

POLISH RESEARCH SOURCES FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND HISTORY IN POLISH TRANSLATION: A BIBLIOGRAPHY. By JOHN SARNACKI. (Port Huron, Michigan, 1973. Pp. 84. \$3.00.)

This partially annotated bibliography of over eight hundred items essentially focuses on the impact Latin America has made on Poland. Although Latin American literature and its translation into Polish forms the book's nucleus, there is material relating to many other areas, including political science, sociology, history, economics, geography, travel, and religion.

Of particular interest, however, are articles and literary criticism from the Polish perspective on contemporary Latin American literature, demonstrating the impact the modern novelistic "boom" has had in other parts of the world. Communist, socialist, leftist, Marxist, or at least *anti-yanqui*, antiimperialist writers are more likely to be translated into Polish and widely commented upon by writers, critics, and academicians. And since that stance is widespread among the Latin American intelligentsia, who can dispute Jorge Amado, Pablo Neruda, Alejo Carpentier, and Miguel Angel Asturias as the most widely translated and discussed Latin American authors in the Polish context? It is somewhat surprising, however, that among the more contemporary writers, Carlos Fuentes and Octavio Paz do not seem so widely disseminated; instead, Julio Cortázar is among those who have most successfully crossed the Polish border. It is to be expected that, relatively speaking, an apolitical but definitely antitotalitarian writer (although one with impressive international credentials) is not so well regarded among the Poles: namely, Jorge Luis Borges. It is also obvious that there would be, and is, strong interest in Cuban literary activity. Thus, two Latin American poetry anthologies published in Polish translation are minutely annotated, one broadly representative of Latin America, the other specifically focusing on Cuba.

The substance of the book is bibliographical and the bulk of it deals with literature and history, but there is a great deal more. There are lists of books in Spanish (by Poles) about Poland or Latin America, and Polish literature translated into Spanish; and lists of Polish publishers (although, significantly, there is only one exporter of Polish books). There are also entries on such topics as relations between Poland and Latin America in cultural exchange and technical and scientific research; Latin American cultural activities in Poland; immigration; and the Polish language. In a carefully organized and thoroughly indexed work such as this one, it is relatively easy to find material referring to a specific aspect of Latin America: country, genre, author, area of study, or particular discipline.

Although some seemingly necessary annotations are lacking, this valuable enumeration of little-known but important source materials is impressive. A broad and detailed work, it provides a guide to the impact, role, and significance

of Latin America beyond its borders, and indicates how seriously Latin America's development is taken in such Eastern European countries as Poland.

ARTHUR RAMÍREZ
Stephen F. Austin State University