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SOURCES TO THE HISTORY OF NORTH-EASTERN MAZOVIA IN THE 19TH–20TH CENTURIES

ŹRÓDŁA DO DZIEJÓW MAZOWSZA PÓŁNOCNO-WSCHODNIEGO W XIX–XX WIEKU

A historian studying the history of any region of Poland faces the problem of searching indispensable in their work sources. It is an essential problem, due to a difficult history of our country and the losses caused by wars, which took place over the centuries. Archives, libraries and museums were pillaged by the policy of the partitionists and occupants. Therefore, it is so important to use every accessible source, reach every fonds, whose collections may bring new information to scientific research on the history of a particular region.

For the history of North-Eastern Mazovia in the 19th and 20th centuries, essential are the file remains of the authorities and institutions, whose functioning is the effect of a changing administrative affiliation of those areas. They are kept in various archives, frequently only in residual parts.

The Duchy of Warsaw and the Kingdom of Poland

Before the Duchy of Warsaw was established, the area of Mazovia had been under the Prussian rule, being part of a province called New East Prussia. In the resources of AGAD (the Central Archives of Historical Records), there is fonds on Generalne Dyrektorium (General Directory), the Department of New East Prussia, including the material on the history of those lands in the years 1795–1806¹.

In the early 19th century, North-Eastern Mazovia was incorporated to the Duchy of Warsaw. The majority of records, stored in the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw, were lost during the Second World War. Today, in the archival collections, there is only a small part of the materials from that period.

For the Napoleonic period, essential are the records of Komisja Rządząca (the Ruling Commission) 1807, Rada Stanu (the Council of State) and Rada Ministrów (the Council of Ministers) of the Duchy of Warsaw 1807–1815 as well as Rada Najwyższa Tymczasowa (the Temporary Supreme Council) of the Duchy of

¹ *Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych w Warszawie. Przewodnik po zasobie*, Vol. II: *Epoka porozbiorowa*. Ed. F. Ramotowska. Naczelną Dyrekcyja Archiwów Państwowych, Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych, Warszawa 1998, pp. 11–15.

Warsaw 1813–1815². A valuable help in reaching the archival materials might be the publications prepared by the researchers of the Napoleonic era³.

For research work on the history of North-Eastern Mazovia during the period of the Duchy of Warsaw and Congress Poland (the Kingdom of Poland), one might find useful the records of the Government Commission for Internal Affairs and the Police 1815–1868, stored in the Central Archives of Historical Records. There are the preserved materials concerning towns, including: regulatory plans, the descriptions of particular towns from 1821, information on the activity of city authorities, a register of industrial plants and inventories from the years 1865–1867. It is also worth reaching for the documentation of the territorial administration authorities: the Commission of Mazovia Voivodeship and the counties' civil chiefs. Additional sources – particularly regarding the economic history – are the records of the Administrative Board of the Kingdom of Poland (1815–1866) and of the Government Income and Treasury Commission (1799–1904). For creating a vision of the religious life of the region, one may find helpful the records presenting the functioning of parishes of different religions, constituting the fonds of Centralne Władze Wyznaniowe Królestwa Polskiego (the Central Religious Authorities of the Kingdom of Poland) 1768–1888⁴. It is also worth using the resources of the Cartographic Department of AGAD. There is a collection of maps and plans there from the 19th century, referring to the region of North-Eastern Mazovia, i.a.: a map of Mazovia Voivodeship from 1826, a map of Ostrów County from 1866, a situational plan of Ostrów from 1860, made by an engineer of Ostrów County Z. Korabiewski.

In AGAD, there are also fonds which are the effect of the authorities' activities during the period of national uprisings 1830–1831 and 1863–1864⁵. A valuable supplementation are the records created by the partitioning authorities presenting the repressions of the independence struggle participants in the analyzed region: the records of Stała Komisja Wojenno-Śledcza (the Permanent Committee of Investigation and War) established by the Chief and the General Commander of the Army in the Kingdom of Poland 1833–1865 as well as the records of Tymczasowa Komisja Wojenno-Śledcza (the Temporary Committee of Investigation and War)

² *Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych w Warszawie. Informator o zasobie archiwalnym*. Ed. D. Lewandowska. NDAP, Warszawa 2008, pp. 238–250; *Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych w Warszawie. Przewodnik po zasobie...*, pp. 29–31, 35–38, 55–57.

³ *Protokoły Rady Stanu Księstwa Warszawskiego*, Vol. I–II. Pub. B. Pawłowski, T. Mencel. Towarzystwo Naukowe w Toruniu, Toruń 1960–1968; *Materiały do dziejów Komisji Rządzącej z 1807*, Vol. I. Pub. M. Rostworowski. Wydawnictwo M. Rostworowski, Kraków 1918; *Archiwum Wybickiego*, Vol. II, Pub. A. Skałkowski. Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk i Sztuki, Gdańsk 1950.

⁴ *Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych w Warszawie. Przewodnik po zasobie...*, pp. 135–152, 177–203, 260–268, 294–295.

⁵ F. Ramotowska, *Akta władz centralnych powstania 1830–1831 przechowywanie w Archiwum Głównym Akt Dawnych*. Archeion 1983, Vol. 75, pp. 6–52.

established by the Chief and the General Commander of the Army of the Warsaw Military District 1861–1881. The fall of the January Uprising resulted in intensive repressions from Russian authorities. It was reflected in the documentation created by central institutions (the Office of the Warsaw Governor-General 1859–1918) and guberniya offices (e.g. the Office of the Governor of Łomża 1867–1918)⁶. A researcher will find there materials concerning numerous aspects of political, social, economic and religious life.

The problems of the early 20th century left their trace in the records created by the Warsaw Guberniya Board of Gendarmerie (in the Warsaw State Archive) and the Boards of Gendarmerie of particular counties (in the above-mentioned archives and their departments, as well as in the National Archive in Białystok). In the resources of the capital city's archive there are records of the Warsaw Guberniya Office. In this fonds one may come across interesting materials concerning social life, i.a. the activity of associations. The records of the guberniya offices and county boards contain valuable knowledge on socio-economic life. An important supplementation is the fonds illustrating the activity of the commissioners for peasant affairs of particular guberniyas⁷. Moreover, there are also records of the Ostrów County Board (*Ostrovsкоje Uezdnoje Upravlenie Lomzinskoy Gubernii*) from the years 1874–1918⁸. The materials concerning rural population are in the records of the Land Loan Society in the Kingdom of Poland (the National Archive in Płock). And the knowledge on the development of industry and the lives of the towns' population will be found in the records of senior inspectors of factories operating within guberniyas. Statistical data contain official materials published in "Obzory" or "Pamiatne Knižki", developed for particular guberniyas.

In the Archive in Pułtusk (a Department of the Warsaw State Archive), there are records produced by Russian special administration: the Board of Gendarmerie of Pułtusk and Ostrów Counties (1867–1895), the Ostrów County Office for Military Duty Affairs (1883–1902), the Commissioner for Peasant Affairs of Ostrów County (1867–1915) and Ostrołęka (1879), the Ostrów Internal Revenue Service (1903–1917). There are also records of Roman-Catholic and Evangelical-Augsburg parishes as well as notary and mortgage records from North-Eastern Mazovia⁹.

⁶ *Archiwa państowe w Polsce. Przewodnik po zasobach*. Eds. A. Biernat i A. Laszuk. Wydawnictwo DiG, Warszawa 1998, pp. 30–31, 297–300, 442–443.

⁷ Example are the records of the Commissioner for Peasant Affairs of Maków County 1867–1915 (Archives in Pułtusk).

⁸ For a complete list vide: *Archiwum Państwowe m.st. Warszawy. Informator*, Part II: *Spis zespołów i stan opracowania*. Elab. D. Skorwider. Archiwum Państwowe m.st. Warszawy, Warszawa 1992.

⁹ *Archiwum Państwowe w Warszawie. Oddział w Pułtusku. Informator o zasobie archiwalnym*. Elab. K. Wiśniewski. Naczelną Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych, Warszawa 2013, pp. 179–180, 184; J. Kazimierski, M. Pleskaczyńska, *Przewodnik po*

Also in the National Archive in Białystok there have been collected the office records from the period of the Kingdom, whose functioning covered the area of North-Eastern Mazovia, i. a. the Office of the Governor of Łomża (1867–1918)¹⁰.

Many archival materials from particular periods of the source were published in print. It is worth mentioning here the four-volume edition of *Źródła do dziejów wojny polsko-rosyjskiej 1830–1831* prepared by Bronisław Pawłowski, the journals of the independence fights participants as well as the memoirs of political activists and the journals of peasants and workers¹¹.

World War I and the Second Polish Republic

The situation of Polish lands was radically changed by the outbreak of World War I. In 1915, Mazovia fell under German occupation. From that period, there are records of the Government General of Warsaw 1915–1918 and the Warsaw Governor-General, held in the collections of the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw¹². During the war, Poles got engaged in the activities aimed at regaining independence. Information on the attitude of the community of Mazovia towards Polish Legions, the influx of volunteers from particular regions to the divisions as well as the treatment of the stationing legionaries by local people are included in the records of the Supreme National Committee 1914–1920, kept in the collections of the National Archive in Cracow¹³. An interesting material may also be found in the memoirs of the legionaries, some of which were published in print¹⁴. In the final phase of the war, the structures of the Polish Military Organization (POW) were working actively. The records showing the activities of particular units of POW are kept in the Central Military Archives in Warsaw. There are also (in the files of the Garrison Headquarters from the years 1918–1939) stored the reports concerning the seizure of power in November 1918 (i.a. in Ostrów Mazowiecka and Ostrołęka)¹⁵.

¹⁰ Źródłach historycznych do dziejów ziem województwa ostrołęckiego XV–XX wiek (do 1945), Vol. I. Wydawnictwo OTN im. A. Chętnika, Ostrołęka 1994, p. 12.

¹¹ *Archiwum Państwowe w Białymostku. Informator o zasobie archiwalnym*. Elab. T. Fiedorowicz. Archiwum Państwowe w Białymostku, Białystok 2008, p. 12.

¹² *Źródła do dziejów klasy robotniczej na ziemiach polskich. Królestwo Polskie i Białostocczyzna 1901–1914*. Eds. N. Gąsiorowska, S. Kalabiński. Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Warszawa 1971.

¹³ H. Rappaport, *Źródła do dziejów okupacji niemieckiej w Królestwie Polskim w czasie I wojny światowej w pozostałościach akt General-Gubernatora Warszawskiego*. Archeion 1965, Vol. 53, pp. 39–56.

¹⁴ *Inwentarz Archiwum Naczelnego Komitetu Narodowego (1914–1920)*. Elab. L. Łysiak, A. Ptaśnikowa, H. Zającowa. Naczelnna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych, Warszawa 1958.

¹⁵ *Wspomnienia legionowe*, Vol. II. Eds. S. Falkiewicz, J. Jędrzejewicz. Instytut Badań Najnowszej Historii Polski, Warszawa 1925.

¹⁶ *Informator o zasobie Centralnego Archiwum Wojskowego*. Ed. N. Bujniewicz. Centralne Archiwum Wojskowe, Warszawa 2008, pp. 148–150.

Apart from participating in armed struggle, the Polish undertook a number of social initiatives at that time. In Warsaw, already in August 1914, there was established Centralny Komitet Obywatelski (the Central Citizens' Committee), which covered with its range the area of Mazovia. Precious – from the researchers' point of view – is discussing the activities of the Committee, developed by Wacław Radecki, where a lot of data is included concerning the effects of the war, and particularly the size of war damage caused by military actions and the policy of the occupying country¹⁶.

Next to the Central Citizens' Committee, there was the Central Welfare Council. In the records, there are surveys conducted by the Council, which allow recreating the location of the population of Mazovia during the war. The amount of the post-war compensations, paid to the inhabitants of towns and villages of Mazovia, depended on the level of war damage. It was estimated by the Central Agricultural Society. In the years 1919–1921, the matter of war compensations was supervised by Główny Urząd Likwidacyjny (the Central Liquidation Office). The records of those institutions are kept in the collections of AAN (Archiwum Akt Nowych – the Archive of New Files).

The location of the population of North-Eastern Mazovia in the first years after regaining independence by Poland may be analyzed on the basis of the records of the Ministry of Provisioning in Warsaw from the years 1915–1916, 1917–1921, 1922–1924. A complement are the records of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Reforms (i.a. the materials concerning agricultural properties and forests).

The researchers of the history of church institutions during the inter-war period have at their disposal the records of the Ministry of Religion and Public Education, and there are i.a. materials for research on the condition of education in North-Eastern Mazovia¹⁷ as well as information on particular Roman-Catholic, Evangelical-Augsburg and Jewish parishes. In the case of the last ones, essential are the memorial books of Jewish communities.

When analyzing religious life, it is worth using the resources of church archives, i.a. the Diocesan Archive in Łomża and the Diocesan Archive in Płock, as well as parish archives: in Ostrołęka, Ostrów Mazowiecka, Zaręby Kościelne.

The records of the Ministry of Welfare document the level of health services and the standards of hygiene in particular counties of Mazovia. The activities of

¹⁶ *Organizacja i prace Komitetów Obywatelskich na terenie guberni warszawskiej. Sprawozdanie Komitetu Obywatelskiego guberni warszawskiej*, Part I. Elab. W. Radecki. Warszawa 1916.

¹⁷ A supplementation might be the publishings of source materials: *Spis nauczycieli szkół wyższych, średnich, zawodowych, seminariów nauczycielskich oraz wykaz zakładów naukowych i władz szkolnych*. Ed. Z. Zagórowski. Lwów–Warszawa 1924; *Szkoły RP w roku 1925/26*. Ed. M. Falski. Ministerstwo Wyznań Religijnych i Oświecenia Publicznego, Warszawa 1927; *Szkoły RP w roku szkolnym 1930/1931*. Ed. M. Falski. Ministerstwo Wyznań Religijnych i Oświecenia Publicznego, Warszawa 1933.

local government structures are documented in the records of Związki Powiatów RP (the Associations of Counties of the Republic of Poland) from the region of Warsaw and Białystok voivodeships from the years 1929–1939. The records of Rada Spółdzielcza (the Cooperative Board) (1920–1946), kept in AAN, will be useful for recreating the image of a social and economic life of North-Eastern Mazovia. In the resources of AAN, there are records of political parties and social organizations from Mazovia.

Another event, which had major influence on the history of north-eastern lands of Mazovia, was the Polish-Bolshevik war of 1920. Information on its course is provided i.a. by the records of the Command of the North and North-Eastern Front as well as the records of the 1st, 4th and 5th Army kept in the Central Military Archives¹⁸.

Researchers will find interesting materials in the collections of national archives. In Pułtusk are kept the records of Okręgowy Urząd Ziemska (the District Land Office) in Ostrów Mazowiecka from the years 1918–1939, Inspektorat Szkolny i Powiatowy Inspektoratu Statystycznego (the School and County Inspectorate of the Statistical Inspectorate) in Ostrów.

In the collections of the Warsaw State Archive, there are civil status records from Roman-Catholic parishes in the region of North-Eastern Mazovia from the years 1795–1918 (i.a. Ostrów 1808–1866) and Jewish communities (i.a. Ostrów 1826–1865). For the researchers of the inter-war period, helpful will be the records of the District Election Commission No. 4 in Ostrów 1922–1928 and the County Governor's Office in Ostrów Mazowiecka from the years 1928–1939, i.a. the records of Referat Bezpieczeństwa i Porządku Publicznego (the Office for Safety and Public Order) as well as Referat Administracyjno-Prawny (the Office for Administration and Law), Referat Wojskowy (the Office for the Army) and the documents concerning land reparcelling in several villages.

For each period, an invaluable source of knowledge is the press, particularly the titles of a local range¹⁹ and official publications, e.g.: „Gazeta Urzędowa Komisarza Ludowego na Powiat Ostrołęcki” (1918–1919), „Gazeta Urzędowa Starostwa Ostrołęckiego” (1919–1920).

World War II

The time of the German occupation meant further territorial divisions. Ostrołęka, along with the neighboring settlements, was incorporated to the Regency of Ciechanów in East Prussia. The rest of North-Eastern Mazovia fell within the borders of the Warsaw District. The records of the Head of the Warsaw

¹⁸ Informator o zasobie Centralnego Archiwum Wojskowego..., p. 182.

¹⁹ A broad list of press titles relating Ostrołęka is in J. Gołota's monograph *Ostrołęka miasto i powiat w okresie międzywojennym*. Wydawnictwo OTN im. A. Chętnika, Ostrołęka 2000, pp. 295–296. The list of the press for Ostrów, Online: www.powiatostrowmaz.pl/files/479/44f2d5ec9c3b2/bibliografia.pdf [1.07.2017].

District Office (Amt de Gouverneurs des Distrkt Warschau) from the years 1939–1945 are kept in the Warsaw State Archive. They include i.a. two-weekly and monthly reports on the situation in Ostrów County, statistical statements concerning economy and population, the plans of deployment of military facilities as well as the materials on fighting the Polish resistance movement. There are also records of the County Governor's Office in Ostrów Mazowiecka (Kreishauptmannschaft Ostrow) from the period of occupation. They are one of the best preserved records from the Warsaw district and even the entire General Government. They allow us to examine the activity of the German occupant's authorities in numerous aspects²⁰. NSDAP (the Nazi Party) had its organizational segments in the region. Its activity is reflected in the file documentation, e.g. the National Socialist German Workers' Party. The Position of Ostrów Mazowiecka (NSDAP Standort Ostrow) 1939–1944 kept in the resources of the Warsaw State Archive.

A historian engaged with the period of World War II will also find useful the records of the Main Committee for the Investigation of Nazi War Crimes, kept in the collections of the Institute of National Remembrance in Warsaw (i.a.: microfilms including monthly reports of the Wehrmacht commanders, battlefield journals, correspondence from the area of Ostrów County).

Post-war years

From the post-war period there are records which were created by different institutions, organizations and associations. They are kept in AAN (the records of the ministries, central economic and cooperative institutions, etc.) and in field archives²¹. In the collections of the Warsaw State Archive there are records of the Warsaw Voivodeship Office from the period of 1944–1950. There are materials concerning war reparations, provisioning and reconstruction as well as the condition of health services and the development of industry. In the fonds of the Warsaw National Voivodeship Council from the years 1944–1950, there are reports from particular counties. The materials illustrating the condition of agriculture, and particularly the question of estate parcelling and conducting an agricultural reform, are kept in the records of the Voivodeship Land Office in Warsaw 1944–1947. To analyze the process of taking over industrial plants, one might find useful the records of the Voivodeship Commission for Nationalizing Industries for Warsaw Voivodeship 1946–1948. It is also worth using the records of the Voivodeship National Council and the Voivodeship Office in Warsaw as well as the Voivodeship Planning Commission 1950–1975. Social and welfare

²⁰ *Inwentarze archiwalne*, Vol. XLV: *Starostwo Powiatowe w Ostrowi Maz. 1939–1945*. Elab. D. Skorwider. Archiwum Państwowe m.st. Warszawy, Warszawa 1970.

²¹ A list of sources and press titles concerning Ostrołęka in the post-war period vide: J. Kijowski, *Dzieje Ostrołęki 1944–2000*. Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Ostrołęki, Ostrołęka 2002, pp. 775–779.

matters of the population of North-Eastern Mazovia were the subject of interest for the officials working in the Voivodeship Committee of Welfare in Warsaw. The records of this office from the years 1945–1949 are kept in the resources of the Warsaw State Archive. That is where the documents created in the 40s by the Bureau of Information and Propaganda of Warsaw Voivodeship arrived.

Having in mind the fact that many issues were of the party authorities' interest, it is worth analyzing also the content of the records of the Warsaw Voivodeship Committee of PZPR (the Polish United Workers' Party) (from the years 1949–1975). There are, among others, the records of the County Committee in Ostrów Mazowiecka. The records of the Voivodeship Committee of PZPR in Ostrołęka (1975–1989) are their supplementation.

This study is an attempt to make a choice of the sources useful for developing the history of North-Eastern Mazovia in the 19th and 20th centuries²². The author's intention is to assist the researchers dealing with the history of this region in reaching archival resources and valuable archival materials, which, together with the press and printed sources, will allow creating a complete image of the past of North-Eastern Mazovia.

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²² A valuable supplementation will be printed sources, i.a.: *Mazowsze Północne w XIX–XX wieku. Materiały źródłowe 1795–1956*. Ed. J. Szczępański. Naczelnna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych, Warszawa–Pułtusk 1997 or A.M. Mickiewicz, S. Tyc, *Materiały źródłowe do dziejów miast położonych wokół Warszawy (przelom XIX i XX w.)*. Stowarzyszenie Przyjaciół Wyszkowa, Puszczy Bialej i Kamienieckiej, Wyszków–Pułtusk 2009.

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SUMMARY

For a historian examining the history of North-Eastern Mazovia in the 19th and 20th centuries, essential will be the records remains of the authorities and institutions, whose functioning is the effect of a changing administrative affiliation of those areas. They preserved in various conditions and are kept in different archives. For the history of those lands in the 19th century, the majority of records are kept in AGAD. These are the fonds related to the activity of the authorities of different level from the period of the Duchy of Warsaw and the Kingdom of Poland. The early 20th century is the time of war and restoring Poland. From that period, the records of the occupant's authorities preserved as well as the fonds created by the established Polish institutions. They are kept mainly in AAN and in state archives in the area of Mazovia, similarly to the records from the period of the Nazi occupation. Open is the issue of researching the history of North-Eastern Mazovia in the post-war period, for which the archival materials are kept in national archives. The aim of the present dissertation is to help in the search of sources for developing the history of North-Eastern Mazovia.

STRESZCZENIE

Historykowi zajmującemu się badaniem przeszłości Mazowsza Północno-Wschodniego w XIX i XX wieku niezbędne są pozostałości aktowe władz i instytucji, których funkcjonowanie jest efektem zmieniającej się przynależności administracyjnej tych obszarów. Zachowały się one w bardzo różnym stopniu i znajdują się w różnych archiwach. Dla dziejów tych ziem w wieku XIX najwięcej źródeł przechowywanych jest w AGAD-zie. Są to zespoły związane z działalnością organów władzy rożnego szczebla z okresu Księstwa Warszawskiego i Królestwa Polskiego. Początek XX wieku to lata wojny oraz odbudowy państwa polskiego. Z tego okresu zachowały się akta władz okupacyjnych oraz zespoły wytworzone przez tworzone instytucje polskie. Znajdują się one przede wszystkim w AAN oraz archiwach państwowych na terenie Mazowsza. Podobnie jest w przypadku akt z lat okupacji hitlerowskiej. Otwartym zagadnieniem jest badanie dziejów Mazowsza Północno-Wschodniego w okresie powojennym, do którego archiwalia znajdują się w archiwach państwowych. Niniejsze opracowanie ma pomóc w poszukiwaniach źródeł do opracowania historii Mazowsza Północno-Wschodniego.

Key words: North-Eastern Mazovia, sources, archives, the 19th century, the 20th century

Słowa kluczowe: Mazowsze Północno-Wschodnie, źródła, archiwalia, wiek XIX, wiek XX

