ARCHIVIST AND BIBLIOPHILE ANTONI MUCZKOWSKI

Summary
The article presents biographical information on Antoni Muczkowski (Muciek) (1807-1852), a famous Polish philologist, publisher, archivist and bibliophile. The features of his book collection are exposed.

Keywords: bibliophile, archivist, A. Muczkowski, R. Hube, A. Kucharski, the University Library.

The library of the Odessa I. Mechnikov National University holds books from the collection of Antoni Muczkowski (Muciek), 1807–1852), a Polish philologist, archivist, publisher and bibliophile [See: 1; 3; 2, p. 105; 9, p. 1101]. These copies were acquired by Novorossiyski (Odessa) University Library in the second half of the 19th century along with book collections of other Polish bibliophiles: a Slavist, bibliographer, ethnographer and traveler Andrzej Kucharsky (1865) and a lawyer and historian Senator Romuald Hube (1868). The books replenished the stacks of the University Library and supplemented philological, ethnographic, legal and historical literature. As a result of the studies of provenances, 16 books from the A. Muczkowski library with records of the owner have been revealed [Il. 1].

Antoni Muczkowski’s owner’s record

Anthoni Muczkowski can’t be called a well-known bibliophile, which prompts us to give some details of his biography. Polish periodicals Dziennik warszawski, Kurjer warszawski, Szpargaly ..., as well as a number of biographical dictionaries served us as the main source of information about A. Muczkowski’s life [8; 9;10].

A. Muczkowski was born in 1807, probably in Zawieprzyce in Łęczna County, Lublin province [8, p. 342]. Both the exact date and place of birth are unknown [10, p. 245]. Information about early childhood and mature years of A. Muczkowski can be found in the publication of a famous

All the facts given in the article “Antoni Muczkowski” are taken from A. Muczkowski’s personal memories. The author writes that A. Muczkowski himself did not know the exact date of his birth. The metric recorded the date of baptism, June 4th. He was baptized by the priest Benedykt Jakubowski, a prebendary in Łaszców and a vicar at the parish church in Kijany, which included the village of Zawieprzyce [5, No. 218, p. 1]. In his brief biography A. Muczkowski wrote that he was born in May 1807 in Lublin in a “servile” family [10, p. 245] being the son of Marcin Muciek1 and Katarzyna (Katarzyna z Drelanków) [12, p. 65].

At the age of eight, after the death of his parents and brother Franciszek, Anthoni remained under the care of his elder brother Józef (1795-1858). Anthoni, whose surname now sounded as Muczkowski, moved with his elder brother to Krakow where he went to elementary classes of a gymnasium. In 1819, the brothers moved to Poznan: Jozef got a teaching position in the Catholic Gymnasium of St. Mary Magdalene, and Anthoni continued his education [5, № 218, p. 2]. Since then he had to give private lessons not to burden his brother and the family of the latter. Having received a school certificate, A. Muczkowski decided to become a priest. In 1826, he left for Wroclaw to study theology. However, having arrived at the University, he changed his mind and entered the law faculty [4, p. 126; 5, № 218, p. 3].

A year later, because of the lack of finances, A. Muczkowski was forced to move from Wroclaw to Berlin, where he had been studying law and philology for 3 years [4, p. 126; 5, № 218, p. 3; 10, p. 245]. There he met people who greatly influenced his future. A. Muczkowski met a renowned Polish legal historian Waclaw-Aleksander Maciejowski and professor of Warsaw University Romuald Hube. He “became close to a Slavophile Kucharsky, who travelled all over Eastern Europe at the expenses of the Government, in order to occupy the chair of antiquity, history and Slavic literature in Warsaw, a person eager for science and ready to self-sacrificing work, who diligently sought Slavic runes and showed great promise” [5, № 219, p. 1].

A. Muczkowski worked hard. “Being plunged into hard work, he hadn’t enjoyed joyful moments of the young age or noisy life of University students ...” [4, p. 126]. He had never been a German Bursh2, did not participate in duels, and did not use harsh words in his vocabulary. A modest young man knew how to control his passions and, oddly enough, A. Muczkowski never went through the time of pranks, golden hopes, big dreams and ambitions that are natural for people of his age [see: 4, p. 126].

Having graduated from the University, A. Muczkowski wasn’t able to pay the whole sum for lectures to University professors. He had to come back to his family and friends in Krakow where he had been working for several years as a tutor. The lack of permanent work and any perspectives
forced A. Muczkowski to move to Warsaw at the end of 1831. He used to earn his living giving private lessons, but he still dreamed of a public service [4, p. 127; 5, No. 219, p. 2].

In 1835, A. Muczkowski simultaneously applied to the Education Commission (Komisja Edukacji) for the teaching position and to the Justice Commission (Komisja Sprawiedliwości) for a position of an adjunct at the judicial archives in Warsaw. To work in the archives, A. Muczkowski needed recommendations, which could be provided in Warsaw by R. Hube, W.-A. Maciejowski and A. Kucharski. Finally the candidacy of A. Muczkowski was approved.

At the same time, a public competition for the post of an archivist in Lublin was announced by the chairman of the civil court. A. Muczkowski was among six applicants [5, No. 219, p. 3]. He was ready to move from Warsaw to Lublin, but on May 1, 1835, he was appointed a deputy teacher in the Warsaw gymnasium with a salary of 1,800 zlotys, and the next day, on May 2, the Justice Commission appointed him to the position of an adjunct in Lublin with a salary of 1500 zł. The young man decided to stay in Warsaw as the capital gave him more opportunities for learning and self-realization (according to Yu. Bartoszewicz, the salary did not affect his decision) [4, c. 127; 5, No. 221, p. 1].

A. Muczkowski started working in the gymnasium when it was headed by Tomasz Dziekoński [5, No. 221, c 1]. Y. Bartoszewicz who used to be a student of this gymnasium, recalled the first meeting with A. Muczkowski: “I remember when I first noticed him in the schoolyard. He was of medium height, looking pale and miserable and already stooped with work, but there was something ineffably nice in his face that said that he was soft; at the same time there were signs of intellect proving extensive knowledge and abilities ... That face of his, thinking, melancholic and full of pain, made an indelible impression on me ”[4, p. 127–128; 5, No. 221, p. 2].

While A. Muczkowski was working in the gymnasium, he was still considered an archival clerk. Soon, the chairman of the civil court, Antoni Rabiński, filed a report that the new archivist did not appear at work (June 24, 1835). The Justice Commission called upon A. Muczkowski to appear at his destination within fourteen days, warning him in advance that if he did not arrive at the appropriate time, the commission would appoint someone else to his position (July 4). At this time, after the death of the chief royal archivist Walenty Majewski-Skorochód, the position of an adjunct in the Main Archives of Ancient Acts of Royal Metrics in Warsaw became vacant. A. Muczkowski asked the Justice Commission to move him from Lublin to the capital as an adjunct (July 19). A. Muczkowski was employed for a three-month probationary period (July 25) [5, No. 221, p. 2].

As soon as a holiday period began in the gymnasium on August 1, 1835, A. Muczkowski started working in the Main Archives of Ancient Acts [4, p. 128; 8, p. 342] getting 1,500 złoty in addition to his teacher’s salary, which made his general income 3,300 złoty. He got a chance to think of his future. However, the scholar realized that teaching career would not be long suit him. It took a lot of efforts and health, therefore, having worked for less than seven months, A. Muczkowski applied for his resignation [5, No. 221, p. 2-3]. Eventually he only worked in the archives. At the end of the
probationary period, the Justice Commission approved A. Muczkowski as the second adjunct of the Main Archives of Ancient Acts (December 16). In addition to a salary of 1,500 zlotys, A. Muczkowski earned extra money for issuing copies of various documents and privileges for court proceedings as well as documents to confirm the legitimacy of the nobility, the separation of property and property rights [5, No. 221, p. 3].

Working in the Main Archives of the Ancient Acts opened up A. Muczkowski a new area for research. Meanwhile, some deficiencies in the functioning of the archive were revealed, namely the forgery of a document. By decision of the government of March 30, 1838, all archive officials, including A. Muczkowski, were removed from office. Judicial proceedings were initiated, and until the court decided, the scholar was under suspicion as well as other employees [5, No. 222, p. 3]. This incident undermined A. Muczkowski’s poor health and he was repeatedly close to death. Doctors advised him to be treated with mineral waters abroad. But, firstly, being suspended from work, he only got the minimum allowance and could not afford expensive treatment, and secondly, he could not leave the country while he had been under investigation. Finally, on January 21, 1841 the Mazovian Criminal Court acquitted A. Muczkowski of all charges. In summer 1841 he went at his own expenses for a three-month treatment to Karlovy Vary, and upon his return he started working in the archives [5, No. 223, p. 1].

A. Muczkowski was bored with the fact that due to lack of money, he hadn’t paid for the lectures of the professors from Wroclaw and Berlin. At the same time, he and his brother helped a widowed sister with children [5, No. 223, p. 2].

After several years of need, the life of A. Muczkowski changed when W.-A. Maciejowski recommended him as his successor at the position of the professor of the Roman Catholic Theological Academy in Warsaw [4, p. 128]. Since 1850, A. Muczkowski had become a teacher of Greek and Latin literature at the Department of Ancient Literature [5, No. 223, p. 3; 6, No. 128, p. 1]. This greatly improved his financial situation, but his health deteriorated. “His emaciated and yellowed face bore a distinct imprint of suffering, which he endured with humility” [4, p. 128]. He had a progressive cardiovascular disease.

Despite the serious illness, A. Muczkowski collected various materials on the history of Poland and worked them out. In the last years of his life, he had been working on the publication of the Polish Diplomatic Code (Kodeks dyplomatyczny polski; Warsaw, 1847-1859) [5, No. 224, p. 1-3; 10, p. 245–246] [Il. 2].
A. Muczkowski spent all his income on buying books. Collecting was his only passion [4, p. 129]. The first books were acquired by him no later than in 1835, which is evidenced by the records on books from his collection. His library was the best in Warsaw at that time consisting of about 12,000 titles of books and brochures [5, No. 222, p. 1]. The book collection was wide-ranging including works on history, philology, law, theology, medicine. A. Muczkowski tried to acquire every rare and special copy. He was known to all the antiquaries of Warsaw being a frequent visitor to their stores [5, № 221, cp 3].

A. Muczkowski lent books from his collection to those whom he trusted. But not everyone had a chance to see his library. In the apartment where he lived a small room served him a bedroom and a study, the other being a library. According to Yu. Bartoszewicz, “in the library there were six tall bookcases full of books, besides two chests, and lot of brochures and books were lying on the floor as well as in the corners [of the room] ... A. Muczkowski put his treasures one on another placing them in rows, and squeezed them so as to create even more space for new books. Some books were standing, others were lying on them in disorder, tightly bound with a string” [5, No. 222, p. 1]. Nevertheless, A. Muczkowski managed to find any book in his collection.

At the beginning of April 1852, A. Muczkowski planned to go abroad for treatment, but his health had drastically deteriorated which made it impossible. He died during the night of April 6 to 7, 1852³ [4, p. 128; 5, No. 226, p. 1; 11, p. 18-19]. His comrade Poznańczyk along with Pan Wojnszynski, a guardian and representative of authorities, arranged the funeral and settlement of A. Muczkowski’s affairs⁴.
A. Muczkowski’s brother, a professor at the University of Krakow J. Muczkowski disowned the inheritance in favor of their sister and her minor children [5, No. 226, p. 2]. However, according to the “Kurjer Warszawski”, after A. Muczkowski’s death “at the request of the court prosecutor in the absence of heirs” a notary Teofil Brzozowski signed the “decision of the President of the Warsaw civil court dated June 3/15 of the current year No. 6169 ”about selling Muczkowski’s library at public auction in June 1852 [7, No. 167, p. 882].

Before the auction an announcement was published in the Warsaw press: “If any of the respected writers have books borrowed from Anthony Muczkowski, care to hand them promptly over to Voichinsky at No. 614-b Vezhbova Street, as they will be needed to complete the inventory of the deceased’s book collection” [7, No. 147, p. 771]. As soon as the inventory was ready, the library as well as other A. Muczkowski’s belongings were put up for public auction from June 18 to 30 1852. Most of the library of the late A. Muczkowski, unsold at auction, was moved to a more convenient place for the public - “from the 1st floor to the ground floor of V. Naimsky house at No. 649 Przejazd street” [7, No. 182, p. 959]. Further sale of this library took place “every afternoon, excluding holidays, until the full sale of these works” [7, No. 182, p. 959]. Therefore, books from the A. Muczkowski library were scattered.

The availability of a small group of books from Muczkowski’s collection in the Scientific Library of the Odessa I. I. Mechnikov National University makes it possible to trace the destiny of books coming from the collection as well as to note clarify book preferences of the bibliophile. Perspectives of further work can be found in both identification of the books coming from A. Muczkowski’s collection in University library stacks and studying the formation of the collection, and the destiny of copies of books and their particularities.

Notes
1 In Muczkowski’s papers his father was recorded as Mark, Marcin and Michal while in the certificate of birth there is a record about Marcin [5, № 218, s. 2].
2 Bursch (ger.Bursche) is a student of a German University adopted by the brotherhood, whose members participated in duels, benders, etc.
3 A. Muczkowski died in his sleep. «He was lying in peace with a finger on his mouth as if he wanted to express that he didn’t want to be spoken of during his lifetime and after death he wanted humble recollection of him to remain in silence» [4, s. 128].
4 Kurjer Warszawski published the following announcement: “Anthony Muczkowski, a teacher of the Roman Catholic Theological Academy recently passed on to the eternity. In the absence of his brother friends invite colleagues and acquaintances to escort his body at 4 o’clock in the afternoon, the procession is to take place from the Chapel XX of the Reformat church at Powązkowski cemetery” [7, No. 95, 51]. After A. Muczkowski’s death, 200 zlotys were left (later another 500 zlotys were found), but this amount was not enough to pay for the funeral, the missing part (200 zlotys) was paid by the authorities of Warsaw. The funeral of A. Muczkowski took place on April 9, 1852. The funeral procession was accompanied by many friends and colleagues of the archivist and teacher, as well as all representatives of intelligentsia of Warsaw [5, No. 226, s. 2].

List of used literature and sources
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References


АРХІВАРІУС ТА БІБЛІОФІЛ АНТОНІЙ МУЧКОВСЬКИЙ

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А. Мучковський початкову освіту отримав у Кракові та Познані. Потім він навчався на юридичному факультеті Вроцлавського університету, а в Берлінському університеті вивчав право та філологію. По закінченню навчання А. Мучковський переїхав до Варшави. Спочатку він працював приватним вчителем, а потім вчителем у гімназії. Незабаром А. Мучковський перейшов на роботу в Головний архів давніх королівських метрик на посаду ад’юнкта. Через кілька років за рекомендацією В.-А. Мацйовського А. Мучковський був призначений викладачем грецької й латинської літератури на кафедрі античної літератури Римсько-католицької духовної академії в Варшаві.

А. Мучковський, не зважаючи на тяжку хворобу та фінансові проблеми, збирає та досліджував матеріали з історії Польщі. В останні роки життя він працював над «Польським дипломатичним кодексом» («Kodeks dyplomatyczny polski»; Варшава, 1847–1859). Антоній Мучковський був пристрастилим бібліофілом, якого знали всі антиквари Варшави. Весь свій прибуток колекціонер витрачав на купівлю книг. Вчений зібрав найкращу на той час бібліотеку в Варшаві, що налічувала близько 12000 назв книг і брошур. Після смерті А. Мучковського бібліотека та інше майно бібліофіла були виставлені на продаж на публічному аукціоні, що проходив у кінці червня 1852 р. Книги та рукописи з бібліотеки А. Мучковського були розпорошені і подальша доля більшості примірників є невідомою.

В Науковій бібліотеці Одеського національного університету імені І. І. Мечникова виявлено більше десятка примірників із книгозбірні Антонія Мучковського. Вони надійшли до фонду у складі двох інших колекцій: Анджея Кухарського та Ромуальда Губе. Книги з цих колекцій вплили на загальний фонд бібліотеки та поповнили філологічну, етнографічну, юридичну й історичну літературу. Виявлення книг А. Мучковського з фондів університетської бібліотеки, вивчення формування колекції, історії існування примірників книг та їх особливостей є перспективним напрямком.

**Ключові слова:** бібліофіл, архівірус, А. Мучковський, Р. Губе, А. Кухарський, університетська бібліотека.
проходившем в конце июня 1852 Книги и рукописи из библиотеки А. Мучковського были рассеяны и дальнейшая судьба большинства экземпляров неизвестна.
В Научной библиотеке Одесского национального университета имени И. И. Мечникова обнаружено более десятка экземпляров из библиотеки Антония Мучковського. Выявление книг А. Мучковського из фондов университетской библиотеки, изучение формирования коллекции, истории существования экземпляров книг и их особенностей является перспективным направлением.

Ключевые слова: библиофил, архивариус, А. Мучковський, Р. Губе, А. Кухарский, университетская библиотека.