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POLISH CENTRAL MUSEUM REPOSITORY FOR GDAŃSK VOIVODESHIP. PART 1. ORIGIN

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Abstract: The article – a successive text on this topic published in “Muzealnictwo” – is the first part of a broader study on relocations of cultural goods after World War II, and in particular on the functioning of the repositories – established and operated by the Polish administration on territories liberated by the moving front – in which they were stored. This time the discussion concerns repositories in Gdańsk Pomerania, with the first part presenting issues connected with the geopolitical situation in Gdańsk voivodeship, especially the city of Gdańsk. The article outlines the historical circumstances in which Polish administration carried out the so-called recovery campaign. Attention is drawn to the emergence of Polish authorities and the impact of their activity upon the achievement of formulated objectives: the organisation of social life, the rescue of artworks despite insufficient means and by

penetrating areas outside towns in a search for hidden cultural goods, and the establishment of repositories, warehouses and lapidaria for cultural goods saved from the rubble left behind by the moving front and the Red Army and for those evacuated from towns by the German monument protection service. The article lists locations in Gdańsk voivodeship where the German administration deposited assorted monuments. Collections of concealed movable monuments of art survived wartime hostilities and – unless plundered by the local population or Soviet Army commands – were salvaged and transported to repositories set up by delegates of the Ministry of Culture and Art. The second part of the article will describe the organisation and functioning of Polish repositories and the fate of the monuments amassed in them.

Keywords: repositories of cultural goods, Polish repositories, German repositories, Gdańsk voivodeship, Polish administration, Jan Kilarski, Michał Walicki.

This article is a successive attempt at describing the activity of Polish museum and conservation repositories established after the Second World War.¹ The text pertains to the terrain of Gdańsk and Gdańsk Pomerania and is a synthetic presentation of events preceding the appearance of repositories in Sopot and Oliwa, whose characteristics, together with an examination of the results of the so-called transport campaign conducted in the voivodeship of Gdańsk, call for a separate discussion.

The campaign in question was – similarly as in, e.g. Silesia and other parts of the country within the new frontiers – an element of undertakings comprising a so-called recovery campaign conducted by the government.² On 31 March 1945, i.e. barely a day after the line of the front shifted beyond

Gdańsk, its representatives, delegated by Edward Ochab, Minister of Public Administration, arrived in Gdańsk via Toruń and Kartuzy to organise civilian “Polish authorities”.³ A decree on the establishment of the voivodeship of Gdańsk was issued on 30 March 1945, the day of the liberation of Gdańsk.⁴ This was also the date of the town’s incorporation into Poland.⁵

On the following day operational groups of assorted ministries,⁶ including that of the Ministry of Culture and Art, whose task was securing cultural goods,⁷ appeared in Gdańsk. *The Polish arriving population is passive. The majority is attracted by the port (...) there is a distinctive albeit slight influx of earnest and ideological people drawn by the conception of the Polishisation of Gdańsk and the creation of conditions enabling Poland to achieve firm*

footing along the Baltic coast as well as the establishment of a sensible Polish administration representing a high level and cultivating Polish culture, wrote the President of Gdańsk.⁸

Upon their arrival in Gdańsk representatives of the Polish administration discovered Red Army commands, from which they were to gradually take over power in accordance with an Act of the State Defence Committee of the USSR and an Act passed by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Poland of 14 March 1945 on the Organisation of the Recovered Territories.⁹ Upon this foundation civilian authorities in Gdańsk were formally entrusted to President Franciszek Kotus-Jankowski.¹⁰ The Municipal Board was constituted at the end of April 1945. Owing to the scale of the damage incurred in Gdańsk¹¹ the Voivodeship Office and the County Starosta Office were located in Sopot¹² together with the main repository of secured monuments¹³. *On 29 April an act passed by the Council of the Municipal Board established the basic core of the municipal organisational status and initial rules for members of the Municipal Board. The two main established institutions were the Presidium and Control Departments and four offices: economical, technical, social, and police. The main institutions are directed by the President of the Town, and the offices – by four vice-presidents.*¹⁴

During the first post-liberation months Gdańsk was the site of three centres of authority: Soviet war commands, central administration operational groups, and emergent self-government authorities. *I established contact with Soviet military authorities immediately upon my arrival in Gdańsk. I maintain close and steady contact, both official and political, with them in an atmosphere of friendship. Upon the occasion of expanding official activity, however, I encountered great obstacles due to the attitude of the military authorities and managed to take over administration with great difficulty. The Russian authorities are slowly withdrawing from this terrain. Economic access, however, is still the domain of the Army, which considers all economic goods in Gdańsk to be wartime trophies. Food and all other commodities, machinery, tools, furniture and home outfitting are at the disposal of the Army, which grants the Municipal Board exemptions only in rare cases and, moreover, according to a complicated procedure. Military authorities carted away great amounts of this property from Gdańsk and even from houses taken over by the Poles upon the basis of permits issued by the Municipal Board, and they appropriated the most valuable furniture as well as other objects and equipment. It has become necessary for the central authorities to intervene for the sake of an exact determination what comprises war spoils, otherwise it is feared that even the equipment of public utility enterprises will be seized.*¹⁵

One of the first central administration operational groups to commence activity in Gdańsk and environs already on 5 April was the "Cracow" Group of the Ministry of Education under Professor Stanisław Turski, accompanied by, i.a. Kazimierz Kopecki, Franciszek Otto, Marian Pelczar, and Jan Kilarski.¹⁶ The group's task involved establishing the Gdańsk Polytechnic, preserving library property, and organising a campaign of securing works of art and removing damages incurred to culture and art entrusted to Professor Jan Kilarski,¹⁷ appointed head of the Department of Culture and Art at the Municipal Board;¹⁸ subsequently, he also supervised the Municipal

Museum,¹⁹ whose staff was at the time composed exclusively of employees of the German Stadtmuseum, whose director was Prof. Willy Drost.²⁰

The successive central administration team, this time known as "Warsaw", was headed by Professor Dr Michał Walicki,²¹ custodian at the National Museum in Warsaw. Delegated to the voivodeship of Gdańsk on 13 April 1945 by Władysław Kowalski, Minister of Culture and Art, *to carry out activities mentioned in a written instruction issued by the Ministry of Culture and Art*, Prof. Walicki remained at the disposal of the voivode of Gdańsk.²² His task involved becoming familiar with the situation of monuments in Gdańsk Pomerania and eventually searching for German repositories.²³ The team headed by Prof. Michał Walicki was composed of Professor Jerzy Sienkiewicz, Dr Władysław Frąckiewicz, Bogusław Kopydłowski, Józef Kojdecki, and Dr Ksawery Piwocki. Walicki, similarly to Kilarski, was *entitled to expropriate, transfer, and store all artworks in the county of Sopot.*²⁴ In this manner, two centres: that of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture, together with newly emergent Gdańsk self-government authorities commissioned their emissaries to carry out overlapping tasks, which caused competence chaos, rivalry, and mutual animosity.²⁵

The President of the City of Gdańsk recorded in his report of 1 May 1945: *While taking its first steps, the self-government in Gdańsk was compelled to pave a path in extremely unfavourable conditions. Initiating their activity, municipal institutions encountered assorted operational groups engaged in identical work and not revealing a tendency towards self-dissolution, and thus creating an undesired two-fold effect. Only the intervention of the Voivode of Gdańsk made it possible to start relieving those groups of their duties. Nonetheless, despite the accomplished dissolution material already accumulated by some groups had not been handed over to the Municipal Board, whose work, consequently, must be now conducted from the beginning.*²⁶

Regardless of the above-mentioned controversies, the greatest difficulty faced by the localisation and protection of movable monuments performed in the discussed terrain by Polish specialists was the competing activity of the Soviet team of the Committee of the Arts of the Council of Ministers of the USSR under Leoniy Denisov,²⁷ which searched – at the same time and in the same locations as the Poles – for cultural goods concealed by the German service for the protection of monuments and evacuated from Gdańsk and its environs.

Owing to the advancing Eastern Front, the Office of Prof. Erich Volmar – Gau-Konservator²⁸ for Gdańsk and West Pomerania²⁹ – ordered already in 1942³⁰ to prepare plans for the evacuation of movable cultural goods and to inaugurate the measurement and documentation of Gdańsk monuments. The campaign was supervised by the architect Jakub Dreuer together with Director W. Drost. The Municipal Museum collection and the collections and valuable outfitting of the Gdańsk Town Hall, the Artus Court, and local churches were placed in storerooms and lapidaria in Gdańsk Pomerania. After Gdańsk was captured and occupied by the Red Army, Volmar and Drost decided to stay and co-operate with the Polish authorities. They were to hand over documentation concerning places where movable monuments evacuated from the town had been concealed.³¹ Professor Willy Drost together with Erich Volmar, architect,

Powiatowa Komenda M.O.
w Sopocie

L.dz. 302

Z a s w i a d c z e n i e.

Na mocy delegacji Ministerstwa Kultury i Sztuki z dnia 13.IV.1945 r. upowaznia sie ob.prof.Uniw.Walickiego Michała, do rekwizycji, przewozienia i magazynowania na terenie pow.x Sopot wszelkich dzieł sztuki, bibliotek, instrumentow muzycznych i przyborow malarskich.

Wszelkie władze wojskowe i cywilne zobowiązane są do niesienia pomocy wyżej wymienionemu obywatelowi w wykonywaniu jego czynności służbowych.

Wazne do dnia 1.VI.1945 r.
Sopot, dnia 20.IV.1945 r.

Pow. Komendant M.O.

/-/ Zakrzewski



Югмар Котусова Графг. Музеум
в Чоново.

№ 302

Увереноверение.

На приказ Муш. Кутусова и Котусова (Мариетта) с дат 13.IV.45 г. поручаюму графг. проф. Унв. Валыцкому Михаилу реквирировати (закупати) и перевозити, складиривати все гоня предметы, всевозможные библиотеки, музыкальные инструменты и предметы быта на тер. уезда Чоново.

Все военные и гражданские власти не обязаны оказывать всякого рода содействия при исполнении вышеуказанных обязанностей.

Действительно по д. 20. IV. 1945 г.
Чоново, дат 20. IV. 45 г.

Юг. Котусова

1. Certificate issued by the Citizens' Militia headquarters in Sopot for Professor Michał Walicki

and Dr Marietta Gölich also acted as consultants for the group under Leoniy Denisov.³²

In the above-cited report President Kotus-Jankowski referred directly to **securing former German property**: *In the city of Gdańsk the campaign of protecting former German property was undertaken spontaneously by the Municipal Board, since up to now neither the Fiscal Chamber nor the Provisional State Administration Office³³ had embarked upon pertinent activity. The Municipal Board undertook those tasks by preserving former German property solely because – as the property of the State – it could have been damaged or plundered.³⁴ This task, however, encountered a number of obstacles, the first being the dependence of numerous economic decisions upon Russian military authorities, which reserved for themselves even minor resolutions in this domain. Not only the protection of public utility institutions and industry but even housing, food supplies, and transport are the domain of the Russian authorities, which do not always understand the interests of the State Treasury and the Town. The People's Militia's inadequate executive power also makes it impossible to protect abandoned and desolate property. The Russian authorities go on the assumption that the whole outfitting of Gdańsk is, for all practical purposes, part of war trophies, including not only industrial equipment and machines but also private homes of the inhabitants, furniture, bed linen, etc.³⁵ The author of the summary postulated: A/ Government pressure put on the Russian military authorities in Gdańsk so that they hand over to the Municipal Board all agendas and competences connected with the administration and economic life of the town (...).*

The location of monuments concealed around Gdańsk by German professionals is mentioned in, i.a. three reports on operations carried out by the Polish administration: *The Register of secured monuments of culture and art in the county of Kartuzi,³⁶ Report on an inspection in the county of Gdańsk,³⁷ Report no. 2 on the preservation of monuments in the voivodeship of Gdańsk prepared for the Ministry of Culture and Art – Head Office of Museums and Monuments Protection of 6 September 1945, written by Michał Walicki.³⁸ The last document, based on the contents of the above-mentioned local reports, contains vast information about the localisation and contents of the caches. Walicki mentioned 65 repositories, whose list he made upon the basis of information collected confidentially and by means of expeditions to particular localities where the majority of the considerably devastated monuments were kept. The number of such expeditions in July and August 1945 totalled at least 14.³⁹ At the same time the Denisov group conducted searches in 21 localities.⁴⁰*

The presented below list of German repositories-caches in Gdańsk Pomerania was made by Prof. Walicki and contains general information about their contents.⁴¹

Bahrendorf (Niedźwiedź, county of Wąbrzeźno) – manor house, until 1939 the property of Waclaw Mieczkowski: porcelain, furniture, weapons.

Barlomin (Barłomino, county of Wejherowo) – collections from the Municipal Museum in Gdańsk and Oliwa Cathedral.

Birkau near Rückenau and Neukirch-Höhe (Brzezina near Rychnów and Podgrodzie) – forester's lodge: furniture from the Carl Pudor Museum in Elbląg.

Borc (county of Kartuzy) – granary: armorial from the Municipal Museum in Gdańsk.

Brodnica (county of Wąbrzeźno) – town hall: collections from Bahrendorf.

Cadinen (Kadyny, county of Elbląg) – orangery in a former imperial estate; Protestant church: large altar, a small organs pulpit and an epitaph from the church of the Holy Virgin Mary in Gdańsk; other objects from the Carl Pudor Museum in Elbląg; large altar with the exception of a statue of the Madonna from the church of St. Bartholomew in Gdańsk.

Elbląg – storerooms in a Savings Bank treasury: prehistorical precious metal collections from the Museum in Grudziądz and a Municipal Bank treasury used for storing objects from the Carl Pudor Museum in Elbląg.

Fürstenweder (Żuławki, county of Nowy Dwór Gdański) – Protestant church: part of a baptismal font from the church of the Holy Virgin Mary in Gdańsk; baptismal font from the church of St. Catherine in Gdańsk; fragment of organs from the church of St. Barbara in Gdańsk.

Gdańsk⁴² – cellars of the Prehistorical Museum: archival material from the Carl Pudor Museum in Elbląg; town hall cellars and those in 3/4 św. Ducha Street: considerable part of the Lesser Gieldziński collection from the Gdańsk Hall (Dazniger Diele), part of the Artus Court, several fine examples of Old Gdańsk furniture, ornamental wrought iron objects, a tile collection, a faience collection and other small objects in more than ten chests; numerous pieces of furniture and mementos of Stanisław Leszczyński.

Gottswalde (Koszwały, county of Gdańsk) – Protestant church: minor objects from the Municipal Museum in Gdańsk.

Gross-Lessewitz (Lasowice Wielkie, county of Malbork) – barn belonging to the Catholic church rectory: organ pulpits, stalls, sculptures, paintings, outfitting from the sixteenth-seventeenth-century church of the Holy Trinity in Gdańsk.

Gross-Lichtenburg (Lichnowy, county of Malbork) – stable belonging to a Catholic parish church, a Lutheran church, and a presbytery shed containing objects from Gdańsk: wood sculptures and furniture, paintings, chests, sculptures, and church equipment from the sixteenth-eighteenth century.

Gross-Palau (Pawłowo, county of Gdańsk) – cabinets, carpets, chests containing amber from the Municipal Museum in Gdańsk.

Gross-Trampken (Trąbki Wielkie, county of Gdańsk) – Catholic church: Pietà from the church of St. Nicholas in Gdańsk.

Gross-Zúnder (Cedry Wielkie, county of Gdańsk) – tower of a Protestant church: chests with arts and crafts, mainly brass, from the area of Gdańsk.

Grudziądz – Savings Bank treasury, town hall cellars, a safe: collections of prehistorical precious metal objects.

Herrengrebin (Grabiny-Zameczek, county of Gdańsk) – chests containing faience and porcelain from the Municipal Museum in Gdańsk.

Hoppendorf (Hopowo, county of Kartuzy) – Protestant church: fragment of the Ferber altar, a stone Madonna, a crucifix – objects from the church of the Holy Virgin Mary in Gdańsk and the church of St. Catherine in Gdańsk.

Sierostwo Powiatowe
Kartuzkie

Rejestr zabezpieczonych zabytków kultury i sztuki
na terenie powiatu kartuskiego.

Lp.	Miejscowość i lokal	Obiekt	Rozmiar	Timezas, kustosz	Uwagi
1.	Maj. Borca spichlerz sbożowy	Herbarium Musei Gdanensis	25 skrzyń A 100x120x90 cm.	Inż. Zycki Stefan, administrator	W 1/5 - zbiory niezłknięte, reszta pro wiz. skompletowa- wać.
2.	Zukowo kościół paraf.	zabytki sztuki pochodzące prze- ważnie z Dworu Artusa	~ 80 m ³	Ks. Radtkó, proboszcz	2 modele kopii - usz- kodzone.
3.	Kartuzy refektarz przy kościółce paraf.	zabytki sztuki pochodzące z kości- ciców gdańskich: św. Mikołaja, św. Bar- bary, św. Jana, z Do- mu Uphagena i Dworu Artusa	~ 130 m ³	Ks. Sartowski, proboszcz	zabytki w całości prawie że niezłknię- te; szczególny re- jestr sporządzony
4.	Maj. Leśno dom ogrodnika folw. dom kowala folw.	fortepian 2 płaskie odlewy alabastrowe, 1 pejzaż morski (olej) część szafki sepa- rowej	~ 80x190 cm ~ 60x100 cm ~ 160x220 cm ~ 40x25x120 cm	Ob. Zielko, Admi- nistratork	część uszkodzona
	poddasze pałacu	skrzynia z książkami (niem. i ang. wydawn. XIX w.)	~ 70x120x30 cm		

Za S T A R O S T ą
(-) E. O r ó r e k
E. Orórek
p.o. Sier. Rej. Kult. i Szt.

2. Register of secured cultural goods and artworks in the county of Kartuzy

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Sopoty, 13. VI. 45.

S p r a w o z d a n i e .

z inspekcji terenu powiatu gdańskiego przez ref. K. i Sat.
Starostwa Powiatowego Gdańskiego, J. Zbrzeźniaka.

Po dokonaniu lustracji powiatu gdańskiego, odnaleziono i zabezpieczono dzieła kultury i sztuki, w niżej wymienionych miejscowościach, a mianowicie:

Gross Lichtanau.

W kościele luteranckim oraz na plebanji pastora w szopie uszkodzone i oddane pod opiekę miejscowemu sołtysowi rzeźby, obrazy, skrzynia oraz różnego rodzaju urządzenia kościelne z okresu XVI-XVIII Nowy Dwór. /Tiegenhof/.

W domu burmistrza, ob. Wasilewskiego i pod jego opieką znajdują się szafa o motywach ludowych niemieckich oraz zegar ścienny pochodzące z XVIII w.

Gross Lesewitz.

Na plebanji w stodole pod opieką miejscowego księdza katolickiego znajdują się rzeźby, obrazy oraz urządzenia kościelne z okresu XVI - XVIII w.

Hytych. /Neutsch/.

W gmachu Delegatury starostwa zabezpieczono większą ilość dzieł naukowych oraz literatury w języku niemieckim.

Stangenwalde.

W lesniczynie w oborze, znajdują się rzeźby oraz skrzynia kościelna z okresu XVI - XVIII w., które oddane pod opiekę miejscowemu sołtysowi.

Mariensee.

W kościele luteranckim oraz u miejscowego wojte ob. Lewandewskiego i pod jego opieką znajdują się meble antyczne, stare księgi, ubiory świąteczne i kościelne, obrazy oraz różne drobiazgi XV - XIII.

Reisterwalde.

W kościele luteranckim oraz u miejscowego sołtysa i pod jego opieką znajdują się obrazy z okresu XVI - XVII w.

J. Zbrzeźniak



4. Official delegation note for Professor Michał Walicki

(Photo: 1, 4 – Archive of the Polish Academy of Sciences; 2, 3 – Archival acts of the Inventory Department at the National Museum in Warsaw)

Kahlbude (Kolbudy, county of Gdańsk) – Neptune from Długi Targ Square in Gdańsk, bronze objects, and several decorative stone sculptures.

Kartuzy⁴³ – refectory next to the parish church and a Protestant church: fragment of the outfitting of Gdańsk churches - altars, a panel with the Ten Commandments, Salvator Mundi by Master Paul, fragments of the collections of the Uphagen House Museum, the Artus Court, and churches of St. Nicholas and St. John in Gdańsk.

Kładau (Kłodawa, county of Gdańsk) – Protestant church: part of the Ferber altar from the church of the Holy Virgin Mary in Gdańsk.

Kościężyna – Protestant church: altar of St. Reinhold and a chest containing small objects from the church of the Holy Virgin Mary in Gdańsk.

Leszno (county of Kartuzy) – home of the estate gardener: piano, two alabaster bas-reliefs, one painting (seascape), a fragment of a clock cabinet, a chest containing nineteenth-century German and English books.

Lublewo (county of Gdańsk) – Protestant church: (hanging on a wall) a small painted and carved altar with the Passion of the Lord from the church of the Holy Virgin Mary in Gdańsk.

Marlbork – Castle cellars: City Savings Bank treasury, prehistorical bronze objects, precious metal objects.

Mariensee (Przywidz, county of Gdańsk) – Protestant church, in the matronea and at the house of the local voight: altar of St. Dorothy, an altar of St. Jadwiga/Hedwig, numerous chests containing glass objects, faience, furniture, paintings, assorted small objects from the fifteenth-eighteenth century from the church of the Holy Virgin Mary

in Gdańsk and the Municipal Museum.

Meisterwalde (Mierzyszyn, county of Gdańsk) – Protestant church: i.a. the Jerusalem Altar, five paintings, including *The Tribute Money* by Anton Möller, other objects from the Municipal Museum and town hall in Gdańsk.

Nowy Dwór Gdański – house of the mayor: furniture from Gdańsk collections.

Oliwa – storerooms located in the cellars of the presbytery in a former monastic building, a former Cistercian library, and the home of Dr Kayser, former headmaster of the local secondary school in 4 Johanstrasse. Prof. Walicki wrote: *The main building of the Oliwa Museum – the so-called Abbots' Palace – burned down together with all the contents. The only surviving items from the vast Museum collections were those from the open-air museum – a windmill transferred from the Żuławy region, a treadmill, two ancient boats, and several machines from the City of Gdańsk, such as the first tram carriage, etc. The fire destroyed also the diocesan or rather the former Cistercian library situated in a historical chamber in which the Peace of Oliwa was signed; the interior, together with the table on which the treaty was signed, is untouched. The private library of Dr Kayser, director of the Oliwa Museum, also survived. At present, it comprises the living quarters of a high-ranking Soviet officer, which fully guarantees that the book collection will be treasured until its transference to a scientific library.*

Russotschin (Rusocin, county of Gdańsk)⁴⁴ – cabinets and carved objects Rzucewo (county of Puck) – manor house: chests containing paintings and sculptures from Pelplin Cathedral and Malbork.

Sopot⁴⁵ – house of Dr Ernst Volkman, ministerial counsellor: collection of engravings by Chodowiecki, and a storehouse in 20 Westerplatte Street used for keeping objects brought from, i.a. Malbork, Przywidz, and Hopowo.

Stüblau (Stemlewo, county of Gdańsk) – Protestant church: chests, chandeliers, the Kramer epitaph from Gdańsk collections.

Żukowo (county of Kartuzy) – upper Catholic church: part of belongings from the Uphagen House in Gdańsk – decorative fragments, furniture, partial outfitting of Gdańsk churches.

As has been mentioned at the onset of this article a description of the course of transporting movable monuments from the above-listed German caches discovered by Polish search teams in the city of Gdańsk and Gdańsk Pomerania to depositories created in Sopot and Oliwa, and from 1946 described as the Polish Central Museum Repository of the Ministry of Culture and Art for Gdańsk Voivodeship,⁴⁶ as well as a characterisation of their functioning call for a separate presentation, to be published in “Muzealnictwo” no. 60 in 2019.

Przypisy

¹ Cf. L. M. Kamińska, *Powojenne składnice przemieszczanych dóbr kultury w Polsce. Przyczynek do szerszego opracowania*, in: “Muzealnictwo” 2016, no. 57, pp. 74–80; L. M. Kamińska, *Wawelska i Warszawska największe powojenne składnice przemieszczanych dóbr kultury w Polsce. Przyczynek do szerszego opracowania*, in: “Muzealnictwo” 2017, no. 58, pp. 249–256.

² The content of this part of the article is based on a study commissioned by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage: L. M. Karecka (today: Kamińska), R. Olkowski, *Akcja rewindykacyjna dóbr kultury po II wojnie światowej*, Warszawa 2015, unpublished text.

³ This was the “Warsaw” group headed by engineer Stanisław Zralek and Bohdan Podhorski-Piotrowski. Several days later, Franciszek Kotus-Jankowski, head of a 16-strong “self-government” group and appointed president of the town by Edward Ochab, arrived in Gdańsk together with Mieczysław Okęcki, the first voivode of Pomerania.

⁴ *Dziennik Ustaw Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* (further as: Dz.U.R.P.) of 1945, no. 11. item 57, art. 2, declares that the voivodeship of Gdańsk includes the whole territory of the former Free City of Danzig as well as the following counties: Gdynia, Kartuzy, Starogard, Kościerzyna, and Tczew, which, at the same time, are excluded from the voivodeship of Pomerania.

⁵ The peace treaty signed with Germany after the end of the First World War indicated regions, which Germany was to hand over from its heretofore terrain to neighbouring countries, including Poland. The decision not to grant the whole of Gdańsk Pomerania to Poland but only a strip of land with access to the sea and with the exclusion of Gdańsk/Danzig and environs was made due to the efforts of the British Prime Minister David Lloyd George, supported by US President Woodrow Wilson. Ultimately, the city of Gdańsk, together with a region of 1968 sq. km. and a population of ca. 333 000, was extracted from German territory, given the status of a Free City controlled by the League of Nations, and joined the Polish customs union. Poland won the right to represent Gdańsk externally. Authority in the Free City was wielded by an elected Senate, which on 23 August passed a resolution rendering the territory of the Free City of Danzig, together with its population, part of the Third Reich. The binding constitution was abolished, and legislative and executive power was entrusted to NSDAP Gauleiter Albert Forster, subsequently governor of the new Gdańsk-West Prussia (Danzig-Westpreussen) province. At the time of the outbreak of the Second World War the resolution about the incorporation of the Free City into the Reich became a fact. In this manner, the Free City of Danzig ceased to exist contrary to regulations issued by its founders. Consequently, in 1945 Polish obligations towards the non-existent Free City of Danzig and Germany - the outcome of art. 100–108 of the Versailles treaty – lapsed. Art. 3 of the Decree on the Forming of the Gdańsk Voivodeship declares: *With the taking effect of this decree all regulations [in the former Free City of Gdańsk] are vacated as incompatible with the system of the Democratic Polish State. [At the same time legislation in force] in the remaining part of the Gdańsk Voivodeship will be extended to this area*; cf. S. Mikos, *Wolne Miasto Gdańsk a Liga Narodów*, Gdańsk 1979; *idem, Działalność Komisariatu Generalnego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Wolnym Mieście Gdańsku 1920–1939*, Warszawa 1971; M. Podlaszewski, *Ustrój polityczny Wolnego Miasta Gdańsk w latach 1920–1933*, Gdynia 1966; *Sprawy polskie na konferencji pokojowej w Paryżu 1919 r.: dokumenty i materiały*, R. Bierzanek and J. Kukułka (ed.), Warszawa 1967–1968, A. Ajnenkiel, *Od rządów ludowych do przewrotu majowego. Zarys dziejów politycznych Polski 1918–1926*, Warszawa 1978, p. 140.

⁶ Ministry of Public Security together with organisers of the Citizens’ Militia, the Ministry of Education, the Office of Planning and Reconstruction, the State Repatriation Office, the curator from Białystok entrusted with organising the school system, and Maritime Operations Group intent on taking over and securing industrial and port objects.

⁷ Archive of the Polish Academy of Sciences (further as: APAN), Michał Walicki material, inv. no. III–178/73.

⁸ State Archive in Gdańsk. Fond: Voivodeship Office in Gdańsk (further as: AP-G UWG), inv. no. 1164/20, p. 10; *Sprawozdanie Zarządu Miejskiego w Gdańsku za okres do dnia 1 maja 1945 r., podpisane przez Franciszka Kotus-Jankowskiego, Prezydenta Gdańska* – original spelling. Report prep. by R. Wapiński, *Powstanie władzy ludowej w Gdańsku w świetle sprawozdania prezydenta Miasta Gdańska z 30.07.1945 r.*, “Rocznik Gdański” 1962, vol. XXI, pp. 225–236.

⁹ M. Stryczyński, *Gdańsk w latach 1945–1948. Odbudowa organizmu miejskiego*, E. Cieślak (ed.), in: “Studia i materiały do dziejów Gdańska” 1981, vol. IX, p. 51.

¹⁰ More extensively in: M. Andrzejewski, F. Kotus-Jankowski, *Słownik Biograficzny Pomorza Nadwiślańskiego* (further as: SBPN), Z. Nowak (ed.), vol. II, Gdańsk 1998, pp. 478–479.

¹¹ Due to wartime hostilities 90% of the Gdańsk City centre was ruined. The entry of the “victorious Red Army” inaugurated mass-scale devastation caused by arson, cf. *Wojna wyzwolenicza Narodu Polskiego w latach 1939–1945*, T. Rawski, Z. Stąpor, J. Zamojski (prep.), Warszawa 1966, pp. 699–700; J. Buszko, *Historia Polski*, Warszawa 1985, p. 401; M. Stryczyński, *Gdańsk w latach...*, p. 11; *Sprawozdanie Kardynała Augusta Hlonda, Prymasa Polski dla watykańskiego Sekretariatu Stanu w sprawie administracji kościelnej na Ziemiach Odzyskanych z 24.10.1946 r.*, after: S. Bogdanowicz, *Kościół gdański pod rządami komunizmu 1945–1964*, Gdańsk 2000, pp. 24–25; Archive of the National Museum in Warsaw (further as: AMNW), Microfilms from the Central Archives of Modern Records in Warsaw, fond: Ministry of Culture and Art. Polish War Reparations Bureau, microfilm no. B: *Wykaz strat i zniszczeń poniesionych przez Muzeum Miejskie w Gdańsku – Odpowiedź nad Kwestionariusz strat i zniszczeń w zakresie dzieł sztuki*; also: A. Przywuska, *50 lat Archiwum Państwowego w Gdańsku*, “Archeion” 1997, vol. 97; AP-G UWG, inv. no. 1164/42, p. 13; AP-G, inv. no. 1164/1229, p. 59; B. Okoniewska, *Refleksje nas rokiem 1945*, in:

- Gdańsk 1945. Zbiór studiów*, M. Mroczek (ed.), Gdańsk 1996, p. 15.
- ¹² In the former Town Hall building, AP-G UWG, inv. no. 1164/2023, p. 3.
- ¹³ In a spacious villa in 24 Abrahama Antoniego Street, present-day view, <https://sopot.fotopolska.eu/Abrahama24Sopot> [accessed on: 22 July 2018].
- ¹⁴ AP-G UWG, inv. no. 1164/20, p. 12, at the time the vice-presidents of Gdańsk were Franciszek Chudoba and Waclaw Szwarcenberg-Czerny.
- ¹⁵ AP-G UWG, inv. no. 1164/20, p. 11.
- ¹⁶ E. and M. Kilarscy, *Czego już nie ma we wnętrzach zabytkowych budowli Gdańska*, in: *Gdańsk 1945. Zbiór studiów...*, p. 33; *Katalog wystawy przygotowanej przez T. Guć-Jednaszewską, Europejskie dziedzictwo rozproszone Gdańsk 1992–1993*, Gdańsk 1993, p. 10; pertinent literature includes information that Kilarski was a delegate of the Ministry of Culture and Art, cf. M. Walicka, *Próba wspomnień Gdańsk 1945–1946*, Gdańsk 1968, p. 159.
- ¹⁷ Jan Kilarski (born 21 February 1882, Komarno, county of Rudki – died 7 January 1951, Gdańsk), pseudonym Wanda Ludwig, mother: Agata born Pisaniak, father: Michał Kilarski, wife: Wanda Ludwig, two children; historian of art, museum curator, architectural engineer, pedagogue, populariser of monuments, sightseeing activist and author, organiser of the Museum of Gdańsk, salvaged cultural goods after World War II. Posthumously awarded the Gold Badge of the Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society (1960). Studied mathematics and physics (1904–1908) at the Philosophy Faculty of the Jan Kazimierz University in Lwów. In March 1931 nominated professor. Discharged as a result of repressions carried out by Minister J. Jędrzejewicz. In 1932–1939 lectured at the College of Commerce (later: Academy of Commerce) in Poznań. Conducted courses on the methodology of physics at the University in Poznań. Examiner (didactics of physics) as member of the State Examination Commission Secondary School Teachers in Poznań. In 1933 and 1934 went on scientific journeys to Germany (Berlin, Jena, Dresden, Kiel, Hamburg) to learn about new methods of teaching physics. His concise *Przewodnik po Wielkopolsce* was published in 1938. From 1934 associated with the Poznań publishing house: Wydawnictwo Polskie R. Wegnera; editor of the *Cuda Polski* series of sightseeing-historical monographs, granting this publication a high editing level, particularly regarding illustrations. In the same series prepared *Gdańsk* (1937), issued also in an English-language version by B. W. A. Massey. The book met with a lively reaction abroad and was attacked by German publicists. A few days prior to the outbreak of the Second World War assumed office of director of a branch of the Wydawnictwo Św. Wojciecha publishing house. Immediately after the liberation of Cracow applied for a post in the Recovered Territories. Left for Gdańsk with the first operational group of the Ministry of Education. His unquestioned merits include protecting against devastation and securing thousands of assorted historical objects. Legend has it that Jan Kilarski risked his life to save works of the visual arts and the crafts from art lovers. *I often met him busy amongst the ruins in search of art treasures with which he filled the interior of the Prison Tower, watched over by his trusted employee W. Sypniewski*, a true Argos protecting national cultural goods. As a member of the Gdańsk Branch of the Polish Sightseeing Society Kilarski trained guides, organised excursions, gave radio talks, and wrote to newspapers about Polish monuments and traditions in Gdańsk. Lectured on “Learning about Gdańsk (1946–1949)” at the Faculty of Architecture at the Polytechnic of Gdańsk, taught mathematics at a secondary school in Oliwa, the Higher Pedagogical School in Gdańsk, and the Gdańsk Technical Educational Centre. Organised a scientific station of the Baltic Institute in Sopot. Published first guidebooks on post-war Gdańsk: *Gdańsk miasto nasze* (Kraków 1947), *Mały przewodnik po Gdańsku* (1948), and *Poznaj Gdańsk*, with plans of town districts (1949). Portrayed the historical past, monuments, and their wartime devastation and presented ideas for their reconstruction. Co-operated in the establishment of Polish names for the districts and streets of Gdańsk and Sopot. Accused of collaboration with the occupant in connection with his press activity in Lwów (1945); the court trial was discontinued in 1948. Subsequently published anonymously: *Gdańsk – Gateway of Poland* (1949) or using the pseudonym Wanda Ludwig: *Ziemia Kłodzka* (1950). Died of heart failure.
- ¹⁸ In 1951 Kilarski’s son, Maciej, wrote about the difficulties encountered by his father while fulfilling assorted entrusted duties: *My father did his best for Gdańsk although it remains a fact that owing to the absence of suitable funds and employees Gdańsk could not afford suitable inventorisation both of architectural monuments lost as a result of demolition and of movable monuments; suffice to recall that in the course of several years the cartage of fragments of historical architecture – at the time the most important streets in the city centre were cleaned of rubble – was entrusted to an ailing man assisted by a frail woman, whom upon a certain occasion he was forced to take home in an ambulance*. AMNW, microfilm B –1184, letter by Maciej Kilarski to the Directorate of Museums and the Preservation of Cultural Monuments (NDMiOZ), 26 October 1951.
- ¹⁹ Losses suffered by the Municipal Museum included, i.a. about 560 paintings in its possession: 80 pillaged by the Germans, 51 – by unknown perpetrators, and 301 lost in a fire caused by Soviet Army artillery, after: AAN MKiS, inv. no. 387/25, cf. also E. and M. Kilarscy, *Czego już nie ma...*, p. 48; for newest findings see: H. Kowalska, *Straty wojenne Muzeum Miejskiego (Stadtmuseum) w Gdańsku*, new series, vol. 1 *Malarstwo*, National Museum in Gdańsk, Gdańsk 2017.
- ²⁰ More extensively in: Z. Kruszelnicki, Drost Willy, SBPN 1992, vol. I, p. 354.
- ²¹ Michał Walicki (b. 8 August 1904, St. Petersburg – d. 22 August 1966, Warsaw), pseudonym: Jerzy, son of Leon Walicki and Maria Walicka born Manteuffel; father of Andrzej Walicki, half-brother of Marek Walicki; historian of art, expert on seventeenth-century Dutch painting and Polish Gothic painting; member of the Resistance during the Nazi occupation; reclaimant of cultural goods after World War II; arrested and imprisoned in 1949–1953. Curator of the Gallery of Foreign Painting at the National Museum in Warsaw, professor at the University of Warsaw. Author, co-author, and initiator of numerous publications on painting. In 1947 awarded the Order of Polonia Restituta, Officer’s Cross. In 1929 presented a Ph.D. thesis: *Malowidła ścienne kościoła św. Trójcy w Lublinie*, and in the following year – a habilitation dissertation: *Stilstufen der Gotischen Tafelmalerei in Polen in XIV Jhd.* In 1923–1929 secretary of the conservator of monuments of the voivodeships of Warsaw and Białystok; assistant at the Department of Polish Architecture at the Warsaw Technical University, in 1929–1936 assistant professor. In 1931–1932 lecturer at the University of Warsaw; in 1932–1939 and 1945–1949 lecturer at the Chair of History of Art at the Academy of Fine Arts. In 1934 received a habilitation degree in mediaeval art. In 1937 nominated associate professor at the Academy of Fine Arts. In I 1936–1941 and 1945–1949 contract custodian at the Gallery of Foreign Painting and Mediaeval Art at the National Museum in Warsaw. Dealt with the protection of museum collections threatened by an outbreak of war. In September 1939, together with other Museum employees, took part in the civil defence of the Polish capital; commander of Anti-Aircraft Defence of the National Museum building. Member of a special Commissariat for Monument Salvage at the Technical Rescue Service in Warsaw established by President Starzyński on 20 September. After capitulation Prof. Walicki took an active part together with the National Museum staff in clandestine securing and recording of monuments of art and culture. Member of the Programme Board incorporated in March 1942 into the Home Army. Employee of the information department in the Bureau of Information and Propaganda of the Headquarters of the Union of Armed Struggle/Home Army. In March 1941 transferred together with his unit to the 2nd Department of the Headquarters of the Union of Armed Struggle/Home Army. The unit in question, known as office “999”, collected information about the situation in communist and left-wing organisations. Social activist. During the initial stage of the occupation chairman of the Qualification Commission of the Museum of the City of Warsaw, which supported (self-help campaign) museum employees-victims of the September 1939 campaign, and in particular families of those staff members who

perished or were taken into captivity. In 1941 discharged from the Museum as a result of re-organisation announced by the German Municipal Board of Warsaw. In 1941–1944 lectured on the history of art at the Clandestine University of Warsaw replacing, and with the knowledge of, Prof. Z. Batowski. At the same time edited “Wiadomości Polskie”, a clandestine periodical issued by the Bureau of Information and Propaganda. In 1942–1944 fulfilled the function of head of the history of art section at the Clandestine University of Warsaw. The knowledge and scientific experience of Prof. Walicki were noticed also by the occupants who wished to employ him at Institut für Deutsche Ostarbeit in Cracow – the Professor courageously refused the offer. Together with Prof. J. Zachwatowicz secured the miraculous painting of Our Lady of Częstochowa at the Jasna Góra monastery. Took part in the so-called Pruszków action; for two months fulfilled the function of unofficial vice-director of the National Museum in Warsaw up to the entry of the Soviet Army into the Polish capital. Envisioned the range of the work of the Polish War Reparations Bureau – one of the Central Directorate of Museums and the Preservation of Cultural Monuments Departments. In 1945 appointed member of the Committee of Experts for Restitution and Compensation by Vice-Minister of Culture and Art Leon Kruczkowski. Together with Krystyna Sroczyńska and Zdzisław Kępiński prepared *Instrukcja dla formacji Wojsk Polskich wkraczających na tereny przywrócone Polsce*. Active participant of the so-called reclamation campaign. In 1946 nominated full professor. On 29 November 1946 resigned from his post at the Academy of Fine Arts and joined the Ministry of Education. On 1 February 1947 nominated, upon the motion of the Senate, contract professor of history of art – the nomination was confirmed by the Ministry. On 20 April 1949, at the bidding of the Minister, dismissed from his post as contract professor at the Academy of Fine Arts, arrested for conspiracy activity in the Home Army, and imprisoned until 1953. On 13 June 1958 the Senate of the Academy of Fine Arts passed a resolution about the unjust discharge of the Professor and rehabilitated him. After release from prison and rehabilitation, from 1953 Prof. Walicki worked at the Institute of Art at the Polish Academy of Sciences. More extensively in: R. Lwowski, *Sylwetka Michała Walickiego*, paper presented at the SHS on the 40th anniversary of the Professor’s death, printed as a manuscript.

²² APAN, inv. no. III-178/73, p. 2 – Business trip on 13 April 1945, l.dz.1460/4.

²³ At the time of the first delegation, i.e. 14 April – 1 June 1945.

²⁴ APAN, inv. no. III-178/73, p. 3 – *Zaświadczenie Powiatowej Komendy MO w Sopocie z dnia 20.04.1945*.

²⁵ AP-G UWG, inv. no. 1164/1225, pp. 109–110. Walicki mentioned *unforeseen difficulties created by the local administration in Gdańsk attempting, for reasons of local patriotism, to thwart (...) the conducted campaign*. This was probably the reason why Prof. Walicki’s mission in Gdańsk ended already in September 1945.

²⁶ AP-G UWG, inv. no. 1164/20, p. 10.

²⁷ After: M. Korzon, *Przyczynek do historii gdańskich zbiorów artystycznych*, part 1, <http://old.nimoz.pl/pl/wydawnictwa/wydawnictwa-nimoz/cenne-bezcenne-utracone-1/cenne-bezcenne-utracone-archiwum/2000/nr-12000/przyczynek-do-historii-gdańskich-zbiorow-artystycznych> [accessed on: 22 July 2018].

²⁸ The Gdańsk Office of the Regional Conservator (Gau-Konsevator) participated also in the export to the Reich of monuments from subordinate Polish terrains.

²⁹ Pertinent literature informs that he was a municipal conservator, cf. *Europejskie dziedzictwo...*, p. 10.

³⁰ E. and M. Kilarscy, *Czego już nie ma...*, p. 32.

³¹ Mirosława Walicka was of a different opinion: *The search was carried out at random although this could have been avoided. Dr Drost, the Museum director, lived next door to the Museum and possessed a list of exhibits and places where the Germans concealed them. He knew how much effort, sometimes needless, Polish museum professionals dedicated to searching for those objects and how they were overjoyed after finding them. Nonetheless, he did not betray the fact that he knew the whereabouts of the stored treasures and maintained that their lists were lost in a flooded cellar. Only after Dr Drost’s departure to Germany were they discovered in his flat... many more treasures of culture could have been saved had it not been for the “discretion” of Dr Drost, decidedly hostile towards the Poles*. M. Walicka, *Próba wspomnień...*, p. 158. Resemblance of names is coincidental.

³² After: M. Korzon, *Przyczynek do historii...*, part 1... [accessed on: 22 July 2018].

³³ Cf. content of Decree of 2 March 1945, Dz.U.R.P. no. 9, item 45.

³⁴ AP-G UWG, inv. no. 1164/20, p.16.

³⁵ AP-G UWG, inv. no. 1164/20, p. 17.

³⁶ Archival acts in the Inventory Department at the National Museum in Warsaw – fasc. Gdańsk; Register probably from May/June 1945, prepared by E. Ogórek, acting head of the Culture and Art Office.

³⁷ *Ibidem*; Report by office clerk J. Zbrzeźniak, 13 July 1945.

³⁸ *Ibidem*; Report no. 2 by Prof. Walicki. Unfortunately, Report no. 1 on Walicki’s work performed in May, i.e. the first period of the securing campaign, is missing.

³⁹ Upon the basis of a list of completed journeys attached to a petrol bill, cf. R. Olkowski, *Przemieszczenia gdańskich dóbr kultury*, Warszawa 2000, printed as a manuscript, p. 5.

⁴⁰ After: M. Korzon, *Przyczynek do historii...*, part 2, <http://old.nimoz.pl/pl/wydawnictwa/wydawnictwa-nimoz/cenne-bezcenne-utracone-1/cenne-bezcenne-utracone-archiwum/2000/nr-22000/przyczynek-do-historii-gdańskich-zbiorow-artystycznych-ii> [accessed on: 22 July 2018].

⁴¹ In brackets – Polish names of localities.

⁴² Searched also by the Denisov group.

⁴³ *Ibidem*.

⁴⁴ *Ibidem*.

⁴⁵ *Ibidem*.

⁴⁶ AP-G UWG, inv. no. 1164/1249, p. 549.

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