

open to a student who knows his intonation patterns, Bratus explores syntagmas and the kinds of pauses that occur between them, and discusses primary, secondary, and zero stress levels in the intonational unit, as well as the importance and kinds of "melody" and pitch modulation. His explanations are concentrated and careful, and his main points (and practical "tips") stand out clearly; however, sometimes his treatment is slightly deceptive ("As to the words with zero or neutral stress, it really matters little how they are pronounced . . .," p. 12), or incomplete. For instance, in a generally accurate discussion of the "main types of speech melodies" (section vii, unfortunately made section "viii" by a misprint) the author's description of the intonation pattern Bryzgunova has termed IK-3 as one "pronounced with a high rise" (p. 16) or as a rise "somewhat steeper than in English" (p. 20) is simply inadequate and I think representative of the author's tendency at times to oversimplify. There is no mention of Bryzgunova's IK-4 and the more marginal IK-5, and the former at least should have been identified as a type.

The selections in part 2 are varied and generally interesting. My only serious criticism here has to do with the phonetic notation. Certain vowel reductions are ignored; thus on page 26 we are given the pronunciation of the Russian word for Europe as [jɛvrópa] rather than the expected [jivrópa]. This and similar inaccuracies are consistent throughout 102 pages of transliterated texts, and teachers should alert their students to them. Incidentally, tapes of these texts are available separately, but they must be ordered from Britain. I did not have the opportunity to listen to them and cannot judge their quality.

One further note: the bibliography (pp. 33–34) is dated; the works are mostly from the late 1950s and early 1960s, with a single entry dated as late as 1969.

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WLADYSŁAW STANISŁAW REYMONT. By *Jerzy R. Krzyżanowski*. Twayne's World Authors Series, no. 248. New York: Twayne Publishers, 1972. 169 pp.

JOSEPH WITTLIN. By *Zoya Yurieff*. Twayne's World Authors Series, no. 224. New York: Twayne Publishers, 1973. 175 pp.

The latest entries in Twayne's World Authors Series on Poland feature two twentieth-century writers whose literary fates have more in common than their careers may suggest. Of the two, Reymont's niche in history is more secure. Only two Polish authors have won the Nobel Prize for literature to date—Henryk Sienkiewicz in 1905 for his novel on ancient Rome, *Quo Vadis?*, and Władysław Stanisław Reymont (1867–1925) in 1924 for his peasant epic in novel form, *Chłopi* (*The Peasants*, 1902–9).

Although Krzyżanowski's fair, balanced, and very readable account of Reymont's life and work argues well for a new look at other works by Reymont, such as *Ziemia obiecana* (*The Promised Land*, about turn-of-the-century industrial Łódź) and *Rok 1794* (*The Year 1794*, on Kościuszko's insurrection), *The Peasants* will remain the focus of reader interest. The huge novel is one of the great works on peasant life in world literature and deserves its reputation. But for the great majority of foreign readers (and I dare say also Polish ones), it will be the extent of their acquaintance with Reymont.

To all intents and purposes, Joseph Wittlin is also the author of a single book—the novel *Sól ziemi* (*Salt of the Earth*, 1935). In other respects, his career developed along different lines from Reymont's. Born in 1896, Wittlin was in France when World War II broke out, and he left for the United States in 1941. He has been living in New York ever since. Possessed of considerable erudition (unlike the largely self-educated Reymont), Wittlin has written poetry (his first collection appeared in 1920), essays on a variety of topics, especially literature, three Polish versions of the *Odyssey*, and a major novel.

As in Reymont's case, it is the one novel that established Wittlin's reputation. *Salt of the Earth*, like *The Peasants*, has been widely translated, has won awards (though nothing as prestigious as a Nobel Prize), and has come to overshadow to the point of complete neglect the author's other writings. Although *Salt of the Earth* is a tragicomic masterpiece of antimilitarist irony and satire based on Wittlin's own experiences in World War I (and reminiscent, to be sure, of Hašek's *Good Soldier Schweik*), it shares with Reymont's *Peasants* an epic structure, which Zoya Yurieff elucidates thoroughly.

The analysis of Wittlin's magnum opus is really the core of Professor Yurieff's book and the part the reader should find the most rewarding. But on the whole the Wittlin study is much inferior to Krzyżanowski's Reymont monograph. The writing is heavy-handed, and there is an unfortunate lack of restraint throughout. Works major and minor are all analyzed to such an extent that the book suffers from hyperanalysis; there is simply too much detail for the nonspecialist. This, together with the awkwardness of style, makes the reading often tedious. Then there is the author's disposition toward her subject. Her friendship with the Wittlins (Mrs. Wittlin was a colleague in the same department at New York University for several years) obviously enabled her to draw on more than published materials in the preparation of her monograph. But this has also resulted in a portrayal of Wittlin in terms of spiritual, intellectual, and literary perfection. Given Professor Yurieff's preoccupation with the moral dimension of Wittlin's writing, the highest praise is delivered on page 128 when Wittlin is hailed as a "true Christian."

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BEGINNING POLISH: REVISED EDITION. By *Alexander M. Schenker*. Yale Linguistic Series. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1973. Vol. 1: LESSONS, POLISH-ENGLISH GLOSSARY. xviii, 491 pp. \$10.00, cloth. \$7.00, paper. Vol. 2: DRILLS, SURVEY OF GRAMMAR, INDEX. xi, 452 pp. \$10.00, cloth. \$7.00, paper.

This grammar is designed as a first-year introduction to the language, with twenty-five lessons in the first volume and twenty-five corresponding drills in the second. The work contains, *inter alia*, an introduction (pp. xv-xviii), which conveniently presents twenty Russo-Polish structural contrasts, and a Polish-English glossary (pp. 439-89)—both in volume 1. Also worthy of note are a list of Polish first names (with their diminutives) in the nominative, genitive, and vocative cases (1:35-36) and a bilingual glossary of grammatical terms (2: 441-42). Inclusion of the last two items should greatly facilitate the introduction of all-Polish instruction in the classroom. Tapes for the materials in both volumes are available from the Yale University Language Laboratory.