

## ІСТОРИЯ

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### THE HISTORY OF ORIENTAL STUDIES IN LVIV BETWEEN THE FIRST AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR

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This article provides a historical overview of Oriental Studies at Lviv University during the period between the First and Second World Wars. The focus is on the scientific and social context of development of the Oriental Studies within and outside Poland, and how the teaching model, institutions, and scientific organizations supported the development of Oriental Studies in this part of Europe. The interdisciplinary nature of Lviv's Oriental Studies program allowed students to study various oriental languages, such as Armenian, Turkish, Arabic, Persian, and Sanskrit. Professors aimed to teach students how to acquire knowledge and conduct research effectively on their own, while also presenting their latest and unpublished research findings. Despite the relatively short period, Oriental Studies at Lviv University grew rapidly, and the university became a significant centre of Oriental Studies not only in Poland but also in Europe. The article discusses also the establishment of the Polish Oriental Society in 1922, which was initiated by few professors of the Lviv University, and the founding of the influential international journal known as the "Yearbook of Oriental Studies." The article draws on the memories and documents of many researchers, including T. Lewicki, Z. Kozarynowa, A. Zajączkowski, A. Zaborski, and S. Kałużyński, who studied Oriental Studies at Lviv University during that time.

*Keywords:* Oriental Studies, Lviv University, Polish Oriental Society, interwar period.

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**The formulation of the problem.** Despite the short period the Oriental Studies in Lviv between the First and the Second World War had grown up rapidly and Lviv University became an influential center of the Oriental Studies not only in Polish but in European Orientology too. **The purpose of our research** is to give a characteristic of Lviv's Oriental Studies by analyzing the style of teaching of the professors, working at Lviv university in that period, their scientific, promotional and organizational activity.

**The analysis of recent researches and publications.** Oriental Studies in Lviv between the First and the Second World War became a subject of studies for such scientists as T. Lewicki, Z. Kozarynowa, A. Zajączkowski, A. Zaborski, S. Kałużyński.

Except for a very brief article of T. Lewicki, in their works researchers mostly wrote about individuals or about Oriental Studies as a part of Polish Orientalology, while the Oriental Studies in Lviv between the First and the Second World War were not the subject of special attention.

**The presentation of the main research materials.** After the First World War, when the situation in Eastern Europe became more stabilized, research in Oriental Studies could be conducted. There were three departments of Oriental Studies in Poland, in Kraków, Poznań and Lviv. It is believed the beginning of the Oriental Studies in Lviv started when professor Andrzej Gawroński took up the department of comparative linguistics. There he had organized Indian Studies and then created The Oriental Institute [3].

Andrzej Gawroński was a popular and influential person in some circles of polish scientists and politicians too. Within a few years, he was able to convince Stanisław Michalski and Faustyna Dzik from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education to organise six departments of the Oriental Studies and Society of Orientalists [2]. Unfortunately, despite the impressive developments in the field of Oriental Studies in Lviv some of the departments couldn't work efficiently, because there was a lack of professors with suitable skills. For this reason the department of sinology, which was organized in 1923, had been dissolved in 1928 [5, p. 41].

At the University, students had opportunities to learn such oriental languages as Armenian, Turkish, Arabic, Persian and Sanskrit. Some lecturers like Ibrahim Ben Banuh, Ahmad Kherbi or Mohammed Sadyk Bej Agabekzadeh, who was a former tsarist officer and diplomat from Azerbaijan, were employed by Zygmunt Smogorzewski. Zygmunt Smogorzewski was a polish diplomat and scientist working in the Oriental Institute in Lviv. It is worth noting here there was an intensive cooperation between the Oriental Institute and other departments of Lviv's University too. For example, in the Theologian Department, professor and catholic priest Aleksy Klawek teaches his students languages like Hebrew, Syriac and Aramaic in the biblical context. In 1928 on the Department of Law the diplomatic studies has been established by prof. Zygmunt Smogorzewski. His students could get an extensive knowledge about the Middle East and they could learn Arabic, Persian and Turkish languages [5, p. 21].

It should be noted the Oriental Studies was an interdisciplinary kind of science what means that students had to learn simultaneously Iranology, Turkology and the Arab Studies. In the discussion about public education on the universities before the Second World War, it is worth noting, every scientific researcher, who wanted to conduct lectures had to do habilitation. The habilitation wasn't an academic title those days. If somebody did a habilitation he would get *veniam legendi*. It was a special privilege which gave the possibility to conduct lectures. However, it was possible to conduct lectures only in the domain which was precisely determined by *veniam legendi* [4, p. 18].

The main purpose of the lectures conducted by professors, was to present the newest and unpublished yet results of their researches. Every professor could decide what to teach, when and how long. It was believed that every student should himself get the knowledge which is available in general in scientific magazines, academic publications and so on. Most of these publications was published in foreign languages.

From the academic point of view, a professor should be an advisor who would support students in their efforts to get knowledge.

We can find confirmation of what I have told earlier in the schedule of lectures from those days. Besides the lessons of oriental languages, which took place regularly every year, all professors had a wide diversity of lectures that weren't to be conducted again. There was only one exception: if any issue was especially interesting or complicated, the professor could decide to continue that lecture next year [7].

Professor Andrzej Zaborski noticed the main rule of every so called 'Autonomical University' was *Lehre und Forschung* which means 'Science and Research'. Basing on this rule, it was especially important for the professors to relate scientific research with academic learning. It wasn't enough for them to present the results of their research over to students only. The main purpose of their activity was to teach students how to get knowledge and how to efficiently research on their own [4, p. 19].

In 1922 The Polish Oriental Society (PTO) had been established. The idea of organizing this society occurred among a few professors at the University of Lviv such as Jan Czekanowski, Andrzej Gawroński, and Zygmunt Smogorzewski. The main intention was to create a society, which would be able to involve all professors and camp followers of Oriental Studies who would be interested in this domain. The headquarters of The Polish Oriental Society was located in Lviv. The first chairman of this society was Władysław Kotwicz – a popular scientist from St. Petersburg, the chairman of The Mongolian Department [1, p. 215].

Being the chairman of Polish Oriental Society, between 1931–1938, Władysław Kotwicz had organized seven conventions devoted to Oriental Studies. During those conventions many scientific results about the Middle and Far East had been presented. Only these kind of events were giving many professors in Poland the possibility to participate in nationwide debates about their researches, organization and future activities in the domain.

There were other purposes of Polish Oriental Society. First of all, members of society decided to popularize the idea of Oriental Studies among the citizens and on the other hand, they wanted to encourage development in relationship between Poland and Middle Eastern countries.

Beside the scientific activity, Polish Oriental Society not only was able to advise about the policy of the government but it was able also to represent Poland abroad at the international conferences and conventions devoted to the Oriental Studies and Researches. «There is no doubt that Polish Oriental Society was the first society including all researchers working in Poland and abroad who were connected with the Oriental Studies. The members of society appealed to the politicians trying to convince them for taking efforts to encourage oriental researches and understanding the meaning of this efforts in the modern world» [1, p. 214].

Beside the academic activity and the Oriental Society there was another initiative created in order to attract the attention of the international community. It was a special science magazine created by Jan Grzegorzewski and Andrzej Gawroński called the «Rocznik Orientalistyczny» Yearbook of Oriental Studies. The idea of establishing the first polish oriental magazines arose even before the First World War

had happened. The main intention concerned publishing scientific articles devoted to the Far and the Middle East. On the pages of the magazine there were many domains including linguistics, philology, history, religion and so on [1, p. 211].

Since 1924 the Yearbook of Oriental Studies became the main voice of Polish Oriental Society. The policy of its editors was to publish articles in Western European languages like English, German and French. It turned out the idea was successful, because of the high quality of the articles and the fact it was published in the Western languages, in a short period of time became noticed and respected by the International Societies of Orientalists.

In 1927, after the death of Andrzej Gawroński and his fellow Jan Grzegorzewski, Władysław Kotwicz had become a new editor in Chief of the magazine. Since then, nearly 12 volumes came out until 1939 [1, p. 214].

**Conclusion.** To sum up, the interwar period was very productive and efficient for the development of the Oriental Studies. During this short period of time researchers of Lviv University had managed to create many events, influential organizations and a scientific magazine which became prestigious soon after establishment. The second World War brought many disastrous consequences for oriental science too. However, after the end of the war, many initiatives which took place earlier were continued.

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## ІСТОРІЯ ЛЬВІВСЬКОГО СХОДОЗНАВСТВА У ПЕРІОД МІЖ ПЕРШОЮ ТА ДРУГОЮ СВІТОВИМИ ВІЙНАМИ

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Висвітлено історичний огляд сходознавства у Львівському університеті в період між Першою та Другою світовими війнами. Акцентовано на соціальному та науковому контексті розвитку сходознавства у Польщі та поза її межами і на тому, як навчальні методики, інституції та наукові організації підтримували розвиток сходознавства в цій частині Європи. Міждисциплінарний характер сходознавчої програми у Львові дав змогу студентам вивчати численні східні мови, такі як вірменська, турецька, арабська, перська і санскрит. Професори мали на меті навчити студентів, як ефективно здобувати знання і проводити самостійні дослідження, водночас подаючи власні найновіші та ще не опубліковані дослідницькі здобутки. Незважаючи на відносно короткий період, сходознавство у Львівському університеті швидко розрослося, і університет став визначним центром сходознавства не лише у Польщі, а й у Європі. Розглянуто також питання про заснування Польського сходознавчого товариства у 1922 р., ініційованого кількома професорами Львівського університету, і започаткування впливового міжнародного журналу, відомого як «Щорічник сходознавства». Розглянуто документи та спогади багатьох дослідників, включно з Т. Левицьким, З. Козариною, А. Зайончковським, А. Заборським та С. Калужинським, які вивчали сходознавство у Львівському університеті саме тоді.

*Ключові слова:* сходознавчі студії, Львівський університет, Польське орієнталістичне товариство, міжвоєнний період.