

rokcie badania historyczne autora i materiał archiwalny może być z powodzeniem wykorzystany w innych badaniach naukowych.

Robert JANUSZ SJ

Bogdan LISIAK SJ, *Jezuici polscy a nauki ścisłe od XVI do XIX wieku. Słownik bio-bibliograficzny* [The Polish Jesuits and Science from the 16th through 19th Centuries: A Bio-Bibliographical Dictionary], Kraków 2000, 166 pp.

It has been stated, „history is the master of life (magistra vitae)”. Is this a statement reserved exclusively for historians or is it applicable to those with quantitative interests in the fields of mathematics, physics, astronomy, and philosophy and for matters of purpose, for all humanity? The latter have certainly learned much from their ancestors in their respective fields of concentrated research and study. Knowledge and discovery in the present has been predicated upon what has been inherited and handed down by our generation ancestors who were experts in their respective fields of knowledge. The question is presented, „Can anything be learned and discovered today from our educated colleagues who lived during the period covered between the 16th and 19th centuries?” For whatever purpose this text may be used, the response by the reader would emphatically be one in the affirmative, yes.

The Author of this book has obtained a Master’s Degree in Physics in 1984 and is Doctor of Philosophy since 1994. The contents of this text illustrates some of the most notorious scientists throughout Polish history throughout the 16th – 19th centuries. Each of the individuals resumed has one common thread of identity; they are all Jesuits and they understand themselves as philosophers of nature. There are 37 Jesuit scientists profiled who placed themselves into scientific research thus enabling them to integrate their findings within the lay findings within a secular-scientific world.

Some of these Jesuit scientists have made significant contributions in their field not only throughout Poland but also throughout the entire European continent. One of the scientists whose bibliography was formulated was Kochański, who was teacher and researcher at many of the universities throughout Europe, to name a few, Mainz, Bamberg, Florence, Olomouc, Prague and Wrocław (Breslau).

The book is biographical in format. It documents the life, accomplishments, major works (including manuscripts) and research findings in the fields of mathematics, experimental physics, architectural theory, science, and other quantitative-related areas.

Lisiak compiled his findings through archives of books, manuscripts, periodicals and published Theses. The information cited in the book is a compendium of scientific data well organized, methodically and comprehensively researched. The information contained therein provides not only a source of information to the people from Poland (since it is written in Polish) but to all scientists globally since most scientific research delves into the genus and species of the area of study and this is as a norm, derived from Latin. Most scientific data and documents are written in Latin.

The author states there are no monographic works about any of the Jesuits whose works are cited. The purpose of his writing serves as a foundation and a synopsis of works that can be utilized for research value by those who seek information in today's scientific inquiry. It will be very useful in the future to those who will delve even more deeply into sub-topics and who will require a more detailed and comprehensive inquiry into the past and present generalized discoveries.

This book is significantly important. It serves as an introduction to Polish history and the contributions that have evolved through the centuries of accumulated scientific data.

To those who spend relentless hours in laboratories detailing and documenting experimental findings the information contained in this book will provide supporting and provocative particulars.

Its place in a library can offer a data base to the inquiring mind to those who are scientists and philosophers and those without scientific interests as well.

Jerzy KOCHANOWICZ SJ