Michael Jebsen 1835-1899: Reeder und Politiker: Eine Biographie has been reviewed by Ansatze: ESG-Nachrichten, April/May 2007:

"... Bert Becker, who has already published Michaelis' letters from Japan, an invaluable and well-edited document of our time, has devoted a biography to the life of this Prussian civil servant which can only be described as monumental.

In nearly 900 pages, including numerous photos, he has enlarged upon Michaelis' life, beginning with his childhood and youth at Frankfurt-on-the-Oder until his retirement at Bad Saarow where among other things, Michaelis wrote his autobiography with the indicative title Fur Staat und Volk (For State and People).

Becker's meticulous research, which includes primary documents of the time and relevant secondary sources, as well as unpublished material from Michaelis' family, is the main reason the story never becomes boring. It is also a tribute to Becker's skill in bringing this long-passed era to life as well as the complexity of the topic itself which cannot be explained in such simple terms as conservative or progressive, monarchical or democratic, etc. ..."."