

National  
Library  
Warsaw  
2001

ISSN 0867-6976

# POLISH LIBRARIES TODAY

**Vol. 5**



**THE NATIONAL LIBRARY – TRADITION AND  
CONTEMPORANEITY**



The main complex where most of the National Library's collections and services are available is situated at 213 Niepodległości Ave. All 19th and 20th century books and documents are stored here, as well as some special collections. Also, nearly all reading rooms and conservation laboratories, as well as various services for readers relevant to the character of collections, are to be found in the main complex.

#### **Address**

National Library  
al. Niepodległości 213  
02-086 Warszawa  
skr. poczt. 36

#### **Telephone numbers**

(48 22) 608 + extension number  
information about telephone numbers  
(48 22) 608 29 99  
director of the National Library  
tel./fax (48 22) 825 52 51  
tel. (48 22) 825 91 53  
e-mail: [biblnar@bn.org.pl](mailto:biblnar@bn.org.pl) (general)  
[bndyrekt@bn.org.pl](mailto:bndyrekt@bn.org.pl) (director)

#### **Information**

Alphabetical catalog of books  
tel. (48 22) 608 24 91 (-92)  
Subject catalog of books tel. (48 22) 608 24 94  
Catalog of periodicals tel. (48 22) 608 24 93  
Union catalogs tel. (48 22) 608 23 48  
tel./fax (48 22) 608 26 95

#### **Collections**

Monographs since 1801	2 077 483 vol.
Serials since 1801	722 366 vol.
Documents of social life	1 795 941 items
Cartography	80 226 items
Printed music – notes	106 481 items
Sound and audiovisual documents	52 757 items
Microforms	213 760 items
Electronic documents	1 535 items

#### **Reading Rooms**

The Reference Center (The “Informatorium”)  
The Main Reading Room  
The Humanities Reading Room  
The Periodicals Reading Room  
The Bibliological Reading Room  
The Documents of Social Life Reading Room  
The Cartographic Reading Room  
The Microform Reading Room  
The Music Reading Room  
The Sound and Audiovisual Documents Reading Room

# **POLISH LIBRARIES TODAY** Vol. 5

**THE NATIONAL LIBRARY  
TRADITION AND  
CONTEMPORANEITY**



Biblioteka Narodowa  
Warszawa 2001

# Contents

## From the Editors

The National Library as a Parlor (*Michał Jagiełło*) 3

## Chronicle

Major Events at the National Library 1918-2000 (*Joanna Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska*) 4

## History of the National Collections

*Paulina Buchwald-Pelcowa* The National Library's Historical Collections 13

*Halina Tchórzewska-Kabata* The Fortunes of National Librarianship in Poland 24

*Hanna Łaskarzewska* The Library of Stanisław August Poniatowski, the Last King of Poland 30

*Zofia Stefanowska* The Polish Library in Paris 35

## Bibliography – Tradition and the Present Day

*Andrzej Borowski* The Estreichers' *Polish Bibliography* from the Perspective of the Century Coming to a Close 41

*Krystyna Ramlau-Klekowska* The Bibliographic Institute from the Perspective of Time 47

*Jadwiga Sadowska* The Bibliographic Institute Today 51

## Research and Services

*Maciej Dąbrowski* The Research and Scientific Activity of the National Library's Division of Special Collections 55

*Jadwiga Kołodziejka* The National Library's Institute of Book and Readership 63

*Mirosława Kocięcka* Users of the National Library's Reading Rooms 67

## New Library Legal Regulations

*Stanisław Czajka* The New Library Law in Poland 72

*Krystyna Ramlau-Klekowska* Polish Legal Deposit Regulations in the Past and Today 78

*Hanna Zielińska* Legal Deposit from the National Library's Perspective 83

## Reviews

The National Library's Publications (*Halina Tchórzewska-Kabata*) 86

More Precious Than Gold. Treasures of the Polish National Library (*Karin Friedrich*) 90

Catalog of Portraits of Polish and Foreign Public Figures... (*Irena Tessaro-Kosimowa*) 92

The National Library's Publications on the History of Cartography (*Lucyna Szaniawska*) 96

A Directory to the Union Catalog of Old Prints in Poland (*Paulina Buchwald-Pelcowa*) 101

Catalog of the Manuscripts of the Polish Library in Paris (*Maria Wrede*) 103

Directory to Libraries and Information Centers in Poland (*Elżbieta Stefańczyk*) 108

Conservation Notebook – Serial Publication of Polish Conservation Specialists (*Ewa Stachowska-Musiał*) 111

Institutions – the Public – Reading Matter. Studies into the History of Reading (*Janusz Kostecki*) 115

A Study on *Robotnik (The Worker)*, the Daily Paper of the Polish Socialist Party (*Stanisław Siekierski*) 118

Libraries in the Congress Kingdom of Poland – Institutions, Books, and People (*Krzysztof Dmitruk*) 121

## Contributors

## From the Editors

# The National Library as a Parlor

Each national library acts as a special cultural institution, due to the fact of its *national* status. This is also the case with the National Library in Warsaw. Its tasks are defined in the Library Law and the Statute of the National Library. However, for understandable reasons these are only general frameworks to be filled in with subject contents.

The role and scope of the duties of a national library in the contemporary world have been earnestly discussed of late within library circles. Our Polish discussions on this topic are therefore closely linked with what has been debated for several years in many countries. The general question at hand is: what is the role of symbolic culture in the civilizational processes of the contemporary world? And more precisely: what is the role of those works of culture based in metaphor, symbols, and code referring to the heritage of the past within popular culture as dominated by new information and communication technologies? Certain methodological questions have also arisen. What does it mean that a given institution bears the status of a *national* institution? What should its relations be like with other high rank institutions active in the same field, though without national status?

This is also the background of our discussions about the National Library in Warsaw. For more than 70 years now the National Library has been fulfilling its duties as the central library of the State. Over this period of time new tasks have emerged, apart from those traditionally ascribed to the National Library by its users. The Library now has three kinds of tasks to be performed. First of

all, mention is due to the fundamental and essential duties traditionally linked with national libraries. Secondly, ours is a great public library visited mainly by students. Thirdly, it should be a cultural center that organizes meetings, exhibitions, and conferences linked mainly with the problems of the societal circulation of books, as well as one that publishes serials and monographs extending beyond bibliographic and statistical publications, that is those related to cooperation with the public library network. These three groups of tasks are of a differentiated caliber and I mention them here in what I consider their proper order of importance.

In the current special volume of "Polish Libraries Today", one devoted entirely to the past and present of the National Library in Warsaw now on the threshold of a new century, the reader will find papers dealing with various forms of the Library's activity. The volume commences with articles discussing the history and collections of the Library, as well as those of other Polish libraries that contributed to the present shape of the National Library in Warsaw. The sections devoted to bibliography, research, and user services, contain papers presenting both the historical background and the current activities of various divisions within the Library. The subsequent section gives an overview of the most recent changes in Polish library law, as per their impact on the services of the Library. Finally, in the reviews section the most important and noteworthy publications issued by the National Library during the last few years are presented and reviewed.

*Michał Jagiello*

## Chronicle

# Major Events at the National Library 1918-2000

Although the possibility of implementing the idea of a National Library – a central state library – arose only after Poland had regained her independence in 1918, the first thoughts of establishing a Polish national library were present already in the 18th century. They were closely related to the foundation of the Załuski Library, one of the most illustrious European libraries in the age of the Enlightenment. This library, opened to the public in 1747, and which from 1780 on received a legal deposit copy of publications printed within the territory of Poland, had several features of a national library. The Załuski Library, also known as the Library of the Republic, was unfortunately to suffer the same misfortunes as the whole Polish state. When Poland lost her independence in 1795 the Library's collections, numbering over 400,000 volumes, were taken as war booty to St. Petersburg. Only a small part returned to Poland in 1923-1935 as a result of the Treaty of Riga (1921), to be included into the then being organized National Library.

During the 123 years of Poland's statelessness many Polish libraries were established, both at home and abroad, both private ones as well as those opened to the public. All of them gathered together Polish literary heritage in the aim of donating their collections to the nation once Poland had regained her independence. The most renowned of the libraries established on the territory of the former Polish Republic were those of the Ossoliński National Institute in Lwów, the Działyński family in Kórnik, and the Zamoyski and Krasieński foundation libraries. As for libraries founded abroad, the Polish Library in Paris and the library of the National Polish Museum in Rapperswil deserve first mention.

### 1918 – 1919

At once with Poland's regained independence, the first petitions concerning the foundation of the National Library are presented at the Ministry of Religious Confessions and Public Education: a letter by Stefan Demby, librarian, bibliographer, bookseller, bibliophile, and expert in Polish literature comes in January 1918, and a memorial by Ludwik Bernacki, the director of the Library of the Ossoliński National Institute, follows in January 1919.

### 1919

The preliminary budget of the Polish Republic passed on July 1 for the first time allocates expenditures for the future National Library.

### 1921, February

Stefan Demby – soon to become the head of the Department of State Libraries at the Ministry of Religious Confessions and Public Education – initiates the efforts to assemble collections for the future National Library.

### 1923

According to the provisions of the Treaty of Riga, signed on March 18, 1921, which ended the Polish-Soviet War of 1919-1920, the return is begun of manuscripts, prints, and drawings from the collections of the Załuski Library and other Polish libraries taken to Russia during the period of partitioned Poland (1795-1918).

### 1927

A decision is made that the collections from the National Polish Museum (Muzeum Narodowe Polskie) in Rapperswil, Switzerland – gathered since 1870 and then transferred to Poland as a donation to the National Library – are to be stored as a deposit in the building of the Central Military Library.

### 1927, May 10

The Regulation of the President of the Republic on press law is issued which grants the future National Library the right to obtain a legal deposit copy of Polish prints published with the aim of further distribution.

**1927, September 24**

The first test issue of “Urzędowy Wykaz Druków” (The Official Index of Prints) prepared by the Department of State Libraries at the Ministry of Religious Confessions and Public Education is published. The publication will later become the Polish current national bibliography.

**1928, February 24**

The National Library in Warsaw is officially established by the Decree of the President of the Polish Republic, Ignacy Mościcki. The head of the Department of State Libraries at the Ministry of Religious Confessions and Public Education – Stefan Demby – becomes its direct supervisor, and since 1934 its first director. Due to the lack of its own seat, the Library’s collections and divisions are housed in several buildings in Warsaw.

**1929**

The Bibliographic Institute established at the National Library takes over from the Ministry of Internal Affairs the responsibility for preparing the statistics of Polish publications which is published as a quarterly supplement to the “Urzędowy Wykaz Druków” (The Official Index of Prints).

**1930**

The National Library officially takes over from the Ministry of Religious Confessions and Public Education the preparation and publication of the current national bibliography being issued as the weekly “Urzędowy Wykaz Druków Wydanych w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej i Druków Polskich lub Polski dotyczących Wydanych za Granicą” (The Official Index of Prints Issued in the Polish Republic and Polish Prints or Those Concerning Poland Issued Abroad). The Index is supplemented by “Urzędowy Wykaz Czasopism Wydawanych w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej” (The Official Index of Serials Issued in the Polish Republic) and by “Statystyka Druków Wydanych w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej” (The Statistics of Prints Issued in the Polish Republic).

**1930, November 28**

The first reading room of the National Library is opened in the building of the Higher Trade School (Wyższa Szkoła Handlowa) at 6 Rakowiecka

Street. On this occasion an exhibition of the Library’s most precious manuscripts, prints, and drawings is organized.

**1932**

The President of the Polish Republic, Ignacy Mościcki, turns over to the National Library the Wilanów Library, founded in the 19th century by Stanisław Kostka Potocki and donated to the Republic by Adam Branicki. The Library is today kept and displayed at the Palace of the Republic, where the National Library’s special collections are stored.

**1934, February 1**

Stefan Demby is officially appointed the director of the National Library (by the decision of the President of the Polish Republic).

**1937**

The National Library initiates the works on union catalog of incunables and old prints from the 15th to 18th centuries and starts compiling bibliography of 16th century *polonica*, and begins researching into the history of the book in the 15th and 16th centuries.

**1939, September 24 – 26**

During the Nazi bombardments of Warsaw almost all the collections from the National Polish Museum in Rapperswil and the Library of the Polish School in Batignolles deposited at the Central Military Library are destroyed. In the last days of September the Potocki Palace and the special collections of the National Library kept within its premises are also seriously damaged.

**1940, February 1**

The Nazi authorities close the National Library and establish the so-called Staatsbibliothek Warschau. By the decrees of July 27, 1940 and February 19, 1941 three departments are formed: Abteilung I – scientific library for the Germans (based on the collections of the University Library), Abteilung II – repository of Polish prints, closed to the public and not expanded (consisting of the National Library’s collections), Abteilung III – special collections, isolated from the National Library and other Warsaw libraries and located at

the Library of the Krasiński Endowment at 9 Okólnik Street.

#### **1944, October**

On October 2, 1944, following the fall of the Warsaw Uprising, the Poles' last and desperate rebellion against the occupant forces, the special troops of Brandkommando set fire to the collections at the Krasiński Library. The National Library thus loses most of its special collections.

#### **1944, November**

By virtue of the arrangement with the Germans, the "Pruszków Operation" (akcja pruszkowska) begins, aimed at the evacuation of the objects of art and historical book collections spared destruction and left among the ruins of Warsaw. The remnants of the National Library's collections are transported to Pruszków, a town not far outside Warsaw. The operation is completed on January 14, 1945.

#### **1945, January 18**

One day after Soviet forces entered Warsaw, the first groups of librarians arrive at the building at 6 Rakowiecka Street to start organizational work. During the next year the remnants of the collections are sorted, described, and cataloged.

#### **1945**

The Bibliographic Institute resumes its work in the middle of the year and starts to register current Polish bibliography.

#### **1946, April 1**

The National Library reopens to the public. A reading room at 6 Rakowiecka Street with a dozen seats is opened.

#### **1946, October**

"Przewodnik Bibliograficzny" (Bibliographic Guide) starts to be published and becomes the official registration of current printing output in Poland.

#### **1947, June 20**

By the decision of the Minister of Education, the National Library is granted the right to receive two legal deposit copies of publications. In 1965

this right is further enlarged to four copies, but in 1996 again restricted to two copies.

#### **1947, November 13**

The Minister of Education provides for establishing the Scientific Council of the National Library, an advisory board made up of professors, distinguished librarians, and people of the arts. In practice, the first list of members of the Council was not completed until January 25, 1955.

#### **1948**

The first two volumes of "Bibliografia Zawartości Czasopism" (Index to Periodicals) appear. The bibliography registers the articles published in Polish periodicals since July 1947.

#### **1949, June 15**

The Center for Old Book Preservation is established at the National Library's Old Prints Division. The center assumes the functions and duties of the Department of Old Books at the Ministry of Education, headed by Dr Alodia Kawecka-Gryczowa, a distinguished expert in the history of books and libraries, who now becomes the head of both the center and the Old Prints Division.

#### **1950, January**

The Microfilm Laboratory (later transformed into the Department of Microfilm Collections) is opened at the National Library thanks to a complete set of microfilm equipment received from UNESCO in 1949.

#### **1950, September**

A regulation of the Minister of Education is issued which provides for specific procedures for the acquisition, storage, and circulation in the National Library and other research libraries of certain prints inaccessible to the public (they are marked by the letter "z" from "zastrzeżone", i.e. "reserved"). This is considered the beginning of official censorship in Polish research libraries.

#### **1951**

Work begins on the subject catalog of the National Library's books published after 1801.

**1951, March**

The Reference Division is isolated from the Main Reading Room. It gathers information on the Library's collections and bibliographic facilities, and provides help to the users.

**1951**

In the newly established Division of Union Catalogs work is started on the union catalog of serials and foreign books in Polish libraries.

**1952, May 12**

The Division of Book Documentation is established, which performs the function of a special library gathering information about literature on bibliography, publishing, library and information science, and related areas.

**1954, August 19**

By virtue of the special regulation of the Council of Ministers, the Institute of Book and Readership is established at the National Library to conduct research into the history and present state of reading, including statistical data and sociological context.

**1955, February**

In the newly established Department of Publishing Statistics work is started on collecting statistics about Polish printing output. (The work had been run hitherto by the Main Statistical Office GUS).

**1956**

The Association of Polish Librarians together with the National Library organize the 1st National Conference of Bibliographers, during which problems regarding the compilation of bibliography in postwar Poland are discussed.

**1957**

For the first time in its history the National Library is given a building to house its collections and organizational units. The Library takes over the Palace of the Commonwealth at Krasiński Square and to this 17th century building reconstructed after the War it gradually transfers its microfilm, manuscript, cartographic and old book collections, as well as the Bureau of International Exchange of Publications.

**1958**

Work is initiated on the national retrospective bibliography of 20th century monographs. The bibliography comprises materials from 1901-1955 in four different categories: prints published within the country in 1901-1939, *polonica* published abroad in 1901-1939, prints published within the country in 1944-1955, *polonica* published abroad in 1939-1955.

**1958, June 20**

By virtue of a decision by the Minister of Culture and Arts, the National Library is assigned the duty of performing the functions of a standardization center in the field of librarianship.

**1958, August**

The printing-office and the bindery of the National Library are installed in the reconstructed building of the former Library of the Krasiński Endowment at 9 Okólnik Street.

**1960, April 6**

The National Library takes over the new building at 1 Hankiewicza Street initially designed for the State Archives. The building becomes its temporary seat for the 19th and 20th century collections and for the Library's divisions, while special collections are kept to this day in the Palace of the Commonwealth.

**1961, June – July**

The 19th and 20th century collections are transferred from the buildings on Rakowiecka and Koszykowa Street to the new seat at 1 Hankiewicza Street. The collections and historical furnishings of the Wilanów Library are moved to the Palace of the Commonwealth.

**1961, July 27**

The National Library is granted the right to receive a legal deposit copy of sound recordings produced in Poland.

**1962, February 15**

The law on Polish museums and on the preservation of cultural values assigns the National Library the duty of protecting and preserving the library collections which are of cultural heritage value.

**1962, May 5 – June 3**

On the premises of the reconstructed Palace of the Commonwealth the first important exhibition is organized: *Eight Centuries of Polish Literature in the Collections of the National Library*.

**1963, February 21**

The blueprint of the National Library's new seat, prepared by a group of architects headed by Stanisław Fijałkowski, is awarded the first prize in a competition organized by the Association of Polish Architects (SARP). The new library building is to be erected on a site at Pole Mokotowskie. Today's Library seat is composed of 3 parts: the collection storehouse, the building for the Library's staff, and the part for the public, which houses reading rooms, catalog rooms, reference center, conference rooms, exhibition rooms, etc.

**1965, March**

The first volume appears of an academic periodical edited and published by the National Library: "Rocznik Biblioteki Narodowej" (The National Library Yearbook).

**1966, April 28 – June 20**

To commemorate the 1000th anniversary of the Polish state an exhibition is organized: *The Book – a Monument of National Culture*, which is attended by more than 14,000 visitors, Poles as well as foreigners.

**1966, June 20**

The National Library's Bibliographic Institute organizes the 2nd National Conference of Bibliographers, during which the achievements of the postwar period are discussed.

**1968, June 9**

The law on libraries passed by the parliament confirms the National Library's status as the central library of the state and a research institution.

**1971, January 1**

The Manuscript Department starts to register literary manuscripts in Poland and creates the union catalog of literary hand-written heritage.

**1971, June**

Computer technology is applied at the National Library to the compilation of the "Centralny Katalog Czasopism Zagranicznych w Bibliotekach Polskich" (Union Catalog of Foreign Periodicals in Polish Libraries). It is one of the first attempts in Poland to apply a computer system to the compilation of library catalog databases.

**1972, July 7**

The National Library becomes a member of the Technical Committee TC 46 of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) dealing with problems of documentation.

**1973**

The Center of Data Processing is established at the National Library to carry out the task of the computerization of library and bibliographic work.

**1974, May 6 – 10**

To commemorate the 500th anniversary of printing in Poland, the National Library together with the Jagiellonian Library organize in Warsaw and Cracow an international conference accompanied by the exhibition *The Polish Book Yesterday and Today* opened at the Palace of the Commonwealth on May 6.

**1977, April 2**

The construction of the National Library's new seat in Pole Mokotowskie begins.

**1977, June 17**

The National Library together with the Jagiellonian Library and the Library of the Ossoliński National Institute launch an initiative to create the National Library Resource of Library Collection connected with a national information system. The Resource would help to preserve the most precious collections as well as to give overall information on them and enable a national policy in the area of the subject specialization of collections in Polish libraries.

**1977, September 15**

The National ISDS Center is established at the Bibliographic Institute.

**1978, April 5**

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the National Library, an exhibition is opened at the Palace of the Commonwealth on *Treasures of the National Culture*. The exhibition, organized by the National Library, the Jagiellonian Library, and the Ossoliński Endowment Library, is later moved to Cracow and to Wrocław. It was attended by more than 33,000 visitors.

**1978, June 5 – 7**

The National Library's Bibliographic Institute organizes the 3rd National Conference of Bibliographers, during which the current state of bibliography in Poland is evaluated and perspectives of its development are discussed.

**1983, April 29**

The National Library takes over the first of three buildings constructed at Pole Mokotowskie, where 19th and 20th century collections, as well as some special collections are to be kept. The first collections and divisions of the Library are moved to the new seat.

**1986**

A computer system is applied to the editing of "Przewodnik Bibliograficzny" (Bibliographic Guide), a major part of the national bibliography. Data recorded in the MARC BN format are processed with the use of the Library's in-house made software.

**1986**

The second of three buildings constructed at Pole Mokotowskie is taken over by the National Library. Individual administrative units and library offices continue to move into their new seats.

**1990, April 11**

After the fall of communism in Poland, political censorship is officially abolished; the National Library's collections marked by the letter "z" (from "zastrzeżone", i.e. "reserved") are from now on accessible without restrictions.

**1990, October 1**

The Section for the Documentation of Historical Collections is established, which cooperates with

the Bureau of the Government's Plenipotentiary for Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad at the Ministry of Culture and Arts.

**1990, December 10 – 13**

The National Library, together with the Institute of Literary Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences, organizes a conference on *Literature – control systems – alternative circulation*, which shows the history of censorship systems from the end of the 16th century up to 1990.

**1991**

The first volume appears of the English language academic periodical edited and published by the National Library, "Polish Libraries Today".

**1991**

A part of the third building at Pole Mokotowskie is taken over by the National Library. Catalogs, reading rooms and sections hitherto housed at 1 Hankiewiczza Street are now moved to the new seat.

**1991, October 10**

The first reading-room in the new Library's seat is opened, which temporarily assumes the functions of the main reading room.

**1992**

The National Library is patched into the EARN network, which enables it to use electronic mail and to search online databases.

**1992**

The National Library begins to coordinate work on the registration of collections from the Polish Library in Paris. The work is financed by the Ministry of Culture and Arts.

**1993, August 1**

The National Library is assigned the task of running the National ISBN Agency, hitherto performed by the now liquidated Składnica Księgarska (Book Repository).

**1994, April 1**

Following the decision of the Minister of Culture and Arts, the National Library takes over the publication

of five cultural periodicals: "Nowe Książki" (New Books), "Twórczość" (Creative Writing – a journal on Polish literature), "Dialog" (Dialog – a journal on Polish and world theater), "Literatura na Świecie" (Literature Abroad), and "Ruch Muzyczny" (Musical Review).

#### **1994, June**

A decision is made to use USMARC format in every library and bibliographic database in the National Library.

#### **1994, June 17**

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awards the National Library a grant to finance the purchase of an integrated library system and the necessary hardware.

#### **1994, July – September**

The Microform Reading Room and the Humanities Reading Room are opened in the new Library seat.

#### **1995**

"Przewodnik Bibliograficzny" (Bibliographic Guide) covering the 1986-1994 period is issued on CD-ROM. For the first time Polish current national bibliography is transferred into CD-ROM format with the help of an in-house made searching system MAK.

#### **1995, June 7 – 9**

The National Library's Bibliographic Institute with the cooperation of the Association of Polish Librarians organize the 4th National Conference of Bibliographers entitled *Between Tradition and Modern Times*. The proceedings are inaugurated by a special session commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Adam Łysakowski (1895-1952), the founder of the Bibliographic Institute.

#### **1995, July**

A decision is made to purchase an integrated library system INNOPAC from the American company Innovative Interfaces Inc. The system was earlier evaluated by the National Library to best perform all the important cataloging and acquisition functions.

#### **1995, September – December**

The Music Reading Room and the Main Reading Room are opened. The latter numbers 296 seats

and is the biggest of all the National Library's reading rooms. Altogether the reading rooms in the National Library's new building provide approximately 600 seats.

#### **1996**

A modern computer network with the ability to interconnect over 1,000 PCs is installed in the National Library's building at Pole Mokotowskie.

#### **1996, January**

A computer system is applied to the editing of "Bibliografia Zawartości Czasopism" (Index to Periodicals). The 1996 volume and subsequent ones are now available on CD-ROM.

#### **1996, November 7**

The Law on Legal Deposit passed by the Parliament gives the National Library the right to receive two copies of all publications, as well as audio-visual documents and – for the first time – electronic documents including computer software.

#### **1997, January**

The National Library starts handing over to the State Archives the building at 1 Hankiewicza Street after having moved all its collections and departments to the new seat at Pole Mokotowskie.

#### **1997, February 17**

The Bibliological Reading Room is opened in the new Library building.

#### **1997, June 27**

The Law on Libraries is passed by the Parliament. It defines the functions of the National Library as the central library of the state and a research center.

#### **1997, October 2 – 3**

The National Library organizes the 11th Conference of the European National Librarians (CENL). Sessions are held in the Royal Castle in Warsaw.

#### **1997, October 16 – 18**

An international conference on the automation of libraries in Eastern and Central Europe is orga-

nized in the seat of the National Library. The conference sums up the financing of library automation development in the region by the A. Mellon Foundation.

### 1998, January

The records of Polish current monographs registered in "Przewodnik Bibliograficzny" (Bibliographic Guide) begin to be downloaded into a database in an integrated library system INNOPAC. In July 1998 the processing of all new acquisitions to the Library in the system is introduced. Thus, the national bibliography of monographs is now created in the INNOPAC system and is accessible online via the Internet.

### 1998, February 24

The National Library celebrates its 70th anniversary. On this occasion a press conference is organized, during which the Library's past and present are discussed. The jubilee is accompanied also by the opening of an exhibition *Biblioteka Załuskich. Corona Urbis et Orbis (The Załuski Library. Corona Urbis et Orbis)*, which presents the 18th century forerunner of the National Library.

### 1998, October 13

A series of cultural events under the common banner *The National Library's Parlor of Publishers* is launched in the National Library. The first publisher to present itself in the parlor is the School and Educational Publishing House (WSiP). The meetings aim at attracting those milieux engaged in book production and publishing in order to prompt reflection upon the present condition of the book in Poland.

### 1998, November 5

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of Poland's regained independence, an exhibition is opened in the National Library entitled *For the Polish Roof and Polish Arms*, prepared jointly by the Library and by the Józef Piłsudski Institute in New York.

### 1998, December 2 - 4

The National Library and the Association of Polish Librarians organize the national conference on *The Automation of Bibliographic Services*.

*Regional Bibliographies – National Bibliography. The Present State and Prospects for the Future.*

### 1998, December 8

A series of cultural events entitled *The National Library's Parlor of Writers*, a counterpart of the *Parlor of Publishers*, is opened in the National Library. Its first guest is Jerzy Waldorff, Polish writer, essayist, and man of culture.

### 1999, February

Computers are installed in the catalog areas of the Library's new building so that all readers can freely access the catalog database of the National Library in the INNOPAC system on site.

### 1999, March

The National Library celebrates the symbolic turnover of the new building of the Library to its users (following the opening of the main entrance for the readers). Also, exhibition room are named after the founders of the first public and national library – Józef Andrzej and Andrzej Stanisław Załuski, while the largest auditorium in the building is named after the co-founder and the first director of the National Library – Stefan Demby.

### 1999, May 31

The National Library's Department of Taken Over Collections in Bytom is closed down after 41 years of its existence. Thousands of selected items from the collection are moved to the main seat of the National Library in Warsaw.

### 1999, November 17

The Polish Government approves the long term program *Acid Paper. Preservation Efforts to Protect Poland's Endangered Library and Archival Resources*. The National Library is appointed coordinator of the program covering research, as well as future mass deacidification installations in Poland.

### 1999, November 25

The series of exhibitions entitled *Our Neighbors – A New Perspective* is launched by the National Library. The first neighbor to be presented in this

series is Lithuania. The exhibition *In the Lithuanian Looking Glass* features selected publications and documents in Polish which show the image of Lithuania and the Lithuanians in Poland across the centuries.

**1999, December 20**

During the annual Christmas meeting of the Library's staffers the first edition of honorary diplomas *To the National Library's Friend and Patron* is launched. This diploma – featuring the image of the oldest manuscript in Polish *The Holy Cross Sermons* – is to be presented from now on to both individuals and institutions who have helped the National Library financially or donated precious items to enrich its collections. Altogether, seven institutions and four individuals have received the diploma in the first edition.

**2000, January 3**

The Documents of Social Life Reading Room is opened in the new building of the Library. For the first time this category of collections is made available to users in a separate reading room.

**2000, July 13**

An ultra-modern disinfection system is installed in the National Library, one which employs a vacuum-pressure method and will permit better preservation of collections.

**2000, September 21**

The exhibition *Ukraine-Poland: Towards a Dialogue* is opened in the series *Our Neighbors – A New Perspective*.

**2000, December 18**

The presentation of the second edition of honorary diplomas *To the National Library's Friend and Patron* takes place in the Library. This time as many as 14 institutions and 13 individuals receive the diploma, including those who made donations to the National Library within the framework of the national campaign "Buy Poland a rare book", launched by Poland's largest-circulation daily "Gazeta Wyborcza". Apart from receiving 12 incunables as a result of this campaign, the National Library was also presented with many old prints, maps, and graphical and musical items.

Compiled by *Joanna Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska*

Translated by *Wojciech Tyszka*

# History of the National Collections

Paulina Buchwald-Pelcowa

## The National Library's Historical Collections

*Abstract* Due to Poland's complex and turbulent history many book collections were decimated, dispersed – some even completely lost during the numerous instances of war, partition, and uprising. The remains of those collections – long scattered around the world – began slowly to find their way back to Poland before and after World War II. Many of them today form a part of the National Library's collections. The article identifies various sources which have enriched the National Library's present possessions. It also discusses other forms of acquiring historical collections by the Library, e.g. through purchase or donations.

The core of the historical collections of the National Library is comprised of portions of many old libraries, museums, and collections of works of art. Some of them had for a long time existed independently as public institutions or private book collections. They were created thanks to the effort and generosity of many persons and institutions and served their owners and other persons, having been destined for private and public use. The manuscripts, books, engravings, maps, and music assembled and solicitously protected for years, even centuries, were frequently threatened with destruction or dispersal. Parts of these once beautiful collections, *disiecta membra*, have been transferred to the National Library by their owners or heirs of their own free will or without their consent – by virtue of official regulations or recommendations resulting from social and political transformations or the change in Poland's geopolitical situations. Some of these treasures had to wait a long time for incorporation into the National Library; among them were, for instance, the 30,000 volumes of the Batignolles Library and the library of the Democratic Society which had been assembled by Polish emigrés, mainly in France, to be handed over to a future national library after Poland's rebirth.

The Załuski Library of the Commonwealth, opened to the public in 1747 as the Załuski Public Library, had to wait even longer before it could again serve the nation. After the Kościuszko Insurrection, that is, less than 50 years after its opening, the library was carried off to St. Petersburg. It was partly destroyed and dispersed during this

barbarous removal. Only a small part of the Załuski Library's rich collections were returned to Warsaw in 1922-1935, only to be decimated again in 1944.

In the 18th century the Załuski Library – created by two brothers, Bishop Andrzej Stanisław and Bishop Józef Andrzej – excited admiration not only for the reason of its size, but first and foremost for the reason of its content. It was Józef Andrzej Załuski's ambition to assemble documents of Polish writing as fully as possible. As early as 1732 he strove energetically to obtain all new books published in Poland. As far as manuscripts were concerned, he often had them copied if he could not get the originals. In *Programma literarium ad bibliophilos, typhotetas et bibliophegos et quosvis liberalium artium amatores...*, printed long before the official opening of the Public Library, Józef Andrzej, not yet thirty years old at that time, could rightly say that his library was "*singularis et plane unica* as far as Polish authors are concerned", that is, unique and truly exceptional. This was confirmed by a fragment of the catalog of Polish books from the years 1700-1731, annexed to the publication.

Some manuscripts were described in greater detail in *Specimen catalogi codicum manusciporum Bibliothecae Zalusciane a Joanne Daniele Andrea Janocki... exhibitum*, a beautifully edited list of 500 manuscripts, published in Dresden in 1752. In 1747, the year of its official opening, the Załuski Public Library began to present its collections under the proud name of "Bibliotheca Patria" in another catalog, also written

by J. D. Janocki, *Nachricht von denen in der Hochgräflich – Zalusischen Bibliothek sich befindenden raren polnischen Büchern* (vol. I, Dresden, vols. II-V, Breslau), which brought information on Polish books printed in 1747-1753.

The assembling of Polish books was but a part of the Załuskis' work. Józef Andrzej made many purchases during his journeys to foreign countries and his long stay abroad. Even during his exile in Kaluga in the years 1767-1772 he ordered books from the Netherlands. The co-founder of the Library, Andrzej Stanisław, made purchases on a smaller scale, but it was thanks to him that the Library not only obtained a home – the Daniłowiczowski Palace – and financial support, but was enriched by valuable books and collections, including the Library from Żółkiew with remnants of the royal collection, and family collections – those of Primate Andrzej Olszowski, and of Andrzej Stanisław's uncles Andrzej and Ludwik. Together with the books of the two brothers, Andrzej Stanisław and Józef Andrzej, the collections were to serve not only "*privatis studiis*, but also *publico patescet bono* of all scholars and students".

The Library officially opened in August, 1747. In 1761, after the death of his elder brother, Józef Andrzej put the Jesuits in charge of the library. In 1774, after the suppression of the Jesuit order, the library became a state library and as the Library of the Commonwealth was put under the care of the Commission for National Education, the first Polish ministry of education. In 1780 it was granted the privilege of obtaining a copy of every publication, thanks to which its collection of Polish books increased considerably.

Let us emphasize that from the very beginning the Library had two bases. It was national, that is, it contained the writings of all the inhabitants of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the countries linked to Poland (including Silesia), but it was also European. Foreign items predominated, as they usually did in Polish book collections in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries – and as they consequently predominate in today's special collections of early printed books, engravings, music, and maps gathered in the National Library.

The third partition of Poland and the collapse of the Kościuszko Insurrection marked the end of the Załuski Library. In January 1795, as soon as Warsaw was occupied, the library was carried

off to Russia as one of the most valuable booties of Suvorov's army. As a result of this barbarous plundering and subsequent lack of care, ten years later only 394,000 items were found in St. Petersburg, including 11,000 manuscripts and 24,000 engravings. Incorporated into the Imperial Public Library, which was set up in 1814, they formed the core of its collections. When Poland regained statehood over 120 years later, she demanded the return of her heritage. The Treaty of Riga, signed in 1921, which put an end to the Polish-Soviet war, envisaged the return of plundered museum, archival, and library collections – in particular the Załuski Library. After toilsome negotiations Poland recovered only a part of the library, i.e. nearly all manuscripts and almost half of the engravings and maps, but only one-eighth of the printed books, including 1,829 incunabula. Only a part of this reduced collection survived the Second World War – a part which, moreover, is difficult to define, for the catalog and inventories were burned.

Of the approximately 2,000 manuscripts now in the possession of the National Library, the majority (over 1,800) come from the Załuski collection. It has been established that the National Library's collection of early printed books contains some 3,500 items from the Załuski Library; they are mostly from the 17th century. Further research, in particular into 18th century books, may double this figure. However, some of the books from the Załuski Library are not those returned after the First World War. Many have been purchased or obtained through other channels. The books from the Załuski collection which have survived the many catastrophes, and those which are being recovered, testify to the historical lineage of the National Library, though this lineage is traceable rather in the sphere of ideas than in the preserved material of the first Polish public library, which was meant to be a national one, and which, after the death of its founders, was taken over by the Polish state, even though for only 21 years.

Not much, then, has survived from the first national library. In any case, not much is in the city which was its seat in the 18th century, even if to the remnants of the Załuski collections kept in the National Library we add those more numerous ones from the Library of Warsaw University and other Warsaw libraries. However, among these few saved and recovered objects from the former Załuski Library of the Commonwealth now kept

in the National Library there are true treasures, rare early Polish and foreign printed books, and invaluable manuscripts, especially early ones.

Among the most valuable treasures is the 12th century *Anastasia Evangelistary*, probably named after the wife of Duke Bolesław Kędzierzawy (the Curly). The *bas-relief* on the bottom silver facing of a *repoussé* binding, inspired by the Mose art, shows the dead figure of Anastasia at the foot of the cross. Bolesław offered the codex to the canons regular of Czerwińsk. From there it was transferred to the Library of the Warsaw Society of the Friends of Learning. After the November Uprising of 1830-31 the Society's library was carried away to St. Petersburg, and after the First World War it was returned to the National Library. It escaped destruction because in 1939, together with other valuable treasures, it was evacuated to Canada, from where it returned in 1959.

Another treasure which in the 18th century belonged to the Załuski Library is *The Old Holy Cross Annals*, once kept in the Holy Cross monastery on Łysa Góra near Kielce (whence its name). This, the oldest extant monument of Polish historiography, was copied from *Annales Regni Polonorum deperditi*, the oldest known Polish chronicle which, however, has not survived. It concerns events which occurred in 948-1122.

Among the 15 recovered illuminated codices there are works of the Cracow school from the 15th and the beginning of the 16th century (*The Missal of Erazm Ciolek*, circa 1515, and two huge Augustinian graduals: *De tempore*, 1493, and *De sanctis*, 1528) as well as foreign works: the 14th century *Calendarium Parisiense* and *Le Roman de la Rose*, both from France, the 15th century *Horae* and the Italian *Revelationes sanctae Birgittae* from the end of the 14th century.

A number of monuments of Polish language, literature, and historiography have survived. Among the most valuable are *The Holy Cross Sermons* written in the middle of the 14th century and discovered in 1890 by Professor Aleksander Brückner in the form of 18 parchment strips used to strengthen the cover of a manuscript then kept in St. Petersburg. The manuscript probably came from the monastery of canons regular at Miechów (not from the Holy Cross monastery as was previously thought and as their name would indicate). They include fragments of five sermons and one

sermon (about St. Catherine) in full. The most recent research has emphasized the high artistic level of the text as well as the fact that this is an extremely valuable monument of old Polish.

As regards historical manuscripts, mention should be made of Jan Długosz's *Annales* from the 15th century, the so-called royal codex which once belonged to King Stanisław August Poniatowski. Manuscripts of Długosz's *Annals* from various old collections are richly represented in the National Library, which has 13 codices of the *Annals* from the end of the 15th century to the middle of the 18th.

The correspondence between the founders of the Library of the Commonwealth – Józef Andrzej and Andrzej Stanisław Załuski – though unfortunately incomplete, is an extremely valuable source for research into the 18th century. It is yet another strong confirmation of Poland's ties with European, especially German and French science and culture.

The most valuable early printed books, particularly the Polish ones, have perished, but even the small collection of returned Polish 17th century books which has survived historical misfortunes contains extremely rare and interesting specimens (e.g. Arian publications from Raków). Among the foreign 17th and 18th century books (16th century ones have not survived) bibliographical, bibliographic, and medical publications are particularly noteworthy.

\*

The returning of library collections conducted in 1921-1932 was not confined only to the Załuski Library. It also concerned the collections seized from Poland in reprisal for anti-Russian political activity, especially the 1830-31 November Uprising. Thus, Poland recovered a part of the collections of the Public National Library at the Warsaw University, which contained books from several disbanded monasteries, and from the Warsaw Society of the Friends of Learning, including the collections of Aleksander and Kazimierz Nestor Sapieha from Kodeń, the collection of the Czartoryskis from Puławy, of the Rzewuskis from Sawrań, and the Sapiehas from Dereczyn. As compensation for unreturned books, Poland received books from Russian collections (among them a valuable set of 800 Elzevir editions from the collection of Graf Suchtelen).

Thanks to the collections repatriated or returned to Poland by virtue of the Treaty of Riga, the National Library acquired some 13,000 manuscripts (of which 11,000 were from the Załuski Library), over 46,000 early printed books (Załuski collections probably accounted for no more than half), and some 9,000 engravings. Some of the early prints (1,829 volumes) were incunabula. After the Germans set up what they called the Third Department of Staatsbibliothek Warschau during World War II, the most valuable collections of the National Library and other Warsaw libraries were transferred to the building of the Krasieński Library in Okólnik Street. When a special *Brandkommando* unit set it ablaze in October 1944, not much remained of the recovered works, only just over 1,900 manuscripts and some 30,000 old books, mainly foreign ones (but without incunabula, 16th century books and Polish 17th and 18th century prints). As far as the latter are concerned, about a thousand 17th century publications survived, those from the Załuski Library constituting less than half.

\*

Before the War the recovered items constituted a large part of the National Library's collection; today they account for no more than 1 per cent. When after the First World War work was started on assembling books for the future National Library, which was not opened until 1928, recovered items were neither the first nor the largest collection to be included in the Library. Pride of place must be given to the collections which came to Warsaw from the West, not from the East. In Western Europe, in France, Britain, and Switzerland, Polish emigrés had begun to assemble relics of the past as well as contemporary books, periodicals and archival records quite early. The aim was to create national collections and transfer them to Poland after her rebirth. These collections were therefore mostly of a national, Polish character, but being assembled abroad by emigrés who had close links with the countries in which they lived, they were deeply rooted in European culture. 19th century items predominated, of course, but the collections also contained earlier items, including early printed books.

After many years of endeavor, early and contemporary books, manuscripts, archival records, music, engravings, and maps from the largest

emigré collections arrived in Poland and enriched the National Library. Some of them, e.g. the 30,000 volumes of the Batignolles Library and the Library of the Democratic Society, were placed at Kórnik in 1874 as a deposit for a future national library and had to wait a long time before they were included in the collection of the National Library in Warsaw.

Some 70,000 volumes, including nearly 4,000 early printed books, over 2,000 printed and over 500 manuscript music, nearly 1,500 atlases and maps (of which 109 done by hand), engravings and 2,300 manuscripts came from the Polish National Museum in Rapperswil. One of the items acquired from Rapperswil was a 17th century book in a beautiful, though impaired binding with a bookplate of King Władysław IV Vasa. Seized by the Swedes in Warsaw in the 17th century, it was later bought in Sweden by a Polish antique dealer, Henryk Bukowski, who was a generous patron of the Rapperswil museum. It survived September, 1939 and the years of occupation, though it bears traces of the fire which destroyed most of the Rapperswil collection. It must have been thrown out of a window during the fire, as were the other 3,000 books and periodicals saved from this collection. The 40 extant manuscripts from Rapperswil are mainly records of emigré societies, works of political leaders, writers, and scholars (Seweryn Goszczyński, Joachim Lelewel), or historical documents, like *Teki* (The Files) of Adam Mielezsko-Maliszkiewicz, a rich source to the history of the 1863 January Uprising. Only just over 150 graphic works and a small number of albums and photographs of the Rapperswil collection survived the War.

In 1928 the National Library took over some 30,000 items from the Library of the Polish School in Batignolles in Paris, including over 2,000 early printed books as well as engravings, maps and 370 manuscripts. These were of a similar character to the Rapperswil manuscripts which were almost totally destroyed during the War. In the years 1975-1991 the National Library had the good fortune to be able to buy a small fragment of the Batignolles collection: seven letters by the eminent Polish Romantic poet Juliusz Słowacki as well as two letters and one poem by another Romantic writer, Cyprian Kamil Norwid.

The Polish Library in Paris transferred to the new National Library some 20,000 volumes of duplicates, including 1,100 early printed books.



1. The National Library in Warsaw. Main complex at 213 Niepodległości Ave., situated amidst the surrounding park area.



2. The National Library's main complex – view from the Pole Mokotowskie park.



3. The National Library's main complex – view from Niepodległości Ave.



4. The Palace of the Commonwealth at 3/5 Krasinski Sq. where special collections are housed (front view).



5. The Palace of the Commonwealth (view from the gardens).



6. The Wilanowska Hall in the Palace of the Commonwealth. Its historical furnishings and book collections are from the Wilanów Library.



7. The Palace of the Commonwealth – old prints collection.



8. The Main Reading Room in the National Library's main complex.



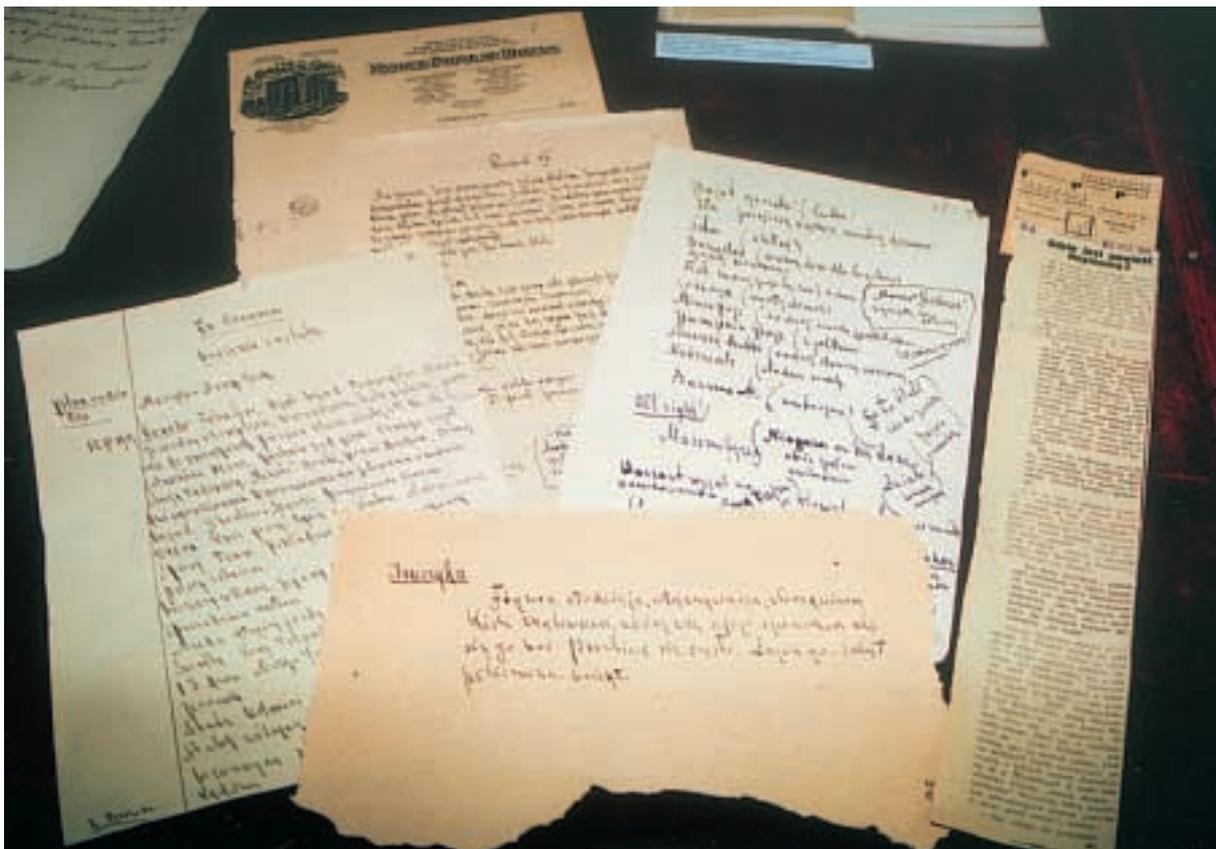
9. The Humanities Reading Room in the National Library's main complex.



10. The Reference Center (the “Informatorium”) in the National Library’s main complex.



11. The National Library’s stockrooms.



12. Manuscripts of Władysław Stanisław Reymont, the famous Polish writer (Nobel Prize for Literature in 1924), presented at an exhibition held at the National Library in October, 2000.



13. The exhibition *Biblioteka Załuskich. Corona Urbis et Orbis* (The Załuski Library. Corona Urbis et Orbis) presented in 1998 in the Andrzej and Józef Załuski Exhibition Rooms in the National Library's main complex.



14. A view into the Palace of the Commonwealth.

Smaller collections and single items arrived as gifts from Western Europe. Stefan Demby, the organizer and first director of the National Library, emphasized that a French woman, Mlle Ory was the first (in 1921) to propose to offer valuable works by the philosopher Józef Maria Hoene-Wroński to the Library. Other donators in Poland and abroad soon joined in. Most of the gifts were Polish publications from the 19th and 20th centuries; some of them were special collections, e.g. books on the history of art left by Professor Kazimierz Chłędowski and transferred to the National Library as early as 1920, or a set of chemistry books (including 364 early printed ones) left by Professor Jan Zawadzki and received by the Library in about 1929. Most collections were diversified, though works concerning history and literature predominated. Some collections included objects which belonged to special collections, e.g. the legacy of Seweryn Smolikowski contained 4,248 old prints.

The National Library was further increased thanks to the purchase of whole collections (including such important ones as those of Józef Ignacy Kraszewski, Aleksander Kraushar, and the Korytyński family), and the purchase of valuable single items, such as *The Florian Psalter* (bought by the Polish government in 1931 and offered to the National Library), many autographs, and authorized manuscript copies of Fryderyk Chopin's compositions, bought by the government in 1937.

*The Florian Psalter*, named after St. Florian's abbey near Linz in Austria where it was kept for a long time, gives the texts of psalms in three languages: Latin, German, and Polish. The codex, or rather its greatest part, was produced at the end of the 14th century in Silesia, probably at Kłodzko, as a gift for Queen Jadwiga d'Anjou; the remaining part was probably completed in Cracow after the Queen's death, at the beginning of the 15th century. This beautifully written and ornamented codex left Poland in the 16th century and came into the possession of canons regular in St. Florian's abbey somewhere before 1637.

Chopin's autographs and authorized copies with the composer's annotations (21 items) were also bought by the Polish government outside Poland, purchased in 1937 from the Leipzig firm Breitkopf and Hartel. Like *The Anastasia Evangelistary*, *The Holy Cross Sermons*, and certain other most valuable items from the National Library's

pre-war collection, they survived the War in Canada and returned to Poland in 1959.

\*

Of great importance was the take-over in perpetual deposit of nearly the whole Wilanów Library in 1932 and of the smaller Poniński Dukes' collection from Horyniec, handed over by Stanisław Karłowski already in 1925. All the Horyniec incunabula and practically all 16th and 18th century Polish books were destroyed during the War. As fortune would have it, one unique, inconspicuous item survived. This was Michał Pawlikowski's pamphlet bearing the significant title *Czy Polacy wybić się mogą na niepodległość?* (Can the Poles Win Their Independence?).

From the Wilanów Library, which had been gradually built up in the 18th-20th centuries by successive generations of the Potockis and their heirs, the National Library received over 25,000 books, nearly 1,000 manuscripts, a collection of engravings and albums, printed music, maps, globes, and the furnishings of the Wilanów Library hall: bookcases, glass-cases, chests of drawers for graphic works, as well as busts and pedestals. This made it possible to reconstruct the typical interior of a magnatial library. In the Wilanowska Hall in the National Library's Palace of the Commonwealth visitors can now admire the esthetic value of beautiful, mostly foreign, bindings, the play of colors of various kinds of leather and different methods of ornamenting the spines. Among these books are some bound by famous bookbinders, books from the libraries of French kings and the Polish king Stanisław Leszczyński, as well as a large set of books which once belonged to Ignacy Potocki. These are mostly in modest but elegant Polish bindings of light calf leather.

The Wilanów collection owed its importance not only to the esthetic value of its books or their history (as the earliest individual collections forming part of the Wilanów library date to the second half of the 17th century), but also to unattractive volumes of 18th century Polish publications. Among them mention is due especially to those from the times of the Four Year Sejm and the Kościuszko Insurrection, rare 19th century books for the common people in Silesia, and even to shoddy editions assembled alongside refined drawings and albums, foreign bibliophilic editions and basic European Enlightenment works, mainly French and

English. The Wilanów collection was assembled for such a long time by men of such different tastes and different lives that although generally and genetically it has the character of a large magnatorial library, it departs far from this model. Thanks to Aleksandra Potocka, who strove to turn the library into a monument of the nation's culture, stress was laid on Polish history and literature, and this imparted a national character to the collection.

Fortunately, the Wilanów collection generally did not share the lot of the National Library's other pre-war collections, but it too suffered losses during the Second World War. The 15th and 16th century books and manuscripts (nearly 700 items) were incorporated into Department III of the Staatsbibliothek Warschau and, after the fall of the Warsaw Uprising, were burned together with the other collections deposited there. The only items that survived the War were some 17th century manuscripts, three beautifully ornamented small French medieval codices that were evacuated to Canada in September 1939, a magnificent collection of graphic works and drawings carried off by the Germans and found after the War at Fischhorn in Austria, and about 40,000 books coming from the 17th and later centuries. The Wilanów collection which has survived also contains more than 15,000 engravings in what is known as factitious albums (*factices*). These are mainly works by foreign artists from the 16th to the beginning of the 20th century with many portraits and historical scenes, especially from Napoleonic times, as well as engravings connected with horsemanship and horse-breeding. The collection further contains more than 2,000 drawings, watercolors, and architectural designs by Poles or artists connected with Poland, such as Jan Piotr Norblin, Zygmunt Vogel, Aleksander Orłowski, Bogumił Zug, and foreign artists. As far as the latter are concerned, mention should be made of a large set of architectural drawings by Bartolomeo Francesco Rastrelli connected with his work in St. Petersburg.

\*

After 1945, though the National Library was mutilated, deprived of most of its valuable possession, manuscripts, incunabula, early Polish prints, maps, globes, engravings, albums, printed and manuscript music, and a large part of 19th and 20th century publications, it began to laboriously assemble

a national collection. This was an extremely difficult task, for the Library had no catalogs or inventories, many of its collections were scattered, and it took years to recover them. The Library began to absorb new collections, remnants or even fragments of old public and private Polish and ex-German libraries. These new collections were entrusted to it mostly by virtue of official regulations and instructions. Contrary to what was the case in the years 1918-1939, gifts and deposits were rare. Nor did the Library succeed in buying large collections, though mention should be made of Aleksander Czołowski's collection (nearly 13,000 books, several score periodicals, manuscripts, graphic works, about 10,000 maps and atlases), a part of the book collection of Antoni Filcek from London (mostly English *polonica*), Stefan Demby's library (manuscripts and some 2,500 books), manuscripts and early prints bought from the Morstins and those left by Father Ludwik Zalewski from Lublin. Valuable gifts were presented to the Library by Kazimierz Popiel (in 1946), Władysław Dąbrowski from Paris (in 1946-1970), the Tyszkiewicz's printing house in Florence (beautiful bibliophilic prints), and the widow of Stefan Kotarski (a large collection of bookplates). The Library also received the legacy of Zofia and Jędrzej Moraczewski.

What most enriched the National Library were the rescued parts of two Warsaw foundation libraries: the Library of the Krasiński Endowment and the Library of the Zamoyski Endowment. Some 97,000 volumes have survived from the former library but without its most valuable possessions, as nearly all manuscripts, incunabula, and early Polish prints were burned. Among more than ten thousand early printed books that escaped destruction there are a few *polonica*, and among some dozen manuscripts there are valuable souvenirs of Juliusz Słowacki, Zygmunt Krasiński's letters, and a 15th century collection of Polish and foreign polyphonic works known as *Codex Kras. 52*, very valuable for the history of Polish music which, among other matters, includes precious compositions of Mikołaj of Radom. The rescued part of the collection of engravings, drawings and albums consists of only just over 2,000 items, but some of them are extremely valuable, e.g. works by Antoni Oleszczyński and nearly 400 etchings by Jacques Callot. The collection contains townscapes, portraits, copperplates and lithographs,

over 100 watercolors and drawings by Aleksander Orłowski, Franciszek Smuglewicz, Zygmunt Vogel, and other artists. What has remained of early and post-1801 printed books, periodicals, music, maps and atlases has supplemented the collections of the National Library, especially its 19th century Polish section.

Some cimelia, e.g. manuscripts, incunabula and books from the first half of the 16th century as well as over 1,900 engravings, have survived from the Library of the Zamoyski Endowment. They were transferred to the National Library as a deposit by the last heir, Jan Zamoyski. The deposit of the Library of the Zamoyski Endowment, though not large, is extremely valuable. It is rich in rare prints and in manuscripts and printed books of great importance for Polish culture, especially from the Middle Ages and the 16th century (298 incunabula in 273 volumes, over 1,200 16th century books, mostly from the first half of the century). They testify to Poland's close ties with Western Europe. Among them are interesting Italian and French books and a large collection of books printed in Nuremberg. Mention should also be made of a large set of books from the library of Poland's last king of the Jagiellonian dynasty, Zygmunt August; it comprises 144 works in 94 volumes. One may say that it replaces the incinerated set of books from the same library which the National Library had previously recovered from the Załuski Library.

Particularly valuable is a beautiful copy of *La Sforziada* (Giovanni Simonetta, La Sforziada, Milano, Antonius Zarostus, 1490). One of the three extant copies now in the libraries of Paris, London, and Warsaw, it was destined for members of the Sforza family. The book may have been brought to Poland by Queen Bona of the Sforza family. The copy from the Zamoyski library contains miniatures by Pietro Birago.

Another item of great interest, though for different reasons, is the so-called *The Zamoyski Collated Cantional*, now containing 57 hymns, frequently with music. It was printed by Mateusz Siebeneicher in Cracow in 1558-1561 and was once an artificially created whole (hence its name "collated"), but was later divided into separate parts. Judging by the pagination, some hymns disappeared in the process. At the end of the 19th century, when the hymns were already in the Zamoyski Library, they were given a uniform red

binding by the Warsaw bookbinder Ahrens and were grouped in four boxes (not quite in keeping with the old arrangement). It is interesting that one of the hymns, "Eternal Memento" by Jan Dzikowski which got lost at the end of the 19th century, was recently purchased by the National Library in a second-hand book-shop and added to the other hymns.

Many of the 820 extant manuscripts of the Zamoyski Library are very valuable. Two come from the 11th century: the illuminated *Tynieć Sacramentary* and the famous *Supraśl Codex*, one of the oldest Old Church Slavonic relics. The *Sacramentary*, a magnificent book written in gold on partly purple-colored parchment with beautiful initials and two full-page miniatures in the Ottonian-Romanesque style, was produced in the Cologne diocese in about 1070 and given to the abbey at Tynieć near Cracow soon afterwards. At the beginning of the 19th century it was bought by Stanisław Kostka Zamoyski. Like the other items of the Library of the Zamoyski Endowment, it was kept in the Blue Palace in Warsaw. In November and December 1944, after the defeat of the Warsaw Uprising, when Polish librarians and museum experts in Warsaw were, with the consent of the German authorities, evacuating valuable items from various libraries and museums, *The Tynieć Sacramentary* was taken to Łowicz and hidden in the crypt of the collegiate church (while most of the items of the Załuski Library were transported by the Germans to Görbitsch in Silesia). *The Sacramentary* was entrusted to the National Library together with other deposits of the Zamoyski Library.

Much later, in 1968, the other invaluable manuscript of the Zamoyski Library, the XIth century *Supraśl Codex*, found its way to the Palace of the Commonwealth on Krasiński Square in Warsaw, where special collections of the National Library are now kept. Carried off during the War, it disappeared for many years, and finally was bought in 1967 from an anonymous proprietor in the United States in rather enigmatic circumstances and sent back to Poland.

Among other rescued manuscripts are valuable Polish treasures (the oldest include a 14th century copy of the *Chronicles* of the anonymous 12th century writer called Gall, *Catalogus archiepiscoporum Gnesnensium* by Jan Długosz, illuminated by Stanisław Samostrzelnik in about 1535,

Górski's *Teki* (The Files) from the royal chancellery from the 16th century, and Tadeusz Kościuszko's letters), as well as magnificent Italian codices (Ptolemy's *Cosmographia* and Jacobus de Voragine's *Legenda aurea* from the 15th century), French codices (the illuminated *Horae Beatae Virginis Mariae* from the 14th/15th century), Greek, Cyrillic, Arab, and Turkish manuscripts.

After 1945 the National Library acquired remnants of many other old libraries and collections. Many of them enriched the Library's special collections. Let us mention some of them. As regards the number of items and content, the most precious acquisition was that from the old Library of the Schaffgotsch family from Cieplice (Warmbrunn). Unfortunately, a lot of its possessions have been dispersed and are now in various collections all over Poland. However, most items, together with the catalogs, are now in the National Library. What was characteristic of the Schaffgotsch library was a large collection of Silesiana, but manuscripts concerning Silesia are now in the Wrocław University Library. The beautiful and valuable Schaffgotsch library was of a general humanistic character, like most magnatial libraries. Among the library's prints are many beautiful editions of books on natural sciences and about a dozen geographical atlases. The collection of engravings, comprising over 7,000 items, represents mostly German graphic art. It contains many portraits and also copies of architectural plans and outlines, views of Silesia, and maps of this region. It also contains copies of 18th and 19th century music compositions, rare printed music, and first editions of music.

Interesting collections, especially of old prints, have been acquired from other libraries in the western and northern provinces, from old school, church, and manorial libraries, e.g. from Wschowa, Legnica (Leignitz), Markowo near Morąg and also from Królewiec (Königsberg). A large proportion of these collections consists of theological books, texts dealing with local events, panegyrics, school books, as well as books of a more universal character. Let us add that books concerning school life, especially panegyrics, also abound in the Schaffgotsch collection.

One of the collections from the western provinces, that from Legnica, has greatly enriched the National Library's Department of Musical Collections. After the Second World War the Department

was created almost from scratch, for nearly all of the Library's musical documents were destroyed. Of its 28,500 items of printed music only 3,000 survived the War. Before the War the Library had more than 5,600 music manuscripts; now it has only several score 18th and 19th century manuscripts (including some magnificent Chopin compositions and Józef Elsner's autographs evacuated from Warsaw during the occupation). This is why it was so important for the Library to include in its collection music from the years 1550-1650 from the old Legnica library of Duke Georg Rudolf. It is a pity though that (like many other collections) this one, too, has been scattered. From the duke's library the National Library has acquired more than 20 anthologies of polyphonic music from 1553-1622 (unfortunately some voices are missing) and about 200 authors' editions of polyphonic music (by such composers as J. Ch. Demantius, H.L. Hassler, V. Hausmann, Orlando di Lasso, L. Merenzz and G. D. da Palestrina). This set also comprises 9 handwritten voice books and two 17th century organ tabulatures.

The large and small book collections transferred to the National Library after 1945 from the central and eastern regions came mostly from manorial, but also from institutional libraries which were open to the public and were often well known. These libraries, especially the manorial ones, enriched the section of Polish prints and added many valuable early editions to the collection of foreign books. Books and graphic art from France and the Netherlands predominated in these libraries. Italy was not so well represented. What disappeared from the National Library's pre-war collection were above all Polish prints, which naturally had a long-lasting impact on the character of the National Library's holdings.

After 1945 foreign books predominated, especially among the old prints which the Library was then receiving. A beautiful set came from the library of the palace at Jabłonna near Warsaw, a property which frequently changed hands in the 19th and 20th centuries. The palace and library were owned by representatives of the Poniątkowskis, the Potockis, and the Tyszkiewiczzes. This collection was later enriched by another library which was kept in Zator. Among several hundred books and some 660 old prints found in both these libraries there are only 27 Polish ones and these are from the 18th century. The joint collection

of these two libraries, which is in a good state of preservation and is notable for its beautiful ornamental bindings, is an example of a magnatial library; it is composed mainly of French books and works by well-known authors.

Other collections transferred to the National Library after 1945 contain (in addition to old and post-1801 prints) many valuable engravings and manuscripts. For example, the 19th century collection of the Czetwertyńskis contains more than 2,000 large-scale graphic illustrations and 100 drawings concerning mainly Poland, as well as works by such famous artists as Albrecht Dürer. As regards subjects, the most frequent are landscapes, portraits, and circumstantial prints (invitations, visiting-cards, etc.), eagerly collected in the 19th century.

A small part of the old Library of the Greek Catholic Chapter from Przemyśl was transferred in 1946 (most books were taken over by the Library of the Catholic University of Lublin). It enriched the National Library by, among other things, some 300 manuscripts, most of them in Old Church Slavonic. Over 30 of them are medieval manuscripts, including the famous apocryphal *Przemyśl Meditation*. This collection also includes valuable old prints, a quarter of which were printed in Szwajpolt Fiol's printing house in Cracow, the first in the world to publish books in the Cyrillic alphabet, among them the famous Cyrillic *Ostróg Bible* from 1581.

Other valuable items came from the collection of the Potockis from Krzeszowice, which transferred about 2,500 prints to the National Library, among them such valuable items as the unique 1543 edition of Mikołaj Rej's *Krótką rozprawą między trzema osobami, Panem, Wójtem a Plebanem* (A Short Discussion between three Persons a Squire, a Bailiff and a Priest), and the censored sheets of the book on the church (*De ecclesia*) from the first edition of Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski's *Commentarium de Republica emendanda libri quinque* (On the Improvement of the Commonwealth) from 1551. However, it is 18th century books that predominate in the Krzeszowice collection.

A large number of valuable items came from another library in southern Poland, namely, the Tarnowskis' library in Dzików. This collection, which contained many invaluable Polish prints, including those from the manor of a well-known

bibliophile, Hieronim Juszyński, had a tragic history, though this was not caused by war. The library was consumed by a fire which broke out in the Dzików palace in 1927. Nine persons died trying to extinguish it. The rescued remnants of the library survived the War in extremely difficult conditions, hidden in a damp sepulchral chapel. Rare Polish prints and incunabula were saved and transferred to the National Library. They are interesting also because of their history, if only to mention Jan Hevelius' work offered by the author to the library at Oliwa, and the valuable incunabulum *Agenda* in a Gdańsk binding, also from the Cistercian library in Oliwa, printed by Konrad Baumgarten in Gdańsk in 1499. Another valuable incunabulum from this collection is *Revelationes S. Birgittae* printed in Lubeck in 1492, the binding of which is adorned with the ex libris of the Swedish king, John III Vasa. In addition to interesting rare Polish editions with authors' dedications and traces of proof-reading (e.g. the 58 volumes of *Teatr polski* (Polish Theater) with nearly 200 plays, the publication of which was started in Warsaw by the Frenchman Pierre Dufour in 1775), the collection also contains many luxury editions (dealing with history and art history), and beautiful editions of Didots and Giambattista Bodoni. In this respect the small rescued part of the Dzików collection corresponds to the much richer collection from Wilanów.

The works which the National Library took over from the Library of the Baworowskis are of a completely different character. This small set consists of cimelia. Among extremely valuable 16th and 17th century prints are rare and unique editions. Some of them, e.g. Marcin Bielski's *Komedia Justyna i Konstancji* (The Comedy of Justyn and Konstancja), Cracow 1557, Jacob Locher's *Judicium Paradisis*, Cracow 1552, Stanisław Orzechowski's *Książki o ruszeniu ziemie polskiej przeciw Turkowi* (Books on Poland's War against the Turks), Cracow 1543, as well as a collection of picaresque literature and rare editions of books for the Catholic and Protestant churches, had once belonged to Zygmunt Czarnecki. Among nearly 140 manuscripts 10 are illuminated and 60 are from the Middle Ages, from the 13th – 15th centuries. Particularly valuable are the codices of historical works, collections of law (Casimir the Great's *Statutes*) as well as collections of documents (*Acta Tomiciana*).

The old prints, in particular the panegyrics and books concerning Lithuania, transferred from the Tyszkiewicz's collection at Czerwony Dwór, are, like the books from the Baworowski's Library, mostly bibliographic rarities. Nearly 3,500 have been transferred, among them those from Joachim Chreptowicz's library at Szczorsy. They are supplemented by archival documents from Czerwony Dwór bought recently at an auction.

\*

After 1945 the National Library also received books left by political activists, writers, scholars, musicians, artists, and artistic photographers, as well as collections assembled by private persons. They came as gifts not only from Poland, but also from Britain and France or were bought from artists, musicians, writers and their heirs. Mention should be made of the large collection left by Aleksander Czołowski and bought from his daughter in 1947. Most of the collection (over 12,500 19th and 20th century books and 270 periodicals) is Polish and so are the 830 old prints. Polish matters, especially those concerning south-eastern Poland, are the subject of manuscripts (nearly 400 items), archival family documents, legacies of writers and political leaders, records of the Polish emigration in France and Switzerland in the 19th and 20th centuries. The iconographic documents in this collection, i.e. engravings, drawings and photographs, are of a similar character. Michał Brenszajn's collection, mainly manuscripts and iconographic documents, handed over as a gift in 1948, concerns mainly Lithuania and Polish-Lithuanian relations in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The legacy and scholarly materials of Zenon "Miriam" Przesmycki, comprising about 330 manuscripts as well as graphic works and drawings, are mainly of a literary and artistic character. Particularly valuable is the largest Polish collection of Cyprian Kamil Norwid's manuscripts, drawings, watercolors, illustrations and sketchbooks assembled by Przesmycki. No less valuable in Przesmycki's collection are the materials concerning the mathematician and philosopher Józef Maria Hoene-Wroński and the editorial file of the periodical "Chimera".

The legacy of General Józef Hauke-Bosak and his family, sent from Geneva by his granddaughter, contains documents from the 1863 January Uprising, materials concerning the general's activity

in exile as well as letters by Giuseppe Mazzini and Giuseppe Garibaldi.

In view of their bibliographical character, mention should be made of the books and manuscripts which belonged to the Library's first director, Stefan Demby, and those of the liquidated State Book Institute with the collection of the well-known bibliologist, Stefan Rygiel.

The National Library's Department of Cartographic Collections, the stocks of which were almost completely destroyed during the War, during the last few years has obtained many valuable gifts, first and foremost a large collection of 121 maps from the 16th-18th centuries, assembled in England by Colonel Roman Umiastowski and transferred to the National Library by his wife Joanna in 1984. Mention should be made in particular of the map of the town and salt mine of Wieliczka, printed in Gdańsk in 1645. Colonel Umiastowski's legacy also contains the first Nuremberg edition of Copernicus' work from 1543 which the National Library did not have after the War. In 1994 and over the following years Barbara and Jerzy Czerny-Karaś from Bristol in England presented the Library with a total of about 500 maps and atlases mainly of Poland, including many valuable ones hitherto unknown. The Department has been greatly enriched by an exchange of maps with Dr. Tomasz Niewodniczański from Bittburg in Germany. The first 302 old maps of Poland came in 1981, and more came later.

The National Library has also purchased individual, extremely valuable items to enrich its special collections. As regards cartography, mention should be made above all of the extremely rare *Atlas maior* by Frederick de Wit, published in London in about 1725. As far as manuscripts are concerned, let us mention *Testamentum Novum*, an 8th/9th century illuminated codex, and autographs of many Polish writers, e.g. Juliusz Słowacki, Henryk Sienkiewicz, Stefan Żeromski, and Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński. The Iconographic Department has been enriched with etchings by Jan Ziarnko, active in Paris in the 17th century, and many contemporary artists. Many of these works have been offered as gifts, others have been bought by the Library from the artists or their heirs. As far as early prints are concerned, the Library has purchased items scattered from the historical collections of the Załuski Library, the Wilanów Library, the Library of the Zamoyski Endowment, the

Library of the Krasiński Endowment, as well as many unique specimens (e.g. 49 early prints, including unique specimens of picaresque literature, were purchased from Danuta Siodowa from Gliwice). As regards music, the Library has bought works by Apolinary Szeluta from the beginning of the 20th century, works by Witold Friemann, Grażyna Bacewicz, Antoni Szałowski, and autographs of Karol Szymanowski and Witold Lutosławski.

In these manifold ways the National Library has tried during more than 50 post-war years not only to make up for the losses suffered during the War, but also to obtain valuable new items, new collections, as well as works by contemporary artists and writers. For the National Library is truly a living library. But its greatest pride – and also its greatest concern – are works of the past.

Translated by *Janina Dorosz*

# History of the National Collections

## *Halina Tchórzewska-Kabata* The Fortunes of National Librarianship in Poland

*Abstract* Starting from Poland's first public and, in a sense, national library, that founded by the Załuski brothers in 1747, the author presents how in various historical epochs efforts were made to gather and make accessible the nation's written heritage. The successors of the Załuskis are mentioned, and their libraries, as well as the subsequent fates of these collections, are described. Finally, the author recounts the establishment of the National Library and its later development.

ADOLESCENTIBUS ILLICIUM  
SENIBUS SUBSIDIUM  
STUDIOSIS NEGOTIUM  
OCCUPATIS DIVERTICULUM  
OTIOSIS SPECTACULUM  
CONDITORI GLORIOSUM MONUMENTUM  
(Enticement for the young  
Support for the old  
Occupation for the scholarly  
Entertainment for the busy  
Spectacle for the reposing  
Glorious memorial for the Founder)

These Latin inscriptions were placed two hundred and fifty years ago over the entrance to the first Polish public – and at the same time – national library by the brothers Józef Andrzej Załuski and Andrzej Stanisław Załuski, its founders. This librarian's *credo* was more than just an eighteenth century formula of public service; it was also the sum and substance of the institution of libraries – called also “bookeries”, and on more lofty occasions, “temples of knowledge” or “dwellings of the muses”. For all their Baroque rhetoric, the founders pithily indicated the course for public and national librarianship as practiced today in many countries around the world.

In the old Poland, ruled from 1573 by elective kings, there were no favorable conditions for the emergence of a single large royal library like those founded in many European countries ruled by dynasties, and from which numerous national libraries trace their descent. And yet, learned Poles of all periods since the Renaissance have repeatedly endeavored to collect and preserve the most

valuable documents of the national intellect and culture. Along with the oldest collections of the Jagiellonian Library, other libraries also bear witness to these efforts, e.g. the royal book collections of Zygmunt August, the Vasa and Sobieski dynasties, the rich collections of the magnates and convents, the patrician libraries of the Senate of Gdańsk and Toruń, and, above all, the library founded by the Załuski brothers.

The eighteenth century Załuski Library, which had been opened to scholars and bibliophiles in Warsaw in 1747, played a special role in the history of Polish librarianship. A few years older than the British Museum Library in London, and a few decades older than the *Bibliothèque Nationale* in Paris, within scarcely half a century it became one of the most prominent and splendid European libraries of the Enlightenment. Ever since its beginning, this private endowment was intended to be a library open to the public, as well as an institution of national rank. Its immense holdings – in the year of its opening amounting to about 200,000 volumes – housed almost all the most valuable monuments of Polish writing and many treasures of European literature. Some of these works came from the collections of Polish monarchs: those of Zygmunt August, Stefan Batory, the Vasa dynasty, and Jan III Sobieski.

In the Poland of the eighteenth century a group of sophisticates, scholars, and men of letters assembled itself around a venture crucial for Polish culture – the opening in Warsaw in 1747 of the library founded by the Załuski brothers. Thus, foundations were laid for the emergence of a broad milieu of intellectuals. At the same time the first

glimmerings of an intelligentsia appeared (even though the very concept of intelligentsia was to dawn but a century later) in Poland. Publishers, printers, men of letters, historians, archivists, physicians, bibliophiles – all these emerged as a professionally active and intellectually adept social group. This was also the time when patronage over artists and scholars gradually shifted from the private to the public sphere. The private book collections – often enough founded and supported for reasons of mere prestige or out of snobbery – slowly transformed themselves into institutions for scholars. Likewise the possibilities of making a public impact were augmented for the first time by means of massively growing printing production, due in particular to the spread of periodicals.

The universal interest in literature, genealogy, heraldry, together with the *collectanea* and bibliophilism in the national spirit, all these – alongside with the development and diversification of forms of social communication – favored the emergence within the Załuski Library of the center of research, scientific information, and publishing. After all, the Załuski Public Library since its very beginning was not merely a library collection and an establishment for scholars – universally accessible and well-stocked as it was. It soon also became a center of intellectual life, the site to hold meetings and debates, and a center which inspired and developed Polish cultural life. Literary competitions, discussions, and meetings of readers' associations were held in the Library. Research and publishing initiatives (such as the processing and publication of historic data, translations, sponsoring contemporary literary output, founding the bibliographical and literary journals) were launched there.

The interests of the Załuski brothers in the professional, intellectual, and societal spheres – as well as their contacts with people active therein – reached well beyond Polish borders. Both brothers were members of Europe's intellectual elite, the result of their contacts with scholars, men of letters, and bibliophiles from Germany, France, and Italy. They searched for inspiration abroad and then brought back the well-tested solutions from the best European libraries. Experienced and well-educated foreign librarians were employed. The thrust of this is that when the Załuski brothers participated in the then emerging pan-European idea of *respublica litteraria* (at that time the most sophisticated expression of erudite interests and

pastimes of European intellectual elite) they were not satisfied merely with the private acquaintances and personal satisfaction drawn from the contacts with European culture, to which both brothers related with the ease of representatives of great community of men of letters. It needs to be stressed that both brothers knew how to use their personal interests for the public benefit.

Italy, with its Arcadian-sentimental culture, was the first country for the brothers to familiarize themselves with. Later on, they continued going there on frequent official missions. This was to the advantage of their contacts – especially those with the Vatican Library (which for Józef Andrzej was one of the major paragons in his subsequent librarian activities). Equally instructive were his early links with Paris, which brought fruit both in his love of erudition and his familiarity with the libraries there, as well as in his great susceptibility to rationalist currents in French writings. Of particular importance in the biography of the younger of the Załuski brothers was Lorraine – at the time a duchy ruled by Stanisław Leszczyński, an exiled king of Poland (and Louis XV's father-in-law), to whom Załuski stayed true for a long time. The sojourn of Józef Andrzej at Luneville contributed immensely to the enrichment of his private book collection. On the other hand, it adversely affected his subsequent ecclesiastical and political career, dependent as both were on the whims of August III the Saxon, then reigning in Poland, and of his court, hostile to the exiled Leszczyński.

Not so extensive in their scope, though still substantial, were Józef Załuski's contacts with English culture, which resulted in his brief stay in London, his reading of Shakespeare, and his translations from English. Most natural were the links both brothers established – especially at the time when the Saxon dynasty of Wettins was reigning in Poland – with the culture of Germany, and in particular that of Saxony. The close contacts of many years (both face-to-face as well as by correspondence) that the Załuski brothers had with people and institutions (such as the Berlin Academy, printing houses, publishing houses, bibliographical journals) induced not only the exchange of books, but also facilitated procuring collaborators, such as Michał Troc, Jan Daniel Janocki, Jacques Perard, and others. The bibliophile in Józef Załuski was also interested in Northern Europe – affected by the Reformation and thus more tole-

rant – where he went clandestinely in search of dissident books and new ideas.

The joint oeuvre of the Załuski brothers – the creation of a great library, both public and national at the same time – was not immune to controversy and elements of rivalry between the siblings for the credit due for the success of their “divinely inspired” attainment. From the hindsight of two hundred and fifty years they may be awarded divergent – though substantially commensurate – recognition of merit. The elder brother had greater financial means at his disposal; he also had a clear vision of the public library which would process the national literary output to make it accessible, and consistently implemented that vision. The younger brother – a devoted librarian and man of stupendous erudition – expanded the book collection with *élan*, even though chaotically, sometimes getting in debt as a result. On the other hand, he methodically and scrupulously established the principles of processing the collection, and then implemented them with near-Benedictine patience. He initiated librarian, bibliographical, and publishing ventures – unconventional and on an immense scale – which, when appraised from a distance, fall into a pattern of a well-thought-out program.

Furthermore, Poland’s first theoretical premises for public and national librarianship – ones that both brothers, but especially Józef Andrzej, set down in their writings – remain in principle stipulations current to this day. Indeed, the Załuski brothers set down the precise principles of gathering book collections and making them accessible to the public, which further indicated the desirability of the creation of a current and retrospective national bibliography, and also raised the idea of legal copyright. That is the reason why Polish librarians for many years have seen in the Załuski brothers their fore-runners and ideologues.

The library that the Załuski brothers had raised, given the wealth of its resources, could compare with the richest and grandest European libraries of the eighteenth century. Its plentiful stock, the diversity of its collections, the great range of research interests of affiliated sophisticates and scholars, as well as the significant publishing output of the Library, together with the European cultural patronage of the Załuski brothers, make the accomplishment of the two bishops the glory of Polish culture in the eighteenth century.

\*

After the death of its founders, the Załuski Library was taken over by the Commission of National Education, the first Polish ministry of education, which bestowed on it the name of *Biblioteka Rzeczypospolitej Załuskich Zwana* (The Library of the Republic Named Załuski). As a result of the general understanding of the library’s importance to contemporary Polish culture and learning, the Polish Sejm already in 1780 granted it the right to receive free legal deposit copies of all printed works issued in the country, which was to ensure that the collection of the first library of the country be complete. Still, the period of grandeur of the Załuski Library did not last long. After Poland’s loss of independence, as a result of the crushing of the Kościuszko Uprising at the turn of 1794 and 1795, the collections of the library, which numbered over 400,000 volumes at that time and comprised the most precious Polish archival items – like *Metryka Koronna i Litewska* (The Register of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania) – were taken as war booty to St. Petersburg, where they formed the core of the newly founded Imperial Library.

The tragic fortunes of the Library are one of the most moving symbols of the losses suffered by Polish culture in its history. However, the eighteenth century oeuvre of the Załuski brothers was continued – throughout the whole period of Poland’s statelessness lasting for more than a century – by many devoted individuals, both at home and abroad. Among these persons were well-known private collectors and members of the nobility. One of them was Tadeusz Czacki whose precious collections at his Porycko estate, amassed since 1795, had been crowned by his purchase of the library of Stanisław August Poniatowski (the last elective king of Poland). Another example was that of Stanisław Kostka Zamoyski, by whose order the collections of the Zamoyski Endowment (*Ordynacja Zamoyska*) were transferred in 1811 from Zamość to Warsaw. Mention is due also to Wincenty Krasiński, the founder of the Library of the Krasiński Endowment (*Biblioteka Ordynacji Krasińskich*) in 1844, for which Edward Krasiński, his descendant, later built a seat in Okólnik street in Warsaw (1910–1930). Still another of the collectors was Adam Tytus Działyński, who somewhat earlier had established

Kórnik as the seat of his library collections, rich especially in Polish sixteenth century manuscripts and incunabula. Last but not least, credit should be given to Ignacy Potocki, and in particular to his younger brother Stanisław Kostka Potocki, who not only considerably expanded the collections at Wilanów in the first decades of the nineteenth century, but also – following the example set by Andrzej and Józef Załuski – made them available to scholars and men of letters.

Private in origin, yet national in character, the library founded by the Załuski brothers inspired nineteenth century Polish bibliophiles not only to assemble family book collections, but also to undertake similar institutional initiatives. One result of such an initiative was the Ossoliński Public Library in Lwów (*Biblioteka Publiczna pod imieniem Ossolińskich we Lwowie*) founded in 1817 by Józef Maksymilian Ossoliński; another was the public library of Edward Raczyński opened in 1829 in Poznań, which throughout the whole period of the partitions operated under the name given it by its founder and engraved on the facade of the building – the Raczyński Library (*Biblioteka Raczyńskich*).

The public and national traditions of the Załuski Library were then continued by two Warsaw libraries established at the beginning of the nineteenth century: the Library of the Society of the Friends of Learning (*Biblioteka Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Nauk*), founded in 1811, and the public library opened in 1816 in the Kazimierz Palace, which – beginning in 1817 – merged with the newly founded Warsaw University, and was soon renamed the National Public Library (*Publiczna Narodowa Biblioteka*). Both of these valuable collections met a similar fate to that of the Załuski Library: following the fall of another national uprising in 1831, a large part of them was taken by the Russians to St. Petersburg.

The concept of a national public library located in Warsaw was revived before the next Polish attempt at independence, the January Uprising of 1863. First came the initiative of Konstanty Świdziński, who in the 1850s was developing a library collection for the Polish Museum (*Muzeum Polskie*), which was planned as a national foundation. Then came the establishment of the so-called Main School (*Szkoła Główna*), a college founded in Warsaw in 1862. The School's Main Library was to combine university

functions with the tasks of the central library of the Kingdom of Poland, part of the Russian Empire. As a result of the fall of the January Uprising (in 1864) and the subsequent political repressions, the Main School was abolished and, for many years thereafter, similar cultural initiatives were banned throughout the Russian sector of partitioned Poland. The collections of the Main Library were incorporated into the holdings of the University Library of the Russian University, established in Warsaw in 1871. Consequently, the Jagiellonian Library (*Biblioteka Jagiellońska*) in Cracow – one of the oldest European libraries, founded in 1364 – continued to be the most important library in the historically Polish territories. In the nineteenth century (especially in its second half) the library experienced another golden era under the management of Karol Estreicher, a famous bibliographer, and truly became the pre-eminent national book collection of that time.

The nineteenth century also witnessed numerous attempts to create national library collections outside the country. In France – the main center of Polish emigration in the aftermath of the failed November Uprising – the Polish Library (*Biblioteka Polska*) was founded in Paris in 1838, and in 1842 the Library of the Polish School (*Biblioteka Szkoły Polskiej*) was established at Batignolles. In Switzerland Polish books and memorabilia were collected in the Polish National Museum (*Muzeum Narodowe Polskie*), founded by Władysław Plater in Rapperswil in 1870. Polish libraries were established in the United States – in Philadelphia (1838) and in New York (1853). Expatriate Polish politicians, scholars, and writers, such as Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz, Adam Mickiewicz, Józef Ignacy Kraszewski, and Henryk Gierszyński also assembled valuable private collections, which later found their way to public libraries or national collections in Poland.

In the first years of the twentieth century – on the initiative of a group of scholars and writers, among them Ludwik Krzywicki, Władysław Smoleński, Stefan Żeromski – the Society of the Warsaw Public Library (*Towarzystwo Biblioteki Publicznej w Warszawie*) was established. The Library itself, which in the first years of its existence combined the functions of the city's main public library with ones of a truly national library, particularly with regard to bibliographic activity, has been functioning since 1907, and since 1914

it has been housed in permanent quarters on Koszykowa Street.

Yet the idea of a great national library, the central library of the State, acting as the archival repository of the nation's literary output and the national bibliographic, documentation, and research center, could be realized only after Poland had regained independence in 1918. An immeasurable role in the fulfillment of this concept was played by Stefan Demby, soon to become the first director of the Polish National Library, which was established by the presidential decree of February 24, 1928, i.e. 180 years after the opening of the Załuski public library and over 130 years after its collections were removed to St. Petersburg. A bit earlier, in 1927, the right to receive legal deposit copies of all publications issued in Poland had been bestowed on the National Library, whose existence was yet to be formalized.

The holdings of the Library included the recovered part of the collection of the Załuski Library, which had been returned in the years 1923-1935, in accordance with the Treaty of Riga. The National Library was also enriched with other book collections, gathered both in Poland and abroad with the intention of donating them to the Polish people once they regained independence. This entails the collections of the Polish National Museum in Rapperswil, those of the Library of the Polish School at Batignolles in Paris, and duplicate copies from the Polish Library in Paris. Among the valuable private collections donated to the National library were the Wilanów Library (*Biblioteka Wilanowska*), along with all of its furnishings, the rich Horyniec Library (*Biblioteka Horyniecka*) of the Poniński Dukes, and the unique collections of Józef Ignacy Kraszewski and Władysław Strzembosz. In 1939 the collections of the National Library numbered over 700,000 items, including 82,000 early printed books, 28,000 pieces of sheet music, 72,000 engravings and drawings, 11,000 maps and atlases. Most important of all, it preserved 24,000 manuscripts, which constituted the country's largest and most valuable collection of primary sources documenting Polish history from the beginnings of statehood up to the end of the nineteenth century.

On the eve of the Second World War the collections of the National Library were among the richest and most important in Poland, but all too soon they were to share the same tragic fate that

befell all Polish culture. Although a few religious treasures were evacuated to Canada at the beginning of the War, e.g. *The Holy Cross Sermons*, *The Anastasia Evangelistary*, *The Florian Psalter*, *The Missal of Erazm Ciolek*, along with some of Chopin's autograph manuscripts, the largest part of the Library's collections were irretrievably lost during the War. In September, 1939 the Rapperswil and Batignolles collections were almost completely destroyed. But the greatest national disaster was yet to come: this was the loss of the most precious monuments of Polish writing from the collections of three Warsaw libraries: the National Library, the University Library, and the Library of the Krasiński Endowment. These items were kept in a single building, one which was set ablaze on October 14, 1944 by the Germans. This catastrophe followed the suppression of the Warsaw Uprising when special German *Brandkommandos* violated the terms of capitulation and systematically set about destroying the city. Almost 80,000 early printed books, including the most precious XVIth-XVIIIth century *polonica*, were lost, along with 50,000 copies of sheet music and theater materials, 26,000 manuscripts, 2,500 incunabula, 100,000 engravings and drawings, priceless maps and atlases, and part of the card files and inventories. This was one of the most severe losses that Polish and world culture had ever suffered.

During the first post-war years, the activities of the National Library focused on rescuing and reassembling the scattered remnants of its collections, and on restoring the destroyed bibliographic and research infrastructure. This work was carried out mostly by the same staff that before the War had acquired and processed national collections, and during the German occupation, especially after the fall of the Warsaw Uprising, had fought heroically for the survival of at least some of the collections.

As late as 1959 the most precious monuments of Polish writing were being returned to the National Library from Canada, where they had been evacuated in September, 1939. Over the years the National Library has received numerous book collections that had been confiscated by the Germans, displaced as a result of wartime operations, or abandoned by their owners, e.g. in the so-called Recovered Territories of Poland's new west. Many private owners, especially those who were no longer capable of supporting their sometimes

considerable book collections, donated them to the Library. Of special value were the remnants of the great Polish foundation libraries acquired through donation or deposit, e.g. the libraries of the Zamoyski and Krasieński Endowments, as well as the collections of the Baworowski family from Lwów, the Greek Catholic Chapter at Przemysł, and the Schaffgotsch family in Cieplice (Warmbrunn). Many smaller collections found their way to the National Library as a result of systematic purchases, exchange with other libraries, or private donations. It is in this way that the national collections were enriched with precious archives and autographs of great Polish

writers, e.g. the collections of Zenon “Miriam” Przesmycki (including manuscripts of the great poet Cyprian Kamil Norwid), Stefan Demby, Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński, and Tadeusz Gajcy.

The collections of the National Library are continuously and systematically supplemented with the latest publications and, to a lesser extent, with retrospective materials. They constitute the ever-growing – even though in many areas irretrievably incomplete – treasures of intellectual accomplishments, past and present, of the Polish people and, to a lesser degree, other nationalities, especially those residing on present-day, or former Polish territories.

Translated by *Marek Gołębowski*

# History of the National Collections

*Hanna Łaskarzewska*

## The Library of Stanisław August Poniatowski, the Last King of Poland

*Abstract* The Royal Library of King Stanisław August Poniatowski was one of the biggest and richest Polish book collections. The article describes its contents and presents its complex history, including the Library's creation, as well as its subsequent dispersal after the King's abdication.

Two of Poland's legendary libraries have experienced similar vicissitudes. These are the Załuski Library and the library of King Stanisław August Poniatowski. The removal of these libraries from Warsaw was accompanied in both cases by dramatic events. Another fate shared by the two libraries was their further removal and dispersal throughout Russian lands, as a result of which they were not fully accessible to Polish scholars.

During the negotiations on the implementation of the Treaty of Riga<sup>1</sup>, the Polish side tried to recover the Załuski collections from St. Petersburg and the royal library from Kiev. These endeavors brought only limited success. Merely a part of the Załuski Library returned to Poland. This partial success had a tragic end, one difficult to foresee at that time, for the collections then recovered were soon to be lost yet again, and this time irretrievably so, as a result of the Second World War. One can therefore say that compared with the Załuski collection, the royal library was "lucky", for as a result of the categorical refusal of the Russian-Ukrainian side to return the library to Poland, it remained in Kiev and consequently escaped the wartime fate the special collections of Warsaw libraries underwent. Thanks to the political changes effected after 1989 and the establishment of co-operation with Ukrainian libraries<sup>2</sup>, the book collection of Poland's last king will be restored to Polish culture, at least partly, when all studies have been completed and the collection has been thoroughly cataloged, a task which has never been carried out in full.

\*

The beginnings of the royal library go back to 1764 when Stanisław August Poniatowski was elected

king and moved into the Royal Castle in Warsaw, where he could pursue his diverse passions and scholarly interests, especially bibliophilia. The royal library – created from gifts, purchases and subscriptions – served not only a bibliophile, but moreover a ruler who wanted to gain insight into state affairs himself and through his officials. The king assembled a rich collection with great expertise. He supported the development of certain branches of learning, e.g. Polish history and geography, and recommended that the library be supplied with books and manuscripts concerning Polish history, with maps, atlases and globes which were to be used in drawing up an atlas of Poland. The original documents which could not be obtained were, at the king's command, copied in Polish and foreign libraries and archives.<sup>3</sup>

At the root of the king's passion lay the idea of opening the collection to the public and allowing scholars to make use of it. For various reasons, this idea did not materialize during the monarch's life.

During the first 26 years of its existence, i.e. up to 1790, the library was unfortunate as regards librarians. The king's reader Joseph Duhamel, a Frenchman, the first library keeper, after only two years was replaced by Marc Reverdil, a Swiss, who neglected his duties. The book collection was only partly cataloged, and so, despite the king's intention, the library could not be opened to the public.

After Reverdil's death on January 22, 1790, the post was offered to Jan Chrzyciel Albertrandi, who was then in Sweden. It was Pius Kiciński<sup>4</sup>, chief of the king's cabinet, who wrote to Albertrandi to inform him of the king's proposal. Albertrandi was closely associated with the library and knew what it contained, for the king had

earlier asked him to take care of the numismatic section and later of the engraving section.

The systematic and hard-working Albertrandi quickly made up the arrears. An 11-volume catalog of the book collection was produced in 1793-1796. The library grew considerably. Historians agree that in addition to the king, it was Albertrandi who left the impress of his personality on the internal organization of the collection and the choice of books. "The content of the library was undoubtedly influenced by two minds, the mind of the king, who had diverse interests and no specialization, and that of Albertrandi, who was an ardent lover of archeology, numismatics, and theology."<sup>5</sup> The library assembled with such skill was placed in specially built quarters during the years 1779-1782. The king could proudly speak of his "grande Bibliotheque de Chateau."<sup>6</sup>

However, the days of glory were coming to an end. The third partition of Poland took place in 1795; the king abdicated and left Warsaw. After leaving the capital, he stopped over in Grodno, where he made plans to sell his art and book collections in order to pay off his debts, although he wanted to keep some works, among them those concerning Poland's history.<sup>7</sup> Poniatowski thought that the Prussian king, Frederick William II, would buy his art collection. However, the plan miscarried and the library remained in Warsaw until Stanisław August's death in St. Petersburg in 1798. When Warsaw was seized by the Prussians, the king's collection luckily escaped plunder and robbery. Albertrandi continued to look after the collection, but nothing new seems to have been added to it. After Stanisław August's death the value of the books and manuscripts was put at 223,354 Polish złotys. The library was included in the king's estate. Albertrandi, who was not recognized as an official creditor of the king, raised financial claims. He asserted that, inspired by the monarch's idea to set up a public library, he had included his own books in the king's library. He demanded 1,000 ducats in damages.

In 1803 the library of Stanisław August was bought from the king's heir, Prince Józef Poniatowski, by Tadeusz Czacki, who knew what it contained, for he had frequently availed himself of the library during the monarch's life. Czacki's idea was to give the library to a prospective secondary school. He chose only the best, most valuable books, useful for a school, a total of 15,580 items.

He also bought medals, the mineralogical collection, the astronomical observatory and pieces of furniture from the Royal Castle, including library furniture.

Two years after Czacki had purchased the library, the Volhynian Lycée was opened on October 1, 1805. In 1803 Czacki had become inspector of schools in the Volhynian, Podolian, and Kiev provinces. The decision on the location of the school was taken in 1804, when Łuck, Żytomierz, Dubno, and Krzemieniec were proposed, the latter having been chosen for the reason that it lay in the center of the Volhynian province and had at its disposal a set of former Jesuit buildings which could be easily adapted to school use.

From the beginning Czacki wanted to make the parts of the royal collection he had purchased not only a school library, but also a public collection which would be accessible to all. As far as this question is concerned, he was carrying out the king's plan to put the library at the disposal of the public.

The books and collections bought by Czacki were transported to Krzemieniec in the summer of 1805. The cases were hauled up the Bug river to the lock at Krynki, where they were loaded onto wagons and sent to their destination overland.

The whole province knew that the king's valuable library was on its way to Krzemieniec. Czacki gave publicity to the transport, and this is probably why he received additional gifts from the local nobility, aristocracy, scholars, and teachers at the Lycée. The royal collections made it possible to equip the school's numismatic, mineralogical and zoological laboratories, as well as the astronomical observatory.

The books were slowly unpacked and put in bookcases. Not all of them reached Krzemieniec in the single transport of 1805. The arrival of each successive transport was faithfully recorded in the school documents over the next few years with the annotation "books from the former royal library sent from Warsaw" (1806).<sup>8</sup> The library quarters were not yet ready in 1805 and their reconstruction and expansion lasted until 1810. From 1808 the work was supervised by Jakub Kubicki, former royal architect from Warsaw. The users and visitors of the Krzemieniec library described the quarters with admiration as "splendid, magnificent, opulent". A truly full description can be found in the memoirs of Domicjan Mieczkowski,

former pupil of the Krzemieniec Lycée.<sup>9</sup> The library rooms were so lavishly decorated thanks not only to the enormous sums of money spent on their renovation, but also to the effort of pupils who helped in construction work, and to the self-denial of teachers, for Czacki did not hesitate to suspend their salaries in order to finish construction work. In 1810 the first director of the Lycée, Józef Czech, bitterly wrote to the inspector: “it is a sad and painful sight for me to see the interior decorations of the library at a time when 50 pupils are exposed to the nasty season at the risk of their health, for they have neither shoes nor clothing.”<sup>10</sup> When the work had been finished at such great cost and social effort, bookcases from the royal library and their 28 replicas made at Krzemieniec were put into the library. The books were unpacked from cases and placed on the shelves. Everything was supervised by Paweł Jarkowski, teacher of French and ethics at the Lycée who was chosen by Czacki in 1805 to attend to the collection. However, it was only in 1809 that he officially took up the post of head of the library.

It was, of course, the king’s collection that formed the core of the Lycée’s library. Its new head, Jarkowski, drew up a brief evaluation of the portion of the royal collection which had landed in Krzemieniec. According to him, *miscellaneous works* were valuable, but the discontinuity of multi-volume publications (including periodicals) after the king’s death detracted from their value. In Jarkowski’s opinion the best editions written by a galaxy of the most prominent authors were to be found in *theology*. *Law* was represented by expensive and useful works, but there were deficiencies in regard to Roman law and political economy. Jarkowski remarked that as regards *philosophy* the library lacked works by representatives of the German philosophical school, for the section had ceased to be supplemented a few years before the king’s death. According to the head librarian, the *arts* lacked new works on architecture, mechanics, painting, and the art of war. The poorest section in the whole collection belonged to *medicine*, while *natural history* could, after some minor supplementation, be regarded as well supplied. As for the *classics*, few libraries could, in Jarkowski’s opinion, boast of such a perfect collection of Greek and Roman works. The collection was useful and impressive; it contained many different valuable editions of writings by respected

authors. Jarkowski thought that *literature* was assembled with taste and common sense, but it lacked books for the teaching of oriental languages, ancient Greek, and Latin. The *fiction* section contained selected works recognized by experts as valuable. In the librarian’s view *prolegomena of history, diplomacy and chronology* were represented by few books, though some of them were important. *Archeology* – the antiquity section was the richest section of the library; it contained some of the king’s costly gifts and could be compared with other valuable collections of antiquities. *Numismatics* was also highly evaluated by Jarkowski; the section of *geography* and *history* were, in his opinion, valuable because of the quality of the works they contained, not because of their number.<sup>11</sup>

This survey shows that Jarkowski’s main criterion was usefulness (especially for didactic purposes), that is, the completeness of each section and the scientific value of the books, but he also appreciated the bibliophilic value of the king’s collection. It is clear that the collection, assembled in the spirit of the Enlightenment, comprised too many branches and could not therefore be a sufficient base for the work of specialists.

In Krzemieniec the Warsaw collection was placed in bookcases as a separate collection called *Collectio Regia* (it is still a separate collection today); all new acquisitions were placed in a new section called *Supplementa ad Collectio Regia*<sup>12</sup>, but some items were included directly into one of the 10 sections established in Warsaw by Albertrandi, and were even added to the catalog he had compiled.<sup>13</sup>

It was known all over the country that the Krzemieniec library included the royal collection. This is why it was visited by many guests, was frequently mentioned in literature, and was spoken of with pride by former alumni of the school. The provenance of the collection awakened emotional reminiscences and was frequently used as an argument in endeavors to procure money for the purchase of books, both during the lifetime of Tadeusz Czacki and after his death in 1813.

In 1832 the Russian authorities abolished the Vilnius School District and included its schools in the Byelorussian district. This meant the end of Polish education in the western provinces of the Russian empire. When the decision was made to open a university in Kiev, the authorities

furnished it with the collections of Vilnius University and the Krzemieniec Lycée. Historians have described this decision as plunder and a requisition of Polish property.<sup>14</sup>

The transportation of the school property to Kiev started in the autumn of 1833. Some items were sent by raft, others by cart. The consignment included “la grande Bibliotheque du Chateau de Varsovie.” No facilities were put aside for the library, for St. Vladimir’s University had not yet been accorded its center. The books were placed in two districts of the city, far from each other, in rented tenement houses unsuitable for a library. Some books remained in parcels until the beginning of the 1840s. When the library was assigned rooms at the end of the 1840s and the books could finally be placed on shelves it turned out that many of them had been destroyed by improper storage and the winter transportation from Krzemieniec at the end of 1833 and the beginning of 1834. What was encouraging was that Paweł Jarkowski came to Kiev and headed the university library until his death in 1845. There is no doubt that many books of the Krzemieniec collection were saved from destruction and dispersal thanks to his care.<sup>15</sup> The first Kiev data of 1834 speak of 34,378 volumes from “the library of the former Volhynian Lycée”, as the collection was from that time on called in official documents.

Just as in 1805 King Stanisław August’s collection had formed the nucleus of the Krzemieniec Lycée’s scientific holdings, so now the school’s collection became the basis of the Kiev University’s laboratories, scientific collections, library, and archives.

The library of the last Polish king began a new life far from the place where it had been founded. It has been kept at Kiev for more than 160 years. It now belongs to the National Library of Ukraine (BNU).

\*

Poland never forgot its national heritage. When in the reborn Polish state an opportunity arose to raise claim to the collections seized and removed after the partitions of Poland, the Polish side demanded – during the negotiations on the implementation of the Treaty of Riga – that the governments of Russia and Ukraine return Polish property. The talks started by a Special Joint Commission in 1921 brought no positive results. Poland demanded

the return of the entire library of the Krzemieniec Lycée (including the royal library), but the Russian-Ukrainian side categorically rejected Polish claims, asserting that the notion “removal” used in the Treaty did not apply to the transfer of the lycée library to Kiev. Thus, Poland did not recover the collections.

In 1992, in altered political circumstances, the National Library in Warsaw and the Kiev library signed an agreement on co-operation. In accordance with its provisions, work was started in 1992 to examine Polish collections in Kiev. The coordination of the work was entrusted to the National Library’s Section for the Documentation of Historical Collections. After an initial reconnaissance, the Polish side proposed to its Ukrainian partners to jointly work out an inventory of the royal library, which is the most valuable Polish collection in Kiev.

Financial assistance was given by the Ministry of Culture and Arts, the Committee for Scientific Research and, first and foremost, by the Bureau of the Government’s Plenipotentiary for Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad, which after some time became the principal subsidizer of the work in Kiev. Teams of librarians from all over Poland have visited Kiev in the last few years (since 1992 some 40 persons have worked in Ukraine in 19 teams).

Thanks to the consent of Professor Oleksy Onishchenko, director of the National Library of Ukraine, work is being conducted in the repository containing the royal collection. Nearly 19,000 books have yet to be cataloged.

When the cataloging is finished and the collected material has been elaborated, the information will be made available to the public through a computer database in the National Library in Warsaw, in the National Library in Kiev, and the Scientific Library of the Royal Castle in Warsaw. Only when the work has been finished will it be possible to analyze the whole collection.

Having been given access to the royal library, Polish historians have uncovered a field of research offering a vast number of subjects, for they have obtained the opportunity to freely explore and microfilm the Kiev archives, which abound in sources on the history of Polish education and culture in Ukraine. Such possibilities could only be dreamed of by scholars during the inter-war period and earlier.

## Notes

1. (ed.) The Treaty of Riga, signed on March 18, 1921, ended the Polish-Soviet War of 1919-1920 and, among other matters, provided for the return of manuscripts, prints, and drawings from Polish libraries taken to Russia during the period of partitioned Poland (1795-1918).
2. This co-operation is based on the Preliminary Agreement between the Government of the Polish Republic and the Government of Ukraine on scientific and cultural co-operation, signed in Warsaw on May 18, 1992.
3. This was why the king sent his lector, Jan Chrzyciel Albertrandi, to Italy in 1782-1785 and to Sweden in 1789-1790. The journeys yielded a rich harvest: over 100 volumes of extracts from Italian and Swedish libraries and archives.
4. W. Olszewicz *Biblioteka króla Stanisława Augusta (The Library of King Stanisław August)*, "Przegląd Biblioteczny" 1931, vol. 5, pp. 21-26.
5. Ibidem, p. 30.
6. "La grande Bibliotheque de Chateau" was not the only collection of the king. Stanisław August had reference books also in his study and in his private rooms in the castle, in the Łazienki palace, and at Koźienice.
7. The exchange of letters between the king and Albertrandi on this matter has been published by T. Mańkowski *Do dziejów biblioteki Stanisława Augusta (The History of Stanisław August's Library)*, Kraków 1930. Offprint from "Przegląd Biblioteczny" 1930, vol. 4, No. 2, pp. 6-8.
8. Central State Historical Archives. F. 710, description 3 (years 1805-1821), case 327, k. 24v.
9. D. Mieczkowski *Wspomnienia krzemienieckie Domicjana Mieczkowskiego (Domicjan Mieczkowski's Krzemieniec Memoirs)*, ed. M. Danilewiczowa, "Rocznik Wołyński" 1939, pp. 249-252.
10. Quoted after M. Danilewiczowa *Życie naukowe dawnego liceum Krzemienieckiego (Academic Life in the Old Krzemieniec Lycée)*, "Nauka Polska" 1937, vol. 22, p. 86, note 1. The way Czacki managed finances aroused the donors' doubts. The tsar's rescript of September 23, 1810 set up a Special Commission which was to examine whether the inspector was spending funds in a justified way.
11. P. Jarkowski *Wiadomość o bibliotece Liceum Krzemienieckiego i owej porządku udzielona przez jej bibliotekarza Pawła Jarkowskiego Joachimowi Lelelewowi roku 1825 (Information on the Library of the Krzemieniec Lycée and Its Arrangement, Imparted by the Librarian Paweł Jarkowski to Joachim Lelelew in 1825)*, edited and prefaced by M. Danilewiczowa, "Rocznik Wołyński" 1935, vol. 4, pp. 81-83.
12. All acquisitions which did not directly supplement *Collectio Regia* were called *Collectio Nova*.
13. Since the Krzemieniec period, Albertrandi's 11-volume catalog has been the main source of information on Stanisław August's library.
14. Cf. D. Beauvois *Polacy na Ukrainie 1831-1863 (Poles in Ukraine 1831-1863)*, Paris 1967, pp. 204-205.
15. It is unquestionable that Jarkowski deserves credit for keeping watch over the Krzemieniec collection. His presence in Kiev and the way he managed the library to which he devoted 40 years of his life undoubtedly saved the book collection from even greater dispersal and destruction.

Translated by Janina Dorosz

## History of the National Collections

Zofia Stefanowska

### The Polish Library in Paris

*Abstract* An important part of Polish written heritage remains abroad in the libraries created by emigrés who were forced to leave the country after successive wars, uprisings, or repressions. One of the most important libraries of this kind is the Polish Library in Paris, founded in 1839 after the fall of the November Uprising (1830-31). This article describes both the historical context in which the library was established, as well as its collections and subsequent twists of fate.

The Polish Library is the achievement of a community formed in Paris by the Polish political emigrés who had departed from Poland after the fall of the November Uprising (1830-1831). Faced with the defeat of the uprising, politicians, officers, soldiers, writers, and publicists left the Russian part of Poland. At the end of 1831 and the beginning of 1832, some 4,000 people, mostly officers of the insurrectionary army, left the country. They went westwards, mainly to France, which in the 18th century had given asylum to Polish political emigrés. They regarded France as an ally of the Polish cause, as it was generally believed that the outbreak of the insurrection in Poland saved France from Russian intervention on behalf of the Bourbons after the July revolution. At first the exiles were enthusiastically greeted as fighters for the liberation of peoples. They were particularly warmly received in the West German states. But they were soon faced with the problem of how to live in exile for a longer time than had been originally expected. The period of revolutionary fever came to an end and hopes for an early change of the system imposed on Europe by the Holy Alliance were dashed. Stability, the nightmare of every political emigration, meant that the emigrés had to take into account the possibility of spending many years in exile.

The majority of exiles settled in France and set up their organizations and political centers in Paris. The government of Louis Philippe was not favorably disposed towards that multitude of men who, as a rule, had high military qualifications, held radical political views, and were joining the activity of such secret democratic organizations as the

Carbonari. Consequently, the French authorities put the Polish emigrés under strict police surveillance, settled them in the provinces in what was known as *dépôts*, and deported the most radical individuals. For instance, the great historian Joachim Lelewel, who was chairman of the Polish National Committee in Paris, was expelled from France. The authorities restricted the number of Poles allowed to live in Paris. An even greater difficulty for the exiles was poverty, a normal state in such a situation. Not all Poles received pay from the French government, and such pay was small in the first place. The authorities extended no grant to Mickiewicz, even though the poet was in straitened circumstances after setting up a family. Some persons could count on financial help secretly and circuitously sent by their families in Poland. But the Russian government victimized the refugees by confiscating their real estate in Poland, which reduced the chance of the emigrés getting financial aid. As time went on, some emigrants adapted themselves to their new circumstances. Young people took up studies, gained professional qualifications, and set up families. Many French families still uphold the memory of a Polish ancestor who, even though he was rarely a man of fortune, was as a rule a nobleman. However, many emigrants eked out a miserable existence, ending their life in an almshouse. Some broke down and committed suicide. There were also cases, condemned by the exiles' community, of emigrés accepting tsarist amnesty and giving up the exile's status and mission.

Despite the disadvantages of a life in exile, despite the loss of hope for a return to Poland

in the foreseeable future, and despite an acute yearning for their homeland, the Polish post-November emigration turned out to be an extremely creative community willing to embrace the modern ideas it had encountered through contacts with West European democrats. This wave of emigration has been called “Great” in Polish historiography, and it is remembered by the nation as the “Great Emigration”. It owes its prestige to the fact that it was an exceptional, unique assemblage of talents, even of creative geniuses, such as Adam Mickiewicz, Fryderyk Chopin, Juliusz Słowacki, and also Zygmunt Krasiński, whose works were published abroad, or the venerable Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz. Alongside writers, publicists, and scholars, there were also prominent statesmen, such as Adam Jerzy Czartoryski, once foreign minister and adviser to Tsar Alexander I, and later President of the insurrectionary government. However, it was not only the artistic and intellectual potential of the emigré community in Paris that made it great. The community became a center of exceptional political, publicist, and publishing activity. Contemporaries deplored the disputes which were tearing the emigration asunder, the lack of unity, the ease with which the emigrés accused their adversaries of treason. Today, with historical hindsight, we can understand the significance of these divisions and disputes. It was thanks to them that political parties and their programs were formed, that the press and the institutions of modern political life were set up. Future generations were to avail themselves of their experience. The disputes over the cause of the fall of the insurrection and over the mistakes made by commanders and the lack of a program of social reforms which would have activated the peasant masses and drawn them into the fight for independence, became a vital legacy of Polish political thought up to 1918, when Poland finally regained independence.

In addition to political organizations – of which the most important were: 1) the conservative party under the unquestioned leadership of Prince Czartoryski and called the Hôtel Lambert party from its headquarters on Isle St. Louis; and 2) the socially radical Polish Democratic Society which opposed Czartoryski – there were organizations whose aims were dictated by the community’s immediate needs. Among these were: the Scientific Aid Society set up in 1832 to help young people acquire

an education and the Literary Society (which in 1853 was renamed the Historical Literary Society and exists to this day), whose task was to collect material on Poland’s history, especially on the country’s final years of statehood, and exert an influence on French public opinion by supplying parliament and the press with information on the situation in Polish territories, and on the reprisals executed against Poles after the fall of the insurrection. The Literary Society regularly organized (and still organizes) commemorative meetings on the occasion of national anniversaries: November 29th (the anniversary of the outbreak of the uprising) and May 3rd (the anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of 1791). It tried to attract Frenchmen and influence public opinion, taking advantage of the goodwill of such French friends of the Polish cause as General M.G. de Lafayette and Charles de Montalembert (the Society struck medals in their honor). Horrifying news about the systematic destruction of Polish culture, deportations of the population, closure of schools, and the removal of libraries and museum collections was coming in from Poland. “Poland”, wrote Mickiewicz, “no longer has any libraries, periodicals, artists’ studios, universities or schools. Polish books are affected by the same proscription which affects patriots... Polish art and literature have left the country together with the dislodged army and can return to their homeland only in the train of a victorious army.”

These words come from *Appel aux peuples civilisés*, an appeal which Mickiewicz wrote at the request of the French *Société de Civilisation* (an ephemeral organization existing from 1829 to 1835) whose aim was to propagate knowledge and progress. Perturbed by press information about the destruction of Polish libraries, the organization decided to assemble a book collection for Poles. When Mickiewicz was writing this appeal at the end of 1833, the idea of setting up a Polish library in Paris was circulating among the emigrés. One year before, Aleksander Gołyński had written that a book collection, the nucleus of a national library, should be set up in Paris; a similar proposal was put forward by Leon Wodziński. The proposal aroused violent disputes. Since the circles interested in the idea were regarded as being linked to Prince Czartoryski’s party, the proposal was viewed with suspicion by the radicals; they feared that Czartoryski’s patronage would turn the library

into an institution of a conservative character. Agreement was finally reached. On November 24, 1838, representatives of two emigré organizations, the Scientific Aid Society and the Literary Society, signed an act founding the Polish Library. A Council of the Library was set up with Prince Czartoryski as its chairman. After a few months, on March 24, 1839 (this day was chosen for it was an anniversary of Tadeusz Kościuszko's oath during the 1794 insurrection), the library was formally opened. It took over the collections of the two founding organizations and two hundred books collected by the *Société de Civilisation*. During the opening ceremony a speech was made by the venerable Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz, Kościuszko's aide-de-camp who was imprisoned together with Kościuszko in the Peter Paul fortress in St. Petersburg. Niemcewicz spoke of the terrible losses suffered by Polish culture in the Russian part of Poland as a result of the partitioner's repressive policy.

That was a period when the Russian authorities applied extremely brutal, carefully thought-out measures, when they destroyed the education system in Poland, severed Poland's intellectual contacts with Western Europe, and brought the publishing movement to a halt. Historians have called this period "Paskevich's night" after Marshal Paskevich, the tsar's viceroy in the Polish Kingdom. The emigrés knew that the nation's existence was threatened, for they were receiving horrifying news from Poland. If we remember that the emigration consisted mainly of people who only recently had been soldiers and who regarded it as their mission to be always on the alert, so as to be able at any opportunity to raise arms against the partitioning powers and take part in a war of liberation wherever this war might be waged, if we remember the mental and emotional condition of the emigré community, which was addicted to politics, we cannot but admire the wise, clairvoyant decision of those who realized that books and all documents of culture were a more reliable guarantee of national life than prospects of a war or political calculations.

It was the historian Karol Sienkiewicz who became the first director of the Polish Library. At first the Library functioned in 1 rue Matignon, and then moved four times to various other premises. The collection kept increasing, there was not enough room for 15 thousand volumes in

a rented flat. A commission composed of such personalities as Karol Sienkiewicz, Adam Mickiewicz, and General Władysław Zamoyski was set up to purchase a suitable house. In January 1854, thanks to membership fees and large donations (by General Zamoyski and the poet Zygmunt Krasiński) the Library chose its permanent seat in 6 quai d'Orléans in Isle St. Louis. For many generations the 17th century house on the Seine with a view of Notre Dame Cathedral became, and still is, the center of Polish life in Paris. During the time when Poland did not exist as a state, it played the role of Poland's embassy in the West. This was the place where Polish emigré organizations held their meetings, and the place where the Historical Literary Society held and still holds its sessions. It also attracted Frenchmen who sympathized with the Polish cause.

Even before the Polish Library was opened, the emigrés started searching for Polish historical documents in French, English, Italian, and American archives. They made copies and compiled a catalog of Polish documents in the Royal Library in Paris (the present *Bibliothèque Nationale*). In 1844 Karol Sienkiewicz proposed that the Library should have a secret national record office comprising historical documents "in particular those referring to the last uprising" as well as private documents. The Library received private archives collected by many generations of emigrants, including Niemcewicz's legacy, which was transferred to the Library after the writer's death in 1841, and the archives of General Karol Sienkiewicz, who died a year later. In 1850 Senator Maciej Wodziński offered the Library 4,000 books, 1,500 engravings and a numismatic collection. Since the Parisian Poles, among whom were many prominent writers, politicians, artists and scholars, made a habit of offering their archives to the Library, the Polish Library amassed a wealth of manuscripts, including letters of Fryderyk Chopin, Henryk Sienkiewicz, Maria Konopnicka, Władysław Reymont, and Stefan Żeromski. It also received collections of paintings, engravings, sculptures, especially by Polish artists active in Paris (paintings by Jacek Malczewski, Olga Boznańska, Józef Chełmoński, Leon Wyczółkowski, Bolesław Biegas, and many others).

The most valuable part of the archives is the collection of Mickiewicz's autographs and documents concerning the poet. Set apart as the Adam

Mickiewicz Museum, it comprises over one thousand documents. The Museum is the work of the poet's son, Władysław Mickiewicz, who after his father's death looked after his legacy for many years, publishing letters and documents, assembling everything that might shed light on the creative work and activity of Adam Mickiewicz – who, after all, was not only a poet, but also an emigré leader, professor at Lausanne and at the College de France, and an organizer of Polish legions during the Springtide of Peoples and during the Crimean war. Władysław Mickiewicz, who headed the Library from 1893 until his death in 1926, amassed an extraordinary collection of manuscripts and iconography and transferred it to the Library in 1903. Thanks to him the Library became, and still is the most important center for research not only into the life, but first and foremost into the works of Poland's greatest poet, for autographs and especially rough copies are of enormous importance for getting an insight into any writer's work. The importance is still greater in the case of such masterpieces as the third part of *Dziady* (Forefathers' Eve) which has survived in drafts (unfortunately incomplete) in the Mickiewicz Museum in Paris. Let us remember, however, that Mickiewicz was a careless editor of his works; he did not like proof-reading and did it slapdash; this is why the first editions of his works, especially the later ones set in French printing houses and published in Paris, abound in printer's errors. As a rule, successive editions were not checked by the author. Thus the surviving autographs give editors an excellent opportunity to reconstruct the authentic text freed of the errors overlooked by the poet (whose handwriting was almost illegible) and of the mistakes made by copyists, type-setters and random proof-readers. Generations of editors have availed themselves of the Library's material. Of even greater value are the autographs of texts not published by the poet. Let us remember that after the first years of great inspiration and feverish writing, a period which saw the birth of such masterpieces as the third part of *Dziady* (Forefathers' Eve), *Księgi Narodu Polskiego i Pielgrzymstwa Polskiego* (The Books of the Polish Nation and of the Polish Pilgrimage), and *Pan Tadeusz* (Master Tadeusz), Mickiewicz published very few literary works. He wrote articles in Polish (for "Pielgrzym Polski", an emigré periodical which he edited for some time) and in French (first and

foremost for "La Tribune des Peuples", an organ of international political emigration which was published during the Springtide of Peoples in 1849, also under Mickiewicz's editorship). He published the lectures he gave at the College de France and promised to continue *Forefathers' Eve* and *Master Tadeusz*, but it is difficult to say to what extent he kept his promise, for before his departure for the Middle East in 1855 he burned most of his autographs. He did not return to Paris from Constantinople, having died there. He did not leave many autographs, if we think only of pages filled with writing, but what he left is of great importance – e.g. autographs of poems which are now regarded as most exquisite Polish lyrics, including a few poems composed in Lausanne, survived in Mickiewicz's posthumous archives. The deciphering of Mickiewicz's poetic notes is an extremely toilsome task; their first posthumous edition, which appeared soon after the poet's death, was by no means faithful. The work of the first editors (Julian Klaczko, Eustachy Januszkiewicz) was continued by others. Such prominent researchers as Stanisław Pigoń, Waclaw Borowy, and Czesław Zgorzelski spent whole days of hard work on Mickiewicz's autographs in the reading room at 6 quai d'Orléans.

The National Archives comprise documents from the emigration's stormy public life, a life rich in manifestos, polemics and open letters, handwritten records and leaflets, materials without which it would be impossible to reconstruct the history of the Great Emigration. Of exceptional historical value are the archives of the November Uprising, which comprise documents of the general staff, of Grand Duke Konstanty's chancellery and records of the insurrectionary Sejm (Diet). For some time these materials were hidden in Gottingen and were then brought to Paris by former Sejm Deputy Henryk Nakwaski and handed over to the Library by his heirs in 1876. Among them is the act dethroning Tsar Nicholas I, passed by the Sejm on January 25, 1831. It had been hidden for years for fear of agents of the Russian police.

The Library, which was set up and maintained by emigrés, encountered difficulties which threatened its work and existence, for such an institution requires a stable, secure legal and financial situation. The French authorities registered it as a Polish public library and in 1866 Napoleon III issued a decree which recognized the Library and the Historical Literary Society as public services.

This made it the French government's duty to look after the Library, should the emigrés be unable to do so. By virtue of the decree the Library was accorded an annual grant of 2,000 francs. But the emigrés found it increasingly difficult to maintain the Library. The generation of its founders had died out, the number of members of the Historical Literary Society was decreasing. The political refugees ceased to be the Great Emigration, and the center of Polish cultural life moved to Galicia, which had been granted autonomy by the Austrian government. Thanks to said autonomy, two universities (in Cracow and Lwów) were reopened in Galicia and the Academy of Learning was set up in Cracow. The Franco-Prussian war and the Communards' insurrection seriously endangered the Library's existence. During the fighting in Paris barricades were raised in front of the Library and the building could have easily been destroyed. Since some emigrés took part in the Communards' rising, the authorities applied repressive measures against the whole Polish community. The emigration's political role declined and many of its representatives lost their means of livelihood during the war. Prejudice against foreigners grew in France and the Franco-Russian political rapprochement increased the Poles' anxiety about the safety of their archives. This feeling of impending danger was the reason why most of the documents concerning the January Uprising of 1863 were not placed in the Polish Library but were sent to the Polish Museum in Rapperswil in Switzerland. This decision, motivated by concern for documents of the nation's struggle for independence, led to a tragedy. Brought to Poland before World War II, the documents were burned together with the library building which was set on fire by the Germans after the fall of the Warsaw Uprising.

The members of the Historical Literary Society who were duty bound to keep watch over the Library, differed in their opinions about the Library's future. Some of them held the view that the book collection should be sent to Poland, to Cracow, all the more so as in 1876 Prince Adam Czartoryski's son, Władysław, decided to send the Hôtel Lambert archives there. But the view prevailed that the Polish Library should be kept in Paris. In 1890 the Historical Literary Society concluded an agreement with the Academy of Learning in Cracow: the Society turned over its collections to the Academy, but they were to

remain in Paris and be accessible to the public. In this way the Polish Library became a scientific station of the Cracow Academy of Learning. After the First World War, when Poland regained independence in 1918, the Library preserved its ties with the Polish Academy of Learning. The Library was to perform the function of a Polish Institute in Paris, parallel to the French Institute then active in Warsaw. The Library was re-organized, its collections listed and cataloged; some 50,000 books not concerning Polish subjects were given to libraries in Poland, most of them to the National Library. A large part of engravings were also sent to Poland. The Polish Library became the official center of Polish culture in Paris. In the years 1929-1940 (before the German offensive against France), well over a hundred lectures were given in the Library by prominent Polish and French scholars. At the same time the Library organized several score exhibitions presenting its collections in its own building and at other Paris exhibitions. The Library could develop in a planned way thanks to the help extended by the Academy of Learning and a regular budget. In 1939 (i.e. 100 years after its establishment) it had about 145,000 volumes, 12,000 drawings, large stores of archives, just under 3,000 maps and atlases, as well as a collection of Polish medals and coins.

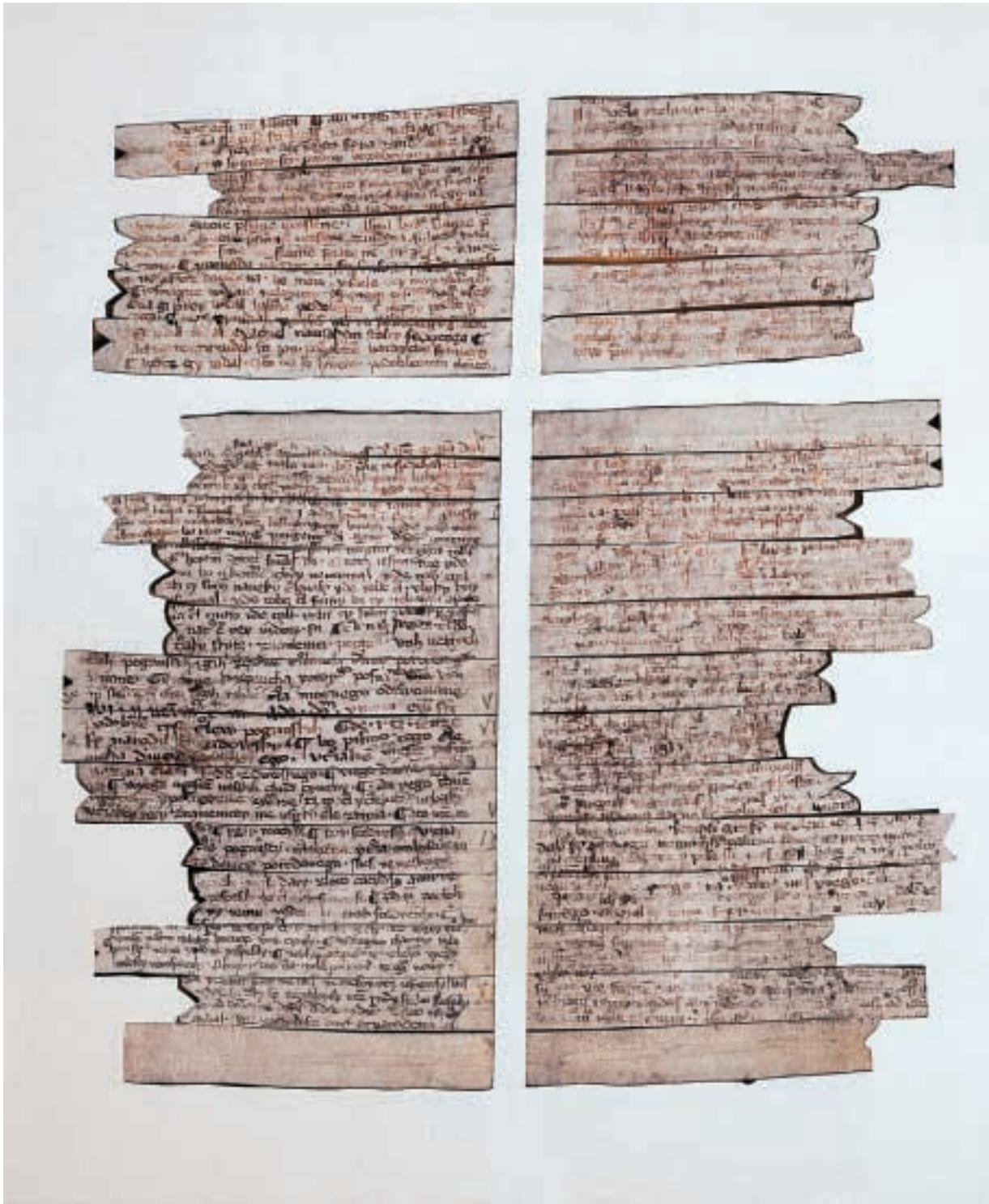
The War endangered the existence of the Library. Two days after the Germans' entry into Paris the Library's premises were searched. In the autumn of 1940 the Germans carried away several hundred cases of books and museum exhibits. They started turning the building into a German school, causing great destruction. Thanks to the energy and far-sightedness of the management (Franciszek Pułaski was at that time director of the Library), the most valuable pieces survived the War, having been hidden in the provinces, scattered in private libraries, before the Germans took Paris. After the War the Library regained a part of the collections carried away by the Germans, another part fell booty to the Soviet army and was sent to Moscow. It was returned to Warsaw as a "gift" and was included in the collection of the Museum of Literature.

After the War the Library was in straitened circumstances and there was a danger of it being taken over by the Polish communist authorities, which argued that it should belong to the Academy. The Academy of Learning no longer existed,

having been replaced by the Polish Academy of Sciences, but on the basis of this enforced succession the Polish authorities tried to persuade the French to adjudge the Library to them. The Library heroically defended its independence; it held its ground with great difficulty thanks to subsidies and bequests by private emigré patrons. It did not lose touch with Poland and helped Polish scholars, opening up its reading room to them and supplying them with information by correspondence. It was only after the political changes in Poland of 1989 that the Library established co-operation with state institutions in the country. It also availed

itself of the help of Polish librarians in cataloging its manuscripts. The National Library microfilmed a part of the Paris collections, mainly manuscripts from the Mickiewicz Museum and emigré periodicals. Co-operation with Poland developed. Researchers from Poland can work in the Library also thanks to scholarships founded by the Historical Literary Society. But today, just like in the past, the management of the Library, its Council and Polish librarians in Paris and Poland, in short all those aware of the importance of historical hand-written and printed documents, are faced with the task of guaranteeing the Library a secure existence.

Translated by *Janina Dorosz*



15. *The Holy Cross Sermons* (14th century) – the oldest manuscript in Polish held in the collections of the National Library, and also the oldest known relic of Polish prose.



16. The Tynieć Sacramentary (ca. 1060-1070) – illuminated manuscript in Latin, one of the first liturgical manuscripts to have appeared in Poland.



17. The Florian Psalter (about 1370 – beginning of the 15th century) – the first surviving translation of the psalms into Polish and the oldest relic of the Polish language existing in full.



18. Ptolemy's *Geography* (15th century); the fragment presented here is taken from the first volume (*Textus*), which contains Ptolemy's work written down in two columns.



19. Ptolemy's *Geography*, the map of Ekumena reproduced here is taken from the second volume (*Tabulae*) and is drawn to a scale of 1 : 33,000,000 on conical projection invented by Ptolemy.



20. *The Dutch Prayer-Book* – manuscript on parchment written in Dutch (ca. 1440), it contains particularly interesting miniatures as the artist used a rarely employed technique *en grisaille*.



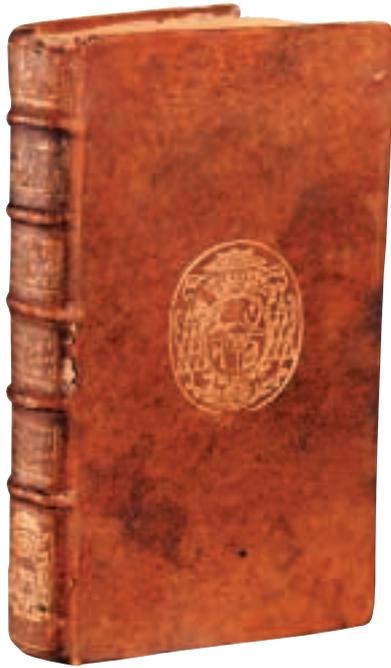
21. *Legenda Aurea (The Golden Legend)* – illuminated manuscript in Latin (ca. 1480), an excellent example of medieval religious literature, written about 1260 by the Italian Dominican Jacopo da Voragine.



22. *Liber discipuli de eruditione Christifidelium* by Herolt Ioannes – incunable (ca. 1483) donated to the National Library in 2000 thanks to the national campaign “Buy Poland a rare book”, launched by Poland’s largest-circulation daily “Gazeta Wyborcza”; altogether the National Library received 12 incunables, as well as several old prints, maps, graphic, and musical items.



23. A beautifully ornamented binding from the Prince Albrecht’s Silver Library – a masterpiece of Renaissance goldsmithery (16th century).



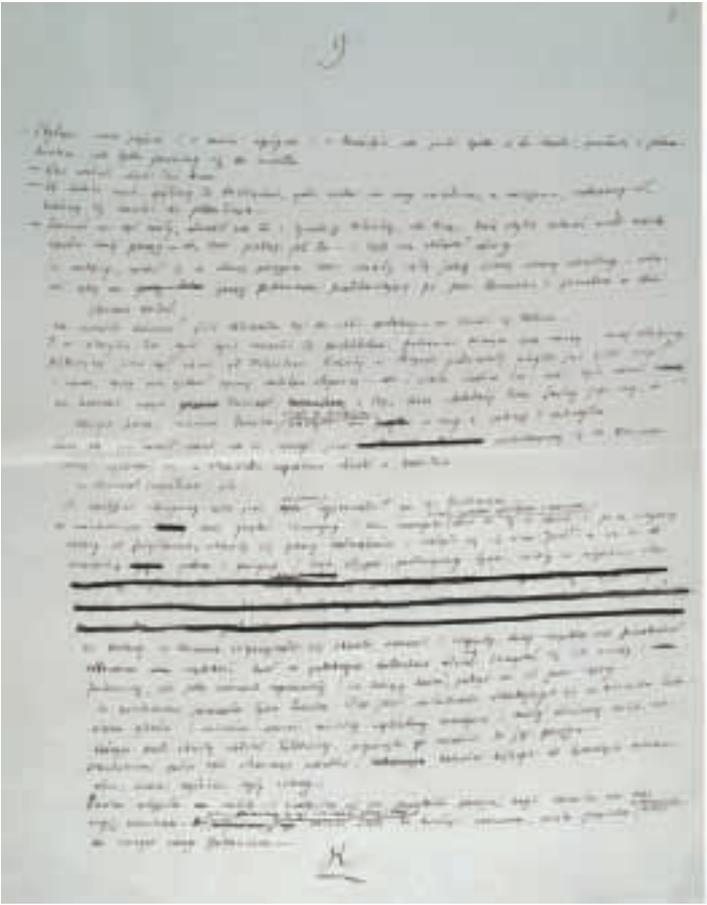
24. A leather-bound volume with the cover ex-libris of the younger Załuski brother, Józef Andrzej, co-founder of the first public library of a national character in Poland.



25. *Map of Poland* (ca. 1690), drawn to a scale approx. 1:3,200,000 by the Dutch cartographer Carol Allard and published in Amsterdam as a part of *Atlas Minor...* This beautiful copperplate was based on several earlier maps.



26. Fryderyk Chopin's *Preludes* (1831-1839) – the most interesting of the 21 Chopin manuscripts in the possession of the National Library.



27. Henryk Sienkiewicz's *Quo vadis* (1894-1896) – manuscript of the novel for which Sienkiewicz received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1905.



28. Player-roll with a recording of Chopin's *Impromptu in F-sharp major*, Op. 36, played by the Polish pianist and conductor Józef Śliwiński, recorded and produced in Germany in 1905 and 1910 respectively.



29. *Zmartwychwstanie* (*The Resurrection*) – the paper issued during World War II in Jerusalem by the Polish Second Corps; now held in the National Library's collections of documents of social life.

## Bibliography Tradition and the Present Day

Andrzej Borowski

### The Estreichers' *Polish Bibliography* from the Perspective of the Century Coming to a Close<sup>1</sup>

*Abstract* The article presents the monumental Polish bibliographic work compiled by Karol Estreicher and carried on by his son and grandson. It depicts the political and social background against which the Bibliography was created, and gives a description of its contents. Information on the most recent efforts to re-publish the Estreichers' work is also provided.

As the 20th century draws to a close, our thoughts often turn to the final years of the 19th century. Some of the failures and achievements of our generation come to mind spontaneously in such moments and we instinctively compare them with works which brought fame to people living in the last few decades of the previous century. One such monumental work which was to bring comfort to Polish people and strengthen the national spirit after the fall of successive uprisings and other defeats, a work inspired by a noble sense of duty to Poland, was *Bibliografia polska (Polish Bibliography)* by Karol Estreicher, Sr. (1827-1908); continued in the next century by his son Stanisław (1869-1939), and then by his grandson Karol Estreicher, Jr. (1906-1984).

The work consists of four series. Series I, comprising seven volumes published in 1870-1882, contains an alphabetical list of Polish printed texts published in 1800-1880 (the author erroneously included the year 1800 in the 19th century). Series II, made up of four volumes published in 1882-1890, features a chronological list of Polish printed texts known to Karol Estreicher, Sr. and published from 1455 to 1899 (*terminus a quo* is a mistake; the oldest known print published in Poland dates from 1474). Series III, consisting of 23 volumes published in 1891-1951 first by Karol Estreicher, Sr. and then continued by his son and grandson, contains a list of Polish printed texts and prints concerning Poland from the 15th century up to the 18th arranged alphabetically (by authors' names or titles). Series IV is a continuation of Series I and comprises four volumes, published in 1906-1916, containing an alphabetical list of Polish prints which appeared in 1881-1900.

Moreover, two separate volumes have been published: an alphabetical and chronological partial list of Polish prints from the 15th and 16th centuries (published in 1875) and a specification of Polish prints from 1871-1873 (published in 1873).<sup>2</sup>

\*

Karol Estreicher's early but already mature interest in bibliography, regarded as an independent but interdisciplinary branch of learning, was reflected even in his first works on drama and the theater. He took an interest in drama as a historian and theater critic, and also as a translator. After researching the theater in Poland, he published a unique work entitled *Teatra w Polsce* (Theaters in Poland); vol. 1 appeared in 1873, the last, third volume – in 1879. Karol Estreicher's other, purely historical literary articles and treatises (e.g. his doctoral thesis dealing with the beginnings of printing in Cracow) are also of a bibliographic character in that Estreicher makes use in them of his profound knowledge of ancillary historical sciences.

It is worth stressing that Karol Estreicher, Sr. regarded bibliography as an interdisciplinary branch of the humanities. The aim of the works which he bequeathed to posterity was to fill the gaps in knowledge about the Poles' intellectual culture from the earliest days up to his own. This is why in addition to facts, they also show us that he had the courage to rely on his perspicacity and imagination; this was the principle which he passed on to his son, Stanisław. At the root of all his manifold scholarly undertakings was the ever clear intention to defy the frequently biased judgments unfavorable to Polish culture and to reveal to the nation which the Estreichers had recognized for

several generations as their own, the earliest works which had grown up from the native soil. The ideological and also methodological principles of the Estreichers' work and the significance of the still valid scholarly conclusions presented by Karol and his son make us realize that their attitudes and activities were akin to those of Stanisław's friend and contemporary, Aleksander Brückner (1856-1939), a man of great intellectual calibre.

In gathering material for his future work, Karol Estreicher, Sr. concentrated on two areas: one concerned Polish printed texts and those pertaining to Poland brought out from the beginning of printing up to the 18th century; the other concerned the 19th century. Each of the two directions of his research had its own specific aim, but in the final analysis these aims were concurrent. The aim of the first direction was to demonstrate the antiquity of Polish book printing (which was started and developed earlier in Polish lands than in several other European centers), and to show the extent of the influence exerted by Polish culture, its contacts, and the reception of the most important phenomena of universal culture. The elaboration of the 19th century bibliography, whose main aim was concurrent with that of the other series, was intended to provide detailed information on Polish 19th century writings and to document the specific role played by national literature during the Romantic and Positivist periods, a role which was decisive for Poland's fate. The first volumes of *Bibliografia polska*, published from 1870 onward by the Cracow Academic Society (despite the initial difficulties in finding a publisher) inevitably bring to mind the work of those Polish poets and novelists who regarded didactic activity and the creation of moralizing works as their mission (and what a venerable European tradition, that!) and who wanted to demonstrate to their fellow-countrymen and foreigners, friends as well as foes, that Polish culture was alive and that its vitality was deeply rooted in the subsoil of European culture. Karol Estreicher, Jr., professor at the Jagiellonian University, continuator of the work of his eminent grandfather, emphasized these ideological Positivist motives which had induced his grandfather to start work on the Polish Bibliography:

"*Polish 19th Century Bibliography* shows everyone who can read it properly that the 19th century

was another golden age of our culture. The *Bibliography* shows that the partitions did not arrest the work started under the patronage of Stanisław August and that the revival of national culture went on, even though the state did not exist... I think it is time for persons writing on 19th century Poland to evaluate the merits of this period on the basis of sources and a bibliography of the subject. The work undertaken by the post-1863 generation<sup>3</sup> in the three partition zones should be viewed without prejudice. So many foolish things have been published and repeated about the work of the two Polish universities in Cracow and Lwów without anybody raising an objection. It is also time to appreciate the importance of all work aimed at raising the country's economic and cultural level, wherever it was carried out in Poland. *Bibliografia* shows that the work done in this country for the sake of society is the most genuine work for Poland, even if mistakes are made."<sup>4</sup>

This comment refers to *Polish 19th Century Bibliography*, which in the intention of its author was to show the qualitative and quantitative richness of Polish literary culture, its vitality, and its unbroken ties with universal culture during the time when Poland did not exist as a state. Let us, however, not miss the other side of this achievement which in itself proved that this nation without a state did not lack prominent people who were well prepared to engage in scholarly work and who knew how to use their qualifications for the common good. *Polish 19th Century Bibliography* showed, not only by its content, but also by the mere fact of its appearance, that the 19th century was a golden period of Polish culture.

The same motives which induced Karol Estreicher, Sr. to research Polish 19th century literary culture were behind his work on the bibliographic series which reconstructed the history of books printed in Poland from their very beginning in the 15th century up to the 18th. This is what Stanisław Estreicher wrote about his father: "... he strove strenuously not only to work out in detail one part of our letters, but above all to speedily present the *entire* (author's emphasis) image, in order to make us realize the magnitude of the culture created in Poland and to impress foreigners, whether friends or foes, with its greatness."<sup>5</sup>

This is indeed the impression one gets when one takes a look at *Bibliografia polska*. The impression is made on us even by the title, which

is compact and, in a way, disputable, for the author decided at the start that this would be a national bibliography in the moral and ideological sense rather than as regards its essence. This has been repeatedly described as a shortcoming. It seems therefore worth while to once again point out the circumstances which not only justified, but even necessitated this consciously chosen method and its consistent use by the author and his successors.

Let us start our reflections from the concept of a subject which had nothing to do with 19th century realities. What did the term "Polish writings" or "Polish printed texts" mean to Karol Estreicher? The language criterion and the legal-geographic criterion were, as is well known, the most important at that time. Modern nationalism prevailed in the intellectual culture of 19th century Europe. In Poland the powerful aspirations to independence induced historians, in particular historians of literature and language, to seek and bring to light monuments of native literary culture. Works in Latin, even if they were written by prominent writers who were better known in Europe in their times than authors writing in Polish, were, as a rule, left to classical philologists, who in accordance with the traditional philological approach, were wont to arbitrarily compare these poetical and rhetorical prose works with ancient models, which were a matchless ideal, difficult to imitate. The result was that their evaluations were usually severe, for they did not take into account the specific historical and cultural realities of the late Middle Ages in Poland (15th c.) and the specific new-Latin humanistic literature in the 15th – 17th centuries. Karol Estreicher, Sr. was an innovator in his time who realized that Polish writings in Latin were national writings in the full sense of the word. His commentaries and additional explanations to individual entries in the "Old Polish" series of *Bibliografia polska* (from the 15th century up to the 18th) show that he paid great attention to the influence exerted by Polish publications in Latin abroad and scrupulously noted their translations into European languages, their foreign echoes, and polemics with them. Thanks to this method, *Bibliografia polska* became at once the most important work, still unsurpassed, in *comparative literature* in a sense traditionally restricted to the history of influences, filiations, and bilateral contacts between Polish and universal literature. This

is now an extremely anachronistic and deficient comprehension of comparative literature, but even the most modern Polish comparatist cannot do without *Bibliografia* as a source.

It is worth stressing yet another feature of *Bibliografia*, which also outstripped its epoch in methodology, a feature thanks to which the work is still a surprisingly modern instrument for historians of literature. What I have in mind is that Karol Estreicher, Sr., who was engaged in the evaluation of literary works and as a critic was deeply involved in discussions on their artistic value, did not dogmatically confine his interest to literary texts and did not get involved in detailed considerations of literary criteria, which, after all, are relative and have been changing in history. His decision to register all Polish writings and writings concerning Poland seems to have been inspired by a sound intuition based on a profound knowledge of old literature. In fact ever since the Middle Ages each *written text*, that is a text purposely constructed in the written form, simply had to be an *artistic text*, what we now call a literary text. Every letter, prayer, sermon, and even document had to have a rhetorical form, and popular works (e. g. fictional narrations in prose) were derived from this concept of literature and were modeled on it. It is only recently that historians of literature have begun to examine the artistry of the essentially rhetorical Latin and Polish prose used by Polish historians during the Renaissance and Baroque periods. The initiative to examine old Polish homilies, postils, epistles and occasional political and philosophical contributions from this point of view is also of recent date. All these documents are "literature", since they are all documents of Polish literary culture of equal value, irrespective of whether they are of a high official standard or popular in character, belonging to what was until recently defined, with some exaggeration, as "folk literature". Karol Estreicher, Sr. grasped all this more than a hundred years ago and this is why he did not arbitrarily separate texts which were more literary from those which were less so, for such a distinction can seldom be justified.

Estreicher could have confined his research and registration to Polish texts published within the territory of the Polish state in the period he was interested in. But in this respect, too, our venerable bibliographer proved to have greatly outstripped the mentality of his contemporary literary experts.

He understood better than others that writings in a foreign language could also be genuinely Polish. Thanks to this, *Bibliografia polska* (especially its new combined, enlarged edition) contains documents of literary culture from border regions, in particular from Lithuania, Silesia, Pomerania, and Ruthenia. Let us avail ourselves of this opportunity to point out what *Bibliografia* does not contain, what has been deliberately left out. It does not contain Judaica or, to be more precise, Hebraica, which were published in Poland and, in a way, were rooted in the local community's culture. Estreicher decided to leave Hebrew texts out because of the hermetic character of Jewish culture, especially in the "Old Polish" period (15th – 18th century), and the restricted circulation of these texts.

One could, of course, object to Estreicher's approach and say that by demonstrating the quantitative (and, until the beginning of the 17th century, also qualitative) disproportion between texts in Polish and those published in Latin, Estreicher supplied commentators ill-disposed to Poland with arguments which they could have used to assert that Polish culture was immature at the time when national culture was already well developed in the West (particularly in Italy). But such an objection would be ahistorical, for criteria of this kind cannot be used with regard to literary culture before the 19th century.

\*

It was the intention of the creator of *Bibliografia*, an intention which also inspired its continuators, to present the broadest possible picture of the universal influence exerted by Polish thought and Polish literary culture. He who takes up *Bibliografia* with this idea in mind will see that it is not confined to the registration of bibliographic information, surprising by the minuteness of detail. It was just over 140 years ago, in 1856, that Karol Estreicher, Sr. for the first time used the term "bibliography" with regard to the materials he had been collecting since 1848. This was during his stay in Lwów, when he compared the exactness of his own catalog of 19th century texts with the trade catalog of local booksellers.<sup>6</sup> Catalogs of books have always been the starting point for any bibliography. At first, catalogs were made for practical, commercial or formal purposes, for instance, after the death of a library owner, when an inventory was made for an auction or to provide more infor-

mation about his library. Concern for purposefulness, combined with a scrupulous bibliographic description, with an analysis of the content and value of each work, can be seen at every step in Estreicher's bibliography – for this was his basic principle, a principle which he imparted to his son and which was subsequently taken over and scrupulously observed by his grandson.

Karol Estreicher, Jr. knew how to combine noble ideals with family tradition and a sense of duty towards national science and culture, a duty resulting from Poland's situation. On the eve of the Second World War a few final volumes had not yet been published, but Stanisław was certain that his son would regard it as his duty to complete the "Old Polish" series of *Bibliografia*. He wrote: "I am sure that my son Karol will complete *Bibliografia*; he realizes its importance and knows what method to use, for he has watched this work since his childhood; although he is engaged in something else, he is enough of an Estreicher to take up the job and complete the work of his grandfather and father."<sup>7</sup>

During the War Karol Estreicher, Jr. headed the Polish Revindication Office in Paris and London, was a close collaborator of General Władysław Sikorski, and later, until 1949, a representative of the Revindication Office in Germany. When he returned to Poland he took up work on *Bibliografia*, as his father had died in a German concentration camp together with other professors of the Jagiellonian University. Let us recall that bibliography work was not Karol Estreicher's only duty. Continuing the family tradition – his grandfather was director of the Jagiellonian Library in Collegium Maius, the University's oldest building – he was about to undertake the great task of reconstructing this venerable edifice in which he felt fully at home until the end of his professional work. He was also an art historian, associate professor at the Academy of Fine Arts (1945-1950), reader in the history of medieval and modern European art at the Jagiellonian University (from 1949), and professor at the Higher School of Visual Arts in Wrocław (1951-1961). Thus, the continuation and completion of *Bibliografia* had to be done parallel to his other occupations. Materials for the last two volumes of the "Old Polish" series with entries from "Z" to "Ż" and for several supplementary volumes planned already before the War had to be edited.

Another task awaiting him was the second edition of the 19th century series which was to be enlarged and which finally combined the parts previously published separately: the first part (vols. 1-7), the second part (vols. 8-11), the fourth one (vols. 1-4) and the Supplementary Issue. A re-edition of *Polish 19th Century Bibliography* had already been planned by Stanisław Estreicher who, as his son Karol later wrote, "was considering editing the 19th century anew, although he knew that he would not live to accomplish this."<sup>8</sup> What induced Karol to take up the work was not only family tradition but, first and foremost, the importance of *Bibliografia*, scholarly reasons and, last but not least, more general ideological considerations stemming from the post-war situation. He did not hesitate; we heard him say repeatedly that the post-war circumstances were dramatically similar to the conditions in which his grandfather had started work on *Bibliografia*. This is why the motive of "work to raise the cultural level of the country" recurred in his declarations concerning the re-edition.

It was obvious to the editor of the new combined and enlarged edition of *Polish 19th Century Bibliography* that this venture would have to produce much richer results than a mere mechanically revised edition of the original version, even though the general outlay was to be unchanged (the title page, the incorrect dating of the century from 1800, and all the peculiarities of Estreicher's bibliographic description, abbreviations, etc. were to be retained). The entries which had been separate in the four parts of the 19th century series were brought together and the number of entries was increased. In the later volumes of the "Old Polish" series, Karol Estreicher added notes explaining where a given book or text could be found. This, of course, meant an additional search to find out where individual books were kept after the War. Another thing characteristic of Estreicher's empirical approach was the requirement that each text mentioned in the *Bibliography* should be described on the basis of autopsy. This principle, too, has been preserved in the re-edition insofar as post-war realities made it possible. The result was that the work on the new edition of the 19th century series brought to light the losses suffered by Polish libraries in regard to 19th century publications which, though relatively recent, had so far often been underestimated. This aspect was emphasized by Karol Estreicher,

Jr., who was personally involved in drawing up an official list of the losses suffered by Polish culture during the War. Additional improvements were made, the number of notes and consequently that of cross references was increased, links with the cultures of neighboring countries were brought into prominence thanks to the use of book collections in the so-called Recovered Territories of Poland's new west. The number of leaflets described in *Bibliografia* was also increased. The entries referring to periodicals are in fact little monographs – some of them present the contents of periodicals, the names of editors and authors of articles. Such entries as "Drama", "Calendar" and "Catalog" have been so expanded that they have become separate monographs.

Another novelty introduced by Karol Estreicher, Jr. was the establishment of a center staffed by full-time academicians engaged in the elaboration of the material to be published. At first this was a small group of researchers and several collaborators entrusted with extra tasks (mainly library queries and typing). The center was set up in 1953 and worked at first within the organizational and financial framework of the Cracow Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences. This meant the continuation of the patronage exercised over the edition of the first volume first by the Cracow Academic Society, then, with regard to later volumes, by the Cracow Academy of Learning, the Polish Academy of Learning and finally (after the dissolution of this notable institution) by the Polish Academy of Sciences. In 1962 the center was transferred to the Jagiellonian University, where it continues to work as the Karol Estreicher Polish Bibliography Center, an extra-departmental unit of the Jagiellonian University. Karol Estreicher, Jr. directed it until he retired in 1976 and recommended the undersigned as his successor. For twenty years the Center worked in Collegium Maius, a museum of the Jagiellonian University, then in new, more spacious quarters at the Institute of Polish Philology, Jagiellonian University, 16 Gołębia Street. Thanks to the generous help of the University authorities, in particular Rector Professor Franciszek Ziejka, the Polish Bibliography Center has recently been given separate quarters in a historical building at 6 Kanonicza Street, where, in accordance with Professor Estreicher's last will, an institute named after the Estreichers is to be set up. Let us hope that it will be estab-

lished before long. On the basis of the Estreicher family's rich collections, in particular the archives which the Professor bequeathed to the Cracow Society of the Friends of the Fine Arts, the Institute is to integrate the Polish Bibliography Center work on *Bibliografia* with research into the history of the Estreicher family and Cracow's culture. These archives, bequeathed to the Society together with many other memorabilia of the Estreicher family, have not yet been properly organized and cataloged. Let us hope that co-operation between the Jagiellonian University and the Society of the Friends of the Fine Arts will be as harmonious and fruitful as it was when Karol Estreicher, Jr. was chairman of the Society.

Another task which Karol Estreicher, Jr. inherited from his father was to complete the "Old Polish" series of *Bibliografia*. In 1951 the professor published the first part of Volume 34, which included the entry "the Załuskis" (234 pages); in the following year it appeared in a separate monographic issue. This is where the work stopped. "The catastrophic dissolution of the Academy of Learning is the main reason why the final volume with the remaining entries has not appeared", wrote Karol Estreicher, Jr. in his last will. In the same

document he bequeathed all the materials connected with *Bibliografia polska* to the Polish Bibliography Center and personally to its present head. Testamentary formalities lasted nearly six years and when the materials were taken over it turned out that the typescript of the "Z-Ż" volume had not been completed; there were only several boxes with excerpts and clippings. The materials had therefore first to be put in order, typed out, and supplemented. The successive volume containing a new edition of the Załuski issue as well as some other entries up to "Zamoyski" should appear before long.

The collective work on the second edition of the 19th century series and on completing the "Old Polish" series consists as much in improving this work, in making it more functional, as in preserving (as far as possible) the author's original intention. The title pages of the successively published volumes show, and will continue to show, the name and surname of the first author, Karol Estreicher, Sr. For, as his grandson wrote, the *Bibliography* "is an individual work, and let it remain so. It lives its own life and let us not deprive it of its character. If it deserves any title, it is the title given it by its author."<sup>9</sup>

### Notes

1. (ed) The editors received this article in February 1997.
2. The Karol Estreicher Polish Bibliography Center at the Jagiellonian University is currently preparing the publication of a combined, revised and enlarged version of *Bibliografia polska 19 stulecia* (*Polish 19th Century Bibliography*) – the latest published volume of the series comprises the first half of the "K" entries. The Center is also working on completing the third "Old Polish" series, i.e. that concerning the 15th – 18th century (the "Załuskowski-Zamoyski" volume is forthcoming).
3. (ed.) That is, those who no longer sought to fight for the independence of Poland in subsequent uprisings but who be-

lieved in the Positivist ideas of organic work and continuous building of the nation's education and self-consciousness (in 1863 the last insurrection in the partitioned Poland took place – the January Uprising).

4. Karol Estreicher, Jr. *Wstęp [do:] Bibliografia polska 19 stulecia* (*Introduction [to:] Polish 19th Century Bibliography*), vol. 1, Kraków 1959, p. LI.
5. Cited from: Józef Korpała *Karol Esteicher [st.] twórca "Bibliografii polskiej"* (*Karol Estreicher, Sr. – the Creator of "Polish Bibliography"*), Wrocław 1980, p. 228.
6. Karol Estreicher, Jr., op. cit., p. XIII.
7. Ibidem, p. XLV.
8. Ibidem, p. XLVII.
9. Ibidem, p. XLVII.

Translated by *Janina Dorosz*

# Bibliography Tradition and the Present Day

Krystyna Ramlau-Klekowska

## The Bibliographic Institute from the Perspective of Time

*Abstract* The author gives a short history of the National Library's Bibliographic Institute, starting from the moment when the first attempts were made to create an institution which would gather and process data on Polish printing. The development of the Institute and the scope of its activities are discussed against the background of the functioning of the National Library as a whole.

In the Decree of the President of the Polish Republic issued on February 24, 1928, which is the official act establishing the National Library, the following provision is to be found:

“At the National Library a Bibliographic Institute shall be established subordinate to the Director of the National Library. It shall initiate and conduct all projects falling within the range of the bibliography of written documents, prints, and illustrations”.

Thus, the Bibliographic Institute – the oldest of all divisions in the now vast and complex structure of the Library – and the only one to be mentioned in the Regulation – celebrated at the beginning of 1998 its 70th anniversary. It is not common for a department of any institution to exist for so many years without changing not only its name, but also the aim and major principles of its activities over the course of many structural transformations. Several factors contributed to this fact. First of all, the regulation quoted above not only gave rise to the Institute's coming into being, but also summed up the discussions led before about its shape and tasks. The idea and program of the Bibliographic Institute had evolved for many years even before the Institute was finally established.

This was closely connected with the gradual understanding of the notion of a national bibliography and its functions within society. The need to record the national written heritage had long been understood in Poland by her enlightened patriots. Józef Andrzej Załuski in his *Programma literarium...*, issued in Warsaw in 1732, put forward the idea of recording the works (including those kept in private collections) of authors from

Poland, Lithuania, Prussia, Silesia, Pomerania, Livonia, and Kurland. These ideas can also be seen very clearly during the partitions of Poland (1795-1918), when Polish culture and – consequently – national identity were in danger of total destruction. A kind of Bibliographic Institute in those times was the studio in which Karol Estreicher, Sr. and his continuators prepared their *Polish Bibliography*.

But, apart from these patriotic and monumental functions so important in the history of Poland, bibliography was becoming necessary as an instrument for the rapidly developing fields of science and education, areas perceived as vitally important for the nation. Bibliography became indispensable not only for recording the works from the past, but also for registering an ever-growing contemporary literary output. In the Austrian sector of partitioned Poland this task was undertaken in 1878 by Władysław Wisłocki, who published the first *Bibliographic Guide. A Monthly for Publishers, Booksellers, and Antiquaries, as well as Those Reading and Buying Books*. But the time for exclusively private initiatives had long passed. Bibliographic undertakings needed institutional sponsorship and so their patronage was taken up at the end of the 19th and the beginning of 20th centuries by such eminent institutions in Polish cultural life as the Academy of Skills in Cracow, which for this purpose created the Bibliographic Commission, or by the Mianowski Fund, which helped in many scientific and educational activities.

However, the first institution to assume in full the duty of running a national bibliography was

the Public Library in Warsaw, founded in 1907. A Bibliographic Institute was created at the Library, one which had very ambitious plans. It was to continue the work of Karol Estreicher with regard to 20th century publications, as well as to register articles from papers, run the statistics of publications, organize conferences of bibliographers, prepare special bibliographies, run information activities, or “help those compiling catalogs”, etc.

The future of the Institute was not to be as bright as its creators had believed and assumed. After five years of work, consisting mainly in collecting material for the 20th century bibliography, its activities were suspended, mainly due to the lack of funds. What is worse, the whole of the gathered material, which had never been published, disappeared. Thus the only trace of the Institute remained in society’s memory as the growing conviction that a Polish Bibliographic Institute was indeed necessary.

The regaining of independence after World War I made this conviction more real than ever before. The reestablishing of the Institute was postulated already during the war by such distinguished Polish librarians as Jan Muszkowski or Stefan Wierczyński, who already envisaged a free country. The latter in particular played an important role in the shaping of the new idea of the Institute when he demanded that it be administered by the state authorities. Thus the national bibliography was to assume the form of an official registration.

Just who would run this bibliography was at first an open question. A memorial written by Ludwik Bernacki *Regarding the National Library in Warsaw* sent in 1918 from the Warsaw Scientific Society to the ministry of education of the already independent country pointed for the first time to the National Library as the mother institution of the future Bibliographic Institute. The Institute itself would “publish a scientific and official bibliography of Polish prints”. But the Library did not yet exist, while the legal deposit copy – thanks to which the registration was to be conducted – was sent only to the Ministry the Internal Affairs for the purpose of information and control. It was not until 1927 that the Ministry of Religious Confessions and Public Education started to receive it for the future National Library, which was then being formed at the ministry. Stefan Demby, who supervised the process

of the Library’s formation, was not only its organizer and first director, but also the supporter of the Library’s union with the Bibliographic Institute. To begin this union a Registration Bureau was created at the ministry, which started the publication of “Urzędowy Wykaz Druków” (The Official Index of Prints), afterwards taken over by the Library.

During the whole inter-war period library milieu were very much interested in the existence and shape of the Institute. This issue was raised especially often during the meetings of librarians. The broadest program of the Institute’s activities was charted by Stefan Demby in his pronouncement in Lwów in 1928. He perceived this institution not only as the continuation of the works conducted by the Registration Bureau, even if they were to be expanded by retrospective bibliography and an index to periodicals, and not even only as an information center and the organizer of the union catalog of Polish libraries, but also as a research center concerned with bibliography, book and library science, problems of printing, editing, or publishing.

Due to the financial and organizational problems of the National Library this program was too ambitious to be fully implemented. It was only in 1938 that the Library was granted its first statute. Among other matters the document outlined the organizational structure of the Institute. Three divisions were isolated: Current Registration of Prints, Retrospective and Special Bibliography, and the Bibliological Division. In fact only the first of them functioned before the outbreak of World War II. Its head, Jadwiga Dąbrowska, a woman of great merit and commitment, who brought to life and edited Polish current bibliography “Urzędowy Wykaz Druków” (The Official Index of Prints), did not retire until 1968, leaving to her successors the publication which today is issued under the title “Przewodnik Bibliograficzny” (Bibliographic Guide). In the Division of Retrospective and Special Bibliography the beginnings of a union catalog of foreign prints were created.

After the forced interruption in the Institute’s work during the Nazi occupation (though a registration of underground publications and of accessible foreign *polonica* was carried out in conspiracy), the regular, current registration of national printing output was restarted in the middle of 1945. The first volume of the national bibliography

was issued in 1946. It was also then that the first problems began. The National Library still had its pre-war statute, which provided for a very wide spectrum of functions conducted by the Institute (even if most of them were not performed in practice), among which were also those pertaining to bibliology and book science. At the same time the State Book Institute was founded in Łódź by Adam Łysakowski, which – according to its program established already in conspiratorial discussions during the War – was to conduct research into book science (including the theory and methodology of bibliography), and to coordinate bibliographic activities in the country. The attempts to reconcile the overlapping functions of both institutions were not successful and so, by governmental decision, the State Book Institute, which had a chance to become a major research center, was dissolved at the end of 1949. Some of its tasks and staff were transferred to the Bibliographic Institute in Warsaw and Adam Łysakowski was appointed the head of the Institute. Soon afterward he wrote and published anonymously an innovative program *Polish bibliographic and documentary service* (Warsaw 1950). In this work the Bibliographic Institute was assigned the role of a national bibliographic center with a very wide spectrum of functions. Even in the field of its basic duty, i.e. compiling national bibliography, the work of the Institute was to be extended considerably, e.g. by one more attempt to “continue Estreicher” as regards the first half of the 20th century. Furthermore, some functions of the dissolved State Book Institute were now to be assigned to the Bibliographic Institute, i.e. coordination of bibliographic activities in the country, developing education and methodological help for bibliographers, compiling bibliography and gathering documents on book science (along with running the central book science library), and research into the theory and methodology of bibliography. When compared with the tasks assigned to the State Book Institute, these functions were somewhat limited (for example, they did not include research into reading or library science), but nonetheless they multiplied the duties of the Bibliographic Institute and formed new perspectives on its work. In order to measure up to those tasks the Institute was given a thoroughly modified and enlarged organizational structure.

When Łysakowski died soon after the publication of the program, his successor and close

co-worker Helena Hleb-Koszańska tried to put the program into effect. When she headed the Institute it managed to adjust its work to the needs of library milieux, and especially those of bibliographers. The “methodological school” worked out in the Institute was spread by means of publications, training, and meetings, as well as through the establishing of Polish Standards in the field of bibliography. Activities aiming at facilitating library practice were started, such as printing catalog cards based on current national bibliography or publishing recommending bibliographies for public libraries, an initiative which aroused some controversy. Though the Institute continued the work on a bibliography of bibliographies (ones already published as well as those still in the making), which provided information on the current state of works in bibliography, the coordination of bibliographic service in the country may be considered one of the most neglected points of Łysakowski’s ambitious directives. On the other hand, the work on a national bibliography was constantly expanded: new parts were created, the toil of reanimating the retrospective bibliography was undertaken, and official statistics of publications was started. Due to so many new tasks relatively less attention was paid to another of Łysakowski’s postulates – research.

In the 1970s and later the needs of library milieux in the country were joined by the requirements of international programs and together they started to shape the Institute’s activities. The phenomenon was not a new one. As early as in 1895 the International Bibliographic Institute was founded in Brussels, which tried (unsuccessfully) to create a universal card-index bibliography and organized cooperation among national bibliographic agencies. The importance of national bibliographies was also stressed by a special UNESCO meeting in Paris in 1950. But it was not until 20 years later that a large and widely accepted program, the Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) was created, which was to become one of the basic activities of IFLA. The principles of UBC are generally known. It is, however, worth recalling that the main object of the program – the unrestrained flow of bibliographic information comprising the whole of world printing output – was based on the competent and to a great extent uniform work of “national bibliographic agencies”, i.e. centers like the Bibliographic Institute. Those

tendencies were confirmed by the recommendations of the International Congress on National Bibliography convened in Paris in 1977. The principles of the agencies' work inside the UBC program were elaborated in *Guidelines for the National Bibliographic Agency and the National Bibliography* (London 1979).

In the course of time bibliographic agencies started to assume numerous functions important for various international activities. Not only did they apply the new principles of description established by the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) and modernize the current national bibliography by means of automation, but they were also recommended to run the national ISSN and ISBN centers as well as to organize in their countries the CiP (Cataloging in Publication) program.

In this situation, and despite political difficulties and restrictions, the international cooperation of the Institute started to thrive. The successors of Helena Hleb-Koszańska – Radosław Cybulski and myself – saw these new tendencies and tried to meet them. The Institute had to expand its tasks and reorganize its structure in order to consistently implement the recommendations and directives mentioned above. Although in many aspects we

managed to keep pace with other bibliographic agencies worldwide, one problem turned out to be a barrier impossible to overcome. The technological gap between the developed western countries and the post-communist ones still needs to be overcome. Even today the Institute (just like the whole National Library) is still toiling to make up for lost time. What is more, the attempts to follow international trends were often perceived as a threat to the Institute's activity in supporting the national bibliographic service and helping it to solve organizational and methodological problems.

When we look back today at the 70 years of the existence of the Bibliographic Institute we can only hope that this discrepancy between its widely understood functions as a national bibliographic agency and its participation in international cooperation will soon be bridged. This is to be solved especially by the possibilities of applying new electronic systems on a much larger scale. Consequently, a new understanding of what a national bibliography is and what its tasks are – as well as new means to create one – may arise. But due to its ability to adapt to any innovations, the Bibliographic Institute is well prepared to meet challenges of this kind.

Translated by *Wojciech Tyszka*

# Bibliography Tradition and the Present Day

Jadwiga Sadowska

## The Bibliographic Institute Today

*Abstract* The article gives an overview of the activities carried out at the National Library's Bibliographic Institute, Poland's national bibliographic agency. It deals especially with the compilation of Polish national bibliography, both current and retrospective. The titles and contents of the main publications issued by the Institute are given, together with relevant information on the availability of some of them on CD-ROM or via the Internet.

### Introduction

The Bibliographic Institute, established simultaneously with the National Library and from its very beginning given the status of a separate division, today numbers over 80 staffers. During the more than 70 years of its existence the Institute has been performing the function of a Polish national bibliographic agency and has gradually enlarged the scope of its tasks according to the directives and recommendations of the International Bibliographic Institute (*Institute Internationale de Bibliographie*) in Brussels.

Naturally, the most important duty has been running the current national bibliography – taken up as early as 1928. The next task, begun in 1930, was to compile official publishing statistics. When we compare today's scope of functions performed by the Bibliographic Institute with the international recommendations included in *Guidelines for the National Bibliographic Agency and the National Bibliography*, issued in London in 1979, as well as the recommendations of the International Congress of Bibliographic Services in Copenhagen in 1998 we can see that the Polish bibliographic agency is fully implementing all these directives and recommendations. It runs the current national bibliography of monographs and that of serials, compiles the bibliography of foreign *polonica*, the index to periodicals and retrospective bibliography of Polish prints, prepares publishing statistics, runs the National ISBN Agency and the National ISSN Center, and performs standardization functions in the field of bibliography and librarianship. Finally, it implements the CiP (Cataloging in Publication) program, although not many

Polish publishers are interested in it. What the Institute does not run is the Office of Legal Deposit, which sometimes complicates its bibliographic activities.

The basic task of the Bibliographic Institute remains the documenting of Polish prints and *polonica* in the form of authority bibliographic records and publishing the current national bibliography based on these records, as well as running the official publishing statistics. This duty needs to be seen both in a historical and cultural context (as documenting national cultural heritage), as well as in a practical context – as providing ready, correct, and authority bibliographic records of publications, particularly books and serials, thus helping other libraries to perform their functions. The records of the national bibliography have been constantly used by libraries to compile their own documentation – card catalogs in the past, and databases today.

The Bibliographic Institute also endeavors to perform methodological tasks and prepares handbooks concerning regulations and standards in the field of bibliography. Those publications appear in the series “Prace Instytutu Bibliograficznego” (Works of the Bibliographic Institute) – to date 36 volumes have been issued.

### Current National Bibliography

The current Polish national bibliography is composed of four parts:

- Bibliography of monographs – a weekly “Przewodnik Bibliograficzny” (Bibliographic Guide);
- Bibliography of serials – an annual “Bibliografia Wydawnictw Ciągłych” (Bibliography of Serials)

and a bi-monthly “Bibliografia Wydawnictw Ciągłych Nowych, Zawieszonych i Zmieniających Tytuł” (Bibliography of New, Suspended and Title Changing Serials);

- Bibliography of *polonica* – an annual “Polonica Zagraniczne. Bibliografia” (Foreign Polonica. A Bibliography);
- Bibliography of articles in periodicals – a monthly “Bibliografia Zawartości Czasopism” (Index to Periodicals).

“Przewodnik Bibliograficzny” (Bibliographic Guide) has been issued as a weekly since 1928, at first under the title “Urzędowy Wykaz Druków” (The Official Index of Prints). It contains about 20,000 records of monographs per year prepared on the basis of legal deposit copies submitted to the National Library. According to our estimations, about 15% of the monographs published each year are not registered in “Przewodnik...” since they do not reach the Library as legal deposit copies. “Przewodnik Bibliograficzny” has a circulation of 2,500 and is supplemented once a year by an alphabetical and subject index. According to the recommendations of the Paris Congress of 1977 concerning the arrangement of bibliographic descriptions, Polish current national bibliography follows the Universal Decimal Classification. The records are prepared according to the ISBD(M) standard. Since 1994 they have been available on CD-ROM, and since 1998 – via the Internet.

“Bibliografia Wydawnictw Ciągłych Nowych, Zawieszonych i Zmieniających Tytuł” (Bibliography of New, Suspended and Title Changing Serials) has been issued since 1976 as a bi-monthly (at first as a quarterly). It is a supplement to “Przewodnik Bibliograficzny” and it now registers about 1,200 new titles of serials yearly. The records are prepared according to the ISBD(S) standard. Since 1998 the bibliography can be accessed via the Internet.

“Bibliografia Wydawnictw Ciągłych” (Bibliography of Serials) is an annual issued since 1958. It registers about 4,500–4,800 titles of serials yearly. Since the bibliography appears irregularly and is subject to delays, a cumulative edition from the years 1958–1995 is now being prepared. It will also be accessible on CD-ROM.

“Polonica zagraniczne. Bibliografia” (Foreign Polonica. A Bibliography) is an annual issued as a separate publication since 1956. The first foreign *polonica* were registered in a supplement to the current bibliography of books “Urzędowy Wykaz Druków”. Today the bibliography of *polonica* registers about 2,200 bibliographic records per year, in which number 50% are the records chosen from around 30 foreign national bibliographies.

“Bibliografia Zawartości Czasopism” (Index to Periodicals) is a monthly issued since 1947 with a circulation of 1,500. It registers approximately 50,000 records per year of articles chosen from over 1,500 scholarly journals and other major periodicals. It is a universal bibliography although some disciplines, such as medicine, agriculture, or military science (which have their own special bibliographies) are developed less than others. Once a year the bibliography is supplemented by an alphabetical and a subject index. Since 1996 “Bibliografia Zawartości Czasopism” has been available also on CD-ROM and since 1998 – via the Internet.

### Retrospective National Bibliography

The compilation of a retrospective bibliography of Polish printing production was started in 1950. Over 400,000 bibliographic records were assembled of books published in 1901-1939 within the borders of pre-war Poland. The records were verified in five major research libraries: the Jagiellonian Library, the Warsaw University Library (BUW), the Poznań University Library, the Silesian Library, and the City Library in Toruń. In 1997 the verification was completed but the first volume of “Bibliografia Polska 1901-1939” (Polish Bibliography 1901-1939) was issued already in 1986. The next three volumes followed while the fifth one is being printed and four subsequent volumes are to follow. The whole series is to comprise over 30 volumes.

In 1976-1989 a part of Polish publications was issued outside of official circulation by underground publishers. These were the books and serials not approved by the censors and thus treated as illegal. In 1995 a bibliography of those publications, containing some 6,500 records of books, was issued under the title “Bibliografia podziemnych druków zwartych 1976-1989” (Bibliography of Books

Issued Underground in 1976-1989). This bibliography is also available via the Internet. A bibliography containing records of "illegal" serials is being printed and should comprise over 4,000 titles of serials.

### Special Bibliological Bibliographies

The Bibliographic Institute is the publisher of three special bibliographies in the field of book science, bibliography, librarianship, and library and information science. These are: "Bibliografia Bibliografii Polskich" (Bibliography of Polish Bibliographies), "Polska Bibliografia Bibliologiczna" (Polish Bibliological Bibliography), and "Bibliografia Analityczna Bibliotekoznawstwa i Informatyki" (Analytical Bibliography of Library and Information Science). The first two are annuals and contain on average some 2,300 bibliographic records each. The third is a supplement to the library journal "Przegląd Biblioteczny" (Library Review) and appears as a quarterly. Each issue contains some 100 analytical descriptions of articles chosen from foreign library journals.

The Bibliographic Institute also gathers data on Polish bibliographies compiled but not published and issues their updated list every four to five years.

### Publishing Statistics

Since 1930, following the agreement with the State Central Statistical Office GUS, the Bibliographic Institute has been preparing the official statistics of Polish publishing output. It was initially issued as a quarterly supplement to the Polish current bibliography "Urzędowy Wykaz Druków" (The Official Index of Prints). Since 1954 a separate publication has been issued entitled "Ruch Wydawniczy w Liczbach" (Polish Publishing in Figures), which contains publishing statistics in the form of tables showing book and serial production in Poland. The Section of Statistics in the Bibliographic Institute also runs information services for central statistical institutions, as well as for UNESCO.

### Bibliographic Standardization

Standardization in the field of bibliography has become a very important issue, especially once computers were applied to library processes. The Bibliographic Institute is responsible for adopting the international standards of bibliographic descriptions (ISBD), as well as those pertaining to coding characters, language codes, country codes, etc.

Another task is to develop format MARC. The Institute also prepares instructions in this field for Polish libraries.

The Center of Bibliographic Standardization in the Bibliographic Institute is also responsible for the updating of "Słownik Języka Haseł Przedmiotowych Biblioteki Narodowej" (National Library Subject Headings List). A representant of the Institute takes part in the meetings of ISO TC 46. Since 1995 the Institute has been running the Secretariat of the Standardization Commission for Information & Documentation, a part of the Polish Standardization Committee.

### Cooperation with Libraries and Publishers

Bibliographic records prepared in the national bibliographic agency have always been widely used by thousands of Polish libraries through subscribing to the current national bibliography. Until 1993 the Bibliographic Institute had been preparing for them catalog cards, the so-called centrally printed cards. Since that time records have been compiled only in electronic form and sent out to approximately 300 libraries in the country. However, this number is continually growing as new libraries purchase computer systems.

The Bibliographic Institute also cooperates with UNESCO; a bibliography of works translated in Poland from other languages (published as "Index Translationum") is sent there regularly.

Further, information on Polish literature is distributed in electronic form among foreign libraries and information centers which have large Polish or Slavic divisions, e.g. to libraries in London, Washington, Montreal, Rome, or Berlin.

Since 1976 the Bibliographic Institute has been running the National ISSN Center which assigns ISSN numbers to Polish serials. National ISSN Center cooperates with International ISSN Center in Paris.

Since 1993 the National ISBN Agency is also run by the Bibliographic Institute. The Agency assigns ISBN numbers to approximately 2,000 publishers yearly. It also cooperates with the International ISBN Agency in Berlin.

### Projects for the Nearest Future

An important task which needs to be undertaken by the national bibliographic agency is enlarging the scope of types of documents included into the

national bibliography. This means taking into account electronic documents, which thus far have often been ignored and which are constantly growing in number. This task is closely connected with the adoption of a proper international standard ISBD.

Another task to be carried out is the intensification of efforts to create authority records for personal names, corporate names, as well as for uniform titles. Proper methodological instructions should also accompany these works.

The next duty, one already started, is the retrospective conversion of the national bibliography

and its gradual recording on CD-ROM. Only the bibliographic records of books from 1980 onwards have been converted thus far. They were published on CD-ROM as “Przewodnik Bibliograficzny 1980-1999” (Bibliographic Guide 1980-1999). At present the converting of bibliographic records from the years 1977-1979 is in progress.

Our nearest projects also include the conclusion and publishing by 2002 of a complete retrospective bibliography of Polish serials from the years 1958-1995. Much of the necessary work has already been done.

Translated by *Wojciech Tyszka*

## The Research and Scientific Activity of the National Library's Division of Special Collections

*Abstract* Each national library takes exceptional pride in the most valuable items it possesses. These are referred to as special collections or rare books (although they contain more than just books). However, it is not only the very items that are of interest. For also the activities connected with these collections can be of importance, such as processing or cataloging, making inventories, researching, publishing relevant monographies or dissertations, etc. The article describes such initiatives as have been undertaken in the National Library's Division of Special Collections during the last years.

The National Library's special collections consisting of manuscripts, old prints, as well as of music, phonographic, iconographic, and cartographic documents comprise over 800,000 items. They have been separated according to formal criteria, but they hold a special place in our library not only because they comprise so many items, but, first and foremost, because of their cultural value – many of them being extremely rare, even unique specimens.

This elite collection is referred to in the world's libraries as *Réserve précieuse*, *Réserve des livres précieux*, *Libri selecti*, *Reserve Seltener Drucke* or *Rare Book Collections*. It is fitting to point out, however, that many valuable, rare items have not been included in the special collections and can be found among 19th and 20th century books, periodicals, and documents of social life.

The National Library's Division of Special Collections is a group of self-contained specialized libraries, each of which performs all the basic functions of a library. This is a result of the specific character of the collections. But this specific character also sets the Division's strictly defined statutory scientific and research tasks. It is the task of the Division to catalog its own resources, and to keep a central register of various types of special collections so that full information on them be accessible to scholars, whom the Division should not only serve, but also inspire. The Division also conducts research on subjects particularly concerning the National Library's collections.

The Division is also engaged in publishing activity, provides instruction on methodology, conducts

didactic work, and in various ways promotes its special collections. Mention should also be made of its activity at the congresses, conferences, and seminars of professional circles.

The implementation of the Division's research and scientific tasks depends on, and is made possible by, its resources and equipment – which are steadily being enlarged and improved. They consist not only of the Division's own collections, but also of a large ancillary information and bibliography section comprising the catalogs of the collections, the traditional subject and formal files and indexes, as well as a growing number of specialized computer data. Moreover, the Division also has a reference library with more than 30,000 volumes for the use of librarians and others. This carefully chosen reference library is being steadily supplemented and specialized.

Some of the research studies connected with the special collections have a nearly seventy-year tradition, one going back to the beginnings of the National Library, to mention only the catalogs of manuscripts, the central catalog of old prints, in particular the incunabula, and the unparalleled publication *Polonia Typographica Saeculi Sedecimi*, which presents the history, production, and equipment of Polish printing houses in the 16th century. This work, revived after the War, has been developed and its form has been adapted and improved.

New initiatives have also been added. Among them are studies of a central character and studies connected with participation in the preparation of international bibliographies consistent with our

interests. As regards special collections, the main task of the National Library, in accordance with its central place in Poland's library system, is to keep central catalogs. This kind of work is dealt with by the Manuscripts, Old Prints, Music Collections, and Sound Documentation Departments.

Since Polish collections of manuscripts have been greatly dispersed as a result of historical circumstances, the decision was taken to keep a central register of them. This work was undertaken by the Manuscripts Department a quarter of a century ago, though the idea originated even earlier. The aim of this work is to provide reliable information on Polish collections of manuscripts and their location. Under this program work is being conducted on:

- creating a Central Catalog of Handwritten Literary Legacies (the catalog now comprises 85,545 cards with alphabetically arranged descriptions of the legacies of 578 writers and men of culture from the end of the 18th to the middle of the 20th century; it provides information not only on legacies dispersed in various collections, but also on extinct manuscripts mentioned in old library catalogs and specialized writings);
- gathering information on collections of manuscripts in Poland (a result of this work was the pioneering publication *Collections of Manuscripts in Polish Libraries and Museums*, which listed the collections of 317 state and church libraries or museums, as well as a few private ones; the value of the publication and the amount of work put into it met with appreciation, as is proved by the fact that its authors were honored with the Adam Łysakowski Award by the Association of Polish Librarians).

A central catalog is also kept by the Old Prints Department. It helps the National Library's employees in their work, but first and foremost, as has been proved by many publications, it serves as a basis for important research work conducted both in the Department and by Polish and foreign scholars. The work on a central register of old prints, mainly those from the 16th and 17th centuries, was started by Kazimierz Piekarski, who became head of the Old Prints Department in 1931. Unfortunately, the materials prepared by him were almost completely destroyed during the War, such that work on a central catalog of prints from the 15th to the 18th century had to be started from

scratch. In several chronological sets divided into Polish and foreign prints (with the exception of incunabula), it now lists nearly one million prints held in more than 100 Polish libraries and several score foreign ones.

Let us draw attention to two sections of the central catalog: the 16th century *polonica* and the incunabula. The former, which is to be published in the future, gives information not only on extant prints, but also on those which no longer exist or whose fate is unknown, information on them having been derived from bibliographies, catalogs, inventories, and other sources. In view of the great number of works and copies which the catalog describes, it greatly enriches the 16th century bibliography. The other section of the catalog, that of the incunabula, has already been published in part. After years of intensive team work, the first volume (in two parts) of the catalog of incunabula in Polish libraries was published in 1970. This was an unprecedented achievement on a European scale. As experts have repeatedly stressed, its value is enhanced by many *ignota bibliographica* and new typographic conclusions. The second volume of *Incunabula Poloniae* was brought out at the beginning of 1994. It provided new substantive information as well as information leading to reflections on the fate of books and culture during wartime conflagrations. The volume contains addenda (*nova bibliographica* and additional copies of previously described items), a list of War losses (destroyed and missing prints and prints kept outside of Poland), an abridged catalog of incunabula concerning Poland, and a list of prints with texts in languages other than Latin. It also includes newly elaborated concordances for both volumes.

The third and final volume will concern historical provenances; work on it will take more time because the subject is so vast. But the fulfilment of this unprecedented task will tell us more about the origin of the described books, how they circulated in society, and how they were collected and read. It will be an important source for research into intellectual culture, not only that of Poland.

Another central catalog is being compiled in the Sound Documentation Center. Its first part, *Discopaedia of polonica up to 1918*, is almost completed and will be brought out soon. The material concerns both extant and extinct recordings. It lists Polish and foreign recordings of Polish

performers, composers, and authors as well as recordings made by Polish phonographic companies in 1878-1918 and kept in the National Library, other Polish libraries and institutions, and some foreign ones. The catalog also lists printed sources. About 10,000 recordings have been listed in the *Discopaedia*, which probably accounts for about 80 per cent of the production in those years. The catalog has been furnished with biographical notes, commentaries, methodological explanations, and a presentation of sources. The publication, which has no precedent in Polish phonographic literature, not only fills a gap in documentation, but also provides a large amount of information on the beginnings of phonography.

The Music Collections Department also keeps a central catalog with descriptions of music manuscripts up to the middle of the 19th century. The catalog is being steadily supplemented within the framework of national inventory work and now comprises about 10,000 items. For the last few years the catalog has been enlarged and modified through a data base in the MAK program.

Mention of the central catalog of music manuscripts brings to mind the participation of the Division of Special Collections in the preparation of international bibliographies. The descriptions contained in the catalog are used for the needs of RISM, *Répertoire International des Sources Musicales*. Co-operation in this field with the publication's editorial office in Frankfurt on Main (in Kassel up to 1987) has been going on since 1978, and since 1983 has been coordinated on a national scale by an RISM branch set up at the Music Collections Department. Every year the branch sends some 300 descriptions, now on diskettes, to the central editorial office for use in the PIKaDo specialized program. The Music Collections Department also co-operates with the central editorial office of RILM, *Répertoire International de la Littérature Musicale* (International Bibliography of Literature concerning Music) at New York University, supplying it with English, German, or French summaries of articles (RILM Abstracts) which have appeared in selected Polish music periodicals.

The Division of Special Collections also participates in the production of another international publication, the *Annual Bibliography of the History of the Printed Book and Libraries*, which was published first in Antwerp under the auspices

of the IFLA Committee of Rare Books and Manuscripts (on the initiative of Hendrik D.L. Vervliet); it is now published by the Division of Special Collections of the Royal Library in the Hague. Every year, beginning with the first volume which contained material for 1970, the Division of Special Collections sends about 100 descriptions of Polish publications within the range of interest of this bibliography.

As has already been said, publication of catalogs of its own collections is one of the main tasks of the Division of Special Collections. The catalogs of manuscripts have a long-standing tradition going back to 1929. Three volumes were published before the War. Unfortunately, they are out of date, for the collections described in them, the Rapperswil and Batignolles manuscripts, were destroyed during the War. However, they are important as valuable sources to the history of manuscript collections. As a result of work started again in 1947, another 10 volumes, divided into three series, have been published. Series I lists manuscripts according to their provenance and chronology. Series II will include revindicated manuscripts; the first to be published was volume 2, which appeared in 1980. The four-volume series III will contain descriptions of the manuscripts saved from the Zamoyski Library, deposited in the National Library. The first to appear was volume 2, which was published in 1991; it lists manuscripts from the 16th to the 19th century.

Although we have not discussed all activities involved in the compiling and publishing of catalogs of manuscripts, let us draw attention to the work on the 420 medieval manuscripts in our possession. Work on editing the individual manuscripts is in various stages of advancement. The cataloging and research work requires exceptional qualifications, experience, excellent ancillary information, and constant co-operation with experts and consultants from various fields. Our own well qualified team is unfortunately too small; this is why we must rely on co-operation with specialists from other libraries and institutions.

In 1993, aware of these difficulties and being determined to develop research and speed up work on medieval manuscripts, together with the Institute of the History of Science at the Polish Academy of Sciences, we set up a Team for Research into the National Library's Medieval Manuscripts. An Inter-institutional Source Knowledge Seminar

was also established, one of its tasks being to train manuscript experts.

The publication in 1991 of the first volume of the catalog of manuscripts of the Zamoyski Library inspired the Old Prints Department to start work on a catalog of extant old prints of the Zamoyski Library. A team headed by Professor Paulina Buchwald-Pelcowa is preparing the catalog according to new principles. An expanded description will state the provenance of each print, give information on previous owners, on the growth of the collection, and the ways in which individual items have been used.

It is worth pointing out that the collection of manuscripts and old prints of the Zamoyski Library, though severely mutilated, is still a glorious testimony to national culture and provides a rich source for research work.

As regards catalogs of the iconographic collection, let us start with the *Catalog of Portraits of Polish and Foreign Public Figures Active in Poland*. This publication presents the graphic collection of the National Library. It is worth pointing out that the Catalog, which presents individual figures in graphic form, is the first publication of its kind in Poland. Its value is undoubtedly enhanced by another two volumes which include 5,400 illustrations selected from a total of 6,722 items described. This gives the Catalog a European rank.<sup>1</sup>

Drawings, comprising 18,217 items, constitute an extremely valuable collection because of their unique character and artistic value. A few years ago the Library brought out Maria Grońska's catalog of *Drawings by Polish and Foreign Artists Active in Poland from the 17th to the 20th Century*, comprising selected items acquired by the National Library up to 1976. The first two volumes of Krystyna Gutowska-Dudek's catalog *Drawings from the Potockis' Wilanów Collection in the National Library* have already been published. This most valuable part of the iconographic collection comprising drawings as well as watercolors and engravings survived the War practically without losses.

The National Library also has a rich collection (over 100,000 items) of photographs, from daguerreotypes to contemporary artistic photographs. A part of this collection is described in the publication issued in 2000 entitled *The Borderland. A Catalog of Country Lovers' Photographs*

*from the Collection of Mieczysław Orłowicz*. This collection of 5,875 items documents the activity of Orłowicz as a pioneer of tourism. But what is most important is that it contains valuable iconographic material from various regions of Poland. The fact that the photographs were taken over a period of 60 years, from 1906 on, enhances the historic value of the collection.

A catalog which describes art treasures in Poland's former eastern borderland, recorded on postcards – especially those from the recently purchased wonderful collection of Janusz Wasylkowski (16,359 items) was also published, entitled *The Eastern Borderland. A Catalog of Postcards*.

The Music Collection Department is to publish its catalog before long, and so is the Sound Documentation Center. A series entitled "The National Library's Discographic Collection" has been opened with Maria Wróblewska's *Vocal and Instrumental Scenic Music. Complete Recordings*. Further volumes of the series will include recordings up to 1918 and *polonica* of the inter-war period. They will be divided into sections devoted to conductors, pianists, and violinists.

\*

We have so far presented the National Library's activities as a central institution and its work on cataloging its own collections. Let us now draw the reader's attention to the Library's research, documentary, and editorial activities, ones which sometimes overlap.

As has been mentioned above, one of Kazimierz Piekarski's many initiatives was the publication of *Polonia Typographica Saeculi Sedecimi*. The series was to provide information on typographic resources, i.e. printing and illustrative equipment of Polish 16th century printing houses. Unfortunately, only the first two fascicles were brought out before the War. Revived and continued under the direction of Professor Alodia Kawecka-Gryczowa, the series has assumed a new character. Published in an enlarged form, the successive fascicles are monographs on individual Polish 16th century printing houses, with a bibliography of their products and a systematized presentation of their typographic resources in album form. Thanks to this modification, the publication shows the influence of cultural, social, and political events on what was published.

*Polonia Typographica* is now an important research base for bibliologists and historians of literature, culture, and art. Its iconographic material is more and more often used in contemporary book illustrations.

Work on further issues of the publication – the next few of which will be devoted to the printing houses of Hieronim Wietor, Łazarz Andryś-wicz, and the Łazarz printing house of Jan Januszowski – has been going on for a long time under the direction of Professor Paulina Buchwald-Pelcowa who, like Henryk Bułhak, author of several issues, is also interested in adding her own contributions as an author. It is worth mentioning that Bożena Sajna has recently joined the team.

Research work in the Department of Cartographic Collections was launched on a large scale by the late Bogusław Krassowski, who was head of the Department over the years 1974-1987. Three series devoted to the history of Polish cartography and its most important achievements were published in that period. The first, entitled *Studies and Materials on the History of Cartography*, comprises detailed publications on various maps of Poland published from the 15th to the 18th century and also some later ones. These studies, which originally were to serve as material for a planned *Encyclopedia of Old Polish Cartography*, present maps by various authors and from various epochs, but working from a common model. Variants of some maps are also mentioned, as well as the place and date of their publication. The series also discusses various types of maps (self-contained maps, maps in atlases, in annexes, supplied with text) and maps kept in concrete libraries. The individual volumes of the series can therefore play the role of catalogs of certain cartographic items and certain libraries.

Let us point out that the series *Studies and Materials* includes not only original extant maps kept in Polish libraries, but also those from foreign collections and those known only from reproductions or literature. This principle, which is in keeping with the National Library's duty to register everything created by Poles or concerning Poland, is a common characteristic of the activities of the Division of Special Collections which have already been or will be referred to.

The second series published by the Department, *Monuments of Polish Cartography*, contains original-scale reproductions of the most

valuable maps of Polish territories made from the 15th to the 19th century as well as maps of towns. These maps are supplemented by monographic studies. The objective of this series is to protect the originals and to popularize valuable, sometimes even unique, cartographic items.

As regards the third series, *Topographic Maps of Polish Territories 1871-1945*, two volumes have been published so far.<sup>2</sup>

\*

Let us now have a look at some initiatives inspired by the 250th anniversary of the opening of the Załuski Library, which the National Library celebrated in 1997.

Among the manifold, sometimes only occasional, proposals there were some which were of a more lasting significance. I have in mind the studies which were to expand our knowledge of the precursor of the National Library, its creators and its collections. It is above all the Manuscripts and Old Prints Departments that are engaged in this work.

It was established that what was indispensable for further research was to reconstruct as fully as possible the original resources of manuscripts of the Załuski Library. This is not an easy task for the manuscripts had never been fully described, and the pre-war information base was destroyed during the Second World War, save for printed sources. The present documentation, reconstructed with great effort, to mention only the file of lost items, did not offer an adequate base for establishing the number of manuscripts once possessed by the Załuski Library.

In view of the scarcity of materials and the inadequacy of the information they offered, it was decided that the best way for fulfilling the research task entitled "Manuscripts from the Załuski Library" would be a computer database which will make it much easier to make use of the information material. Continually expanded and improved, and equipped with indexes and a proper scientific apparatus, the base offers hope for fruitful results.

Success in this undertaking will be facilitated by the prospect of unhampered co-operation with the Manuscripts Section of the Russian State Library in St. Petersburg. First and foremost I have in mind access to the manuscripts and the use of documentation. A primary database is being set up in the Manuscripts Department of the National

Library and a plan for further work has been devised in detail.

A part of the Załuski brothers' rich correspondence has survived in the National Library. It portrays the times in which they lived and worked, and is a source of information on the Library which they created.

Nearly thirty years ago Bogumił Stanisław Kupść and Krystyna Muszyńska published the first part of Józef Andrzej Załuski's rich correspondence comprising over 10,000 letters from the years 1724-1736. In view of the Załuski Library's 250th anniversary, the decision was taken to continue the publication of the letters and bring out another volume. In October 1994 a Team Entrusted with the Edition of Józef Andrzej Załuski's Correspondence, headed by Professor Jacek Staszewski of the Nicolas Copernicus University in Toruń, inaugurated its activity. It is made up of staffers of the Manuscripts Department and specialists from various research institutions in Poland. The work consists of establishing the right reading of the letters, elaborating them and working out notes and glosses. The letters from 1737-1747 are to be edited first.

Only a small part of the Załuski Library's collection of prints recovered by virtue of the Treaty of Riga has survived in the National Library. Their full registration and modern elaboration is therefore all the more important. This work has been undertaken by the Old Prints Department. Examination of the store rooms has made it possible to register over 3,000 prints in the KOLEKCJE computer base. This is part of a larger undertaking, the aim of which is to examine the provenance of all old prints of the National Library.

Another initiative of the Old Prints Department is the editing of the most important handwritten and printed documents connected with the Załuski Library. They will be included in the publication *Reminders of the History of the Załuski Library*.

The work on special collections has borne fruit in the shape of studies, treatises, articles, and contributions which, on the one hand, allow us better to present the resources of our Library and, consequently, promote better use of them and, on the other hand, frequently enrich our knowledge, including the knowledge of old books, the history of culture, literature, and art. It would be difficult to name even the most important of these studies,

for dozens have been written in the last few years. We will therefore cite but a few recent examples.

Let us start with the monumental work *The Library of the Last Jagiellon* by the late Professor Alodia Kawecka-Gryczowa, who for years headed the Old Prints Department. Her monograph not only expands and deepens our knowledge of this great "monument of Renaissance culture", but also bears testimony to Jagiellonian Poland's close links with European culture.

Let us recall that the National Library has the largest collection of *Sigismundiana* consisting of 164 works in 105 volumes. This is noteworthy, for King Zygmunt August's collection once numbering some 4,000 volumes, has been dispersed, as is proved by the fact that in the catalog of Zygmunt's library Kawecka-Gryczowa described volumes now kept in 34 Polish and 25 foreign collections in 11 countries. She was aware that many important works from the king's library were still unaccounted for. This was confirmed by recent discoveries in the libraries of Warsaw University, Kórnik, the Lublin Seminar, and the Academic Library in Riga. Many volumes have also been discovered in the Central Scientific Library of Ukraine's Academy of Sciences in Kiev (the present V.V. Vernatsky National Library of Ukraine).

Professor Paulina Buchwald-Pelcowa's latest book, *Old Editions of Jan Kochanowski's Works*, is on the overlap between history of literature and bibliology. The author, an eminent expert in Kochanowski's poetry, old Polish literature, and the history of printing, has shown why publishers contemporary with Kochanowski as well as later ones took an interest in his works. She has also analyzed the reasons why some texts differ from the originals and dealt with manifestations of Kochanowski's popularity and the circulation of his poems. The treatise sheds new light on the personality and work of Jan Januszowski, known as the poet's publisher. As a result of in-depth research connected with the preparation for *Polonia Typographica* of fascicles devoted to Januszowski, Professor Pelcowa has thoroughly examined the work of this typographer and vested it with a new quality.

Mention should also be made of an illustrated guide entitled *Karol Szymanowski in Polish Collections*, prepared at the initiative of the Music Collections Department in co-operation with the Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences

and the Warsaw University Library. Prepared with great care, it lists remembrances of the great composer.

With these examples of publications written by employees of the Division, let us now mention some editorial undertakings based on the special collections.

The iconographic collection is frequently referred to in various bibliophilic prints, albums, postcards, and calendars. The oldest section of the Library's rich collection of bookplates has been presented in *Polish Bookplates in the 16th and 17th Centuries*. The Library has also published two beautiful instructive files: *Warsaw in 18th Century Graphic Art* and *Poland's Elective Kings in 16th and 17th Century Graphic Art*, both preceded by a scholarly introduction. The former stirs the reader by the picture of Poland's capital in the past, the latter shows portraits of Poland's elective kings, recorded by the most eminent etchers.

\*

In presenting the work of the Division of Special Collections it is impossible to ignore the activity of the Section for the Documentation of Historical Collections and the Center for Research into Polish Books Abroad, whose work, though of great importance for the history of Polish books, is a category apart.

It is the task of the Section for the Documentation of Historical Collections to gather the fullest possible information on the extant, lost, and dispersed collections of Polish historical books. This is a gigantic task expected to take years, but the center, set up in 1990, has already important achievements to its credit.

With great energy the Section has set out to reconstruct as clear a picture as possible of old collections on the basis of scattered fragments. Research into the fate of some illustrious Polish libraries shows that the task facing the center is highly complex; it requires toilsome work, detective skill, and deep professional knowledge. Let us recall the above-mentioned monograph on Zygmunt August's widely scattered library. Alodia Kawecka-Gryczowa's vast knowledge and perseverance was needed to gather the information and present it in her publication. As has been said above, some volumes of Zygmunt August's library can be found all over Europe and perhaps even overseas.

Another attempt to reconstruct an old library will be *A Catalog of the Library of the Jesuit College at Braniewo*, seized by Gustavus Adolphus in 1626. This will be a joint work of the National Library and the Carolina Rediviva University in Uppsala, which has the largest part of the Braniewo collection, though some volumes can be found also in other Swedish libraries.

One could go on citing similar examples. What the Section for the Documentation of Historical Collections wants to do is to give an encyclopedic presentation of the whole question in *A Guide to Polish Historical Libraries and Libraries Set up in Polish Territories up to 1950*. A trial issue has already gone to a publisher, thanks to large-scale documentary work, the steadily growing bibliographic information gathered by the Section, and the collaboration of specialists from many Polish libraries and research institutions.

Another important initiative of the Section for the Documentation of Historical Collections was the registration of Stanisław August Poniatowski's collection kept in the V.V. Vernatsky National Library of Ukraine. The possibility of registering the collection after many years when it was inaccessible and when all information on it was kept secret shows our eastern neighbor's intention to seek rapprochement and cooperation. More than a dozen teams of specialists from all over Poland have already taken part in cataloging the royal library; employees of the Old Prints Department have also participated in this work.<sup>3</sup>

The Section for the Documentation of Historical Collections also co-operates with the Office of the Government's Plenipotentiary for Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad. It has helped to register the losses suffered by Polish libraries during the last War. The fruit of this work was the publication of *The Losses Suffered by Polish Libraries in World War II within Poland's 1945 Frontiers. Preliminary Report*. It was brought out by the Plenipotentiary's Office.

In accordance with an earlier proposal to give organizational forms to studies on the history of Polish books abroad, a Center for Research into Polish Books Abroad was set up in August 1994. The new Center:

- conducts research and documentary work on the history, function, and role of Polish books and institutions (libraries, publishing houses, bookshops, printing houses, etc.) in foreign countries,

and carries on work on Polish emigré materials and materials concerning Polish emigrés in Polish libraries;

- co-operates with Polish institutions and organizations in Poland and abroad which have a similar range of interests as the Center;
- disseminates and popularizes the result of research and documentary work concerning Polish books abroad.

Since 1992 the National Library, fulfilling its duty to protect the spiritual heritage of generations of Poles, has, with the financial assistance of the Ministry of Culture and Art, been extending expert help to the Polish Library in Paris, whose contribution to Polish culture is priceless.

After an examination of the scale and hierarchy of the Polish Library's needs and the National Library's personnel and financial abilities, it has been decided to concentrate on:

- putting in order, elaborating, and publishing catalogs of manuscripts,
- putting in order and elaborating documents of social life,
- microfilming the elaborated manuscripts.

The wealth of the Polish Library's collection of manuscripts, their steady increase and, first and foremost, their enormous historical and cultural

importance fully justify a preferential treatment. This is why it is above all the Manuscripts Department that is involved in the help to the Library on the Ile St. Louis, but persons from other departments of the Division of Special Collections and other units of the National Library as well as experts from the Czartoryski Library in Cracow also participate in this work. In this connection a PARIS computer base has been set up in the Manuscripts Department and an *Inventory of the Section of Manuscripts of the Polish Library* has been compiled. A print containing some 4,700 items was handed to Leszek Talko, director of the Polish Library, in August 1994. The seventh volume of the *Catalog of the Manuscripts of the Polish Library in Paris* has been published jointly with the National Library.<sup>4</sup> A *Guide to the Sets of Manuscripts of the Historical Literary Society and Polish Library in Paris*, written by Maria Wrede, Janusz Pezda, and Marek M. Prokop has also been issued.

Not all activities have been mentioned in this survey of the work conducted by the Division of Special Collections in the last few years, but it was not our intention to produce a catalog. Neither have all names been enumerated. But we know that by their knowledge and efforts all employees help to strengthen the due rank of our national library.

### Notes

1. (ed) A separate presentation of the catalog is to be found in the article of Irena Tessaro-Kosimowa published in this volume of "Polish Libraries Today".
2. (ed) More information on publications issued by the National Library's Department of Cartographic Collections

is presented in the text of Lucyna Szaniawska published in this volume of "Polish Libraries Today".

3. (ed) For more information see the article by Hanna Łaskarzewska in this volume of "Polish Libraries Today".
4. (ed) See also the text by Maria Wrede in this volume of "Polish Libraries Today".

Translated by *Janina Dorosz*

*Abstract* The author presents the history, current activities, and future perspectives of the National Library's Institute of Book and Readership. The Institute's research into various aspects of reading is discussed in the article, together with the Institute's international cooperation.

#### The Past

An attempt to analyze and evaluate the research and didactic activities of the Institute of Book and Readership should take into account several major factors. The first one is connected with the past – the mid 1950s – when the Institute was established as a result of the authorities' more favorable attitude towards social studies, this being a consequence of the "thaw" begun in 1954.<sup>1</sup> The climate of the "thaw" had a great impact on shaping the first research subjects in the Institute. The relaxing of a communist ideological corset enabled the creation of a properly organized and equipped research institution that would conduct studies into the trends of development in public librarianship on the one hand, and the shaping of the reading interests of various social groups on the other. In the first years those studies focused on investigating reading in small towns, in towns quickly developing an industrial infrastructure (on the example of Lublin), and in Wola – the workers' quarter in Warsaw. As a result of the then widely-spread anthropological attitude in sociology, research into the reading habits of women, country teenagers, and workers was carried out. Another important trend of studies was the reception of belles-lettres and consciousness-raising literature, as well as analyses of the situation in public libraries as per their supply of newly published books and the extent of their use by readers.

The Institute was established as an inherent part of the National Library by a government regulation of January 19, 1954 to ensure a proper implementation of research projects in the field of librarianship and to enable an influence on major trends of development in Polish libraries. The pro-

gram of studies conducted in the Institute was provided for in the National Library's statute and included problems pertaining to books, libraries, reading, and the training of librarians. Thus the main goal of the Institute was, on the one hand, spreading within the library milieu a methodology prepared by the staffers of the Institute and, on the other, familiarizing this milieu – through didactic work – with the connections between libraries and transformations in culture, education, politics, and the economy. Analyses prepared in the Institute made it possible to inform relevant institutions responsible for publishing policy of the growing discrepancies between the publications offered on the market and those expected by the readers.

In the organizational structure of the Institute four departments were isolated: the Department of Library Science; the Department of Methodology and Instructions; the Department of Organization and Propagation of Reading; and the Department of Library Staff Training. Over time some of them enlarged their scope of interest, others limited their research field. For all of them, however, the contemporary status of the book, as well as social and organizational aspects of public librarianship, remained the main point of reference. Today three departments are active within the Institute: the Department of Research into the History of Reading, the Department of Library Science, and the Department of Research into Reading.

Another trend in the studies conducted in the Institute has been the investigation of reading habits on Polish territories and among Poles living abroad in the 19th and in the first half of the 20th centuries. This project, started at the turn of the 1970s by a group of staffers in the Department

of Research into the History of Reading, has been focusing on the reading public in the time of statelessness (begun in 1795 after the Third Partition of Poland and concluded in 1918 when she regained her independence), as well as in the subsequent inter-war period (1918-1939).

All of the above mentioned projects and research fields do not only constitute the roots of today's activity of the Institute. They also testify to the continuity of studies conducted within its structure that concentrate on the book, libraries, and reading.

## The Present

To describe the character of research currently carried out in the Institute it is necessary to take into account the following factors:

- the complete change of the political and economic system in Poland, started in 1989;
- the abolishment of censorship (in 1990);
- the creation of a book market in a shape unknown before;
- the introduction of new principles of managing and financing public libraries, as a result of passing the Local Government Act of 1990;
- the development of mass culture, observed not only in growing interest for electronic devices (TV, video, the Internet, etc.), but also in specific reading choices;
- the destruction of traditional literary canons;
- the diversification of society, both on the level of material goods, and that of intellectual values;
- changes in the system of education: the establishment of private colleges and universities, and the growing number of students in all kinds of schools.

All the factors mentioned above require close examination and a careful evaluation as per their impact on society's changing reading habits. In fact, most of the analyses prepared in the Institute prior to 1989 are no longer valid today, with totally new social conditions.

The Institute of Book and Readership is at present the only center to develop a system of studies on contemporary functions of books and libraries. Most academic centers educating librarians are involved in historical and bibliological research. Studies conducted at the National Library focus on observing and analyzing changes in Polish librarianship, particularly in public libraries, which

enables us to foresee the directions of further development.

The basis for studies in the Institute is constituted by several publications of a serial character. Among them are to be found:

- "Biblioteki Publiczne w Liczbach" (Public Libraries in Figures), a yearly published since 1972,
- "Materiały Informacyjne Instytutu Książki i Czytelnictwa" (Information Materials of the Institute of Book and Readership), published since 1970, which include, among other matters, articles on librarian training,
- "Z Badań nad Czytelnictwem" (Studies into Readership), a series issued since 1956 which presents the results of studies into the range of the book in Poland, the reception of individual types of literature, and reading in various social groups and milieux,
- "Z Dziejów Kultury Czytelniczej w Polsce" (History of Reading Culture in Poland), the most recent series, issued since 1989,
- "Zeszyty Przekładów" (Translation Papers), publications issued in 1957-1993 to popularize in Polish library milieux problems and experiences of foreign librarianship, including computerization of libraries, use of audiovisual and musical materials in the work of a librarian, preservation of collections, etc. Owing to difficulties in obtaining copyrights the publication of the series has been suspended.

## The Scope of Research

All research conducted at the Institute – gathering statistical data, compiling questionnaires, analyzing the contents of various library collections – has always been aimed at studying the status of the library in a broad context and putting it against the background of social transitions observed in Poland. The orientation of research thus defined follows the approach represented by many eminent library specialists, above all the first director of the Institute, Zofia Krystyna Remerowa. This methodological directive has also been systematically enriched with methods applied in the social sciences, especially in sociology.

The sociological aspect of studies carried out in the Institute has always had an important impact on shaping the methods of analyzing and evaluating the organizational sphere of library activities. These methods also include elements

of economics, theory of information science, programming, planning, and statistics. Foreign experience in building library systems has also been taken into account.

The subjects under study were and still remain more or less the same. They have all been connected with processes resulting from the modern functioning of the book, in which the library plays an important, though not unique, role. Even when the object of an analysis was a collection of a particular library, it has always been shown against a broad context of social and organizational phenomena, such as the publishing and book-selling market, systems of purchasing and selecting books for public libraries, etc.

In considering the functions and importance of public libraries, the frame of reference is constituted by the spheres of social life which have the strongest impact on them. These include both institutions, such as the family, education, science, economics or information, as well as social processes, e.g. the shaping of a cultural community and its attitude towards national culture (especially on the symbolical level), literature, ideology, politics, and work.

Research into matters belonging to the past concerns phenomena enabling the functioning of the book itself, such as the existence of publishing houses, printing houses, or libraries. In this field we have studies by Elżbieta Słodkowska on the production and distribution of publications in the Polish Kingdom in 1815-1830<sup>2</sup>, by Nina Kraśko on publishing institutions of the Second Commonwealth (1918-1939), by Wojciech Tomaszewski on music life in the provinces of the Polish Kingdom in 1815-1862, and by Kazimierz Ossowski on the press in the Grand Duchy of Warsaw (1807-1815). Mention is also due to the work by Kazimierz Dmitruk, which constitutes a field of research itself, although it fits in with the historical trend presented here. It deals with the shaping of the reading public from the Middle Ages until the 20th century and also takes into account the socio-dimensional transformations on the territories of the Old Poland during the period of partitions, and in the time of the Second Republic.

As for modern times, several research fields can be isolated. These are:

- works dealing with organizational problems of public libraries in the changing administra-

tive system of the country; research in this field is aimed at characterizing the situation of public libraries, both at the organizational and financial level (by Witold Adamiec), as well as at analyzing whether and to what extent libraries manage to obtain new publications (by Stanisław Kondek), whether and how they make use of multimedia to make their collections available to readers (by Lucyna Bielińska), how the mass media (the press, radio and TV) are used to popularize the knowledge of the book, libraries and readership (by Witold Adamiec and Barbara Kołodziejczyk), and finally, what are the social contexts of the functioning of libraries both in the country and abroad (by Jadwiga Kołodziejewska);

- studies on the social contexts of readership understood as a cultural phenomenon; here we have works on the availability of the book in Poland, based on bi-annual queries (by Grażyna Strauss and Katarzyna Wolff), studies on the image of the fatherland in Polish schoolbooks of the 1945-1989 period (by Zofia Zasacka), analyses of reading interests of the young generation based on questionnaires distributed among college students in Warsaw (by Grażyna Strauss), and research into the world of comics, i.e. into the history of comics in Poland in 1919-1999 (by Adam Rusek);
- research into the problems of the librarian's instruments – works by Jerzy Maj on computerization of the network of public libraries and on library statistics, studies by Teresa Turowska-Cermużyńska and Lucyna Bielińska on the organization of subject catalogs and lists of headings (e.g. Universal Decimal Classification, or National Library's Subject Heading List), works by Tadeusz Zarzębski on library law.

A separate research field is constituted by the studies carried out by Anna Maria Krajewska, Adam Rusek, and Barbara Budzyńska dealing with the professional status of the librarian and various forms of librarian training.

Research work carried out in the Institute also allows its staffers to develop didactic activities. According to particular specialization, lectures are given and seminars are conducted at higher and secondary library schools, e.g. at Warsaw University, the University of Łódź, and the Center for Continual Education of Librarians. Also, papers

are delivered during conferences organized by academic and research centers, learning societies, and libraries.

## International Contacts

Of essential value for the activity of the Institute is its cooperation with centers carrying out similar work abroad. This cooperation consists in participation in international problem seminars, presentation of relevant papers and materials, exchange of information on research projects under way, etc. Mention is also due to participation in international library organizations and in the work of their problem groups. Until 1989 contacts were maintained mostly with the countries traditionally referred to as “socialist”, as a result of bilateral agreements on cultural exchange signed by Poland with each of those countries. International projects were thus carried out in cooperation with such countries as Hungary (the joint Polish-Hungarian project on belles-lettres and its functioning in various social groups, started on the initiative of the Center of Library Science and Methodological Work in Budapest), or the USSR (studies on reading of technical literature, conducted together with the Russian Sałtykov-Szczedrin Public Library).

Only recently has cooperation with Western countries been successfully developed, although already in the 1960s the Institute strived for establishing contacts with library centers in the West. The fellowships then obtained, few as they were, allowed our staffers to familiarize themselves with the advanced modernization of libraries abroad, especially in the field of building information systems, the computerization of library processes, and using multimedia in libraries. Contacts with international library organizations were established and maintained, first of all with IFLA’s Section of the Library Theory and Research, IFLA’s Reading Research Section, as well as The International Development in Europe – International Reading

Association. Participation in the latter body resulted in our contribution to international reading congresses. Papers delivered by the Institute’s staffers during various international conferences are usually published in collective publications or in foreign specialized periodicals.

## The Future

Our research program for the next few years has been conceived to keep pace with the civilizational transformations of the printed word, as well as with electronic civilization. The influence of the latter can be observed more and more often in the field of the book and library. Nevertheless, experience gathered by more developed countries shows that both the individuals and social groups when entering the world of culture cannot do without the printed word. It is still the basis for education, gathering knowledge, obtaining and using information, acquiring qualifications and improving one’s social and professional status. Thus, having in mind the disadvantageous and anachronic structure of education in Polish society when compared with Western ones, the Institute feels obliged to closely observe: 1) transformations on the publishing market (books and periodicals, as well as multimedia); 2) changes in the social functioning of the book and library, both in the past and now. Apart from studying the situation in Poland, observations will also have to be made concerning the tendencies and directions of library development abroad, both in the countries of the EU and among our neighbors: Slovakia, Ukraine, the Czech Republic, Byelorussia, Russia, etc.

Libraries, just as many other institutions, tend to be affected by the world-wide process of globalization. This is to be seen especially in the field of building information systems. We therefore need to closely watch this process and, knowing our situation against the background of other countries, put forth an effort to modernize what is still outdated in the Polish library system.

## Notes

1. (ed.) The “thaw” is a term given to the period after the death of Stalin when Stalinist terror was lessened in the communist countries, censorship was relaxed, and some dis-

cussion on political, economic or ideological issues was allowed.

2. (ed.) For more information see the article by Krzysztof Dmítruk published in this issue of “Polish Libraries Today”.

Translated by *Wojciech Tyska*

## Users of the National Library's Reading Rooms

*Abstract* In the 1990s an extensive development of the National Library's services for its users was observed. This article presents a major breakthrough in the use of the National Library's collections following their move to the new library building, where a set of modern reading rooms with a capacity of serving 10 times more users than before was opened.

“A library is not to be locked up in cases  
or to serve as decoration;  
it is to be publically used”

Joachim Lelewel

historian and bibliographer (1786-1861)

The transformations which have been taking place in Polish political, economic, and cultural life since 1989 have brought many new conditions to libraries in general, and to the National Library in particular. Due to the changes in almost every field of science, the necessity of rewriting thousands of publications in history, economy, sociology, philosophy, philology, etc., has arisen. Requisite changes in the teaching curricula have led to the publication of new school-books. The abolishing of censorship was followed by open access to emigré literature. Also, as it has become clear that the chances of getting an interesting and well-paid job depend strongly on the level of one's education and the knowledge of foreign languages, thousands of young people have taken up studies in universities, colleges, or other institutes of higher education. At the same time, books have become more and more expensive.

It was at this moment that the National Library moved into a new and not even completely finished building at 213 Niepodległości Ave, where it began making available its collections. In the autumn of 1991 the Main Reading Room was opened, first in a temporary location where around 100 users could be served. After further intensive preparations (e.g. completing the reference collections directly available on the shelves) in 1996 the Main Reading Room was moved to another

location, where it can serve 300 users. Then, too, the Humanities Reading Room was opened with 100 seats. In mid-1997 the Periodicals Reading Room (100 seats) was opened, to which the periodicals from the Main Reading Room had been transferred. Also, the Microform Reading Room (18 seats), the Music Reading Room (8 seats), and the Bibliological Reading Room (14 seats) have been moved to the new building. The total number of seats in all the above mentioned reading rooms has thus reached 540. As for the manuscript, old book, and iconographic collections, they all remained in the Library's old seat in the Palace of the Commonwealth, where they can be used in the Special Collections Reading Room.

As a consequence of moving most of the National Library's collections to the new building where they can now be made available to a greater number of users, there has been an enormous increase of interest in the Library's resources. In 1992-1998 the number of volumes made available in the Library's reading rooms increased by about 440%, and the number of users – by over 600%. In 1998 the Main, Periodicals, and Humanities Reading Rooms served an average of 780 persons daily who made use of about 2,174 volumes. Of course, the Special Collections Reading Room in the Palace of the Commonwealth also saw more readers in this period, but this can hardly be compared with the growth concerning the 19th and 20th century publications made available in the new seat of the Library.

What, then, can be said of the readers using this type of material? Who are they, what type of collection do they use the most, how are their

needs changing? Do the transformations in Poland listed above effect those needs and their changes? All this can be observed by analyzing library documentation as well as by talking to the readers themselves. The results of these observations show us how the readers' interests and needs have changed and are still changing. They also make clear that new categories of users and various disciplines in which materials are sought have emerged. Finally, they show some very interesting differences between the needs of readers using the Main Reading Room and the Humanities Reading Room.

In 1986 the small Main Reading Room in the old seat of the Library was used mostly by students (53% of all users), mainly students of the humanities enrolled at Warsaw University and at higher pedagogical schools. The second biggest category of users – 19.5% – was that of academics, mostly historians. Few were the researchers in hard science. No wonder, then, that about 29% of the materials made available in the reading room concerned historical matters, mainly the history of Poland. The Main Reading Room served about 90 persons a day.

Twelve years later in 1998, in the Main Reading Room of the Library students constituted as many as 85% of all users. This category, however, is now made up chiefly of students from higher economic schools or economy and law departments at universities, as well as those studying in numerous private schools of business and marketing. This fact is a *signum temporis* of modern Poland. Transformations in the national economy and administration have caused a demand for specialists in the fields of law and economy trained according to modern curricula. This, in turn, made law and economy departments, business schools, etc., very popular with young people. Between 1990/91 and 1997/98 the number of students in general increased by about 170%, while the number of economy, marketing, and law students – by about 380%. Similarly, the number of students in private business schools is constantly getting bigger. All those young people must seek current publications in their fields, ones that their schools do not have in sufficient numbers of copies. The National Library, thanks to two legal deposit copies of all publications sent in by publishers, can be of help to them in this difficult situation, although one can only hope this state

of matters is but temporary. Another type of material widely used by students are publications in the fields of sociology, psychology, pedagogy, philosophy, and politics which came out in the 1980s and 1990s. These are sometimes not related to the students' majors; they simply reflect their individual interests.

Among all the students, foreign ones are not a very large group – they constitute only 4.5% of the whole category. Generally these are persons of Polish descent, most of them from Ukraine, Russia, or Lithuania. They study mainly Polish literature, history, pedagogy, and psychology. One may therefore assume that they intend to become teachers in Polish schools in their respective countries. Students from Western countries mainly ask for books on medicine, political science, and sometimes history. Many of them do not know Polish, or know it rather poorly.

As for the remaining 15% of the Main Reading Room users, their needs are quite diversified, though certain larger groups may be observed. Journalists, reviewers, or literary critics come to find or verify materials for their work. Representatives of various professions, often small entrepreneurs, look for recent law codes, journals of law, and other legal publications. Many readers come to search materials related to their recollections, the fate of their families during the War and the German occupation, the history of the place they come from, or the school they graduated from. For them, publications concerning the years 1918-1939, as well as the period of World War II are the most sought after. Also a vast reference collection in the reading room composed of many encyclopedias – both Polish and foreign – biographical dictionaries, chronologies of events, indices and directories to institutions and organizations, etc. can be of help to all these users.

It is much easier to define the categories of users and their needs in the Humanities Reading Room. Since its access has been limited, it has become a place of true research work. It is used by academics, researchers, students of the humanities writing their master's theses, as well as by other persons interested in the humanities. In 1996 academics and researchers were the largest category of users, then came students writing their master's theses, while the remaining group was composed mostly of journalists, literary critics, translators, bibliographers, etc. (see Table 1).

Table 1. Users of the Humanities Reading Room in 1996

Categories of Users	Percentage
Academics, researchers	54.5 %
Students writing their master's theses	26.2 %
Others	19.3 %

The rich and often unique collections of the National Library also attract users from other cities or even other countries. Almost every second researcher using the Humanities Reading Room in 1996 came from outside Warsaw, in which number 13.5% from countries of the former USSR (Ukraine, Byelorussia, Lithuania, Russia), and 5.5% from Western countries. Historians are the biggest group among them, then come philologists, sociologists, and art historians. They use mainly historical publications, including source materials (more than a half of all materials made available), literary texts, publications in sociology, Polish philology, art, etc. (see Table 2). They study recent publications as well as those published in the 19th century, or in 1918-1939. They use many foreign sources, mostly in English, Russian, and German. They often read rare, sometimes unique works. Though the history and culture of Poland is their main interest, some of them – especially foreigners – look for a very wide spectrum of sources. A historian from Charkov, for instance, studies publications in English concerning Ukrainian emigration after 1917. His colleague from Vilnius is interested in the right of small nations to sovereignty. A researcher from Lwów writes his doctoral dissertation on the Christianization of Russia. A professor from the USA of Polish descent studies Kościuszko's correspondence, a historian from Bochum researches into the Germans' displacements after World War II.

Table 2. Materials Used in the Humanities Reading Room in 1996 by Discipline

Discipline	Percentage
History (including sources)	50.7 %
Literary texts	13.5 %
Sociology	7.3 %
Polish philology	5.7 %
Art	4.7 %
Psychology, pedagogy	3.0 %
Other	15.1 %

The majority of the Humanities Reading Room users are, however, people living in Warsaw. Certain larger groups can be distinguished among them. The largest one is made up of editors of publishing houses, publicists, and journalists, both working for the press as well as for the radio and TV. There are also museum managers and conservators, teachers, or translators. Bibliographers take advantage of the comprehensiveness of the National Library's collections and come here to gather information for various literary bibliographies, or bibliographies of Warsaw. There are also many retired historians, lawyers, and teachers who read mainly historical publications and memoirs, but also books on ecology, sociology, or politics (see Table 3).

Table 3. Users of the Humanities Reading Room in 1996 by Profession

Categories	Percentage
Editors, publicists	30.2 %
Retired teachers, translators, publicists, etc.	22.4 %
Art historians, museum conservators	11.9 %
Bibliographers, librarians	11.8 %
Teachers	9.2 %
Translators, writers	8.0 %
Film directors, actors	6.5 %

Apart from books, another type of publication widely used in the National Library's reading rooms is periodicals. The collection of periodicals numbers about 600,000 volumes, including many regional and local papers, conspiratorial and emigré papers, and those published by minorities. More than 2,000 periodicals have been microfilmed, often using other libraries' collections where those of the National Library were incomplete. In this form the most important papers and cultural periodicals of the 18th and 19th centuries are made available, as well as those published in 1918-1939, conspiratorial papers, and major contemporary newspapers and magazines. They can be used in the Microform Reading Room, where the number of readers has increased immensely since the rule was introduced that if a paper had been microfilmed its original would not be made available to users. More than 50% of microfilms used are periodicals published before 1917, about 30% are those

from 1918-1939, which quite well reflects the structure of the microfilmed collections (see Table 4).

Table 4. Periodicals Made Available in the Microform Reading Room in 1996

Years of Publication	Percentage
1701-1800	3.5 %
1801-1917	47.5 %
1918-1939	28.7 %
1940-1944	2.0 %
1945-1989	16.6 %
1990-	1.7 %

Papers in their original form are also extensively used. In the Periodicals Reading Room the most recent issues of some 250 titles are made available directly on the shelves. Polish periodicals from all branches of knowledge predominate here, but foreign ones from the social and political sciences are also available. Students again constitute the main group of users (70-75%). As for the titles ordered from the stockrooms, periodicals of general character and diaries (including regional ones) are the most popular, as well as economic and law periodicals (see Table 5). In 1998 about 50% of all materials used were titles issued in the 1990s (see Table 6).

Table 5. Materials Used in the Periodicals Reading Room in 1998 by Discipline

Discipline	Percentage
General papers	16,0
Economy	13.8
Diaries	10.5
Law	10.0
History	7.5
Pedagogy	6.2
Polish philology	5.4
Technical & informatics papers	5.0
Art	3.7
Political science	3.7
Religious science	3.4
Sociology	3.2
Psychology	3.0
Natural science & ecology	3.0
Philosophy	1.0
Agriculture & forestry	0.9
Various (e.g. sport, entertainment)	3.7

Table 6. Periodicals Made Available in the Periodicals Reading Room in 1998

Years of Publication	Percentage
1801-1917	3.7
1918-1939	15.3
1940-1944	0.2
1945-1979	18.4
1980-1989	12.7
1990-	49.7

The preferences of the Humanities Reading Room users are much more specific. Periodicals used here can be considered a supplement to the microform collections. Users of the Humanities Reading Room, interested mostly in the past, extensively use the Microform Reading Room, where they find most of the materials they need. However, many rare, low-circulation papers, especially those issued by minorities in their native languages – Hebrew, Byelorussian, Ukrainian – have not been microfilmed and can be used only in their original form. As for the years of publication, papers issued in 1918-1939 are used the most frequently (see Table 7). A large part of them are regional papers issued in Eastern Poland between the two world wars.

Table 7. Periodicals Made Available in the Humanities Reading Room in 1996

Years of Publication	Percentage
1801-1917	12.6 %
1918-1939	23.0 %
1940-1944	8.2 %
1945-1979	16.0 %
1980-1989	22.6 %
1990-	17.6 %

It is also worth mentioning that the users of the National Library's reading rooms are often helped in their search for materials by the employees of the Reference Center, called the *Informatarium*. They can also use a small reading room run by its staff (25 seats), in which a collection of useful indices, directories, encyclopedias, genealogical sources, or national and foreign databases is to be found.

In conclusion, it needs to be stressed that never more than in the 1990s has the National Library made such extensive availability of its collections. The reasons for this are twofold: firstly, the continuously growing needs of various categories of users, mainly students, secondly – the improvement of user services in the Library, i.e. bigger and better organized reading rooms, quick photocopying services on the spot, etc. Thanks to these reasons and owing to the financial and spacial difficulties of many academic libraries in Warsaw (first of all the Warsaw University Library BUW, until the enlarged, new seat for its collections was constructed), the National Library has become an interdisciplinary

academic library for many students. At the same time, improved research conditions, as well as favorable information on the Library's collections and services in the mass media, has attracted new categories of users, such as foreign researchers, academics, and students who are becoming more and more numerous. As always, an important part of users is that of researchers into the history and culture of Poland. Thus, by making available its collections on a larger scale, and while continuing to preserve the archival copies and all valuable documents, the National Library in Warsaw not only performs its statutory duties, but also follows the trends underway in national libraries worldwide.

Translated by *Wojciech Tyszk*

# New Library Legal Regulations

*Stanisław Czajka*

## The New Library Law in Poland

*Abstract* In the 1990s many new laws and regulations pertaining to libraries in Poland were introduced. This article is an attempt to describe and analyze them, as well as to find a common denominator for all legislative regulations introduced in Poland during the last decade.

The 1990s saw a great number of changes in Polish library legislation. The period was filled with a plethora of legislative regulations – an unprecedented development in the history of Polish librarianship – related to various aspects of the organization, duties, and rights of libraries.

The legislature – the Sejm – provided Polish libraries with a rich and new legal framework, one designed to accommodate them to the realities of the market economy and the new administrative division of the country.<sup>1</sup>

As yet it would be hard to unequivocally assess whether this abundance of law-making initiatives is for the good or ill of librarianship. The legal value of the regulations does not consist in their quantity, but first and foremost in the fine adjustment of legal provisions to the social and economic environment and the tradition and expectations of the communities involved. And these, at least on the part of the library community, have been prominent indeed.

It is worth recalling that until the end of the 1980s, library matters were regulated in Poland by the Parliamentary Act on Libraries of April 1968, and earlier – in the first postwar years – by the 1946 Decree on Libraries. That, briefly put, was the essence of Polish tradition in the area of library legislation, not mentioning the distant in time and perfunctorily formulated 18th century provisions adopted by the Commission of National Education. Obviously, numerous regulations concerning libraries were in force before 1990 – ordinances of the Minister of Culture and Arts<sup>2</sup> and other ministers, voivodeship authorities and various instructions and recommendations created with the participation of the National Library, voivodeship public libra-

ries, recommendations of international organizations, etc. Many of them represented to a large extent the so-called “typescript law”, sometimes incompatible with or detached from statutory provisions, and also the realities of changing life.

In the 1990s – still before the new acts referred to as library laws came into force – changes that were very essential for the operation of libraries (first public, and later school ones), were introduced by the Local Government Act, referred to as the “range of powers” act. Under this act – which called local governments into being in 1991 – local governments became responsible for most public libraries (almost 9,000), and in 1996 for state-owned schools and school libraries.

In this manner nearly 32,000 libraries out of the total number of 36,000 libraries in Poland were placed by the new legislation within the range of the power of local governments. This meant that from that moment on the situation of the above mentioned libraries, their budget, staff, creation of a library network etc. have been decided upon by local communities, and not (as before) by the omnipresent state.<sup>3</sup> The laws essential for the legislative initiatives of the current decade were, in chronological order, as follows:

- Act on the Conduct and Organization of Cultural Activities of October 25, 1991 (as amended by Resolutions of September 29, 1994; June 27, 1996 and July 24, 1998),
- Act on Legal Deposit of November 7, 1996,
- Act on Libraries of June 27, 1997,
- Act of July 24, 1998 on the change of some acts specifying the range of powers of public administration bodies – related to the country’s administrative reform.

The above listed legal acts often refer directly to various library issues, and some of them (the third and fourth ones) referred to the planned changes in the organization and functions of libraries during and after the administrative reform which entered into force as of January 1, 1999.

To provide a fuller picture it is worth adding that the years under discussion saw also the passing of acts concerning various non-library issues that nevertheless were important for the area of information about the book or referred to access to culture, to business initiatives, the system of education, copyright, etc. They are all laws of the legal environment in which libraries operate. Some of the laws falling into that category are the Copyright Law of February 4, 1994<sup>4</sup>, various acts concerning education, the Act on the National Broadcasting Council, or the so-called economic acts covering a broad area of activity, such as the Act on Public Procurement, which is important – among other matters – for big, self-standing libraries as per the maintenance, purchase of collections, and fixed assets or investment.

The question that arises is which of the enumerated acts are and will remain most vital for Polish libraries today and in the nearest future? It seems to me that this applies to all the “library” acts, first and foremost including the acts on:

- libraries,
- legal deposit,
- organization and conduct of cultural activities.

Let us add that two of these acts, namely the first and the third ones, have already been changed by the “range of powers” act of July 24, 1998, as they had to be adjusted to the regulations on the new administrative division of the country.

The weight of the above three acts may be evaluated from many points of view. The broadest and most comprehensive from the point of view of library issues is the Act on Libraries passed on June 27, 1997. It concerns solely library matters. Some librarians, namely those disappointed with its final content wryly refer to it as the “act on public libraries”.

It seems to me that these words are not totally groundless and though they do not discredit the law as a whole, they do reflect its major feature, or even drawback, if you will. The case in point is not only the genesis of the law (the legislative initiative of the Ministry of Culture and Arts responsible

for public libraries), but also its content, scope, the specific codification of public libraries issues, and a very general approach to other library networks. I shall focus on this law in greater detail.

The law by its very assumptions, and to some extent by its very name, is a Polish library constitution. Its passing was preceded by multifarious initiatives, projects, and a series of disputes. The law was adopted before the decisions were made on the administrative reform of the country. Thus it can be said that it was not – because it could not have been – formulated to be compatible with the reform, which only necessitated its rapid amendment before it even came fully into force.

The library community had awaited the new library law for many years. For this reason its passing was connected with great expectations and raised many hopes for the improvement of the situation. The attempts made in the early 1980s to pass a new library law, either by the State Library Council or later by various library community organizations or assemblies, did not produce the expected result and the project always remained at various stages of approximation. The old law of April 9, 1968 was becoming increasingly obsolete and when local governments were finally created and responsibility for previously centralized libraries was transferred to them, the law finally turned out to be an anachronistic document.

The process of writing and later of passing the law was rife with emotion and disputes, as well as numerous proposals, though many of them were patently unrealistic. Library journals such as “Bibliotekarz” (The Librarian), “Poradnik Bibliotekarza” (Librarian’s Guide), “Przegląd Biblioteczny” (The Library Review) devoted much space to these issues and published numerous articles, statements, and polemics. The topic of the library law was also handled by several conferences held at the initiative of the Association of Polish Librarians.

The law finally adopted by the Parliament on June 27, 1997 encountered widely-differing reactions on the part of the library community. The most frequently voiced objections refer to the insufficient protection of libraries against their closure and inadequate financial support for libraries. In this respect the law, as its opponents claim, leaves too much freedom to local governments in deciding about the fate of libraries and fails to guarantee the financial support of the state for local government libraries.

Almost two years have passed since the law came into effect.<sup>5</sup> And, as mentioned before, it has already been amended. So far not all of its provisions have been implemented, e.g. those referring to the issuing of ordinances to be prepared by the Ministry of Culture and Arts and library experts. And many such ordinances have been provided for under the new law. According to the new law's provisions, as many as 10 issues of major importance for libraries will be regulated under ordinances which the government is obliged to publish. Certainly they will elaborate upon a number of matters which have been defined in very broad terms under the new library law.

Four ordinances have been issued thus far. These are:

- an ordinance introducing bylaws of the National Library Council
- an ordinance concerning the qualification requirements for research libraries
- an ordinance concerning the qualification requirements for library staff
- an ordinance regulating the introduction of the new statute of the National Library.

Several other ordinances are still underway and they concern:

- the register of library material
- the national library resource
- specialization of collection development
- cataloging in publication.

This still does not provide a full catalog of issues that will become an object of legal regulation. Article 28 of the law stipulates that the Minister of Culture and Arts shall specify the principles of:

- collection development, cataloging, storage, preservation, and conservation of library material
- specialization of library material resources and definition of tasks in this area for research libraries developing a collection of library material in a specific area of knowledge
- exchange of library material
- registration of library material
- interlibrary loans
- union catalogs
- coordination of bibliographic work
- participation in information systems
- library staff development
- cooperation of libraries in areas covered by items mentioned above.

Only after all ordinances concerning the above items are promulgated – and depending on specific provisions regarding particular issues – will it become clear what legal changes in Polish libraries the new law on libraries will bring and what are the new legal foundations of library work. However, already at the present stage some of the changes introduced by the new law and its provisions may be noted.

One of the first provisions of the new law on libraries refers to matters which it does not cover. An act which is complementary to the law on libraries is the law on conduct and organization of cultural activity. Only both laws are assumed to be complementary as far as library matters are concerned.

It needs to be stressed that the law introduces many new provisions adjusted to the changed political and economic reality. It eliminates also the host of previously existing discrepancies, particularly with respect to the 1990 “range of powers” law on local government, which were the result of the cohabitation of the “old” and “new” law. It is also worth noting that Article 31 of the new law on libraries annuls the old 1968 law. The previous law – created in a totally different environment – contained provisions that proved to be completely out of place under the new social, economic, and legal conditions. As already noted, it had never been visibly amended.

Article 13 is generally regarded as one of the major elements of the new law. It concerns the fusion, division, or closure of libraries and is the reaction of the Parliament, legislators, and initiators of the law to the proposals constantly raised by the library community alarmed at the rate of the closure of libraries in the 1990s. Over eight years this trend has affected ca. 9% of public libraries and so-called library points and has not disappeared completely. There are many indications that it may be triggered off again, particularly in the wake of the new local government elections and the new administrative division of the country introduced as of January 1, 1999. The main motivation behind such tendencies is that local governments strive to limit public spending and economize on a number of areas.

The 1997 law does not exclude the closure, fusion, or division of libraries, but the decision to do so shall be made publicly known. Under the new law decision-makers are obliged to a three months'

notice if fusion or division arrangements are made. The same applies to changing any library's statute. Under the new law the decision-making body (the local government in this case) shall notify the interested parties, the general public, and library users about the change of the statute.

If the library is to be closed, the law provides for a six months' notice. Under the law "the executive body is obliged to a six months' public notice before the date of the issuance of the act on the closure of the library to notify the general public about such an intention and provide its justification". Another rule binding here is that "the executive body shall seek advice of the unit exercising substantive supervision over the library's operations" (this particular provision pertains also to library branches). As of January 1999 the function of such a unit exercising substantive supervision over local government libraries is performed by one of the 16 voivodeship public libraries and under the new article "20a" pt. 1 introduced under the above mentioned "range of powers" law of July 1998 – a county (*powiat*) library. Article 20a reads "The county (*powiat*) public library shall pursue tasks as defined under article 20 clause 1, pts. 1, 2, 4 and 5 and cooperate with the voivodeship public library". This particular provision should serve to stop unfavorable trends.

There are more such "new" provisions in the new law which take new Polish realities into account. These new and important provisions include Article 6, concerning the national library resource, and also a new fuller definition of the term "library material" contained in Article 5 and the whole chapter 3 of the new law on the organization of libraries involving all parts of the country. Librarians accepted these provisions with recognition and hope.

I would insist that the provision of the National Library Council is only *seemingly* new, for apart from the change of the adjective "state" to "national", everything else remains the same. The Council remained an opinion-giving body deprived of real attributes of power and any major influence on the course of matters important for librarianship.

The National Library Council throughout the whole period of work on various draft library laws was a subject of dispute between the Ministry of Culture and Arts and the library community. Librarians expected that the National Council

would become a different body, and wanted its greater influence on state decisions affecting libraries.

The version of the law finally passed contains visible traces of borrowings and ideas from the draft law created by the library community under the patronage of the Association of Polish Librarians. Additionally, some provisions contained in the old law were left unchanged.

The above are just a few examples of continuity and change in the new library law. A thorough study of the text would provide more of both. In my view, as far as the quality of the law and its acceptance by the library community is concerned, what counts is not what has remained of the old law, but how many new provisions were introduced. The quality which could be defined as *Zeitgeist*, approximation of the law to the new and constantly changing reality, and also openness and timelessness of the formulae used, i.e. the structure of the law which prevents the necessity of constant amendments so that it is "open" to changes and needs that social and professional life will carry, are all of far greater importance than anything else.

However, the opinions of librarians on the new law vary. The major drawback that has been indicated on many occasions is the marginal reference in the law to the libraries other than public. These matters, it is to be assumed, were left to the initiative of other ministries (e.g. the Ministry of National Education) that are also responsible for libraries.

In spite of the definite weaknesses of the fundamental legal act which the library law is and will definitely be for many years to come, the law has laid the legal foundations for Polish libraries – particularly local government libraries – which make up quite a solid base for their new structures (as a result of the administrative reform) and guarantee their firm position in society's intellectual life. This was additionally sealed by the amendments of Articles 19 and 20 introduced under the Act of July 24, 1998 (the "range of powers" law) extending the provisions of the law on libraries.

Firstly, in the light of these changes:

- "the municipality shall set up and run at least one municipal public library with an adequate number of branches and divisions, as well as library points",
- "the county (*powiat*) shall set up and run at least one county (*powiat*) public library",

- “local government of the voivodeship shall set up and run at least one voivodeship public library”.

This means that compared to the previous system, as of January 1, 1999 a new link of the library system will be set up in the form of a county library.

Secondly:

- provided for under the new law are the slightly refurbished responsibilities of the voivodeship public library; there will be no less than 16 such libraries in Poland;
- it is possible to deduce from the law the broad tasks of a county public library, though they are quite similar to the tasks of a voivodeship public library.

The moment the administrative reform of the state enters into force the area and scope of operations of a voivodeship public library will often be multiplied. The county library, to put it simply, according to Article 20, clause 1, point 3, does not “conduct research on the level and degree of satisfaction of users’ needs”, does not “analyze the current status, structure and distribution of libraries” and it does not “formulate” or “submit to executive bodies the proposals for changes in this respect”, which in turn are the responsibilities of a voivodeship public library. To be more precise, it is not so much that a county library does not pursue these tasks, as the law does not impose such responsibilities on it.

\*

In the 1990s Polish libraries were also provided with a new legal deposit law.<sup>6</sup> It is a self-standing act passed by the Parliament on November 7, 1996. Previously the legal deposit issues were regulated under the 1968 Act on Libraries. The new legal deposit law specifies anew “the responsibilities of publishers regarding transfer of works and responsibilities of libraries regarding collection development covering the current publishing”, and also defines the terms “publisher” and “publications”.

The Minister of Culture and Arts was delegated to define – by ordinance – “a list of libraries entitled to receive legal deposit copies of particular types of publications and the principles and procedures of their supply”. Under the law the National Library in Warsaw and the Jagiellonian Library in Cracow shall receive two legal deposit

copies each, the Parliamentary Library in Warsaw shall be entitled to receive one legal deposit copy of government administration official journals, whereas other libraries indicated by the Minister of Culture and Arts shall receive one legal deposit copy in specified categories of publications.

The perpetual archivization of one legal deposit copy shall be the responsibility of the National Library and the Jagiellonian Library. The responsibility for archivization of one copy of big screen films and one copy of television films shall be delegated to the National Film Library in Warsaw.

The law on legal deposit copies also provides that those who evade the duty of transferring a legal deposit copy to an entitled library or the National Film Library in Warsaw are liable to a financial penalty. The amount of the penalty shall be defined under the regulations on procedures applied to cases of offense.

Admittedly the new law is more specific in defining the nature of the archived material (it provides for new categories of publications), libraries’ rights, and publishers’ responsibilities. It also reinforces sanctions for publishers for failure to comply with the statutory duties of supplying legal deposit copies to the entitled organizations.

\*

The third on the list of the “library” laws is the Act on the Conduct and Organization of Cultural Activities. As the title indicates, it concerns mainly procedures applied to the organization of cultural activity by various institutions of culture established for this purpose, and under the law libraries are included in this category.

Its first version was passed already at the beginning of the decade, or to be more precise on October 25, 1991. As mentioned above, to date the law has been amended three times (changed and adjusted to other new legal acts).

The law concerns various institutions chiefly subordinate to the Ministry of Culture and Arts and local governments, and it refers to:

- the patronage of the state, state administration bodies, and local governments regarding cultural activity
- structural forms of cultural activity
- entities pursuing cultural activity and the relevant rules

- financial base of cultural activity
- qualification requirements and the procedure of certifying qualifications needed to occupy specific posts in institutions of culture
- forms of distinction (ministerial orders of distinction, awards etc.), as well as the procedures and rules of awarding them
- rules of establishing new institutions of culture and appointing their directors
- directors' rights and responsibilities
- fusion and division as well as closure of institutions of culture
- rules of financial economy at institutions of culture and remuneration for the staff of institutions of culture
- rules and responsibilities associated with organization of mass artistic and entertainment events.

### *Notes*

1. (ed.) On January 1, 1999 the 49 voivodeships existing so far as the biggest administrative units in Poland were replaced by 16 new ones. The aim of this reform, being the continuation of the previous local government reform of 1990, was to make these administrative units in the country bigger and stronger, i.e. to give them a more "regional" character and more latitude in governing themselves.
2. (ed.) On November 10, 1999 the Ministry of Culture and Arts was re-named. It is now the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

The law in its current form plays a prominent role in defining the rules of managing institutions of culture in Poland, particularly by the state administration, and in defining the relationship between the institution of culture and the state. In spite of its various weaknesses it is a legal document which supports libraries and consolidates their position in the structures of the state institutions.

Such are, most broadly put, the legal foundations for libraries at the threshold of the 21st century. If they were to be measured by the number of statutory acts, the foundation would be solid, the catalog would be rich, but incomplete nonetheless. And thus they will definitely not suffice for many years to come. In my view, the work on the legal foundations for libraries needs to be continued. It is not only the duty of the library community, its elite, or librarians' self-government, but also of all lawmakers in Poland.

3. (ed) An article on public libraries under local government by Jadwiga Kołodziejska was published in vol. 4 of "Polish Libraries Today".
4. (ed) An article presenting the Copyright Law by Teresa Grzeszak was published in vol. 4 of "Polish Libraries Today".
5. (ed) The editors received this article in March 1999.
6. (ed) More information on this law is presented in the articles by Hanna Zielińska and Krystyna Ramlau-Klekowska published in this volume of "Polish Libraries Today".

Translated by *Katarzyna Diehl*

# New Library Legal Regulations

*Krystyna Ramlau-Klekowska*

## Polish Legal Deposit Regulations in the Past and Today

*Abstract* The author gives a short overview of the history of Polish legal deposit regulations, starting from their introduction in 1780. She then characterizes the latest law on legal deposit passed on November 7, 1996 as per its usefulness and adequacy for libraries when compared with previous regulations.

The first legal deposit act passed in Poland was the 1780 resolution of the Polish Sejm ensuring that all printed matter from the whole Commonwealth be supplied to the Załuski Library in Warsaw. Against the background of other European countries it was not a pioneering decision. Already more than two centuries earlier, in 1537, the king of France, François I, had ordered that copies of publications coming out in his kingdom should be delivered to his library. Rulers of many other countries followed his example, as it became evident that the duty to supply the most illustrious libraries with copies of works representing national publishing output had an immense impact on the development of libraries, giving them the status of treasuries of national heritage.

The Polish Sejm granted the privilege to receive the fullest legal deposit possible to the library which by no means was the oldest in the country, and at that time was even slightly in decline, but remained famous for its beautiful traditions as one of the first research public libraries in the world (active since 1747), splendidly operated and dynamically developed by its founders. They were the brothers Andrzej Stanisław and Józef Andrzej Załuski, members of a powerful aristocratic family. Neither of the founders lived to see that moment in 1780. Their impressive collections, as such was the will of the library's founders, were "nationalized", i. e. their management was delegated to the Commission of National Education, which played the role of a ministry of education.

Unfortunately, the historical events that followed soon made futile the attempt of posthumous implementation of those ambitious plans, particularly those of Józef Załuski, who wanted library

collections to fully reflect national culture and to be able to stimulate the intellectual life of Polish society. After the fall of the National Uprising launched by Tadeusz Kościuszko in 1794 and the subsequent third and final partition of Poland of 1795, the Załuski Library was taken by the authorities of tsarist Russia to Petersburg, and all Polish lands came under the legislation of the partitioning countries. Foreign legislation affected, among other matters, also legal deposit, obviously serving only the interests of the foreign powers passing the regulations. Legal deposit would sometimes become the basis for censorship, and even if publications received on legal deposit reached Polish libraries, this could not bear any relation to the fulfillment of any national objectives.

After World War I the Polish state regained its independence and passed a law as early as in 1919 ordering the supply of legal deposit of all publications, originally only from the former Russian sector, to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It is doubtless that the authorities attempted to exercise supervision of the national publishing industry which had just started to grow, but on this occasion the legal deposit fueled also libraries, though admittedly without any conceptual or systematic approach. The previous legal deposit addressee, the Załuski Library, did not exist anymore at that time, and the library community – in a debate which was not free of internal conflict – had only just started to demand that a Polish National Library be established, a modern one, and yet one that fulfilled the functions related to its 18th century predecessor. Thus, when the most effective proponents of this idea found themselves based at the then ministry of education, the new press

law of 1927 directed there the main, most comprehensive legal deposit stream, this time covering the territory of the whole country. The way this decision was formulated made printing houses supply one copy of all printed titles “to the National Library in Warsaw (and until it is established – to the Ministry of Religious Confessions and Public Education)”. One ordinance unequivocally stated that legal deposit, besides library objectives, should serve official registration of publications. And so it happened and so it has remained in Poland until today, just as in the majority of civilized countries worldwide. The press law of the 1920s granted legal deposit also to other Polish libraries, but as a rule only from a part of the territory of the state, and consequently collections of none of them thus developed could be representative for the full publishing output of the country.

In 1932 (after the National Library had officially been called into being and its central functions established), a separate library legal deposit law was passed. Since that time legal deposit was not to be obscured by requirements of the press law which served the political aims of the state administration. The law itself has not changed much as far as the heart of the matter is concerned. It systematized and sanctioned some regulations, like the penal consequences for evading legal deposit duties. Moreover, it guaranteed publishers 10 copies of each title as the top and extreme limit of their obligatory free-of-charge supplies to libraries. Until the Act on Libraries of 1968 was passed, it was the fundamental law regarding legal deposit matters, though before and after World War II the executive regulations were changed many a time.

People’s Poland did not have a separate legal deposit law. The appropriate provisions, very brief and general, were included in the Act on Libraries, in two articles of the chapter vaguely entitled “Specific Regulations”. A broader interpretation was brought only by the Ordinance of the Minister of Culture and Arts on supplying libraries with legal deposit copies of publications and sound recordings. Compared to pre-war 1932 regulations, this law related to a totally different system. It regulated the free-of-charge flow of publications within the system of “society-owned” institutions, such as at that time described both libraries and the vast majority of publishing companies, even of cooperative status. Thus the number

of free legal deposit copies for libraries could easily rise to 16. The privilege of being a national legal deposit library was granted to 11 libraries, and 17 became regional legal deposit libraries. With the exception of the National Library, the Jagiellonian Library in Cracow and regional legal deposit libraries, the rest did not have the duty to archive all the received legal deposit material. Consequently, legal deposit for the majority of libraries became a free source of supplies of the latest Polish publication. It would be hard to deny that for many of them it was an essential factor fueling development and rational collection building, though it distorted the legal deposit idea itself.

Penalties for publishers were waived, presumably on the assumption that since the regulations did not interfere with the in fact nonexistent right to individual property there would be no motivation to ignore them. Practice turned out to be less rosy and neither publishers nor printing houses bound by the law and indicated as performers of the duty to deliver legal deposit copies to libraries carried out this task in a fully satisfying manner. Both the timing and the completeness of the material received on legal deposit left much to be desired, often as a result of pure neglect. The matter was additionally complicated by the existence of censorship, because libraries could receive only legal deposit of publications which were cleared for dissemination. When that was not the case, items which had already been legally printed turned out to be unavailable even for the biggest libraries.

Obviously, one could hardly expect that the authorities of the previous political system in Poland would stretch the legal deposit regulations to include the quite numerous publications of the “second circulation” consisting of materials published in conspiracy, beyond the reach of censorship. Only some libraries received them sporadically, and the efforts to obtain copies from confiscated impressions very rarely brought any results. There was no consent in the official echelons and also no legal foundations enabling libraries to document this historically very important area of the intellectual life of Poles.

The transformation of the system in Poland since the beginning of the 1990s has brought very prominent changes in the functioning of the legal deposit law. First of all a significant number of private-owned companies engaged in the publishing business while the previously existing

publishing houses privatized themselves in a hurried manner and yielded to the rules of the free market. The publishing business grew, also the prices of the publications now very rarely subsidized from public funds went up. An opinion developed in the publishers' community that the legal deposit regulations are a relic of the socialist "command-and-quota" economy and in the capitalist system they should not exist. The simple truth that legal deposit has quite a different, much older genesis and exists in the majority of capitalist countries hardly made its way to the publishers' minds. Moreover, many new publishers did not discover the provisions hidden in the Act on Libraries. The results turned out to be disastrous for the collections of libraries, in particular those responsible for perpetual archivization of the entire Polish publishing output.

This encouraged the Ministry of Culture and Arts to intensify efforts to amend legal deposit regulations. After many discussions the concept returned to create a separate law like the one introduced in the 1930s. The new law was passed on November 7, 1996. The fact that the Parliament of the Republic of Poland dealt with this issue as a matter of state importance only enhanced the prestige of the legal deposit idea. Moreover, it seems proper that the law concerning chiefly publishers is not found in the sections of the law designed exclusively for the library community. As a self-standing legal act the November legal deposit law could thus become more detailed, and contain some important provisions which under the previous arrangement were left to be settled at the level of executive regulation, i.e. a document of lower status.

The new Ordinance of the Minister of Culture and Arts concerning the list of libraries entitled to receive legal deposit copies of particular types of publications, and the principles and procedures of their supply came out on March 6, 1997. Only when these documents are examined together do we gain the necessary knowledge on the methods and extent to which the legal deposit problems have been solved in today's Poland. As with everything, they have their weaknesses and strengths. Many of them, in particular those essential for the National Library, are discussed in the article by Hanna Zielińska also published in this volume. Let me thus concentrate on general trends that the lawmaker defined.

Worthy of note is the tendency to extend the legal deposit to be able to cover the broadest spectrum of types and forms of modern published documents. A broad definition of "a publication" was adopted which contains not only the "printed matter and sound recordings" coming under legal deposit already before, but also documents published on non-traditional media. Particular protection was guaranteed to feature films and the National Film Library, their legal deposit institution. Also the obligatory transfer of modern electronic documents to libraries was not forgotten.

A certain typology of documents adopted in the law allowed a specification of the basic groups governed by legal deposit regulations, and though the logic of this general framework may well deserve some criticism, it is by far a better solution than production of any detailed lists tending to become ever more outdated.

Under the new law there are four statutory legal deposit institutions: the National Library, the Jagiellonian Library, the National Film Library, and the Parliamentary Library (to a specified extent). The first two libraries shall be responsible for termless preservation of one copy of each title of the broadest legal deposit granted to them. Earlier this privilege and responsibility was put on those libraries only by the Minister of Culture and Arts, and thus, at least in theory, he was also in a position to withdraw it. At present control of the permanence of this provision is vested in the highest legislative authority in the state.

What distinguishes the new law from the 1968 regulations is that the responsibility for supplying legal deposit libraries with the latest published items has been unequivocally imposed on publishers. Previously the duality of provisions persisted to the effect that the 1968 law obliged the publisher to deliver items on legal deposit, whereas the Minister's Ordinance made the printer responsible for exactly the same thing. It is a question open for discussion from whom it is easier to obtain the publications due, but dilution of responsibility never makes things easier. For librarians the seeking of cooperation and agreement with publishers (or sometimes working to manage the situation of conflict) is more valuable than the usually quite formal contacts with printing houses, sometimes also far from being conflict-free. The new law provides a definition of "a publisher", it is only a pity that it is not quite clear who is regarded as

a “Polish” or “domestic” publisher, and mainly Polish or domestic publishers are held responsible for legal deposit. The lawmakers probably meant publishers based in Poland (their headquarters or divisions), and not every publisher, who as the law reads “makes copies of publications publicly available on the territory of the Republic of Poland or abroad...”. This produces a certain ambiguity as it might follow that the law covers also exhibitors at international book fairs, publishers of publications imported to Poland etc. It needs to be noted that accuracy in the definition of terms and the terminological discipline in general are not the greatest strengths of the discussed legal documents.

Librarians were satisfied by the fact that as in the pre-war law, the new law envisages sanctions for evading legal deposit duties. A fine is definitely not a pleasant prospect for a publisher and might discourage him from evading the law, but an important provision is missing: that he should compensate the library for the gap in its collections by delivering the missing copies if he previously had failed to do so.

The setting of two important terms was left to the Minister’s decision. One refers to the maximum period of delivery of items on legal deposit to libraries upon completion of the production process. In the March Ordinance this period is defined as five days for the National Library and 14 days for other libraries. The prompt legal deposit delivery is equally important as its completeness, thus the much reduced delivery periods as compared to previous arrangements should be welcomed, provided that this provision will be observed. Admittedly, a conducive factor might be a new, statutorily guaranteed waiver, and namely the lifting of postage fees for packages containing legal deposit. Publishers could then no longer justify the delays by the necessity of putting material in larger and cheaper packages.

The second provision concerning the passage of time refers to the duty to store legal deposit in libraries. For all libraries (except for two already mentioned as termless archives) the legal deposit duties expire after 50 years, thus their right to select received legal deposit material as it arrives was withdrawn. If the legal deposit is not only to be a compulsory donation of publishers, but first and foremost if it is to permanently represent their production as the national achievement and testimony of the specific period, then this tough

requirement is consistent and fully justified. It is however well-known just what problems it will cause for libraries, which will be flooded with a mass of often hardly useful material, for which there is hardly any space in the stacks, and time and resources to produce its catalog descriptions. The vigorous protests encouraged the Ministry to work on rapid amendment of this ordinance in this respect.

Among the solutions which changed the legal deposit regulations and have raised controversy is the increased number of legal deposit libraries. It seemed that in the new economic environment the lawmakers would strive to achieve a greater balance of interests of publishers and libraries by reducing the size of benefits provided by the first group for the latter. To the contrary – three new libraries were added, namely the Library of the University of Gdańsk, the Library of the University of Opole, and the Library of the Catholic University of Lublin. There is no doubt that increasing the legal deposit burden encourages publishers to delay the delivery or to abandon the duty altogether. In consequence we may all observe gaps in library collections, and librarians trying to identify the guilty parties and send claims to them, as well as directing complaints to the administration of justice. The view that won, however, was that the present hardly favorable financial situation of libraries, and that of university libraries also, justifies the necessity of supporting this method of collection development.

Indispensable was the change of the no longer rational regional legal deposit regulations. Libraries received regional legal deposit material from the already nonexistent administrative units (pre-1975 voivodeships). As a result, libraries were recipients of items from printing houses which happened to be based in a specific area. All this received material, subject to archivization, was rather more a burden and more often than not totally unrelated to the library’s profile. A number of concepts came up on how to amend this absurd state of affairs, including that of eliminating regional legal deposit altogether. However, ultimately the idea that won was to supply libraries, particularly those compiling regional bibliographies, with legal deposit publications, the content of which is related to a specific region. To meet that end, in one specific voivodeship library (in Białystok) a kind of a distribution center was set up where full

legal deposit is to be received from all over the country and, upon identification of the publication's subject area, it shall be distributed to the proper libraries. The weaknesses of such a system are quite clear, but legal acts are verified mainly as they are used, so one needs to wait until this new concept evinces its possible strengths.

Foreign library literature pays much attention to legal deposit matters. The changes made in Polish regulations concerning this area are basically compatible with world trends. Perhaps the most striking drawback is the abandonment of the attempt to clearly formulate in the new legal acts the goals of legal deposit. Numerous authors and recommendations of international institutions put major emphasis on including statements on the cultural importance of collecting and storing the publishing output of the country and nation, and on

stressing the principle of creating current national bibliography on the basis of this collection. Such statements are altogether obvious for librarians, but they should additionally motivate publishers. In the previous Polish laws and ordinances, starting from the 1920s, library functions and the bibliographic functions of the legal deposit were always defined in some form or another. It would hardly be possible for today's lawmakers to have a different opinion on this issue. This omission is rather due to an oversight which may be corrected in subsequent amendments together with the law's other weaknesses. In the rapidly changing contemporary world the legal deposit law will probably more often than heretofore require updating and improvement so that it have the capability to effectively serve the needs of a democratic, well-educated and well-informed society now and in the future.

Translated by *Katrzyna Diehl*

# New Library Legal Regulations

*Hanna Zielińska*

## Legal Deposit from the National Library's Perspective

*Abstract* The article is an analysis of the new law on legal deposit passed by the Polish Sejm on November 7, 1996, one made from the point of view of the National Library. The main provisions of the law are given and commented upon, while some of its advantages and drawbacks are also mentioned. Finally, some relevant questions are asked as per the usefulness of the law for the National Library and other libraries in the country.

That the legal deposit copy regulations left much to be desired and that there was a need to amend them was a recurrent theme for many years. The old legal regulations laid down by the Act on Libraries of April 9, 1968 and the related Ordinance of the Minister of Culture and Arts of August 2, 1968 on supplying libraries with legal deposit copies of publications and sound recordings were not free of certain weaknesses right from the very start. The snowballing publishing business, new printing technologies and new media, and finally the collapse of the state monopoly for publishing created a situation in which the legal deposit copy regulations required not only mere amendments, but totally new legal solutions. The work launched by the Ministry of Culture and Arts<sup>1</sup> in the mid-1980s and recommenced, after a certain break, in 1994, and since mid-December 1995 continued at the forum of the Sejm, led to the passing of the Act of November 7, 1996 on Legal Deposit. A complementary act is the Ordinance of the Minister of Culture and Arts of March 6, 1997 on the list of libraries entitled to receive legal deposit copies of particular types of publications and the principles and procedures of their supply.

Under Article 1 the law specifies "the duties of publishers regarding legal deposit of works and the duties of libraries regarding collection of the publishing output". The lawmaker then defined two important terms:

- "publisher" which shall refer to "legal entity, an entity not enjoying the status of a legal person and a natural person pursuing activity on the territory of the Republic of Poland which consists in publishing works",

- "publication" which shall refer to "a work reproduced in copies with the use of any technique for the purpose of being disseminated".

The fact of including these definitions in the law is of surpassing importance as it specifies who is obliged to supply libraries with legal deposit copies and defines the scope of this obligation.

Under the law the following types of publications are liable to legal deposit:

- publications expressed in words, such as monographs, brochures, newspapers, periodicals and other serials, ephemeral prints and playbills;
- publications expressed in graphic signs, symbols and words, such as maps, posters, plans, diagrams, tables, drawings, illustrations, and printed music;
- audiovisual publications containing sound, image (or image and sound), such as CDs, tape cartridges, cassettes, slides, publications on microfilm and microfiche;
- publications on electronic media;
- computer software.

The adopted typology of published material might raise certain objections. However what is more important is that the law covers all types of publications, including also visual documents, audio-visual documents (including copies of big screen and television films) and electronic publications which had heretofore remained outside legal deposit. Moreover, an exemplary – contrary to a listing of publications of particular types – has the advantage that it permits, in situations of doubt, a more favourable and broad interpretation of the law.

Greater doubts than the adopted typology of publications are raised by the fact that the regulations were extended to cover computer software, usually classified rather as tools than as publications, though it also fits into the definition of a publication that the lawmaker has adopted.

Two other important provisions, absent in the previous regulations, are that packages containing legal deposit copies are freed of postage fees and a penalty is introduced for publishers avoiding the duty of supplying legal deposit copies to the authorized libraries or the Film Library.

Among other changes made compared to the previous law, mention is due to the addition of legal deposit documents excluded from public access, among them those that have lost their secret or confidential nature. On the other hand, hitherto provisions on excluding some groups of documents from legal deposit have remained unchanged. Documents falling into that category are items meant solely for the internal use of central and local administration bodies, the army, political and non-governmental organizations, such as securities and nominal value stamps, original artistic prints, ephemeral printed matter, printed items, and other documents for personal use. Also a provision was taken over from the previous law that publishers shall supply libraries with publications representing top publishing standards if parts of the impression were made in various versions.

Under the law, the right to legal deposit is statutorily guaranteed to four institutions: the National Library and the Jagiellonian Library (each shall receive two copies of a publication and it shall be their duty to archivize in perpetuity one of them), the Parliamentary Library (one copy of official journals of central administration bodies) and the Film Library (one copy of big screen and television films). The task of making a full list of legal deposit libraries for individual types of publications was delegated to the Minister of Culture and Arts, who issued an appropriate ordinance to that effect on March 6, 1997. It is not only complementary to the law, but it also has a major impact on the whole body of legal regulations concerning this particular matter.

Under the ordinance, sixteen libraries are authorized to receive legal deposit copies. The most comprehensive legal deposit rights, covering all types of publications, have been granted to the National Library and the Jagiellonian Library. The Parlia-

mentary Library participates in legal deposit as defined under the Law. The remaining libraries, including 9 university libraries, 3 voivodeship public libraries, and the Silesian Library have become legal deposit libraries for publications expressed in words, and publications expressed in graphic signs, symbols and words, with the exception of publications published in less than 100 copies by Polish outposts abroad and publications printed by a foreign publisher in Poland.

Under the provisions of the ordinance, the publisher is obliged to supply the National Library with legal deposit copies within 5 days, and other libraries within 14 days from the moment of the completion of the production process and to give the National Library the size of the impression if it is not printed on the copy.

Libraries are obliged to store the supplied copies as a complete set for a period not shorter than 50 years from the date of their receipt.<sup>2</sup> Copies of a publication of regional content received by the Voivodeship Public Library in Białystok are passed to one of the seven voivodeship public libraries compiling regional bibliography.

\*

So much for the regulations. The question remains whether and to what extent they are compatible with libraries' expectations. In the discussions on the change of legal deposit regulations three issues that invariably came to the foreground were:

- the acceptable, highest number of legal deposit copies
- changing of the formula of a regional legal deposit from an acting body-oriented to an object-oriented
- introduction of penal sanctions for publishers evading legal deposit obligations.

All these three issues have found a compromise solution. Libraries must store legal deposit copies for half a century, publishers must yield to "multi-copy legal deposit".

It is not a secret that National Library officials, when presenting their standpoint on the above issues, mainly from an observer's perspective, opted for departure from legal deposit understood as "a supply copy" for libraries, arguing that it should serve first of all archival purposes, current national bibliography, and publishing statistics. The National Library was alone in this view, one

which was very coldly received not only by other libraries. At present when these issues have already been settled, the evaluation of the adequacy of the adopted solutions should be left to the libraries which made efforts either to keep or be granted legal deposit copy rights and obviously to publishers, which still does not deprive the National Library of the right to have its own opinion on the new regulations.

One of the conditions for the National Library to fulfill its statutory tasks in collection development, bibliographic activity, and statistics is a complete and prompt receipt of legal deposit copies. New regulations provide good foundations for that – the National Library obtained the right to urgently receive legal deposit copies of all types of publications published in the country and – for the first time – items published abroad by Polish diplomatic missions, consular offices, research, cultural, and commercial outposts.

At this point it is important to stress that to the detriment of the completeness of the archived Polish collections, national bibliography, and publishing statistics, lawmakers rejected the National

Library's motion to grant it the right to one legal deposit copy for each standard of a publication if it has come out in several versions (and not only the highest quality standard). This is most often the case with print-on-paper publications (e.g. part of the impression receives a different binding), but this may also refer to other types of documents (sound documents come out both in the mono and stereo version). According to the binding rules, each of the standards receives its own international standard publication number and should be registered in the current national bibliography. It will be hard for the Library to get hold – through searches in new titles catalogs and penetration of the bookselling market – of all published versions of such publications. It is a quite serious weakness of the new regulations, though fortunately one of the very few – at least from the point of view of the National Library's functions.

The new regulations have already come into force. It should now suffice that publishers observe them strictly in order for legal deposit to meet the performance targets at the National Library that it was meant to by the Sejm.

#### *Notes:*

1. (ed.) On November 10, 1999 the Ministry of Culture and Arts was re-named. It is now the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

2. There are, however, two cases in which the received copies have to be stored for a longer period of time. This exception is made for one of two copies owed to the National Library and the Jagiellonian Library, charged with archiving in perpetuity.

Translated by *Katarzyna Diehl*

## Reviews

## The National Library's Publications

The publications issued by the National Library are the result of the professional and scholarly work conducted in various forms by the Library's staff. The Library's publishing program is determined on the one hand by its basic statutory duties as the national bibliographic center and, on the other, by the scholarly potential of its staff and the opportunities provided by the Library's rich, diverse collections. The Library brings out source materials as well as scholarly studies. It publishes national bibliographies, catalogs, and directories to the collections, handbooks, instructions, albums, bibliophilic editions, and publications, accompanying exhibitions as well as periodicals. All publications brought out by the National Library are edited by the National Library's Publishing House, which has its own printing-house.

The National Library publishes over 200 titles of regular periodicals a year (these are: weeklies, bi-weeklies, monthlies, quarterlies, and annuals), as well as several score books and a large number of ephemeral prints, such as calendars, postcards, note-paper, or prints accompanying exhibitions (folders, catalogs, posters, invitations, etc.). For the last few years traditional publications have been supplemented by electronic information. The National Library's output equals that of large independent publishing houses and its editorial achievements are presented and promoted at all important international and national publishers' exhibitions and book fairs.

The Library publishes studies on librarianship and the history of books, papers and reports on reading habits, and monographs on particular items, collections, and categories of collections in the Library's possession. Particularly important are its multi-volume scholarly publications concerning national book collections: the union catalog of the incunabula kept in Polish libraries *Incunabula quae in bibliothecis Poloniae asservantur*;

the successive volumes of the *Catalog of the National Library's Manuscripts (Katalog rękopisów Biblioteki Narodowej)* comprising several score volumes; and the eight-volume *Catalog of Portraits of Polish and Foreign Public Figures Active in Poland (Katalog portretów osobistości polskich i obcych w Polsce działających)*. The catalogs of individual collections and categories of collections are also of great documentary value, among these are to be found e.g. *Drawings from the Potockis' Wilanów Collection (Rysunki z Wilanowskiej Kolekcji Potockich)*, *Memoirs and Reports in the National Library's Manuscript Collection (Pamiętniki i relacje w zbiorach rękopiśmiennych Biblioteki Narodowej)*, *The Borderland. A Catalog of Country Lovers' Photographs from the Collection of Mieczysław Orłowicz (Kresy. Katalog fotografii krajoznawczych ze zbioru Mieczysława Orłowicza)* or *The Eastern Borderland. A Catalog of Postcards (Kresy Wschodnie. Katalog pocztówek)*. No less important are monographic publications: the successive volumes of the series of albums started already during the inter-war period "Polonia Typographica Saeculi Sedecimi", and such recent studies as the monograph entitled *Have a Good Year (Na dobry rok bądźcie zapisani)*, which presents a unique collection of early 20th century Jewish New Year post-cards printed by the Jehudia firm in Warsaw, or another one entitled *French Prayer-book of Jan Zamoyski (Francuski modlitewnik Jana Zamoyskiego)*, which presents valuable, exquisitely illuminated incunabulum *Horae Beatae Virginis ad usum Turonensem* from the first half of 1485. Of particular value is the monumental album *More Precious Than Gold. Treasures of the Polish National Library (Nad złoto droższe. Skarby Biblioteki Narodowej)*, published both in Polish and in English.

This album features 105 of the most beautiful and unique items housed in the collections of the Library, and is a poignant testimony both to the losses and the wealth of Polish culture.

The Library also publishes bibliophilic and ephemeral prints to mark anniversaries important for Polish culture. Among publications of this kind are to be found texts by Józef Andrzej Załuski, Joachim Lelewel, Karol Estreicher, Stefan Demby, Aleksander Gieysztor and Bogdan Horodyński, all of them of great significance for the history of Polish librarianship. Every five years, in connection with the International Fryderyk Chopin Competition, facsimile editions of one of the great composer's autographs kept in the Library's music collection are published and then handed to the prize-winners. To date the following works have already been brought out: *Four Mazurkas opus 24* (1985), *Polonaise-Fantasia opus 61* (1990), and *Two Nocturnes* (1995). In connection with Chopin Year (1999) and the latest Competition (held in 2000) the facsimile edition of the autograph of *24 Preludes* was issued. Also the Adam Mickiewicz Anniversary has been commemorated by the National Library through the publication of a facsimile edition of the autograph *Appeal by Adam Mickiewicz concerning the plunder of Polish libraries (Odezwa Adama Mickiewicza w sprawie grabieży bibliotek polskich)* kept in the Polish Library in Paris. This was at the same time one of the texts prepared for the 250th anniversary of the opening of the Załuski brothers' Public Library and the 70th anniversary of the National Library. Two successive anniversaries, those of Władysław Reymont and Cyprian Kamil Norwid, two great Polish writers, contributed to the publication of a small collection of Reymont's correspondence with his publishers, as well as a collection of Norwid's drawings entitled *Angels (Anioły)*.

Most of the books published by the National Library form series brought out for many years, though at various intervals. Among these are: "The National Library Presents Its Collections" ("Biblioteka Narodowa Prezentuje Swoje Zbiory"), "Studies of the Bibliographic Institute" ("Prace Instytutu Bibliograficznego"), "Studies on Readership" ("Z Badań na Czytelnictwem"), "History of Reading Culture in Poland" ("Z Dziejów Kultury Czytelniczej w Polsce"), "Studies and Materials on the History of Cartography" ("Studia

i Materiały z Historii Kartografii"), "Memoirs in the National Library's Collections" ("Pamiętniki w Zbiorach Biblioteki Narodowej"), and "Conservation Notebook" ("Notes Konserwatorski"). On a regular basis appear the Library's periodicals, especially the current national bibliography, i.e. "Bibliographic Guide" ("Przewodnik Bibliograficzny"), "Bibliography of Serials" ("Bibliografia Wydawnictw Ciągłych"), "Index to Periodicals" ("Bibliografia Zawartości Czasopism"), and "Foreign Polonica" ("Polonica Zagraniczne"). The successive volumes of retrospective bibliography, "Polish Bibliography 1901-1939", as well as special bibliographies, e.g. "Bibliography of Polish Bibliographies" ("Bibliografia Bibliografii Polskich") or "Polish Bibliological Bibliography" ("Polska Bibliografia Bibliologiczna") appear less regularly. Statistical studies, "Public Libraries in Figures" ("Biblioteki publiczne w liczbach") and "Polish Publishing in Figures" ("Ruch Wydawniczy w liczbach") are brought out every year.

Among the National Library's periodical publications which formally meet the requirements of set periodicals, that is, of a cyclic character, a permanent title, etc., only a few are publications which, in addition to systematically supplying consciousness-raising or scholarly information, are also of publicistic value.

For the last few decades the National Library has been publishing such periodicals as "Information Bulletin of the National Library" ("Biuletyn Informacyjny Biblioteki Narodowej"), "The National Library Yearbook" ("Rocznik Biblioteki Narodowej"), "Communiques" ("Komunikaty") and – of course – issued since 1991 in English "Polish Libraries Today". The range of subjects discussed in these periodicals has never been precisely defined, but generally speaking they all bring up and deal with library matters. Since 1996 all periodicals have been prepared by the Editorial Board of National Library's Periodicals which coordinates the work on individual titles and looks after their general subject shape and scholarly level. Thanks to their complementary subject ranges, all these periodicals supply the Library's staff with basic information but also implement more general tasks which stem from the National Library's position and role among Polish libraries.

The most frequent periodical, "Communiques", a sort of monthly journal, supplies its staffers with the latest information on the Library's basic

activities, as well as all other events taking place on its premises. The periodical has been appearing since the beginning of 1978 and was conceived as an internal report on the National Library's monthly activity. Thanks to the ready help of many staffers, it brings information not only on the most important facts and events in the National Library, but also on its new acquisitions, changes in personnel, the employees' domestic and foreign contacts, their professional and scholarly activity, or publishing achievements. It also registers Polish press articles concerning the National Library. The range of subjects may thus seem rather narrow; moreover, the typographic shape is below that of the National Library's other periodicals, but the influence of "Communiques" is sometimes surprisingly strong, for owing to its character and solicitous editing, or perhaps also thanks to its small size, the periodical is read with great attention not only at the Library, but also outside.

The quarterly "Information Bulletin of the National Library", published since 1958, is the Library's oldest periodical. It is addressed both to the Library's staff and to all librarians in general, especially those who cooperate with the National Library. During their professional career most former and present employees of the National Library have in various forms co-operated with the Bulletin. During its history the periodical has been edited in various ways – sometimes by an expanded editorial board and sometimes by a small one. After 30 years of its existence, a master's thesis was written on the achievements of the Bulletin under the direction of Professor Maria Dembowska, the first editor-in-chief of the periodical. In the last few years the periodical has changed its format, graphic lay-out and, to some extent, also its thematic conception. What is most important is that it now appears regularly, thus it is again a quarterly not only in name.

Since the Bulletin's basic task is to provide information on the National Library's activity, its pages are open to the Library's staffers, who can thus publicly present their achievements and vocational problems. However, the members of the Editorial Board of the National Library's Periodicals responsible for this title look not only after its scholarly level, but also after its graphic lay-out, for the Bulletin performs representative functions to a much greater extent than "Communiques". This is due to its subject conception which, in addition

to texts concerning the National Library, also envisages materials on more general problems. Also the arrangement of matters in the periodical needs a short mention for, alongside extensive studies, there is also space reserved for information, brief notes, and biographies, as well as promotion and advertising materials, including numerous photographs.

"The National Library's Yearbook" is a scholarly periodical devoted to the most essential comprehensive problems of librarianship and library science, especially those concerning national libraries. The periodical also publishes studies on the history and contemporary status of books, on reading habits and many other issues from related fields of culture and learning. The Yearbook is, and wishes to remain, a scholarly publication not only of the National Library, but also of the whole country's library and humanists milieu.

The first volume of the Yearbook appeared in 1965. Among the authors who contributed their articles to this first volume were: Ludwik Erhardt, Helena Kapełusz, Barbara Kocówna, Bogumił S. Kupść, Jerzy Maj, Stanisław Siekierski, Jan Wołosz, Adam Wysocki, and Konrad Zawadzki. The reviews were written by: Bohdan Cywiński, Eugenia Horodyńska, and Stefan Kieniewicz. The authors mentioned above contributed also many other valuable articles published in later issues. For over thirty five years since that time the periodical has published articles by nearly all prominent Polish and many foreign researchers active in the field of book and library science, among them numerous staffers of the National Library. The Yearbook is first and foremost a scholarly publication of the National Library and its contents reflect to a large degree the directions and level of research conducted at the Library. This is why so much space in subsequent volumes is devoted to historical issues, especially those concerning special collections kept in the Library which have for long been the subject of comprehensive, competent scholarly studies conducted by the Library's specialists. The publication of materials of this type encourages authors outside the National Library who, seeing the Yearbook as a periodical representative for the whole milieu, send in further texts of this kind, as a result of which too much stress has probably been laid on history in some volumes. This is becoming a problem, for it is relatively more difficult to find authors willing

to write about contemporary problems in the competent, comprehensive way required by the periodical's editors.

Thanks to its broad subject conception, the periodical publishes both specialist treatises and consciousness-raising essays. They all form part of separate blocs of articles, among which are to be found: "Librarianship and library science", "History of books and libraries", "National libraries worldwide", or "Polish books abroad". A new section, named "In the seats of libraries", was introduced in one of the latest volumes. The opening article deals with decorations in the Krasiński palace, the seat of the National Library's special collection.

"Polish Libraries Today" is the National Library's most recent serial publication. It is published at the initiative and at the cost of the National Library, but it co-operates with authors from all library milieux in Poland. Since 1991 the National Library has published on a biannual basis four volumes of this English language periodical. The aim of the publication is to present contemporary Polish librarianship and its problems to foreign readers. In addition to texts presenting the most

important Polish libraries, the periodical also features articles dealing with current issues, especially those of interest to librarians all over the world, such as modern organization of library services (including the libraries' informative and educational tasks), the market for library services, copyright law in the library's activity, computerization of libraries, etc. The current issue of "Polish Libraries Today" is devoted entirely to the problems of the National Library on the threshold of a new century

In 1994 the National Library took over the publishing of such prestigious cultural monthlies as "Twórczość" (Creative Writing), "Literatura na Świecie" (Literature Abroad), "Dialog" (Dialog), "Nowe Książki" (New Books) and the bi-weekly "Ruch Muzyczny" (Musical Review), which had been present on the Polish publishing market for dozens of years. However, the most recent periodical issued by the National Library is another cultural monthly "Novaya Polsha" (The New Poland). It is published in Russian for readers in the countries of the former Soviet Union bordering on Poland, and its first volume was published in September 1999.

Halina Tchórzewska-Kabata

Translated by *Janina Dorosz*

## Reviews

# More Precious Than Gold. Treasures of the Polish National Library

*More Precious Than Gold. Treasures of the Polish National Library*, ed. by Halina Tchórzewska-Kabata and Maciej Dąbrowski, Biblioteka Narodowa, Warszawa 2000

Memory and the power of remembrance have recently exerted a powerful influence on the paradigms of cultural history. Stripped of its individual quality, memory now serves as an instrument to test and analyse the collective construction of the past, of religious, political and cultural identity. In this increasingly interdisciplinary field between history, literature, the arts, and many other subjects, what could be a more appropriate source material than the treasures of libraries and museums, which document a whole society's cultural and historic memory on all levels between "high" culture and "popular" culture.

It is the great merit of the directors of the National Library in Warsaw, and a team of prominent historians, librarians, art historians, literary and music scholars, to have assembled a selection of the library's treasures ("more precious than gold") in a glamorous and highly presentable volume, translated into flawless, idiomatic English. Borrowing the album's title from a quote by Jan Januszowski, Jan Kochanowski's publisher at the end of the sixteenth century, who thus referred to the eminent poet's work, the collection ranges from early medieval theological manuscripts, bibles and psalters, to early modern legal codices, maps, personal notes and diaries by illustrious men of letters, musical compositions, early examples of photography, paintings, posters and musical recordings. Considering the cruel acts of fate which befell the National Library over several centuries – and with it numerous other precious collections and archives which were supposed to be the safekeepers of Poland's past – most items presented in this album had a miraculous escape, often helped by the hearty intervention of courageous individuals.

The album mainly comes alive through its extensive picture material – color photographs of very high quality in an impressively bound, weighty volume. Two well-informed, detailed and at times moving introductions by Adam Manikowski and Paulina Buchwald-Pelcowa demonstrate, however, that this is much more than a coffee-table book. Both authors remind their readers of the fact that modern Poland, entering the third millennium, has a long past worth remembering – a past with a political and cultural identity very different from today's, based on a multi-national Commonwealth of many religions, languages and traditions, all held together by a constitutional, composite monarchy, which after many centuries of existence was divided and wiped off the map of Europe for more than 120 years. Poland's past, therefore, was never just Polish and Catholic, but also Lithuanian, Ruthenian, Jewish, Orthodox, Protestant, Cossack, Russian, German, Armenian, Italian, and much more. The album reflects the great richness of these legacies – even if not all of them could be appropriately represented in this confined space of 250 pages. There could be a danger to "Polonize" this past and to declare all memorabilia collected at a "national library" proof for the greatness of one, Polish nation – a temptation which, on the whole, has fortunately been resisted in this album.

The decentralization of Poland-Lithuania, before the partitions of 1772-95, also meant that the task of assembling central libraries and archives was particularly difficult. This was not helped by the fact that subsequent generations of Swedes, Muscovites, Russians and Germans – in ever more brutal warfare – plundered time and again the treasures of the nations and territories of the Commonwealth and its successor-states. The way books

have been confiscated (for example by the Russians to punish the insurgents of 1832), or willfully destroyed (by the Germans who put fire to the library in 1944 destroying the majority of its valuable contents which had not been evacuated), demonstrates the power libraries have as symbols of a nation's identity.

Both the introductory texts and the explanations accompanying every item listed and photographed in the album provide useful information about the often bizarre itinerary these treasures had to take to be saved – from Russia, Germany, Canada, through the hands of private collectors and heirs, to Western European arts dealers and then back to Poland. Much profit can be gained from additional information about other items, often from the same collection, and their whereabouts, if they survived but cannot be found in the Biblioteka Narodowa today. This also shows the deep links the Commonwealth of Poland-Lithuania and Poland had with other parts of Europe, especially Western Europe – perhaps emphasized a little too much to the detriment of links with its East neighbors, which are given less space in the accompanying texts, although there are several items relating to Ukraine, Moldavia, Lithuania, and Muscovy. As is mentioned, the first printing press ever producing Cyrillic letters, in 1490, was in Cracow. On the other hand, Polish printers were active in as far away as Sevilla. All this stresses the centrality of the former Poland-Lithuania in Europe, where cultural influences from Spain to Russia connected in a rich symbiosis. Whether intended or not, the presentation of this work will strengthen Poland's cause to become part of the European Union, to which it feels it legitimately belongs on the basis of its rich European past.

There are a few questions, of course, which this album would or could not raise, such as the legitimacy of recent claims by other regional cen-

ters in today's Poland, such as Silesia, who would like to restore parts of the Warsaw collections to their own libraries and museums, because they originated in those regions. There is also the large field of Jewish culture as an intrinsic part of Polish national heritage: except for the work of one Jewish author, Iosephus Flavius, from the fifteenth century, no other examples of the Jewish legacy are presented. On the other hand, what was inconceivable only a little more than ten years ago – that Polish libraries openly present their collections of non-Polish artefacts, such as the famous Silver Library of Prince Albrecht of Hohenzollern, whose possession was long denied by the Communist Polish government – now forms a natural part of Poland's self-representation.

There are only a few minor slips which should be mentioned: if coffin portraits were so uniquely Polish that this art form “never crossed the frontiers of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth”, why was a Silesian artist, who produced the seventeenth-century engraving of Bogusław Bojanowski, chosen for this album? Silesia, after all, was not part of the Commonwealth at that time, but a hereditary land of the Bohemian crown, under Habsburg rule. Polish-German relations have relaxed to such a degree over the last decades, that most German historians would not mind that Gdańsk is called a “Polish city” in this album. It was a city which, for almost 350 years was indeed part of the Polish crown and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, but most inhabitants of Gdańsk, or Danzig, in those centuries, would have not considered it a “Polish” city, but Prussian (part of Prusy Królewskie), and a loyal member of the Commonwealth.

These minor criticism, however, should not mar the conclusion which must follow a highly enjoyable read: this is a marvellous album, which deserves to get all the attention it can, well beyond Poland's borders.

*Karin Friedrich*

## Reviews

# Catalog of Portraits of Polish and Foreign Public Figures...

*Katalog portretów osobistości polskich i obcych w Polsce działających (Catalog of Portraits of Polish and Foreign Public Figures Active in Poland)*. Compiled by Alicja Karwowska-Bajdor, Hanna Widacka, Alicja Żendara. Edited by Hanna Widacka. Biblioteka Narodowa, Warszawa 1991-1999

Prepared by a three-person team of specialists of the National Library's Pictorial Collections Department, edited and co-authored by Dr Hanna Widacka, the catalog is, as we read in the introduction, a pilot publication of the planned multi-volume series intended to document the pictorial holdings of this library, chiefly consisting of *polonica*. We thus have a pioneering result of the efforts to systematize the current holdings of our national collection, which must be greeted with enthusiasm by all who rely on it for material on which they plan to base their research, exhibitions, or various consciousness-raising projects.

The whole catalog consists of eight volumes successively prepared from 1991 to 1997. The first five cover portraits depicting usually one person (less often two or three) per plate, while the next two contain illustrations of a major portion of the items discussed in the previous volumes. The last one is dedicated to images of groups of persons.

The project was carried out by a team of erudite and experienced authors who have for many years conducted studies on Polish historical pictorial collections from various epochs. In line with its declared principles, the catalog lists all portraits (which also include living persons) held by the National Library Pictorial Collections Department which depict Poles who were born and worked in Poland; Poles by descent, working and widely known abroad; foreigners who stayed in Poland or settled in the country for good. It also includes images of local saints, as well as legendary figures connected with Polish tradition and culture throughout its history, from prehistoric times until today. It covers portraits of persons living and active

in Poland within its current political borders, as well as representatives of Polish political, public, and cultural spheres who lived and worked in the Eastern territories (lost during World War II), in Silesia, and in Pomerania. From the period of the partitions (i.e. from 1795 on) it covers central Poland and Warsaw as the main cultural center, the territory of Great Poland (Poznań region), the Vilnius region, and Galicia, as well as all territories of the former Commonwealth of Poland that were inhabited by an ethnically Polish population, including also Ukraine, Lithuania, and Byelorussia with their local publishing centers connected with courts of magnates and places of cult.

This project, which by far exceeds the boundaries set by previous authors of similar works, takes into full account the changes that have occurred in recent times in terms of the criteria of a work of graphic art and the requirements regarding its documentation. Thus the catalog covers for the first time in history works done using techniques of graphic art, including lithography, steel engraving, and woodcut, and even few preserved blocks, i.e. copperplates, lithographic stones, and woodcut blocks. It registers paintings, drawings, coins and medals that have been transformed into graphic works. Apart from works of professional artists, it also contains items by amateurs, and also loose prints and prints published as a series in folios and albums. A status equal to that of other genres of graphic art has been assigned in the catalog to portrait bookplates and caricatures.

Thus conceived, the book provides a full scholarly list of historically, territorially, and physically diverse material of various provenance made up of:

- several collections held by the Library, as well as historical collections that were made earlier, representing various profiles and belonging to the Czetyrtyński, Potocki, Krasiński, Zamoyski, Ossoliński, and Schaffgotsch families;
- items acquired from smaller donations;
- prints purchased directly from artists and owners.

That the result of this ambitious endeavor is near perfection is clear from a detailed reading of all eight volumes, as well as the supplement containing descriptions of the most recent holdings and corrections of mistakes in the whole series. The essential value of the catalog is in its clear, transparent arrangement, which enables easy searching. The items in the first five volumes have been arranged alphabetically by the names of the persons represented. A chronological arrangement by date of production is used in volume 8, which contains multi-character images. It covers group portraits, elaborate historical and allegoric-symbolic scenes, so-called *tableaux*, i.e. representations on one plate of several or even several hundred characters, illustrated catalogs of kings and dukes, as well as genealogical trees of several, well-known noble families, such as the Krasińskis, Tarnowskis, and Sapiehas.

The format of each description is a subject-based dictionary type entry compiled according to the rules generally adopted and tested in museum practice. It thus contains concise biographical data of the depicted person, indispensable for identification purposes; formal description; dimensions; information about additional annotations on the print, such as call number; date of production, place of publication, provenance if known, name of mother collection (only in the case of historical collections); and finally a short bibliography. Explanatory inscriptions are given as in the original; the abbreviations are not spelled out, and misspellings are marked in parentheses.

Particularly worthy of remark are the model catalog notes. These have been very professionally prepared, and thanks to the authors' use of an extensive reference library they impress us with the richness of the painstakingly collected and organized material and the precision of the details provided, ones which are often complementary to, and sometimes verify, the data on which previous research was based. They contribute valuable information both on biographies

of persons represented – this is particularly extensive in the case of background characters, which required lengthy searches for source material – as well as on the characteristic features, time, and circumstances of production and current knowledge on the graphic items themselves.

The formal description of images of people living and active in such widely different milieux, periods or cultures and presented in various stylistic conventions called for the use of terminology and concepts from numerous fields of art. The authors have demonstrated here, as elsewhere, their knowledge of the historical period and historical costumes; their skill in deciphering complicated meanings hidden in allegories and heraldic symbols (particularly in the Baroque era), specifying the descent, titles and achievements of the represented persons; and their knowledge of attributes relating to the images of local saints who are depicted on devotional pictures by anonymous authors according to canons established by local tradition. In their descriptions of images of monarchs, abbots, and knights transposed into prints from coins, medals, and tombstones, they employ terminology commonly used for coins, medals, and sculpture.

The very precise identification of graphic art techniques is worthy of note – even minor retouches are taken into account, as well as later changes and corrections made on printing blocks. The notes on the characteristic features of the portraits are evidence of the use of rich source material and monographs from various areas as well as of rare books connected with the centers of the scholarly life of Poland and Europe. Among other material the authors used the following:

- historiographic publications (E. G. Happelius *Historia Moderna Europae* (...) Vol. 1 Ulm 1692, Vol. 2 Hamburg 1693; H. Ludolf *Allgemeine Schau-Bühne der Welt* (...) Vol. 4 Franckfurt am Mayn 1718; J.A. Brachelius *Historia nostri temporis rerum bello et pace* (...) Amstelodami 1659; *Theatrum Europeum* Franckfurt am Mayn, Vol. 3 1639, Vol. 5 1647, Vol. 6 1652, Vol. 7 1663, Vol. 12 1691);
- series of published portrait collections of prominent political personalities, i.e. representatives of dynasties, state and church officials (*Conterfet Kupfferstich* (...) *deren jenigen regierenden grossen Herren* (...) Vol.1 Leipzig 1721);
- series of portraits of outstanding representatives of scholarly and artistic life (A. Dyck *Icones*

*principum, virorum, doctorum, pictorum, chalcographorum* (...) Antverpiae 1641; J. Boissard *Icones virorum illustrium doctrina et eruditione praestantium* (...) Vol. 1, Part 3 Francfordii ad Moenum 1598);

- works on historic European events, particularly on the Vienna victory, featuring images of the heroic winner, Poland's King John III Sobieski (J. Melesander *Schau-Platz polnischer Tapfferkeit, oder tapffermüthigen polnischen Könige und Fürsten Leben, Regierung, Thaten und Absterben* (...) Nürnberg 1684).

The authors also made use of books published by publishing houses in Cracow, Gdańsk, and Warsaw; the chronicles by Miechowita and Marcin Bielski and scholarly dissertations of a historical, legal, or religious nature with portraits of authors on frontispieces; richly illustrated prints made to commemorate particular occasions, such as funeral sermons and speeches with copperplate images of representatives of the Gdańsk-based nobility, scholars, and clergymen.

The authors have carried out thorough research into 19th century literature, particularly in illustrated national magazines ("Tygodnik Ilustrowany", "Kłosy") and local ones ("Lwowianin", "Haliczanin", "Przyjaciół Ludu", "Pamiętnik Sandomierski"). The time- and effort-consuming determination of the provenance of graphic works which were originally published as illustrations in various publications, but which are now preserved as individual items and included in the catalog as one-off etchings, lithographs or woodcuts, made it possible to establish the dates of production and names of authors of works that are signed with full names or by ciphers in monograms and cryptonyms on titlepages and in indexes.

Among the books used by the authors are general historical publications, monographs, memoirs, armorials and almanacs, encyclopedias, bibliographies, lexicons, articles, even minor contributions found in various periodicals, occasionally literary texts, and finally guides and catalogs of collections and exhibitions.

The scholarly value of the publication is enhanced by the extensive lists of references in each volume as well as the meticulously prepared name indexes referring to individual volumes. The index of the eighth volume also provides biographical data. It thus provides information which for

want of space could not be included in catalog descriptions. It also serves to identify persons listed among other people in genealogical tables which often bear the same Christian and family names.

Of great practical value is the illustrative material in the sixth and seventh volume of the catalog, which complements the text of the first five volumes. Of the total number of 6,722 items in the catalog, these two volumes contain 5,400 images (2,700 each) selected according to criteria, such as the relevance of the depicted person, artistic level, pictorial value, and rarity of the item. The captions give the number of the volume and item, the name of the person portrayed, and the call number of the negative held in the National Library Microfilm Department (a valuable information, this, because the negative contains the entire image, and not a frame prepared for the needs of the publishing house.) A similar role is played by the illustrations to volume 8, which are appended as a complete set at the end of the volume.

Volumes 1 to 5 nominally include 6,722 entries, but the number of cataloged items is actually longer. A single number may also include second copies and sometimes other copies of the same etchings from various collections. This grouping of items and their detailed examination have enabled authors by means of comparison to recreate elements of the composition and captions that once existed on the defective etchings and allowed them to trace variations characteristic of graphic works. These are revealed both in minor differences in the composition and the drawing (the image of St. Bronisława features in each copy a different shape of clouds and folds of the drape), as well as in different color shades. These were achieved either through the use of colored paper and the same black drawing (the portrait of Jakub Falkowski where one copy was printed on a cream-colored background), or through printing on white paper in color instead of black (portrait of Mikołaj Bronikowski in the grey and brown version). Apart from one-color copies there are watercolor painted copies (portraits of Mikołaj Czajkowski, Stanisław Moniuszko). Also new prints have been recorded, i.e. etchings made of original blocks which were later used again, mostly when the work was reprinted, which fact led to a need to reproduce the illustrations that accompanied it. In such cases retouches on the blocks are observable, and even corrections made

to accord with the needs of the day (portrait of Friedrich August, duke of Warsaw – earlier version with an elector’s cap and an inscription “Friedrich August Churfurst von Sachsen” and a later version with the royal crown and an inscription “Friedrich Koenig von Sachsen”). The comparison of subsequent copies of the item also reveals changes in the place of publication; these indicate the use of ready made blocks by various publishers (portrait of Agenor Gołuchowski, where one of the prints bears an inscription “Gedruckt bei Leykum in Wien, Verlag von J. Milikowski in Lemberg”, and the second one “Gedruckt bei Reiffenstein und Rösch in Wien”). The collection also contains trial prints, copies with hand-written dedications, and sometimes defects resulting from the unfortunate 19th century fashion of framing etchings according to the liking of the owner or keeper of the collection.

The great strengths of the book have been stressed. Mention must be made also of a definite shortcoming: the absence in the introduction of any information about the historical collections of the Czetwertyński, Krasiński, Potocki, Zamoyski, Schaffgotsch, and other families. Extensive fragments of those collections make up the body of the catalog. There is also an obvious need to provide an evaluative assessment of this whole collection, which is in effect new. I would also suggest that the authors should provide the source where the Library obtained all the items listed in the catalog,

not only those that came from large collections. Such information could contribute to a future monograph on the history of Polish collection building – a work which still needs to be written.

These few critical remarks are by no means intended to diminish the value of the book. It is an inestimable source of knowledge and information, enriching the array of reference works for scholars representing various disciplines, and it also provides a wealth of illustrative material for publishers; thanks to the inclusion of many virtually unknown or little known items, it simplifies the time- and effort-consuming work of individual queries – work that is indispensable in research – by eliminating the need for repeated (and sometimes damaging) handling of the original item.

This catalog, which is a pioneering work in many respects, also has a more universal significance. It is the first attempt on such a scale to provide a global survey of the cultural heritage which has survived throughout Poland’s exceptionally turbulent history. Moreover, it provides telling evidence of the solid work and erudition on the part of the authors, the reliability of the research they carried out, and the positive attitude of the management of the Library, which ensured the conditions for the preparation and publishing of this valuable publication. Words of appreciation should also go to the staff of the National Library’s Publishing House for their meticulous work in editing and publishing the catalog.

*Irena Tessaro-Kosimowa*

Translated by *Katarzyna Diehl*

## Reviews

# The National Library's Publications on the History of Cartography

A department of map and atlas collections was organized at the National Library in autumn 1932, four years after the Library had come into being. In 1934 it was transferred, together with other special collections, to the Potocki Palace, where – in the course of subsequent years – Poland's largest collection of maps, atlases, and globes (numbering altogether 5,500 library items) was soon created.

Also in 1934 a cartographic exhibition was opened in the National Library which accompanied the International Geographical Congress. During that exhibition 232 maps depicting Polish territories were presented. In the same year a catalog of the exhibition was published in Polish and French which, apart from the descriptions of 232 items presented (most of which were held by the National Library), also contained two introductory articles – one by Karol Buczek on the history of Polish cartography, and the second by Bolesław Olszewicz on the history of creating cartographic collections in Poland from the 15th century to the 1930s. To this day the catalog is the primary documentary source, and in some cases, the only trace of maps that were burned, together with other collections of the National Library, by the Nazis in October 1944.

According to the data from April 1939 the collection of the Cartographic Department of the National Library numbered 11,198 maps (including 119 handwritten ones), 890 atlases, and 6 globes. After the Second World War only 509 maps, 26 atlases, and 4 globes were found. The rescued remnants of the pre-war collection were to become the core of the rapidly growing National Library's Department of Cartographic Collections. Already in 1954 the number of acquired items reached that of 1939. By the end of 1981 the department had 54,229 items and by the end of 1998 – more than 75,000, which made the col-

lection the largest one in Poland. Apart from maps and atlases, the department also gathered a useful reference book collection which now numbers over 2,800 books and periodicals. Thanks to such an extensive acquisition policy the department became a convenient and widely used place for research work for historians of cartography, one that enables studies into various subjects and epochs.

However, apart from providing access to the collections of maps and atlases for the users who carried out research in the field of cartography, similar research was also started by the staffers of the Department. The main initiator and supervisor of these studies was the head of the National Library's Department of Cartographic Collections in the years 1973-1987, Dr Bogusław Krassowski, a man entirely committed to studies in old cartography, particularly that related to Polish territories. The first publication prepared by the team headed by Krassowski was the catalog *Polska na starych mapach (Poland on Old Maps)*, published on the occasion of an exhibition under the same title organized by the department in the Palace of the Commonwealth in October 1977.

The catalog described 139 maps held in the collections of the department. They were chosen to present the development of the cartography of Polish territories from the 15th century up to the 1970s. The catalog came as a response to a wide interest in old maps, especially ones depicting Poland "from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea". As a result of the scarce literature on the history of cartography issued after the Second World War, biographic notes of the most renowned cartographers were added to the catalog descriptions, as well as information on the research conducted by them. The descriptions were also supplemented by a selected bibliography and – at the end of the publication – by an index of names, literature (mainly in Polish), and 32 reproductions of the most interesting maps.

In 1982, on the occasion of the 11 Conference of the International Cartographic Association, the department organized an exhibition and prepared a catalog describing the presented items under the title *Wśród starych map i atlasów* (also in English as *Among the Old Maps and Atlases of the National Library in Warsaw* and in French as *Parmi les Vieilles Cartes et les Vieux Atlas de la Bibliothèque Nationale a Varsovie*). In that catalog 166 maps, plans, and atlases were described by the staffers of the department, while the descriptions were prefaced by two articles by Bogusław Krassowski, first on the *History of Maps and Atlases in Poland*, and the other on *Collections and Studies in the Department of Cartographic Collections of the National Library in Warsaw*.

### Monuments of Polish Cartography

Five years earlier, in October 1977, the Department organized the First National Conference of Library Cartographers. During the conference, in which 78 representatives of academic and library centers in Poland took part, the decision was made to create a Central Resource of Cartographic Polonica at the National Library's Department of Cartographic Collections. The creation of the Central Resource was closely connected with the publication of a cartographic series edited by Bogusław Krassowski under the title *Zabytki Polskiej Kartografii (Monuments of Polish Cartography)* which was to present to the readers the most important and the most precious Polish maps, ones often existing in only one copy.

The series was also begun because of the need for preserving monuments of Polish cartography. Mindful of, on the one hand, the practical considerations connected with the necessity of providing broad access to the preserved collections of maps and atlases to a numerous community of academics, students and those interested in old maps, and also the necessity of preservation of the most valuable items of Polish cartography on the other, the National Library launched a program of reproducing maps in their original scale. The volumes of the series correspond to the facsimile publication started in the pre-war period *Monumenta Poloniae Cartographica* prepared under the patronage of the Polish Academy of Skills. The first volume prepared by Karol Buczek was almost entirely destroyed in September 1939.

The first volume of the present series, prepared in the National Library's Department of Cartographic Collections, is a re-edition of a multi-sheet map *Topograficzna karta Królestwa Polskiego (Topographic Map of the Kingdom of Poland)* published in the 1:126 000 scale. It was produced in cooperation with Polish and Russian cartographers and it is the most detailed work of cartography of the Kingdom of Poland of the first half of the 19th century. At present it is one of the most frequently used cartographic materials of the 19th century. The two subsequent maps reproduced in the series were made in the second half of the 18th century. These are: the *Regni Poloniae* map by Jakub Kanter published in 1770 and the *Polonia* map by Charles de Perthees, the manuscript of which was burned during the Warsaw Uprising and only its negatives on glass plates have been preserved. In 1979 the work was begun on reproducing plans of Warsaw issued in 1655-1944. The whole project was to consist of 75 reproductions of plans and their descriptions. The first two volumes were published in 1980 and 1982 and contained 22 and 28 titles respectively. The third volume is currently in preparation and will contain 25 reproduced plans of Warsaw. Also in preparation is volume 7 of the series in which a manuscript anonymous map of Poland of approx. 1770 now held in the State Archives in Warsaw will be presented. This volume, like the previous ones, will be a monographic publication on the cartographic document reproduced in the 1:1 scale.

The texts presenting the maps in all the volumes of the series are concise and give the most substantial data on the item described: the historic background of its creation, cartometric and quality analysis of the document, biographical notes on the authors, i.e. the author of the idea of the map, the designer, and – if the map was printed – the engraver, the publisher, and the printer. So far the following volumes have been published:

- Bogusław Krassowski *Topograficzna karta Królestwa Polskiego (Topographic Map of the Kingdom of Poland)*, 1978
- Lucyna Kublin "*Regni Poloniae...*" *Jakuba Kantera z 1770 r. ("Regni Poloniae..." by Jakub Kanter of 1770)*, 1980
- Bogusław Krassowski, Barbara Majewska *Plany Warszawy 1655-1814 (Plans of Warsaw 1655-1814)*, 1980

- Bogusław Krassowski, Barbara Majewska *Plany Warszawy 1815-1831 (Plans of Warsaw 1815-1831)*, 1982
- Lech Królikowski, Lucyna Szaniawska *Plany i mapy Warszawy 1832-1944 (Plans and Maps of Warsaw 1832-1944)*, 1999
- Jadwiga Madej "Polonia... 1770" *Karola de Pertheesa na tle osiemnastowiecznej kartografii polskiej i krajów ościennych ("Polonia... 1770" by Charles de Perthees against the Background of the 18th Century Cartography of Poland and the Neighboring Countries)*, 1987
- Henryk Bartoszewicz "Nouvelle Carte Generale de la Pologne" of approx. 1770 (in preparation).

### Studies and Materials on the History of Cartography

Bogusław Krassowski was also the initiator and the first scientific editor of another series: *Studia i Materiały z Historii Kartografii (Studies and Materials on the History of Cartography)*. From its first volumes the series has been presenting a wide range of subjects related to the origin of maps and atlases from ancient to modern times, with particular stress on the achievements of Polish cartography. Most of the volumes focus on old maps of all historical territories of Poland. The concept was to produce a series that would be useful for a broad community of librarians, archivists, historians, hobbyists, and collectors of old maps and atlases. At the same time, by documenting the research projects carried out at the Department of Cartographic Collections, the series reflects the research interests of its individual staff members.

The first two volumes of the series were perhaps slightly accidental: volume one contained proceedings of the National Conference of Historians of Military Science held in Białystok in May 1980, volume two was produced on the basis of a thesis written at the College of African Studies of the Warsaw University. Those volumes effectively hid before censorship the third volume which was the result of several years of studies and discussions held by Dr Bogusław Krassowski with participants of the underground struggle conducted by the Home Army (Armia Krajowa, or AK) during World War II. Thus, the numbering of subsequent volumes does not correspond with the date of their publication.

The fourth volume under the working title of *Filiacja map ziem polskich (Filiation of Maps of Polish Territories)* was to contain the scientific assumptions of the *Encyklopedia staropolskiej kartografii (Encyclopedia of Old Polish Cartography)*. Unfortunately, Dr Krassowski did not manage to write it. Still during his lifetime two subsequent volumes were published which contained an instruction for map cataloging and were to be helpful in collecting the data for the *Encyklopedia*. Already then a national program was launched of cataloging the maps of the Old Poland held in the biggest Polish libraries. Dr Krassowski also started co-operation with Dr Tomasz Niewodniczański who has the most valuable collection of *cartographica* of Polish territories known to exist outside Poland. Additionally, the subject of old Polish cartography was to be enriched by the publication *Kartografowie polscy XVI wieku (Polish Cartographers of the 16th Century)* and other titles which have never been written. When Dr Krassowski suddenly died in January 1987, the preparatory work for the *Encyklopedia* and individual studies conducted by various researchers working in the frame of the project were at various stages.

Upon assuming the duties of a scientific editor of the series, I decided to continue the preparatory work for the *Encyklopedia* and established contacts with all the authors currently working on the project. I also monitored the publishing of the successive volumes by the National Library. Thus, by 1994 seven subsequent volumes of the series were published. Unfortunately, the idea of the *Encyklopedia* itself was abandoned in 1991. What remained of the project were detailed catalog descriptions which may become the nucleus of a major synthesis in the future.

In 1997, without changing the subject or chronological range of the series, we added to it studies of outstanding Polish scholars, e.g. of Prof. Jan Szeliga. The subject of the volume definitely fits into the subject range already planned for the *Encyklopedia*, but the level of detail in the description of individual maps enables us to qualify the volume as a monographic study. A work to be qualified as somewhere between a catalog and a monograph is the publication *Sarmacja na mapach Ptolemeusza w edycjach jego "Geografii" (Sarmatia on the Maps by Ptolemy in the Editions of his "Geography")*, in which half of the text is made up

of catalog descriptions of maps. The remaining part is a historical and geographic analysis. At present we foresee that the series will include catalogs of Polish cartographic collections, conference proceedings, and monographs.

Subsequent volumes in the series are: a catalog of maps of the Kingdom of Poland; a catalog of maps published by the Silesian publishing house of Carl Flemming; and a catalog of maps and atlases issued since the 16th century donated to the Library by Barbara and Jerzy Czarny-Karaś. The first two of them have already been published and their purpose is not only to present the cartographic collections of the Library, but also to acquaint our users with the standards of bibliographic description of cartographic materials which are widely used in Western libraries and should soon be introduced into Polish ones.

The catalog *Mapy Królestwa Polskiego wydane w latach 1815-1915 w zbiorach Biblioteki Narodowej* (*Maps of the Kingdom of Poland Published from 1815 to 1915 in the National Library Collections*) was published as an aftermath of an exhibition *Cartography of the Kingdom of Poland 1815-1915*, which accompanied the 18th National Conference of Cartography Historians organized by the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw University and the National Library and held in the premises of the Library on November 21-22, 1997. As for the catalog *Mapy ziem polskich opublikowane przez Karola Flemminga w zbiorach Biblioteki Narodowej* (*Maps of Polish Territories Published by Carl Fleming in the National Library Collections*), it came as a result of the 16th National Conference of Cartography Historians held in 1994 in the Ossoliński Library in Wrocław. The catalog contains 334 detailed descriptions of maps and atlases preceded by an explanation of the arrangement of each description and an article by Dr Roman Wytyczak on the *Carl Flemming Printing House in Głogów*.

Thanks to the growing capabilities of the National Library's Publishing House, the editing concept of subsequent volumes of the series has been enriched. Starting from volume XVI the format of the volumes has been enlarged from A5 to A4, thereby enabling the inclusion of reproductions of maps in the maximum A3 size format without the need of folding them, and furthermore the insertion of bigger illustrations in the text and the

printing of color map reproductions on the first, second and third side of the cover.

So far the following volumes have been published:

- *Dzieje polskiej kartografii wojskowej i myśli strategicznej. Materiały z konferencji. (History of Polish Military Cartography and Strategic Thought. Conference Proceedings)*, ed. Bogusław Krassowski, 1982 (vol. I)
- Lucyna Szaniawska *Mapa jako dokument wiedzy o Afryce w dobie Odrodzenia (The Map as a Document of Knowledge about Africa during the Renaissance)*, 1981 (vol. II)
- Bogusław Krassowski "SCHRONISKO". *Służba geograficzna Armii Krajowej ("SCHRONISKO" [The Refuge]. Geographical Service of the Home Army)*, 1981 (vol. III)
- Vol. IV – unpublished
- Stanisław Peliwo *Mapy ziem polskich w wydawnictwach książkowych XVI-XVIII wieku (Maps of Polish Territories in 16th-18th Century Book Publications)*, 1985 (vol. V)
- Bogusław Krassowski *Polska na mapach wydawców norymberskich i augsburskich z XVIII wieku (Poland on Maps of 18th Century Nuremberg and Augsburg Publishers)*, 1985 (vol. VI)
- Lucyna Szaniawska *Analiza wybranych małoskalowych map ziem polskich – XVI-XVIII w. (Analysis of Selected Small-Scale Maps of Polish Territories – 16th-18th Century)*, 1987 (vol. VII)
- Lucyna Kublin, Barbara Majewska, Małgorzata Tomaszewska *Mapy ziem polskich kartografów niderlandzkich XVI i XVII w. (Maps of Polish Territories by 16th and 17th Century Dutch Cartographers)*, 1987 (vol. VIII)
- Jadwiga Bzinkowska *Mapy ziem dawnej Polski – od XV do XVIII wieku – w wybranych atlasach Biblioteki Jagiellońskiej (Maps of Territories of Ancient Poland – from the 15th to the 18th Century – in Selected Atlases of the Jagiellonian Library)*, 1992 (vol. IX)
- Stanisław Peliwo *Drzeworytowe mapy ziem polskich w wydawnictwach książkowych XVI w. (Woodcut Maps of Polish Territories in 16th Century Book Publications)*, 1991 (vol. X)
- Krystyna Szykuła, Ewa Szykiewicz *Mapy ziem dawnej Polski w wybranych atlasach Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej we Wrocławiu (Maps*

- of Territories of Ancient Poland in Selected Atlases of the University Library in Wrocław*, 1993 (vol. XI)
- Jan Szeliga *Mapy ziem I Rzeczypospolitej w atlasach Biblioteki PAN w Gdańsku (Maps of Territories of the First Republic in the Atlases of the PAN Library in Gdańsk)*, 1993 (vol. XII)
  - Jadwiga Bzinkowska *Luźne mapy ziem polskich do końca XVIII wieku w zbiorach kartograficznych Biblioteki Jagiellońskiej (Separate Maps of Polish Territories until the End of the 18th Century in the Jagiellonian Library's Cartographic Collections)*, 1993 (vol. XIII)
  - Lucyna Szaniawska *Sarmacja na mapach Ptolemeusza w edycjach jego "Geografii" (Sarmatia on the Maps by Ptolemy in the Editions of his "Geography")*, 1993 (vol. XIV)
  - Jan Szeliga *Rękopiśmienne mapy Prus Książęcych Józefa Naronowicza-Narońskiego z II połowy XVI wieku (Handwritten Maps of Royal Prussia by Józef Naronowicz-Naroński from the 2nd Half of the 16th Century)*, 1997 (vol. XV)
  - Lucyna Szaniawska *Mapy Królestwa Polskiego wydane w latach 1815-1915 w zbiorach Biblioteki Narodowej. Katalog (Maps of the Kingdom of Poland Published from 1815 to 1915 in the National Library's Collections. A Catalog)*, 1997 (vol. XVI)
  - Lucyna Szaniawska *Mapy ziem polskich opublikowane przez Karola Flemminga w zbiorach Biblioteki Narodowej (Maps of Polish Territories Published by Carl Flemming in the National Library's Collections)*, 1998 (vol. XVII)
  - Lucyna Szaniawska *Z Bristolu do Warszawy. Kolekcja Barbary i Jerzego Czarnych-*

*-Karasiów (From Bristol to Warsaw. The Collection of Barbara and Jerzy Czarny-Karaś)*, in preparation (vol. XVIII)

## Topographic Maps of Polish Territories 1871 – 1945

This multi-volume work, also started by Dr Bogusław Krassowski, was to consist of two parts, the first one entitled *Polskie mapy topograficzne wydane w latach 1871-1945 (Polish Topographic Maps Published in the Years 1871-1945)* and the second one entitled *Obce mapy topograficzne ziem polskich z lat 1871-1945 (Foreign Topographic Maps of Polish Territories 1871-1945)*. The purpose of this publication is to put together indexes (generally missing in Polish library collections) of the most important topographic maps, together with a brief description of changes in these maps presented mainly from the point of view of a librarian cataloging cartographic collections. Subsequent volumes should present topographic maps of Polish territories published by military authorities of the three partitioning states (Austria, Prussia, and Russia), as well as maps of Polish territories published and renewed during the First and the Second World War.

So far the following volumes have been published:

- Bogusław Krassowski, Małgorzata Tomaszewska *Polskie mapy topograficzne wydane w latach 1918-1945 (Polish Topographic Maps Published in the Years 1918-1945)*, 1979
- Bogusław Krassowski, Irena Krassowska *Służba Geograficzna w Polskich Siłach Zbrojnych na Zachodzie w latach 1939-1946 (Geographical Service in the Polish Armed Forces in the West in the Years 1939-1946)*, 1989.

Lucyna Szaniawska

Translated by Katarzyna Diehl  
Wojciech Tyska

## Reviews

# A Directory to the Union Catalog of Old Prints in Poland

Maria Zychowicz *Centralny Katalog starych druków w Bibliotece Narodowej w Warszawie. Informator (Union Catalog of Old Prints at the National Library in Warsaw. A Directory)*, Warszawa 1995

This book by Maria Zychowicz published in 1995, though small in size, is an important contribution to our knowledge about the history, present state, and perspectives of the union catalog of old prints run for decades by the Old Prints Department at the National Library. Its publication is of great importance for many reasons.

The author began the preparation of the directory prompted by the conviction that the union catalog of old prints, in spite of its long history and renown in relevant milieu, is nonetheless too little known and appreciated in the country. It is in fact much more recognized outside Poland, which can be clearly seen in the numerous queries and expressions of thanks coming from foreign users. The directory is therefore meant as a help first of all to librarians, who should not only use the catalog extensively but also inform readers about its existence.

The union catalog of old prints in Polish libraries was started by Kazimierz Piekarski before World War II. It was truly his work and his care that led to its existence. In the beginning the catalog had a different form and a different scope. Initially Piekarski studied and registered only incunables. He started their registration already in Cracow, before he moved to Warsaw and took the managing position in the then Old Prints Division of the National Library in 1931. Here he enlarged the scope of his work by including the 16th century old book and later, with the help of Dr Alodia Kawecka-Gryczowa (a distinguished expert in the history of book and libraries) and with the support of some other persons and institutions, he finally included the 17th and 18th century prints. The registration was based mainly on autopsies which Piekarski carried out in small, especially church

libraries rich in precious collections. However, Piekarski did not limit himself to mere registration, and not even to a complete bibliographic identification of the prints. For he also described individual features of each copy, with the stress on their provenance and the state of their bindings. The reason for such a comprehensive approach to the collections of old prints was Piekarski's intention to later compile the complete history of the book in old Poland. Unfortunately, those projects were ruined by the outbreak of the Second World War.

Before the War, registration advanced at a very quick pace. According to National Library reports from the years 1937-1938, some 50 thousand old prints had been registered by March 31, 1937; among them 14,815 incunables (4,864 bibliographic items), some 21,000 Polish and about 10,000 foreign prints from the 16th century, 1,519 prints from the 17th and 2,679 prints from the 18th centuries. In the next year the number of old prints registered increased to 74,276, and just several months before the outbreak of War (April 1, 1939) it surpassed 80,000 (this number is given by Maria Zychowicz).

After the Warsaw Uprising was crushed in 1944, these rich files, together with the most precious collections from the National Library and other large Warsaw libraries, were incinerated by a special Brandkommando unit in the Krasiński Library. Professor Alodia Gryczowa, who had collaborated on the catalog, managed to rescue copies of the register of incunables (with their bibliographic numbers) and some registration sheets containing mainly items from the territories incorporated into the Reich. After the War she recommenced the registration of the old book collections

in the Center for the Old Book Protection at the Ministry of Education. The Center, which she created and ran, was later moved to the National Library.

The history of the union catalog of old prints run by the National Library is presented in the second chapter of the Directory. Some earlier efforts and projects leading to its creation, starting from an appeal by Józef Andrzej Załuski, are also mentioned. However, since the primary aim of the Directory is to give up-to-date information on the union catalog, the main part of the book – the first chapter – presents its current state. Its functions are explained along with a user's guide, the kind of data to be found, and the completeness of the catalog. The most detailed information pertains to the incunables, of which much is already known thanks to the publication of two volumes of their catalog. The third volume – in preparation – will bring data on their former owners, that is, the lists of provenances.

The Directory is complemented with a register of 89 Polish libraries and 50 foreign book collections which may serve as sources of data on the old book collections (a further 40 centers in Poland which give information on incunables have not been mentioned). It is, however, worth mentioning that not all the collections in the libraries listed have been fully examined and cataloged. Thus, the register contains but partial and general information on their content and scope.

The informative value of individual catalog descriptions varies considerably. The staffers of the Old Prints Department put great effort into com-

plementing and unifying the data, which – unfortunately – is not always possible without the examination of individual items. Yet after World War II the union catalog has been prepared mainly from descriptions sent in by other libraries, and few items have been described as per the autopsies.

Maria Zychowicz in her book emphasizes not only the content of the union catalog or difficulties that arise in its preparation. For above all she shows concern for its future in the era of computerization, when data with quick and direct access through a database (also in the field of old prints) seem to prevail over the anachronistic, one might think, form of catalog, like the one presented by the author. This is why, apart from the information directly connected with the catalog – like clues concerning the choice of search method, the alphabet used (Latin, with no diacritical marks), criteria of heading choice, or the order of descriptions of the same print from different libraries – the author also includes in the Directory facts pertaining to the creation of old prints databases in other countries (together with relevant literature), or problems of retroconversion. This part of the Directory may therefore serve as a point of departure for any further discussion over the future of the catalog.

Maria Zychowicz explains that her main objective in writing the Directory was to help its users and to promote the catalog and its development by winning the cooperation of further libraries. I can only hope that her publication will achieve not only this, but will also create better perspectives for the catalog in the coming years.

*Paulina Buchwald-Pelcowa*

Translated by *Wojciech Tyszka*

## Reviews

# Catalog of the Manuscripts of the Polish Library in Paris

*Katalog rękopisów Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu (Catalog of the Manuscripts of the Polish Library in Paris)*, vol. VI, The Czartoryski Archives of the Hôtel Lambert, call numbers 760-1135, ed. Janusz Pezda, Paryż-Warszawa 1996

*Katalog rękopisów Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu (Catalog of the Manuscripts of the Polish Library in Paris)*, vol. VII, call numbers 1136-1359, Paryż-Warszawa 1996

Catalogs of manuscripts, that is, lists of handwritten items described according to scientific principles, are compiled for information purposes for the use of scholars – so that they know what each manuscript contains and where to find desired texts and sources. A similar objective is served by partial printed inventories which list a part of a library's collection. Both publications involve various degrees of elaboration and differ by the range of details they describe. A description can be of an inventorial (preliminary, accessional) character or of the nature of a catalog (full, scientific), but in both cases it describes written documents known as manuscripts, that is, all unduplicated forms of a textual transmission of thought. The rich content of manuscripts, the wealth of forms and methods used by their authors and their changeability, as well as the differences between the social context at the time of their origin and at present, make it very difficult to classify them precisely and adopt a fixed pattern of description. A full scientific description of manuscripts and the publication of the descriptions in printed catalogs is the principal duty of manuscript experts. This is usually a long, toil-some, and laborious process because each manuscript is unique and unparalleled. Its form is usually complex and its content extremely diversified. The objective is to give the fullest possible scientifically documented reply to questions concerning the content and the conditions in which the manuscript was created as well as its functions in society. The questions are: what?, who?, when?, and for whom? They are applied to the set of manuscripts, to each single manuscript and to each text contained in it.

\*

In December 1991, the Council of the Historical Literary Society and the Board of Directors of the Polish Library in Paris accepted the help proposed by the Polish Ministry of Culture and Arts. The Ministry suggested that the manuscripts housed at 6, Quai d'Orléans should first be put in order and inventoried. Academic supervision and control over the work was entrusted to the National Library in Warsaw, and the Ministry of Culture and Arts of the Polish Republic promised to finance the work.

From the spring of 1992 to the spring of 1994 a team of staffers of the National Library's Manuscripts Department, composed of Maria Gamdzyk-Kłuźniakowa, Danuta Kamolowa, Andrzej Kaszlej, Dorota Pomianowska, Teresa Sieniatecka and Maria Wrede, together with Janusz Pezda from the Czartoryski Library in Cracow and with the help of Marek P. Prokop from the Polish Library, tidied up and affixed accession numbers to the collection of the Polish Library's Section of Manuscripts. Up to that moment at most 30 per cent of the collection was listed in published catalogs or partial inventories. The remaining items were in a state which made it impossible to make them accessible to the public; most of them were neither registered nor identified and many were stored in parcels, boxes, and suitcases. As a result of the work carried out by this team, all the manuscripts under the care of the head of the Section of Manuscripts were stored in repositories on the ground floor of the house. Sets of manuscripts were put in order, divided into units, and packed into standard

archival boxes. Each unit was given a number and an abridged accession description in the *Inventary of the Section of Manuscripts of the Polish Library (Inwentarz Działu Rękopisów Biblioteki Polskiej)*, which documented the state of the collection as of February 1994. When this preliminary work was completed, the four-volume *Inventary* comprised 4,700 descriptions, an introduction and indexes of persons, institutions, organizations, and subjects, as well as the provenance of each manuscript, chronology and the correspondence of previous call numbers with the present accession numbers added in a separate unnumbered volume. Because of the speed of the work and the enormous mass of the material, the descriptions were, of necessity, imperfect. Only a full scientifically documented elaboration of the individual sets will make it possible to correct the mistakes made. The accession inventory, alongside its main documentary function, is at the moment the only full basis for further work on arranging and cataloging the collection. It makes it possible to amalgamate dispersed items and to discover provenance links.

The work did not cover the proper archives of the Historical Literary Society and the Polish Library, but only its oldest part, kept in the Section of Manuscripts. The archives proper include non-inventoried legacies of the directors and employees of the Polish Library, e.g. of Franciszek Pułaski, Czesław Chowaniec, Irena Gałęzowska, Wanda Borkowska, and Władysław Strzembosz. The legacies and parts of the legacies of some artists kept in the Section of Iconography were not set in order and inventoried either. The Section includes materials that have never been set in order and inventoried, among them the legacy of Olga Boznańska, a large collection of postcards and a huge, mostly unidentified collection of photographs which have been separated from the legacies kept in the Section of Manuscripts.

What is certain is that inventories or catalogs of the entire collection of manuscripts will not be published in the near future. In order to make it easier for researchers to get an idea of what the collection contains, we have worked out a *Guide to the Sets of Manuscripts of the Historical Literary Society and Polish Library in Paris (Przewodnik po zespołach rękopisów Towarzystwa Historyczno-Literackiego i Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu)* which contains brief general informa-

tion on the sets of manuscripts in the Polish Library, their content, distribution, size, the degree of elaboration and accessibility. The guide was published by the National Library in Warsaw in the last year.

Alongside the work aimed at setting the manuscripts in order and inventorying them, work has been underway on a scientific elaboration of successive groups of manuscripts. Successive volumes of the *Catalog of the Manuscripts of the Historical Literary Society and Polish Library in Paris (Katalog rękopisów Towarzystwa Historyczno-Literackiego i Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu)* are being published one after another. In addition to the *Catalog of the Manuscripts of the Adam Mickiewicz Museum (Katalog rękopisów Muzeum Adama Mickiewicza)* published in 1931 and the first volume of the *Catalog of the Manuscripts of the Polish Library (Katalog rękopisów Biblioteki Polskiej)* which appeared in 1939, the second and fifth volumes have been published. The year 1996 saw the publication of two more volumes: VI and VII, thanks to which fact a further 600 manuscripts were accessible to the public.

\*

Volume VI of the *Catalog of the Manuscripts of the Polish Library in Paris* is the work of Janusz Pezda, scholar and doyen of the Czartoryski Library in Cracow, who conducted work on the Archives of the Hôtel Lambert in 1989-1998 thanks to numerous scholarships from various institutions. These were the Stanisław Lam and the Suzanne and Jan Brzękowski scholarships from the Historical Literary Society, as well as grants from the Fund for Aiding Independent Polish Literature and Science, the Pallottini Fathers and, in particular, the Lanckoroński Foundation from Brzeź. From 1992 the Polish Ministry of Culture and Arts also helped to finance the work, within its program of aid for the Polish Library in Paris.

Volume VI contains descriptions of 375 manuscripts from the Archives of the Hôtel Lambert. The Archives are, in a way, part of the Czartoryskis' Domestic Archives, a part covering the years 1871-1974 and connected with the family's emigré activity and their stay on the Ile St. Louis in Paris. After the sale of the Hôtel Lambert in 1972-1974, the set was deposited in the neighboring Polish Library in Quai d'Orléans in Paris, where

it waited to be set in order and cataloged until 1989-1994. The materials were arranged in accordance with the regulations adopted when the Czartoryskis' Archives in the Czartoryski Library in Cracow were put in order.

The first part of the set contains chronologically arranged legacies of various persons of the Czartoryski family. These are fragments which complement the rich materials in Cracow. The only complete legacy is that of Witold Kazimierz Czartoryski; it probably could not be transferred to Cracow because of the outbreak of World War I in 1914. This part also includes the archives of such societies and organizations as the Polish Girls' Boarding School at St. Casimir's Institution, the Polish Girls' Institute at the Hôtel Lambert, the Museum at Gołuchów, and the Princes Czartoryski Museum and Library in Cracow.

The second and largest part of the set contains documents concerning the financial activity and charity work of the Czartoryskis when they lived at the Hôtel Lambert. Among them are materials relating to the purchase of Hôtel Lambert and records of household expenses. The Czartoryskis' charity work is documented by the receipts and expenses recorded in the charity fund books and by a vast correspondence: letters asking for help, notifications of the dispatch of money, acknowledgements of receipts.

The third part consists of papers connected with the renovation and reconstruction of the Hôtel Lambert by the Czartoryskis. These are cost estimates, receipts, contracts and correspondence with firms, architects and craftsmen. Work of this kind was also conducted in other houses and apartments occupied by the Czartoryskis, and documents concerning this work have also survived. As is the case of all large sets, this one contains a certain number of miscellanea loosely connected with the collection, such as chrestomathies from historical sources, documents and letters of various persons, press cuttings, lithographs, and photographs.

The substantive connection between the Hôtel Lambert Archives and the papers in the Domestic Archives made it necessary to apply the same method of elaborating the documents so that the two archives should complement each other. Thanks to his profound knowledge of both the Cracow and the Paris materials and the exactitude with which he established connection between

the separated fragments, Janusz Pezda fulfilled this task to perfection. The reader will find it easier to understand the material thanks to the *Genealogy of the Czartoryskis (the Pulawy-Sieniawa line)* placed at the beginning of the catalog and thanks to the brief biographical notes of each contributor to the legacy as well as the information on institutions and organizations, placed at the beginning of each respective group of manuscripts.

It was a particularly toilsome and labor-consuming work to set in order and describe such vast materials as the correspondence concerning the charity work conducted for nearly 100 years (1840-1936). Another large group of materials consists of receipts and records of expenses connected with the maintenance and activity of such a great institution as Hôtel Lambert in those years, including the documentation of the building work and constant renovations of this beautiful 17th century palace. With regard to the mass of rather homogeneous material assembled in the second and third parts of the set, it would have been possible to adopt a more general archival method of description. But the description and consequently the index would then not have included all the names and surnames of such great importance for research into the Polish emigré community. It is thanks to Pezda's toil that the reader can find them without difficulty. The catalog is supplemented by indexes of persons, periodicals, institutions, societies, and geographical names. It is to the author's credit that he has established the right forms of surnames and names of institutions and organizations.

\*

Volume VII of the *Catalog of the Manuscripts of the Polish Library in Paris* has been published jointly by the Historical Literary Society in Paris and the National Library in Warsaw. The materials contained in the catalog were worked out thanks to the help of the Ministry of Culture and Arts which, under its program of aid for the Polish Library in Paris, financed the visits of employees of the National Library in France. The work on cataloging the material lasted three years, but it had to be condensed during the team's relatively short visits in Paris. The material was set in order in Paris and it was there that information was gathered for descriptions. After the team's return to Warsaw the data were set in order and the first versions of descriptions were written.

During a successive visit in Paris the descriptions were verified, the necessary corrections were made and the manuscripts were then paginated. Thanks to close co-operation with the employees of the Polish Library, some checking and verification could be done by correspondence. It would be impossible to overestimate the help extended by Ms Ada Wysocka who, alongside her erudition and knowledge of the heroes of the manuscripts, offered disinterested help in the most laborious and time-consuming final work.

The choice of the material included in this volume of the *Catalog* needs some explanation. The volume was produced in specific conditions. A decision was made to include in it materials left by five Polish emigrés active in France after World War II and offered to the Library in various periods. Thus, the volume comprises materials of the politician and publicist Aleksander Kawałkowski, the poet Jan Brzękowski, the writer and journalist Stanisław Lam, the painter Kazimierz Brandel, a small fragment of the correspondence of Franciszek and Maria Prochaska concerning Brandel, and material of the art critic and painter Ludwik Lille. The choice was motivated by the great informative value of the materials, the fact that they were not excessively dispersed in the Polish Library's collections, the existence of rich ancillary and bibliographic materials, as well as their representative diversity and their size – an important requirement if the work was to be finished on time. The volume was intended to be a response to most urgent needs when, under the pressure of readers, the materials not yet set in order had to be made accessible. Because of the diversity of the material contained in it, the volume can set an example of how to elaborate the most frequent materials, that is, contemporary legacies which, in addition to manuscripts or typescripts of literary works, also contain material connected with various activities of their authors. Some of these materials were previously set in order by persons who were not always competent and that is why some principles of manuscript elaboration had to be broken. For instance, materials of various provenance were mixed up in one case, in another case a wrong order of materials required the use of desultory pagination. In view of these difficulties and the individual characteristics of each author of a description, credit is due to the editors of the volume, Dorota Pomianowska and Andrzej

Kaszlej. It is thanks to their patience and reliability that the descriptions are not only technically uniform, but also clear and readable.

The legacy of Aleksander Kawałkowski (1899-1965) comprises 67 units and contains only the part concerning public matters. It consists of all kinds of materials, manuscripts, typescripts and their copies, stencilled materials, lithographs, photographs as well as many annexes, such as maps, brochures, printed matter, and press cuttings. This complex material has been solicitously worked out. Andrzej Kaszlej, who elaborated this set, put much work into identifying the persons mentioned in the set and the functions they performed, down to the lowest level. Because of inadequate bibliographic and biographical aids, this was frequently detective work. Kaszlej's efforts make it possible for scholars to acquaint themselves with valuable materials to the history of World War I, the defence of Lwów in 1918-1920 and Polish-Ukrainian problems, materials which Aleksander Kawałkowski collected when he worked in the Ministry of Religious Confessions and Public Education. The second part of the materials refers to Kawałkowski's work as a civil delegate for military affairs at the Polish Embassy in Paris in 1939-1940 and the participation of Poles in the French Resistance Movement. The set also includes post-World War II materials, the most important being Kawałkowski's brilliant analyses of the international political situation, prepared at the request of political centers in Britain and France. They are completely unknown in Poland.

The literary correspondence and works of Jan Brzękowski (1903-1983) kept in the Polish Library consist of 41 units. Another part was presented by the poet to the Museum of Literature in Warsaw which has a typewritten catalog of the collection. The Paris part of this correspondence, comprising nearly 3,700 letters, has been worked out with a precision normally reserved for crowned heads. In the intention of Maria Gamdzyk-Kluźniakowa, author of the elaboration, the catalog was to replace the letters kept in distant Paris and not just make access to them easier, a task of normal catalogs. Gamdzyk-Kluźniakowa has enriched her information by small-type references to the proper sets of manuscripts kept at Warsaw's Museum of Literature, thus creating a perfect catalog of Jan Brzękowski's literary work and correspondence. The catalog gives a nearly complete documentation

of Brzękowski's contacts with men of letters in Poland and France, with publishing houses, editorial boards and other institutions.

The postwar Parisian part of Stanisław Lam's (1891-1965) legacy consists of materials of different origin and comprises 26 units. The description made by Marek P. Prokop has put within scholars' reach the most valuable part of the legacy, namely, materials to *The Biographical Dictionary of Poles in the World*. The materials contain extensive biographies of more than 1,000 emigrants; they are connected with nearly 100 personal entries prepared for *The Great Encyclopedia of the 20th Century*. In connection with an anthology of poetry edited by Lam, his legacy also contains manuscripts of Jan Lechoń's poems and letters. These constitute a small separate unit. Another small unit consists of the legacy of Jan Lam's wife, Paula, which is closely linked to the materials left by Lam.

The legacy of Kazimierz Brandel (1880-1970), which consists of 40 units, is nearly complete; it also includes his work tools, pencils, brushes, crayons. Worked out by Danuta Kamolowa in accordance with all the rules of the art, it is a model of what a description should be like. It puts within scholars' reach Brandel's very rich correspondence comprising nearly 4,500 letters which are a source, not yet utilized, for research into the artists' milieu in Paris in 1903-1970. Thanks to a recent gift by Witold Leitgeber, Brandel's nephew, it has been possible to form a separate set consisting of the two men's correspondence which went on for nearly 50 years and comprises over 1,200 letters. At the end of the set of manuscripts from Brandel's legacy is a description of a small fragment of the correspondence of Franciszek and Maria

Prochaska which contains 26 letters referring to the artistic milieu.

The fragment of Ludwik Lille's (1897-1957) publicist work contains materials to over 400 texts arranged into 50 units. These are radio talks given by Lille in the broadcasts of the Polish Section of Radio France in 1946-1957. He spoke about French and European art and Poland's historical and cultural links with France, he also presented the situation of Polish emigré artists, profiles of painters and art collections, and commented on art exhibitions and artistic events. These extensive materials are mostly in the form of rough copies. Teresa Sieniacka, who set them in order, had to put much work to segregate them according to subject, establish their titles, and define approximately when they were written.

\*

This text is but a review of the *Catalog*, but I hope that it will give the reader an idea of what it contains, and what the largest Polish library abroad really is. Further, perhaps more critical reviews may be expected to come from experts who will visit the Library. Let us stress that the publication of the two volumes crowns the first stage of collaboration between domestic and emigré institutions. Further cooperation promises to be no less fruitful. *A Guide to the Sets of Manuscripts of the Historical Literary Society and Polish Library in Paris*, announced a long time ago, was finally published last year. Intensive work is in progress on volumes III, IV and VIII of the *Catalog*, and the manuscripts pouring into the Library in increasing numbers are being set in order in the repository, the recent renovation of which has been jointly financed.

*Maria Wrede*

Translated by *Janina Dorosz*

## Reviews

# Directory to Libraries and Information Centers in Poland

*Informator o bibliotekach i ośrodkach informacji w Polsce 1999 (Directory to Libraries and Information Centers in Poland 1999)*, Biblioteka Narodowa, Warszawa 2000

In 2000 a third, revised and updated edition was issued of *Informator o bibliotekach i ośrodkach informacji w Polsce 1999 (Directory to Libraries and Information Centers in Poland 1999)*, edited and published by the National Library. The first edition, published in 1995, was the result of a joint project between the National Library and the Polish Readers' Society. In 1993 a group of National Library staffers, being at the same time members of the Polish Readers' Society, took the initiative to gather data about libraries and information centers existing in Poland. On behalf of the Polish Readers' Society they applied for a grant to the Committee of Scientific Research and in April 1994, after their application had been accepted, they started the preparation of a questionnaire. The project team intended first of all to design a computer database (in the Library's in-house made system MAK) about various types of libraries and information centers, one that could be used as a source of reference information. However, the team also felt that the data obtained from the libraries should be available not only as a database, but also in traditional, print-on-paper form. As a result, the first edition of the Directory was compiled and published in 1995 with data on 2,178 libraries and information centers in Poland. The second edition was issued in 1997, and included data on 3,650 institutions.

The publication has become of considerable interest, especially for librarians and information specialists, as well as for journalists, publishers, booksellers, readers, and all those connected with books or librarianship. Therefore, the National Library decided to continue the work on the Directory by completing the database with new data,

correcting mistakes, and by introducing suggestions received from its users. The traditional, printed version of the Directory was based on the database "Directory to the libraries in Poland" which can be accessed on the National Library's web page ([www.bn.org.pl](http://www.bn.org.pl)).

The new edition of the Directory published in 2000 was the result of a questionnaire prepared by the National Library in May 1998. It was then sent out to some 5,400 libraries and information centers, i.e. to all central, academic, and provincial pedagogical libraries, as well as to provincial and city public libraries and to smaller community libraries, if only the National Library had their addresses. It was also sent to church, army, museum, and archival libraries, to the libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), as well as to smaller specialized libraries and information centers in various institutions.

As a result, the new edition of the Directory contains data on 5,650 institutions, i.e. 2,000 more than in the previous edition. 4,358 of the libraries or information centers listed sent back their questionnaires in 1998, while the data on other libraries and centers (marked with an asterisk) is based on the questionnaires gathered in 1996 or has been taken from other sources and is incomplete (e.g. includes only the name, address and scope of collection). The authors of the Directory are aware of the incompleteness of their work, especially in some groups of libraries, which fact can be clearly seen in the indices. They hope, however, that with subsequent editions these poorly represented groups will gradually gain greater showing.

The Directory registers various types of libraries, excluding school libraries (although a few

libraries of this type are presented, namely those which function as both school and public libraries). The biggest group are public libraries – 3,062, then academic libraries – 1,112, pedagogical – 438, technical – 316, specialized (a very heterogeneous group) – 197, medical – 186, museum libraries – 175, church libraries – 124, libraries of research institutes – 111, agricultural – 101, libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) – 79, libraries of various associations – 71, archival – 48, economic – 44, and army libraries – 43. It also registers 182 information centers, including 14 central-level ones.

As far as individual voivodeships are concerned, not all of them are equally well represented by libraries and information centers. Also, it is worth mentioning that the administrative transformation of the country introduced on January 1, 1999, as a result of which the 49 former voivodeships were replaced by 16 bigger ones, considerably changed the structure of the library network in Poland and forced the editors of the Directory to correct the data gathered thus far. This meant that the work on the third edition had to be prolonged and was not completed until March 2000. This is how the 16 new voivodeships are now represented by libraries and information centers: Warsaw and its region (*mazowieckie* voivodeship) – 904, the region of Wrocław (*dolnośląskie*) – 636, that of Katowice (*śląskie*) – 592, the Poznań region (*wielkopolskie*) – 573, that of Cracow (*małopolskie*) – 543, *łódzkie* (centered on the city of Łódź) – 400, *lubelskie* (around Lublin) – 289, *pomorskie* (the Gdańsk region) – 273, *kujawsko-pomorskie* (centered on Toruń and Bydgoszcz) – 261, *podkarpackie* (the Rzeszów region) – 243, *warmińsko-mazurskie* (centered on Olsztyn) – 207, *podlaskie* (centered on Białystok) – 202, *zachodniopomorskie* (the Szczecin region) – 162, *opolskie* (centered on Opole) – 143, *lubuskie* (the region of Zielona Góra and Gorzów) – 120, and *świętokrzyskie* (centered on Kielce) – 102.

\*

In the third edition of the Directory the authors gave up the division into libraries and information centers in the main part of the publication. However, information centers are listed separately in the indexes. The data in the main part have been

arranged by names of cities/towns and then by names of institutions to which a library/information center belongs or directly by names of libraries/information centers. The principle was also adopted that, unlike in the first edition, the libraries being a part of an institution are listed under the name of this institution. Thus all academic libraries are listed under the names of their schools, libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences – under the PAN entries concerning individual cities, museum or archival libraries – under the names of their mother institutions. Only libraries with no mother institution have been listed under their own names.

An entry is composed of the following data: name of the library/information center, year of foundation, address, telephone, telex and fax numbers, e-mail address, scope of collection, size of collection, types of catalogs, computer systems used, databases, addresses of divisions/branches different from the main seat. In this third edition additional information in the descriptions of libraries/centers is also given – on bibliological collections, as well as on web pages.

The Directory has five indexes:

- an index of libraries and information centers
- an index of libraries by type
- an index of information centers
- an index of databases available on CD-ROM
- an index of key words.

Special mention needs to be made concerning the index of libraries by type. It is neither based on any recognized typology nor considered an exhaustive division. The authors compiled it for purely practical reasons, that is, to facilitate the use of the Directory. Libraries in the index can belong to more than one type, e.g. some academic libraries are also listed as agricultural, economic, church, or army libraries, depending on the school they are part of or the scope of their collections. Some small categories (e.g. bank or legal libraries, libraries of state agencies, or those of publishing houses) have been listed separately to avoid putting them all in a rather vague group of specialized libraries.

The index of key words has been based on the data given in questionnaires on the scope of collections in individual libraries. It should prove

especially useful in searching for rare and special collections.

The index of databases available on CD-ROM is meant as an indicator of where to look for a sought database nearest to a given city/town. Though incomplete and quickly becoming outdated, it should serve its purpose as some databases can be found only in few libraries in Poland.

The National Library, which in five years organized the database of libraries and information centers in Poland, is also working on the constant updating of the information already gathered. With the help and cooperation of librarians and information specialists from all over the country it will soon be possible to further revise and update the data and to prepare another edition of the Directory.

*Elżbieta Stefańczyk*

Translated by *Wojciech Tyszka*

## Reviews

# Conservation Notebook – Serial Publication of Polish Conservation Specialists

“Notes Konserwatorski” (Conservation Notebook), vol. 1: *Ratowanie i ochrona zbiorów (Saving and Preserving the Collections)*, Biblioteka, Narodowa, Warszawa 1998

In April 1998 the first volume of “Notes Konserwatorski” (Conservation Notebook), entitled *Ratowanie i ochrona zbiorów (Saving and Preserving the Collections)*, was published.<sup>1</sup> The publication was prepared by the Division of Collection Preservation and Conservation in the National Library. The appearance of this journal is a very noteworthy fact because for the first time a Polish serial is available which deals only with problems of preserving and saving collections. This initiative follows the tendencies of finding new methods to preserve the books stored in the libraries and it must be warmly welcomed at a time of growing dangers to library collections. It presents real opportunities to disseminate information on the most recent conservation methods, as well as the knowledge of the materials used by conservation specialists. It enables the exchange of experience and professional discussion. The pages of future volumes may and should become a bridge on which conservation specialists and librarians may meet and realize how important and difficult are the tasks they face, ones that require the close cooperation of both parties.

The National Library, which has the biggest team of conservation specialists in Poland, has already published many articles on this subject, e.g. in the series “Zeszyty Przekładów Biblioteki Narodowej” (The National Library’s Translation Papers) or in “Biuletyn Informacyjny Biblioteki Narodowej” (Information Bulletin of the National Library). The publication of a serial dealing only with this issue is both a sign of the problem’s importance for the National Library, as well as of the intellectual potential of the Library’s specialists since most of the articles in the first volume

have been written by them. Among the 12 authors mentioned on the back cover, 7 work for the National Library in the Division of Collection Preservation and Conservation. Moreover, the editorial board of the serial consists only of the National Library staffers.

The first volume, which numbers 192 pages, has been divided into 4 chapters according to different subjects: I. The state of collection preservation; II. Methods of saving and preserving the collections; III. Conservation materials; IV. Conferences, Meetings, Sessions, Expositions. Each chapter contains papers presented during various conferences on collection preservation and conservation organized in 1995-1997 in Poland or abroad, or articles describing one of those conferences (with the exception of two articles written specially for the volume). Thus, the reader can familiarize himself with major problems in collection preservation at the end of the century as well as with proposed solutions. That is why, in spite of the fact that most of the articles were written some time ago (which may be considered a disadvantage in the case of a periodical), together they form a very interesting review of issues dealt with in Polish and foreign conservation.

The foreword written by Professor Adam Manikowski, former director of the National Library, is a good introduction to the other articles. Professor Manikowski, who co-organized the European Commission of Preservation and Access (ECPA) and the Polish Association for Preserving Archival and Library Collections, also initiated this publication. In his text he concentrated on the question of preserving and recording written

intellectual heritage, especially that of the last two centuries, threatened by the poor quality of paper. In the last couple of years this problem has been considered a real challenge for conservation specialists and for the whole of society. To find indispensable solutions, writes the author, Polish librarians and archivists must cooperate with both intellectuals and scientists, especially biologists and chemists, in order to find the best method of mass conservation and to create a center coordinating actions aimed at saving and preserving the collections. This cooperation is necessary also due to the cost of activities delaying paper destruction. Thus, a national program of library and archival collection conservation needs to be prepared and made one of the strategic undertakings of Polish science. The text by Professor Manikowski should become a *credo* for Polish librarians and conservation specialists and it rightly opens the first volume of *Conservation Notebook*.

The first paper "Preserving the collections – personal reflections" is similar in tone to the foreword, though it offers a set of ideas rather than instructions. Its author, Professor Bernhard Fabian of the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in München presented it during the international conference "Choosing to Preserve" organized by ECPA in Leipzig on March 29-30, 1996. In his paper he reviews various strategies and technologies of collection preservation pointing out major dilemmas faced by conservation specialists. He evaluates the usefulness of several solutions, being critical of some, as in the case of microfilming the collections. The author believes that microfilming, though now virtually an indispensable means of conservation, is nevertheless not practical enough because texts recorded on microfilm or in electronic form can only be used for reviewing and not for reading or studying. He therefore prefers facsimile reproduction as a basic form of recording books threatened by destruction. Among many other interesting ideas aiming at preserving the whole printing output we find e.g. making a complete bibliographic list of books published in Europe in the 19th century or creating an archival resource comprising individual national collections, as integral parts of the European intellectual heritage. According to the author's conviction that collection preservation should be creative, his article also follows this path and goes

beyond the well-established schemes of thinking in conservation.

The character of other papers in the volume is quite diversified. Some of them are scientific publications *par excellence*, which present the results of research projects. These include the articles by Professor Alicja Strzelczyk from the Institute of Historical Artifacts and Conservation at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń on "The nature of microbiological destructions in historical books"; by Professor Bronisław Zyska of the Silesian University on "The evaluation of paper durability in Polish prints of the 19th century", and by Donata Rams from the National Library on "Adhesive tapes – filmoplast P and P 90". These articles, written clearly and supplemented by photographs, diagrams, and tables showing the results of research, will surely prove interesting both for librarians and for conservation specialists.

Similar in character is also the lengthy and singularly interesting article "Printing paper and its durability". Its author, Józef Dąbrowski from the Institute of Paper and Cellulose, presents a short history of paper and its components paying special attention to the mechanical production of acid paper introduced in the 19th century. He also discusses the parameters and the advantages of durable printing paper as well as the state of research on its technology conducted in the Institute. Finally, presenting the world-wide tendencies to print new books on this paper, the author points out the necessity to change the mentality of Polish publishers and printers (as well as other people connected with the process of book publication) in order to widely introduce the use of durable paper. The comprehensive approach and methodology make this article the best Polish work on the subject.

In the same chapter we find the article by Władysław Sobucki from the National Library "A review of glues used in library conservation rooms", a sort of practical guide for conservation specialists. Different kinds of glues are systemized and discussed here together with their components, features and possibilities of use. The article should be useful for every bookbinder or conservation specialist in their everyday work.

The largest group of articles is made up of accounts or reports written by the staffers of the National Library. The first of them – the work by Barbara Drewniewska-Idziak and Ewa Potrzeb-

nicka “The analysis of a questionnaire on libraries’ activities in collection conservation and preservation” – presents the results of a questionnaire sent out to 260 libraries in the country in order to view the conditions of collection storing and to assess the scope and possibilities of conservation and preservation efforts. The analysis of these results leads one to the conclusion that in spite of the growing need to save collections Polish libraries have very limited means in this field and the state of their collections is getting worse with each passing year.

The next two articles present information on conservation activities in the National Library. These are: “Collection preservation in the National Library in Warsaw” by Maria Woźniak and Władysław Sobucki, and “Conservation of treasures” by Maria Woźniak. The first text discusses selected aspects of collection preservation focusing mainly on conservation of special collections. The second paper is a detailed account of the state of preservation and the activities and materials applied in the process of conservation of the *Tyniec Sacramentary* – one of the most precious treasures of the National Library. Both texts should be interesting for the specialists carrying out difficult conservation works as well as for those building conservation policies in the libraries.

The last two papers in the *Conservation Notebook*: “Problems of collection conservation during the Book Fair in Leipzig, 1996” by Maria Woźniak, and “Preserving the heritage of our documents and durable paper” by Danuta Jarmańska and Donata Rams bring accounts, observations and commentaries from the conferences attended by the authors. Maria Woźniak describes the already mentioned conference “Choosing to Preserve” in Leipzig, where problems of collections menaced by paper destruction were discussed. She also mentions activities accompanying the conference, e.g. the visit in the conservation rooms of Zentrum für Bucherhaltung (Center for Book Preservation) in Leipzig equipped with a system of mechanical technology of deacidification and strengthening paper sheets. The system, which is at present the best and the most efficient way of mass conservation, is unfortunately too expensive to be implemented in Polish libraries. The article by Danuta Jarmańska and Donata Rams is both the account of the session organized by the

Society of Polish Paper Specialists in Cracow on May 23-24, 1997 entitled “The quality of paper – our passport to the world”, and the summary of the paper they presented during this session. The conclusions of the authors are similar to those drawn by Professor Manikowski and Józef Dąbrowski: the use of durable paper should be introduced in Poland and a program of collection preservation and saving should be prepared and included among the strategic works of the government.

The microfilming of collections is today the most widely used method of preserving the books threatened with destruction. Yet only one paper in the *Conservation Notebook* deals with this subject. It is a small article by Zbigniew Klawender, “Microforms as forms replacing the available collections”. The text contains basic data on microforms, including their durability and means of storing. It does seem strange that such an important issue has been presented so briefly, especially when we consider how experienced and successful the National Library’s specialists are in this field.

As far as the choice of texts is concerned the above statement is, however, my only reservation. The volume has been arranged in a very competent way, such that it presents a wide spectrum of issues and contains articles on various levels of specialization. Thus, everyone who is interested in the problems of collection conservation and preservation should find something worth reading. This is, however, only one of the publication’s advantages. Another one is the volume’s esthetic aspect: careful graphics, quality paper, interesting arrangement of articles and illustrations, printing in bold on the margins of the most important fragments of texts, summaries in English, etc., which make the publication exceptional not only as per its contents, but also on the editorial level.

There are, of course, certain imperfections. The biggest one is the lack of an introduction which would explain the aim of the publication, formally present its initiator, point out potential readers, describe the criteria of choosing the articles, or reveal the editors’ plans for the future. At present we may only assume that *Conservation Notebook* was conceived as a periodical. One would also welcome some order in the editors’ notes. Only three of the majority of papers in the volume that were presented during various conferences have been marked as such and in a rather pecu-

liar place (English summaries). Another interesting idea – the presentation of the authors – is also incomplete: some notes contain the author's photo, others do not. What is more, the authors who wrote more than one article are presented several times, which makes us read the same information over again. One author (Professor Manikowski)

has no note at all, although his name appears on the list of authors on the back cover.

All these imperfections by no means change the warm welcome of the first volume of *Conservation Notebook*. One can only wish that the present high level of publication be maintained in the future issues.

### *Notes*

1 (ed.) Three subsequent volumes of *Conservation Notebook* have also appeared so far. These are: *W obliczu kata-*

*strofy (Facing a Disaster)*, *Ratujemy nasze dziedzictwo (Saving Our Heritage)*, and *Chrońmy oryginały (To Preserve the Originals)*, all of them issued by the National Library in Warsaw in 1999-2000.

*Ewa Stachowska-Musiał*

Translated by *Wojciech Tyszka*

## Reviews

# Institutions – the Public – Reading Matter. Studies into the History of Reading

*Institucje – publiczność – sytuacje lektury (Institutions – the Public – Reading Matter)*, collective work of the National Library's Institute of Book and Readership, Biblioteka Narodowa, Warszawa 1989-

The publication *Institucje – publiczność – sytuacje lektury. Studia z historii czytelnictwa (Institutions – the Public – Reading Matter. Studies into the History of Reading)*, edited by Janusz Kostecki, has been appearing in the series “Z dziejów kultury czytelniczej w Polsce” (History of Reading Culture in Poland). Six volumes (of the planned 12) have been published since 1989. They include 42 articles by 18 scholars. Four-fifths of the articles have been written by scholars from the small Department of Research into the History of Reading of the National Library's Institute of Book and Readership.

The title of the publication defines fairly precisely both the thematic content of the texts, the favored research perspective, and the research method most frequently used. In accordance with the title of the entire series, stress has been laid on the reading public, and especially on:

- changes in the sources and mechanisms of its recruitment and, in consequence, also in its social and territorial structure;
- the internal structure of the reading public, that is, the emergence and disappearance of various subcultures and circles, their role in communication and their hierarchy, that is, processes which lead to entropy and anomy or, on the contrary, to the structuralization and integration of the examined group;
- changes in the attitude towards reading matter, conceived both functionally and as complex operations of a semiotic-axiological character (I have in mind in particular the circumstances and ways in which texts chosen by the readers are further ‘made use of’, as well as the aims of this activity).

Reading is, of course, only one of the many communication practices which work to form culture in a given place at a given time. Although until the 1930s it was undoubtedly the most efficient and universal way of communication above the local level, it has played different roles in the life of individual communities. To show its real significance it is necessary to examine also other forms of communication, e.g. oral, iconological, and musical. This is not the only reason why the scope of research should be enlarged. When participating in various acts of communication and availing themselves of various means by which a message is conveyed, receivers frequently look for similar or even identical meanings (values) in accordance with their cultural pattern which, as a rule, is cohesive. The division and isolation of individual ways of communication should therefore not be treated as an accepted principle but as a result of the researchers' present inability to take in the differentiated behaviors of individuals and groups. In the volumes of the *Institutions...* which have been published so far the question of other ways of communication, apart from books, has usually only been touched upon. It has only been discussed directly by: Zdzisław Szelaż, who wrote about the declamatory variant of the oral transmission of illegal literature in the period between the 1830 and 1863 uprisings /vol. 2/; Oskar S. Czarnik, who analyzed the cultural life of the Independent Carpathian Riflemen's Brigade /vol. 6/; and, in a less systematic way, by Andrzej Urbański in his essays on communication in occupied Warsaw /vols. 1-3/, as well as in an indirect way by Wojciech Tomaszewski in his paper on 19th century musical culture, especially in the countryside /vol. 5/.

What is the most interesting and also the most difficult to examine are the differences in reading habits and the way they change over the course of time, in particular how the texts chosen by readers were made use of. A semantic and syntactic analysis of the texts chosen by readers is not enough, though it is undoubtedly necessary, nor is it enough to gain information on the readers' competence in communication or their system of values, difficult as it is to obtain such information. A pragmatic analysis is also necessary. Hence the great importance attributed to the "situation of reading matter", that is, the complex configuration of stimulators of, and barriers to, reading habits, both on the macro- and the micro-social scale. This category still requires additional theoretical work, but it creates new cognitive possibilities. This is manifested in Małgorzata Rowicka's essay devoted to reading scenes in the Polish realistic novel in the second half of the 19th century, an essay based on a specific source material /vol. 3/.

There are two reasons why an analysis of the institutional equipment of culture seems to be important. The first is obvious: institutions stabilize social normative systems and carry them into effect. In examining their work we reveal the "axiological framework" of human activities, including people's reading habits. The other reason is of a methodological character and it is this reason which explains why historians of reading habits are greatly interested in the institutions which have produced, distributed and popularized books and the press. There is very little direct evidence of people's contacts with the printed word. A researcher must usually draw indirect conclusions about reading habits by analyzing the establishment, distribution, and decline of these institutions and by reconstructing the strategy of their work. A reconstruction of this sphere of social reality enables a researcher to gain only a preliminary insight, a general orientation of whether reading was possible at all at a certain time and in a certain area, and if so, to what extent, what kind of reading and for whom it was possible. This stage of research cannot be omitted and sometimes this is all that a researcher can do. The possibilities of gaining knowledge of many interesting problems seem to be rather limited, at least at present. It is not a coincidence that the question of access to texts is the most frequently discussed question in the *Institutions...* The various aspects of this problem are presented in studies dealing with:

- changes in the organization of the publishing movement (e.g. the distribution of printing houses, the professional qualifications and specialization of editors), the volume of production (both the number of titles and impressions), its structure (linguistic, thematic, etc.), and the offer in individual regions; here we have e.g. essays by Piotr Nowak on the supply of books in Polish territories during the partitions /vol. 2/, by Elżbieta Słodkowska on the production of books in the Kingdom of Poland in 1815-1830 /vol. 1/, by Wojciech Tomaszewski on musical editorship in 1772-1865 in Warsaw /vols. 1-2/ and in the countryside /vol. 6/, by Bronisława Woźniczko-Paruzel on publications in Polish brought out by German publishers in Pomerania in the 19th century /vol. 5/ by Henryk Hollender on the production of books in the Polish Kingdom at the beginning of the 20th century /vol. 3/, by Małgorzata Rowicka and Janusz Kostecki on the production of books in the Polish Kingdom in the 1870s /vol. 4/, by Nina Kraško on the volume and structure of book production in the Second Republic /vol. 4/ and on the work of religious publishing houses during that period /vol. 5/, and by Janusz Kostecki on the publishing movement in 1877-1986 /vol. 4/;
- the import of books, in particular the activity of censors to cut off readers in a certain area from foreign writings thought to be dangerous to the existing order, these are studies on tsarist censorship: Janusz Kostecki discusses the years 1871-1900 /vol. 1/ and Piotr Szreter the 1897-1914 period /vols. 1, 3, 6/;
- organization of the trade in books and publications; in particular the essays by Kazimierz Ossowski on the distribution of the press in the Duchy of Warsaw in 1807-1815 /vol. 6/, by Elżbieta Słodkowska on book selling in the Kingdom of Poland in 1815-1830 /vol. 2/, by Anna Dymmel on book subscription in the first half of the 19th century /vol. 4/, by Jacek Kuszłejko on the dissemination of Polish publications in Poland's eastern borderland between the 1830 and 1863 uprisings /vol. 6/, by Nina Kraško on the attitude of the Polish Booksellers' Union to the dissemination of books in the Second Republic /vol. 6/;
- the development of various forms of documentary and commercial information on the actual book offer; studies by Elżbieta Słodkowska and Wojciech Tomaszewski /vol. 3/, and by Jacek Kuszłejko /vol. 5/;

- the typology, number and distribution of libraries and their collections; articles by Elżbieta Słodkowska on libraries in 1815-1830, those subordinated to the Governmental Commission for Religious Confessions and Public Enlightenment /vol. 4/, church libraries /vol. 5/, and home libraries /vol. 6/; an essay by Klemensas Sikevičius on the way in which the Soviets and Nazis purged libraries in Lithuania of Polish books in 1940-1990 /vol. 6/;
- the activity of various ideological groupings which in their organs tried to promote specific writings among their readers who, as a rule, did not know much about literature; e.g. essays by Oskar S. Czarnik on the socialist “Pobudka” /vol. 1/ and by Zofia Byczkowska and Janusz Kostecki on the literary education conducted among Galician readers of peasant periodicals in the second half of the 19th century /vol. 3/, and also by Stanisław Kondek on the discordance between the aspirations of communist officials responsible for the circulation of books and the readers’ expectations in 1952-1955 /vol. 6/;
- the values propagated in various types of publications obtainable at a given time; mainly the articles by Jacek Kuszlejko on the popularity of historical books during the Stalinist period /vol. 1/ and on Polish historical studies in Russia during World War I /vols. 2, 4/.

What is characteristic of most of the studies included in the series is that they are based on different, fairly full sources (archives, bibliographic lists, statistical information, the press, catalogs of various kind, documents of censorship, diaries, library collections, belles lettres, etc.) most of which have not yet been utilized. As a rule, the authors make use of abundant material or of sources which are either nearly complete or representative (insofar as the individual materials have survived).

What has been said above shows that the statistical method is used the most frequently in the studies. The individual texts include as exhaustive lists of various types of institutions as the authors were able to find at the present stage of knowledge, with information on the region and time of their activity, as well as tables, specifications, figures and maps showing the development of the

situation. This quantitative analysis undoubtedly makes the reading tiring, but its cognitive value is indisputable: it makes it possible to evaluate the scale of the presented processes, prevents unjustified generalizations and creates a basis for more subtle analyses and interpretations which *nota bene* are not missing in the publication in question.

The essays included in the successive volumes of the publication refer mainly to the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries. As regards the period of partitions (1795-1918), the authors have analyzed mainly the Kingdom of Poland and the territories incorporated into Russia, and as regards World War II, the General Gouvenment. A few articles concern the entire Polish territory at that time (e.g. the articles by Zdzisław Szelag and Piotr Nowak in vol. 2, and by Janusz Kostecki in vols. 2 and 4), others cover Galicia (the essay by Zofia Byczkowska and Janusz Kostecki in vol. 3), Pomerania (the paper by Bronisława Woźniczko-Paruzel in vol. 5), and the Polish book abroad (essays by Jacek Kuszlejko in vols. 2, 4 and 5, one by Oskar S. Czarnik and Klemensas Sikevičius in vol. 6). This choice of regions has of course been enforced. In view of the rules governing access to archives and even to library collections, it is extremely difficult to conduct research into sources and collect exhaustive documentation concerning other regions.

These limitations are probably partly compensated by a greater interest in the publishing activity and reading habits of national minorities (e.g. two of Nina Kraško’s articles mentioned above), as well as those of partitioners (the essays by Henryk Hollender, or by Małgorzata Rowicka and Janusz Kostecki dealing with book production) and of occupiers (essays by Andrzej Urbański). These subjects will be continued, for without them it is difficult to reconstruct the complex situation in the Polish territories in the past.

The majority of the published texts are mini-syntheses concerning a long period of time and a large territory; they contain much new information, but at the same time they endeavor to sum up what is known so far. Some essays concern a shorter period and a smaller territory but, as a rule, they refer to questions which are regarded as particularly important and they also present unique data.

*Janusz Kostecki*

Translated by *Janina Dorosz*

## Reviews

# A Study on *Robotnik (The Worker)*, the Daily Paper of the Polish Socialist Party

Oskar S. Czarnik *Ideowe i literackie wybory "Robotnika" w latach 1918-1939 (The Ideological and Literary Preferences of "Robotnik" in 1918-1939)*, Biblioteka Narodowa, Warszawa 1996

Against the background of the social ideas presented by *Robotnik (The Worker)* in 1918-1939, Oskar Czarnik shows how the paper put into effect its plan to popularize literature in the broad sense of the word. The author has not confined himself to only the years above, but also characterizes the first period of *Robotnik's* activity (1894-1917).

What is most impressive is the richness of the material presented by Czarnik. This is also indicated by the structure of the book. The first part contains hundreds of items, indices, and notes. The second part (175 pages) presents carefully documented specifications concerning *Robotnik's* information on books and fields of literary life inspired by the paper.

In his book the author sets out three aims. First, he has thoroughly analyzed the well known daily, one which played an important role in shaping working-class culture in Poland in the first half of the present century and exerted a great influence on the consciousness of workers' milieu with leftist interests and outlooks. Secondly, his analyses and reflections contribute much valuable information on the functioning of the press in Poland, in particular during the inter-war period. Thirdly, Czarnik has put into effect certain methodological theories concerning research into literary life. According to these sociological theories, the functioning of literature should be researched in broad social contexts, for the creation, publication, dissemination, and reception of literature depends on many extraliterary factors. Czarnik tries to answer the basic question and point out the aim which the editorial board of *Robotnik* and the Polish Socialist Party (PPS) wanted to reach by propagating and evaluating literature.

The author does not state his ideological views, nor does he unequivocally support any ideas propagated by *Robotnik*. One may get the impression that he sympathizes with some of the trends promoted by the paper, but on the whole he maintains the attitude of a researcher who tries to analyze texts and the trends they reflect, not to evaluate them. The aspiration to be objective characterizes all of Czarnik's accounts and reflections, although he does not conceal his approval for a comprehensive, and not merely ideological appraisal of the value of literary and scientific works, an appraisal manifested in the paper.

In accordance with the methodological principles reflected also in the title of the book, the first chapters present the paper's history and characteristics and then define its ideological identity. Czarnik tries to present an in-depth analysis of conceptual changes in the editing of *Robotnik* as regards the ideological and political sphere, but he does not analyze the political transformation of PPS (the Polish Socialist Party), the paper's publisher. This is what we miss in his otherwise comprehensive analysis of the paper's ideological identity, but the poor state of research into the history of the Polish Socialist Party makes that shortcoming understandable.

It is only after an ideological characterization of the paper that the author starts discussing literary questions: the paper's literary preferences, cultural polemics, and its program to popularize reading habits.

Czarnik lays stress on two ideological aspects. The first is the paper's selective attitude to tradition. He points out that *Robotnik* rarely referred to events which took place before the January

Uprising of 1863. Apart from the battle of Grunwald (1410), the Constitution of May 3, 1791 and the November Uprising of 1830, few texts concerned historical questions. Czarnik does not explain whether this was due to the paper's class concept of history (as domination by an alien class, antagonistic to left-wing ideas), or rather to the fact that the paper was mainly interested in those historical periods in which the working class and the ideas connected with it came into being and took shape.

The other aspect is the paper's attitude toward totalitarianism. The author presents an incisive picture of widespread ideas, collectively known as catastrophism, which resulted from the vehement cultural transformations at the beginning of the 20th century, especially after World War I. He then analyzes the totalitarian ideas and forces which, on the one hand, found support in mass movements of a populist character, present also in certain working class organizations, while on the other hand, they endangered the very ideas which lay at the root of socialism. Czarnik repeatedly stresses that *Robotnik* in its search for universal ideas frequently published articles by authors whose views were far removed from socialistic ideas, thus making it possible for its readers to get acquainted with different opinions on the basic issues of the day.

Discussions and disputes over symbolic culture occupy an important place in the book. Czarnik presents, for instance, the editorial board's attitude toward state patronage. The prolonged discussion in those years on the organization of public libraries and the role of state employees in selecting books for them may seem anachronistic today, but it reflects the political situation in those days and the elite's inability to understand the essence of state patronage. Two totalitarian states, Italy and the USSR, openly steered culture. Fear of both totalitarianisms restricted the activists and thinkers who were in favor of state patronage, but it provided an easy argument to the demagogues who were firmly against state support for any cultural initiative.

In accordance with the main objective of his work, the author devotes most space to the paper's literary preferences and evaluations, though he also analyzes *Robotnik*'s preferences in non-belletristic literature. *Robotnik*'s choice of literature was to a certain extent a result of its attitude toward national culture. "Old Polish"

literature (15th to 18th century) was hardly ever mentioned. As Czarnik says, literary tradition was in practice confined to the works of Staszic, Mickiewicz, Słowacki, Norwid, Orzeszkowa, Dygasiński, Witkiewicz, and Wyspiański – all of them active in the second half of the 18th and in the 19th centuries. He points out that Bolesław Prus, an extremely important writer of the Polish Positivist period, was missing in the paper's ideological canon. In Czarnik's view this was due to the socialists' aversion to the idea of concentration on work to raise the economic and cultural level of the country, for this meant consent to the partitions of Poland and made it impossible to fulfill the aspirations of the working class. Czarnik is not surprised by the lack of interest in Sienkiewicz's works, another Polish Positivist writer, and by the paper's attacks on some of his novels. Sienkiewicz's ideas were alien to Polish socialists and were regarded as hostile and dangerous to national culture.

A completely different attitude was adopted by the paper toward the works of another Polish writer creating at the turn of the 19th century. "Stefan Żeromski!... Who will not start upon hearing this name? Who will not respond from the bottom of his heart at the sound of this name? Just as the Zygmunt bell in Wawel castle expresses the feelings of the whole of Poland in the sublime hours of joy or sorrow, so the works of Żeromski have carried and are still carrying the essence of our most profound experiences in the great, historic times we are going through... This is why they should become everyday reading for all. They should reach every house. In every house they should kindle faith in the beauty of the ideal without which human life is but a sad empty journey from the cradle to the grave." (p. 146)

This quotation from *Robotnik*'s editorial board answers the question why Żeromski was so highly valued by the ideologists of PPS and explains the function which in the socialists' view literature was to perform in shaping the consciousness of the readers of the paper.

Andrzej Strug was another writer promoting the ideological principles of the paper. Waclaw Berent, Gustaw Daniłowski, and Władysław Orkan were also close to *Robotnik*'s ideas. The editorial board had a complex attitude toward Juliusz Kaden-Bandrowski and did not even notice such writers as Bruno Schulz or Witold Gombrowicz.

Czarnik makes interesting remarks about the poetry recommended by *Robotnik*. The double-track character of the paper's reviewing policy is more noticeable in poetry than in prose. On the one hand, literature was treated instrumentally as a tool for shaping ideological consciousness, while on the other the paper wanted to inform its readers about works of great artistic value or those which evoked wide commentary. However, *Robotnik* did not engage in literary criticism. Although it published contributions by such prominent critics and art connoisseurs as Karol Irzykowski, Jan Nepomucen Miller, and Mieczysław Wallis, the choice of books was, to a great extent, determined by the paper's basic ideas and the taste of individual critics.

The book ends with reflections on the popularization of reading habits. This is a summing up

of detailed analyses and conclusions concerning the model of literary culture. Czarnik first presents a typology of the literary culture propagated by the papers of that time and then confronts these categories with the model shaped by *Robotnik*. This is an unconventional axiological analysis, for such a comparison has allowed the author to demonstrate the originality of the paper's concept and show that, as regards the promotion of literary culture, its aspirations transcended the party line.

Only on the surface, then, does the author's penetrating analysis of press materials concern just one paper. For owing to its methodological concept and solid research, the material assembled in the Czarnik's work throws light on many questions concerning Polish culture in the first half of the 20th century.

*Stanisław Siekierski*

Translated by *Janina Dorosz*

## Reviews

# Libraries in the Congress Kingdom of Poland – Institutions, Books, and People

Elżbieta Słodkowska *Biblioteki w Królestwie Polskim 1815-1830 (Libraries in the Congress Kingdom of Poland 1815-1830)*, Biblioteka Narodowa, Instytut Książki i Czytelnictwa, Warszawa 1996  
*Z dziejów kultury czytelniczej w Polsce (From the History of Reading Culture in Poland)*, vol. 11

There are fields in the work of a library historian in which still too little is known relevant to needs and research standards. Among those we might mention the periods of dramatic historical turning-points, various “blank spaces” in cultural geography, and an insufficient number of institutional monographs. In this last category one such neglected problem is the history of libraries during the Congress Kingdom of Poland (1815-1830).

Research into the earliest period following the Third Partition of Poland (1795) is exceptionally difficult and expensive. Poor conditions of archival resources, scarce memoirs, insufficient epistolary queries, the destruction of many official documents, the dispersal or disappearance of major book collections, the lack of data on smaller ones, etc. – these are the research realities for a library historian. These problems are of course generally known and so the above remarks could be shared by researchers into other fields of social life at the turn of the 18th century. If we mention them here it is to emphasize not only the importance of the book by Elżbieta Słodkowska *Biblioteki w Królestwie Polskim 1815-1830 (Libraries in the Congress Kingdom of Poland 1815-1830)*, but also to show the range of difficulties encountered upon its preparation. The actual process of writing the book was preceded by many years of study and bibliographic queries completed within a framework of research projects of the Bibliographic Institute and the Department of Research into the History of Reading in the National Library. As a result of the sound documentary base, a proper perspective of the subject under research has been achieved. This is

particularly striking in the well-balanced opinions on the status of librarianship in the period of the Enlightenment, as well as in the correct interpretation of the phenomenon of the development and further destruction of the 18th century’s book collections. Słodkowska’s work successfully confronts suggestive clichés presented in popular comprehensive publications, by showing various points of views, verifying different historical sources, and redefining the limits for our cognitive abilities.

One of the most characteristic features of Słodkowska’s work is how she puts together a description of the activities of people involved in library service and an explanation of some institutional features of librarianship at the turn of the 18 century. Thus, the information on the works of the Governmental Commission for Religious Confessions and Public Enlightenment is supplemented with data on the personal activities of Stanisław K. Potocki. The presentation of academic initiatives to create (or rather re-create) the National Library is confronted with a detailed relation on the managerial career of Samuel B. Linde, etc. The author presents various organizational difficulties accompanying the creation of the Library and analyzes their impact on acquisition policy and access to the collections. She discusses various views on the idea of the Library, its name, character, and way of functioning. The book also contains major dates and figures pertaining to the Library, basic data about its collections (including special collections), its personnel, premises, and budget. These are all very important data which allow us to retrace the history of the institution and to better understand its functions. The same

is true about the part of book devoted to the department libraries at Warsaw University.

Although school libraries of this period have been studied in separate publications, the author brings new and valuable data to this field as well. Using the adopted documentation formulas (official statistical data, estimations, information on collections, access, etc.) she gives us important facts as far as geography of libraries is concerned. Not only are the collections of provincial school libraries discussed in the book, but also those of the schools functioning in smaller towns. This part of Słodkowska's work contains data on new forms of book purchasing and controlling library resources, as well as analyses of political aspects of school library activities (using the examples of some administrative decisions pertaining to the libraries). Of particular importance are the descriptions of relations between school libraries and local communities. The chapters devoted to libraries in elementary girls' schools and specialized schools also contain valuable facts. In both these institutions, though so different, a tendency characteristic to the whole epoch can be clearly seen, that of special care and interest for the book.

In the case of church libraries Słodkowska further enriches her descriptive method. She adds more contextual facts and includes data on the history of individual collections. The reader can also find out about the subsequent vicissitudes of well-known monastic and church libraries. The author presents the phenomenon of liquidation of historical book collections.

Elżbieta Słodkowska decided to discuss a large group of public libraries as a whole. In spite of the size of these institutions or premises on which they functioned (e.g. public edifices, rooms of various associations, cafes, inns), all public libraries had two things in common – they were all open to the public and had certain didactic obligations. The constant growth of reading habits observed during this period led to offering various services to the readers and their gradual specialization.

The extended access to the books was in turn accompanied by constantly improved control and organization of readership. Słodkowska's work not only confirms the observations made by other researchers in this field, but also develops many issues, such as the establishment of lending libraries on private or societal initiatives.

The picture of public libraries is logically supplemented by the chapters devoted to libraries functioning within various offices and public institutions. As opposed to the previous group, these libraries were of more closed and specialized character. Thus, Słodkowska's work carefully documents tendencies to develop various forms of contact with the book and stresses both professional and societal initiatives in this respect.

The author does not refrain from the problems which present difficulties in research and evaluation. Those are the questions of private libraries, poor in documentation and susceptible to various misfortunes connected with their owners. Słodkowska presents the changes in the idea of private purchase of books (up to 1830), gives information on some well-known bibliophiles, as well as data on libraries belonging to aristocratic families (the Czartoryskis, the Zamoyskis, the Myszkowskis, the Potockis, the Radziwiłłs, the Chodkiewiczzes, the Krasieńskis, the Paces, the Poniatowskis). As for gentry book collections and the professional libraries of scholars, writers, translators, playwrights, publicists, state officials, and military men, they are presented in a more concise way due to their considerable number and lack of documentation. The libraries of physicians and burghers have been treated in much the same way.

The work of Elżbieta Słodkowska on libraries in the Congress Kingdom of Poland is supplemented by a statistical and documentary appendix. It is a true gold mine on university, school, and monastic libraries, and it enables an individual study into the problems presented in the book. It may also provide a point of departure for further research inspired by the questions dealt with in the book.

*Krzysztof Dmitruk*

Translated by *Wojciech Tyszka*

## Contributors

**Andrzej Borowski** is professor at the Institute of Polish Philology of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow and Head of the Karol Estreicher Polish Bibliography Center at the University.

**Paulina Buchwald-Pelcowa** is professor at Warsaw University and works in the National Library's Division of Special Collections.

**Stanisław Czajka**, Ph. D. is deputy director of the National Library in charge of collections and services for the users, and also president of the Association of Polish Librarians.

**Maciej Dąbrowski** is Head of the National Library's Division of Special Collections.

**Krzysztof Dmitruk** was professor at the Department of Research into the History of Reading at the National Library's Institute of Book and Readership.

**Karin Friedrich**, Ph.D. is Lecturer in History at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College, London.

**Michał Jagiello** is the director of the National Library in Warsaw.

**Mirosława Kocięcka** works in the National Library's Department of Reading Rooms.

**Jadwiga Kołodziejska** is professor and was for many years Head of the National Library's Institute of Book and Readership.

**Janusz Kostecki**, Ph. D. is Head of the Department of Research into the History of Reading at the National Library's Institute of Book and Readership.

**Hanna Łaskarzewska** is Head of the National Library's Section for the Documentation of Historical Collections.

**Joanna Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska** is deputy director of the National Library in charge of research.

**Krystyna Ramlau-Klekowska** was for many years Head of the National Library's Bibliographic Institute.

**Jadwiga Sadowska**, Ph. D. is Head of the National Library's Bibliographic Institute.

**Stanisław Siekierski** is professor at the Institute of Polish Culture at the Faculty of Polish Philology, Warsaw University.

**Ewa Stachowska-Musiał** is Head of the Department of Collections Preservation and Conservation at the Warsaw University Library.

**Zofia Stefanowska** is professor at the Institute of Literary Research, Polish Academy of Sciences.

**Elżbieta Stefańczyk** is Head of the National Library's Division of Collections Acquisition and Processing.

**Lucyna Szaniawska** works in the National Library's Department of Cartographic Collections.

**Halina Tchórzewska-Kabata**, Ph. D. is Head of the Editorial Board of the National Library's Periodicals and chair of the National Library's Publishing Council.

**Irena Tessaro-Kosimowa**, Ph. D. is an art historian who has worked for many years at the Historical Museum of Warsaw.

**Maria Wrede** is Head of the Manuscripts Department at the National Library's Division of Special Collections.

**Hanna Zielińska** was for many years Head of the National Library's Division of Collections Acquisition and Processing.

### **Advisory Board**

Ewa Barteczko, Stanisław Czajka, Maciej Dąbrowski, Henryk Hollender, Michał Jagiełło (president), Jadwiga Kołodziejska, Janusz Kostecki, Stanisław Makowski, Andrzej Markowski, Krzysztof Migoń, Joanna Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska, Barbara Sosińska-Kalata, Halina Tchórzewska-Kabata, Jerzy Wislocki, Wiesław Władyka, Andrzej Wyczański, Krzysztof Zamorski, Waclaw Żurek

### **Editor-in-chief**

Wojciech Tyszka

### **Translators**

Katarzyna Diehl  
Janina Dorosz  
Marek Gołębiowski  
Wojciech Tyszka

### **Photo Credits**

Krzysztof Konopka (4, 21, 22, 25)  
Andrzej Kossobudzki-Orłowski (1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 23, 24, 28)  
Witold Kudriawcew (13)  
Roman Stasiuk (16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 26, 27, 29)  
Leszek Stokłosa (2, 3, 14, cover photo)  
Marzena Stokłosa (5, 15)  
Paweł Szmidt (12)

### **English Language Consultant**

Philip Earl Steele

### **Layout**

Alicja Węgierska

### **Graphic Design**

Andrzej Dybowski  
Ryszard Kryska

ISSN 0867-6976

This publication was prepared in the Editorial Board of the National Library's Periodicals.

All rights reserved. No part of this journal may be reprinted in any form or by any means without prior written permission from the publishers.

This volume and the previous ones, as well as other publications issued by the National Library in Warsaw, are available from the Department of Promotion and Sales, National Library, al. Niepodległości 213, 02-086 Warszawa, Poland. Information: tel./fax (48 22) 608 25 52.



In the Palace of the Commonwealth at 3/5 Krasiński Sq. special collections are kept and made available, including manuscripts, old prints, drawings, graphics, and photographs.

**Address**

National Library  
Pl. Krasińskich 3/5  
Warszawa

**Telephone numbers**

tel. exchange (48 22) 831 32 41 to 45  
tel./fax (48 22) 635 55 67  
e-mail: [bnzbspec@plearn.edu.pl](mailto:bnzbspec@plearn.edu.pl)

**Information**

Information on special collections  
tel. (48 22) 635 62 09  
after 4.00. p.m.  
tel. (48 22) 831 32 44

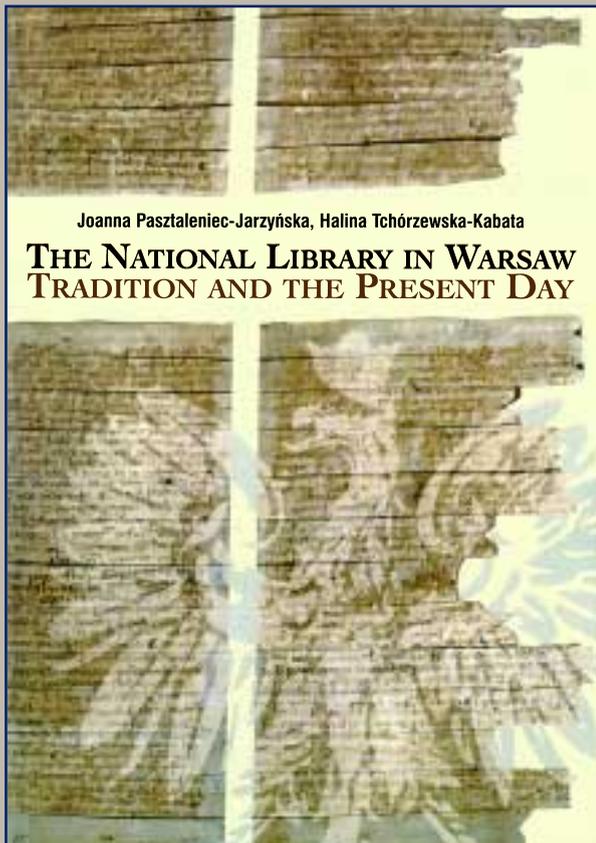
**Collections**

Manuscripts	25 304 items
Old prints	160 871 vol.
Iconography	383 329 items

**Reading Rooms**

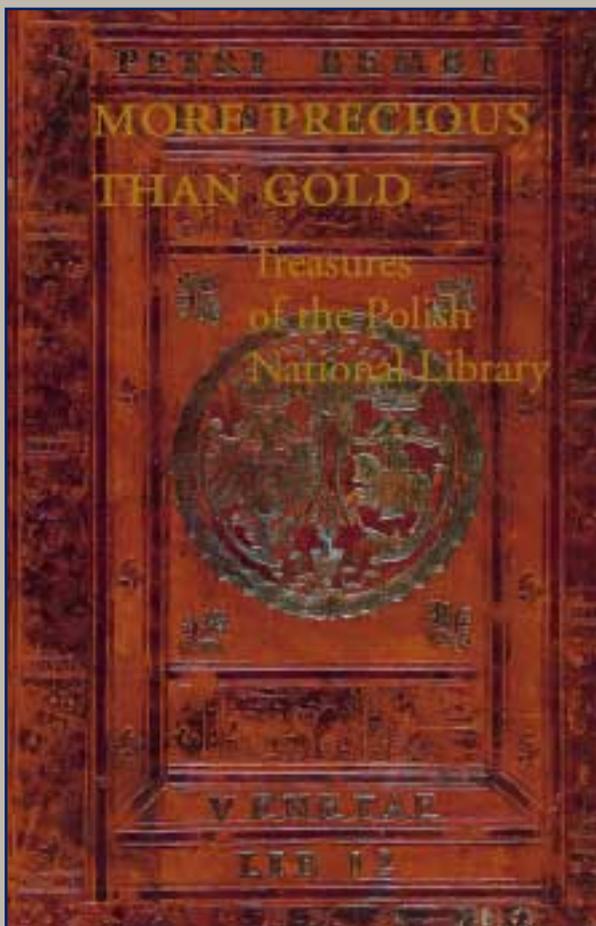
The Special Collections Reading Room





Joanna Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska  
 Halina Tchórzewska-Kabata  
 THE NATIONAL LIBRARY IN WARSAW  
 TRADITION AND THE PRESENT DAY

This is an entirely new publication devoted to the National Library in Warsaw, one which is both a guide-book to the Library's present-day services and activity, as well as a concise chronicle of the 80 years of its history, and also of the many centuries of Polish librarianship. The National Library is presented in many aspects: as an "idea and institution", as a "national bibliographic agency", as a "research institution", as a "library open to readers", as a "publishing office", and finally as "an institution of national culture". The text is accompanied by rich and attractive photographic material. Up-to-date information on the services and collections of the National Library are provided, as well as selected literature. The publication was issued both in Polish and in an English language version.



**MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD**  
 Treasures of the Polish National Library  
 Ed. by H. Tchórzewska-Kabata, M. Dąbrowski

The album presents 105 of the most beautiful and unique treasures housed in the collections of the National Library in Warsaw. All categories of collections are represented, including manuscripts, incunables, old prints, handwritten maps and atlases, printed and recorded music as well as sound-recording equipment, drawings, early photographs, documents of social life, and much more. Among the most precious treasures we find e.g. the oldest known relic of Polish prose *The Holy Cross Sermons*, a priceless manuscript in Latin, Polish and German *The Florian Psalter*, one of the world's earliest Old Church Slavonic manuscripts *The Supraśl Codex*, the richly decorated *Revelationes sanctae Birgittae*, Giovanni Simonetta's incunable *La Sforziada*, Ptolemy's *Geography*, or Fryderyk Chopin's *Preludes*. The presentation of these monuments of European letters is preceded by introductions which set the items presented against a historical and cultural background. The whole volume is a poignant testimony both to the losses and the wealth of Polish culture. The publication was issued both in Polish and in an English language version.