

The Journal of the Kórnik Library No 14

Summary

Marceli Kosman: *Kórnik Librarians*

This article presents an extensive panorama of the Kórnik Library personnel in the past 150 years. The author took as a starting point not the formal position (terminology changed its meaning during that long period), but activities concerning the shaping of the institution's profile as regards the gathering and elaborating collections, editor's and scientific work. The work includes, therefore, a characteristic of Count Titus Działyński (1796 - 1861), founder of the Library, and its successive owners — Jan Działyński (died 1880) and Władysław Zamoyski (died 1924).

The employment of only one librarian (with few exceptions) was characteristic of the time when Poland was partitioned. This post was held at first by an outstanding drawer, Kajetan Wincenty Kielisiński (died 1849), followed by a young historian, Jan Nepomucen Romanowski (died 1861). Later, the post was held for a short time by Wojciech Kętrzyński, a talented historian and, for longer than fifty years, by Zygmunt Celichowski (from 1869 until his death in 1923).

The next stage began in independent Poland, when the foundation Kórnik Establishment was created (1925 - 1953, with a break during the war 1939 - 1945). Prior to the Second World War the Library employed already eleven persons — seven librarians and assistants. They were supervised successively by Władysław Pocięcha, Józef Grycz and Stanisław Bodniak (1930 - 1952). This team managed to put the Library in order and elaborate most of the collections.

In 1953, when the Library was taken over by the Polish Academy of Sciences, the staff was further expanded and numbered in 1976 - 62 employees, including 25 graduates in humanistic sciences. Successive tasks carried out by this team changed the Library gradually into a modern centre of scientific information, thus fulfilling its research function.

DISSERTATIONS AND ARTICLES

Anna Marciniak: *Tytus Działyński's Contribution to the Establishment and Development of the Poznań Society of Friends of Science*

Tytus Działyński, founder of the Kórnik Library, played a considerable role in the genesis, in 1857, of the Poznań Society of Friends of Science; so far, historiography has rather belittled his part.

In Autumn 1856, Działyński took an active part in works involving the organization of the Poznań Scientific Society, backing the initiative of Kazimierz Szulc and Rev. Franciszek Malinowski, who, in support for their project, searched for influential personages with experience in that kind of activity. Tytus Działyński took part in editing statutes of the Society, patterned on provisions of the Society of Friends of Science in Warsaw. The Society was officially established on January 12th, 1857; heeding Działyński's suggestion — August Cieszkowski was chosen as its first president. Subsequent to Cieszkowski's trip abroad, Tytus Działyński became in July

1857, acting president of the Society. This post — officially confirmed in February 1858 — was held by Działyński until his death on 12th April, 1861.

Działyński was also engaged in intricate diplomatic activities at the Prussian Court, concerning the recognition of the Society by Prussian authorities, the achieving for this organization of the protection of a member of the ruling family and getting permission for teachers in the Grand Duchy of Poznań to become members of the Society. At the same time, Polish deputies to the Prussian Sejm took up the subject of the Society, but their efforts were without avail — the frank desire to cherish sciences in the Polish language caused the Prussian authorities to take an unyielding attitude to problems linked with the Society.

Tytus Działyński endeavoured, moreover, to extend the composition of the Society, to include honorary members, get in touch with the Historico-Literary Society in Paris and, in general, to rise the Society to an appropriate scientific rank. In July, 1857, the Society included 146 members, in 1860 this number grew up to 231. Działyński also took part in lesser works of the Society's two — historical and natural sciences — sections.

Działyński perceived the Society as an association of friends of science and not only as a group of scientists. Owing to this extensive social range the Society of Friends of Sciences in Poznań was able to survive the period of Prussian occupation.

Helena Chłopocka: *Ignacy Zakrzewski, Publisher of the „Diplomatic Code of Wielkopolska” and of „Lites ac res gestae inter Polonos Ordinemque Cruciferorum”*

I. Zakrzewski (1823 - 1889) was a colourful personage seen against the background of his epoch; subsequent to various professions he finally became engaged in scientific work. This artillery officer was interested in the nation's past and devoted to it years of his life. In the first part of this treatise the author presents a biographical outline of Zakrzewski. She, then, discusses problems linked with monumental source publications (*Code, Lites*), basing her work, principally, on Zakrzewski's correspondence with Doctor Zygmunt Celichowski, a long-standing manager of the Kórnik Library. She also supplies an outline of relevant publications which appeared after Zakrzewski's death and concludes the treatise with a new edition of *Lites*, of which the III volume — prepared in accordance with postulates of contemporary editors — was published in 1935.

Andrzej Mężyński: *Jan Działyński's Publishing Activities*

Publishing activities represented one of the more important aspects of Jan Działyński's patronage. 40 books in 66 volumes, comprising 2495.2 publisher's sheets, were, due to his endeavours, edited and published in the years 1866 - 1882. A calculation of expenses indicates that the Kórnik patron spent 111 509 Prussian thalers on these publications which then equalled the value of a large landed property.

Publishing activities were for Działyński but one of several forms of social services. Editions of source materials were to aid the idea of maintaining the nation's historical consciousness and knowledge of the history of the language. However, Działyński was unable to realize all plans. Thus, only volume IX of *Acta Tomiciana*, published by Zygmunt Celichowski, represented, during Działyński's times, source publications of the Kórnik Library. These setbacks may be explained by difficulties in finding scholars and editors willing to cooperate with the Library. Another cause was the contemporary weakness of the scientific environment in Poznań, where the Prussians made a rational organization of the Polish scientific movement impossible. In this situation, Działyński replaced source editions of texts by homographic reprints, produced in Paris by two well-known artists Adam and Stanisław Piliński. The 10 works (11.5 publisher's sheets) published there, included valuable editions, such as the Puławski Code, and several mediaeval law texts. Novelties among the Library's publications included several translations from classical literature (6 works in 14 volumes), most of these were Greek tragedies translated by Zygmunt Węclewski.

The second publication current included works concerning mathematical, natural and

technical sciences. The interest in these subjects resulted from Działyński's views leaning towards positivism, implying that – in view of the actual situation in the country – only a rise of the economic level could bring a resumption of political power. According to Działyński, progress in education and the development of exact sciences, were to provide the basis for these activities. Kórnik publications were also to serve this goal. The effect of Jan Działyński's efforts in this sphere were most pronounced. He published 20 works in 34 volumes (1446 publisher's sheets), which included both valuable scientific studies and textbooks for academic schools. The realization of these plans was assisted by the finding of a useful group of collaborators among Paris emigrants, grouped around the Society of Exact Sciences in Paris.

A „Register of Jan Działyński's Publications”, including bibliographic descriptions of published works, is supplement to the treatise.

Zofia Nowak: *Władysław Zamoyski's Taking Over of the Kórnik Property as a Heritage from Jan Działyński*

The long-standing Działyński family of Kórnik came to an end on the spear side in 1880, when Jan Działyński died sine prole. His principal heir was Władysław Zamoyski, his nephew, a French citizen, born in 1853 in Paris. This was a rather important event in the history of the Kórnik Library, because the personality of the heir and the destiny of the inherited property exerted influence on the future of that meritorious establishment; the income from the Kórnik property represented the principal material basis for the collecting and publishing activities of Tytus and Jan Działyński.

On the basis of manuscripts from the Kórnik Library this treatise speaks of circumstances concerning the taking over of the heritage and its actual value. The author explains how Zamoyski, who, according to law, inherited only one half of the net heritage, without the right – at the beginning – to draw any income, was able to save and keep the entire Kórnik property – a property much in debt and mortgaged at that time – and how he thoroughly and honestly met all financial obligations of the testator. This was due to the kind and unselfish support of his aunt, Janowa Działyńska, and his grandmother, Tytusowa Działyńska, who relinquished their rights – to Zamoyski's benefit – to the part of the heritage, representing a half of the net property, and, moreover, agreed to change their annuity, being 100% of income from the Kórnik property, to a permanent annual pension – advantageous to Zamoyski. Considerable financial aid was also given to him by his mother, Jadwiga, who invested the capital needed at the beginning, as trust-money into the Kórnik account. Zygmunt Celichowski, Zamoyski's plenipotentiary, consciously managed the affairs of his master and skillfully administered the property.

The author of this article analyzed financial affairs of the investigated estate and the income from particular sectors of economy. She also discusses extensively Zamoyski's attitude to the Society of Exact Sciences in Paris, indicating that, also there, Zamoyski endeavoured to thoroughly execute his uncle's will.

Stanisław K. Potocki: *The Position of the Library in Conceptions of the Kórnik Foundation*

Creating his book collection Tytus Działyński intended to make it available to the public. However, to ensure its Polish character, while Poland was partitioned, he recognized the necessity to keep it as private property. His „sine prole” son Jan, obeying his father's wish, transferred, by testament in 1880, the Kórnik property, together with the Library, to only one of his numerous nephews – Władysław Zamoyski. He also had no successors, and, acquainted with his predecessor's plans, began, about 1900, moves to establish a foundation on his property. In the existing period of partitions he searched for an organizational-legal form, which would allow the Kórnik book collection become a public library without formally relinquishing its private character. Studying various possibilities, including a joint stock company, he finally chose the form of a family association. Due to his efforts, a society with an extensive program,

named the Zamoyski Association, was established in 1910, its task being the management of the future foundation. The foundation, named the „Kórnik Establishment”, was finally created in 1924. It was acknowledged by the Sejm on 30th July 1925. Already in independent Poland, Zamoyski, wishing to determine concrete goals for the Foundation, including the „maintenance of the Kórnik Library and supervision of its publications”, ensured the Zamoyski Association an assured control over activities of the institution by giving more than half of the posts in the Foundation management to its members. Those men did not always appreciate the activities of the Library, the situation in the Kórnik Library within the Foundation was, therefore, not always quite satisfactory.

Zbigniew Kalisz: *Józef Grycz and the Kórnik Library*

Following the institution of the Foundation, „Kórnik Establishment” the Kórnik Library was included there as one of the departments. There began a new period in the Library's development — individual stages were marked out by successive managers. This treatise discusses library activities of Józef Grycz. Attention is directed towards Grycz's vicissitudes in the Foundation, less space is devoted to his achievements in library work. Grycz worked in the Library as manager for 15 months. In that period he carried out several organizational changes. Planning library activities he laid emphasis on an overhaul of library rooms, the elaboration and storing of books. Under his supervision workers began to catalogue prints in accordance with general Polish rules, previously elaborated by Grycz. He individuated XVI and XVII century prints from the general collection. He was the founder and first editor of the „The Journal of the Kórnik Library”. Due to his consistent efforts, the Library became, in the late 1930's, an institute of some importance in the country. But the tasks concerning the Library were not well received by the Foundation authorities and led to unwelcome disputes. Grycz did not relinquish his plans and chose to resign his post on 1st January 1930. Having left Kórnik he found employment at the Ministry for Religious Affairs and Public Education and directed problems of scientific libraries in Poland. Nevertheless, he maintained contact with Kórnik librarians — particularly with Stanisław Bodniak — always ready to give assistance or expert advice. His contacts with the Library ended at his death in 1954.

TEXTS AND SOURCE MATERIAL

Adam Maldzis: *An Unknown White Russian Poem in the Kórnik Collection*

During his stay at the Kórnik Library in 1970, the author, a worker at the White Russian Academy of Sciences and member of the White Russian SSR Writers' Association, discovered several hitherto unknown White Russian poems. In his work he presents one of these poems with a commentary. He reached the conclusion that this text, which will enrich the not very extensive White Russian literature from the mid-seventeenth century and constitutes an interesting contribution to the cultural history of the Republic, was penned by Joachim Chreptowicz, later to become a prominent patriotic activist of the Enlightenment and Grand Lithuanian Chancellor.

Maria Łuczak: *A List of War Losses Suffered by the Kórnik Library in 1939 - 1945*

This is the second part of an article, discussing events concerning the Kórnik Library during the German Occupation (1939 - 1945), published in fasc. XII of the „The Journal of the Kórnik Library”. This list of war losses concerning the Kórnik Library includes works of art, museum pieces and useful objects. The arrangement of objects corresponds with the organizational structure of the Library; losses in the museum section and the library are discussed separately, there are further divisions within these sections. Missing items (1), destroyed objects (2) and objects regained due to revindication (3) are discussed separately in accordance with the type of objects.

The list includes call numbers of all missing items and differentiates their description. More detailed descriptions are supplied to descriptions of missing 16th - 18th century manuscripts, incunabula and prints.

Stanisław Gibasiewicz: *The Foundation Kórnik Establishment after the Liberation (February -September, 1945). Memoirs*

The author begins with recollections of his contacts with Wielkopolska foundations in the twenty years before the Second World War. He then mentions the Occupation, 1939 - 1945, and refers to circumstances leading to his nomination as custodian of the Kórnik Foundation.

The principal part of these memoirs concern endeavours to regain landed property, which had been broken up during the land reform and — including forests and a sawmill — constituted the most profitable parts of the Foundation property. It would have been impossible to maintain scientific, cultural and pedagogical institutions without this property. The Kórnik Library and the Kórnik Gardens resumed work since the middle of March 1945, but the school, existing before the war, was not reopened.

The author devotes much space to endeavours to re-assemble the Foundation superintendent's staff, which finally met on 15th September, 1945. The memoirs are brought up to the moment of the session at which the custodian resigned his post.

Marceli Kosman: *A Report on Activities of the Polish Academy of Sciences — Kórnik Library in 1976*

A report on activities of the Kórnik Library, including information on current works of the Institution, published in previous volumes of „The Journal of the Kórnik Library” and interrupted some dozen years ago, concludes the present issue.

The new management, formed in the past years (including the Director, Doctor Marceli Kosman and Vice-Directors Doctor Ryszard Marciniak and Magister Adam Chrzan) prepared a long-term plan of activities for the Institute. This was divided into three basic parts: scientific, strictly library and popularization matters (spreading of knowledge by the museum section). The scientific program has been realized by the Editor's Office, the Department for the History of Wielkopolska Books and Libraries, and by special sections (Manuscripts, Old Prints and Graphic Arts). It was decided to publish annually a periodical, which, so far, had appeared irregularly, on the average every 4 - 5 years. Works have begun on a complete edition of new collections and a modernization of museum expositions. In the library section the main emphasis was laid on problems linked with the gathering of collections.