

Trudla Malinkowa: The Sorbian Marriage Inviter, Jan Kmoch from Quatitz

Jan (Johann) Kmoch was born in 1812, the only child of a cottager in Zschorna in the parish of Hochkirch. He worked initially as a tailor. He married in 1832, and moved between 1835 and 1837 with his family to a small farm in Quatitz. Kmoch was the most famous Sorbian wedding messenger (Hochzeitsbitter, Braška) of his time. He was in charge of around 2,000 wedding ceremonies from around 1840 to 1870, mostly Protestant, but occasionally also Catholic weddings, among them those of many large family parties from the larger farms. Kmoch's engagement and wedding addresses have been preserved in transcriptions made by Arnošt Muka and were published in 1923, with minor alterations, in a collection of wedding addresses. Kmoch's original notes, as well as his outfit as a wedding messenger, have been lost. One photograph has survived. In addition, two artists made portraits of him in the middle of the nineteenth century, the Bautzen publisher, Louis Buchheim, in a lithograph and the Schleife pastor, Julius Eduard Wjelan, in an oil painting. By doing so, they created a lasting memorial to the marriage inviter, Jan Kmoch.

Anna Mirtschin: Anti-Judaism and Anti-Semitism in the Sorbian Catholic journal, *Katolski Posol*, from 1880 to 1933

The subject of this study is the way in which the topics of the Jews, Judaism, and “modern anti-Semitism” were treated in the Sorbian Catholic journal, *Katolski Posol*, founded in 1863. Sorbian attitudes were determined by their particular identity structure: they identified themselves with the Slav nations and spoke of their own “nation”, although they were never able to attain independent nationhood themselves. The Catholic Sorbs accepted their role as part of the ultramontane Church and their homeland as Germany as members of the German state. *Katolski Posol* combined religious propaganda and education while also asserting its Sorbian national identity. The way, in which it treated Jewish questions in articles published between 1880 and 1933, reflected its attitude towards the Jewry, to anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism, which was determined by its own religious and national interests.

The results of this study are ambivalent. They range from identifying the kind of Jewish stereotypes, which were common in German public attitudes and in Catholic circles of the time, to expressions of outright anti-Semitism. Traditional religious anti-Judaism was combined with fear of modern social developments, which were seen as endangering Catholicism and Sorbian Catholic identity. Particular emphasis was given to the Jewish question in articles, in which analogies with their own national situation and the threats to it were recognized.

Michael Richter: The Municipal, District and State Elections in 1946 in the Kamenz District

While the results of the municipal, district and state elections in the autumn of 1946 in the district of Kamenz were in line with the general picture of election results in Saxony and the Soviet Zone, the proportion of votes cast for the SED in the predominantly Sorbian communities was much lower than average. Conversely, the CDU achieved majorities here. One reason for this was the strictly Catholic background of large parts

of the Sorbian population. A second, decisive reason stems from the fact that the SED district executive committee in Kamenz did not support an agreement made between the executive committee of the Domowina and the SED regional executive committee of Lusatia, according to which members of the Domowina were required to support only the SED in the election campaign and to stand as candidates on the SED list, while at the same time resigning from the CDU. In the view of the the SED district executive committee such a one-sided commitment to the SED, demanded by the SED regional executive committee of Lusatia, contravened the guidelines of bloc policy, whose long-term aim was to gain acceptance of the political system of the Soviet Zone in the western zones, thereby carrying out the aims of Soviet interests in Germany. According to these, the CDU and the LDP should be drawn into sharing responsibility for policy in the Soviet Zone, and not be politically isolated. The policy of the SED district committee was however interpreted by the Domowina as representing a view, which was detrimental to the Sorbs, and this was main reason for the SED's bad election results among the Sorbs of the Kamenz district.

Dietrich Scholze: Fifty Years of German-Sorbian Professional Theatre

The "Sorbian National Theatre" (founded in 1948) was merged with the Bautzen Municipal Theatre (1796) in August 1963 to form the "German-Sorbian National Theatre of Bautzen. The merger increased the artistic potential of both houses. The Sorbian part of the programme has concentrated since then on 1. the Sorbian literary heritage, 2. contemporary drama by Sorbian authors and 3. translations of foreign, mostly eastern European plays. Around 250 productions were put on in fifty years (together with thirty projects in the separate puppet theatre). At the Bautzen Theatre around twenty-five actors, of whom half are capable of acting in both languages, put on a varied programme of national and international drama, hardly feasible in other "provincial theatres".

Since 1862 theatre as an art form has represented a stable element in Sorbian national identity.

Elisabeth Piirainen: "Widespread idioms in Europe and beyond": Lesser-used languages and their contribution to a "Lexicon of Common Figurative Units"

Contrary to earlier assumptions, there are far-reaching similarities between idioms of the European languages. This fact was confirmed not least by the results of the project "Widespread idioms in Europe and beyond": It is not rare to find idiom equivalents with a quite consistent lexical and semantic structure in fifty or more languages. The seventy-four European languages represented in the project can be roughly divided into *major languages* (well-developed larger literary languages, often also national languages) and varieties that can be subsumed under the technical term *lesser-used languages*. This raises the question as to what extent the lesser-used languages share the features of a "common figurative lexicon". Using four examples we point to differences and try to find explanations.

Till Vogt: Word Order in the Western Peitz Variety of Lower Sorbian

The first part of this publication gives a chronological overview of the approaches to research into sentence-topological phenomena in Sorbian. Most of the studies published up to date, however, deal exclusively with word order issues in Upper Sorbian. As a result, the focus of this study is on the discussion of word order issues in Lower Sorbian dialects, spoken in particular in the west of Peitz / Picnjo (often referred to as the “western Peitz variety of Sorbian”). For the sake of comparison, the author has analysed six recordings of native speakers of this dialect evaluating the position of the main verb or, in the case of predicative nouns, the position of the predicative expression. The results contradict common assumptions as to the word order in Lower Sorbian main and subordinate clauses. Contrary to what has so far been said, the word order in main and subordinate clauses does deviate in Lower Sorbian dialects, although frame structures do occur in both, but even they seem to vary. Furthermore, Breu/Scholze’s hypothesis (2006) about the origin of the frame structures in general is discussed in regard to Lower Sorbian. Here, the author gives an alternative explanation, giving more importance to the topic-comment structure. It is maintained that the use of differing frame structures in Lower Sorbian may partly depend on the varying degree of language contact with German.

Agnieszka Dudek: Protection and/or Support? The Function of (Protective) School Associations 100 Years Ago and Today, Using the Examples of Teschen in Silesia and Lusatia

Using the example of the Teschen School Association, *Macierz Szkolna dla Księstwa Cieszyńskiego*, (founded in 1885 in Teschen/Austrian Silesia) and the Sorbian School Association, *Serbske šulske towarstwo*, (founded in 1991 in Crostwitz/Upper Lusatia) the phenomenon of school or protective associations and their role in multi-ethnic regions 100 years ago and today are compared. Central to these discussions is the complex nature of these diffuse, delicate concepts, protective or school associations, peculiar to particular regions, which will be illustrated using the two examples mentioned above. The sets of diverse problems relating to cultural hybridity and multilingualism are discussed, which continue to be relevant in this context in border regions, and which are closely connected with the regional and national identities of minorities.