
It is another volume of the Testimonia najdawniejszych dziejów Słowian (Testimonia of the Most Ancient History of Slavs) series, which has been published since 1989. The volume contains parts of Byzantine writers’ writings about Slavs. The first three volumes (II: Pisarze z V–X wieku, Wrocław 1989; III: Pisarze z VII–X wieku, Warszawa 1995 and IV: Pisarze z VIII–XII wieku, Warszawa 1997) were compiled and edited by Alina Brzóstkowska, who translated them and by Wincenty Swoboda, who wrote comments. After Swoboda’s death, the following 5th volume (Pisarze z X wieku, Warszawa 2009) was prepared by Alina Brzóstkowska alone, while the current volume was compiled by Anna Kotłowska, a young Slavist and Byzantinist from Poznań.

The current volume contains the fragments of seven works: Chronographia by Michael Psellus (p. 15–41), History by Michael Attaleiates (p. 42–61), Admonition to the Emperor by Kekaumenos (p. 62–105), History by John Skylitzes (pp. 106–269), so-called Skylitzes’ follower (p. 270–287), Materials for a History by Nikephoros Bryennios (p. 288–293) and Alexiad by Anna Komnene (p. 294–349). The two last works have already been translated into Polish by Oktawiusz Jurewicz1. Anna Kotłowska has used his translations with slight modifications. The above parts of the book have been complemented by Notes (p. 5–10), Preface (p. 11–13), Index of Periodicals and Continous Publications (p. 350–352), Index of Places (p. 353–361), Index of People (p. 362–370).

Just like the previous volumes, also this one characterizes itself with reliability of translations (which can be confronted with the original texts contained therein) and with a high level of comments to particular texts (based upon Anna Kotłowska’s own research and upon her profound knowledge of scientific literature2). This volume will certainly be welcomed by professional scholars and useful as a teaching tool; it will also be of much interest to a wider circle of people interested in the history of the Byzantine Empire and Slavic countries of the Middle Ages. Particularly interesting seems making the Polish reader acquainted with ample fragments of John Skylitzes’ work, which is a wealth of information about Slavs and their relations with Byzantium from 9th to 11th century. I truly encourage the editor to think of publishing yet another volume of the series, dedicated to the works of John Zonaras.

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