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ANTONI SZCZEPAN BROSZ (1910–1978) – BIBLIOPHILE, COLLECTOR, AND TRANSLATOR

2015 marked the thirty-fifth anniversary of the transfer of the collection of bookplates accumulated over a period of about forty years by Antoni Brosz, a Kraków bibliophile, collector, and expert on bookplates, to the Jagiellonian Library. Thanks to this donation of December 10, 1980, the Kraków library joined the group of institutions owning the largest collection of bookplates in Poland.¹ Nineteen years later, on December 14, 1999, family archival material was transferred.² The acquisitions, noted under the Jagiellonian Library (BJ) shelfmarks MSS. Przyb. 223–254, can be divided into several groups: personal documents (including identification cards and diaries, Przyb. 223–231/05); family materials (relating to his wife, parents, and family members, Przyb. 232–235/05); his work as a translator and author (including trans-

¹ The author expresses special thanks to Kasper Świerzowski for archival materials and valuable information related to Antoni Brosz.

The largest collections currently in Poland can be found in The Ossolineum (Zakład Narodowy im. Ossolińskich) in Wrocław, about 60,000 items (*Zbiory Gabinetu Grafiki – Ossolineum*, [online] <https://ossolineum.pl/index.php/muzea/muzeum-ksiazat-lubomirskich/gabinety/zbiory-gabinetu-grafiki/#ekslibrisy> [accessed on: June 24, 2020]; the University Library in Toruń, more than 50,000 items (*Graficzne – Biblioteka Uniwersytecka w Toruniu*, [online] <https://www.bu.umk.pl/graficzne> [accessed on: June 24, 2020]; the National Library in Warsaw, more than 46,000 items (*Biblioteka Narodowa – Zbiory ikonograficzne*, [online] <https://bn.org.pl/o-nas/zbiory-bn/zbiory/zbiory-ikonograficzne> [accessed on: June 24, 2020]; and the Raczyński Library in Poznań, about 37,000 items (*Biblioteka Raczyńskich in Poznań – Dział Zbiorów Specjalnych*, [online] http://www.bracz.edu.pl/?option=com_content&task=view&id=44&itemid=45 [accessed on: June 24, 2020]).

² Jadwiga Brosz is given as the donor.

lations, notes, and texts, Przyb. 236–246/05, 253–254/05); materials related to bookplates (Przyb. 247–248/05); and correspondence, including three volumes of correspondence of Antoni and one of Jadwiga³ (among other topics, a group of letters related to his passion for bookplates, Przyb. 249–252/05).

Antoni Szczepan Brosz was born on December 25, 1910, in Nienadowa, then in the Polish province of Lwów. He died on December 26, 1978, in Kraków. He was buried on January 3, 1979, in Kraków's Rakowicki Cemetery. He was the son of Adam (June 14, 1861 – October 4, 1911, the son of Franciszek and Elżbieta Wesela) and Krystyna Dusberger (September 12,⁴ 1875 – April 24, 1956, the daughter of Franciszek and Katarzyna Dratwiak).⁵ On August 31, 1939, he married Maria Wiesława Wróblewska, the daughter of Kazimierz and Włodzimiera Bam.

On July 5, 1947, in Kraków he married again, to Jadwiga Berta Petecka (March 11, 1904 – July 6, 1994), the daughter of Otton Alojzy Axmann and Jadwiga Jaworska, the widow of Mieczysław Petecki (May 30, 1901 – September 22, 1942),⁶ a captain in the Polish Army and lieutenant in the 21st Field Artillery Regiment. The son of the first marriage of J. Petecka, a piano teacher in the State Music School in Kraków,⁷ was Bohdan Antoni Petecki, a journalist and author of science fiction novels.⁸ Brosz died without children and did not leave behind any heirs. The executors of his unwritten will were his widow Jadwiga and Kasper Świerzowski,⁹ a close friend of many years.

³ The wife of A. Brosz used two names at the time: Petecka-Brosz, which can be seen on her gravestone (Petecka after her first husband). She sometimes used only her second name for correspondence. Both names are used in this text, in accordance with their use in individual documents.

⁴ Two different dates of birth can be found in the archives, September 12, 1875, according to the abstract from the death certificate, Jagiellonian Library (BJ), Special Collection Department, Manuscripts Section; BJ, MS Przyb. 223/05, and September 15, 1875, according to the act of marriage, BJ, MS Przyb. 232/05.

⁵ BJ, MS Przyb. 232/05.

⁶ A letter dated October 6, 1942, from the German Red Cross, part of the family archival material donated by J. Brosz, indicates that Mieczysław Petecki died in KL in Friedhof Woldenberg (Dobiegów) on September 22, 1942, at 5:00 am, of tuberculosis and heart problems. A letter from the Information Bureau of PCK from January 1, 1944, also part of the gift from J. Brosz (nr 13 704), confirms the death in the camp. BJ, MS Przyb. 235/05.

⁷ The school is currently known as the Ogólnokształcąca Szkoła Muzyczna I stopnia im. I. J. Paderewskiego, ul. Basztowa 8.

⁸ Bohdan Antoni Petecki (July 5, 1931 – November 23, 2011), also Ian Artur Bernard, pseudonym; writer, author of stories, translator from English; journalist of Katowice TV and Polish Radio and the weekly *Panorama*; member of the Union of Polish Writers; awarded the Knight's Cross and Officer of the Order of Polonia Restituta. See *Kto jest kim w województwie katowickim '93*, Katowice 1994, p. 246.

⁹ Kasper Świerzowski (December 13, 1942–), bibliophile and collector, active in bibliophilic circles, member of many groups, including the Society of Friends of the Book and the Kraków Circle of Lovers of Bookplates, friend of Antoni Brosz and, with the widow of Brosz, executor of his oral will.

Antoni Brosz attended State Gymnasium No. II in Przemyśl (1922/1923–1926/1927) and State Gymnasium No. I in Sambor (1927/1928–1930/1931). On his high school leaving certificate (known as the *duża matura*), from April 21, 1931 (nr II 2845/31),¹⁰ he received an average grade of 3.8, very good grades in religion and Polish, and satisfactory grades in Latin, Greek, and physics. He received similar final grades in other subjects: good in conduct, modern history, the study of Poland, and physical education; satisfactory in mathematics, German, natural sciences, and introduction to philosophy. In 1931, he entered the Department of Medicine at the University of Warsaw (album number 36 990, matriculation October 13th), with which the Medical Officer Cadet School [Szkoła Podchorążych Sanitarnych] cooperated. However, in spite of his mother's requests and efforts,¹¹ he dropped out. On January 19, 1932, he left the Medical Officer Cadet School at his own request.¹² In this same year, he became a student of the Department of Philosophy at Jagiellonian University in the area of philology. Among the materials preserved as his legacy, there are records from his exams for the master degree in philosophy and his student identity card (*Książeczka legitymacyjna studenta*, L. 2160) from the academic years 1932/1933 to 1937/1938 and from 1946/1947 (reactivation after the war). For example: "from Old Church Slavonic descriptive grammar /for the second time/ as part of the exam for the master degree of philosophy in the area of Polish philology, a satisfactory result" (December 14, 1934); "in the political and cultural history of Poland as part of the master of philosophy degree in the area of philology, a satisfactory result" (March 22, 1935); "in the general knowledge of Slavs and their languages and writings as part of the exam for the master of philosophy degree in the area of Slavic philology, a very good result" (June 18, 1935); and "in the field of descriptive grammar of contemporary Polish as part of the master of philosophy degree in the area of Polish philology, a satisfactory result" (June 21, 1935).¹³ After the war, he continued his education in the Department of Humanities of the Jagiellonian University, in the Slavics section, choosing Slavic literatures as his major (reactivated in the 1946–1947 academic year). He studied until 1950. He also attended lectures of the Polish PEN Club, a Polish translation study (identification card number 181).¹⁴

During World War II, after the September campaign, Brosz was interned in Hungary, where he belonged to the Antifascist Front of Slavs in Hungary in 1944–1945. His internment status is confirmed by a certificate of stay in an internment camp for

¹⁰ Shelfmark MS: BJ, Przyb. 223/05.

¹¹ Letter of K. Broszowa to A. Brosz, January 12, 1931 (BJ, MS Przyb. 223/05).

¹² January 20, 1932, letter of Captain Dr. W. Borkowski, commander of the First School Battalion of the Medical Officer Cadet School to the secretariat of the University of Warsaw (BJ, MS Przyb. 223/05).

¹³ BJ, MS Przyb. 223/05.

¹⁴ BJ, MS Przyb. 225/05.

Polish soldiers in the city of Sárvár,¹⁵ which he reached on September 20, 1939, after crossing the border with the division at Przełęcz Tucholska,¹⁶ and by a letter of the Temporary Polish Committee in Hungary, dated February 28, 1945.¹⁷ After arriving in Budapest in 1942, he worked as a proofreader for a newspaper for refugees, “*Więści Polskie*” [Polish News],¹⁸ and then as an apprentice for Atheneum, a graphics firm. He was also a translator and administrator for the Polish Repatriation Committee.

In his professional life, Brosz fulfilled different functions and practiced several professions. Before the war, because of a lack of money, he was forced to take employment with the Polish State Railways, where he passed several exams: on May 30, 1938, as an assistant in motor and commercial service with a section on trade tariffs (satisfactory result); on January 10, 1939, as an assistant in motor and administration (satisfactory result); and on March 1, 1939, for the position of telegraph operator in full range (satisfactory result).¹⁹ After the war, he started to work in Księgarnia i Wydawnictwo, Skład Nut Teodora Gieszczykiewicza [the Teodor Gieszczykiewicz Bookstore, Publishing House, and Music Store]²⁰ in the position of technical editor (1946–1948), which led him to join the Union of Professional Trade and Office Workers of the Republic, Kraków Section. From 1948 to 1951, he was employed as an editor for the Polish Radio Broadcasting Committee, from which he was, however, laid off due to “the dissolution of the Editorial Boards of Irregular Periodicals.” From 1952 to 1953, he worked in Instytut Wydawniczy “*Nasza Księgarnia*” [Publishing Institute “Our Bookstore”]. As a translator and editor, he worked with ZAiKS [Polish Society of Authors and Composers, 1954]; the publishing house of Wydawnictwo Zakładu Narodowego im. Ossolińskich [the Ossolineum], translating poetic works of Jan

¹⁵ He was next in camps in Nagykanizsa and Kiscenk and also in the penal colony in Komárno.

¹⁶ BJ, MS Przyb. 223/05.

¹⁷ Ibidem.

¹⁸ See K. K o w a l s k a, “*Więści Polskie*” na Węgrzech w latach 1939–1944, Warszawa 2007; K. W o ź n i a k o w s k i, *Budapeszteńskie “Więści Polskie” (1939–1944): główny periodyk polskiego wojennego uchodźstwa Węgrzech. Część 1: Czas rozruchu – redakcja Jana Ulatowskiego (listopad–grudzień 1939)*, “*Rocznik Historii Prasy Polskiej*” 17, 1, 2014, pp. 45–71, and idem, *Budapeszteńskie “Więści Polskie” (1939–1944): główny periodyk polskiego wojennego uchodźstwa na Węgrzech. Część 2: Czas poszukiwań – redakcja Józefa Winiewiczza (styczeń – czerwiec 1940)*, “*Rocznik Historii Prasy Polskiej*” 17, 2, 2014, pp. 5–30.

¹⁹ BJ, MS Przyb. 223/05.

²⁰ Teodor Gieszczykiewicz (1855–1937), cofounder and co-owner of a book publishing firm which became his property in 1930. He specialized above all in musical printing (classical and sacred music). During World War II, the store served as a secondhand bookshop; after the war the firm developed its publishing activity, and, as of 1952, operated exclusively as a musical bookstore and music shop. Until it closed in 1960, it functioned under its old name, mainly as a bookstore and secondhand music store. See *Gieszczykiewicz Teodor*, [in:] *Encyklopedia wiedzy o książce*, ed. A. B i r k e n m a j e r et al., Wrocław 1971, col. 793.

Kollár for a volume of his selected writings (1954); Spółdzielnia Wydawniczo-Oświatowa “Czytelnik” [“Reader” Publishing and Educational Cooperative], for which he translated a work of Oskar Mališ, published as *Słońce już wyjrzało* (1951); Państwowy Instytut Sztuki [State Institute of Art], as technical editor of the journal “Muzyka” (1954, issues 1–2, 3–4, 5–6 under M. Harley, ed.); Spółdzielnia Wydawnicza “Książka i Wiedza” [“Books and Knowledge” Publishing Cooperative, 1950]; Ludowa Spółdzielnia Wydawnicza [the People’s Publishing Cooperative], translating a work of Josef Horak as *Lasy milczą* (1950); “Prasa” Robotnicza Spółdzielnia Wydawnicza [“Press” Workers Publishing Cooperative, 1951]; Wydawnictwo Śląsk [Śląsk Publishing], another translation of Josef Horak, as *Lasy milczą* (1975); Polish-Czech Friendship Society, 1950; Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe [State Scientific Publishing, 1954–1976]; Polskie Wydawnictwo Muzyczne [Polish Music Publishing]; Polskie Radio Kraków [Polish Radio Kraków], editing and translation; and with the editorial boards of *Odra* (1947), “Kuźnia” [Smithy, 1949]; and “Życie Słowiańskie” [Slavic Life], for which he translated stories of Narov and a bibliography of this writer (1951); “Płomyček” [Little Flame, 1952]; and “Ruch Słowiański” [Slavic Movement]. He concluded his professional work in 1976.

As a writer, translator, author of reviews, articles, and notes,²¹ A. Brosz often used pseudonyms, usually in the form of acronyms. Publishing in “Gazeta Literacka” (Literary Gazette) from 1932 to 1933, he used *Anbr* i *Anbr*; in the journal “Zet” from 1934 to 1935, he appeared as *an.br.*, *anbr*, *anbr.*, *Anbr*, *Anbr.*; in “Kamienie” in 1937 as *antbr.*; in 1948 in “Dziennik Literacki” (Literary Daily) he signed himself as *a.b.*, but in “Znak” (Sign) as *A.B.* He also used the abbreviations *An.Br.*, *~antbr~*, *Antbr*, *-Antbr-*, *Antbr-*, and *Czantor*.²²

He specialized in translation of poetry and prose from Hungarian but also from Slavic languages, especially Czech, Serbian, and Bulgarian.²³ He participated actively in the creation of a translators’ section of the Kraków group of the Union of Polish Writers, which he led from 1951 to 1954. He was also active in promoting Slavic literature, working, among other, in the Provincial Division of the Slavic Committee in Kraków, where he held the position of secretary and also gave talks, such as on March 9, 1948, *On Contemporary Slavic Literature*, and on June 1, 1948, on *Nikola Vaptsarov, a poet of the proletariat*.

²¹ *Bibliografia literatur zachodnio- i południowosłowiańskich*, ed. M. B a s a j, Wrocław 1984, lists 62 texts.

²² *Słownik pseudonimów pisarzy polskich*, ed. E. J a n k o w s k i, Wrocław 1994, pp. 1, 8, 10, 136, 138, 150.

²³ *Węgierska mozaika*, Budapest 1943; J. H o r a k, *Lasy milczą*, Warszawa 1949; O. M a l i s, *Słońce już wyjrzało*, Warszawa 1951; I. K e s z i, *Nie kończąca się melodia: powieść o Wagnerze*, Kraków 1958; I. U n d z i e w, *Bohater spod znaku lwa*, Warszawa 1960; and J. B o k a y, *Cyganeria i motyle: powieść o Puccinim*, Kraków 1971, appeared in his translation.

Antoni Brosz was an active member of many groups and organizations. During the time of his studies, he belonged to the Temporary Circle of Medics of the Students' Self-Help Association (member number 2585, 1931–1932); the Slavic Academic Society (1933–1934); and *Matica Slovenská* (membership card number 25.271, 1935). After the war, he cooperated with the Hungarian Antifascist Front of Slavs in Mad'arsk "Sloboda" (membership card number 5032, 1945), and he was a member of the Polish-Russian Friendship Society (membership card number A Nr 65528 and 2, 1953, 1955); the Polish-Yugoslav Friendship Society (membership card number 9, 1946); *Matica Slovenská v Turčianskom Sv. Martine* (membership card number 120.470, 1948); and the Polish Tourism and Sightseeing Society in Kraków (membership card number 001240, 1953). He was active in the already mentioned Union of Polish Writers (membership card number 81) and the Society of the Friends of the National Museum in Krakow, and a member of the Section of Book Lovers (membership card number 28, 1976–1977). He was a member of the Kraków section of the Polish Union of Philatelists (membership card number 288011, 1974), and he also belonged to the Union of Professional Workers in Books, Press, and the Radio (membership card numbers KR 0021866 and 08481 [from 1950], 1949–1972).²⁴

He received several distinctions for his activities in the area of culture. In 1949, he received the Award of the Ministry of Culture and Art for translation.²⁵ On April 24, 1971, the Presidium of the National Council of the City of Kraków awarded Antoni Brosz with the Silver Medal "for work in society for the city of Kraków" (certificate number 2255). In 1975 he received two distinctions: the Distinguished Culture Activist medal (from the Polish People's Republic Ministry of Culture and Art, certificate number 13841) and the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta (Resolution of State Council, December 17, 1975, certificate number 3038–75–4).²⁶

But among so many activities, the most valuable for the collector were probably those associated with bookplates, such as his activities in the Danish Exlibris Selskab (Bookplate Society) and the Spolek Sběratelů a Přátel Exlibris v Praze [Association of Collectors and Friends of Bookplates in Prague], as well as the Circle of Bookplate Lovers in Kraków,²⁷ of which he was a co-founder. On the Board, for which Brosz was selected to serve as President, were Kasper Świerzowski (secretary) and Henryk Kozłowski, Mieczysław Rokosz, and Tyrsus Wenhryno-

²⁴ BJ, MS Przyb. 224/05.

²⁵ BJ, MS Przyb. 250/05.

²⁶ BJ, MS Przyb. 226/05.

²⁷ It must be noted that this was not the first organization of its type in Kraków; a Circle of Bookplate Lovers functioned as part of the structure of the Society of Book Lovers from 1924 to 1939. See B. Szornel-Dąbrowska, [in:] *Towarzystwo Miłośników Książki w Krakowie 1922–1939*, Kraków 2001, pp. 48–54.

wicz.²⁸ On the occasion of the establishment of the Circle (November 25, 1971), which belonged to the structure of the Kraków Section of the Society of Friends of the Book, the first brochure, “Kuryer Wszędziebylski Iednego dnia całą Polskę z ciekawą wieścią obchodzący od Koła Miłośników Exlibrisu w Krakowie” [the One-Day Everywhere Courier for all of Poland with interesting news from the Circle of Bookplate Lovers in Kraków] was published.²⁹ One of the issues, published in 1979, was devoted in its entirety to the memory of A. Brosz, with the title changed from “interesting news” to “sad news.”³⁰ In addition to the brief recollections of K., the issue included eight copies of bookplates designed by Brosz himself, Teodor Cywa, Janina Jelska, Jacek Kajtoch, Jan Lohmann, and also for Jerzy Napieracz, Maria Skalicka, and Tyrsus Wenhryniewicz. It is estimated that he made about thirty bookplates using a collage technique.³¹ Among the designs he described, there are plates such as the following: “motifs from old prints I; Don Quixote by Mróz on a stamp; an antique art nouveau frame for Anna Siwek; a folk motif for H. Urbańczyk; *Salutations africaines* [African greetings]; a mail coach; a Kraków theme (a film from the Union); a bird for Ferenc; the roses of Wyspiański; a pharmaceutical theme for Krystyna; a sign of the Zodiac for himself; a royal bookplate series; a series of vignettes from a template; and a phillumenist-philatelist series (related to match-boxes and post stamps).”³² In 1974, the group published a brochure, *Ekslibrisy kolażowe Antoniego Brosza* [The Collage Bookplates of Antoni Brosz]. The brochure also served as a pf³³ card and included plates for Barbara Gajda, himself, two by Jacek Kajtoch, and Wojciech Kawiński. In addition to the bookplates, he also designed at least fifty holiday cards and graphics in this technique, utilising motifs from famous examples of paintings, for example, from Paul Gauguin, Peter Breugel, Jan Vermeer, and Pablo Picasso.

Antoni Brosz died the day after his sixty-eighth birthday after a long and grave illness. There appeared at least seven press obituaries and notices of the death of the bibliophile, in which his family, friends, and colleagues bid him farewell.³⁴ Recollections of the collector were published in foreign bookplate journals since Brosz was

²⁸ *Powstało Koło Miłośników Exlibrisu*, „Dziennik Polski” 185, 1972, p. 6; *Koło Miłośników Exlibrisu w Krakowie*, „Profile. Kwartalnik Rzeszowski” 3, 1972, p. 61.

²⁹ Subsequent numbers appeared from 1972 to 1980 and from 1982 to 1983.

³⁰ “Kuryer Wszędziebylski Iednego dnia całą Polskę ze smutną wieścią obchodzący od Koła Miłośników Exlibrisu w Krakowie wyprawiony roku 1979,” Kraków 1979.

³¹ *Ibidem*, p. 2.

³² BJ, MSS Przyb. 229/05, 247/05.

³³ Pf, French, *pour féliciter* (for happiness, good fortune), traditional small New Year’s cards.

³⁴ “Dziennik Polski” 1978, 295, p. 11 (wife with family); 1979, 1, p. 4 (Union of Polish Writers in Kraków, friends), no. 3, p. 5 (Administration, POP PZPR [the Communist party cell in PWN] and Rada Zakładowa PWN [PWN Works Council] and friends), 5, p. 4; “Życie Literackie” 2, 1979, p. 15; “Przekrój” 1979, 1762, p. 3.

known and appreciated as a bibliophile and collector abroad. In his text, Jerzy Drużycki stressed the great loss to the world of bibliophiles of the owner of one of the largest and most interesting collections of bookplates and related literature in Poland.³⁵ The author pictured Brosz as a person who was always smiling and friendly, sharing his knowledge and experience with bookplates with other collectors.³⁶

* * *

The beginning of Brosz's collection goes back to 1938. As he said himself, he accumulated his collection through "buying, getting, exchanging, stealing..."³⁷ He began forming the main part of the collection in the late 1950s.³⁸

Brosz described his passion for collecting bookplates most clearly in an interview in "Dziennik Polski" [Polish Daily].³⁹ In response to a question which bookplates from his immense collection had the most significance for him, Brosz stated, "Those which I do not have yet."⁴⁰ In this same text, we also find the following description of his collection:

In the depths of the drawers of a huge black cabinet in an apartment in Topolowa Street, there is a genuine private art gallery: more than eight thousand items⁴¹ categorized according to different sections and series. Almost everything in this field from Poland – from the earliest times to the present day. [...] There is also a second cabinet. It houses a library on the topic, about 300 volumes.⁴²

In an interview several years earlier in *Gazeta Krakowska* [Kraków Gazette], Brosz explained that the first step to collecting bookplates by him was his love for beautiful books:

Several rare bibliophile prints, some commemorative graphics, and so it began. In a well-done bookplate, I see the irresistible beauty of the small print. Often they are unusual masterpieces, full of artistry and finesse [...] small sizes give the artist unlimited potential to develop their own ideas, to awaken the imagination, and to force them to grasp what we call the synthesis of art.⁴³

³⁵ J. Drużycki, *Antoni Brosz 1910–1978: En polsk storsamler*, "Nordisk Exlibris Tidsskrift," Hæfte 133, 31. Årgang, 1979, Nr. 1, pp. 74–75.

³⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 75.

³⁷ D. Jakubięc, *Eklibrisy*, „Dziennik Polski” 153, 1975, p. 4.

³⁸ *Literatura eklibrisowa i wydawnictwa bibliofilskie: aukcja dubletów z księgozbioru Antoniego Brosza*, ed. K. Świerzowski, Kraków 1979.

³⁹ D. Jakubięc, *op. cit.*

⁴⁰ *Ibidem*.

⁴¹ Marian Jan Wojciechowski also notes this quantity in his synthetic publication *Eklibris: godło bibliofila*, Wrocław 1978, p. 212.

⁴² D. Jakubięc, *op. cit.*

⁴³ J. Bąk, *Eklibris uczy i bawi*, „Gazeta Krakowska” XX, 1968, 112 (6289), p. 5.

In this same interview, Brosz raised the issue of a Polish journal on bookplates – there was none in publication at the time – and, though 47 years have passed since then, and in spite of several efforts to start and maintain such a journal on the market, it is still true that at present there is no such publication.⁴⁴

As already mentioned, Antoni Brosz belonged to several organizations of bookplate artists and enthusiasts. His undoubtedly numerous contacts with fellow enthusiasts allowed him not only to participate in activities related to bookplates, but also to actively create his collection. He conducted extensive correspondence with both Polish and foreign collectors (for example, in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, West Germany, East Germany, Sweden, Hungary, and the Soviet Union),⁴⁵ attesting to a certain type of understanding between collectors of bookplates.⁴⁶

An unusual example of the passion for bookplates is a notebook that contains an index of correspondence, both incoming and outgoing, from 1962 to 1963.⁴⁷ The list includes 42 names and addresses as well as a table next to each of the names with the following information: date; received (for example, a letter, the number of bookplates, or catalog); sent (again, a letter, the number of bookplates, catalog, or also names, certainly of the artists whose work came in the package). People Brosz corresponded with include, among other, the following (listed in the order they are presented in the notebook): Paul Ambur (Tallinn); Lou Asperslag (Belgium); Christian Blaesbjerg (Denmark); Ruben Bedrosow (Yerevan); Mieczysław Bieleń (Poland); Albert Collart (Brussels); Zbigniew Dolatowski (Poland); Włodzimierz Egiersdorff (Poland); Hans Winkler (Germany); Gerard Gaudaen (Belgium); Alfons Goethals (Belgium); Helmer Fogedgaard (Denmark); Manuel Garcia de la Cruz (Portugal); Wadim Frołow (Russia); Hanns Heeren (Germany); Wojciech Jakubowski (Poland); Mirko Kairl (Czechia); Johnny Køhler (Denmark); Norbert Lippóczy (Poland); Gianni Mantero (Italy); Jocelyn Mercier (France); Irina Kozłowa (Russian); Enrique de Navarra (Spain); Paul Pfister (France); Henry Schjaerven (Norway); Tadeusz Solski (Poland); Karl Sedlaer (Brno); Istvan Rethy (Hungary); Paul Marchandise (Belgium); Peteris Upitis (Latvia); Zygmunt Waśniewski (Poland); Seweryn Knape (Poland); Maciej Putowski (Poland); Andor Semsey (Hungary); Semen Gieorgijewicz Ivienskij (Russia); Feliks Wagner (Poland); Antoine Rousseau (France); Jan Kruszyński (Poland); and Przemysław Michałowski (Poland). For example, during this period he received 84 bookplates from H. Heeren and sent him 35; he received wishes, a letter, and 16 bookplates from N. Lippóczy, and he sent him wishes, a letter, and 18 bookplates; two letters and 63 bookplates from M. Putowski, replying to him with two letters but only 60 plates.

⁴⁴ On journals dedicated to bookplates, see A. Fluda-Krokos, *Ex Bibliotheca: Magazyn Grafików i Kolekcjonerów Ekslibrisów (1999–2009)*, “Rocznik Historii Prasy Polskiej” 16, 1, 2013, pp. 131–155.

⁴⁵ BJ, MSS Przyb. 249–252/02.

⁴⁶ J. Bąk, op. cit.

⁴⁷ BJ, MS Przyb. 249/05.

During the period covered in the index to the correspondence, Brosz received about 1,375 bookplates and sent out 1,392 of his own.

The collection, developed so passionately, had its unfortunate moments. In August 1975, 32 historical marks, from the eighteenth to the nineteenth centuries, were stolen from the apartment of the collector. Among them were bookplates of Daniel Chodowiecki (*ipse fecit*, etching, 1777); Czartoryski (copperplate engraving, eighteenth century); Radziwiłł in Nieśwież (Jan Marcin Weis, copperplate engraving, eighteenth century); Henryk Hutten Czapski (lithograph, late nineteenth century); Ludwik Lanckoroński (etching, early nineteenth century); Henryk Lubomirski (copperplate engraving, around 1810–1820); Przeździecki (Agry, steel engraving, turn of the nineteenth to twentieth century); and Stanisław Kostka Zamoyski (two copperplate engravings from 1804 and 1815).⁴⁸

From a May 15, 1983 letter of Jadwiga Petecka-Brosz to Michał Hilchen, the President of the Society of the Friends of the Book in Warsaw, we learn that A. Brosz gathered around 1,000 publications related to the history and theory of bookplates; about 20,000 Polish and foreign bookplates (from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries); and about 200 items related to Władysław Orkan.⁴⁹

M. Hilchen led an auction of duplicates of books and bookplates from the Brosz collection in Kraków at the “Convivum” club in Collegium Novum. Świerzowski prepared the collection for sale and also edited a catalog of over 200 items.⁵⁰ The items were divided into the following categories: I. Folios and albums with bookplates (nos. 1–22); II. Catalogs of exhibits and folios (nos. 23–117); III. Printed matter (nos. 118–166); IV. Journals (nos. 167–200). Almost sixty percent of the items on offer were sold.⁵¹ The income from the auction was earmarked for the account of the Citizens’ Committee for the Saving of the Monuments of Kraków.⁵² Part of the collection, purchased by the Antykwariat Naukowy [Academic Bookshop] in Toruń, went to the Nicolaus Copernicus University Library:⁵³ the first set of materials: 55 items, journals and graphics, on November 4, 1981,⁵⁴ and the second set: 700 book-

⁴⁸ BJ, MS Przyb. 248/05.

⁴⁹ Letter of J. Petecka-Brosz to M. Hilchen, May 15, 1983 (from the collection of the author; all materials designated as from the author come from K. Świerzowski).

⁵⁰ *Bibliofiliska biesiada i aukcja ekslibrisów*, “Echo Krakowa: Pismo Popołudniowe” 280 (10545), 1979, p. 3; *Bibliofiliska feta*, “Gazeta Południowa” 7 (9818), 1980, p. [5].

⁵¹ *Ibidem*.

⁵² Letter of the Board of the Kraków branch of the Association of Friends of Books to K. Świerzowski, April 1, 1986, p. 2 (from the collection of the author).

⁵³ Information from March 24, 2015 from Andrzej Mycio, Director, Special Collections, University Library in Toruń.

⁵⁴ University Library in Toruń, *Księga Akcesji Działu Gromadzenia*, shelfmark 1/363, accession number K 2612/81.

plates and 41 postcards, on October 2, 1986.⁵⁵ Reprints of the unarranged duplicates went to Toruń.

In 1999, the Exlibris Gallery in Kraków,⁵⁶ founded and run by Andrzej Znamirovski,⁵⁷ received the remaining collection of bookplates from K. Świerzowski. Most of these, however, were zinc plate copies of (undescribed) plates⁵⁸ that Brosz duplicated for exchange and publishing purposes. The Gallery made an exhibit *Ekslibrisy ze zbioru Antoniego Brosza* [Bookplates from the Collection of Antoni Brosz] from January 13th to February 28th, 2001.⁵⁹

Brosz's collection was also commemorated in poetry. A poem *Miedzioryt w zbiorach ekslibrisów Antoniego Brosza* [A Copperplate Engraving in the Bookplate Collections of Antoni Brosz] by Jan Lohmann was published in the volume *Nasz dom* [Our Home].⁶⁰ The poem was dedicated to the plate of Andrzej Stanisław Kostka Załuski:

The Great Library of the Republic
Andreas Stanislaus Kostka In Zalusie Załuski
A trace of him like of a hare in the wet snow
EX LIBRIS.⁶¹

The passion of the collector, of the bookplate enthusiast, was not limited, however, to the acquisition of new items and the building of a collection or the activities of Kraków Circle of Lovers of Bookplates. In addition to these activities, Brosz also presented his collection in exhibits. Parts of his collection could be seen in many places, including in the exhibit *Wystawa ekslibris grafików krakowskich (1945–1976) ze zbiorów Antoniego Brosza* [Kraków Bookplates from the Collection of Antoni Brosz, 1945–1976] (May–June 1977) at the Municipal Public Library of Kraków or the exhibit *Wystawa ekslibrisów pracowników książki polskiej: wystawa ze zbiorów Antoniego Brosza* [Bookplates of Workers of the Polish Book: From the Collection of Antoni Brosz] (June 1978) at the Kraków Printing and Book-

⁵⁵ University Library in Toruń, *Księga Akcesji Działu Gromadzenia*, shelfmark 18/1, accession number K 2507/86.

⁵⁶ “Ex Libris: Co? Gdzie? Kiedy?” 14, 1999, p. 3.

⁵⁷ Andrzej Znamirovski (November 10, 1944 – October 15, 2015), Kraków bibliophile and collector, founder of director of the Exlibris Gallery in Kraków, editor and publisher of several journals devoted to bookplates and related topics.

⁵⁸ Information from A. Znamirovski, March 24, 2015.

⁵⁹ “Ex Libris: Co? Gdzie? Kiedy?” 24, 2000, p. 2.

⁶⁰ J. L o h m a n n, *Miedzioryty w zbiorach ekslibrisów Antoniego Brosza*, [in:] *Nasz dom*, Kraków 1982, p. 169.

⁶¹ Andrzej Stanisław Kostka Załuski (December 2, 1695 – December 16, 1758) used at least 3 bookplates. See A. F l u d a - K r o k o s, *Ekslibrisy braci Załuskich*, “Konspekt” 4, 49, 2013, pp. 78–83.

selling Schools.⁶² The collector also intended to issue a folio of bookplates and brief bibliophilic publications dedicated to the topic. From his extensive plans, he carried out, to name a few, publications devoted to the plates by the artists Edward Grabowski,⁶³ Adam Młodzianowski,⁶⁴ Franciszek Walczowski,⁶⁵ Jerzy Bandura,⁶⁶ Gustaw Schmagier,⁶⁷ and Jan Stańda.⁶⁸ On the occasion of the Tenth International Bookplate Congress, which took place in Kraków in 1964, next to the folder on E. Grabowski, there also appeared an occasional print edited by Brosz to be circulated among the participants of the Congress.⁶⁹ Among the unrealized projects he hoped to complete were publications devoted to the work of Zbigniew Dolatowski (two proposals: 25 bookplates with an introduction as well as signs of the Zodiac in his bookplates, with 12 prints from the original blocks with the introduction); Tadeusz Przyrkowski (12 color bookplates, and an introduction in the form of letters from the author, chalk photography with a signature, and a list of bookplates created by Przyrkowski); Kazimierz Wiszniewski (list of bookplates, photograph of the author, list of bookplates, 10 original prints); Jerzy Napieracz (25 bookplates, introduction by Maciej Gutowski, list of bookplates created by the artist, and 25 original prints); Anatol Kałaszni-kow (Polish motifs, 10 dual color prints from blocks); Alina Kalczyńska (folio, introduction of Brosz to *Pawlikowska polskiego ekslibrisu* [Pawlikowska of the Polish Bookplate], original prints from blocks in [unspecified] quantity), Soviet graphics [exhibit catalog, introduction, list of bookplates, 20 drawings from zinc plates, 5 original prints from block]; and Andrzej Bortowski (introduction, 15 marks from prints). Brosz had also other projects in mind: Kraków in bookplates (introduction, thematic bibliography, twelve original prints from blocks); juvenile bookplate graphics (with his own introduction and 30 plates, some from bookplates and some from linocut tiles). He was quite advanced in the work on several of these proposals; for example, he had prepared introductions (on juvenile bookplates, among others) or lists of plates (with views of Kraków, among others).

⁶² *Wystawa ekslibrisów pracowników książki polskiej: wystawa ze zbiorów Antoniego Brosza*, Kraków 1978.

⁶³ E. G r a b o w s k i, *Ekslibrys Szkół Tysiąclecia*, introduction by A. B r o s z, Kraków 1964. One hundred copies printed for the Tenth International Bookplate Congress in Kraków.

⁶⁴ *Temperamenty: Adam Młodzianowski, Jerzy Jarnuszkiewicz*, introduction by B. J a k u b o w s k a, Kraków 1967; A. M ł o d z i a n o w s k i, *Świątki ekslibrisowe*, Kraków 1967.

⁶⁵ F. W a l c z o w s k i, *Księgoznaki Franciszka Walczowskiego*, ed. A. B r o s z, Kraków 1973.

⁶⁶ *J. Bandura: ekslibrisy drzeworytowe wykonane w latach 1943–1947*, published by A. B r o s z, Kraków 1973.

⁶⁷ *Ekslibrisy Gustawa Schmagera*, Kraków 1975.

⁶⁸ J. S t a n d a, *Ekslibris*, Kraków 1967.

⁶⁹ *Cette publication a été éditée en l'honneur des membres du XE Congrès International de l'Ex-libris a Cracovie par les cercle des amateurs de l'ex-libris en Pologne*, ed. A. B r o s z, Kraków 1964.

The Circle of Bookplate Lovers, which he led, also planned to publish bibliophile folios titled *Ekslibrisy członków KME w Krakowie* [Bookplates of the Members of the Circle of Bookplate Lovers in Kraków], intended to be a short description of the interests of each of the members together with a copy of a bookplate of their choice (105 prints of the design were required to be delivered). In connection with this project, members of the Circle received a questionnaire in 1974, covering 7 points. In addition to the basic information (given name, surname, address, profession), members were also asked to respond to questions about owning a collection of bookplates, thematic collections, their own bookplates, their bibliophilic interests, and other topics. Unfortunately, the portfolio was never published.

* * *

According to Brosz's will, almost the entire collection of bookplates gathered by him, together with the cabinet in which they were stored, was transferred to the Jagiellonian Library in December 1980. In the records confirming the receipt of the donation to the library's collection from this month, the gift of J. Brosz is noted as 15,880 items under number 35, transferred to the Graphics Division.⁷⁰ As the collection developed, the collector also gathered related literature. However, despite the announcement in the auction catalog, the duplicates⁷¹ did not end up in the Jagiellonian Library.

The collection was accompanied by a list of its content consistent with the order in which Brosz collected and stored the materials. Several thousand items were divided into Polish bookplates – among these divisions were the oldest according to age, name, and subject (11 groups) and the rest in alphabetical order according to authors (198 names); subjects (including both Polish and foreign bookplates, 45 groups); and foreign (according to country, 30; and then further divided by the names of the artists, 145). Certainly, the most valuable were historical bookplates from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, a group which included 435 items, two of them from the sixteenth to seventeenth centuries, twenty from the eighteenth century, ninety from the nineteenth century, and 42 defined as “unidentified old.” Among the oldest were heraldic signs, 75 items; typographic, 71 items; Radziwiłł, 35 items; Potocki, 65 items; Mniszech and Lubomirski, 15 items; Schaffgotsch, 5 items; and 15 items by the artist Kajetan Wincenty Kielisiński. Among Polish artists, the most represented in the collection are the works of Jan Hass-Agopsowicz, 164 items; Andrzej Bortowski, 120 items; Ireneusz Chmurzyński, 106 items; Zbigniew Dolatowski, 466 items; Jerzy Drużycki, 156 items; Edward Grabowski, 154 items; Wojciech Jakubowski, 184 items; Zbigniew Józwick, 124 items; Andrzej Kamiński, 183 items; Czesław Kelma, 120 items; Adam Młodzianowski, 181 items; Tadeusz Przytkowski,

⁷⁰ Jagiellonian University Archives, shelfmark 815: *Dary – załączniki do rejestru przybytków 1980*, December 1980, p. 2.

⁷¹ *Literatura ekslibrisowa...*, p. 2.

147 items; Janusz Tłomakowski, 143 items; Tyrsus Wenhryniewicz, 181 items; Kazimierz Wiszniewski, 292 items; Krystyna Wróblewska, 110 items; and Tadeusz Żurkowski, 106 items. In those grouped by theme, one can identify the largest as those of public libraries, 224 items; medical, 106 items; foreign erotica, 157 items; and those related to Don Quixote, a favorite of Brosz, 250 items. Among the almost 6,000 bookplates created by foreign artists, the most numerous are the works of the Max Kislinger (Austria), 172 items; Gerard Gaudaen (Belgium), 140 items; Herbert Otto (Germany), 150 items; Emil Kotrba (Czechoslovakia), 137 items; Jaroslav Vodrážka (Czechoslovakia), 160 items; Antal Fery (Hungary), 119 items; Aszot Mamadžanian (Armenian), 163 items; Anatol Kałasznikow (Soviet Union), 112 items; Konstantin Kozłowski (Soviet Union), 155 items; unidentified foreign: Soviet, 258 items; Estonian, 161 items; and Lithuanian, 135 items. Among them, there are many made specifically for Brosz: by Jan Hass-Agopsowicz (P1, 1960); Ruban Bedrossov (X2, 1962); Peteris Upitis (X2, 1962); Jerzy Napieracz (X3, 1963); Wojciech Jakubowski (C2,⁷² 1963); Stefania Dretler-Flin (X2, 1966); Anatol Kałasznikow (X2, 1967); Krystyna Wróblewska (X2, 1968); Wojciech Łuczak (X2, 1969); Eduard Dias Ferreira (P7, 1974); and Janusz Karwacki (C2, 1974). In the most known and popular publications related to bookplates (next to the publications by Marian Wojciechowski),⁷³ Maria Grońska (1920–January 27, 2015) noted the presence of the collection in the holdings of the Jagiellonian Library.⁷⁴

Along with the donation, Jadwiga Brosz included a letter to the director of the Jagiellonian Library making two requests: for the maintenance of the collection in its entirety in its current order (with possible additions to the collection in the form of acquisitions from other collectors) and marking the reverse of each bookplate with a stamp: The Collection of Antoni Brosz. She also expressed the hope for a special exhibition of parts of the collection and she indicated that an assistance of K. Świerzowski, who had dedicated much time to ordering of the collection and to the listing of its contents, would be helpful.⁷⁵ In response, Professor Stanisław Grzeszczuk, the then director of the Jagiellonian Library, expressed the institution's thanks for the priceless gift, at the same time assuring the donor that her requests would be carried out with all due diligence.⁷⁶ Accordingly, selections from the collection were presented and made accessible as exhibitions, for example, from November 1986 to March 1987 in Wolfenbüttel, Germany, in the Herzog August Biblio-

⁷² These are international designations of specific graphic techniques: P1, zincotype (cynkotypia kreskowa); X2, woodcut; X3, linocut; C2, copperplate; P7, offset.

⁷³ M. J. W o j c i e c h o w s k i, op. cit.

⁷⁴ M. G r o ń s k a, *Eklibrisy: wiadomości zebrane dla kolekcjonerów*, Warszawa 1992, p. 60.

⁷⁵ Letter of J. Brosz to the administration of Jagiellonian Library, December 10, 1980 (from the collection of the author).

⁷⁶ Letter of S. Grzeszczuk to J. Brosz, January 13, 1981 (from the collection of the author).

thek. It resulted in a catalog, *Exlibris Biblioteka Jagiellońska: Polnische Bücherzeichen aus den Sammlungen der Jagiellonischen Bibliothek in Krakau* [Jagiellonian Library Bookplates: Polish Bookplates from the Collection of the Jagiellonian Library in Kraków].⁷⁷ The catalog included descriptions of 675 plates on exhibit, from almost 180 artists (with the exception of the bookplates in which it was not possible to identify the artist). The introduction by Piotr Hordyński mentions the provenance of three collections of bookplates (numbering 20,000 items); among the collections mentioned is that of A. Brosz.⁷⁸ Less than three years later, the same exhibition, slightly changed and corrected, was presented in the Jagiellonian Library and the guide⁷⁹ that accompanied the exhibition noted that the Brosz gift comprised 75% of the contemporary bookplates in the collection.⁸⁰

Upon making the gift to the Jagiellonian Library, Jadwiga Brosz also wrote to Professor Mieczysław Hess, the rector of Jagiellonian University. The letter included with the gift mentioned brief information about her husband and outlined the characteristics of the collection. Jadwiga Brosz mentioned, in the form of a request, that she would be grateful if information about the gift would appear in the press, writing the following: “[I make such a request] in light of the memory of my husband and in the interest in the whereabouts of this collection on the part of bookplate enthusiasts in Kraków and throughout Poland.”⁸¹ Her request was granted. A notice about the gift appeared in “*Dziennik Polski*”: “The Jagiellonian Library was enriched yesterday by one of the richest and most valuable collections of bookplates in Poland. Jadwiga Brosz, in accordance with the will of her husband, who died two years ago, transferred the collection to the library.”⁸² A notice also appeared in “*Przekrój*”: “The Jagiellonian Library acquired a collection of bookplates that is one of the most complete and valuable in Poland.”⁸³ Considering that Brosz dated his collection from 1938 and that he died forty years later, both magazines wrote mistakenly about the collection that it had been accumulated over a period of forty-five years.

⁷⁷ *Exlibris Biblioteka Jagiellonska. Polnische Bucherzeichen aus den Sammlungen der Jagiellonischen Bibliothek in Krakau. [Ausstellung im Malerbuchkabinett d. Bibliotheca Augusta vom 1. November 1986–1. Marz 1987]*, Ausstellung und Katalogberab. von P. H o r d y ń s k i, J. P i r o ż y ń s k i, Wolfenbüttel 1986.

⁷⁸ *Ibidem*; see P. H o r d y ń s k i, *Sechs Jahuhunderte polnischer Exlibris aus den Sammlungen der Jagiellonischen Bibliothek*, p. 9.

⁷⁹ *Polski ekslibris od XVI do XX stulecia w zbiorach Biblioteki Jagiellońskiej. Informator o wystawie, Kraków 16 marca – 27 kwietnia 1989*, ed. P. H o r d y ń s k i, Kraków 1989.

⁸⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 3.

⁸¹ Letter of J. Brosz to M. Hess, December 10, 1980, p. 2 (from the collection of the author).

⁸² *Zbiór exlibrisów przekazano Bibliotece Jagiellońskiej*, “*Dziennik Polski*” 1980, 275, p. 6.

⁸³ “*Przekrój*” 1981, 1865, p. 8.

Professor Mieczysław Hess, the rector of the Jagiellonian University, sent J. Brosz a letter of thanks dated January 8, 1981:

It is difficult to overestimate the value of the collection of bookplates accumulated by your husband Antoni Brosz. This collection of almost sixteen thousand bookplates comprises one of the richest gifts ever to come to the Jagiellonian Library. The collection is a comprehensive documentation of the work of Polish bookplate artists and of global trends in miniature graphics. Because of your husband's extensive work and because of your gracious donation, the Jagiellonian Library can be the proud owner of one of the greatest collections of bookplates in the country.⁸⁴

K. Świerzowski also received a letter of thanks for his "selfless effort in organizing and inventorying the collection of Antoni Brosz, donated to the Jagiellonian University by Jadwiga Brosz."⁸⁵

The Jagiellonian Library was not the only institution to receive bookplates from Antoni Brosz. He transferred 48 plates to the collection of the National Museum in Kraków on October 31, 1961. The donation was listed in the book of accession records under the number 692/61 and the shelfmark: III-ryc. 5012 to III-ryc. 5057, III-ryc. 5078.⁸⁶ In the collections of the museum, there are 67 plates from Brosz,⁸⁷ among them works of Jerzy Bandura (1), Włodzimierz Borkowski (1), Czesław Borowczyk (1), Zbigniew Dolatowski (5), Jan Hass-Agopsowicz (14), Stanisław Jakubowski (3), Jerzy Jarnuszkiewicz (2), Janina Kamińska (2), Stanisław Kuglin (1), Jan Kurkiewicz (1), Wiktor Zbigniew Langner (3), Kazimierz Lichocki (1), Adam Młodzianowski (3), Jerzy Napieracz (3), Stefan Pajączkowski (8), Tadeusz Przyppkowski (2), Stanisław Raczyński (2), Gustaw Schmager (6), Józef Stempniak (2), Jan Marcin Szancer (1), Stanisław Toepfer (1), Jerzy Werner (1), Kazimierz Wiszniewski (1), Krystyna Wróblewska (1), and Stanisław Henryka Zgaiński (1).

As a translator and expert on Slavic literature, Brosz gathered numerous prints and press clippings on related issues. In 1973, he transferred "documents, letters, and press clippings" to the library of the Institute of Russian Philology of the Jagiellonian University.⁸⁸ Less than a year after his death, his widow transferred materials to the Institute of Russian Philology, where they were received as "a priceless gift of a well-

⁸⁴ Letter of M. Hess to J. Brosz, January 8, 1981 (from the collection of the author).

⁸⁵ Letter of M. Hess to K. Świerzowski, January 8, 1981 (from the collection of the author).

⁸⁶ Letter of Zbigniew Bocheński (director of the National Museum in Kraków) to A. Brosz, November 18, 1961 (from the collection of the author).

⁸⁷ Information from March 20, 2015, list compiled by Katarzyna Podnieśńska, an employee of the National Museum in Kraków.

⁸⁸ Letter of Ryszard Łużny (Director, Institute of Russian Philology of the Jagiellonian University) to A. Brosz, June 29, 1973 (BJ, MS Przyb. 250/05).

known bibliophile and translator of Slavic literature.”⁸⁹ She also donated materials to the library of the Institute of Polish Philology; a letter from December 10, 1979, confirms the “receipt of 79 press clippings from the interwar period related to the history of Polish literature.”⁹⁰ Reproductions of pictures of Polish writers were also transferred to the Municipal Public Library in Stary Sącz.⁹¹

* * *

Second to his passion for collecting bookplates was collecting “Orkaniana,” that is, materials connected to Władysław Orkan, an artist of the Młoda Polska [Young Poland]⁹² period, with whom he was fascinated and became friendly before the artist’s death. As a result of this friendship, there arose his collection of Orkaniana, which, after Brosz’s death, was transferred by his widow and K. Świerzowski⁹³ to “Orkanówki,” the Museum of Władysław Orkan in Poręba Wielka. Brosz expressed his willingness to transfer the materials several times during his life. The inventory of the gift from July 15, 1980⁹⁴ includes a list of 102 materials grouped in the following categories: I. Publications of the work of W. Orkan, 38 items; II. Studies, 46 items; III. Press clippings, 125 items; IV. Pictures and reproductions, 118 items; V. Printed ephemera, seven items; VI. Other materials, six items (notes and typed and handwritten manuscripts); VII. Correspondence to Władysław Orkan, 4 items; and VIII. Autographs of Władysław Orkan, 5 items and an additional 3 items. The transfer of the collection to the local government in Niedźwiedź, designated for the Museum of Władysław Orkan in his family home near Pustka in Poręba Wielka, occurred on July 15, 1981.⁹⁵

* * *

The collection of bookplates gathered over around forty years by A. Brosz is an unusual example of bibliophilic passion. Of special interest is the type of graphic art, a minuscule size with a maximum amount of a quality content in a visual motif. Taking into consideration the chronological period of the plates,

⁸⁹ Letter of Władysław Piotrowski (Director, Institute of Russian Philology of the Jagiellonian University to J. Brosz, December 10, 1979 (from the collection of the author).

⁹⁰ Letter of Roman Jaskula (director of the Library of the Institute of Polish Philology of Jagiellonian University), December 10, 1979 (from the collection of the author).

⁹¹ Letter of Antoni Wnęk (director of the Municipal Public Library in Stary Sącz) to J. Brosz, July 19, 1980 (BJ, MS Przyb. 252/05).

⁹² Władysław Orkan (November 27, 1875 – May 14, 1930), Young Poland writer known for his love of the mountains and villages in Poland.

⁹³ K. Świerzowski, *Mało znane orkaniana w zbiorach Antoniego Brosza*, “Podhalanka, Pismo Związku Podhalan” 1985, 1, 11, pp. 6–9.

⁹⁴ From the collection of the author.

⁹⁵ Letter of J. Brosz to Urząd Gmina in Niedźwiedź, July 15, 1981 (from the collection of the author).

from the sixteenth century to modern times, it is possible to conclude that in nearly 16,000 items Brosz encompassed the history of the bookplate (especially Polish bookplates), from, roughly, the beginning of their use on the Polish lands⁹⁶ until the 1980s. Among the collector's many activities (translating, editing, exhibiting, publishing, his membership in various associations, correspondence, etc.), it was his work with the provenance of bookplates that allowed him to be remembered in history as a book lover and creator of the collection of bookplates belonging to the Jagiellonian Library.

Translated by Sean Martin

SUMMARY

This article presents the person of Antoni Brosz (1910–1978), a bibliophile and collector from Kraków, who was also a translator of Slavic languages. Over a period of about 40 years, he compiled a collection of bookplates containing about 20,000 items (including duplicates). In accordance with his will, nearly 16,000 items (including about 10,000 Polish and 6,000 foreign plates) were donated to the Jagiellonian Library at the end of 1980. In 1999, the collector's archival materials (including personal documents, letters as well as working notes) were also consigned to the Library. Antoni Brosz was the co-founder of the postwar Circle of Bookplate Lovers, which formed part of the Book Lovers Society. He participated actively in the Circle's work and maintained contacts with numerous Polish and foreign collectors. He also collected "Orkaniana," materials related to the work of the Young Poland artist Władysław Orkan.

KEYWORDS:

Antoni Brosz, bookplate, collection, donation, translator

ANTONI SZCZEPAN BROSZ (1910–1978) – BIBLIOFIL, KOLEKCJONER, TŁUMACZ

STRESZCZENIE

W artykule przedstawiono postać Antoniego Brosza (1910–1978) – krakowskiego bibliofila i kolekcjonera, tłumacza z języków słowiańskich. Przez około 40 lat zgromadził on zbiór ekslibrisów liczący około 20 000 znaków (wraz z dubletami). Zgodnie z jego ostatnią

⁹⁶ The oldest Polish bookplate, belonging to the bishop Maciej Drzewicki (February 22, 1467 – August 22, 1535), dates to 1516.

wolą niespełna 16 000 jednostek (około 10 000 znaków polskich, około 6000 znaków zagranicznych) zostało przekazanych do zasobów Biblioteki Jagiellońskiej pod koniec 1980 roku, a w 1999 roku do zasobów tych trafiły również materiały archiwalne (między innymi dokumenty osobiste, korespondencja, notatki warsztatowe). Antoni Brosz był współzałożycielem powojennego Koła Miłośników Ekslibrisu, działającego w strukturach Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Książki, aktywnie uczestniczył w jego działalności, a także utrzymywał liczne kontakty z kolekcjonerami polskimi i zagranicznymi. Gromadził także orkaniana – materiały związane z Władysławem Orkanem.

SŁOWA KLUCZOWE:

Antoni Brosz, ekslibris, kolekcja, dar, tłumacz

