
The “Annales Budissinenses” represent an as yet unevaluated source for Sorbian historiography. The chronicle, which is preserved today in the diocesan archive of the Dresden-Meissen bishopric in Bautzen, was recorded in the 16th Century by three scribes connected to the collegiate chapter of St Petri in Bautzen. The Sorbian cleric, Jurij Hawštyn Śwětlik, made a partial copy in the 18th Century. The following thematic fields of the “Annales” are relevant for Sorbian history: 1. The “Annales” contain the oldest reliably dated sentence in the Upper Sorbian language, possibly the oldest documented Sorbian sentence ever. This is contained in an entry from the year 1534, in which building works for the tower of the Petri church are described. The Sorbian civil oath of Bautzen, which up until now has been thought to originate from before the Reformation or in 1532, is now regarded as a text which originated after the Reformation, in all probability some considerable time after 1532. 2. The “Annales” contain the names of four clerics who conducted pastoral care for Sorbs in Bautzen in the 16th Century.

Karlheinz Hengst: Zurba – A Previously Unnoticed Name for the Early Western Sorbian Area

This study is devoted to the regional name Zurba used in a royal charter of 1140 for the bishopric of Naumburg. This form Zurba, used in documents to describe the linguistic area of settlement of the Old Sorbs east of the river Saale, which also included the region around Naumburg, is here examined for the first time from a linguistic point of view. An analysis of the formation, etymology, style and later use of the name then follows. In this context, connections relating to its linguistic history as well as to the history of Sorbian settlements are highlighted. One result of this, seen in connection with, amongst others, the treatment of the regional name Strupenice in 1136 for a smaller territory to the east of Jena, is confirmation that the royal charter referred to a larger area, while the documents issued by bishops and margraves, and many others, refer to smaller areas of settlement. Moreover, the unconditional use of loan names of Slav origin by the German authorities is again emphasized. As regards the accuracy of the spelling of Slav proper names reference is made to the clearly remarkable linguistic competence of the notaries in the chanceries.

Walter Wenzel: The Slav Landscape Name Schollene and its Cognates in Place Names

It has been established in many instances that there is a large degree of correspondence with regard to the origin, formation and meaning of landscape and tribal names on the one hand, and place names on the other. This also applies to the landscape name, Schollene, discussed here, as well as to a number of identical or similar sounding place names. It was deduced that the term *Skolene was the original form for the landscape name, as well as for the settlement name Schollene, formed in the same way and situated north east of Magdeburg near the Havel. This form probably also provides the basis for the place name Scholen, south of Magdeburg, as well as Schkölen, south west of Leipzig, while Schkölen, north east of Jena, can be seen as coming from *Skolane. An
old locative plural, ending in -as, coming from *Skołane, is hidden beneath Scholaz, north east of Plauen, possibly also beneath Scholitz, north east of Leipzig, as well as Scholiz, south east of Wittenberg. The landscape name Schollene is further reproduced by the migration of the Old West Sorbs down the Elbe right up into the north, into what later became the Polabian language area.

Bernd Koenitz: Misunderstood Lusatian Place Names

The author of this article suggests new explanations for 17 Upper Lusatian and 2 Lower Lusatian place names, which have caused particularly severe difficulties for previous research or in which essential aspects have been given insufficient consideration. This analysis summarizes what could be responsible for a lack of understanding in previous toponomastic research. Amongst the following causes are mentioned: insufficient consideration given to possible stronger contractions in their development, the possibility of false back-formations and false composition/decomposition, the failure to take account of morphological features of Sorbian name forms, but in particular also the discernible prejudice that New Sorbian name forms were of little relevance in the reconstruction of Old Sorbian forms or that the New Sorbian name forms could not be explained as deriving from an internal Sorbian process but only from German influence.

Alfred Roggan: The Sorbian/Wendish Missionary Maria Lobak/Marija Lobakoje from Turnow, called Maria Lobach (1798–1853)

Maria Lobak died in 1853 in Paramaribo from the after-effects of a serious tropical disease. Her deeply religious way of life as well as her work as a preacher, in community building and caring for the sick, which was conducted in the spirit of the Moravian Brotherhood message, was given immediate acknowledgement by the local missionary organisation of the Brotherhood in Herrnhut. When an official obituary was due to be written in 1856, it became clear that much about her life’s work was known, however hardly anything was known about the period before she entered the service of the Moravian Brotherhood in Herrnhut. There was particular uncertainty about her family background and the first part of her life in her Peitz/Turnower homeland. Knowledge about Maria Lobak/Marija Lobakoje, who served as a missionary between 1844 and 1853, has here been supplemented with the current article about her childhood and youth. In this, particular attention has been given to her family origins, her upbringing in the Sorbian/Wendish cultural sphere in Lower Lusatia, as well as to the decisive influence of the Herrnhut revivalist movement.

Doris Teichmann: Andreas Tharaeus as Pastor in Friedersdorf

After completion of the essay “New Discoveries about Andreas Tharaeus Muscovien-sis” on his funeral sermon for Eva von Schönburg auf Großleuthen printed in 1618 the author discovered a further hitherto unknown funeral sermon written by Tharaeus in the holdings of the Wolfenbüttel Duke August’s library. From this sermon it becomes clear that he was already pastor in Friedersdorf in 1599, from which it can be assumed that he had already been performing his duties there for several years. The author supposes that
this citizen of Muskau already assumed office in Friedersdorf in the middle of the 1590s. This assumption is supported by references in the funeral sermon for Christina von Langen auf Blossin, who had died in childbirth on 14 July 1599. In addition there is the first evidence here of Tharaeus’s poetic skills, as the funeral sermon for Christina von Langen ended with rhyming verses.

Franc Šen: Hitherto Unpublished Letters by Jan Arnošt Smoler

This article offers a short editing history of the previously unpublished correspondence of Jan Arnošt Smoler, the most important representative of the Sorbian national movement in the 19th Century. Reference is made to the correspondence with I. P. Kornilow, A. D. Bašmakow, J. I. Kraszewski und A. Patera, which has not been considered in previous surveys. Five of his letters are published: to Leipzig students in 1838, to František Palacký in 1848, to Ignac Hanuš in 1854, to Karel Jaroměr Erben in 1861 and to Bronisław Grabowski in 1881.

Nicole Dolowy Rybińska: Concerning Language Endangerment, Revitalization and Language Ideologies. The Polemics around Tadeusz Lewaszkiewicz’s Article

In his article entitled “Lower and Upper Sorbian – Endangered or Dying Languages?” published in Slavia Occidentalis 71 (2014) 1, Tadeusz Lewaszkiewicz presents the situation of the two Sorbian languages and claims that they are doomed to die before the end of the 22nd Century. He blames the critical situation of these languages on the Sorbs themselves who – according to him – “care mainly for material comfort and national aims are of secondary importance”. In my opinion, Lewaszkiewicz’s article presents a number of false theses (relating to bilingualism, the role of the education process for language revitalization etc.) and represents itself as a document that could be called applied language ideology. In my paper I discuss some of the ideas presented by Lewaszkiewicz. Using Bourdieu’s concept of symbolic power and Chromik’s idea of three levels of language ideology, the mechanism of the minority language abandonment process is explained. It is also demonstrated why – from the point of view of language revitalization – creating a prognosis for the death of a language is dangerous for motivation and language attitudes within a speech community and also by the same token for the future of minority languages themselves.