

Muz., 2019(60): 130-140
Rocznik, eISSN 2391-4815
received – 05.2019
reviewed – 06.2019
accepted – 06.2019
DOI: 10.5604/01.3001.0013.3012

MANAGING THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW VERSUS THE EXPERIENCE OF THE HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA

Adam Tyszkiewicz

Medical History Museum at the Medical University of Warsaw

Abstract: The Medical History Museum founded in 2011 within the structure of the Medical University of Warsaw (WUM), following the solutions introduced at the Humboldt University in Berlin and the University of Vienna, is planning to shortly introduce coordination of protection and display of the historic tangible heritage of the school. In both Berlin and Vienna in the early 21st century the project of university collection inventory was launched. Just over several years it yielded a large-scale digitizing process, foundation of theme websites, publications, and organization of temporary exhibitions promoting the historic university collections. The Association of University

Museums established in Poland in 2014 has for several years been drawing inspiration from the German and Austrian models.

The WUM Medical History Museum, resorting to the experience of the Berlin and Vienna universities, has applied numerous ideas for the integration of the historic collections, their identification, and recreation. Following the history of medical collections in Warsaw from the 1st half of the 19th century up to contemporary times, the Author analyses the model for this museum strategy, while also presenting examples of dangers resulting from the mismanagement of university historic heritage.

Keywords: Medical History Museum in Warsaw, Humboldt University in Berlin, University of Vienna, Medical University of Warsaw (WUM), museum collections, coordination, university tangible heritage.

In November 2017, the Humboldt University in Berlin held a meeting of representatives of several university museums from Central Europe. Apart from the host, it was attended by

representatives of the Charles University in Prague, University of Vienna, Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, University of Belgrade, and the University of Warsaw.¹ In the course

of a three-day sessions, apart from the presentation of the museum collections, the topics discussed included, among others, specificity of university museology, criteria for university collections, role of digitization in contemporary museology, as well as the promotion of university material heritage through international museum organizations (ICOM, UMAC) and websites. What proved particularly interesting and inspiring were presentations given by representatives of the Humboldt University and the University of Vienna, therefore the first part of the present paper will talk of the functioning of their museum collections on the grounds of their presentation and experience. The description will focus predominantly on the management of their museum collections. The second part of the paper will provide answers to questions whether the models from the German-speaking capitals should be used in Polish university museology, and whether they can be applied within one university alone. Bearing in mind that the Author of the present paper additionally represents the Medical History Museum of Warsaw Medical University (WMU), this academic institution will serve as an example of the role it plays in the care for the University's material heritage.

What distinguishes both the Humboldt University in Berlin (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin), founded in 1810, and the substantially older University of Vienna (Universität Wien) established back in 1365, is the fact that within each there is no single main operating historical museum. Neither in the main Berlin university building in Unter den Linden nor in the famous edifice in the Vienna Ring designed by Heinrich von Ferstel shall one find delineated space where, watched over by professional museologists, while admiring old insignia, foundation documents, medals, and portraits of outstanding researchers and former vice-chancellors, one could become acquainted with the history of the universities. Most frequently the above-mentioned objects are preserved in the major sumptuous halls and often in adjacent vice-chancellors' offices. The access to them is usually quite limited; with the only opportunity provided for such heritage objects to be viewed at the inauguration of the academic years, promotion of honorary doctors, open days, and special lectures. Given the growing interest of historians, tourists, and the students themselves in universities' history, it is, however, worth considering establishing in the future museums dealing with the topic of the academic heritage in Berlin and in Vienna.

Currently, within both universities there are a number of specialist collections, of extremely varied character: from zoological specimens, through mineralogical and archaeological collections up to the old chemical or mathematical apparatus pieces. Additionally, they feature photos, works of art, and coins. These collections were created over numerous decades, while in the case of the Vienna school even over centuries. In Berlin, one of the first academic collections was the Museum of Natural History (Museum für Naturkunde) founded in 1889.² Ten years later, another famous collection was created there: Rudolf Virchow Pathological Museum (Pathologisches Museum).³ In Vienna, the first museum collection composed of exhibits from the

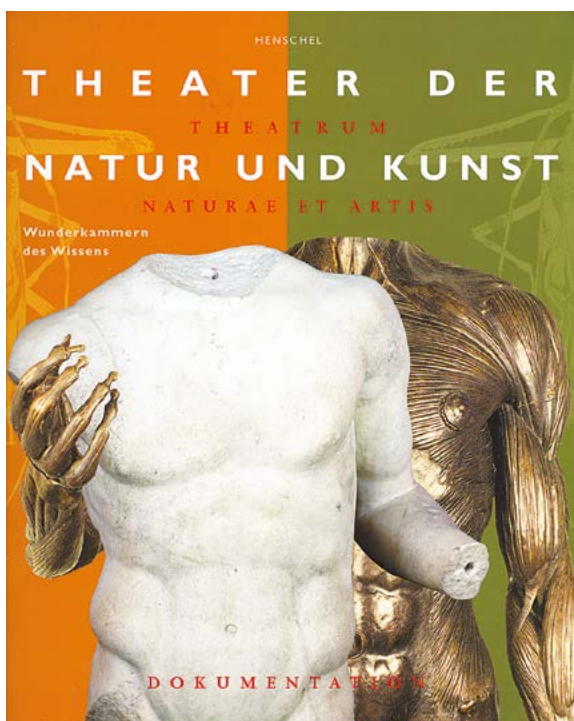
range of physics and mathematics had been started much earlier, namely in 1715, when the University was still run by the Jesuits.⁴ However, both in Berlin and Vienna, the largest number of university collections were founded in the 19th century, this prompted by the introduced reforms in university teaching. The universities saw their mission in compliance with Wilhelm von Humboldt's idea (so-called German model), as combining education with conducting research, and so did curators of university collections.

Regrettably, following 1945 many university collections sank into oblivion and lost their prominence. In the case of the Humboldt University what determined their fate was definitely the war destruction. With time, however, the collections were remembered, and began being placed in a bigger picture, not only within the history of universities, but also the development of science. In the late 1980s and early 90s it was British universities as the first that began the process of identifying their own university collections. They were subsequently followed by universities in Italy, Belgium, and Portugal.

In Germany, the impact of University collections on disseminating science was pointed to in 2004. Several years of preparations culminated in May 2012 in setting up the Coordination Centre for Scientific University Collections (Die Koordinierungsstelle für wissenschaftliche Universitäts-sammlungen) in Berlin. The institution was opened under the auspices of Germany's Ministry of Education and Science, and was incorporated into the structures of Hermann von Helmholtz Centre for Cultural Techniques (Hermann von Helmholtz-Zentrum für Kulturtechnik). One of the instigators, as well as the main coordinator of the initiative was Cornelia Weber, philosopher by education, however for the last two decades involved in promoting academic museum collections.⁵ From the very beginning, the supreme task of the institution was to build the brand, make this kind of historical heritage available, and disseminate it. The task was not easy. Firstly, a number of university collections had been dispersed and often forgotten, therefore the main goal, as it resulted, was to identify them all. Secondly, what remained a substantial challenge, yet of which the project's instigators had been unaware, was the variety of university collections. Interestingly, the German initiative was of a totally pioneering character: no one earlier had undertaken such a process of historical heritage integration. The first results were visible already within several years. Thanks to numerous conferences mounted in Germany, working groups, exhibitions, and also publications with professional tips how to handle this type of heritage, many collections could be identified, developed, and most importantly, digitizing of their substantial portion had been launched. Owing to this, they have become much more accessible, not merely to specialists, but to all the individuals who are interested in universities' past. It has to be regarded as a great achievement that several websites have been launched featuring not only information on the majority of university collections, but also on particular items that have been digitized. By 1 September 2018, as many as 1.085 collections at German universities had been identified, of which 5 tertiary-education institutions in Berlin alone boast 82 collections.⁶



1. Page view of the website <https://portal.wissenschaftliche-sammlungen.de/kennzahlen> showing the map of German university collections



2. Post-Exhibition Catalogue: H. Bredekamp, J. Brüning, C. Weber, Theater der Natur und Kunst. Theatrum naturae et artis Wunderkammern des Wissens, t. I-III, Berlin 2000

It may be interesting to follow the results of this work using the case of the Humboldt University. The oldest Berlin University owns today 35 collections, the most famous of them being those of the Winckelmann, Kunstsammlung, and Arboretum Institutes. Out of the 35, twenty-seven continue active, while the remaining ones, often decimated during

WW II, either continue operating in their relict form, or have not as yet been digitized. Moreover, out of those 35 Berlin collections, seventeen have been practically entirely digitized. At present, information on them can be found on two websites: <https://www.sammlungen.hu-berlin.de/> and <https://portal.wissenschaftliche-sammlungen.de/>. They contain information on the latest developments and on the collections, also featuring searchengines for particular items. A great opportunity to present the most interesting museum objects from the Humboldt University, serving at the same time as the step towards promoting this type of historical heritage, can be seen in the exhibitions titled 'Theatrum naturae et artis – Theater der Natur und Kunst. Wunderkammern des Wissens' ('Theatres of Nature and Art. Scientific Cabinets of Curiosities') mounted at Berlin's Martin-Gropius-Bau in December 2000–March 2001.⁷ The unprecedented display showed for the first time almost all the University's collections grouped at one venue. The result exceeded the most ambitious expectations of the organizers. Shortly, many of the University heritage items will be on view at temporary exhibitions planned for the Humboldt Labor to be located at the Humboldt Forum, namely in the interiors of the reconstructed Berlin Palace.⁸

As mentioned above, also the University of Vienna, just like the Humboldt University, does not have one main museum with an overall display of its heritage and traditions. Many of the old, today unused insignia, ceremonial robes, and pieces of historical furniture, have been stored in the University archive; and the public are given access to them exclusively at jubilee celebrations and special shows.⁹ Meanwhile, quite a large number of specialized collections, similarly as in the 'Berlin solution', can be found within the University; they are often essentially richer than the German ones, this owing to the University's age, the size and wealth of the Habsburg empire, as well as a much smaller destruction during WW II.

What strikes is the extreme variety of the Vienna University collections. Among them one can come across e.g. ancient heritage objects from Egypt, plaster casts, geological objects, and zoological specimens. Regrettably, the majority of them, except for the Botanical Garden and the Astronomical Observatory, are not accessible to the public on daily basis. For several reasons: from the most down-to-earth ones, namely financial, to the lack of appropriate space for professionals to be able to display selected items. Aimed at collecting information on all academic collections and their documentation, a three-year programme was launched at the University of Vienna in 2007. However, it was quickly understood that the process, due to the great volume of the collections and the growing interest in the University material history, required constant verification, planning, and inspection. Therefore, Chief Coordinator was appointed. The Coordinator's responsibility was administering and managing the University's material heritage. Since the very beginning the position has been held by Claudia Feigl. In 2012, she was the editor of the catalogue that amassed information on all the collections of the University of Vienna.¹⁰ Another valuable initiative of the Collection Coordinator at Austria's oldest university, is holding museum meetings, hosted once a term, each time at a different venue housing a different University collection. It is attended by collections' curators, researchers at University's departments and units connected with collections, as well as special guests (e.g. afore-mentioned Cornelia Weber). Such symposia aim not only at a better cognition of the University heritage objects, exchange of information, staff training, but predominantly at working out management strategy of the University's historical heritage, however, also preservation, conservation, development, and maintenance of the collections are concerned. Neither does the Collection Coordinator at the University of Vienna overlook the continuous popularizing of the University collections. For this very purpose the website: <https://bibliothek.univie.ac.at/sammlungen/> systematically features

spectacular 'objects of the month'. In June 2019, it was the model of the Mausoleum of Diocletian executed in 1910–1912, and kept on daily basis in the collection of the Institute of Classical Archaeology of the University of Vienna.¹¹

In Poland, the first step taken towards the consolidation of museum collections was the establishment of the Association of University Museums (SMU) in 2014. Initially with only several dozen members, today it has 86 university organizations from around Poland as either members or as its co-operators.¹² The Association's goals mirror those of the above-mentioned Coordination Centre for Scientific University Collections in Germany, or the activity of the Collection Coordinator at the University of Vienna. SMU's role is to preserve, disseminate, and promote the academic heritage; to support the collecting, documenting, and conservation of monuments related to the academic heritage; contribute to the development of university museums; as well as to preserve both tangible and intangible academic heritage.¹³ Among the major initiatives of the Association over the recent years mention has to be made of the publication of the catalogue *University Museums*:¹⁴ mounting of the temporary exhibitions: 'Vice-Chancellor Józef Bródziński and the Independence Movement at the University of Warsaw' (2017) and 'Independent Universities. Honorary Doctorate Holders in Poland in 1918–39' (2018); organizing a conference in Nieborów (2016) and in Łódź (2018); as well as organizing cyclical lectures aimed at promoting academic history (2019). Tasks facing the Association in the future will include the design of one online platform allowing to present digitized objects from all the SMU-associated museums. However, it has to be borne in mind that the latter task will consume years of work, and will require cooperation of all the associated institutions, yet most importantly high financing. At this point one more of SMU's initiatives is worth mentioning, namely the attempt made to count all Polish university collections. A relevant report speaks of 186 such places throughout the whole country.¹⁵ However, when looking up in it information on



3. Collection of plaster casts at the University of Vienna, after: C. Feigl, *Academic Showcases. The Collections at the University of Vienna*, Vienna 2016



4. Edward Loth Museum of Descriptive Anatomy, interwar period, collections of the National Digital Archive

the collections of the Medical University of Warsaw (WUM), we come across merely two such items, i.e. the Museum of Medicine History placed within WUM premises and the Department of Dental Propaedeutics and Prophylaxis. Is it really possible that at the Medical University in Warsaw there are only two collections that can be considered of museum character? Before the answer to this question is given, it would be advisable to present a historical background to medical, academic collectorship in Warsaw.

The first historical objects in medical and pharmaceutical sciences were first collected already during the operating of the Medical-Academic Department at the so-called Medical School (1809–16) and of the Medical Department at the Royal Warsaw University (1816–31). At that time some cabinets were created, e.g. Anatomical, Pharmaceutical, and Surgical.¹⁶ After the November Uprising had been suppressed, and the Warsaw University closed down, many collections, as distinct from other university collections, remained in Warsaw, and in subsequent decades served the students of the Imperial Medical and Surgical Academy (1857–62) and of the Main School (1862–69).¹⁷ Following the establishment of the Imperial Medical University a part of the former collections was used by the ‘father of Polish pathological anatomy’ Włodzimierz Brodowski (1823–1903) to establish the Museum of Pathological Anatomy. In 1887, the collection amounted to 1.500 preparations.¹⁸ In the early 20th century, the museum found its seat in the Anatomicum building designed by Antoni Jabłoński-Jesieńczyk in Teodora Berga Street (since 1917 called Tytusa Chałubińskiego Street), and was located at that address throughout the whole inter-war period. After the Polish-speaking Warsaw University had been resuscitated, many preparations were also donated to the museum by the famous clinician Dr Edward Zieliński (1861–1921). In 1922–23, there were 2.256 anatomical preparations at the museum.¹⁹ Initially, they were taken care of by Prof. Józef Hornowski (1874–1923), and after his death, by Prof.

Ludwik Paszkiewicz (1878–1967). In the inter-war period, the Anatomicum housed two other important museum collections. One of them, located on the building’s first floor, was taken care of and developed by the famous anatomist, Head of the Department of Descriptive Anatomy Prof. Edward Loth (1884–1944). In 1931, it boasted 1.418 exhibits, e.g. numerous osteological preparations, and first of all the soft parts of the primates.²⁰

The next pre-war collection of the Medical Department of the University of Warsaw was established at the Department of Forensic Medicine by Prof. Wiktor Grzywo-Dąbrowski (1885–1968). It covered first of all material proofs and historical books; the latter because of the Curator’s bibliophile interests. After a new edifice had been raised at 1 Oczki Street in Warsaw in 1925–28 for the Department’s needs, it was there that the collection of Prof. Grzywo-Dąbrowski was transferred.

What proved to be a real disaster for Warsaw, and also for its medical museum collections, was WW II. In its aftermath, the buildings of both Anatomicum and the Department of Forensic Medicine were destroyed. A particularly shocking recollections are those of Roman Wesołowski who wrote about the old collections of the Department of Descriptive Anatomy: *The [Anatomicum] building was burnt down. [...] Rotting preparations thrown out of their vessels were spread all over the museum room. Many precious collections have irrevocably disappeared.*²¹ However, soon after 1945 the process of reconstructing the old collections was begun. Some items could still be found amidst the buildings’ rubble, others had to be created anew. It was Prof. Grzywo-Dąbrowski who continued as the supervisor of the collection of the Department of Forensic Medicine, while Prof. Ludwik Paszkiewicz, too, continued as the head of the Museum of Pathological Anatomy. In later years the latter was replaced on the position by Prof. Janina Dąbrowska (1890–1987). It was thanks to her efforts that the collection reached 6.000 items.²² At that point, the Museum covered the area of 241

sq m. Regrettably, the Curator of the Descriptive Anatomy Museum Prof. Loth died tragically during the Warsaw Uprising, that is why soon after the war the collection was recreated by Prof. Roman Poplewski (1894–1948).²³ The latter collection among the three has best survived until our times. Some objects are presented today at the WUM Department of Normal and Clinical Anatomy (continuator of the traditions of Prof. Loth's Department of Descriptive Anatomy), housed on the ground floor of the Collegium Anatomicum (this is the post-WW II name of the building). Other preparations, stored in the same building, are waiting to be recreated in the future in the building, in the museum initiated by Loth, since such an exhibition would not only be the continuation of university traditions, but also a perfect educational tool for subsequent generations of students.

At present, the former collection of the Museum of Pathological Anatomy is no longer on view. In the 1970s, the authorities of the newly established Institute of Biostructure of the Medical Academy decided to allocate the space until then occupied by the Museum to the Department of Tissue and Organ Conservation (later Department of Transplantology connected with the Tissue Bank). Gradually, the collections of pathological anatomy, until then on display in lit-up cabinets, began to disappear from the corridors of the Collegium Anatomicum.²⁴ They are currently deposited in the store of the Biostructure Centre of the Warsaw Medical University. It would be worthwhile to consider recreating this collection, too, however due to its peculiar character, it should be pondered over who this collection could be made available to. It goes without saying that given its scientific and instructive character the target public should be students and medical researchers.

Sadder even was the fate of the museum collection of the Department of Forensic Medicine. Following the retirement of Prof. Grzywo-Dąbrowski, this university unit was taken over by the ENT specialist Reader Władysław Widy (Head of the Department in 1963–71). As a result of the changes he introduced, historical study aids, photographs, and other museum objects were destroyed.²⁵ As looking at this development decades later, it is hard to justify this decision, all the more so as Widy's predecessor had put so much effort into recreating the pre-war collection. Fortunately, in the recent years at the Department of Forensic Medicine headed by Prof. Paweł Krajewski the decision has been made to resuscitate the collection for the future generations of WUM students to benefit from its scientific worth.

Following WW II, medical departments in Poland emerged from the structures of old universities. At the Medical Academy launched in Warsaw in 1950 for some decades to come there was no room for an institution of museum character where the liquidated collections of medical heritage objects and donations from doctors as well as families of deceased professors could be housed. For this very reason a big number of precious documents, but also historical objects, for over 50 years in Warsaw were transferred to the Stanisław Konopka Central Medical Library whose special collections are now housed in the pavilion of the former Ujazdów Hospital.

The change in attitude to medical tangible heritage in Warsaw was brought about with the beginning of the new millennium. In the wake of the celebrations of 200 years of

university-level medicine and pharmacy (2009), and the extension of the Banach Campus in 2011, thanks to the decision of His Magnificence Vice-Chancellor Marek Krawczyk. WUM succeeded in establishing the WUM Medical History Museum. Prof. Edward Towpik became its first director. Many Warsaw doctors and medical historians welcomed the decision, since for many years they had been enviously looking at Berlin where in 1998 the Berliner Medizinhistorisches Museum der Charité was launched. The newly-established museum unit in Warsaw was soon receiving in-flowing numerous donations that were promptly inventoried. Among the acquisitions there were historical medical tools and apparatus pieces, pre-WW II publications, professors' heritage, former insignia, and works of art. Currently, the Mona software serving the purposes of registering, managing, and digitizing all the acquisitions features 3.272 items [as on 8 June 2019]. The WUM Medical History Museum was also promptly granted its permanent seat in the Library and Information Centre raised in 2012. Over the next several years, the Museum prepared some interesting temporary exhibitions dedicated respectively to Janusz Korczak (2012–13), Józef Polikarp Brudziński (2017), and the role of women in Warsaw academic medicine (2019). The Museum is also the organizer of conferences and scientific lectures. At present, works are underway to create the permanent exhibition meant to be open to the general public.

What are the next challenges that the WUM Medical History Museum will face in the near future, and should the Museum, bearing in mind the variety of historical academic collections of the Warsaw Medical University, draw inspiration from the experience of coordination of tangible heritage as gathered by the Humboldt University and the University of Vienna from the recent years? In compliance with the regulations authorized by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the role of the WUM Museum is to collect, preserve, conserve, and make available for public viewing tangible heritage objects and collections within the field of the history of medicine.²⁶ The most important task of this university unit is thus care for all the objects that are important for the history of the university and the history of Warsaw medicine.²⁷ The coordination would consist of several stages. Initially, it is essential to reach all the university collections: of units, chairs, departments, and WMU clinical hospital collections. This identification would imply evaluation of their preservation state and formulating opinion on their conservation. Subsequently, the Museum should aim at creating a single inventory including all the museum-character objects valuable for the University. At a further stage, the objects should be digitized and disseminated through a special online database not only to the University staff, but also to all the interested, namely medical historians, specialists in Warsaw studies, specialists in the history of tertiary education, and museologists. Finally, all the digitized museum objects from the Warsaw Medical University should be included in the future platform of the Association of University Museums.

The first step in this several-stage plan has been completed. Upon the decision of the Chancellor and Bursar of WUM, objects like, among others, portraits of Vice Chancellors hanging in the Senate Room, Vice-Chancellor's insignia, or single works of art that can be found in numerous professors' studies and auditoriums, are



5. Gallery of Portraits of Vice-Chancellors in the Senate Hall, Medical University of Warsaw, to be included in the inventory of the Medical History Museum



6. Display space at J.P. Brudziński Paediatric Hospital in Warsaw

(Fot. 4 – Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe; 5 – Dział Fotomedyczny WUM; 6 – Muzeum Historii Medycyny WUM)

to be included in the Museum's collections. This does not, however, mean that all these objects will be transferred to the Museum. It should not be forgotten that many of the above-mentioned objects are strictly connected with a given location, and they should not be removed from a definite historical context. An excellent example here is the portrait of Ludwik Paszkiewicz by Marek Bojarski, for several decades hanging in the Collegium Anatomicum in the auditorium bearing the name of the famous medic. Also what should be left at University units are e.g. historical anatomic preparations, given their didactic and scientific character, but also the possibility that thanks to them in the future the pre-war collections of Edward Loth, Ludwik Paszkiewicz, or Wiktor Grzywo-Dąbrowski will be recreated. However, the WUM Medical History Museum should participate in the reactivation of those collections, by helping to elaborate appropriate display concepts in harmony with the currently valid trends in European medical museology. Remembering that the future permanent exhibition at the Medical History Museum will have to present the entire historical legacy of the University, the Museum staff should be provided with the capacity to choose, in agreement with supervisors of unit collections, several objects, since the display will show a compact history of academic teaching of medicine and pharmacy in Warsaw from the early 19th century up to the present time.

However, if the WUM Medical History Museum is responsible for the tangible heritage of the University, the situation can also be challenging. The example of this can be seen in the recent relocation of historical objects from the University buildings in Marszałkowska and Litewska Streets to the recently raised paediatric Józef Polikarp Brudziński Paediatric Hospital in Banacha Street. At the new venue, on Level 1 of the Hospital building, historical objects, namely the busts of the wife and son of the industrialist Baron Leon Władysław de Loewenstein (Lenval)²⁸ have all been grouped along one wall together with commemorative plaques dedicated to e.g. Paediatrics Professor Władysław Szenajch (1879–1964) and Paediatrics Surgeon Prof Jan Kossakowski (1900–1979), creating a peculiar lapidarium there. Additionally, within this space, precious objects from the old State Clinical Hospital No. 3 in Działdowska Street were placed, e.g. the medallion with a newborn baby modelled on the tonidi of the Florence Hospital of the Innocents.²⁹ At present, the venue of the new display does not guarantee an appropriate preservation of the objects, not to mention their appropriate lighting and an adequate display with relevant narrative in the background. Such projects should be consulted with the University Medical History Museum whose role is to suggest which objects can be transferred, which should remain in situ, and which are worth being incorporated into the Museum permanent exhibition speaking of the history of the University and Warsaw clinical hospitals.

Furthermore, what can be worrisome is the fact that despite the completion of the refurbishing of the University building in Litewska Street, the commemorative plaque related to the famous paediatrician and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Warsaw in 1930/31, bonded with the Hospital for many years, Prof. Mieczysław Michałowicz (1876–1965) has not been returned to the building's elevation. At the moment its whereabouts are being ascertained. The example shows how important and urgent it is to inventory

and preserve all the historical monuments, commemorative plaques, and other art pieces, particularly those to be found at the Lindley Campus (since 1901 the Hospital of Baby Jesus has been operating in this area), since the place is a true historical treasure of the University of Warsaw medics.

In order to avoid situations in which in the course of University edifice renovation mementoes precious for the University are lost, it is necessary to conduct throughout WUM an informative campaign making all the University staff aware that the Medical History Museum is ready to take care of, either permanently or as a several-year deposit, historical objects. The positive example from the recent months, namely related to the revitalizing of the Pharmaceutical Department at the Banach Campus shows that such a solution has already been put into practice.

Thanks to numerous visits paid by the Museum staff to the Department building while it was being rehabilitated and agreements made with the heads of the following; Chair of Pharmacognosy and Molecular Basis of Phytotherapy as well as the Chair of Analytical Chemistry and Biomaterials it was possible to acquire e.g. old dean robes, old pharmaceutical scales, and old worth preserving plaques with the university name: 'Medical Academy' for the collections of the Medical History Museum. Currently, they are being inventoried, and the most interesting objects will be made available to visitors during the next permanent exhibition.

The next challenge to be faced in the near future by the WUM Medical History Museum is to convince the Warsaw medical circle that it would be advisable for all the historical objects of museum object value connected with the academic medicine and pharmacy: documents, portraits, photos, commemorative plaques, instruments and pieces of medical apparatus, etc., to end up at the Medical University Museum. Several decades after WW II, as has been mentioned above, many precious heritage objects were placed in the Stanisław Konopka Main Medical Library. Several years ago the authorities of the Warsaw Medical University undertook some attempts to acquire those extremely precious University mementoes stored at Warsaw's Ujazdów, though no definite success has been achieved until today.

The collections of the Warsaw Medical University occupy a special place on the university map of Warsaw. Thanks to their varied character, they reflect all the Asclepius' teachings conducted in Warsaw for 200 years. The WUM Medical University History, following the solutions of the Humboldt University and the University of Vienna, hopes to care for all the historical heritage, securing proper factual, administrative, and registering care to it. Taking advantage of the experience of the two prestigious universities: one in Berlin and the other one in Vienna, it is essential to reach as quickly as possible all the collections within the Warsaw University and at the subsequent stage to set up one shared website meant to describe all the collections of the Warsaw Medical University, afterwards, following the digitizing, aimed at being made available online. Such a strategy of managing the University historical heritage as for preservation, conservation, development, and maintenance of the collections will effectively make the future generations of Warsaw students proud of the accomplishments of their predecessors.

Endnotes

- ¹ The Warsaw University Museum was represented by the Director of the establishment at the time Prof. Jerzy Miziołek and Adam Tyszkiewicz.
- ² C. Weber, *University Collections*, in: *European History Online* (EGO), published by the Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG), Mainz 19 Dec. 2012.
- ³ T. Schnalke, I. Arzt, *Tracing Life in the Berlin Museum of Medical History at the Charité*, Berlin 2000 (Eng. abbreviated edition of the book *Dem Leben auf der Spur im Berliner Medizinhistorischen Museum der Charité: Dauerausstellung*, Berlin 2000, p. 16); Objects from L. Virchov's collection which survived WW II are currently on display at the Berliner Medizinhistorisches Museum der Charité.
- ⁴ C. Feigl, *A University of Objects*, in: *Academic Showcases. The Collections at the University of Vienna*, eadem (ed.), p. 16.
- ⁵ More on Cornelia Weber's academic research and activity at <http://weber-c.de/en/index.html> [Accessed: 8 June 2019].
- ⁶ This information from the website: <https://portal.wissenschaftliche-sammlungen.de/kennzahlen> [Accessed: 8 June 2019]. The portal is one of the effects of the activity of the Coordination Centre for Scientific University Collections.
- ⁷ The effect of the Exhibition is a three-volume publication composed of the catalogue and essays by the Exhibition's Curators: H. Bredekamp, J. Brüning, C. Weber, *Theater der Theatrum. Natur und Kunst Naturae et Artis*, Vols. I-III, Berlin 2000.
- ⁸ *Laboratory. The Humboldt-Labor. Science in Motion. Thoughts and Approaches*, Berlin 2017 and <https://www.humboldtforum.org/en/pages/humboldt-laboratory> [Accessed: 8 June 2019].
- ⁹ The attempts to organize a permanent exhibition showing the history of the University of Vienna date back to 1914, T. Maisel, *The Historical Collections of the Vienna University Archive*, in: *Academic Showcases*, C. Feigl (ed.), pp. 169-70.
- ¹⁰ C. Feigl, *Schaukasten der Wissenschaft* Schaukästen der Wissenschaft: Die Sammlungen an der Universität Wien, Wien 2012. Four years later the English version of the publication was released: *Academic Showcases. The Collections at the University of Vienna*, Wien 2016.
- ¹¹ https://bibliothek.univie.ac.at/sammlungen/objekt_des_monats/ [Accessed: 8 June 2019].
- ¹² After <http://muzeauczelniarne.pl/o-smu/> [Accessed: 8 June 2019].
- ¹³ *Statut Stowarzyszenia Muzeów Uczelnianych* [Statutes of the Association of University Museums], Art. 2.
- ¹⁴ J. Miziołek wrote about this in his publication: *Muzea uczelniane. Katalog* [University Museums. Catalogue], in: 'Muzealnictwo' 2018, No. 59, pp. 221-24.
- ¹⁵ A. Stepiń-Dąbrowska, *Katalog muzeów, jednostek paramuzealnych, kolekcji w strukturach polskich szkół wyższych* [Catalogue of Museums, Para-Museum Units, Collections within the Structures of Polish Tertiary Education Institutions], June 2018; the document available at the seat of the Association of University Museums. In 2018, WUM Chair and Clinic of Otolaryngology mounted a new display of medical instruments in the Hospital building in Banacha Street called Museum of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery.
- ¹⁶ J. Bieliński, *Królewski Uniwersytet Warszawski* [Royal Warsaw University], Warszawa 1907, Vol. I, pp. 654-69.
- ¹⁷ The topic was tackled by I. Jaraczewska in her doctoral dissertation *Warszawska szkoła anatomo-patologiczna, jej powstanie, rozwój i działalność do roku 1915* [Warsaw School of Pathological Anatomy: Its Establishment, Development, and Activity till 1915], A. Wasiutyński (doctoral supervisor), Warszawa 1999, pp. 47-8.
- ¹⁸ E. Skrzypek-Fakhoury, *Od Brodowskiego do Paszkiewiczza. Twórcy Warszawskiej Szkoły Anatomii Patologicznej* [From Brodowski to Paszkiewicz. Creators of the Warsaw School of Pathological Anatomy], Warszawa 2007, pp. 46-7.
- ¹⁹ Numerous preparations were donated by the widow of Prof. Konrad Gliński of the Jagiellonian University, *ibid.*, pp. 137-38.
- ²⁰ More on the collection in: R. Wesołowski, *W murach warszawskiego Anatomicum* [Within the Walls of Warsaw's Anatomicum], Lublin 1977, pp. 9-10; J. Grzybowski, *Laboratoires d'anatomie, d'histologie et d'embryologie des Facultés de Médecine humaine et vétérinaire en Pologne*, 'Folia Morphologica' 1931, No. 3, p. 139.
- ²¹ R. Wesołowski, *W murach warszawskiego Anatomicum...*, p. 10.
- ²² One of the specimens dated even to 1820, J. Manicki, *Dzieje uczelni medycznych w Warszawie w latach 1944-1960* [History of Medical High Schools in Warsaw in 1944-1960], Warszawa 1968, p. 209.
- ²³ B. Ciszek, *Zakład Anatomii Prawidłowej* [Normal Anatomy Unit], in: *Dzieje I Wydziału Lekarskiego Akademii Medycznej w Warszawie (1809-2006)* [History of the 1st Medical Department at the Medical Academy in Warsaw (1809-2006)], M. Krawczyk (ed.), Vol. II, Lublin 2008, p. 427.
- ²⁴ W. Prątnicka, *Katedra i Zakład Anatomii Patologicznej* [Pathological Anatomy Chair and Unit], in: *Dzieje I Wydziału Lekarskiego... ibid.*, p. 453.
- ²⁵ P. Krajewski, *Katedra i Zakład Medycyny Sądowej* [Forensic Medicine Chair and Unit], in: *Dzieje I Wydziału Lekarskiego... ibid.*, p. 487.
- ²⁶ *Regulamin Muzeum Historii Medycyny Warszawskiego Uniwersytetu Medycznego z 6 IX 2011 r* [Rules of the Medical History Museum of Warsaw Medical University of 6 Sept. 2011].
- ²⁷ The idea is not utterly new. Already some years ago upon the decision of Marek Krawczyk, WUM Vice-Chancellor, a Commission to evaluate and select WUM assets of historical character was established. Its main task was to evaluate and select components of WUM assets that are of historical character, to transfer them to be preserved and displayed at the Medical History Museum: Ordinance No. 71/2011 of the Vice-Chancellor of Warsaw Medical University of 9 December 2011, however the Commission has never been convened.
- ²⁸ Leon Władysław de Lenal (1836-1900) is mainly famous for financing the Institute of Children's Hygiene in Litewska Street. More on the activity of this philanthropist in: Z. Pustuła, *Leon Władysław Loewenstein (de Lenal)*, *Polski Słownik Bibliograficzny* [Leon Władysław Loewenstein (de Lenal). Polish Bibliographical Dictionary], Vol. XVII, Wrocław-Warszawa-Kraków 1972, pp. 521-22; L. de Lenal, *Zarys projektu Instytutu Higieny Dziecięcej w Warszawie* [Outline of the Project of the Institute of Children's Hygiene in Warsaw], 'Zdrowie' 1898, Vol. XIV, pp. 434-36.
- ²⁹ The medallion dates back to the times of Warsaw's Charles and Mary Hospital for Children in Leszno Street. The institution was founded in 1913 by Zofia Szlenkierówna, and its organization was entrusted to Józef Polikarp Brudziński. During WW II, the hospital buildings were completely demolished, while the preserved movable assets, including the Florentine-art-style medallion, were transferred to the building in Działdowska Street. More on the pre-war Charles and Mary Hospital for Children in Leszno Street in: W. Szenajch, *Szpital im. Karola i Marii dla dzieci: budowa, organizacja, działalność: pierwsze dziesięciolecie szpitala 1913-1923* [Charles and Mary Hospital for Children: Building, Organization, Activity: Hospital's First Decade 1913-1923], Warszawa 1926.

Bibliography

- Bieliński J., *Królewski Uniwersytet Warszawski* [Royal Warsaw University], Vol. I, Warszawa 1907.
- Bredenkamp H., Brüning J., Weber C., *Theater der Theatrum. Natur aund Kunst Naturae et Artis*, Vols. I-III, Berlin 2000.
- Ciszek B., *Zakład Anatomii Prawidłowej* [Normal Anatomy Unit], in: *Dzieje I Wydziału Lekarskiego Akademii Medycznej w Warszawie (1809-2006)* [History of the 1st Medical Department at the Medical Academy in Warsaw (1809-2006)], M. Krawczyk (ed.), Vol. II, Lublin 2008. Feigl C., *Schaukästen der Wissenschaft: Die Sammlungen an der Universität Wien*, Wien 2012.
- Grzybowski J., *Laboratoires d'anatomie, d'histologie et d'embryologie des Facultés de Médecine humaine et vétérinaire en Pologne*, 'Folia Morphologica' 1931, 3, pp. 118-56.
- Jaraczewska I., *Warszawska szkoła anatomico-patologiczna, jej powstanie, rozwój i działalność do roku 1915* [Warsaw School of Pathological Anatomy: Its Establishment, Development, and Activity till 1915], Warszawa 1999, A. Wasiutyński (doctoral supervisor).
- Krajewski P., *Katedra i Zakład Medycyny Sądowej* [Forensic Medicine Chair and Unit], in: *Dzieje I Wydziału Lekarskiego Akademii Medycznej w Warszawie (1809-2006)*, M. Krawczyk (ed.), Vol. II, Lublin 2008.
- Laboratory. The Humboldt-Labor. Science in Motion. Thoughts and Approaches*, Berlin 2017.
- de Lencal L., *Zarys projektu Instytutu Higieny Dziecięcej w Warszawie* [Outline of the Project of the Institute of Children's Hygiene in Warsaw], 'Zdrowie' 1898, Vol. XIV.
- Manicki J., *Dzieje uczelni medycznych w Warszawie w latach 1944-1960* [History of Medical High Schools in Warsaw in 1944-1960], Warszawa 1968.
- Prątnicka W., *Katedra i Zakład Anatomii Patologicznej* [Pathological Anatomy Chair and Unit], in: *Dzieje I Wydziału Lekarskiego Akademii Medycznej w Warszawie (1809-2006)*, M. Krawczyk (ed.), Vol. II, Lublin 2008.
- Schnalke T., *Arzt I., Tracing Life in the Berlin Museum of Medical History at the Charité / Dem Leben auf der Spur im Berliner Medizinhistorischen Museum der Charité: Dauerausstellung*, Berlin 2010.
- Skrzypek-Fakhoury E., *Od Brodowskiego do Paszkiewiczza. Twórcy Warszawskiej Szkoły Anatomii Patologicznej* [From Brodowski to Paszkiewicz. Creators of the Warsaw School of Pathological Anatomy], Warszawa 2007.
- Stępień-Dąbrowska A., *Katalog muzeów, jednostek paramuzealnych, kolekcji w strukturach polskich szkół wyższych* [Catalogue of Museums, Para-Museum Units, Collections within the Structures of Polish Tertiary Education Institutions], June 2018.
- Maisel T., *The Historical Collections of the Vienna University Archive*, in: *Academic Showcases. The Collections at the University of Vienna*, C. Feigl (ed.), Vienna 2016.
- Miziołek J., *Muzea uczelniane. Katalog* [University Museums. Catalogue], in: 'Muzealnictwo' 2018, No. 59.
- Regulamin Muzeum Historii Medycyny Warszawskiego Uniwersytetu Medycznego z 6 IX 2011 r.* [Rules of the Medical History Museum of Warsaw Medical University of 6 Sept. 2011].
- Szenajch W., *Szpital im. Karola i Marii dla dzieci: budowa, organizacja, działalność: pierwsze dziesięciolecie szpitala 1913-1923* [Charles and Mary Hospital for Children: Building, Organization, Activity: Hospital's First Decade 1913-1923], Warszawa 1926.
- Statut Stowarzyszenia Muzeów Uczelnianych* [Statutes of the Association of University Museums].
- Weber C., *University Collections*, in: *European History Online (EGO)*, published by the Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG), Mainz 2012.
- Wesołowski R., *W murach warszawskiego Anatomicum* [Within the Walls of Warsaw's Anatomicum], Lublin 1977.
- Zarządzenie nr 71/2011 Rektora Warszawskiego Uniwersytetu Medycznego z dnia 9 grudnia 2011 r. [Ordinance No. 71/2011 of the Vice-Chancellor of Warsaw Medical University of 9 December 2011].

Websites

- <https://portal.wissenschaftliche-sammlungen.de/kennzahlen>
- <https://www.sammlungen.hu-berlin.de/>
- <https://portal.wissenschaftliche-sammlungen.de/>
- <https://www.humboldtforum.org/en/pages/humboldt-laboratory>
- https://bibliothek.univie.ac.at/sammlungen/objekt_des_monats/
- <http://weber-c.de/en/index.html>
- <http://muzeauczelniane.pl/o-smu/>

dr Adam Tyszkiewicz

Archaeologist and art historian, University of Warsaw (UW) graduate; (2018) doctoral degree in liberal arts at the Historical Faculty, UW; (2011-18) Assistant at the UW Museum; (since 2018) Director at the WMU Medical History Museum; lecturer at Post-Graduate Warsaw Studies, Institute of History UW at UW Open University; Warsaw tour guide; author of numerous papers dedicated to Warsaw, education in Warsaw, UW heritage; member: Association of Art Historians (SHS), Association of Warsaw Museologists (SMW), Association of University Museums (SMU); his interests focus on: urban layout, history of university teaching; academic ceremonial, history of medicine, sports, and of literature; e-mail: adam.tyszkiewicz@wum.edu.pl

Word count: 6 464; **Tables:** –; **Figures:** 6; **References:** 29

Received: 05.2019; **Reviewed:** 06.2019; **Accepted:** 06.2019; **Published:** 07.2019

DOI: 10.5604/01.3001.0013.3012

Copyright©: 2019 National Institute for Museums and Public Collections. Published by Index Copernicus Sp. z o.o. All rights reserved.

Competing interests: Authors have declared that no competing interest exists.

Cite this article as: Tyszkiewicz A.; MANAGING THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW VERSUS THE EXPERIENCE OF THE HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA. *Muz.*, 2019(60): 163–173

Table of contents 2019: <https://muzealnictworocznik.com/issue/11897>