



Anna Bujko

Instytut Północny im. W. Kętrzyńskiego, Polska

anna.bujko@ip.olsztyn.pl • <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4607-0448>

Book Ownership Marks as a Source for Biographies of Eminent Scholars on the Example of Jan Włodek's Book Collection

Książkowe znaki własnościowe jako źródło do biografii wybitnych uczonych na przykładzie księgozbioru Jana Włodka

Besitzvermerke in Büchern als Quelle für Biografien berühmter Gelehrter am Beispiel der Büchersammlung von Jan Włodek

Keywords: provenance research, post-war fate of book collections, ownership marks as a biographical source, historical book collections

Słowa kluczowe: badania proveniencyjne, powojenne losy księgozbiorów, znaki własnościowe jako źródło biograficzne, księgozbiory historyczne, biblioteki prywatne

Schlüsselwörter: Provenienzforschung, Nachkriegsschicksal von Buchbeständen, Besitzvermerke als biografische Quelle, historische Buchbestände

ABSTRACT

Jan Włodek was an eminent scholar of agricultural sciences whose education took place in the late 19th and early 20th century. His life is perfectly reflected in the book collection

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he owned, or more precisely the ownership marks with which he signed his books. In addition to the bookplates and stamps, the books contain many handwritten notations, indicating the dates and places of residence or travel where Włodek read or purchased the book. The aim of this article is to present Jan Włodek's biography in the context of his accumulated book collection, currently held at the Library of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn. The journey of the books will also be shown, as a result of which the book collection first became the basis of the Library of the University of Life Sciences in Łódź, established in 1945, and from 1950 onwards the first secular scientific library in Olsztyn. Although more than 700 volumes have so far been extracted through searches at the University Library, the Włodek's collection is an invaluable source for the biography of this outstanding scholar.

STRESZCZENIE

Jan Włodek był wybitnym uczonym zakresie nauk rolniczych, którego edukacja przypadła na koniec XIX i początek XX w. Jego życie doskonale odzwierciedla należący do niego księgozbiór, a dokładnie znaki własnościowe, którymi sygnował swoje książki. Poza ekslibrisami i pieczętkami książki te zawierają wiele odręcznych zapisów, wskazujących na daty i miejsca pobytu lub podróży, w których Włodek książkę czytał lub zakupił. Celem artykułu jest przedstawienie życiorysu Jana Włodka w kontekście zgromadzonego przez niego księgozbioru, znajdującego się obecnie w Bibliotece Uniwersytetu Warmińsko-Mazurskiego w Olsztynie. Pokazana zostanie także podróż książek, w efekcie której najpierw księgozbiór ten trafił do Łodzi, a w 1950 r. do Olsztyna. Choć w drodze kwerendy w Bibliotece Uniwersyteckiej wyodrębniono dotąd ponad 700 woluminów, „włodkoviana” stanowią nieocenione źródło do biografii tego wybitnego uczonego.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Jan Włodek war ein bedeutender Agrarwissenschaftler, dessen Ausbildung im späten 19. und frühen 20. Jahrhundert stattfand. Sein Leben spiegelt sich perfekt in seiner eigenen Büchersammlung wider, oder genauer gesagt in den Besitzvermerken, mit denen er seine Bücher signierte. Zusätzlich zu den Exlibris und Stempeln enthalten die Bücher zahlreiche handschriftliche Vermerke, die die Daten und Orte des Aufenthalts oder der Reise angeben, an denen Włodek das Buch gelesen oder gekauft hat. Ziel dieses Artikels ist es, die Biografie von Jan Włodek im Kontext seiner Büchersammlung vorzustellen, die sich heute in der Bibliothek der Universität von Ermland und Masurien in Olsztyn (Allenstein) befindet. Gezeigt wird dabei auch der Weg der Bücher, der dazu führte, dass die Büchersammlung zunächst den Grundstock für die 1945 gegründete Bibliothek der Universität für Biowissenschaften in Łódź und ab 1950 für die erste profane wissenschaftliche Bibliothek in Olsztyn bildete. Obwohl bisher mehr durch Recherchen als 700 Bände in der Universitätsbibliothek erschlossen wurden, sind die „Vladkoviana“ eine unschätzbare Quelle für die Biografie dieses herausragenden Gelehrten.

The aim of this paper¹ is to present Jan Włodek's biography in the context of his accumulated book collection, which is currently held in the Library of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn. The paper will also describe the post-war fate of the "Vlodkovians", as a result of which the book collection first became the basis of the Library of the School of Life Sciences in Łódź established in 1945 and – from

¹ This paper is a fragment of a forthcoming biography of Jan Włodek in the optics of the preserved book collection, which will be enriched by a catalogue of the provenance of the Olsztyn "Vlodkovians".



Photo 1. Jan Włodek (photograph from the collection of the Zofia and Jan Włodek Foundation)

1950 onwards – the Library of the School of Agriculture in Olsztyn. Although more than 700 volumes have been identified through searches at the University Library so far, they are an invaluable source for the biography of this outstanding scholar.

Jan Włodek was born in Dąbrowica near Kraków on 31st August 1885. He was the son of Zdzisław Włodek, a landowner, and Albina Götz-Okocimska. Dąbrowica was also the place where he spent his childhood. Then he began his education at a secondary school in Kraków. Having passed his matriculation exam in 1903, he was keen to take up agricultural studies – something his father would not agree to. Eventually, Jan began agricultural studies at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Royal University of Wrocław². In 1904, Jan Włodek and his brother Roman went to study in Switzerland, where he studied chemistry (Roman did not graduate)³. In 1906, he moved to the Landwirtschaftliche Hochschule in Berlin, where he earned the degree of a qualified farmer. In spite of his father's will, he submitted his documents to the Royal Friedrich Wilhelm University of Berlin in 1908. In 1911, he received his doctoral degree on the basis of the thesis entitled 'Beiträge zur Frage Ammoniakverdunstung und Umwandlung im Boden' ('Contributions to the Knowledge of the Volatilisation of Ammonia and its Transformation in the Soil') written under the supervision of Prof. [Otto] Lemmermann⁴. Jan Włodek passed his doctoral exam

² J.M. Włodek, *Jan Włodek. Legionista, dyplomata, uczony*, Kraków 2009, p. 23.

³ *Ibidem*, p. 23.

⁴ National Archives in Kraków (further: ANK), Kraków Chamber of Agriculture in Kraków (hereinafter: KIR Kr), ref. 29/294/KIR KR 20 [k. 1], Biography of Jan Włodek, Prof. UJ [written for the Czech Academy of Agriculture]; J.M. Włodek, *op. cit.*, pp. 24, 25.

on 8th December 1910. Two days later, 'without anyone bidding farewell to him', he left Berlin and went to his home in Dąbrowica⁵. After returning to Poland, he worked at the experimental farm of the Jagiellonian University in Mydlniki near Kraków. He continued his research here. At the same time, as a replacement for Prof. Kazimierz Rogoyski⁶ he taught at the College of Agriculture of the Jagiellonian University. He was then employed as a lecturer in the Department of Soil and Plant Cultivation at the Jagiellonian University⁷.

Upon the outbreak of the First World War, he enlisted in the Polish Legions. Having initially served in the motor unit, he then became a liaison officer at the Polish Legions Headquarters and was promoted to second lieutenant. The photographic documentation of the soldiers' lives prepared by Jan Włodek⁸ also dates back to this period. Due to his health, he left the ranks of the army and was sent to the Hague, where he served as a foreign representative of the Supreme National Committee. In 1920, he left the Netherlands as *charge d'affaires* of the Republic of Poland (he had held this position since 1919)⁹. Upon his return, he started his scientific work. In 1922, he earned the degree of habilitated doctor¹⁰. He continued his research and lectured at the Jagiellonian University (in place of retiring Prof. Rogoyski). After two years, he became an independent researcher¹¹. Thanks to his experience gained in Switzerland, he transferred an innovative soil fertilisation method to Poland¹². He put theory into practice by acting as chairman of the Agricultural Section of the Provincial Agricultural Commission. Włodek was active in the Małopolska Agricultural Society, where he headed the Mountain Meadows and Pastures Section¹³. In 1936, he was elected dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the Jagiellonian University. Before the start of the academic year, he was appointed full professor¹⁴.

⁵ *Pamiętnik Jana Włodka* [further: *Pamiętnik*], Part 2, manuscript in the collection of the Jan and Zofia Włodek Foundation, [p. 113].

⁶ M. Strutyńska, 'Rogoyski Kazimierz', in: *Polski Słownik Biograficzny* (further: PSB), vol. XXXII, Wrocław 1989–1991, pp. 458–460.

⁷ ANK, KIR Kr, ref. 29/294/KIR Kr 20, [k. 1], *Życiorys Jana Włodka...*

⁸ A. Rybicki, *Z kamerą na froncie i w departamencie. Jan Włodek 1885–1940 fotoreporter legionowej epopei*, Kraków 2010.

⁹ J.M. Włodek, *Jan Włodek. Legionista...*, pp. 42, 43; *Pamiętnik*, Part 2, [p. 190].

¹⁰ J.M. Włodek, *Jan Włodek. Legionista...*, p. 83.

¹¹ ANK, KIR Kr, ref. 29/294/KIR Kr 20, [k. 2], *Życiorys Jana Włodka...*

¹² *Dzieje studiów rolniczych w Krakowie 1890–1962*, ed. H. Jurkowska, T. Komornicki, T. Lityński, Kraków 1965, p. 166. Thanks to Włodek, around 1,500 farms in the Subcarpathian region benefited from the Swiss model in the context of soil fertilisation. – ANK, KIR Kr, ref. 29/294/KIR Kr 20, [k. 9], The activity of Prof. Dr Jan Włodek during his tenure as associate professor, i.e. from 1923.

¹³ ANK, KIR Kr, ref. 29/294/KIR Kr 20, [k. 3], *Życiorys Jana Włodka...*

¹⁴ According to Professor Włodek's son, this appointment was deliberately delayed, the reason being the conflict that Włodek came into with the then Minister of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment Janusz Jędrzejewicz. J.M. Włodek, *Jan Włodek. Legionista...*, p. 83.



Photo 2. Zofia Włodek (photograph from the collection of the Zofia and Jan Włodek Foundation)



Photo 3. Jan Włodek with his children (photograph from the collection of the Zofia and Jan Włodek Foundation)

PRIVATE LIFE

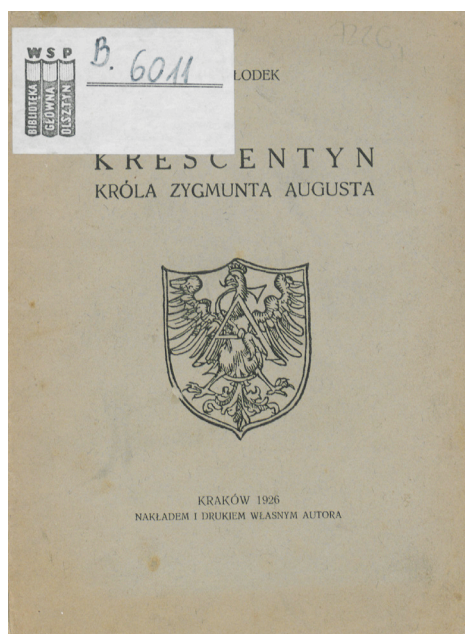
In 1912, Jan Włodek married Zofia, Jan Albin Götz-Okocimski's daughter, to whom he was related. In 1929, she became a doctor of philosophy. She had received thorough philological education at home. After the war, she engaged in translation work and social activities (e.g., she edited a Catholic biweekly). Jan and Zofia Włodek had two children – Jan (b. 1924) and Sophia (b. 1925), who followed in the footsteps of their parents – the son was a professor of agricultural sciences, and the daughter was a historian of philosophy.

JAN WŁODEK – BIBLIOPHILE

Jan Włodek was also a bibliophile, as evidenced by the book collection he carefully accumulated over the years, not only in his field of study, and his attention to the condition of the books. In his diary, he wrote: 'I am looking forward to my old age. I will then be able to read so many interesting books that I do not have time for now'¹⁵. He was a member of the Society of Book Lovers in Kraków established in 1922. In 1926, on the occasion of the Second Congress of Polish Bibliophiles, his work 'Krescentyn of King Sigismund II Augustus' was published¹⁶. A description of this work

¹⁵ *Pamiętnik*, Part 2, manuscript, entry 336.

¹⁶ J. Włodek, *Krescentyn króla Zygmunta Augusta*, Kraków 1926, p. 7.



Il. 1. Jan Włodek, *Krescentyn Króla Zygmunta Augusta*, Kraków 1926

was published by Włodek in a circulation of 350 copies¹⁷. It should be mentioned that the Włodeks owned a small printing press in a Kraków basement, where Zofia printed, among other things, the *Wiadomości Katolickie* biweekly that she edited¹⁸.

¹⁷ 'This print has been issued by the author in his own printing works for the participants of the Second Congress of Polish Bibliophiles in Warsaw. 350 copies were printed, of which nos. 1–150 were intended for the participants of the Congress, nos. 151–270 for the members of the Society of Book Lovers in Kraków, nos. 271–300 were kept by the author for himself, and nos. 301–350 were put on sale in the Antiquarian Bookshop of the Society of Book Lovers in Kraków, at the Market Square in the House of the Kromer Family opposite the Town Hall.' – *Pamiętnik II Zjazdu Bibliofilów Polskich w Warszawie (31.X–2.XI.1926)*, ed. E. Chwalewik, Warszawa 1928, p. 132; J. Włodek, *Krescentyn króla Zygmunta...*, [p. 11]. Members of the Society of Book Lovers were entitled to purchase the book at the Antiquarian Bookshop at a 30% lower price. – B. Szornel-Dąbrowska, *Towarzystwo Miłośników Książki w Krakowie w latach 1922–1939*, Kraków 2001, p. 55. The copy of the work *Krescentyn króla Zygmunta Augusta* kept in the collection of the University Library bears the number 235, which means it belonged to one of the participants in the aforementioned Second Congress and was then submitted to the Jagiellonian Library, from where it was handed over as a double to the Higher School of Pedagogy in Olsztyn, probably in 1990.

¹⁸ J.M. Włodek, op. cit., p. 225.

After the outbreak of World War II, he was arrested by the Nazis during the Sonderaktion Krakau. On 6th November 1939, a large group of professors at the Jagiellonian University was invited to attend Müller's lecture 'The attitude of the German Reich and National Socialism to issues of science and universities' at the Collegium Novum. They were all taken to a prison in Wrocław¹⁹. After three weeks, the Kraków intellectuals were sent to the Sachsenhausen camp.

BOOK COLLECTION

The subject-matter of this paper are the books bearing the ownership marks of Jan Włodek that are currently kept in the Library of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn. This collection also bears the stamps of the Library of the School of Life Sciences in Łódź, which was founded in 1945 and functioned until 1950²⁰. At that time, the authorities decided to establish the School of Agriculture in Olsztyn and to liquidate two agricultural schools – the aforementioned School of Life Sciences in Łódź and the other one in Cieszyń. A part of the collection ended up in Olsztyn. "Vlodkoviana" in the Łódź collection are the most numerous group of books signed by a single owner.

How did Jan Włodek's books find their way to Łódź after the war? As has already been mentioned, Jan Włodek's widow Sophie was forced to leave the Dąbrowica estate. The communist authorities abolished the landed gentry class, which worsened the material situation of this social group. Zofia and her children moved into an apartment at 5 Wróblewskiego Street in Kraków. Being in a difficult situation, she supported herself by selling her family's belongings (including those she had managed to salvage from Dąbrowica)²¹. Cecylia Bieguszevska, the author of a doctoral dissertation on the libraries of Schools of Agriculture, reported that these books were sold to the Łódź university by Prof. S. Włodek²². Jan Włodek's daughter, on the other hand, claimed that her parents' books ended up at the Academy of Agriculture in Krakow (which was founded only in 1953)²³. According to Włodek's son, his mother had sold the books to the University of Łódź, where the Faculty of Agriculture was established. Half [!] of the books belonging to Jan Włodek would be submitted

¹⁹ J. Zaborowski, S. Poznański, *Sonderaktion Krakau. W dwudziestą piątą rocznicę 6 listopada 1939*, Warszawa 1964, pp. 57–62, 73.

²⁰ For more about the history of the Library of the School of Life Sciences and the fate of the books, see: A. Bujko, A. Obrębska, *Historia zapisana w książkach. Znaki własnościowe najwcześniejszych zbiorów (cieszyńskich i łódzkich) Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej w Olsztynie*, Olsztyn 2019, pp. 81–220.

²¹ J.M. Włodek, op. cit., p. 237.

²² When asked by the author of the article about Prof. S. Włodek and the sale of books to Łódź, Zofia – the daughter – replied: 'Perhaps this is about Professor Stanisław Włodek, an orchard specialist, a distant cousin of my father? – Letter from Zofia Włodek to Anna Bujko, 28th May 2014, manuscript in the author's collection. It is certainly about Zofia (Sophie).

²³ Ibidem.

here. Jan Marian Włodek was certainly talking about the books that his mother had sold not to the University but to the School of Life Sciences in Łódź. In 1947, 5,000 books belonging to Włodek were purchased, accounting for half of the book collection of the Library of the School of Life Sciences.

Around 8,000 volumes were delivered to Olsztyn from Łódź. As a result of a search performed so far, some 700 volumes with Jan Włodek's ownership marks have been identified²⁴. The "Vlodkovian" collection can be identified by bookplates (two prints)²⁵, stamps or handwritten notes. The ownership marks of bookshops, antiquarian bookshops or the Krakow bookbinder whose services were used by the owner are also significant proofs of ownership. In the collection of brochures published between 1922 and 1939, there are mainly dedications to Jan Włodek or the professor's handwritten signatures.

On the basis of the ownership marks found in the small part of the book collection that ended up in Olsztyn, however, it is possible to reconstruct the biography of this outstanding scholar. The son recalled that his mother had sold half of the books belonging to his father to Łódź. We should remember that the Library in Łódź increased its book collection by 5,000 books in 1947. Around 700 books ended up in Olsztyn, which only accounted for 14% of the books sold by the widow and, as far as Włodek's son could remember, 28% of the entire post-war book collection owned by Włodek.

On the basis of the publication date of the book, the following classification of Jan Włodek's book collection was made:

- (a) until 1911;
- (b) 1913–1921;
- (b) 1922–1939.

Life calendar

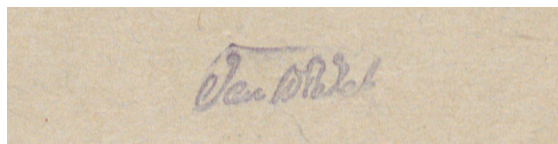
- 1903 – matriculation exam;
- 1903 – studied at the Silesian Friedrich Wilhelm University in Wrocław;
- 1904 – studied in Freiburg, Switzerland;
- 1906 – studied at the Landwirtschaftliche Hochschule in Berlin (School of Agriculture), where he earned the degree of Landwitscht (qualified farmer);
- 1908 – studied at the Friedrich Wilhelm University in Berlin;
- 1911 – obtained a doctoral degree;
- 1911 – worked on an experimental farm in Mydlniki;

²⁴ Continued provenance research conducted at the University Library of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn will include compact publications.

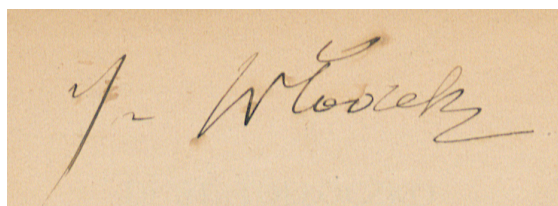
²⁵ Two printing matrices with a reaper have survived to the present day; and they are now housed in the headquarters of the Jan and Zofia Włodek Foundation. The author of the Włodeks' "marriage" bookplate is Bohdan Treter.

- 1912 – married Zofia Goetz-Okocimska;
- 1912–1914 – lecturer at the College of Agriculture of the Jagiellonian University and later at the Department of Soil and Plant Cultivation of the Jagiellonian University;
- 1914 – enlisted in the Polish Legions;
- 1916 – foreign representative of the Supreme National Committee in the Hague;
- 1919 – *charge d'affaires* of the Republic of Poland in the Hague;
- 1920 – returned to Poland;
- 1922 – nostrification of the doctoral degree obtained in Berlin at the Jagiellonian University;
- 1922 – obtained the degree of habilitated doctor;
- 1923 – Head of the Department of Soil and Plant Cultivation at the College of Agriculture of the Jagiellonian University (Associate Professor of Soil and Plant Cultivation at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Jagiellonian University);
- 1936 – appointed full professor;
- 1936 – Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the Jagiellonian University;
- 1939 – arrested in the Sonderaktion Krakau.

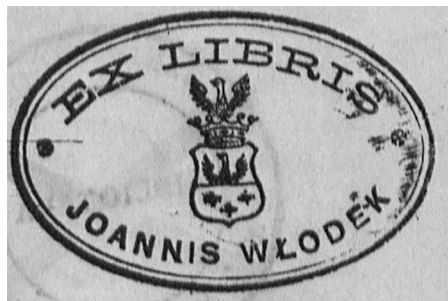
In the University Library, there is one copy with a facsimile of Jan Włodek's signature.



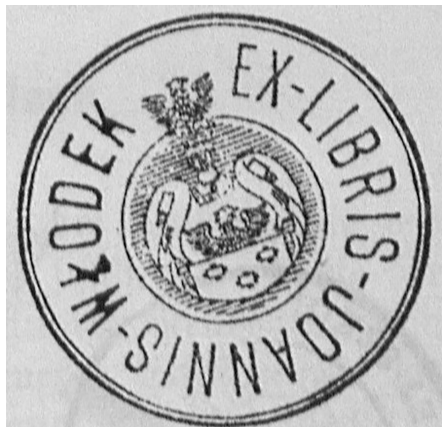
Il. 2. Jan Włodek – a facsimile of Jan Włodek's signature
F. Behrend, G. Berg, *Chemische Geologie*, Stuttgart 1927 (inv. no. 2903)



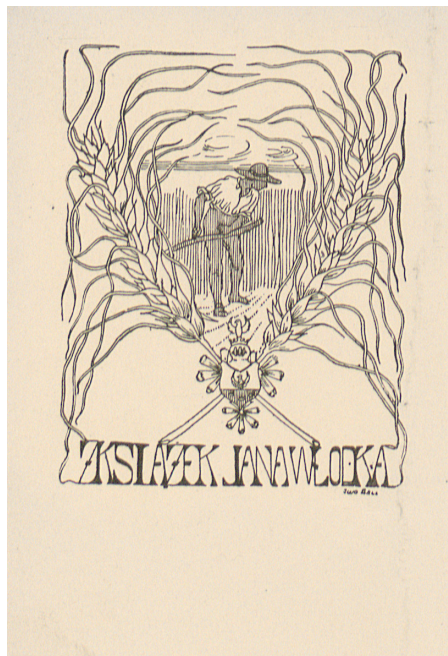
Il. 3. Jan Włodek – a facsimile of Jan Włodek's signature
J.G. Gardiner, *Rapport du Ministre de l'agriculture pour le Dominion du Canada. Année terminée le 31 mars 1938*, Ottawa 1938 (inv. no. 3425)



II. 4. EX LIBRIS JOHANNIS WŁODEK
L. Bruner, *Zasady chemii* [*The Principles of Chemistry*], Kraków 1903 (inv. no. 843)



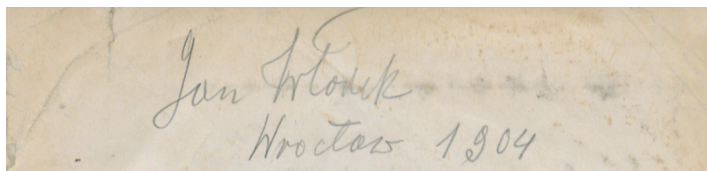
II. 5. EX-LIBRIS – JOHANNIS – WŁODEK
L. Klein, *Unsere Unkräuter*, Heidelberg 1913 (inv. no. 202)



II. 6. FROM JAN WŁODEK'S BOOKS
E. Fraas, *Geologie in kurzem Auszug für Schulen und zur Selbstbelehrung*, Leipzig 1908 (inv. no. 147)

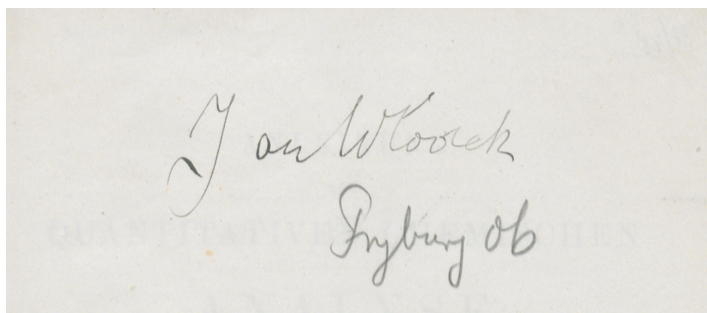


II. 7. EXLIBRIS IOHANNIS & SOPHIE WŁODEK
F. Pax, *Pflanzengeographie von Polen (Kongress-Polen) in ihren Grundzügen*, Berlin 1918 (inv. no. 3830)



Il. 8. Jan Włodek, Wrocław 1904

L. Milch, *Die Grundlagen der Bodenkunde*, Leipzig 1899 (inv. no. 2676)



Il. 9. Jan Włodek Freiburg 06

K.R. Fresenius, *Anleitung zur quantitativen chemischen Analyse. Für Anfänger und Geübtere*, Braunschweig 1905 (inv. no. 2734)

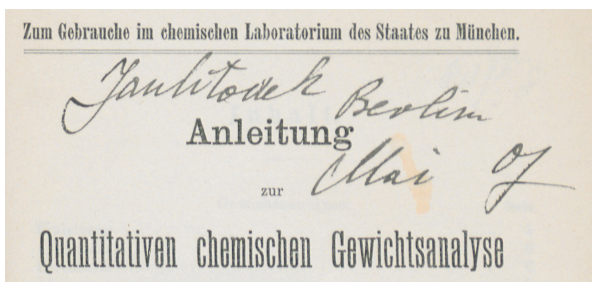
The books in which Jan Włodek made handwritten notes are an invaluable source for his biography. One of the first made during this period are entries indicating that the book was purchased or read.

STUDY PERIOD

In 1903, Jan left to study in Wrocław. After a year, he moved to a Swiss university. Włodek was very excited about the new place: 'All sorts of new experience. New people, new tasks, a new world and, finally, the Alps ... What a wonderful thing to take trips to the mountains, the Alps. On the summits, there is divine silence, to use that clichéd phrase – a bone-chilling silence. During the day, you can only hear an occasional avalanche rumble'²⁶.

Włodek acquired many more books while studying in Berlin, where he stayed from 1906. During that period, he made many notes indicating even the day of purchase of the book. The earliest of them dates back to May 1907.

²⁶ *Pamiętnik*, Part 1, [pp. 19, 20].



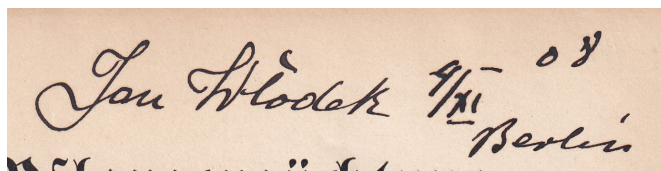
Il. 10. Jan Włodek Berlin Mai 07

H. von Pechman, *Anleitung zur quantitativen chemischen Gewichtsanalyse nach Cl. Zimmermann*, München 1904 (inv. no. 6774)



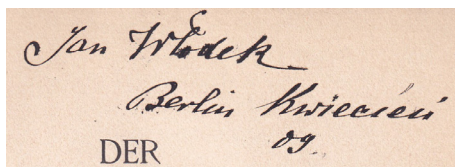
Il. 11. Jan Włodek, Berlin 3 Jun. 07

F. Wahnschaffe, *Anleitung zur wissenschaftlichen Bodenuntersuchung*, Berlin 1903 (inv. no. 2627)



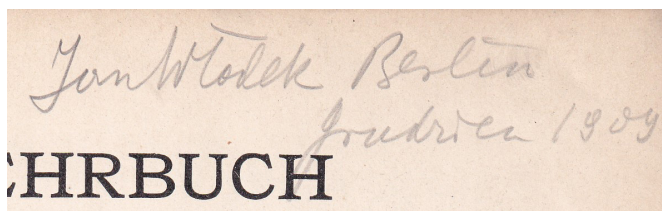
Il. 12. Jan Włodek 4 Nov. 08 Berlin

H.M. de Vries, *Pflanzenzüchtung*, Berlin 1908 (inv. no. 2663)



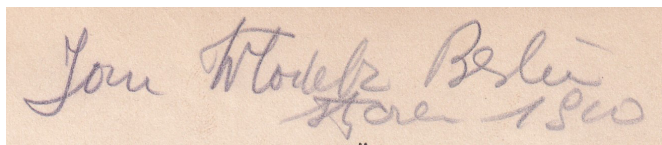
Il. 13. Jan Włodek Berlin April 09

O. Hertwig, *Der Kampf um Kernfragen der Entwicklungs- und Vererbungslehre*, Jena 1909 (inv. no. 2851)



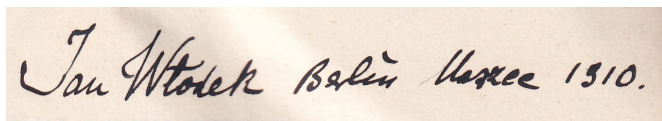
Il. 14. Jan Włodek Berlin, December 1909

Lehrbuch der Botanik für Hochschulen, begr. von Eduard Strasburger, Jena 1910 (inv. no. 3774)



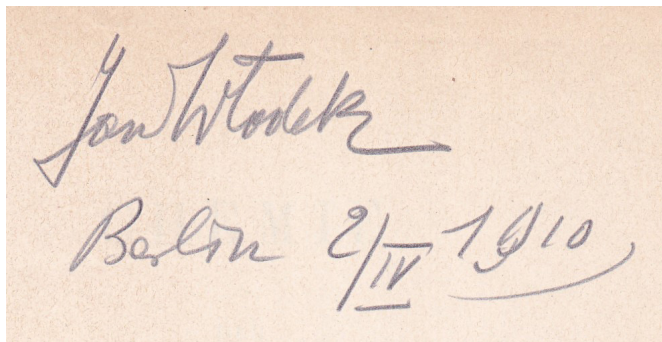
Il. 15. Jan Włodek Berlin January 1910

M. Passon, *Kleines Handwörterbuch der Agrikulturchemie*. Tl. 1, Aadt-Kynurensäure. Tl. 2, Lab-Zymogen, Leipzig 1910 (inv. no. 2731)



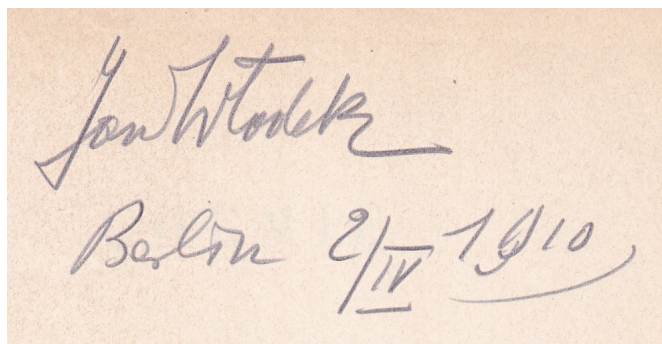
Il. 16. Jan Włodek, Berlin March 1910

Grundlagen und Ergebnisse der Pflanzenchemie. Tl. 1, 2–3, bearb. von H. Euler, Braunschweig 1908–1909 (inv. no. 2640)



Il. 17. Jan Włodek Berlin 2/IV 1910

O. Kestner, *Chemie der Eiweisskörper*, Braunschweig 1905 (inv. no. 2371)



Il. 18. Jan Włodek Berlin 1910 November

A.D. Hall, *The books of the Rothamsted experiments*, London 1905 (inv. no. 3111)

Berlin did not enchant Włodek as much as Freiburg and the Alps had done. Moreover, he believed that 'Berlin would be a lovely city if it were inhabited by Italians or the French'²⁷. This dislike of the Germans appeared more than once in his notes. 'Fools and philistines,' he wrote, 'when confronted with a certain amount of knowledge (let us say, with average erudition) and with concrete intellectual results, they say 'Bücherweisheit', thus wishing to express their disregard for primo: book wisdom in general [...] secundo: to the individual having these concrete thoughts ...'²⁸.

The handwritten notes in the books document not only student trips. They indicate Włodek's tourist preferences (e.g. Florence, Zakopane) and his stays in spas. His stay in Krynica (now Krynica-Zdrój) is confirmed by an entry made in his diary on July 1913²⁹. For health reasons, Włodek also travelled to more distant places. From 4th August 1909, for example, he stayed in Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad) for a cure, 'pouring hot water into myself and pouring cold water over myself. I eat well, sleep a lot (up to 10 h [...]), walk a lot, and spend minimal energy on thinking'³⁰. From there he went to Opatija³¹, certainly also for health or leisure purposes, where he celebrated his 24th birthday: 'So today marks the twenty-fourth anniversary of my birth. I am of age! This is not much use to me. It is raining cats and dogs so that I cannot even hear the sound of the piano on which Mr ... Morelowski is playing Chopin'³².

²⁷ Ibidem, [p. 52].

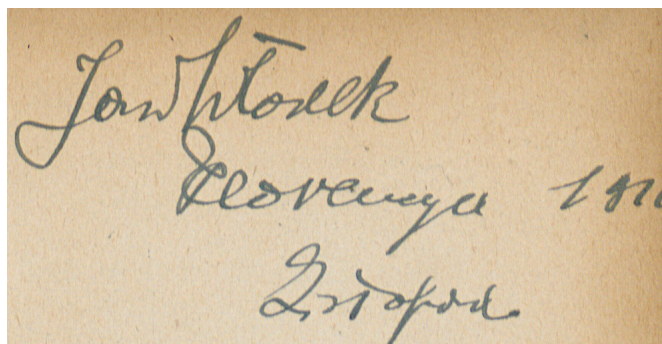
²⁸ Ibidem, [pp. 73, 74].

²⁹ *Pamiętnik*, Part 2, [p. 174].

³⁰ *Pamiętnik*, Part 1, [p. 184].

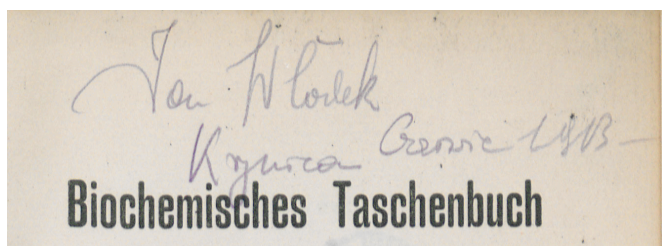
³¹ *Pamiętnik*, Part 2, [p. 9].

³² Ibidem, [p. 5].



Il. 19 J. Włodek Florence 1920 ...

L. Blaringhem, *Les Transformations brusques des êtres vivants*, Paris 1911 (inv. no. 394/1)



Il. 20 Jan Włodek Krynica June 1913

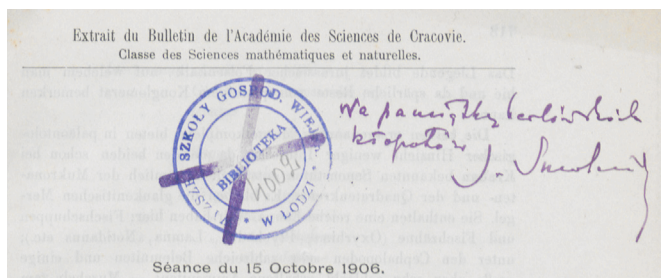
W. Glikin, *Biochemisches Taschenbuch. Ein Hilfsbuch für Biologen, Nahrungsmittel- und Agrikulturchemiker*, Berlin 1909 (inv. no. 295)

DEDICATIONS

The dedications in the books donated to Włodek are an excellent supplement to his biography. Already during his student years, Jan was surrounded by people who, like him, made an enormous contribution to the development of Polish science. One of them was Jerzy Smoleński, a Polish geologist and geographer, almost Włodek's peer. He was a graduate of the Jagiellonian University, where he obtained a doctoral degree. In 1906, thanks to a scholarship from the Kazimierz Klimowski Foundation, he took up studies in Berlin. It was there that he probably met Jan Włodek. On his return, he worked at the Jagiellonian University. In 1939, like J. Włodek, he was arrested as part of the Sonderaktion Krakau. He was first detained in Wrocław and then transported to the Sachsenhausen camp, where he died of exhaustion in January 1940³³.

He gave Włodek a book published in 1906 with a note reading: 'In memory of the Berlin problems J. Smoleński'. What problems are meant? This is unknown.

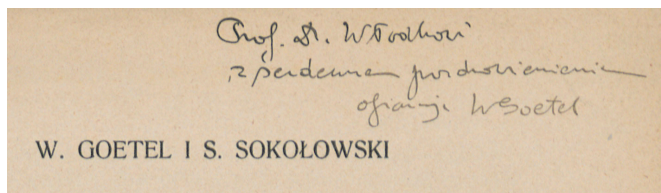
³³ Jerzy Józef Gedeon Smoleński, <https://www.ipsb.nina.gov.pl/a/biografia/jerzy-jozef-gedeon-smolenski> (access: 4 May 2024); S.T. Sroka, *Smoleński Jerzy Józef Gedeon*, in: PSB, vol. XXXIX, Warszawa–Kraków 1999–2000, pp. 264–267.



Il. 21 In memory of the Berlin problems J. Smoleński

J. Smoleński, *Das Untersenon von Bonarka. 1, Cephalopoden und Inoceramen*, Cracovie 1906 (inv. no. 4002)

On the basis of the dedication, it is possible to assess the role that Włodek played in the world of Polish (and not only) science at the time. They prove his scientific development and the acquisition of the status of a mature scientist. From among books in the University Library in Olsztyn, the largest number of dedications is found in the collection of brochures belonging to the Professor that were published between 1922 and 1939. This collection represents around 47% of the total collection of “Vlodkovians” found. Most of these volumes, which have no other ownership marks apart from the dedications, were donated by Polish scientists. Here we come across such names as Walery Goetel³⁴, Czesław Kanafojski, Kazimierz Rouppert, Konstanty Stecki, or Tadeusz Vetulani³⁵.

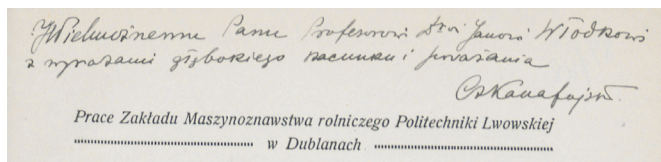


Il. 22. With warm regards from WGoetel to Prof. Włodek, PhD

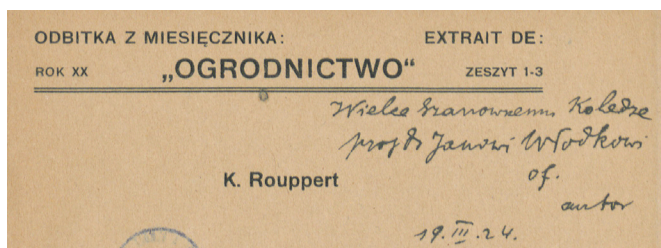
W. Goetel, S. Sokołowski, *Tektonika serji regłowej okolicy Zakopanego (Sur la tectonique de la area subattractive aux environs de Zakopane)*, Kraków 1929 (inv. no. 4740)

³⁴ Walery Goetel, https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walery_Goetel (access: 7 May 2024). In the early 1930s, Jan Włodek had a scientific dispute with Prof. W. Goetel over plans to create a national park in the Tatra Mountains, which would result in a ban on the use of pastures by highlanders. – J.M. Włodek, op. cit., p. 126.

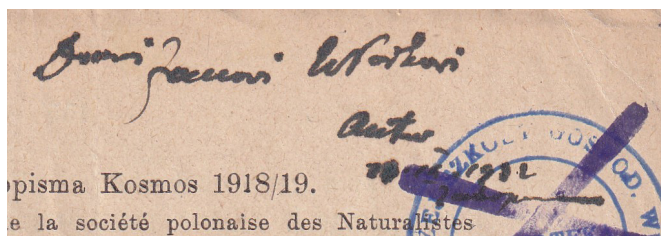
³⁵ P. Daszkiewicz, Z. Jaworski, Z. Vetulani, ‘Vetulani Tadeusz’, in: *Luminarz nauki Uniwersytetu Poznańskiego w latach 1918–2019*, ed. Z. Pilarczyk, Poznań 2019, pp. 751–754; *Dzieje studiów rolniczo-lasowych w ośrodku lwowsko-dublańskim*, ed. T. Wośkowski, Warszawa 2011, p. 21; Z. Kosiek, ‘Rouppert Kazimierz’, in: PSB, vol. XXXII, Wrocław 1989–1991, pp. 327–330; A. Dzięczkowski, ‘Stecki Konstanty’, in: PSB, vol. XLIII, Warsaw–Kraków 2004–2005, pp. 86–90.



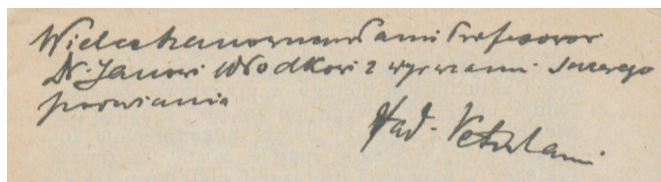
Il. 23. To the Honourable Prof. Jan Włodek, PhD, with my deepest respect and esteem CzKanafojski
Cz. Kanafojski, *Przyczynek do poznania zjawisk, występujących podczas młockich drumnami cepowemi*, Lwów 1934 (inv. no. 5153)



Il. 24. To the Highly Respected Colleague Prof. Jan Włodek, PhD, author, 19 Mar. 24
K. Rouppert, *Przyczynek do znajomości występowania fermentów utleniających u fasoli*, Kraków 1924 (inv. no. 4338)

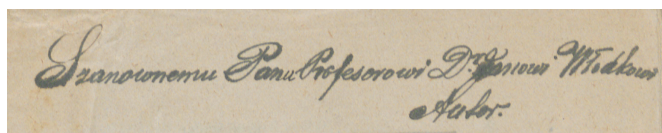


Il. 25. To Jan Włodek, PhD, from the author [illegible date]
K. Stecki, *Uwagi o występowaniu szafrańca tatrzańskiego (Crocus Scepusiensis Rehm. et Woł.)*, [S.l. 1919] (inv. no. 4763)

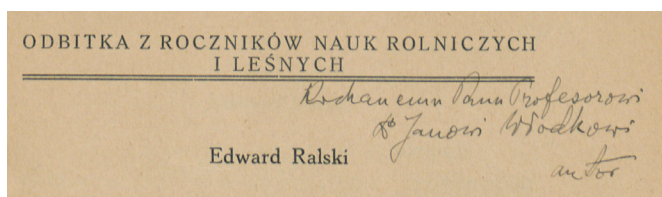


Il. 26. To the Very Honourable Professor Jan Włodek, PhD, with kind regards from Tadeusz Vetulani
T. Vetulani, *Badania nad konikiem polskim z okolic Biłgoraja*, Poznań 1925 (inv. no. 4357)

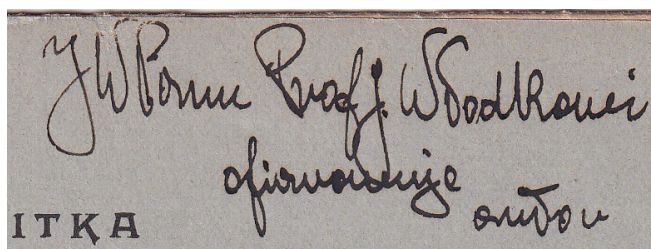
The books feature dedications from the people with whom Jan Włodek conducted joint research³⁶. These were, for example, Kazimierz Strzemiński, co-author of the paper 'Stężenie jonów hydorowych w glebach Doliny Chochołowskiej a zespoły roślinne', Edward Ralski, co-author of the paper 'Dalsze badania nad kwasotą gleb Tatrzańskich'³⁷, or the first doctor of agricultural sciences in Poland, Konrad Mościcki, with whom Włodek published 'Przyczynki do poznania gleb tatrzańskich'³⁸.



Il. 27. To the Honourable Professor Jan Włodek, PhD, from the Author
K. Mościcki, *Wymagania pokarmowe niektóre rośliny gospodarskich* [place of issue not specified] 1920 (inv. no. 5165)



Il. 28. To the dear Prof. Jan Włodek, PhD, from the author [Edward Ralski]
E. Ralski, *Stosunki pobierania niektórych składników mineralnych przez roślinność ważniejszych zespołów halnych Karpat Zachodnich w zależności od nawożenia*, Poznań 1933 (inv. no. 443)



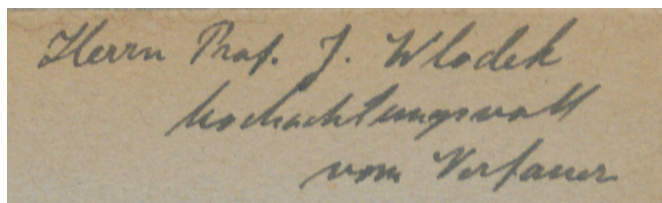
Il. 29. To the Honorable Prof. J. Włodek from the author
K. Strzemiński, *Badania nad wartością nawozową fosforatów z Niezawisk*, Lwów 1926 (inv. no. 4774)

³⁶ ANK, KIR Kr, ref. 29/294/KIR Kr 20, [k. 2], Życiorys Jana Włodki....

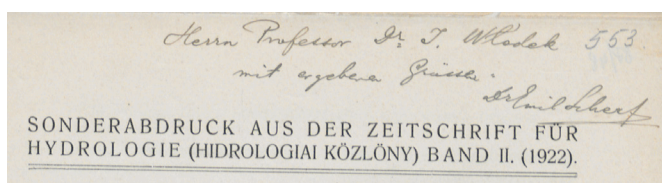
³⁷ L. Hayto, 'Jan Kazimierz Strzemiński', in: PSB, vol. XLV, Warszawa–Kraków 2007–2008, pp. 33–35; Z. Kosiek, 'Edward Ralski', in: PSB, vol. XXX, Wrocław 1987, pp. 536–537.

³⁸ Obituary of Leon Konrad Mościcki, <https://polona.pl/item-view/f2b269c3-98c4-4ed9-a335-ba428b1b3341?page=0> (access: 10 June 2024).

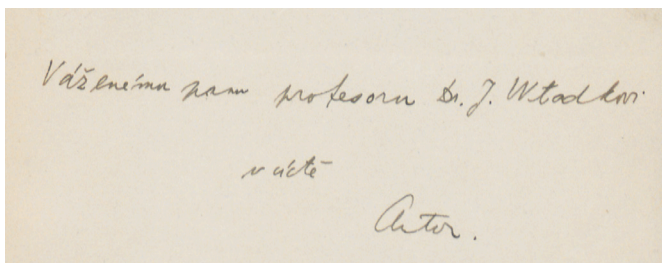
As an eminent professor in the field of agronomy, he established contacts with scientists from around Europe. His great authority not only in the Polish scientific community is evidenced by books with dedications by representatives of foreign centres: Finland – Mauno Johannes Kotilainen, Hungary – Emil Scherf and Czechoslovakia – Pavel Silinger³⁹.



- Il. 30. Herrn Prof. J. Włodek hochachtungsvoll vom Verfasser
M.J. Kotilainen, *Untersuchungen über die Beziehungen zwischen der Pflanzendecke der Moore und der Beschaffenheit, besonders der Reaktion des Torfbodens: eine pflanzenökologische Studie mit Rücksicht auf die praktische Bewertung der Ergebnisse*, Helsinki 1928 (inv. no. 2957)



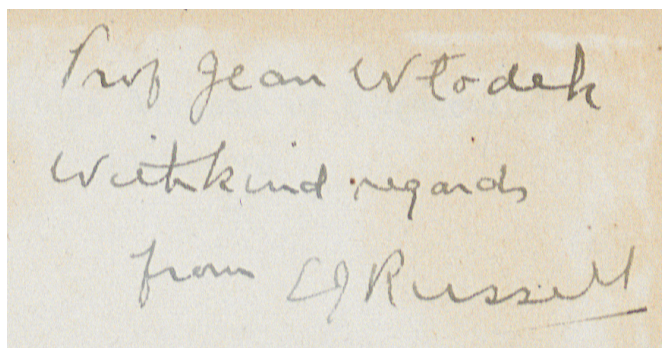
- Il. 31. Herrn Professor Dr. J. Włodek mit ergebenen grüssen Dr Emil Scherf
E. Scherf, *Hydrothermale Gesteinsmetamorphose im Buda-Piliser Gebirge; Mit einem Anhang: Vergleich der hydrothermalen Gesteinsmetamorphose im Buda-Piliser Gebirge mit der alpinen Dynamometamorphose*, Budapest 1928 (inv. no. 2902)



- Il. 32. Váženímu Panu Profesoru Dr. J. Włodek v úctě Autor
P. Silinger, *Monografická studie o vegetaci Nízkých Tater*, V Praze 1933 (inv. no. 3465)

³⁹ 'Sillinger Pavol', in: *Slovenský biografický slovník* (from 833 to 1990), ed. V. Mináč [et al.], vol. V, Martin 1992, p. 257; Mauno Kotilainen, <https://www.uppslagsverket.fi/sv/sok/view-170045-KotilainenMauno> (access: 4 May 2024); Emil Scherf, <https://mek.oszk.hu/00300/00355/html/ABC13280/13518.htm> (access: 4 May 2024). Jan Włodek was a member-correspondent of the Agricultural Academy in Prague – ANK, KIR Kr, ref. 29/294/KIR Kr 20, [k. 6], Życiorys Jana Włodka....

An important role in John Włodek's scientific life was played by Edward John Russel, the head of the world's first agricultural station located in Rothmansted, England⁴⁰. Russel was Włodek's guest at Dąbrowica twice (during these visits, other English scientists were also present). Włodek even worked on a translation of one of Russel's works, which unfortunately he could not complete.



Il. 33. For Jean Włodek with kind regards Russel
E.J. Russel, *The fertility of the soil*, Cambridge 1912 (inv. no. 324)

Ownership marks make it possible to reconstruct Jan Włodek's professional biography. In addition to the aforementioned dedicatory notes from the authors of the papers, often the professor's collaborators, the books also contain signs indicating his place of employment and other (not only scientific) activities, such as publishing and 'agricultural and social activities'⁴¹.

The "Włodkovians" preserved in Olsztyn contain many bookshop and antiquarian bookshop ownership marks, so we can find out where exactly he bought his books. In Kraków, for example, it was a bookshop run by Krzyżanowski; he also visited bookshops while studying in Berlin. Several books also bear the stamp of the Pług [Plough] farm shop.

Many of the copies bear the name of the bookbinding company whose services he used. Its owner was Wojciech Gigoń. The bookbinding workshop was established in Kraków at 13 Bracka Street in 1909. The owner's foreign education allowed him to acquire even outstanding skills (he completed bookbinding courses in Vienna and Hamburg with very good results)⁴². In addition to bookbinding services, Gigoń was engaged in pic-

⁴⁰ Edward John Russel. 1872–1965, <https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/pdf/10.1098/rsbm.1966.0022> (access: 23 June 2024).

⁴¹ ANK, KIR Kr, ref. 29/294/KIR Kr 20, [k. 3], Życiorys Jana Włodka....

⁴² G. Schmager, Gigoń Wojciech, in: *Słownik pracowników książki polskiej*, ed. I. Treichel, Warszawa–Łódź 1972, pp. 261, 262.

ture framing and the manufacture and repair of haberdashery⁴³. Jan Włodek had around 80 books bound in this workshop, which are now in the Olsztyn Library and account for 11% of the books with Jan Włodek's provenance. There are the books that only have the bookbinder's mark (there are not many of them) and, for example, a trace of a pasted-on bookplate – we can assume that these belonged to the Krakow professor, too.



Il. 34. W.[ojciech] Gigoń BOOKBINDER KRAKÓW BRACKA 13.
B.M. Croker, *The serpent's tooth*, Leipzig 1912 (inv. no. 322)

On 6th November 1939, Włodek was deprived of liberty as part of the Sonderaktion Krakau. At that time, together with 180 academics from Kraków's universities, he was arrested by the Gestapo and taken to Wrocław and then to the Sachsenhausen camp in Germany⁴⁴. After a few months he was released, but soon after returning home he died of exhaustion in February 1940⁴⁵. During his arrest, he made his last note in Sergej Kostyčev's book *Lehrbuch der Pflanzenphysiologie*, Bd. 1, *Chemische Physiologie*, kept in the University Library in Olsztyn, which reads: 'Jan Włodek ... 10th–20th November 39 in the Wrocław Prison'⁴⁶. This is the book he mentioned in a letter he wrote to his wife after his arrest. He asked for several things in it. Kostyčev's book was included as the first item on the list: 'please send me some books if possible; in the first place, I would like Kostyshev's *Chemische Pflanzenfisiologie*, volume I, it is on the table near the desk to the left ... iodine ... a knife, a fork, a spoon and an aluminium plate

⁴³ Gigoń's offer from 1914 contained even a discount of up to 10% on the services provided. – [Incipit] 'Zestawienie niższej cen', "Głos Urzędniczy. Organ »Związku Ekonomicznego« Urzędników, Profesorów i Nauczycieli" 1914, year 6, no. 2, p. 8, <https://jbc.bj.uj.edu.pl/dlibra/doccontent?id=336908> (access: 24 June 2024).

⁴⁴ J.M. Włodek, op. cit., pp. 197–216.

⁴⁵ M. Bajer, *Rody uczone. Kreski do szkicu*, vol. I, Toruń 2013, p. 528.

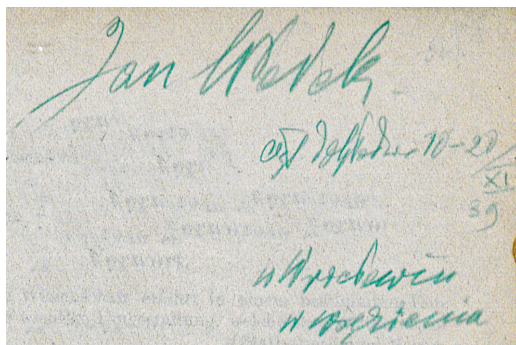
⁴⁶ Because of the lack of access to literature, prisoners shared books, as evidenced by handwritten notes: 'Kraków, Masovia ... POW camp Jan Włodek I finished reading in prison in Wrocław 10 Nov. 39 cell 37

I am reading in prison in Wrocław 13 Nov. 39 Michał Siedlecki.

I have read in prison in Wrocław, cell 34. 19 Nov. 1939. Kazimierz Majewski.

Wrocław, prison cell 38 26 Nov. 39 [J. Dąbrowski]' – quoted by J. M. Włodek, op. cit, 214.

(it is in the cupboard to the right). An aluminum mug, a torch ... handkerchiefs ... pants again, apples ... grey gaiters, fur! A backpack! Strong red shoes ... cigarettes are in the desk ... a soft hat ... and a fur cap if it is cold ...⁴⁷.



Il. 35. Jan Włodek [...] 10–20 Nov. [19]39 in prison in Wrocław

S. Pavlovič Kostyčev, *Lehrbuch der Pflanzenphysiologie*, Bd. 1, *Chemische Physiologie*, Berlin 1926 (inv. no 2765)

The conducted provenance research included a search of around 4,000 volumes. They are significant in the context of the complicated history of Warmia and Mazury, especially the wartime and post-war destruction of cultural heritage. In the absence of both archival material and library catalogues, these books constitute the only opportunity to learn about their history and their owners. Reconstructed in the optics of the preserved book collection, the biography of Jan Włodek shows that book ownership marks are not only a source for the history of libraries, education, church institutions and all entities accumulating book collections but also for the history of culture. Moreover, they are a valuable biographical source.

⁴⁷ Ibidem, p. 198.

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Pamiętnik Jana Włodka, Cz. 1 i Cz. 2, rkps w zbiorach Fundacji im. Zofii i Jana Włodków.

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