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Issue # 5 of 2012 «Humanities Review III» presents a compilation of reviews of publications in the field of humanities which have recently seen the light.

The issue opens with a review by **Dźmitryj Vićko** «The Europe of Miłosz», which considers a Belarusian edition of **Czesław Miłosz's** famous essay «Native Realm» (Minsk, 2011) (*Мілаш Чэслаў. Родная Еўропа. Мінск, 2011*). The author considers historical and philosophic views of the writer and pays special attention to the quality of the translation.

The topic is continued by **Siarhiej Hruntoŭ's** review «A Fellow Traveller in the Land of Ulro», which deals with the Belarusian edition of **Czesław Miłosz's** treatise «The Land of Ulro» (Minsk, 2011) (*Мілаш Чэслаў. Зямля Ульра. Мінск, 2011*). The reviewer underlines the uniqueness of the edition in the Belarusian intellectual discourse.

A review by **Siarhiej Hruntoŭ** «Still Exists among Us» is dedicated to the Russian edition of **Umberto Eco's** latest novel «The Prague Cemetery» (Moscow, 2012) (*Эко Умберто. Пражское кладбище. Москва, 2012*). The review presents a reflection upon the moral and ethical problems raised in the novel and considers the peculiarities of Umberto Eco's creative method as well as specific features of the Russian edition.

A detailed review by **Alaksandr Paškievič** «And Still do We Need Eva Thompson?» considers a Belarusian edition of **Eva Thompson's** work «Imperial Knowledge: Russian Literature and Colonialism» (Minsk, 2009) (*Томпсан Эва. Песняры імперыі: Расійская літаратура і каланіялізм. Мінск, 2009*). The author reveals manipulations used by Eva Thompson when analysing the works by Russian writers and draws a conclusion that the whole research is based on the distortion of the meaning of the given works. The author also considers the reasons for an uncritical attitude to Eva Thompson on behalf of the representatives of the Belarusian humanities field.

A review by **Viktar Žybul** «How Vitalin Became Sierhijevič and Vice Versa» of **Uładzimir Lakin's** work about a Belarusian writer **Žmitro Vitalin** «Žmitro Vitalin's Three Lives: a Historical and Biographic Essay» (Mazyr, 2012) (*Лякін Уладзімір. Тры жыцці Змітро Віталіна: гісторыка-біяграфічны нарыс. Мазыр, 2012*) considers the life and creative work of one of the little known representatives of the Belarusian literature of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

A review by **Salvatore del Gaudio** of a tutorial by **Ihar Klimaŭ** «Ancient Belarusian Literature of the 11<sup>th</sup>—16<sup>th</sup> Cent.: Epochs and Personalities» (Minsk, 2010) (*Клімаў Ігар. Старажытная беларуская літаратура XI—XVI стст.: эпохі і постаці. Мінск, 2010*) points out the modern level at which the work has been prepared and considers the peculiarity of Medieval Literature as compared to that of later periods.

An essay by **Aleś Smalančuk** «Reading Timothy Snyder... Reflections of a Belarusian Historian» considers a Polish edition of **Timothy Snyder's** book «Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin» (Warsaw, 2011) (*Snyder Timothy. Skrwawione ziemie. Europa pomiędzy Hitlerem a Stalinem. Warszawa, 2011*). The

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author reflects upon the peculiarity of researching the crimes of the totalitarian regimes and upon the changes that were experienced by the population of Central and Eastern Europe as a result of the realization of these regimes' criminal policies.

- A review by **Alaksandr Kazakoŭ** of a work by a Russian researcher **Aleksej Lobin** «The Battle of Orsha of 8 September 1514» (St. Petersburg, 2011) (*Лобин Алексей. Битва под Оршей 8 сентября 1514 года. СПб., 2011*) criticizes the author's method of counting the forces of the parties in the battle and, generally, expresses doubt about the possibility of applying this method. Nevertheless the review points out some positive aspects of the given work.
- A review by **Volha Sabaleŭskaja** «A Town as a Centre of the Belarusian Cosmos» of the monograph by **Ina Sorkina** «Belarusian Towns at the End of the 18<sup>th</sup> — the First Half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Cent.» (Vilnius, 2010) (*Соркіна Іна. Мястэчкі Беларусі ў канцы XVIII — першай палове XIX ст. Вільня, 2010*) gives a detailed analysis of the methodology, the way of material presentation, results achieved, points out the importance of the publication of the monograph and some of its minor drawbacks.
- A review by **Ina Sorkina** «History in the Human Dimension» of the annual edition of anthropological history «**Homo Historicus 2012**» (Vilnius, 2012) (*Homo Historicus 2012. Гадавік антрапалагічнай гісторыі. Вільня, 2012*), published by European Humanities University, stresses the importance of the given branch in the structure of historical research and that in the field of humanities, as well as the correspondence of the contents of the volume to the topic stated.
- A review by **Valeryj Pazdniakoŭ** «A Scientific Project as a Result of Boycott» deals with an annual collection of theses of the conference, which takes place in Grodno and is dedicated to local history: «Harodnia Palimpsest 2011. Personality, Society, State. 15<sup>th</sup>—20<sup>th</sup> Cent.» (Minsk, 2012) (*Гарадзенскі палімпсест 2011. Асоба, грамадства, дзяржава. XV—XX стст. Мінск, 2012*). The review points out the perspectives and topicality of this kind of research and a high scientific level of the edition.
- A review by **Natalla Śliž** «From Family History to the History of the Country» considers a work by **Jan Tęgowski** about the Śvirskys family (*Tęgowski Jan. Rodowód kniaziów Świrskich do końca XVI wieku. Wrocław, 2011*). The review underlines an exhaustive and systematic character of presenting the material.
- A review by **Vadzim Urubleŭski** «A Historical Portrait» of the work by **Vasil Varonin** «Prince Juraj Lynhvienievič of Mstsislau» (Minsk, 2010) (*Варонін Васіль. Князь Юрай Лынгвеневіч Мсціслаўскі: Гістарычны партрэт. Мінск, 2010*) addresses the compositional peculiarities of historical biographies.
- A review by **Svetlana Burmistr** «Belarusian Judaica: Following the Tradition» deals with the first issue of an annual «**Tsaytshrift**» (Vol. 6 (1), Minsk—Vilnius, 2011), published by European Humanities University (*Цайтшырыфт*).

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*Часопіс для даследавання яўрэйскай гісторыі, дэмаграфіі і эканомікі, літаратуры, мовы і этнаграфіі = Цайтшрыфт. Журнал по изучению еврейской истории, демографии и экономики, литературы, языка и этнографии. Т. 6 (1). Минск—Вільня, 2011).* The review considers the magazine's role in the research of Jewish history and culture.

A review by **Siarhiej Hruntoŭ** «Alien Wings, Alien Eagles» considers a publication by **Anatol Šarkoŭ** and **Viačaslaŭ Sielamienieŭ** «Military Burial Places of the First World War in Belarus» (Minsk, 2010) (*Шарков Анатолий, Селеменев Вячеслав. Воинские захоронения Первой мировой войны в Беларуси = Soldatengräberanlagen aus dem Ersten Weltkrieg in Belarus. Минск, 2010*). The review underlines the value of the publication as a catalogue of burial places and points out some drawbacks of the work. It also raises the issue of military burials being not included into the Belarusian cultural discourse and that of an indifferent attitude to them.

A review by **Alaksiej Krasnahir** «New Studies of Belarusian Numismatics» considers the first edition of a collection of scientific articles on numismatics «**Studia Numismatica Albaruthenica**» (Vol. I, Minsk, 2011). The author points out some positive aspects stressed by the compilers.

A review by **Luboŭ Kozik** «A Fundamental History of the Commonwealth» of a monograph by **Urszula Augustyniak** (*Augustyniak Urszula. Historia Polski, 1572—1795. Warszawa, 2008*) underlines its high scientific level, a good methodological basis, and a deviation from a narrow consideration of events exclusively within the borders of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

A review by **Dzianis Lisiejčykaŭ** «An Archeographic Publication on the History of Church» considers a book prepared for publication by Polish historians **Przemysław Borowik** and **Grzegorz Ryżewski** about the visits of Novy Dvor deanery Uniat Churches of Suprasl diocese (*Wizytacje cerkwi unickich dekanatu nowodworskiego diecezji supraskiej 1804 roku | Oprac. Przemysław Borowik i Grzegorz Ryżewski. — Białystok: Białoruskie Towarzystwo Historyczne, 2009*). The author compares the publication with other sources of the kind.

A review by **Jaŭhien Razeŭblat** «Hollocaust: Research Complications» of the book by **Hienadz Vinnica** «Hollocaust on the Occupied Territories of East Belarus in 1941—1944» (Minsk, 2011) (*Винница Геннадий. Холокост на оккупированной территории Восточной Беларуси в 1941—1944 годах. Минск, 2011*) criticizes the drawbacks of the publication and its methodological level, at the same time pointing out its positive aspects.

A review by **Andrej Katlarčuk** «The Second World War and Modern Historical Science of Scandinavia» analyses the most significant modern works of Swedish and Finnish historians, dedicated to different aspects of the Second World War. The review considers the following works: Deland Mats «Purgatory: Sweden and Criminals of the Second World War» (*Deland Mats. Purgatorium: Sverige och andra världskrigets förbrytare. Stockholm, 2010*), «Arbitrary History: Swedish Attitude to German and Swedish War Criminals» (*Deland Mats. En god-*

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*tycklig historia: om Sveriges behandling av tyska och svenska krigsförbrytare efter andra världskriget. Stockholm, 2010*), a collection of works «(Im)moral Trade: Swedish Economic Relations with Nazi Germany» (*En (o)moralisk handel?: Sveriges ekonomiska relationer med Nazityskland / Red. M. Fritz. Stockholm, 2006*), a research by Oula Silvennoinen «Secret Brotherhood: Co-operation of Finnish and German Secret Police in 1933—1944» (*Silvennoinen Oula. Salaiset aseveljet: Suomen ja Saksan turvallisuuspoliisiyhteistyö 1933-1944. Diss. Helsinki, 2008*), and a book of articles «Wars, Internees and the Transition to Post-war Conditions» (*Sotatapahtumia, internointeja ja siirto sodanjälkeisiin oloihin. Kansallisarkiston artikkelikirja / Red. L. Westerlund. Helsinki, 2010*).

A review by **Aleh Łatyšonak** «Baltic Crusades and Their Position in Papal Politics» of the Polish publication of a work by a Danish researcher **Iben Fonnensberg-Schmidt** «Popes and Baltic Crusades 1147—1254» (Warsaw, 2009) (*Fonnesberg-Schmidt Iben. Papieże i krucjaty bałtyckie 1147—1254. Warszawa, 2009*) points at some significant gaps in Fonnensberg-Schmidt's work and at some themes related to the Crusaders' expansion in the region that have not been addressed by the Danish historian.

An essay by **Andrus̆ Unuĉak** «The Father of Belarusian Renaissance and His Ideological Heritage» («Trilogy» by Anton Łuckieviĉ and Its Position in Belarusian Humanities) studies the publications of works by **Anton Łuckieviĉ** (one of the most prominent representatives of Belarusian national movement of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century), edited by **Anatol Sidareviĉ**: «To the History of Belarusian Movement» (Minsk, 2003) (*Луцкевич А. Да гісторыі беларускага руху: выбраныя творы / Уклад., прадм., камэнт. А. Сідарэвіча. Мінск, 2003*); «Selected Works: Issues of Culture, Literature and Art» (Minsk, 2006) (*Луцкевич А. Выбраныя творы: праблемы культуры, літаратуры і мастацтва / Уклад., прадм., камэнт., пер. з польск. і ням. А. Сідарэвіча. Мінск, 2006*); «The Struggle for Liberation» (Bialystok—Vilnius, 2009) (*Луцкевич А. Барацьба за вызваленне / Уклад., рэд., перакл., камэнт. і прадм. А. Сідарэвіч. Беласток—Вільня, 2009*); «To the History of Belarusian Movement. Second Edition» (Bialystok—Vilnius, 2010) (*Луцкевич А. Да гісторыі беларускага руху. Выданьне 2-е, дапоўненае і напраўленае / Уклад. А. Сідарэвіч. Беласток—Вільня, 2010*).

A review by **Alaksandr Filipau** «Belarus: an Unconventional History» examines a very controversial publication «Belarus in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: an Unconventional Representation of History» (Moscow, 2010) (*Беларусь в XX веке: нетрадиционное представление истории / Под ред. В.Н. Сидорцова. Москва, 2010*) — a multi-author monograph edited by **Uładzimir Sidarcoŭ**. The monograph is claimed by its authors to be a combination of a synergetic approach and the history of daily life, but according to the reviewer the work is actually a piece of opinion journalism.

A review by **Dźmitryj Viĉko** «The Sapiehas and the Radzivils: the Rivalry of Magnate Factions in the Middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century» of a work by **Mariusz Sawicki**

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«Court Party in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in 1648—1655» (Opole, 2010) (*Sawicki Mariusz. Stronnictwo dworskie w Wielkim Księstwie Litewskim w latach 1648—1655. Opole, 2010*) studies the terminology and methodology, typical of this kind of research. The review also elaborates on royal policies, directed towards the creation of a loyal party, and on its actual activity on the political arena of the time.

A review by **Ściapan Sturejka** «From Kałoża to Farty and Back» of a reference book on Grodna architectural monuments «A Biography of Grodna Streets. From Farty to Kałoża» (Grodna—Wrocław, 2012) (*Біяграфія гарадзенскіх вуліц. Ад Фарты да Каложы / Андрэй Вашкевіч (і інш.). Гародня—Wrocław, 2012*) highlights both the importance of the book and some of its drawbacks.

A review by **Felix Ackermann** «Why Were the Jews in the BSSR not Concerned about Germans?» of a work by **Alexander Friedman** «Images of Germany in Belarusian Soviet Society in 1919—1941» (Stuttgart, 2011) (*Friedman Alexander. Deutschlandbilder in der weißrussischen sowjetischen Gesellschaft 1919—1941. Stuttgart, 2011*) points out a thorough and systemic approach to the topic in the reviewed work.

A review by **Andrej Cichamirau** «Vilnius Educational District: between Polish Patriotism and Imperial Loyalty» of a Polish republication of a work by a French researcher **Daniel Beauvois** «Vilnius — a Polish Cultural capital of the Russian Occupation Sphere» (Wrocław, 2010) (*Beauvois Daniel. Wilno — polska stolica kulturalna zaboru rosyjskiego, 1803—1832. Wrocław, 2010*) points out the fundamental character of the work under analysis and its significance for studying the history of the culture of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A review by **Olga Belova** «The Folk Bible» of the publication «The Belarusian “Folk Bible” in Modern Records» prepared by **Alena Bohanieva** (Minsk, 2010) (*Беларуская «народная Біблія» ў сучасных запісах / уступ. арт., уклад. і камент. А.М. Боганевай. Мінск, 2010*) (*Беларуская «народная Біблія» ў сучасных запісах / уступ. арт., уклад. і камент. А.М. Боганевай. Мінск, 2010*) considers the peculiarities of studying folk Christianity, points out the topicality and the necessity of the publication.

A detailed review by **Uładzimir Hančar** «They Said Once that They Walk after Death» or Traditional Polesye Demonology in the Records of the Last Third of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century» considers a Russian academic edition of records on the given topic «Polesye Folk Demonology» compiled by **L.N. Vinogradova** and **E.E. Levkiyevskaya** (Moscow, 2010) (*Народная демонологія Полесья: публікацыі тэкстаў у запісах 80—90-х гг. XX века. Т.1. Людзі со сверхъестественными свойствами / сост.: Л.Н. Виноградова, Е.Е. Левкиевская. Москва, 2010*). The review stresses the importance of the publication for the further research of the region, but at the same time criticizes the compilers' typology of people with supernatural abilities.

A review by **Tacciana Vałodzina** «The Round-Dance Circle Is Big, the Street Is Small» of a joint work by a series of authors «Belarusian Folk Dance: Tradi-

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tion and Modernity. Mahiliou Region» (Minsk, 2011) (*Беларускі народны танец: традыцыі і сучаснасць (Магілёўшчына) / М.А. Козенка, В.А. Папоў, А.У. Касінец і інш.; рэд. муз. твораў А.У. Раічынскага; агульн. і харэагр. рэд. М.А. Козенкі. Мінск, 2011*) expresses delight with the summarising work carried out by the authors and with their efforts to support the dancing culture in the region.

A review by **Ihar Klimau** «Unexpected Speech» of **Tacciana Ramza's** monograph «Belarusian Colloquial Speech: Contemporary Situation» (Minsk, 2011) (*Рамза Тацяна. Беларуская гутарковае маўленне: сучасны стан. Мінск: Вышэйшая школа, 2011*) considers interesting and unexpected results of studying the speech of native speakers of modern Belarusian literary language. It is observed that the speech in some respects deviates from established norms but the deviations have a steady and regular character.

A review by **Alaksandr Paškievič** «A Regular Manifestation of a Common Disease» describes one of the significant instances of plagiarism in the work by **Iryna Šumskaja** «Music in the Context of Belarusian and Polish Intercultural Interaction» (Minsk, 2011) (*Шумская Ірына. Музыка ў кантэксце беларуска-польскага міжкультурнага ўзаемадзеяння. Мінск, 2011*).

A review by **Siamion Hutnoŭ** «Polesye from Inside and Outside» is dedicated to the Polish and Belarusian publication of an album and catalogue «Polesye» by a photographer of the interwar period **Zofia Chomełowska** (*Chomełowska Zofia. Polesie = Хамэнтэўска Зоф'я. Палессе. Warszawa, 2011*). The publication of the album is considered as a significant intellectual event. It is stressed that the album has great importance for the research of the daily life of the population of interwar Polesye on the territory of Poland.

A review by **Pawieł Karaliou** of **Inesa Šluňkova's** work «Temples and Monasteries of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Belarus as Part of the Russian Empire. Recreating the Heritage» (Moscow, 2010) (*Слюнькова Инесса. Храмы и монастыри Беларуси XIX века в составе Российской империи. Пересоздание наследия. Москва, 2010*) points out that the material presented in the research significantly enriches the knowledge about the architectural past of Belarus.

An essay by **Volf Rubinčyk** «Modern Dictatorship of Resurrected Adepts of 'West-Russian' movement (Zapadno-russizm)» considers a book by **Andrew Wilson** «Belarus: the Last European Dictatorship» (Yale University Press, 2011). The reviewer defines what researchers had an influence on the author of the book and points out that the Western academic establishment is starting to deny some simplified schemes in the interpretation of the history of Belarus and of the contemporary situation in the country.

An essay by **Andrej Vaškievič** «A Bibliophile Looking for Atlantis» is dedicated to **Michaś Kazłoŭski**, an author of the book «I Will Touch the Book Treasures...: Notes of a Bibliophile» (Minsk, 2011) (*Казлоўскі Міхась. Да кніжных скарбаў дакрануся...: нататкі бібліяфіла. Мінск, 2011*).