

da, stanowiąca dla autora tło do rozważań o konkretnej już powieści ekspresjonistycznej, egzemplifikowanej twórczością pisarzy z niemieckiego obszaru językowego — Franza Junga (z reprezentatywnym dla niego utworem *Trottelbuch* z 1912 r.), Kasimira Edschmida, Otto Flakego, Curta Corrintha — oraz pisarza rosyjskiego Arcybaszewa, z braku stwierdzeń syntetyzujących nie stawia w omawianym zakresie wniosków ostatecznych. Jednak jako pozycja podejmująca temat w literaturoznawstwie niedostatecznie zbadany (przez to i kontrowersyjny) stanowi niewątpliwą wartość.

Bogdan Pięcka, Wrocław

Tadeusz Parnowski, MERYTO-  
RYCZNE I EDYTORSKIE PROBLE-  
MY PODRĘCZNIKÓW (PROBLEMS  
OF CONTENT AND EDITING OF  
HANDBOOKS). Wydawnictwa Nauko-  
wo-Techniczne, Warszawa 1976, 103 pp.

Tadeusz Parnowski's work undertakes an important problem of scholarly publishing. Handbooks, because of their pragmatic literary genetics, constitute a separate category of publications. In spite of its high degree of differentiation according to the type of reader and to the content of individual publications, editing handbooks requires a specific set of publishing methods peculiar to it.

The importance of the problem is confirmed not only by the variety and increasing amount of publications in Polish and foreign literature—information about which is provided by subject bibliography and footnotes in Parnowski's work. The interest of the editors is, above all, a result of the requirements of everyday life, stormy development of science, technology, culture and new programs of elementary school and university education; all over the world.

Parnowski's book *Problems of Content and Editing of Handbooks*, a monograph concerned with the whole of operations connected with preparation and editing of handbooks, is a sum of

the author's scholarly and editorial experience in this field of literary genetics.

The first two chapters present general problems of handbooks against the background of culture and pedagogics. The author starts from the assumption that "a handbook is a publication of a consciously directed instructive role, shaping people's outlook on life, and it is a function of its times." A handbook is defined by means of series of conditions it should fulfil. In the further part of the first chapter the author shows a handbook in the context of social and cultural changes and pedagogical problems.

In the second chapter the author discusses the relationship between handbooks on the one hand and educational programs and didactic systems on the other. All the functions a handbook has to fulfil are analyzed as belonging to three basic ones: namely informational, instructive and organizing. The same chapter includes an analysis of compositional features of a handbook, a notion of its model and kinds, and a discussion of typological problems of school and university handbooks. In the same chapter the author proclaims loosening of the relationship between a handbook and educational program stating that a handbook is not a prescriptive but a facultative genre.

The third chapter of Parnowski's book is a list of editorial processes connected with a publication of handbooks, in their natural order. It starts with the first concept of a handbook and with a problem of finding suitable authors. Then the author discusses: the work of a managing editor, an assistant editor responsible for the technical side of a handbook and a graphic artist. A very important problem of cooperation between the editors, the author and the graphic artist has been underlined here. Next Parnowski examines essential typographic and graphic problems of handbooks including their typographic structure suitable for the didactic purpose, letterer's craft, variety of faces and illustrations.

The final, fourth chapter is concer-

ned with the improvement of handbooks. The author discusses the essence of improvement, understanding it as a process of modernization aiming at the increase of didactic and educational influence of a handbook. Then it is pointed out that improvement should embrace the content of handbooks as well as their didactic and editing matters. On the other hand the effectiveness of the improvement depends on close relationship between empirical research and theoretical concepts treating handbooks, from didactic and pedagogical point of view, as a generic form of information and social communication.

Further on the author considers the organizational pattern of the process of improvement introducing three variants. The first assumes that the publishing office is responsible for the whole of the work on handbooks and its modernization, with the research work done within its own branches. The second variant leaves the theory of a handbook and its school-life to special scientific research institutes, while the publishing office concentrates only on production. The third possibility assumes cooperation between a small research center of a publishing office with scientific research institutes outside it. The author does not prefer any of these variants thinking that the one assuring best effects in given circumstances should be chosen.

Then the author concentrates on the aims of research work and its methodology. After surveying research methods and techniques the author advises using several different methods at a time and stresses that attention should be paid to proper interpretation of results.

In the last part the author points

to two directions further work on the improvement of handbooks should follow. These are: closer relationship with modern technology of education many-sided international cooperation in this field (advised by UNESCO).

Parnowski's work, as it has been already mentioned, contains rich bibliography on the subject—the most important items have been included in the subject bibliography, the rest in footnotes. The summary of the book is given in Polish, German and Russian and, finally, there is an index at the end of the work.

*Problems of Content and Editing of Handbooks* by Tadeusz Parnowski is the first work in our literature devoted entirely to the theory of handbooks and publishing operations. The author avoids discussing economic problems as these would limit his general approach. The book is addressed, as the author points out, to persons studying the problems of didactics, editors interested in those problems and students of Polish Publishers' Association courses.

It should also be underlined that the book is an excellent publication in itself and became a model for a new Publisher's Library Series.

An interesting conclusion that a handbook is a generic phenomenon in a twofold sense, can be drawn from Parnowski's work. On the one hand it is a specific verbal, literary and textual genre, on the other—a bibliological one as well. Here bibliography and theory of literature from the point of view of literary genetics join and show their interdependence.

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