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ALEKSANDER BRÜCKNER'S PRIVATE LIBRARY (VIEWED AS PART OF HIS PERSONAL ARCHIVE)

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ABSTRACT

Against the background of the fate of Aleksander Brückner's personal archive, which is now considered lost, this article attempts to describe and characterise his library legacy, which was discovered in 2023 and is still accessible in Berlin today. The following questions play a role here: what is the linguistic structure of this library, how was it accumulated by Brückner, what value did it have for him and his academic work, and what do the single volumes (especially those containing a dedication to him) say about his academic networks? This text presents Brückner's library legacy in detail for the first time and thus aims to make a contribution to the further study of him as a scientist.

KEYWORDS: Aleksander Brückner – personal archive – private library – library legacy – scientific biography (Aleksander Brückner)

During my research in Berlin libraries and archives, I encountered, in the summer of 2023, Aleksander Brückner's collection of books, the majority of which are preserved today at the Faculty of Foreign Philologies Library (Zweigbibliothek Fremdsprachliche

Philologien / Teilbibliothek Großbritannien-Zentrum) of the Humboldt University of Berlin. The discovery of this collection raises the question of the fate of Brückner's personal archive. Could some manuscripts of his publications, drafts, initial projects, or notes, corrected manuscripts, or even unpublished texts have survived somewhere? Especially in the case of scholars such as Brückner,¹ whose research legacy is enormous – the number of his publications exceeds 1500 positions² – all such materials could not only complete his already known achievements and contribute to their better understanding, but also shine a new light on the academic career of this eminent scholar, which led him from Lviv via Vienna to Berlin.

In the present article, I intend to describe how Brückner's personal archive fared, and in this context, present a closer look at the books he owned, which until now played no role in the texts written about him.³ A scholar's private book collection is considered, today, an integral part of such an archive, because it may provide information illuminating issues in his biography and career,

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- 1 It is useful for a better grasp of the topic to briefly mention the most important dates in Brückner's life: he was born in Tarnopol (in Austria-Hungary at the time) in 1856, and studied classical philology in Lviv. Defended his doctorate in 1876 in Vienna, where he also received his degree of habilitation; he then came back to Lviv as a Private Dozent. The same year, he was appointed to the Friedrich Wilhelm University in Berlin, where since 1881 he worked as profesor *extraordinarius*, and since 1892, professor *ordinarius* of Slavistics. While after 1918, he had been invited multiple times to assume one of chairs of Slavistics at Polish universities, Brückner remained in Berlin and in 1924, retired but was still active as a scholar and maintained numerous contacts, especially with Poland. He died on May 24, 1939 in Berlin where he was buried. In 2023, Brückner's and his wife Emma's remains were transferred to a new tomb at the Rakowicki Cemetery in Kraków.
 - 2 W. Berbelicki, 'Bibliografia', in: idem (ed.), *Aleksander Brückner 1856–1939*, Warszawa 1989, pp. 172–288.
 - 3 I presented Brückner's book collection in relations to his scholarly biography in the paper *Zur wissenschaftlichen Biographie Aleksander Brückners im Spiegel seines Büchernachlasses*, to be published in a collective volume edited after the conference *Aleksander Brückner and His Legacy* (Humboldt University of Berlin, 16.–17.10.2023), organized to mark bringing to Poland Brückner's remains and his burial at the Rakowicki Cemetery in Kraków. In the present paper, I would like to continue these studies focusing namely on issues such as the importance of the library for Brückner in the context of his scholarly work, e.g., in relation to specific books from this collection.

as well as in his research practice. After generally characterizing the collection, I would like to indicate further possible research perspectives based on the initial results of a substantive assessment. An analysis of Brückner's book collection should contribute to the study of his scholarly *curriculum vitae* and biography, which remain, to a large extent, unknown. As Heinz Pohrt stated already over half a century ago, the "total absence of his personal legacy" makes it difficult to credibly discuss Brückner as a scholar and as a human being.⁴ For this reason, his book collection could help fill this gap, at least in part.

THE FATE OF BRÜCKNER'S PERSONAL ARCHIVE (THE CURRENT STATE OF RESEARCH ON BRÜCKNER'S LEGACY AND LIBRARY)

Brückner's personal archive, with the exception of his book collection and a few manuscripts, probably no longer exists. Its contents would include various manuscripts, drafts, notes, correspondence, diaries, and other informal autobiographical records, as well as documents of life, press cuttings, photographs, sound recordings, and even film recordings, along with personal effects.

Such a broad understanding of the concept of a personal archive or legacy comes also from the working practices of archives, museums or libraries, i.e., institutions responsible for preservation and access to such archives that generally define them as "the totality of archival materials created and accumulated by individuals during their entire lives and resulting from their activities".⁵ The concept evolved gradually, starting in the 19th century. Initially, legacies were treated as a source for potential further publications.

4 H. Pohrt, 'Beiträge zum Wirken des Slawisten Aleksander Brückner in Berlin 1881-1939', *Zeitschrift für Slawistik*, 1970, v. XV, pp. 90-102.

5 M. Konstankiewicz and A. Niewęglowski, *Status prawny archiwów osobistych, Archeion*, 2016, v. CXVII, p. 84; see also: H. Dymnicka-Wołoszyńska and Z. Kolanowski, eds., *Wytyczne opracowania spuścizn archiwalnych po uczonych*, Warszawa 1990, p. 5-6, as well as: J. Hasenclever et al., *Ressourcenerschließung mit Normdaten in Archiven und Bibliotheken (RNAB) für Personen-, Familien, Körperschaftsarchive und Sammlungen. Kontrollierte Vokabulare und Glossar* - <https://d-nb.info/1322698708/34> [Accessed December 28, 2024], p. 49 and 55.

Over time, they began to be perceived as individual expressions of creative personalities and documentation of biographies, for example, of artists or scholars. From this perspective, all personal materials can significantly contribute to a better understanding of personality and the works of a creator, even during the development process.⁶ Book collections, viewed as an integral part of personal archives, are particularly significant in the case of scholars because they usually constitute a direct basis for their work. A book collection, as a whole and as individual copies often mirrors scholarly activities or approach to specific themes and ideas (e.g., through the general distribution of volumes within the owner's study, traces of use, underlining, notes, attached pages, etc.) and provides data on intellectual and collegial connections, e.g., based on books with inscribed dedications.⁷

Brückner's manuscripts were probably lost or destroyed shortly after his death. Józef Frejlich, Brückner's longtime friend, who visited him regularly until his death, said that Brückner left only a few unfinished works because he immediately published all that he wrote. However, it appears that some texts and notes remained, as Brückner, on his deathbed, asked Frejlich to pass them to Stanisław Kot, another close friend – because he was the only one “able to use them properly”, as Brückner said.⁸ Stanisław Lam

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- 6 C. Spoerhase, 'Neuzeitliches Nachlassbewusstsein. Über die Entstehung eines schriftstellerischen, archivarischen und philologischen Interesses an posthumen Papieren', in: *Nachlassbewusstsein. Literatur, Archiv, Philologie 1750–2000*, ed. K. Sina and C. Spoerhase, Göttingen 2017, pp. 25–41.
 - 7 J. Doborosky, *Der Philologiebegriff August Boeckhs im Spiegel seiner privaten Büchersammlung*, Berlin 2020, pp. 14–19. Commission for Estate Processing of the Association of Austrian Librarians (Kommission für Nachlassbearbeitung der Vereinigung Österreichischer Bibliothekarinnen und Bibliothekare) in its methodological recommendations clearly indicates that, when such estates are received, attention must be brought *inter alia* to their integrality and preserved order system, and especially, to the importance of copies with traces of usage and marks of ownership, see: *Empfehlungen zum Umgang mit Nachlassbibliotheken* (Vereinigung Österreichischer Bibliothekarinnen und Bibliothekare) – <https://voeb-b.at/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/nachlassbibliotheken.pdf> [Accessed December 28, 2024].
 - 8 J. Frejlich, 'Samotnik Berliński. W 25-ą rocznicę zgonu', *Wiadomości. Tygodnik*, 1964, 45(971), p. 1.

recalls also many notes that Brückner, in the last months of his life, considered destined to remain probably unused.⁹ This state of affairs is also confirmed by a certain Cläre Meiendorf, who in a letter to the curator of the Friedrich Wilhelm University introduces herself as Brückner's niece. The letter was written near June 20, 1939, or less than a month after Brückner's death, and Meiendorf expresses there her regret at not being able to find certain documents "in the heritage left by my uncle"¹⁰ required by the university. It means that Brückner must have left something behind.

Max Vasmer, who succeeded Brückner as the chair of Slavistics, at the request of Frejlich, tried to recover some manuscripts and private records, as well as Brückner's personal memorabilia, but without success.¹¹ Two of Brückner's and his wife Emma's relatives, possibly Cläre Meiendorf, mentioned above, and her husband, may have been responsible for this loss. They had taken care of the elderly couple in the last years of their lives and were their housekeepers, as relates Tadeusz Ulewicz. While Brückner's wife supported her deceased husband's request (i.e., she wanted to donate the remaining papers to Kot), she was finally too weak to act. For that reason, Meiendorf's husband (if he was the real culprit), openly sympathetic to national socialism, could not only prevent Brückner's funeral in Poland but also block the release of his personal archive. Ulewicz notes that it cannot be excluded that he was

9 S. Lam, 'Aleksander Brückner (*29.I.1856–†24.V.1939)', *Nowa Książka*, 1939, 6, p. 326.

10 C. Meiendorf, *Schreiben an den Kurator der Universität*, Humboldt University Archive in Berlin, Aleksander Brückner's personal files, call number 451(1), p. 25.

11 J. Frejlich, 'Samotnik Berliński...', op. cit., p. 2. However, Vasmer managed to extract something from Brückner's private archive, because he published his article entitled *Polonica* with the following comment: "The manuscript of this treatise was found ready for the press in Brückner's legacy [!]. It was meant, as he confirmed several times during his final illness, for this journal. The required proofreading was done by Dr. M. Woltner and by the undersigned. M. V.". "This journal" refers to „Zeitschrift für Slavische Philologie", where Brückner's text appeared (vol. XVI, 1939, pp. 397–417; this quotation figures on pp. 397–398). Vasmer was the editor-in-chief of the journal, and because, as he said, he knew about this text earlier, he must have obtained it probably very shortly after Brückner's death, as it was published in 1939. Unfortunately, it was most probably an isolated case, and Vasmer received only this Brückner text.

the one who destroyed this legacy, even during the war, because when he was found and approached on this topic in the 1950s, he refused to talk about it.¹²

This is the reason why only a few fragments of Brückner's personal archive survived. Like the manuscript of his last work, *A Historical Overview of the Polish Culture*, written in German, which surfaced again after 1945; some fragments of the text were published in the meantime.¹³ Having received the manuscript of this work from Brückner, Frejlich brought it to Warsaw in the summer of 1939 and gave it to Aleks Bachulski, director of the Municipal Library, in the spring of 1940, before he managed to emigrate to France.¹⁴ However, Frejlich and Bachulski were both unaware that Brückner's manuscript survived the destruction of the library caused by a fire in January 1945, because it was probably somehow transferred earlier to Kraków, where it was found in early February 1945, and passed on to the Jagiellonian Library.¹⁵ Another Brückner manuscript was certainly destroyed in a fire; he sent it shortly before his death, in January 1939, to Warsaw, to Michał Arct's publishing house. It was a corrected and augmented version of his *Ethymological Dictionary*.¹⁶

On the other hand, several hundred of Brückner's letters were preserved in the archives of people and institutions with whom he corresponded. They are currently held by various libraries and archives in Poland, Germany or other countries; some of them were

- 12 T. Ulewicz, 'O Brücknerze oraz paru innych sprawach – po ludzku', *Ruch Literacki*, 1971, 5, pp. 288–291.
- 13 A. Brückner, 'Grundriss der polnischen Kulturgeschichte', *Rocznik Komisji Historycznoliterackiej*, 1967, 5, pp. 156–181.
- 14 J. Frejlich, 'Samotnik Berliński...', op. cit., p. 2.
- 15 W. Berbelicki and T. Ulewicz, 'Nieznana książka Aleksandra Brücknera: „Zarys dziejów kultury polskiej” dla obcych', *Rocznik Komisji Historycznoliterackiej*, 1967, 5, pp. 150–152.
- 16 Tadeusz Lehr-Spławiński relates this version in his obituary of Brückner ('Aleksander Brückner [*1856–†1939]', *Język Polski*, 1939, 4, pp. 97–101), as in the summer of 1939, he couldn't have known that the manuscript would be lost during the German occupation of Warsaw. Berbelicki (*Aleksander Brückner 1856–1939*, Warszawa 1989, p. 139), who, sixty years later, published Lehr-Spławiński's text again, points this out.

published, like the letters to his school friend Albert Zipper¹⁷ and Stanisław Kot¹⁸ – both collections are at the Jagiellonian Library in Kraków – as well as the letters to Hieronim Łopaciński, held now at the library named after him in Lublin.¹⁹

Theoretically, it is, of course, possible that other parts of Brückner's personal archive will surface. As proved to be in the case of an accidental discovery at the Political Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Amtes) in Berlin in 2023: In a report, dated August 30, 1940, addressed to the ambassador Hans-Adolf von Moltke, two employees of the so-called Liquidation Office of former Polish missions in the German Reich (Abwicklungsstelle der ehemaligen polnischen Vertretungsbehörden im Deutschen Reich) mention that during classification of Polish documents, a Brückner's manuscript was found; it was 61 pages long and entitled *Polish Language and Literature in Lithuania and Ruthenia* (*Język i literatura polska na Litwie i Rusi*), the date was December 30, 1919.²⁰ Brückner wrote it on the verso of specially cut-off university diplomas. Given the „recognized importance of the author”, a transfer to the Institute of Slavistics was suggested. A few days later, Moltke agreed to the suggestion in a handwritten note. As indicated by a draft letter from September 18, 1940, the

17 W. Berbelicki, 'Listy Aleksandra Brücknera do Alberta Zippera', *Biuletyn Biblioteki Jagiellońskiej*, 1969, 1/2. pp. 93-127.

18 W. Berbelicki, 'Listy Aleksandra Brücknera do Stanisława Kota', *Biuletyn Biblioteki Jagiellońskiej*, 1987, 1/2. pp. 163-217.

19 J. Starnawski, 'Czterdzieści listów Aleksandra Brücknera do Hieronima Łopacińskiego. Część I. Listy 1-21', *Slavia Occidentalis*, 1967, 26, pp. 207-234 and idem, 'Czterdzieści listów Aleksandra Brücknera do Hieronima Łopacińskiego. Część II. Listy 22-40', *Slavia Occidentalis*, 1971, 28-29, pp. 273-297. Brückner's manuscript letters include those written to his friend Ignacy Chrzanowski (National Library in Warsaw), to Henryk Ułaszyn (Polish Academy of Sciences Archive), as well as to Vatroslav Jagić or to the Sorbian scholar Karol Ernst Muka, which are discussed by Pohrt (*Beiträge zum Wirken...*, pp. 100-101). Additionally, there is a partial correspondence between Brückner and editors of periodicals, i.e., of the journal *Literary Movement* („Ruch Literacki”) and with the bookstore Gebethner & Wolf (National Library in Warsaw), as well as with the publishing house Mohr in Tübingen (State Library in Berlin).

20 LR Dr. Ulrich I HAR. Dr. Jagow, [*Bericht an den Botschafter von Moltke über die Auffindung einer Handschrift von Brückner*], Political Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Polish Archives, call number RZ 620/26999, without p.

Liquidation Office intended to pass on the manuscript to Margarete Woltner, Vasmer's assistant.²¹ It is difficult to say whether it really happened, and what became the fate of this text because it was never published, either before or after 1940.

ALEKSANDER BRÜCKNER'S LIBRARY LEGACY

Cläre Meiendorf's letter quoted above indirectly confirms the existence of Brückner's private library because she considers that the documents required by the University, which she was unable to find in his apartment, may have been deposited at the Institute of Slavistics, as this institution was putting "Brückner's book legacy"²² in order. Indeed, as early as June 1939, several hundred Brückner's books were deposited at this Institute's library.²³ However, even in the earlier years, starting approximately in November 1925, i.e., about a year after his retirement, Brückner regularly donated his books to the library, as shown by acquisition records from that period²⁴. Occasionally, he would give only a single copy, but in three cases, he also made larger donations, as in December 1926, when Brückner gave the library 233 books,²⁵ or in October and November 1934, when he donated 64 books.²⁶ It is difficult to determine why Brückner decided to pass on his books at precisely these times. He was possibly returning books he himself no longer needed, but his intention could have been to support the Institute of Slavistics library, which was established only a few years pri-

21 LR Dr. Ulrich, [*Entwurf eines Schreibens an das Slavische Institut der Universität Berlin*], *ibidem*, without p.

22 C. Meiendorf, *Schreiben an den Kurator...*, *op. cit.*, p. 25.

23 *Eingangs-Buch des Slavischen Instituts V – Nr. 11969–15426*, Humboldt University Library in Berlin, Faculty of Foreign Philologies Library.

24 I offer my sincere thanks to Dr Anja Otto, director of the Library of Foreign Philologies, as well as her co-workers, Andrea Werner and Yvonne Wirkus who allowed me, during the recent months, to repeatedly and without a problem gain access to acquisition records and also to many books from Brückner's library they identified previously in the contemporary collection of the library.

25 *Eingangs-Buch des Slavischen Instituts I – Nr. 1–3977*, Humboldt University Library in Berlin. Faculty of Foreign Philologies Library.

26 *Eingangs-Buch des Slavischen Instituts V...*, *op. cit.*, pp. 4–10.

or, in 1925, at the same time as the Institute and was still in the process of building its book collection.²⁷ The largest transfer took place, however, immediately following Brückner's death on May 24, 1939, when the library received 810 of his books.²⁸

In the years 1925-1939, the library of the Institute of Slavistics received altogether about 1173 Brückner's books, which were entered into the acquisition records of this period, but were properly catalogued slightly later. The last such record was made on July 1, 1940, and is numbered 15330.²⁹ Unfortunately, the next volume of acquisition records, which would cover the years until 1945 and which contained about 1500 titles, did not survive; for that reason, it would be difficult to estimate how many of Brückner's books were entered in the volume. Books identified by the librarians in the storeroom of the Institute of Slavistics as undoubtedly belonging to Brückner and bearing numbers from the lost volume of acquisition records indicate that Brückner's books were being received even after July 1940. There were approximately 250-300 titles that also came from Brückner, but it is difficult to confirm such cases conclusively, as Brückner unfortunately did not mark his books with an ownership sign or have an *ex libris*. For that reason, only the books listed in one of the acquisition records volumes or those including a dedication to him may be explicitly considered part of his collection.³⁰

27 The Institute of Slavistics at the Friedrich Wilhelm University of Berlin was created only in 1925, following Brückner's retirement and Vasmer's arrival. Brückner occupied the Chair of Slavonic Languages and Literatures which operated within the Institute of Indo-European Studies - H. H. Bielfeldt, 'Die Geschichte des Lehrstuhls für Slavistik an der Berliner Universität', in: *Beiträge zur Geschichte der Slawistik*, ed. H. H. Bielfeldt and K. Horálek, Berlin 1964, p. 274 and H. Burkhardt, *Historia Polonistyki na Uniwersytecie przy Unter den Linden, LingVaria*, 2022, 2/34, pp. 299-300.

28 Ibidem, pp. 4-280.

29 Ibidem, p. 280.

30 In fact, an acquisition record provides the date when the library registered the book, and it is possible that in some cases, Brückner actually donated the book earlier. However, I assume that the time between the donation and the first registration of books was not overly long; for this reason, the dates quoted in the text seem credible.

Before proceeding to describe in detail Brückner's library legacy, I would like to point out that the numbers I provide in the article, while dependable and useful for assessing its scope, are not yet final. The work on Brückner's library is still ongoing, and the factual number of books he donated will exceed, as I mentioned, 1173 volumes. It concerns, most of all, the books recorded in the missing acquisition volume. It is possible to identify them, but it requires a detailed and time-consuming study of marginal notes and traces of usage and their explicit attribution to Brückner, the topic I discuss towards the end of this text (the section entitled: "Library as Brückner's Research Base"). Additionally, all titles figuring in the acquisition records must be verified, and each copy needs to be confirmed as originating from Brückner, and not from purchases made by the Slavistics Library after 1945.

Among the 1173 books recorded in the acquisition volumes as having belonged to Brückner, 775 titles are currently found in the catalogue of the Humboldt University Library in Berlin, 398 are lost, and some copies were, over time, withdrawn from the collection or transferred to another library. Until now, 569 titles were explicitly identified as originating directly from Brückner, among them about a hundred books with dedications to him – i.e., in these cases, the acquisition number in the today available book corresponds to the records. Theoretically, it is possible that a book donated by Brückner almost 90 years ago was lost at some point, but was later re-acquired by the library. In such a case, the book, which was entered in the acquisition record as having belonged to Brückner, still figures in the catalogue, but it is not the same copy. The books that have already been verified can be easily found in the Historical Collections using the catalogue of the Humboldt University Library.³¹

A pronounced majority of the discussed 1173 titles is written in Polish – namely, 887, i.e., about 75%. Second comes the German

31 Access is possible at: https://hu-berlin.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=lsr49,contains,Br%C3%BCckner,AND&tab=default_tab&search_scope=default_scope&vid=hub_ub&lang=en_US&mode=advanced&offset=0 [Accessed December 8, 2024].

language (92 titles), next, the Czech language (70 titles), Russian (39 titles), Ukrainian (25 titles), and French (16 titles). There are few books in Serbian or Serbo-Croatian (11 titles), Bulgarian (9 titles), Latin (8 titles), English (6 titles), and Croatian (2 titles); Belorussian, Italian, Slovak, and also Church Slavonic are represented by only one title each. A total of 15 languages: in addition to the predominant Polish language, almost all Slavonic languages are present, including a surprisingly large number of Czech books.³²

Books donated by Brückner date generally to the period between 1855 and 1939. There are no titles published before 1850, let alone old prints or manuscripts, which one could expect given Brückner's scholarly profile. He was probably researching such materials mainly in libraries; the fact of his regular working visits to libraries will be discussed below.

Among the books donated by Brückner are also his own works: 22 publications authored by him were identified, as well as 18 that he contributed to as editor. For the sake of comparison: today, in the catalogue of the Humboldt University Library, there are 68 publications dated before 1939, in which Brückner played one of these two roles, which begs the question if the library received the 28 missing works directly from Brückner and they were registered in the lost acquisition records volume, or they arrived from a different source.

In the literature about Brückner, there are only a few mentions about what his private library could have looked like. The fact that he rarely invited people to his home, favouring meetings in cafés, could be the reason.³³ Only general statements remain, like those by Stanisław Lam, who recalls a "meager reference library", which must have been a surprise to all guests received by Brückner in his

32 It should be noted here that a precise classification of books according to language is almost impossible because Brückner's collection includes many multilingual titles which could hardly be labelled as written in only one specific language.

33 J. Frejlich, 'Samotnik Berliński...', op. cit., p. 1; Z. Nowakowski, 'Ręka na temblaku', *Wiadomości. Tygodnik*, 1955, 20 (476), p. 4.

apartment.³⁴ Or those by Frejlich, who, on the one hand, mentions an “excessively modest study room”,³⁵ potentially indicating that Brückner’s library was not extensive, but on the other hand, emphasizes that Brückner worked in isolation at home. If so, he must have had all the necessary materials available there.

The account of Zofia Ciechanowska, a specialist of German literature and librarian from Kraków, who visited Brückner in early 1937 in his apartment, is an exception. In her report, she briefly describes his study and library. According to Ciechanowska, one of the walls was covered with simple shelves full of books in soft covers, mainly written in Polish. She estimated that there were about 2000 books.³⁶ This is a significantly larger number than the one I provided earlier, namely, the 1173 volumes, even if we also add the approximately 250–300 books potentially belonging to Brückner and registered in the missing volume of acquisition records.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BRÜCKNER’S PRIVATE LIBRARY

With further research into Brückner’s library in mind, I assume that, at least to a certain degree, he had been intentionally accumulating it, i.e., it was not composed only of randomly received titles. Hence, it may be assumed that individual books from this library were strictly connected to his scholarly activities and they present Brückner “not only in the context of his academic research and intellectual movements of his time, but also in his institutional environment, regional resources, his approach to books as tools of his trade”.³⁷ To what degree, then, does Brückner’s library mirror his scholarly career?

However, it should be pointed out that certain authors, like for instance, Henryk Barycz, believe that Brückner was able to manage

34 S. Lam, ‘Aleksander Brückner...’, op. cit., p. 326.

35 J. Frejlich, ‘Samotnik Berliński...’, p. 1.

36 Z. Ciechanowska, ‘Moje wspomnienie o Brücknerze, in: W trzydziestolecie śmierci Aleksandra Brücknera,’ ed. T. Ulewicz, *Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego CCLXX, Prace Historycznoliterackie*, 1971, fasc. 20, p. 158.

37 J. Doborosky, *Der Philologiebegriff August Boeckhs...*, op. cit., p. 45.

without a private library, i.a., because of his “outstanding scholarly personality and unusually broad spiritual flair”, driven by an “immense erudition” or bottomless and unfathomable memory”.³⁸ This opinion, however, seems unfounded, not least because we already know of over 500 titles undoubtedly belonging to Brückner, which he owned until his death. Moreover, the number of books from his library may have potentially reached 1500. Still, other authors share Barycz’s belief, among them Stefan Kołaczkowski, who was Brückner’s student before WWI,³⁹ and who claims that Brückner not only did not collect books for his library, but, as he apparently used to admit himself, was always getting rid of books and approved only of using public libraries.⁴⁰

Indeed, the literature related to Brückner provides numerous evidence of his extensive use of libraries. According to Friedhilde Krause, Brückner worked on Polish manuscripts at the Royal Library in Berlin for many years and frequently used inter-library loans to order books from Gdańsk.⁴¹ Władysław Berbelicki confirms it and adds that using the “inter-library loan universally functioning in Europe already in the 19th century, [...]” Brückner borrowed through the University Library in Berlin books and manuscripts from all major Polish libraries.⁴² He also confirmed that he used to spend his summer vacations repeatedly in Lviv, working in the local libraries,⁴³ as Lam mentions, describing Brückner’s visit to the Ossolineum Library.⁴⁴ Brückner did not give up working at librar-

38 H. Barycz, ‘Aleksander Brückner’, *Kwartalnik Historyczny*, 1946, 3–4, p. 680.

39 S. Kołaczkowski, ‘O Aleksandrze Brücknerze. Wspomnienia i refleksje’, in: idem, *Portrety i zarysy literackie*, ed. S. Pigoń, Warszawa 1968, p. 404 and 408.

40 Ibidem, p. 46.

41 F. Krause, ‘Der Freund und Förderer der Königlichen Bibliothek zu Berlin’, *Zeitschrift für Slawistik*, 1980, fasc. 2, pp. 186–188.

42 W. Berbelicki, ‘Powiązania A. Brücknera z krakowskim środowiskiem naukowym’, in: *W trzydziestolecie śmierci Aleksandra Brücknera*, ed. T. Ulewicz, *Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego CCLXX, Prace Historycznoliterackie*, 1971, fasc. 20, p. 126.

43 F. Krause (ed.), *Katalog biblioteki Wilhelma Feldmana zakupionej w latach 1916/1917 przez Bibliotekę Królewską w Berlinie*, Poznań 2010, p. 22.

44 S. Lam, ‘Aleksander Brückner...’, pp. 326–327.

ies even in his advanced age. The enormous number of notes from his readings, which may never be utilized, was discussed above. Meanwhile, Brückner's former student, Erich Boehme, recalls frequently seeing his already retired professor diligently working among books at the Institute of Slavistics Library.⁴⁵

Taking into account the main areas of research in the field of medieval philology and study of literature, as well as the necessity of working with manuscripts, it is hardly surprising that Brückner during many years worked extensively in Polish and Berlin libraries, and this was possibly the reason why, he did not feel the need to own a private library. However, it seems that during the period coinciding with WWI, he was increasingly thinking about the advantages of having Polish literature, which he needed for his research, available locally in Berlin. His opinion dated October 18, 1915, addressed to Adolf von Harnack, the director general of the Royal Library at that time, confirms it. He describes there not only the details of Polonica available in Berlin, but also suggest the purchase of the private library belonging to the Polish literary critic, Wilhelm Feldman, his close acquaintance; this acquisition would help to fill the most significant gaps in the area of 19th and 20th century literature, a fact reconstructed by Krause using original documents.⁴⁶ Indeed, Feldman's library was purchased in 1916/17. At the same time, Brückner accumulates his private library with an increased effort, as will be discussed later.

Brückner's interest in completing the resources of the Berlin library could have been influenced by the fact that during this period he did not travel anymore to Warsaw, Kraków or Lviv to work in the libraries there. According to some authors, including Berbelicki, one of the best experts on Brückner, the last Brückner's lecture took place at the meeting of the Historical-Philosophical Department of the Academy of Learning in Kraków, on October 16, 1893; after this event, also because of his poor health, which was

45 E. Boehme, 'Aleksander Brückner†', *Osteuropa* 1938-1939, 10, p. 782.

46 F. Krause, *Katalog biblioteki Wilhelma Feldmana...*, op. cit., pp. 22-33.

Brückner's lifelong companion, he supposedly never left Berlin again.⁴⁷ Kołaczkowski, in his profile of Brückner from 1939, says as well that the scholar did not visit Poland for several decades (!); his quoted above view about Brückner's reluctance to collect books applies to the period before 1914.⁴⁸ These doubts should be dispelled by a systematic reconstruction of Brückner's travels, but it appears most likely that at least after 1914, he did not travel to Poland. Still, his state of health or age could have been a significant factor – he was 62 in 1918. However, it is also possible that travel to Poland after 1914 was not as easy as it had been during the earlier years of peace.

THE CREATION AND STRUCTURE OF BRÜCKNER'S LIBRARY (THE PROCESS OF ACCUMULATION)

These comments about the meaning of owning a private library for Brückner as a scholar seem to be reflected in the history of this library's origin and its structure; however, several questions remain and require an answer.⁴⁹ An attempt to relate to his scholarly career, the books currently known to have possibly belonged to Brückner⁵⁰ reveals the following picture: barely seven titles originate from the period before his appointment in Berlin, i.e., before 1881. He could have indeed brought only several books from

47 W. Berbelicki, 'Powiązania A. Brücknera...', pp. 114–115.

48 S. Kołaczkowski, 'O Aleksandrze Brücknerze...', op. cit., p. 408.

49 Inter alia, whether the publication date of a given book coincides with the date it appeared in Brückner's library. In general, it seems that he collected the newest publications, which means that these two dates should not be too distant, as I assumed in my reasoning. However, it is possible that Brückner was buying older titles in new or used bookstores, but I have not yet determined that. The next interesting question is how in fact Brückner was acquiring his books. Along copies he received from his scholarly acquaintances or as a result of his research activity, there were other distribution channels of Polish books in the interwar Berlin (e.g., bookstores, international shipments), which are worth investigating more in detail. We should also bear in mind that the figures describing the size of Brückner's library provided in the present text are not yet final.

50 Not all 1173 titles referred to above are taken into account from this point of view, because in the individual acquisition books, precise numbers of issues or years owned by Brückner (in case of periodicals and their yearly issues) are not always provided and must be verified along with the titles missing the year of publication.

Lviv to Berlin; still, this number appears too low. For instance, the first volume of Christian Friedrich Rost's Greek-German dictionary, published in 1854, suggests this.⁵¹ The records and seals show that Brückner bought it in 1873, at Zelman Igl's second-hand bookstore in Lviv – as a barely 17-year-old, probably at the beginning of his study of classical philology at the Lviv university. This volume bears the acquisition number 39385, and it was registered only after 1945. Accordingly, it is possible that a similar situation could have occurred in the case of other books from his library as well.

During the years when Brückner was professor of Slavistics in Berlin (i.e., until 1924), a total of 498 titles were added to his library. 323 of this number arrived before 1918, and 175 after the end of World War I. If we reassess these figures to calculate averages per year, it appears that Brückner, during the 37 years preceding 1918, was acquiring, on average, nine books per year, and during the six years following 1918, the figure jumped to 29 books per year. This annual average was even higher after he retired, i.e., between 1925 and 1939. This period yielded a total of 552 books, indicating that Brückner was buying or receiving approximately 40 titles annually. In the final count, 727 currently identified titles from his library date from the post-World War I period, i.e., almost 62% of the entire collection.

These figures allow for certain conclusions that may serve as a starting point for further reasoning and which, to a large extent, align with the findings of the previous section. It applies particularly to the fact that Brückner was buying increasing numbers of titles from Polish literature after 1914, the period during which he probably never travelled to Poland again. The fact that publications from the 1920s and 1930s predominate in his library suggests that Brückner was very interested in the most recent scholarly works. Barycz expresses his astonishment at how diligently and closely Brückner followed and analyzed contemporary publica-

51 C. F. Rost, *Griechisch-Deutsches Wörterbuch für den Schul- und Handgebrauch. Erster Band A-K*, Braunschweig 1854. This copy is held by the library under the call number A 1161/54:1'4.

tions and how much they impacted his activity.⁵² The fact that approximately 80% of the books published after WWI and owned by Brückner originated in Poland (a total of 580 titles) confirms his close ties to the Polish academic community. In addition, we know that Brückner was unusually active in his research and published a great deal after he retired, which is to a certain degree reflected in his library, as it had been growing relatively faster after 1924 than in the previous years.

BRÜCKNER'S LIBRARY AND HIS NETWORK

It is safe to assume that Brückner's library was expanding significantly due to books he was receiving from his scholarly acquaintances or from editors of some periodicals (who were asking for reviews), or from people who visited him. Such books often contain inscriptions from donors and constitute a source of information about his academic and social contacts. He maintained his social contacts regularly and vigorously, which is why not all authors who wrote about Brückner shared the opinion of him being the "Berlin loner" or even "recluse". According to Ulewicz, Brückner was so eager for news of all kinds from Poland that he was personally offended whenever a Polish scholar, philologist, or historian, younger or older, even someone he did not know well, would come to Berlin and did not wish to meet with him.⁵³ The historian, Józef Widajewicz, expressed a similar opinion: to go to Berlin and not visit Brückner was unthinkable to any Polish scholar, whether historian, Slavist, historian of literature, or linguist.⁵⁴ Widajewicz recalls that in order not to come empty-handed, he brought a few of his works, including a paper about the town of Bereżany

52 H. Barycz, 'Aleksander Brückner', p. 685.

53 T. Ulewicz, *O Brücknerze...*, op. cit., pp. 285–286. On the other hand, Brückner probably had limited contacts with German scholars, especially after he retired. (H. Pohrt, *Beiträge zum Wirken...*, p. 91).

54 J. Widajewicz, 'Skąd pochodzi prof. Aleksander Brückner. Do druku podał T. Ulewicz', in: 'W trzydziestolecie śmierci Aleksandra Brücknera', ed. T. Ulewicz, *Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego CCLXX, Prace Historycznoliterackie*, 1971, fasc. 20, p. 151.

(Brzeżany), where Brückner spent a large part of his childhood and youth.⁵⁵

In addition, Brückner, as Frejlich recalls, regularly received books, dissertations, and other printed materials, which they would peruse together and discuss on Sundays, along with the mail for the professor.⁵⁶ A good reason to systematically investigate how often Brückner was in this way approached for reviews, e.g., by editors of journals and also by authors – some of whom possibly counted on his reviews resonating wider in specific scholarly circles. Indeed, he regularly wrote many reviews.

As his personal records indicate,⁵⁷ Brückner was also a member of several academies (Belgrade, Kraków [Polish Academy of Learning], St Petersburg, Prague, Sofia), as well as scholarly societies in Lviv, Poznań, Warsaw, and Vilnius. It is the reason why his collection includes many periodicals, such as the annual issues that Brückner regularly received from these institutions.

Numerous books from his library, bearing personal inscriptions, constitute particular evidence of the recognition and respect Brückner enjoyed in scholarly circles. As mentioned earlier, it was possible to identify approximately a hundred such books that Brückner received from various individuals. It is impossible to fully discuss this topic within the present article;⁵⁸ however, it is worthwhile to quote a few examples to briefly assess books bearing personal inscriptions for Brückner. The first example is

55 It was probably the article 'Rola dziejowa Brzeżan. W 400-letnią rocznicę założenia miasta (1530-1930)', published in *Ziemia* (1930, no. 5, pp. 84-92). Unfortunately, neither Brückner's collection nor the Humboldt University Library/ZwB Fremdsprachl. Philologien own this periodical.

56 J. Frejlich, 'Samotnik Berliński...', op. cit., p. 1.

57 [Aleksander Brückner's Personal File], Humboldt University Archive in Berlin, Aleksander Brückner's personal files, call number 451(1), p. 1.

58 However, Dr. Hanna Burkhardt from Humboldt University presently conducts research on these topics; she already published several papers on Brückner, his life and work, e.g., 'Aleksander Brückner und die Lehrtätigkeit der slawischen Sprachen und Literaturen an der Berliner Universität', in: *Aleksander Brückner – zum 60. Todestag. Beiträge der Berliner Tagung 1999*, ed. A. Nagórko, Frankfurt am Main et al. 2001, pp. 103-113.

provided by books he received from his close acquaintances and friends. The inscriptions they contain are, for that reason, more friendly, like, for instance, from Ignacy Chrzanowski, who wrote in a copy of *Okóło wychowania narodowego* (Warszawa 1932) the following words: "To the dear and beloved Prof. A. Brückner, his devoted friend-author".⁵⁹ Dedications from Brückner's students are no less cordial; they still remember him, some after many years, like Michał Jezienicki, later a Privat Dozent at the Lviv University, who dedicates to his former professor from Berlin, Klemens Janicki's *Utwory łacińskie*, translated and published 44 years later: „To the Highly Esteemed Professor Dr. Aleks. Brückner with the expressions of the most profound reverence and gratitude from the author and former student of the Berlin Univ. in 1889. Michał Jezienicki, at Stanisławów, November 8, 1933”.⁶⁰

Some of the inscriptions reflect the high regard in which Brückner was held in the academic community due to his remarkable achievements. For instance, Stefan Vrtel-Wierczyński offered him a copy of his anthology *Średniowieczna poezja polska świecka* (Kraków 1923). He inscribed the following: „To the Right Honourable Prof. Dr. Aleksander Brückner with the expression of deepest reverence and respect and a plea for gracious acceptance, S. Vrtel-Wierczyński. Lviv, July 14, 1923).⁶¹ Others display, in turn, a certain professional relationship that is also respectful and affectionate. Here, an inscription by Stanisław Estreicher provides a suitable example; it is written on an offprint of his paper *Opinie prawnicze profesorów Uniwersytetu Krakowskiego w XV stuleciu* (1935): “with heartfelt thanks for the review of Bibl.[jografia] P.[olska] (?) in the last issue of Pam.[iętnik] Lit.[racki] and with best wishes for the 80th birth anniversary”.⁶²

59 ZwB Fremdsprachl. Philologien/ TB Großbritannien-Zentrum, call number Omo 2061/60.

60 ZwB Fremdsprachl. Philologien/ TB Großbritannien-Zentrum, call number Oi 2578/50. See *Skany Brücknera* 2 p. 2.

61 ZwB Fremdsprachl. Philologien/ TB Großbritannien-Zentrum, call number 2016 - SA - 774.

62 Brückner's 80th birthday was on January 29, 1936, and this inscription probably refers to his review of the 30th vol. of *Bibliografia Polska* - published in fasc. 3-4

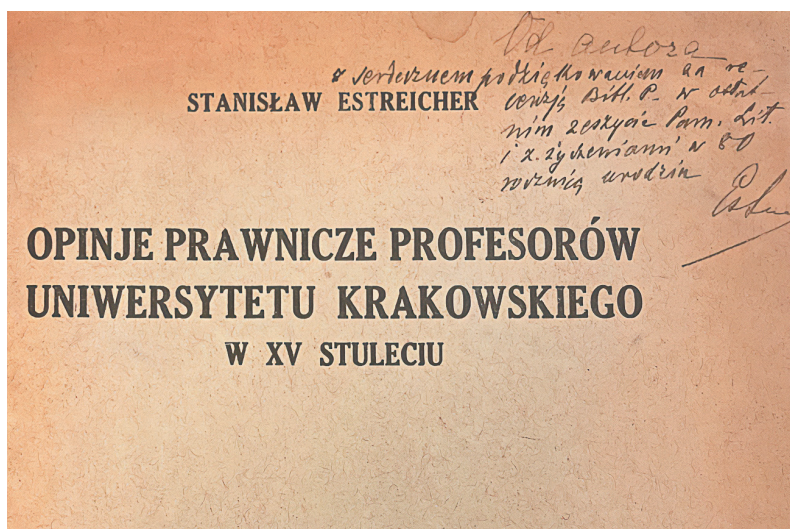


FIG. 1. Dedication by Stanisław Estreicher to Aleksander Brückner.

Still, there are also inscriptions reflecting an exclusively profes- sional relationship, as e.g., the one by Stanisław Turowski in his book *Wespazyjan Kochowski na tle współczesnym jako poeta* (Lwów 1908): “To the R. H. Professor A. Brückner, from the author”.⁶³ A fascinat- ing example among many is provided by Aleksander Rosenberg’s (Aleksander Rombowski) inscription, which also includes a request from the author who possibly counted on Brückner ensuring a wid- er reception of his work about the third part of *Dziady*:

To the Right Honourable University Professor and Dr. Aleksander Brückner, with a plea for a review. Please, kindly reply whether and

(year 32/1935) of *Pamiętnik Literacki*, pp. 597–599. It is also curious that the copy with the dedication to Brückner, held at the Library of the Foreign Philologies Faculty in Berlin (call number Oo 150) is incomplete – only pages 408–416 remain while the entire text figured in fact on pages 408–437 (see e.g., the copy held at the National Library of Poland, available at: <https://polona.pl/item-view/ad029545-83fc-44bf-a9f6-b9353e4ed50b?page=0> [Accessed December 27, 2024]). However, it is not clear whether the fault belongs to the binder or if Estreicher sent to Brückner an incomplete offprint by mistake.

63 ZwB Fremdsprachl. Philologien/ TB Großbritannien-Zentrum, call number Oi 2519/85.

where the review would appear. The author, Łódź, August 27, 1935. If at all possible, I'd appreciate it if you could write the review for *Wiadomości Literackie* and *Rocznik Literacki*.⁶⁴

LIBRARY AS BRÜCKNER'S RESEARCH BASE (PATTERNS OF USAGE)

The following key question connected to the study of Brückner's legacy of books concerns the degree to which individual books were indirectly or directly linked to his research. It is a wide and complex issue, also because there are, as already mentioned, ca. 1500 Brückner's publications. As the study of Brückner's library is still at its very early stage, it would be hard to formulate any final conclusions.

In general, it can be said that Brückner's library substantially mirrors the entire spectrum of his research interests and publications,⁶⁵ and includes scholarly as well as literary texts written in numerous languages, listed earlier. A more in-depth description of the themes and substance of Brückner's book collection will become possible, as in the case of other questions, only after determining its precise characteristics. It would also be worthwhile to study more in detail the manner in which Brückner accumulated his collection, because, as I mentioned above, he received many books from acquaintances or editors of journals. However, it would be interesting to learn which books and which titles he purchased himself and why.

To briefly summarize what is currently known about Brückner's private library, we may confirm that his books represent all scholarly disciplines in which Brückner was active. Among them, works on linguistics, literary and cultural studies, mythology or ethnography, as well as books about the history of the Polish language, the oldest monuments of the Polish language and Polish literature, about contacts between Polish, other Slavonic languages,

64 ZwB Fremdsprachl. Philologien/ TB Großbritannien-Zentrum, call number Oj 2068/200. However, it was impossible to verify whether Brückner ever reviewed Rosenberg's work.

65 H. Barycz, 'Aleksander Brückner', op. cit., pp. 662-680.

and Lithuanian, works on Polish, Slavonic, and Lithuanian mythology, and cultural history of Poland, eastern and central-eastern Europe. In addition, there are many literary texts, primarily Polish contemporary literature, such as those by Zofia Nałkowska, Julian Tuwim, or Stefan Żeromski.

However, not all areas of Brückner's interests are represented in the same numbers in his private library, as we know it today. For instance, his earliest scholarly interests in Slavonic-Lithuanian linguistics, Slavonic toponymy, and Lithuanian mythology are not reflected in the library.⁶⁶ This picture may change when new books belonging to the collection are identified, as we are currently only aware of these seven titles that Brückner brought to Berlin after being invited to take over the chair.

The situation somewhat changes several years later, ca. 1886 – i.e., after five years of work at the Berlin University, when, according to Barycz,⁶⁷ Brückner's interests changed: on the one hand, he was, at that time, publishing more in Polish, and on the other, he increased his engagement in collection and critical research of old Polish texts – his famous trip to St Petersburg, where he discovered the *Holy Cross Sermons*, took place in 1889–1890 – as well as of the history of Polish literature, especially from the Middle Ages to the 17th century. These interests are mirrored repeatedly in Brückner's private library because he owned many editions of sources or critical editions of often unknown authors. Among them are 63 volumes from the series “Biblijoteka pisarzów polskich” and 18 volumes from the series “Biblioteka zapomnianych poetów i prozaików polskich” with texts dating from the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, and also single volumes from the series “Zabytki piśmiennictwa polskiego”. In later years, i.e., after 1918, almost a hundred volumes from the first series of “Biblijoteka Narodowa” arrived, as well as 21 volumes from the series “Prace historyczno-literackie”, including works on 18th- and 19th-century literature.

66 Ibidem, p. 662.

67 Ibidem, pp. 663–672.

Because Brückner himself published a lot on these topics, the question is to what extent books such as these could have supported him in this work. To show if and how individual books from Brückner's library legacy may be linked to his publications, marginal and other notes, or other traces that are present in these books, should be studied in detail. It will allow us to draw conclusions about his practice of reading and analyzing a given text. There are two conditions required to conduct these studies: first, the existence of actual evidence that someone read the books, and second, the possibility of establishing without a doubt that this someone was indeed Brückner. While marginalia and notes are easily noticeable in many books, which undoubtedly belonged to Brückner, sometimes, doubts remain as to their origin. We cannot overlook the fact that his books were available in public libraries for several decades, and a variety of readers could have left such traces.

For this reason, a first step should consist of a comprehensive comparative analysis of notes and other evidence that the books were read, which, based on recurring similarities, for instance, would facilitate the attribution of specific marginalia to Brückner. This could also help in the identification of books registered in the missing acquisition records; this issue was discussed in the first part of the present text (section: "Aleksander Brückner's Library Legacy"). It concerns, first of all, the handwriting, but also the type of marginalia and the way individual fragments of text are identified, and finally, also the language in which any comments were written (in the case of Brückner: German and/or Polish).

For instance, in the volume *Słowa we krwi* (Warszawa 1926) by Julian Tuwim,⁶⁸ which also includes a beautiful inscription for Brückner.⁶⁹ There are many remarks about metrics of individual

68 ZwB Fremdsprachl. Philologien/ TB Großbritannien-Zentrum, call number KP 4743 S63.926.

69 In English translation: "To the esteemed prof. Al. Brückner, the great clairvoyant of the Polish language, whose "Dictionary" I devour with joy and admiration like a most marvellous poem, the author. Warsaw, May 18, 1926". It certainly refers

lines as well as comments, i.a., to the first line of *Słowo i ciało*, but in German.⁷⁰ However, it seems unlikely that Brückner would comment in German on poems written by Tuwim in Polish.

In several other volumes, we encounter the habit of listing on the inside of the cover key passages of the book with corresponding pages. It is the case, for instance, of Zygmunt Wasilewski's book *Nowy Konrad. Rozbiór „Wyzwolenia” St. Wyspiańskiego* (Lwów 1903). However, the fact that the remarks are also in German, as in the case of Tuwim, allows one to doubt Brückner's.⁷¹ In the dissertation, *Pan Tadeusz. Wzrost, wielkość i sława. Studium literackie* (Warszawa 1934) by Stanisław Pigoń, with an inscription for Brückner,⁷² the situation is somewhat different. We have here, for instance, several cases of underlining made with black and red crayons, as well as comments in Polish, but the handwriting is not the same as in many other books also belonging to Brückner. It means, potentially, that the comments were made by someone else; in any case, this issue requires further detailed study.⁷³ On the other hand, Brückner's authorship looks pretty likely in the case of comments in the facsimile edition of *Psalterz Puławski* (Kórnik 1880), which Brückner received from Romuald Hube, who added an inscription.⁷⁴ These comments reflect a deep familiarity with the late medieval literature, which was undoubtedly true in the case of Brückner. Just like the comments on Władysław Łebski's

to Brückner's *Słownik etymologiczny języka polskiego*, whose fascicules 1-8 were published precisely in 1926.

- 70 The comment says: „angelehnt an das Gebet, Vater unser” - “modelled on the prayer, ‘Our Father’.
- 71 ZwB Fremdsprachl. Philologien/ TB Großbritannien-Zentrum, call number KP 5056 W319.
- 72 It says: „To the greatly esteemed Prof. Al. Brückner [hoping that] he will graciously accept [this] as proof of the great respect from the author”.
- 73 ZwB Fremdsprachl. Philologien/ TB Großbritannien-Zentrum, call number KO 8694 P633 P1. E.g., on p. 207, in the chapter *Sąd nad Buchmanem*, there is the following comment: “a convenient way to eliminate the negative traits of Poles outside the circle of Polish community → Buchman is a stranger”.
- 74 ZwB Fremdsprachl. Philologien/ TB Großbritannien-Zentrum, call number Oi 430. The inscription says: “as a souvenir for Prof. A. Brückner of a stay in Warsaw from R. Hube, April 26, ‘90”.

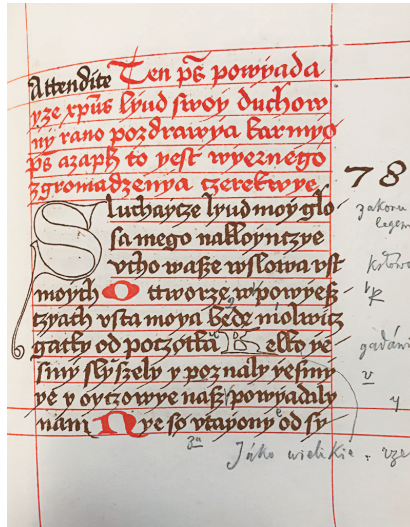


FIG. 2. Page from the Puławy Psalter with notes by Aleksander Brückner.

Materiały do Słownika Łacińsko-Polskiego średniowiecznej łaciny published in 1885.⁷⁵ It is also highly likely that instances of underlining in the text or marks in the margins in Józef Ujejski's book, *Antoni Malczewski. Poeta i poemat* (Warszawa 1921),⁷⁶ were made by Brückner, who himself published four years later the most famous poem by Malczewski, *Marja*, and discussing Ujejski's book in the preface, said that - "he does not add anything either to the poet's biography or to the analysis of his work [...]".⁷⁷ This is the reason why he provides the text according to Ujejski's 1922 edition, in which Ujejski compared the manuscript to the first edition.⁷⁸ However, it is unclear whether Brückner owned the edition prepared by Ujejski,

75 ZwB Fremdsprachl. Philologien/ TB Großbritannien-Zentrum, call number A 847/1.

76 ZwB Fremdsprachl. Philologien/ TB Großbritannien-Zentrum, call number KO 8649 U33. The highest number of underlinings and marks on the side of the text can be found in chapter III.1 about Malczewski's style and language (pp. 319-331).

77 A. Brückner, 'Przedmowa', in: A. Malczewski, *Marja. Powieść ukraińska*. With an introduction and explanations by Aleksander Brückner, Lwów 1925, pp. V-VI.

78 Ibidem, p. VI.

which is missing not only from his collection but also from the current collection of the Faculty of Foreign Philologies library in Berlin.

Based on an initial review of ca. 50 volumes from Brückner's library, we may adopt a working hypothesis that the repeatedly occurring traces of the books having been read indicate that Brückner marked passages that interested him or added notes rather sparingly. The most frequent are short lines on the side or underlining of single words or terms, less often of entire sentences or paragraphs, marked usually with coloured, red and blue crayons, or ordinary pencils. He frequently corrected in the margins typographical mistakes and concepts used, in his view, improperly. It is worth noting in addition that Brückner would insert in his books multiple internal references, e.g., between two specific passages in the text or between the index at the end of the book and the corresponding place in the text. Occasionally, he would also add a missing concept to the index or glossary, along with the corresponding page number. However, it is relatively rare to encounter in Brückner's books substantial remarks added in the margins to comment or complete a given passage of the text. Most often, Brückner would express his doubts with a simple question mark written on the side of the text. Still, we must emphasize that these are only initial impressions, which would have to be carefully verified and confirmed in a more detailed and comprehensive analysis of Brückner's library legacy.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Research into Brückner's library legacy will undoubtedly provide us with new and enhanced insights into his scholarly biography, research, and social and academic environment. The importance of this legacy for further studies is even greater because Brückner's proper personal archive probably no longer exists, as it appears to have been destroyed shortly after his death. Regarding his personal library, it is necessary to determine its total size, despite the already considerable number of copies (1,173) identified as po-

tentially belonging to Brückner (including the 529 confirmed as his). The most significant problems here are that the corresponding acquisition record book is missing, and it was not customary for Brückner himself to mark his books with a sign of ownership. For these reasons, identification of further books from Brückner's library, not listed in the available acquisition records, will be possible only in case of volumes containing an inscription or marginalia, or other traces of having been read that could be explicitly attributed to Brückner.

Despite these and other reservations mentioned previously in the paper, it is advisable to present Brückner's library as it is currently known, without waiting for the final figures determining its size. 1° The fact alone of the existence of Brückner's library, which was for many years unknown, could provide today a new impulse for the study of the professor's personality and his writings. Although the presented figures are not yet final, they paint a realistic image of the book collection. 2° The final shape and size of Brückner's library legacy will become known, for already listed reasons, only after in-depth research and the identification of books listed in the missing acquisition record are performed, which may require several years of work. Once a comprehensive image of the collection is achieved, plans can be made to compile a catalogue of Brückner's private library or to provide digital access to those of his books that display traces of having been used.

Translated by Elżbieta Olechowska