

MONIKA PRZYSTALSKA

(Uniwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu, Archiwum Uniwersyteckie)

## ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES THE ORGANIZATION AND THE FUNDS OF THE ARCHIVES

Poznań's academic traditions date back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Efforts to establish a university in the capital of Wielkopolska (Greater Poland) were first made by Lubrański Academy, which started operating in 1519. However, at that time the academy was not transformed into a university. Next attempts were made in the 18<sup>th</sup> century; the idea was to transform the Jesuit College into a university – again, to no avail<sup>1</sup>. In May 2010, the University celebrated its 91<sup>st</sup> anniversary. Its history is inextricably linked with Poznań's Friends of the Scientific Society. As a result of the Society's efforts, Poznań University Organizational Committee was created in November 1918, with Heliodor Święcicki as its president, at that time the president of the Friends of the Scientific Society. On 5 January 1919, the Committee submitted a project

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<sup>1</sup> B. Miśkiewicz, *Uniwersytet Poznański. Przeszłość, terażniejszość, przyszłość* [University of Poznań. The Past, Present and Future], (1977), p. 10.

of establishing a new university; it was approved by the local authorities in Poznań<sup>2</sup>.

The newly founded university in Poznań officially commenced its activity on 7 May 1919<sup>3</sup>. Initially, the university was named *Wszechnica Piastowska*. However, this name was considered inadequate as

[...] typically universities were named after their founders, for example the Jagiellonian University was named after Władysław Jagiełło, Stefan Batory University in Vilnius or John Casimir University in Lvov, all named after kings. Unfortunately, there is no such evidence that the Piast dynasty made any efforts to establish a centre of higher education in Poznań [...].

This was the main reason for renaming *Wszechnica Piastowska* into Poznań University 1920<sup>4</sup>.

Since its establishment, the university had developed dynamically; the first faculty was Philosophy (1919–1925), with its tuition program including Mathematics and Natural Sciences as well as Humanities. Three other faculties followed, namely the Law, Agriculture and Forestry, Medicine (established in 1920). In the subsequent years, the organizational structure of the university underwent further transformations. The Faculty of Philosophy

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<sup>2</sup> Miśkiewicz, *Uniwersytet Poznański*, p. 13; M. Banasiewicz, A. Ryfowa, *Archiwum Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu* [Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań Archives], in: *Dzieje Poznania i województwa poznańskiego. Informator o materiałach archiwalnych*, (1972), p. 105.

<sup>3</sup> Miśkiewicz, *Uniwersytet Poznański*, p. 14.

<sup>4</sup> G. Łukowski, *Jak powstał Uniwersytet Poznański* [How the University of Poznań was established], in: *W Trzemesznie i nie tylko... Obchody 85-lecia Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza*, ed. by B. Walczak, (2006), p. 117.

was split into Humanities and the Faculty of Mathematics and the Natural Sciences.

The political changes instigated after World War II resulted in further transformations: the Medical Faculty (still operating as part of the University) was separated and turned into the Medical Academy; the Agriculture and Forestry Faculty was transformed in 1951 into a separate entity and operated under the name of the Agricultural Academy. In the academic year 1951/1952 the following faculties had already been established: Philology, Philosophy and History (separated from the Faculty of Humanities), Law and Economics, Biology and Earth Sciences, as well as Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry (the latter two were established after the division of the Mathematics and Natural Sciences Faculty)<sup>5</sup>. In 1955, following a resolution by the Council of Ministers, the University was granted a patron – Adam Mickiewicz. Since then the Poznań University has been officially referred to as Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (further: UAM)<sup>6</sup>. Currently, the University hosts the following faculties: Biology, Chemistry, Polish and Classical Philology, Physics, History, Mathematics and Computer Science, Geographical and Geological Sciences, Political Science and Journalism, Social Sciences, Neo-Philology, Law and Administration, Educational Studies, Theology, as well as Pedagogy and Fine Arts in Kalisz<sup>7</sup>.

Initially, the increasing number of documents accumulated in the course of the university's activities was collected and stored by the relevant departments.

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<sup>5</sup> Banasiewicz, Ryfowa, *Archiwum Uniwersytetu*, pp. 105–106.

<sup>6</sup> “Monitor Polski. Dziennik urzędowy Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej” (further: “Monitor”), 1 (13 January 1956), pos. 1.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.amu.edu.pl/index.php?linkid=2>, (visited on 12 July 2010).

The onset of World War II in September 1939 raised concerns about the safety of the records and documents collected since 1919. In order to prevent their possible destruction, the most important archives (protocols of the Faculty Councils and Dean Reports) were secured.

The files of the Humanities Faculty were placed in special trunks with the intention of transporting them as far from the war front as possible. Near Kutno in Central Poland, the train with the precious cargo was bombed<sup>8</sup>.

These records have never been recovered. To add insult to injury, the student files as well as the Rector's documents remaining in the University buildings were taken over by the Nazis and incorporated into the *Reichsuniversität* (where they were stored until the end of the war)<sup>9</sup>. The university facilities shared the same fate: they were taken over by the Nazi authorities. The university documentation as well as the university buildings, both were taken over by the Nazis in September 1939. In 1941, *Reichsuniversität* Posen was established. German professors and assistant lecturers were brought to Poznań. They were primarily the National Socialist German Workers' Party activists, and their main task was to eliminate from the university anything even remotely bearing Polish traits<sup>10</sup>.

Despite the Second World War in progress, Poznań University continued its activities. In 1940, the clandestine University of

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<sup>8</sup> H. Moraczewska, *Kancelaria i archiwa uniwersyteckie w Polsce Ludowej* [University Office and Archives in the People's Republic of Poland], (1982), p. 145.

<sup>9</sup> Ibidem, p. 145.

<sup>10</sup> Cz. Łuczak, *Uniwersytet Poznański w latach hitlerowskiej okupacji* [University of Poznań under the Nazi occupation], in: *Dzieje Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza 1919–1969*, [ed. by Z. Grot], (1972), pp. 307–308.

Western Lands was set up (organized in the General Government). Over this period, the University educated and granted master's degrees to approximately one hundred students. Prof. Ludwik Jaxa-Bykowski and Prof. Roman Pollak (both acting as Rectors of the University of Western Lands) made special contributions to the organization of the illegal structures<sup>11</sup>. The time after 1945 was marked by the reconstruction and restoration of universities, including Poznań University; as a result, the pace of collecting files and other types of materials increasingly accelerated. There was a need for establishing archives to manage the existing data in a professional manner.

Initially, the archives' aim was primarily to store the entrusted documents. Over time, the archives have gained in importance.

The role of the archives varied according to the needs of their creators and users, they have become not only institutions for gathering, storing and protecting various types of materials but also centers intended to pass on history to next generations. Through their role of an "intermediary", the archives provide information about the past, communicate history to posterity, teach and affect the development of views and attitudes.

The history of our archives goes back to the 1950s. In 1953, the decision was made to establish the archives: at the initial phase they acted as "part of the school's secretariat"<sup>12</sup>. At that time the archives rendered various services.

As a research centre, the Archives of Adam Mickiewicz University (UAM) were founded on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 1957, by virtue of a decree by the Rector of the University Prof. Alfons Klafkowski. The first person appointed as head of the archives was Prof.

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<sup>11</sup> Miśkiewicz, *Uniwersytet Poznański*, pp. 31–36.

<sup>12</sup> A. Domalanus, *Archiwum Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu* [*Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań Archives*], (1998), typescript, p. 1.

Zdzisław Grot, and the first employee was Jerzy Marczewski acting as senior assistant<sup>13</sup>.

Since its beginnings, the archives struggled with accommodation problems. In 1953–1958, the archives did not have their own premises for storing records. Taken over and catalogued files were stored together with materials yet not catalogued. Finally, in 1958 separate rooms were allocated to the archives in the *Collegium Iuridicum* building (now hosting the Law and Administration Faculty)<sup>14</sup>.

On several occasions, attempts were made to transform the archives into scientific facilities. This issue was frequently discussed during the Senate meetings. A draft of such a conversion was introduced by Prof. Józef Burszta at the University Senate on 6 April 1964 as a motion put forward by the Council of the Faculty of Philosophy and History. The arguments in favor of the postulate said that

[...] the archives require professional personnel in order to ensure proper operations in accordance with the provisions of the Supreme Archives Authorities.

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<sup>13</sup> *Protokół Senatu z dnia 2 V 1960 r.* [Senate Minutes, 2 May 1960], Archiwum Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu [Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań Archives] (further: Archiwum UAM), call number 250/8, p. 9.

<sup>14</sup> *Kronika Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu za rok akademicki 1957/1958 za rektoratu prof. dra Alfonsa Kłafkowskiego i Inauguracja roku akademickiego 1958/1959 w dniu 1 października 1958 r.* [Adam Mickiewicz University Chronicle in Poznań for the academic year 1957/1958 during the term of Rector Prof. Alfons Kłafkowski, Pd. D. and Inauguration of the academic year 1958/1959 on 1 October 1958], (1960), p. 236.

It was also to report to the “History Institute which agreed to supervise the facility”<sup>15</sup>. Finally, as suggested by Prof. Gerard Labuda, the archives were transformed into a scientific centre affiliated with the Department of Polish History of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries<sup>16</sup>.

The issue of converting the archives into a research centre was raised once again during one of the subsequent meetings of the University Senate. On 1 March 1965 it was decided that a petition will be submitted to the Ministry of Higher Education with a request to reclassify the university archives into a scientific establishment. At the same time Franciszek Paprocki, Ph. D., was appointed the archives manager<sup>17</sup>. However, the Ministry of Higher Education rejected this petition referring to a non-existent “autonomous scientist from the field of archival science at the UAM university”<sup>18</sup>. Over the next few years, more attempts were made to improve the status and position of the archives in the university’s organizational structure.

Human resources posed another huge problem: over the following years, the number of employees working in the university’s archives constantly fluctuated. In 1953, the only employee was Leon Kucharski (office clerk). Later, in 1957, the number of employees grew to three and remained at this level until the early 1980s. The position of the archives head was held successively by Prof. Zdzisław Grot, Assistant Prof. Franciszek Paprocki,

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<sup>15</sup> *Protokół Senatu z dnia 6 IV 1964 r.* [*Senate Minutes, 6 April 1964*], Archiwum UAM, call number 250/32, p. 17.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 17.

<sup>17</sup> *Protokół Senatu z dnia 1 III 1965 roku* [*Senate Minutes, 1 March 1965*], Archiwum UAM, call number 250/33, p. 15.

<sup>18</sup> B. Miśkiewicz, *Dzieje Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza w latach 1958/1959–1968/1969*, in: *Dzieje Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza 1919–1969*, pp. 504–505.

Ph. D. (twice, in the years 1964–1969 and 1973–1978), Maria Banasiewicz, Ph. D., Anna Ryfa, Ph. D., Grzegorz Łukomski, Ph. D.<sup>19</sup> and Anna Domalanus, M.A. (head of the University Archives since 2005).

Since 1990, the University Archives “have been a unit shared by the entire university, fulfilling scientific and educational tasks. They also belong to the national archive network”<sup>20</sup>. In accordance with Article 2 § 3 of *The regulations of Adam Mickiewicz University Archives in Poznań*,

[...] their main tasks include collection, preservation, storage, development and giving access to all the documents developed at the university and in the related institutions and organizations<sup>21</sup>.

The Archives’ present responsibilities include:

1. Research in the fields of:
  - a) history of the university and organization of education in the region,
  - b) research, with special emphasis on archives in higher education institutions;

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<sup>19</sup> Domalanus, *Archiwum Uniwersytetu*, p. 4

<sup>20</sup> *Regulamin Archiwum UAM, Uchwała Nr 84/2009 Senatu Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu z dnia 28 września 2009 r. w sprawie wprowadzenia regulaminu Archiwum UAM [UAM Archives Rules, Resolution No. 84/2009 by the Adam Mickiewicz University Senate of 28 September 2009 on the introduction of the UAM Archives statute]*, *Archiwum UAM*, p. 2.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 3.

2. Providing assistance to the university employees in obtaining information about archival materials stored in archives of higher education institutions;
3. Cooperation with the university's organizational departments in research and students training;
4. Promotion of knowledge about the university and resources held by its archives<sup>22</sup>.

Another responsibility of the archives includes cooperation with all the university units to ensure proper communication of the generated information. The archives are also in charge of conducting courses and controlling the course of the mentioned tasks. Furthermore, the archives are entrusted with the task of necessary conservation works<sup>23</sup>.

The university archives are also needed to conduct internal search queries at the request of the University employees and the university's internal and external organizational units, for example researchers from other universities, students, journalists, and other individuals. After completing such a search query, the requesting person may come and use the information on the spot.

Issues related to public access to the collected and stored materials are specified in the *Statute of making the UAM fund accessible*.

It states that the documents may be used by the university employees (both academic and administrative), research workers from other institutions, as well as students at UAM and other universities. All the materials are made available by the consent

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<sup>22</sup> Ibidem, p. 3.

<sup>23</sup> *Zarządzenie Rektora UAM nr 56 z dnia 22 I 1973 roku [UAM Rector No. 56 dated 22 January 1973]*, pp. 1–2.

of the manager following a written application<sup>24</sup> named *Requests for access to the archives*. The materials removed from the shelf are substituted with a receipt bearing the requesting person's full name as well as the title and catalogue number of the document which has been made available. The research studio is the place designated for viewing the extracted materials. The principles of using the studio are defined in the *Rules of using the research studio*. Every viewing of the archived documents is registered and accompanied by the name of the viewing person. In 2009, the studio attracted 200 persons (data collected in late 2009).

Other forms of making records available include hires to the university organizational units (623 in 2009, data from late 2009).

The archives are supervised by the Rector. He is also in charge of appointing the successive head of the archives whose "tenure expires together with that of the university authorities"<sup>25</sup>. All the other archives employees report directly to the manager.

In order to ensure a fluent search of documentation related to historic data concerning former university students, the AS database was established specifically for student files (currently hosting 47 354, data from June 2010), as well as *MiDas* database for master's and doctor's theses (currently 21 574 works, data from June 2010). There is also a Computer Disk database *CD base*, which stores 3000 catalogued disks (data from June 2010).

The entire funds of the University Archives occupy 2600 MB of data (information from late 2009) and can be divided into three categories.

The first contains Poznań University fund for 1919–1939, including files of students from various faculties and documents of

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<sup>24</sup> *Regulamin udostępniania zbiorów Archiwum UAM [Statute of availing UAM Archive's collections]*, Archiwum UAM.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 4.

the university's administration, the employees' personal files, minutes from the Academic Senate meetings, materials related to student organizations and corporations, master's and doctor's theses.

Files of the *Reichsuniversität* Posen, generated between 1940 and 1945, are a separate category of stored materials.

The third category consists of records created after World War II, including students files (classified by faculties and further divided into years and names), the employees personal files and their legacy, administrative materials (for example of the Department of International Cooperation, the Department of Education), files from the Rector's Office as well as student organizations and corporations.

The entire archival documentation is complemented by the university chronicles, registers of employees, catalogues of lecturers, registers as well as publications about Poznań University and other universities across Poland.

After the separation of the two Faculties from UAM (Medical Faculty transformed into the Medical Academy and the Agriculture and Forestry Faculty transformed into the Agricultural Academy), all the documentation concerning those faculties was transferred to the new schools and their respective archives.

In order to familiarize the archives' users with the history of the university and to show part of the stored materials, a regular exhibition has been held in the Main Hall of the archives building.

It presents the portraits of the University Rectors from 1919 until 1981 and a cabinet with a permanent exposition containing mainly commemorative medals, among them a medal minted on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wielkopolska Uprising in 1918/1919 as well as medals donated to the university by other institutions or universities, for example the Academy of Physical Education in Poznań or the Raczyński Library. The show-case also displays

ceramic badges of all the faculties from 1974, ornamental plates and congratulatory letters.

In addition, next to the main entrance a plate is displayed to illustrate the organizational development of Adam Mickiewicz University, including a chronological list of the faculties (since 1919 until the present day).

During special classes organized for the students in the university archives, baccalaureate certificates of the pre-war students are shown together with pre-war students books of entries for the subsequent years of study, records books, diplomas, master's and doctor's theses.

In 2004, the majority of the archives funds were damaged, while part of them was completely destroyed as a result of flooding of the warehouses located at the then *Jowita* student house. An external company was entrusted with disinfection and drying of the documents. Conservation works started in 2005 and continue until today.

Since January 2006, the Poznań University's Archives have been located at 85a Umultowska Street, on the Morasko campus in the building previously hosting a switchboard, now adapted for the archives. Since the documentation related to the University and its activities is growing, plans are made to construct a new building.

## ARCHIWUM UNIwersYTETU IM. ADAMA MICKIEWICZA W POZNANIU

ORGANIZACJA I ZASÓB

(STRESZCZENIE)

Artykuł przedstawia problematykę organizacji i zasobu Archiwum Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu. Poprzedzono ją związanym omówieniem dziejów Uniwersytetu Poznańskiego. Swoją oficjalną działalność rozpoczął on 7 maja 1919 roku jako Wszechnica Piastowska. Duży wkład w proces tworzenia uczelni miał prof. Heliodor Świącicki. Z początkowych czterech wydziałów: Filozoficznego, Prawa, Rolniczo-Leśnego i Lekarskiego, ostatecznie wykształciło się 14 fakultetów funkcjonujących obecnie. Działalność szybko rozwijającego się Uniwersytetu przerwała II wojna światowa. Zarówno uczelnia, jak i zgromadzona w niej dokumentacja, przejęte zostały przez władze hitlerowskie. W latach 1941–1945 w Poznaniu działała niemiecka uczelnia, która przyjęła nazwę *Reichsuniversität Posen*. Po II wojnie światowej Uniwersytet Poznański wznowił działalność.

Dalszy, szybki rozwój Uniwersytetu w tym okresie skutkowało szybkim narastaniem dokumentacji i w konsekwencji stał się przyczyną powołania w 1953 roku Archiwum, które pierwotnie pełniło funkcję sekretariatu. Jako placówka naukowo-badawcza Archiwum zaczęło działać od 7 października 1957 roku. W artykule poruszone zostały między innymi jego problemy lokalowo-personalne oraz omówiono organizację, główne zadania i obowiązki. Przedstawiono także aktualny stan posiadanego przez Archiwum zasobu (obecnie 2600 mb), który można podzielić na trzy części: przedwojenny (1919–1939), akta *Reichsuniversität Posen* (1940–1945) i materiały powstałe po II wojnie światowej. Poruszone zostały również kwestie związane z popularyzowaniem wiedzy o działalności Archiwum.

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