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HELENA POLACZKÓWNA (1881–1942) – CUSTODIAN OF THE BERNARDINE ARCHIVES IN L'VIV

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The professional and research activity of the famous Polish archivist and expert in specialized historical disciplines (heraldry, genealogy, sphragistics) Helena Polaczkówna, who lived and worked in L'viv, was studied. The article reviews her studies in L'viv and Paris, her academic publications, her teaching at Poznań University, with emphasis on her significant contribution to the development of archive institutions in L'viv in 1920s – 1930s.

Key words: Helena Polaczkówna, L'viv, archives, specialized historical disciplines.

Helena Maria Franciszka Polaczkówna was born on February 24, 1881 in L'viv¹. She was a descendant of a very patriotic family: her father, Adam, who took part in the January Uprising, spent long years as an exile in France². He completed medical studies there, but the family lived a very modest life in L'viv and the daughters – Helena and her elder sister Maria, had to start early to earn the means to cover the costs of their education (by providing private tuition). But their sacrifices were not in vain: both sisters achieved prominent positions in Polish academic life.

Maria (1878–1944)³ was a doctor of history. Before World War I, and then in nineteen-twenties, she worked with Professor Eugeniusz Romer (Geographical Institute of L'viv University). After some years in Przemyśl, where she worked in Municipal Archives, she returned to L'viv, where she taught history and geography at local schools until she retired in 1938. She was the author or co-author of geography textbooks and of a valuable monograph “Wahania klimatyczne w Polsce w wiekach średnich” (Climatic Fluctuations in Medieval Poland, L'viv, 1925).

¹ This paper is another harbinger of a monograph, being prepared, devoted to Helena Polaczkówna. From among the major studies on her let us mention the following biographical entries: Kielbicka A. Polaczkówna Helena // *Polski Słownik Biograficzny* (hereinafter: PSB). – Wrocław, 1982. – T. 27. – S. 267–269; and Kaput W. Polaczkówna Helena // *Słownik biograficzny archiwistów polskich*. – Warszawa, 1988. – T. 1: 1918–1984 / red. M. Bielińska, I. Janosz-Biskupowa. – S. 170–172. The authors of these entries did not make use of extensive correspondence between H. Polaczkówna and Oswald Balzer in the collection of manuscripts of Ossoliński National Institution in Wrocław (hereinafter: Oss.), manuscript 7687/II or L'viv archive records.

² Kaput W. Polaczkówna Helena... – S. 170.

³ Chałubińska A. Polaczkówna Maria (1878–1944) // *PSB*. – Wrocław, 1982. – T. 27. – S. 269–271; Bobusia B. *Maria Polaczkówna*. – Przemyśl, 1984, *passim*.

Both sisters lived together in L'viv at 29 Listopada Street, now Jevhena Konovaltsya Street. During the German occupation, Maria, similarly to Helena, became involved in educational, charitable and conspiratorial activities. After her sister arrest in Spring 1942, she went to Warsaw, where she died, or was killed during Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

However, let us revert to Helena's fortunes. In 1889–1894 she attended a secondary school in Cracow, run by Nuns of the Visitation. In years 1902/03 – 1906/07 Helena was studying. As one of the first women, Helena was studying history at the Faculty of Philosophy of the L'viv University, though she obtained a school leaving certificate only in 1905⁴.

Already as a student, in the academic year of 1907/8, she was a trainee at the National Archives of Municipal and Land Register, commonly known as the Bernadine Archives⁵. For her work she received a modest remuneration for a three-hour daily work, promoting skill development in diplomatics and paleography. In 1909–1911⁶ she became again an archivist trainee.

Ludwik Finkel, Stanisław Zakrzewski, Tadeusz Wojciechowski and, in particular, Oswald Balzer, the long-time director of the said Archives, were her academic masters. In 1909, for her dissertation “De Lumbres, the French Ambassador and His Diplomatic Mission to Poland in the Times of the Potop (Flood) 1656–1660”, she was awarded a doctorate. This was the third doctorate obtained by a woman at the L'viv University, highly starred both by the promotor, Ludwik Finkel and the examiner – Bronisław Dembiński⁷. Certainly, she wanted to devote herself to pedagogical work, what is reflected by her passing teachers examinations in history and geography. Fruition of these plans was impeded by tuberculosis that afflicted her in 1910/11, whose effect she still felt for many years to come; to improve her health she had to frequently leave the “*smoky L'viv*”⁸, to go to Zakopane and Truskavets' for climatic cure. In one of her letters to Oswald Balzer she wrote: “To be frank, I take pleasure in my stay in Zakopane, the absence of work and working hour routine, though I like the Archive very much. I think, however, that after a rest here I would gladly return to the daily grind”⁹.

Miss Helena commenced her career on May 1, 1911, in the capacity of an assistant to the Industrial Inspection in L'viv¹⁰. Until the Summer of 1917 she inspected, in that capacity, work places employing mainly women¹¹.

⁴ Державний архів Львівської області (hereinafter: ДАЛО), ф. 26, оп. 15, спр. 718, арк. 79–80 зв.; certificate dated 26.IX.1907.

⁵ Some light on the circumstances of obtaining the pupillage and on Polackówna's personality is shed by a fragment of a letter to Balzer, written many years later, where she reminisces: “...the times of my endeavours for archive pupillage which I wanted to obtain from your free choice, without any pressure, whereas the late professor Mańkowski, having learnt about my plans, from his own initiative and following his own heart hastened to recommend me to you when I wanted to keep the matter in strictest secrecy. We had to make an effort to thank him where I really felt disappointed” (Oss., manuscript 7687/II, p. 294, Lwów, 25.IX.1929; nb. She entered L'viv by mistake, as it is evident from the contents that at that time she was in Zakopane).

⁶ Ciara S. *Archiwa a uniwersytety w Krakowie i Lwowie w latach 1877/78–1918*. – Warszawa, 2002. – S. 95.

⁷ ДАЛО, ф. 26, оп. 15, спр. 726, арк. 283 зв.; Suchmiel J. *Działalność naukowa kobiet w Uniwersytecie we Lwowie do roku 1939*. – Częstochowa, 2000. – S. 104–105.

⁸ Oss., manuscript 7687/II, p. 217, Zakopane, 14.III.1924. This particular letter was written during her long six-weeks sick leave.

⁹ Ibidem, p. 231, Zakopane, 26.V.1925.

¹⁰ Ibidem, p. 1–2, Cracow, 18.IV.1911: Polackówna thanks Balzer for her employment in the Archive, pointing out that she was leaving it with regret. The reasons for her leaving the Archives are unknown. On her work in the Industrial Inspection see: *Szematyzm Królestwa Galicyi i Lodomerii z Wielkim Księstwem Krakowskim na rok 1913*. – Lwów, 1913. – S. 390.

On July 26, 1917 she returned to the Bernadine Archives, to work there for almost a quarter century, in the positions of adjunct, archivist and, finally, custodian and archivist again (with a break in 1940–1941)¹². In autumn of 1917 she attended as an archivist in the founding meeting of the Society of Polish Librarians, formed by workers of related professions¹³. She went through dramatic moments of Polish history and her native city. In the decisive moment of the struggle with the Bolshevist invasion, when Budionny's Horse Army stood almost at the gates of L'viv, she did not leave the city, watching over the archives. On August 15, 1920 she wrote to Balzer, then in Rabka: "We live here from day to day and could not indulge in rest anywhere outside L'viv"¹⁴.

In 1922–1923, with the help of a modest scholarship from the Polish government, she studied diplomatics and heraldry at the *École des Chartes* and *École Pratique des Hautes Études* in the French capital. In one of her letters to Balzer, she precised her Paris plan: "I wish rather to watch scientific facilities at *École des Chartes* – like sources, methods of academic work and, finally, to visit some medieval archives"¹⁵.

She designed her curriculum herself, as an unenrolled student. Additionally to diplomatics it comprised paleography, archive keeping ("service des archives"), sphragistics, civil law and canon law, history of political, administrative and judiciary institutions of France, sources for the history of France, French language and literature. Her professor valued highly her qualifications in respect of auxiliary disciplines: "M. Prinnet himself read my exposé on Polish heraldry to the attendants of his course, with laudatory comments"¹⁶. However, some professors were not to her taste: "I gave up Mr Lelong's lectures on archives. Please imagine Dr. Prochaska in terms of age and manner of speech, and he likes to talk a lot: two hours of lecture without a break. He, the only professor with whom the entire school is on a war footing. I wonder if all archivists must look like that when old"¹⁷ – she wrote in a letter to Balzer on December 19, 1922.

After her return from Paris she undertook the daily toil in L'viv archive, in 1919–1933, called the District Archive and then, in 1933–1939 – of the State Archives. Archivist work of Polaczówna, similarly to that of her colleagues, Dr. Wojciech Hejnosz and Dr. Karol Maleczyński focused on organising, cataloguing and registering Przemyśl municipal and district books, in particular of "oblata" series¹⁸. She also catalogued archival deposits of the towns of Belz and Hlyniany.

The publication of Przemyśl registers, in the form of one of the volumes of the monumental series of Municipal and District Records of the times of the Polish Commonwealth

¹¹ Czajeka B. "Z domu w szeroki świat...": droga kobiet do niezależności w zaborze austriackim w latach 1890–1914. – Kraków, 1990. – S. 103; Suchmiel J. *Działalność naukowa kobiet w Uniwersytecie we Lwowie...* – S. 104.

¹² Archiwum Akt Nowych in Warsaw (hereinafter: AAN), Ministry of Religious Confessions and Public Enlightenment (hereinafter: MWRiOP), no 5088, p. 2.

¹³ Korzon K. *Ludwik Bernacki. Bibliolog i edytor.* – Wrocław, 1974. – S. 209.

¹⁴ Oss., manuscript 7687/II, p. 16, letter dated 14.VIII.1920.

¹⁵ Ibidem, p. 83, Paris, 17.VIII.1922.

¹⁶ Ibidem, p. 113, Paris, 21.III.1923.

¹⁷ Ibidem, p. 99.

¹⁸ Центральний державний історичний архів України, м. Львів (hereinafter: ЦДІАЛ), ф. 145, оп. 1, спр. 58, passim: individual report of H. Polaczówna for 1929–1939; *Sprawozdanie z działalności Archiwów Państwowych. Rok 1937/* na podstawie materiałów dostarczonych przez poszczególne Archiwa Państwowe opracował A. Rybarski // *Archeion.* – 1938–1939. – T. 16. – S. 169, Kaput W. Polaczówna Helena... – S. 171.

to commemorate the VII Congress of Polish Historians¹⁹. The Congress was planned to take place in L'viv in 1940, and it did not come off for well-known reasons.

On the other hand, H. Polaczkówna was successful with other editions of sources from collection of the Archive: "Najstarsza księga sądowa wsi Trześniowa (The Oldest Court Register of Trześniowa Village) 1419–1609", published in 1923, was awarded a prize by the Ministry of Religious Confessions and Public Enlightenment²⁰ and "Księga radziecka miasta Drohobycza (Council Register of the Town of Drohobych), 1542–1563", published 13 years later.

Extensive archival research also requested by her colleagues – eg. Dr. Włodzimierz Budka, was very time consuming – "he floods our archive with research on his Przyłuski". And I asked him straight away: how much longer am I to research his Przyłuski. He just laughed and promises that it was for the last time²¹. For reasons of her academic competence she also carried out research on genealogical and heraldry subjects. This was not an easy research. In a letter to Eugeniusz Barwiński, director combined, after Balzer's death, District and State Archives, she wrote: "What concerns our heraldry research, I would allow myself to observe that those originating in the regions of former Galicia are among the more difficult, but however, those from the former Congress Kingdom are the most difficult". We may say what we please, but based on my own research I came to the conviction that the Prussian Heraldry was the most academic of all partition powers, organized city arms according to a system. In Austria, and perhaps also in Russia such matters were treated entirely arbitrarily. Hence the arguments for the grounds, why a city uses such coat of arms, and not another, represents work that is in no relation to its effect. One can be aware that aspiration of a city to a certain coat of arms are rightful but it is difficult to provide evidence, required by the Ministry²². Of course there was also more serious academic research, e. g. "History of Ruthenia in Connection with Tartar Harassment and Armenia Colonization"²³. For Stanisław Ptaszycki, director of State Archives, she looked for archivalia, related to Warsaw Confederation (Act of religion tolerance in Poland 1573)²⁴, and for Dr. Budka, a Cracow archivist – for water marks (filigrees)²⁵.

It is evident from extant reports that she performed a list of office work in the Archive – she prepared cash reports, monthly, quarterly and annual reports. As a matter of interest, it is worth mentioning that reports sent to the Department of State Archives, controlled by the Ministry of Religious Confessions and Public Enlightenment contained information on work discipline: e.g. in a report for October 1924, we read: "...in the past month nobody availed himself (herself) of a short-term leave and nobody was late in reporting for work"²⁶.

It has to be admitted that she was very much involved in all matters related to the Archives, even during her therapeutic trips to Zakopane she was absorbed in such mundane

¹⁹ Kaput W. Polaczkówna Helena... – S. 171.

²⁰ Suchmiel J. *Działalność naukowa kobiet...* – S. 104.

* Jakub Przyłuski (died 1554) – Polish lawyer and political writer.

²¹ Oss., manuscript 7687/II, p. 255, Zakopane, 30.IV.1927.

** Kingdom of Poland, created at Vienna Congress in 1815, remaining under Russia occupation, was colloquially termed "Congress Kingdom".

²² ЦДІАЛ, ф. 145, оп. 1, спр. 88, арк. 19, Truskavets', 21.XII.1933.

²³ Там само, спр. 53, арк. 7 зв.: Balzer's Report to Department of State Archives for July 1925.

²⁴ Там само, спр. 58, арк. 1, 10.

²⁵ Там само, арк. 44.

²⁶ Там само, спр. 52, арк. 11, 3.XI.1924.

matters like the purchase cost of necessary fuel: “I read here [in Zakopane. – S. C.] in the papers about the intended rise in goods tariffs and I fear that it might affect the Archive coal. Therefore I do not know if it was good to withhold the purchase of coal until April”²⁷.

Her archival activity was recognized in November 1929 by the award of the Medal of Tenth Anniversary of Independence at the instance of the Ministry of Religious Confessions and Public Enlightenment²⁸.

Archival work was not only the main means of earning her living but also inspired Polackówna to research work; one of the examples was the article “Uwagi o porządkowaniu prywatnych archiwów rodzinnych” (“Comments on Organizing Private Family Archives”)²⁹, making use of the French experiences of the author.

Research achievements of Miss Helena in heraldry resulted in her appointment by the Archivist Council to a committee on provincial coat of arms for Kielce, Lodz, Bialostok, Tarnopol or Stanislawow voivodships that have had no ancient heraldic traditions³⁰. This is the picture of deliberations of the Committee that she related in a letter to Balzer: “I have been sitting for the second day at the committee meeting, from ten to three and then from six till the end, in the smoke of fifty cigarettes smoldering at one time, being cured like and Easter ham”³¹. She used her experience from archival work preparing in 1934 an “Opinion re. Rules for Approval of municipal Coats of Arms” and an “Opinion for the Polish Academy of Skills” – comments on Draft Guidelines to manuscript catalogue³². In 1930 the Department of the State Archives appointed her to a consultative committee, under Professor Władysław Semkowicz, to give an opinion (n.b. categorically negative) on the design of the new national emblem³³.

Polackówna’s achievements already mentioned, in the field of the heraldry and other disciplines, “to learn historical sources” need to be discussed, if only briefly. Among her heraldic publications, especially “The Oldest Sources of Polish Heraldry”³⁴ and the “Stemmata Polonica: manuscript No 114 of Długosz’s Coat of Arms in the Arsenal Library in Paris”, deserve attention. In the latter publication she undertook the task of systematizing Polish heraldic terminology, for the first time since Joachim Lelewel (1786–1861)³⁵. A successful attempt to combine heraldic, sphragitic and genealogical questions was an extensive work “Wezenberg Family in Poland and Their Original Hearth”³⁶. She also wrote articles on diplomatics.

These significant research and editorial achievements were to constitute a base for post-doctoral proceedings. She shared her thoughts on possible efforts for *veniam legendi* with Balzer even before she left for Paris. In a letter dated August 11, 1922, she wrote: “I reject partially the thought of post-doctoral, and in any case put it off till later. I was very much tempted by it when I was young and I was pestered about. Today I understand very

²⁷ Oss., manuscript 7687/II, p. 227, Zakopane, 10.IV.1924.

²⁸ ЦДІАЛ, ф. 145, оп. 1, спр. 16, арк. 67.

²⁹ *Archeion*. – 1938–1939. – Т. 16. – S. 1–20.

³⁰ Mameczak-Gadkowska I. *Archiwa państwowe w II Rzeczypospolitej*. – Poznań, 2006. – S. 87.

³¹ Oss. manuscript 7687/II, p. 283, L’viv, 20.XII.1928.

³² ЦДІАЛ, ф. 145, оп. 1, спр. 58, арк. 91, 95 – reports quoted in note 19.

³³ Mameczak-Gadkowska I. *Archiwa państwowe...* – S. 87.

³⁴ *Archiwum Towarzystwa naukowego we Lwowie*. – Lwów, 1924. – Т. 2.

³⁵ Kielbicka A. Polackówna Helena... – S. 268.

³⁶ *Rocznik Towarzystwa Heraldycznego*. – 1924–1925. – Т. 7. – S. 131–274.

well that you can work even better without a readership. It would need at least half a year to mug up before the post-doctoral and then lectures, meetings, all this takes the time away from studies and work. Moreover, my physical condition is far from excellent: feeble voice, lack of courage or of something else to speak in public; all this combines rather to discourage me from taking this path than encourage to follow it”³⁷.

Jan Ptaśnik who in 1920–1930 was the head of Historian Auxiliary Disciplines Institute judged Polaczkówna’s post-doctoral chances much higher³⁸. In a letter of February 8, 1926 from Rome he wrote to Stanisław Zakrzewski: “To tell the truth, I myself wanted to make her (Polaczkówna) a proposal for post-doctoral. She may take a post-doctoral in heraldry and sphragistics, not in auxiliary disciplines. I am sorry that I would seem to be a protector of women only, because in good time, I should like to give Charewiczowa a post-doctoral in history of towns [...]”³⁹.

From among of above mentioned ladies, Charewiczowa obtained a post-doctoral with honours in 1937⁴⁰, but serious mishaps awaited miss Helena before achieving the much coveted *veniam legendi*. Here hopes were finally dashed when on January 23, 1929 the Council of the Faculty of Humanities rejected the motion of the Commission to admit Polaczkówna to the post-doctoral examination⁴¹. On March 19, 1929 Oswald Balzer wrote to one of the historians of Poznań University, probably professor Kazimierz Tymieniecki, on the inside story of this decision: “The Faculty of Humanities, by a (slight) majority vote decided to decline Polaczkówna’s request to be admitted to post-doctoral procedures. Of course it could not have happened due to academic – factual reasons. Some other reasons were at play: anti-feminist sentiment, that some members did not attempt to hide. Polaczkówna decided then to apply for a post-doctoral to your University”⁴². Indeed, a major part of conservative L’viv professors were firmly opposed to post-doctoral promotions of women⁴³.

Poznań University proved to be more progressive; recognizing her works to date as sufficient, she was admitted on December 3, 1929 to post-doctoral examination. The post-doctoral lecture given following the examination was a great success (it is of great academic value even today). Its title was “Genesis of Piast Eagle”, related the new emblem with unification effects by Henry IV Probus, the Duke of Wrocław and Cracow, who died in 1290 and Przemysł II, crowned as King of Poland in 1295 and murdered a year later on the orders of Brandenburg margraves⁴⁴.

³⁷ Oss., manuscript 7687/II, p. 80.

³⁸ Ciara S. Nauki pomocnicze historii na Uniwersytecie Jana Kazimierza we Lwowie w dobie II Rzeczypospolitej // *Wielokulturowe środowisko historyczne Lwowa w XIX–XX w.* / red. J. Maternicki, L. Zaskilniak. – Rzeszów, 2007. – S. 395.

³⁹ Oss., manuscript 7348/II, p. 200.

⁴⁰ Suchmiel J. *Lucja Charewiczowa (1897–1943): życie i dzieło*. – Częstochowa, 2001. – S. 60–61.

⁴¹ ДАЛЮ, ф. 26, оп. 7, спр. 1127, арк. 32: minutes of meeting of the Humanities Faculty of Jan Kazimierz University of January 23, 1929, 10 professors were for the motion of the commission that Polaczkówna be admitted to further stages of post-doctoral procedure and 11 professors against, see also Polaczkówna’s letter to Balzer: Oss., manuscript 7687/II, p. 289, L’viv, 22.II.1929.

⁴² Archives of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, no 148/43, quoted after: Mazurczak D. *Kariery akademickie kobiet w Polsce – Uniwersytet Poznański // Kobieta i kultura. Kobiety wśród twórców intelektualnej i artystycznej w dobie rozbiorów i w niepodległym Państwie Polskim* / red. A. Żarnowska i A. Szwarc. – Warszawa, 1996. – S. 132.

⁴³ Suchmiel J. *Działalność naukowa kobiet w Uniwersytecie we Lwowie...* – S. 143; compare: Ejusdem. *Udział kobiet w nauce do 1939 roku w Uniwersytecie Jagiellońskim*. – Częstochowa, 1994. – S. 117–126, 209–219.

⁴⁴ Szymański J. *Nauki pomocnicze historii*. – Wyd. 5. – Warszawa 2002. – S. 651. Lecture published in: *Roczniki Historyczne*. – 1930. – Vol. 6. – S. 1–11.

The Poznań University that gave *veniam legendi* to Polaczkówna, employed her under a contract as a reader in auxiliary historical disciplines. Once a year, mostly in the Spring trimester (according to the then division of the academic year) she gave in April and May a series of lectures and classes in chronology, Piast sphragistics, heraldry and genealogy. She used to take a leave of absence for these periods⁴⁵. She prepared for the lectures in Poznań archive, “that has the richest collection of historical books – in the afternoon one to two hours of lectures or classes every day – it is a lot of work”⁴⁶.

She continued, of course, her research activity. In 1930 she carried out on behalf of the Polish Academy of Skills a research in Vatican Archives⁴⁷. She presented the result of her research in the form of publications and lectures⁴⁸. An evident proof of the appreciation of Polaczkówna’s academic study was her active membership in many learned societies. Among Polish Societies these were: Polish Historical Society⁴⁹, Historical Committee of the Polish Academy of Skills, Section of Culture and Art of the Learned Society in L’viv and the Polish Heraldic Society. In January 1927 she became a member of the Historical Committee of the Polish Academy of Skills, along with Stanisław Arnold, Leon Białkowski, Kazimierz Sochaniewicz, Kazimierz Tyszkowski.

A polyglote⁵⁰, a strong supporter of international academic co-operation in respect of auxiliary disciplines⁵¹, she was highly reputed among European heraldists and sphragists. It was evidenced by her membership of the Viennese “Die Genealogisch-Heraldische Gesellschaft ‘Adler’”, the Swiss Society “Société Suisse d’Héraldique” and of the French “Société Française d’Héraldique et de Sigillographie”⁵². Another evidence of her many international contacts was an extensive collection of books, comprising numerous academic publications, confiscated by the Germans following Polaczkówna’s arrest in the Spring of 1942⁵³.

Her successful, despite all possible difficulties, academic career was cut short by the outbreak of the World War II. The less known period of Polaczkówna’s life, between September 1939 and July 1941 after the occupation of L’viv by the Red Army requires

⁴⁵ Oss., manuscript 7687/II, p. 427, Poznań, 27.IV.1932, postcard from Poznań with a message that “lectures are going well and that I will have the third one today”. Classes given by Polaczkówna in Poznań are recorded in subsequent volumes of periodicals of the nineteen-thirties: “Uniwersytet Poznański. Skład Uniwersytetu w roku akademickim...” and “Uniwersytet Poznański. Spis wykładów i skład osobowy w roku akademickim...”.

⁴⁶ Oss., manuscript 7687/II, p. 431, Poznań, 7.V.1932. In 1932 she stayed in Poznań for three weeks (Ibidem, p. 432), in 1937, from 4 to 26 she gave lectures as a reader of the same University (*Sprawozdanie... Rok 1937...* – S. 213).

⁴⁷ Pisulińska J. Czesław Nanke (1883–1950) // *Złota księga historiografii lwowskiej XIX I XX wieku* / red. J. Maternicki, L. Zaskilniak. – Rzeszów, 2007. – S. 530.

⁴⁸ As an example, she gave two lectures in the Learned Society in Lwów on “An unknown Polish document of 1196”, and in the Polish Historical Society she reviewed a treatise, written along with Annie I. Cameron of Edinburgh: “The marriage of Elspeth Cumming with prince Theodore Lubomirski” (*Archeion*. – 1938–1939. – T. 16. – S. 213).

⁴⁹ Kondracki T. *Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne w latach 1918–1939*. – Toruń, 2006. – S. 25, 54, 164–165.

⁵⁰ AAN, MWRiOP, no 5088, p. 1; her personal data form records fluent French, German, Latin, Greek languages and a reading knowledge of English, Ruthenian (Ukrainian) and Czech.

⁵¹ Ciara S. *Nauki pomocnicze historii...* – S. 400, note 41.

⁵² *Uniwersytet Poznański: Spis wykładów i skład osobowy na rok akademicki 1937/1938*. – S. 33.

⁵³ ИЦИАИ, ф. 755, он. 1, сип. 204, арк. 20–22, O. Guglia to J. Niemann, head of the L’viv branch of the Institut für Deutsche Ostarbeit, Lemberg, 9.VII.1942, enclosed a list of a part of books seized.

investigation⁵⁴. After the closure by the Soviet authorities of the District Archives (as a part of the pre-war State Archives), Polaczkówna was transferred along with Wojciech Hejnosz to the Library of the L'viv City Archives, from where she was dismissed after some time⁵⁵. According to Karol Maleczyński, she worked at the Ossolineum, transformed in 1939–1941 into a branch of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences⁵⁶. In Summer of 1941, after the attack by Germany on the Soviet Union, she returned to work at the State Archives as an archivist (demoted from the position of custodian). Her duties included organizing church registers incorporated to the Archives “at the first Soviet time” (1939–1941), and, like other staff of Archives within the General Gouvernement search for any documents of interest for the German science and, in particular, those that proved the eternal “civilisation mission” of Germany and the German in the East⁵⁷.

At the time both pre-war employees Eugeniusz Barwiński, Michał Wąsowicz, Feliks Pohorecki, Wojciech Hejnosz and newly employed Ukrainian historians like Dr. Ivan Karpynets', Ivan Baranets'kyj, Ivan Kukhta, Stepan Bilets'kyj, Volodymyr Macyak, worked at the Archives.

Occupation-time experiences and hard everyday living conditions and inability to travel every year for treatment considerably affected her health. E. g. in November 1941, she was absent from work for several days due to headache and stomach disorder, her other ailments, such like cardiac muscle and inflammation and atherosclerosis, took a turn for worse⁵⁸.

Maria's and Helena's apartment was used as a contact point for courier and messengers of the Information and Propaganda Bureau of Home Army Headquarters, a safe asylum and a place where illegal press was edited. Carelessness of co-workers of Polaczkówna sisters resulted in an intrusion by the Gestapo and Helena's arrest on April 27, 1942. From correspondent of the head of L'viv Archival office, Dr. Otto Guglia with Dr. Erich Randt, in charge of General Gouvernement archives it is known that she was accused of anti-state activity, hostile to the German Reich⁵⁹. Imprisoned in the dungeon at Łackiego Street, despite hideous torture, she never turned in anybody, and was finally murdered in Autumn 1942⁶⁰.

To summarize, I think that Helena Polaczkówna could have repeated, after Przemysław Dąbkowski, that “Archival service was then a purely academic service preparatory to university service”⁶¹.

⁵⁴ One of the staff of the State Archives, M. Wąsowicz failed to mention Polaczkówna recollecting those times of the Archives: Wąsowicz M. *Ze wspomnień archiwisty (1929–1953)* // *Miscellanea Historico-Archivistica*. – 1985. – T. 1. – S. 91–94.

⁵⁵ Sprawozdanie “Archiwa, biblioteki i muzea lwowskie” z 1940 r. / red. M. Matwijów // *Rocznik Lwowski*. – 1997/1998. – S. 11.

⁵⁶ Maleczyński K. Helena Polaczkówna // *Kwartalnik Historyczny*. – 1939–1945. – T. 53. – S. 585; Hryciuk G. *Polacy we Lwowie 1939–1944. Życie codzienne*. – Warszawa, 2000. – S. 343.

⁵⁷ ЦДАЛІ, ф. 755, оп. 1, спр. 39; reports of the staff of the State Archives for November 1941; M. Wąsowicz (*Ze wspomnień archiwisty...* – S. 95, note 7) is mistaken stating after Maleczyński's op. cit. the date of her arrest as late summer/early autumn 1942.

⁵⁸ ЦДАЛІ, ф. 755, оп. 1, спр. 39, арк. 11.

⁵⁹ Там само, спр. 32, арк. 7–8: report of O. Guglia to E. Randt dated July 21, 1942. According to M. Wąsowicz (*Ze wspomnień archiwisty...* – S. 96), who was favourably inclined towards Poles, unsuccessfully tried to intervene to obtain Polaczkówna's release from detention.

⁶⁰ Kaput W. *Polaczkówna Helena...* – S. 172; compare also: Suchmiel J. *Działalność naukowa kobiet...* – S. 104.

⁶¹ AAN, MWRiOP, no 2159, col. 119.

ГЕЛЕНА ПОЛЯЧКУВНА (1881–1942) – КУСТОШ БЕРНАРДИНСЬКОГО АРХІВУ У ЛЬВОВІ

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Досліджено професійну та наукову діяльність відомої польської архівістки та фахівця зі спеціальних історичних дисциплін (геральдики, генеалогії, сфрагістики) Гелени Полячкувни, яка мешкала і працювала у Львові. Розглянуто її навчання у Львові та Парижі, наукові публікації, викладацьку роботу в Познанському університеті, наголошено на її великому внеску у розвиток архівної справи у Львові 1920–1930-х рр.

Ключові слова: Гелена Полячкувна, Львів, архіви, спеціальні історичні дисципліни.

ХЕЛЕНА ПОЛЯЧКУВНА (1881–1942) – КУСТОШ БЕРНАРДИНСКОГО АРХИВА ВО ЛЬВОВЕ

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Исследована профессиональная и научная деятельность известной польской архивистки и специалиста по специальным историческим дисциплинам (геральдике, генеалогии, сфрагистике) Хелены Полячкувны, жившей и работавшей во Львове. Рассмотрена её учёба во Львове и Париже, научные публикации, преподавательская работа в Познанском университете, подчеркнут её большой вклад в развитие архивного дела во Львове 1920–1930-х гг.

Ключевые слова: Хелена Полячкувна, Львов, архивы, специальные исторические дисциплины.

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