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*Die baltischen Länder und der Norden: Festschrift für
Helmut Piirimäe zum 75 Geburtstag* ed. by Mati Laur, Enn
Küng, und Stig Örjan Ohlsson (review)

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Forschungen zur baltischen Geschichte. 2007. Bd. 2 / Hg. von Mati Laur und Karsten Brüggemann. 309 S. ISSN: 1736-4132.

Helmut Piirimäe is professor emeritus at the University of Tartu and one of the most respected researchers of the history of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century relationships between Sweden and Estonia. His work has enjoyed a most positive reception both in Estonia and in Sweden, to the point that in 1998 he was chosen to accompany then-president Lennart Meri during his official visit to Stockholm in his capacity as expert in Swedish–Estonian relationships. To mark the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday, in 2005 he received a *Festschrift* edited by his fellow professors at the University of Tartu, Mati Laur and Enn Küng, in cooperation with Stig Örjan Ohlsson, titled *Die baltischen Länder und der Norden: Festschrift für Helmut Piirimäe zum 75. Geburtstag*. The volume, containing twenty-three contributions plus a bibliography of Piirimäe’s works,

pays tribute to the Estonian scholar by expanding on various aspects of his mayor research topic, namely, the interaction between Nordic and Baltic lands in the Modern Age.

The first chapter serves as the introduction without actually being labeled as such, as it consists of personal memories of Piirimäe by Ohlsson. The Swedish scholar first met him in 1994 upon his arrival in Tartu as a lecturer of Swedish. The chapter is basically a collection of anecdotes that flesh out Piirimäe’s personality and the relevance of his activity in the life of his university. The chapter’s title, “Den förste estniska bonden som har sovitt i kungliga slotten i Stockholm,” comes from the above-mentioned 1998 Estonian presidential visit to Sweden. On that occasion, Piirimäe proudly claimed to have been the first Estonian farmer to have spent a night in the royal castle in Stockholm, thus stressing his attachment to his peasant roots and his people, as well as a good degree of self-irony.

The next chapter may come as a surprise to the reader, for it has nothing to do with Baltic or Swedish history, but is instead a reflection on the idea of the mask in ancient Mesopotamian cultures. Its author, Thomas Richard Kämmerer, attempts to apply the idea of the mask, here understood as an inner dissociation, to textual representation of gods and heroes, claiming that ritual invoca-

tions were actually playing the same role played by a mask, for through the masked language (“maskierte Sprache”) the priest was able to act as a divine stand-in. Ancient Mesopotamian culture is well beyond the reviewer’s competence, and it also has no connection whatsoever with the book’s main topic. Despite being a quite interesting reading per se (although the correlation between actual masks and ritual language is far from convincingly argued by Kämmerer), I fail to see the point of including such a contribution in a Festschrift titled *Die baltischen Länder und der Norden*.

The following chapter, “Die baltischen Länder im europäischen Kraftfeld,” is an overall narrative of the geopolitical history of Estonia and Latvia from the Viking Age to the end of the Soviet rule. It was written by the Heinz von zur Mühlen, who passed away in the same year of this Festschrift’s publication (2005). His contribution does not offer any new arguments or sources, but it nonetheless provides an effective recap of a thousand years of Baltic political and military history.

Ivar Leimus introduces the very first actual research paper of the book. His “Einige Beiträge zur Münzgeschichte Livlands am Ende des 14. Jahrhunderts” expands on the discovery of medieval coins near Tallinn in 2004. Leimus accurately describes the coins and

compares them with other sources so as to sketch the economic crisis that affected Livonia at the end of the fourteenth century.

Also related to economics is the next chapter, “Zum Rußlandhandel von Dorpat/Tartu in der Zeit seiner höchsten Blüte (Mitte des 16. Jahrhunderts),” written by Norbert Angermann. The German historian discusses the relevance of the city of Tartu in mediating between the Hanseatic League and the Russian lands up until the sixteenth century. His main source is the collection of the Tartu city council’s protocols, which are currently preserved in the Estonian Historical Archives. Thanks to Angermann’s clever analysis of the primary sources, “Zum Rußlandhandel von Dorpat/Tartu” definitively constitutes one of this book’s highlights.

Torbjörn Eng takes the reader back to the other side of the Baltic with his contribution on “Swedish Research concerning the Swedish Baltic Provinces.” Eng shows how historical research on the Baltic area in Sweden was pretty much neglected until the end of the twentieth century, despite the ancient connections between Sweden and the Baltic countries. More specifically, he pinpoints the foundation of the Department of Baltic Studies at Stockholm University in 1980 as the beginning of the Swedish academic world’s systematic effort to explore

Baltic history, and in particular those regions that happened to be under Swedish administration in the past.

Tartu is again the center of attention in the following chapter, as Ralph Tuchtenhagen investigates the history and role played by the Tartu High Court during the Swedish domination in his “Das Dorpater Hofgericht als Bestandteil der schwedischen Politik gegenüber den Ostseeprovinzen 1629–1710.” The High Court was an essential instrument for the Swedes in the management of their Baltic possessions, as they tried to juxtapose Swedish rights and administrative practices with local laws and customs. The osmosis between these two words – a cultural and political process as well as a juridical one – is well-presented here by Tuchtenhagen.

In the following chapter, the late Magnus and Aare Mörner introduce and publish a travel account written by Edmund Figrelus (1622–1675), the tutor of the scion of a Swedish-Livonian family whom he accompanied during a journey in Europe between 1646 and 1650. Only the journal’s section concerning Livonia is transcribed here by the Mörners, and the reader will definitively appreciate this first-person recount of seventeenth-century Livonia – provided that the same reader has a good knowledge of Swedish, for no English or German translation is offered.

Five years after Figrelus’s return to Livonia from his European tour, the Swedish king Karl X Gustav sent an embassy to Russia in order to discuss some diplomatic and commercial issues with Moscow. Stellan Dahlgren investigates the embassy’s progress and its final outcome through the eyes of one of its leader, the German-born Philip Cruisius von Kruisenstiern (1597–1675), in the chapter titled “Philip Cruisius von Kruisenstiern in the Swedish Embassy to Russia 1655–1658.” By reconstructing the negotiations through the documents and notes written by von Kruisenstiern, Dahlgren shows how the embassy’s failure may be read as an early sign of Sweden’s dwindling fortune as a Baltic power vis-à-vis Russia.

Commerce is again the protagonist in the next chapter, “Zwischen Mars und Merkur: Narvaer und Revaler Kaufleute im Handel mit den Niederlanden um 1675,” by Enn Küng. “Zwischen Mars und Merkur” is a fairly appropriate title, for Küng expands on the trading relationships between Tallinn, Narva, and the Netherlands and how these were conditioned by the contemporary political situation, that is, the shaky relationships between Amsterdam and Stockholm. It is worth mentioning how Küng credits Helmut Piirimäe for prompting her to study seventeenth-century trade between the Netherlands, Tallinn, and Narva.

The following chapter takes the reader to another Baltic city. “Ein Bericht über den großen Brand in Riga 1677,” written by the late Vello Helk, transcribes a letter written in 1677, which vividly describes the Riga fire that took place in the same year.

A more biographical touch characterizes “Aus dem Leben und Werk von Pastor Reiner Broocmann (ca. 1640–1704),” written by the late Sulev Vahre. A churchman, an active supporter of Swedish rule in Estonia, and a stubborn opponent of the Russian expansion toward the Baltic, Broocmann’s life and deeds are here carefully unfolded.

“Zur Rezeption der kopernikanischen Lehre im Baltikum im 17. Jahrhundert,” by Arvo Tering, is the only chapter in this book that deals with the history of science. In order to investigate the reception of Copernicus’s theories in the northern Baltic, Tering begins his contribution by mapping the institutions and scholars dealing with astronomy in Estonia and Livonia during the second part of the seventeenth century, and then he goes on to show how local astronomers, even though they did not fully embrace the new heliocentric theories, were well aware of the work of Copernicus, Kepler, and Galilei. Tering’s chapter is one of the longest, most elaborated, and admittedly most valuable contributions one may find in *Die baltischen Länder und der Norden*.

The following contribution is again a biographical one. If the previous biographies dealt with the life and deeds of some less-known personalities, this time Margus Laidre takes into account no less than Peter the Great of Russia and Charles XII of Sweden in his “Peter and Charles: Two Tough Ones in the Mirror of History.” The Estonian scholar intends to “go Plutarch” by comparing Peter and Charles’s biographies and establishing why these two rival rulers, who nonetheless shared more than one personality trait, have been subject to such diverse and polarized opinions throughout the centuries. This chapter is admittedly quite pleasant to read, but this is where the praise ends: the biographies of the two sovereigns are too vaguely sketched. Furthermore, Laidre’s analysis does not raise any noteworthy arguments: he only hints at the fact that Peter and Charles have been intensely discussed figures from the eighteenth century to the present (as if this has not been the case with several other historical personalities too), and he corroborates this statement by mentioning a few unreferenced and loosely connected statements by other authors. There is no real reflection on the history of the reception of these two great historical figures and no scholarly level source analysis, which easily makes “Peter and Charles” the weakest contribution of this book.

The following chapter was written by Helmut Piirimäe's son Partel. In his "The Pen Is a Mighty Sword: Johann Reinhold Patkul's Polemical Writings," he fleshes out the literary production of Count Patkul, one of the most controversial figures in seventeenth-century Livonia. Patkul's works are worthy of attention because they represent the most vehement defense of the traditional privileges of Baltic nobility against Charles XI's centralizing agenda, but they were also influenced by Samuel Pufendorf's doctrine of the law of nature and nations, thus representing an interesting combination of medieval instances with contemporary juridical thought.

The Baltic-German nobility's resistance against centralization also undermined Charles XI's and Charles XII's efforts to effectively reform the Swedish army. As Kalle Kroon illustrates in his chapter "Soldatutskrivning och soldathållet till den svenska armén som en del av Sveriges integrationspolitik under stormaktstiden i Estland och Livland under konungarna Karl XI och Karl XII," the transformations undergone by the Swedish forces in Estonia and Livonia in the late seventeenth century were the outcome of a compromise between the royal authority and the Baltic nobility. Kroon cunningly expands on the economic and social consequences of the kings' centralistic policies in the Baltic provinces,

first and foremost the emancipation of the Estonian and Latvian peasants from their German overlords.

Feudalism in the Swedish Baltic provinces is also the topic of Aleksander Loit's chapter, "Die Abwicklung des Lehnswesens in Estland und Livland am Ende der schwedischen Herrschaft." As Loits effectively describes, in the seventeenth century the Swedish kings aimed at breaking the feudal system in the Baltic in order to have a more efficient administration and foster economic development in the variegated provinces of the Swedish realm – a process abruptly ended by the loss of Estonia and Livonia to Russia after the Northern Wars.

Despite the severed ties with Sweden, the legislative reforms concerning land, property, and the status of the peasants did have a long-lasting effect well into the eighteenth century. The details of the land reforms promoted by Stockholm in Livonia and their afterlife are investigated by Mati Laur and Katrin Kello in the chapter titled "Zum Rechtsstatus der livländischen Bauern im Übergang von der schwedischen zur russischen Zeit."

The following chapter attempts to answer a challenging question: how have relevant episodes of Estonian history been described in encyclopedias published in Estonian neighboring countries? Torkel Jansson tackles this issue by bring-

ing up several examples from the Scandinavian countries, Germany (including the GDR), communist and post-communist Poland, and Soviet Russia. The results are remarkable, for Jansson demonstrates how vastly different narratives have been built upon the same historical events in different countries and at different times.

Military history is the protagonist of “Militia in the Baltic Provinces during the First Half of the 19th Century (1806–1856),” by Tõnu Tannberg. Focusing on the first half of the nineteenth century, Tannberg describes the role, recruiting mechanism, and political debates around the Land Militias (i.e., extemporaneous military formations to be summoned in times of crisis) of Estonia, Livonia, and Courland, paying particular attention to the disastrous consequences of home defense duties on the Baltic economy and demography.

Seppo Zetterberg ventures into a topic that has so far not really been raised in *Die baltischen Länder und der Norden*, that is, nineteenth-century cultural relationships between Finns and Estonians. In the chapter titled “Finnland und das erste allgemeine Sängerfest der Esten 1869,” Zetterberg shows how Estonian and Finnish cultural activists drew influence from each other’s work, in particular through national singing festivals, which became landmark

events for Finnish and Estonian nation-building processes.

On a completely different note, Alexander Kan describes the life and deeds of Russian Mensheviks who found shelter in Stockholm at the time of the October Revolution and after. Kan’s “Menschewiken in Stockholm vor und nach 1917” is a valid contribution as it discusses the little-known connection between these Russian émigrés and the development of social democracy in Sweden.

The Festschrift’s final contribution is Ludmila Dubjeva’s “G. A. Zamjatin (1882–1953) als Forscher der Sammlung De la Gardie.” Here, the Estonian historian introduces the reader to the work of German Andrejevič Zamjatin, a Russian scholar whose main research focused on the De la Gardie (one of the most important families in seventeenth-century Sweden) Fund of the University of Tartu, thus making an important contribution to the history of modern-age Swedish–Russian relationships.

Die baltischen Länder und der Norden is a book written by specialists for specialists, as all the contributions are admittedly addressed to readers already versed in Estonian and Latvian history and competent enough to read German, Swedish, and English (picking only one language would definitely have made the volume more accessible

to a wider audience). “Estland, Livland und der Norden” might actually have made for a more appropriate title, insofar as the book focuses essentially on the history of Estonia and Livonia, whereas Lithuania (or the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, given the book’s time frame) is totally neglected. Also, despite the presence of a bibliography and Ohlsson’s personal memories, there is a lack of a proper introduction to Helmut Piirimäe’s work, which would otherwise have been expected in a Festschrift. However, to the editors’ credit the book is fairly consistent in quality and scope: most contributions provide readers with thoughtful source analysis and actual research results, and only a few confine themselves to presenting the state of art (von zur Mühlen, Eng). Ultimately, they all stick to the point and provide some valuable food for thought on the modern history of the northern Baltic lands – with the massive exception of Kämmerer’s chapter, the presence of which in this volume is downright pointless.

In conclusion, *Die baltischen Länder und der Norden* is a fairly good Festschrift, whose main topic and some editorial choices inevitably confine it to the circle of scholars of modern Baltic and Scandinavian history. It nonetheless constitutes a valid tribute to Helmut Piirimäe and his work.

Дмитрий ШЕВЧУК

А. Шипилов. Изнанка равенства. Воронеж: Воронежский госпедуниверситет, 2011. 416 с. Библиография. ISBN: 978-5-88519-809-7.

В книге российского культуролога Андрея Шипилова *Изнанка равенства* исследуется проблема проявления в истории России двух социокультурных оппозиций: “высшие – низшие” и “свои – чужие”. Эти оппозиции конституируют социокультурное пространство и определяют характер поведения и деятельности культурных, социальных и политических акторов. При этом общий замысел автора более амбициозен и определяется как попытка “теоретически обосновать, исторически верифицировать и прогностически использовать концепцию обратной связи между внутренней и внешней дифференциацией социальных систем” (С. 3). Таким образом, данная книга является продолжением монографии “Свои”, “чужие” и другие,¹ вышедшей в московском издательстве “Прогресс-традиция” в 2008 году. Автор сам об этом пишет в начале введения, замечая, что читатель имеет дело

¹ См.: А. Шипилов. “Свои”, “чужие” и другие. Москва, 2008.