

HALINA BRZEZIŃSKA-STEC
Jerzy Giedroyc's Library
Białystok

*The Daily Press before 1939 in the Collections
of the Libraries of Białystok.
Characterization, Holdings, Protection*

INTRODUCTION

The press of Białystok has not been the subject of the detailed analyses yet. The only attempts of the complete depiction of this problem are the article of Zofia Sokół¹, the studies of Marian Fuks² concerning the Jewish press and the research conducted in the 80's and directed by professor A. Paczkowski in the Institute of History of UwB, the result of which are the MA theses dedicated to the daily press of Białystok³. The work of Zofia Sokół is limited mainly to the introduction of general information about the described magazines and to short characterization of their contents. Taking into consideration the focus of this study, the most important part of Sokol's article is the enclosed list of the titles of the press in Białystok, which provides the information on the publishing production of the city. The works of Władysław Władyka and his bibliography of the titles of the daily newspapers published in the years 1918-1939 proved very useful as well⁴.

The literature dedicated to the history of press in the Second Republic of Poland is extremely helpful in presenting the general conditions of press activity in that period. The historical and press works used were mainly the studies of Andrzej Paczkowski and Andrzej Notkowski⁵.

The state of archival documentation proves similar. The materials in the form of editorial archives, which would enable the development of the discussion on the subject, do not exist. Some data concerning "Dziennik Białostocki" [Białystok Daily] were provided by the pre-war studies: "Białystok Ilustrowany" [Białystok Illustrated] and *Białystok. Zarys historyczny* [Białystok. The Historical Draft] by Henryk Mościcki⁶. The information on circulation figures of the newspapers in Białystok can be found in the press catalogues of advertising companies⁷. Such published statistic materials as *Wiadomości statystyczne miasta Białegostoku za lata 1921-1928* [The Statistic Information of the City of Białystok from the Years 1921-1928]⁸ are especially valuable for the quantitative characterization. There is still no full list of the periodicals or the specification of their contents. Fairly complete PAR press catalogues and Pietraszek's *Katalog*

Prasowy [Press Catalogue] contain about 90 per cent of the published titles, similarly to *Urzędowy wykaz druków Wydanych w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* [The Official Register of Printed Matter Published in the Republic of Poland] from the years 1936-1939 and *Urzędowy wykaz czasopism Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* [The Official Register of the Republic of Poland Magazines] from the years 1929-1935.

In these circumstances the following lecture is only an introductory reconnaissance of the problem, limited to a few detailed issues. The focus of attention is mainly on presenting the quantitative development of the press in Białystok, its holdings in the local libraries, the possibilities of preserving and complementing the collections. On the other hand, the issues connected with the notion of regional press, its typology and its formal and content characterization were excluded.

Perceiving geographical factors as the basic ones, it was decided that solely the newspapers edited and published in Białystok were to be analysed. The serious limitation of the territorial range stems mainly from the abundance of materials and the possibility of access to the sources. The criterion of content takes into consideration the presence of subjects connected with the current events and the issues of particular areas. The fact that the publisher consciously directed these periodicals to the readers in a small area is frequently reflected in their titles or subtitles.

In these circumstances, the problem of territorial mutations of daily papers and periodicals, whose main editions were published in the central cities becomes an essential issue. This phenomenon achieved extreme proportions in the 20's and 30's. It seems that the mutations ought also to be treated as the regional press. This conviction stems not only from the formal criteria (the place of publishing), but from the actual state as well. Both the journalistic and the publishing aspect of creating the local section took place in the area. The mutations had the range of receivers typical for the regional press and the local sections fulfilled the requirement of the link between the contents and the issues of the particular area. Consequently, the mutations can be regarded as the proof of the local centre's activity and creativity. However, they differed from one another in the informative and journalistic materials prepared in the out-of-town main office⁹.

THE BEGINNINGS OF DAILY PRESS IN BIAŁYSTOK

Białystok press in the period of the Second Republic of Poland did not have any earlier publishing traditions. The first periodical to appear in Białystok was the official newspaper, published in the years 1795-1807, which contained the regulations of the local Prussia authorities and petty advertisements, the bilingual title of which was: "Neu-Ostpreussisches Intelligenz-Blatt zur niitzlichen Bequemlichkeit des Publici = Nowo-Wschodnich Prus Doniesienia ku wygodzie publicznej" [The Reports of New Eastern Prussia for the Public Comfort].

At the beginning of the 20th century a number of Russian newspapers appeared in Białystok. The papers published in the years 1903-1910 were, for instance: "Bielostokskij Wiestnik" [Białystok Daily], "Zapadnaja Okraina" [The Western Ukraine], "Nowyja Sily" [The New Powers], "Bielostokskaja Gazieta" [The Białystok Newspaper]. One of

the papers published over a longer period was "Golos Bielostoka" [Białystok Voice] edited by J. Zeligman in the years 1910-1920. The Russian weekly paper "Bielostoczanin" [Białystok Citizen] and the Orthodox Church review "Bielostokskija Wiedomosti" [Białystok News] were printed in 1912. "Hajntige Zeit", the Yiddish newspaper of the local Jewish community was published irregularly. It was not until 1912 that the first Polish newspaper appeared. The title of this weekly paper was "Gazeta Białostocka" [The Białystok Newspaper] and it was published with some breaks till the moment of the arrival of German troops in Białystok in August 1915. For some time the occupying authorities published the official "Białystoker Zeitung" [The Białystok Newspaper]¹⁰.

The reasons of emergence and development of Białystok press in the period between the First and the Second World War were mainly political ones. The fact of Białystok's belonging to the reborn Republic of Poland cancelled former restrictions imposed by invaders. Unfortunately, the low economic and cultural level of the region as well as poor technical support had destructive influence on the preservation of the local publishing market. The difficult material and financial situation was a characteristic feature of the local publishing houses. It had a crucial influence on the development of newspapers and the time of their existence which was sometimes extremely short. At the same time, the financial difficulties made the constant search for sponsors essential. The papers were most often sponsored by political parties and groups, who, in exchange for financial support, forced them to promote certain ideology; consequently, the fall of the party frequently involved the liquidation of the paper. All daily papers in Białystok (regardless of their level of independence) must be regarded as informative newspapers, in which journalism was often replaced with the comments on presented events. The country-wide problems were the main focus of attention, despite the fact that it was the presence of local issues (frequently, on the separate pages or in the form of supplements) which contributed to their regional character. Among the subjects discussed in the press of Białystok the most important were political issues, the depiction of which often reflected particular opinions of the publisher. A great number of periodicals (describing themselves as independent) promoted the manifestos of political parties and groups, especially in the pre-election period. The domination of political problems left little space for cultural and social issues. The latter ones were frequently limited to the reports from meetings of various organizations, charity campaigns and fund-raising. The cultural issues were represented by literature - most often episode novels or short stories. The poems of local writers were also published. The reviews of plays, books and music comprised another part of the cultural section. As regards promoting general knowledge, the dominant branch was certainly history which was presented in the form of the studies about the past of the region and the occasional articles celebrating important anniversaries and national holidays.

Apart from Białystok the important publishing centres of the province were Grodno, Suwalki and Lomza, which possessed their own daily press. As regards the range of publishing production (measured by the number of titles) Grodno and the capital of the province had an equal position, while the other two towns were of lesser importance. It seems that the press of each town aimed at serving the needs of its own press public. After 1922 Białystok daily papers had their mutations in Grodno, however, they were published there under changed titles and contained different content.

The limited range of this article does not allow to present the complete material comprising the collections of Białystok libraries and cultural institutions. Therefore, the following list includes only the most representative titles of the daily press¹¹.

THE CHARACTERIZATION OF THE SELECTED NEWSPAPERS

Białostocki Głos Codzienny [Białystok Daily Voice], 1926, main editor and publisher Jan Antonowicz, the unit of the National Labour Party. The first issue was published on the 1st of July, 1926. Great circulation of 3000 copies, printed in Miszondziuk's printing house. It was the mutation of Warsaw „Głos Codzienny” [Daily Voice] with an additional last page printed in Białystok. The newspaper was directed to the whole local community, which was supported by the fact of high circulation and the informative character of the content. To regain falling popularity and to gain the greatest number of subscribers a new section of scandalizing news – “From Białystok's Pavements” – was introduced. At the end of August 1926 “Białystok Daily Voice” published the article, which accused a big number of innocent people of embezzlement. This article was the direct reason of closing the newspaper on 28th of August without any publishing announcement. Holdings: University Library, 1926; nr 1-58 (microfilm); Książnica Podlaska, 1926; nr 1-58 (microfilm).

Białostocki Kurier Nowości [Białystok News Courier], 1933, ed. Janina Michałowska, it was an independent Polish daily paper, the mutation of Vilnius „Kurier Nowosci” [News Courier]. It was first published on the 4th of October, 1933 with the circulation of 700-750 copies. It was one of the cheapest newspapers in Białystok – the price of one copy was 5 grosze, it was also published for only two weeks. Only 20 issues were printed altogether. The first three contained the articles on political and social subjects, the next were limited to the sensational content. The new idea, later taken over by other daily papers, was discussing the radio programme. Its continuation was “Kurier Białostocki” [Białystok Kurier] published and edited by Jan and Walentyna Jaskólski, which came out in the same form and graphic shape between the 25th of November and the 25th of December. The reasons of the end of both the daily papers were the lack of financial resources and not much interest shown by the local community. Holdings: University Library, 1933; nr 1-20 (microfilm); Książnica Podlaska, 1933; nr 1-20 (microfilm).

Dziennik Białostocki [Białystok Daily], 1919-1922, ed. Wł. Olszyński, K. Kosiński, B. Filipowicz. The idea of creating a Polish newspaper occurred in December, 1928 when Białystok was still occupied by the Germans. The group of Polish intelligentsia – Konstanty Kosiński, Władysław Olszewski, Benedykt Filipowicz and Karol Tołłoczko – began their work on organising a Polish daily paper, the instrument of national propaganda. To achieve this, the Polish Society of Promoting Press and Reading was funded in January-February 1920. Due to the street fund-raising 15,000 marks was collected which enabled to begin the negotiations over buying fonts, a printing press, paint and paper. The necessary contacts with Warsaw printing houses were established in order to encourage Polish typesetters to come to Białystok.

The effect of the Society's efforts was the creation of “Białystok Daily” whose first issue was published on the 6th of April, 1919, that is two weeks after the arrival

of Polish troops in Białystok. The paper was the instrument of free thought of socio-political, cultural and literary character. It was first printed in Benedykt Huppert's printing plants, then in the Share Printing House Joint Stock Company in the circulation of about 1 000 copies. Apart from 2 or 3 main articles in every issue, the paper had its regular sections, moreover, it published the advertisements and notices. After gaining an own publishing house, the literary section which published the works of Białystok inhabitants was added. After the proposal of the Jewish Daily Paper in Russian „Golos Bielostoka” [Białystok Voice] of making Białystok “a free city” and making its future dependant on a plebiscite, “Białystok Daily” replied firmly, publishing the series of articles emphasizing the historical belonging of Białystok region to Poland. The newspaper was published until July, 1920 when the Soviet troops arrived in Białystok. The first issue of the reprinted paper was published on the 27 of August 1920 by the Borderlands Guards Society, copied in the Polish Share Printing House Joint Stock Company in Białystok. Antoni Lubkiewicz became the new editor. Despite the fact that primarily it maintained the numeration from the period before the rule of TKPR, it had a different editorial staff, composition of sections and the way of formulating problems. It was concerned with the political and country-wide issues much more than before and, consequently, it completely lost the character of a regional daily paper. The local subjects were limited to a few small sections, whilst the last page was devoted to advertisements and notices solely. In this shape, “Białystok Daily” resembled the capital press, especially that the editorial staff developed cooperation with a number of Warsaw journalists, e.g. Edward Błonski, Benedykt Hertz – a famous fairy-tales writer and poet, as well as famous Vilnius and Łódź publicists: Władysław Zieliński, Aleksander Szapiro, Kazimierz Grus, Kamil Mackiewicz. From time to time some illustrations were added to the text, which was a totally new idea in the daily press. At the beginning of October, 1921 the Borderlands Guards Society sold the paper to Antoni Lubkiewicz due to financial problems. Under the new title of “Nowy Dziennik Białostocki” [Białystok New Daily] it became the unit of the National Workers' Party. The contents and the character of the magazine stayed unchanged. After the elections to Parliament in November, 1922 NWP lost its interest in the paper and even stopped paying salaries to the employees, leaving them to themselves. The last issue was published at the end of 1922. Holdings: University Library, 1921 (microfilm).

Dziennik Białostocki [Białystok Daily], 1923-1939, eds. Józef Ujejski, Napoleon Sakowicz, Antoni Piotrowski, Lucjan Duczyński; it was called the “red” one to distinguish it from “Nowy Dziennik Białostocki” [Białystok New Daily], it supported PPS, later PPS – Right Wing, despite the fact that it claimed to be independent. Such a state of things lasted for 6 weeks. Both daily papers with similar titles, printed in the same printing house, having their offices in the same building began to compete fiercely with each other. There were some unpleasant incidents. “Białystok New Daily” was suspended and the red “Białystok Daily” – which was in debt – was published irregularly, with longer breaks. The general standard of the paper became visibly lower. Larger articles were seldom published, more and more space – of the local page as well – was devoted to the advertisements and notices. The publisher of “Białystok Daily”, Józef Ujejski, accused of collaboration with TKRP in 1920, escaped abroad, which seriously affected the situation of the paper. There were also a number of court trials

which resulted in suspending the newspaper on the 26th of November. The suspended "Białystok Daily" was replaced by the one-day's papers which changed their titles every day and which were the mutations of Warsaw "Ekspress Wieczorny" [Evening Express]. After the 10th of March the paper began to be published on regular basis. In 1928 it started to support officially BBWR and during the Parliament elections of 1928 it acted as its press instrument. In the 30's the standard of the newspaper was improved and once again it became an interesting daily paper, equally good as the capital press. The collaboration with Jan Glinka and Michał Goławski was established, which resulted in many valuable historical articles. The new idea was introducing "The Theatre Reviews" and the news "From the Weaving Industry". Sunday issues had 2 local pages and the illustrated supplement "My Little Paper" for children and the youth. The last issue was edited on the 30th of August, 1939. "Białystok Daily" was the longest published Białystok periodical; it came out for almost 20 years without any serious breaks, which was a rather rare phenomenon in those days¹². Holdings: University Library, 1922-1928, (microfilm); Książnica Podlaska, 1923-1939, 1932 and some issues from other years missing (microfilm); 1927-1939 (printed), a serious number of issues missing.

Echo Białostockie [Białystok Echo], 1931-1939, ed. F. Nowakowski, publ. A. Brzostowski. The paper was the mutation of Łódź "Echo" and it began to come out on the 19th of April, 1931 with the circulation of about 1600 copies. This daily paper was an instrument of the National Democracy, despite the fact that it claimed to be independent. The local page contained the introductory article, so called "leader", and the sections "The Literary Column", "On the Arena of Białystok's Life", "Białystok Chronicle", "The Little Column", "The Directory for New-comers" – where, apart from the addresses of companies and institutions, Białystok restaurants' menus were included, and "The Section of Advertised Letting" of flats and rooms. Without any given reason "Echo" stopped being published on the 13th of May, 1932. The suspended newspaper was taken over by Antoni Frankowski, who started to publish "Nowe Echo Białostockie" [The New Białystok Echo]. On the 31st of December, 1932 the paper regained its previous title. The new idea was creating the regular literary section which was to unite all local writers in "The Circle Of Białystok Men of Letters", patterned upon the existing "Literary Jewish Society". "The Literary Supplement" published every week till the end of 1934 was also to develop communication with Warsaw and Vilnius literary spheres and to enable the debuts of young poets. Gradually, the paper changed its independent status, encouraging Pilsudski's supporters and becoming the official instrument of BBWR. Interesting articles were published more and more seldom, while the totally new idea of "The Death Rate Chronicle" was introduced. "Białystok Echo" was published till the 30th of April, 1939, then suspended due to the advertising scandal. Holdings: University Library: 1939, nr 2,16,26,52 (microfilm); Humanistic Collection: 1935, nr 136; Książnica Podlaska: 1935-1939 (microfilm) a few missing issues from the years 1938-1939.

Gazeta Białostocka [The Białystok Newspaper], 1927, ed. and publ. Teofil Morełowski. It was another attempt of creating a regional daily paper which would be the central provincial unit. The paper was the mutation of Warsaw "Unia" [Union], it was edited in Białystok with the circulation of 500 copies. Its programme published in the first issue on the 11th of September, 1927 promoted "the absolute obedience to the

Polish state”, it encouraged parties to stop all conflicts and arguments for the well-being of the reborn country. The lofty slogans and beliefs proved to be invented and deceiving, as, instead of serious articles and journalism, the paper focused on such regular sections as: “From the Court of Law”, “Thefts”, “Assaults and Beatings”, “Foundling”, which clearly pointed to the questionable standard of the newspaper. Among the interesting new ideas was the matrimonial column, not present in the other daily papers. The paper stopped being published on the 11th of October, after only 30 days of existence. Holdings: Książnica Podlaska; 1927, nr 1-3; nr 6-51 (microfilm).

Głos Obywatela [The Citizen’s Voice], 1929-1930, ed. Antoni Faranowski, published by the Provincial Society „Lechia”, printed in Sz. Zbar’s printing house, its subtitle was: “The Political, Social, Scientific, Literary and Sports Newspaper, Published in Białystok, Łomża, Wołkowysk, Grodno and Suwałki”. It was another attempt of creating a provincial daily paper of regional character. The first issue was published on the 17th of October, 1929. The circulation of the paper was 3,000 copies, 4 pages were printed in Białystok. Two first pages were devoted to the important political news from the country and the world, international economic situation, important cultural events, etc. Most frequently, these were the reprints from Warsaw, Vilnius, Lwów and Łódź magazines or the “telephonic” correspondences “from the regular representative in Warsaw”. The third page was the chronicle of the regional news from the towns mentioned in the subtitle. The last, fourth page contained local information. The main readers of the newspaper were to be the vast masses of workers and farmers from the eastern Poland’s area. Consequently, the paper contained the articles connected with the problems of work, unemployment, strikes and economic crisis. It encouraged the idea of the cooperative activity and published many interesting articles about the history and monuments of Białystok area to promote tourism. In October 1930, the daily paper was reorganized and it began to be published under the changed title: “Głos Obywatela Ziemi Białostockiej” [The Voice of the Citizen of Białystok Land]. This state of things was the result of withdrawing the donation by the Provincial Society “Lechia” and the takeover of the paper by its former editor, Antoni Faranowski. After only four issues the title was changed again to “Głos Ziemi Białostockiej” [The Voice of Białystok Land]. The daily paper stopped being published in the middle of November, 1931. It needs to be emphasized that it was the only newspaper in Białystok which had its mutation in Grodno. Holdings: The Library of the Higher Archdiocesan Seminary: 1930, nr 213; Provincial Archives: 1930, nr 83, nr 240.

Goniec Białostocki [Białystok Times], 1936, ed. Marian Józefowicz, publ. Irena Józefowiczowa. Printed in B. Huppertc’s printing plants, it contained only 4 pages of the text, the last of which included the local news. The paper was the mutation of Warsaw “Kurier Codzienny 5 groszy” [Daily Courier 5 Grosze]. “Białystok Times” was published between the 4th of January, 1936 and the 26th of November, 1936. It was an independent newspaper, as its editors frequently emphasized. The introductory article, meaningfully entitled “Where are we going”¹³, discussed the need of collaboration with the society and of promoting all ideas and initiatives which would serve the city and its inhabitants well. From the beginning, it started its campaign against tabloids interested in scandals and affairs. It argued with “Białystok Echo”, “The Latest News” and the

weekly paper "Tempo", it was disliked in the journalistic environment for its section "Fables and Satires" signed by Józef Mayer, who – similarly to La Fontaine – criticized the social relations in Białystok. "Times" soon had to resign from its ambitious scheme of forming the public opinion and introduced such articles as "Murder or Suicide", "Embezzlements", "Amazing Incident" or theft chronicle instead. After the 20th of January the paper gained an additional second page of the local news published in the form of a supplement. "The Movie Chronicle" discussing the new releases and the events from the actors' and film life was added. The last issue nr 51 was published on the 26th of November, 1936 without any editorial announcement about the liquidation of the paper. Holdings: Książnica Podlaska: 1936, nr 1-51 (microfilm).

Kurier Białostocki [Białystok Courier], 1921-1922, ed. Benedykt Filipowicz, publ. A. Garkiewicz. The first issue was published on the 17th of September, 1921, printed in the Polish Share Printing House Joint Stock Company with the circulation of 1000 copies. It was a regional daily newspaper, directed to the eastern provinces. The main catchword of the paper was: "All Poles – Everything for the Country" and "In the Union of the Poles the Power of Poland" – printed in every issue in the most visible spot. According to its programme, Courier contained much information on politics, connected with the situation in the Parliament, the crises in the Cabinet, the changes in the Government, foreign and home policy etc. During the plebiscite in the Upper and Cieszynski Silesia, Courier was extremely engaged in that issue and it published a number of articles about the past of Silesia and the Polish historical rights to this area.

The newspaper included also a literary page where the writings of local authors as well as the episode novels and stories, e.g. J. I. Kraszewski's *Grzechy hetmanskie* [The Hetman Sins] or Guy de Maupassant's *Ciocia Klucia* [Auntie Klotty] were published. The series of Jan Glinka's historical articles *Kartki z dziejow Białegostoku* [The Pages from Białystok's History] comprised a separate section. In December 1921 the daily paper became an official unit of Peasant-National Union and the function of the main editor was taken over by Wojciech Biega. From this moment, Courier stopped being an independent paper and it became the mutation of Warsaw "Courier" with the additional last page printed in Białystok. It was published until the 29th of November, 1922 in its new form. The last issue contained the information about selling the printing house and the temporary suspension of the paper. Holdings: University Library, 1921: nr 1-87, 1922: nr 1-29 (microfilm).

Kurier Białostocki [Białystok Courier], 1939, ed. and publ. Mikołaj Zdanowicz and Czesław Anczewicz. It began to be published on the 1st of May, 1939, after the end of "Białystok Echo". The first issue was edited with the same number of pages, graphic layout and circulation as the previously liquidated newspaper. Despite Zdanowicz's links and contact with "Echo", the new paper is regarded as the mutation of Warsaw "Kurier Poranny" [Morning Courier]. "Białystok Courier" quite visibly supported the "sanacja" block, promoting the concepts similar to those of the National Democracy. In July it became the mutation of "Kurier Łódzki" [Lodz Courier] for a short time, and after three weeks the mutation of Łódź "Echo. Białystok Courier" was published till the last day before the beginning of the war, but the issues nr 236-239 (28-31 August, 1939) did not contain any local news. Holdings: Książnica Podlaska: 1939 (microfilm).

Kurier Białostocki ABC [The “ABC” Białystok Courier], 1928, ed. and publ. Kazimierz Czernecki. It was the mutation of Warsaw “ABC” with the reprint of the last page in Białystok; the instrument of the National Party. On the 11th of March, 1928 it began publishing an interesting survey “What needs to be done for Białystok”. It came out against “sanacja” and newly founded BBWR; consequently, it was often confiscated and some articles were removed. The burglaries of the editorial office were also noted. Those incidents were strictly connected with the Parliament elections in March, 1928, during which the paper supported the candidates of the Polish Catholic Block. After the elections “Courier” was not published for several days. On the 11th of June it was taken over by Jan Sommer. The newspaper had been published with several breaks until the 31st of July when it was liquidated; later, in Białystok remained only its agency which sent the news from Białystok and the province to Warsaw. Holdings: Książnica Podlaska: 1928, nr 1-214 (microfilm), nr 1-7, 56, 79, 101, 212-213 are missing; 1928 several printed issues.

Białostocki Kurier Polski [Białystok Polish Courier], 1924-1925, main ed. Zygmunt Kaczorowski. The members of the editorial council were: Władysław Kolendo, Janina Komarnicka, Kostanty Kosiński, Władysław Olszyński and Stanisław Reinahard. In 1912 this group published the first magazine in the Polish language – “Białystok Newspaper”, and then “Białystok Daily Paper” from 1919 to the end of March, 1925. It was revived after one year and a half as a pro-governmental unit under the changed title “Białostocki Nowy Kurier Polski” [Białystok New Polish Courier], edited by Włodzimierz Grzybowski. It was published in Sz. Zbar’s printing plants with the circulation of 500 copies. The presence of “The Police Chronicle” and “The Tabloid News” on its pages constituted the negation of its predecessor’s programme and ideals, and the acceptance of cheap sensation and scandals, which could guarantee the interest of the readers. From the beginning of its existence, the paper opposed communist ideology. On the 23rd of August, 1926 the word “Białystok” was excluded from the title, so the new full name was “New Polish Courier” – a daily afternoon paper. “New Courier” was published for a short period of time till the 19th of September, 1926. Holdings: University Library, 1924, 1925 (microfilm).

Ostatnie Wiadomości [Latest News], 1935-1936, ed. Jan Pabjan. Published since the 15th of July, as the continuation of “Ostatnie Wiadomości Białostockie” [The Latest Białystok News] edited in the years 1930-1934, however, due to a number of reasons it may be regarded as a separate newspaper. The first Białystok issue had the subsequent number of its mother Warsaw paper. Since the 21st of December the newspaper called itself “an independent democratic daily paper”. It willingly presented the news concerned with the problems of the Jewish minority, while it strongly criticized the “revolver press” and its tendency to use human weaknesses. The paper was published till the 4th of April, 1936. Then, quite surprisingly, 5 single one-day’s papers were published instead of subsequent issues. Their author was Józef Kwiatkowski. Holdings: Książnica Podlaska: 1935, 15.07.-31.12.; 1936 nr 1-95, additionally, 5 single one-day’s papers (printed).

Robotnik Białostocki [Białystok Worker], 1937-1939, responsible eds. Kazimierz Kwieciński, Marian Pietruczuk, Władysław Zieliński, Waław Radulski and Bolesław Żongłowicz. It was the mutation of Warsaw “Robotnik” [Worker], published by the District Workers Committee PPS with the last local page. Printed in the Graphic Plants

“Phoenix”, it came out in the circulation of 1500 copies. The first issue was published on the 5th of September, 1937. It had the greatest number of subscribers and the whole circulation – quite big as for Białystok’s situation – was sold out daily. The local press, especially the competing “Białystok Echo” accused “Worker” of propagating communist ideas and using the Western Belarus Communist Party for its aims. *Worker* organized a campaign against other papers, using the catchphrase “Out with gutter press”, calling for the boycott of the National Democracy’s daily papers, especially “Białystok Echo”. Apart from social issues, it devoted much space to cultural subjects, publishing the reviews of theatre plays, interesting movies, new books, radio broadcasts etc. In January, 1939 the newspaper was faced with the press trial after having edited the article “A Few Words About the National Democracy Types”¹⁴. After a fierce argument, the judge acquitted “Worker” not finding anything offensive in its enunciations. It was published until the beginning of the II World War – the last issue came out on the 28th of August, 1939. Holdings: Książnica Podlaska: 1937, nr 94-123, nr 108 missing; 1938 nr 277-369, nr 288, 297, 303, 334 missing; 1939 nr 121-211, nr 203, 206 missing (microfilm).

Wiadomosci Białostockie [Białystok News], 1939, ed. and publ. Tadeusz Ruszcze-wski, the subtitle was: “The Morning Paper for Everyone”. It was first published on the 1st of January, 1939, as the mutation of Warsaw “The Latest News”, printed in M. Pruzański’s printing plant; only the last page contained the local news. It included such regular sections as: “From the Day”, “Today at the Cinemas”, “The Police Chronicle”, “The Pharmacies on Call”, “The Dead”. The paper had no true publicist ambi-tions, it limited its role to the informative one, which was openly emphasized in its publishing programme. In fact, it was not devoted to any social or political issues. It was rather a chronicle which noted all scandalizing and sensational events and incidents. It was published until the end of June, 1939. Despite its tabloid character, it did not gain the interest of the society and its activity had to be suspended. Holdings: Książnica Podlaska; 1939 (microfilm); 1939, nr 91-178 (printed).

CONCLUSION

Taking into consideration the presented list as well as the results of the research so far, it is possible to claim that, during the discussed period, about 35 daily papers in the Polish language (app.1) and 16 daily papers directed to the Jewish readers – 13 in Yiddish, 2 in Polish and 1 in Russian (app.2), were printed in Białystok. The greatest collections of Białystok press’ annuals can be found in the National Library in Warsaw and the Library of Warsaw University. The holdings of Białystok libraries are rather small, especially as regards the printed copies. A slightly greater number of issues was preserved in the form of microfilms gathered in Jerzy Giedroyc’s University Library and Książnica Podlaska.

From the total number of about 45 daily papers registered by Z. Sokół, the central catalogue of Białystok magazines includes 21 titles of daily press, which were edited during the period of the Second Republic of Poland. These are only the daily papers published solely in Polish, as the newspapers directed to the inhabitants of Jewish origin did not survive.

Due to the existing situation, the local circle of librarians is obliged to take the immediate action in order to preserve and complement the collections of regional newspapers. The first step taken in the University Library is making digital copies of the existing holdings. The microfilms from the University Library's collection are scanned in the laboratory of holdings digitalization. Next, the holdings of the other libraries which possess collections of regional press will undergo the same process. The Podlaska Digital Library will be soon brought to life within the framework of the Scientific Libraries Consortium created in 2004. The project is the common initiative of the scientific and cultural circle of the city of Białystok. The libraries belonging to Consortium will place their holdings in the digital form on the common equipment and programme platform, keeping them under the essential control as regards the principles of making them accessible, cataloguing, describing and actualizing. The electronic system will be based on the Polish programme dLibra, invented in Poznan Supercomputer and Net Centre and currently developed in the collaboration with Poznan Foundation of Scientific Libraries. The system will be placed on the computer server of Białystok Technical University. The entirety will be controlled and directed by the Library of UwB. Apart from the ones mentioned above, Książnica Podlaska as well as the libraries of the Higher Archdiocesan Seminary and the Branch of Warsaw Music Academy will take part in the realization of the enterprise. The Podlaska Digital Library will contain four collections:

Cultural Heritage, the digital copies of the most valuable antiquities of literature, cartographic collections, manuscripts, 19th century press, iconographic collections, Suprasl prints and old printed books will be placed there;

Regionals and the Documents of Social Life, registering the digital copies of documents about Podlasie located in the libraries of Warsaw, Cracow, Białystok as well as Belarus, Lithuania, the Ukraine and Russia, of **Białystok press from the years 1918-1939**, and the digital copies of leaflets, posters, invitations, exhibitions and fairs catalogues and other ephemera connected with Podlasie;

Scientific and Didactic, containing digital copies of study books and scripts for students, monographs, scientific articles, MA, PhD and Professor dissertations of the employees of Białystok universities taking part in the project;

Music Collections, it will contain the music scores, especially the unique ones.

As it can be seen in the presented description of PDL, the daily press of the years 1918-1939 will be placed in the Regionals collection.

The aim of the project is creating digital copies of the most valuable works preserved in the libraries, archives and museums of our region and prolonging their life. Thanks to PDL the wider access to source documents which are not commonly known due to their unique character and historical value (manuscripts, music scores, cartography, microfilms, old printed books) and to materials connected with the north-east of Poland kept both in the Polish libraries as well as the libraries of the neighbouring countries (Belarus, Lithuania, Russia and the Ukraine) will become easier.

The important task is also the complement of the holdings through establishing collaboration with the National Library. The negotiations concerning the arrangement of the costs, gaining the funds (EU projects, sponsors, city authorities) and transferring the missing materials to digital carriers and microfilms are essential.

The complement of the undertaken actions is a widely set informative action in the local media. We have asked our local community to give the University Library free of charge access to regional newspapers and magazines located in the private collections, in the form of gifts, deposits or hand them over for a set time to enable creating the copies.

In the Second Republic of Poland the local press constituted the most up-to-date source of information for Białystok community, served for the development of many social and cultural initiatives, actively promoted education, encouraged economic development, frequently propagated the ideas and platforms of political parties and local societies. Today it is an invaluable historical source, especially, taking into consideration that the archival materials devoted to Białystok of those days are almost non-existent. Restoring its existence in the common awareness is the way of preserving the memory about an important period in the history of the region.

Appendix 1. The titles of the Polish newspapers published in Białystok in the years 1919-1939 and their holdings.

The following abbreviations of the libraries' names were used:

- BAWSD – Biblioteka Archidiecezjalnego Wyższego Seminarium Duchownego w Białymstoku [The Library of the Higher Archdiocesan Seminary]
 BJ – Biblioteka Jagiellońska [The Jagiellon Library]
 BN – Biblioteka Narodowa [The National Library]
 BPm.st.W – Biblioteka Publiczna miasta st. Warszawy [The Public Library of the City of Warsaw]
 BS – Biblioteka Sejmowa [The Parliament Library]
 BU – Biblioteka Uniwersytecka im. Jerzego Giedroycia w Białymstoku [Jerzy Giedroyc's University Library in Białystok]
 BUW – Biblioteka Uniwersytecka w Warszawie [The Library of Warsaw University]
 KP – Książnica Podlaska [The Provincial Public Library]
 SGH – Biblioteka Szkoły Głównej Handlowej [The Library of the Main School of Trade]
 WBPiMTor – Wojewódzka Biblioteka Publiczna i Książnica Miejska im. M. Kopernika w Toruniu [The Provincial Public Library and M. Copernicus's City Library]
 WAP – Wojewódzkie Archiwum Państwowe w Białymstoku [The Provincial National Archives in Białystok]
 (mf) – microfilm

1. ABC. Białystok. Kurier Białostocki ("ABC". Białystok. Białystok Courier), ed. K. Czernecki 1928 / BN, BN(mf), BUW.
2. Białostocki Głos Codzienny [Białystok Daily Voice], ed. J. Antonowicz, 1926 / BU (mf), KP (mf), BN, BUW.
3. Białostocki Kurier Nowości [Białystok News Courier], eds. J. Michałowska, J. Jas-
kólski, 1933 /BU (mf), KP (mf), BN, BN(mf).

4. Białostocki Kurier Polski [Białystok Polish Courier], ed. Wł. Kolendo, 1924-1925 / BN, BUW.
5. Białostocki Nowy Kurier Polski [Białystok New Polish Courier], ed. Wł. Grzybowski, 1925-1926 / BU (mf), BUW (mf).
6. Białostockie Nowiny Codzienne [Białystok Daily News], ed. K. Babiński, 1933 / BU (mf), KP (mf), BN, WAP
7. Dziennik Białostocki [Białystok Daily], eds. Wł. Olsztyński, K. Kosiński, B. Filipowicz, 1919-1922 / BU (mf), BAWS, BN, BN(mf), BUW, BMm.st.W.
8. Dziennik Białostocki [Białystok Daily], ed. J. Ujejski, 1923-1939 / BU (mf), KP, KP (mf), BAWS, BN, BN (mf), BUW, BPm.st.W.
9. Echo Białostockie [Białystok Echo], eds. F. Nowakowski, A. Faranowski, 1931-1939 / BU (mf), BN, KP(mf 1935 -1939).
10. Express Białostocki [Białystok Express], ed. St. Kitlas, 1928 / BN.
11. Express Wieczorny [Evening Express], ed. P. Osiatyński, 1928 / BN.
12. Gazeta Białostocka [The Białystok Newspaper], ed. T. Morelowski, 1927 / KP (mf), BN, BN (mf), BUW.
13. Gazeta Białostocka Dzień Dobry [The "Good Morning" Białystok Newspaper], ed. J. Malinowski, 1931-1939 / KP (mf), BN, BN (mf).
14. Głos Obywatela [The Citizen's Voice], ed. A. Faranowski, 1929-1930 / KP (mf), WAP, BN, BN (mf).
15. Głos Ziemi Białostockiej [The Voice of Białystok Land], ed. J. Walawski, 1930-1931 / BN, BN (mf).
16. Goniec Białostocki [Białystok Times], eds. J. Józefowiczowa, M. Józefowicz, 1936 / KP (mf), BN.
17. Goniec Czerwony [The Red Times], the unit of TKKF, ed. T. Radwański, 1920 / KP (mf), BJ, BN (mf), BS.
18. Kurier Białostocki (I) [Białystok Courier] (I), ed. A. Gartkiewicz, 1921-1922 / BU, BN, BUW (mf).
19. Kurier Białostocki (II) [Białystok Courier] (II), ed. J. Ujejski, 1923 / BN.
20. Kurier Białostocki (III) [Białystok Courier] (III), ed. J. Jaskólski, 1933.
21. Kurier Białostocki (IV) [Białystok Courier] (IV), eds. M. Zdanowicz, Cz. Ancerewicz, 1939 / KP (mf), BN.
22. Kurier Białostocki ABC [The "ABC" Białystok Courier], ed. K. Czernecki, 1928 / KP (mf), BN (mf), BUW.
23. Kurier Podlaski [Podlasie Courier], ed. E. Platzek, 1936 / BN.
24. Kurier Polski w Białymstoku [The Polish Courier in Białystok], ed. M. Łotowski, 1924 / BU (mf), BUW, BUW (mf).
25. Nowe Echo Białostockie [The New Białystok Echo], ed. A. Faranowski, 1932 / BN.
26. Nowy Dziennik Białostocki [The New Białystok Daily], eds. A. Lubkiewicz, J. Żmudziński, Z. Minkiewicz, 1921-1922 / BU, KP (mf), AWD, BN, BN (mf), BUW.
27. Nowy Kurier Białostocki [The New Białystok Courier], ed. H. Stankiewicz, 1922 / BN, BUW.
28. Nowy Kurier Polski [The New Polish Courier], ed. S. Grostern, 1926 / BUW (mf).

29. Ostatnie Wiadomości [The Latest News], ed. J. Pabjan, 1935-1936 / KP (mf), BN.
30. Ostatnie Wiadomości Białostockie [The Latest Białystok News], eds. B. Ritter, Cz. Ancerewicz, 1930-1934 /BN.
31. Przedświt. Dziennik Socjalistyczny [The Dawn: Socialist Daily], ed. F. Nowakowski, 1928 / BN.
32. Robotnik Białostocki [Białystok Worker], ed. K. Kwieciński, 1937-1939 / KP (mf), BN, BN (mf).
33. Wiadomości Białostockie [Białystok News], ed. T. Ruszczewski, 1939 / KP (mf), BN.
34. Wiadomości Białostockiego Powiatowego Komitetu Wojenno-Rewolucyjnego [The News of the Białystok District Military and Revolutionary Committee], ed. I. Oszoros, 1920 / KP (mf), BJ, BN, BN (mf), BS.
35. Wiadomości Przedwyborcze (3 x tyg.) [Pre-election News; 3 times a week], ed. K. Koniński, 1927 / BN, BUW, WBPiM Toruń.

Appendix 2. The titles of the Jewish newspapers published in Białystok in the years 1919-1939 and their holdings

The following abbreviations of the libraries' names were used:

- BN – Biblioteka Narodowa [The National Library]
- BUW – Biblioteka Uniwersytecka w Warszawie [The Library of Warsaw University]
- BS – Biblioteka Sejmowa [The Parliament Library]
- ŻIH – Żydowski Instytut Historyczny [The Jewish Historical Institute – Library]
- (mf) – microfilm

1. Białystoker Telegraf [Białystok Telegraph], 1927-1928 / BN.
2. Białystoker Judiszer Kurier [Białystok Jewish Courier], eds. M. Wysocki, H. Kozak, 1931-1934 / ŻIH, ŻIH (mf).
3. Białystoker Kurier [Białystok Courier], ed. I. Stejnasapir, 1925-1928.
4. Dos Naje Lebn [The New Life], eds. P. Kapłan, A. Albek, 31 I 1919-7 IX 1939 / BN, BUW, ŻIH (mf).
5. Gut Morgn [Good Morning], ed. H. Kozak, 1933-1938.
6. Jidiszer Kurier [Jewish Courier], 1927-1928 / ŻIH.
7. Kresn Kurier [The Borderline Courier], ed. I. Szejnasapir, 1927 / ŻIH, ŻIH (mf).
8. Najer Białystoker Cajtung [The New Białystok Newspaper], ed. A. Ginzburg, 1937-1939 / BN.
9. Naje Cajtung [The New Newspaper], eds. I. Szejnasapir, I. Gurewicz, M.Frydman, 1933.
10. Unser Białystoker Ekspres [Our Białystok Express], eds. Mosze Wysoki, Hersz Kazar, 1934- 1939 / ŻIH.
11. Unser Lebn [Our Life], ed. P. Kapłan, responsible ed. J. Rubinlicht, 1931-1934 / BN, BUW, ŻIH.
12. Unser Ownt Cajtung, [Our Evening Newspaper], ed. I. Szejnasapir, 1933 / BN, BUW.

13. Unzer Cajtung [Our Newspaper], eds. I. Szejnasapir, I. Gurewicz, M. Frydman, 1936 / BN.
14. Dziś [Today], ed. M. Wadyas-Schonbrunn, 1932 [in the Polish language].
15. Piąta Rano w Białymstoku [5 a.m. in Białystok] red. 1933-1934 [in the Polish language] / BN.
16. Gołos Biełostoka [The Voice of Białystok], ed. J. Zeligman, 1919-1922, [in Russian] /BUW, BS.

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20. *Urzędowy Wykaz Druków Wydanych w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*, Warsaw 1929-1938.
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22. *Wiadomości statystyczne miasta Białegostoku za lata 1921-1928*, Białystok 1929.
23. *Wiadomości statystyczne miasta Białegostoku za lata 1929-1934*, vol. 1-2, Białystok 1935-1936.
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Footnotes

¹ Z. Sokół, *Czasopiśmiennictwo białostockie w latach 1918-1939*, in: *Studia i materiały do dziejów miasta Białegostoku*, ed. J. Antoniewicz i J. Joka, vol. 1, Białystok 1968, p. 381-429.

² M. Fuks, *Prasa żydowska w Białymstoku (1918-1939)*, "Biul. Żyd. Inst. Hist." 1988, no. 3/4, p. 145-152; "Stud. Podl." vol. 2 (1989), p. 240-249.

³ I. Czyżewska, *Białostocka prasa codzienna w języku polskim w latach 1935-1939*, Białystok 1986, MA thesis typescript; M. Karczmarczyk, *Początki polskiej prasy codziennej w Białymstoku 1919-1923*, MA thesis typescript.

⁴ W. Władyka, *Dzienniki w języku polskim w Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej (1918-1939). Zestaw tytułów*, "Rocz. Hist. Czas. Pol." 1975, vol. 14, issue 4, p. 495- 527; W. Władyka, *Prasa codzienna w Polsce (1918-1939). Charakterystyka statystyczna*, "Rocz. Hist. Czas. Pol." 1974, vol. 13, issue 1, p. [137]-153.

⁵ A. Notkowski, *Polska prasa prowincjonalna Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej (1918-1939)*, Warszawa-Łódź 1982; A. Paczkowski, *Prasa polska w latach 1918-1939*, Warszawa 1980.

⁶ *Białystok ilustrowany. Zeszyt pamiątkowy*, ed. A. Lubkiewicz, [Białystok 1921], s. 63-68; H. Mościcki, *Białystok. Zarys historyczny*, Białystok 1933, p. 189-190.

⁷ *Spis Gazet i Czasopism Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej oraz "Poradnik Reklamowy". Biuro Ogłoszeń Teofila Pietraszka*. Warszawa 1935-1939.

⁸ *Wiadomości statystyczne miasta Białegostoku za lata 1921-1928*, Białystok 1929; *Wiadomości statystyczne miasta Białegostoku za lata 1929-1934*, vol. 1-2., Białystok 1935-1936; *Wiadomości statystyczne miasta Białegostoku*, "Kwart. Statyst.", Białystok 1933-1938.

⁹ A. Notkowski, op. cit., p. 13-15.

¹⁰ H. Mościcki, op. cit., p.189-190.

¹¹ The characterization of contents was based on the analyses of the available press and the work of Z. Sokół, op. cit, p. 382-411.

¹² Zofia Sokół in her previously quoted work distinguishes three separate newspapers using the title *Białystok Daily*, whilst in the W. Władyka's register and A. Notkowski's publication these daily papers are treated as one. After the thorough analyses of particular annuals and the catalogues of the National Library and University Library in Warsaw it is advisable to distinguish two separate newspapers, as it was done in this list.

¹³ "Goniec Białostocki" 1936 no. 1, p. 1.

¹⁴ "Robotnik Białostocki" 1938 no. 362, p. 3.