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The School of Oriental Studies in Warsaw 1929–1938

Abstract

Addressing Poland's need to develop trade and diplomatic relations with Asian and East European countries, a School of Eastern Studies (*Szkoła Wschodoznawcza*) was established at the Eastern Institute in Warsaw. The School operated from 1929 to 1938. The course of studies was programmed for three years, during which students were taught foreign languages and basic knowledge about the culture of the East (geography, contemporary history, economic relations, religious studies). Four study profiles were established with the following leading languages: Chinese, Japanese, Turkish and Georgian. Students also had to attend two other language courses chosen from: Arabic, Persian, Hindi, English, French, German, Russian or Romanian. The teaching staff included both Polish university teachers and native teachers.

Entrance examinations and final examinations were obligatory. Each year 24 to 28 students were admitted (6 to each faculty).

The headmasters were: Stanisław Korwin-Pawłowski (1929–1931) and Olgierd Górka, assistant professor (1931–1938). The School had about 180–200 graduates, some of whom became, after 1945, career diplomats or scholars.

On the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the School of Oriental Studies in Warsaw it is worth presenting a concise outline of its history. So far, apart from occasional references to its existence, only twice there has been given brief information about the period and character of its activity¹. There were no consistent archival materials found

¹ J. Reychman, *Z dziejów orientalistyki na Uniwersytecie Warszawskim w latach międzywojennych* (On the History of Oriental Studies at the Warsaw University in the Interwar Years), "Przegląd Orientalistyczny" 1963, No. 3 (47), pp. 229–230; E. Tryjarski, *Warsaw Turkology, 1918–1978*, in: W. Tyloch (ed.), *Oriental studies in the sixty years of independent Poland*, Warsaw 1983, pp. 25–26. In the first study, written by the end

relating to its functioning. Part of it could have been taken at the beginning of September, 1939, together with the documentations of the Eastern Institute; deliberately destroyed or burnt down later with the building on the 7 Miodowa Street during the defense of Warsaw in the same month. Before the 9th September some of the Eastern Institute employees with their families were evacuated to the Lviv and Tarnopol provinces, then to Romania. Thus, the material at the historian's disposal is scanty: a few reminiscences, several publications and accounts of still alive graduates².

In 1923 Stanisław Korwin-Pawłowski organised the Polish-Asian Society. His adolescent experiences from Russia and the Caucasus, the family relations (the Jakubowskis, from the Lithuanian-Polish Tatars), and first of all, the new possibilities open in the reborn Polish state induced him to enter into this field. Very helpful in establishing economic contacts between Poland and the Muslim states was the Polish Industrial Trade Exhibition in Istanbul (Autumn of 1924). By the advice of the official circles and some of the Oriental studies professors, as priest J. Bromski and S. Schayer from the Warsaw University, in 1926 the Polish-Asian Society evolved into the Eastern Institute, with its statute supplemented accordingly. The office of the Society then Institute was situated initially on the 34 Wspólna Street, then on the 1 Żurawia Street, and finally, from the autumn of 1927, in the Tepper Palace on the 7 Miodowa Street. The beginnings of the Polish-Asian Society were connected with the person of, among others, Stanisław Korwin-Pawłowski. It was him who exerted himself to establish contacts and to find private sponsors. The primary funds and character of the Institute depended on the General Staff³.

The idea to establish at the Eastern Institute a school of the languages and basic knowledge about the culture of the Eastern countries was conceived in 1927–1928. According to Reychman, the first language courses at the Eastern Institute were organised already in 1927⁴. Their curriculum was developed by the then secretary general of the Institute, S. Korwin-Pawłowski in 1929. The term of 'East' meant there: Asia with North Africa, Eastern Europe and the territories of the Balkan Peninsula. The purpose was to offer the courses of languages and language preparation not only of Asia

of 1953, dedicated to the history of Orientalism of the interwar period, which remained in manuscript, there was only a statement that such a school existed between 1930–1938 at the Eastern Institute in Warsaw: M. Lewicki, *Orientalistyka w Polsce Odrodzonej* (od 1918) (Orientalism in Reborn Poland (from 1918)'), Cracow Archives of the Polish Academy of Sciences, K.III-7, p. 13. In the face of sudden death of its author the study was never published.

² Sparse documents concerning the School of Oriental Studies could be found among the unordered records of the Second Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from the years of 1920–1939, stored in the Central Military Archives in Warsaw. They have not been rendered available: Z. Romek, *Olgiard Górka. Historyk w służbie myśli państwowej, 1908–1955* (Olgiard Górka. Historian in the Service of the State Thought, 1980–1955), Warsaw 1997, p. 10.

³ S. Korwin-Pawłowski, *Wspomnienia* (Memoirs), vol. 2: *Wyścig z życiem* (Race against Life), Warsaw 1966, pp. 28–37; *Pałac Teppera – Piotr Tepper* (The Tepper Palace – Piotr Tepper), in: *Encyklopedia Warszawy* (Encyclopaedia of Warsaw), ed. by S. Herbst, Warsaw 1975, p. 680.

⁴ J. Reychman, review of: S. Mikulicz, *Prometeizm w polityce II Rzeczypospolitej*, Warsaw 1971, in: „Przegląd Orientalistyczny” 1972, No. 2, p. 173.

itself, but also the Mediterranean area influenced by the Islam civilisation. The language courses and lectures on the history of culture began in 1929. They were subsidised by the private sponsors and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Industry and Trade, and lacked financial stability. Presumably S. Korwin-Pawłowski intended to establish a school, based on share capital and aided by a small state subsidy, which ought to bring income. However, the private capitals failed, as well as the cooperation with the Orientalists, especially those from the Scientific Council of the Eastern Institute – Tadeusz Kowalski and Władysław Kotwicz. They wanted to found an Institute of Oriental Studies at the Warsaw University, a serious research centre, which was to be subsidised by the state. The allocated financial resources were very limited. The Orientalists were giving priority to the research institution that at the same time could offer Oriental languages courses. The Institute of Oriental Studies at the Humanities Faculty of Warsaw University was established in 1932, but there were employed other, younger researchers, Ananiasz Zajączkowski, Stanisław Schayer and others.

The Eastern Institute was structured in the form of an association, directed by the board of directors. The first board of 1926 consisted of the following members: Stanisław Siedlecki (president), Władysław Massalski (vice-president), Leon Bielawski, Władysław Woydyno and Stanisław Korwin-Pawłowski (secretary general). A senator and meritorious activist of the Polish Socialist Party, Stanisław Siedlecki (1877–1939) played a decisive role in developing the programme of the Institute⁵. His political and favouring independence activities from 1898, and cooperation with Józef Piłsudski in 1914 secured him a senatorial seat in 1922 on behalf of the PSP. Together with Tadeusz Hołówka he supported the independence aspirations of the nations subjugated by Russia and then military incorporated into the Soviet Union. S. Siedlecki had edited the weekly „Przymierze” (Alliance) (1920–1923), from 1921 an organ of the Union for Close Relations of Reborn Nations, a forum for the representatives of the emigration of the non-Russian nations settled in Poland.

Jan Reychman, who was cooperating with the Institute and a periodical „Wschód-Orient” (East-Orient) (1930–1938) dedicated to the information about cultural life of the emigrant circles and Oriental minorities in the Second Polish Republic, described this organisation in the following words: “The so-called Eastern Institute, loose association in type of club or federation of diverse friendship societies with the nations of the East [...] [was] connected by various links with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Trade and the General Staff”. The activity of the Eastern Institute was to support independence movements defined as the Promethean movement⁶. S. Siedlecki

⁵ A. Pacholczykowa, *Stanisław Grzymała-Siedlecki*, entry in: *Polski Słownik Biograficzny* (Polish Biographic Dictionary), vol. XXVI, Wrocław 1995, pp. 555–558; not a word about his activity in the Oriental Studies School.

⁶ J. Reychman, *Z dziejów orientalistyki*, p. 230; Mikulicz, *Prometheanism, passim*; I. Werschler, *Z dziejów obozu belwederskiego. Tadeusz Hołówko – życie i działalność* (On the History of Belvedere Camp. Tadeusz Hołówko – Life and Activity), Warsaw 1984; M. Kornat, *Początki sowietologii w II Rzeczypospolitej. Geneza, dzieje i dorobek Instytutu Naukowo-Badawczego Europy Wschodniej w Wilnie 1930–1939* (Beginnings

remained the president of the Eastern Institute and coordinator of the activity till the 1st of September, 1939, from 1935 again a senator on behalf of the Non-Party Block of Cooperation with the Government. On the news of Russian invasion of Poland on September 17th, 1939, Siedlecki committed suicide at Krzemieniec.

S. Korwin-Pawłowski, describing the first years of the Eastern Institute and Oriental Studies School wrote that the two of the board members were connected with the PSP, while the rest of them did not actively participate in political life. W. Massalski (d. 1932) was a meritorious office worker of the Ministry of Agriculture in Russia and for several years a president of the Polish Geographical Society, with a good knowledge of European Russia, the Caucasus and Turkmenistan. Among the deputies of the board members was Eugeniusz Dunin-Marcinkiewicz, a relation of Belarusian-Polish poet Wincenty. More accurate information about the group of the enterprise participants: L. Bielawski (treasurer), W. Woydyno, Piotr Chrzanowski and Bolesław Gagatnicki are still to be gathered. Ludwik Siedlecki (1878–ca. 1943), the own brother of Stanisław, actively contributed to the Ukrainian national movement, the so-called Hetmans Camp (from 1924 in Poland), till the formation of the Ukrainian SS Division “Galizien”⁷.

In practice, financing by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs led the Institute to dependence on the II Section of the General Staff. A representative of the Staff had a permanent seat in the board; the second military representative was by rules appointed as a librarian. A library played an important role in the Oriental studies. It lend at no charge the handbooks (to any student), provided the readings of unavailable books. After the unhelpful officers (Uzdowski, Helcman, Rybiński) from the first years (till 1931), the school was provided with more suitable librarians of whom Zygmunt Peszke is remembered by the last classes with esteem⁸. S. Korwin-Pawłowski, as a secretary general of the Eastern Institute, pre-consulted the concept of organisational structure and curriculum of the future language school with the management of the Parisian École des Langues Orientales Vivantes. The Oriental studies professors – Andrzej Gawroński, Tadeusz Kowalski and Władysław Kotwicz – were not enthusiastic about his initiative, seeking to concentrate the Oriental studies at universities. Pawłowski was unable to induce them to write necessary grammar textbooks or compile needed dictionaries. In this situation, he started language courses with available instructors, not always best suited to teach, although at that time event at the university there could be found the lecturers without suitable qualifications (Bohdan Rychetr, Chinese instructor)⁹.

of Sovietology in the II Polish Republic. Origins, history and achievements of the Research Institute of Eastern Europe in Vilnius, 1930–1939), „Zeszyty Historyczne” 134, Paris 2000, pp. 3–119.

⁷ A. Massalski, *Władysław Ansgary Błażej Massalski (1859–1932)*, entry in: *Polski Słownik Biograficzny*, vol. XX (1975), pp. 146–147; A. Zięba, *Ludwik Siedlecki (1878–ca. 1943)*, entry in: *ibid.*, vol. XXVI (1995), pp. 549–550.

⁸ S. Korwin-Pawłowski, *Wspomnienia*, vol. 2, p. 38; information given by Małgorzata Koecherowa (Wołk-Łaniewska) from 2 December 1997.

⁹ S. Korwin-Pawłowski, *ibid.*, pp. 45–46; see M. Lepicki, *Podróż do Egiptu* (A Journey to Egypt), Warsaw [no date], p. 35.

From 29th September, 1929, there were taught three, and soon afterwards four, major subjects: Turkish, Chinese, Japanese and Georgian. The number of students was limited to ten on the Turkish course, and to six on the others; the class could number 28 students. The course of study took three years and offered language teaching (theory and practice), modern history, geography, economic life and study of religion. The theory of languages was taught by the Poles: Michał Domaszewicz – of Turkish, Jan Krysiński – Chinese, Czesław Miszkiewicz – Japanese and Jan Kawtaradze – Georgian. Training in practice was conducted by the native speakers: an office worker from the Turkish legation, a Li Czaio, Rioczu Uhmeda and J. Nakaszydze. The classes were in the afternoons; during the school year there were the two-weeks Christmas and Easter holidays. The students had to attend weekly: a lecture and language course (of an hour and a half each) and the other classes in form of open lectures. The students from outside of the school were required to pay for attending the classes an amount of 1 zloty. The lectures on history, economic geography, physical geography and religious studies were delivered by the university professors and invited experts: priest Józef Bromski – specialist in Assyria; Stanisław Schayer – Indianist and philosopher; Stanisław Poniąkowski – ethnologist; Tadeusz Kowalski – Turkologist; Helena Willman-Grabowska philologist of Indo-Iranian languages; Seraja Szapszał – a religious leader of the Karaites in Eastern Europe and Turkish language teacher from the Vilnius University; Jan Jaworski and Witold Jabłoński – the graduates of the Parisian École des Langues Orientales Vivantes; and others.

In the first two years (1929/1930 and 1930/1931) of the School, an inaugural ceremony on 29th September consisted in participation in memorial service for the deceased founders, sponsors and teachers, held at St Jacek Church, 10 Freta Street. The Dominican church had been chosen deliberately as taking care in the 17th and 18th centuries of Polish Armenians living in Warsaw. After the service the participants went to the Powązki Cemetery to put flowers on the graves of the School's founders and benefactors. They also visited the Muslim Cemetery at Młynarska Street where was the grave of Jan Murza Tarak Buczański (d. 1857), a translator of the *Koran* into Polish. Then the new students, the headmaster and teachers went together to a café in the Old Town¹⁰. The annual tuition fee was 140 zlotys. S. Korwin-Pawłowski estimated, probably excessively, that the education of each student cost over 1000 zlotys per annum. Suffice it to say that initially the School managed to raise an adequate sum, mainly from private donations. By the end of 1930, however, came a financial and organisational crisis.

S. Korwin-Pawłowski, as the School headmaster was a man of initiative and various personal connections, as he did not want to submit to the orders of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the General Staff. He approved of the cooperation between the Eastern Institute and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on specific planes: looking for contacts

¹⁰ E. Tryjarski, *Ormianie w Warszawie. Materiały do dziejów* (The Armenians in Warsaw. Materials to the History), Cracow 2001, pp. 8–9; S. Korwin-Pawłowski, *Wspomnienia*, vol. 2, p. 41; K. Móraski, *Przewodnik historyczny po cmentarzach warszawskich* (A Historical Guidebook to the Warsaw Cemeteries), Warsaw 1989, *Muzułmański cmentarz kaukaski* (Muslim Caucasian Cemetery), pp. 135–136.

with the Poles settled in the East, supporting Polish entrepreneurs, promoting Polish culture and maintaining old relations with the Muslim countries. Still, he was opposed to organising by the Institute of the emigrant groups, especially from the European Soviet republics, the Belarusian and Ukrainian. An establishment by the Oriental Studies School of the Friendship Society for Oriental Countries, assembling the students and persons interested in the culture of the Orient, was to increase public support for activities of the School and Institute. In the intention of S. Korwin-Pawłowski, the Oriental Youth Group was to continue the activities of the Polish-Asian Society in new circumstances, to educate the young generation for broader cooperation with foreign countries. The Group did not accept the veterans or foreigners. The Staff suggestion, passed on directly by the president S. Siedlecki, that the Group should admit the veterans was dismissed. The Board of the Oriental Youth Group, with its chair Włodzimierz Bączkowski, had decided that the organisation was exclusively for the young Polish citizens. As a result, the decision was made to change the secretary general of the Institute and School headmaster¹¹.

The electoral machinations secured Siedlecki's group a majority in the general meeting of the Eastern Institute members. The post of general secretary was filled in 1931 by Major Olgierd Górka, a historian with a postdoctoral degree given by the Lviv University in 1916, and editor of a widely-read "Dziennik Lwowski" (Lviv's Daily 1927–1930). In 1912 at the Faculty of Philosophy of Jan Kazimierz University in Lviv there was a decision made to establish the Department of History of South-Eastern Europe. O. Górka was sent on a year-long research visit to the Near East, to learn Arabic and Turkish at the St Joseph University in Beirut and Russian Archaeological Institute in Istanbul. The outbreak of the World War I prevented establishing the Department and handing it over to O. Górka. Then ensued a period of his political and military activities, from August 1914 (in the Legions), through the participation in peace negotiations with the Germans in 1918–1920, to the Course of the Higher Military School in 1923–1924. An intensive scholarly work began in 1925 and well-known publications from 1925–1931 dedicated to medieval and early modern history of Eastern Europe made Górka an authority in this field¹².

From 1931 the Eastern Institute was firmly subordinated to the politics and the army. The Oriental Studies School, dependent on the subsidies from the Ministry of

¹¹ S. Korwin-Pawłowski, *Wspomnienia*, vol. 2, pp. 38–52. The information given by the author could be biased in details but it is beyond all doubt that the Eastern Institute was more strictly subjected to the Second Section of the General Staff. This is verified by the unpublished memoirs of Stanisław Kryczyński (d. 1941) and various statements by J. Reychman and O. Górka. See: J. Reychman, *Dyplomacja na Wschodzie i dyplomacja wschodnia* (Diplomacy in the East and Eastern Diplomacy), "Przegląd Orientalistyczny" 1968, No. 3, pp. 269–272; K. Piwarski, *Olgierd Górka (1887–1955)*, entry in: *Polski Słownik Biograficzny*, vol. VIII (1959–1960), pp. 414–416; J. Tyszkiewicz, *Zainteresowania i dorobek badawczy Stanisława Kryczyńskiego, 1910–1941* (The interests and research achievements of Stanisław Kryczyński (1910–1941)), in: *Słowiańszczyzna i dzieje powszechne* (Slavdom and General History), ed. by L. Jaśkiewicz and M. Tanty, Warsaw 1985, pp. 377–383.

¹² Z. Rómek, *Olgierd Górka*, pp. 16–18. The monograph contains numerous data not always mutually consistent. There are untrue information that the Oriental Studies School was established by O. Górka only in 1932 (p. 19).

Foreign Affairs, stayed in the premises of the Institute, in the Tepper Palace, creating a peculiar quasi-scientific community and popular science lecture forum. Already as a result of Korwin-Pawłowski's efforts the Oriental Studies School received formal accreditation from the Ministry of Religion and Public Education on the basis of the letter of 2 September, 1930 (No. III D. 7118/30). The school existed for nine years and was structured in three-years courses, though not always recruiting for all majors. It is not totally clear whether the change on the post of headmaster was made in the school year of 1930/1931 or only in autumn of 1931. In his letter of 15 December, 1953, Olgierd Górka maintained that the Eastern Institute was backed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while "The Higher School of Oriental Studies headed by me in 1931–1938" only made use of the allowance of the Ministry of Religion and Public Education¹³. Very similar are the comments in early December of 1953: by Jan Reychman and Stefan Strelcyn relating to the discussion about the development of Oriental studies in the interwar period held "It is necessary to clearly separate the Eastern Institute from the Oriental Studies School". From 1931 the Oriental Youth Group was open for the Polish citizens from the Oriental minorities groups, Tatar and Karaite. Presumably fairly soon, from 1932, the Oriental Youth Group formed the appropriate sections for cooperation and popularisation of the culture of the Oriental countries: Crimean, of Idel-Ural (the Kazan Tatars), Ukrainian and Caucasian. In the Group, and especially in the Crimean Section, very active and unsparing in his efforts was a young Karaite from Halicz, Józef Sulimowicz, a student of Turkish studies at the Warsaw University¹⁴.

For the years of 1932–1936 there are no accurate data available on the members of the School teaching staff. Still there was no admittance for all applicants. In the final years of the School – 1935–1938 – it maintained a ratio of the admitted students: ten for the Near East studies and six for the Far East. Olgierd Górka, who on 29th April, 1934, was nominated as titular professor at the University of Lviv and delivered lectures and held classes there from 1924–1925 till 1937/1938, tried to grant the School a status of university. On 24th June of 1935 (No. IV NS. 5518/35) the Ministry of Religion and Public Education approved the conduct of final examinations and conferring of diplomas at the Oriental Studies School. The information brochure entitled *Szkoła Wschodoznawcza przy Instytucie Wschodnim w Warszawie, Rok Szkolny 1935/36* (The Oriental Studies School at the Eastern Institute in Warsaw. School year of 1935/36) defined the purpose of education in the School: "The goal of the Oriental Studies School – it reads – is to provide the students with a given scope of information about the countries, languages, economic and trade conditions of the East, with a special emphasis in the teaching method on practical

¹³ O. Górka, *Uwagi do referatu M. Lewickiego. Materiały po Marianie Lewickim* (The Notes to the M. Lewicki's Lecture, Materials of late Marian Lewicki), Cracow Archives of the Polish Academy of Sciences, K.III–7, p. 13.

¹⁴ *Z życia Orientalistycznego Koła Młodych w Warszawie* (From the life of the Oriental Youth Group in Warsaw), "Wschód. Orient" 1938, vol. IX, no. 1, pp. 71–72. The subtitle of the periodical was: *Organ młodzieży polskiej poświęcony sprawie przyjacielskiego zbliżenia i zapoznania się z narodami Bliskiego i Dalekiego Wschodu* (An organ of the Polish Youth dedicated to the question of friendly relations and acquaintance with the nations of the Near and Far East). See A. Dubiński, *Józef Sulimowicz (1913–1973)*, „Przegląd Orientalistyczny” 1973, no. 4, pp. 365–366.

skills in speaking and writing in the living languages of the Near and Far East”¹⁵. The studies were to prepare students to consular and commercial work in the Muslim world, the Balkans, South Eastern Europe or the Far East. The scope of teaching anticipated combining it with other academic, commercial or political science studies.

In the second phase of functioning of the School the academic year began on 15th September and ended on 15th July. There were two types of students admitted: regular and registered ones. The regular students had to pay 150 zlotys annually, and were obliged to attend lectures and language classes (attendance list), they were entitled to: apply for scholarships, holiday trainings and concession tickets (School card). The decisions about the admittance and acceptance of registered students were made by the School management. They had no entitlements, neither could take the examinations; they paid 40 zlotys of tuition fee. They could attend selected classes and after doing appropriate courses they could apply for the status of regular student. To be eligible for admittance they had to present: a secondary school diploma or certificate of admission to the state university, personally written curriculum vitae and filled-in application form provided by the School.

The first-year students, on the basis of good grades could apply for reduction of the tuition fee following the 1st term. It is worth to emphasise that the special reductions were provided for the military persons. The officers in active service, military office workers and children of the people awarded with the Order of *Virtuti Militari* were exempted from all fees. The School curriculum for the academic years of 1935/36, 1936/37 and 1937/38 was similar to the initial model. The schedule of the classes, traditionally held in the afternoons between 5 PM and 9 PM in the Tepper Palace, was drawn up only after the 3rd of September (closing date of registration). All formalities and clarifications were made by the General Secretary's Office of the Eastern Institute, on Tuesdays (between 12–2 PM) and Fridays (6–8 PM). In the Secretary's Office (1934–1938) worked a School graduate, Pole, Halina Nowierska (1909–1955), later a wife of English language teacher Hiranmoy M. Ghoshal, and the scholarship holders – among others Ariadna Demkowska – who in this way worked off part of their tuition fee. The English teacher, an Indian, in 1940 emigrated with his wife to India¹⁶.

After the controversies between S. Korwin-Pawłowski and the Board and Scientific Council of the Eastern Institute, the next general secretary tried to meet the expectations of the Orientalists and to employ more fully the University staff to hold compulsory classes and deliver open lectures. O. Górk a, trying to raise the scientific

¹⁵ *Szkoła Wschodoznawcza przy Instytucie Wschodnim w Warszawie. Rok szkolny 1935/36* (The Oriental Studies School at the Eastern Institute in Warsaw. School year of 1935/1936), Warsaw 1935, s. 32.

¹⁶ Dr. H.M. Ghoshal (1908–1969), Indian Brahmin with the British citizenship, was a teacher of English and Hindu at the Oriental Studies School in 1935–1938. Halina and Hiranmoy Ghoshal left Warsaw in February 1940, via Italia to India. In 1943–1945 in Bombay they both worked for the Polish Red Cross (identity cards nos. 4495 and 4496), taking care of the emigrants from the USSR. In 1947–1951 Dr. H.M. Ghoshal was a secretary of the Embassy of India in Moscow. In 1957–1969 he worked in the Department of Indology of the Oriental Studies Institute of the UW; the information given by Ariadna Demkowska, 1st married name Starzecka, 2nd married name Bohdziewicz, 2 XII 1997; Bogdan Ghoshal, a son: 16 XII 2004, and the materials sent in on 24 I 2005.

prestige of the Institute and School, in 1935 started a special editorial series of scientific monographs, entitled „*Studia Wschodoznawcze*” (Oriental Studies), under the aegis of the Warsaw’s Eastern Institute¹⁷. There is a photograph taken on 6th November, 1931, on the occasion of the inaugural ceremony of academic year 1931/1932 at the Oriental Studies School. In the lecture hall those seated at the presidium table were: senator Stanisław Grzymała-Siedlecki, as a president of the Eastern Institute board, Dr. Jan Jaworski, Sinologist from the Warsaw University, Prof. Mojżesz Schorr, specialist in Assyria and historian from the WU, rector of the Judaic Institute in Warsaw, Władysław Wołynski, administrative deputy, and Major, Associate Professor (Dr. hab.) Olgierd Górka, historian from Lviv, secretary general of the Eastern Institute and headmaster of the Oriental Studies School. Doubtless, it was a moment of formal assumption of the duties of School headmaster by O. Górka¹⁸.

The School curriculum, according to the printed schedule for the academic year of 1935/36, provided the following: classes of the General Department (at choice), and then the specialist Departments (at choice): Second Department of the Near East or Third Department of the Far East. The first-year students of the Second Department were obliged to attend weekly: lectures (3 hours), classes on “Introduction to the Study of Muslim East” (Dr. A. Zajączkowski, 1 hour), classes of Turkish grammar (Dr. A. Zajączkowski, 2 hours), classes of Arabic grammar (asst. Prof. S. Wajnberg, 2 hours) and the languages courses: Turkish (Mussa Kadhi Sabri, 3 hours), Arabic (Ahmed Kherbi, 3 hours) and one South-Eastern European language at choice (Romanian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian or Georgian). Three of the five language instructors were employed at the Warsaw University. There were no second-year students of the Second Department as there had been no recruitment in the previous year; probably there had been too few applicants or it was a way to reduce the costs. The third-year students of the Third Department were required to attend: lectures (3 hours), “Introduction to the Study of Muslim East” (1 hour), Turkish classes in Arabic alphabet (Dr. Zihni, 1 hour), language course of higher level: Turkish (Mussa K. Sabri, 2 hours), Arabic (Prof. Dr. M. Schorr, 2 hours), colloquial Arabic (A. Kherbi, 3 hours), Persian (Mussa K. Sabri, 1 hour). At choice there were European languages (one was compulsory): Romanian, Bulgarian, Serbo-Croatian, Hungarian and Georgian (including three language instructors from the WU)¹⁹.

¹⁷ There were published: W. Dzwonkowski, *Rosja–Chiny–Mongolia w stosunkach dziejowych* (Russia–China–Mongolia in Historic Relationship), Warsaw 1937, and A.S. Zihni, *Jarłyki krymskie z czasów Jana Kazimierza* (Crimean Yarliks from the Times of John Casimir), Warsaw 1939. To both these books prefaces were written by O. Górka.

¹⁸ K. Pilarczyk, *Prof. Mojżesz Schorr, szkic bio-bibliograficzny* (Prof. Mojżesz Schorr, a Bio-Bibliographic Sketch), in: *Profesor Mojżesz Schorr. Materiały z sesji naukowej, Kraków 16 XI 1993* (Professor Mojżesz Schorr. Materials from the Scholarly Session, Cracow 16th November, 1993), ed. by K. Pilarczyk, Cracow 1995, pp. 7–12; Z. Rómek, *Olgierd Górka*, photo no. 7 off-the-text, with an imprecise caption: “Opening of the Higher School of Oriental Studies in Warsaw [...] 6 XI 1931”.

¹⁹ All data from: *Szkoła Wschodoznawcza...*, pp. 17–19. The major language courses were supplemented by the list of necessary textbooks, mainly in German.

The Third Department of the Far East was relatively expanded. The first year of the Chinese Group had a block of compulsory subjects (12 hours a week), a language course at choice (Malayan or Hindu), and obligatory lectures (3 hours): “The Far East Encyclopaedia – Japan” (Dr. W. Jabłoński, 1 hour), three different language courses: of Chinese (phonetics, writing, grammar, speaking – Dr. J. Miś, Chou Hsien Tang; 6 hours), Russian (2 hours) and English (2 hours). In 1935/1936 there were no students of the second year. For the third year of the Chinese Group compulsory were: lectures (3 hours), “The Far East Encyclopaedia – China” (Dr. W. Jabłoński, 2 hours), Chinese classes (Dr. W. Jabłoński, 2 hours), two Chinese courses (grammar, higher level) and obligatory course in Russian.

The first year of the Japan Group had a block of compulsory subjects (13 hours a week) and one optional language course. Obligatory were: lectures (3 hours), “The Far East Encyclopaedia – Japan” (Dr. W. Jabłoński, 1 hour), Japan grammar and writing (C. Miskiewicz, 3 hours; Dr. J. Miś, 1 hour), Japanese course (R. Umeda, 3 hours) and Russian course (2 hours). The second year of the Japan Group had a block of obligatory classes (12 hours) and optional language course. Compulsory were: lectures (3 hours), “The Far East Encyclopaedia – China”, continuation (Dr. W. Jabłoński, 2 hours), lecture on Japanese (C. Miskiewicz, 2 hours), Japanese grammar (Dr. J. Miś, 1 hour), Japanese course (R. Umeda, 2 hours) and Russian course (2 hours). The third-year students were also required to complete written assignments and take tests. The majority of the language instructors was full-time employees of the Warsaw University or the Free University. There were only few outsiders: Mussa Sabri, P. Łaszewski (Bulgarian), L. Durković (Serbo-Croatian), Chou Hsien Tang (Chinese) and Ryochu Umeda (Japanese)²⁰.

It is hard to determine the number of the students and graduates of the Oriental Studies School, as the documentation of the General Secretary’s Office of the Eastern Institute got lost. We are able only to roughly estimate: 100–200 students of the languages courses in 1927–1929, then at the Oriental Studies School, from the school year of 1929–1930 – on average 22 regular students and 10–15 registered students, with 2–3 years with no recruitment for one specialisation. In 1927–1938 the language courses and open lectures (registered students) could have been attended by at least from 200–350 to 500 people, frequently quite irregularly though. To this number should be added the regular students, who studied the full study programme, graduated from the Oriental Studies School and passed the final examinations before the special examination board. According to the available data, the number of the graduates was: in 1934 – 4 persons, in 1935 – 5 persons, and in 1938 – 4 (or 6) persons²¹. The group of graduates with diploma could have numbered, approximately, 35–40 persons. At least a dozen or so studied

²⁰ *Szkoła Wschodoznawcza...*, pp. 21–24. Jiro Hasegawa, a pupil of R. Umeda (1900–1961) studied archaeology in Poland and defended doctoral thesis on archaeology under Prof. Konrad Jeżewski at Łódź in 1971: *Z badań nad wczesnośredniowieczną ceramiką zachodniosłowiańską* (From research into the early medieval pottery of Western Slavdom), Łódź 1973.

²¹ *Szkoła Wschodoznawcza...*, pp. 15–16. Information from: Małgorzata Koecherowa (Wołk-Łaniewska), 18–19 VI 1997, and Ariadna Bohdziewiczowa (Demkowska), 2 XII 1997.

simultaneously at the University or first at the Oriental Studies School and then at other higher education institution. Jan Reychman studied history at the WU (1929–1933), then at the Oriental Studies School (1931–1934); his doctoral dissertation on Turkish studies he defended at the Oriental Studies Institute in 1949²². The School in its full flourish, in academic year of 1935/1936, numbered (autumn 1935) the enrolled: 53 regular students and 23 registered ones²³.

It was possible to establish the names of dozen or so graduates of the Oriental Studies School. So, before 1934 studied there Witold Skuratowicz and Olgierd Wojtasiewicz, Sinologist. In 1931–1934 the students of the Near East Department were: Sokrates Jeremi and Jan Reychman, and of the Far East Department: Fryderyk Tabaczyński and Stefan Romanek. In 1932–1935 at the Far East Department studied: Maria Ludwika Brodzikowska, Navy Lieutenant Stanisław Lasocki, Bolesław Szcześniak and Edward Narewski. In 1933–1936 at the Far East Department studied Wiesław Kotański, expert on Japanese. In 1935–1938 at the same Department studied: Romuald Starzecki, Halina Nowierska, Pałasz-Rutkowska – expert on Japanese and Ariadna Demkowska (second married name Bohdziewicz). During the final years of the School there graduated of the Near East Department: Jerzy Gutkowski, Henryk Temkin, Józef Szulimowicz, Maja Bilska – Arabist, and Małgorzata Wołk-Łaniewska (second married name Koecher), Turkologist²⁴.

In July of 1938 the School of Oriental Studies at the Eastern Institute concluded its activity. Many factors were involved there: first of all, deficiency of funds needed (i.e. presumably subsidies withdrawal by the Ministry of Religion and Public Education or Ministry of Foreign Affairs), conflicts with the general secretary and School headmaster, Prof. O. Górka, over state policy²⁵, as well as preparation of the Oriental Studies Institute of the Warsaw University other form of Oriental languages teaching courses. From 1932, when the Oriental Studies Institute of the WU was established, there was the dual Oriental studies courses which resulted in dispersion of financial resources allocated by the Ministry of Religion and Public Education. The character of the Eastern Institute to which the School was attached did not provide it with the status of the higher education institution. Following the advice of the most respectable Orientalism professors and with their support

²² Jan Reychman, born 19 II 1910; credit book number 30719, matriculated on 10 X 1929, defended his Master's thesis on 30 VI 1933, the Warsaw University Archives, Hum. Fac. 530/2, the Album of the WU students no. 30031–35030, vol. VII, matriculations 9 XI 1928 – 23 X 1930.

²³ On Warsaw circles that attended the lectures and language courses of the Eastern Institute in 1932–1939, see: J. Tyszkiewicz, *Zainteresowania...*; idem, *Studia nad Mongołami, Kipczakami i Karaimami w Warszawie w latach 1919–1939* (Studies of the Mongols, Kypchaks and Caraites in Warsaw in 1919–1939), in: *Kipčiakų Turkų Orientas Lietuvoje. Istorija ir tyrimų perspektyva*, ed. B. Kobleckienė, Vilnius 1994, pp. 103–111.

²⁴ The conversations with M. Koecherowa, 16–17 VI 1997; Zofia Dubińska, 19 VI 1997, and Ariadna Bohdziewiczowa, 2 XII 1997, and Jerzy Gutkowski from Montreal, 26 IX 2004. Graduation from the Oriental Studies School made possible for Gutkowski to stay in Tripolis in 1938, to undergo training in the Polish Consulate in Istanbul in 1939 and work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1946–1959, in Jerusalem and Damascus.

²⁵ Z. Rómek, *Olgierd Górka*, according to the curriculum vitae written in 1952 suggests that it was his open criticism of the state policy towards Zaolzie.

there was a reorganisation made by the then director of the Oriental Studies Institute, Prof. Stanisław Schayer, philosopher and specialist on Iran²⁶. As well-informed Jan Reychman said: “The task to consolidate the actions [i.e. language teaching – J.T.] was undertaken by S. Schayer who in 1938 led to the dissolution of the Oriental Studies School and to transferring of its courses [i.e. continuing this teaching – J.T.] to the newly created Higher School of Living Eastern Languages, formally at the established ‘Society of the School’, while housed by the Institute. The headmaster of the School was made Schayer himself”²⁷. This connection was advantageous for University Oriental studies. The students of the Oriental Studies Institute were entitled to attend free of charge the 4 hours of language courses a week, conducted on behalf of the Higher School of Living Eastern Languages. Unfortunately, this new organisational form, which strengthened general Oriental studies in Warsaw and did not waste professional force, could not develop sufficiently enough. The Higher School functioned only for one school year of 1938/1939.

APPENDIX²⁸

(Okładka)

SZKOŁA WSCHODOZNAWCZA
przy
INSTYTUCIE WSCHODNIM
w Warszawie

ŚWIADECTWO
odbytego
EGZAMINU DYPLOMOWEGO

(wydane na podstawie rozp. M.W.R.i O.P.
z dn 24 VI 1935 r.
Nr IV NS – 5518/35)

(Cover)

ORIENTAL STUDIES SCHOOL
at
EASTERN INSTITUTE
in Warsaw

CERTIFICATE
of passed
DIPLOMA EXAMINATION

(issued by the regulation of M.R.P.E. of
24th June 1935
No. IV NS – 5518/35)

²⁶ A. Zajączkowski, *Stanisław Schayer jako organizator orientalistyki warszawskiej: 8 V 1899–1 XII 1941*, (Stanisław Schayer as an organiser of the Warsaw Oriental studies: 8th May 1899–1st December 1941), in: *Szkice z dziejów polskiej orientalistyki* (Essays on the History of Polish Oriental Studies), vol. 1, ed. by S. Strelcyn, Warsaw 1957, pp. 43–50. There is no mention about establishing of a new Higher School of Living Eastern Languages.

²⁷ J. Reychman, *Z dziejów orientalistyki...*, p. 230.

²⁸ An original “Certificate of Diploma Examination” of the Oriental Studies School preserved by Małgorzata Koecherowa (née Wołk-Łaniewska), form A-4. It is a printed form, with personal information typescripted (here the typewritten text was underlined): on page 1 (family name, place of birth, examination date and “examination course”), and on page 2 (family name, Department, languages, grades and date). All signatures by hand. See: *Małgorzata Łabęcka-Koecherowa (z okazji 80. rocznicy urodzin)* (Małgorzata Łabęcka-Koecherowa (on the Occasion of her 80th Anniversary), “Przegląd Orientalistyczny” 1996, No. 3–4, pp. 175–185.

(strona 1:)

PRZED PODPISANĄ KOMISJĄ
EGZAMINACYJNĄstawił(a) się absolwent(ka) Szkoły
Wschodoznawczejp. WOŁK-ŁANIEWSKA
MAŁGORZATAurodzona w dniu 28 września r. 1917
w BRONOWICACHcelem uzyskania dyplomu studiów
odbytych na DzialeBLISKIEGO WSCHODU i poddała się
dn. 25 czerwca

r. 1938 ustnemu egzaminowi

PRZEBIEG EGZAMINU:

Kandydatka czytała, tłumaczyła i interpretowała gramatycznie notatkę z gazety tureckiej oraz tekst turecki ze współczesnej prozy literackiej z wynikiem bardzo dobrym. Następnie przeprowadziła rozmowę z lektorem w języku tureckim z wynikiem dobrym. Wykazała dobrą znajomość pisania po turecku alfabetem arabskim. Na pytania z zakresu historii stosunków ustrojowych Turcji, oraz życia islamu dała odpowiedzi bardzo dobre.

Przy czytaniu tekstu arabskiego i interpretacji gramatycznej wykazała dostateczną znajomość teoretyczną języka arabskiego. Rozmowę w języku arabskim z lektorem przeprowadziła dobrze.

Wykazała dostateczną znajomość języka rumuńskiego.

(Pieczęć okrągła z otokowym napisem:
INSTYTUT WSCHODNI w WARSZAWIE)

(page 1:)

BEFORE THE EXAMINATION BOARD
SIGNEDreported a graduate of the Oriental Studies
SchoolMr/Ms WOŁK-ŁANIEWSKA
MAŁGORZATAborn on 28th September of 1917 in
BRONOWICEto receive a Diploma of the studies at the
Department ofTHE NEAR EAST and on 25th June of
1938 took

oral examinations

COURSE OF EXAMINATION:

The candidate read, translated and grammatically interpreted a note from a Turkish newspaper and an excerpt in Turkish form modern literary prose with a grade A (very good). Then she held a conversation with a language instructor in Turkish with a grade B (good). She demonstrated a good knowledge of writing in Turkish in Arabic alphabet. On the questions about the history of constitutional relations in Turkey and life of Islam responded very well.

In reading of the Arabic text and its grammatical interpretation she demonstrated sufficient theoretical knowledge of Arabic language. Her conversation in Arabic with a language instructor was good.

She demonstrated sufficient knowledge of Romanian language.

(Circular stamp with rim inscription:
EASTERN INSTITUTE in WARSAW)

(strona 2:)

W wyniku powyższego egzaminu podpisana KOMISJA EGZAMINACYJNA przyznaje p. WOŁK-ŁANIEWSKIEJ MAŁGORZACIE obecny DYPLOM na dowód, że egzamin w zakresie DZIAŁU BLISKIEGO WSCHODU oraz języków TURECKIEGO I ARABSKIEGO a języka RUMUŃSKIEGO jako pomocniczego złożyła z postępem DOBRYM.

Warszawa, dnia 30 czerwca r. 1938

KOMISJA EGZAMINACYJNA

[- - - - - 4 wyrazy ręcznie napisane nieczytelne]

Prof. M. Schorr (-)

Prof. Dr A.

Zajączkowski (-)

ks. Dr M. Hellon (-)

Dr Abdullach Zihni (-)

Kazim Sabri Kefevi Zade (-)

(Pieczęć okrągła z legendą:

INSTYTUT WSCHODNI w WARSZAWIE)

(page 2:)

As a result of above examination the EXAMINATION BOARD signed below awards Mr/Ms WOŁK-ŁANIEWSKA MAŁGORZATA the present DIPLOMA to certify that the examination in the scope of the NEAR EAST DEPARTMENT and TURKISH AND ARABIC languages, with ROMANIAN language as optional she passed with the GRADE B (GOOD).

Warsaw, on 30th June of 1938

EXAMINATION BOARD

[- - - - - 4 words written in hand illegible]

Prof. M. Schorr (-)

Prof. Dr. A.

Zajączkowski (-)

priest Dr. M. Hellon (-)

Dr. Abdullach Zihni (-)

Kazim Sabri Kefevi Zade (-)

(Circular stamp with the legend:

EASTERN INSTITUTE in WARSAW)