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**THE POLISH LIBRARY IN PARIS:  
170 YEARS OF ACTIVITY**

by  
**Kamil Kubicki,  
Radom**

**Abstract**

The Polish Library in Paris has grown up over 170 years, collecting Polish documents relating to national memory during a period of loss of independence. It is the largest collection of Polish books and magazines outside Poland, and also contains pieces of art, graphics, paintings, sculptures and souvenirs. The Library was formed in 1839 by Polish émigrés living in Paris after the collapse of the anti-Russian uprising of 1830–31. The collection was supposed to be a substitute for ones lost in the home country and to create an academic workshop to explore Polish history in exile. The Library gathered, and still gathers, the legacies of politicians, soldiers and artists.

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## THE POLISH LIBRARY IN PARIS:

### 170 YEARS OF ACTIVITY

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**Kamil Kubicki,**

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#### **The dreams of Polish exiles**

The idea of forming a Polish Library in Paris was established as early as 1831 in response to the repression of cultural institutions in the Polish Kingdom under the influence of Tsar Nicholas I. When the Tsar's government closed the grammar school in Krementz and the University in Vilnius in September 1832, Aleksander Gołyński prepared the remonstrance in Dresden, '*General thoughts about forming a society with the intention of saving for the future the Polish language and nationality which are now left to complete destruction.*'<sup>1</sup> Aleksander Gołyński was an active participant in conspiracies and insurgency in the region of Podolia. He was co-creator of the Podolian Patriotic Association and co-author of its constitution. After the failure of the uprising, he found shelter for a short time in Galicia. In his appeal he called for the creation of 'any collection of Polish books, even if it could only be collected from voluntary gifts'.<sup>2</sup>

His was an appeal to countrymen in exile, a demand to create an association to save Polish language and culture for the future. Linked to this, he wanted to create a collection of books, or a library, which would form the beginnings of the National Library. This idea was repeated by Leon Wodziński and his brother Karol Edward, both of whom were graduates of the Gymnasia in Krementz—in 1832 they directed another appeal to the Literary Society to create a Great Polish Library.<sup>3</sup>

In November 1833, the French Society for Civilization prepared a project to create a Polish library. Adam Mickiewicz answered this appeal by writing a pamphlet entitled *The Robbery of Polish Libraries*, which formed the basis of the appeal edited by the Commission

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<sup>1</sup> Cz. Chowaniec, *Karol Sienkiewicz i jego dzieło*, Dodatek Literacko—Naukowy „Syreny”—Nr. 10/55, Paryż 29.XI.1958, pp. 2. M. Straszewska, *Życie literackie Wielkiej Emigracji we Francji 1831–1840*, Warszawa 1970, pp. 211. S. Kalembka, *Wielka Emigracja: Polskie wychodźstwo polityczne w latach 1831–1862*, Warszawa 1971, pp. 299.

<sup>2</sup> A. Gołyński, *Pamiętnik podolskiego powstania 1830–1831 roku*, oprac. i wstępem poprzedził E Kozłowski, Warszawa 1979, p. 13–15.

<sup>3</sup> Cz. Chowaniec, *Podstawy ideowe biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu*, Paryż 1956, pp. 4. S. Kalembka, *Wielka Emigracja...*, p. 299. M. Straszewska, *Życie literackie...*, pp. 212.

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of the Society for Civilization which was published in December 1833.<sup>4</sup> On 5 May 1838, Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz announced the creation of the National Library in Paris in an appeal issued by the History Department of the Literary Society.<sup>5</sup> Next to the Niemcewicz's signature was that of Karol Sienkiewicz.

### **The creation of the Polish Library in Paris**

The project to create a public library originated in the Historical Department, which achieved autonomy of action in its function of gathering an archival and library collection. The Statistics Department also participated in the project. This had been suggested by Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz on 3 July 1838 to the president of both Departments, Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski.<sup>6</sup> After heated debates which lasted some months, on 24 November 1838 in Ludwik Plater's flat in presence of Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski and Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz, it was decided finally that there would be one common Polish Library. It was recognized as a national institution which would be supervised by the Library Council. The Council included Karol Kniaziewicz, Jakub Malinowski, Teodor Morawski, Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz, Ludwik Plater, Andrzej Plichta, Ludwik Wołowski, Karol Sienkiewicz, later Adam Mickiewicz and Stanisław Barzykowski, with Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski becoming president.<sup>7</sup> The act of establishing the Library, marked the fulfillment of the plans of the Gołyńskis, the Wodziński brothers and Mickiewicz. It was an expression of Ludwik Plater's, Karol Hoffman's and Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz's work. Premises were rented at 10. Rue Duphot, which became home to a collection of 2,085 volumes. This marked the victory of Karol Sienkiewicz's idea and he became the most persistent spokesman for the institution. In fact, until 1853 (when there was a conflict over the purchase of the building for the Library), its management was in Karol Sienkiewicz's hands.

Library collections began to expand considerably. Karol Kniaziewicz became the first donor, giving 110 items, Karol Hoffman gave 54 books, and Zygmunt Plater 33 volumes. The Historical Department became home to a collection of books as well, after a donation

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<sup>4</sup> It was so called *Appel aux peuples civilisés pour la formation d'une bibliotheque à offrir à la Pologne* ("Le Polonais" 1834, t. 2.). Z. Sudolski, *Mickiewicz. Opowieść biograficzna*, pp. 396.

<sup>5</sup> *Rocznik Towarzystwa Historyczno-Literackiego* 1866, Paryż 1867, p. V.

<sup>6</sup> Cz. Chowaniec, *Karol Sienkiewicz...*, pp. 5–6. Biblioteka Polska w Paryżu, rkps 1534, *Uchwała o Bibliotece Publicznej Polskiej*, pp. 3–5.

<sup>7</sup> R. Ergetowski, *Pierwszy regulamin Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu*, [w] *Rocznik Naukowo-Dydaktyczny Wyższej Szkoły Pedagogicznej w Krakowie. Prace Bibliotekoznawcze VI*, pod red. J. Jarowieckiego, s.147, Kraków 1991, pp. 8.

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from the late Count Gustaw Małachowski which consisted of 550 volumes, 41 prints, 15 maps, one atlas and 9 medals.<sup>8</sup>

On Sunday 24 March 1839 there took place the public and solemn opening of the 'New Polish Institution'. The Council notified those involved in scientific and social affairs about the event. The creation of a Polish Library in Paris was one of the most important and significant event concerning Polish culture.<sup>9</sup> After this, the Polish Library in Paris offered indispensable support for scientific works carried out by émigré associations. It was somewhere to keep sources gathered by research inaugurated by the Historical Department.

Karol Sienkiewicz presented a project called 'Instruction', which outlined the duties of anyone working in the library. It became associated with the nomination of Nemezy Kożuchowski as librarian,<sup>10</sup> and addressed the book and library deposits as well as the opening hours of the reading room. In 1840, the resolution 'establishing the library service' was published.

Regarding the library's opening ceremony, Nemezy Kożuchowski did indeed become the first librarian, and since 13 June 1833 he had been a member of the Literary Society. He was, however, librarian for only a short time, since at the start of 1840 he was taken ill and resigned his post in April 1841.<sup>11</sup> Nonetheless the Polish Library, although 'poor in books and money', wasn't short of people prepared to sacrifice themselves to work on its behalf. Sienkiewicz occupied himself with looking for comfortable accommodation for its collections. In February 1839 the books were moved to 10. Rue Duport, but in October the same year moved on to 10. Surene. A year later it moved to 8. Saussaier,<sup>12</sup> which was rented for two years.

Two years later, on 5 September 1842, the Library moved to number 3. on the same street—the fourth move since its establishment. It was a small and uncomfortable home. Meetings took place in a room jammed with books and the reading room was very small; but it stayed at that location until it moved to 6. Quai d'Orleans, where it is still located today. After Nemezy Kożuchowski's resigned as librarian, no one else was appointed to this post as such. During this period, Karol Sienkiewicz served as the Library Council's secretary, trea-

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<sup>8</sup> L. Gadon, *Z życia Polaków we Francji: rzut oka na 50-letnie koleje Towarzystwa Historyczno-Literackiego w Paryżu 1832–1882*, Paryż 1883, pp. 29. „Rocznik Towarzystwa Historyczno-Literackiego” 1866, Paryż 1867, pp. VII.

<sup>9</sup> Bibl. Pol. w Paryżu, rkps 1537 /druk/ Otwarcie Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu 24. 03. 1839, p. 7–14. Informacja o otwarciu Biblioteki Polskiej ukazała się także w „Journal des Debats”.

<sup>10</sup> Biblioteka Polska w Paryżu, rkps 1538, *Regulaminy i umowy dla Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu*. Cz. Chowaniec, *Karol Sienkiewicz...*, pp. 1–2.

<sup>11</sup> R. Ergetowski, *Pierwszy regulamin...*, pp. 10–11.

<sup>12</sup> L. Gadon, *Z życia Polaków...*, pp. 32. J. Pezda, *Ludzie i pieniądze...*, p. 208.

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surer and librarian. With so many posts falling to just one person, 'he ruled in the Library absolutely and omnipotently'.

Sienkiewicz knew the majority of important booksellers and librarians personally, and so could serve the institution well. He rallied donors and sponsors such that the collection increased dynamically. He inquired after new publications and magazines. He purchased masterpieces for the Library by the late count Maksymilian Fredro. In effect he said that "The Library rich in books, like a rich orphan, will find a carer easily". He repeated this phrase every time he bought materials for the Polish Library at auction.<sup>13</sup> He knew Eustachy Januskiewicz who, in July 1835, together with Aleksander Jełowicki established the Polish publishing house in Paris. This because a significant cultural outpost in exile.

Karol Sienkiewicz was able to prompt more affluent countrymen to purchase and donate items to the Library, which otherwise it would not have been able to acquire. Frequently he spent his evening at the auctions which took place in the famous hall on Rue des Bons Enfants. With persistence and patience, he studied the catalogues of book collections destined for sale.<sup>14</sup> He knew that in French libraries, not to say state, private, municipal and ecclesiastic archives there were many sources dealing with the history of Poland. Sienkiewicz intended to create a single central directory of all the Polish prints and manuscripts concerning the history of Poland which were located on French territory. This directory would be published in due course.

On 21 May 1841, Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz died, bequeathing the Polish Library his memoirs and manuscripts. After Karol Kniaziewicz's death on 9 May 1842, a committee was established to build a monument to both émigrés, its president being Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski. Eventually the Poles received confirmation that they could erect an obelisk at Montmorency cemetery inside St. Martin's Church. Niemcewicz and Kniaziewicz's tomb was constructed by the famous Polish sculpture Władysław Oleszczyński and was completed in March 1850, and on 11 March the coffins of the poet and general were moved there.<sup>15</sup>

All this time Sienkiewicz was working in the Library. There was in fact a curator who functioned as an assistant to the omnipotent librarian. Since 1846 this had been the 'meek and gentle Maciej Staniewicz'.<sup>16</sup> Other curators included Kazimierz Markiewicz and later, for a short time, Antonii Rutkowski. Better times allowed the Library to employ a secre-

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<sup>13</sup> L.Gadon, *op. cit.*, pp. 61.

<sup>14</sup> W. Mickiewicz, *Biblioteka Polska w Paryżu*, [w] *Przegląd Biblioteczny*, 1908, pp. 97.

<sup>15</sup> J. Skowronek, *Cmentarz polski w Montmorency*, Warszawa 1986, pp. 64, 67.

<sup>16</sup> K. Kubicki, *W kręgu Karola Sienkiewicza (1793-1860) – przyjaciele i znajomi w kraju i na emigracji*, Tolkmicko 2010, p. 171.

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tary, a supervisor of the reading room and a janitor. Meanwhile, Sienkiewicz tended to the Library with painstaking care. From the outset, he was unquestionably a careful manager.

Unlike the Prince and those around him, Sienkiewicz took seriously the idea of making the library function successfully. He tried to give it an all-party character; he wanted it to develop a really nationwide character. If possible, he wanted to gather as part of the collection documents about the Great Emigration as they concerned different political groups, institutions and activists. In this way, he wanted to concentrate the essential part of “the national archive in exile”.<sup>17</sup> Under the circumstances, even though the Library was strongly linked to Prince Czartoryski’s and those around him, Sienkiewicz could not reconcile himself to working only in the interests of one group.

After Niemcewicz’s death, it was decided to ask Adam Mickiewicz to take the post of president in the Historical Department. Mickiewicz agreed and took up the post on 5 August 1841.<sup>18</sup> The poet, however, neither belonged to the active members of the Department, nor participated in its obligatory sessions. Occupied with lectures in the Collège de France and work involving the Servants of God’s Cause, he participated in the Literary Society’s works only sporadically. Consequently in 1844 Adam Mickiewicz was made to leave the post of President in the Literary Society, his place being taken by Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski. Sienkiewicz, by contrast, maintained his post, incessantly concerning himself to increase the Library’s resources and constantly cataloguing its collections.

All of the time he was in touch with dozens of émigrés from Poland especially those involved in scientific and cultural undertakings. He maintained correspondence with Professor Jakub Malinowski, co-founder of the Scientific Society in Dijon. Correspondence with Doctor Aleksander Grabowski (since 1846 manager of a research institute near Dijon) addressed the causes of emigration. So he sent writings and reports about the Historical Department to this region of France, as well as private information about particular émigrés and their fate.

In 1848, the position of the émigrés and Polish Societies worsened significantly. Polish organizations were made to suspend their activity and contacts with the country were also broken. The financial situation became difficult. The majority of the émigrés, especially the rich, abandoned France temporarily. Prince Adam went to Germany, while the others hurried to Italy and Hungary. Many sought employment and shelter in Turkey. Władysław Za-

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<sup>17</sup> L. Gadon, *Z życia Polaków...*, p. 55.

<sup>18</sup> A. Mickiewicz, *Dzieła prozą*. Wydał T. Pini, Nowogródek 1934, t. 4, p. 384.

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moyski wrote ‘Sienkiewicz alone stood by the Library’.<sup>19</sup> Soon there were rent arrears. Meanwhile, many exiles including active members of the History Department, participated in Polish and European-wide conflicts associated with the Spring of Nations. The number of members of the Literary Society and the History Department decreased to a very small team, and their funds decreased likewise.<sup>20</sup>

By this point, the library was in a serious financial situation and was in jeopardy of being evicted from its premises. Thanks to Sienkiewicz’s resourcefulness and efficiency, Czartoryski’s help and Zamoyski’s largesse, nonetheless it managed to save both its accommodation and book collection.

After 1850, the Library’s position began to improve gradually thanks to the addition of funds provided by some relatively affluent émigrés, as well as sundry donations to Polish Societies and Libraries. Among the more significant bequests, were those of General Ludwik Pac, General Karol Kniziewicz and Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz, as well as that of the great follower of Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski—Maciej Wodziński. In 1848, the late senator and governor of the Polish Kingdom, Maciej Wodziński, willed to the Literary Society 4,514 volumes, 10,562 prints and 42 numismatic pieces. They were moved to Paris in 1850 where they were incorporated into the Polish Library.<sup>21</sup>

After balance was restored to the political environment, some of the members returned to their work which had been interrupted. In the resolution of 2 April 1851, the Department was transformed into a separate Polish Historical Society and was formally separated from the Literary Society. Already at the beginning of ’50s, the idea of creating a distinct institution occupied only with the past came on the agenda again. Official documents said it would have a strongly scientific character. It was meant to be recognized by the French authorities as a public corporation which would be eligible for financial support from the government. At this point the idea emerged about finding a new permanent home for the Library. Consequently, forming this particular type of association became a matter of urgency.

At this time, Adam Mickiewicz was once again taking an active part in the Society’s work. Since 1846 he had been planning to provide the Library with a collection of Slavic books. After the stormy years of 1848–50, and the associated uncertainty over the Library’s fate, it was decided to start a public subscription for the Polish House in Paris. During a ses-

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<sup>19</sup> W. Zamoyski, *Jeneral Zamoyski 1803 -1863*, t.5, Poznań 1910, p. 317

<sup>20</sup> *Ibidem*

<sup>21</sup> J. Pezda, *Ludzie i pieniądze...*, p. 214. Zob. „Rocznik Towarzystwa Historyczno-Literackiego”, R. 1866, Paryż 1867, p. VII.

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sion of the Library Council held in December 1844, Sienkiewicz had already presented a plan about a ‘Great Polish Institution’. The appeal for subscriptions was sent out to Polish countrymen in Paris, to the French regions, as well as to London, Dresden and Poznan. The idea was supported by Joachim Lelewel and a group of Polish duty officers in Piedmont. Beautiful and deep words of support sent by poet Zygmunt Krasiński were taken very seriously at the time—and he also contributed his share of money too.<sup>22</sup>

Between 8 April and June 1851, it proved possible to collect FF.10,000. By the end of the year, the sum had become FF.20,000. Unfortunately the next year didn’t see such a large sum accrue to the Library’s account. Although it actually seemed to hold quite a significant amount of money, in fact it was insufficient for its needs. The amount collected was only enough to provide for temporary accommodation for the Library. This was the moment at which Władysław Zamoyski, president of the subscription committee, took up the initiative of fund raising.

In the end, Władysław Zamoyski purchased the house at 6. Quai d’Orleans on St. Louis island and became its nominal landlord. During the Society’s session held on 10 December 1853, the purchase of the house for the Library according to Zamoyski’s conditions was accepted by means of a resolution. It caused a wave of criticism in some émigré circles, and the objections of Karol Sienkiewicz—who never respected Władysław Zamoyski—were particularly strong. Sienkiewicz wanted to build a monumental edifice in a better-known district of the city. In fact, however, Sienkiewicz’s alternative proposals over the site of the Library came to nothing, and he stopped working in this connection in 1853. He died on 7 February 1860 in Paris.

The building purchased on St. Louis island in fact was a four-floor tenement building which dated back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It cost FF.90,000. Of this, FF. 36,000 came from popular subscriptions, FF.40,000 were borrowed from *Credit Foncier*, and the rest was provided by Count Zamoyski. The Polish Library occupied 11 rooms on the second floor. The rest of the building was used as flats which provided rent in order to pay off the loan required to purchase the place. In 1854, the History and Literary Societies joined together to form the Historical-Literary Society, and in that September the Library was opened in the new building.

There is no doubt that the new home led to heightened activity in the society and helped made Polish scientific life more meaningful. Gifts flooded in, prints as well as manu-

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<sup>22</sup> *Towarzystwo Historyczne Polskie. Składka na dom dla Biblioteki Narodowej w Paryżu. Sprawozdanie drugie*, Paryż 1852, p. 3.

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scripts. There were the collections of Senator Wodziński and Colonel Szulc's, Gran Duce Konstanty's archive, the certificates of the Sejm from 1830–31, not to mention the archive of the Polish army's general headquarters and its mission in Paris from the same years. There were also the memoirs of November Uprising's participants and the papers of various émigré organizations. Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski became the president of the Historical-Literary Society, and after his death the post was passed on to his son, Prince Władysław Czartoryski. Financially the Library was supported by the French-Polish Committee and French government, which granted an annual contribution of FF.2,000.

The Library and its workers participated indirectly in Poland's dramatic events. In March 1863 Library rooms were closed to the public so that the National Government could use them. They were re-opened in May 1864.

As the years went by, the Library's collections were constantly getting larger and the need arose to re-order and catalogue them. Under the guidance of Walerian Kalinka and Eustachy Januszkiewicz, the systematic arranging of resources and the drawing up of an inventory was begun. The work would last six years.

According to the decree of 10 June 1866, the Historical-Literary Society was legalized and recognized as an association of public law. Before long, however, a doubt emerged over the future of the Library once again as it became possible that it would have to be re-located owing to the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. During this period the Library was closed to visitors for one and half years and the institution was cared for by Curator Mr. Wrześniewski and his associate Mr. Borkowski. They visited the building every day to guard against the collections being damaged or robbed.

In 1891, the French government allowed the Historical-Literary Society to give its collections to the Polish Academy of Skills in Cracow which was recognized as a trustworthy curator of them, on condition that they would stay in Paris as an institution open for use by the general public. By the decree of Emperor Franz Joseph I dated 18 February 1892, the Academy was authorized to assume the management of the Library, with the reservation that it would not cost anything. In fact, economic problems had been present since the very beginning of the Library's life and still had not been resolved, hence the material situation of the Library was still very difficult.

At this time, the society was transformed into a Local Committee and its members were nominated by the Academy. The task of the Committee was to support Cracow's official delegate in administering the Library which became the Scientific Station of the Polish Acad-

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emy of Skills. The activity of Polish Scientific Station in Paris was expressed in the General Secretary's reports of Polish Academy of Skills.<sup>23</sup>

In 1899, Władysław Mickiewicz became the delegate of the Academy. He was the son of the poet Adam Mickiewicz. In 1903 he enriched the Library with books and personal souvenirs from his late father. This collection comprised the Mickiewicz Museum which occupied two halls. In 1909 the Library took over space on the ground floor, complete with a thousand-volume reference library and magazines. The number of readers was increasing slowly as well. In 1905 there were 1,389, rising to 5,256 in 1910. By 1911 the financial situation was improving to some extent. The Municipal Council of Paris began paying a subsidy of FF.250.

The task of the Library was still to satisfy the intellectual and scientific needs of Poles residing in Paris, as well as sourcing information for the people and institutions of both the home country and abroad. In 1914, the Library could boast that the book collection numbered 100,000 pieces in Polish language or concerning to Poland, and 30,000 prints. It was hosting 5,000 readers annually.

The events of the First World War did not cause the Library to close. It became a focus for Polish independence based in France. It provided something to do for at least some Polish prisoners-of-war.

### **Polish Library in Paris after the regaining of independence**

The regaining of independence by Poland signaled a change of character for the Library, and presented it with new tasks. After Władysław Mickiewicz's death in 1926, Franciszek Pułaski became the delegate of the Academy. He ordered that the Mickiewicz Museum be catalogued, also that there should be an inventory of the manuscripts. Over 50,000 volumes were sent to Poland, mainly to the National Library in Warsaw and to Cracow, because their themes were not adequately Polish. The same was done with the prints. In this way, the Polish Library in Paris became fully scientific and took on a completely Polish character, being concerned with exclusively Polish issues. It also became the Library's duty to represent Polish science abroad. As a result, the *Centre d'Études Polonaises* was created.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> J. Pielaszek, *Francuski łącznik*, Rocznik Polskiej Akademii Nauk—Stacja Naukowa w Paryżu, 2006, Nr 3(7), pp. 46–47.

<sup>24</sup> In 1937 it was created Centre d'Études Polonaises ( The Center of Polish Studies) which works were directed by: Franciszek Pułaski, Andre Mazon and Zygnynt Lubicz-Zaleski. In the Center acted three research institutes: Polish Civilization, Contemporary Poland and Military Causes.

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On 3 May 1929, during the day of traditional annual meetings in the Library, the exhibition of Adam Mickiewicz's manuscripts was opened. It was accompanied by the first of a series of lectures given by Professor Ignacy Chrzanowski and Józef Kallenbach. The series was given mostly in French and took place until 1939. The lectures were collected and published in 4 volumes. Their purpose was to acquaint foreigners with Polish literature and history, as well as with the problems of contemporary Poland.

During the Second World War, after the Nazis invaded France, the Library was put at the disposal of Alfred Rosenberg and the collection was moved from Paris. Some of its most precious elements were hidden and kept in private French collections. Consequently the Second World War caused the Library to be devastated. After the war ended, however, most of the holdings were returned to Paris and the Library renewed its activity.<sup>25</sup> Now re-built and re-ordered, the Polish Library contains 220,000 volumes, 30,000 brochures, 3,200 titles of magazines, 4,000 maps and atlases, and about 30,000 thousand pieces of art.

### **About the author**

In 2009, Kamil Kubicki obtained his doctorate at the University of Maria Curie-Skłodowska, Lublin. His research interests concern the history of the great emigration of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the fates of Poles in exile. He is currently examining the experiences of Polish political émigrés, 1976–89. His e-mail address is [kamilkubicki@interia.pl](mailto:kamilkubicki@interia.pl).

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<sup>25</sup> *Polska wyspa w Paryżu*, „Mówią wieki”, (2005). Rozmowa z Kazimierzem Piotrem Zaleskim, dyrektorem Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu.