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RESEARCH ON THE HISTORY OF LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANSHIP IN POLAND: A SURVEY, 1945–2015^{*}

Research and its source base. General studies. Monographs, research articles, popular-science works on the history of libraries and librarianship from the Middle Ages to the end of the 17th century and in the 19th and 20th centuries.

KEYWORDS: history of libraries, history of librarianship, libraries, Poland

The eponymous theme has been discussed in multiple publications on bibliographical studies and library science. A comprehensive retrospective survey of research on the history of libraries alone was offered by Bogumiła Kosmanowa (1980). Besides, various issues related to the history of libraries in Poland have attracted ample scholarly attention as well (e.g. Zawadzka, 1973; Różycki, 1979; Maleczyńska, 1978, 1985; Gaca-Dąbrowska, 1982; Bednarska-Ruszajowa & Pirożyński, 1993/1994; Gwóźdźnik, 2009). Given this, in this paper, I only discuss the literature published since the early 1980s, while also citing the most important previous studies. Thus, the publications I consider were subjectively, and perhaps not always aptly, selected.

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1. RESEARCH AND ITS SOURCE BASE

In a paper published in 1950, Polish historian of science and bibliologist¹ Aleksander Birkenmajer emphasised that any advancement in book-studies research depended, among other factors, on the progress of work on sources and documentation and on the information on the available resource collections (Birkenmajer, 1975, pp. 67–68; Ciechanowska, 1969, pp. 223–238). Since that time, libraries in Poland have made information on their crucial historical holdings available, in this way contributing to the development of research, for example, on the history of libraries. For their part, the Polish collections compiled in the libraries once located in Poland and beyond and now preserved abroad must yet have their inventories and catalogues fully studied and published. Data on old collections (including their lists, inventories and catalogues) have appeared in dedicated publications (e.g. *Inwentarz biblioteki Ignacego Krasickiego z 1810 r.* [*The Inventory of Ignacy Krasicki's Library of 1810*], edited by Sante Graciotti and Jadwiga Rudnicka, Wrocław 1973) and as part of books and in periodicals issued by respective libraries (e.g. the Ossolinski National Institute in Wrocław and the Kórnik Library) and other institutions. Importantly, robust effort has been made to establish the provenance of resources that appeared by the end of the 18th century. Work on the National Library Holdings (Polish: Narodowy Zasób Biblioteczny) is likely to help register what has still remained of several book collections from the 19th and 20th centuries (see Jazdon, 2014, pp. 261–271).

The source base for research can today be expanded by means of the Internet. This is exemplified by the following databases: Manuscripta.pl, which contains information on the manuscripts composed by 1530 and preserved in Polish and foreign library holdings, therein the data on their provenance, a project that, so to speak, responds to Polish historian of the Middle Ages and codicologist Edward Potkowski's plea to draw up a list of medieval book owners and users in Poland (Potkowski 2006, p. 360); the *Katalog starych druków Biblioteki Ordynacji Nieświeskiej Radziwiłłów. Druki polskie XVI–XVIII w.* [*The Catalogue of the Old Prints of the Radziwiłł Family Estate Library in Nieśwież: Polish Prints of the 16th–18th Centuries*] of the Estreicher Centre for the Study of Polish Bibliography and the *Biblioteki po skasowanych klasztorach...* [*Libraries of the Disbanded Monasteries...*] of the Old Print Room of the Warsaw University Library (Wieniec, 2013, pp. 509–513).

¹ Translator's note: Throughout this text, 'bibliology,' 'bibliological' and 'bibliologist' are used to refer to the science of books and not to the study of the Bible.

Historians have also availed themselves of records stored in state and church archives,² not only because of their utility but also because the extant documentation of libraries and library owners tends to be fragmentary and sometimes vestigial.³ Valuable resources concerning the history of libraries and librarianship have also been collected by specialised institutions, including the National Book Institute (Polish: Państwowy Instytut Książki) and, after its closing in 1949, by the National Library's Bibliological Documentation Department; the *Polish Book Personnel Dictionary* Section affiliated with the Library and Information Science Department, University of Lodz, and the National Library's Historical Book Collection Documentation Department (1990–2009) founded, among other aims, to develop the *Informator o polskich księgozbiorach historycznych i powstałych na ziemiach polskich do 1950 r.* [*Catalogue of Polish and Poland-based Historical Book Collections until 1950*].⁴ After 1989, concerted effort was launched to look for resources in foreign holdings, especially in Lithuania, Ukraine, Russia and Germany, which resulted, for example, in the publication of *Informator o polonikach w zbiorach rękopiśmiennych Lwowskiej Narodowej Naukowej Biblioteki Ukrainy im. Wasyla Stefanyka* [*Catalogue of the Polonica in Manuscript Collections of the Vasyl Stefanyk Lviv National Scientific Library of Ukraine*] (vols. 1 and 2, edited by Maciej Matwijów *et al.*, Wrocław 2010–2015) and the edition of materials in *Biblioteki naukowe w Generalnym Gubernatorstwie w latach 1939–1945. Wybór dokumentów źródłowych* [*Research Libraries in the General Governorate, 1929–1945: A Selection of Source Documents*] (edited by Andrzej Mężyński, Warszawa 2003). Importantly, however, the first publications on this issue were already released in the so-called People's Poland period (e.g. Edward Różycki's *Materiały źródłowe do dziejów polskiej książki w archiwach i bibliotekach Lwowa, Kijowa, Mińska i Wilna* [*Source Materials for the History of the Polish Book in the Archives and Libraries of Lviv, Kyiv, Minsk and Vilnius*], 1987). Researchers also use printed sources, including studies based on already non-existent materials. Publications of this kind are registered, for example, in the *Bibliografia inwentarzy i katalogów księgozbiorów polskich i założonych w Polsce do 1939 roku* [*Bibliography of the*

² Examples include the works of Marian J. Lech, 'Materiały do dziejów książki i czytelnictwa w okresie zaborów w archiwach polskich' ['Resources for the History of the Book and Reading Practices under Partitions in Polish Archives'], *Rocznik Biblioteki Narodowej*, 55, 1969, and Jolanta Gwiondzik's 'Źródła do dziejów książki w archiwach żeńskich klasztorów kontemplacyjnych XVI–XVIII w. Zarys problematyki' ['Resources for the History of the Book in Women's Contemplative Convents in the 16th–18th Centuries: An Outline'], *Biuletyn Bibliotek Kościelnych*, 1/2, 2009.

³ One positive exception is the archival documentation of the Public Library of the Capital City of Warsaw, whose detailed inventory was published in print in 1977–1993.

⁴ On this issue, see Łaskarzewska, 1995. In 2014, PDKH was replaced by the Library and Readership History Section of the National Library's Institute of the Book and Readership (Polish: Pracownia Historii Bibliotek i Czytelnictwa Instytutu Książki i Czytelnictwa BN).

Inventories and Catalogues of Polish and Poland-based Book Collections until 1939] (Urszula Paszkiewicz, Warszawa 1990) Paszkiewicz's *Catalogus cathalogorum. Inwentarze i katalogi bibliotek z ziem wschodnich Rzeczypospolitej od XVI wieku do 1939 roku* [*Catalogus cathalogorum: An Inventory and Catalogue of Libraries in the Eastern Territories of Poland from the 16th Century to 1939*] (Warszawa 2015).

In the period under discussion, multiple studies on methodology and source analysis were published (including Jacek Puchalski's 2007 book on the resources for the study of the history of libraries in Poland between 1918 and 1947), which have since expanded and improved the researchers' toolkit. At the same time, editions of source materials tend to be scarce, with the most important publications of this kind including, for example, *Korespondencja Józefa Andrzeja Załuskiego z lat 1724–1736* [*Józef Andrzej Załuski's Correspondence, 1724–1735*] edited by Bogumił Stanisław Kupś and Krystyna Muszyńska (Wrocław 1967), *Bibliotekarstwo polskie 1925–1951 w świetle korespondencji jego współtwórców* [*The Polish Library System between 1925 and 1951 in the Light of the Correspondence of Its Co-Founders*] edited by Maria Dembowska (Warszawa 1995), *Biblioteki i książki w pamiętnikach polskich XVII–XX wieku. Rekonesans źródłowy* [*Libraries and Books in the Polish Memoirs of the 17th–20th Centuries: A Preliminary Survey of Sources*] by Krystyna Bednarska-Ruszajowa (Kraków 2003), *Listy Józefa Maksymiliana Ossolińskiego do Ambrożego Grabowskiego (1813–1826)* [*Józef Maksymilian Ossoliński's Letters to Ambroży Grabowski (1813–1826)*] edited by Bogdan Horodyski (Warszawa 2006) and *Powojenna ochrona zbiorów bibliotecznych w Polsce w latach 1944–1955. Wybór źródeł* [*The Post-War Protection of Library Holdings in Poland, 1944–1955*] compiled and edited by Ryszard Nowicki (Bydgoszcz 2013).

2. GENERAL STUDIES

The period under discussion saw the publication of several studies by Polish authors who sought to offer comprehensive accounts of the general history of the book and libraries, including their past in Poland. Józef Grycz's textbook titled *Historia bibliotek w zarysie* [*The History of Libraries: An Outline*] (Warszawa 1949) and its later iterations, in particular *Historia książki i bibliotek w zarysie* [*The History of the Book and Libraries: An Outline*] edited by Alodia Kawecka-Gryczowa (last edition in 1972), were instrumental in the education of librarians and the popularisation of the theme over several decades. In 1976, Henryk Dubowik published a coursebook for library-studies students titled *Dzieje książki i bibliotek. Kompendium dla studentów bibliotekoznawstwa* [*A History of the Book*

and *Libraries: A Companion for Library Science Students*], with other textbooks: *Historia książki i jej funkcji społecznej* [*A History of the Book and Its Social Function*] (Wrocław 1987) by Kazimiera Maleczyńska and *Zarys dziejów książki* [*An Outline of the History of the Book*] by Barbara Bieńkowska and Halina Chamerska (Warszawa 1987) appearing in the following decade. Bieńkowska's *Książka na przestrzeni dziejów* [*The Book across History*] was released in 2005 as the latest publication of this kind to date. The Polish history of book culture was the exclusive focus of *Tysiąc lat książki i bibliotek w Polsce* [*One Thousand Years of the Book and Libraries in Poland*] by Bieńkowska and Chamerska (Wrocław 1992).

The publication of the books listed above was fuelled by an increased interest in the bibliological literature and other relevant writings as the history of libraries is one of the thematic concerns addressed in studies on the history of literature, culture, science, education and churches. Such writings engage, to varying degrees, with different historical periods, regions, subregions and local institutions. This body of literature includes publications which tackle the history of libraries as part of the history of the book or focus on types of libraries or individual institutions of different traditions, sizes and ranks. The quality of these studies varies widely, from barely substantiated minor contributions, chronicles, reviews (largely report-like ones⁵) and encyclopaedic entries, mainly in the *Encyklopedia wiedzy o książce* [*The Encyclopaedia of the Knowledge of the Book*] (Wrocław 1971) and the *Encyklopedia współczesnego bibliotekarstwa polskiego* [*The Encyclopaedia of Contemporary Polish Library System*] (Wrocław 1976), to extensive books, monograph papers, problem-focused articles and contributions based on reliable source research and analysis.

A considerable part of the studies belong to, to use Bieńkowska's term (1989, pp. 65–76), the 'external' layer of research on historical book collections, meaning that they explore the circumstances and conditions under which libraries were founded, operated and exerted influence, without going into a detailed scrutiny of their book collections themselves. Conspicuously, the quantification of developments in the history of libraries has been scarce so far, despite available opportunities for such work.⁶ Another deficiency is noticeable in comparative research, the development of which was urged, among other scholars, by Maria Kocójowa as early as in 1983, and which should accommodate an international perspective to make it possible to capture differences, similarities and mutual interactions between Polish and foreign library systems. This research focus was incorporated into the studies

⁵ The scantiness of critical studies in the disciplinary journals was pointed out, for example, by Mężyński, 2008, pp. 7–12.

⁶ Quantitative figures were used to good effect, for example, by Jan Wróblewski in *Polskie biblioteki ludowe w zaborze pruskim i na terenie Rzeszy Niemieckiej w latach 1843–1939* [*Polish Popular Libraries under the Prussian Partition and in the German Reich, 1843–1939*] (Olsztyn 1975).

of Marian Łodyński (1948), Jan Kozłowski (1994), Anna Tokarska (2000) and other scholars who focused on national and teacher's libraries. Such pursuits require an increase in research interest in the history of foreign library systems. The few studies devoted to this theme include first and foremost *Iucunda familia librorum. Humanisci renesansowi w świecie książki* [*Iucunda familia librorum: Renaissance Humanists in the World of the Book*] by Janusz S. Gruchała (Kraków 2002).

3. FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO THE END OF THE 18TH CENTURY

General studies in this group importantly include the textbooks: *Książka rękopiśmienna i biblioteka w starożytności i średniowieczu* [*The Handwritten Book and the Library in Antiquity and the Middle Ages*] by Karol Głombiowski and Helena Szwejkowska (Wrocław 1971) and *Dzieje książki i jej funkcji społecznej. Wiek XVIII* [*The History of the Book and Its Social Function: The 18th Century*] by Anna Żbikowska-Migoń (Wrocław 1987). Besides, Maleczyńska published an outline of the history of libraries between the 15th and the 18th century (Wrocław 1975). The book culture of the early modern period in Poland was addressed in popular-science publications by Bieńkowska: *Staropolski świat książek* [*The World of Books in Early Modern Poland*] (Wrocław 1976) and Kosmanowa: *Książka i jej czytelnicy w dawnej Polsce* [*Books and Their Readers in Poland of Old*] (Warszawa 1981). A regional perspective was embraced, for example, by Maria Barbara Topolska, who did research on libraries in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.⁷

The most important studies on the history of medieval libraries include *Zbiory rękopiśmienne w Polsce średniowiecznej* [*Manuscript Collections in Medieval Poland*] (Warszawa 1947) authored by Maria Hornowska. The edition was based on a manuscript dating back to before 1939 and provided by Halina Zdzitowiecka-Jasińska. Rather than depicting individual libraries, their types, functions and roles in culture, the publication primarily described codices, mainly those at the Benedictine monastery on Łysa Góra, coming from the so-called Petersburg reclaims which were recovered by Poland in the wake of the Riga treaty of 1921 and largely destroyed in 1944. In the 1980s, Hornowska's handwritten notes were coincidentally discovered in the archives of the National Library. Considered lost in the war, the notes contained descriptions of 700 manuscripts 'found in 12 book collections of churches (e.g. in Wiślica and Beszowa) and monasteries (in the Benedictine monasteries on Łysa Góra and in Sieciechów, the Cistercian convents in Łąd, Paradyż, Koprzywnica and Sulejów, the house of the Canons Regular of the

⁷ She authored a book titled *Czytelnik i książka w Wielkim Księstwie Litewskim w dobie Renesansu i Baroku* [*The Reader and the Book in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the Renaissance and the Baroque*] (Wrocław 1984).

Lateran in Mstów and the monastery of the Canons Regular of the Holy Sepulchre in Miechów' (Kaliszук, 2014). Jerzy Kaliszuk used the discovered resources and other materials to produce a book titled *Codices deperditi. Średniowieczne rękopisy łacińskie Biblioteki Narodowej utracone w czasie II wojny światowej* [*Codices deperditi: Medieval Latin Manuscripts of the National Library Lost during the Second World War*] (Wrocław 2016), comprising an index of 1446 Latin manuscripts.

A description of medieval libraries is provided by Władysław Semkowicz's repeatedly re-printed *Paleografia łacińska* [*The Latin Palaeography*] (1st edition, Kraków 1951). Fourteenth- and fifteenth-century libraries in Poland were explored by Jacek Wiesiołowski in his book *Kolekcje historyczne w Polsce średniowiecznej XIV–XV wieku* [*Historical Collections in Medieval Poland in the 14th and 15th Centuries*] (Wrocław 1967) and by Potkowski, who devoted a considerable part of his study *Książka rękopiśmienna w kulturze Polski średniowiecznej* [*The Handwritten Book in Polish Medieval Culture*] (Warszawa 1984) to them. As to the cathedral (chapter) libraries, most attention was paid to those of Gniezno, Cracow, Plock and Wrocław, which were researched by Adam Vetulani in his studies on the Cracow and Plock libraries, by Marian Plezia in his work on the Cracow library, by Marian Rechowicz in his publications on the catalogues of various chapter libraries, by Jadwiga Rył in her investigation of the Gniezno library and, in recent years, by Kazimierz Rulka in his scrutiny of the Library of the Divinity School in Włocławek and by Piotr Tafiłowski in his studies on the libraries in Gniezno and Poznań. Research on parish and collegiate church libraries, mainly in Silesia, was carried out by Alfred Świerk in the 1970s, and today this effort is continued by Marek Tomasz Zahajkiewicz and Józef Mandziuk.

Research work on convent libraries progressed further. Studies were produced on the libraries of the Cistercians in Rudy (by Stanisław Ryband, 1977, 1979), in Mogiła (by Andrzej Wałkowski, 2009) and in Henryków (by Michał Broda, 2014), on the library of the Benedictines of the Holy Cross on Łysa Góra (by Marek Derwich, 1992) and on the library of the Canons Regular in Żagań (by Alfred Świerk, 1965). Attention-worthy are also articles on the library of the Franciscan convent in Chełmno by Kaliszuk and on the Pauline Fathers' manuscript collections by Janusz Zbudniewek. For their part, libraries of female convents remain under-researched, with Irena Czachorowska's article on the medieval libraries of the Silesian Clarissines being one of the few publications in this field. A thorough account of the medieval history of the Jagiellonian Library was offered by Jerzy Zathy's contribution to the collected volume of *Historia Biblioteki Jagiellońskiej* [*The History of the Jagiellonian Library*] (Vol. 1: 1364–1775, Kraków 1966). This theme was also addressed by books on a variety of aspects of late-medieval book culture, such as Mieczysław Gębarowicz's study of the *Psalterz floriański* [*Saint*

Florian Psalter], Urszula Borkowska's volume on royal prayerbooks in the 15th and 16th centuries and Agnieszka Bartoszewicz's work on townfolk's writings in late-medieval Poland.

Researchers mainly explored the ways of expanding book collections, the provenance of works, their relevance as a testimony to reading practices and social communication, the thematic structure of collections and their functions, including the role of sacred writings and the development of pragmatic writings from the 13th century on as a meaningful factor in medieval book-users' social and individual lives. There are few detailed studies devoted to the architecture and furnishing of libraries (e.g. by Rafał Werszler) or on the organisation and documentation of book collections and making them available to the public (e.g. by Wiesław Franciszek Murawiec and by Wojciech Mrozowicz on Franciscan libraries). Comparative research within individual library categories and more comprehensive analyses of their role in the circulation and social reception of books in medieval Poland are needed, because there are considerable differences in the status of research on respective regions, towns, centres and settings of book culture, with disproportion in the availability of resources being one reason for these disparities. Studies on the consequences caused by the appearance of prints in Polish library collections starting in the 1470s are also important (see e.g. Bieńkowska, 1976, p. 28; Buchwald-Pelcowa, 2005, p. 56; Potkowski, 2009, pp. 69–80).

An important position in post-war historical bibliological research was taken by explorations of the role of the book as a vehicle for the new intellectual movement and as an indispensable element of the toolkit of people's creative pursuits and everyday life in the Renaissance. This research focus is exemplified by a range of then-innovative and methodologically competent monograph studies that appeared in the 1950s and 60s, including Anna Lewicka-Kamińska's book on lawyer and diplomat Mikołaj Czepiel's book collections, Leszek Hajdukiewicz's study of the libraries of Cracow-based physician, geographer and historian Maciej of Miechów and Vice-Chancellor of the Crown Piotr Tomicki, Stanisław Sokół and Maria Pelczarowa's volume on the book collection of Gdansk-based physicians Krzysztof and Henryk Heyll, Waława Szelińska's study of the libraries of Cracow University's professors in the 15th and early 16th centuries, and the studies on the history of reading practices and book reception in Silesia by Głombiowski and Krzysztof Migoń. Important recent publications include Andrzej Obrębski's work on the so-called Volsciana, that is, the book collection accumulated by Piotr Dunin-Wolski, the Bishop of Plock.

The world of 16th–18th-century libraries was also portrayed in studies devoted to court collections, supremely exemplified by Kawecka-Gryczowa's *Biblioteka ostatniego Jagiellona* [*The Library of the Last Jagiellonian King*] (Wrocław 1988), which paints a comprehensive image of the history and content of king Sigismund II

Augustus' book collection. Other important studies include Pirożyński's works on the library of Sophia Jagiellon, Duchess of Brunswick, Janusz Tondel's publications on the collections of Albert, Duke of Prussia, and his wife Anna Maria, Irena Komasara's popular-science publications on the collections of king John III Sobieski and the Vasa kings, and Gębarowicz's paper on the early years of Polish royal libraries. No comprehensive study of Stanislaus II Augustus' Warsaw-based library has been produced yet, although records concerning it were published by Rudnicka in Wrocław in 1988, and its book collection held by the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine in Kyiv has already been catalogued (Łaskarzewska, 2002). This gap has only partly been filled by a handful of papers that discuss selected aspects of the history and operations of this library, authored by Rudnicka, Hanna Łaskarzewska, Alina Dzieciół and Ewa Manikowska, and by Józef Wojakowski's article on the king's library in Koźienice.

The role of books and libraries in the life of the ruling elites was explored in general and detailed studies, for example in Kamilia Schuster's book on the voivod of Poznań Krzysztof Opaliński's library in Sieraków and in Mariola Jarczykowska's study *Książka i literatura w kręgu Radziwiłłów birżańskich w pierwszej połowie XVII wieku* [*Books and Literature in the Circle of the Birz Radziwiłł Family in the First Half of the 17th Century*] (Katowice 1995). The library of Anna Katarzyna Radziwiłł, wife to the Grand Chancellor of Lithuania, in Biała (present-day Biała Podlaska) was studied by Wanda Karkucińska, and the library of Izabela Czarotoryska in Puławy was researched by Zdzisław Żygulski, Barbara Miodońska and Katarzyna Płonka-Bałus. Nevertheless, too little is known about aristocratic libraries, especially about the Radziwiłł library in Nieśwież (see e.g. Jaroszewicz-Pierśławcew, 1995), let alone of noblemen's libraries. The sparse writings on this theme primarily include a few papers by Helena Bogdanow published between 1975 and 1984, and a collected volume titled *Księgozbiory szlacheckie XVI–XVII wieku. Kolekcje historyczne* [*Noblemen's Book Collections in the 16th and 17th Centuries: Historical Collections*] (2 vols., Warszawa 2004–2009). As to the libraries of the upper clergy, the most thoroughly studied collections include those of the Archbishop of Lviv Jan Andrzej Próchnicki (a monograph study by Gębarowicz) and of Wrocław Canon Jan Leuderode (a monograph study by Wacław Urban). The book collections of the lower clergy have attracted far less scholarly attention, with a more robust development noticeable in research on the Silesian collectors of the 17th century, who were discussed by rev. Józef Mandziuk (*Saeculum Christianum*, vol. 11, no. 2, 2004). Considerably more publications have focused on burgher libraries. For the sake of brevity, I only cite the most significant contributions, specifically Maleczyńska's book *Z dziejów księgozbiorów mieszczańskich w Polsce 1506–1572* [*On the History of Burgher Book Collections in Poland, 1506–1572*] (Wrocław 1991) and two studies by Różycki on the Lviv

collections in the Baroque and on the book collection of the Alembek family, respectively (Wrocław 1994, Katowice 2001). This work was complemented by editions of source materials, such as, for example, a volume on book collections owned by the burghers of Lublin, edited by Elżbieta Torój, and numerous papers, for example, by Renata Żurkowa on the book collections of Cracow townspeople in the 17th century and by Krystyna Podlaszewska and Iwona Imańska on book collections in Gdansk and Elbląg in the 16th–18th centuries. Research was also launched into book collections in Poznan (the edition of source materials *Inwentarze mieszczańskie z lat 1528–1635 z ksiąg miejskich Poznania* [*Burgher Inventories from the Years 1528–1635 from the Municipal Records of Poznan*] edited by Stanisław Nawrocki and Jerzy Wisłocki, Poznań 1961, and an outline of the book collections of Poznan residents in the second half of the 16th century authored by Maria Kramperowa and Witold Meisel in 1960) and in Warsaw (Rudnicka's paper on these libraries under the reign of Stanislaus II Augustus).

As far as book collections of scholars, writers and artists are concerned, they tend to be referenced, albeit mainly as a secondary theme, in books and papers on the history of science, scholarship, literature and life-writing (the history of the book takes an important place, for example, in Henryk Barycz's *Z epoki renesansu, reformacji i baroku. Prądy, idee, ludzie, książki* [*On the Age of the Renaissance, the Reformation and the Baroque: Trends, Ideas, People, Books*], Warszawa 1971). More thematically focused publications include studies on the libraries of astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus (e.g. Leonard Jastrzębowski's monograph book from 1971 and later articles by Paweł Czartoryski and Grażyna Rosińska), of Renaissance writer Szymon Szymonowic (a monograph book authored by Wanda Szwarcówna) and of mid-17th-century merchant and newspaper editor Hieronim Pinocci (a monograph book penned by Karolina Targosz). Some scholarly interest was also aroused by the book collections owned by writer Biernat of Lublin, by Gdansk-based scholar Bartłomiej Keckermann, by Cracow-based physician Jan Innocenty Petrycy, by scholar and Polish-Brethren activist Stanisław Lubieniecki and by Cracow-based mathematician Jan Brożek; accounts of their libraries were penned by Stanisław Grzeszczuk, Beata Gryzio, Żurkowa and Janusz Tazbir. The research carried out by Ryszard Kazimierz Lewański in 1995–1996 yielded an outline of the history of and identified preserved books from the Library of the Polish Nation (*Bibliotheca nationis Polonae*), which operated at the University of Padua from the end of the 16th century until the 1750s.

An important body of work is represented by successive studies on the history of monastic libraries. Collected volumes, theme-focused books and general articles were produced on the libraries of the Cistercians (e.g. a collected volume on Cistercian libraries in Pomerania), the Franciscans (chiefly epitomised by Głombiowski's publication on the library in Nysa), the Discalced Carmelites in

Wiśnicz and Cracow on the Sand (a book by Szymon Sułeczki), the Basilian monks (monographs by Maria Piłypczak-Majerowicz), the Dominicans, the Carthusians (Krzysztof Nierzwicki's book), the Canons Regular, the Bernardines (e.g. a monograph study of the library in Leżajsk by Zbigniew Larendowicz), the Jesuits (e.g. a book on the organisation of their libraries produced by Ludwik Grzebień, and Jakub Zdzisław Lichański's papers on their book collection in Braniewo), the Benedictines, the Pauline Fathers and the Piarists (e.g. papers by Janusz Zbudniewek and Ryszard Mączyński). The libraries of female convents were less frequently researched (with Helena Szwejkowska notably investigating the library of the Cistercian Nuns in Trzebnica), but a comprehensive study of this subject was provided by Jolanta Gwioździk in her book *Kultura pisma i książki w żeńskich klasztorach dawnej Rzeczypospolitej XVI–XVIII wieku* [*Writing and Book Culture in Female Convents of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 16th–18th Centuries*] (Katowice 2015). Libraries of churches were also studied, with more wide-ranging research devoted to cathedral (chapter) libraries in Gniezno (Rył's already mentioned studies), Łowicz (e.g. works by Stanisław Librowski), Płock (studies by Waldemar Graczyk), Frombork (e.g. Halina Keferstein's publications) and Vilnius (writings by Wioletta Pawlikowska-Butterwick), and to collegiate church libraries in Sandomierz (e.g. Tomasz Moskal's book from 2013), Wiślica and Kielce. Research on parish libraries in the 16th–18th centuries was propelled by a paper in which Hieronim Eugeniusz Wyczawski depicted parish libraries of the Cracow diocese at the end of the 16th century. The newly sparked studies have yielded books by Krzysztof Maciej Kowalski, Moskal and Joanna Szady, with the authors focusing on the book collections in the archdeaconry of Pomerania (Gdańsk 1993) and Sandomierz (Sandomierz 2005) and in the provostry of Wiślicz (Lublin 2008). Important contributions also include studies on the libraries plundered by the Swedes in the 17th and 18th centuries, notably represented by the works of Czesław Pilichowski (*Z dziejów szwedzkich zaborów bibliotek i archiwów polskich w XVII i XVIII wieku* [*On the History of the Swedish Seizure of Polish Libraries and Archives in the 17th and 18th Centuries*], Gdańsk 1960) and Józef Trypućko. At the same time, our knowledge of the libraries of other denominations remains rather patchy, with a paper by Wojciech Kriegseisen being one of the few publications on this issue.

The history of the Jagiellonian Library between the 16th and the 18th century was investigated in the already mentioned collected volume *Historia Biblioteki Jagiellońskiej* [*The History of the Jagiellonian Library*] by Anna Lewicka-Kamińska for the period from 1492 to 1655 and by Hajdukiewicz for the years 1655–1775. In-depth insights into the Polish library system of the 18th century were also delivered by studies of the Załuski Library. As early as in 1948, Edward Kuntze 'deliberately referred to the pre-war times' (Kuntze's letter, 1947) in order

to showcase the continuity of the Polish library system under the changed political conditions by making the Biblioteka Rzeczypospolitej [Library of the Commonwealth] the focal theme of a dedicated issue of *Przegląd Biblioteczny* [Library Survey], which contained papers, among others, by Piotr Bańkowski and Łodyński. The authors further investigated the field in their later works published between 1959 and 1961, and the theme was picked up in studies by other researchers, such as Kupść, Kozłowski, Tadeusz Zarzębski, Zdzisław Libera and Elżbieta Gondek. The history of various types of libraries between 1740 and 1830 was outlined by Bednarska-Ruszajowa in her overview of the book in the Polish Enlightenment (Kraków 2004). The reign of Stanislaus II Augustus proved to be the most thoroughly researched period, particularly in the context of the politics and library-focused pursuits of the Commission of National Education (Polish: Komisja Edukacji Narodowej), as studied by Łodyński and Rudnicka. Inquiry was also launched into the rise of the idea of the public library and the development of library studies (mainly in Żbikowska-Migoń's works, including her book *Historia książki w XVIII wieku. Początki bibliologii* [The History of the Book in the 18th Century: The Beginnings of Bibliology], Warszawa 1989), the functions of Enlightenment writings in book collections (e.g. books: Rudnicka's *Biblioteka Ignacego Potockiego* [Ignacy Potocki's Library], Wrocław 1953, Żbikowska-Migoń's *Książka naukowa w kulturze polskiego Oświecenia* [The Science Book in Polish Enlightenment Culture], Wrocław 1977, and Wojakowski's *Biblioteka Królewskiego Korpusu Kadetów w Warszawie* [The Library of the Royal Corps of Cadets in Warsaw], Warszawa 1989, and papers by Zofia Sinko, Waclaw Olszewicz, Stefan Rosołowski and other authors) and athenaeums and lending libraries (a paper by Józef Szczepaniec). Researchers also examined library rooms and furnishings (Konrad Zawadzki), the protection and maintenance of book collections (Janisław Osieglowski), library processes (therein legal deposits) and librarians (e.g. Szczepaniec and Barbara Gerlich).

The consequences that Poland's loss of statehood had for the library system were obviously addressed in the post-war literature, which considered the persistence of the idea of the national library in the partition period and studied the projects of founding the holdings of Polish writings launched locally and in exile (an issue researched, for example, by Elżbieta Słodkowska, 1984). The turn of the 18th century (and the following decades) saw the disbanding of numerous convent libraries, a development studied by Tomasz Ciesielski and other scholars. Because until the partitions these libraries had dominated in Poland and their collections (though not all and not wholly) were taken over by Polish libraries, their dissolution should also be explored in the context of the emergence of the modern Polish library system (see Migoń, 2015, pp. 57–64).

4. THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES

A comprehensive account of the history of ‘the century of libraries’ (to use Żbikowska-Migoń’s coinage, 2005, p. 6) was provided by Maleczyńska’s popular-science book *Książki i biblioteki w Polsce okresu zaborów* [*Books and Libraries in Poland under Partitions*] (Wrocław 1987). The influence of the guidelines issued by the Commission of National Education before 1794 on the library policies of the Duchy of Warsaw (1807–1815) and the Kingdom of Poland⁸ (1815–1831) was the focus of studies and editions of source materials undertaken by Łodyński, published between 1958 and 1961. In the 1990, Zarzębski depicted the partitioning empires’ attitudes to libraries by examining the normative legislation from the years 1795–1918 that he compiled, and Jerzy Włodarczyk described the development of the librarian profession in partitioned Poland. Important studies focused on how the book and libraries contributed to inter-partition integration and to sustaining and kindling Polish national awareness (with Tokarska’s notable 2003 book on the cultural contacts between Upper Silesia and Cracow under partitions).

The history of Polish libraries in the Grand Duchy of Poznan was studied by Kosmanowa (Poznań 1982), in Teschen Silesia by Maria Pawłowicz (Katowice 1988), in Upper Silesia by Tokarska (Katowice 1997), and in the Kingdom of Poland between 1815–1830 by Słodkowska (Warszawa 1996), while German libraries in the Prussian province of Pomerania were researched by Kosman (Szczecin 2013). No similar monographs were produced, for example, for the regions of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth incorporated into Russia, but some new research developments are observable in this domain, as exemplified by Różycki’s studies of libraries in Podolia and Bratslav lands. Important studies also include the works of Maria Babnis (1989), Kocójowa (1990), Jadwiga Konieczna (2005), Danuta Wańka (2002) and Anna Siciak (2013), who examine libraries as institutions of book culture in cities such as Gdansk, Cracow, Lodz, Kalisz and Przemyśl, and towns, such as Wisła.

Under the Polish People’s Republic, special attention was paid to general librarianship in the western and central parts of Poland (e.g. Jan Wróblewski’s and Marian Lech’s studies on popular libraries). According to Zofia Gaca-Dąbrowska (1982, p. 71), this trend was politically motivated, because ‘the new political conditions called for establishing “the roots” for the robustly growing network of public libraries, for its Polish traditions in the regained territories.’ The political transition of 1989 fuelled research on Polish public libraries in the eastern borderlands. Additionally, public libraries of national minorities (especially the Jews) came into the orbit of research interest, but this field still remains underexamined. Important findings were reported in studies on the operations of athenaeums and lending libraries.

⁸ Translator’s note: Also known as the Congress Kingdom.

An outline of the history of school libraries from 1773 till the outbreak of the First World War was offered by Marcin Drzewiecki, and their role in Polish scholarship at the turn of the century was explored by Słodkowska. As far as academic libraries are concerned, the most thorough book accounts were produced for the history of the University Library in Warsaw by Helena Kozerska (Warszawa 1967) and Olena Błażejewicz (Warszawa 1990) and for the University Library in Poznań in studies by Jazdon and Jakub Skutecki (Poznań 2003). The publication of Karol Estreicher's *Kronika Biblioteki Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego* [*The Chronicle of the Jagiellonian University Library*] (Kraków 2004) was, so to speak, a prelude to the later work on the second volume of the history of this library (from 1775 to 1918).⁹ Until the 1970s, the Polish literature barely mentioned libraries in Vilnius and Lviv. After 1989, a welcome change took place owing to new developments, such as articles published as part of the series *Kraków-Lwów: książki, czasopisma, biblioteki* [*Cracow-Lviv: Books, Journals, Libraries*], initiated by Jerzy Jarowiecki in 1993. The number of publications on the 19th-century history of the University of Vilnius and its library is also increasing. Given their role in the scholarship and culture of the divided country, the libraries of Polish scientific and science-disseminating societies have also attracted interest from scholars. In this field, important works include Jerzy Reizes-Dzieduszycki's studies on student libraries in Lviv (Katowice 2005), Jan Reiter's publications concerning the libraries of Polish academic societies in Wrocław and Paszkiewicz's texts about Warsaw's Library of the Friends of Science Society (Polish: Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk). The activities of Vilnius-based scientific societies and institutions were described by Henryka Ilgiewicz (Toruń 2005).

The history of the libraries of state agencies and institutions was examined in the works of Wanda Stummer (*Biblioteka Sądu Apelacyjnego w Warszawie 1810–1865* [*The Library of the Court of Appeals in Warsaw, 1810–1865*], Wrocław 1958) and a handful of other authors. The history of church libraries in the Kingdom of Poland (1815–1830) was comprehensively discussed by Słodkowska in 1994. An array of extensive studies were devoted to respective libraries of the chapters of cathedrals and collegiate churches (e.g. in Gniezno) and of monasteries (e.g. Jolanta Małgorzata Marszalska's book on the Cistercians' library in Szczyrzyc, Tarnów 2007, and Graczyk's book on the library of the Discalced Carmelites in Czerna, Kraków 2011). As far as libraries of the landed gentry are concerned, research focused, for example, on collectors' motivations in the context of 'library patronage,' on bibliophilism and on assembling book collections for private use, for prestige or because of fashion (e.g. the works of Chamerska and Mężyński). For obvious reasons, historians' greatest interest was elicited by the libraries that served to preserve the national writing legacy and research; survey studies were

⁹ Editors' note: This book was edited by Piotr Lechowski and published in 2017.

devoted to them by, among other scholars, Józef Adam Kosiński, Ryszard Marciniak and Mężyński. Considerable attention was paid to the history of individual libraries. For example, the 19th-century history of the Library of the Ossoliński Institute in Lviv was retraced by Kosiński (Wrocław 1971) and Irena Lewandowska-Jaraczewska (Wrocław 1980); of the Kórnik Library, by Mężyński, Bogumiła Kosman and Marcei Kosman; of the Raczyński Library in Poznań, by B. Kosman (Bydgoszcz 1997) and Witold Molik (Poznań 1999) in their biographies of its founder Edward Raczyński; of the Zamoyski Family Estate in Warsaw by Bogdan Horodyski; and of Emeryk Hutten-Czapski's collection in Cracow, by Kocójowa (Kraków 1978). Besides, Rudnicka published a history of the Potocki family's library in Wilanów (Warszawa 1967), Maria Nitkiewicz produced a history of the Potocki family's library in Łańcut, Wojakowski came up with a history of the book collections of Kajetan Sapieha in Dereczyn and of Waclaw Seweryn Rzewuski in Podhorce (Warszawa 1996), and Jan Wegner penned a history of the Radziwiłł family's library in Nieborów. Research was also carried out on the libraries of the Baworowskis in Lviv, of the Czartoryskis in Cracow and Sieniawa, of the Lubomirskis in Przeworsk, of the Tarnowskis in Dzików and of the Branickis and the Tarnowskis in Sucha Beskidzka (a monograph book by Helena Małysiak, Bielsko-Biała 1986). Despite these efforts, our knowledge of the nobility's libraries is still far from satisfying, and the study of them is hampered by the fact that the available sources are fragmentary and the book collections in question are dispersed, with the latter issue addressed, for example, by Bogumiła Schnajdrowa, Maria Strutyńska and Lilia Kowkiel.

Doing research on 19th-century domestic libraries (book collections) is a highly challenging venture since these collections were dispersed or went missing as a result of historical upheavals in the 19th and 20th centuries, estate divisions or selling. Often, they are 'libraries that are not there,' to use Agnieszka Chamera-Nowak's wording of the title of her monograph study of Andrzej Edward Koźmian's book collection (Warszawa 2015). However, new studies that contain important findings on the roles and significance of private book collecting and using (e.g. in eastern Galicia investigated by Szocki, Kraków 2001, in the Grodno region researched by Kowkiel, Kraków 2005, and in Lublin studied by Anna Dymmel, Lublin 2013) continue to appear. Gaps in this domain are also gradually filled by research on the book culture of various social strata, groups and communities, with lawyers studied in this respect by Bożena Koredczuk (Wrocław 2011), physicians by Andrzej Skrzypczak and peasants by Jan Leończuk, as well as by the studies and editions of source materials concerning private collections of the luminaries of Polish culture and scholarship, such as Stanisław Staszic, Konstanty Świdziński, Józef Ignacy Kraszewski, Józef Szujski, Bolesław Prus and many other distinguished personages.

The history of Polish libraries in exile should be a carefully cultivated research field of historical bibliology, as Andrzej Kłossowski insisted in his *Historia książki polskiej za granicą* [*The Polish Book Abroad: A History*] from 1980. As far as this subject area is concerned, the most complete studies are available on the 19th-century history of the Polish Library in Paris, with Janusz Pezda's 2013 book being the chief contribution. Other libraries of this kind that have attracted interest from scholars include the Versailles library, the library of the Polish School in Batignolles, the Polish Library in Romania, and Artur Wołyński's library and the Polish Library in Rome (e.g. a book by Jan Piskurewicz, Warszawa 2012). Important studies in this respect were a historical survey of the Library of the Polish Academics' Scientific Society in Berlin offered by Ryszard Ergetowski and a book on the Polish book in Russia penned by Jacek Kuszłejko (Warszawa 1993). The history of the Polish Museum's Library in Rapperswil was addressed, for example, in the library biographies of Stefan Żeromski authored by Bartłomiej Szyndler (Wrocław 1977) and of Stanisław Zieliński written by Beata Bartzak (Toruń 2000).

Biographical studies on the founders and employees of Polish libraries add significant elements to the picture of 19th-century librarianship on Polish lands. Important studies of this kind include works focused on Joachim Lelewel (e.g. by Witold Nowodworski and Helena Więckowska), on Tadeusz Czacki (by Ewa Danowska), on Samuel Bogumił Linde (by Olena Błażejewicz), on Jerzy Samuel Bandtkie, on Karol Estreicher (by Jan Baumgart), on Wojciech Kętrzyński (by Krystyna Korzon), on Jan Działyński (by Mężyński) and on Stanisław Kościński (by Barbara Mauer-Górska).

The interwar period was comprehensively depicted by Gaca-Dąbrowska in her study *Bibliotekarstwo II Rzeczypospolitej* [*Librarianship of the Second Republic*] (Wrocław 1983). This fundamental study was later complemented by Włodarczyk's book on the librarian profession, Zarzębski's analysis of the relevant legislation and Jadwiga Kołodziejska's studies on libraries in the social structure of the Second Republic of Poland. Some salient studies devoted to the history of libraries in Silesia were penned, for example, by Henryk Rechowicz, Małgorzata Gwadera and Bogumiła Warząchowska. The operations of educational facilities in the Lublin region were presented by Jerzy Plis, and of those in Mazovia by Monika Olczak-Kardas. The libraries — and other book-related institutions — of the Vilnius region are described in the encyclopaedic volume of *Książka i prasa na ziemi wileńskiej. Drukarnie, wydawnictwa, księgarnie, biblioteki, czasopisma XVI w. — 1945 r.* [*Books and the Press in the Vilnius Region: Printshops, Publishers, Bookshops and Periodicals from the 16th Century to 1945*], edited by Mieczysław Jackiewicz. Extensive studies on the libraries of Kalisz were published by Krzysztof Walczak, on those of Białystok by Zofia Sokół, and of Krzemieniec

by Kazimiera Warda, while an outline of the history of Gdansk's libraries was authored by Marek Andrzejewski and Iwona Niechciał. This body of work received an addition from papers that depicted operations of various types of facilities, for example, in Cracow (by Piotr Lechowski) and in Lodz (by Iwona Kaczmarek). Research into the history of the library system in respective regions, subregions and towns can be aided by reference works produced under Bienkowska's supervision and concerning libraries in the Eastern Borderlands of the Second Republic of Poland and the war-induced losses in the areas that found themselves within the Polish borders after 1944.

A range of matters, such as the architecture, equipment, organisation, funding, staffing, library process development and the role of libraries in the education system, science and culture of the Second Republic were discussed both in the thematically dedicated studies and in the literature on respective library types and individual libraries. Those are represented by Gaca-Dąbrowska's paper on research libraries and works devoted to individual institutions of this kind, including the National Library in Warsaw (by Danuta Rymysz-Zalewska), the Silesian Library (by Barbara Maresz), the Jagiellonian Library (by Jan Brzeski) and the Library of the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment in Warsaw (by Jolanta Dzieciakowska). As for libraries of family estates, the Library of the Krasiński Family Estate was depicted in exhaustive studies by Konrad Ajewski and Halina Tchórzewska-Kabata. Also, Ilgiewicz's book on the Eustachy and Emilia Wróblewski State Library was published, and important studies on the Ossolinski Institute Library (by, for example, Korzon) and the Kórnik Library (by Zbigniew Kalisz) appeared. There are also more recent studies of church and monastic libraries, military libraries (by Eugenia Maria Horodyska and Józef Karol Sługocki), pedagogical libraries (by Dzieciakowska) and libraries of scientific and science-disseminating societies. However, the lack of studies on interwar economic, agrarian and technical libraries represents a noticeable gap in research.

Research was carried out to retrace the history of some larger and smaller public libraries, for example, in Warsaw, Lublin and Radom. Important work was also done on social organisations involved in library services, such as the Society of Community Reading Rooms (Polish: Towarzystwo Czytelni Ludowych) (e.g. works by Witold Jakóbczyk and Eugenia Sławińska), the 'Wici' Polish Rural Youth Association (Polish: Związek Młodzieży Wiejskiej 'Wici') (by Grażyna Gzella), the Folk School Society (Polish: Towarzystwo Szkoły Ludowej) (by Maria Jolanta Żmichowska) and the Polish Educational Society (Polish: Polska Macierz Szkolna). Progress has taken place in research on the role of libraries in the life of national minorities, with the most important contribution made by Zdzisław Gębołyś's book on the German library network, which also briefly depicted Ukrainian, Belarussian, Lithuanian, Czech, Russian and Jewish libraries.

Studies on the history of domestic libraries importantly include Maresz's work on book collections from Lviv and the borderlands held by the Silesian Library, and Weronika Pawłowicz's study on the collections of the Polish Catholic clergy in Upper Silesia; besides, an array of (mostly minor and rather basic) articles have been published on the book collections of writers, social activists and clergymen. Libraries of bibliophile societies, for example in Cracow and Vilnius, have been studied as well (monographs by Barbara Szornel-Dąbrowska and Ewa Andrysiak).

The interwar history of Polish libraries would not be complete without research on institutions that operated outside Poland. A general overview of this theme was already offered by Marian J. Lech and Janusz Albin in the 1970s. Polish library work in Germany of the time was depicted by Wróblewski and Jerzy Ratajewski. Yet, except for Wróblewski's paper on Kaunas Lithuania, there is a dearth of wide-ranging studies on the history of the Polish book and libraries in other neighbour countries, in particular in the USSR and Czechoslovakia. The history of the Polish Library in Paris was outlined by Irena Gałęzowska and far more comprehensively portrayed by Franciszek Pułaski. There are also articles reporting important findings on the Library of the Museum of Contemporary Poland in Rapperswil.

The period of the Second World War in the history of Polish librarianship has been abundantly studied. The bibliography of the most important literature published by 1993 and focused solely on the war-time losses includes more than 900 items (Puchalski, 2004, pp. 149–159). These studies were used by Bieńkowska and colleagues to draw up a report titled *Straty bibliotek w czasie II wojny światowej w granicach Polski z 1945 roku* [*The Losses of Libraries within the Polish Borders of 1945 during the Second World War*] (Warszawa 1994). Containing the as-yet most complete estimates of the war-time losses, the report provided a starting point for extensive studies, such as Lechowski's publications on Cracow's libraries and Mężyński's work on Warsaw-based libraries. More effort is needed to further the study of libraries in the Eastern Borderlands, with Matwijów's publications on the libraries of Lviv serving as a good example. Researchers have also explored the war-time history of libraries of national minorities and the post-war history of so-called protected — both German and manor-house — collections, which was depicted in dedicated monographs by Ryszard Nowicki and Stefan Iwaniak. This theme has also been handled in other studies, for example in Marszałska's work on the Sanguszkó family's library and archives and in articles by other scholars (e.g. Plis and Łaskarzewska). These issues tie in with the problem of the restitution of cultural goods, which is studied by Dariusz Matelski and other researchers.

Work on the Polish libraries abroad during and in the direct aftermath of the Second World War can be aided by *Biblioteki polskie poza krajem w latach 1938–1948* [*Polish Libraries outside Poland, 1938–1948*], a reference work developed by

Paszkievicz and Janusz Szymański. This field calls for detailed research as borne out by Agnieszka Łakomy's dissertation, which among other issues addresses the activity of Polish libraries in Western Germany from 1945 to 1950.

Under the Polish People's Republic, plentiful collected works, surveys and monograph studies examining issues related to the latest history of libraries and librarianship were published, including works by Więckowska and Leon Łoś and a multi-author volume titled *50 lat Biblioteki Narodowej. Warszawa 1928–1978* [*Fifty Years of the National Library: Warsaw, 1928–1978*] (Warszawa 1984). However, my argument will focus on the studies published after 1989. Like in the past, researchers' foci over the last twenty-five years have comprised the rebuilding, organisation and activities of the library system, in particular of public libraries, between 1944 and 1948 (e.g. studies by Puchalski and Lechowski). The dismissal of Józef Grycz from his post of the Chief Director of Libraries and the disbanding of the National Book Institute (Polish: Państwowy Instytut Książki) in 1949 (examined by Małgorzata Korczyńska-Derkacz) symbolically marked the onset of the 'Stalinist deformation in the Polish library system,' to use Mężyński's pithy expression (1990, pp. 19–23). Among the publications that explore this theme, a distinguished place is held by Stanisław Adam Kondek's *Papierowa rewolucja* [*The Paper Revolution*] (Warszawa 1999). Publications of source materials (e.g. edited by Zbigniew Żmigrodzki) and numerous detailed works on library censorship and the ideological 'cleansing' of the collections (e.g. studies by Andrzej Drózdź and Marta Nadolna-Tłuczykont) have appeared as well. Nevertheless, to fill all the 'blank spots' in the historiographic map of the Polish library system in the post-war period will take a lot more research.

The redressing of the gaps will certainly be furthered by studies on the history of libraries in various regions (with Podlechia researched by Marzena Kowalczyk and Upper Silesia examined in collected volumes edited by Pawłowicz), cities and towns, such as Kielce, Lodz and Sieradz (works by Grażyna Gulińska, Janusz Dunin and Zbigniew Łuczak). The operations of public libraries and the factors that affected them under People's Poland were depicted by Kołodziejska and Jerzy Maj, and Puchalski has recently published an outline of the research library system in the Polish People's Republic and abroad. The literature on school and pedagogical libraries is relatively abundant (e.g. studies by Drzewiecki). Prison libraries have been researched and described by Barbara Elżbieta Zybort.

Regarding the history of respective libraries, the bulk of publications investigate public libraries of various sizes and ranks, including voivodship and municipal libraries in Warsaw, Lodz, Lublin and Zamość. As to research libraries, more extensive post-1989 studies have focused on the National Library and some university libraries, such as the University Library in Wrocław, the University Library in Warsaw, the Jan Kochanowski University Library in Kielce and the li-

braries of Technical Universities in Lodz and Wroclaw (e.g. studies by Kłossowski, Jan Ożóg and Czesława Garnysz and collected volumes edited by Mężyński, and Henryk Szarski and Jadwiga Wojtczak). Libraries of some institutions of the Polish Academy of Sciences and scientific societies — including the Czartoryski Museum in Cracow, the Gdansk Library of PAS and the Plock Scientific Society's Library — also have had more recent historical studies devoted to them (monographs by Zdzisław Żygulski Jr, Adam Zamoyski and Marek Rostworowski, and Anna Maria Stogowska, and a collected volume edited by Babnis and Zbigniew Nowak). The Library of the Main Statistical Office (Polish: Główny Urząd Statystyczny) is one central administration institution to have had its history researched in a separate study (by Bożena Łazowska). A new study of the history of the Central Military Library can be sparked by the development of its timeline. In recent years, publications on the history of voivodship pedagogical libraries, for example, in Lublin, Opole and Kielce, have marked their anniversaries. The latest hallmarks of the historiography of church libraries include the monograph studies of the Wroclaw Chapter Library by Bernadeta Iwańska-Cieślik and of the Theological Seminar Library in Pelplin by Barbara Góra.

A future landscape of the history of the library system in the Polish People's Republic as a whole should also encompass studies on the libraries of ethnic groups and religious denominations. Such research has been undertaken, among other scholars, by Zoja Jaroszewicz-Pieresławcew. It is urgent to explore more in-depth the private book-collecting pursuits and the bibliophile movement, a subject addressed, for example, by Cecylia and Janusz Dunin and by Janusz Kapuścik. More extensive research is needed on a range of issues, such as the development of library law under People's Poland and its influence on the operations of the library system (this subject was only generally broached by Zarzębski), library processes, the pragmatics and the professional status of librarians and the librarian community. The latter issues have been somewhat illuminated by biographical studies (e.g. a collected volume titled *Twórcy nowoczesnego bibliotekarstwa polskiego* [*The Founders of the Modern Polish Library System*], Wrocław 1974), reference works such as, notably, *Słownik Pracowników Książki Polskiej* [*The Dictionary of the Polish Book Personnel*] (Łódź 1972 and later supplements) and memoir publications (e.g. *Współtwórcy bibliotekarstwa polskiego. Wywiady i wspomnienia z lat 1979–1998* [*The Co-Founders of the Polish Library System: Interviews and Reminiscences, 1979–1998*], edited by Barbara Sordylowa, Warszawa 2002). Importantly, the multiplicity of publications on particular individuals does not always translate into a comprehensive account of their personalities, work and relevance. No thorough study of the history of the Polish Librarians' Association has been produced so far, with this gap being only partly bridged by the *Kronika Stowarzyszenia Bibliotekarzy Polskich 1917–2007* [*The Chronicle of the Polish*

Librarians' Association, 1917–2007], edited by Andrzej Kempa in 2007.¹⁰ The role of branch journals in the development of the theory and practice of library services in Poland is another field to be studied in a more concerted way, with Zbigniew Gruszka's study on *Przegląd Biblioteczny [Library Survey]* (2012) representing a worthy effort of this kind.

A brief outline of the post-war history of Polish libraries abroad was published by Kłossowski, and their operations in the UK were depicted by Maria Danilewicz-Zielińska and Jadwiga Szmidt. The existing literature on the other countries, regions and cities and on the library activities of Polish émigré and Polonia organisations may provide a starting point for future detailed research. The most thorough accounts of the history and library collections are available for the institutions that founded the Permanent Conference of Polish Museums, Archives and Libraries in the West in 1979 (under this name since 1986), in particular for the Polish Library in Paris (e.g. works by Mężyński, Jerzy Mond and Łaskarzewska), the Polish Library in London (a study edited by Zdzisław Jagodziński), the Archives, Libraries and Museums of Polonia at Orchard Lake, the Polish Museum in America, the Polish Museum in Rapperswil, the Polish Scientific Institute in America (the Alfred Jurzykowski Library), the Józef Piłsudski Institute in London (a book by Janusz Zuziak), the Józef Piłsudski Institute of America (a study by Janusz Cisek and the Polish Underground Movement Study Trust in London (a reference work by Andrzej Suchcitz). The history of Polish libraries outside Poland between 1945 and 1989 also comprises biographical studies (*Kustosze księgozbiorów polskich za granicą [Curators of Polish Book Collections Abroad]*, edited by Łaskarzewska, Warszawa 2013). Research projects focused on private book collections are launched as well.

In 1950, Birkenmajer stated that, in the aftermath of the war, 'there was no time for [...] creative scholarly work in book and library science. Given this, the harvest in this field for the years 1945–1950 is still modest and scant, especially when compared with the pre-war harvest,' because the number of studies 'is scarce [...], their foci casual and thus random, more sizeable publications are barely there, and, with few exceptions, studies have either been very minor contributions or taken shortcuts by using the prior literature rather than first-hand sources' (Birkenmajer, 1975, pp. 54, 60).

¹⁰ Translator's note: A extensive multi-author volume titled *Stowarzyszenie Bibliotekarzy Polskich. Przeszłość i teraźniejszość 1917–2017 [The Polish Librarians' Association: The Past and the Present, 1917–2017]*, edited by Jadwiga Konieczna, was published in 2017.

Regarding this assessment, one cannot but conclude that, despite all the deficiencies reported above, research on the history of libraries and librarianship has greatly developed since the mid-1950s. Research efforts have yielded books, problem-focused and monograph papers, surveys and popular-science publications that have made substantial conceptual and methodological contribution to the work of Polish historical bibliology. This was made possible by the expansion of the available source base for the study, advancements in source analysis and criticism, the development of methodological reflection and the growth of the community interested in historical work. The latter aspect is linked to the foundation of academic programmes providing librarian education and training and the scholarly pursuits of their staff; the activities of specialised institutions, such as the National Library's Institute of the Book and Readership, the Centre for Church Archives, Libraries and Museums at the Catholic University of Lublin, the Workgroup for the Study of Cistercian History and Culture at the History Department of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, and the Laboratory for Research on the History of Orders and Ecclesiastical Congregations (Larhcor) at the Institute of History, University of Wrocław; and librarians' scholarly and research pursuits. The history of libraries has also been explored, albeit mostly as a secondary issue, by historians of literature, science, education, culture, art and architecture, social scientists, ethnologists and language-and-literature scholars interested, for example, in the holdings and functions of Polish libraries abroad. The development of historical research has been importantly stimulated by bibliological (and other) journals, published both nationwide and by individual libraries and universities, which initiate studies and publish their findings.

The current body of knowledge on the history of libraries and librarianship appears to be, on the one hand, the composite of individual inquiries undertaken by respective scholars and, on the other, the result of research projects launched (with varying intensity and consistency) in priority research fields of bibliological hubs, in particular in Wrocław, Warsaw, Cracow and Katowice, and of research institutions dedicated to the study of the history of religious orders and ecclesiastical congregations.

Translated by Patrycja Poniatońska

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RESEARCH ON THE HISTORY OF LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANSHIP IN POLAND: A SURVEY, 1945–2015

Summary

The author of the article discusses selected academic and popular publications on the history of libraries and librarianship in Poland which were issued between 1945 and 2015. In that period, information about the most important historical resources of various Polish libraries and early book collections was made available. In addition, the period was marked by progress in the study of materials originating before the end of the 18th century. Scholars published a range of methodological works and works about sources, contributing to the development of scholarship. At the same time, there were too few editions of source materials.

After 1989, scholars intensified their efforts to find sources in foreign collections, especially in Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Russia and Germany. Polish collections kept abroad are yet to be fully researched and to have their inventories and catalogues published.

The vast body of literature is uneven when it comes to its focus on individual historical periods, regions, subregions and local centres. It comprises publications on the history of libraries, their function and role in culture with regard to the history of publications focused on the types of libraries or individual libraries — of different traditions, sizes and the book, and stature. Scholars also explored the history of private book collections, reading rooms and libraries, as well as biographies of librarians and collectors. The quality of the publications varies. There are gaps in, for example, the history of libraries in the former Polish eastern borderlands and ‘blank pages’ in the historiography of Polish librarianship after the Second World War. There is a visible shortage of quantification of phenomena from the past of libraries, despite the fact that there are some possibilities in this respect. What is also needed is development in comparative studies, including from an international perspective, although this would require Polish historians to become more interested than before in the history of librarianship in other countries.