Edmund Juśko
ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7398-7817
University of Rzeszow, Poland

Book review: Jan Ryś, Cadet Corps No. 1 part I: Lobz period (1918–1939), Ignatianum, Kraków 2022, pp. 408

In this publication, its author, Prof. Dr Hab. Jan Ryś – an excellent researcher of the history of Polish education during the period of Galician autonomy and the inter-war period, particularly in the area of the Kraków community – presented the issues of military education, which was represented by the Cadet Corps in the period of 1918–1939 in Łobzów. It should be noted that after regaining independence, the Polish authorities began the process of rebuilding military education with great enthusiasm, and one of the first schools was the Cadet School in Łobzów.

At the outset, it should be noted that, from a scientific point of view, the presented publication is the first study on the fate of cadet schools. It is based on a very wide source base, taking into account practically all possible types of historical sources and a rich source of literature on the subject. In terms of content, previous publications did not exhaust the issue under discussion. They raise the issue of the Cadet Corps, either fragmentarily in the context of other issues, or they do not use the source material and scientific apparatus.

In terms of structure, the study consists of six chapters of a problematic nature. Taking into account the research competence and scope of the author’s interests, the publication is a pedagogical-historical monograph.
In the first chapter, the author highlights the issues of the establishment of the school, its organization, and the changes that occurred within it after the takeover by the Polish community. In the second chapter, the author characterizes the didactic process carried out. The third chapter contains information on the teaching and administrative staff, their qualifications and material situation. In the fourth chapter, the author characterizes the state of the educational process at the school. The fifth chapter contains research material on the fate of cadets. In the final sixth chapter, the author presents material on the material base of the school, the principles of financing, economy and also discusses the history of the school's main building.

In addition, the publication contains a substantial introduction, a conclusion, an extremely extensive bibliography for both source materials and literature directly related to its subject matter, lists of tables, charts and an index of photographs.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that the publication in question attempts to reconstruct various aspects of the Cadet Corps from 1918 to 1939. In terms of content, the work does not raise any objections, and its thematic and chronological dimension makes it part of the ongoing research on the education of autonomous Galicia and the Second Republic in general.

All this demonstrates the author's high research integrity and good knowledge of the information base for the title research problem. Thanks to this, Prof. Jan Ryś created a valuable study of an interdisciplinary nature. Taking into account all the above qualities of the presented publication, it is necessary to express appreciation for its author. The book deserves formal recognition.

The publication should find its permanent place in every academic and school library and is of interest to researchers of this issue, students, history teachers and those interested in the subject.