

To all intents and purposes, Joseph Wittlin is also the author of a single book—the novel *Sól ziemi* (*Salt of the Earth*, 1935). In other respects, his career developed along different lines from Reymont's. Born in 1896, Wittlin was in France when World War II broke out, and he left for the United States in 1941. He has been living in New York ever since. Possessed of considerable erudition (unlike the largely self-educated Reymont), Wittlin has written poetry (his first collection appeared in 1920), essays on a variety of topics, especially literature, three Polish versions of the *Odyssey*, and a major novel.

As in Reymont's case, it is the one novel that established Wittlin's reputation. *Salt of the Earth*, like *The Peasants*, has been widely translated, has won awards (though nothing as prestigious as a Nobel Prize), and has come to overshadow to the point of complete neglect the author's other writings. Although *Salt of the Earth* is a tragicomic masterpiece of antimilitarist irony and satire based on Wittlin's own experiences in World War I (and reminiscent, to be sure, of Hašek's *Good Soldier Schweik*), it shares with Reymont's *Peasants* an epic structure, which Zoya Yurieff elucidates thoroughly.

The analysis of Wittlin's magnum opus is really the core of Professor Yurieff's book and the part the reader should find the most rewarding. But on the whole the Wittlin study is much inferior to Krzyżanowski's Reymont monograph. The writing is heavy-handed, and there is an unfortunate lack of restraint throughout. Works major and minor are all analyzed to such an extent that the book suffers from hyperanalysis; there is simply too much detail for the nonspecialist. This, together with the awkwardness of style, makes the reading often tedious. Then there is the author's disposition toward her subject. Her friendship with the Wittlins (Mrs. Wittlin was a colleague in the same department at New York University for several years) obviously enabled her to draw on more than published materials in the preparation of her monograph. But this has also resulted in a portrayal of Wittlin in terms of spiritual, intellectual, and literary perfection. Given Professor Yurieff's preoccupation with the moral dimension of Wittlin's writing, the highest praise is delivered on page 128 when Wittlin is hailed as a "true Christian."

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BEGINNING POLISH: REVISED EDITION. By *Alexander M. Schenker*. Yale Linguistic Series. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1973. Vol. 1: LESSONS, POLISH-ENGLISH GLOSSARY. xviii, 491 pp. \$10.00, cloth. \$7.00, paper. Vol. 2: DRILLS, SURVEY OF GRAMMAR, INDEX. xi, 452 pp. \$10.00, cloth. \$7.00, paper.

This grammar is designed as a first-year introduction to the language, with twenty-five lessons in the first volume and twenty-five corresponding drills in the second. The work contains, *inter alia*, an introduction (pp. xv-xviii), which conveniently presents twenty Russo-Polish structural contrasts, and a Polish-English glossary (pp. 439-89)—both in volume 1. Also worthy of note are a list of Polish first names (with their diminutives) in the nominative, genitive, and vocative cases (1:35-36) and a bilingual glossary of grammatical terms (2: 441-42). Inclusion of the last two items should greatly facilitate the introduction of all-Polish instruction in the classroom. Tapes for the materials in both volumes are available from the Yale University Language Laboratory.

Schenker has done an excellent job in preparing the grammar. The pronunciation and spelling exercises are, for the most part, clear and concise (with descriptions of important Warsaw-Cracow pronunciation divergencies); the Polish grammatical structure is presented neatly and quite scientifically, for this level. At other levels of analysis, there is many a point one could challenge. For example, the statement that "the ending *-a* occurs with all virile and animal nouns" in the genitive singular (2:389) does not, of course, take into account *wól* and *barwól*. On the other hand, in areas where the elementary student desperately needs help and where many grammars either maintain a judicious silence or give inadequate information, Schenker makes the necessary statements: note, for example, his description of word stress (2:341–45). Misprints are virtually nonexistent, but here is a curious one: the tag-end of the vocabulary to lesson 18 (p. 312) suddenly reappears on page 437.

Although this book is an excellent instrument for teaching Polish to undergraduates, I doubt that it is the ideal vehicle for graduate students in Slavistics or area studies. Such people, who will already know a considerable amount of Russian, can hardly afford the time to yawn over yards and yards of frame sentences in the classroom and the language laboratory. So I take this opportunity to issue a serious plea for someone to republish Maria Patkaniowska's *Essentials of Polish Grammar for English-Speaking Students* (Glasgow, 1944). It is also an excellent grammar and, to be perfectly honest, a formidable challenge in a beginning course on any maturation level. But there would be a compensation: one could get it to class without using a wheelbarrow.

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LIBRARIES, DOCUMENTATION AND BIBLIOGRAPHY IN THE USSR, 1917–1971: SURVEY AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF SOVIET STUDIES, 1967–1971. By *George Chandler*. International Bibliographical and Library Series (Interbiblis), vol. 2. New York and London: Seminar Press, 1972. vii, 183 pp. \$7.25.

After several decades of increasing expertise and sophistication in Soviet studies in the West, in a period of increased opportunities for library and academic exchanges with the Soviet Union, and in a period of dwindling funds for research and publication in the field, it is distressing to see a publisher offer such a volume as an "up-to-date outline survey of libraries, documentation and bibliography in the USSR." The book is nothing of the sort. Neither is it a history of the subject as suggested by the misleading title. And it is indeed baffling how the author could furnish the subtitle he does, when there is not a single reference to any Russian-language publications during the period 1967–71. In fact, the author would have been on much sounder ground if he had used the major Soviet library directories published during those years, such as the one covering libraries in Moscow—*Biblioteki Moskvy: Spravochnik* (1967)—and the two covering libraries throughout the USSR—*Biblioteki SSSR obshchestvenno-politicheskogo, filologicheskogo i iskusstvovedcheskogo profilia: Spravochnik* (1969) and *Biblioteki SSSR: Spravochnik: Estestvennye i fizikomatematicheskie nauki* (1967)—which should have been cited for reference use in any case.

Essentially useless as a reference tool, the book offers little more than a