

Review of  
**S. LEŚNIEWSKI, *COLLECTED WORKS, VOLS. I-II*,  
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BARNETT AND V. F. RICKEY**

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The history of this book is long and dramatic. If you inspect the list of volumes of “Synthese Library” (formerly Reidel, now Kluwer) you can observe the lack of the volume 118. It was reserved for Leśniewski’s collected works and scheduled for 1978. The book was projected as a joint enterprise of PWN - Polish Scientific Publishers and Reidel. According to the agreement, the Polish side was responsible for the production of the whole collection. The book required special signs, because Leśniewski used a special, highly unusual logical notation. Since appropriate print characters were not accessible in Poland, they had to be ordered abroad. Unfortunately, stupid bureaucratic restrictions, typical for communist countries, prevented Polish companies, including publishing houses, from buying anything for foreign currency without special permission from the government. Since I was involved myself in the matter and, on behalf of Reidel, I negotiated with one printing house in Kraków, I remember very well that its manager was completely helpless against stupid rules. Finally, the project was given up. When computer setting of books became more popular, the editors returned to the project. Kluwer agreed, but the book, due to the efforts of J. T. Szrednicki, was moved to “Nijhoff International Series” and published in 1992.

Who was Stanisaw Leśniewski (1886-1939)? He was one of the most distinguished representatives of the Warsaw School of Logic, established by him with Jan Łukasiewicz. Leśniewski’s scientific development can be divided into two periods. In the first “philosophical” period (1911-1916), he worked on problems on the borderline of logic and philosophy, but in his second period (1916-1939), he concentrated on mathematical logic. Leśniewski intended to build a comprehensive