

Between History and Tourism

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ROMAN NOWACKI

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Introduction

Monographs creating separate bibliography units can be easily found in library catalogues and on bookshop shelves. Even after a lot of years they are objects of interests of researchers who investigate the issues covered in them. The situation is different with publications scattered in various scientific journals or in collective works and with reports delivered at scientific conferences. It happens that after a short period of interest nobody ever uses them. Access to them is often limited due to low circulation of these publications. The above mentioned reasons determined the preparation of this compilation. It consists of seven scientific articles published in scientific journals, collective works and papers of my authorship delivered at international conferences. All of them were reviewed by prominent experts in the field of physical education sciences and in historical sciences and they all were published. The papers included in the compilation have been selected from dozens of publications which were issued in the past few years and they reflect my current interests and research directions.

R. Nowacki, Tourist trips and scientific travels of the Jan Kazimierz Universisty in Lviv professors [in:] Polska kultura fizyczna i turystyka w czasach zaborów i II Rzeczypospolitej, edited by Dobiesław Dudek, Studia i Monografie No 61, Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego w Krakowie, Kraków 2009, p. 36-47.

In Austro – Hungarian monarchy in the second half of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century the best graduates of Cracow and Lviv universities could apply for scholarships for supplementary studies abroad in order to acquaint themselves with achievements of leading research institutes. The most frequently they travelled to Germany. Among those who completed supplementary studies were: Wincenty Zakrzewski, Michał Bobrzyński, Stanisław Smolka, Oswald Balzer¹, Władysław Abraham² and Przemysław Dabkowski³. Polish scholars familiarized themselves with research and teaching methods used in the renowned foreign universities. Visits abroad in the initial stage of their scientific work also enabled them to get acquainted with history, citizens and cultural life of the town they studied in. Galician scholars eagerly visited surrounding towns and villages famous for some tourist attractions and in later years they came back there accompanied by their families and friends. According to the "memories" written by some of the scholars and to their subsequent accounts from the travels, it seems that these trips left some mark on their future lifestyles. The best examples are the

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¹ See more in R. Nowacki, *Oswald Balzer 1858-1933*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Opolskiego, Opole 1998.

² A. Śródka, *Uczeni polscy XIX-XX stulecia*, t. 1, A-G, Wydawnictwo "Aries", Warszawa 1994, p. 17.

³ See more in R. Nowacki, *Wybitni przedstawiciele kultury europejskiej*. *Przemysław Dąbkowski – uczony, pisarz, podróżnik*, Oficyna Wydawnicza Politechniki Opolskiej, Opole 2006.

Jan Kazimierz University in Lviv well-known professors: Oswald Balzer and Władysław Abraham. At the end of the 19th century and in the first half of the 20th century they were visiting towns, sometimes very distant from Lviv, either for scientific or recreation purposes including European capitals and famous tourist destinations like Opatija, Ostend, Lido, Karlsbad, Zakopane and Krynica.

One of the well-known admirers of travelling was Przemysłąw Dabkowski, the Jan Kazimierz University professor who already at the beginning of his scientific activity, during the partition, travelled to places beyond the Austro-Hungarian borders for scientific purposes. He practiced with passion the urban, leisure and health tourism. This article is devoted to his scientific and tourist travels.

After completing law studies at the Lviv University Przemysław Dąbkowski began his attempts to win a scholarship in the Academy of Learning in Cracow⁴. He wanted to study at the Faculty of Law at the University of Berlin. Justifying the choice of that university he stressed he wished to expand his knowledge of German law. He was given the scholarship from the Gałęzowski Foundation for the academic year 1903/1904. "It was my first bigger trip to the west of Europe – later recalled Dąbkowski – I was a young man than who recently received the dignity of the doctorate. I followed my university professors, particularly professor Balzer whose advice and support directed me to win the golden spurs of science at the University of Berlin [...] to create scientific "masterstroke" which was to open the gates to the Lviv University and let me sit among the respectable lecturers [...] In those times the University of Berlin shone with the names of scientists in the field of historical and legal

⁴ L. Pauli, *W setną rocznicę urodzin Przemysława Dąbkowskiego*, "Czasopismo Prawno-Historyczne" (Poznań) 1978, t. XXX, z. 2.

sciences whose scientific authority lit the youthful imagination with the desire to work and the dream to become equal"⁵.

The Royal Frederick William University (Königliche Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität) founded in 1809 was located in the former palace of Prince Henry of Prussia, the brother of Frederic II, built in 1764. Its spacious and bright rooms were perfect for lecture halls. The separate Auditorium Maximum was placed in an annex situated behind the main building. Students could use the collections of the University Library founded in 1829 in Dorotheenstrasse and of the Royal Library whose beginnings dated back to the 17th century. It was located then in a stately building from the end of the 18th century situated at the Opera square. Dąbkowski spent a lot of time there. The reading room which was available for everyone, placed in a spacious two-storey hall and well-equipped in handheld collection of books enabled him to become acquainted with many unique works and manuscripts⁶.

During classes, just like other Lviv scholars, he intended to learn about research and teaching methods used in the Berlin university. First of all he attended the lectures of Josef Kohler, Otto Gierke and Karol Zeumer. He was also interested in the lectures of Aleksander Brückner, a Polish philologist, Slavist and cultural historian. He developed his research skills on Henryk Brunner and Karol Zuemer's seminars.

Since January 1904, when he moved from a modest flat to a well-known Polish guest house of Mrs Skrzetuskie's (SW. Zimmerstrasse 97) his group of friends quickly expanded. Sisters Maria and Stanisława who ran the guest house and came from the Wielkopolska landed gentry, hosted Polish

⁵ P. Dąbkowski, *Wspomnienia z podróży naukowych 1899-1908*, Lwów 1929, p. 59.

⁶ Ibid., p. 61.

people from all partitions: mainly scientists, priests, doctors, landowners and entrepreneurs. The young Lviv scholar met the leading representatives of Polish diaspora in Berlin: Karol Rose, the editor of "Dziennik Berliński", the editor Franciszek Krzysiak, a well-known populariser of Polish history and Kazimierz Kerber, a national activist and a founder of a bookshop offering Polish literature. He became familiar with living conditions of Polish people, with the activity of societies and libraries created by them, with a subject area of periodicals and journals published by the Polish community. He devoted most of his time to stroll around the city. "[...] I was delighted with Berlin – he recalled after the years – I was impressed the most by that incredible traffic, by those continuous waves of people overflowing day and night over the Friedrich Street [...] I was enchanted with tidiness and order, with a powerful pulse of life of the enormous city. Those clean, smoothly asphalted streets, strong houses built not to impress but intended to survive for ages [...] Berlin's surroundings [...] deep, dark woods, vast lakes reminded me of my beloved Podlasie"⁷.

While working at Bernardine Archive Przemysław Dąbkowski many times went on business trips beyond the borders of Austria-Hungary. He described the course of those peregrinations later in a literary valuable work "Memories from scientific travels". Since October 1899 he carried out a query in the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw. It was in a building situated at the intersection of Krasińska Street and Długa Street. Its head was Teodor Wierzbowski then, the Imperial University professor of Polish literature. In that institution he found a lot of valuable documents for the Polish acts publication from times of Sigismund I. He was constantly urged by the Academy of Learning which sponsored the project. For that reason he spent most of the time in the archives

⁷ Ibid., p. 59-61.

workshops. He worked "in a rush" though in spite of it his visit in Warsaw prolonged from planned three months to eleven. He had to do almost everything by himself because he did not succeed in finding a regular assistant for looking through hundreds of volumes of documents and collating new source documents with already known ones. Dąbkowski was provided with a lot of valuable materials by the Zamoyska Ordinance Library and first of all by so called Teki Górskiego kept there. He was kindly welcomed by two great personalities: Tadeusz Korzon, an outstanding historian, the author of *Wewnętrzne dzieje Polski za Stanisława Augusta 1764–1794*8 and Stefan Żeromski, a prosaist, a poet and the author of *Ludzie bezdomni* and *Przedwiośnie*.

In the Zamoyska Ordinance Library he found the materials related to Armenian issues. Its director Aleksander Rembowski, an expert in Polish law history⁹, who showed great interest in the publication *Corpus iuris Polonici*, offered facilities for his enquiry borrowing him the manuscripts he could work on after the library was closed.

In Warsaw Dąbkowski met a lot of representatives of an intellectual elite. Apart from scholars whom he met in the archives workshops, he had an opportunity to come into contact with writers, journalists, lawyers and also with people connected with industry and trade in the salons of his relatives and their friends. He established a lasting friendship with Henryk Konic, the editor of "Gazeta Sądowa Warszawska", later the Warsaw

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⁸ See more in B. Grochulska, *Tadeusz Korzon 1839-1918* [in:] *Historycy warszawscy ostatnich dwóch stuleci*, edited by A. Gieysztor, J. Maternicki, H. Samsonowicz, Warszawa 1986, p. 115-132; W. Kamieniecki, *Historycy i politycy warszawscy 1900-1950*, Warszawa 1992, p. 39-47; A. Śródka, *Uczeni polscy XIX-XX stulecia*, t. 2, Wydawnictwo "Aries", Warszawa 1995, p. 267-269.

⁹ A. Śródka, *Uczeni polscy XIX-XX stulecia*, t. 3, Wydawnictwo "Aries", Warszawa 1997, p. 534-535.

University professor of law, Stanisław van der Noot Kijeński, an attorney, a well-known social worker and a philanthropist and Stanisław Posner, a lawyer, later the Polish Rzeczypospolita senator.

He usually spent the free time with his family. "I got familiar with all the Warsaw theatres – he wrote – which I visited in my uncle ant aunt's company or with my nephew Władysław Michalski [...] First of all I constantly visited my beloved uncle Antoni and aunt Ewelina from the Tworkowski family. In the village Ochota near Warsaw, behind the Wolskie tolls, lived then my second aunt Teodora Dąbkowska, widow of John, with her already widowed daughter Józefa Michalska. I was their constant Sunday guest"¹⁰.

Przemysław Dąbkowski often commuted by railway from Warsaw to the Branickich Library in Wilanów. There were the Acta Tomiciana and a manuscript of the Goryński statutes from 1531 which were of his interest. Kazimierz Przecławski who was managing the library gave him the run of its collection. The use of them was difficult because of a hard journey. The surroundings were "sandy", the carriages were open and airy. Passengers of the railway to Wilanów were "completely covered with dust" 11.

At the beginning of 1901 Dąbkowski went to Poznań. Rich archive collections of this town kept him there for a month and a half. He spent most of this time in the Royal Prussian State Archives (Königlich Preussisches Staatsarchiv). There were stored a significant amount of old Polish court books, town and land ones from Greater Poland, a precious collection of diplomas and town archives of Poznań. In its reference collections there were stored almost all records which referred to this

¹⁰ P. Dabkowski, Wspomnienia z podróży..., p. 16-17.

¹¹ Ibid., p. 27.

district's history¹². The institution's lack of interest in Polish relics of the past and reserved treatment of the researchers must have had a great impact on the young scholar. He was surprised that the collection was barely used. His presence in the Raczyńskich Library, which was managed by Polish, was rare. The access to them was limited only to afternoons.

He usually spent his free time with Adam Skałkowski who came to Lviv to search for sources to his work about Henryk Dąbrowski. They visited the town and neighborhood. They observed the dominant political, national and economic situation. "In Poznań you could distinguish two cities — Dąbkowski wrote — A modern one with beautiful streets, squares, houses, busy and rich. It was a German city. Polish people, despite of quite numerous Polish shops, even despite of the great Bazaar lived somewhere inside, as in hiding. Only after you went over the bridge on Warta River and went along small streets of Chwaliszewo with typical suburban houses built here and there, you could feel you were on Polish soil. Polishness of Poznań concentrated near the crowd. You may say it sheltered under the protective wings of the Church" ¹³.

After a short stay in Lviv he went to Gdańsk to conduct an enquiry in the Town Archive (Stadterchiv). In that time it was in a stage of reorganization. It was intended to be converted into a state institution. It was situated on the third floor of the Gdańsk Town Hall. The most precious records were kept in the "Krzysztofor" meeting room.

Walking along the city streets he was watching the local people. "[...] I was trying to find the signs of Polishness of Gdańsk in the city life – he wrote – the signs I read a lot about in the archive and library files. However I was completely disappointed. Polish names which appeared on shop signboards

¹² Ibid., p. 29.

¹³ Ibid., p. 34-35.

belonged to completely Germanized people [...] And yet Polish life still smoldered somewhere deep inside and a handful of the Polish reading in Polish existed grouped around "Gazeta Gdańska" and its editor Mr Milski [...]. Polishness of Gdańsk found some support from few Polish landed gentry families who then still existed in Prussia"¹⁴.

During his visit in Gdańsk, Przemysław Dąbkowski went on trips to nearby places. Together with Adam Skałkowski he visited Malbork and Elbląg. The destination of their trip were to be the archives and town libraries. However it seems that in the centre of interest of young men from Lviv were the former Marienburg Castle in Malbork and Elbląg's monuments. Old buildings of the town situated on the River Elbląg resembling Gdańsk made Dąbkowski compare thoso two cities. "Like Gdański – he wrote – Elbląg has got old gabled houses [...] the Old Market Square (Alter Markt) is very similar in character to Langer Markt in Gdańsk and Lege Brücke in Elbląg resembles Mołtawa riverside in Gdańsk. On the streets and signboards I met here, as in Gdańsk, though maybe in a smaller number, the names which sounded like Polish. However those people completely lost their sense of Polish origin"¹⁵.

A very good impression was made on Dąbkowski by citizens of Toruń where he stayed for a few days on his way back to Lviv. He heard Polish language in the streets, in Polish and even in German shops. The language was known by many local Germans who kept lively trade relationships with Polish merchants coming to Toruń. "One typical detail let me know I was approaching my motherland's borders – Dąbkowski wrote – With real affection I saw someone immersed in a prayer kneeling under the church

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 42.

¹⁵ Ibid., p. 46.

cross [...] Throughout my journey within Germany I have never seen something like that"¹⁶.

In the Town Archives, were he intended to conduct an enquiry, a few thousands of diplomas and official town books were stored. The head of the archive, Artur Semrau, a historian and a teacher in the gymnasium made the desired documents available enabling him to extract the most information. Dąbkowski used also the resources of the Toruń Gymnasium's Library. He made a lot of copies and extracts from the manuscripts kept there.

In the middle of May 1902 he went to Moscow to read the collection of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Archives. Strict regulations of this institution letting to use its resources only for three hours a day made the enquiry difficult. He devoted his spare time to sightseeing. He was impressed by monumental buildings of The Kremlin. He walked among old fortifications of Moscow rules' capital city. He admired their palaces, visited museums, orthodox churches and parks. Sometimes he went to a modern part of the town. He walked several times along the main artery of contemporary Moscow, Twerska Street and Kuźniecki Bridge. After making some extracts from the available materials he came back to Lviv in the middle of June 1902.

In the interwar period a social life in Lviv moved from private residences salons to exclusive restaurants located mostly in renowned hotels ("George", "European", "Lange", "English", "Warszawski", "Krakowski"). Dąbkowski occasionally visited them. In summer months the Dąbkowski family willingly went abroad. They were in Vienna or Paris. Among the resort places they visited were Ostend, Lido, Karlsbad and Biarritz. During stays in those places they often visited local architectural and nature

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¹⁶ Ibid., p. 48.

monuments. Sometimes they travelled to nearby towns. The visit in one of them was described by Dabkowski in the article entitled Two days in Bordeaux. He came to this town with his wife in the second half of August 1913. "The area you go across on the way from Paris to Bodeaux – he wrote – belongs to the most charming in France. We passed the places whose names reminded some past historical events like Orléans, Blois, Tours, Poitiers or Angoulême, we were passing areas full of greenery and orchards justly called the orchard of France. Among picturesque, mild heels, green meadows and beautifully winding silvery rivers here and there were visible magnificent palaces, former homes of the great French nobility. When the sun was setting in the west the smell of these meadows and orchards combined with the fresh ocean breeze we were approaching, was simply intoxicating. We were passing through the country once full of life but then it was just as if it was covered with light cobweb of oblivion. In those times life of France concentrated in the northern lands and this former heart of France, full of monuments of its glory was beating weaker and weaker [...] At midnight, among flashes of enormous thunder which quickly passed, however, we came to Bordeaux. After crossing a huge bridge we were surprised to go along completely quiet and deserted streets which were too big contrast for us after the night life of Paris" ¹⁷. Maria and Przemysław Dabkowscy stayed at a modest hotel (without electric light) d'Aquitaine et de la Gironde situated at the St. Remy square ¹⁸. They were delighted with the town. Bordeaux, lying in the former Aquitaine on the Garonne River¹⁹ had 262 thousand of inhabitants then. Its history dated

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¹⁷ P. Dąbkowski, *Dwa dni w Bordeaux*, "Słowo Polskie" 21.09.1914, No 421 and *Pokłosie z dwudziestu lat pracy naukowej zebrane 1897-1916*, Lwów 1917, s. 100-101.

¹⁸ P. Dabkowski, *Pokłosie z dwudziestu lat pracy naukowej...*, p. 101.

¹⁹ Department Gironde.

back to the antiquity. From Roman times there were left many remains of walls, gates, aqueducts, baths and an amphitheatre. That ruins surrounded by the town park were a favorite place for walks and relaxation of Bordeaux citizens. Buildings of the town resembled a layout of Paris. It was spread out on both sides of the Garonne River. Like in Paris, a bigger part of the town was situated on the left side of a river. The Dabkowscy, while sightseeing, were astonished by quite a number of streets and squares particularly in an historic part of the town²⁰. "Real ornaments of Bordeaux – Dabkowksi wrote – are its numerous churches. Some of them reach a distant past. Among many of them should be distinguished an old St Eulalia Church, just renovated Sainte Croix Church which was built in a form of a basilica coming from the 10th century or an impressive with its enormous size St Michael Church. This church possesses a situated dozen meters away gothic style bell tower which dates back to the 15th century and is 108m high [...] However, unquestionably the most beautiful church is St Andrew's Cathedral built for three hundred years from the 13th to the 15th century or even to the second half of the 19th century because it was already then when it was finally completed". In his description of the town, apart from shining sacral and secular historic buildings, there is a lot of space for nature description. He was comparing local squares and public gardens with Lviv ones²¹. Jardin Public located in the centre of the town was an equivalent of – in his opinion – the Town Garden (post-Jesuit). Its main attraction was a magnificent winter garden with specimens of rare and exotic plants. A garden located outside the town had a different nature, was similar to the Lviv Stryjski Park and inhabitants of Bordeaux spent their spare time "every Sunday".

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²⁰ P. Dabkowski, *Poklosie z dwudziestu lat pracy naukowej...*, p. 102.

²¹ Ibid., p. 104-105.

Przemysław Dabkowski spent most of his leisure time in Lviv. He made long strolls around the town with his wife. Their favorite destination places were recreational areas: The Castle Mountain, The Town Garden and the Łyczakowski Park. They tracked with interest the changes in buildings and architecture of Lviv. Intense construction projects which accompanied modernism at the turn of the first and the second decades of the 20th century not always gained his approval. He expressed it in the article devoted to old buildings entitled *Alleys of Lviv*. "There is no longer among living unforgettable Franciszek Jaworski – he wrote – who could describe the beauty of old Lviv [...] Another researches, Adam Krajewski who is also dead presented Lviv from the first half of the 19th century in a series of unpretentious pictures [...] And there are so many more beautiful and typical things in our town which we walk past quite indifferently. Among them are alleys of Lviv [...] which are situated in a very centre of the town right next to the busiest communication arteries. It is enough to make a few steps away from a bustling street and we move straight away in some distant, still, quiet and asleep world. This sudden turn and sharp contrast between traffic and peacefulness give the alleys some incredible charm. One or a few small streets, narrow, irregular, badly paved, with small houses built along where mostly poor people live: small merchants, craftsmen, minor civil servants, more or less they create characteristics of an alley [...] Almost all Lviv alleys focus near churches or sometimes monasteries"22. The alley distinguished by him, because of the "eminent citizens", was the one situated between the Cathedral, the Chapel of Boim family and a row of capitular houses. In another one, squeezed between the church and the Bernardine Monastery on one side and the remainings of a former town wall and a few tenement houses on the other, he presented an

²² P. Dąbkowski, Zaułki lwowskie, "Kurier Lwowski" 01.07.1916, No 329.

image of a Lviv backyard. He pointed also the "Armenian" alley situated between Ormiańska Street and Skarbowska Street. He considered it as one of the most beautiful and the most typical places in Lviv. Full of secret passages, cloisters and courtyards seemed as if it was moved from the Far East. However, the author believed the alley lying next to the Church of Our Lady of the Snow transcended it. It was the square and the street running up to The Bernardine Sisters Monastery. "[...] In the place of old, nice two-storey small houses existing not so long ago – he wrote – with appearance tailored to their church, multi-storey tenement houses were erected and now they overwhelm the church with their huge size. Separated by a series of steps from the busy artery of everyday life, surrounded by the bustle and noise of trade community stands the small, modest and forgotten church [...] once one of the first heralds of Western culture, the cathedral church of Lviv"²³.

Research travels of Przemysław Dąbkowski enabled him, just like many other scientists, to acquaint with archive and library resources collected in other countries sometimes in towns very distant from Lviv. Visits in foreign scientific institutions let him look closer at research and teaching methods used there. Moreover in the time free from classes and archive queries he could visit the places where he was staying. He could find out about the history and culture of other countries and regions of Europe. Observation of ongoing everyday life both during scientific trips and stays in resorts satisfied his curiosity and at the same time broadened his knowledge of local communities, their customs and achievements. Tourist trips, particularly when they were combined with relaxation, made him regenerate his energy and urban tourism which he enjoyed till the end of his days provided him physical movement and aesthetic impressions.

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²³ Ibid.

Finally, when he was completely lonely and old it gave him a confidence that he still participated in the events of his town – Lviv.

