

overall picture of the formation of the Polish community in Britain, and points the way towards future research.

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Mályusz, Elemér, with Kristó, Gyula (eds). *Johannes de Thurocz. Chronica Hungarorum. II. Commentarii*. Bibliotheca Scriptorum Medii Recentisque Aevorum. Series Nova, VIII. Akadémiai kiadó, Budapest, 1988. 2 vols. 603 pp. + 500 pp. Indexes. £52.00.

ELEMÉR MÁLYUSZ, who died in September 1989, was the most eminent historian of medieval Hungary this century. Among much else, he devoted fifty years to researching and writing on the fifteenth-century chronicle of János Thuróczy. The fruits of this labour have now been distilled in a two-volume commentary, which supplements the edited text of the chronicle, published separately in 1985 (reviewed *SEER*, Vol. 65, 1987, pp. 438–39). In the preface, composed, like the commentary itself, in an elegant classical Latin, Mályusz confesses, '[hoc] opus omnium meorum operum dilectissimum esse' (p. 9).

A particular problem which Professor Mályusz encountered in his previous attempts to have this commentary published was its sheer length. As he explains, Thuróczy's text was woven out of so many diverse strands and introduces such a range of analytical problems and possibilities, that the task could not properly be completed in any less than a thousand pages.

As it turns out, Mályusz's claim is entirely vindicated, however much it may once have infuriated his publishers and sponsors. He succinctly explains the relationship between the chronicle and its classical and medieval antecedents, and draws out the significance of the various terms and legends enclosed in the narrative. Nevertheless, Mályusz's commentary is compressed even to the point of ignoring altogether such avenues of investigation as he considers to be too speculative or tendentious. Thus, there is no reference to Gy. László's theory of the 'double conquest', and C. A. Macartney simply 'errat' (curiously, Mályusz mentions only a single article published by Macartney in *Századok*, 1940). Following Réthy, the Vlachs are confidently dismissed as *déracinés* shepherds, and no significance is attached to Gyula discovering a 'civitatem magnam in Erdelew' while on a hunting expedition. Plainly though, it was only by such discriminating treatment that the text of the commentary could be kept to manageable proportions, and thus the culmination of a lifetime's endeavour be finally brought to press.

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