

**Fabian Kaulfürst: The Creation and Integration of Sound Data in the German-Lower Sorbian Internet Dictionary as a Starting Point for a Discussion of Lower Sorbian Orthoepy**

This article introduces the project “Creation and Integration of Audio Data Files in the German-Lower Sorbian Internet Dictionary and summarises its results in relation to Lower Sorbian orthoepy. It documents the procedural method for recording information on pronunciation in the online dictionary, the technical production using special software and the steps in quality control. The main part of this piece presents the preliminary pronunciation rules, which formed the basis of the project. For this purpose disparate information on orthoepy from a number of different sources were collected and compared, critically examined and extended. A number of comments on articulation and pronunciation difficulties for language learners were developed on the basis of experiences from the recordings. The article deals with, amongst other things, accent, syllable boundaries, vowel quantity, assimilation and co-articulation phenomena and indicates the need for further research. This applies amongst other things to the different production qualities of <e> in different positions as well as in the connection with further phenomena, e. g. with de-palatalisation of preceding consonants. There is also need for further research into different assimilation phenomena as well as into possible generalisations (e. g. in the production of the prefix <pše> as [pœ] also preceding soft consonants). The largest research gaps appear in the area of the pronunciation of foreign and loan words; it is for this reason that the article restricts itself largely to the Lower Sorbian lexis of proto-Slavonic origin.

**Keywords:** Lower Sorbian, orthoepy, examples of audio pronunciation, accent, syllable boundary, vowel quantity, assimilation, co-articulation.

**Eduard Mühle: The Peace Treaty of Bautzen, the Piasts and the Empire. German-Polish Entanglements in the Early 11<sup>th</sup> Century**

Bishop Thietmar von Merseburg reports in his chronicle, finished in 1018, on the peace treaty concluded on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 1018 between Emperor Heinrich and the Piast Duke Boleslaw I. in Bautzen castle. The article pursues the question of how this event came to pass, what events formed the basis for it and what the motives of the people involved were. These included not only the two main protagonists, the Emperor and the Duke, who were looking for confrontation stemming in both cases from a strong awareness of their roles as rulers. Important participants were also the Saxon and Piast grandees. While we know little about the latter, the Saxon religious and secular grandees were confronted with a very particular dilemma. The repeated military conflicts plunged them into serious conflicts of loyalty as they not only had obligations towards the German king, but were also partly connected to the Piasts through family and friendship ties. It was not least the endeavours of those involved to find a way out which led to the conclusion of the peace treaty of Bautzen. It is true that this treaty only provided temporary relief during the remaining lifetime of the two protagonists, Heinrich and Boleslaw, from the ongoing conflict between the Piasts and the German king about status and honour; it did not provide a complete resolution.

**Keywords:** Middle Ages, kingdom, Emperor Heinrich II., Piasts, Duke Boleslaw I., Bautzen, Milceni lands, Thietmar von Merseburg.

**Lubina Mahling: The Bible, Treatises, and Manuscripts – The Sorbian Reading World in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Readers and Reading as Reflected in the Records of Herrnhut**

A large number of Sorbian Protestants were influenced by Pietism in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, above all the Herrnhut Community of Brethren. This community emphasised the importance of reading amongst its members and supporters and as a result contributed substantially to the spread of literacy amongst the Sorbian population. Personal accounts, reports, and letters from the archives of the community provide a unique insight into the reading experiences, reading behaviour and habits of the Sorbian population in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

At the same time it becomes clear that, together with books, numerous manuscripts were circulated in the Sorbian Diaspora, of which only a few have survived. These were translated, copied and reproduced in Kleinwelka, the central place for work in the Sorbian Diaspora. It was often decided for a number of different reasons not to print this work. As is shown in this study, the distribution in hand-written form of these manuscripts in no way meant that they were not publicly accessible. The manuscripts also reached a large audience purely through being read out and distributed in the societies. This study argues for a re-evaluation of Sorbian manuscripts in the light of this background. It is not necessarily the case that they have to be seen in every case as having an inferior status through not being printed, but should be seen in their own right as a form of publication.

**Keywords:** Pietism, Community of Brethren, 18<sup>th</sup> Century, Sorbian manuscripts, spread of literacy, printing, history of everyday life and attitudes, history of the Sorbian media, history of education.

**René Küpper: The Question of the Lusatian Sorbs at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 as Reflected in Czechoslovak Diplomatic Sources**

The discussion of the right to national self-determination influenced not only the activities of the Sorbs in the form of the National Committee, but also those of the Czechoslovak diplomats at the Paris peace conference. The idea of incorporating Lusatia into the Czechoslovak state was dropped, as well as that of territorial autonomy. All that remained of the endeavour to “somehow help the Sorbs” was the idea of a territorial neighbourhood. This included moral and later on also financial support for Sorbian cultural endeavours.

The Peace Treaty of 28<sup>th</sup> June 1919 imposed no obligation on Germany to protect minorities. The Minorities Article 113 in the Weimar Constitution of 11<sup>th</sup> August 1919 was practically useless for the Sorbs. Recognition as a national minority, which had been granted to the Danes or the Poles, was denied to them. The German Reich did however continue to consider the Sorbs as a domestic affair.

**Keywords:** Paris Peace Conference 1919, right of self-determination for nations, Czechoslovak diplomacy, Czech-Sorbian association Adolf Černý, Sorbian National Committee, (territorial) autonomy for Lusatia, Lusatia as a bartering tool, minorities protection, Minorities Law, Sorbs as a national minority, Peace Treaty, League of Nations.

**Piotr Palys: The Sorbs’ Attitude towards the Referendum of 30th June 1946**

At the beginning of the year of 1946 the leadership of the Communist Party of Germany decided to conduct a referendum in Saxony. The subject put to the vote was the expropriation of industrial plants owned by war and Nazi criminals. The plants in question were to become state property. At the time, in accordance with the Soviet Occupation Forces’ suggestion, the Domowina started to seek compromises with the Communists. In view of such cooperation, the issue of the character and the degree of involvement of the Sorbs

in a voting campaign in Upper Lusatia was discussed. The rules of cooperation with the SED (Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands – Socialist Unity Party of Germany) during the campaign were established on 10<sup>th</sup> June. Back then the Domowina was fighting for recognition as a fully-fledged organization in the East German socio-political system and it was the first time it acted as an ally to the SED. The Soviet Occupation Forces and the Communists saw this act as a visible sign that the Sorbian issue had become Germany's internal affair. On the other hand, never before had such an abundance of leaflets and posters written in the Upper Sorbian language been visible in a public space than at that time. It is worth noticing that representatives of the Lusatian National Committee were also active participants in the campaign. It was one of the last joint initiatives of both wings of the Lusatian national movement. As a result of the cooperation with the Domowina, the referendum turnout in bilingual Upper Lusatia was 93,7 per cent, of whom 77,6 per cent voted “yes”.

**Keywords:** Domowina, Upper Lusatia, people's referendum, Sorbs, Saxony, Socialist Unity Party of Germany

### **Clemens Heitmann: Digital Archive Portal on the History of the Sorbs. Work in Progress and First Results**

Although the Sorbian Cultural Archive already exists as a special collection and archive on Sorbian language, history and culture, there are numerous relevant sources on the history of the Sorbs, which are not stored there, but are in other archives in Lusatia, in Germany or even abroad. Those researching in Sorbian studies are therefore faced every time with the challenge of researching anew where the relevant documents on a particular question are to be found. In order to simplify and support research, the Sorbian Institute plans to build up a digital archive portal on the history of the Sorbs in a project financed over the period 2017–2019 by the Saxon State Ministry for Science and Art (SMWK). For this purpose, relevant archival materials – above all on contemporary history – are to be researched, recorded and digitised. The metadata collected in this way, as well as wherever possible digitised images of documents, are to be made publicly available via an online portal, so that research on a particular topic is promoted on a lasting basis. Unfortunately, it is not possible to consider the local and district archives in Lusatia, due to missing technical prerequisites. This means that the Sorbian Institute will have to restrict the project to the holdings of the larger archives, such as the Federal Archive, the Saxon State Archive, the political archive of the Foreign Ministry and the United Nations' archives at Geneva. The Sorbian Institute is cooperating with powerful partners, for example the SLUB (Saxon State Library – State and University Library of Dresden), the associated project “Virtual Archives for Research in the Humanities” and the Saxon State Archive.

**Keywords:** Archive, Federal Archive, Political Archive of the Foreign Ministry, Saxon State Archive, United Nations Archives at Geneva, local archives, Digital Archive Portal, digitisation, Frido Mětišk, Wendenabteilung (Wendish Department)