

## **Bibliographical Notes**

**Abdellah Chekayri, An Introduction to Moroccan Arabic and Culture. Washington DC 2011. Goergetown University Press. ISBN 978-1-58901-693-4 (pbk.) XXXVII + 503 pp.**

Practical but at the same time scientifically sound manuals of Moroccan varieties of Arabic have been few in number so far. This 'Introduction' has been designed for 'beginning students of Arabic who are simultaneously learning Modern Standard Arabic' and, naturally enough, 'for students and linguists who have studied MSA for at least a year and want to learn some functional Moroccan Arabic' (p. xiii). Important: 'the book assumes prior or concurrently gained knowledge of the Arabic alphabet' (ibid.) since Latin transcription is used for presenting new words (and in Glossaries on pp. 356- 448) and for some exercises but elsewhere there is only unvocalized Arabic text. Although personally I would welcome Latin transcription of some selected texts (not at the very beginning!), nevertheless I understand the advantage of making students concentrate on listening to the texts recorded on the attached multimedia video disc rather than on looking at transcriptions. The multimedia DVD with interactive exercises is a very useful tool indeed. It contains also many videos on different aspects of the Moroccan culture. Thanks to this disc and to the general method used in the book this Introduction 'may be used in either self-directed study (there is a key to exercises – A.Z.) or as the basis of work in a conventional classroom' (ibid.). Since this 'Introduction' is for real beginners, the author does not specify which variety of Moroccan Arabic is actually offered and he only says that 'the recorded material avoids localisms in order to be fully comprehensible in other parts of the Arab world, and especially in the Arab Maghreb' (p. xiv) and then he adds that 'by targeting the educated forms, this course not only avoids forms of the language that would be strongly marked regionally, but also paves the way for learners who would like to learn the forms of the classical language at a later stage; or who wish to delve into the subtleties of the regional or socioprofessional varieties of MA' (p. xvii). Personally I would appreciate a comparative list of some Moroccan 'localisms' as far as basic vocabulary is concerned. The layout of the book and many good illustrations (mainly photos)

are quite remarkable. I believe that the book together with the disc will prove to be very useful for beginners and I would like to encourage the author to prepare further manuals for the intermediate and advanced levels.

Andrzej Zaborski

**Christophe Pereira, *Le parler arabe de Tripoli (Libye)*. Zaragoza 2010. Instituto de Estudios Islamicos y del Oriente Próximo. = *Estudios de Dialectología Árabe* 4.551 pp. ISBN 978-84-95736-15-3.**

This is the first systematic and very detailed grammar of the Arabic dialect of Libyan Tripoli. Originally it goes back to the doctoral thesis at the INALCO, Paris. Apart from the very solid presentation of the phonology, morphology and syntax it contains a special analysis of the modality (pp. 413-497). The author has worked with a considerable number of informants in the majority of cases in Tripoli in spite of all the difficulties due to the political situation in Libya. His method is traditional in the best sense of the word and it has been the most reasonable approach to the problem of presenting numerous facts (so many examples of the use of forms in sentences taken from a considerable 'natural' corpus !) in a clear and systematic way. It is a reference grammar par excellence.

Andrzej Zaborski

**Tadeusz Smoleński 1884-1909. *Pisma naukowe i publicystyczne [Scientific and Journalistic Papers]*. Edited by Joachim Śliwa and Leszek Zinkow, Kraków 2010. Księgarnia Akademicka, 388 pp. ISBN 978-83-7638-046-9**

Had it not been for a premature death in 1909, caused by sickness and exhaustion at the age of 25 years old, nowadays Tadeusz Smoleński would certainly have been named among the most distinguished archaeologists – not only Polish, but also European. This promising young historian from Kraków was forced to travel to Egypt due to his health condition, and it was there that he discovered his true calling. He studied Egyptology under the guidance of Gaston Maspero, one of the chief researchers of the time, who immediately discovered Smoleński's great philological talent. Despite his rapidly deteriorating health and difficult financial situation the young Egyptologist became the director of

an Austro-Hungarian archaeological expedition in Sharuna and Gamhud, later to embark on his last task as a Secretary of the Organizational Committee of the Second International Congress of Classical Archaeologists in Cairo. The fruit of his labours are not only the many publications, abundant if we take into consideration how short his life had been, but also Egyptian antiquities now in the collections of the Museums in Cairo, Budapest, Vienna and Kraków.

Smoleński's published works had not been thoroughly catalogued for a number of years, which is hardly surprising if we take into account how prolific a writer the young author was. Only the recent publication „Tadeusz Smoleński 1884-1909. Pisma naukowe i publicystyczne” by Joachim Śliwa and Leszek Zinkow (Kraków 2010) allows the reader to grasp what a comprehensively talented erudite he was. The authors based their research on a bibliographic query by Krystyna Stachowska (the library of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Kraków), which they considerably enlarged, which resulted in an outright titanic work of assembling not only the publications on Egyptology and current Middle Eastern affairs, but also various reviews, articles, columns, poems and obituaries, including texts published post-mortem as well as signed with various pseudonyms or simply anonymous but attributed to Smoleński with some probability and even mentioning publications now lost.

The fruit of this labour, that is the above mentioned book, has been released by the Kraków publishing house Księgarnia Akademicka. The authors of the study allow Smoleński to speak for himself, refraining from too much editorial interference, however providing the texts with comments that allow the reader to orient himself in the Egyptologist's life and works. The book is also illustrated with some reprints of Smoleński's drawings either from his diaries or from the family archive – especially the humoristic cartoons are noteworthy. Finally the readers have access to an exhaustive, meticulously prepared book that allows them to familiarize themselves with the silhouette and writings of the first Polish Egyptologist.

Katarzyna Bodziony-Szweda