

SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES

BEATA WÓJTOWICZ, LIONEL POSTHUMUS

Towards Multilingualism in the Republic of South Africa

After the rule of apartheid ended in 1994, the new government of the Republic of South Africa made a substantial change in language policy by giving an official status to eleven languages spoken in the country. Besides English and Afrikaans, nine more indigenous African Bantu languages were officially recognised. Such an extensive multilingual policy is unique in the world and although very progressive, presents a serious challenge to the system of education. The article touches upon the linguistic situation in the Republic of South Africa, the distribution and popularity of various languages and the topic of how the new policy has been implemented in the sector of education.

Key words: Republic of South Africa, official languages, language policy, multilingualism

AGATA STRZAŁA

African Bioethics. A Comparative Review

Cultural bioethics is a response to the dominance of the Western approach in bioethics and medical ethics, whereby Western bioethics is identified mainly with principlism and less often with utilitarianism. Moreover, Western bioethics is perceived as a part of the postcolonial Western supremacy. As a result of this cultural turn, Confucian, Japanese, Latin and African bioethics emerged. The article is a comparative review of the main concepts, issues and branches of African bioethics. It focuses on Bantu and Igbo bioethics. Despite the differences between the authors, a common element shared by most representatives of African bioethics is criticism of individualism and of other Western cultural patterns that are incompatible with African medical challenges and cultural practices.

Key words: bioethics, *ubuntuology*, African bioethics

MARIA PIOTROWSKA

"Walking on the Water". Barack Obama from the Perspective of Kenyan Cartoonists

Political caricature has become a significant cultural text allowing us to deeply understand social emotions connected to the current, significant events. In this article, analyzing Kenyan political satire, I try to define Kenyans' approach to Barack Obama at the time of his presidency, as well as presenting US and Kenya's relations during that period. In this article my attempt is to show that Kenyan political caricature is a tool that allows the author to share emotions, judgments and opinions addressed to different social groups. Its main goal is to quickly react to the political events and to comment on them. Due to its simplicity, political caricature has an extensive audience.

Key words: Kenya, Barack Obama, political caricature, satire, media

EWA SIWIERSKA

Islam and Magic in Hausa Culture

The aim of this paper is to examine religious and magical customs widely spread in Northern Nigeria. The most popular is the practice of *sha rubutu* (literally, the drinking of the written) which is also found in other Islamic countries. It can be regarded as an essential part of the magical corpus of Islam. Both *sha rubutu* and other magical occupations like the production of charms or protective medicine are based on the belief that some verses and chapters of the Koran are especially powerful and can cure illness, as well as heal injuries.

Key words: magic in Islam, Hausa, *tsibbu*, *sha rubutu*, magical squares

JOANNA BAR

Jan Czekanowski's African Travel Diary – The Last Stage of the Journey (March 31, 1908 – April 1, 1909). Reconstruction of the Events

The purpose of this article is to attempt to reconstruct Jan Czekanowski's researches conducted between April 1908 and April 1909 in the basin of the Uele River in Central Africa. The basis for reconstruction was the fragment of the original, hitherto unpublished manuscript, Diary of the anthropological-ethnological column of the expedition to Central Africa in the years 1907–1909, written according to the requirements of the organisers during the expedition. This

manuscript has not been published to date, although it is preserved in a very good condition, with almost two full sets of texts written in German (fragments are written also in French, Polish and African languages). The collection is stored in the Department of Manuscripts of the Warsaw University Library, deposited there by Anna Czekanowska, the daughter of the researcher. It comprises 11 notebooks and one folder with a total quantity of 1,187 cards.

Key words: Jan Czekanowski, travel diary, Central Africa, Azande

MICHAŁ LEŚNIEWSKI

Natalia Republic – A State or a Declaration? Reflections on the Early Forms of State Amongst the Boers in Natal in the Years 1838–1842

Was the Boer Republic of Natalia a state? The article discusses the question of whether the Natalia Republic was a state. Through the presentation of its history, its institutions and mechanisms of functioning, the author tries to present the character of this polity. He shows that in this case, one may observe the coexistence of institutions typical of the modern state and pre-state polities. This leads him to the conclusion that the Republic of Natalia was an unfinished project, and idea of a state, but not a state in the true sense of the word.

Key words: Africa, History, South Africa, a History of South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal, a History of KwaZulu-Natal, Republic of Natalia