

Polonica in the library of the Slavic Institute in Bratislava

The complete library of the Slavic Institute in Bratislava (Knižnica Slovanského ústavu v Bratislave), which origins date back to 1827, is also unofficially known as „Štur’s library”¹. Today the collection is placed in the University Library in Bratislava (Univerzitná knižnica v Bratislave) and it represents an important collection of both Czech and Slovak, but also other different Slavic literatures, including documents from the 16th century until 1870s². The existence of this library collection is closely connected to the Department for Czechoslovak Language and Literature (Ústav reči a literatúry československej)³ as a part of the Protestant-Evangelical lycée in Bratislava (Evanjelické lýceum v Bratislave). The department’s activity was initiated by Juraj Palkovič⁴, born in Rimavská Baňa on December 12th 1803⁵. Palkovič was the originator and realizer of the idea of a department that would aim in deepening the knowledge of the Czechoslovak language (in the 19th century that is Czech language), and cultivating relationships with Czech and Moravian scholars, but also exploring the culture and life of other Slavic nations. He also sought to improve the Slavic solidarity, and strengthen the awareness of national affiliation⁶, teaching at the department as a professor until 1850. Another important milestone involved in the development of the library was the formation of self-educational students association – The Czecho-Slavic Society (Spoločnosť česko-slovanská)⁷ in Bratislava’s Protestant-Evangelical lycée, founded in 1829 by the nationally oriented students Karol Štúr, Samo Chalupka, Daniel Lichard, and Samuel Godra. Formally, the Professor of the lycée J. Palkovič was at its forefront, but in fact the society was managed by a student elected

¹ Eudovít Štúr (1815-1856), see also: *Ludovít Štúr na hranici dvoch vekov. Život, dielo a doba verzus historická pamäť*, eds. P. Macho, D. Kodajová, Bratislava 2015; B. Svobodová, K. Fircáková, *Ludovít Štúr a Univerzitná knižnica v Bratislave*, „Bulletin Univerzitetnej knižnice v Bratislave” 2006, P. 1, pp. 7-12.

² The character of this study offers a general overview-compilation and is based on the printed catalogue of the fund, collated by the eminent bibliographer of the University Library in Bratislava, Anna Feriencikova and published as *Knižnica Slovanského ústavu v Bratislave*, Bratislava 1972. The introductory study was prepared by Maria Vyvijalova.

³ The Institute is also known under these names: Ústav reči a literatúry československej, Ústav reči a literatúry československej, Slovenský ústav, Slovanský ústav, Ústav slovanský, Ústav slovenský.

⁴ See M. Vyvijalová, *Juraj Palkovič (1769-1850) : (kapitoly k ideovému formovaniu osobnosti a pôsobeniu v národnom hnutí)*, Bratislava 1968.

⁵ Other sources claim November 1803.

⁶ M. Vyvijalová, *Dejiny knižnice Slovanského ústavu v Bratislave*, [in:] A. Feriencikova, *Knižnica Slovanského ústavu...*, p. 16.

⁷ The society is also known as: Spoločnosť česko-slovanská, Slovenská spoločnosť, Spoločnosť reči a literatúry československé, Spoločnosť reči a literatúry československé, Spoločnosť reči a literatúry československej/česko-slovenskej/československej/česko-slovanskej, Literárna jednota, Jednota mládeže, Spoločnosť/Spoločnosť česko-slovanská, Spoločnosť československá/československá, Česko-slovanská spoločnosť.

as Deputy Chairman. The original role of the society was to teach, educate and improve its members in their mother language, as the word „Slavic” in the name of the society was generally understood as „Slovak”. At the height of its activity, during 1835-1837, when Ludovít Štúr was the Deputy Chairman, the organisation involved 120 members, and national and political issues came to the foreground. After student societies were officially banned in 1837, this society ceased to exist, but its activity *de facto* continued at the Department for Czechoslavic Language. A group of the students previously involved in the Czecho-Slavic Society also founded a secret society named *Vzájomnosť* (Mutuality).

During 1820s and 1830s, the library collection was built of books given mostly by Czech donors, and several librarians were overseeing its operation. It had its own statutes and library regulations that specified the authority of the personnel supervising the library, but also the rights and obligations of the readers. According to the statutes, the main goal of the library was to compile Slavic literature and essentially build a reference school library for the Slavic Institute for the needs of students who were interested in the cultural historical and literary life of related Slavic nations⁸. The library founded for the needs of students was maintained not only from the outside donations, but also from voluntary contributions of students-readers who would annually donate a sum into its treasury⁹.

Significant book acquisitions were made mostly thanks to the helpfulness of Czech scholars and so the collection was provisionally only enriched by Czech literature. The original idea of building a truly Slavic library was only fulfilled to an extent. Such a more or less spontaneous growth had to be reined in and ensured that the collection gains regular additions from other Slavic nations, so that the library could gradually acquire the envisioned character of a Slavic *bibliotheca*, as it was originally intended. This idea of development in this particular direction began to be followed by L. Štúr, the most significant representative of Slovak national life and a leading figure of Slovak national revival, once he became a Secretary of the Czecho-Slovak Society, whilst he was supervising the library at the same time¹⁰.

L. Štúr – the codifier of the Standard Slovak Language based on the middle Slovak vernacular (around 1843) – was one of the leading participants of the Slovak uprising in 1848-1849 and a member of the Hungarian parliament, representing the constituency of Zvolen in the years 1847-1848. Štúr was lecturing on Czech and Polish grammar and history at the Protestant-Evangelical lycée. Aside from Latin, he had perfect command of Hungarian, German, French, Greek and Slavic languages (mainly Polish, Serbian and Croatian, Russian), and he was learning Hebrew and English. Privately he led extensive correspondence with leading men of the Slavic world – František Palacký, Jozef Jungmann, Pavel Jozef Šafárik, Ján Kollár and others.

Additions to the library were based mainly on personal contacts of Štúr’s followers. Friendly contacts with the representatives of other Slavic nations were strengthened for example by holiday trips and travel events of the lycée’s students through Slovak regions, but also outside the Slovak territory, and brought the library of the Slavic Institute benefits in the form of contacts enabling the exchange of literary production, numerous donors and contributors to the thriving library collections. The librarians and specifically designated correspondents were in charge of the development of written communication

⁸ M. Vytýjalová, *Dejiny knižnice...*, p. 20.

⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 25.

¹⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 26.

with leading representatives of the Slavic nations. Especially beneficial to the development of the collection were visits of leading representatives of scientific and cultural life of various Slavic nations in Bratislava, and personal contacts of „Štúr's generation"¹¹. Naturally, thanks to such personal contacts, several Polish intellectuals studying in Pest or Vienna gifted books to the collection. The emigrated members of Polish intelligence sent brochures published in Paris to Štúr, he however intentionally dismissed their addition into the library's register due to their political content. The society's representatives focused mainly on literary and scientific works¹². Štúr attempted to acquire the essential works of Slavic authors for the library whilst putting emphasis on their quality, hence the head library members decided to buy e.g. the pieces from the Polish publishing series Biblioteka Kieszonkowa Klasyków Polskich edited by Jan Nepomucen Bobrowicz¹³. Štúr apparently met Bobrowicz, who at that time lived in Leipzig, when he arrived in 1838 to study in the German Halle, via Dresden and Leipzig.

Using their own resources, in 1835 the library obtained the ten-volume book of the church dignitary, writer, poet, journalist, and one of the main leaders of the Polish enlightenment Ignacy Krasicki¹⁴ – *Dzieła Ignacego Krasickiego* (edited by J.N. Bobrowicz, Leipzig 1834-1835¹⁵). Of interest were also the books that the library management was promised by the Warsaw historian of law and culture – an important Slavic scholar Waclaw Aleksander Maciejowski¹⁶. These were probably four volumes of the *Historia prawodawstw słowiańskich* (Warsaw, Leipzig 1832-1835¹⁷) that are registered in the catalogue of the library of the Slavic Institute under numbers 614-617. The volumes were published between 1832 and 1835, and entered into the library at its own expense in 1836. The author of the catalogue „Library of the Slavic institute in Bratislava” was able to identify six Polish donors that contributed with nine books in total¹⁸.

The state of the library of the Slavic Institute in Bratislava at present is captured in the library catalogue¹⁹ of 1899 and displays the book inventory as compiled by Ludovít Wagner, secondary school teacher, that also taught Czech (or rather Slovak) at Bratislava's Protestant-Evangelical lycée. He grouped the books according to their language, presumably following an older document preserved as the „General Register of books from scholars of Czechoslovak Language and Literature in Pressburg 1838/39” („Všeobecný jmenoslov Knih učenců řeči a literatury českosl. v Prešporku 1838/39”), where the register of Polish books can be found on page number three²⁰. In this period, the library listed 16 titles in more than 30 volumes as works of Polish authors. Meanwhile, the number

¹¹ Ibidem, p. 36.

¹² Ibidem, p. 38.

¹³ Jan Nepomucen (de) Bobrowicz (12 V 1805 Kraków – 2 XI 1881 Dresden) was a Polish virtuoso guitarist, composer, music editor, and publisher. He worked as an editor for the music-publishing firm of Breitkopf & Härtel in Leipzig, Germany. Later he ran his own publishing business. He was responsible for probably hundreds of titles, published mainly in Polish. See also: H. Batorowska, *Jan Nepomucen Bobrowicz: polski wydawca i księgarz w Saksonii w czasach Wielkiej Emigracji*, Kraków 1992; S.P. Kocorowski, *Bobrowicz Jan Nepomucen*, [in:] PSB. Vol. 2, *Bezým Jan - Brownsford Maria*, Kraków 1936, pp. 157-158; Z. Walczyk, *Bobrowicz Jan Nepomucen*, [in:] SPKP, ed. by I. Treichel, Warszawa 1972, pp. 73-74.

¹⁴ M. Vybíjalová, *Dejiny knižnice...*, p. 29.

¹⁵ Sign. 88_{I-x}-II E 15_{a..j}.

¹⁶ M. Vybíjalová, *Dejiny knižnice...*, p. 38.

¹⁷ Sign. 53_I-II B 4_a, 53_{II}-II B 4_b, 53_{III}-II B 4_c, 53_{IV}-II B 4_d.

¹⁸ A. Ferienčíková, *Knižnica Slovenského ústavu...*, p. 439.

¹⁹ Ibidem, pp. 77-442.

²⁰ M. Vybíjalová, *Dejiny knižnice ...*, p. 45, 64.

of Polish titles had grown – to 110 volumes and Wagner listed them in the catalogue in a second group, where the books were assigned according to their fields: into theology, philosophy, history and geography, linguistics (grammar books, dictionaries and literary history), natural sciences, fiction, magazines and miscellaneous²¹. In conclusion, the collection of Polish literature accounted for a relatively small section of the library, which contained in total of 1386 book titles, 92 titles of periodicals, and 11 manuscript units²².

Regarding Polish periodicals, the library owned three bound issues (4, 5 and 6) of the journal „Rok 1843 pod względem oświaty, przemysłu i wypadków czasowych”²³. The journal was published in Poznań in 8^o format „nakładem i drukiem N. Kamińskiego i Spółki”. The library also owned 12 issues of this journal tied together with the same imprint from 1845 („Rok 1845 pod względem oświaty, przemysłu i wypadków czasowych”²⁴), one defective issue of the multilingual book (with parallel German, French and Italian texts) *Wieczory familijne* published in Lwów, that could be mistakenly included in the collection of periodicals²⁵, and one issue of the weekly newspaper „Sławianin...”, printed in 8^o format in Lwów by Piotr Piller²⁶. It is assumed these were more or less accidental acquisitions.

Registers of the library catalogue of the Slavic Institute collected 49 names of Polish authors, while these are mostly personalities living in between the second half of the 18th and early 19th century. Works of older authors appear rarely. The oldest among the authors is the Polish Renaissance poet Jan Kochanowski. However, the library kept a new issue published in Leipzig in 1835 – a three-part selection of the work of this author²⁷. From among 82 Polish titles, 14 are collective or anonymous²⁸. Among the places of publications, Lwów, Wrocław, Leipzig and Vienna prevail.

While studying the *Polonica* in the library of the Slavic Institute in Bratislava, we tried to identify at least one of the following ties to Poland and the Poles, and that is authorial, linguistic, content or territorial. Similar to the acquirers from the ranks of L. Štur’s followers, we placed particular emphasis on linguistic and authorial *Polonica*, that is, documents that are written in Polish, or created by Polish authors regardless of their place of production, although many of them can also be identified as content *Polonica* – works with content related to Poland, its history, culture, and life. As they are usually the prints from 19th century with provenance in the places and cities that used to be closely connected to Poland, its history and culture until the last decade of 18th century/first half of 19th century, we can find territorial *Polonica* in the collection as well.

At present, the library stays a closed fund. Preserved in the state that Wagner catalogued, and reflecting the results of almost half a century long collection that encompasses book production of various Slavic authors from continental Europe, the library became a deposit to the lycée under the auspices of the Evangelical-Protestant church (Evanjelická

²¹ Ibidem, p. 64.

²² Ibidem, p. 67.

²³ Sign. 111-II F 3.

²⁴ Sign. 62-II B 13.

²⁵ Sign. 112-II F 4.

²⁶ Sign. 110-II F 2; A. Ferienčíková, *Knižnica Slovanského ústavu...*, p. 389, 392, 396.

²⁷ „Kochanowski Jan, *Dziela*, t. I-III [komplet]. W Lipsku 1835, u Breitkopf et Haertel, str. 212, 232, 292, wyd. nowe Jana Nep. Bobrowicza, w serii Biblioteka Kieszonkowa Klasyków Polskich, z popiersiem autora [staloryt]”, sign. 86-II E 13.

²⁸ A. Ferienčíková, *Knižnica Slovanského ústavu ...*, pp. 423-424.

cirkev a.v.) in Bratislava. In 1924, following the change of proprietary relations, the library became part of the University Library in Bratislava²⁹.

The cultural and historical significance of the library of the Slavic Institute is underlined by the fact that its origin and bloom is closely connected to the period of when the generation of young intellectuals in the first half of 19th century, known as the „Štur’s generation”, entered the fight for recognition of the sovereignty of the Slovak nation. Besides the fact that this library is a testament of the ideological orientation of the „Štur’s generation”, and mirrors their professional interests, it bears witness to the literary life of the generation and purposeful search of relations with scientific authorities and other Slavic authors who were nationally oriented. The Slavic character of the library broadens its importance for other Slavic nations, whose scholars and cultural workers contributed through donating literature to build it into a collection that could apply to be declared a historical book fund, i.e. a fund that is part of the national cultural heritage of the country, and special legislation is set for its protection³⁰.

Summary

The library of the Slavic Institute in Bratislava whose origins date back to 1827 and is known by its unofficial name the „Štur’s library”, is now kept in the University Library in Bratislava, and represents a significant collection of Czech and Slovak, but also other Slavic literatures. The collection comprises of documents from the 16th century to the 1870s. It not only illustrates the ideological orientation of the young intelligentsia of the first half of the 19th century (known as the „Štur’s generation”), mirroring their professional interests, but also bears witness to the literary life and purposeful search of relations with scientific authorities and other Slavic authors, who were nationally oriented. This study aims to be an overview-compilation, and is based on the print catalogue of this book fund, which strives to become a part of the national cultural heritage of Slovakia. It acquaints the reader with the history and founding of the library focusing on information on *Polonica* and their addition into the library’s collection.

Key words: Library of the Slavic Institute in Bratislava – the University Library in Bratislava – Ľudovít Štúr – Štur’s generation – Polonicum – acquisition.

Streszczenie

Polonika w bibliotece Instytutu Słowiańskiego w Bratysławie

Biblioteka Instytutu Słowiańskiego w Bratysławie, której początki sięgają roku 1827, znana także pod mniej oficjalną nazwą „Biblioteka Štúra”, obecnie stanowi część zbioru

²⁹ The most recent knowledge on the process of change of the proprietary relations of the library is described in: Z. Pytlová, D. Lechner, *Knižnica Slovanského ústavu v Bratislave – osudy a príbehy*, „Studia Bibliographica Posoniensia” 2016, pp. 149-156.

³⁰ See: D. Katuščák, M. Matthaidesová, M. Nováková, *Informačná výchova: Terminologický a výkladový slovník, odbor knižničná a informačná veda*, Bratislava 1998, p.111, 193.

rów Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej w Bratysławie. Tworzy ją znacząca kolekcja literatury w językach czeskim, słowackim i innych językach słowiańskich. Zawiera materiały od XVI do lat siedemdziesiątych XIX w. Zbiór ten stanowi nie tylko odzwierciedlenie orientacji politycznych i zainteresowań zawodowych młodej inteligencji pierwszej połowy XIX w. (znanej jako „pokolenie Štúra”), ale także świadectwo życia literackiego i relacji, jakie łączyły tę grupę z autorytetami naukowymi oraz innymi autorami słowiańskimi o orientacji narodowej. Niniejszy tekst ma charakter przeglądowo-kompilacyjny, oparty został na drukowanym katalogu wspomnianej kolekcji. Prowadzone są działania mające na celu włączenie jej do zasobu narodowego dziedzictwa kulturowego Słowacji. Autorka zapoznaje czytelnika z historią powstania biblioteki instytucyjnej, zwracając szczególną uwagę na polonika w omawianym zbiorze oraz na to, w jaki sposób trafiły do tej kolekcji.

Słowa kluczowe: biblioteka Instytutu Słowiańskiego w Bratysławie – Biblioteka Uniwersytecka w Bratysławie – Ľudovít Štúr – pokolenie štúrowców – polonika – akwizycja.