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# The Work of Leon Cyfrowicz (1844–1904) for Orphans in the Krakow Charitable Society

## ABSTRACT

The aim of the article is to present the work of Leon Cyfrowicz, a student and lecturer at the Jagiellonian University, aimed at helping poor children and orphans under the care of the Krakow Charitable Society. His aim was to enable them to gain an elementary-school education and to prepare them for professional work.

The article was based on source materials collected from the National Archive in Krakow and the Jagiellonian Library. Manuscripts of the minutes of meetings of the General Council of the Krakow Charitable Society were analyzed, as were the “Yearbooks of the Krakow Charitable Society.” Cyfrowicz’s publications were also used. A qualitative analysis of the source material was done.

It was established that Cyfrowicz was involved in the activities of the “Departments of the Krakow Charitable Society”; he took an active part in the Society’s board meetings, was a member of the School Committee, and was responsible for the care, upbringing, and education of the children. On his initiative, the “Crafts Room” was established, renamed the School of Crafts.

Combining scientific, professional, and charitable work is still a desirable form of human activity. The charitable work done by Cyfrowicz is an example of being involved in helping poor people, especially children, actively participating in the work of the Krakow Charitable Society.

## KEYWORDS

Cyfrowicz Leon, care,  
orphan, Krakow  
Charity Society, charity

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## Introduction

The tradition of charity has a long history in Krakow, as many eminent figures have made efforts to help poor adults and children. The lecturers of the Jagiellonian University, described as “the true elite among the intelligentsia of Krakow,” also played a significant role in such activities (Karolczak, 1995, p. 215). Their biographies, as Julian Dybiec has pointed out, center around their contribution to the development of science and the dissemination of knowledge (Dybiec, 2011, pp. 280–282). We must add that the university rectors and lecturers combined research and teaching with volunteering for charities that helped the inhabitants of the city, and they endorsed charity campaigns with their authority. Helping children of poor families—pupils of Krakow schools and impoverished students—is part of the university tradition. Representatives of the Jagiellonian University can be found in the lists of members of the oldest secular association in Krakow, which provides care for the poor and the sick, the elderly and orphans, namely, the Krakow Charity Society [KTD] (*Pamiętnik Towarzystwa Dobroczynności...* 1968 pp. 241–245). Many professors and doctors were actively involved in the activities of the Society, from its founding in 1816 until it was dissolved by the communist authorities in 1951. They were invited to act as protectors, presidents, and members of the Society’s General Council; they were engaged in the work of individual departments; they provided legal and medical assistance and made efforts to improve the methods of care, as well as to educate those in need. In this way, they contributed to the development of the educational system, which consists of “school establishments, non-school institutions of permanent and informant education, as well as childcare institutions” (Meissner, 2011, p. 9).

The aim of this research was to examine the work of Leon Cyfrowicz to help poor children under the care of the KTD in a facility run by them. Cyfrowicz was an associate professor of administration science and Austrian legislation and, from 1886, professor at the Jagiellonian University. My subject of interest was Cyfrowicz’s efforts to help children in the custody of the KTD obtain an elementary-school education and practical skills. Cyfrowicz’s writings on poverty and on propagating forms of charity and the activities of

the KTD have also been taken into consideration. These issues will help me paint a more complete picture of the scientific and didactic work of Cyfrowicz, a lecturer at the Jagiellonian University, and the guardian of orphans at the KTD. This area of his charity work has not been widely investigated in previous research. His charity work contributed to the changes that were undertaken by the KTD in teaching and raising children at their facility in the second half of the 19th century.

The basic source material was the files of the KTD, kept in the National Archives in Krakow, in unit 547. I have also scrutinized the materials collected in the Archives of the Jagiellonian University, but no new findings were based on them. Printed source materials in the collections of these Archives and the Jagiellonian Library, especially the Annals of the KTD and publications authored by Cyfrowicz also yielded significant information. Another source was the articles devoted to Cyfrowicz which were featured in *Czas*, *Nowa Reforma*, and *Gazeta Krakowska*. I have analyzed the period from the 1870s to the beginning of the 20th century, which covered the years of Cyfrowicz's cooperation with the KTD.

So far, Cyfrowicz's life and work has been sketched in a short biography, written as an entry in the *Encyclopedia of Krakow* (PWN Scientific Publishing House, 2000, p. 132). Janina Bienarżówna, who wrote about the history of Krakow in the second half of the 19th century, noted his participation in the January Uprising of 1863. Maria Stinia recalled Cyfrowicz's activity at the Jagiellonian University while presenting its history from 1871 to 1914, and Przemysław Żukowski took up the topic of his role as secretary of the university's chancellery (Bienarżówna, 1985, p. 222; Stinia 2014, pp. 69, 177, 187; Żukowski, 2016, pp. 349–363). These materials mainly explored Cyfrowicz's accomplishments as a man of science and university employee—lecturer and secretary of the university office. In this article, I stress his cooperation with the KTD, which helped improve the modes of care for the youngest charges of the Society.

## Professional, Political, and Social Activity of Leon Cyfrowicz

Leon Cyfrowicz was born in Krakow on April 1, 1844, where he graduated from the St. Anna gymnasium, and then studied at

the Jagiellonian University at the Department of Law ([Obituary], 1904, p. 3; PWN Scientific Publishing House, 2000, p. 132; Stinia, 2014, p. 69; Żukowski, 2016, p. 355). He joined the independence movement of the January Uprising of 1863, despite the possibility of repressions for students and bans from the university authorities (Grodziski, 1995, p. 211; “On the thirtieth anniversary of the January Uprising: A few words about national politics”, 1893, p. 4). After the arrest of Adolf Aleksandrowicz, the insurgent chief of Krakow, on March 1, 1864, Father Adam Słotwiński was elected in his place and Cyfrowicz was appointed his deputy (Zgórniak, 1964, 160; Bieniarzówna, 1985, p. 222). In the opinion of Marian Zgórniak, who wrote about the involvement of students in independence movements in Krakow in the period 1846–1864, Cyfrowicz may be counted as part of a group referred to as the Red Left. He also took part in the Jagiellonian students’ attempt to legalize the Academic Reading Room (Zgórniak, 1964, pp. 162, 165). He joined the commission, along with Gustaw Romer and Władysław Skrzydyłko—who prepared the charter which was approved by the Governorship in 1867 (Miśko, 1891, p. 29). After graduation, he still remained associated with the university. In 1869, he received a doctorate in law. In 1879, he became a private associate professor at the Jagiellonian University in the field of administration science and Austrian administrative legislation; in 1882 he became the secretary of the Jagiellonian University chancellery and—as reported in *Nowa Reforma*—he was “the right hand of every rector” ([Obituary], 1904, p. 3). In 1886, he was appointed titular professor with the title and character of associate professor of administration science and Austrian administrative law (Żukowski, 2016, p. 356). He taught classes for students as a lecturer of state accounting. Between 1869 and 1881 (or 1869–1884, according to Stinia [2014, p. 69]), he worked in the editorial office of the Krakow daily *Czas*, alongside Ludwik Dębicki and Józef Kleczyński (“Księga pamiątkowa na dziewięćdziesięciolecie dziennika ‘Czas’”, 1938, p. 60). He also took part in the preparations for the 500th anniversary of the Jagiellonian University in 1900, a momentous celebration for the city and all Poles, which brought to Krakow representatives of not only all Polish lands and universities, but also of many excellent European universities (Flach, 1917, p. 73). In 1876 he became a member and counselor of the Archconfraternity of Mercy and the Pious Bank in

Krakow; for 20 years he was a member of the Krakow City Council, and also served as the president of the Krakow branch of the Austrian Red Cross Society (“Książka pamiątkowa Arcybractwa Miłosierdzia i Banku Pobożnego w Krakowie od roku 1584 do 1884 skreślona w roku jubileuszowym”, 1884, p. 313; “Wybory”, 1881, p. 1). In 1888, he was awarded the Order of Franz Joseph. He died in Krakow on May 23, 1904, after a few days’ illness and an apoplectic attack, and was buried in the Rakowicki Cemetery ([Obituary], 1904, p. 3). As emphasized in the obituary printed in the newspaper *Nowa Reforma*, Cyfrowicz was active not only in the professional and political arenas, but the social one as well. He had collaborated with the KTD for 30 years. He was the chairman of the internal department of the Society—the School Commission—which was an important function for the organization of childcare.

### Leon Cyfrowicz’s Publications

Cyfrowicz’s writings can be divided into three categories. The first group of publications concerns legal and administrative issues. Another important area was teaching materials prepared for contemporary schoolteachers. In those texts, he used his knowledge of the law, explained the school’s rules and guidelines, and laid down the rules for conducting exams. The third category of publications was connected with his charity work and served to popularize assistance for children and adults, as well as to present biographical information about the people who volunteered for the charity.

As early as 1869, he published *Opinions from Various Branches of Law and Political Skills, which After Passing the Exact Examinations to Obtain the Title of Doctor of Both Laws at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Leon Cyfrowicz, Born and Raised in Krakow, Undertakes to Publicly Defend on Wednesday, March 10, 1869 at 12 Noon at the Legal College* (Cyfrowicz, 1869). In this seven-page brochure, he discussed issues relating to Roman law, canon law, Polish law, philosophy of law, and the law of nations, Austrian civil law and procedure, bills of exchange and commercial law, Austrian criminal law and procedure, and political skills and statistics. He further explored the subject of law in his publication from 1889, entitled *Lecture on Austrian Administrative Law* (Cyfrowicz, 1889).

His guidelines and explanations in Polish for candidates for the position of teacher who were about to start working in gymnasiums and *Realschules*, issued on February 7, 1884, were helpful in preparing for exams (Cyfrowicz, 1884a). As he himself pointed out in the foreword, the publication was intended to be useful for both committees and exam-takers. As the regulations constituted a “fundamental breakthrough in the exam system” and introduced a unified category of teachers and subjects—instead of the previous division into classroom teachers—understanding them correctly was even more important (Chodakowska, 1990, p. 158). While explaining the regulations, Cyfrowicz also raised matters related to the methodology of teaching geography and history. Stefania Sempołowska’s remark from 1905 illustrated how much such studies were needed: all plans and official instructions were printed in German, which made it much more difficult to comprehend and follow them (Sempołowska, 1906, pp. 4, 7).

Striving to increase the interest of the inhabitants of Krakow in charity and to convince them to actively support the existing associations, he prepared a publication outlining the activities of philanthropy organizations in Krakow. He described the humanitarian efforts undertaken in Krakow, the people involved in helping, and the needs of societies and other organizations. He published it at the end of the 1870s and stressed that Krakow needed to follow the examples of European cities in the organization of public charities. He indicated that the needy in Krakow had been supported for many years by private charities, inspired and carried out by the clergy and laypeople. In his opinion, the benefactors were very successful in organizing help for the poor, but it would be more beneficial to combine the efforts of individuals and organizations. This would help avoid the situation where the same poor person received the support of different societies and people, thus lessening the chances of helping others (Cyfrowicz, 1878, p. 9). In another publication from the mid-1880s, he analyzed the legal aspects of poverty and near-poverty and its ramifications (Cyfrowicz, 1885).

To support the KTD in raising funds for maintenance of the altar and the painting of the Virgin Mary in St. Florian’s Gate in 1884, he published a study entitled *The Painting of the Virgin Mary and the Money Box for the Poor in Florian Gate in Krakow* (Cyfrowicz, 1884b). Here, he emphasized how meaningful this place was for the

inhabitants of Krakow and visitors to the city. In the introduction, he discussed the previous findings of historians on the history of St. Florian's Gate, the painting inside it, and the beliefs associated with it (Cyfrowicz, 1884b, pp. 1–8). The readers could also learn that religious services held at the painting of the Virgin Mary were always attended by a large number of adherents. They not only had a religious meaning to the nation but a patriotic one as well. He commented that a money box was placed at the altar, into which the residents of Krakow and the surrounding territories put money for the poor under the care of the KTD (Cyfrowicz, 1884b, pp. 22, 25–26, 42–43).

Cyfrowicz also devoted some space to the people who supported the work of the KTD. He wrote a brochure dedicated *in memoriam* to Ludwik Georgeon, a KTD counselor and member of the School Commission. While praising Georgeon's character traits, he deemed his persistence as a tutor and his will to serve children and youth to be particularly valuable. He recalled that he had founded a boarding school in Krakow in 1869, and that his work was received well and earned him the reputation of a talented educator. He noted that Georgeon, as a member of the KTD working on the School Committee "was passionate about school inspections when it was his turn to carry one out". Summing up his account of Georgeon's activities, he expressed the conviction that a man who is a good citizen and teacher, who works honestly and educates the younger generation, is also a good family member (Cyfrowicz, 1879, p. 7).

## Involvement in the Activities of the KTD

On June 16, 1872, during a meeting of the General Council, Count Konstanty Horszowski (1805–1884), the then president of the KTD (1805–1884), asked Cyfrowicz to include information from the Council meetings in *Czas* ("Minutes of the General Council of the Charity Society in Krakow from May 18, 1870 until 1875", n.d., Minutes ... June 16, 1872, p. 218). We can assume that he fulfilled this task, because the pages of the weekly magazine do indeed contain these minutes. He also performed jobs resulting from the statutory tasks of KTD bodies, called departments, of which he was a member as a counselor. At the end of the 1870s, while continuing the work of previous secretaries Józef Więckowski and Józef Głębocki,

he organized the KTD fund books. President Hoszowski assessed this work as “exemplary and dedicated,” stressing at the same time that Cyfrowicz “put everything in order, all of it, without any additional remuneration” (Hoszowski, 1882, p. 14). As a counselor, he was obliged to participate in the meetings of the General Council and to carry out the tasks of the Economic Department as well as the Census Department, which he represented and chaired, respectively (“Yearbook of Krakow Charity Society LXVII from 1885”, 1886, p. 13; “Yearbook of Krakow Charity Society LXXI from 1889”, 1890, p. 9). In 1875, he was elected secretary of the KTD (“Yearbook of Krakow Charity Society LVII from 1875”, 1876, p. 22). As part of his duties, he prepared reports of the General Council, which were published in subsequent volumes of the *Annals of the Krakow Charitable Society*. He also joined the work to organize the Society’s archives, and at the request of the chairman of the Archive Commission—Jan Gwiazdomorski—he was appointed a member of the Commission in 1882 to “strengthen it” (“Minutes of the General Council of the Charity Society in Krakow from May 18, 1870 until 1875”, n.d., Ordinary session ... August 4, 1872, p. 237; “Minutes of the General Council of the Charity Society in Krakow from July 4, 1875 to September 4, 1892”, n.d., Minutes of the ordinary session ... February 5, 1882, p. 673; “Yearbook of Krakow Charity Society LXIII from 1881”, 1882, pp. 34, 47). In the mid-1880s, he acted as a member of the committee drawing up the new KTD charter, which was ratified in 1885 (he was also in charge of the previous one from 1874) (“Minutes of the General Council of the Charity Society in Krakow from July 4, 1875 to September 4, 1892”, n.d., Minutes of the 4th extraordinary meeting ... February 13, 1885, p. 1035; “Yearbook of Krakow Charity Society LXVII from 1885”, 1886, p. 9).

Cyfrowicz’s commitment to improving the KTD’s programs of orphan education and upbringing is noteworthy. At the meeting of the General Council on November 1, 1874, he initiated a project to establish the School Commission (“Minutes of the General Council of the Charity Society in Krakow from May 18, 1870 until 1875”, n.d., Ordinary session ... November 1, 1874, p. 559). It was a KTD body responsible for the education and upbringing of children at the KTD facility. It consisted of a chairman and two members. It was to supervise the “day school,” where orphans were educated under the



care of the KTD (“Instructions for the Teachers of the School for Orphans at Krakow Charity Society”, 1874, p. 7). By the decision of the General Council, all matters relating to the education of children and all letters addressed to the School Committee were examined and decided by Cyfrowicz (“Minutes of the General Council of the Charity Society in Krakow from May 18, 1870 until 1875”, n.d., Ordinary session ... November 1, 1874, p. 559; Ordinary session ... February 7, 1875, p. 627).

In 1881, he chaired the School Committee, and again in 1886 he was appointed its president in place of the Jagiellonian University professor, Maurycy Fierich (“Yearbook of Krakow Charity Society LXIII from 1881”, 1882, p. 34; “Yearbook of Krakow Charity Society LXVIII from 1886”, 1887, p. 8). His term of office ended with his death in 1904. The participants of the meetings of the General Council discussed his changes to the provisions of contracts with paid KTD officials who looked after children, e.g., the catechist. He was called to extraordinary meetings where personnel matters that were difficult for the Society needed to be solved (“Minutes of the General Council of the Charity Society in Krakow from May 18, 1870 until 1875”, n.d., Ordinary session ... April 12, 1874, p. 483). During the sessions of the General Council, he provided all information related to educational activities in the KTD facility, e.g., about charitable donations to the Society’s school—especially practical learning materials, one example being the collection of 107 jars with various seeds used in agriculture (donated by Józef Patelski) (“Minutes of the General Council of the Charity Society in Krakow from May 18, 1870 until 1875”, n.d., Ordinary session ... April 12, 1874, p. 571). He himself also tried to help equip the school with teaching materials, for example, by bequeathing 20 copies of songbooks with secular songs, and by donating money for Christmas gifts for children. As the chairman of the Census Department, at the meetings he presented the charges’ requests for assistance, including requests from former students for allowances for “liberation” in the amount of 25 PLN (“Minutes of the General Council of the Charity Society in Krakow from July 4, 1875 to September 4, 1892”, n.d., Minutes ... June 18, 1882, p. 705; “Minutes of the General Council of the Charity Society in Krakow from July 4, 1875 to September 4, 1892”, n.d., Minutes ... October 28, 1883, p. 857).

He strongly opposed situations where childcare issues were raised during the meetings of the General Council, and pointed out any irregularities. He was outraged that unverified information was passed on, which could have had a negative impact on how the activities of the school teachers and the School Committee were judged. He believed that the KTD facility and the meetings of the General Council are not the same as the Sejm, where interpellations are submitted and issues are publicized instead of being clarified during a conversation with the appropriate person in care of the children. Sometimes he not only explained the events taking place at the school, but also made the board members aware of and reminded them of the problems the children had faced and what habits they had had before arriving at the school, and what behaviors needed to be modified. In this way, he made them realize how difficult the task of the teacher and the two women taking care of the children—called governesses—was (“Minutes of the General Council of the Charity Society in Krakow from July 4, 1875 to September 4, 1892”, n.d., Minutes ... October 3, 1886, pp. 1235–1227). He did not agree that the health of the children should be endangered by these people, even in order to carry out the accepted custom of presenting their Christmas wishes to the benefactors. As the chairman of the School Commission, on February 5, 1888, he demanded an explanation from the teacher of the day school about the reasons for the children’s two trips to the homes of KTD benefactors during the great frost on Christmas day in order to offer them Christmas greetings (“Minutes of the General Council of the Charity Society in Krakow from July 4, 1875 to September 4, 1892”, n.d., Minutes ... February 5, 1888, p. 1429). It should be mentioned that Cyfrowicz made every effort to ensure that the honest work and effort of the teacher and students were rewarded by the General Council. In his opinion, the School Committee should submit applications for awards granted to KTD students, and the teacher should provide the names of students who deserved the award in a given school year (“Minutes of the General Council of the Charity Society in Krakow from July 4, 1875 to September 4, 1892”, n.d., Minutes ... April 7, 1889, p. 1593).

The School Commission, especially its chairman, Cyfrowicz, particularly strove to raise the children under the care of KTD “to become useful members of society” (“Yearbook of Krakow Charity

Society LXVIII from 1886”, 1887, p. 3). In order to achieve these goals, the “craft room” was opened on July 1, 1886. As a supporter of practical vocational education of children in the school, Cyfrowicz made every effort to create a practical future job-training room there. These struggles were appreciated by the president of the KTD, Dr. Władysław Ściborowski (1833–1903), who thanked him at the General Council meeting on October 3, 1886 for his involvement in establishing the craft room (“Minutes of the General Council of the Charity Society in Krakow from July 4, 1875 to September 4, 1892”, n.d., Minutes ... October 3, 1886, p. 1234). By disseminating the idea of practical job training for orphans and encouraging the inhabitants of Krakow to support the craft workshop, Cyfrowicz published a report on its launch and activities to date in the *Yearbook of the Krakow Charity Society* (“Yearbook of Krakow Charity Society LXVIII from 1886”, 1887, p. 57). After three years, in 1889, he again described the activities of the craft school in the *Yearbook of the Krakow Charity Society*. He wrote that it had been transformed from a crafts room into a crafts school. At the same time, he pointed out to the readers that it did not enjoy the appropriate interest and support from the men and women who were members of the KTD, or from Krakow residents. Another problem was the difficult recruitment of orphans under the care of the Society. According to the KTD charter, the children had to leave the facility after graduating from the day school there, i.e., boys after they turned 14, and girls at age 16. According to Cyfrowicz, only after completing their education in day school did the children have the time, appropriate age, and physical strength to learn a craft. They could devote no more than two hours a day to learning it during everyday school activities, and it was too short a time to improve their practical skills and learn a profession. Moreover, they were not old enough and not physically strong enough at that point. However, the charter did not allow their continued maintenance, and the large number of orphans waiting for a place in the KTD facility to become available was another obstacle (“Yearbook of Krakow Charity Society LXXI from 1889”, 1890, p. 47). Presenting the initial results of the craft school three years later, he noted that it was having a good influence not only on the skills of the boys and girls, but also to some extent on the budget of the facility. While studying, the charges also did small jobs in carpentry,

shoemaking, tailoring, etc. The costs of the school's operation were not high, because the facility itself provided the material for practical training in the form of necessary repair work. It was only necessary to purchase some materials. In Cyfrowicz's opinion, the crafts school was very necessary for the children: it could help prepare them for a future profession, and also helped KTD to achieve its goal of preparing children for paid work, which gave them a chance to support themselves ("Yearbook of Krakow Charity Society LXXI from 1889", 1890, pp. 48–49).

Furthermore, thanks to the efforts of Cyfrowicz and the School Committee, gymnastics lessons were introduced for 40 children who were staying in the KTD facility. On May 5, 1889, the General Council approved gymnastics classes and approved the purchase of the necessary sports equipment. A gymnastics teacher from the "Sokół" Association, Mr. Gędłek, agreed to conduct free classes with the children. Supervision over the gymnastics lessons was entrusted to a councilor of City Hall, Ludwik Zawilowski, a member of the School Commission ("Yearbook of Krakow Charity Society LXXI from 1889", 1890, pp. 51–52).

Concerned about the living conditions and hygiene at the facility, Cyfrowicz broached the subject of the daily life of the charges at the meetings of the General Council. He pointed out that the animals living at the facility, especially stray dogs, had a negative impact on the sanitary conditions at the premises ("Minutes of the General Council of the Charity Society in Krakow from July 4, 1875 to September 4, 1892", n.d., Minutes ... April 19, 1883, p. 1071). He discerned and signaled the need to look after people who had nowhere to go during the frosty winter days and were asking to be admitted to the facility for their survival. The General Council did not allow emergency assistance to be provided or to receive those in temporary need either at the expense of KTD or by renting out rooms, justifying this refusal with a provision in the charter ("Minutes of the General Council of the Charity Society in Krakow from July 4, 1875 to September 4, 1892", n.d., Minutes ... October 3, 1886, p. 1237; "Minutes of the General Council of the Charity Society in Krakow from July 4, 1875 to September 4, 1892", n.d., Minutes ... July 12, 1885, p. 1093). Taking care that conditions at the facility were adequate, he was convinced that an application to install gas lighting had to

be submitted while the work was being carried out at Koletek St., in the Stradom district, where the KTD facility building was situated (“Minutes of the General Council of the Charity Society in Krakow from July 4, 1875 to September 4, 1892”, n.d., Minutes ... April 7, 1889, p. 1593).

In the 1890s, after being appointed by the General Council, Cyfrowicz took steps to carry out the plan to restore the painting and altar of the Virgin Mary in St. Florian’s Gate. The altar and painting in St. Florian’s Gate were placed under KTD’s protection on the authority of the Governing Senate of the Free City of Krakow of March 8, 1817. On March 17, 1817, the Society’s right to provide care and to collect donations for the poor was ratified. A money box was placed at the altar, where people passing through St. Florian’s Gate could donate money in order to help the poor staying in the KTD facility (“Files of the Painting of the Mother of God in St. Florian’s Gate Under the Care of the Charity Society 1817–1945”, n.d., Letter ... March 17, 1817). At the meeting of the General Council on April 19, 1895, Cyfrowicz was nominated to take steps to restore the altar in St. Florian’s Gate and the painting of the Virgin Mary. To this end, he contacted the historic preservation specialist, Stanisław Tomkiewicz (1850–1933), an expert in the history of art and the conservation of monuments, as well as Countess Stanisławowa Tarnowska (Pagaczewski, 1935, pp. 1\*–4\*). Cyfrowicz pointed out that it was not only necessary to renovate, but also to relocate the painting, as people praying may be exposed to danger from the passing tram (“Files of the Painting of the Mother of God in St. Florian’s Gate Under the Care of the Charity Society 1817–1945”, n.d., Letter ... December 4, 1896). The commission took action, and in 1904 the residents of and visitors to Krakow could see the effect of the work in the form of a renovated altar and painting (“Files of the Painting of the Mother of God in St. Florian’s Gate Under the Care of the Charity Society 1817–1945”, n.d., Letter ... October 9, 1907).

Konstanty Hoszowski, the long-time president of KTD, referred to Cyfrowicz’s charity work in 1882. It was a response to an article in *Gazeta Krakowska* (“Sprawy Miejskie”, 1881), published in the “Municipal Affairs” section and devoted to the activities of KTD. The president reminded readers that the changes made to the functioning of the Society’s day school in the mid-1870s were initiated and

carried out by Cyfrowicz. Hoszowski also wrote that this was a “re-furbishing” of the school, adapting the work of the teacher, catechist, and child caretakers to the contemporary requirements of school authorities, and to the needs of the children. On the other hand, he vehemently opposed calling these actions a reform of the Society by Cyfrowicz and others, which was how *Gazeta Krakowska* described the part he played (“Sprawy Miejskie”, 1881, p. 2; Hoszowski, 1882, pp. 10, 12). Recalling the names of individuals who prepared the documents which established the rules of the school, Hoszowski mentioned that Cyfrowicz took part in writing the instructions for the Archives Committee (together with Jan Gwiazdomorski and Franciszek Bartynowski), and the instructions for the School Committee and the teacher of the school of orphans (together with Henryk Maciołowski and Rev. Chmielewski). Hoszowski further observed that Cyfrowicz was a member of the committee for building a new home for KTD charges, as were Jan Gwiazdomorski and Jan Hajdukiewicz (Hoszowski, 1882, p. 14). In his opinion, it was thanks to the joint work and efforts of many people that the construction of the new building was completed and that orphans and elderly people could be housed under one roof (Motions of the Commission 1880, pp. 511–513). In the *Yearbook of the Krakow Charity Society*, Cyfrowicz, in recognition of his merits for the Society, was mentioned as an honorary member of the KTD, along with Katarzyna Potocka née Branicki, Dr. Leon Hajdukiewicz, and Henryk Schwartz (“Yearbook of Krakow Charity Society LXXXV from 1903”, 1904, p. 9).

## Conclusion

To sum up, it should be emphasized that Leon Cyfrowicz belonged to the elite group of the Krakow intelligentsia, who were lecturers at the Jagiellonian University. He took up many different tasks: he worked in the editorial office of *Czas*, conducted lectures at the Jagiellonian University, and was the secretary and manager of the Jagiellonian University chancellery. He was a member of one of the oldest charity institutions in Krakow, i.e., the Archbishopric of Mercy and the Pious Bank, as well as the Krakow Charity Society. His cooperation with the KTD sought to help children and orphans under their care. He aimed to provide a practical framework for their

education, and to enable them to hone the skills that would facilitate their finding a job in the future. This strategy of preparing children for life after leaving the facility was adopted by the oldest Charitable Societies in Poland, Vilnius, and Warsaw, established in the first half of the 19th century. He helped the poor, using his knowledge and organizational and professional skills. He observed reality and wrote in his publications about the need for changes. He did not hesitate to speak up at KTD meetings about wrong decisions or to stand up for his students.

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