



Summary

Ernst Bernheim, a medievalist and one of the authors of historical methodology, belongs to the group of historians whose contribution to the European theory of history is invaluable. His works also influenced the development of historical method on other continents. At present, Bernheim and his oeuvre are of increasing interest, including his classical work *Lehrbuch der historischen Methode und der Geschichtsphilosophie*, enriched further by the author until the last edition in 1908.

The collection of Bernheim's letters, which includes not only letters to his parents, but also other sources from his childhood years, attempts to answer the question what influence his family home had on the identity of a young student and the career of a scholar. It also gives a unique insight into intellectual development of a rising academic who, in his correspondence with parents, writes about his scholarly achievements and everyday problems. His letters are, therefore, an excellent source for his biography and for the intergenerational relations in a German bourgeois family in the second half of the 19th century; they also show German universities and the academic humanist circles at the end of the *belle époque*.

This edition also complements the publications about Bernheim published in the last two decades, providing insight into his least known period of life.

The letters, written with zest, full of wit and occasional remarks on the academic world, make interesting reading, whose style the editors tried to render faithfully. The book also contains a preface in which Bernheim and his times are outlined; Bernheim's letters to his parents are also shown against the correspondence of other German academics of the second half of the 19th century.

Both the letters and the preface are published in two languages: Polish and German, whilst maintaining the scholarly distinctness of the two cultures.