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## “Hommage bien amical”. Foreign contacts of Professor Barbara Skarga (1919–2009) based on provenance analysis of selected copies from her private book collection

**Abstract:** The article presents the effect of the research conducted on the subject “Private book collection of Professor Barbara Skarga within the library collection of the Joint Libraries of the Faculties of Philosophy and Sociology of the University of Warsaw, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Polish Philosophical Society”. During many years of her scientific career, Professor Barbara Skarga (1919–2009) gathered a vast and diverse book collection. After her death, following her final will, it was handed over to the Joint Libraries of the WFiS UW, IFiS PAN, and PTF and included in the Institute of Philosophy of the Polish Academy of Sciences library resources. Barbara Skarga cooperated with many institutions that gathered researchers specializing in philosophy, as well as sociology and theology, which influenced the contents of her book collection. This article includes qualitative, quantitative, and provenance analyses of Skarga’s book collection. Using the provenance and bibliographical methods allowed us to recreate the history of the book collection and Skarga’s contacts with, among others, the French scientific community.

**Keywords:** Skarga Barbara (1919–2009), philosophy, private book collections, provenance research, dedications, Joint Libraries of the WFiS UW, IFiS PAN, PTF, 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Introduction

Barbara Skarga (1919–2009) began gathering her book collection after returning from the Gulag camps in 1955. However, she accumulated the most publications during her scholarly activities. Most copies came from donations and were author's publications with dedications from Polish and foreign scholars, often specializing in the same philosophical issues. After the philosopher's death, her private book collection went under her will to the Połączone Biblioteki Wydziałów Filozofii i Socjologii Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Instytutu Filozofii i Socjologii Polskiej Akademii Nauk i Polskiego Towarzystwa Filozoficznego [Joint Libraries of the Faculties of Philosophy and Sociology of the University of Warsaw, the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Polish Philosophical Society] (hereinafter: the Joint Libraries of WFiS UW, IFiS PAN, and PTF).

Previous Polish research on the private book collections of scholars mainly covers the period up to and including the 19<sup>th</sup> century without addressing the issue of 20<sup>th</sup>-century book collections. Therefore, analyzing the private book collection of a philosopher active scientifically from 1956 to 2009 in this article in the context of her contacts with the French scientific community seems reasonable.

### Outline of the biography of Professor Barbara Skarga (1919–2009)

Barbara Krystyna Skarga came from an intelligentsia family, living in the Minsk area (near the present capital of Belarus), although she was born on October 25, 1919, in Warszawa<sup>1</sup>.

During World War I, at the outbreak of the revolution in Russia, B. Skarga's parents fled to Warszawa. Her father was wealthy, working as a general manager at the Insurance Union of Polish Industrialists<sup>2</sup>. Although the professor's parents settled in Warszawa, she and her siblings lived for three years in the Żeromski family's villa in Konstancin, under the care of the bona and painter Monika Żeromska (1912–2001)<sup>3</sup>. Her parents used strict methods of upbringing and were demanding, but they also exuded immeasurable tenderness and tolerance. Skarga's father spent every spare moment with his children, nurtured

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1 M. Kubik, „Wydobyte z niepamięci” – Rozmowa z prof. Barbarą Skargą, „Gazeta Uniwersytecka UŚ”, [online] <https://gazeta.us.edu.pl/node/208091> [accessed 10.10.2023]; B. Skarga, *Życiorys*, Personal Archives of Prof. Barbara Skarga deposited in the Joint Libraries of WFiS UW, IFiS PAN and PTF, file no. 15, Skar.15.2, May 1981, p. 1; „*Innego końca świata nie będzie*”, with B. Skarga interviewed by K. Janowska and P. Mucharski, Kraków 2007, p. 20.

2 „*Innego końca świata nie będzie*”..., p. 20.

3 Painter and writer, daughter of Stefan Żeromski and Anna Zawadzka. See: *Monika Żeromska*, Wirtualne Muzeum Konstancina, [online] [http://www.muzeumkonstancina.pl/294\\_zeromska\\_monika\\_](http://www.muzeumkonstancina.pl/294_zeromska_monika_) [accessed 10.10.2023].

the cultural development of his siblings through visits to museums, theaters, and bookstores, and sent numerous postcards from foreign journeys. Skarga was sensitized to public and patriotic issues from an early age<sup>4</sup>. Years later, she recalled growing up in a happy home full of tenderness, love, a sense of humor, and respect for others.

However, the happy childhood ended when the Great Depression struck in 1929, ushering in an economic meltdown. The insurance company where Skarga's father worked went bankrupt, and just a year later, he died of a heart attack at the age of 52. The family's assets were confiscated, and the mother of the future philosopher had to cope with her new living situation. Therefore, the family moved to Vilnius, an estate in Chocieńczyce (until 1945 in the Nowogródek Province – Vilnius Land – Vilnius province), to be near relatives<sup>5</sup>. The move began a new stage in the life of eleven-year-old Barbara.

During school, B. Skarga was very active and involved in various activities. She led the organization of the Bratnia Pomoc [Fraternal Aid], which provided assistance to the poorest students. In addition, she collected money for tutoring, helped organize trips or outings to plays, and led her class. She called herself a social activist—after all, she belonged to many youth organizations, including the Scouts and the Front Guard<sup>6</sup>. She was eager to attend the “Literary Wednesdays” organized at school, where she could listen to recited poems and gain new knowledge. She graduated from a general high school in 1937 and wished to study<sup>7</sup>.

Young Barbara was a good mathematician, treating this study as a kind of “intellectual construction”. For this reason, in 1937, she passed a competitive exam to get into the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at the Warsaw University of Technology, where she began her studies as one of the four women then admitted to the first year<sup>8</sup>. However, her studies did not turn out to be as attractive as they seemed. She passed the subjects without difficulty, but not feeling satisfied with her studies, she dropped out of mathematics after three semesters. She returned to Vilnius and decided to focus on “something abstract”. She enrolled

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4 „*Innego końca świata nie będzie*”..., pp. 24–26.

5 R. Ziemiańska, *Profesor Barbara Skarga (1919–2009)*, „*Analiza i Egzystencja*” 2009, no. 10, p. 245; M. Rogowska-Stangret, *Barbara Skarga*, Culture.pl, [online] <https://culture.pl/pl/tworca/barbara-skarga> [accessed 10.10.2023]; „*Innego końca świata nie będzie*”..., pp. 36–39.

6 Founded in 1932, Organizacja Pracy Obywatelskiej Młodzieży “Straż Przednia” [the Organization of Civic Work of Youth „Front Guard”] brought together mainly students of junior and senior high schools, see J. Król, *Organizacja Pracy Obywatelskiej Młodzieży „Straż Przednia” (1932–1939) jako szkoła formacji propaństwowej*, „*Forum Pedagogiczne*” 2019, vol. 9, no. 1, pp. 139–154, [online] [http://cejsh.icm.edu.pl/cejsh/element/bwmeta1.element.ojs-doi-10\\_21697\\_fp\\_2019\\_1\\_10/c/3511-3309.pdf](http://cejsh.icm.edu.pl/cejsh/element/bwmeta1.element.ojs-doi-10_21697_fp_2019_1_10/c/3511-3309.pdf) [accessed 18.10.2023].

7 „*Innego końca świata nie będzie*”..., p. 79; *Między historią idei a metafizyką 1919/2009/2019. Księga pamiątkowa z okazji setnej rocznicy urodzin i dziesiątej rocznicy śmierci Barbary Skargi*, ed. by M. Falkowski, Warszawa 2020, p. 9.

8 B. Skarga, *Życiorys...* op. cit.

in a course that was not very popular at the time – philosophy studies at the Faculty of Humanities of Stefan Batory University<sup>9</sup>. Indeed, there were five students in all years, among whom B. Skarga was the only woman. The future philosopher most eagerly attended the seminars taught by Professor Henryk Elzenberg (1887–1967)<sup>10</sup>, although she remembered with fondness all the lecturers of the time. However, her studies were interrupted by the war.

Skarga described the beginning of the war in Vilnius in an interview with Professor Magdalena Środa (1957–)<sup>11</sup>. On September 1, 1939, the radio station broadcast information about Germany's invasion of Poland. On the same day, a bomb fell on the outskirts of the city, resulting in the death of one person. As time and events passed, the tension among the city's residents grew steadily, and Poland's situation became increasingly difficult. The only hope was given by the accession of England and France to the war, but when the Soviet Union's army invaded the country from the east on September 17, 1939, it became clear that the war would not end quickly<sup>12</sup>. B. Skarga mentions in this interview that the Bolsheviks treated Poles as their greatest enemies. After crossing the border, they immediately began purges in offices and institutions, the registration of Polish officers, numerous arrests of people, as well as the deportation to Russia of the collections of the State Archive and the Scientific and Research Institute of Eastern Europe in Vilnius<sup>13</sup>. In turn, in mid-October 1939, the Lithuanians took over Vilnius and initiated an unfavorable rule to Poles. Lithuanian police appeared, arrests continued, Poles were removed from their jobs, and social, cultural, and scientific life in Vilnius was reorganized<sup>14</sup>.

The Stefan Batory University was closed, which devastated both B. Skarga and other participants of Polish academic life in Vilnius. Schools were required to be taught in Lithuanian, a language unknown among most Poles at the time.

9 „*Innego końca świata nie będzie*” ..., op. cit., p. 97; M. Rogowska-Stangret, op. cit.; B. Skarga, *Życiorys...*

10 Polish philosopher and aphorist. Before the outbreak of World War II, at the invitation of another philosopher, Professor Tadeusz Czeżowski, he ended up in Vilnius, where he taught ethics, history of philosophy, and axiology at the university. See, among others, *Henryk Elzenberg (1887–1967). Dziedzictwo idei. Filozofia – aksjologia – kultura. Materiały z ogólnopolskiej konferencji, Toruń, 15–16 maja 1997 r.*, ed. by W. Tyburski, Toruń 1999.

11 Philosopher, ethicist, feminist, lecturer at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Warsaw, see *Magdalena Środa*, Instytut Spraw Publicznych, [online] <https://www.isp.org.pl/pl/pracownicy/prof-magdalena-sroda> [accessed 20.10.2023]. Professor M. Środa was also a student and close friend of B. Skarga, see IAR, *W Warszawie pochowano prof. Barbarę Skargę*, Portal Spraw Zagranicznych, [online] <https://psz.pl/92-polska/w-warszawie-pochowano-prof-barbare-skarge> [accessed 20.10.2023].

12 *Barbara Skarga o początkach wojny. Z prof. Barbarą Skargą rozmawia Magdalena Środa*, „Gazeta Wyborcza”, [online] <https://wyborcza.pl/7,76842,6977770,barbara-skarga-o-poczatku-wojny.html> [accessed 10.10.2023]; „*Innego końca świata nie będzie*” ..., pp. 104–105.

13 „*Innego końca świata nie będzie*” ..., p. 106.

14 *Ibidem*, pp. 109–110.

In early 1940, however, Polish patriots began organizing illegal (underground) education<sup>15</sup>. Lecturers such as Tadeusz Czeżowski (1889–1981)<sup>16</sup>, Konrad Górski (1895–1990)<sup>17</sup>, H. Elzenberg, and Stefan Srebrny (1890–1962)<sup>18</sup> began a series of university seminars. The Philosophical Society held monthly meetings where various issues were discussed. During the war, Skarga focused even more intensely on the study of Greek and philosophy, and the study took place in complete conspiracy. Despite constant arrests and the threat of exposure, young Barbara passed all the statutory exams by 1944<sup>19</sup>. In addition, she taught mathematics, physics, and Latin on her own. Thus, the Stefan Batory University did not wholly cease functioning but went underground. Polish cultural life also continued in occupied Vilnius – an academic theater was established in the fall of 1940. B. Skarga recalled that with the proclamation of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic on July 21, 1940, which formally became part of the Soviet Union on August 3 of that year, the university library was reopened, where she spent most of her free time, reading Plato’s works<sup>20</sup>.

B. Skarga was also very active and involved during the war. When the typhoid epidemic broke out in early May 1940, sanitary columns were organized, and B. Skarga enrolled. Their primary purpose was to go around apartments, administer medicine, and search for the sick. Working with the sick enabled her to survive this difficult period<sup>21</sup>. The future philosopher also undertook independence activities. She joined the underground Polish Home Army. One of her first tasks was deciphering the dispatches from London and Warsaw and encrypting and sending answers over the radio station. She was also head of Vilnius military field communications, and her main tasks at the time included sending out orders, maintaining contact with the Sabotage Directorate of the Home Army Headquarters, training liaison officers, and collecting and reading mail<sup>22</sup>. Because of her underground activities, she was arrested on September 8, 1944, by the Russians. She spent five months in Lukiškės Prison in Vilnius<sup>23</sup>.

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15 Ibidem, p. 111.

16 Philosopher, ethicist, logician, and lecturer at the Stefan Batory University in Vilnius, see, among others, *Tadeusz Czeżowski (1889–1981). Dziedzictwo idei. Logika – filozofia – etyka*, ed. by W. Tyburski, R. Wiśniewski, Toruń 2002.

17 Historian, literary theorist, Slavist, and lecturer at the Stefan Batory University in Vilnius, see, among others, H. Markiewicz, *Konrad Górski (1895–1990)*, Warszawa 1990.

18 Philologist, translator, director, and lecturer at the Stefan Batory University in Vilnius, see, among others, G. Golik-Szarawarska, *Stefan Srebrny, badacz i krytyk teatru*, Katowice 1987.

19 „*Innego końca świata nie będzie*”..., op. cit., pp. 124–125.

20 Ibidem, pp. 119–120.

21 Ibidem, pp. 117–118.

22 Ibidem, pp. 149–150.

23 The oldest prison in Lithuania was built after 1837 in downtown Vilnius. It was a place of execution for representatives of various nations; see, among others, M. Tomkiewicz, *Więzienie na Lukiszkach w Wilnie 1939–1953*, Warszawa 2018.

Then, she was taken to Pravieniškės near Kaunas, where she stayed until June 1946<sup>24</sup>. She was then taken to Ukhta in Russia<sup>25</sup> and she was imprisoned in a labor camp. She was released from the gulag in 1953, yet she was sentenced to life exile and settlement in a kolkhoz in the Petropavlovsk region of Siberia<sup>26</sup>. The length she was sentenced to varies depending on the source – between 10 and 11 years in the camp, although B. Skarga, in her biography, wrote about ten years in a labor camp<sup>27</sup>. The traumas she experienced through all the years of imprisonment and the camps were difficult for her. Although she initially did not want to describe them, she told her story in her book *Po wyzwoleniu... 1933–1956* [After Liberation... 1933–1956], first published by the Literary Institute in Paris in 1985, under the pseudonym of Wiktoria Kraśniewska<sup>28</sup>. A reissue of *Une absurde cruauté: témoignage d'une femme au Goulag (1944–1955)* appeared in 2023, with a new foreword and editing<sup>29</sup>.

Thanks to the efforts of her sister, Hanna Skarżanka (1917–1992)<sup>30</sup>, as well as Wanda Wasilewska (1905–1964)<sup>31</sup> letter-writing intervention with the authorities<sup>32</sup>, B. Skarga returned to Poland in late 1955, settling in Warszawa<sup>33</sup>. With the help of prominent scientific personalities of the time, includ-

24 Lithuanian forced labor camp on the territory of the Prawieniszki settlement. Poles sentenced to the camp were mainly accused of communist activities and of belonging to resistance movements, see M. Tomkiewicz, *Obóz i więzienie w Prawieniszkach 1929–2021*, Przystanek Historia, [online] <https://przystanekhistoria.pl/pa2/tematy/litwa/86299,Oboz-i-wiezienie-w-Prawieniszkach-1929-2021.html> [accessed 18.10.2023]; see also “*Innego końca świata nie będzie*”..., pp. 193–194.

25 A city located in the basin of the Pechora River. Built mainly by gulag prisoners, see *Uchta*, [in:] *Encyklopedia PWN*, [online] <https://encyklopedia.pwn.pl/haslo/Uchta;3990753.html> [accessed 18.10.2023].

26 B. Skarga, *Po wyzwoleniu... 1944–1956*, Poznań 1990, p. 238.

27 See *Znani Sybiracy: Barbara Skarga*, Związek Sybiraków, [online] <http://www.emazury.com/sybiracy/pliki/znani/37skariga.htm> [accessed 10.10.2023], where information on 10 years of labor camp is given; see also B. Skarga, ... *jeżeli myślicie o mnie, to bez smutku... Korespondencja z lat 1946–1955*, sci. ed. by B. Działoszyński, Warszawa 2019, p. 21, where information about 10 years of labor camp is also given; see also P. Nowak, *Filozof w trzech słowach (31). Barbara Skarga: spojrzenie*, Culture.pl, [online] <https://culture.pl/pl/artykul/filozof-w-trzech-slowach-31-barbara-skariga-spojrzeenie> [accessed 10.10.2023], which reported 11 years of labor camp; see also B. Skarga, *Życiorys...*, where the author reports 10 years of labor camp.

28 The first (illegal) national edition was published in 1986 by the Warsaw Publishing House “Pokolenie”.

29 B. Skarga, *Une absurde cruauté : témoignage d'une femme au Goulag (1944–1955)*, traduction et préface M. Laurent, Paris 2023.

30 See *Hanna Skarżanka*, Film Polski, [online] <https://filmpolski.pl/fp/index.php?osoba=111925> [accessed 10.10.2023].

31 Communist activist, literary writer, and founder of the Union of Polish Patriots see, among others, *Zmarła Wanda Wasilewska*, [in:] *Muzeum Historii Polski* [online] <https://muzhp.pl/kalendarium/zmarla-wanda-wasilewska> [accessed 15.06.2024].

32 N. Iwaszkiewicz, ... *przeszywa serce dreszcz*, „Pani” 1997, no. 1, pp. 72–74.

33 *Między historią idei a metafizyką...*, p. 10; R. Ziemiańska, op. cit., p. 245; L. Witkowski, *The Niezłomność rozumności w kulturze*, „Przegląd Filozoficzny. Nowa Seria” 1999, no. 2, p. 17.

ing Adam Schaff (1913–2006)<sup>34</sup>, with whom her sister introduced her, the researcher could continue her scientific career<sup>35</sup>. She refocused her attention on philosophical considerations and continued her interrupted philosophical part-time studies at the University of Warsaw. In 1957, she received a master’s degree in philosophy based on a dissertation on Father Franciszek Krupiński (1836–1898) – a pioneer of organic labor and Polish positivism<sup>36</sup>. During her master’s exam, she met Professor Nina Assorodobraj-Kula (1908–1999)<sup>37</sup> and Bronisław Baczko (1924–2016)<sup>38</sup>, who offered her a doctorate. In 1961, Professor A. Schaff helped Barbara Skarga to obtain a scholarship to stay in France so that the philosopher had the opportunity to get to know the country and its culture, as well as to devote herself to research on positivism and the figure of August Comte (1798–1857)<sup>39</sup>. However, due to her past (independence activities, membership in the Home Army, and serving a sentence in the USSR), Skarga was not allowed to interact with students and teach university classes.

Nevertheless, thanks to the support of A. Schaff, in 1956 the philosopher joined the Department of Bibliography and Documentation of Polish Philosophy at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, where she worked on the bibliography of Polish philosophy. At the same time, she began research activity under the direction of Professor N. Assorodobraj-Kula. She focused her research interests on the history of philosophy, French thought, and contemporary philosophy. In 1961, she defended her dissertation, *Narodziny pozytywizmu polskiego (1831–1864)* [The Birth of Polish Positivism (1831–1864)]<sup>40</sup>.

A year later, she became an assistant professor at the Department of the History of Modern Philosophy and Social Thought at the Institute of Philosophy

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34 Philosopher, communist activist, and one of the prominent decision makers of science in the 1950s, see, among others, J. Szacki, *Adam Schaff (1913–2006)*, [in:] *Portrety uczonych. Profesorowie Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego po 1945. S-Ż*, [sci. ed. by W. Baraniewski, W. Tygielski, A.K. Wróblewski], Warszawa 2016, pp. 57–65.

35 See P. Nowak, op. cit.

36 Ibidem

37 Sociologist and historian of social thought, see *Assorodobraj-Kula Nina*, [in:] *Encyklopedia PWN*, [online] <https://encyklopedia.pwn.pl/haslo/Assorodobraj-Kula-Nina;3871774.html> [accessed 10.10.2023].

38 Philosopher, historian of social thought, one of the co-founders of the Warsaw School of Historians of Ideas, see *Bronisław Baczko (ur. 1924)*, *Archiwum Historii Filozofii i Myśli Społecznej*, [online] <http://www.ahf.ifispan.pl/pl/baczko> [accessed 4.11.2023].

39 B. Skarga, *Pozytywizm i utopia (przesłanki filozoficzne utopii A. Comte’a)*, [Warszawa] 1964; eadem, *Estetyka i historiozofia : uwagi o poglądach Augusta Comte’a*, [Warszawa] 1965; eadem, *Comte*, texts included in the selection translated by W. Bieńkowska, Warszawa 1966. See also „*Innego końca świata nie będzie*”..., pp. 265–266.

40 Published in Warszawa in 1964.

of the Polish Academy of Sciences, which the aforementioned B. Baczek headed. At that time, she remained in close contact with the circle of the so-called “Warsaw School of the History of Ideas”<sup>41</sup>, which included Leszek Kołakowski (1927–2009)<sup>42</sup>, Andrzej Walicki (1930–2020)<sup>43</sup>, Jerzy Szacki (1929–2016)<sup>44</sup>, Lech Szczucki (1933–2019)<sup>45</sup>, or Krzysztof Pomian (1934–)<sup>46</sup>. Since 1966, B. Skarga also remained in close contact with the International Society “La Maison d’Auguste Comte” (Association Internationale “La Maison d’Auguste Comte”) in Paris<sup>47</sup>, which allowed her to refine the details of her dissertation on French positivism. With the help of the Society president and, at the same time, a friend of the philosopher, Professor Paulo E. Berredo Carneiro (1901–1982)<sup>48</sup>, Skarga could work in the private apartment of the great positivist<sup>49</sup>. She read Comte’s letters, looking for topics of interest to her. In 1967, she received her habilitation at the Institute of Philosophy of the Polish Academy of Sciences based on her dissertation *Ortodoksja i rewizja*

41 A current of thought that emerged in the 1950s, it was associated with the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the University of Warsaw. The circle of Warsaw philosophers and historians representing it engaged in discussions and polemics on the European philosophical tradition. The scholars dealt with the history of ideas, their relationship to philosophy, and various social and historical events. See „*Innego końca świata nie będzie*”..., p. 230; see also *O projekcie*, Archiwum Warszawskiej Szkoły Historii Idei, [online] <http://www.archidei.ifispan.pl/o-projekcie/> [accessed 10.10.2023].

42 Philosopher, historian of philosophy and religious thought, see, among others, *Kołakowski Leszek*, [in:] *Encyklopedia PWN*, [online] <https://encyklopedia.pwn.pl/haslo/3924104> [accessed 18.10.2023].

43 Historian of ideas and philosophy, see, among others, I. Rakowski-Kłos, *Andrzej Walicki nie żyje. „Należał do najwybitniejszych polskich filozofów”*, „Gazeta Wyborcza”, [online] <https://wyborcza.pl/alehistoria/7,121681,26227268,andrzej-walicki-nie-zyje-nalezal-do-najwybitniejszych-polskich.html> [accessed 10.10.2023].

44 Historian of ideas, and sociologist who tied his scientific career to the University of Warsaw, see *Prof. Jerzy Szacki – Laureat Nagrody FNP 2003*, Fundacja na Rzecz Nauki Polskiej, [online] <https://www.fnp.org.pl/prof-jerzy-szacki-laureat-nagrody-fnp-2003/> [accessed 10.10.2023].

45 Historian of philosophy and culture, affiliated with the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, see *Prof. Lech Szczucki – Laureat Nagrody FNP 2014, Fundacja na Rzecz Nauki Polskiej* [online] <https://www.fnp.org.pl/prof-lech-szczucki-laureat-nagrody-fnp-2014/> [accessed 11.10.2023].

46 He was a friend and collaborated with B. Skarga, see *Między historią idei a metafizyką...*, p. 10; J. Migasiński, *Biografia*, Fundacja na Rzecz Myślenia im. Barbary Skargi, [online] <https://barbaraskarga.org/content/biografia> [accessed 20.03.2023]; *Krzysztof Pomian*, [in:] Archives of the Warsaw School of the History of Ideas, [online] <http://www.archidei.ifispan.pl/o-szkole/> [accessed 20.10.2023].

47 B. Skarga, *Informacja o działalności naukowej*, Personal archive of Prof. Barbara Skarga..., file no. 15, Skar.15.4, p. 1; B. Skarga, *Wykaz instytucji, organizacji i towarzystw naukowych w kraju i zagranicą, z którymi kandydat współpracuje*, Ibidem, file no. 18, Skar.18.20, p. 1.

48 See B. Gentil, *Paulo E. de Berredo Carneiro (1901–1982) fondateur de l’Association internationale de la “La Maison d’Auguste Comte”*, [online] <https://journals.openedition.org/sabix/342?lang=en> [accessed 04.11.2023].

49 „*Innego końca świata nie będzie*”..., pp. 253–255.



w *pozytywizmie francuskim* [Orthodoxy and Revision in French Positivism]<sup>50</sup>, published in Warszawa the same year.

Taking a job at the Polish Academy of Sciences enabled Skarga to pursue her passion for teaching, to which she could devote herself by conducting numerous seminars for anyone interested. Despite the initial difficulties, the scientist was involved intensely in academic and research life<sup>51</sup>. She was also an extremely active person in the scientific community. As a founding and active member, she was associated with Towarzystwo Kursów Naukowych [the Society of Scientific Courses] (1978–1981)<sup>52</sup>, which later became Towarzystwo Popierania i Krzewienia Nauk [the Society for the Advancement and Promotion of Science] (1980–2010)<sup>53</sup>. In 1980, she became Chairman of the Committee on Philosophical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences from 1981 to 1984 and served in this position twice<sup>54</sup>. Since 1990, she was also a Corresponding Member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences<sup>55</sup> and the Philosophical Society (since 1957)<sup>56</sup>.

Skarga also contributed to the editorial work of philosophical periodicals. Since 1967, she has been a member of the editorial board of “Archiwum Historii Filozofii i Myśli Społecznej” [Archives of the History of Philosophy and Social Thought], serving as editor-in-chief from 1982 to 1986<sup>57</sup>. She also served on the

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50 See M. Rogowska-Stangret, op. cit.; S. Borzym, *Barbara Skarga*, „Edukacja Filozoficzna” 1998, no. 26, p. 210.

51 L. Witkowski, op. cit., p. 17; „*Innego końca świata nie będzie*”..., p. 271.

52 The Society’s goal was to abolish the government’s monopoly on teaching through publishing, lecturing, and scholarship assistance, see R. Terlecki, *Uniwersytet Latający i Towarzystwo Kursów Naukowych. 1977–1981*, Kraków-Rzeszów 2000.

53 A society of prominent scientists who were interested in the role of science in society and the ethics of scientific work, including those striving for democratization of social life and freedom of speech in the People’s Republic of Poland, see *Historia Towarzystwa Popierania i Krzewienia Nauk*, ed. by J. Jurewicz, Warszawa 2013.

54 M. Środa, *Barbara Skarga (1919–2009)*, „Polish Journal of Philosophy” 2009, no. 2, p. 11; L. Szczucki, *O Barbarze (wspomnieniowo i nie tylko)*, „Przegląd Filozoficzny. Nowa Seria” 1999, no. 2 (30), p. 8.

55 Established in 1872 as the Academy of Skills and transformed into the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences after World War II, see P. Hübner, *Polska Akademia Umiejętności*, [in:] *Encyklopedia PWN*, [online] <https://encyklopedia.pwn.pl/haslo/Polska-Akademia-Umiejtnosci;3959726.html> [accessed 21.10.2023].

The original document confirming B. Skarga’s election as a Member of the National Correspondent of the Historical and Philosophical Department of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences is in the Personal Archives of Prof. Skarga..., file no. 71, call no. Skar.67.2.

56 On the non-academic activities of B. Skarga see, among others, A.G. Kister, *Skarga Barbara*, [in:] *Encyklopedia Solidarności*, [online] <https://encysol.pl/es/encyklopedia/biogramy/18633,Skarga-Barbara.html> [accessed 21.10.2023]; L. Witkowski, op. cit., p. 18; B. Skarga, *Życiorys...*, p. 2; eadem, *Wykaz instytucji...*, p. 1.

57 See *Autobiogramy: Barbara Skarga*, „Ruch Filozoficzny” 1987, no. 3–4, p. 333; *Barbara Skarga*, Archiwum Warszawskiej Szkoły Historii Idei, [online] <http://www.archidei.ifispan.pl/o-szkole/> [accessed 21.10.2023]; B. Skarga, *Życiorys...*, p. 2.

editorial boards of “*Studia Filozoficzne*” [Philosophical Studies] (since 1981) and “*Etyka*” [Ethics] (1993–2006)<sup>58</sup>.

In 1975, the scholar received the title she had long waited for – associate professor. However, it was not until 1988, before her retirement, that she received another academic title – full professor<sup>59</sup>.

B. Skarga was repeatedly awarded for her literary, scientific, and patriotic activities and outstanding achievements in Polish philosophy. She was awarded, among others, the Order of the White Eagle (1995)<sup>60</sup>. The professor also received several French awards, including a decoration awarded to outstanding scientists and figures from the scientific world – the Order of Academic Palms (*Ordre des Palmes académiques*, 2001)<sup>61</sup>, or an honorary decoration for exceptional contributions to the French nation – the National Order of Merit (*Ordre National du Mérite*, 2006)<sup>62</sup>.

Professor B. Skarga passed away on September 18, 2009, in Olsztyn. In addition to her family, numerous friends, colleagues, and representatives of the world of science accompanied her on her last journey<sup>63</sup>. Numerous articles are devoted to her scientific achievements, recollections of her students, friends, acquaintances, and the active Fundacja na Rzecz Myślenia im. Barbary Skargi [Barbara Skarga Foundation for Thinking] will testify to the still-living memory of the “First Lady” of Polish philosophy<sup>64</sup>.

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58 See *Między historią idei a metafizyką...*, p. 11; *Autobiogramy...*, p. 333.

59 See *Między historią idei a metafizyką...*, p. 10; J. Migasiński, op. cit.; M. Rogowska-Stangret, op. cit.; R. Ziemiańska, op. cit., p. 246.

60 *Postanowienie Prezydenta Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w dnia 3 maja 1995 r. o nadaniu orderu*, „Monitor Polski” 1995, no. 33, item 379, Internet System of Legal Acts, [online] <https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WMP19950330379> [accessed 21.10.2023].

61 See *Inwentarz archiwum osobistego prof. Barbary Skargi*. Joint Libraries of the Faculty of Philosophy and Sociology of the UW, the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and the Polish Philosophical Society, Warszawa 2016, p. 223. See also *Historique des Palmes académiques*, AMOPA, [online] <https://web.archive.org/web/20160115224211/http://www.amopa.asso.fr/historique.htm> [accessed 18.10.2023]. The original order can be found in Professor Skarga’s Personal Archives..., file 113, Skar.101.

62 *Zasługi, Order Narodowy*, [in:] *Encyklopedia PWN*, [online] <https://encyklopedia.pwn.pl/haslo/4000533> [accessed 10.10.2023]. The original diploma for awarding the order and the Ordre National du Mérite can be found in Prof. Skarga’s Personal Archives..., file no. 103, Skar.91 and file no. 112, Skar.100.

63 *Pogrzeb prof. Barbary Skargi*, *Nauka w Polsce*, [online] <https://naukawpolsce.pl/aktualnosci/news,366606,pogrzeb-prof-barbary-skargi.html> [accessed 20.10.2023].

64 L. Szczucki, *O Barbarze...*, pp. 8–9.

## General characteristics of the book collection of B. Skarga

The Joint Libraries of the Faculties of Philosophy and Sociology of the University of Warsaw (WFiS UW), the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IFiS PAN), and the Polish Philosophical Society (PTF) took over Professor Barbara Skarga's book collection and personal archive in 2014, under Professor's will of September 8, 2008.<sup>65</sup> Since the scholar was professionally affiliated with the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, all copies from her private book collection were included in the call numbers belonging to the Library of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The librarians appropriately marked individual volumes, both in the computer catalog and on the copies, with an ex-libris: “Z księgozbioru prof. dr hab. Barbary Skargi” [From the book collection of Prof. dr. hab. Barbara Skarga].

Initially, Professor B. Skarga's book collection, which was accepted into the library collection, consisted of 997 items. However, it currently contains 939 items, as 58 volumes have been deleted from the inventory due to destruction, loss, or worn out. The damaged items are mainly books necessary for teaching and scientific work and, therefore, most often borrowed by readers. Library statistics confirm that the scholar's book collection continues to be used by many users. Considering its value, physical condition, and usefulness, the deteriorated copies have been bound. However, the subject of analysis in this article is the entirety of Prof. B. Skarga's book collection accepted into the Joint Libraries, including damaged copies.

The inclusion of copies from B. Skarga's book collection in the Joint Libraries' collections fell between 2014 and 2020. Still, most items were included in 2014–2015 (465 and 495 publications, respectively).

Professor B. Skarga's private book collection is extensive and diverse. It contains publications on philosophy, anthropology, religious studies, history, and sociology. Thus, it mainly includes scientific books, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and occasional overprints.

The collection's contents reveal that the professor mainly gathered publications of the time, published in the years of her scientific activity. Most of them (nearly 83% of the entire collection) were published between 1970 and 2009. Most (68%) are publications published in Poland, with every second book published in Warszawa, the philosopher's place of birth, residence, and scientific activity. The dominance of Warszawa as the place of publication is probably also because most publishing houses during the period of Skarga's scientific activity were based in the capital. Among the largest publishers represented in the book

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65 See *Inwentarz archiwum osobistego...*

collection of B. Skarga include Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe (National Scientific Publishing House PWN) (Warszawa, founded in 1951), Zakład Narodowy im. Ossolińskich (National Ossoliński Institute, present location Wrocław, established for the Polish Nation in 1817 by Józef Maksymilian Ossoliński, opened in 1827 in Lviv), Wiedza Powszechna (Warszawa, began operations in 1946, as part of the “Czytelnik” Publishing Cooperative), Społeczny Instytut Wydawniczy Znak (Znak Social Publishing Institute, Kraków, founded in 1959), Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy (State Publishing Institute PIW, Warszawa, founded in 1946), or the Publishing House of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Warszawa, founded in 1992), with which the philosopher was associated. As can be seen, most of the companies mentioned are scientific publishing houses, often offering publications in the field of Skarga’s research interests.

The book collection also includes items published abroad, such as in France, Great Britain, Italy, and Germany. Single copies were published in the United States of America, the USSR and Russia, Canada, Belgium, and Portugal. Foreign publications most often came from publishers such as Gallimard (Paris, founded in 1911), Presses Universitaires de France (Paris, founded in 1921), or George Allen and Unwin (London, founded in 1911). Obtaining such publications was complex during the People’s Republic of Poland, so their presence in Skarga’s collection may attest to her excellent foreign contacts. Although Polish-language publications dominate the book collection (70%), the professor was also very keen on foreign literature – mainly French, English, Italian, or German.

Skarga collected the author’s copies of her works (26 publications in the entire collection). These were mainly items with no subsequent editions and translations of her works into other languages. A significant part of the collection comprises extensive sets of monographs authored by those who published during Skarga’s scholarly activity. They often constitute a complete collection of all book publications by a given author. At the same time, the number of publications by the following authors is clearly marked: 14 works by French philosopher François Chirpaz (1930–2017); 12 books by philosopher, expert in Russian works A. Walicki; 12 publications by the co-founder of the “Warsaw school of historians of ideas” L. Kołakowski; 10 works by the humanist and historian of philosophy Juliusz Domański (1927–)<sup>66</sup>. The collection also includes publications by classics of philosophy and sociology, such as Martin Heidegger (1889–1976) – 12 titles, A. Comte – 12 items, and Emmanuel Lévinas (1906–1995) – 7 books. Their presence in the collection testifies to the

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66 See Z. Kałuża, *Domański Juliusz*, [online] <http://www.ptta.pl/efp/pdf/d/domanskij.pdf> [accessed 03.11.2023].

scientific interests of B. Skarga, who focused her studies mainly on positivism. Of course, this does not change the fact that the discussed book collection is thematically very diverse.

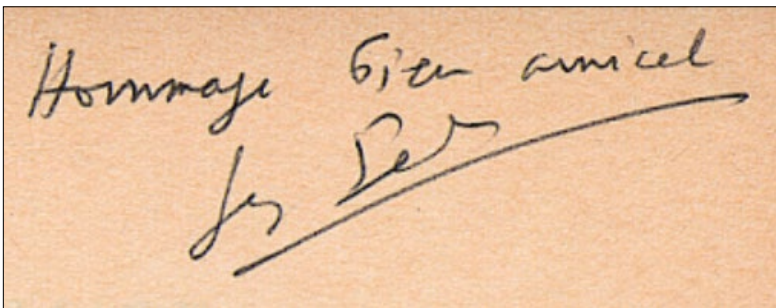
It is also worth noting that the items included in Skarga’s collection are often books whose authors had relationships of various kinds with her. Thus, they testify further to her connections with people from the world of science, among others.

### Dedications in books from the collection of B. Skarga as a testimony to her French contacts

The provenance analysis included 939 available publications from Prof. B. Skarga’s book collection. For obvious reasons, publications deleted from the inventory were not included – the exceptions are books found in the course of the stock checking despite their previous deletion. The book collection records 275 items that contain dedications. Analyzing their contents and authors made it possible to systematize them according to the following categories – dedications from friends, scholars, colleagues, students (undergraduates and doctoral students), and others.

For this article, the author analyzed 46 books with French-language dedications. Entries selected from them, arranged chronologically, were subjected to a detailed analysis to show the relationship between French dedication authors and B. Skarga.

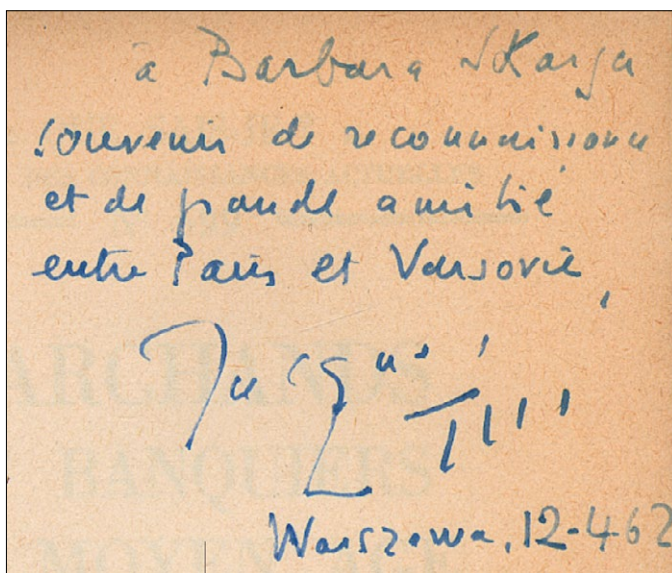
Dedication in book: Guy P. Palmade – *Capitalisme et capitalistes français au XIXe siècle* (Paris 1961), call no. P.92167



Source: personal photo

Guy Pierre Jean Palmade (1927–1993) was a French historian specializing in economic history and the history of modern times<sup>67</sup>. The dedication to Skarga included in his book *Capitalisme et capitalistes français au XIXe siècle* indicates a friendly relationship between the researchers. It is worth mentioning that this is one of the first French-language dedications found in publications from Prof. B. Skarga's private book collection. Therefore, Palmade may have been one of the first scholars with whom the professor came into closer contact during her first stay in France in the 1960s.

Dedication in book: Jacques Le Goff –  
*Marchands et banquiers du Moyen Age* (Paris 1962), call no. P.91008



Source: personal photo

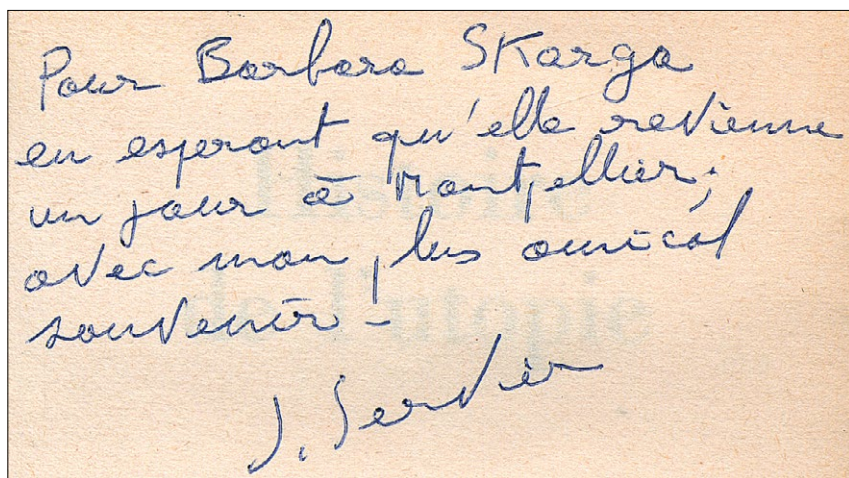
J. Le Goff (1924–2014) was a prominent French medievalist and representative of the “Annales” school of history. In 1960, he took a job at the École pratique des hautes études in Paris. He participated in the negotiations at the time on a cooperation agreement between the Paris University and the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. Then, he met Hanna Dunin-Wąsowicz (d. 2004), whom he married in 1962<sup>68</sup>. He also formed new friendships with Warsaw scholars; earlier, in the 1950s, he became friends with Bronisław

67 See *Guy-Pierre Palmade (1927–1993)*, BnF Data, [online] [https://data.bnf.fr/fr/12298375/guy-pierre\\_palmade/](https://data.bnf.fr/fr/12298375/guy-pierre_palmade/) [accessed 17.10.2023].

68 See J. Le Goff, *Avec Hanka*, Paris 2008. Polish translation: *Z Hanką*, transl. A. Fadlallah, Warszawa 2011.

Geremek (1932–2008). He popularized Polish science and cultural achievements in France in the following decades. He was a foreign member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and Poland became his “second home”<sup>69</sup>. It is from such a significant period in Le Goff’s professional and private life that his dedication to Skarga was inscribed in April 1962 in Warsaw on the author’s copy of the work *Marchands et banquiers du Moyen Age*, emphasizing the friendship between “Paris and Warsaw”, comes.

Dedication in book: Jean Servier – *Histoire de l’utopie* (Paris 1967), call no. P.91073



Pour Barbara Skarga  
en esperant qu'elle revienne  
un jour à Montpellier;  
avec mon plus amical  
souvenir -  
J. Servier

Source: personal photo

J. Servier (1918–2000) was a historian, sociologist, ethnologist, and linguist, one of the most prominent explorers of “Berber civilization”. In the 1950s, he actively participated in the French side in the so-called “Algerian War” (1954–1962). After leaving his native Algeria for France, he eventually settled in Montpellier, working as a professor of ethnology and sociology at the Universit’ des lettres et sciences humaines, conducting, among other things, research in the history of ideas<sup>70</sup>.

The dedication in the author’s copy of *Histoire de l’utopie* indicates the friendly relationship between Servier and Skarga. The researcher hopes that the philosopher will visit him in Montpellier.

P.E. de Berredo Carneiro was a Brazilian chemist, writer, diplomat, and high government official. He was a member of the Brazilian Academy of Literature.

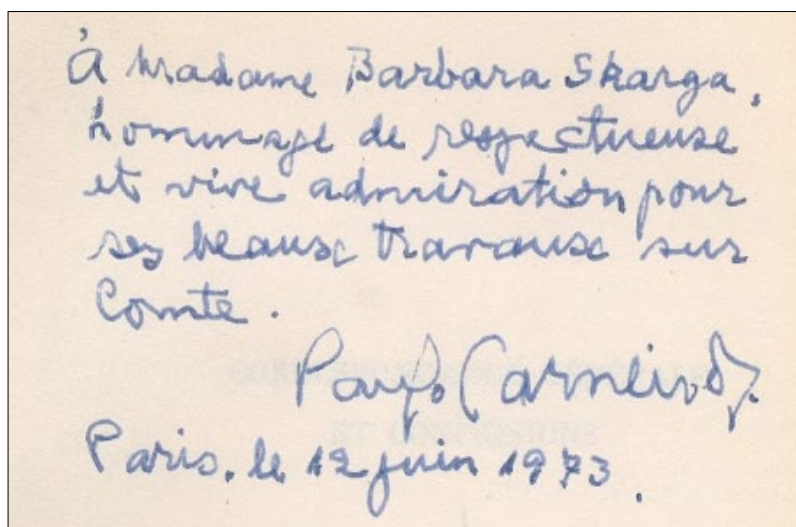
69 J.-C. Schmitt, *Jacques Le Goff (1924–2014)*, [online] <http://lettre.ehess.fr/7686> [accessed 04.11.2023].

70 R. Vorbrich, *Etnolodzy francuscy a Algieria francuska. Wybory moralne, polityczne i merytoryczne w sytuacji kolonialnej*, „Etnografia Polska” 2021, vol. 65, no. 1–2, pp. 92–96.



His scholarly reflections focused on contemporary problems, humanism, and the work of A. Comte's work. Over the years, he cleaned up the "Auguste Comte House" archives and restored his apartment. In 1953, he established the International Society "La Maison d'Auguste Comte" (Association Internationale "La Maison d'Auguste Comte") in Paris, officially registered in 1954. The organization's main task was to preserve the residence and legacy of the philosopher and provide access to them for interested researchers<sup>71</sup>.

Dedication in the book: Auguste Comte – *Correspondance générale et confessions*.  
Vol. 1: 1814–1840, textes établis et présentés par P.E. de Berrêdo Carneiro  
et P. Arnaud (Paris 1973), call no. P.90766[1].



à Madame Barbara Skarga,  
hommage de respectueuse  
et vive admiration pour  
ses beaux travaux sur  
Comte.  
Paulo Carneiro  
Paris, le 12 juin 1973.

Source: personal photo

Carneiro also took credit for, among other things, publishing Comte's correspondence. Unsurprisingly, his handwritten dedication to Skarga, an established researcher of Comte's scholarly output, was included in the first volume of *Correspondance générale et confessions*. Of course, Skarga's private book collection contained all eight volumes of Comte's correspondence compiled by Carneiro and his colleagues and published between 1973 and 1990 by the École des hautes études en sciences sociales in Paris. Carneiro's dedication indicates his great respect and admiration for the work of the Polish philosopher.

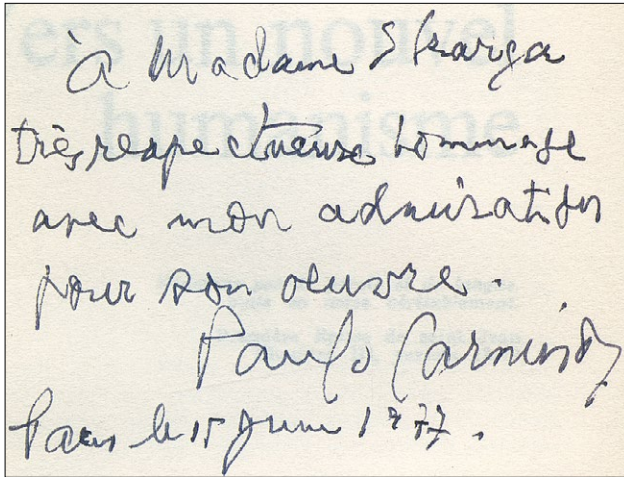
Two more Brazilian publications have dedications, including an author's copy of a work on "new humanism".

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71 Carneiro de Berredo Paulo Estavão, Comité des travaux historiques et scientifiques. Institut rattaché à l'École nationale des chartes, [online] <https://cths.fr/an/savant.php?id=117792#> [accessed 04.11.2023].



Dedication in book: Paulo E. de Berredo Carneiro –  
*Vers un nouvel humanisme* (Paris 1970), call no. P.90938

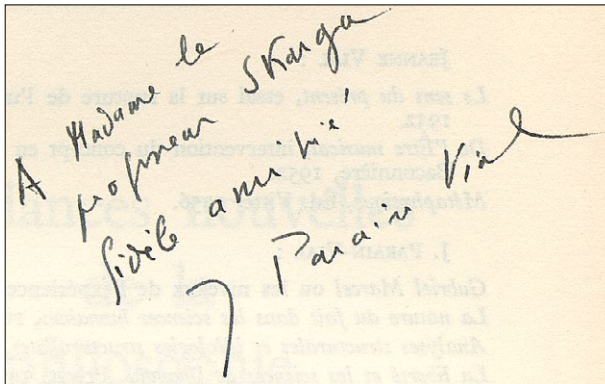


à Madame Skarga  
très respectueuse hommage  
avec mon admiration  
pour son œuvre.  
Paulo Carneiro  
Paris le 17 juin 1977.

Source: personal photo

J. Parain-Vial (1912–2009) was interested in the philosophy of mind, structuralism, and natural sciences, developing a philosophy of time, existence, science, and aesthetics. She specialized in the work of French philosopher Gabriel Marcel (1889–1973), which she perpetuated in scientific consciousness and popularized. Since the 1950s, she has been professionally associated with Université de Dijon<sup>72</sup>.

Dedication in book: Jeanne Parain-Vial – *Tendances nouvelles  
de la philosophie* (Paris 1978), call no. P.92219



A Madame le  
professeur Skarga  
fidèle amie  
Parain Vial

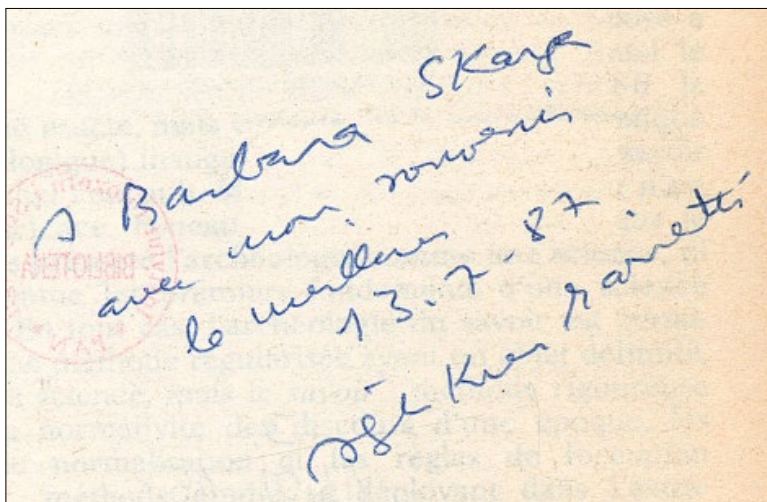
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<sup>72</sup> See, among others, M.M. Valls, *Parain-Vial, Jeanne*, [in:] *Le dictionnaire universel des créatrices*, eds. B. Didier, A. Fouque, M. Calle-Gruber, Paris 2013, pp. 3348–3349.

B. Skarga knew and valued this researcher's work, as exemplified by the reference to her work *Tendances nouvelles de la philosophie* in an excerpt from a 1997 publication published in Paris entitled *Les limites de l'historicité. Continuité et transformations de la pensée*<sup>73</sup>. In the excerpt, Skarga referred to *L'archéologie du savoir* by the eminent French philosopher, historian, and sociologist Michel Foucault (1926–1984)<sup>74</sup> and may have just used the author's copy given to her by Parain-Vial here as a token of great friendship. Prof. Skarga's book collection includes two publications with the French philosopher's dedications – both friendly.

Dedication in book: Angèle Kremer-Marietti –  
*Michel Foucault : archéologie et généalogie* (Paris 1985), call no. P.92361



Source: personal photo.

A. Kremer-Marietti (1927–2013) was a French philosopher, poet and translator. She taught at the Université de Picardie Jules-Verne in Amiens. She focused her philosophical reflections on epistemology, philosophy of science, morality, and positivism<sup>75</sup>. Her doctoral thesis was on the A. Comte's philosophy. She

73 Trad. du polonais par M. Kowalska, préf. de F. Chirpaz, Paris 1997, pp. 256–257.

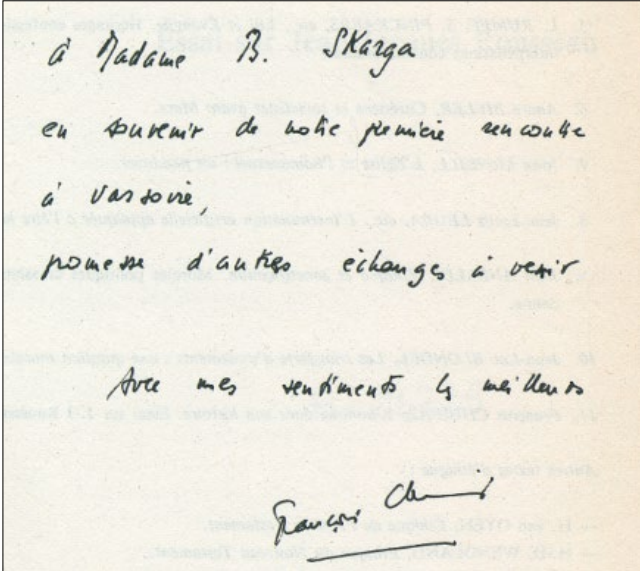
74 Ibidem, pp. 252–257. The first edition of Foucault's work was published in Paris in 1969; his translation into Polish by the eminent romanist Andrzej Siemek was published in Warszawa under the title *Archeologia wiedzy* in 1977. See also J. Topolski, *Michel Foucault, L'archéologie du savoir*, [in:] *Przewodnik po literaturze filozoficznej XX wieku*. Vol. 3, ed. by B. Skarga, Warszawa 1995, pp. 113–121.

75 *Kremer-Marietti, Angèle (1927–2013)*, IdRef, [online] <https://www.idref.fr/026953803> [accessed 18.10.2023]; *Angèle Kremer-Marietti*, BnF Data, [online] [https://data.bnf.fr/11910087/angele\\_kremer-marietti/](https://data.bnf.fr/11910087/angele_kremer-marietti/) [accessed 18.10.2023].

collaborated with P.E. de Berredo Carneiro in editing *Correspondance générale et confessions*<sup>76</sup>. These connections justify the presumption that Kremer-Marietti met Skarga while researching the life and works of this French positivist.

Kremer-Marietti dedicated many of her publications to Comte but also to other philosophers. Knowing Skarga's interests, she gave her dissertation *Michel Foucault: archéologie et généalogie*, in which she inscribed a dedication with her respects and greetings. The researchers remained in constant contact and friendly relations, as can be seen from the fact that Kremer-Marietti offered four of her publications to Skarga with handwritten dedications.

Dedication in book: François Chirpaz – *L'homme dans son histoire : essai sur Jean-Jacques Rousseau* (Geneve 1984), call no. P.90715



à Madame B. Skarga  
en souvenir de votre première rencontre  
à Varsovie,  
promesse d'autres échanges à venir  
  
Avec mes sentiments les meilleurs  
  
François Chirpaz

Source: personal photo

F. Chirpaz was a French philosopher and lecturer at Université Jean Moulin Lyon III<sup>77</sup>. He was interested in Polish affairs – in the 1980s, he wrote about the Catholic Church in Poland<sup>78</sup>. He was particularly fond of B. Skarga and her work, as evidenced, among other things, by his authorial participation in the French edition of a collection of her essays on topics related to the experience of resistance and deportation, which appeared under the title *Penser après le*

76 See Carneiro de Berredo Paulo Estavão...

77 See, among others, *François Chirpaz chemins de philosophie Entretiens avec Emmanuelle Bruyas*, Paris 2014.

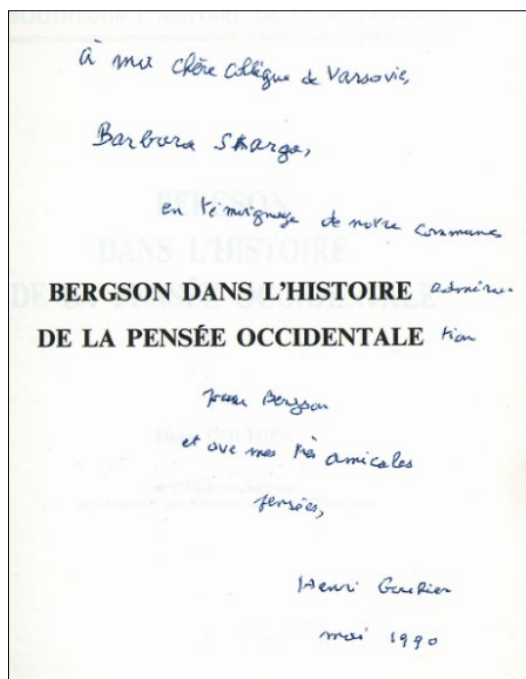
78 See W. Chrostowski, *Kościół, Żydzi, Polska*, Warszawa 2009, p. 132.

*goulag* (Paris 2011)<sup>79</sup>. The collection was supplemented by comments from Polish and French intellectuals who knew Skarga.

The handwritten dedications in his publications to the philosopher prove that Chirpaz remained on friendly terms with the Polish scholar. The dedication inscribed in the book *L'homme dans son histoire: essai sur Jean-Jacques Rousseau* indeed points to the beginnings of this relationship between the researchers. Indeed, in it, Chirpaz expresses his gratitude for their first meeting in Warsaw, hoping for more such occasions in the future. Indeed, their meetings were held periodically in the following years, and their friendship blossomed. Chirpaz dedicated nine more publications to Skarga, indicating this friendly relationship. After the scholar's death, he devoted his article *Duch tragizmu* to her memory<sup>80</sup>.

Dedication in book: Henri Gouhier –

*Bergson dans l'histoire de la pensée occidentale* (Paris 1989), call no. P.92299



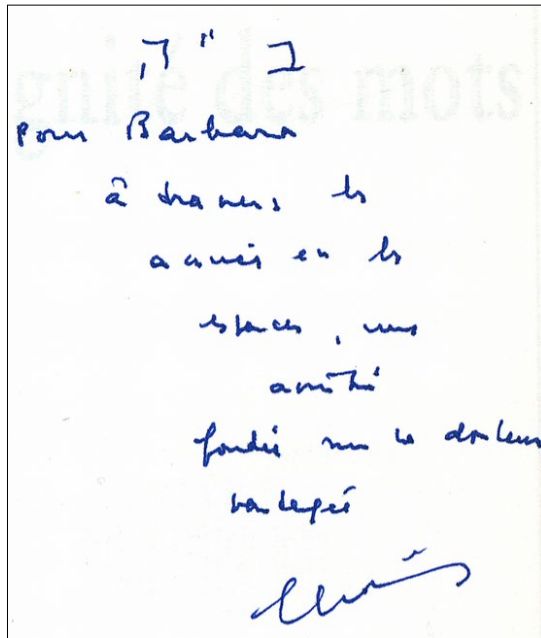
Source: personal photo

79 F. Chirpaz, *À l'épreuve du Goulag*, [in:] B. Skarga, *Penser après le goulag*, textes et comment. réunis par J. Nowicki, [trad. du polonais par M. Laurent et É. Kulakowski], Paris 2011, pp. 225–235. On this subject, see Barbara Skarga, *Penser après le Goulag*, *L'Autre Francophonie*, [online] <http://www.lautre francophonie.fr/spip.php?rubrique66> [accessed 04.11.2023] and C. Mayaux, J. Nowicki, *L'Autre Francophonie*, Paris 2012.

80 Translated by M. Murawska, „Archiwum Historii Filozofii i Myśli Społecznej” 2010, no. 55, pp. 17–26, [online] <http://www.ahf.ifispan.pl/pobierz.php?id=62> [accessed 18.10.2023].

H. Gouhier (1898–1994) specialized in the history of philosophy. He taught at the Sorbonne for nearly 27 years (1941–1968) and was a member of L’Institut, Académie des sciences morales et politiques<sup>81</sup> since 1961. Therefore, Skarga likely met him in the 1960s during her scholarship stay in France. Gouhier probably knew that Skarga was interested in Henri Bergson (1859–1941) – in 1982, she published a dissertation in Warszawa entitled *Czas i trwanie. Studia o Bergsonie*. No wonder, then, that he gave his Warszawa colleague his publication dedicated to the Nobel Prize winner in literature (for 1927), considered the principal founder of intuitionism – *Bergson dans l’histoire de la pensée occidentale*.

Dedication in book: Éliane Amado Lévy-Valensi –  
*La dignité des mots* (Le Plessis-Robinson 1995), call no. P.92118



Source: personal photo

É.A. Levy-Valensi (1919–2006) was a French psychologist, psychoanalyst, and philosopher of Jewish descent. Like other French researchers who knew B. Skarga, she was associated with the Centre national de la recherche scientifique in the 1960s. In 1968, she emigrated to Israel. She was appointed professor of Jewish and universal philosophy at Bar-Ilan University. She published

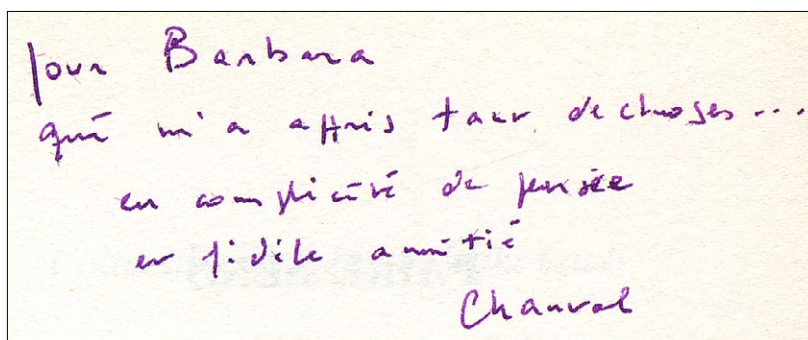
81 *Henri Gouhier (1898–1994)*, BnF Data, [online] [https://data.bnf.fr/11905506/henri\\_gouhier/](https://data.bnf.fr/11905506/henri_gouhier/) [accessed 18.10.2023].



many books and articles addressing current issues and attempting to uncover a psychoanalytic background that could help seek solutions to critical political problems facing Israel<sup>82</sup>.

Levy-Valensi, as she indicates in the dedication, placed in the hands of B. Skarga an author's copy of the publication *La dignité des mots*. The book was given as a token of friendship between the philosophers. That B. Skarga studied Levy-Valensi's scholarly work is evidenced, for example, by the fact that she referred to her thoughts on culture in her treatise *Emmanuel Lévinas: kultura immanencji*, published in 1997<sup>83</sup>.

Dedication in the book: Chantal Delsol –  
*Le Souci contemporain* (Bruxelles 1996), call no. P.91055



Source: personal photo

C. Delsol (1947-) specializes in ethical and political philosophy. She focuses, in particular, on international relations and European geopolitics. She has worked at Université Paris XII since 1982. She is also professor emeritus at Université de Marne-la-Vallée in Paris, where she founded and directed the Centre d'Etudes européennes<sup>84</sup>. She is currently a member of the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politique<sup>85</sup>.

Delsol gave Skarga an author's copy of the publication *Le Souci contemporain* in honor of their faithful over the years. She also expressed this feeling after the Polish scholar's death by including a text entitled *Barbara* in the abovementioned collection, *Penser après le goulag* (Paris 2011). In recent years,

82 Amado Lévy-Valensi, *Eliane*, [in:] *Encyclopedia.com*, [online] <https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/amado-levy-valensi-eliane> [accessed 28.10.2023].

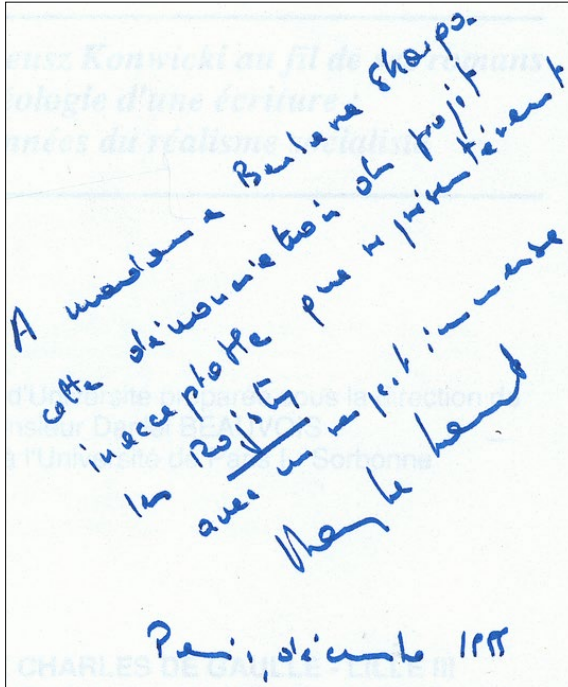
83 In B. Skarga, *Tożsamość i różnica. Eseje metafizyczne*, Kraków 1997, p. 93.

84 Chantal Delsol, Académie des sciences morales et politiques, [online] <https://academies-ciencismoralesetpolitiques.fr/membres-titulaires/section-i-philosophie-2/chantal-delsol/> [accessed 28.10.2023].

85 Ibidem

together with Joanna Nowicki, she commemorated Skarga’s achievements in the encyclopedic dictionary of Central and Eastern European thinkers<sup>86</sup>.

Dedication in book: Maryla Laurent – *La dérive de Tadeusz Konwicki au fil de ses romans. Archéologie d’une écriture. Les huit années du réalisme socialiste* (Villeneuve d’Ascq 1996), call no. P.90685



Source: personal photo

The author of the French translations of the texts included in the collection *Penser après le goulag* (Paris 2011) was Prof. Dr. Maryla Laurent (Laurent-Zielńska; 1953–), a scholar of Polish and French literature, literary scholar, ethnologist, and translator of Polish literature into French. She was professionally affiliated with Université de Lille III, where she taught classes in literary studies, comparative studies, translation studies, and translation. She held the chair of Polish philology at the same university until 2019<sup>87</sup>.

86 M. Kowalska, *Skarga Barbara*, [in:] *La vie de l’esprit en Europe centrale et orientale depuis 1945. Dictionnaire encyclopédique*, eds. C. Delsol, J. Nowicki, aux éditions du CERF, Paris 2021, pp. 835–838.

See also J. Nowicki, *Myśl Barbary Skargi – głos humanizmu Europy Środkowej*, [online] <https://glos.umk.pl/nauka/?id=17509> [accessed 28.10.2023].

87 *Maryla Laurent (Laurent-Zielinska)*, [online] <https://swiatowaencyklopediapolonistow.pl/maryla-laurent-laurent-zielinska/> [accessed 2.11.2023].

She has translated texts by many Polish authors<sup>88</sup>, among them the memoirs of B. Skarga published in Paris in 2000 under the title *Une absurde cruauté. Témoignage d'une femme au Goulag (1944–1955)*<sup>89</sup>. Five years earlier, M. Laurent gave B. Skarga an author's copy of the publication *La dérive de Tadeusz Konwicki au fil de ses romances...* In her handwritten dedication, Laurent probably deliberately emphasized the word "Rojsty" – the title of Konwicki's autobiographical novel, in which the author portrayed anti-Soviet partisans operating in the Vilnius region in late 1944/45. She thus referred to Skarga's service in the Polish Underground Home Army during the war. The dedication may also have a second hidden meaning, encoded in the word "démonciation". Konwicki wanted to join the new political and literary trend, describing the partisans in Lithuania negatively while describing the Soviets as positive figures, smiling and contributing well. Such interpretation was inconsistent with reality. That is why the word "démonciation" appeared, which could mean "demonstrating an unworkable intention", as written in the novel.

## Conclusions

A qualitative, quantitative, and provenance analysis of Prof. B. Skarga's private book collection, which is held in the collections of the Joint Libraries of WFiS UW, IFiS PAN, and PTF, proves that the "First Lady" of Polish philosophy had good relationships with foreign scholarly circles. Her international contacts are evidenced, to a large extent, by the fact that the publications in her collection came from foreign scholars' donations, which were mainly authors' copies.

The content of the dedications, with which the examined copies were stamped, proves that "the circulation and transfer of ideas between France and Poland" – referring to the title of Joanna Nowicki's article<sup>90</sup> – also took place in gifting books to each other by scholars whose interests focused on a particular issue – here related to philosophy. At the same time, it is worth noting that this exchange was not only aimed at intellectual communication but was sometimes an expression of "friendly homage" – "hommage bien amical". This kind of relation was the case with the books donated to B. Skarga – most often, they contained handwritten dedications and friendly entries expressing respect and admiration for her achievements. At the same time, many of the dedications discussed were of an unconventional, personal nature, referring to

88 On this subject, see M. Mitura, *Pasja mediacji. Tłumaczenie jako metaoperacja we francuskich przekładach Maryli Laurent*, Lublin 2018.

89 It is a translation of *Po wyzwoleniu... : (1944–1956)*.

90 J. Nowicki, *Obieg i transfer idei między Francją a Polską: wpływ presupozycji badaczy*, transl. A. Walkiewicz, „Zagadnienia Naukoznawstwa” 2023, vol. 55, no. 4, pp. 65–78, [online] <https://apcz.umk.pl/ZN/article/view/42502/34837> [accessed 04.11.2023].



essential aspects of life, both of the recipient and the giver(s), indicating the close relationship between them.

The research once again demonstrates the value of private book collections for bibliological studies and research in the history of science, among other fields.

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