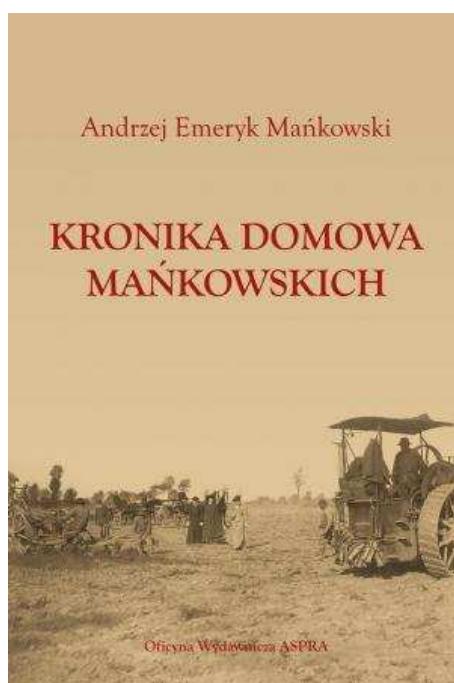


Grzegorz OSTASZ<sup>1</sup>

**BOOK REVIEW: *THE MAŃKOWSKI CHRONICLES*,  
ANDRZEJ EMERYK MAŃKOWSKI,  
“ASPRA” PUBLISHING HOUSE, WARSAW 2017,  
920 PAGES**

Andrzej Emeryk Mańkowski, a graduate of the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of the Faculty of History at the University of Warsaw has published a monumental monographic source of his family<sup>2</sup>. *The Mańkowski Chronicles* published three years ago is “an attempt to take a panoramic view of the history of the Mańkowski family in the Podillia and the Greater Poland, inscribed in the fate of Poland over the last three centuries”. It should be strongly emphasized that the publication is a fully successful work, and the term the “attempt” results only from the modesty of the author. Andrzej Emeryk Mańkowski is an experienced researcher of historical consciousness, national and ethnic identity, as well as the issues related to genealogy. He has a number of publications in his scientific output.

Landowning, most often identified with the nobility – bene nati et possessionati is an important, already historical element of the history of Poland, both in the state and the local dimension. Although historians, sociologists, economists are arguing over the exact definition of the “landowning”, still the role of this class was indisputable in the history of Poland of the last few centuries up to the middle of the 20th century. In times of economic changes related to the economic revolution and enfranchisement of peasants, as well as subsequent independence uprisings – national



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<sup>2</sup> A.E. Mańkowski, *Kronika domowa Mańkowskich*, Warszawa 2017.

uprisings – the partitions, landowners constituted the appreciated elite. They were good hosts, role models, active participants of uprisings, or generous patrons of subsequent irregularities and independence struggles. The same was in the case in the 20th century, the times of regaining independence, then the reconstruction of Polish statehood, and then another cruel war of 1939–1945. Besides these, landowners were the foundation of an association codenamed “Cultivation” and “Shield”, which actively cooperated with the Union of Armed Struggle – the Home Army. The secret organization of landowners focused mainly on very effective financial support of the Polish Underground State. It is not surprising that after the end of the war, the communists with such energy began to destroy landed estates in order to cut off the material base for the post-war underground.

*The Mańkowski Chronicles* is a great work, admittedly selected but very accurately documented history of one landowner family. The work of one family, which very clearly emphasizes the role and the importance of the landowning in the history of Poland. *The Chronicles* is a successful combination of a scientific work and the one popularizing the genealogy of the Mańkowski family of the Zaremba coat of arms. It is not surprising that during one of the evenings with the author, readers were encouraged to turn to this “richly illustrated, adorned with tasty quotes, fascinating artwork that shows the world of Polish landowners in the eastern Podillia from the 18th century to the 1917 revolution”.

The prepared publication has a chronological and factual arrangement. It is characterized by a thoughtful, simple and extremely functional division of the content. The book is divided into three main parts. These are, in turn: part one – “From the settlers of the *post hosticum* to the pioneers of industry and trade”, part two – “The Podillia branch of Zaremba Mańkowski – the Greater Poland”, the third part – “The Podillia and Volhynia – the second and third generations: 19th and 20th centuries”. In the first part the author included five chapters: “From the Greater Poland to the Podillia – the 18th century and the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup>”, “Teodor Mańkowski (1816–1855)”, “Wacław Mańkowski (1820–1905)”, “Emeryk Mańkowski (1826–1918)” and “Walery Mańkowski (1828–1871)”. In the second part one can find two chapters, i.e. “Napoleon Ksawery Mańkowski and his sons. Winnogóra, Rudki” and “Wacław Mańkowski from Brodnica and his children”. The third part contains four chapters: “Sons of Walery Mańkowski from Sahinka”, “Emeryk Mańkowski junior (1856–1909) – Krasitów”, “Józef Mańkowski (1862–1940) – Hołubowa” and “Revolutions”.

Each chapter is divided into subchapters and smaller structural parts. The Introduction opens all the work and the Ending closes it. In addition, there are six appendices with appropriately selected documents and summaries in five languages (Polish, English, Russian, French and German), a list of illustrations, a diagram of the Mańkowski family tree of the Zaremba coat of arms and a valuable personal index.

*The Mańkowski Chronicles*, as already mentioned, is a monumental study. This is demonstrated not only by its volume; the entire book has 920 pages of print in A4 format. It is also the work refined in every detail. It should be emphasized that the author of the reviewed work approached the issue of sources with great esteem. The extremely rich source base, embedded in the narrative of Andrzej Emeryk Mańkowski, testifies to the exceptional diligence of the author of *The Mańkowski Chronicles*. The author approached archival sources of the subject with utmost care, worthy of a professional researcher of the past who attached very rich family collections to documents obtained from numerous specialized institutions. As the author emphasized, “a large part of the sources are personal and have not been published so far. These materials – press texts and official documents,

extensive family correspondence, as well as works belonging to belles-lettres – are testimonies of daily struggles, life dilemmas and ideological choices and allow recreating the color of places and times”. Meticulous queries are confirmed by the extremely numerous footnotes made with evident accuracy. Hence, the publication of Andrzej Emeryk Mańkowski, currently Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Vancouver, deserves to be called a monographic source, and may be a model for other historians. Let us add that, apart from evident substantive advantages, the language of the work – which has already been signaled – richly supplemented with source quotes, is an undoubted asset of the reviewed work.

The graphic design and the entire editorial page of the reviewed book are also worth being highlighted. Both the author and the publisher – Warsaw ASPRA Publishing House – took care of every detail. From the dust cover, through inserts and illustrations impressive in terms of number (in total, the book has 657 illustrations – photographs, sketches, documents, etc. of very good quality (black and white and colored). These elements will be appreciated by every reader. Therefore, it is better not to wait for the edition to run out, although, as one can read on the editorial page, you will be able to use the electronic version available at: <http://www.fundacjaszczawnica.org/projekty/kronika-domowamankowskich>.

It is difficult to find the cons of this work. Perhaps it is the lack of an index of geographical names, and for professional historians also an appropriate bibliographic summary.

It seems obvious that the work by Andrzej Emeryk Mańkowski *The Mańkowski Chronicles* finds wide popularity not only among professional historians and researchers of the past and members of the Mańkowski family, but also among so-called ordinary readers. The book may also aspire to a group of fundamental studies dealing with the non-existent social class – landowners. In this way, it will join such works as the series of eleven books by Roman Aftanazy (History of residences in Poland's former eastern borderlands) and Krzysztof Jasiewicz (List of losses of the Polish gentry 1939–1956).

