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WW II VICISSITUDES OF THE BOOK COLLECTIONS OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LUBLIN (OF ITS CENTRAL LIBRARY AND LIBRARIES OF RESEARCH DEPARTMENTS)

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ABSTRACT

Until the outbreak of WW II the book collection of the Catholic University of Lublin (KUL) had contained over 80,000 volumes, mainly acquired as donations and legal deposits, as well as in exchanges. Apart from the Central Library, located at 4 Dolnej Panny Marii Street, there also operated libraries of research departments (seminars), intrinsically connected with the University's teaching resources.

Following the capture of Lublin by the Germans in autumn 1939, KUL's Central Library was controlled by the invaders' authorities. In 1941, it was incorporated into the Staatsbibliothek Lublin, however, thanks to the endeavours of Emilia Szeliga-Szeligowska the collection as such remained at its pre-war premises, effectively avoiding dispersion. Regrettably, the collections of research departments whose activity was stopped suffered a different destiny, as the collections were either partially destroyed or seized by Poland's occupying forces.

The paper is composed of three sections: the first one shows the situation of the Central Library and seminar libraries following the outbreak of WW II: their devastation and interruption of the operations; the second discusses the structure and functioning of the Staatsbibliothek Lublin, with a particular focus on the role played by KUL's Central Library as its branch; the third section is dedicated to the post-WW II efforts to recuperate the collection, partially, for example, from the H. Łopaciński Library, and the attempts to assess the war losses. As a result of the war and occupation the Central Library lost 5,468 volumes (about 6% of its pre-war assets), while the losses suffered by research department libraries stand at 8,256 volumes (33.4%).

The paper is based on a thorough source query, including e.g., library inventories, war loss surveys, witnesses' testimonies, recollections of KUL's staff and of the librarians of the Staatsbibliothek Lublin. This allows at least a partial reconstruction of the war developments and losses, while also indicating potential directions of the further research.

KEYWORDS: University Library of the Catholic University of Lublin, Staatsbibliothek Lublin, WW II – fate of book collections, library inventories, war losses

Introduction

The library collection meant to serve the planned University of Lublin was initially amassed in Petrogrod beginning in February 1918, while at the same time the collection was being inventoried and catalogued. This was happening in the course of the Russian Revolution and in the last months of WW I. However, the book collection reached Lublin only in 1925, only partly; this was in fact possible due to of the restitution of Polish cultural heritage conducted following the Peace of Riga. Regrettably, the catalogues and inventories put together in Russia, which could help today fully assess the losses suffered at that stage, have disappeared.

Throughout the whole inter-war period the Library of the Catholic University of Lublin was located at 4 Dolnej Panny Marii Street, in the building of the former Bernardine Monastery. In 1939, it boasted 77,821 catalogued volumes of books and periodicals, as well as 2,775 special collection items, including 15 incunabula and 122 manuscripts.[1] There also existed substantial uncatalogued resources, mainly the majority of the book collection brought from Petrogrod. The collection was predominantly composed of donated or exchanged volumes, as well as legal deposits, with only a minority of the books acquired through planned purchases.

The Library was headed by Director Fr Prof. Henryk Insadowski (1888–1946), who represented the institution externally. It was, however, Emilia Szeliga-Szeligowska (1878–1954), the organizer and long-standing guardian of the collection, employed as the only full-time librarian, who actually ran the Library.[2] There were also five other ladies employed as so-called 'library assistants', while the position of the caretaker and storeman was taken by one technical worker.[3]

Apart from the Central Library, the University building in Racławicka Avenue housed at least 30 libraries of research departments, colloquially referred to as seminar libraries. The total volume of those, assessed on the grounds of the surveys conducted in June and July 1945, stood at around 25,000 volumes.[4] Their actual

1 R. Gustaw, W. Nowodworski, 'Dwadzieścia lat Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej KUL (1939–1958)', *Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne* 1960, vol. 1, No. 2, p. 133; E. Szeliga-Szeligowska in a note addressed to the National Library dated 16 December 1946 gives slightly different data: 'The number of books together with periodicals: 75,733 volumes, 15 incunabula, 112 manuscripts, 1,376 musical documents, 1,328 maps; (not including duplicates and KUL's publications)'. - University Library of the Catholic University of Lublin [below: BU KUL]. MS 2084, *Papiery Emilii Szeliga-Szeligowskiej, pierwszej pracowniczki i kierowniczki Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej KUL (†1954)*, Vol. 2, *Luźne notatki z działalności w Bibliotece Uniwersyteckiej KUL w latach 1923–1951. Notatki bibliotekarskie*, k. 34.

2 J. Jaźwierska, 'Szeliga-Szeligowska Emilia', in: *Encyklopedia 100-lecia KUL*, ed. E. Gigilewicz, vol. 2, Lublin 2018, pp. 428–429.

3 R. Gustaw, W. Nowodworski, op. cit., pp. 133–134; D. Dzierzkowska, 'Biblioteka Główna Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego 1918–1939', *Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne* 1964, vol. 8, pp. 187–242.

4 J. Nastalska-Wiśnicka, *Biblioteka Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego Jana Pawła II. Kronika stulecia 1918–2018*, Lublin 2020, p. 41.

size ranged from several dozen to over 3,000 volumes respectively. Owing to a substantial distance between the Central Library and the University building, the seminar libraries played a major role in the teaching process: they amassed manuals, basic sources, and guides essential for students and teachers.[5] In harmony with the 1924 regulations it was possible to lend to them books from the Central Library for an indefinite period of time.[6]

The present paper aims at showing the war history of the book collections of the Catholic University of Lublin within the context of the operations of the Staatsbibliothek Lublin. The functioning of the latter German institution has been already discussed by Zdzisław Kowalski (on Lublin libraries under the occupation)[7] and Zdzisław Bieleń (on the H. Łopaciński Voivodeship Library during WW II[8]). Their conclusions remain valid as for the overall characterization of the German State Library, however their discussion as such does not focus on the history of the KUL Library; furthermore, neither does it consider a broader source documentation available only after the publication of the study *Biblioteki naukowe w Generalnym Gubernatorstwie w latach 1939–1945* [Scientific and Academic Libraries in the General Government in 1939–1945] compiled by Andrzej Mężyński in cooperation with Hanna Łaskarzewska (Warszawa 2003).[9] Containing e.g., German official documentation, the publication allows to locate the history of KUL's book collection within a broader context of the invaders' policy regarding libraries in general. What proves particularly vital for the present discus-

5 B. Koszałka, 'Biblioteki zakładowe Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego', *Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne* 1971, vol. 23, p. 180.

6 University Archive of the Catholic University of Lublin [below: AU KUL]. Biblioteka Uniwersytecka. *Regulamin Bibljoteki Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego*, Lublin 18 December 1924.

7 Z. Kowalski, 'Biblioteki lubelskie w okresie okupacji hitlerowskiej', *Folia Bibliologica* 1986/1987, vols. 34/35, pp. 127–145.

8 Z. Bieleń, 'Biblioteka im. Hieronima Łopacińskiego w okresie wojny i okupacji 1939–1944', *Bibliotekarz Lubelski* 2003, vol. 46, pp. 7–40.

9 *Biblioteki naukowe w Generalnym Gubernatorstwie w latach 1939–1945. Wybór dokumentów źródłowych*, comp. A. Mężyński in cooperation with H. Łaskarzewska, Warszawa 2003.

sion are all the materials directly connected with the Staatsbibliothek Lublin whose part KUL's Library became, including Rudolf Kummer's report from the trip on which he inspected libraries of the General Government or Kutschabsky's reports and letters addressed to General Government's Central Library Directorate.

The elements crucial for the topic tackled here are Emilia Szeliga-Szeligowska's notes recorded on an ongoing basis during the occupation and in the first post-WW II years.[10] Some of them are kept in the Special Collection Department in KUL's University Library (loose notes on the library activities in 1921–1951), others in KUL's Archives (e.g., annual reports on the Library activity submitted to the Vice-chancellor[11]). Prepared in 1944–1951 by Director Prof. Andrzej Wojtkowski (1891–1976), the reports document actions undertaken directly following Lublin's liberation, including the recuperation of the book collections once owned by the research departments from the Łopaciński Library, as well as works on organizing and selecting the collection. Among Wojtkowski's records also his notes on the Staatsbibliothek Lublin, which may have served as the basis for his later article published in *Bibliotekarz,* have been preserved.[12]

Moreover, KUL's University Archive keeps documents of crucial importance for the reconstruction of the war losses KUL's libraries suffered. Those include questionnaires and surveys submitted to the Department of Science and Higher Education and the Office of Compensations and Recoveries of the Ministry of Education,[13] as well as surveys documenting war losses of the libraries of research departments put together in June and July 1945 on Vice-chancel-

10 BU KUL. MS 208A. *Papiery Emilii Szeliga-Szeligowskiej, pierwszej pracowniczki i kierowniczki Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej KUL (†1954).*

11 AU KUL. Fonds: *Biblioteka Uniwersytecka – BU. Sprawozdania roczne Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej KUL 1944–1951.*

12 A. Wojtkowski, 'Biblioteka Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego', *Bibliotekarz* 1946, vol. 13, nos. 8–9, p. 184.

13 AU KUL. Fonds: Kancelaria Rektora - KR Dokumenty dotyczące szkód wojennych i Komisji Badań Zbrodni Niemieckich [1945–1946].

lor's order.[14] Although often incomplete, they are an important testimony to the attempts at estimating the losses when the memory of the recent war and occupation was still vivid, while the information and witnesses were still relatively widely available.

The inventories of the Central Library of KUL: nine volumes with the entries made until the end of August 1939 and the *Inventory Catalogue: Section VI* survived the war undamaged. They contain e.g., notes on the losses, including the books requisitioned by the Nazis.[15]

An essential complement to the overall picture can be found in the recollections of the individuals who directly suffered the Nazi occupation. What can be found of particular relevance are Maria Kunowska's records published in the *Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne* periodical[16] and the book *Losy pracowników i studentów Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego w okresie okupacji niemieckiej* [Experiences of KUL's Employees and Students during the Nazi Occupation],[17] as well as the recollections of Henryk Zins, one of the Library readers at the time.[18] Moreover, what can be regarded as important are the accounts collected by Remigiusz Moszyński and Leopold Policha in the volume titled *Lublin w okresie okupacji (1939–1944)* [Occupied Lublin (1939–1944)], stemming from the testimonies given to the Municipal Commission in Lublin to Investigate the German Crimes, also containing elements related to Lublin libraries.[19] Some precious unpublished materials concerning the Staatsbibliothek Lublin are available in the H. Łopaciński Voivodeship Public Library. Among other records, they contain

14 AU KUL. Fonds: *Kancelaria Rektora – KR Biblioteki Zakładowe, 1945–1952.*

15 BU KUL. *Oddział Opracowania Druków Zwartych Nowych. Inwentarz Biblioteki KUL*, vols. I–IX, [*1918–1939*]; *Katalog inwentarzowy – Dział VI.*

16 M. Kunowska, 'Wspomnienia o bibliotekach lubelskich z okresu okupacji niemieckiej 1939-1944', *Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne* 1971, vol. 23, pp. 198–208.

17 Idem, 'Przeżycia okupacyjne studentek wychowanek KUL', in: *Losy pracowników i studentów Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego w okresie okupacji niemieckiej*, comp. J. Ziółek, Lublin 2009, pp. 107–218.

18 H. Zins, *Przez epoki i kontynenty*, Lublin 1996.

19 R. Moszyński, L. Policha, *Lublin w okresie okupacji (1939–1944)*, Lublin 1948; 2nd edition. *Lublin w okresie okupacji (1939–1944). Na podstawie badań sądowych Miejskiej Komisji Badania Zbrodni Hitlerowskich*, Lublin 1964.

minutes from the post-war meetings of the Club of Former Staatsbibliothek Employees, lists of staff, questionnaires filled in by the former employees, who were all women, and photographs from the war times. The amassed collection is a unique source for the knowledge of the functioning of the institution and the role the Polish employees played in it.[20] Although put together following WW II and resembling memoir sources, tainted with the risk of subjectivism and idealizing one's own experiences, it remains an extremely precious testimony to the everyday reality of the occupied country and the memory of the events' protagonists.

1. The First Months of WW II and the Occupation (1939–1940)

1.1. CENTRAL LIBRARY

In September 1939, Lublin was heavily bombarded twice. A substantial number of residents were killed and numerous buildings destroyed.[21] The damage did not spare KUL's Library; as recalled by Maria Kunowska, on 9 September, a high-explosive bomb hit the Library storage, fortunately, not causing destruction to the book collection.[22]

Despite the fierce defence of the city, particularly in the vicinity of the University buildings and the Bobolanum, German troops entered Lublin early in the morning of 18 September.[23] The control of the city was taken over by the German occupation administration headed by the military commander of the city. The Library employees focused mainly on the elimination of the damage caused by the bombardment. As the damage proved relatively irrelevant,

20 Hieronim Łopaciński Voivodeship Public Library in Lublin [below: WPBŁ]. Call No. 2383 Pol. *1941–1987. Materiały dotyczące historii Staatsbibliothek w Lublinie i jej pracowników w latach 1941–1944*.

21 Z. Mańkowski, 'Lublin w latach wojny i okupacji (1939–1944)', in: *Lublin 1917–1967*, ed. H. Zins, Lublin 1967, p. 184.

22 M. Kunowska, 'Wspomnienia o bibliotekach lubelskich…', op. cit., p. 199.

23 T. Radzik, 'W okresie okupacji niemieckiej 1939–1944', in: T. Radzik, W. Śladkowski, G. Wójcikowski, W. Wójcikowski, *Lublin. Dzieje miasta*. Vol. 2, *XIX i XX wiek*, Lublin 2000, p. 242.

it was possible to resume sharing books with readers who at that point still continued to flock into the reading room.[24]

The situation began to slowly change beginning on 26 October 1939 when the General Government was formed. The former Lublin Voivodeship was transformed into a district headed by a governor residing in Lublin.[25] Initially, the Nazi authorities were planning to form a so-called Jewish reserve in the Lublin region, yet in April 1940, they changed their mind transforming the area into a settlement territory for the German population. As a consequence, the previous residents, namely Poles, were relocated.[26] Furthermore, the Institute of German Eastern Labour was established; its task was, among other things, to prove 'Germanic roots' of Lublin. One of the tools to implement that policy was to be libraries, which, almost all immediately, became property of the Propaganda Department at the Office of the head of the Lublin District (later governor).[27]

Gestapo officials appeared in the KUL Library as early as on 18 November 1939. They thoroughly scrutinized the book collection, assessing their usefulness for their purposes.[28] All the Library staff except for Emilia Szeliga-Szeligowska were dismissed; she retained the position as the individual who knew both librarian's tools and the book collection's content. However, as she mentions herself, she was '... continuously followed, guarded, and threatened with harsh imprisonment'.[29]

24 M. Kunowska, 'Wspomnienia o bibliotekach lubelskich...', op. cit., p. 199.

25 The following individuals subsequently served as governors: Friedrich Schmidt (until February 1940), Dr Ernst Zörner (until 22 April 1943), Warsaw's Governor Fischer (only several days by appointment), and Dr Reinhardt Wendler (from 28 April 1943 until the war's end). See: Z. Mańkowski, op. cit., p. 187.

26 Idem, 'Lata wojny i okupacji 1939–1944', in: *Dzieje Lubelszczyzny*, Vol. 1, ed. T. Mencel, Warszawa 1974, pp. 811–814.

27 J. Kasperek, *Kronika wydarzeń w Lublinie w okresie okupacji hitlerowskiej*, 2nd edition, Lublin 1989, pp. 5, 7.

28 M. Kunowska, 'Wspomnienia o bibliotekach lubelskich...', op. cit., p. 199.

29 AU KUL. E. Szeligowska, [*Nota*]. Fonds: *Sprawozdania roczne Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej KUL 1944–1951*, l. 1.

The invaders' administration also assigned a German female official (her name has not been preserved; she was possibly the later secretary at the Staatsbibliothek: Heddy Huber, or one of two German women employed as of 1941 as 'library assistants'[30]), whose task was to put together a list of German works and periodicals meant to be transferred to the occupation administration. Eventually, the publications in question reached the later founded Staatsbibliothek Lublin.[31] At the same time the ban on borrowing books outside the library was introduced, which, however, the Germans were exempt from. As later recalled by Kazimiera Gawarecka, who headed the works in the Hieronim Łopaciński Library, 'she was visited by random Germans who would pick various books for themselves as "souvenirs"'.[32] A similar situation may have happened at the KUL Library. This is pointed to by the notes left by Szeliga-Szeligowska in the 'Taken by the

Germans' inventory: [33] 'Taken by Dr. Federsohn [Feddersen's name misspelled] with no call slip', [34] 'Borrowed by Mr Hannemann – unreturned'. [35]

At first, the occupation administration allowed Poles to use the book collection. It was only upon the order of Gustav Abb, Chief of the Central Library Directorate at the General Government, issued in early 1942, that the rule was introduced for exclusively the Germans and their allies to be granted access to book collections. [36]

1.2. LIBRARIES OF RESEARCH DEPARTMENTS

In the first weeks following the capture of Lublin by German troops, the invaders did not act in a synchronized manner: it was

30 Z. Bieleń, op. cit., p. 24.

31 A. Wojtkowski, 'Biblioteka Katolickiego Uniwersytetu…, op. cit., p. 184.

32 [M. Gawarecka], 'Protokół No. 480', in: R. Moszyński, L. Policha, *Lublin w okresie okupacji (1939–1944). Na podstawie badań sądowych Miejskiej Komisji Badania Zbrodni Hitlerowskich*, Lublin 1964, p. 125.

33 BU KUL. Library Inventory Vol. I, 437.

34 BU KUL. Library Inventory Vol. IV, 264.

35 BU KUL. Library Inventory Vol. IV, 283.

36 R. Gustaw, W. Nowodworski, op. cit., p. 135.

a transitory period during which military and police forces were only identifying their competences and operation manner.[37] Although the persecutions of Polish intelligentsia were launched really promptly, the authorities of the Catholic University of Lublin attempted at starting the new academic year. Its opening took place on 6 October 1939, without asking for permission for the act from the invaders.[38] Sessions of faculty boards were summoned, however, the resolutions adopted during them were never implemented. Already in September 1939, the majority of the University building in Racławicka Avenue was seized by the German troops. Vice-chancellor Fr Antoni Szymański submitted a petition to the occupation administration to locate an education-related office in the building, and not to assign military purposes to it. Regrettably, his request was declined. The University was left only the eastern wing of the edifice, housing, among others, some libraries of research departments and rooms used for some time by the academic staff and students for foreign language courses. These facilities were not separated from those occupied by the army: the soldiers never stopped pacing this part of the building, treating its furnishing as public property.[39] Upon the arrival of cold weather, German troops began heating up the part of the premises they occupied using furniture, equipment, and books as combustible. This is reported in testimonies and questionnaire documentation concerning the losses of the libraries of the Faculty of Humanities[40] and the Faculty of Philosophy.[41] In this very manner several entire bookcases with medical books meant for the Medical Fac-

37 Z. Mańkowski, op. cit., p. 186; T. Radzik, op. cit., p. 244.

38 Ibidem, p. 267.

39 J. Trzebińska, 'Protokół przesłuchania świadka', in: *Działalność Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego w czasie okupacji*. (*Relacje i dokumenty*), preface and ed. J. Ziółek, Lublin 1983, pp. 31–33.

40 AU KUL. Note dated 15 June 1945, Fonds: Vice-chancellor's Office – Libraries of research departments. Libraries of Research Departments of the Faculty of Humanities 1945–1952.

41 AU KUL. Submission of damages and losses of the Library of the Philosophy Seminar of KUL in Lublin.

ulty, planned for launch in the academic year 1940/1941, were destroyed.[42] KUL's authorities tried to appeal to Major Rubekeil, commander of the battalion stationed in the University building, and to Colonel Dietmar, commander of the city, however, in vain. The building's furnishing and equipment continued to be destroyed. [43] On 9 November 1939, Vice-chancellor Fr Prof. Antoni Szymański was arrested, and so were other professors present in the building two days later. On 17 November, the University was officially closed down, while the whole of the building was entirely taken over by the Wehrmacht. In the following months it housed barracks and subsequently a military hospital.[44] The book collections of research departments and professors' private book collections were used as combustible, and some were plundered (among others, trade journals disappeared). The remains of those were finally deposited in one of the professors' flats located in the attic of the University building. This is recalled in the testimonies of Professors Ignacy Czuma (1891–1963) and Fr Piotr Kałwa (1893–1974), future Bishop of Lublin.[45] In March 1940, an intervention was made by the archival departments at the Office of the Governor of the Lublin District, which finally put an end to the further destruction carried out by the troops. With an immense input of Emilia Szeliga-Szeligowska, who contributed greatly to saving the book collection, a part of it was transferred to the Hieronim Łopaciński Library and a part to KUL's Central Library.[46] The rescued book collection constituted merely a fragment of the pre-war collections of research departments. Moreover, almost all of their furnishing was destroyed: book shelves, tables, chairs, bookcases, and cata-

42 A. Wojtkowski, 'Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski', *Ateneum Kapłańskie* 1946, yr. 38, vol. 45, p. 301.

43 J. Ziółek, 'Wstęp', in: *Działalność Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego*, p. 10; I. Czuma, 'Protokół z przesłuchania świadka', in: ibidem, p. 25.

44 J. Kasperek, op. cit., pp. 33–34; A. Wojtkowski, 'Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski', op. cit., pp. 300–301; J. Ziółek, op. cit., p. 20.

45 J. Ziółek, op. cit., p. 13; I. Czuma, op. cit., p. 27; P. Kałwa, 'Protokół przesłuchania świadka', in: *Działalność Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego*, op. cit., p. 31.

46 A. Wojtkowski, 'Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski', op. cit., p. 301.

logue cabinets, the fact which later significantly hampered the organizing and registering of the preserved collections.[47]

1.3. KUL'S BOOK COLLECTION'S DISPLACEMENT, SELECTION, AND LOSSES IN 1940

In July 1940, the Department of Economic Affairs was established at the Governor's Office of the Lublin District; it was headed by Josef Brandl, Doctor of Laws, Nazi Party member, mastermind of economic plundering across the General Government.[48] His name frequently reappears in the context of the war history of Lublin libraries, since immediately following his assumption of the post an organized process of displacing their collections was started. Those who implemented the actions were: the German librarian Herbert Feddersen[49] and the archaeologist Lev Čikalenko (1888–1965) who came from Ukraine. [50] The collections of various academic and cultural institutions, including KUL, were transferred to the Hieronim Łopaciński Library and the Lublin Museum at 4 Narutowicza Street renamed to Theatergasse. As distinct from the previous actions of the military, the Nazi administration demonstrated a higher awareness of the value of Polish scientific and cultural heritage. Thus, its further destruction was stopped, and what began at that point was selection, cataloguing, and securing of valuable items.[51] What the invaders found particularly interesting were manuscripts, incunabula, and books in historic

47 Z. Goliński, 'Protokół przesłuchania świadka', in: *Działalność Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego*, p. 40.

48 Josef Brandl (1901–1991), doctoral degree, a lawyer. Following the war he was hiding under a false name; as of 1954 he worked in Koblenz; later, he was an advisor at the Ministry of Defence and at the Federal Ministry of Atomic Affairs; in 1961-1968, he managed the National Centre for Nuclear Research in Karlsruhe. - 'Dr jur. Josef Brandl', in: B.A. Rusinek, *Der Fall Greifeld, Karlsruhe. Wissenschaftsmanagement und NS-Vergangenheit*, Karlsruhe 2019, pp. 289–314.

49 In Emilia Szeliga-Szeligowska's records he features as Federson, or Federsohn. – BU KUL. MS 208A, Fonds 2, l. 47: [E. Szeliga-Szeligowska to the publishers of *Przegląd Biblioteczny* in Krakow of 5 October 1946]

50 In Emilia Szeliga-Szeligowska's records he features as Czekalenko. – Ibidem.

51 Z. Bieleń, op. cit., p. 11.

bindings.[52] Ernst Zörner, Governor of the Lublin District, personally sought after the pieces of high artistic and collector value.[53]

The largest losses in the book collection of the Central Library of KUL date precisely from 1939-1940. During that period, among other things, some 18th-century uncatalogued volumes were confiscated; according to the account of Library's post-war Director Andrzej Wojtkowski, their number amounted to about 800 volumes. Since no titles were recorded, their identification is impossible.[54]

However, a part of the losses were documented in detail. In one of E. Szeligowska's notes from 1940 we read as follows: '58 works, 126 volumes taken to the Government (Germany, 1940)'.[55] The majority of them were meticulously recorded by her also in Library inventories. The works in question were predominantly in German. They concerned history of the Reich,[56] history of Russia,[57] culture,[58] literature,[59] the Church and Christianity,[60] philosophy,[61] law,[62]

52 Hugo Andres Krüss, President of the Reich's Council for Libraries to the Minister of Science, Education, and Folk Education of the Reich. Berlin, 23 Feb. 1940. Annexe 1. 'Charakterystyka i zestawienie liczbowe zbiorów inkunabułów polskich wykonane przez Kurta Ohly'ego z Pruskiej Biblioteki Państwowej w Berlinie. Berlin, 20.02.1940', in: *Biblioteki naukowe...*, op. cit., p. 21.

53 [M. Gawarecka], 'Protokół No. 480...', op. cit., p. 200.

54 AU KUL. BU. A. Wojtkowski, *Biblioteka Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego. Typescript*. Fonds: *Biblioteka Uniwersytecka. Sprawozdania roczne Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej KUL 1944–1951*; Idem, 'Biblioteka Katolickiego Uniwersytetu...', op. cit., p. 184.

55 MS 208A. Vol. 2., l. 34.

56 BU KUL. Library Inventory Vol. I, l. 312 – J.B. Kissling, *Geschichte des Kulturkampfes im Deutschen Reiche*, Freiburg 1922; Vol. II, l. 524 – J. Fuller, *Bismarck's Diplomacy at its Zenith*, Cambridge 1922; Vol. 4, l. 74 – J. Janssen, *Geschichte des deutschen Volkes seit des Dreissigjährigen Krieges*, Freiburg im Bresgau 1882–1899.

57 BU KUL. Library Inventory Vol. VII, l. 174 – J.F. Ewers, *Kritische Vorarbeiten zur Geschichte der Russen*, Dorpat 1814.

58 BU KUL. Library Inventory Vol. II, l. 112 – C. Faulmann, *Illustrirte Culturgeschichte für Leser aller Stände*, Wien 1881.

59 BU KUL. Library Inventory Vol. II, 530 – H. Nitschmann, *Geschichte der politischen Litteratur*, Leipzig 1882.

60 BU KUL. Library Inventory Vol. IV, l. 69 – G. Esser und J. Mausbach, *Religion, Christentum, Kirche*, Kempten 1912.

61 BU KUL. Library Inventory Vol. VII, l. 343 – C.J. Weber, *Demokritos oder hinterlassene Papiere eines Pachenden Philosophen*, Berlin 1882.

62 BU KUL. Library Inventory Vol. VII, l. 388 – P. Lande, *Allgemeine Landrecht für die Preussischen Staaten*, Berlin 1888.

art,[63] politics and administration,[64] as well as antiquity.[65] Among the confiscated items there were also pieces of classical literature in German and English,[66] as well as works by ancient writers.[67] The title selection suggests that the constructed book collection – possibly with the Staatsbibliothek Lublin, created later, in mind, was to be of a universal character (hence the world literature classical titles) and respond to the needs of German scientists who were aiming at demonstrating the Germanic roots of the occupied territories.[68]

From the very beginning of the Nazi occupation it was Emilia Szeliga-Szeligowska who made efforts to protect some parts of the collection. Perfectly aware of the danger she was in due to the presence of German readers in the reading room, she would hide valuable encyclopaedias and other precious volumes. The following is what we can read in one of her post-war accounts:

> In 1940, the Library was visited by President of the Association of German Librarians Mr Ab[b]. He was interested in the books placed in the Reading Room German readers used on a daily basis and borrowed. In order to try to save them it was necessary to gradually transfer them to storages and camouflage their absence with less valuable publications.[69]

At the same time, numerous entries in pencil began to appear in all the library inventory volumes from that period: 'Not re-

63 BU KUL. Library Inventory Vol. II, l. 534 – I. Lermolieff, *Die Galerien Borghese und Dorie Panfili in Rom*, Leipzig 1890; Idem, Die *Galerien zu München und Dresden*, Leipzig 1891.

64 BU KUL. Library Inventory Vol. III, l. 355 – B. Schultz, *Hilfsbuch zur Einführung in die Praxis der österreichischen politischen Verwaltung*, Wien 1908.

65 BU KUL, Library Inventory Vol. II, l. 534 – I. Madvig, *Die Verfassung und Verwaltung des Römischen Staates*, Leipzig 1882; Vol. II, l. 478 – M. Duncker, *Geschichte des Alterthums*, Leipzig 1878-1882.

66 BU KUL. Library Inventory Vol. IX, l. 356 – W. Shakespeare, *The Dramatic Works*, London 1831.

67 BU KUL. Library Inventory Vol. IX, l. 346 – Crispus Caius Sallustrius, *Werke*, Stuttgart 1855.

68 WBPŁ. Call No. 2383. A. Dołowska, D. Podobińska-Riabinin, *Materiały dotyczące historii Staatsbibliothek w Lublinie w latach 1941–1944*, l. 2.

69 MS 208A. Vol. 1., l. 10 v: To the Management of KUL's Central Library in Szopena Street.

turned from the University in 1940'.[70] These referred to the books borrowed to the seminar libraries before the war and unreturned to the Central Library. Some of them had been destroyed before the autumn of 1939, the remaining ones, as has been mentioned above, were transferred in 1940 to the building of the Hieronim Łopaciński Voivodeship Library (serving later as the Headquarters of the Staatsbibliothek Lublin); it was only following the end of WWII that attempts were made to retrieve them from there.

2. Within the Structure of the Staatsbibliothek Lublin

2.1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GERMAN STATE LIBRARY

In July 1940, the Central Library Directorate (Hauptverwaltung der Bibliotheken Generalgouvernement) was established at the Office of the Governor General in Krakow, with above-mentioned Gustav Abb (1886–1945), formerly Director of the University Library in Berlin and of the newly-founded Staatsbibliothek Krakau at its head.[71] The purpose of the new structure was to organize a German network of state libraries which would collect materials useful

70 BU KUL. Library Inventory Vol. I, folia: 4, 6–7, 10-11, 15, 16, 18, 20, 23, 26, 32, 34, 43, 52–53, 78, 84, 90, 92–93, 99, 107, 130–132, 135, 170, 172, 177, 179–180, 187, 189, 191, 193, 200, 248, 252–253, 256, 260, 262, 264–265, 274–275, 284, 288, 301, 305, 307, 313, 315, 319, 320, 321, 332, 341, 344, 345, 348–349, 358, 360, 361, 362, 365, 383, 423–424, 427–428, 438–439, 453, 457, 459, 469, 478, 483, 484, 492, 497, 509, 521, 528, 537, 542, 543, 547, 548, 553, 566, 570–571, 578-579, 592, 593, 594, 602–603, 619, 629, 633, 637, 644, 648, 656, 657, 682, 683; Vol. II, l. 19–20, 22–23, 31–32, 49, 51–55, 57–76, 78–84, 86–89, 96, 105, 107, 116, 125, 148, 172, 186–187, 191, 208–209, 220, 245, 272–273, 278, 281, 296–297, 309–310, 313, 324–325, 339, 342, 357, 361, 368, 373, 377, 394, 421, 454, 469–471, 476, 480, 483, 487, 489, 498, 509, 513, 517, 524, 577; Vol. III, folia 32, 57, 63, 81, 89, 91, 93, 99, 118, 149, 262–263, 269, 272, 274, 277, 282, 292–293, 313, 320, 358–360, 362–365, 367–369, 382, 387–388, 401–403, 405–408, 410, 414, 416, 420, 449, 475, 484, 491, 493, 496, 499, 552–553, 574; Vol. IV, l. 2, 6, 9, 65, 88, 93, 121, 168, 311, 326, 336, 347, 396; Vol. VI, folia 122, 280, 284, 294; Vol. VII, folia 10, 37, 40, 109, 116, 176, 178, 185, 200, 204–206, 266, 278, 283, 299, 315–319, 345, 347, 349, 355, 366; Vol. VIII, 15, 21, 45, 70, 74, 247, 251, 269, 278, 285, 291, 309, 325, 343, 346, 384, 397; Vol. IX, 24, 42, 161, 179, 226, 393, 395, 402, 405, 413, 414, 416, 427.

71 Gustaw Abb (1886–1945), a German librarian, a Nazi; Director of the University Library in Berlin; from May 1940, head of the Central Library Directorate at the Department of Knowledge and Science at the Administration of the General Government and Director of the Staatsbibliothek Krakau.

from the point of view of the academic, propaganda, and administrative interests of the Reich.[72]

At that time, the transfer of the book collections confiscated from Lublin institutions to the building at 4 Theatergasse, assigned as the home to the Staatsbibliothek Lublin, was already in progress. In his recommendation dated 29 July 1940 addressed to the Ministry of Education in Berlin Abb pointed to Lublin as the city of 'German character' in which another state library, following that in Warsaw and Krakow, should be founded.[73] However, the official opening of the Staatsbibliothek Lublin took place only on 18 January 1942 in the presence of Governor Ernst Zörner.[74]

It was Vasil Kutschabsky, a historian and former Director of the Library of the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (Institut für Weltwirtschaft zu Kiel) who was appointed to temporarily head it.[75] He officially assumed the post of the Director on 1 April 1941. Józef Grycz wrote about him to Adam Łysakowski: '... a Germanized Ukrainian, but not excessively dangerous'.[76] The women employed at the Staatsbibliothek recalled him as an individual characterized 'by a high personal ethos, manners when dealing with other people, and exceptional friendliness towards the employees, both Poles and Jews'.[77]

The actual organizing of the German State Library was launched in July 1941. Eberhard Rietschel was appointed Kutschabsky's deputy.[78] The institution employed 42 individuals of Polish national-

72 [G. Abb], 'Plan organizacyjny Głównego Zarządu Bibliotek w GG', [no place given] 1 October 1942, in: *Biblioteki naukowe...*, op. cit., pp. 127–129. J. Nastalska-Wiśnicka, op. cit., p. 22.

73 AU KUL. Biblioteka Uniwersytecka. [A. Wojtkowski, *Notatka o Staatsbibliothek Lublin*]. Fonds: *Sprawozdania roczne Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej KUL 1944–1951.*

74 'Lublin. Otwarcie Biblioteki Państwowej', *Nowy Kurier Warszawski* 1942, No. 21 (24-25 I), p. 2.

75 WBPŁ. Call No. 2383. A. Dołowska, D. Podobińska-Riabinin, op. cit.; M. Kunowska, 'Wspomnienia o bibliotekach lubelskich...', op. cit., p. 200.

76 'List Józefa Grycza do Adama Łysakowskiego, Warszawa, 12.04.1942 r.' , in: *Biblioteki naukowe...*, op. cit., p. 243.

77 WBPŁ. Call No. 2383. A. Dołowska, D. Podobińska-Riabinin, op. cit., l. 2.

78 'Sprawozdanie Rudolfa Kummera z podróży inspekcyjnej po bibliotekach GG w dn. 17–26.03.1943', in: *Biblioteki naukowe...*, op. cit., p. 159.

ity, females in their majority. The job provided minimum security: it prevented deportation as forced labour.[79] The staff were trained to catalogue in harmony with the so-called Prussian instruction; the trainee Hanna Pliszczyńska, however, actually also introduced elements of the Polish cataloguing methodology according to Józef Grycz's script, secretly teaching the employees also the Polish cataloguing instructions.[80]

Among other departments, the Staatsbibliothek Lublin contained the following: of accession (Akzession), alphabetical catalogue (Alphabetischer Katalog), early-printed books (Alte Drucken), inventory (Inventar), technical department (Technische Abteilung: responsible for disinfection, binding, labels), also the lending library and a reading room (Ausleihe und Lesesaal), intended exclusively for the Germans.[81] Books were processed in the building at 4 Theatergasse: the cataloguing of non-serial publications was headed by Hanna Pliszczyńska, while that of periodicals by Maria Kunowska. The publications bore so-called 'Signatur Abb', thus they were stamped with the 'Staatsbibliothek Lublin' rubber stamp as supervised by the Secretary Heddy Huber; furthermore, the publications were classified in harmony with the subject scheme as provided by Kutschabsky.[82]

At the moment of the official opening the collection of the Staatsbibliothek Lublin was estimated at 400,000[83] or 500,000 volumes,[84] with some accounts claiming that the number stood at 800,000.[85] According to the information Kutschabsky had, the book collec-

79 M. Kunowska, 'Wspomnienia o bibliotekach lubelskich…', op. cit., p. 200; Idem, 'Przeżycia okupacyjne studentek…', op. cit., pp. 211–213.

80 Z. Bieleń, op. cit., pp. 23–24.

81 WBPŁ. Call No. 2383. A. Dołowska, D. Podobińska-Riabinin, op. cit., folia 4–5.

82 M. Kunowska, 'Wspomnienia o bibliotekach lubelskich…', op. cit., p. 203.

83 'Staatsbibliothek Lublin mit 400 000 Bänden eröffnet'. Bedeutung und Aufbau der Institute, *Krakauer Zeitung* 1942, Bd. 4, Folge 16, p. 5; *Informacja Wasyla Kutschabsky'ego*, p. 103.

84 J. Rudniańska, 'Biblioteka Publ. im. H. Łopacińskiego', *Bibliotekarz* 1946, yr 13, Nos. 8–9, p. 183.

85 T. Radzik, op. cit., p. 271.

tions fully prepared were those of three major institutions: the KUL Library, Hieronim Łopaciński Library, and the Bobolanum Library, which constituted about half of the total collections' volume.[86] The remaining resources came, for example, from the Jewish Community (including the Chachmei Lublin Yeshiva Library), the Seminary, the District Education Board, schools, bookshops, lending libraries, and numerous private book collections.[87]

Moreover, a substantial part of the collection was composed of the books brought from Germany: by late 1942 they accounted for about 15,000 volumes coming mainly from the Leipzig Harrassowitz and Fritsche Publishing Houses. Among them there were precious reference editions, such as e.g., *Monumenta Germaniae Historica*.[88] The books regarded as of little use were left unprocessed, which contributed to their survival. As a result, the losses of Lublin libraries, including the KUL Library, proved to be smaller than in many other centres of occupied Poland.[89]

2.2. THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LUBLIN WITHIN THE STRUCTURE OF THE STAATSBIBLIOTHEK LUBLIN

As distinct from the majority of institutions contained within the Staatsbibliothek Lublin, the Central Library of KUL as the only one retained almost all of its book collection at its previous location.[90] This was possible thanks to the determined stand and endeavours of Emilia Szeligowska, Wanda Sampolska, and Hanna Pliszczyńska. When talking to Director Kutschabsky they argued

86 *Informacja Wasyla Kutschabsky'ego*, p. 103.

87 AU KUL. [A. Wojtkowski, *Notatka o Staatsbibliothek Lublin*]..., op. cit.; L. Gawarecka, 'Dzieje Biblioteki im. H. Łopacińskiego w Lublinie', in: *Hieronim Łopaciński i Biblioteka jego imienia w Lublinie 1907–1957*, Lublin 1957, p. 155; A. Mężyński, 'Biblioteka im. Hieronima Łopacińskiego w trudnych dniach okupacji', *Bibliotekarz Lubelski* 2000, yr 43, p. 45.

88 AU KUL. Biblioteka Uniwersytecka. [A. Wojtkowski, *Notatka o Staatsbibliothek Lublin*]..., op. cit.

89 J. Rudniańska, op. cit.

90 *Informacja Wasyla Kutschabsky'ego*, p. 104.

that KUL's resource formed a historically shaped integral whole which should not be dispersed.[91] An additional factor which helped that development was an extremely limited space at the headquarters of the Staatsbibliothek Lublin, where additionally the State Archive and a museum were housed.

The person who took care of the Library of KUL's book collection throughout the whole occupation period was Emilia Szeliga-Szeligowska. According to her account, on two occasions she received from Kutschabsky the proposal to 'organize a public library consisting of the book collections that were being taken over'.[92] However, as it was not a 'categorical order', she evaded it so as to remain 'guarding the Central Library of KUL'.[93] Her attitude required much courage due to the visits of the Gestapo and of other German officials; in 1942, during a search materials on the Library prepared for publishing, manuscripts, and notes were confiscated.[94] Precious items were also sought after, most likely the published works by Nicolaus Copernicus. Eventually, what was being looked for was not found, and the most precious early-printed works and manuscripts were successfully saved.[95]

The resources not catalogued before the war were purposefully hidden by Szeligowska so as to prevent their official cataloguing and incorporation into the Staatsbibliothek's book collection. Thanks to this they were not mixed with the German acquisitions, and were spared displacement. It was impossible to accomplish the same with the appropriated about 800 volumes of the 18th-century printed matter and the book collections of research departments mentioned above; these were in their majority taken over, destroyed, or dispersed.[96]

91 WPBŁ. Call No. 2383. A. Dołowska, D. Podobińska-Riabinin, op. cit., l. 2.

92 BU KUL. MS 208A, Fonds 1, l. 4: [*Życiorys Emilii Szeligi-Szeligowskiej z dnia 25 XI 1948 r.*].

93 Ibidem.

94 Ibidem, l. 4.

95 M. Kunowska, 'Wspomnienia o bibliotekach lubelskich…', op. cit., p. 203.

96 Ibidem, p. 202.

In March 1943, an inspection of Lublin libraries was conducted by the emissary of the Central Library Directorate in Krakow Rudolf Kummer (1896–1987), ministerial counsellor within the structures of the General Government. In the report he put together he informed that the Library of the Catholic University of Lublin boasted around 90,000 volumes, and was housed in an old partially ruined monastery. Its book collection was not transferred owing to the lack of adequate substitute premises. [97] Kummer's estimates as for the number of volumes of the Library may have been based on the data provided by Szeligowska in 1941 showing that the catalogued book collection stood at 77,806 volumes (of which 76,148 volumes were physically on the shelves); the number of press year books at 21,020 volumes; manuscripts at 112 library units; incunabula at 15 volumes; maps at 1,200 sheets; atlases at 87 units; musical scores at 1,376 units. In separate records it was reported that in 1940, 135 volumes were taken for Governor Ernst Zörner, while 1,251 volumes lent earlier for the University (namely for the libraries of research departments) and 282 ones lent by readers were not returned to the Central Library.[98] Single volumes were transferred to the Staatsbibliothek's main seat. Notes entered into library inventories show that on 9 April 1942 there were some books taken from the Library: [99] they dealt with the history of ancient Greece and Rome,[100] Byzantine literature, [101] and Latin literature of the Middle Ages.[102] These collections were considered by Kutschabsky

97 *Sprawozdanie Rudolfa Kummera*, p. 158.

98 AU KUL. *Notatki* [years: 1929, 1930, 1931–1932, 1941]. Fonds: Biblioteka Uniwersytecka – BU. Statystyki roczne i sprawozdania.

99 BU KUL. Library Inventory. Vol. II, folia 60, 63–64, 69–70.

100 E.g. H. Blümner, *Die römischen Privataltertümer*, München 1911; W. Christs, *Geschichte der griechischen Litteratur*, München 1913; *Handbuch der Klassischen Altertumswissenschaft in systematischer Darstellung*, München 1913; M. Schanz, *Geschichte der Römischen Litteratur bis zum Gesetzgebung Werk des Kaisers Justinian*, München 1907; W. Windelband, *Geschichte der Antiken Philosophie*, München 1913; G. Wissowa, *Religion und Kultur der Römer*, München 1912.

101 L. Krumbacher, *Geschichte der byzantinischen Litteratur von Justinian bis zum Ende des oströmischen Reiches* (*527–1453*), München 1897.

102 M. Manitius, *Geschichte der lateinischen Literatur des Mittelalters*, München 1911.

as particularly worthy from the point of view of the historical policy implemented by Poland's invaders.

Since the building of the Library of KUL was formally dependant on the Staatsbibliothek Lublin, it also served as a temporary repository for collections plundered from other institutions. It was here that the following were deposited among others: books from the Bobolanum Library, Russian printed materials from the attic of the Staszic Gymnasium, as well as book collections from some secondary schools. As can be read in the accounts of the former Staatsbibliothek staff, this was also the place where the book segregation and cataloguing were conducted.[103]

The former reading room was transformed into a storage. Despite the official ban, thanks to Szeligowska's commitment some parts of the collection were made available to selected trusted Polish readers. Prof. Henryk Zins recalled years later:

> Despite the danger she put herself in, Mrs Szeligowska, very kindly, allowed, however, a small group of young readers to come to the Library storage and spend several hours there daily studying some academic works. It was all done in total secrecy, as we were all aware of the danger this implied.[104]

2.3. THE YEAR 1944 – WINDING DOWN OF THE STAATSBIBLIOTHEK

In the spring of 1944, when faced with the approaching eastern front, the atmosphere of apprehension and preparation for evacuation was increasing among the German staff of the Staatsbibliothek Lublin. All the orders for new books to be provided by suppliers from the Reich were suspended, with the main focus on the selection and securing of the so-far amassed collection. Furthermore, the processing of new acquisitions was reduced in order to re-catalogue older items meant for the use by German readers.[105]

103 WPBŁ. Call No. 2383. Surveys – Janina Matysik, l. 47; Surveys – Irena Rutkowska, l. 2.

104 H. Zins, op. cit., pp. 33–34.

105 'Wasyl Kutschabsky do Głównego Zarządu Bibliotek w GG', [Lublin] 7 June 1944, in: *Biblioteki naukowe…*, op. cit., p. 199.

In March and April 1944, there were 48 chests with books sent to Krakow from the Staatsbibliothek in Lublin weighing in total about 600 kg.[106] According to Andrzej Wojtkowski's report, 90% of them were books purchased by the Germans in 1940–1944.[107] Their evacuation meant to secure the latest acquisitions regarded as particularly valuable from the perspective of the cultural policy of the Third Reich.

Director Vasil Kutschabsky was also planning to take away the most precious collections confiscated previously in Lublin libraries. His intention was to send them to the Staatsbibliothek Warschau, since he worried they might be damaged in the potential warfare in Lublin.[108] He was particularly interested in the Germany-related items found in KUL's Central Library, especially works in history, art, philosophy, law, and social sciences. The selection was conducted in the building at 4 Dolnej Panny Marii Street, while some work, as recorded by Maria Kunowska, was carried out in the building's yard.

> ... the group of the staff sent to Dolnej Panny Marii Street were to inspect one by one all the secured books located in the building of the Library of KUL. Trials to overcome the shortage of room consisted in placing a long table-tennis table in the library courtyard meant to serve as a shared desktop. Soon, however, working in the open air had to be interrupted. The approaching war front ... and the bombardment of Lublin by Soviet planes did not really encourage such activities.[109]

The Polish staff tried to secure the collection of the Library of KUL, and prevent its exportation delaying the selection works. The books the Director judged as worthless for the Germans were piled up in structures called 'walls' by some of the staff. These walls actually helped hide many precious volumes in them: both Pol-

106 Ibidem, p. 236, footnote 286a.

107 AU KUL. Library University. [A. Wojtkowski, *Notatka o Staatsbibliothek Lublin*]..., op. cit.; WBPŁ. Call No. 2383. Surveys - Irena Rutkowska, l. 3.

108 'Wasyl Kutschabsky do Głównego Zarządu Bibliotek...', op. cit., p. 200.

109 M. Kunowska, 'Wspomnienia o bibliotekach lubelskich...', op. cit., p. 204.

ish and German. The Director found this out, and reacted angrily, however, he did not choose to punish the employees.[110]

On 7 June 1944, Kutschabsky sent a letter to the Central Library Directorate of the General Government in Krakow asking for the guidelines as for the further operation of the Staatsbibliothek Lublin, at the same time resigning from the Director's position (while declaring the desire to join the army).[111] Nonetheless, he left Lublin only in July 1944, when the Red Army were about to enter the city, assigning Hanna Pliszczyńska to run the Library in his place. All the remaining German personnel left the city together with him, which actually meant closing down of the Library.[112]

The saved book collection of the Library of KUL, although soon prone to further devastation during the fights for the city's liberation, served as the grounds for the Library's reactivation in early autumn 1944.

3. Liberation of Lublin, Reopening of KUL's Libraries, and Loss Assessment

3.1. THE CENTRAL LIBRARY

During the fights for Lublin in July 1944, the book collection of the Central Library of KUL was once again exposed to severe danger. As a result of artillery shelling by the Red Army walls and the roof of the Library building were damaged. As recalled by Emilia Szeliga-Szeligowska, German tanks were positioned directly behind the wall of the Reading Room where they had amassed crates with ammunition. In several rooms also library cabinets with a part of the collection they contained were destroyed.[113] Owing to the destruction of the building's structure, it was necessary to transfer about 20,000 volumes from the first floor to the ground

110 WPBŁ. Call No. 2383. A. Dołowska, D. Podobińska-Riabinin, op. cit., l. 7.

111 'Wasyl Kutschabsky do Głównego Zarządu Bibliotek...', op. cit., p. 201.

112 G. Figiel, '110 lat Biblioteki Publicznej im. Hieronima Łopacińskiego w Lublinie', *Bibliotekarz Lubelski* 2017, yr 60, p. 20.

113 AU KUL. [E. Szeliga-Szeligowska, *Notatka z 12 marca 1946 r.*]. Fonds: *Sprawozdania roczne Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej KUL 1944–1951.*

floor. Additionally, in an attempt to lift the load off the threatened parts of the building publications of KUL's Scientific Society saved from being burnt by the Germans were transferred to the University edifice.[114] Tidying the Library became first of all Szeligowska's responsibility. Assisted by the caretaker Paweł Wierzchowski and the librarian Maria Kunowska she initiated the most urgent tidying jobs. It was essential to restore the Reading Room's genuine function, as it had been turned by the Germans into a book depository. These efforts were effective, and already on 12 November 1944, in order to celebrate the inauguration of the academic year, the Reading Room could welcome first readers.[115]

After the building of the former Staatsbibliothek Lublin in Narutowicza Street was taken over by the Polish authorities on 18 September 1944, the organising of the dispersed collections, mainly scattered across the floors, started. In the subsequent step the books were being returned to their respective rightful owners: libraries, scientific and religious institutions, as well as private individuals.[116] Throughout the whole winter of late 1944 and early 1945 an intense recovery of the books that belonged to the Central Library of KUL, seminar libraries, and KUL's professors was conducted.[117] Employed to assist these works, Krystyna Deptułowa recalled some years later:

> ... I was instructed by the Director to go to the H. Łopaciński Library in order to 'recover' there the books that belonged to the Central Library of KUL, libraries of research departments, as well as private collections of University's professors. I was given a long list of rubber stamps and signatures to be found on some selected books from huge piles transported by the Germans from all the Lublin libraries to the so-called Staatsbibliothek. Tedious, it was however effective work.

114 AU KUL. A. Wojtkowski, *Biblioteka Uniwersytecka KUL*. Fonds: *Biblioteka Uniwersytecka. Sprawozdania roczne Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej KUL 1944–1951.*

115 M. Kunowska, 'Sekcja Starych Druków', *Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne* 1971, vol. 23, p. 149.

116 [M. Gawarecka], 'Protokół No. 480...', op. cit., p. 183.

117 AU KUL. *Biblioteka Uniwersytecka. Sprawozdanie Biblioteki Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego za rok 1944/45.* Fonds: *Biblioteka Uniwersytecka. Sprawozdania roczne Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej KUL 1944–1951.*

> In a dozen days or so I managed to divide a multitude of books into smaller piles classified according to their ownership, which returned to the University, their rightful owner. [118]

Soon after the end of the warfare the action of loss estimation started. In harmony with the decree of 27 September 1944 issued by the Polish Committee of National Liberation (PKWN) it was run by the Polish War Reparations Bureau at the Presidium of the Council of Ministers, and in subsequent years, by the Library Department at the Ministry of Education, later transformed into the General Library Directorate.[119] Although meant to be far-fetched, these efforts were actually short-term, and were interrupted in subsequent years for political reasons.[120]

The war losses of the Central Library of KUL were finally assessed at 5,468 volumes, which amounted to 6% of the total number owned by the Library prior to September 1939.[121] What accounted for the losses were the books confiscated by the Germans, those unreturned by readers, as well as those destroyed in warfare: according to the available data about 500 volumes were destroyed having been hit by an artillery shell. The losses in the library infrastructure were estimated as worth 1,000,000 pre-WW II Polish zloties.[122]

3.2. BOOK COLLECTIONS OF THE LIBRARIES OF KUL'S RESEARCH DEPARTMENTS

The libraries of KUL's research departments constituted an important element of the University didactic and research base. As

118 L. Deptułowa, 'Pierwsze lata po okupacji 1944–1950', in: *Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski w latach 1944–1952. Wspomnienia i relacje*, ed. J. Ziółek, Lublin 1999, pp. 108–109.

119 B. Bieńkowska, 'Potyczki ze źródłami bibliologicznymi (na przykładzie urzędowej dokumentacji strat bibliotek w Polsce podczas II wojny światowej)', *Roczniki Biblioteczne* 2001, Vol. 45, pp. 9–10.

120 A. Mężyński, 'Wstęp', in: *Biblioteki naukowe...*, op. cit., p. XII.

121 *Straty bibliotek w czasie II wojny światowej w granicach Polski z 1945 roku. Wstępny raport o stanie wiedzy*, academic ed. A. Mężyński, Warszawa 1994, p. 226. The number differs depending on the source.

122 A. Wojtkowski, 'Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski...', op. cit., p. 302; R. Gustaw, W. Nowodworski, op. cit., p. 136.

mentioned above, their operations were violently interrupted in November 1939, and the losses they suffered as a result of the German invasion proved to be far more painful than those experienced by the Central Library. Contrary to the history of the latter, well documented in notes, reports, and recollections, the main source of information on the history of seminar libraries can still be found in the surveys conducted in June and July 1945. They provided precious, though at times very general and incomplete information on the damage suffered.

The first attempts to assess the extent of the destruction were made following the end of the warfare. In the questionnaire titled *Provisional Registering of War Damages at Institutions of Tertiary Education, Research Institutes, and Scientific Societies* information was included that the libraries of research departments lost 5,550 volumes, which constituted 66% of the total number of books they had owned prior to WW II, while the losses were assessed to be worth 35,000 pre-war zloties. Mention was also made of a total loss of 34 periodical titles. These data in reality concerned exclusively the libraries of the Faculty of Humanities, not taking into account the recovery conducted in the former headquarters of the Staatsbibliothek.[123]

As instructed by KUL's Vice-chancellor on 4 June 1945, deans were obliged to collect information on the state of the book collections in the units they supervised.[124] On the basis of surveys submitted in June and July that year it was possible to assess the range of damage and apply for compensation. The filled-in questionnaires contained information on the number of the lost volumes, loss's value (in pre-WWII zloties), as well as information on the preserved catalogues and inventories. However, the majority

123 AU KUL. Short-term registering of war losses in tertiary education schools, research institutions, and scientific societies. Fonds: Kancelaria Rektorska. Dokumenty dotyczące szkód wojennych i Komisji Badań Zbrodni Niemieckich [1945–1946].

124 AU KUL. [*Pismo Rektora KUL z 4 czerwca 1945 r. w sprawie podania strat i szkód wojennych. Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski*]. Fonds: *Kancelaria Rektora KR Biblioteki Zakładowe. Biblioteki Zakładów Naukowych*.

of the institutions applied for the in-kind compensation, namely the refilling of their book collection.[125]

The list prepared in 1945 showed that KUL's research departments' libraries lost 8,256 volumes in total, which accounted for 33.4% of the pre-war assets.[126] In many cases the damage also covered the furnishing: bookcases, tables, or card catalogues.

Owing to the destruction of the catalogues and inventories it was not always possible to precisely assess the losses. In the seminar libraries of the Theological Faculty the losses stood at ca 677 book volumes and 15 periodical titles. The surviving encyclopaedia and periodicals were incomplete, while the catalogues and inventories of the following centres: Biblical, of History of the Church, and of Eastern Theology, were entirely devastated[127] The Library of the Philosophy Seminar suffered the loss of 40% of its assets, these including two bookcases, a table, and a card catalogue.[128] The library of the Faculty of Law and Socio-Economic Sciences experienced substantial losses in specialist literature. Fr Prof. Henryk Insadowski, the pre-war Director of the KUL Library, wrote at the time to KUL's Vice-chancellor: 'From among many works and periodicals only single copies have been preserved, some of the volumes sometimes badly damaged', and their value in use '... for research and academic purposes is none, also insufficient for teaching purposes'.[129]

125 AU KUL. Fonds: *Kancelaria Rektora KR Biblioteki zakładowe – ankiety dotyczące strat wojennych bibliotek poszczególnych wydziałów.*

126 B. Koszałka, 'Biblioteki zakładowe...', op. cit., p. 181; *Straty bibliotek w czasie II wojny światowej w granicach Polski z 1945 roku. Wstępny raport o stanie wiedzy*, part. I, *Analiza*; part II, *Tablice*, academic ed. A. Mężyński, Warszawa 1994, pp. 226–228.

127 AU KUL. Fonds: *Zgłoszenie strat i szkód bibliotecznych* [Theological Faculty]. Fonds: *Kancelaria Rektora KR Biblioteki Zakładowe. Biblioteki Zakładów Naukowych. Wydział Teologiczny 1946–1949.*

128 *Zgłoszenie strat i szkód Biblioteki Seminarium Filozoficznego K.U.L. w Lublinie*. Fonds: *Kancelaria Rektora KR Biblioteki Zakładowe. Biblioteki Zakładów Naukowych Wydziału Filozofii Chrześcijańskiej 1948–1951.*

129 AU KUL. [*Pismo dziekana Wydziału Prawa i Nauk Społeczno-Ekonomicznych kp. prof. H. Insadowskiego do Rektoratu Katolickiego Uniwersytetu w Lublinie*]. Fonds: *Kancelaria Rektora – KR Biblioteki zakładowe. Biblioteki Zakładów Naukowych. Wydział Prawa i Nauk Społeczno-Ekonomicznych 1946–1950.*

As results from the surveys of the libraries of the Faculty of Humanities (Seminars of: History, Polish Literature, Pedagogy, Classics, Philosophy, Psychology, Romance Studies, Linguistics), about 5,550 volumes from the 14,280 items possessed before WW II were destroyed. Additionally, the majority of the catalogues, inventories, and furnishing (e.g., bookcases and catalogue blocks) were lost.[130] The library of the Classics Seminar did not only lose books, but also special collections: papyri, ostraka, and paintings.[131] The library of the History of Art suffered such serious plundering that courses could be conducted only thanks to Prof. Marian Morelowski's private collection.[132] The most precious reference publications from the Library of the History Seminar, such as diplomatic codes and the *Monumenta Poloniae Historica* survived 'thanks to the dedication of one the University staff' who saved them from being burnt down.[133]

Some books were kept by private individuals. From the preserved letter of Fr D. Filipowicz dated 27 March 1946 we can find out that during the occupation the books from the Library of the History Seminar as well as professors' private books were kept in the Chylińskis' apartment at 22 Żelazna Street. Following the end of the war only a part of them were returned.[134] The University made a number of attempts at recovering their assets: ads were published in papers appealing for the books as well as furnishing elements (bookcases, desks, chairs, paintings) to be returned.[135]

130 AU KUL. *Wykaz strat wojennych Wydziału Nauk Humanistycznych Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego*.

131 AU KUL. *Straty Biblioteki Seminarium Filologii Klasycznej*. Fonds: *Kancelaria Rektora KR. Biblioteki zakładowe. Biblioteki Zakładów Naukowych Wydziału Nauk Humanistycznych 1945–1952*.

132 AU KUL. [*Pismo do Ministra Oświaty. Naczelna Dyrekcja Bibliotek w Warszawie, 31 XII 1947*]. Fonds: *Kancelaria Rektora – KR Biblioteki zakładowe. Biblioteki Zakładów Naukowych Wydziału Nauk Humanistycznych 1945–1952*.

133 AU KUL. *Zgłoszenie szkód i strat bibliotecznych* [*Biblioteka Seminarium Historii*]. Fonds: *Kancelaria Rektora KR Biblioteki zakładowe. Biblioteki Zakładów Naukowych Wydziału Nauk Humanistycznych 1945–1952*.

134 AU KUL. [*List kp. D. Filipowicza z 27 marca 1946 r.*]. Fonds: *Kancelaria Rektora KR 1944–1999*.

135 'Ogłoszenia [Prośba Rektora KUL o zwrot urządzeń akademickich]', *Rzeczpospolita. Organ Polskiego Komitetu Wyzwolenia Narodowego* 2, 3, 5 September 1944, yr 1, No. 31, p. 4; No. 32, p. 4; No. 34, p. 4.

The majority of the surviving seminar book collections were temporarily gathered in one room of a given faculty, and made available to the extent it was possible, although lack of catalogues and registers made the process significantly challenging. It was necessary to elaborate them anew, as well as to segregate and complete the collections. However, despite all the suffered losses the libraries of research departments tried hard to resume their didactic and academic functions as soon as possible.[136]

The listed data are merely of a very general character: an ampler recreation of the history of respective seminar libraries will be possible only based on a more thorough study of the post-war surveys and the preserved inventories.

Conclusion

The war history of the book collections of the Catholic University of Lublin was complicated, yet compared to other libraries in occupied Poland relatively benign. The Central Library lost 5,468 volumes accounting for 6% of its assets from before 1939, yet, importantly, the most precious elements of the collection: manuscripts, incunabula, early-printed books, and even Germany-related materials, survived. Much more severe losses were suffered by the libraries of research departments: 8,256 volumes, namely 33.4% of their pre-war overall assets.

The fact that the losses were relatively limited resulted from a courageous and consistent attitude of Emilia Szeliga-Szeligowska and the remaining staff of the Staatsbibliothek Lublin who under the challenging realities of Poland's occupation were able to save many precious items. Thanks to their efforts, as soon as in September 1944, KUL as the first university in Poland could reopen its libraries.

The post-WW II attempts to assess losses were undertaken almost immediately, however, bearing in mind their political con-

136 AU KUL. Fonds: *Kancelaria Rektora KR Biblioteki zakładowe – ankiety dotyczące strat wojennych bibliotek poszczególnych wydziałów*.

text, incomplete documentation, and inhomogeneous criteria, today they require a critical revision. In view of the above what remains an extremely precious source for the purpose are the pre-war inventory books which, as demonstrated by the conducted analyses, can serve as the basis for a more detailed reconstruction of the losses and recreation of the post-war history of KUL's book collections.

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