013, 76 pp., ISBN 978-83-932403-3-3.

Every established discipline has its own history – even those for which the past is the main object of research. Therefore it is right if those who are pursuing that kind of research now – reconstructing the course of bygone events or analyzing ancient texts – remember those who were formerly occupied with the same task and paved the way for them. Especially if that remembering is not restricted only to academic discussions or to bibliographical references, but concerns the people themselves: their lives, work and the whole body of their achievements. Sometimes it also happens that the fame of exceptional scholars who are now deceased exceeds the closed milieu of specialists in a given field. Then, their memory is also being maintained by other people or communities to whom they were somehow related, even though their research might not have been.

This small volume, with its reproduction of an old 19th century postcard depicting the residence of the Wilamowitz-Moellendorf family at Markowice on its cover, is the direct outcome of both these sorts of memory. And this hardly comes as a surprise, since the scholar in question is the *princeps philologorum* himself.

2011 was the eightieth anniversary of the death of Ulrich VON WILAMOWITZ, one of the most distinguished classical philologists of all time. It was precisely this occasion that led to the special commemoration of him by his Kujawian countrymen and scholars from Polish universities. That year was officially named by the City Council of Strzelno as the Year of Wilamowitz, which was followed by a series of events organized in his honour. Flowers were ceremonially laid on the previously renovated grave of the philologist, the study room at the local school was named after him, and there were concerts, exhibitions, walking-tours. Finally, a conference also took place, which was aimed at presenting and popularizing the figure and legacy of WILAMOWITZ to the local community. The papers delivered there, collected, edited and foreworded by Prof. Włodzimierz APPEL from the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, made up the publication discussed here.

The volume comprises five articles, two of which were written by classical philologists who share the same area of academic interest as WILAMOWITZ, while three others were prepared by historians interested in the region from which he came. Thanks to this arrangement, the narratives complement each other, creating an engaging, multi-layered picture.

In his contribution Prof. Jerzy DANIELEWICZ from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań introduces Ulrich VON WILAMOWITZ as an academic and outlines the importance of his studies to modern scholarship. The article does not provide any new details or unknown information concerning the philologist – the aim of the author was to offer a concise but exhaustive introduction for readers not necessarily familiar with the topic, and he accomplishes that aim in an interesting and accessible way. He begins by placing the scholar in the broad intellectual context of German academia in the second half of the 19th century. DANIELEWICZ emphasizes the innovative character of WILAMOWITZ’s research methods and pays particular attention to his interdisciplinary approach, which was at that time far from typical. Then, he moves to a chronological overview of WILAMOWITZ’s most significant achievements, which plainly prove his academic versatility and greatness. DANIELEWICZ uses numerous quotations from the works of other academics commenting on the importance of WILAMOWITZ’s accomplishments in many fields of classical scholarship. By doing so, he vividly reveals the scale of WILAMOWITZ’s authority and the unfading relevance of his theories and findings, even though they were formulated over a hundred years ago. DANIELEWICZ concludes by listing all the names of the great pupils of the German scholar, who also, in the same

way as their supervisor, stamped their mark on classical scholarship, giving the best testimony to his teaching talents.

The paper written by Prof. Włodzimierz APPEL is dedicated to Ulrich VON WILAMOWITZ's links with Poland. However, from the very beginning the author strongly emphasizes that any attempt to "Polonize" the great philologist would be preposterous. For he was a declared Prussian, identifying himself above all with his German homeland and there is no doubt about that. Nevertheless, APPEL points out many other links apart from the national one. Most of all, he writes about WILAMOWITZ's strong attachment to the region where he was born and raised and where he was buried – the Polish region of Kujawy. It was also during one of his temporary stays there that he wrote the majority of his famous *Habilitationsschrift*, signing it "Cujavus". What constitutes, however, the main subject of the author's interest are WILAMOWITZ's contacts with Polish academics and the influence he had on them. For instance, APPEL gives information about his formal admission to the Polish Academy of Learning; he writes about the Polish classicists who were mentioned by WILAMOWITZ in his *Memoirs (Erinnerungen)* and speculates on those with whom he might also have stayed in touch during his academic career. Moreover, the author quotes the memories of scholars who used to attend WILAMOWITZ's classes and seminars or who visited him at some point in Germany. Finally, APPEL describes the reaction of the Polish academic milieu to the news of WILAMOWITZ's death: he mentions his obituaries published in journals and the first peregrinations to the grave of the scholar at Wymyslowice.

The paper concerning the fate of the family Wilamowitz-Moellendorff living in Kujawy has been written by Dr Tomasz ŁASZKIEWICZ from the Polish Academy of Sciences. The author begins with the origins of the Wilamowitz-Moellendorff coat of arms, which – as it turns out – also contains a Polish component. Next, he chronologically reconstructs the development of the family line, also discussing the process in which it came into possession of the estate at Markowice and extensive lands in the surrounding area. Furthermore, the author describes the transmission of that property to subsequent generations of the family. Apart from that, ŁASZKIEWICZ pays great attention to the biographical details of many family members. He is interested in their education, political views, socio-cultural initiatives and efficiency in the management of the estate. He also ponders over the issue of their attitude to and relations with Polish workers, neighbours and authorities. The history of the Wilamowitz-Moellendorff family has been traced by the author up to the end of its presence in Kujawy i.e. to the late forties of the last century. It is worth mentioning that ŁASZKIEWICZ's study of the family has not been based exclusively on secondary sources. Quite the opposite, the author has made great use of primary evidence such as church chronicles, the Prussian and Polish state archives or manuscripts stored in local museums, which only increases the scholarly value of the text. Additionally, the article contains the genealogical tree of the Wilamowitz-Moellendorff family taken up to the present times.

Edmund MIKOŁAJCZAK, a local historian specializing in the history of the Kujawy region, is the author of an article dedicated to the family village of the great philologist – Markowice. MIKOŁAJCZAK, who has great knowledge about the local topography and historic monuments, vividly depicts the landscape in which WILAMOWITZ grew up, and the paths he was probably roaming in his youth. The main aim of the author is, nevertheless, to tell the story of the village itself. He traces its development from the 17th century onward, pointing at the events and people who influenced it the most and contributed to its unique atmosphere. MIKOŁAJCZAK pays particular attention to the specific cultural and ethnic context of the region in which people of different nationalities, languages and religion have coexisted side by side. The author also discusses the attitude of the local community to the Wilamowitz family in the past and outlines the general character of Polish-German relations there; relations so dramatically distorted by war.

In a further paper, the head of the PTTK (Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society) section in Strzelno, Jacek STECH, in his paper gives an interesting account of the process of recovering the memory of Ulrich von WILAMOWITZ in the Kujawy region, for it was almost entirely obliterated after the Second World War. The paper concerns mainly the history of the exchange of letters

between Prof. Marian PLEZIA from Kraków and STECH's predecessor, Antoni SŁOWIŃSKI, the founder and the first president of the PTTK section in Strzelno. It was the acquaintance of these two, started probably around the second half of the 1970's, that constituted the first step in the process of recovering and popularizing WILAMOWITZ's figure among the local community. STECH's paper provides a record of the very interesting exchange of thoughts, ideas and information between the scholar, equipped only with the *Erinnerungen* and a fondness for the great philologist, and the enthusiastic regionalist, who had access to the evidence *in situ*, as it were. The author reveals that it was PLEZIA's cooperation with SŁOWIŃSKI that indeed led to the discovery of the Polish lineage of the Wilamowitz coat of arms. It also resulted in the first important publication which shed some light on the connections between the famous German scholar and Poland¹. Both sides from the very beginning of their correspondence expressed great concern about the state of the Wilamowitz-Moellendorff family cemetery in Wymyslowice. For many reasons its renovation was not accomplished until several years later and, as we are informed by STECH, during these works two urns containing the ashes of Ulrich and his wife Maria were found and carefully reburied in the Kujawian soil.

The publication is enriched by an afterword describing in detail the course of the Wilamowitz Year in Strzelno, with colour photographs depicting these events.

This small but valuable volume has not avoided some minor flaws: occasional typing errors can be found here and there, while some expressions used in the text do disclose that the articles were initially prepared to be delivered as conference papers. This is not, however, of any significance. The important thing is that, despite the abundance of literature concerning WILAMOWITZ, it was still possible to write something less known about him and present him from another angle. What remains even more important is the fact that the memory of that great German scholar is being maintained in his "small homeland", in Kujawy, and preserved by publications such as this one. It definitely may make one believe that the world of academia does not know any other borders or restrictions, apart from those related to understanding.

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¹ M. PLEZIA, *Ulryk Wilamowitz-Moellendorff*, Strzelno 1982.