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“DE UNIVERSITATE LEOPOLIENSI EIUSQUE TABULARIO BREVIS EXPOSITIO”

THE LVIV UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES (UNTIL 1939)

Although I have been living and working in Warsaw for several years I explore the history of the Lviv archives. In this review I present a brief history of the Lviv University Archives. It is favored by a special occasion: on January 2011, the Lviv University celebrated the anniversary of 350 years of its existence.

The University was founded on 20 January 1661 by King Jan Kazimierz (John II Casimir) Vasa as a Jesuit academy after the transformation of the city's Jesuit collegium existing since 1608, which was allowed to lecture: “scholastic and moral theology, philosophy, mathematics, both rights, medicine, liberal arts” and the majority of sciences, according to the customs and practice adopted at academy and university¹. Therefore the Lviv Univer-

¹ J. Draus, *Uniwersytet Jana Kazimierza we Lwowie. Portret kresowej uczelni* [Jan-Kazimierz University at Lviv. Portrait of an Eastern Academy], (2007), p. 13. To write a brief history of the Lviv University, beyond this book I have

sity is one of the very old academic schools at the territory of the historical Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth; only academies in Cracow, Vilnius and Zamość are older. In 1759 Pope Clemens XIII raised the Lviv Academy to the rank of university and gave the right to promote doctors of philosophy (PhDs). The main language of lectures was Latin, but Ruthenian was also in use alternatively. The seat of the Academy was located in Krakowska street.

After the first Polish partition, in which Austria occupied the southern territories of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth known as Galicia, and after the suppression of the Jesuit Order by the Pope, the Lviv Academy was demoted by the Austrians to the level of secondary school providing education in philosophy and law field only.

In 1784 the Lviv Academy began a new period of its history: Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II founded a university called Josephinian. The main task of the university was training in clerical occupations. The university had four faculties: theology, philosophy, law and medicine. In 1805 the university was reorganized. It was transformed into *lycée* – a scientific institution with departments: law, philosophy, theology and medicine. It had a smaller number of departments and a shorter period of study than the university. Finally, on August 7, 1817 Austrian emperor Francis I signed the second act of the foundation of the Lviv University, declaring German as the language of lectures, with three faculties (excluding the medical one). Until the end of the Austrian rule, the University bore the name of Francis I.

During the Spring of Nations (1848) the University had full autonomy and the permission to lecture in Polish, signed by the

used the synthesis of L. Finkel, S. Starzyński, *Historia Uniwersytetu Lwowskiego* [History of the University of Lviv], (1894).

Austrian governor – Stadion. But all these benefits were lost when on 2 November 1848 Austrian General Hammerstein commanded to bomb the rebellious city with canons. As a result the library and the archives burnt down, as did other buildings of the university.

At the beginning of 1851 the governor of Galicia, Agenor Gołuchowski passed to the University a building next to the St. Nicolas' church (after 1920 known as *old university*), formerly occupied by the Jesuit Order, later by the army. The university archival documents which survived the Austrian raid, were placed here (temporarily stored together with the documents of the office in the town hall).

Since 1867, when Austria-Hungary became a constitutional monarchy, the efforts to polonize the university started, and soon finished with success. It was the beginning of the glorious period of the university, which was the largest university of Galicia and second in Austria at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, but the Viennese authorities gave too small financial resources on its maintenance)². In 1913 the Lviv University had nearly five thousand students, including a significant number of women. In 1894 the Faculty of Medicine of the university was created. The majority of lectures were given in Polish obviously, but some of them were given in Latin and Ukrainian also (for example lectures given in 1894–1914 by the most prominent Ukrainian historian Michailo Hruszewski). Therefore in Lviv, as well as in Cracow (both academic centers of Galicia called *Polish Piedmont*), educated many young people from the areas under Russian and Prussian rule.

² S. Ciara, *Finanzielle Probleme galizischer Wissenschaftler um die Wende des 19. zum 20. Jahrhundert*, "Mitteilungen des Österreichischen Staatsarchivs", 53 (2009), pp. 313–333.

In independent Poland on 22 November 1919 the Polish government decided to name the University in honor of its founder, King John II Casimir. The university was one of the largest and most distinguished scientific institutions of reborn Poland. Famous academics taught there; there were created famous centres of scholars, like the Lviv School of Mathematics (Hugo Steinhaus, Stefan Banach), the Lviv-Warsaw School of Logic (Kazimierz Twardowski), the Lviv School of History of Institutions and Law (Oswald Balzer, Przemysław Dąbkowski), the Lviv School of Anthropology (for example Jan Czekanowski) and the Lviv School of Geography (Eugeniusz Romer). Apart from the above-mentioned historians of the system, Balzer and Dąbkowski, other prominent historians such as Tadeusz Wojciechowski, Bronisław Dembiński, Szymon Askenazy, Franciszek Bujak, taught in Lviv. As I mentioned before between 1894 and 1914 Michailo Hruszewski, the most prominent Ukrainian historian, also lectured here. Although none of the scholars lecturing at the Lviv University received the Nobel Prize, unlike for example the professors of the University of Würzburg, they made important scientific discoveries and published research works on the global level.

In 1920 the University received a magnificent complex of buildings of the former Diet of Galicia, which became the main university building. John Casimirus University during the time of the Second Polish Republic had five faculties: Theology, Law, Medicine with Pharmaceutical Section, Humanities, Mathematics and Natural Sciences. In the inter-war period at the University studied about six thousand students, representing about 12% of all Polish students.

I would like to remind that since the beginning of the 20th century to the mid-twenties efforts to establish the Ukrainian University in Lviv continued. It turned out to be impossible – the Polish authorities believed that the creation of such an institution

in Lviv, the city remembering the Polish-Ukrainian fights of 1918–1919, would revive animosities between the nations. During the Second Polish Republic, the Polish government proposed to establish a university in Stanisławów³ (now: Ivano-Frankivsk), giving rise to the Ukrainian Secret University in Lviv, which in 1925 moved to Prague in Czechoslovakia under the name of the Ukrainian Free University.

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As I mentioned above, the Lviv University has had its own archives⁴. Its beginnings date back to 24 June 1835 when the University Consistorium (equivalent of the Senate of the university, composed of the rector, deans and senior professors), proposed to establish the archives, because of lack of space for old docu-

³ S. Ciara, *Uniwersytet Lwowski – kresowa uczelnia w kresowym mieście* [*The Lviv University – East university in an Eastern Polish city*], “Prace Filologiczne”, 55 (2008), pp. 165–173.

⁴ One of the most important publications on history of Lviv University Archives is L. Finkel, *Inwentarz Archiwum Uniwersytetu Lwowskiego* [*Inventory of the University Archives Lviv*], (1917). It was developed by Ludwik Finkel together with Teofil Modelski (Finkel’s successor as the director of the Archives) and issued on the 100th anniversary of the reactivation of the Lviv University by Austrian Emperor Francis I. Brief history (to 1917) of the Archive, described on S. XI–XXI of *Inwentarz*, has been used in this review and also in monographs of S. Ciara, *Archiwa a uniwersytety w Krakowie i Lwowie 1877/78–1918* [*Archives and universities in Krakow and Lviv 1877/78–1918*], (2002), especially pp. 63–64. Mrs. Olga Oseredczuk, current director of the Archives, explores the history of it, and the results of her work are very promising and encouraging. The collective work *Archivpraxis und historische Forschung. Mitteleuropäische Universitäts- und Hochschularchive. Geschichte, Bestände, Probleme und Forschungsmöglichkeiten*, ed. by K. Mühlberger, (*Schriftenreihe des Universitätsarchivs* 6, 1992): does not contain information about the Archives of the University of Lviv.

ments in the university office. The argument for the creation of the Archives was the situation described by one of rectors:

[...] all the old files are stored in open shelves in the office, to which everyone has free access [...]. It explains how it was possible that many old documents [Vorakten], often needed, had disappeared⁵.

Another important reason was that many departmental documents were kept in private homes of university officials.

The demand for the creation of the University Archives was partly realized in the 1840s. Created as *Acten-Archiv*, it had 26 shelves with documents in 1848. However the office staff was scarce and the Archives did not function efficiently. Therefore "in everyday office work students had to be engaged"⁶.

During the above-mentioned brutal suppression of Lviv by the Austrians in November 1848 the Archives suffered most, however fortunately not all documents were burnt⁷. But not only the fire destroyed the documents:

[...] the wardrobe with university archives located in the office was broken in by the robbers and single sheets of university diplomas [establishing and renewing the University – S.C.], including the Act of 1784 by Emperor Joseph, the Act of 1817 by Emperor Francis, were lying scattered on the floor in the dust and mud, because black and yellow silk cords, richly interlaced with the gold threads, which fused single sheets of parchment diplo-

⁵ Ibidem, p. XIV.

⁶ Ibidem.

⁷ "Kronika Uniwersytetu Jana Kazimierza we Lwowie" ["Chronicle of John Casimirus University in Lviv"], (1925), p. 147.

mas, had been torn violently with the state seals hanging on them, and the seal of 1817, gilded firmly in the fire and blazing, in the belief that is pure gold, also had disappeared, and only the seal of 1784, already wiped, was thrown aside contemptuously⁸.

The survived reports give the information about what kind of documentation was destroyed then– for example examination catalogues, disciplinary rules, lists of professors⁹.

Moreover it is known that the university documents were disposed of before the year 1848 and between 1860 and 1870 also. As Ludwik Finkel said:

Fortunately not all acts were sold or destroyed, as some of them were abandoned in junk stores, and some were in the old building. Due to this fact they were saved from fire (for example applications for the release of students from the university, bills, receipts, etc.), which destroyed more important books and documents. Stefan Koźma was a secretary and notary, who with the intention of writing the history of the university, chose the most important papers, sorted them according to subjects, supplied with appropriate captions and kept separately in the office or at home. Koźma died during this work (4 VII 1880); soon after his death his family returned to the office a considerable number of university documents, which the author of these words [Ludwik Finkel – S.C.] have seen arranged in heaps¹⁰.

We cannot talk about the modern, fully scientific organization of the University Archives in Lviv before 1894. On 4 September

⁸ Finkel, *Inwentarz*, p. XVIII.

⁹ Ibidem, p. XIX.

¹⁰ Ibidem, p. XX.

1894 the University Senate decided to create the Archives allocated in the suitable place, and ordered to transfer the documents which survived the fire in November 1848 to this institution. The losses then incurred were partially compensated by documents related to the university and excluded from the registry of the Gubernium Governor's decision¹¹.

Ludwik Finkel (1858–1930), PhD, became a new archivist¹². He was prepared to archival work very well as a student of Professor Ksawery Liske, historian and director of the Bernardine Archives in Lviv. When he was a student, like many of his colleagues, he was trained as an apprentice for four years in the Archives directed by his supervisor¹³. When he graduated from the Lviv University, he studied at the University of Berlin (promoted by Professor Theodor Mommsen among others) and at famous École des Chartes in Paris, which educated archivists and librarians. When he became professor he started to lecture Polish history and literature at the College of Agriculture in Dublany near Lviv, but since 1892 as associate professor he was appointed to chair Austrian History at the Lviv University¹⁴.

¹¹ Gubernium with the governor at the head was a managing institution of the province in Austria (for example Galicia) until 1849, when Gubernium was renamed Namiestnictwo (Lieutenancy).

¹² Deržavnyj Archiv Lvivskoj Oblasti (further: DALO), fond 26 (Lviv University), opys 12, sprava 943, card. 1: L. Finkel to Senate of University, Lviv November 6, 1894 and ibidem, fond 256, opys 12, sprava 944: Rector L. Ćwikliński to L. Finkel, Lviv, September 18, 1894.

¹³ DALO, fond 26 (Lviv University), opys 5, sprava 1952: personal files of L. Finkel, card 176: Galician National Departement appointed Finkel to apprentice, June 18, 1878, ibidem, card 183: university opinion of Liske of April 1, 1878, highly assessed Finkel's skills in paleography.

¹⁴ K. Błachowska, *Ludwik Finkel (1858–1930)*, in: *Złota księga historiografii lwowskiej XIX i XX wieku*, ed. by J. Maternicki in cooperation with L. Zaskilniak, (2007), especially, pp. 287–297.

He used documents from the University Archives when writing the *History of the Lviv University* in the 1890s (vol. 1, Lviv 1894). This monumental synthesis constituted comprehensive achievements of the Lviv Alma Mater on the occasion of the National Exhibition opened in 1894, and also celebrated the creation of the Medical Faculty of the University after 86 years of efforts. Professor Finkel directed the Archives with great commitment, in the beginning not receiving any extra salary, and even, as we read in the letter addressed to k.k. Kultus und Unterrichtsministerium by Collegium of Professors of Philosophical Department:

[...] oft noch aus seinen eigenen Mitteln die ihm an die Hand gehenden Hilfskräfte aus die Reihe seiner Schüler für ihre Arbeit im Archiv honoriert¹⁵.

Because of the fact that university documents were not systematically organized, some of them, important for the history of the university, Finkel received after the above-mentioned publication. It stimulated him to bring order to the documents as quickly as possible. Finkel proposed to the Senate of the university organization the following concept: “[...] according to the year of origin, or persons to which they relate”¹⁶, so he divided documents into 3 categories: books, fascicles arranged chronologically and personal details arranged alphabetically. The archival resources were also supplemented by more recent documentation transferred to the Archives by the Rector’s and the

¹⁵ DALO, fond 26, opys 5, sprava 1952 – personal files of L. Finkel, card 75: it is dated: Lviv, March 11, 1917.

¹⁶ DALO, fond 26, opys 12, sprava 953, card 1v: L. Finkel to Senate of the Lviv University.

Dean's Offices¹⁷. Although this documentation represents a small percentage of archival materials described in the inventory, it documents that Finkel tried to obtain new documents successfully (It was the Latin title of the summary of this inventory that was an inspiration for the title of my review).

The inventory by Finkel and Modelski is not always clear and self-consistent, but attachments based on the chronology of the *Indicator* make it easy to reach the appropriate materials because of the concordance between old and new signatures and a detailed subject of the index. At the beginning of the 20th century, the inventory did not differ from similar archival assistance in other Galician archives – it was based on the inventories of state archives, accepted by Archival Council (Grundsätze für die Herstellung der Inventare staatlicher Archive vom 23. März 1908), and some available publications were used as a model to prepare it¹⁸.

The main purpose of this inventory, as its authors wrote, was:

[...] to attract the attention of historians of Galicia and in particular Galician education to messages which probably they would not expect to find in university acts¹⁹.

Inventory includes the following kinds of records:

- Diplomas, scepters, seals, building plans, etc.

¹⁷ DALO, fond 26, opys 6, sprava 795, card 18: Rector Kazimierz Twardowski (famous philosopher) 2 January 1917 asked Finkel to "[...] research files located in the registries of the Rectorate and the Deans' offices and select those, which are suitable for storage in [...] University". Vide also: Finkel, *Inwentarz*, p. XXI.

¹⁸ Finkel, *Inwentarz*, S. XXI. Vide: H. Barycz, *Najnowsze dzieje Archiwum Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego (1901–1963)* [*The recent history of the Archives of the Jagiellonian University*], in: *Historia Archiwum Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego*, ed. by H. Barycz, (1965), pp. 107–110.

¹⁹ L. Finkel, *Inwentarz*, p. XXII–XXIII.

- Documents of the Senate, professors, the history of the university
- Registers and the Catalogues (the documents of matriculation)
- Promotions, *rigorosa* exams, dissertations
- Protocols of the Senate and the faculties. Record books and indices. Forms and regulations
- Records of the Senate and the faculties
- Protocols (journals) of the Senate and faculties. Record books and indices. Prints of decrees
- Manuscripts, scripts etc.
- Books, files, manuscripts created after 1848/1849 etc.

The Lviv University Archives were visited very rarely; between 1894 and 1898 only eight people used its resources, between 1898 and 1910 eleven people only²⁰.

Despite his retirement (November 1918) Professor Finkel still took care of the University Archives until his death in 1930; after being promoted to its director he received a salary of approximately 300 zlotys per month in the already independent Poland²¹. After his death the director of the Archives became Professor Stanislaw Zakrzewski and afterwards Finkel's former associate and PhD student – Professor Teofil Modelski²². He did not have to pay support staff from his own pocket (unlike his boss); the assistant and caretaker support was employed in the Archives,

²⁰ "Kronika Uniwersytetu Lwowskiego" ["Chronicle of the University of Lviv"], 1894/98 (1899), p. 255, 1898/99–1909/10 (1912).

²¹ Ibidem, p. 222: letter from the Department of Philosophy of John Casimirus University to the Ministry of Religion and Public Education, Lviv, June 6, 1922 applying for the payrise for the director of the archive.

²² J. Tyszkiewicz, *Teofil Emil Modelski (1881–1967)*, in: *Złota księga*, pp. 498, 502.

and it was possible to use the continuous assistance of the volunteers²³.

In the 1920s work in the Archives was typical (included collection, storage, preparations and sharing). The first of these functions consisted mostly in the acquisition of various documents of university offices. For example in the academic year 1936/1937 the documentation from the years 1925–1926 on health-care from the Senate Committee on Youth Affairs was transferred to the Archives²⁴.

In the following academic year, the Archives acquired many very different files, for example the documentation of the Senate from the years 1881–1913 and 1920/1921 taken over from Rectorate, private papers of the famous professor of philosophy Kazimierz Twardowski and over 70 photographs of professors and students, as well as some documentation of bookkeeping office from the years 1879–1921, records of the university clinics, examples of prints (for example indices). Brotherly Help (Bratniak – student organization of self-help) handed over to the Archives documents of academics in Vienna (Boerhaavegasse 25). The Faculty of Humanities gave a few personal files of dead professors²⁵. In the "Kronika Uniwersytetu Lwowskiego" for 1930 it was noted with approval that one of the retired professors Ignacy Zakrzewski gave to the Archives "[...] records of meetings held in 1919. It would be highly desirable that other members of the University gave to the Archives such notes, which are unfortu-

²³ DALO, fond 26, opys 14, sprava 674, card 9: Report on the activities of the management of John Casimirus University Archives in Lviv for the 1936/1937.

²⁴ Ibidem, card 9.

²⁵ DALO, fond 26, opys 14, sprava 2170, card 1–2: Report on the work of John Casimirus University Archives for the 1937/1938.

nately lost forever”²⁶. The resources of the University Archives included also records of the Historical Society and the Polish Historical Society as a deposit. In 1936 on the occasion of the anniversary of the Society, the Archives lent those documents for the exhibition in the National Archives in Vilnius²⁷.

The storage of documents (inside the building – the former seat of the Diet of Galicia) was associated with conservation work, mainly bookbinding²⁸. The description of the documents consisted in such activities as making indices of university files from the first half of the 19th century²⁹ and sorting out the heritage of Professor Finkel thematically.

Sharing the archival documentation was time-consuming. What is more, the number of readers greatly increased. The readers were mostly academics, officials and students (using the resources in connection with their master’s theses). The subjects of studies involved the history of the Faculty of Medicine and the Chair of Classical Philology at the Lviv University, information on university studies given by different individuals and biographies of professors (for example the *Polish Biographical Dictionary*)³⁰. For the needs of readers the Archives borrowed the manuscripts from other libraries and archives, such as the Historical Archives

²⁶ Card 47.

²⁷ DALO fond 26, opys 14, sprava 674, card 11–12: Report on the activities of management of John Casimirus University Archives in Lviv for the 1936/1937.

²⁸ Ibidem, card 13: Report on the activities of management of John Casimirus University Archives in Lviv for the 1936/1937.

²⁹ Ibidem, card 10.

³⁰ Ibidem, card 11: Report on the activities of management of John Casimirus University Archives in Lviv for the 1936/1937.

of Lviv City, the Jagiellonian University Archives, the Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian Scientific Society³¹.

The external library was of valuable help for the archival staff and readers. Its book collection increased thanks to purchases and donations of other universities, scientific societies, and authors of publications based on the archival resources; for example in the academic year 1937/1938 the library collection included about 182 titles in 360 volumes. The main emphasis was put on completing of the resources by publications on archival science, higher education and secondary education, especially in Galicia³². The collection of rare leaflets from the period of the Spring of Nations was one of the most valuable library acquisitions in the academic year 1936/1937³³.

Another form of sharing archival resources were exhibitions (one of them I mentioned above) and queries. The queries of official and administrative nature came from different departments. Foreign queries from Vienna and from the Consulate of the German Empire in Cracow mainly related to the former professors of the Lviv University.

The University Archives was a scientific institution, which stood out by placing the bibliography of the staff in annual reports for example.

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³¹ Ibidem, card 12: Report on the activities of management of John Casimirus University Archives in Lviv for the 1936/1937.

³² Ibidem, card 13: Report on the activities of management of John Casimirus University Archives in Lviv for the 1936/1937; Ibidem, sprava 2170, card 6: Report on the work of University Archives for the 1937/1938.

³³ Ibidem, sprava 674, card 13: Report on the activities of management of John Casimirus University Archives in Lviv for the 1936/1937.

In the autumn of 1939 the history of Polish John Casimirus University and its Archives came to an end. In the Soviet times university documents created up to 1939 were transferred to the National Archives of the Lviv District. The university was given the name of the Ukrainian writer, historian and social activist Ivan Franko, and bears the name today, in Ukraine independent for 20 years. But that is another story...

„DE UNIVERSITATE LEOPOLIENSI EIUSQUE TABULARIO BREVIS EXPOSITIO”

ARCHIWUM UNIwersYTETU LWOWSKIEGO DO 1939 ROKU

(STRESZCZENIE)

Prezentacji zarysu historii Archiwum Uniwersytetu Lwowskiego sprzyja szczególna okazja: w 2011 roku Uniwersytet Lwowski obchodzi jubileusz 350-lecia istnienia. Założył go 20 stycznia 1661 roku król Jan Kazimierz Waza jako Akademię Jezuicką, z przekształcenia istniejącego od 1608 roku Kolegium Jezuickiego. Lwowska wszechnica przeżywała zmienne koleje losu, zwłaszcza po pierwszym rozbiorze Polski. Likwidowana okresowo przez zaborcze władze austriackie i znów odnawiana, wreszcie jako Uniwersytet imienia cesarza Franciszka I przetrwała niemal sto lat od 1817 do 1918 roku. W dobie autonomii Galicji Uniwersytet Lwowski, drugi w Przedlitawii pod względem liczby studentów, osiągnął znakomitą pozycję naukową. To wtedy powstały kontynuujące działalność w Polsce niepodległej słynne środowiska badawcze: lwowska szkoła matematyczna (m.in. Hugo Steinhaus, Stefan Banach), lwowsko-warszawska szkoła filozoficzna (Kazimierz Twardowski, Kazimierz Ajdukiewicz), szkoła historii ustroju (Oswald Balzer, Przemysław Dąbkowski), szkoła antropologiczna (np. Jan Czekanowski) i szkoła geograficzna (Eugeniusz Romer). W latach 1894–1914 wykładał tutaj najslawniejszy historyk ukraiński Mychajło Hruszewski. W II Rzeczypospolitej patronem Uniwersytetu był jego założyciel Jan Kazimierz, a w czasach sowieckich Iwan Franko, który także obecnie patronuje tej uczelni.

Początki Archiwum Uniwersyteckiego sięgają 1835 roku, ale w nowoczesnej postaci powstało na mocy decyzji Senatu z dnia 4 września 1894 roku. Założycielem i pierwszym, wieloletnim kierownikiem Archiwum był prof. Ludwik Finkel (uczeń m.in. Teodora Mommse-
na). Sprawował on nad nim pieczę nawet jako emeryt, aż do śmierci

w 1930 roku. Z archiwaliów uniwersyteckich korzystał pracując nad pierwszym tomem *Historii Uniwersytetu Lwowskiego* (Lwów 1894). Stulecie reaktywowania Uniwersytetu przez cesarza Franciszka I uczcił Finkel publikując *Inwentarz Archiwum Uniwersytetu Lwowskiego* (Lwów 1917). O wysoki poziom naukowy Archiwum dbali kolejni dyrektorzy, profesorowie Stanisław Zakrzewski, a następnie dawny współpracownik Finkla, Teofil Modelski.

Opracowane przez Autora/Prepared by the Author