

Małgorzata Bańkowska
University of Kalisz
Kalisz, Poland
m.bankowska@uniwersytetkaliski.edu.pl

 0000-0001-5343-3836

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Save from oblivion. From the history of the Ignis Publishing Society (1920–1925)

Abstract: The article presents the results of historical and bibliological research, which objective is to reconstruct the history of the Ignis publishing society established by the Polish Socialist Party (PPS). The first part of the study presents the history of the publishing house reconstructed on the basis of scientific studies, memoirs, and archival materials, as well as the compactness of the bookselling and socio-cultural press in the interwar period. The second part contains the results of quantitative and qualitative (structural) analysis of the publishing repertoire. This study is the first in a series devoted to the activities of the PPS publishing house.

Keywords: Ignis Publishing Society – Polish Socialist Party – publishing institutions of the Second Polish Republic – Fiszer Ludwik, jr (1890–1962)

Słowa kluczowe: Towarzystwo Wydawnicze „Ignis” – Polska Partia Socjalistyczna –instytucje wydawnicze II Rzeczypospolitej – Fiszer Ludwik, jr (1890–1962)

Introduction

Two years after regaining independence, the general authorities of the Polish Socialist Party [Polska Partia Socjalistyczna – PPS], continuing the publishing traditions of the partition period (Spółka Nakładowa “Książka” [“Książka” Publishing Company], Polskie Towarzystwo Nakładowe [Polish Publishing Society]), decided in autumn 1920 to establish a party publishing house. The publishing house with the tasks of a cultural institution was given the symbolic name Ignis, which was clearly intended to indicate the task of spreading the “light of knowledge”. The primary objective of the publishing house, which remained under the supervision of the Central Executive Committee, was the dissemination of fiction and political literature and the promotion of young writers. These assumptions were part of the PPS’s wide-ranging political action against the government of Wincenty Witos and supported by cultural and educational activities¹. Just before the creation of Ignis, in May 1920, the “Księgarnia Robotnicza” [Workers’ Bookshop] was established², followed three years later by the Workers’ University Society [Towarzystwo Uniwersytetu Robotniczego – TUR]³ and the Ksawery Prauss Publishing and Bookshop Cooperative “Nowe Życie” [Spółdzielnia Wydawniczo-Księgarska “Nowe Życie” im. Ksawerego Praussa].

Despite the role that the Publishing Society Ignis [Towarzystwo Wydawnicze Ignis – TW Ignis] played in the development of Polish culture and literature during the interwar period, it has not yet lived to see a comprehensive study. In the postwar period, with the label of an ideological (party) publication, it was presented rather superficially in PPS monographs, while in a bibliological context it was usually regarded as one of the marginal areas of Ludwik Fiszer’s (1890–1962) extensive publishing and bookselling activity. Meanwhile, due to its varied repertoire, the quality of which was determined by cooperation with Warsaw’s literary elite (the Skamander group) and the management’s extensive contacts with the scholar community, this publishing house deserves special attention in the group of PPS publications. The Society, with the status of a capital company, with an extensive network of branches and

1 I. Werschler, *Tadeusz Hołówko. Życie i działalność. Z dziejów obozu belwederskiego*, Warszawa 1984, pp. 142–143.

2 The tasks of the Księgarnia Robotnicza included the distribution of PPS publications and the collection of books with ideological (socialist) content published in Polish, the establishment of libraries and the conduct of publishing activities. The central headquarters was located in Warsaw at 17 Wspólna St. The bookshop also had branches in Lublin and Poznań. See: Central Archives of Modern Records in Warsaw (AAN), Polish United Workers’ Party Central Committee in Warsaw (KC PZPR), Department of Party History (Zakład Historii Partii), call no. 2/1251/0 (114/III-3), Polska Partia Socjalistyczna. CKW – okólniki, instrukcje, komunikaty, pisma (1921), p. 10.

3 I. Werschler, op. cit., p. 143.

various editorial profiles (fiction, scientific literature, children's literature, textbooks), reached the position of a professional publishing house, competing with such Warsaw firms as Gebethner and Wolf, "Książnica Atlas", M. Arct, or the Publishing Institute "Biblioteka Polska". The Society, presenting a new type of publishing enterprise, whose management was dominated by people from outside the printing and book trade⁴, was a kind of counterbalance to the family-owned, multipurpose companies with long-established book-publishing traditions dominating at that time. Its establishment was not only an expression of the publishing ambitions of the PPS, but above all a response to the growing demand for books, especially fiction, in the first years of independence⁵. Favourable circumstances of a literary nature (important poetic debuts in the 1920s) and L. Fiszer's extensive social and professional contacts made it possible to create a publishing house that enjoyed a reputation in both writer and reader circles.

The aim of the research, the results of which are presented in this article, is to place the publishing house in its proper historical and bibliological perspective by sorting out the facts relating to the Society's founding and activities, completing its historiography and reconstructing the publishing repertoire and the social circulation of the works published.

This article is the first in a planned series of works on Ignis; it synthesises the facts established so far and reveals new circumstances related to its functioning. The main part of the work consists of a discussion of the results of the process of reconstructing the Society's repertoire. It includes a discussion of the results of the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the publishing offer (publishing statistics, writers, and printers cooperating with the publishing house, subject areas of writing). Historical, statistical, and bibliological methods, including thematic and structural-typological analysis of the publishing repertoire and bibliographical analysis, were used to achieve the research objectives.

The State of Research on the Ignis Publishing Society

The bibliography of the PPS publishing house consists mainly of information included in dictionary and encyclopaedic entries devoted to

4 More on this topic: J. Kostecki, *Ruch wydawniczy na ziemiach polskich (1877–1986)*, [in:] *Instytucje, publiczność, sytuacje lektury: studia z historii czytelnictwa*. Vol. 4, ed. by J. Kostecki, Warszawa 1992, pp. 160–161.

5 Around 6,000 titles of monographs were published annually in the interwar period, of which around 80% were fiction. Average single editions of literary books amounted to 3–4 thousand copies, see J. Puchalski, *Książka w dwudziestoleciu międzywojennym*, [in:] *Na co dzień i od święta: książka w życiu Polaków w XIX–XX wieku*, sci. ed. A. Chamera-Nowak, D. Jarosz, Warszawa 2015, p. 254; J. Kostecki, op. cit., p. 198.

L. Fiszer – *Encyklopedia wiedzy o książce* (Wrocław 1971), *Słownik pracowników książki polskiej* (Warszawa 1972), *Wielka encyklopedia PWN* (vol. 9, Warszawa 2002) and a few historical and literary studies. The most important ones include the chapter on Ignis in Danuta Adamczyk’s monograph entitled *Instytucje wydawnicze Polskiej Partii Socjalistycznej 1892/1893–1948* (Kielce 1997) and Janusz Stradecki’s publication *W kręgu Skamandra* (Warszawa 1977), referring to the Society’s activity. Ignis was also mentioned by Iwo Werschler in his biography of Tadeusz Hołówka⁶. Information on this subject can also be found in a study by Krzysztof Jakubiak *Wydawnictwo i czasopismo «Droga» jako ośrodek kształtowania ideologii społecznej i wychowawczej sanacji w latach 1922–1937*⁷, and in an article by Jacek Ladorucki, devoted to poetic series of the interwar period⁸.

Most of the facts determined so far concerning the activity and repertoire of the publishing house have their source in the memoirs of L. Fiszer⁹ and in the biography of T. Hołówka by Wincenty Rzymowski¹⁰. Of the hitherto unknown materials, it is necessary to point to the accounting documents of Ignis stored in the Central Archives of Modern Records in Warsaw, in the sets: Polska Partia Socjalistyczna [Polish Socialist Party], Prezydium Rady Ministrów [Presidium of the Council of Ministers] and Towarzystwo Uniwersytetu Robotniczego [Workers’ University Society]. A full list of historical and bibliological sources relating to the Society is contained in the bibliography.

The publishing repertoire of Ignis remains the area least recognised. A preliminary statistical analysis along with a general content description was made in the 1990s by D. Adamczyk¹¹. However, this compilation does not include the full publishing output. The researcher only reconstructed part of it (approximately 50%), i.e., 122 titles “about which there was no doubt that they were published by Ignis” [“co do których nie było wątpliwości, że wyszły nakładem «Ignisa»”]¹². This material was taken as a reference point in the process of reconstructing the complete repertoire of the publishing house. To this end, a detailed analysis of the publishing catalogues of Ignis and the collections of the largest Polish libraries was carried out, using the online catalogues

6 Ibidem, pp. 156–159.

7 In: *Działalność instytucji wydawniczych na rzecz oświaty i edukacji w XX i pierwszych latach XXI wieku*, ed. by I. Michalska and G. Michalski, Łódź 2014, pp. 145–156.

8 J. Ladorucki, *Wybrane polskie serie poetyckie i wydania wzorcowe poezji dla uczniów i nauczycieli do 1939 roku. Aspekty edytorskie i kulturowe*, “Toruńskie Studia Bibliologiczne” 2017, no. 1, pp. 29–53.

9 L. Fiszer, *Wspomnienia starego księgarza*, Warszawa 1959.

10 W. Rzymowski, *W walce i burzy. Tadeusz Hołówko na tle epoki*, Warszawa 1933.

11 D. Adamczyk, *Instytucje wydawnicze Polskiej Partii Socjalistycznej 1892/1893–1948*, Kielce 1997, pp. 206–216.

12 Ibidem, p. 213.

of the National Library in Warsaw [Biblioteka Narodowa – BN] and the Union Catalogue of Polish Research Library Collections [Narodowy Uniwersalny Katalog Centralny – NUKAT]. The collected data were supplemented with information from journals that are the main place of promotion of the Society, such as: “Droga” (volumes 1922–1925), “Skamander” (volumes 1920–1925) and “Robotnik”. In the process of analysing the repertoire of Ignis promoted on the pages of “Robotnik”, the study by Oskar S. Czarnik *Ideowe i literackie wybory «Robotnika» w latach 1918–1939* (Warszawa 1996) was used. The collected bibliographical material was verified and supplemented on the basis of the *Bibliografia Polska 1901–1939*. Some of the data was established from autopsy. At this point, it should be stressed that the main difficulties related to the provenance research of the Ignis collection stem from the fact that the publications were issued by the original company of L. Fiszer – E. Wende i Spółka – were promoted under the Society name¹³.

Ludwik Fiszer as a co-founder of TW Ignis

The Chairman of the Board of TW Ignis L. Fiszer (metrically Rudolf Ludwik, born in 1890)¹⁴ was the first-born son of Ludwik Fiszer senior, the doyen of the booksellers’ family in Łódź. From an early age he showed an interest in books and, as he recorded in his memoirs, spent every free moment in his father’s bookshop¹⁵. At the age of 19, he left for Leipzig for an apprenticeship, and then Paris and London. In 1911, he sold his shares in his father’s company and purchased from Andrzej Turkuł the Warsaw sortiment bookshop E. Wende and Company, which he ran until 1928¹⁶. In the period leading up to the First World War, Fiszer initiated *Biblioteka Naukowa Wendego* [Wende Scientific Library], *Wendego Biblioteka Klasyków Polskich* [Wende Library of Polish Classics] and *Biblioteka Historyczna* [Historical Library] series and published journals: “Książka” [The Book] (1901–1913) with the supplement “Miesięcznik Bibliograficzny” [Bibliographic Monthly] and “Życie Polskie” [Polish Life]. In the years 1913–1914, he was also the publisher of supplements to “Świat” [The World] and “Wsi Ilustrowana” [Illustrated Countryside] (“Wśród książek.

13 In the Ignis catalogues we find books published by E. Wende i S-ka. Fiszer himself also makes some confusion in his memoirs, not always distinguishing between information about the repertoire of Ignis and the company E. Wende i S-ka.

14 *ulica Piotrkowska 47*, [online] <https://piotrkowska-nr.pl/ulica-piotrkowska-47> [accessed 20.06.2023].

15 L. Fiszer, op. cit., p. 5.

16 Under the management of L. Fiszer, the bookshop acquired a scientific character and became, before the outbreak of the First World War, the largest Polish wholesaler for booksellers, see *Słownik pracowników książki polskiej*, ed. by I. Treichel, Warszawa 1972, p. 226.

Poradnik Bibliograficzny” [Among Books. Bibliographical Guide] and “Co czytać” [What to Read]). As part of his educational activities, he published albums and primers and ran the Polish School Aid Storehouse. After the end of World War I, together with Jan Gebethner, Jakub Mortkowicz, Gustaw Wolff, and Zygmunt Arct, he founded the Towarzystwo Księgarni Kolejowych “Ruch” [the Society of Railway Bookshops “Movement”]. In the same year, together with Jan Ignacy Majewski, director of “Ruch”, he purchased M. Niemierkiewicz’s bookshop in Poznań, which operated under the name Fiszer and Majewski “Księgarnia Uniwersytecka” Sp. z o.o. [University Bookshop Ltd.] – from 1929 until its closure in 1940 under the name Jan Jachowski: Księgarnia Uniwersytecka.

The publishing potential and professionalism of Fiszer’s firm, as well as his earlier links with the PPS¹⁷, led to the young but experienced bookseller being offered in 1920 the task of running a party publishing house under the name Towarzystwo Wydawnicze Ignis Sp. akc. [Ignis Publishing Society – Joint Stock Company]. The name, which in Latin means *flame, fire*, was used to emphasise the political and cultural-educational programme of the publishing house. The logo of the publishing house was a pre-Christian symbol of fire in the form of an isosceles cross of Thor, common at the time and having no negative connotations¹⁸. In the 1920 publications, we find its original version, with the ancient symbol in the foreground. In subsequent years, the signet took the form of a wreath topped with the company’s own name, with the sign of the cross centrally incorporated.

The Society Statute was approved on 6 July 1921 and published in issue 155 of the “Monitor Polski” of 12 July that year¹⁹. The company’s share capital amounted to 50 million Polish marks and was divided into 50,000 shares, of 1,000 mkp [Polish marks] each. Its amount was comparable to the capital of the Polish School Aid Storehouse²⁰. The shareholders included representatives of the “democratic camp of the time” [“ówczesnego obozu

17 E. Wende bookshop’s contacts with PPS date for the years 1912–1914, see D. Adamczyk, op. cit, p. 207.

18 This symbol, present in the pagan beliefs of European, Asian and American peoples, had positive connotations at the beginning of the 20th century and was associated with happiness and good fortune in life. In Poland between the wars, it appeared, among others, on the emblems of the Podhale Rifle Regiments and the 4th Legion Infantry Regiment, see A. Smoliński, *Rodowód, dzieje i symbolika swastyki w pułkach strzelców podhalańskich Wojska Polskiego w latach 1918–1939*, “Przegląd Przemyski” 2013, vol. 49, no. 1, pp. 161–198; T. Zawistowski, *Orzeł na krzyżu niespodzianym*, “Biuletyn IPN pamięć.pl”, [online] <http://www.polska1918-89.pl/pdf/orzel-na-krzyzu-niespodzianym,6459.pdf> [accessed 04.09.2023].

19 Statut Spółki Akcyjnej pod firmą «Towarzystwo Wydawnicze «Ignis», Spółka Akcyjna». *Przedruk z Dzienn. Urzęd. «Monitor Polski», No 155 z dn. 12 lipca 21 r.*, Warszawa 1921, p. 21.

20 *Polska składnica pomocy szkolnych*, “Kurier Warszawski” 1920, no. 306, p. 6.

demokratycznego”]²¹. The official founders of the company were²²: L. Fiszer (chairman of the board), Mieczysław Markiewicz²³, Jan Szmurło²⁴, Marian Ponikiewski²⁵, and Adam Zarzecki (chairman of the supervisory board)²⁶. The Society was subsidised by the PPS through the Bank Ludowy [People’s Bank]²⁷, which was directly supervised by the Central Executive Committee²⁸.

The head office of Ignis was located in Warsaw in the E. Wende bookshop, at 9 Krakowskie Przedmieście Street²⁹. The links between the two companies were also evident on the letterheads and ownership marks of Ignis. On documents

21 I. Werschler, op. cit., p. 158.

22 *Statut Spółki Akcyjnej...*, p. 21. As was the rule at the time in newly established publishing companies operating under the principles of commercial companies, the management board included not only representatives of the publishing and printing industry. This was also the case with Ignis.

23 There is insufficient source data to establish unequivocally the identity of M. Markiewicz. He is probably Eng. Mieczysław Dunin-Markiewicz (1888–1933), a member of the management board of Fabryka Maszyn i Odlewni, Orthwein, Karasiński i Spółka, Sp. akc. [machinery and foundry plant] in Warsaw, who in the 1930s held the post of director of the Society for Trade, Industry and Agriculture [Towarzystwo dla Handlu, Przemysłu i Rolnictwa, TEHATE] and the “Perun” Joint-Stock Society. See *Obwieszczenia*, “Tygodnik Handlowy” 1925, no. 51–52, pp. 13–14; *Z życia przedsiębiorstw*, “Gazeta Handlowa” 1930, no. 35, p. 2; [Obituary], “Kurier Warszawski” 1933, no. 137, p. 8; *Ibidem*, no. 139, p. 18.

24 Prof. Med. Dr. J. Szmurło (1867–1952), physician, balneologist, historian of medicine, social and political activist, associated with the University of Warsaw, Stefan Batory University in Vilnius and the University of Lodz. He practised in hospitals and sanatoriums in Warsaw, Vilnius, Łódź and Ciechocinek. Awarded the Commander’s Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta [Krzyż Komandorski Orderu Odrodzenia Polski] (1933), the Medal of Independence [Medal Niepodległości] (1935), and the Gold Cross of Merit [Złoty Krzyż Zasługi] (1936). See P.T. Cichocki, *Prof. dr med. Jan Szmurło (1867–1952)*, “Forum Bibliotek Medycznych” 2011, no. 2, pp. 579–594.

25 Eng. M. Ponikiewski (1876–1954) social activist, freemason, soldier of the 1st Brigade of the Polish Legions. Between 1922 and 1923, he was director of the Society for Trade, Industry and Agriculture [Towarzystwo dla Handlu, Przemysłu i Rolnictwa, TEHATE]. In the 1930s, he was, among other things, deputy director of the Labour Fund. See L. Hass, J. Kubiawski, *Ponikiewski Marian*, [in:] *Polski słownik biograficzny*. Vol. 27/2, ed. by W. Konopczyński, E. Rostworowski, Kraków 1935, pp. 493–494; *Na widnokręgu politycznym*, “Express Kaliski” 1937, no. 304, p. 2.

26 D. Adamczyk (op. cit., p. 207) writing about the chairman of the Ignis supervisory board, the manager of the Polish School Aid Storehouse, points to Adam Zarzycki. However, the available version of the statute of TW Ignis and a press and bibliographical search carried out for the purposes of this study indicate that the person in question is A. Zarzecki (1880–1948), a mathematician, author of textbooks for schools, member of the Commission for Extra-Curricular Activities of the Board of the Capital City of Warsaw [Komisja Zająć Pozaszkolnych Zarządu m. stołecznego Warszawy] (1916), associated with the E. Wende Bookshop and the Polish Storehouse of School Aids, and a friend of the chief graphic designer of Ignis, Tadeusz Gronowski. See *Polska składnica pomocy szkolnych...*, p. 6; *Zarząd m. stołecznego Warszawy*, “Nowa Gazeta” (morning edition) 1916, no. 428, p. 4.

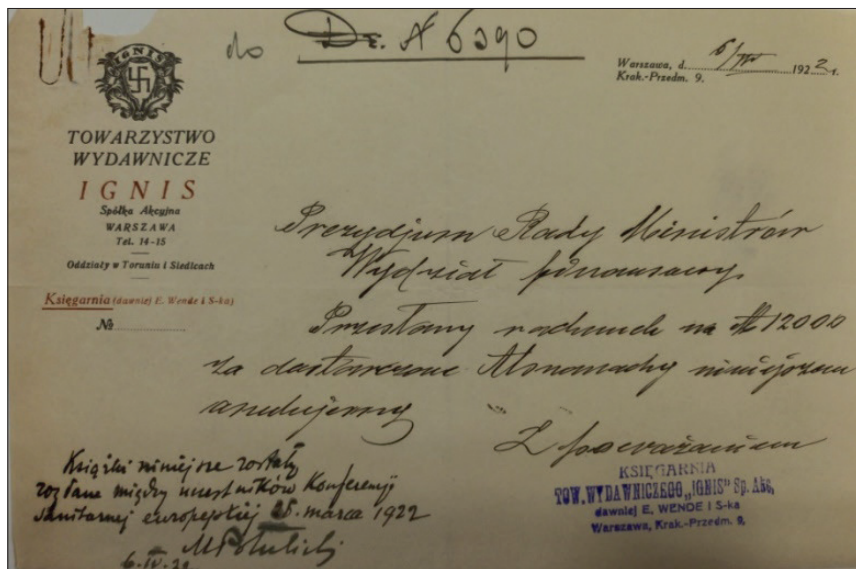
27 Bank Ludowy, established by PPS, was seated in WARSaw, at Maszałkowska 99 street, see D. Adamczyk, op. cit., p. 206, footnote 84.

28 AAN, KC PZPR, Zakład Historii Partii, call no. 2/1251/0 (114/III-4), Polska Partia Socjalistyczna. CKW – okólniki, instrukcje, instrukcje, komunikaty, pisma (1922), p. 21.

29 I. Werschler gives incorrect address Krakowskie Przedmieście 7 street, see I. Werschler, op. cit., p. 157.

from the first years of the company's operation, there is an annotation next to its name: "dawniej E. Wende i Spółka" ["formerly E. Wende i Spółka"] (Photo 1).

Photo 1. The sales note for "Almanach Polonais" (1922).



Source: AAN, Prezydium Rady Ministrów, call no. 2/8/0/3.4/II6390.22.

In the 1920s. Fiszer was also the owner of the M. Niemierkiewicz bookshop in Poznań and a branch of the Towarzystwo Księgarń Kresowych [Society of Borderland Booksellers] in Toruń. The latter was later transformed into the Toruń branch of Ignis, operating in parallel with the Siedlce branch (on Warszawska Street). In Toruń, Ignis also ran a lending library at 34 Szeroka Street, with access to 2,000 books³⁰. The names of the branch centres appeared in the Society's publications between 1920 and 1923. This was also the best period in the company's history. The publishing house had high funds at its disposal at that time and collaborated with prominent authors and large printing companies. The centres outside of Warsaw prospered. Close cooperation with the Skamander circle was established and Ignis became the group's publishing house. In 1922, it also took over the publishing of "Skamander" journal³¹, founded in 1920, and began publishing the literary series Książki "Ignisa" [Ignis Books].

30 See *Katalog wypożyczalni książek Towarzystwa Wydawniczego «Ignis» Sp. Akc.*, Toruń [1923].

31 The first publisher of "Skamander" was the Department of Information and Propaganda of the Ministry of Military Affairs. Since 1921 the journal was published by E. Wende i S-ka Bookshop.

The good fortune of the first years of activity came to an end in 1924. Attention to a high literary and scientific level, as well as orders from state and party organs, did not translate into income for the company. Faced with the threat of bankruptcy, caused by the publication of loss-making publications and the financial carelessness of the management³², L. Fiszer decided to buy the Society's shares from the PPS and merge the company with the E. Wende bookshop. As a result of these actions, a joint stock company was established under the name Towarzystwo Wydawnicze Ignis (E. Wende i S-ka) [Ignis Publishing Society (E. Wende & Co.)]. This solution prevented the liquidation of the publishing house for only a short time. The currency reform, the change of bank interest rates, and Fiszer's carelessness in payment caused the company's debt to increase fourfold (from 100,000 to 400,000 zlotys). The bankruptcy was further determined by missed, loss-making publishing ventures³³. At the beginning of 1925, the contracts with the publishing house's directors T. Hołówka (as of 1 January 1925) and Waclaw Czarski were terminated³⁴. In that year, the last publications signed by the Ignis Publishing Society (E. Wende & Co.) were published, and the branches in Toruń³⁵ and Siedlce³⁶ were closed.

However, L. Fiszer did not stop his publishing activities³⁷. The Enterprising "Lunio", as Fiszer was called, started in 1925 to publish the Biblioteka Groszowa [Penny Library], a series of cheap novels priced at 95 gr., published at weekly intervals and edited by H. Zajęzkowski and Stanisław Mikołaj Łuba³⁸. Between 1925 and 1927, more than 200 titles were published as part of the series³⁹. According to information provided by L. Fiszer, the circulation of the

32 L. Fiszer, op. cit., p. 224.

33 It is about the books *Anatomia patologiczna* by Józef Hornowski, *Przerób buraków* by Maksymilian Pawłowski, and *Chemia fizjologiczna* by Jakób Parnas, see L. Fiszer, op. cit., p. 236.

34 Fiszer was forced to pay the departing executives high compensation, see L. Fiszer, op. cit., p. 237.

35 The Toruń branch passed to the Bażanski Brothers [Bracia Bażańscy] company on 28 VII 1925, Bydgoszcz-Grudziądz, see *Informacje i Wiadomości*, "Przegląd Księgarski" 1925, no. 17, p. 451.

36 The Siedlce branch was taken over by Maria Szawelska and run under the name Ignis Bookshop, see *Słownik pracowników książki polskiej...*, p. 227.

37 It is difficult to determine clearly the date of the liquidation of Ignis. Some sources cite 1924 as the last year in the company's history, see *Encyklopedia wiedzy o książce*, ed. by A. Birkenmajer, Wrocław 1971, p. 716. According to Fiszer, the company formally ceased to exist in early 1925. That was also the year in which the last editions signed by the Ignis Society (E. Wende i S-ka) were published. However, 3 years later, in January 1928, the liquidation procedures of the Ignis-Wende company were initiated. See L. Fiszer, op. cit., p. 239.

38 Since 1925 Fiszer also published the novels of Alexandre Dumas in the Biblioteka Przygód Romantycznych series, also priced at 95 mkp. Fifty-two volumes were published in this series (according to data from NUKAT).

39 After the liquidation of L. Fiszer's company the publishing of the series was taken over by F. Winawer, see A. Jędrych, *Polskie serie literackie i paraliterackie 1901–1939*. P. 1, Łódź 1991, p. 128.

series reached a record high of 60,000 copies⁴⁰. The books continued to bear the name of the Publishing Society Ignis, alongside the Warsaw firm: E. Wende and the Poznań firm: Fiszer and Niemirowski.

Despite initial sales successes, the unfair actions of the competition (imitation and lower prices) caused a decline in interest in “Wende’s pennies” and forced a reduction in print runs. The reservation of the series mark was of little use – next to the graphic symbol, a note appeared on the publications: “Znak 95 groszowego prawnie zarejestrowany i naśladownictwa będą sędownie ścigane” [95 penny mark legally registered and imitations will be prosecuted in court]. On 15 January 1928, L. Fiszer closed down, as he wrote in his memoirs, the Ignis-Wende company, and “in the ruins [...] of the bookshop arose the excellently run bookshop of Trzaska, Evert and Michalski, specialising in publishing monumental works” [“na gruzach [...] księgarni powstała świetnie prowadzona księgarnia Trzaski, Everta i Michalskiego, specjalizująca się w wydawaniu dzieł monumentalnych”]⁴¹.

The liquidation of company E. Wende i Spółka was noted by the editors of “Przegląd Księgarski”⁴². This fact was also commented on in the periodic by Jan Muszkowski⁴³. It seems justified to quote the words of the author of *Życie książki* in their entirety, reading them also in the context of their author’s socialist sympathies:

Przy współudziale Ludwika Fiszera powstała w 1920 roku spółka akcyjna p.f. Ignis, z celem wydawania dzieł beletrystycznych, które firma E. Wende i Sp. publikowała dotąd tylko dorywczo, poświęcając się przede wszystkim wydawnictwom treści naukowej, wierna dotychczasowej tradycji. Nakładem «Ignisa» pojawił się szereg utworów literackich pierwszorzędnej wartości, które torowały drogę zastępowi najmłodszych autorów do zasłużonej popularności, w poprawnym, często świetnym wykonaniu graficznemu drukarni «Rola» Jana Buriana i in. Energicznymi kierownikami nowej placówki byli, obok Ludwika Fiszera, Wacław Czarski i Tadeusz Hołówko⁴⁴.

[In 1920, with the participation of Ludwik Fiszer, the joint stock company Ignis was founded with the aim of publishing works of fiction, which the company E. Wende i Sp. had hitherto published only occasionally, devoting itself primarily to the publication of scientific content, faithful to its tradition. Ignis published a number of literary works of first-class value, which paved the way for a host of young authors to achieve well-deserved popularity, in correct, often excellent graphic design by the “Rola” printing house of Jan Burian and others. The

40 L. Fiszer, op. cit., p. 238.

41 Ibidem, p. 239.

42 “Przegląd Księgarski” 1928, no. 2, p. 1 [advertisement].

43 J. Muszkowski, *E. Wende i Spółka*, “Przegląd Księgarski” 1928, no. 8, pp. 115–120.

44 Ibidem, p. 119.

energetic managers of the new institution were, besides Ludwik Fiszer, Waclaw Czarski and Tadeusz Hołówko.]

In 1928, Fiszer left the publishing business and went to Brazil. On his return to Poland, in 1933, he established a small antiquarian bookshop at 96 Marszałkowska Street in Warsaw, which operated until the outbreak of the Second World War.

TW Ignis programme and publishing repertoire

Around “Ignis” gathered “the elite of young literature, art, and poetry” [“elita młodej literatury, sztuki i poezji”]⁴⁵, including a group of writers from the Skamander movement. In addition to their social relations, the Skamander group’s links with the publisher were defined by their political sympathies, which put them “on the side of the «left-wing», PPS-linked, «democratic» fraction of the Belvedere camp” [“po stronie «lewicującego», powiązanego z PPS, «demokratycznego» odłamu obozu belwederskiego”]⁴⁶. Cooperation with the Society was also undertaken by a large group of artists and politicians with Legion connections. Among the former Legionaries were the literary managers Kazimierz Wierzyński and Władysław Zawistowski. The latter was also the editor of “Skamander” (until 1922), and in the 1930s a contributor to the *Sanacja* “Pion” weekly (1933–1939), as well as head of the Art Department at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education. Juliusz Kaden-Bandrowski, chronicler of the 1st Brigade of the Polish Legions and adjutant to Józef Piłsudski, was also associated with the publishing house. The company’s team was also heavily supplied by members of the PPS. In 1921, the party leadership delegated T. Hołówka, an engaged activist⁴⁷, editor-in-chief of “Trybuna” newspaper and member of the Central Executive Committee, to work at the publishing house. Together with W. Czarski, he was director of Ignis in the years 1923–1924⁴⁸, at the same time on the Supervisory Board of the Publishing and Bookshop Cooperative “Nowe Życie” [Spółdzielnia Wydawniczo-Księgarska “Nowe Życie”]⁴⁹ and on the Board of TUR. These ties translated into cooperation between the board of Ignis and TUR, which will be discussed further on.

45 L. Fiszer, op. cit., p. 224.

46 J. Stradecki, op. cit., p. 71.

47 Hołówka’s party activities in the years 1919–1921 were discussed in detail by I. Werschler indicating that he accepted cooperation with Ignis for financial reasons, see I. Werschler, op. cit., pp. 130–137, 156.

48 D. Adamczyk, op. cit., p. 210 and I. Werschler, op. cit., p. 158.

49 *Słownik pracowników książki polskiej...*, p. 338.

The literary programme involved the promotion of quality literature, with a particular focus on young poets. In particular: Julian Tuwim, Jan Lechoń, K. Wierzyński, Antoni Słonimski and Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz published here. The Society also recruited older generation authors, formerly associated with the “Książka” publishing company⁵⁰, such as Zofia Rygier-Nałkowska and Waclaw Grubiński. J. Kaden-Bandrowski and Andrzej Strug in particular enjoyed recognition. The latter’s books were the most profitable⁵¹, and *Mogila nieznanego żołnierza* [The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier] was published in three editions. On the other hand, J. Kaden-Bandrowski’s position in the Society, was determined by his earlier connections with the Department of Information and Propaganda of the Ministry of Military Affairs, the first publisher of “Skamander”, and his personal relations with T. Hołówka⁵².

In an ideological aspect, the main guideline was the implementation of an ambitious publishing plan calculated to raise the level of education and readership through “works of high artistic value, being a manifestation of the creative spirit of humanity” [“dzieł o wysokiej wartości artystycznej, będących przejawem twórczego ducha ludzkości”]⁵³. The founders intended the publishing house to serve as an institution promoting Polish culture and science, bringing together both established writers and debuting authors. These tasks were realised through the literature of high circulation, as well as scientific works and publications propagating socio-political ideas. The repertoire shaped by these assumptions was intended to ensure the proper intellectual and cultural development of the individual and society.

According to the findings, Ignis published no fewer than 235 titles⁵⁴ between 1920 and 1925, the most in 1923 (nearly 70 publications), see Table 1. Their circulation ranged from 1,000 to 5,000 copies and was comparable with the rates achieved by the largest interwar publishing houses, such as Gebethner and Wolff or M. Arct. Some titles were also published in limited series (6–15 copies), on handmade paper. The Ignis titles represented approximately 1% of the total Polish publishing output for the period⁵⁵.

50 Spółka Nakładowa “Książka” (The Book Publishing Co.) operated from 1904 to 1907 in Lwów, and later in Kraków. Its co-founders were activists of the PPS, PPSD [Polish Social Democratic Party] and PPSzp [Polish Socialist Party of the Prussian Partition]. The publishing house published political and economic works, as well as fiction, see D. Adamczyk, op. cit., s. 106–110.

51 L. Fiszer, op. cit., pp. 222–223.

52 Ibidem, p. 222.

53 *Książki Ignisa. Prospekt wydawnictwa*, Warszawa 1923, p. 2.

54 This figure includes publications (reissues included) where Ignis was given as the publisher. For multi-volume books, the unit of account was the first volume.

55 The percentage is based on data for 1924. In that year 5138 titles were published in Poland, after: B. Bieńkowska, *Książka na przestrzeni dziejów*, Warszawa 2005, p. 216.

Table 1. TW Ignis publications statistics

Year	No of publications
1920	6
1921	29
1922	53
1923	69
1924	59
1925	19
Total	235

Source: Compiled by the author on the basis of TW Ignis publishing catalogues, as well as BN and NUKAT catalogues.

The repertoire was dominated by Polish and foreign fiction (over 60%) – see Table 2. Polish poetry was an important part of it. The Society was the publisher of most of the Skamandrites' volumes. A. Słonimski published here the collections *Parada* (published by “Skamander”, 1920), *Droga na wschód* (1924), *Godzina poezji* (1923), and novels: *Teatr w więzieniu* and *Torpeda czasu* (1924). Ignis also published poetic works by K. Wierzyński – *Wiosna i wino* (1921), *Wróble na dachu* (1921), *Wielka Niedźwiedzica* (1923), *Pamiętnik miłości* (1925); J. Tuwim – *Czyhanie na Boga* (1922), *Siódma jesień* (1922), *Wiersze* (vol. 4, 1923); Jan Lechoń – *Rzeczpospolita Babińska* (1920), *Śpiewy historyczne* (1920) and *Karmazynowy poemat* (1922), *Srebrne i czarne* (1924). J. Iwaszkiewicz was also among the leading authors cooperating with the publishing house. In Ignis he published the novels *Ucieczka do Bagdadu* and *Hilary syn buchaltera*, as well as three volumes of poetry⁵⁶. In total, Ignis no fewer than 25 works of the Skamandrites⁵⁷.

The Society also promoted lesser-known poets. Among others, collections were published: by Jan Lemański (*Księga rodzaju; Tao*), Gabriel Karski (*Musujący poranek; Gra*), and Zdzisław Kleszczyński (*Podróż poślubna; Żywot Colombiny*). Around 1923, a prospectus with the symptomatic title *Biblioteka Poetycka* [The Poetic Library] was issued. This was not the official name of the series but was merely a promotional effort. The prospectus contained 22 items, including: Charles Baudelaire's *Moje serce obnażone*, Julian Ejsmond's *Miłość wieczna* and *Podręcznik całowania*, Leonard Podhorski-Okołów's *Droga do Emaus*, and Ovid's *Sztuka kochania*.

In terms of epic works, the works of the writers of the Young Poland

⁵⁶ These were: *Legendy i Demeter* (1921), *Oktostychy* (1922) and *Dionizje* (1922).

⁵⁷ The publishing provenance of some of them was determined for the first time by J. Stradecki, op. cit., pp. 63 and 240, footnote 123.

generation, mentioned earlier, led the way: W. Grubiński (6 titles), A. Strug (4 titles) and J. Kaden-Bandrowski (4 titles). Translations of foreign literature constituted a significant part of fiction writing (about 16%). Around 1921, Ignis released a Polish edition of Jack London's works. Publications included *Prawo białego człowieka*; *Odyseja Północy*; *Serce kobiety*; *Opowieści Południowego Oceanu*; and *Włóczęga*. The repertoire of foreign literature further included novels by Rudyard Kipling, Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde, and Joseph Conrad. From the latter's output, *Murzyn z załogi* and *Fantazja Almayera*, *Między łądem a morzem*, and *Sześć opowieści* were published. A total of 40 translations of foreign literature, mainly English-language literature, have been published by Ignis, by: Stanisława Kuszelewska, Jerzy Bohdan Rychliński, J. Iwaszkiewicz, J. Tuwim, Aniela Zagórska, Karol Lilienfeld-Krzewski, a regular reviewer of "Droga" monthly, and Adam Koc, Wilam Horzyca, W. Rzymowski, and G. Karski.

In its third year, a small-format series of Ignis books was established, promoting Polish and foreign classics, edited by Stefan Frycz, Alfred Tom, and W. Zawistowski. The books were published in editions of 2000–5000 copies and printed in the B. Wierzbicki i S-ka Zakłady Graficzne. The series opened with the first volume of *Poetry* by Adam Mickiewicz, a reprint of the 1822 Vilnius edition by Józef Zawadzki. Works published as part of the series included: Adolf Dygasiński's *Łabędzia woda*, Stanisław Witkiewicz's *Mysli*, while from foreign literature Robert L. Stevenson's *Klub samobójców* and Gotfried Keller's *Romea i Julia na wsi*. The series lasted until 1924. Aleksandr Kuprin's *Podkapitan Rybnikow* was published as the final, 18th volume⁵⁸. The project won acclaim, especially among literarily sophisticated readers. The editors of the weekly "Wiadomości Literackie" [Literary News] spoke highly of it, calling the translations published here "small pearls of extraordinary value" ["drobnymi perłami przedziwnej wartości"]⁵⁹. Literary fiction was also published in the series: Biblioteka Arcydzieł Literatury [Library of Masterpieces of Literature], Biblioteka Artystyczna [Artistic Library], Liryka Rosyjska [Russian Lyric]⁶⁰.

For obvious reasons, ideological and socio-economic works occupied an important place in the range. More than 40 works of this nature have been published. Among them were publications by: T. Hołówka, Maksymilian Akst

58 These findings are confirmed in the work of A. Jędrych, *Polskie serie literackie...*, P. 1, pp. 353–354). The publishing plan called for at least 25 volumes to be published in the Ignis series of books. The publisher's prospectus of 1923 included 12 published works and announcements of 13 works prepared for publication and 52 planned, see *Książki Ignisa. Prospekt...*, pp. 5–14.

59 J. Karski, *Książki Ignisa*, "Wiadomości Literackie" 1924, no. 8, p. 3.

60 L. Fiszer's initiation and publication of a number of serious publishing series testified to his profound knowledge of the rules of the reading market, his courage and the publishing potential of the companies he led – see J. Dunin, *Przedmowa*, [in:] A. Jędrych, *Polskie serie literackie...* P. 1, p. III.

(pseud. Maksymilian Weronicz), Edward Szturm de Sztrem. The Society also obtained the right of first printing of J. Piłsudski's writings and speeches. Thanks to the efforts of T. Hołowki published: *Wspomnienia o Gabrielu Narutowiczu* [Memoirs of Gabriel Narutowicz]; *Rok 1920: z powodu pracy M. Tuchaczewskiego «Pochód za Wisłę»* [1920: because of M. Tuchaczewski's work "March across the Wisła river"] and *O wartości żołnierza Legionów: odczyt wygłoszony we Lwowie na «Drugim ogólnym zjeździe Legionistów» w dniu 5 sierpnia 1923* [On the value of a soldier of the Legions: a lecture delivered in Lvov at the "Second General Congress of Legionaries" on 5 August 1923]; *Rok 1863: odczyt wygłoszony d. 20. I. 1924 w Warszawie* [1863: a lecture delivered on 20. I. 1924 in Warsaw]; *W dziesiątą rocznicę powstania legionów (przemówienie wygłoszone dnia 10. VIII. 24. na Zjeździe Legionistów w Lublinie)* [On the Tenth Anniversary of the Legions (speech delivered on 10. VIII. 24. at the Assembly of Legionaries in Lublin)]. The Society also published books on Marshal Piłsudski – by Antoni Anusz: *Józef Piłsudski* (1923) and *Uwolnienie Piłsudskiego: wspomnienia organizatorów ucieczki* (1924).

Sociopolitical writings were published as part of such series as *Kultura Nowej Polski* [New Poland's Culture], *Biblioteka Zagadnień Politycznych* [Library of Political Issues], *Biblioteka Pamiątek «Z Niedawnej Przeszłości»* [Library of Memoirs "From the Recent Past"], *Dokumenty Historyczne* [Historical Documents], *Przyczynki do Sprawy Walutowej w Polsce* [Facts on the Currency Case in Poland], *Biblioteka Miesięcznika «Droga»* ["Droga" Monthly Library], *U Źródeł Niemocy Rzeczypospolitej* [At the Source of the Polish Republic's Impotence] (publisher: editors of "Droga").

A small percentage of the publishing output consisted of scientific works, mainly in the sciences, medicine and law (about 5%), published, among others, as part of the *Biblioteka Komunalna Wendego* [Wende Communal Library] series⁶¹, edited by Władysław Wakar, and as part of the *Wykłady Powszechne Uniwersytetu Poznańskiego* [University of Poznan's General Lecture] series.

Ignis was also a publisher of books for children and young people (25 titles)⁶², pedagogical-educational materials, and textbooks for vocational training (*Biblioteka Techniczno-Naukowa dla Wszystkich Fiszera* [Fischer's Technical and Scientific Library for All] series). The Society's publications include: Zofia Perkowska and Maria Hertzberżanka, *Nauka poprawnego pisania* (1920), Władysława Weychert-Szymanowska, *Nauczanie dorosłych czytania i pisania* (1921), Helena Orsza [Radlińska], *Jak prowadzić biblioteki wędrownie* (1922)

61 The entire *Biblioteka Komunalna Wendego* series consisted of 10 items (after: L. Fiszler, op. cit., s. 224). Some of them were published by Ignis.

62 According to D. Adameczyk's findings, no less than 22 titles of children books were published, see D. Adameczyk, op. cit., p. 212.

and Wiktor Chrupek's *O reformę wychowania moralnego w naszej szkole* (1924).

Table 2. The structure of TW Ignis publishing offer

Types of writings	% share
Belles lettres – Polish	50%
Belles lettres – foreign	16%
Socio-economic books	16%
Literature for children and youth	10%
Academic books (medicine, law, mathematics)	5%
Industry materials	3%

Source: Compiled by the author on the basis of TW Ignis publishing catalogues, as well as BN and NUKAT catalogues.

The Society cooperated with numerous Warsaw and provincial printing houses. The longest lasting cooperation was with the Printing House “Rola” of Jan Burian, which also printed “Skamander”, the Drukarnia Krajowa of W. Kawczyński and E. Egert, Zakłady Graficzne B. Wierzbicki i Spółka, the “Robotnik” Printing House, as well as the Drukarnia Narodowa in Kraków and the Drukarnia Polska in Białystok. Printing orders were also received by companies from Łódź, Poznań, Toruń and Vilnius, as well as by printing houses located in smaller centres such as Kalisz and Opoczno. Between 1920 and 1925, the PPS printing house cooperated with more than 30 printing companies. Their list is shown in Table 3.

Table 3. The list of printing houses cooperating with TW Ignis

No	City	Printing House	Years
1.	Białystok	Polska Drukarnia	1922,1924
2.	Białystok	Drukarnia Zrzeszenia Samorządów	1925
3.	Kalisz	Zakłady Graficzne T. Żbikowski	1925
4.	Kraków	Drukarnia Narodowa	1921–1925
5.	Kraków	Drukarnia Związkowa	1924
6.	Lublin	Drukarnia Towarzystwa Straży Kresowej	1923
7.	Łódź	Drukarnia Państwowa	1925
8.	Łódź	Zakłady Graficzne Grapowa i Mazurkiewiczza	1923–1925
9.	Opoczno	Drukarnia Polska	1922
10.	Piotrków	Drukarnia Narodowa	[b.d.]
11.	Poznań	Drukarnia Spółki Zjednoczenia Młodzieży	1923
12.	Toruń	Drukarnia Robotnicza W. Pawlak i S-ka	1923
13.	Warszawa	Drukarnia “Drukarz”	1924

No	City	Printing House	Years
14.	Warszawa	Drukarnia "Robotnika"	1922–1924
15.	Warszawa	Drukarnia "Rola" J. Buriana	1920–1921
16.	Warszawa	Drukarnia Akademicka	1923
17.	Warszawa	Drukarnia Artystyczna K. Kopytkowski i S-ka	1924
18.	Warszawa	Drukarnia Handlowa	1922
19.	Warszawa	Drukarnia i Litografia pf. Jan Cotty	1922, 1924
20.	Warszawa	Drukarnia Krajowa W. Krawczyńskiego i E. Egerta	1921–1923
21.	Warszawa	Drukarnia Lucjana Bogusławskiego	1921, 1923–1924
22.	Warszawa	Drukarnia R. Olesiński, W. Merkel i S-ka	1923
23.	Warszawa	Drukarnia Stołeczna R. Belke i S-ka	1925
24.	Warszawa	Drukarnia Techniczna	1922–1923
25.	Warszawa	Drukarnia Towarzystwa Straży Kresowej	1923
26.	Warszawa	Drukarnia Wł. Łazarskiego	1920
27.	Warszawa	Drukarnia Współczesna	1921
28.	Warszawa	Drukarnia Sekcji Ministerstwa Spraw Wojskowych	1924
29.	Warszawa	Spółka Wydawnicza Powszechna	1924
30.	Warszawa	Zakład Graficzny "Drukarnia Bankowa"	1925
31.	Warszawa	Zakłady Drukarskie W. Piekarniaka	1921, 1924
32.	Warszawa	Zakłady Graficzne B. Wierzbicki i S-ka	1922–1925
33.	Warszawa	Zakłady Graficzne Koła Polek	1923
34.	Warszawa	Zakłady Graficzne Straszewiczów	1921
35.	Warszawa	Zakłady Graficzne W. Maślankiewicz i F. Jabczyński	1921, 1923
36.	Wilno	Tłocznia "Lux"	1925

Source: author's compilation.

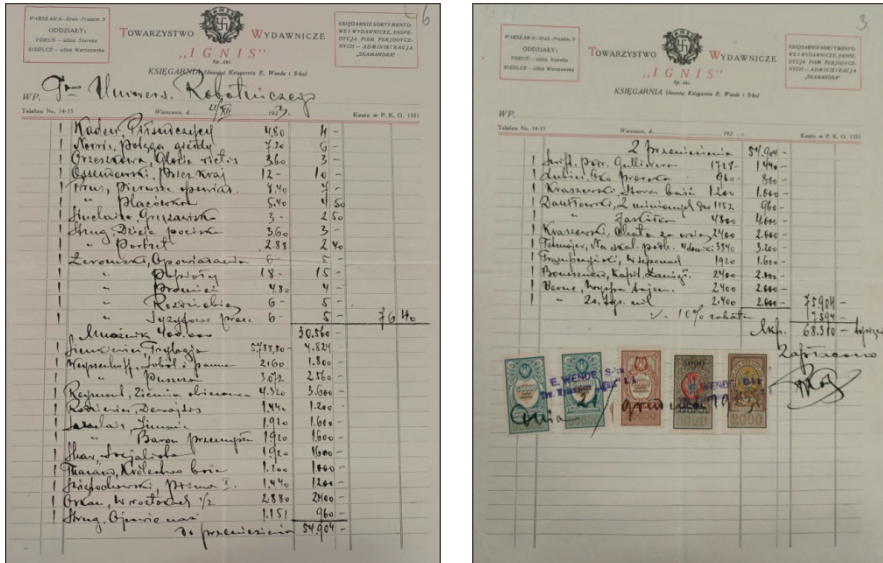
The Ignis prints were characterised by editorial care and a high graphic level. Young visual artist Tadeusz Gronowski, associated with the editors of "Pro Arte et Studio" and "Skamander", was recruited for collaboration. Other outstanding graphic artists of the period were also associated with the publishing house, such as Stefan Norblin, Maja Berezowska, and Zofia Stryjeńska, Karol Hiller, Edward Bartłomiejczyk, Kamil Mackiewicz and Bohdan Pniewski.

The distribution system included a network of sorting and circulation bookshops owned by L. Fiszer (Warsaw, Poznań) and the Ignis company (branches and bookshops in Bydgoszcz, Toruń and Siedlce⁶³). Collective recipients included ministerial bodies and PPS agencies, with TUR at the forefront. In 1922 the Finance Department of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers ordered 20 copies

63 *Encyklopedia wiedzy o książce...*, p. 716.

each of the “Polish Almanac” and the “Almanach Polonais” from the Society for a total of 12,000 mkp. The books were distributed to the participants of the European Sanitary Conference held on 26 March 1922⁶⁴. In addition, the Central Archives of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers’ Party preserved documents concerning an order for 37 books for TUR in December 1923, for the amount of 75,904 mkp, from which a 10% discount was granted⁶⁵ (Photo 2).

Photo 2. The bill for the Workers’ University Society (1923).



Source: AAN, KC PZPR, Towarzystwo Uniwersytetu Robotniczego, call no. 2/1262/0.

In order to maintain a stable position on the publishing market, the management of the publishing house conducted intensive promotional activities. Circulation catalogues and advertising brochures were systematically published. In the first two years of operation, extensive press promotion was also carried out. The main place for this was on the pages of “Skamander” and “Droga”. In 1921–1922, their editors placed more than 35 advertisements for TW Ignis. The advertising campaign also included the practice of sending review copies to the editors of PPS-linked periodicals and socioliterary periodicals. Reviews of the publications of Ignis appeared in “Skamander”, “Wiadomości Literackie”, “Robotnik” and “Droga”.

64 AAN, Prezydium Rady Ministrów (Presidium of the Council of Ministers), call no. 2/8/0/3.4/II6390.22, Towarzystwo Wydawnicze “Ignis”. Rachunek na sumę Mk. 12.000. – za 20 sztuk “Polish Almanac”, 20 “Almanach Polonais” (1922), unnumbered page.

65 AAN, KC PZPR, Towarzystwo Uniwersytetu Robotniczego (Workers’ University Society), call no. 2/1262/0 (125 t. 3), Korespondencja (1923–1925), pp. 6 and 3.

Conclusions

Operating for less than six years, the Ignis Publishing Society played an important role in promoting education and strengthening Polish culture, and in the development of Polish political thought. Collaboration with prominent personalities in the literary and political world ensured that publishing house was in an important position among artists and readers, including those with democratic-leftist sympathies and those sympathetic to Marshal J. Piłsudski. The entrusting of the management of the publishing house to L. Fiszer, endowed with special organisational skills and outstanding managerial creativity, placed the Society among the ranks of the dynamically prosperous publishing firms of the 1920s.

The analysis of the source and bibliographic materials carried out entitles us to construct the following research conclusions:

1. The party publishing house, fulfilling general social and political tasks through high quality writing, significantly supported the development of the young state and its culture.
2. A consistently pursued publishing policy (artistic and content level, amount of publications, graphic design, promotional tools) made the publishing house competitive in relation to the publishing potentates of the interwar period.
3. The number of published titles and the number of copies attest to the extensive and ultimately achieved programme intentions of the PPS publishing house.
4. Cooperation with numerous printing houses not only indicates extensive professional contacts of L. Fiszer, but also sheds light on the political sympathies of their owners.
5. The publishing house's activities (associates, offer) and close cooperation with ideological periodicals, especially the editors of the pro-Piłsudski "Droga", not only influenced cultural processes, but also affected the political transformations of the 1920s.⁶⁶

These and other thematic areas require further detailed research, especially covering the processes of readerly circulation of books published by the Society. Publicistic, advertising and promotional materials stimulating the social reception of the Ignis repertoire await thorough exploration, reviews, lists of novelties, publishing announcements published in the interwar daily press and cultural periodicals. Separate studies will be devoted to these issues.

⁶⁶ The importance of "Droga" in the process of social and political preparations for the seizure of power by the Piłsudski block was described, among others, by Daria Nałęcz in his study: «*Droga*» jako platforma kształtowania się ideologii piłsudczyków, "Przegląd Historyczny" 1975, no. 4, pp. 589–608.

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