Abstract

Roman PAZDERSKÝ, The Historian W. W. Tomek and His Importance in the Czech Historiography, dissertation thesis, FF UK, Prague 2019

This dissertation thesis is an attempt to thoroughly evaluate the significance of the Czech historian Wacsław Władiwoj Tomek (1818-1905) for Czech historiography. The basic methodological assumption of the work is the belief that the meaning of Tomek's intellectual contribution can be adequately understood only on the basis of the broader contexts of his life and work, which are perceived in his integral interconnection with the corresponding social, political and cultural contexts of the history of the Czech society in the 19th century. The introductory chapters provide a detailed overview of the sources and literature on the subject, including the discussion of W. W. Tomek's present reflections in a wider rather than narrow historiographical space. The essential part of the introduction is the subchapter Czech Historiography as a Research Topic, aiming to find a suitable conceptualization key for competent reflections on the changes of the Czech historiography of the 19th century on the background of relevant social and historical contexts. The following chapter, titled "Long Life in a Short Impression," presents a clear outline of Tomek 's life, whose aim is not to affect the exhaustive biographical complex but rather the context in which is Tomek's thought needed to be anchored for an adequate understanding. The most extensive part of the work is represented by the chapter Tomek's Historical Thinking, which brings systematic analysis and the subsequent synthesis of all the essential areas of Tomek's historical contribution which he left in the Czech history, from the conception of Czech history through a specifically designed valency between science and politics, cultural historical and regional historical studies up to the interpretation concept of Austrian history and the resulting didactic texts from it.