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Summary

Warsaw Press Obituaries 1939–1945. Selection – Analysis – Discussion is an innovative monograph of an interdisciplinary nature. In the introductory section, the author justifies the choice of the topic and presents its scope and significance. She explains the evolutionary process and genre variants of the obituary. Furthermore, she raises awareness of the exploration and selection of the research material that strengthened national identity. In addition, the author depicts Warsaw and its inhabitants at the dawn of war. She draws our attention not only to statistical data related to the state of the resident population, but also to the area and borders of the capital. Relevant to the topic were also demographic changes that occurred between 1939 and 1945. In the second part, the author outlines the situation of the Varsovians at the time of the German attack on Poland. She discusses the course of the defence of Warsaw in September 1939 and its occupation. A full picture of the occupation period and the terror and extermination of the population of Warsaw by the Germans was presented, as well as the situation of the Jewish population in the capital and the outbreak of the ghetto uprising. The author also addressed the issue of the preparations for the outbreak and the course of the Warsaw Uprising and its consequences. Finally, the situation of the post-war capital and its reconstruction was touched upon. Part Three brings about the enormous mortality connected, among other things, to difficult living conditions of the Warsaw community. The conditions of medical care in hospitals were also outlined, as well as the religious life of the inhabitants of the capital in the temples and numerous atypical funeral services, including the specificity of the ritual of burying the dead-fallen Varsovians. Chapter Four depicts the functioning and the role of the Warsaw press in September 1939. Further, the main problem raised in this work, that is Warsaw press obituaries from September 1939 and their socio-cultural- -funeral nature, was drawn upon. Their constant and variable elements were subsequently distinguished. The analysis of the research material from September 1939 is concluded by the depiction of its specificity, Summary 484 expressed, among other things, in the mournful press article, which details information from the life of the deceased. In the next part, the author endeavours to reveal the functioning and the role played by the German rag, entitled “Nowy Kurier Warszawski”, issued in Polish between 1939 and 1945. Peculiarities of numerous Warsaw press obituaries were also indicated and examples of announcements about missing people presented. Further, a linguistic and cultural analysis of the obituaries was conducted, which shows that the addressees used uncommon metaphorical phrases, which was illustrated by numerous examples. The above depiction of the press obituaries from “Nowy Kurier Warszawski” concludes with their constant and variable elements.

Chapter Six is devoted to the period of the outburst of the Warsaw Uprising. The author discusses in detail the functioning and the role of the underground Warsaw press and the insurgent press that was its continuation. The newspapers reported primarily on current events, exerting influence on the public opinion and fostering a fighting spirit. This is followed by a discussion of the historical, cultural and moral distinctiveness of the Warsaw press obituaries, which constitute a unique document on human life and death. An inseparable part is the depiction of constant and variable elements of the mournful insurgent press announcements as well as their specificities. These insurrectionary announcements portrayed a unique identification and detailed internal and external features of the deceased as compared to the rest of the material. We can therefore use our imagination and determine what the deceased person was like. The last chapter refers to the Warsaw press obituaries from "Życie Warszawy" (1944-1945). At first, we are exposed to the functioning and the role of "Życie Warszawy" in the years 1944-1945, which was the first newspaper of the city of Warsaw in the Praga district free from insurgent fighting. This is followed by a sociocultural-funeral analysis of the Warsaw obituaries, including numerous examples. These comprise, first and foremost, family collective obituaries, collective obituaries of people who shared a common idea of action and the same circumstances of their death. The author shows constant and variable elements of the research material from "Życie Warszawy" (1944-1945). The chapter ends with the specificity of the analysed obituaries, related, among other things, to the places of the deaths of the people – the fallen Varsovians. Summary 485 In the Warsaw obituaries which were published in the Warsaw press between 1939 and 1945, not only people known in the public sphere were commemorated, but also those unknown whose lives and struggles could serve as models. Warsaw press obituaries from the period of World War II constitute a unique document that revealed the truth about the tragic events linked to fighting against the occupying forces for the freedom and independence of Warsaw and Poland from the perspective of an individual, as well as the whole community. The conclusion draws on the explication of the most significant findings resulting from separate stages of the researched material. All the mournful press announcements include the same circumstances and causes of deaths, as well as great the heroism of the Varsovians in their fight against the invader and the timeless cultivation of the memory of the dead. In addition, the author formulates research proposals for the humanities, particularly on linguistic and historical grounds.