

period; but Schmaus discerned in those topics certain underlying principles of cultural history which were the real objects of all his writing in the 1960s. Thus, despite their apparent heterogeneity, the several literary articles are truly complementary to the two essays explicitly on cultural history in this volume, one on Gallic influence in southeast Europe, and the other on the distinction between "high" and "low" (or "folk") culture in the same region. Four philological articles further serve the same end by other means: everywhere in language, as in literature, Schmaus found the larger meanings of cultural experience in its fine details.

In this book one shares and relives the ripest years of one of the largest and most humane minds ever devoted to understanding Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

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IVAN FRANKO: HIS THOUGHTS AND STRUGGLES. By *Nicholas Wacyk*. The Shevchenko Scientific Society Ukrainian Studies, vol. 38. The English Section, vol. 11. New York: The Shevchenko Scientific Society, Inc., 1975. xvi, 114 pp. Paper.

From the foreword by Professor W. Lew and from the two prefaces by the author we learn that the present book is an augmented translation of the German original (published in 1948), which in turn was based on Wacyk's doctoral dissertation at the University of Vienna. And this is *all* that we learn! The rest consists of commonly known information about Ivan Franko, presented in a way that even a first-year undergraduate student would find hard to duplicate. In the sophomoric "Rules on the Transliteration . . .," for example, we are informed that "The Ukrainians use in their language s.c. the *Cyrillic alphabet* (it is really the Greek alphabet adjusted to some sounds peculiar to the Ukrainian language)" and that "A letter in Ukrainian names is always to be pronounced as in English" [?] (p. xiv). And in the padded bibliography, certain items are listed twice (for example, Baker and Kernan), and one finds such pertinent [!] works as, to name one of many, *A Short History of the Chinese People*. The remainder of this book is a nightmare of faults, repetitions, *non sequiturs*, inconsistencies, simplifications, half-truths, misconceptions, sloppy scholarship, as well as silly scholarly pretense. One would like to illustrate all of these for sheer shock value, but virtually every page in the book would have to be cited almost in its entirety. One short paragraph, however, will reveal the whole scholarly tone of this unfortunate publication: "During his studies in Vienna, the poet [Franko] met Chaim Weizmann, the first president of Israel from 1949 to 1952, and had a friendly conversation with him. It may be noted that former Premier Golda Meir of Israel was born on the banks of the Dnipro River" (p. 71).

One is speechless.

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Z MICKIEWICZEM NA KRYMIE. By *Wacław Kubacki*. Warsaw: Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy, 1977. 395 pp.

This is an extensive monograph entirely devoted to Mickiewicz's *Crimean Sonnets*, which are qualified as "one of the masterpieces of world literature" (p. 12). But if measured by the standards and fashions now prevailing in literary scholarship, it is quite an unusual book. It contains no analysis, as one would expect, of the meter, the rhymes, or any other formal features of these poems, no study of their sound patterns, no statistics at all. Only very incidentally does the author speak of the lyrical "I" and problems of dialogue. Instead, we find an elaborate examination of all the features that