

Reviews

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Dobrosława Gucia, *Fellows of the Karol Marcinkowski Scientific Assistance Society 1841–1909, Wielkopolskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne “Gniazdo”, Poznańskie Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk, Mnichowo–Poznań 2017, pp. 439*

The Scientific Assistance Society of the Grand Duchy of Poznań was founded in 1841 in Poznań by outstanding social workers: Karol Marcinkowski and Maciej Mielżyński. In 1860, the Society adopted the name of the first of them and from that moment acted as the Karol Marcinkowski Scientific Assistance Society. Its task was to provide scholarship financial assistance for poor, talented male youth from the area of the Grand Duchy of Poznań. The Society operated continuously for almost a hundred years: from its creation in 1841 until the outbreak of World War II.

No study has been undertaken so far to present who actually received assistance funded by the Society to continue or begin his education. Although there are several studies¹ in which the most eminent fellows are listed, but no one has yet gathered them all in one publication analysing all available sources. Dobrosława Gucia undertook this uneasy task. The author is a co-editor and author of several monographs and has been publishing articles for years in many scientific and popular journals, including: *Slavia Antiqua*, *Kronika Miasta Poznania*, *W kręgu dawnej polszczyzny*, *Rocznik Wielkopolskiego Towarzystwa Genealogicznego “Gniazdo”* or *Varia Genealogica*, dedicated to the regional history and genealogy².

¹ JAKÓBCZYK, W., *Towarzystwo Naukowej Pomocy w Wielkopolsce 1841–1929*, Poznań 1985; HELLWIG, J., *Rola Towarzystwa Pomocy im. Karola Marcinkowskiego w awansie społeczno-zawodowym młodzieży polskiej*, Poznań 1994.

² See e.g.: *Rys dziejów Wydawnictwa Poznańskiego Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Nauk z bibliografią publikacji Towarzystwa 1856–2008*, eds. D. GUCIA, A. PIHAN-KIJASOWA, vol. 1 and 2, Poznań 2011; *Poznańskie Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk 1857–2011*, eds. D. GUCIA, R. MARCINIAK, A. PIHAN-KIJASOWA, Poznań 2012; GUCIA, D., LUBIERSKA, J., *Jako Cię widzą, tako Cię piszą: obraz Wielkopolanina w świetle listów gończych I połowy XIX wieku*, Poznań 2014; GUCIA, D., PIHAN-KIJASOWA, A. WOJTCZAK, J., “Koligacje rodzinne profesora Stanisława Kurnatowskiego”, *Slavia Antiqua* 56 (2015), pp. 29–52; GUCIA, D., Wojtczak, J.,

Her work is divided into three parts. The first one consists of a preface to the publication, which was written by prof. dr hab. Witold Molik from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, who highlighted the value of this study and the effort that D. Gučia put into writing this work. Then the author briefly relates the history of the Scientific Assistance Society, including the amount of scholarships, criteria to be met by candidates for fellows, or schools and universities to which the fellows were admitted. Later, the source basis, without which this study would not have been created, is presented. These are mainly lists of fellows printed by the Directorate of the Scientific Assistance Society in the years 1844–1910, which contained name lists of male students from various schools: from elementary and preparatory schools in small towns, through high schools and junior high schools, industrial and craft enterprises, where young people explored the secrets of various crafts, up to universities and technical colleges.³ The author also indicates here the period covered by her study. Not all yearbooks are included in the study, due to the deficiencies in the source base⁴. Another important source are also Lists of students from the unit of the Supreme Presidium of the Poznań Province, kept at the State Archives in Poznań, branch in Piła. The next part includes iconographic materials presenting universities at which the fellows used to study. These images come from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. The method of developing source material closes the first part of the monograph. In this part, the author indicates what criteria she adopted when completing the list of fellows.

The second, most extensive part of the text (pp. 53–396) includes the name list of all the fellows who received the scholarship in 1841–1909. It contains information about 5,252 fellows, and in addition to the name and surname, also the place of birth, name of the school or university where the fellow received education and the total amount of scholarships received are given. It should be noted here that fellows originated from almost every social layer: they were sons of townsmen and doctors, but also of craftsmen and peasants. They received support from the Society so that they could study at domestic or foreign colleges or schools. The list of fellows include such personalities as Cyprian Ratajski (president of Poznań), Zygmunt Gorgolewski (one of the greatest Polish architects, creator of the Opera in Lviv, among others), Edmund Dalbor (primate of Poland), Marcin Nadobnik (professor at the University of Poznań), Franciszek Ksawery Liske (professor at the University of Lviv) or Maksymilian Studniarski (founding member of the Poznań Society of the Friends of Sciences, professor at the Middle School (Realschule) in Poznań). These are just a few examples.

“Nieznana historia kamienic Poznańskiego Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Nauk – ich mieszkańcy i najemcy”, *Kronika Miasta Poznania* 1 (2017), pp. 119–146; GUCIA, D., *Michał Wodpoł: pianista – kompozytor – poznaniak*, Poznań 2017. It is also worth mentioning that that Dobrosława Gučia is member of the editorial committee of *Rocznik Wielkopolskiego Towarzystwa Genealogicznego “Gniazdo”*, in which she has been publishing genealogical articles for several years.

³ GUCIA, D., *Stypendyści Towarzystwa Naukowej Pomocy im. Karola Marcinkowskiego 1841–1909*, Mnichowo-Poznań 2017, p. 15.

⁴ The material covers years 1841–1849, 1858–1896 and 1898–1909.

The last part of the monograph contains the bibliography (divided into archival sources, printed sources and studies) together with annexes. Among eleven annexes, we can find, among others, the list of members of the Directorate of the Scientific Assistance Society in 1841–1938, the number of scholarships awarded in 1841–1938, the names of the Society used in the Reports and lists of fellows studying at universities.

The enormous amount of work that Dobrosław Gucia has put into developing this monograph deserves full recognition. Compilation and development of over 5,000 fellows, recognition of the university / school in which they received education, places of birth, etc. was a huge challenge. The final effect is absolutely satisfactory. This book is an important work not only for genealogical research, but above all for research on the formation of intelligence, on the culture of the 19th-century Grand Duchy of Poznan and the education system at the time of the Partitions.