

The Journal of the Kórnik Library No 13

Summary

Marceli Kosman: „*The Journal of the Kórnik Library*”. *A Glance at the Past and the Perspectives*.

As the new editor-in-chief of “The Journal of the Kórnik Library”, the author discusses the past and the future profile of this periodical. In order to shape the future task of the Journal, it is necessary to shed some light on its origins and achievements. This, in turn, requires the analysis of the scientific work performed by the Kórnik Library during the past 150 years. The founder of the Kórnik Library, Tytus Działyński, thought about the creation of such periodical and so did his son Jan Działyński. However, as the analysis of the Library's staff and financial problems clearly indicates, it was the existence of the dynamic body of devoted researchers working for the library's needs rather than the ambitions of the patrons themselves which had the basic significance for the successful performance of the scientific work in this institution. Unfortunately, this crucial element — a well-organized and stable research staff — was lacking in the Library during the first century of its existence (the most capable among its collaborators, Wojciech Kętrzyński, quickly took his talent elsewhere and Zygmunt Celichowski was more of a publicist, social worker and the administrator of the Kórnik property than of a scientist).

After World War I a “new course” in the Kórnik Library's scientific work was finally taken up by such prominent scholars and skilled organizers as Józef Grycz and Władysław Pociecha and later by Stanisław Bodniak, the respected researcher of the Polish Renaissance culture and the Library director of many years.

“The Journal of the Kórnik Library” has been published since 1929 with its 12th volume appearing in 1976. Efforts are presently made to have it published annually. There are now scholars, both in the Kórnik Library and in the Poznań academic institutions, who are willing to study the history of The Book in Great Poland (Wielkopolska). Their research will be based on the ample sources to be found in the Kórnik archives. The papers written will constitute a preliminary step toward the synthesis of the Kórnik Library's history in the Nineteenth and the Twentieth centuries.

DISSERTATIONS AND ARTICLES

Ryszard Marciniak and Jacek Wiesiołowski: *The Kórnik Library's Manuscripts as Sources in the Scientific Research (1826 - 1976)*.

This paper attempts to define the role of the manuscript collections in the research procedures of the social sciences. It is based on the analysis of possible

research uses to be made of the Kórník collections which led, in turn, to the formulation of certain suggestions as to the directions of study in the Library's Manuscript Division. The analysis covered major areas of the Library's activities (acquisition, processing and circulation) in three basic periods of its historical functioning (the Private library (1826-1925), the Foundation (1926-1952), the Polish Academy of Sciences (1953-1976)).

In the sphere of acquisition, the library is visibly dependent upon the situation on the antiquarian market, particularly upon the existence of individuals collecting old manuscripts. In the period of the Private library, when there was no printed catalog, the knowledge of the manuscripts acquired came from the reader's oral information, from the suggestions found in the library's own publications or else from the publications partly based on the Kórník sources. Also, the librarians systematically answered quests of the researchers. Not until the Foundation period was the first volume of the manuscript inventory published and the last two decades brought a rapid growth of information about the collections, due to the publication of subsequent inventory volumes, scientific catalogs and various types of specialized data.

From the beginning of its existence the Kórník Library made the manuscripts available to researchers. In the Private period of the library, the manuscripts served as the basis for editions of historical and literary sources and to a much lesser degree as references in scientific studies. This period of editing sources ended with the creation of the Polish state in 1918 and with subsequent changes in the organization of scientific institutions in Poland. In the Foundation period the library made its manuscripts available mainly to scholars with a large scientific experience who wrote constructive, historical works. In the current period (the Polish Academy of Sciences) the source-editions gradually disappear, but even though the number of readers increases, their scholarly qualifications decrease and it often happens that their studies remain unpublished. The readers' preference for "anniversary topics" (the January Uprising, the Mickiewicz anniversary) becomes clearly detectable, as well as the transfer of their interests to the materials easy to use, mainly those of the Twentieth century.

There are two major factors which determine the use of the manuscripts by researchers: the current needs of science (on which the librarians do not have influence) and scientific information (which depends upon them). The former is obviously a decisive factor. As for the latter, the efforts should be made to increase the efficiency of scientific information. It may be done by popularizing selective, adequate information in various scientific circles and by fostering the publication of the already existing, basic forms of information such as the inventories and the catalogs of manuscripts.

Stanisław Kazimierz Potocki: *Jan Nepomucen Romanowski (1831-1861). The Kórník Librarian.*

After K. W. Kielisiński, Jan Romanowski was the second steady collaborator of Tytus Działyński in his library and editorial activities. Although he stayed in Kórník no more than three years, the results of his work were remarkable.

Romanowski came from a poor family: the son of a cook, he attained a high level of education despite many obstacles. He studied history, first with L. Ranke in Berlin, then with R. Roeppel in Wrocław where he received his doctoral degree in 1857. Unable to work as a teacher because of his weak health, he took a job in Kórník offered him by Tytus Działyński in 1858. As the librarian he focused on the editorial work; Działyński entrusted him with the preparation of

the volume *The Sources to the History of the Union Between the Polish Crown and the Great Duchy of Lithuania* (*Zrządopisma do dziejów unii Korony Polskiej i W. X. Litewskiego* — Poznań 1861).

Along with the editorial work, Romanowski wrote historical dissertations based on the sources found in the Kórnik Library. The book *Otia Cornicensia. The Study of the work: The Sources to the History of the Union Between the Polish Crown and the Great Duchy of Lithuania* (*Otia Cornicensia. Studia nad dziełem: Zrządopisma do dziejów unii Korony Polskiej i W. X. Litewskiego* ... Poznań 1861) was his major publication. In the years 1858-1861 Romanowski was one of the most active members of Poznań Society of Friends of Science. During the period of his stay in Kórnik he suffered from a lung illness which caused his death on October 27th, 1861.

Bogumiła Kosmanowa: *The Reception of Stanisław Orzechowski's Work, 1750 - 1850.*

Stanisław Orzechowski (1513-1566) was one of the most renowned personalities in Sixteenth century Poland. This magnificent publicist-a married priest was a declared enemy of celibacy, but apart from it he stood by Catholicism in the period of religious conflicts in Poland; his access to the Reformation camp was only transitory. Exceptionally controversial as a person, he evoked mixed sentiments not only in his contemporaries, but even in subsequent generations. Orzechowski's picturesque vita appealed to scholars as much as to artists and both groups were interested in him as a writer and as a man.

The epoch after his death until the beginnings of the Enlightenment, i.e., the times in which the Democracy of the Gentry—so praised by Orzechowski—blossomed and then degenerated, constitutes the first period in the history of the reception of his work. It is discussed by the author of this paper in a separate essay to be published in the annual „Renaissance and Reformation in Poland” (*Odrodzenie i Reformacja w Polsce*). The Enlightenment brought a new interest in Orzechowski as the magnificent stylist, but his political attitudes, by that time already anachronistic, were severely criticized. In the Nineteenth century an extensive research on his life and work was undertaken. The source editions prepared by the Founder of the Kórnik Library, Tytus Działyński, that is *Annales* (1854) and *The Police of the Polish Kingdom* (*Policyja Królestwa Polskiego* — 1859) contributed much to this enterprise. The second half of the last century witnessed a visible progress in the study of Orzechowski's work. It was undoubtedly facilitated by Tytus Działyński, the first publisher of *Policyja* (another edition appeared simultaneously in Cracow) and the one whose *Annales* were published for the first time on the basis of the original and not of the previous editions (which contained several „pro-clergy” distortions of the text).

Irena Kandulska: *Mieczysław Leitgeber, Poznanian Bookseller, Editor and Educator.*

In the second half of the Nineteenth century which brought the intensification of the German anti-Polish policy, the Poznań booksellers were making great efforts to preserve the Polish language and culture. In this field, Mieczysław Leitgeber (1841-1893) was certainly a man of merit. The grand-son of a German and the son of an insurgent in the November Uprising, he himself took part in the Insurrection of 1863. In 1866 he opened a bookstore in Poznań (it stayed in operation

until 1884). The most prominent „publishing houses”, such as the Kórnik Library or the Cracow Academy of Sciences, as well as the renowned private publishers in Poland and Europe supplied Leitgeber's bookstore. The bookstore carried both Polish and foreign books in various departments (belles-lettres, fiction, scientific and popular literature). In addition, a special section carried music notes and other music publications; there was also a department which circulated Polish periodicals from all three parts of partitioned Poland. A carefully programmed „folk literature” department in Leitgeber's bookstore had a special, educational-patriotic task, as it served the farmers and various petit-bourgeois strata. Adjacent to the bookstore there was a reading-room, one of the few at that time and the biggest in Poznań.

M. Leitgeber was also publisher and editor-in-chief of the literary periodical „Sobótka” (1869 - 1871) and of the „Bibliographical Review” (1867 - 1870) which he founded. As the pioneer-author of the folk literature he wrote several short stories for „common people”.

After he turned over the Poznań enterprise to his brother Jarosław, Leitgeber briefly carried a small bookstore in Ostrów Wielkopolski (1888), where he also published „Help” („Pomoc”), a periodical for the Polish youth.

Krystyna Nizio: *Mieczysław Stefan Geniusz (1852 - 1920) among the Patriots and the Men of Letters.*

Mieczysław Geniusz belonged to a group of Polish émigrés patriots who were active on behalf of Poland in the period of its partition. He was born in the Suwałki area into a lesser noblemen family with patriotic traditions. M. Geniusz completed his technical education in France and for many years he worked with the North Railroad Company in Paris. In 1885 he moved with his family to Egypt. Until his retirement in 1918 he worked in the Directorate of the Suez Canal. The unfavorable climate caused the death of three Geniusz daughters shortly after the arrival of the family to Egypt. It might have been that M. Geniusz was a prototype of engineer Tarkowski from H. Sienkiewicz's *In the desert and in the Jungle* (*W pustyni i w puszczy*). This hypothesis is not certain, however, since there is no evidence indicating that the two men knew each other before 1916.

Mieczysław Geniusz served as the Egyptian emissary of the Swiss Committee to Help the War Victims in Poland. In order to get funds for the Committee he organized lectures and money-collections in Port-Said, Cairo and many other cities. In 1916 Geniusz arrived to Vevey in Switzerland and at his own expense he set off to Spain and Portugal to establish new branches of the Committee.

The collection of cordial and warm letters preserved in the Kórnik and Warsaw Public libraries stands in witness of the long-standing friendship between M. Geniusz and the founder of the Kórnik Foundation, Władysław Zamojski.

Mieczysław Geniusz returned to Poland in July, 1919. Until his death in December 1920 he eagerly participated in the activities of various civic and political committees and societies in Warsaw.

TEXTS AND SOURCE MATERIAL

Dobrochna Bolewska: *A Letter from Tytus Działyński to Friedrich Adōlf Ebert, the German Bibliographer.*

The article contains the original text and the Polish translation of a letter from Tytus Działyński, dated April 4th, 1822. The letter presently belongs to the collections of Sächsische Landesbibliothek in Dresden. As one of the early documents

of this kind, it pictures the Kórnik Library Founder, Tytus Działyński, as a collector. In this letter Działyński informs F. Ebert, a prominent German bibliographer, about the oldest incunabula and the Sixteenth century parchment prints to be found in his collections and in the Czartoryski Library. It is probable that Ebert might have used these books in the research for his work *Allgemeines Bibliographisches Lexikon*.

Michał Muszyński: *The Proveniences of the Sixteenth Century Polonica of the Kórnik Library*.

The proveniences of the Sixteenth century polonica in the Kórnik Library constitute a supplement to the catalog edited by Kazimierz Piekarski in 1929. Piekarski's catalog covers 1,655 items and contents itself with their bibliographical description. In order to adjust this valuable work to the modern requirements it was considered desirable to supplement it with the description of individual characteristics of the particular items, ie., with the proveniences. All the notes found in the books were also recorded: those indicating origins and the age of the binding, the place and the price of the purchase, various glosses, etc.

Hand-written notes on the books constitute the basis of proveniences here presented. In addition, other sources were consulted: the archive of the Kórnik Library and the old books card catalog prepared by the skilled Kórnik librarian, Kajetan W. Kielisiński in the middle of the Nineteenth century. The content of this catalog indicates that the collection of Adam Tytus Działyński already contained more than one thousand of the Sixteenth century polonica.

Thus, the resulting lists of books covers only the items which had a note of provenience or which proprietor was found in the course of the archival search. All books without the provenience (often provided with notes and glosses) were placed in a general compendium.

The second reason for the publication of the proveniences is the recent expansion of the Book Studies (badania nad książką). These studies deal with such problems as the origins and functions of the historical collections, the circulation of the book in the society, characteristics of the social groups to which the books are addressed or the differing interests of various circles of readers. The sociologists of the book try to answer these questions; the proveniences should make it much easier for them.

Translated by Ewa Morawska