

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT (2020) OF THE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ARMENIAN CULTURE IN POLAND (RCACP)

In 2020, the activities of the RCACP were largely concerned with research and organisation. The research carried out in various fields by members of our team resulted in three books and an edition of the annual journal *Lehahayer* (two of these four publications were in English), a series of lectures, and an online conference. The organisational efforts mostly involved equipping and furnishing the premises made available to the RCACP by PAU (Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences) at the beginning of October. The RCACP library was established and one-hundred prints, including two valuable manuscripts, became a part of the collection. One of the manuscripts, from 1691, was a customs manual by Daniel Zarugowicz, an Armenian who held the office of superintendent of the Russian and Podolian customs authorities, while the other was *Xiaga Bractwa Pocieszenia Matki Boskiej w Kosciele Mohilowskim Ormienskim* of 1762-1804 [Book of the Confraternity of the Consolation of the Virgin Mary in the Armenian Church in Mohylów]. A set of documents collected by Dr Janusz Kamocki concerning his interest in Armenia and Armenology was also added to the library. The RCACP also built its website, which is available in Polish and English at (www.armenopolonia.pl).

Research

Holding a joint research grant entitled *Transfer kulturowy jako transdyscyplinarny element nauki o stosunkach międzykulturowych na przykładzie wpływów kultury arabskiej w dziedzictwie kulturowym Polski* [Cultural Transfer as a Transdisciplinary Element of the Study of Intercultural Relations as Exemplified by the Influence of Arab Culture in the Cultural Heritage of Poland] from the National Programme for the Development of the Humanities, Marcin Łukasz Majewski of the RCACP worked with Andrzej Drozd of the Faculty of Oriental Studies of the University of Warsaw to produce a study entitled *Ormianie w procesie przepływu kultury Orientu muzułmańskiego do dawnej Rzeczypospolitej* [Armenians in the Process of the Inflow of the Culture of the Islamic Orient to, and Circulation within, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth].

Tomasz Krzyżowski undertook three trips for archival research in 2020: in January he spent two weeks in Lviv in the local archives and libraries, in June a day in the Archive of the Foundation for the Culture and Heritage of Polish Armenians, and in October a day in the Archive of the Warsaw Archdiocese.

Andrzej A. Zięba collected materials for a genealogy of Armenian families in Poland who received ennoblements and aristocratic titles and of Armenian women who married noblemen (approximately 250 entries). He also worked on a book about the Armenian *Mons Pius* bank in Lviv.

Publications

The year 2020 saw the publication of the seventh annual edition of our journal *Lehahayer*, whose 350 pages contained eleven articles, including six by RCACP researchers and three by foreign researchers. The themes taken up in the 2020 edition were as follows:

- M. Ł. Majewski – *Ormianie w Zamościu w pierwszych trzech dekadach istnienia miasta (1580-1610)* [Armenians in Zamość in the First Three Decades of the Town's Existence]
- A. Gliński – *Organizacja rzemiosła i handlu w gminie ormiańskiej w Stanisławowie (wieki XVII i XVIII)* [The Organisation of Crafts and Trade in the Armenian Gmina in Stanisławów in the Seventeenth Century and Eighteenth Century]
- F. Wasyl – „*Kto czym się bawi i z czego żyje*” – *profesje Ormian z Kut nad Czeremoszem na tle innych nacji w końcu XVIII wieku* [‘Who Does What, How They Get Their livings, and How Liveliness and Livelihood Combine’ – the Professions of the Armenians of Kut on the Czeremosz River in the Light of other Nations at the End of the Eighteenth Century]
- A. A. Zięba – *Idea powrotu Ormian z rozproszenia do narodowej ojczyzny w świetle memoriałów Roberta Bogdanowicza z 1877 i 1884 roku* [The Idea of the Return of the Armenians from Diaspora to their Historical Homeland in the Light of the Memorials of Robert Bogdanowicz of 1877 and 1884]

- J. Osiecki – *Towarzystwo Polsko-Ormiańskie we Lwowie (1920-1922)* [The Polish-Armenian Society in Lwów]
- T. Krzyżowski – *Nauczanie języka ormiańskiego na Uniwersytecie Lwowskim w latach 1904-1939* [The Teaching of Armenian at the University of Lviv]
- P. Košťálová – *Relacje czesko-ormiańskie: zarys historyczny* [An Outline History of Czech-Armenian Relations]
- A. Checzojan, J. Gurinow – *Fundacja Rozwoju i Wspierania Studiów Armenologicznych „Aniw” – przegląd działalności* [Review of the Activities of the Aniw Foundation for the Promotion of Armenian Studies – Minsk-Moscow-Yerevan]
- M. Ohanowicz-Tarasiuk – *Ochrona dziedzictwa ormiańskiego w działaniach Fundacji Kultury i Dziedzictwa Ormian Polskich* [Protection of Armenian Heritage in the Activities of the Foundation for the Culture and Heritage of Polish Armenians]
- A. W. Grigorian – *Wartan Rubenowicz Grigorian (1929-2019) – historyk, armenolog, publicysta, zbieracz starych ormiańskich Rękopisów* [Vartan Rubenowicz Grigoryan – Historian, Armenologist, Columnist, and Collector of Ancient Armenian Manuscripts]
- A. Pisowicz – *Wspomnienie o Wartanie Grigorianie* [Memories of Vartan Grigoryan]

Dr. Tomasz Krzyżowski published the third volume in the *Lehahayer Library* series entitled *Archidiecezja lwowska obrządku ormiańskokatolickiego w latach 1902-1938* [The Lviv Archdiocese of the Armenian Catholic Rite in 1902-1938]. As part of a grant from the National Programme for the Development of the Humanities, two volumes produced with the involvement of the RCACP appeared in the *Testaments of the History of the Polish Armenians* series, whose lead institution is the Foundation for the Culture and Heritage of Polish Armenians: Krzysztof Stopka's edition of *Jasachy gminy Ormian lwowskich z lat 1598-1638 w języku ormiańsko-kipczackim* [Yasaks of the Lviv Armenian Community in 1598-1638 in the Armenian-Kipchak Language] and *Metryka katedry ormiańskiej we Lwowie za lata 1635-1732* [Vital Records of the Armenian Cathedral in Lviv for 1635-1732]

edited by Marcin Łukasz Majewski and Krzysztof Stopka. Both were published by *Księgarnia Akademicka* [Academic Bookshop] of Kraków.

The Armenian Church in Soviet Armenia (pp. 253) by Jakub Osiecki, a researcher at the RCACP, also appeared. It was issued under the imprint of the New York branch of the Peter Lang Publishing Group. Editorial work was completed on Franciszek Wasyl's *Armenians in Old Poland and Austrian Galicia: A Demographic and Historical Study*, which addresses the Armenian diaspora living in the part of Old Poland brought under the rule of the Habsburg Empire in 1772 as a result of the partitions. In addition, work continued on the translation into Russian of a book by Krzysztof Stopka and Andrzej A. Zięba entitled *Armenian Poland*, which is to be printed by a Moscow publishing house in 2022.

Dr Jakub Osiecki also published two articles in 2020: *The Biggest Prize*, in: Lundgren, S., & Seppälä, S. (Eds.) (2020). *Armenia, Mon Amour: Ten Europeans Speak*. Nineveh Press, pp. 83-94, and *The Visit of Rev. Antoine Delpuch to the South Caucasus in 1919: an Attempt to Establish Diplomatic Relations between the Holy See and Yerevan?* In: B. Der Matossian (ed.) (2020). *The First Republic of Armenia (1918-1920) on its Centenary: Politics, Gender, and Diplomacy*. Fresno, pp.181-200.

Seminars

The following meetings took place as part of the RCACP's internal programme: on 30 January, at a seminar led by Andrzej A. Zięba, ideas for writing and compiling *The Encyclopaedia of Polish Armenians* were discussed. On 12 February, Dr Jakub Osiecki led a discussion on the results of his archival searches involving Armenian Christianity in the twentieth century. On 4 March, Dr Franciszek Wasyl delivered a paper on his studies of the small towns of Galicia that possessed organised Armenian communities. On 29 May, Andrzej A. Zięba, the director of the RCACP, Anzhela Kayumova of the Institute of Russian and East European Studies at the Jagiellonian University, and Dr Jakub Osiecki conducted an online discussion of the latter's book *Bolszewicy a Kościół ormiański* [The Bolsheviks and the Armenian Church]. A discussion of the usefulness to research of a recently-published source important to the history of the Armenians in Lviv was held on 10 September. The source, which was edited by Krzysztof Stopka, is entitled, *Jasachy gminy*

Ormian lwowskich za lata 1598-1638 w języku ormiańsko-kipczackim [Yasaks of the Lviv Armenian Community in 1598-1638 in the Armenian-Kipchak Language].

Conferences

On 30 November, in conjunction with the Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków and thanks to a subvention obtained from Kraków City Council, the RCACP organised an online conference entitled, *Axentowicz. Kraków. Armenia*. The programme comprised (1) welcoming addresses from Professor Jan Ostrowski, president of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Professor Andrzej Bednarczyk, rector of the Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts (2) a multimedia presentation entitled *Axentowicz and Kraków* designed, written, and produced by Marcin Banaś and Jakub Osiecki, and (3) the following papers:

Dr Stefania Krzysztofowicz-Kozakowska – *Raumkunst autorstwa Teodora Axentowicza*
[*Raumkunst* of Teodor Axentowicz]

Michał Pilikowski – *Axentowicz jako rektor krakowskiej Akademii Sztuk Pięknych*
[Axentowicz as Rector of the Kraków Academy of Fine Arts]

Anna Król – *Wystawy axentowiczowskie: Erywań – Sopot – Stalowa Wola* [Axentowicz exhibitions: Yerevan-Sopot-Stalowa Wola]

Dr. hab. Andrzej A. Zięba – *Ormiański rodowód Axentowiczów* [The Armenian Origins of the Axentowicz Family]

Dr Jakub Osiecki – *Ormiańska tematyka w twórczości malarskiej Teodora Axentowicza*
[Armenian Themes in the Painting of Teodor Axentowicz]

Gagik Parsamyan – *Refleksje o Teodorze Axentowiczu i recepcji jego twórczości w Armenii*
[Reflections on Teodor Axentowicz and on the Reception of his Work in Armenia;
paper delivered in Armenian]

Cooperation

At the end of December 2020, the president of PAU, Professor Jan Ostrowski (on behalf of the RCACP) and Maria Ohanowicz-Tarasiuk, president of the Foundation for the Culture and Heritage of Polish Armenians, signed an agreement concerning long-term

cooperation in work on documents and archives. In 2020 this involved the papers of the last Armenian-Catholic archbishop of Lviv, Fr. Józef Teodorowicz (1864-1938), which are kept at the Foundation for the Culture and Heritage of Polish Armenians. An inventory of this archival legacy was compiled by Hanna Kopczyńska-Kłós at the request of the RCACP. The RCACP also acquired an enormous resource of scanned archival documents of the history of Polish Armenians, which had been collected by the Foundation for the Culture and Heritage of Polish Armenians.

Cooperation with scholars working beyond Poland's eastern border and studying the history of the Polish Armenians produced two research reports commissioned by the RCACP. Dr Ruben Atoyán of Belarus prepared an English version of an historical map entitled *Armenians in the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania*, while Dr Maksym Potapenko of Nizhyn Gogol State University in Ukraine compiled an archival study of the Armenians in Mohylów Podolski based on Russian manuscript tax registers of the nineteenth century.

Plans for foreign Armenologists to visit the RCACP were abandoned due to the pandemic. However, shortly before it began, Vaneni M. Petrosyan of the Institute of History in the Armenian National Academy of Sciences attended the Jagiellonian University in the summer semester of the academic year of 2019-2020 as a holder of a grant from the International Visegrad Fund. An opportunity therefore arose to organise a meeting between her and employees and associates of the RCACP. Having thoroughly acquainted herself with the aims and activities of the RCACP, she spoke at the meeting of her interests and research plans.

Dissemination of learning

Talks and meetings with the following took place as part of the My Armenia, My Armenians series: Professor Andrzej Pisowicz, an outstanding Armenologist from Kraków and a member of the Council of the RCACP (29 June), Romuald Karaś, the author of a book of reportage on Soviet Armenia entitled, *Szukam raju* [I'm Looking for Paradise] (28 September), and Tisa Żawrocka-Kwiatkowska, the guiding power behind many charity and aid activities addressed to Armenians, including a network of home hospices in Yerevan

and surrounding towns, and the co-author of the film *W Baku pogoda jest lepsza* [In Baku, The Weather is Better] (29 October).

Kraków, 10 February 2021

Dr hab. Andrzej A. Zięba

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