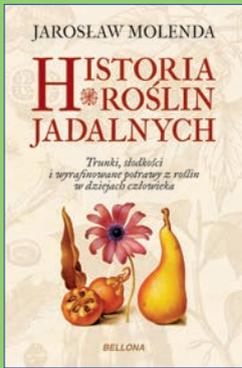


BELLONA S.A.



Jarosław Molenda ***A HISTORY OF EDIBLE PLANTS***

Plants have played an important part in the history of mankind but there is a whole range of plants that had a tremendous influence on the development of cultures, nations or religions. They changed the world, altering the course of history.

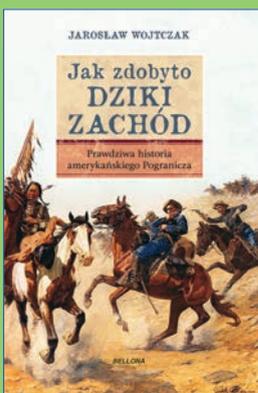
As Henri Fabre noted: "... History praises the battlefields where death reaps his harvest, but we do not learn anything on fields full of grain that feeds us; history just enumerates innumerable kings but we do not learn anything on the origin of corn. This is just human stupidity!" So maybe it is high time to extend our knowledge?

Jarosław Molenda ***A HISTORY OF STIMULANTS.*** ***INTOXICATING PLANTS WHICH MAKE HUMANKIND ADDICTED***

The book is a factual and anecdotal survey of facts and myths regarding the harmfulness of those plants that have been worshipped, condemned, but very often strictly banned. Jarosław Molenda shows in fascinating detail how such stimulants as kava-kava, khat, Indian hemp, coke, opium poppy, peyote and tobacco served a particular need for an individual culture, how they made people addicted and corrupted, and to what extent each of them, in turn, affected the culture and its behavioural forms.

Marek Wąs ***WARTIME AND POST-WAR GDAŃSK***

The year 1939 began with a sinister omen. Conservative and respectable "Danziger Neueste Nachrichten", by all means the first Gdańsk daily, informed on January 22nd that: "Yesterday, at about 10.03 p.m., a big meteor was spotted over Wrzeszcz, racing from south. Its light was so bright that it illuminated the interiors of every home, as it were daylight. At first the meteor seemed to resemble a small shiny sun as it wound its way upon the sky, but finally it turned red and faded off." This brief information was almost prophetic, because it was in Gdańsk that in the very same year the Second World War began with the aftermath reaching over 60 million casualties. But the star of Adolf Hitler was fading out too.



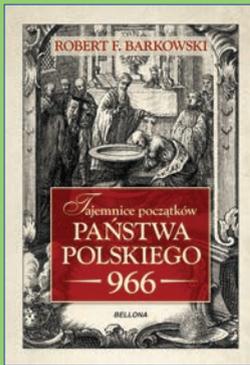
Jarosław Wojtczak ***HOW THE WILD WEST WAS WON. A TRUE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIERS***

The so-called Louisiana Purchase opened the way for the last and greatest part of the colonization of North America. In this fascinating book the author brings to life the great adventure – the process of discovering and populating wild territories west of Mississippi. His tale is of trappers, scouts who blazed trails leading through boundless plains and impassable mountain ranges; of forty-niners who initiated the famous California gold rush, of cattle tycoons, cowboys and gunslingers. But this is also the tale of ordinary settlers who loaded their meagre possessions to wooden carts with rounded hoods of canvas placed over them and kept on travelling west; and of the miserable fate of American Indians who hindered that march of White Man and after long and cruel struggles were dispossessed of their lands.

Tomasz Kubicki ***UNDER THE SCOURGE OF EXTINCTION.*** ***POLES AND JEWS UNDER THE GERMAN OCCUPATION 1939-1942***

Polish-Jewish relations have been for years under debate, many a time stirring up very intense emotions. Various opinions and views, often extremely radical, clash. The author, making use of the extensive collection of the underground periodicals of the Polish Underground State (both all major titles and those of secondary importance, staying apart from the government-related mainstream) tried to reconstruct fates of the two nations in the wartime period.

There were quite a lot of issues that divided the two nations: frustrations, mutual animosities, conflicts, and history. But it was not only starvation and fear, but also daily hardships and resistance against the German invaders that finally united them.



Robert F. Barkowski *SECRETS OF THE ASCENT OF THE POLISH STATE, A.D. 966*

The establishment of a Polish state can be traced back to the second half of the 9th century when eminent Slavonic leaders of the tribe organization called the Polans, founders of the Piast dynasty, commenced a systematic political and military expansion in all directions, starting from the mid-Warta River in the vicinity of Giecz, Gniezno and Poznań (the Great Poland). The climax of the process of establishing foundations for development of the Polish statehood was the Christianization of Poland, dating back to the year 966.

Robert F. Barkowski *THE POLABIAN SLAVS. HISTORY OF EXTINCTION*

The area along the Elbe River was inhabited in early Middle Ages by tribes of Lusatian Sorbs. They were the first Slavs ever to clash with the expansive German culture. Their violent struggle in defence of their ancestors' religion ended with their extermination.



Przemysław Słowiński *OTTO SKORZENY, THE BEST COMMANDO SOLDIER IN THE THIRD REICH*

Adolf Hitler believed Otto Skorzeny was the best expert in special assignments, and amongst the Allies he earned a reputation as the "most dangerous man in Europe". His spectacular operation to rescue Benito Mussolini imprisoned in a mountain Campo Imperatore Hotel even Hollywood scriptwriters would not have invented. He planned to assassinate Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin at the 1943 Teheran Conference. These are only some of Otto Skorzeny's remarkable and amazing actions... After the war he contributed towards creating his own image as the first daredevil in Europe.

Jerzy Łątka *SULEIMAN II THE MAGNIFICENT*

Ottoman padeshah, Suleiman II (1520-1566) was the tenth and longest-reigning Great Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, and one of the greatest rulers of the modern era. His reign has left mark on the vast territory of Europe and Asia. However his reign was marked not only by conquests: Suleiman was one of the best Ottoman lawmakers, a fairly good poet, and a great patron of culture, overseeing the "Golden Age" of his empire in its literary, artistic and architectural development. It also marked the apex of the Ottoman Empire's development.



Aleksandra Skrzypietz *QUEEN MARGOT*

The 16th century was definitely an age of women; many of them were winning influence on politics and access to knowledge and learning going beyond mere literacy. The French court became the scene for those aspiring and excellently educated women. Margaret of Valois was apparently one of the most vivid figures at the French court at the close of the 16th century. Her charm and intelligence earned her an equal measure of admiration and hatred. But the question *how she actually was?* – very beautiful, very judicious, very proud, very ambitious, notorious for a licentious lifestyle, or maybe simply very unhappy – remains unanswered.



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