

**Dietrich Scholze-Šolta: Bilingualism in Sorbian Literature. The Example of Jurij Brězan**

General bi- or multi-lingualism is currently a worldwide phenomenon, therefore not exclusive to the Lusatian Sorbs. Literary bilingualism, based on mother tongue competence, is however a relatively recent phenomenon in Sorbian cultural history. Up until 1945 Sorbian literature appeared almost totally in Sorbian (mostly in periodicals).

The question of national identification and choice of language was raised for authors by the Sorbian Law in Saxony in 1948, which secured material support for the Slav minority in the eastern part of Germany. At the same time interest in Sorbian culture and traditions grew amongst German-speakers after the war. The first to profit from this was the prose writer, Jurij Brězan (1916–2006), the most important Sorbian writer in the second half of the 20th Century. In 1951 he published a volume of Sorbian prose and lyric poetry in East Berlin, which he had himself translated into German. He was followed by a whole phalanx of younger writers who similarly published their major works in original Sorbian and German versions. For this generation literary bilingualism became a natural way of raising their function and effect as artists. The strongest part of their motivation was to draw modern Sorbian literature out of its isolation and to raise the reputation of this small culture.

**Hauke Bartels: On the Conception for an Historical Information System Documenting the Vocabulary of Lower Sorbian – Plans for the Rectification of a pressing Research Need**

The object of this article is a planned, historical, documentary dictionary of Lower Sorbian conceived in the Internet as a comprehensive vocabulary information system. Against the background of an overall concept to document Lower Sorbian, several particular elements of the lexicographical conception of the project called *SorbLex Lower Sorbian* are presented. The dictionary will be the first one capable of describing the traditional vocabulary of Lower Sorbian almost completely, and will provide comprehensive information on the development (diachronic components) and the current state of the vocabulary (synchronic components). In the process, it is intended to make visible the formal and semantic internal links, and for this purpose to collect both information on word families, as well as on word fields. Because of the great variety of the information in the XML-data base, which forms the basis of the dictionary, different access routes to the data and presentations of the lexical system will be provided. In this process, the combination of the attributes of an historical dictionary with those of a synchronic description of the present day Lower Sorbian vocabulary is particularly important. In this way not only the possibility of a continual change of perspective emerges, e.g. between the description of individual lexemes and the word family, but also between the relevant synchronic or diachronic presentation of both levels of description.

**Sonja Wölke: The Upper Sorbian Liturgical Agenda of Martin Cichorius**

At the beginning of 2010 the Sorbian Cultural Archive gained possession of a printed German liturgical agenda from the 17th Century. A formerly unknown Upper Sorbian

manuscript can be found on a few pages, which had been added and bound into the volume. A book plate on the title of the print points to Martin Cichorius, Pastor of Hohenbocka near Hoyerswerda, as the possible author. In this article the linguistic characteristics of the text are described together with a demonstration of its links to other Upper Sorbian manuscripts of the time. In particular, striking parallels with the manuscripts of Johannes Cichorius can be established, which leads to the conclusion, that already by the middle of the 17th Century a tradition of Upper Sorbian writing existed in the northwestern part of Upper Lusatia.

#### **Hauke Bartels & Kamil Thorquindt-Stumpf: A new Sound and Text archive of mother-tongue Lower Sorbian Dialects**

The article presents the aims and methodology of a new research project designed to document Lower Sorbian. The object of the plan is to provide sound recordings of older speakers, mostly over the age of seventy today, who acquired a dialect of Lower Sorbian as their mother tongue in the first half of the 20th Century. It is expected that because of the present language situation this primary form of Lower Sorbian, also informally called the vernacular, in Lower Sorbian “*ludowa rěc*”, will cease to exist in future. A documentation of the language is therefore urgently needed.

The audio recordings produced in the project will in addition be transcribed and translated into German, partly also into English. The data will subsequently become part of the “Language Archive”, which collects and archives information on endangered languages worldwide. They will also provide the basis for further research into Lower Sorbian. The project, which is scheduled to last for 3 to 4 years, will be financed by the Volkswagen Foundation as part of its programme of support for the “Documentation of Endangered Languages”.

#### **Walter Wenzel: Links between Slav Personal Names and Place Names in Lower Lusatia**

A major problem of research into Slav place names is that in a number of cases it is difficult to decide whether the relevant place name is derived from a common noun or from a personal name. This applies particularly to many Germanized place names ending in *-itz* and *-witz*, which can stem both from a common noun ending in *-ica* or *-ovica* or from a family name, here a patronymic, ending in *-ici* or *-ovici*, as, for example, *Rakwitz*, which could derive from *\*Rakovica* ‘Settlement on the Krebsbach’ or *\*Rakovici* ‘People of Rak’. This applies similarly to names ending in *-ov* and *-in*. In a name landscape such as Lower Lusatia, where personal names are investigated in the whole area from numerous historical sources, when the personal name assumed to be in the place name also occurs in the immediate vicinity as a surname, it is possible to conclude with great certainty that the name is derived from a family name.

#### **Doris Teichmann: New discoveries about Andreas Tharaeus Muscoviensis**

The life of Andreas Tharaeus Muscoviensis, author of the didactic poem, which appeared in 1609 “Eine erbermliche Klage der lieben Fraw Gerste vnd ihres Brudern

Herrn Flachs" (A pitiful complaint from the dear Mrs Gerste and her brother, Mr Flachs), of the "Enchiridion Vandalicum" from the year 1610 and of the comedy "Weiber Spiegel" (Wives' Mirrors), is largely unknown. A document printed in 1618 in Wittenberg extends our knowledge about the Sorbian priest and writer, who came from Muskau. The extensive funeral address written by Tharaeus for the burial of Eva von Schönburg, wife of Albrecht Schenck von Landsberg auf Leuthen, Buchholz, Teupitz und Wusterhausen, on the 22 October 1617 in Groß-Leuthen near Lübben shows that Tharaeus had already become the priest of Märkisch Buchholz by around 1617, and not later in 1628. In the document of 1689, issued to his heirs about the privileges of the freehold property acquired in 1627 in Buchholz the services rendered by the testator to the aristocratic family Schenck von Landsberg were expressly emphasised. From this it can be concluded that Tharaeus was for a period after leaving his post at Friedersdorf for denominational reasons not in the service of the Church. This analysis of the extensive funeral address shows that its author was an exceptionally well-educated and well-read Sorbian priest.

#### **Stefanie Krautz: Mina Witkojc's Description of her Visit to Slovakia in 1925**

Mina Witkojc published travel reports in *Serbski Casnik* in 1925 and 1926 about her visit to Czechoslovakia. In them she propagated the idea of the common Slav ancestry of the Sorbs, Czechs and Slovaks. In this way she extended the traditional image of the "Sorbian island in a German sea" into that of a "Sorbian branch" of the Slav family of nations.

She described Slovakia separately in these reports and gave an idealized picture of it in two respects. Firstly, she paid tribute to the fact that the Slovaks had freed themselves from Hungarian hegemony and had become a component part of a Slav state. Secondly, Mina Witkojc described Slovakia as a region, in which more women were "intellectual leaders" than men. Despite her enthusiasm she did not build up any long term contacts with the female authors and editors she visited, and very few of their texts appeared in *Serbski Casnik*.

#### **Piotr Palys: Jurij and Pawoł Cyż in the Sorbian National Movement**

The author illustrates important aspects of the Sorbian national movement in the 1930s and 1940s using a range of different sources. He focuses on the two brothers from Säuritz near Kamenz, Jurij und Pawoł Cyż. They both studied law in the 1930s, Jurij in Prague and Leipzig, Pawoł in Königsberg. During this time they were both active in the Sorbian student movement. Beyond that they kept in close contact with the Polish minority, in particular with the Federation of Poles in Germany. The climax of the influence of the two brothers on the Sorbian national movement came immediately after the end of the Second World War. Both were active in the Sorbian National Committee, Jurij as General Secretary in Prague, his brother Pawoł as the representative of the Committee in Poland. In these capacities they supported the idea of a separate Sorbian state or alternatively the merger of Lusatia with Czechoslovakia. Pawoł Cyż actively pursued this matter until March 1947, but nevertheless stayed in Poland until 1949. He was arrested after his return to Lusatia; after his release he fled to West Germany. He lived there until his death in 1977. Jurij worked until his early death in September 1947

as General Secretary of the Sorbian National Committee in Prague. The German authorities in the Soviet Zone of Occupation suspected that both Sorbs were working as agents for the Polish secret service, however they were unable to produce any clear evidence.