

POLISH CENTRAL MUSEUM REPOSITORY IN THE GDAŃSK VOIVODESHIP. PART 2: IN SOPOT AND IN OLIWA

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Abstract: The second part of the paper on the repositories located in Sopot and Gdańsk-Oliwa refers to the articles on Polish conservation and museum repositories published in the previous issues of the 'Muzealnictwo' Annual, particularly in the 2018 issue No. 59. The paper covers the period 1945–1949, in which the first stage of the transport of the artistic collections to the Polish Central Museum Repository in the Gdańsk Voivodeship (PCZM) took place. Established in 1945 by the Ministry of Culture and Art (MKiS) and the Central Directorate of Museums and Collection Protection (NDMiOZ), the institution was meant to collect moveable heritage that on the grounds of the decrees issued at the time was becoming property of the Treasury of State. The main PCZM's seat was located in Sopot, the second in Gdańsk-Oliwa. The activity of the Repository is described,

and so are the responsibilities of its staff and management, number of monuments collected at a given period, operation principles, administrative reporting, financing, outlays on the edifices of the Repository buildings. Furthermore, legal and political conditioning for PCZM's operations are given. The issued decrees and ordinances changing the political regime in the country are given; they had a direct impact on the property collected at the Repository: *abandoned, former German, and former manorial* and on its ownership transfer. Moreover, extracts from instructions, orders, and circulars issued by the then administration, and affecting PCZM's goals and operating are quoted; additionally, localities from which objects were transferred to PCZM are given, and sources to further investigate the topic are pointed to.

Keywords: Polish Central Museum Repository (PCZM), Gdańsk Voivodeship, Ministry of Culture and Art (MKiS) and Central Directorate of Museums and Collection Protection (NDMiOZ), transport campaign, Sopot Repository, Oliwa Repository, former manorial property, former German property, protection of movable monuments.

The present article is the second part of the overview of the Polish museum and conservation repository established in the wake of WW II whose activity covers Gdansk Pomerania.¹ Making reference to the Author's earlier studies published in the previous issues of the 'Muzealnictwo' Annual,² it covers 1945–48 when the first transportation campaigns of heritage objects took place. Not exhausting the topic, it allowed the Author to point out to motifs and sources for further more thorough studies.

The Polish Central Museum Repository of artistic collections for the Gdansk Voivodeship (PCZM), as it was referred to, a state administration institution, was created in 1945 by the Voivodeship Office in Gdansk (UWG) as commissioned

by the Ministry of Culture and Art (MKiS) and the Central Directorate of Museums and Collection Protection (NDMiOZ). It was established in order to collect movable heritage items from the territory of the Gdansk Voivodeship.

Three buildings were allocated to serve PCZM's purposes. The Head Office was located in Sopot, in the villa at 24 Abrahama Street. This address³ was to house *paintings, furniture, and small pieces of art*.⁴ What was transported there was *more valuable material requiring direct care and a dry neat interior*.⁵ The villa taken over by MKiS served at the same time as the seat of the Baltic Institute, this causing inconvenience for the residents and employees of both institutions, particularly due to the growing number of historic movable

objects brought to the villa by operational groups. As of 1948, the edifice was exclusively the property of MKIS. A part of the buildings was assigned to serve as flats of MKIS's delegates, and it also housed a small reference library with books on art history and a conservation workshop.⁶

The second PCZM building, serving the purpose until 1980, was the former Abbots' Granary⁷ in Gdansk-Oliwa, in the Oliwa Park, not far from the former Cistercian Convent, whose address at the time was 12c Opacka Street. The Repository could use five storeys of the granary. Collections amassed for PCZM were also deposited in the two-storeyed and two-winged former stable building, adjacent to the Granary in the southern part of the Oliwa Park, as well as in the 18th-century Abbots' coachhouse

From 1928 the Monastery housed the 'Oliwa Museum': State Regional Museum of the History of Gdansk (Staatliches Landesmuseum für Danziger Geschichte⁸). It was in the above-mentioned facilities that the German Conservator Office had collected heritage pieces evacuated from Gdansk.

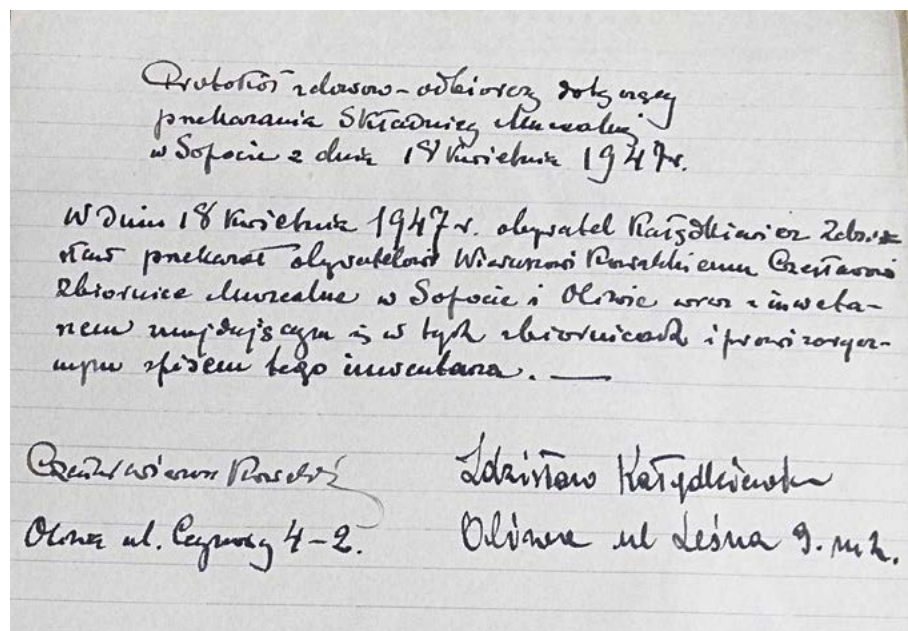
The Oliwa Museum Repository was to receive church wood and larger pieces of art as well as more precious objects from the Gdansk Museum that did not have appropriate conditions (...) and plaster casts, artistic iron grating, tiles, historical objects of folk households, boats, canoes from early historical period.⁹ The objects collected there also included parts of church inventories transported from communes and official Gdansk listed buildings, from Gdansk historic houses. In the words of the Department Head Janusz Urbański in the report from October 1945, the Campaign to Protect Movable Historic Objects¹⁰ it was the historic monuments previously taken away by Germans, by us already partially saved and preserved that were placed there.¹¹ In July 1946, the concept of yet another location for the Repository was suggested; this time it was the refectory of the Oliwa Abbey.¹² The collected fragments of historic buildings, fragments from tidied streets and edifices, and apart from stone sculpture also iron elements, as well as candle holders left over in churches, apart

from the two main PCZM seats, were gradually placed in ten lapidaria throughout Gdansk and Sopot.¹³

Exerting the function until 29 July 1946,¹⁴ Prof. Jan Kilarski was the first PCZM's Manager. He was succeeded by Zdzisław Kałedkiewicz,¹⁵ (holding the position until April 1947), who took over PCZM museum objects from Prof. Jan Kilarski in the presence of a commission. From 18 April 1947 to 25 October 1948, PCZM was run by Czesław Wierusz-Kowalski.¹⁶ Edward Falkowski¹⁷ and Jan Olesiuk¹⁸ were PCZM's caretakers, lodging in the Oliwa Repository building. The head authorities of PCZM directly reported to the Office of the Gdansk Voivodeship Monument Conservator. Currently, the Repository which is still housed in the former coachhouse in Oliwa and since 2014 in St Gertrude Bastion, continues within the structure of the Gdansk Voivodeship Office for Preservation of Objects of Cultural Heritage.

Administratively, PCZM operated analogically to other institutions that were being established within the new urban tissue of Gdansk. Provision of the essential materials for the Repository were possible only once appropriate applications had been submitted to respective offices, for example the allotment of coal for heating, a motorbike, a telephone line, vehicles to transport the objects.¹⁹ In 1946, refurbishing of the Oliwa PCZM buildings was conducted. Windows were renovated, fire extinguishers placed, and an emergency telephone line was connected.²⁰ Plans for 1947 foresaw the completion of the refurbishing of the Repository buildings and connection of the city telephone landline.²¹

The financing of the transportation campaigns, at the time conducted throughout the whole country, was managed by NDMiOZ whose Director, having approved each application, would issue an instruction in writing to pay out the resources to cover the costs of a definite transportation, to the Head of the National Campaign for Preserving Movable Monuments at the Culture Department of the Voivodeship Office in Wrocław. The latter, in the event of transportation campaigns conducted by PCZM staff,



1. Hand-over protocol of transferring the Museum Repository in Sopot; Archives of the Monument Conservator in Gdańsk



2. Business trip document of Prof. Michał Walicki issued on 13 April 1945; Archives of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw

addressed correspondence to the Voivodeship Conservator of Monuments in Gdansk (UKWG), recommending the paying out of the sum applied for from the resources that had been allocated to the Voivodeship Office in Gdansk (UWG).²² Meanwhile, objects' packaging, loading, unloading, and transportation were covered from the budget of the Department of Culture and Art (WKiS). The used financing was accounted for after the objects had been transported to PCZM.²³ Furthermore, financing coming from WKiS was allocated to refurbishing, equipment purchases, and to the salaries of the full-time staff and individuals employed occasionally, as well as to kindergarten costs of the children of the staff. From the beginning of its existence on 31 December 1946, UWG WKiS, using the financing from MKiS subsidies, allocated 410.000 PLN to museums, 950.000 to PCZM, and 900.000 to the City Museum of Gdańsk.²⁴ From this balance it is clear that the costs of the Central Repository did constitute quite a substantial sum in the Department's budget. However, they were not sums that could suffice to cover the basic needs, particularly to secure the collected works. The condition for receiving a monthly subsidy to conduct the activity of WKiS, including the Repository, was to submit financial reports in reference to work plans, accompanied by a factual justification.

The creation, goal, and operation modes of repositories, apart from decrees and regulations, were decided upon by guidelines, instructions, ordinances, and circulars of the central and local governments. They actually defined the course of their activity. The first of such documents that was of impact for the presently discussed topic was the detailed Instruction for the operational group headed by Prof. Walicki, and signed by the Deputy Minister of Culture and Art. The instruction must have been created just before 13 April 1945, since it is the date borne on the preserved business-trip document of Prof. Walicki.²⁵

The Instruction formulates goals and means of implementation of this operational group. It is worthwhile to quote the entire Instruction for being so detailed within different art areas.

Instruction for Citizen Prof. Michał Walicki PhD, Zbigniew Turski²⁶ and Feliks Smosarski,²⁷ delegated by the Ministry of Culture and Art to the territory of the Gdansk Voivodeship upon the request of Citizen Voivode.

1. Citizen Walicki PhD is the Group Head.
2. Upon arrival, Group Head shall report to Citizen Voivode to receive detailed instructions and guidelines as for the means of performing Group's tasks within the scope commissioned by the Minister.
3. Group members shall provide mutual assistance to each other in performing tasks that do not strictly fall within their expertise. If a need arises for them to be joined by experts in theatre and literature, they shall inform Minister of that instantly.
4. Group members shall establish close contacts with the delegates of the Minister of Education²⁸ for the purpose of preserving libraries and archives.
5. Within the scope of monument protection, the most urgent tasks include:
 - a) wherever possible, introduce temporary protection of immovable monuments and their furnishing;
 - b) investigate the state of public and private collections;
 - c) preliminarily secure these collections: a/ in situ, b/ by transporting them to museums or collection centres;
 - d) elaborate conclusions as for further preservation and conservation actions necessary for the conservation of immovable monuments, prioritizing the necessary works in relation to monuments' value and the degree of threat, as well as museums and collections;
6. As for music-related issues the tasks include:
 - a) secure instruments, musical libraries, and premises for:
 - a) musical school in Gdansk and possibly in other localities in the Gdansk Voivodeship, b/concert movement (concert auditorium), c/Association of Musicians;
 - b) collect overall approximate data related to the network of musical schools and musical movement;
 - c) provide care to local musicians;

d) establish Organisational Committee of the Association of Musicians.

7. As for theatre-related issues the tasks include:

a) investigate whether theatre buildings in Gdansk, Gdynia and other places have survived; and if usable, secure them to prevent destruction and looting of the remaining assets and theatre devices;

b) secure preserved theatre assets (...) with particular care;

c) subsequently, inventory theatre assets and submit relevant report to the Ministry of Culture and Art.

8. With respect to fine arts, the following should be done:

a) investigate whether any works and art collections have survived, where they have been relocated; if found, secure them;

b) investigate what artistic schools used to operate and what has happened to their equipment and collections; secure any found movable equipment and interiors;

c) find Polish visual artists who have survived and provide them with care;

d) investigate whether there is any available accommodation for a permanent or temporary settlement of groups of artists interested in Pomerania, Gdansk, and the sea;

e) secure stores of painting equipment, paints, etc.

f) investigate the possibility of finding a house for the future Trade Association of Musicians, Writers, and Artists and of resort premises at the seaside; the premises to allow working environment for artists, writers, and musicians should have a canteen and guest rooms for visiting artists and writers.

9. With respect to works related to the Literature Department the following should be done:

a) investigate if and how soon a Polish literary magazine as a Polishness propaganda organ could be launched in Gdansk (printing house, paper resources, etc.). An appropriate group of writers could be dispatched there to deal with the question;

b) investigate and inform the Ministry when and whether to send writers to the Gdansk Voivodeship so that there is accommodation and food available for them to collect impressions and materials to write reports and literary pieces on Gdansk: to be published in Polish literary and general magazines, possibly in a book;

10. Group members shall run activity logs and upon return shall submit a detailed report. If an opportunity arises, they shall send in brief updates. Signed Minister.²⁹

The next document, important for the further course of events and amassing PCZM's collections, is the letter of Gdansk Voivode of October 1945³⁰ and addressed to his subordinate offices within the Gdansk Voivodeship on the necessity to register monuments present within the Voivodeship. It contains recommendation to consult the provisions of the pre-war Act on the Protection of Monuments, and particularly those of its articles which defined the concept of 'movable monuments' when³¹ qualifying an object as a monument. In November 1945, Gdansk Voivode Mieczysław Szczęśny Okęcki Eng.³² worded the content of the poster *To Citizens Poles Returning to the Homeland from former German territories and other European countries.* (...) *To you, Citizens, who are returning from the territories to which our national properties have been relocated, who were frequently forced to transport them, or who when*

*passing through different countries had the chance to come across objects which in your opinion could be of Polish provenance, it is you, Citizens, that the whole Polish Nation is requesting to reveal such locations without undue delay, since there is still opportunity to regain the property relocated from Poland. There shall be 5% object's value fee paid to those who disclose necessary information (...).*³³

In early March 1946, the Head of the UWG Department of Culture and Art Janusz Urbański issued a circular referring to the frequent at the time procedure of destroying trees and parks. The circular also contained the paragraph referring to the 'Deposits from Gdansk': *not everything that the German authorities evacuated from Gdansk has been found. Please, instruct commune offices to conduct investigation and search for the purpose.*

In May 1946, the Ministry of Regained Territories instructed voivodes active within the Claimed Territories³⁴ for state institutions to submit to cultural departments of respective Voivodeship offices *lists of objects of artistic, historical, or cultural worth that can be found in their territory:*³⁵ *All the organs of state authorities which have information on depositories or single art works from former German property, abandoned, or from centres that underwent the agrarian reform (...) which have not been covered with state organ supervision are requested to send written information about them to respective UWG WKiS in whose territory these are found.* As the legal grounds for such an activity the Ordinance of the President of the Council of Ministers (PRM) Edward Osóbka-Morawski was given.³⁶ In the following months the Ministries: of Regained Territories, Culture and Art, and of Public Administration tried to outpace each other in sending around PRM's Ordinance, reminding of the obligation to enact it.

It was also in May 1946 that NDMiOZ recommended that Voivodeship Offices, including UWG WKiS, should put together reports on the state of the protection of former manorial monuments³⁷ within their Voivodeship, filed together with a detailed action plan to protect and transport them, which should be conducted in summer and autumn months. *The following shall be provided and marked on the enclosed map: localities from which post-manorial property will need to be transported, as well as the type and weight of the portion of monuments to be picked up from that locality. Museums and larger repositories foreseen as collecting centres with approximate interior size. Routes that need to be covered with the total number of kilometres stated, and foreseen transportation activities within a given month; staff Team meant to take part in the process; transportation means available to the Voivodeship Office that can be used for the transportation. Financial resources that the Voivodeship Office and museums cooperating with it can allocate to the process; What needs to be provided are estimations of additional transportation and financial resources that could be necessary to implement the presented programme. Subvention applications shall be based on detailed cost estimates. Furthermore, all the potential obstacles and difficulties that might arise in the field in the course of the campaign of protecting and transporting of former manorial property shall be pointed to. This year's transportation campaign should aim at an entire protection of former-manorial property within the Voivodeship. MKiS instructs for the above to be treated as urgent and with utmost urgency.*³⁸

A month later, also MKiS issued a circular, this one with respect to the *transfer of objects*, on this occasion *historic and artistic* that read the following: *all the fine arts works, or objects of artistic, historical, or cultural value, coming from abandoned, former-German or former-manorial property, which are currently in the possession or administration of the Voivodeship Culture and Art Departments or offices reporting to them, as well as in museums, depositories, collecting centres, can be transferred or made available exclusively upon a written instruction to do so by NDMiOZ at MKiS. This also applies to the cases when the recipients of such art works or objects are authority unities as well as offices and institutions.*³⁹

The content of the below circular was criticized by the Museum and Monument Protection Office at UWG who were of the opinion that putting in force the instruction contained there will cause *an immeasurable increase in difficulties in the transportation of museum objects, since such offices as on a commune or county level, as well as Land and Liquidation Offices which are predominantly in charge of the art works and their Repositories, basing themselves on the quoted circular will expect in agreement with the circular a written instruction from NDMiOZ. The circular may be effective in two cases only, namely: a/ restriction of the activity of City Management in the transportation campaign of museum objects, and b/ parishes applying to WKiS for the return of church refurbishing.* This criticism was accepted. WKiS Head Janusz Urbański decided to temporarily interrupt sending out the circular.⁴⁰

From the legal acts it seems clear that the implementation of the Campaign of Protecting Movable Monuments proclaimed by NDMiOZ at MKiS was reserved only for this governmental agency. However, documentation preserved from the period illustrates its faulty organization: superposing of competences, competition for the dispersed collections between local and central authorities, and in many a case also lack of will of the representative of both to cooperate.

Let us resort to one example here: the letter of Gdansk Voivode Janusz Urbański to the Mayor of the City of Gdansk dated 19 Aug. 1946 informing that *the Municipal WKiS without prior communication with the Voivode WKiS is conducting transportation of liturgical and museum equipment, placing transported objects in the building of the City Museum. As much as understanding the intention to thus enrich the Museum's collection, I am, however, obliged to point to the incorrect procedure in this respect, since according to NDMiOZ's Ordinance, the exclusive right to manage the preserved monuments is with the Voivodeship WKiS or Voivodeship Conservator. The campaign conducted by the Municipal WKiS causes confusion in commune and county offices, therefore not objecting to the assistance that comes on the part of the Municipal WKiS, having at its disposal as can be seen appropriate means to conduct the campaign in question, I am, nevertheless, obliged to draw the attention to the need to comply in this respect with the issued ordinances, particularly as certain cases have been witnessed of incorrect depositing of church objects in the building of the City Museum instead of Repositories established for the purpose.*⁴¹

PCZM employees, complying with the quoted rules and directives, gathered monuments, art works, artistic objects, collecting them not only from where they had

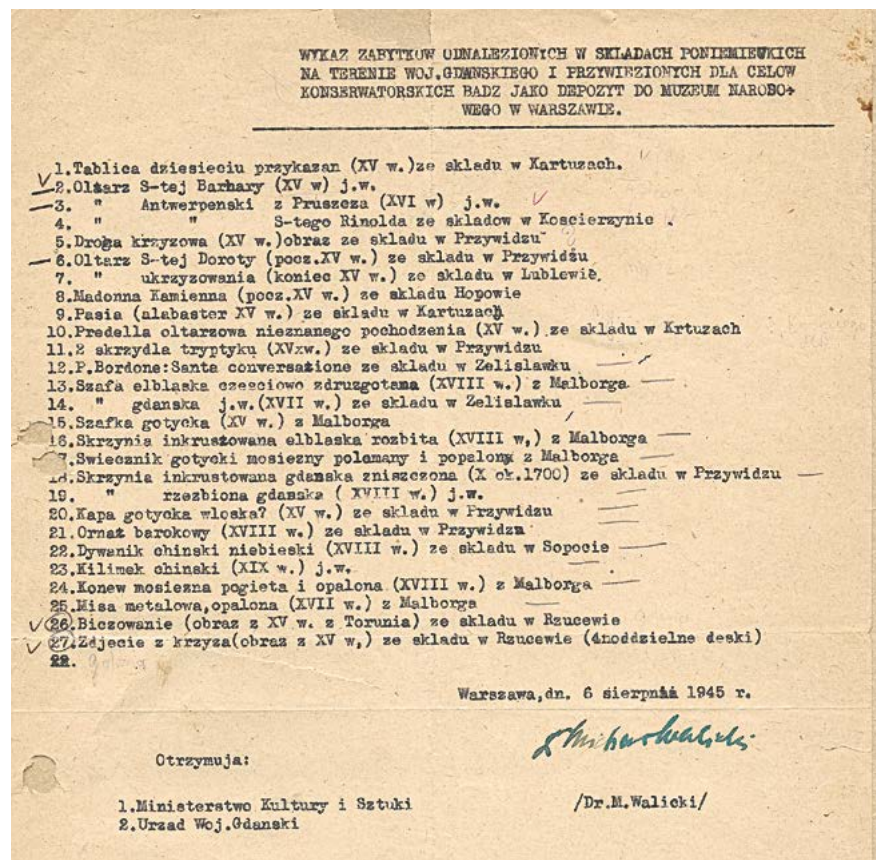
been hidden by the German administration, but also from land estates used by the institutions that were being formed at the time. They collected objects found on the premises these institutions occupied, and also collected them from abandoned private flats and houses now occupied by new residents.⁴² Collecting of the movables was possible upon the presentation of a document authorizing either a definite individual or the bearer.⁴³ Such authorizations were issued by: NDMiOZ Director, Voivodeship Conservator, Voivode, or the WKiS Head. When the objects were handed out, a hand-over protocol was prepared. The transportation from the Voivodeship territory to PCZM could be conducted upon a prior permit from the Ministry of Regained Territories.

In 1945, across the Gdansk Voivodeship territory there still existed almost 40 repositories, depositories, in the care of Voivodeship commune eldership, earlier arranged by the German administration.⁴⁴ In May 1946, there still remained 34. These repositories contained, among others, refurbishing of Gdansk churches, the Artus Manor, the Uphagen House, the Town Hall, as well as the collections of the Oliwa Museum.

Given the difficulties in transporting collections to PCZM from the entire territory of the Gdansk Voivodeship, apart from the former German repositories, also smaller repositories were arranged at relatively safe locations.⁴⁵ They were the destination to which objects were transported from so-called collection centres, e.g. manors, flats, institutions. This was done, since transportation to the Central Repository was difficult, in some cases even impossible due to the state of roads, bridges, and shortage of transportation and financial means. An average route from the collection centre to a given locality with minor repositories and back amounted to 200 km. However, as reported in a May 1946 document written by the WKiS Head, not all of the collection centres had been reached by UWG officials.⁴⁶ Let us quote here the Elbląg repository: *Historic objects found with local forces under the rubble of the former historic museum and garden at 4 Wigilijna Street were taken to the storage of the Municipal Department of Sanitation in Wolności Street in Elbląg, following which they were transported to the Museum Repository in Łączności Street in Elbląg.*⁴⁷ In 1946, 50% of movables were transported from minor repositories to PCZM.⁴⁸

Over the first months, and in some cases even years, the museums: the regional one in Darłowo, 49 Słupsk, Kwidzyń, and the City Museum in Gdansk, played the role of depositories, repositories. The museums in question, sometimes without harmonizing their activities with UWG,⁵⁰ were also involved in the transportation of objects. Due to the shortage of qualified staff and sufficient financial means, it was difficult to provide sufficient care to the objects collected at the museums and repositories, and prevent them from being robbed.

The supervision of local repositories, care for the security of historic objects collected there, and also in churches, both those in use and unused, ranked among the responsibilities of UWG WKiS, and theoretically also PCZM staff. In the documentation from the period there are sufficiently many admonitions and guidelines addressed to the local authorities to show the least of care for the amassed collections.⁵¹ Already in June 1945, UWG WKiS issued a circular addressed



3. List of monuments found in former German repositories within the Gdansk Voivodeship transferred to the National Museum in Warsaw; State Archives in Gdańsk

to Commune Elderships and Municipalities: *in order to protect precious monuments of church art abundant in churches/ both Catholic and Evangelical/ within the Gdansk Voivodeship, and also in order to prevent looting of valuable deposits from Gdansk museums and churches often kept in those churches, instruction has to be given for the churches to remain closed outside the service hours, namely for unused churches to remain closed at all time (...).*⁵²

Repositories and museums performed the same functions: they were to collect, store, register, and conserve.⁵³ It is likely that precisely for this very reason state and local administration treated them both as equal. This can be illustrated with the NDMiOZ correspondence addressed to PCZM, containing, similarly as that sent to museums, questions for their financial plans for 1947–49 related to: construction, reconstruction, alterations, adaptations, buildings' refurbishing, equipment, purchase of museum objects, publications, as well as costs of the transportation of former manorial and former German property, or related to the collection exchange and costs incurred for organizational, administrative, and personnel purposes.⁵⁴ Following the years of intense transportation campaigns, and a relative ordering of the resources, exhibitions were organized at PCZM; also supervision was provided over the objects transferred to other institutions for use.

In the reports submitted to NDMiOZ there is frequent mention of the inventorying of the resources as an activity consuming the majority of the time. From the 1947 monthly reports, it can be seen that throughout the whole year the activities conducted at PCZM focused on *inventorying of*

*collections, ordering the museum inventory transported from respective localities.*⁵⁵

The collected monuments underwent some conservation procedures which were originally conducted at the Central Conservation Laboratory in Warsaw,⁵⁶ as of 1946, at its branch located at the Sopot Repository,⁵⁷ while as of 1947, in Gdansk-Wrzeszcz.⁵⁸ It was already in 1945 that Prof. Jan Borowski appealed to NDMiOZ to establish a conservation laboratory *in view of a poor state of polychromes and polychrome sculptures in Gdansk historic buildings and the disastrous state of sculptures brought to museum repositories which require instant preservation.* His proposal implied for the conservation laboratory in Gdansk to be a branch of the Central Laboratory in Warsaw, pointing to the necessity to conduct works locally, given the works' state and size. The situation like this continued in 1945 and 1946, however the 1947 report reads: *at the instigation of NDMiOZ at MKiS, in the person of the MiOZ General Director Prof. St. Lorentz and General Conservator Prof. J. Zachwatowicz, State Conservation Laboratory for Monuments of Architecture, Painting, and Sculpture, as a branch of the Warsaw Laboratory, with its seat in Wrzeszcz, was established.*

Prof. Borowski's plans came true. The established Conservation Laboratory covered the whole Gdansk Voivodeship, while its task was to preserve art works scattered throughout the whole territory which following warfare remained unattended under unacceptable conditions threatening with their total destruction.⁵⁹

The objects collected at PCZM were transferred as deposits to varied institutions, also to decorate newly established offices.⁶⁰ Moreover, works of art or architectural elements

coming from historic buildings, including churches, were given as deposits to the administrators of those buildings. Such procedures are continued to date (sic!).

In some cases, depositories, repositories were transformed into museums, and out of the objects collected at PCZM monuments were transferred to museums. Interestingly, not only did the City Museum of Gdansk recover from PCZM museum objects that had belonged to its collections, but it also received objects of other provenance.⁶¹

When objects from PCZM were transferred to other entities, a hand-over protocol was prepared, this signed by the Repository Manager and representative of the institution that was collecting them.⁶² The protocols provided clauses related to security rules and care for the preservation state of the loaned objects. In certain cases, a passage was added signalling the necessity to conduct conservation preservation works. All the works on the monuments were to be carried out exclusively in communication with the Voivode Conservator. The content of the preserved hand-over protocols made when movables were collected, similarly as the preserved lists of objects that were kept at lapidaria and the Repository, as incomplete as they are, constitutes a priceless source of knowledge for conducting provenance research.

In 1945–48, movable monuments transported to PCZM came from the following localities and estates: Krokowa, Charbrowa, Jodłowna, Kończewice, Rzucew, Mierzeszyn, Kadyn, Hopowo, Kłodawa, Radziejew, Bietowo, Bytowo, Wielbrandow, Szpęgawsk, Sobowidz, Lichnowy, Lisowice, Nowy Kościół, Wejherowo, Sierakowice, Jurandowo, Bolszewo, Wandzin, Krąg, Kopytkowo, Zajęczkowo, Rokocin, as well as Kartuzy, Elbląg, Malbork, Kwidziń, and Słupsk.⁶³

The present outline does not allow for a full list of

movable objects that were first collect at PCZM, and later handed out.⁶⁴ Recreation of collection transfers goes well beyond the paper's scope. Scattered and incomplete source material has been partly preserved in the archival resources of the Voivodeship Gdansk Conservator, partly in the State Archive in Gdansk in the followings sets: Gdansk Voivodeship Office, Gdansk Municipality, and Gdansk Municipal National Council; also possibly amidst the archival material collected in respective museums. The outlined topic requires a more thorough analysis of the mentioned archival sets, as well as further preliminary searches and investigation. All the more so, as today the purpose of a repository is most frequently understood as a place of temporary storage. Meanwhile, those repositories managed by NDMiOZ were devised as agencies exerting ownership and management functions over collections of movables which, abiding by the acts and decrees formulated at the time,⁶⁵ became property of the Treasury of State. Such was the plan, however its implementation requires further investigation.

Overall, however, the conclusion seems irrefutable that had it not been for the effort to organize museum and conservation repositories for the objects of old culture in Gdansk Pomerania and in other voivodeships located just beyond the front line, under the changing political circumstances, and given the peculiar activity of the Red Army war commands⁶⁶ as well as the exchange of the population, many more cultural assets would have been looted by different entities. As imperfect as the Campaign might have been, it is to it that museums owe the objects in their collections that are of German and Polish provenance, and also those that come from church collections, religious associations, and others.

Przypisy

¹ See L.M. Kamińska, *Polska Centralna Zbiornica Muzealna na Województwo Gdańskie. Część 1. Geneza powstania* [Polish Central Museum Repository for the Gdansk Voivodeship. Part I. Genesis of Its Creation], in: 'Muzealnictwo' 2018, No. 59, pp. 175-84; the article was based, among others, on the material collected in the course of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage Grant, and came from the collections of State Archives in Gdansk (AP-G), Archives of the Voivodeship Conservator in Gdansk (AKW-G), Central Archives of Modern Records (AAN), Archives of the State Academy of Sciences in Warsaw (APAN), and National Museum in Warsaw (MNW).

² See: L.M. Kamińska, *ibidem*.

³ AKW-G, Portfolio: Repository – Correspondence, no pagination: villa reaching 138 sq m, fenced in, located on the land of 17 ares; intabulated owner Dorothea Lukowski, née Clericus.

⁴ AP-G, Set of the Gdansk Voivodeship Office (UWG), ACNO 1164/1229, p. 19.

⁵ AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/58.2, p. 3 – Report of the Head of the Culture Department of October 1946.

⁶ AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/58.2, p. 2.

⁷ Currently Ethnographic Branch of the National Museum in Gdansk is located here.

⁸ <https://www.gdansk.pl/historia/muzeum-w-oliwskim-palacu,a,102802> [Accessed: 13 July 2019].

⁹ AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/58.1, p. 21 and AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1229, p. 19 – Report on WkiS Accomplishments from 14 April 1945 to 8 May 1946 signed by the Department Head Janusz Urbański.

¹⁰ National Campaign for Preserving Movable Monuments was part of the so-called Restitution Campaign conducted by the post-WW II Polish administration.

¹¹ AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/58.2, p. 3.

¹² Gdansk Voivodeship Conservator Prof. Jan Borowski Eng., referring to the conversation with Bishop Wronka PhD, addressed the proposal to organize a repository in the Oliwa Convent refectory for church monuments to the Bishop's Curia in Oliwa: *in a longer-term perspective the collections gathered here will create a diocese museum of sacral art, revealing all the beauty of the artistic heritage of the past centuries of church art on the Coast*. The plan was accepted by MKiS, AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1248, pp. 149, 193. The Diocese Museum was established only in 1975 at the instigation of the Bishop of the Gdansk Diocese Lech Kaczmarek. It was opened by the Cracow Bishop Cardinal Karol Wojtyła. The Museum presented collections of sacral art: painting, sculpture, and artistic crafts in the former refectory and the Oliwa Peace Room, after: https://www.gedanopedia.pl/gdansk/?title=MUZEUM_ARCHIDIECZJI_W_OLI-WIE [Accessed: 13 July 2019].

¹³ AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/58.1, p. 22.

- ¹⁴ AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1248, p. 195 – hand-over act of the Museum Repository in Sopot.
- ¹⁵ Zdzisław Kałędkiewicz (b. 1913 in Częstochowa, d. 2005 in Bojan/ Bojano), Polish painter and poet; in 1937, he began studies at the Cracow Academy of Fine Arts, and continued under Władysław Lam in Lvov. His paintings were displayed at the first post-WW II Exhibition: 1954 Spring Salon. Having studied at the State Higher School of Fine Arts in Gdansk, he became junior lecturer at the Chair of Drawing and Painting, Faculty of Architecture, Gdansk University of Technology. Having graduated in 1955, he became teacher at the State Secondary School of Fine Arts in Gdynia, as of 1964 serving for 2 years as its Headmaster. He ran courses in painting and composition at the Gdansk Higher School of Fine Arts. He was buried at the Oliwa Cemetery. https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zdzis%C5%82aw_Ka%C5%82%C4%99dkiewicz [Accessed: 13 July 2019]; AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1249, p. 425.
- ¹⁶ Czesław Wierusz-Kowalski (b. 1882 in Munich, d. 1984 in Warsaw): a Polish painter, mainly of portraits and landscapes. In 1932, his one-man exhibition was held at the Warsaw Zachęta Society for the Encouragement of Fine Arts. In 1945, he moved to Gdansk; as the PCZM Manager, he was also responsible for the organization of the Kartuzy museum; in 1957, he moved to Warsaw where he lived until his death. See: E. Ptaszyńska, *Trzy pokolenia Wieruszów-Kowalskich. Style, epoki, kraje* [Three Generations of the Wierusz-Kowalskis. Styles, Eras, Countries], in: 'Muzealnictwo' 2007, No. 48, pp. 95-109 and AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1249, p. 813; AKZ-G, Portfolio: Repository – Correspondence: Hand-Over Protocol related to handing over the Museum Repository in Sopot dated 18 April 1947 and letter dated 25 Oct. 1948.
- ¹⁷ AKZ-G, Portfolio: Repository – Correspondence: letter of the Gdansk Voivodeship Conservator of 1 Dec. 1948.
- ¹⁸ AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1249, p. 299.
- ¹⁹ Jan Borowski (born February 25, 1890 in St. Petersburg, died October 25, 1966 in Gdańsk), architect, monument conservator. In 1917 he graduated from the Architecture Department of the Institute of Civil Engineers in St. Petersburg. From 1924, he worked at the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Vilnius, in 1939 he obtained habilitation. From 1929, he simultaneously lectured at the Construction Department of the Vilnius State Technical School, where he worked until June 1, 1945. He designed many churches in the Vilnius region (e.g. in Nowa Wilejka and Soleczniki), schools, monuments, and conducted conservation works, among others in the church of St. Kazimierz and the Gate of Dawn in Vilnius, in the castles of Vilnius, Trakai and Krewa. From 1934, he was entrusted with the adaptation and reconstruction of buildings in Zułów, the property of Józef Piłsudski, intended for the Museum of National Remembrance. On 16.08.1945 he started working in Warsaw as a conservator at the National Studio for the Conservation of Architectural Monuments. From August to September 1945, he participated in the work of the commission assessing the destruction of Wrocław's monuments. Then on October 5, 1945, together with his wife Halina Szumska-Szuman de domo, he settled in Gdańsk. From 15.10.1945 he started working as the head of the Department of Universal Architecture History at the Gdańsk University of Technology. He lectured on the history of architecture, from 1953 on the conservation of monuments. From 1950, he lectured in parallel on the history of architecture at the State College of Fine Arts in Gdańsk. From March 1946 to resigning from this function on April 30, 1951, he was the first post-war Provincial Conservator of Gdańsk. He developed a register of monuments of Gdańsk and the province to be protected; he created conservation workshops. He developed his own architectural designs and supervised the reconstruction and conservation works in Gdańsk, including Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary (reconstruction of vaults and roofs), Main Town Hall (reconstruction of the body and helmet design), Royal Chapel (reconstruction after destruction), church of St. Elżbieta (conservation and reconstruction project), Green Gate (reconstruction project), Great Armory (reconstruction project for the needs of the city museum). His merits include securing the ruins of the castle in Malbork. With Leopold Taraszkiewicz, he was the author of a construction project (completed in 1961) for a new church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Gdynia. Decorated incl. Gold Cross of Merit, Medal of the 10th anniversary of the Polish People's Republic, badge "For merits to Gdańsk", laureate of the State Award. Buried in the Oliwa cemetery, for: http://pawet.net/zl/zl/2006_71/4.html [access: 13.07.2019]; https://www.gedanopedia.pl/index.php?title=BOROWSKI_JAN [access: 13.07.2019].
- ²⁰ AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1248, p. 53, 761; AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1249, pp. 289, 491, 497, 505, 589, 741.
- ²¹ AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1248, p. 685: UWG WKIS Report for November 1946.
- ²² AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1229, p. 223: UWG WKIS work agenda for 1st quarter of 1947.
- ²³ AKZ-G, Portfolio: Repository – Correspondence: in 1949, the Head of the National Campaign for Preserving Movable Monuments was Andrzej Domaszewski.
- ²⁴ AKZ-G, Portfolio: Repository – Correspondence.
- ²⁵ AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1229, pp. 75-7 – UWG WKIS Report.
- ²⁶ APAN, ACNO 292 (formerly APAN III-178/73, p. 2): business trip document ref. no. 1460/4; See: Fig. 2 in this paper.
- ²⁷ Zbigniew Turski (b. 21 July 1908 in Konstancin, d. 6 Jan. 1979 in Warsaw): a Polish composer and conductor, served as Director of the Baltic Philharmonic until Dec. 1946. Participating in the operational group, he was responsible for music-related issues.
- ²⁸ Feliks Smosarski (b. 1902, d. 1967); a painter, one of the organizers of the Gdansk circle of fine artists in 1945, he was Head of the Culture Department at the Voivodeship Council; participating in the operational group, he was responsible for fine arts-related issues.
- ²⁹ AAN, MKIS, ACNO 387/23 – in this volume there are *Materials on Gdansk*, worked out by the operational group of the Ministry of Education of the City of Gdansk, speaking of Polish mementoes in Gdansk removed during the partitions in the 19th century or by the Nazis, and also of the Polish institutions active in Gdansk in the inter-war Period and heritage objects that classified for preservation.
- ³⁰ AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1225, pp. 109-10.
- ³¹ AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1222, pp. 83-5.
- ³² Ordinance of the President of the Republic of Poland on the Care for Monuments, Journal of Laws No. 29, of 6 March 1928, Item 265: Arts. 1, 2, 5, 13-17, 24.
- ³³ Mieczysław Szczepny Okęcki, *Polski Słownik Biograficzny* [Polish Biographical Dictionary], Vol. XXIII, Wrocław 1978, pp. 657-59.
- ³⁴ AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/264, p. 29 – this is a draft of the poster. There is no confirmation whether it was popularized.
- ³⁵ The territories on the Oder and Baltic which fell within Poland's borders following WW II bore various names: Claimed Territories (in the documents of the Government Delegation for Poland), Returning Territories (as of 1943), New Territories (term used in army conspiracy, e.g. in the name: Army Administration of New Territories, WAZN), as of 1944: Regained Territories, the latter term used by the Government Delegation for Poland, later also by the authorities of Communist Poland, and the Western Territories following 1956, after: S. Zwoliński, *Stanowisko Rządu Polskiego na obczyźnie i działalność Delegatury Krajowej w zakresie przejęcia i zagospodarowania Ziem Postulowanych w czasie wojny* [Position of the Polish Government in Exile and the Activity of the Government Delegation for Poland with Respect to Taking over and Developing Claimed Territories During the War], in: *Ziemie Odzyskane pod wojskową administracją radziecką po II wojnie światowej* [Regained Territories under Soviet Military Administration Following WW II], S. Łach (ed.), Słupsk 2000, p.

9. In the Instruction for Polish military formations entering the territories returned to Poland, attached to the NDMiOZ letter dated 23 March 1945 to the Office of Western Territories, the term 'territories returned to Poland' is used – AAN, MKiS Set, ACNO 387/23, pp. 19-23. There exists no administrative unit, or set of units, or any other type of a separate organism that would accurately correspond with the Western Territories, after: W. Markiewicz, *Zasiedlenie i zagospodarowanie ziem zachodnich (1945–1964)* [Settlement and Development of the Western Territories (1945–1964)], 'Przegląd Zachodni' 1964, Vol 20, No. 4, pp. 232-33.
- ³⁶AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1250, pp. 169-73.
- ³⁷AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1248, p. 125; AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1250, pp. 109-10.
- ³⁸See: L.M. Karecka, *Mienie zwane podworskim w Muzeum Narodowym w Warszawie* [So-Called Manorial Property at the National Museum in Warsaw], in: 'Muzealnictwo' 2012, No. 52, pp. 44-57.
- ³⁹AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164 /1249, pp. 419-21.
- ⁴⁰AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1248, p. 287 – Circular No. 20 dated 10 July 1946, signed by Minister Władysław Kowalski and MiOZ General Director Stanisław Lorentz PhD. It was addressed to all the Voivodeship Culture Departments in Poland.
- ⁴¹AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164 /1248, p. 285 – letter of UWG MiOZ Office dated 20 August 1946.
- ⁴²AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164 /1249, p. 559.
- ⁴³In compliance with the law in force former German property could not remain in private hands – See: footnote 68 in the present paper.
- ⁴⁴AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1249, pp. 593, 595 – authorization to transfer good issued to the bearer; AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1248, p. 543 – authorization issued by Kieszkowski to Urbański; AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1250, p. 1 – authorization issued to Frąckiewicz; AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1249, p. 425 – authorization issued to Kałędkiewicz; AKW-G, Portfolio: Repository – Correspondence – authorization issued to Bronisław Mor- Mieszkowski.
- ⁴⁵AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164 /1229, p. 61 – report of the Voivodeship Conservator for 1945-1946.
- ⁴⁶AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1250, pp. 299-320.
- ⁴⁷AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1249, p. 429 – letter of the WKiS Head Janusz Urbański to NDMiOZ at MKiS dated 31 May 1946.
- ⁴⁸AKW-G, Portfolio: Repository – Correspondence.
- ⁴⁹AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1248, p. 499 – report of the Voivodeship Conservator for Sept. 1946.
- ⁵⁰Genuine spelling: Derłowo.
- ⁵¹AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1250, pp. 89-95, 117, 121, 133, 197, 213, 215, 221, 243 – 1946 reports and opinions on museums in the Gdansk Voivodeship, unsigned.
- ⁵²AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1248, p. 275 – letter of Voivodeship Conservator Prof. Borowski recommending art works in churches to be padlocked.
- ⁵³AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1222, p. 11; An interesting quote: WKiS Head released in March 1946 the following official announcement – (...) *the museum collections gathered in the Kończewice Evangelical Church are the property of the state, in the management of MKiS, and indirectly of the UWG WKiS. The individuals responsible for the securing of the collections are: the local Catholic priest, local Alderman, and local Militia Commander* [emphasis L.M. K.], AKW-G, Portfolio: Repository – Correspondence.
- ⁵⁴AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1223, p. 157.
- ⁵⁵AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1248, p. 545 – NDMiOZ letter dated 29 Oct.1946.
- ⁵⁶AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1230, p. 21 – Report of the Gdansk Voivodeship Conservator Prof. Borowski on the works of the Culture and Art Department at the Voivodeship Office – Museums and Monument Preservation, in the Section: Museums and Museum Repositories.
- ⁵⁷AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1250, p. 13 – *Wykaz zabytków odnalezionych w składach poniemieckich na terenie województwa gdańskiego i przywiezionych do dla celów konserwatorskich bądź jako depozyt do MNW* [List of Monuments Found in Former German Repositories in Gdansk Voivodeship and Brought to the National Museum in Warsaw For Conservation or as Deposit], See: Fig.3 in the present paper; Robert Jarocki, *Rozmowy z Lorentzem* [Talking to Lorentz], Warszawa 198, p. 343 – *In the case of the collections that Michał Walicki found and preserved, I had to immediately accept them in Warsaw. Despite the difficulties, we managed to organize storage space for the collections in the MNW cellars, and we grouped them there. It was closer from Gdansk to Warsaw than to Cracow.*
- ⁵⁸AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1229, p. 63 – Report on conservation works in Gdansk and within the Gdansk Voivodeship in 1945-1946.
- ⁵⁹AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1230, p. 109 – Report from the Conservation Laboratory for Painting and Sculpture in Wrzeszcz for November 1947.
- ⁶⁰AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1229, pp. 275-81 – Report from the activity of the State Conservation Laboratory for Architecture, Painting and Sculpture, Branch in Gdansk; the Laboratory was headed by the painter and conservator Maria Orthwein, the artist Piotr Żyngiel served as her.
- ⁶¹Also the Pieskowa Skała and Wiśnicz Castles – See: L.M. Kamińska, *Wawelska i Warszawska największe powojenne składnice przemieszczanych dóbr kultury w Polsce. Przyczynek do szerszego opracowania* [Wavel and Warsaw Post-War Largest Repositories for Relocated Cultural Goods in Poland. Contribution to a Broader Elaboration], in: 'Muzealnictwo' 2017, No. 58, pp. 249-256, footnote 23.
- ⁶²AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1250, p. 113.
- ⁶³AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1250, p. 291 – MKiS letter dated 20 Nov. 1946.
- ⁶⁴AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/1250, pp. 301-322, 337-345; AKZ-G, Portfolio: Repository – Correspondence.
- ⁶⁵AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164-1229, p. 321 – *Gdansk cannot become a line of Repositories, namely only of dead museum objects: amidst living people old walls will come to life*, wrote Janusz Urbański, Head of UWG WKiS in the summing up of the study from Nov. 1947 *Issues Dealt with by the Ministry of Culture and Art in the Gdansk Voivodeship*.
- ⁶⁶It relates to the following: Decree of 2 March 1945 on Deserted and Abandoned Estates, Journal of Laws No. 9. Item 45, Act of 6 May 1945 on Deserted and Abandoned Estates, Journal of Laws No. 17, Item 97, with amendments No. 30, Item179; Decree of 13 Nov. 1945 on Administration over the Regained Territories, Journal of Laws of 1945, No. 51, Item 295; Decree of 8 March 1946 on Deserted and Former German Estates, Journal of Laws of 1946, No. 13, Item 87, with later amendments; Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform of 1 March 1945 on the Enforcement of the Decree of the Polish Committee of National Liberation of 6 Sept. 1944 on Implementing the Agrarian Reform, Journal of Laws of 1945, No. 10, Item 51. With the Decree of 2 March 1945 the Office for Temporary State Administration was established to exclusively deal with former German property and abandoned property in the Gdansk Voivodeship; the Act on Deserted and Abandoned Property of 6 May 1945 was supplanted by the Decree of 8 March 1946 on Deserted and

Former German Property. Similarly as the Act, the Decree provided for post-war property, accounting for the specificity of the property remaining in the Western Territories, defining deserted property, similarly as the previous Act. It does not apply the notion of abandoned property; instead it names property that by force of law becomes property of the Treasury of State. Thus the property that by law becomes the property of the Treasury of State is that: a) of the German Reich and the former Free City of Gdansk, b) of the citizens of the German Reich and the former free City of Gdansk, with exception of the individuals of Polish nationality or other nationality persecuted by Germans, c) of German and Gdansk legal persons, with the exceptions of legal persons of public law, d) of companies controlled by German or Gdansk citizens or by German or Gdansk law, e) of individuals who fled to the enemy. Thus the object of the Decree is abandoned property which by force of law becomes property of the Treasury of the Polish State or other legal persons of public law, namely as was defined in the Decree's title: Former German Property. No possibility is mentioned for private persons to become owners of these objects. Therefore, monuments of German provenance by force of law become property of the Treasury of State. Art. 2.4.c of the discussed Decree excludes property of legal persons of public law as that which automatically becomes property of the Treasury of State. This provision is of major importance for the consideration of the ownership issue of former German heritage items. The Polish legislator formulates special provisions with respect to the property of German and Gdansk legal persons of public law. This covers, among others, the property of the Protestant Church as a church legal person that has the character of a legal person of public law. Interestingly, in the light of the German legislation of the time, church legal persons had the character of a legal person of public law. The Decree provides for this property by force of law not to become property of the Treasury of State, but respective Polish legal persons. The regulation covered with the analysed Decree was final, thus in force today and in the future. The Decree does not distinguish between former German property that came from the Western Territories and that which ended up in those territories as a result of warfare.

⁶⁷ See: In compliance with the Yalta Conference decisions the current western and northern territories of Poland were treated as a part of the Soviet occupation zone, despite the fact that already at that stage the decision had been made to incorporate these lands into the Polish territory. Therefore, in the eyes of some historians the legal grounds for the operation of the Soviet war commands are not really defined, and it resembles more occupation with certain modifications, such as admitting Polish administration. In order to confirm this thesis, let us resort to the Resolution of the State Defense Committee of the USSR regulating the acting of the Polish administration over Poland's western and northern territories, which, nevertheless, allowed unrestrained prerogatives to the command of the Red Army. Furthermore, there also exist documents describing different situations in which Soviet troops actually collaborated with the German population, e.g. making it impossible for Poles to settle down in the estates allocated to them by the Polish administration, or they looted either property or farming produce. The truth is that such a solution permitted the Soviet Union to satisfy their compensation claims from German property remaining within the territory given to Poland, by exporting appropriate objects from the Soviet occupation zone and the German property beyond the border; such was the regarded status of the property in Silesia and Pomerania. In the old counties the relocation of property formally ended on 10 June 1945, while in the new ones on 16 Aug. 1945. Practically, however, the relocation of property continued throughout next months, which, according to Baziur, was looting. Despite the frontline moving in the occupied territories, war commands stayed behind, which allowed not only to implement the goals of the Soviet policy towards the newly established authorities of the Polish state, but first of all to satisfy Soviet economic needs, and to keep the position of a world superpower exerting uncontrolled power. The only power there was in the taken territories was that of the organs of the Polish Committee of National Liberation (PKWN), thus the commands actually served the purpose of fighting against the structures of the Polish Underground State, deporting members of the Polish Underground State, as well as Polish, German, and Kashubian native population to the USSR, after: G. Baziur, *Wpływ stacjonujących jednostek armii radzieckiej na sytuację społeczno-polityczną i ekonomiczną województwa gdańskiego w latach 1945-1947. Próba oceny historycznej* [Impact of the Stationed Soviet Troops on the Socio-Political and Economic Situation of the Gdansk Voivodeship in 1945-47. Attempt at a Historical Assessment], 'Rocznik Gdański' 2000, Vol. LX; See: AP-G, UWG, ACNO 1164/369, 1164/370 as well as AAN Set: Ministry of Regained Territories 196/1007.

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