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## On the bohemia of the Society for the History and Antiquities of Pomerania in Szczecin

**Abstract:** The Society for the History and Antiquities of Pomerania, established in Szczecin in 1824 and one of the city's most important scientific institutions, initiated Slavic and Kashubian studies research in its first years of activity. It enlisted the cooperation of, among others, an expert in Slavic literature, Professor of the University of Wrocław Jan E. Purkyně (1787–1869). Václav Hanka (1791–1861). A Czech linguist, educator, librarian, poet, and translator was also among the Society's members. Thanks to this cooperation, valuable literature on Czech and Slavic subjects came into the Szczecin Society's collection, but only a few copies have survived. One of them is the translation of V. Hanka: *Hrdinský zpíev o tažení proti Polovcům*, Praha 1821. Bohemica also found their way into the collection as gifts from other donors interested in the subject.

**Keywords:** Szczecin, Library of the State Archives in Szczecin, bohemia

In 1824, Towarzystwo Historii i Starożytności Pomorza (Eng. *the Society for the History and Antiquities of Pomerania*; Ger. *Gesellschaft für Pommersche Geschichte und Alterthumskunde*) was established in Szczecin, bringing together the scientific elite of the time and numerous representatives of the middle class<sup>1</sup>. From its inception, the institution played an essential role in the scientific and cultural life of the city. The initiator of its establishment was Johann August Sack, who held the office of super-president of the Pomeranian province from 1816 to 1831. This prominent representative of the Prussian provincial bureaucracy, interested in history, found allies among Pomeranian scholars, who supported him at the stage of creating the program of the new organization, which set as its main tasks the collection and compilation of historical sources as well as the preservation of monuments of Pomeranian culture and their registration. These included Ludwig Giesebrecht (1792–1873), one of the most prominent historians of Western Pomerania, but also a poet extolling the charms of the Pomeranian landscape, Heinrich Wilhelm Böhmer (1791–1842), a theologian and philologist, gymnasium teacher and author of works on the history of medieval Pomerania, Karl Friedrich Hasselbach (1781–1864), theologian and philologist, long-time principal of St. Mary's Gymnasium in Szczecin, Johann Ludwig Gottfried Kosegarten (1792–1860), professor at the University of Greifswald, prominent historian and linguist<sup>2</sup>.

In the first years of the Society's existence, the dynamically developing historical and archaeological sections initiated research into the language and history of Western Pomerania. Attention was also given to Slavic and Kashubian issues<sup>3</sup>. During the first general assembly in June 1825, Slavic issues appeared in three papers delivered by guests from Berlin. As a result, this sparked an interest in the subject among Szczecin scholars. It persisted with varying intensity in subsequent years. It was fostered, among other things, by the emphasis on the importance of Slavic studies in the pages of the "Neue Pommersche Provinzialblätter", a regional periodical published since 1827, which was a continuation of the "Pommersche Provinzialblätter für Stadt und Land", established in 1820. It should be noted that Slavic studies went through

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1 M. Szukała, *Powstanie i działalność Towarzystwa Historii i Starożytności Pomorza w Szczecinie w latach 1824–1918. Z dziejów pomorskiej nauki i kultury XIX i początku XX w.*, Szczecin 2000.

2 Ibidem, *passim*.

3 Slavic and Kashubian topics present in the activities of the Society in the first decades of the nineteenth century, were the subject of in-depth studies by Professor Zygmunt Szultka, citing a rich literature, recapitulated the findings to date in this regard. See Z. Szultka, *Gesellschaft für Pommersche Geschichte und Alterthumskunde in Stettin a kwestia początków badań nad Słowiańszczyzną i kaszubszczyzną*, [in:] *VI Konferencja Kaszubsko-Pomorska pt. Rozwój nazewnictwa lokalnego na Pomorzu Zachodnim. Pomorska toponomastyka i onomastyka na przestrzeni dziejów. Materiały z konferencji, Darłowo, 8–9 września 2000*, ed. by W. Łysiak, Poznań 2001, pp. 153–173.

various turns, which resulted from, among other things, the current policy of the provincial authorities, the program line of the Society, or the lack of knowledge of Slavic languages among Pomeranian scholars. Changes in the authorities of the organization<sup>4</sup> were also not without significance. Slavic issues were mainly promoted in the Szczecin Society for History during the first decades of its activity. New perspectives for this research opened at the turn of 1828/1829 when a professor at St. Mary's Gymnasium, Hermann Hering (1800–1886), took the position of a secretary, who managed to enlist the cooperation of an outstanding expert on Slavic literature, a professor at the University of Breslau, Jan E. Purkyně (1787–1869). Václav Hanka (1791–1861), a Czech linguist, educator, librarian, poet, and translator<sup>5</sup>, also joined the Society's membership. From 1818, he was associated with the Czech Museum, where he worked as curator of library and museum collections (ethnographic and numismatic), archivist, and editor of the Museum's published reports<sup>6</sup>. Later (from 1848), he taught Slavonic studies at Charles University in Prague. Hanka became famous as the alleged discoverer of a 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>-century manuscript published under the title of the *Rękopis królowodworski* and the *Rękopis zielonogórski*, about which there was a years-long dispute<sup>7</sup>, today already settled to the detriment of the linguist, who created a literary mystification. *The Preface* to the Polish edition of the *Rękopis królowodworski* reads:

Wacław Hanka...niespracowany w badaniu języka czeskiego, w odgrzebywaniu pamiątek i zabytków wielkich swoich naddziadów, szczęśliwym trafem, jakby od losu w nagrodę, odkrył najwyborniejsze przodków utwory, które cudem, wśród niszczącej wieków powodzi, do naszych czasów przybiły<sup>8</sup>

[Václav Hanka...tireless in the study of the Czech language, in digging up the souvenirs and monuments of his great forefathers, happily, as if from fate as a reward, discovered the most selective works of his ancestors, which, miraculously, amid the destructive flood of centuries, have come to our times].

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4 Z. Szultka, *Gesellschaft...*, p. 165.

5 See W. Czajewski, *Historia literatury czeskiej od czasów odrodzenia do chwili bieżącej*, Warszawa 1886, pp. 20–21; J. Magnuszewski, *Historia literatury czeskiej. Zarys*, Warszawa 1973.

6 *Geschichte der Gründung und Constituirung des Vereins in den Jahren 1818–1822*, “Das vaterländische Museum in Böhmen im Jahre 1842”, Prag 1842, p. 16. V. Hanka published his own studies in these pages. See V. Hanka, *Münzen und Medaillen des hochgräflichen Schlickischen Hauses*, “Verhandlungen der Gesellschaft des vaterländischen Museums in Böhmen in der sechszehnten allgemeinen Versammlung am 18. April 1838”, Prag 1838, pp. 48–65.

7 See J. Miszewski, *Walka o czeskie rękopisy. W 120 rocznicę znalezienia rękopisu królowodworskiego i zielonogórskiego*, Kraków 1937.

8 *Królowodworski rękopis. Zbiór staroczeskich bohaterkich i lirycznych śpiewów należonych i wydanych przez Wacława Hanka Bibliotekarz król. narod. czes. muzeum, a z czeskiego na polskie przez Lucyana Siemieńskiego przełożony*, Kraków 1836, p. VI.

This *tireless* study of the Czech language resulted in a reform of orthography based on the assumptions of his philology professor and mentor, Josef Dobrovský (1753–1829).

Hanka, we read,  
miał osobliwy talent odszukiwania białych kruków nie tylko czeskich lecz i polskich. Jako bibliotekarz i literat chodził i szukał w ciemnych magazynach praskich antykwaryuszów rzadkie druki, odbierał wiadomości o nich...<sup>9</sup>

[had a peculiar talent for finding rarities, Czech and Polish. As a librarian and a literary man, he would search for rare prints in the dark warehouses of Prague antiquarians, picking up news about them...].

He undertook similar activities for the Szczecin Society for the History and Antiquities of Pomerania, of which he became a member in 1829. The Society's board informed him of his membership in a letter dated December 20 of that year<sup>10</sup>. In words full of gallantry, V. Hanka thanked the Society for this honor almost half a year later. The only extensive letter preserved to this day in the Society's records also contained the results of his Pomeranian studies<sup>11</sup>. These dealt mainly with linguistic issues and provided information about Pomeranian Bishop Benedict Baron von Waldstein, a native of Bohemia, supposedly, as Hanka reported, to induce Abbot Andreas Lang to write the work *Vita Ottonis Bambergensis*<sup>12</sup>. Hanka's contacts with the Society reflected, as he later wrote, the Slavic element in Pomeranian history, while the scholarly relations about German societies were more purely German<sup>13</sup>.

V. Hanka, who had received an appointment as librarian (with the title of court counselor) of the Imperial Academy in St. Petersburg, hoped to conduct Slavic research in Lusatia and Pomerania for the Academy's needs and thus come to Szczecin for scientific purposes<sup>14</sup>. As we can assume, this visit did not happen. However, traces of Hanka's cooperation with the Society remained in Szczecin as residual documentation and publications sent from Prague. To this day, in the book collection of the library of the State Archives in Szczecin,

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9 *Dwa listy Tytusa hr. Działyńskiego do Wacława Hanka. Przyczynek do historii Biblioteki Kórnickiej napisał Edward Jelinek*, Kraków 1894, p. 5 [Original spelling].

10 State Archives in Szczecin, the Society for History and Antiquities of Pomerania, call no. 9, p. 57.

11 *Ibidem*, pp. 57–61.

12 See "Baltische Studien" 1832, no. 1, p. 330. On Bishop Benedict, see R. Pawlik, *Kapituła katedralna w Kamieniu Pomorskim na przełomie epok (1498–1549)*, Warszawa-Szczecin 2019, *passim*.

13 "Baltische Studien" 1844, no. 1, p. 199.

14 State Archives in Szczecin, the Society for History and Antiquities of Pomerania, call no. 9, p. 58.

some bohemia that was his gift to the association's library has been preserved. We can mention here: *Die Bildsamkeit der Slawischen Sprache an der Bildung der Substantive und Adjektive in der Böhmischen Sprache... von Joseph Dobrowský*, Prag [1799]; Franz Martin Pelzel, *Geschichte der Böhmen, von den ältesten bis auf die neuesten Zeiten*, Prag 1817; Václav Hanka, *Pravopis český podle základu mluvnice Dobrovského. Druhe pooprawene wydanj*, W Praze 1821; V. Hanka, *Zbrjka neydawnejsjch slownjku latinsko-ceskich, s obsahem neznámých slow w abecednj pořádku česko-latinským. Wadána od Wáclawa Hanky,...*, W Praze 1833; "Verhandlungen der Gesellschaft des vaterländischen Museums in Böhmen..." 1834–1850; František Palacký, *Geschichte von Böhmen*, Prag 1836.

Photo 1. Catalog cards with descriptions of works by V. Hanka and J. Dobrowský from the Society for the History and Antiquities of Pomerania library.

Source: State Archives in Szczecin, Call no. 2204 Photo: Agnieszka Mazurkiewicz

H k 8	H a n k a, Wenoslaw
<p><i>Debravsky's Slaut.</i>  <i>Beschreibung aus Böhmen, an alle Slawischen Völker, oder Beiträge zu ihrer Charakteristika, zur Kenntniss ihrer Mythologie, ihrer Geschichte und Alterthümern, ihrer Literatur und ihrer Sprachweise nach allen Mundarten.</i>  <i>Mit einem Anhang der böhmische Ose, vollständige Anapabe in ihrer besserten und vermehrte Auflage von.</i>  <i>Wenoslaw Hanka.</i>  <i>Mit 6 zum Theile colorirten Kupfertafeln, 3 Facsimile und 4 Tabellen.</i>  <i>Prag 1834. 466 S. 8.</i></p>	

G t 3	H a n k a, Wenoslaw
<p><i>Pravopis Český podle základu mluvnice dobrovského. Od Wáclawa Hanky. Druhé pooprawené wydanj.</i>  <i>W. Praze 1821.</i>  <i>Böhmische Rechtskunde nach der Anlage Debravsky's von.</i>  <i>Wenoslaw Hanka.</i>  <i>Zweite verbesserte Anapabe.</i>  <i>Prag 1821. 64 S. 8.</i></p>	

H r 10	H a n k a, Wenoslaw
<p><i>Igor Samislautsch.</i>  <i>Heilungssang vom Zups gegen die Polowzer.</i>  <i>Aus dem Altruaischen des XII. Jahrhunderts, neu Uebersetzt und herausgegeben mit dem Urtexte, und einer böhmischen Uebersetzung. Von</i>  <i>Wenoslaw Hanka.</i>  <i>Prag 1821. XII 60 S. 8.</i></p>	

H i 15	H a n k a, Wenoslaw
<p><i>Zbrjka neydawnejsjch slownjku latinsko-ceskych s obsahem neznámých slow w abecednj pořádku česko-latinským. Wadána od Wáclawa Hanky.</i>  <i>Vetustissima vocabularia Latino-Slavica.</i>  <i>W. Praze 1833.</i>  <i>Sammlung der ältesten Lateinisch-Böhmischen Wörterbücher mit ..... der unbekanntesten Wörter in alphabet. Lateinisch-Böhmischer Ordnung.</i>  <i>Herausgegeben von</i>  <i>Wenoslaw Hanka.</i>  <i>Prag 1833. XVI 432 S. 8.</i>  <i>Mit 2 Kupfern.</i></p>	

K r 8	H a n k a, Franz Rozpis Královské Kůvpejské Houdschrift. Manuscript of the Queen's Court Herausgegeben von Franz Hanke. Prag 1863. XII 316 S. 12 ungebunden.
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K r 10	D e b r o u s k y, Joseph Die Bildsamkeit der Slavischen Sprache, an der Bildung der Substantive und Adjektive in der Slawischen Sprache dargestellt. Von Joseph Dohrowsky Prag o.J. 68 S. 4
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G b 26	H a n k a, Wenzel Münzen und Medaillen Albert Herzogs von Fried- land, nebst einem Anhange von Waldsteinschen Festilen-Medaillen. Von Wenzel Hanke. Aus den Verhandlungen des böhm. Museums 15 Jahrg. Prag 1841. 15 S. 8 ungebunden.
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K r 9 alt	D e b r o u s k y, Joseph Institutiones Linguae Slavicae dialecti rutenis, quae quum apud Russos, Serbos aliosque ritus graves, tum apud Dalmatos Slavosque Ritum lati- ni Slavos in libris sacris obtinet. ..... Wien 1822 LXVIIII 700 S. 8
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K r 7	D e b r o u s k y, J. Slawosha. Zur Kenntnis der alten und neuen slavischen Literatur, der Sprachkunde nach allen Mundarten, der Geschichte und Alterthümer, von J. Dohrowsky. Prag 1814. Mit Titelbild. 254 S. 8 2. Lieferung Prag 1815. Mit Titelbild 252 S. 8 in einem Bande.
K r 103	D e b r o u s k y, J. Literarische Nachrichten von einer auf Veranlassung der böhm. Gesellschaft der Wissen- schaften im Jahre 1792 unternommenen Reise nach Schweden und Russland. Von J. Dohrowsky Nebst einer Veraleichung der Russischen und Sch- wedischnen Sprache nach dem Peteraburger Verle- ichungs-Wörterbuche aller Sprachen. Prag 1796 272 S. 8

The bohemia flowed into the collection as gifts and was also subject to purchase, such as the *Codex diplomaticus et epistolaris Moraviae*, Olomuċii 1841 by Antonius Boczek<sup>15</sup>. They also ended up in various legacies, including the one of Julius Mueller (1819–1892), a lawyer and regionalist from Szczecin,

15 "Baltische Studien" 1842, no.1, p. 265.

who was interested in Slavic studies. He owned a book collection of 1,500 volumes, much of which he bequeathed to the Society for the History and Antiquities of Pomerania library in Szczecin (while a portion went to St. Mary's Gymnasium). Among the bohemia of this provenance are the surviving works of Pavel Jozef Šafárik (1795–1861), poet, historian, ethnographer, and Slavist *Slawische Alterthümer. Deutsch von Mosig von Aehrenfeld, hrsg von Heinrich Wuttke*, vol. 1–2, Leipzig 1843–1844, and *Über die Abkunft der Slaven nach Lorenz Surowiecki von Paul Joseph Schaffarik, Ofen 1828*<sup>16</sup>.

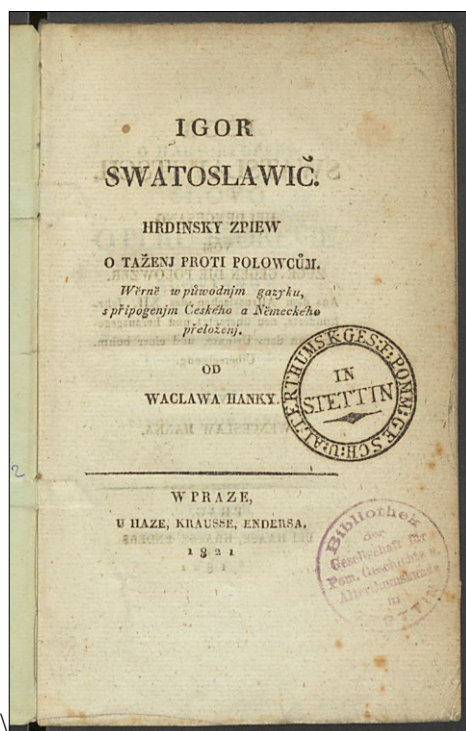
Photo 2. Examples of bohemia from the library collection of the State Archives in Szczecin.  
Source: State Archives in Szczecin. Photo by Agnieszka Mazurkiewicz



16 Noteworthy is the entire collection of the Slavic current of Julius Mueller, to mention the titles stored in the library collection of the State Archives from this donation: *Wendisch-deutsches Handwörterbuch nach dem oberlausitzer Dialekte. Nebst einem grammatischen Vorworte, mit besonderer Rücksicht auf Aussprache und Wortbildung*. Hrsg. von Curt Bose, Grimma 1840; *Ueber die Sprache der früher in Meklenburg wohnenden Obodriten-Wenden von C.H. Burmeister*, Rostock 1840; *Die Slawen in den ältesten Zeiten bis Samo. Eine linguistisch-geographisch-historische Untersuchung nebst einem Anhang: Gedrängte Übersicht der heutigen Slaven*. Von Roman St. Kauffluss, Berlin 1842; *Wo slowjanskich městnych mjenach w Hornej Lužicy a wo jich wuznamje. Swjedženske pismo k trístalětnemu jubileju budyskeho gymnasia*. Written down by J.E. Smoleà, (Budyšin 1867).

The Society's collection once received the *Rukopis Kralodvorsky* mentioned above. *Vydanie Cturte (Die Königshofer Handschrift)*<sup>17</sup>, which, unfortunately, is not preserved in today's collection. One of the more interesting publications sent to Szczecin by Hanka was also his translation of the work *Igor Svatoslavič: Hrdinský zpiew o tažení proti Polovcům*, Praha 1821. It deserves special attention, as few works in literature cause so much dispute about authenticity, origin, and authorship.

Photo 3. *Igor Svatoslavič: Hrdinský zpiew o tažení proti Polovcům*, Praha 1821  
Source: State Archives in Szczecin library, call no. B 880. Photo by Agnieszka Mazurkiewicz



The poem, known in Poland under the title “Słowo o wyprawie Igora” [The Tale of Igor’s Campaign] and considered by most scholars to be a monument of ancient Rus writing, is dedicated to the unsuccessful expedition undertaken in April 1185 by Novgorod-Sevonian prince Igor Sviatoslavovich<sup>18</sup> against the Polovtsians<sup>19</sup>. It was part of a tumultuous history of relations between the Rus

17 „Baltische Studien” 1844, no. 1, p. 195.

18 Igor (1151–1202) – Duke of Novgorod-Sevrevsk (from 1178) and Chernihiv (1198), son of Chernihiv Prince Sviatoslav Olegovich.

19 The Polovtsians (Kipchaks, Kumani) were Turkic nomadic people who inhabited the vast steppe expanses of Eurasia, from the Irtysh rivers in the east to the Danube in the west (the so-called Kipchat



and their nomadic neighbors, fraught with major and minor skirmishes, plundering raids, and even several years of warfare<sup>20</sup>. The spring expedition of 1185 ended with the complete defeat of the Rus troops in the Donets River basin in the Nadaz steppe. Few warriors were rescued, and Prince Igor and the Rurikovichs accompanying him were taken prisoner by the Polovtsian Khans<sup>21</sup>.

The only known manuscript of the “Tale”, probably dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, was found in 1795 in a codex from the Spaso-Preobrazhensky Monastery in Jarosław<sup>22</sup>. The discovery was made by the then-chief prosecutor of the Holy Synod, Count Aleksei Musin-Pushkin, who bought the manuscript from Jarosław archimandrite Joel (Ivan Bykowsky). In 1800, historian Nikolai Bantysh-Kamensky and archivist Aleksei Malinowsky published the work’s first edition. As is widely assumed, the manuscript of “Tale” burned down along with A. Musin-Pushkin’s extensive book collection during the fire of Moscow in 1812. Researchers were left with copies of the printed edition, a copy prepared for Catherine II discovered in the 1860s, and handwritten excerpts from the “Tale” found in Malinowsky’s archive. Although the juxtaposition of these sources has helped establish the so-called original shape of the work, there remain many “dark places” in the text. These passages have not lived to see a convincing reconstruction and unambiguous reading<sup>23</sup>. Disputes over the work’s authenticity began shortly after its publication and, with varying intensity, continue today. They involve historians and philologists from many scholarly centers, often rejecting or modifying previously considered definitively convincing concepts<sup>24</sup>. In general, researchers have divided into two groups: the majority have taken the position of the monument’s authenticity and its twelfth-century provenance, while others have advocated a skeptical, revisionist orientation, assuming the work’s derivation, its stylistic and mysterious nature, and its much later sentimental-pre-Romantic eighteenth-century origins<sup>25</sup>.

Considering the origin of the copy of the poem in the collection of the State Archives in Szczecin, it is worth mentioning the concept of American historian Edward L. Keenan, who, in a monograph published in 2003 at Harvard

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Steppe – Desht-i-Kipchak). Those interested should refer to the rich literature on the subject – especially C. Плетнева, *Половцы*, Москва 2018; A. Zajączkowski, *Związki językowe połowiecko-słowiańskie*, Wrocław 1949; Я. Пилипчук, *Соціальна історія китчаків у IX–XIII ст.*, Київ-Вінниця 2018; Я. Пилипчук, *Етнополітичний розвиток Дагит-і Китчак у IX–XIII ст.*, Київ 2012.

20 J.-P. Roux, *Historia Turków*, Gdańsk 2003, p.127.

21 See *Latopis Kijowski*, in: *Kroniki staroruskie*, selection, introduction and footnotes by F. Sielicki, Warszawa 1987, pp. 216–224.

22 T. Hodana, *Najnowsze spory o autentyczność Słowa o wyprawie Igora*, „Przegląd Rusycystyczny” 2011, no. (135), p. 7.

23 *Ibidem*, p. 7.

24 T. Hodan, *op. cit.*, reviewed the most important concepts concerning the origin of the *Tale of Igor’s Campaign*.

25 R. Łużny, *Kto, kiedy, gdzie i po co napisał „Słowo o wyprawie Igorowej”*, „Slavia Orientalis” 1994, no. 2, p. 171.

University, sought to prove that “The Tale of Igor’s Campaign” was created by J. Dobrovský in the 1890s. In the first part of the work, Keenan questioned the most critical elements of the commonly accepted story of the finding of the “Tale” and then tried to reconstruct the process of creating the work. He said the initial version, created in late 1792, came into the hands of historian Ivan Yelagin in early 1793, during J. Dobrovský’s stay in Russia. Still in 1793, after returning to Bohemia, J. Dobrovský wrote another batch of the text and sent it to Yelagin. After Yelagin’s death, all these materials and the historian’s entire archive became the property of Musin-Pushkin, who commissioned Malinowsky to organize them. This one, around 1798, put together the sketches of the Czech Slavist and created a widely known version of the “Tale”, which was published in print shortly after that and made the so-called copy of Catherine<sup>26</sup>. In his monograph’s next (biographical) part, Keenan devoted most attention to Dobrovský’s trip to Russia. At the same time, in the most extensive last chapter, he attempted to prove that numerous traces of Dobrovský’s authorship can be found in the language of the monument itself (including dozens of Bohemisms, several scholarly Hebraisms, as well as elaborate word games, puns, and neologisms). This specific lexis was meant to indicate a Czech Slavist who, in addition to his pioneering work on the grammar of the Orthodox Slavic language and native lexicography, also had to his credit studies of Hebrew and Latin manuscripts<sup>27</sup>.

The American researcher’s monograph has aroused great interest and response from researchers from the US, Canada, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia.<sup>28</sup> Among the many interesting voices in the new iteration of the discussion, Andrei Zalizniak’s considerations are noteworthy. Using only linguistic arguments, he concluded that from the point of view of historical linguistics, the probability of the late origin of “The Tale” is close to or equal to zero<sup>29</sup>.

On linguistic considerations, Zalizniak took up a polemic with E.L. Keenan. He questioned the allegedly apparent influence of the Czech language in the “Tale”, pointing out that the American historian defined as Bohemisms all words that have any analogy to Czech, while in Zalizniak’s opinion, this is generally lexis common to at least several Slavic languages. Regarding the hypothesis of J. Dobrovský’s authorship, Zalizniak recalled that the alleged creator of the “Tale” was the one who, from the beginning, questioned the authenticity of the *Rękopis królowodworski* and especially the *Rękopis zielonogórski* and did not hesitate to accuse his student V. Hanka of forgery. Moreover, J. Dobrovský was

26 T. Hodana, op. cit., pp. 14–16.

27 Ibidem, p. 17.

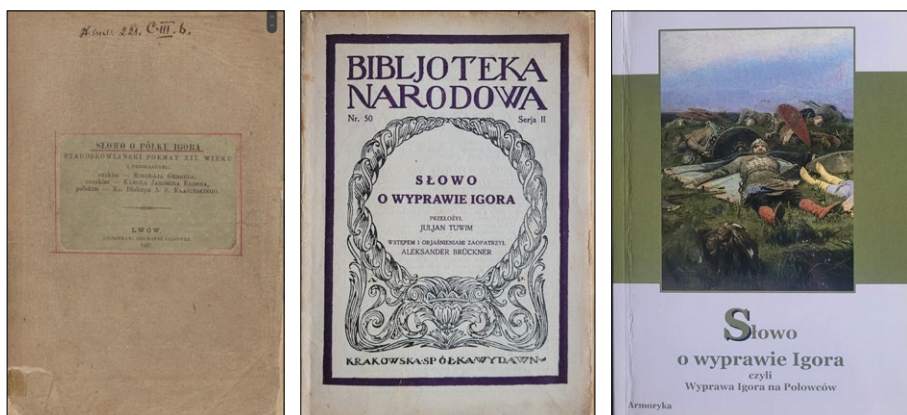
28 T. Hodana, op. cit., p. 18 and the literature cited therein.

29 Ibidem, p. 21.

a well-known enthusiast of the “Tale”, in his fundamental work “Institutiones linguae slavicae dialecti veteris”, he used linguistic material taken from the monument. Thus, if he were the author himself, it would have to be considered that he knowingly compromised his scholarly reputation so the Russians could boast of having a 12<sup>th</sup>-century poem<sup>30</sup>.

Photo 4. Examples of Polish translations:

- 4.1. “Słowo o półku Igora : starosłowiański poemat XII. wieku z przekładami: ruskim – Mikołaja Gerbela, czeskim – Karola Jaromira Erbena, polskim – ks. biskupa A. S. Krasieńskiego”, Drukarnia Ludowa, Lwiv 1887. Source: (<https://bibliotekacyfrowa.ujk.edu.pl/dlibra/doccontent?id=200>). Photo: Wojciech Styłski
- 4.2. “Słowo o wyprawie Igora”, translated by J. Tuwim, introduction, and explanations by A. Brückner, Krakowska Spółka Wydawnicza, Kraków 1928. Source: from the collection of Wojciech Styłski. Photo: Wojciech Styłski
- 4.3. “Słowo o wyprawie Igora czyli Wyprawa Igora na Połowców”, two translations: August Bielowski – in verse and Andrzej Sarwa – in prose, Wydawnictwo ARMORYKA, Sandomierz 2009. Source: from the collection of Wojciech Styłski. Photo: Wojciech Styłski



Regardless of the ratings given to views on the origin of “The Tale of Igor’s Campaign”, the dispute, which has lasted for a third century, is not expected to end any time soon. This situation makes this unique poem a vivid and evocative picture of the past of the Ruthenian lands.

In conclusion, it is worth mentioning that the “Word on Igor’s Campaign” received much attention from Polish scholars<sup>31</sup> and translators. August Bielowski

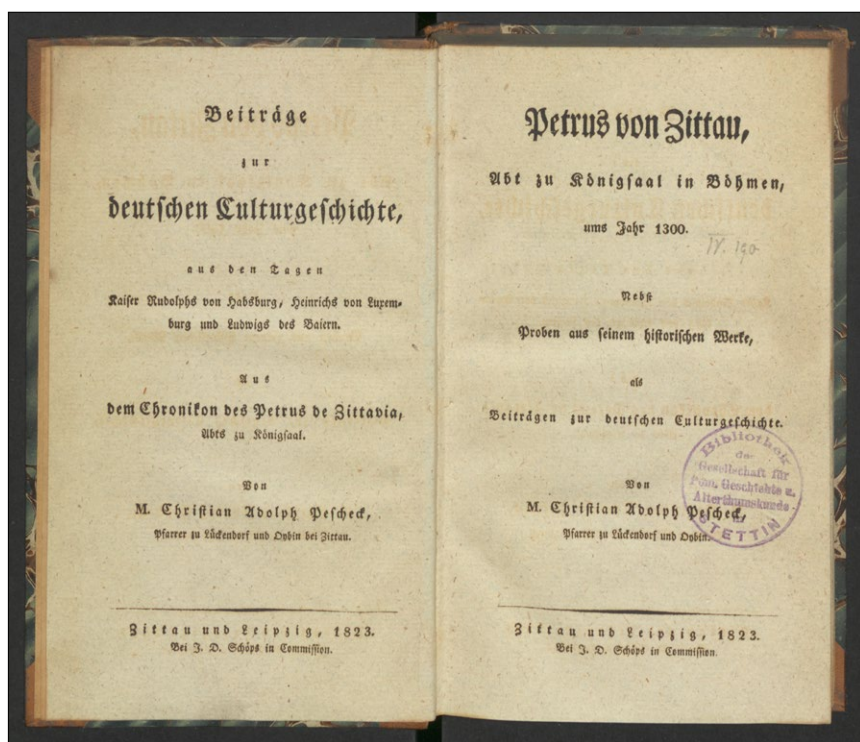
30 Ibidem, pp. 23–24 and the literature cited therein. On the conclusively demonstrated forgery of the alleged medieval Czech manuscripts, see J. Strzelczyk, *Rękopisy “odkryte” w Czechach, czyli o dobrym i złym patriotyzmie*, Wrocław 2023 and the literature cited there.

31 See also W. Mokry, *Od Ilariona do Skoworody. Antologia poezji ukraińskiej XI–XVIII wieku*, Kraków 1996; E. Małek, «Слово о полку Игореве в Польше», [in:] «Слово о полку Игореве». Комплексные исследования, ред. А.Н. Робинсон, Москва 1988, pp. 365–382 and the literature cited therein.

(Lviv, 1833) was the first to translate the entire “Tale” into Polish using the original<sup>32</sup>. Subsequently, the monument was translated by Bishop Adam Krasieński (St. Petersburg 1856), Bohdan Łepki (Krakow 1905)<sup>33</sup>, and finally, Julian Tuwim<sup>34</sup>. Considered to be the best translation of Tuwim, it was first published in 1928 in Kraków, in the series of the National Library<sup>35</sup>, and was subsequently used several times in the following editions of the monument. In 2009, “The Tale” was published in prose, translated by Andrzej Sarwa<sup>36</sup>.

Fot. 5. Petrus von Zittau (Petrus Zittaviensis), *Abt zu Königssaal in Böhmen, ums Jahr 1300. Nebst Proben aus seinem historischen Werke, als Beiträgen zur deutschen Culturgeschichte*, Zittau und Leipzig, 1823.

Source: State Archives in Szczecin, The Library, call BO. Photo: Agnieszka Mazurkiewicz



32 A. Obrębska-Jabłońska, „Słowo o wyprawie Igora” w przekładach polskich, ”Pamiętnik Literacki” 1952, no. 43/1–2, pp. 418–422.

33 Op. cit., pp. 426–428.

34 S. Sowietow, „Słowo o pulku Igora” w polskim przekładzie Juliana Tuwima, ”Pamiętnik Literacki” 1954, no. 45/4, pp. 556–568.

35 “Słowo o wyprawie Igora”, translated by J. Tuwim, with an introduction and explanatory notes by A. Brückner, Kraków 1928.

36 „Słowo o wyprawie Igora czyli Wyprawa Igora na Polowców”, two translations: August Bielowski – in verse and Andrzej Sarwa – in prose, Sandomierz 2009.

As has already been mentioned, *Hrdinský zpiew o tažení proti Polovcům* is, from today's point of view, one of the more interesting bohemia in the Society collection. However, it is difficult to judge to what extent the publication evoked a more lively response among its members. It could undoubtedly have been of interest to linguists. Other bohemia on historical and economic topics could also have interested many researchers in this circle. Especially since there are many interesting publications among them, today being bibliographic rarities like the only edition of the work: Petrus von Zittau, *Abt zu Königssaal in Böhmen, ums Jahr 1300. Nebst Proben aus seinem historischen Werke, als Beiträgen zur deutschen Culturgeschichte*. Von M. Christian Adolph Pescheck, Zittau und Leipzig 1823. Other books on Czech subjects available in the Society's library include Kalina of Jäthenstein, Matyáš, *Winke über den Zustand der Landwirtschaft Böhmens in der heidnischen Vorzeit*, Prag 1839; *Verzeichniss der hinterlassenen Bibliothek des Herrn Professors med. Dr. Ramisch in Prag, sowie eines Theiles der werthvollen Bibliothek des k.k. Hofrathes Herrn K. v. Kessaer in Wien*, Leipzig 1860; *Geschichte Böhmens von Dr. Ludwig Schlesinger*, Prag-Leipzig 1869; V. John, *Die Vorschuß- und Kredit-Vereine (Volksbanken) in Böhmen*, Prag 1870; "Věstník slovanských starožitností: Indicateur des travaux relatifs à l'antiquité slave", Praha 1898. As we can see, these included a journal published by Lubor Niederle, the Czech Slavist, an anthropologist, ethnographer, and historian, and an auction catalog. Admittedly, research on Slavic studies had been waning over the years. Still, bohemia sent to Szczecin as late as the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century could serve a group of interested researchers, thus involving them in research outside the local environment.

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