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## **National Background: Poland 2018**

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For public collections see: D. Kamolowa, T. Sieniatecka (eds.), *Zbiory rękopisów w bibliotekach i muzeach w Polsce*. 1, Warszawa 2014. There is an English translation of the former version of this guide: *Manuscript Collections in Libraries and Museums in Poland*, Warszawa 2007.

For ecclesiastical collections: T. Makowski, P. Sapała (eds.), *Rękopisy w zbiorach kościelnych. Zbiory rękopisów w Polsce*, 2. Warszawa 2014.

Apart from medieval manuscripts, there are no online collective catalogues of manuscripts in Poland. For basic information concerning medieval manuscripts, see: [www.manuscripta.pl](http://www.manuscripta.pl) (in English).

Content: Introduction, Biblioteka Narodowa, Warszawa (BN); Biblioteka Jagiellońska, Kraków (BJ); Biblioteka Uniwersytecka w Warszawie, Warszawa (BUW); Biblioteka Uniwersytecka we Wrocławiu, Wrocław (BUWr), Zakład Narodowy im. Ossolińskich, Wrocław (Oss)

### **Biblioteka Narodowa, Warszawa (BN)**

<https://bn.org.pl/en/>

Established in 1928. Holds 32000 items (codexes, letters and archival materials), including ca 420 medieval manuscripts.

Major collections:

- The most important 18th and early 19th century Polish collections, were removed to Russia during the partition period, as repression measures following the national uprisings. Returned from Soviet Union in 1923-1934 in accord with the Peace Treaty of Riga (1921), these holdings formed the core of the newly established Polish National Library. During World War II, German occupational authorities decided to reorganise Warsaw libraries, creating one located in the building of the Krasieński Library. In late 1944, most of its holdings were burnt as an act of retaliation for the Warsaw Uprising. The contemporary manuscript collections of the National Library are of various provenance, among which three major places of origin can be distinguished:

a) the Załuski Family Library- founded in Warsaw in 1747 by the Załuski brothers: Andrzej Stanisław (1695-1758) and Józef Andrzej (1702-1774). Its collections encompassed historiographical sources, monuments of law, and Polish literature.

b) the collection of the Warsaw Society of Friends of Learning (1800-1832). The surviving fragments consist of only 8 items, the most precious of which is the *Ewangeliarz Anastazji* [The Anastazja Evangelistary] from the monastery library in Czerwińsk (Mazovia, 64 km north of Warsaw).

c) the collections of the Public Library of the University of Warsaw (1818-1932). This library held collections of various smaller libraries in Warsaw and collections acquired from suppressed monasteries. The most valuable manuscripts are: *Rocznik świętokrzyski dawny* [The Old Holy Cross Annals] from 1st half of 12th c. and *Kazania świętokrzyskie* [The Holy Cross Sermons] from mid-14th c.

Other important collections:

- the collection of the Polish National Museum in Rappersville. The Museum was established in 1870 in Switzerland by Władysław Plater (1808-1889). It gathered papers and documents by eminent Poles in exile and of their political organizations in France, Switzerland, Belgium and England.

- the collection of the Greek Catholic Chapter Library in Przemyśl, founded in the 1st half of the 19th c. The most prominent items initially gathered stemmed from the Jan Ławrowski (1773-1846) and Jan Snigurski (1784-1847) collections. Now, it encompasses mainly liturgical books confiscated in churches belonging to the Przemyśl diocese and theological works of the Orthodox Church as well as historical and legal miscellanea in Old Church Slavonic, Latin and Polish languages (15th-19th c.).

- the collections of former private libraries: the Potocki Family Library in Wilanów, the Krasieński Estate Library in Warsaw, and the Zamoyski Estate Library in Warsaw – founded by outstanding members of noble families who gathered family archives, medieval, literary and historical manuscripts. Furthermore, the Zamoyski Estate Library retains the holdings of the Zamoyski Academy Library, and the papers of its professors.

- archives, papers, and letters of famous Polish poets and writers: Adam Mickiewicz (1798-1855), Juliusz Słowacki (1809-1849), Cyprian Kamil Norwid (1821-1883), Stefan Żeromski (1864-1925), Czesław Miłosz (1911-2004), Zbigniew Herbert (1924-1998), Leszek Kołakowski (1927-2009) and others.

### **Biblioteka Jagiellońska w Krakowie (BJ)**

[http://www.bj.uj.edu.pl/en\\_GB/start-en](http://www.bj.uj.edu.pl/en_GB/start-en)

The Jagiellonian University was established in 1364. Its library holds 33000 items (codexes, letters, and archival materials), including ca 2000 medieval manuscripts and a separate collection of ca 700 parchment diplomas.

Major collections:

- at least three of the codices currently kept at the Library (813, 2032 and 5278) were used already by the students and professors of the fourteenth-century Cracow.
- most of the medieval manuscripts stem from the 15<sup>th</sup> c. Originally, private possessions of professors and students, were donated to the colleges and dormitories of the University. In the 18<sup>th</sup> c., together with the oldest part of University Archive, they formed the core of the University Library.
- collections of outstanding Polish writers: among others Joachim Lelewel (1786-1861), Józef Ignacy Kraszewski (1812-1887), Żegota Pauli (1814-1895), Józef Bohdan Zaleski (1802-1886).
- after World War II the holdings of the Library were enlarged by adding the collections of nationalized private libraries of noble families from Dzików, Gumniska, Krzeszowice, as well as a fragment of the former Prussian State Library in Berlin (kept as a deposit of Polish government).
- two of the most precious manuscripts of the Jagiellonian collection: *De revolutionibus* by Nicolaus Copernicus and *Banderia Prutenorum* by Jan Długosz were also obtained after World War II.
- the Manuscript Section also encompasses the Archives of the Jagiellonian Library (19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> c.), forming a separate collection.

### **Biblioteka Uniwersytecka w Warszawie (BUW)**

[www.buw.uw.edu.pl/en](http://www.buw.uw.edu.pl/en)

Established in 1816. Holds ca 6000 items (codexes, letters, and archival materials), including 40 medieval manuscripts.

Major collections:

- the original holdings of the Library were based on the book collections of the Warsaw Lyceum and the Court of Appeals.
- beginning with 1818, the library started obtaining book collections of monasteries suppressed under the supervision of Samuel Bogumił Linde in the territories of the Congress Kingdom of Poland.
- the collection of the Warsaw Scientific Society (established 1907), which encompasses papers and biographical materials of Warsaw members of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, such as Samuel Dickstein (1851-1939), Feliks Kucharczyński (1849-1935), Michał Federowski (1853-1923), and General Jan Krukowiecki (1772-1850).
- archives of Evangelical Reformed Church (16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> c.), which holds source materials for the history of Reformation and religious dissident movements in Poland.

heeft opmaak toegepast: Engels (Verenigd Koninkrijk)

- papers of writers, scholars, political and social activists from the 19th and the 20th century: Maria Dąbrowska (1889-1965) and her husband Marian Dąbrowski (1882-1925), Stanisław Stempowski (1870-1952), Stanisław Posner (1868-1930), Ludwik Krzywicki (1859-1941).

- materials concerning the history of World War II, gathered in the archives of Szare Szeregi (Grey Ranks, underground scout organization) and Biuro Informacji i Propagandy Armii Krajowej (Bureau of Information and Propaganda of the underground Home Army), and personal papers of Józef Roman Rybicki (1901-1986).

- papers of professors of the Warsaw University: Waclaw Borowy (historian of literature, 1890-1950), Marian Danysz (physicist, 1909-1983), Janusz Zakrzewski (physicist, 1932-2008), Witold Kula (historian, 1916-1988), Antoni Mączak (historian, 1928-2003).

### **Biblioteka Uniwersytecka we Wrocławiu (BUWr)**

<https://www.bu.uni.wroc.pl/en>

Established in 1811. Holds over 13000 manuscripts (codexes, letters, and archival materials), including ca 3000 medieval manuscripts.

Major collections:

The Manuscript Department was created in 1947 as a result of assembling materials dispersed during World War II, mainly from the two former German libraries: Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Breslau and Stadtbibliothek Breslau, as well as from secured collections from the region.

Major collections:

- the collection encompassing books from Silesian monastic convents and collegiate churches secularized in 1811. It holds medieval manuscripts containing theological, historical, and literary texts, and is the largest of the sort in Poland. From the Breslau University Library also originates the rich collection (circa 17.000 items) of autographs of writers and scientists of Silesian origins. In 19th and 20th centuries large collection of oriental manuscripts were also gathered (at present ca. 340 items)

- the collection of former City Library. This library (Stadtbibliothek Breslau) was established during the years 1865-1867 by merging three collections: the Rehdigerana, the books from the Church of St. Elizabeth, and the collections from the churches of: St. Mary Magdalene and St. Bernard. Besides classical Greek and Latin authors, this collection encompasses also medieval manuscripts, genealogical materials, musical collections, poetry, valuable autographs of humanists and scientists from the 16th and 17th centuries.

- among the post-World War II acquisitions (circa 8100 items) there are various manuscripts obtained mostly from local collections, donations and purchases. This collection consists among others of materials from the Schaffgotsch's library in Cieplice, St. Peter and St. Paul

Church of Legnica, and of valuable manuscripts from the J.G. Milich's library in Görlitz. During the post-war years, the Library also received the collection of Library of Upper Lausitz Scientific Society in Görlitz.

### **Zakład Narodowy im. Ossolińskich, Wrocław (Oss)**

<https://ossolineum.pl/index.php/english/>

Established in 1817 in Lviv as the Biblioteka Publiczna pod imieniem Ossolińskich we Lwowie [Family Foundation of the Ossoliński Public Library in Lviv]. In 1946 moved to Wrocław. Holds ca 20000 items (codexes, letters, and archival materials), including ca 200 medieval manuscripts.

Major collections:

- the collection of Józef Maksymilian Ossoliński (1754-1826). The founder of the Library collected valuable books years before the foundation was established, mainly manuscripts referring to the numerous branches of the Ossoliński family. The Library was supplemented with major acquisitions from various sources.
- among the most important collections acquired during the 19<sup>th</sup> c. were the materials of Ewaryst Andrzej Kuropatnicki (1734-1788), encompassing medieval manuscripts from monasteries in Kraków and Sandomierz, acquired by Samuel Bogumił Linde.
- the new-established widely-respected institution received numerous donations including the collections of Józef Dzierzkowski (1807-1865), Wincenty Balicki (1798-1844), Henryk Lubomirski (1777-1850), Franciszek Siarczyński (1758-1829), and Stanisław Wronowski (1733-1839).
- during World War II, the holdings of the Ossoliński Library were enriched with the collections of several abandoned libraries, including the Poturzyce Library of the Dzieduszycki family, the Baworowski family Library, and other.
- in 1947/1948, to the Ossoliński Library were added the treasures evacuated in 1944 by the Germans to Adelin. These comprised 2100 items (including the autograph of *Pan Tadeusz*, the national epic by Adam Mickiewicz, a number of autographs of Juliusz Słowacki and of other writers).

### **PAN Biblioteka Gdańska**

<http://www.bgpan.gda.pl/>

Established in 1596, as the City Council Library (Bibliotheca Senatus Gedanensis). Holds over 10000 items (codexes, letters, and archival materials), including 380 medieval manuscripts.

Major collections:

- the collection of Marquis Giovanni Bernardino Bonifacio of Oria (1517-1597), encompassing works of classical and Renaissance writers, and his own Latin poems, which formed the core of the Gdańsk (Danzig) library.
- books from the Franciscan monastery in Gdańsk – mostly medieval manuscripts.
- the collection of Walenty Schlieff (1680-1750) – materials relative to the literary life and history of Royal Prussia.
- collections of outstanding Gdańsk figures such as Jerzy Schroeder (1635-1703), Albrecht Rosenberg (1675-1749), Jan Benjamin Schmidt (1737-1774), and Jan Uphagen (1731-1802).
- the collection of St. Mary's Church in Gdańsk, containing important medieval manuscripts.

### **Biblioteka Uniwersytecka w Poznaniu**

<http://lib.amu.edu.pl/en>

Established in 1829. Holds ca 10000 items (codexes, letters and archival materials), including 40 medieval manuscripts.

Major collections:

- the collection of Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz (1758-1841) Polish statesman, writer, historian, and collector.
- the collection of the Polish Theatre Library in Poznań – includes manuscripts and typescripts of theatrical plays.
- the collection of the Art Archives of the New Theatre in Poznań.
- the collection of Włodzimierz and Maria Magdalena Bartoszewicz with nineteenth- and twentieth-century historical and genealogical documents related to the Dunin-Borkowski, Bartoszewicz, and Jełowicki families.
- the collection of the Szuldrzyński family of Lubasz in the Poznań district - comprises family archives.