

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY IN POLAND

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In the past, Iberian bibliography attracted only limited interest in Poland. In his extensive (33 vols.) *Bibliografia Polska* (1872–1939), Karol Estreicher included a good number of the Iberian titles that existed in Poland through the end of the nineteenth century; some useful cross-references may also be found in Gabriel Korbut's *Literatura Polska* (1929–31). Representative collections of old Spanish prints (already indexed), along with contemporary Polish translations of Iberian and Latin American works, are located at the National Library in Warsaw, and at the university libraries in Cracow and Warsaw.

By the time of the first Polish Republic (1918–39), announcements of the publication of books translated from foreign languages were confined to government-edited monthly listings and private literary bulletins; these, in addition to Estreicher's and Korbut's supplements, were the basis for the bibliographic search for Spanish and Latin American works. Their total number during that period did not exceed a few dozen mostly translations from Castillian literature, with only a sprinkling of Latin American works. Spanish-American literature at that period was represented by a handful of Argentine, Mexican, and Peruvian writers. Surprisingly, Polish translations of Brazilian literature were edited by Polish publishers in Brazil, as were Polish-Portuguese and Portuguese-Polish dictionaries and some travel and fiction books on Brazilian topics (in Polish), issued mostly in Curitiba. However, the bulk of Polish travel narrative and fiction on Latin America, as well as accounts about Polish settlers in Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Paraguay, and Mexico, appeared in Poland. It paved the way for Polish "exotic" and maritime literature, and continues to have avid readers there.

During the nineteenth century, great strides were made in the popularization of Hispanic literature and history in Poland. Most of the Castillian classic authors—Cervantes, Lope de Vega, Calderón de la Barca, Tirso de Molina, Quevedo, Góngora and others—were translated into Polish. Notwithstanding the Polish readers' addiction to exotic topics, only a few native Latin American literary works came out of the Polish presses. They were, however, compensated for by a few dozen "tropical" travel stories describing South America, which, at the end of the nineteenth century, was attracting Polish mass immigration. The fictional prose was enhanced by a number of serious works on South American ethnology, botany, geography, geology, and ornithology written by scientist-explorers such as Ignacy Domeyko, Konstanty Jelski, Władysław Kluger, Józef Siemiradzki, Jan Sztolcman, and Józef Warszawicz. Works on Latin

America increased in number in the period between the wars, attracting more Polish travelers and writers.

After World War II, Polish interest in foreign literature increased immensely. Among translations of foreign works, native Latin American prose achieved an unprecedented popularity. This was undoubtedly due to its topical exoticism, as well as to the intellectual "hunger" that existed in Poland during the German-Soviet occupation. This literary "boom" resulted in the publication of nearly three hundred books on Iberian and Latin American topics during the last thirty-odd years. It also forced Polish publishers to seek more competent translators, making Spanish and Portuguese in a literary sense as "popular" as French, English, German, or Russian. Individual Latin American fiction writers have now achieved various degrees of popularity in Poland: Mexican authors are the most widely translated, followed by the Argentines, Cubans, and Venezuelans; Portuguese-writing authors of Brazil are also well known. In all, about 120 Latin American and Iberian writers have an impressive number of Polish translations, some having several editions, especially the Spanish American novels of "magic realism" by such authors as Asturias, Aguilera-Malta, García Márquez, Vargas Llosa, Arreola, Carpentier, Cortázar, Borges, Cabrera Infante, and Bioy Casares.

So far, little has been done to centralize bibliographically the increasing number of these Spanish and Portuguese translations, the majority of which embrace Latin American narrative and occasionally poetry. Nor has this been attempted for other works on Latin America, whether written in Polish or translated. Useful bibliographic information on Polish translation of foreign literature is, however, to be found in the 1977 edition of *Bibliografia Literatary Tłumaczonej na Język Polski Wydanej w Latach 1945–1976* (*Bibliography of Literature Translated into Polish, Published in 1945–1976*), edited by Halina Michalak and published under the sponsorship of the National Library in Warsaw. Current information is also contained in the fortnightly review, *Nowe Książki*, and occasionally in other literary magazines.

John Sarnacki, a Polish-American Hispanist, recently undertook the indexing of Latin American and Iberian works translated into Polish, as well as Polish literature and history translated into Spanish and Portuguese. His *Latin American Literature and History in Polish Translation* (Port Huron, Mich., 1973), now in preparation for its second edition (1980) lists over four thousand books, topical essays, and articles, and also includes selected "Polonica" on a variety of subjects covering several centuries and countries. Sarnacki also indexed Urbanski's Polish-Latin American book collection, established at the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America (PIASA) in 1975, for the use of researchers interested in Polish contributions to Iberian and Latin American civilization. Three other attempts to list contemporary Latin American literature, history, and ethnology translated into Polish, and Polish books on similar subjects published in Spanish and Portuguese, are "Polonica Hispano-Americana" by E. S. Urbanski (MS, Washington, D.C., 1975), which has eighteen hundred entries in Spanish, Portuguese, and Polish, from the Iberian peninsula, Latin America, and Poland; "Materiały do Bibliografii: Polonica Ameryki Łacińskiej" (Buenos Aires, 1975) by

Albert Bukiet, with two thousand entries in Spanish, Portuguese, and Polish, based partly on book holdings at the Ignacy Domeyko Library of the Polish Union in Argentina; and "Polonica Brasileira" (MS, New Britain, Conn., 1970) with several hundred Portuguese and Polish listings, gathered by bibliophile Jan Wójcik, during his twenty-year sojourn in Brazil.

The first step towards centralization of Latin American bibliographic data in Poland is *Bibliografia Polskiej Literatury Latynoamerykanistycznej 1945–1977* (*Bibliography of Polish Latinamericanist Literature 1945–1977*), compiled by Ryszard Schnepf and Krzysztof Smolana (Warsaw, 1978). Among its two thousand entries prevail topical articles and journalistic essays rather than books. Significant historic source and cross-reference bibliographic information can be found in Bolesław Olszewicz's *Poland and the Discovery of America* (Warsaw, 1957), in Janusz Tazbir's several works, among which the most noteworthy is *Odkrycie Ameryki i konkwista w literaturze staropolskiej* (*Discovery and Conquest of America in old Polish Literature*), published in Warsaw in 1970, and in Romuald Wróblewski's *Znajomość Ameryki w Polsce okresu Odrodzenia* (*Knowledge of America in Renaissance Poland*, Warsaw, 1977), to mention only a few.

The many hundreds of listings in these works reveal a cognizance of the New World in Commonwealth Poland, through the accounts of the Spanish and Portuguese explorations and colonization of America. These early accounts influenced in varying degrees religious disputes during the Reformation-Counter Reformation period in Poland; e.g., the dispute as to whether Indians in Ibero-American countries should be Christianized by other than Spanish missionaries captured the Polish Protestants' imagination. Above all, they precipitated the development of the printing industry in Renaissance Poland, for hundreds of "dissident" pamphlets were published. Polish travelers in Iberian countries during the Golden Age supplied the early book holdings in Poland's universities and private collections. These collections are enhanced by private correspondence from Polish diplomats in Madrid with some outstanding figures of Latin America's conquest, as was the case of Jan Dantyszek (Ioannis Dantiscus) with Hernán Cortés, the bold conqueror of Mexico. Iberian prints also were a part of the Polish cultural patrimony; unfortunately, they became victims of war pillages of the seventeenth century (Sweden), eighteenth-century invasions (Prussia, Russia, Austria), and especially the Nazi devastation during World War II. Notwithstanding, many prints remained in private and ecclesiastic collections, some of which are already indexed and undoubtedly will attract the scholarly attention of Polish Hispanists and Latin Americanists.

Between the wars, Iberian studies—both language and literature—with only minimum attention to Latin American affairs, were included in the programs of the nine existing Romanic departments at seven universities. Occasional lectures or courses in Latin American literature were given, but the main emphasis was on Castillian belles-lettres. Polish scholars active in the field had to divide their efforts among the whole Spanish-speaking world as a cultural unit, just as is still the case at some U.S. universities. Nevertheless, several essays on South American topics appeared, among them a pioneer monograph, *Spanish American Literature* (Warsaw, 1933) by Józef Dzierżykraj-Morawski, and

Stanisław Wędkiewicz staged a university-wide campaign in Poland under the motto "Iberian and Hispanic American studies are a neglected field of the Humanities." Among the few dedicated translators of Spanish American letters Edward Boyé stands out; and Józef Stańczewski published a monograph *Druki Portugalskie i Brazylijskie o Polsce (Portuguese and Brazilian Works on Poland)* in Poznań, in 1929.

Upon resumption of academic life in Poland after World War II, the old and newly established universities reintroduced Iberian languages. The first Department of Iberian and Latin American Studies in Poland was established in 1972 at the University of Warsaw. In addition to instruction in Spanish and Portuguese, it also offers Catalán, Basque, and Quechua as a second language for its graduate students in philology. In 1975, graduate courses in Castilian, Spanish American, Brazilian, and Portuguese literature and history were added in their respective languages, some offered by native Iberian and Latin American professors. In spite of its recentness, as well as insufficient faculty and library holdings, Warsaw's Iberian Studies Center is dynamic and performs a useful task in furthering cultural relations between Poland and the Hispanic-Lusitanian world. Within the framework of the Romanistic program, Iberian studies are also cultivated at the universities of Cracow and Wrocław (more details on programs for Iberian and Latin American studies and their development in Poland are in E. S. Urbanski's article "Nowy Kierunek," *Polityka* [weekly], no. 17 Warszawa, 1978).

Quite active in the Latin American field is the Warsaw-based Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN). Engaged exclusively in research, it sponsored in 1978 the Fifth Meeting of European Historians of Latin America at Copernicus University, Toruń. This meeting included an exhibition of Polish books dealing with Latin America during the last hundred years; it offered proof of the rather lively relations between the two areas, sustained by the flow of Polish migration there. The meeting's topic was Europe's image of Latin America in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Serious research on the contribution of Poles to Latin America's development is still a neglected field in Polish historiography; a certain amount of information on the activities of Poles in Brazil and Argentina is available, but little or nothing is known about those who lived in Mexico, Central America, Cuba, Peru, Colombia, etc.

As a result of its research program, the Institute released in 1977 the first volume of *The History of Latin America* (in Polish) under the editorship of T. Lepkowski. It also produces a scholarly review edited in Spanish, *Estudios Latinoamericanos*, which has been published annually since 1972. It prints articles on the ethnographic, historic, and social problems of Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking America, presented from the viewpoint of Marxist ideology, and gives account of the Latin American activities of the Institute's members and associates. Articles on Iberian and Latin American matters also appear in the bilingual reviews: *Monumenta Poloniae Historica*, *Ethnologia Polona*, *Geographia Polona*, and *Sprawy Międzynarodowe (International Affairs)*, all edited in Warsaw. Another sign of the consolidation of interdisciplinary interests has been the establishment of the Polskie Towarzystwo Studiów Latynoamerykanistycznych (Polish Associa-

tion of Latin American Studies) in Warsaw, in December 1978; it is hoped that this fledgeling organization will intensify scholarly interest in Latin America. A useful role in the intellectual popularization of the Hispanic-Lusitanian world, which also embraces Latin American achievements, is likewise performed by the Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Kultury Iberyjskiej (Society of Friends of the Iberian Culture) and Towarzystwo Polsko-Brazylijskie "Ruy Barbosa" (Polish-Brazilian Society "Ruy Barbosa"), engaged in organizing public lectures on cultural topics; both organizations are located in Warsaw. The Polish press also fosters interest in Latin American affairs, and its correspondents give relatively extensive coverage of political and social events, presented from the socialist perspective; Cuba, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, Mexico and Central America are "favorite" countries.

Latin American studies in contemporary Poland are developing steadily, with concentration on Mexico, Venezuela, and Brazil. The University of Warsaw's Department of Iberian and Latin American Studies maintains close intellectual contact with the aforementioned as well as other Latin American countries. Due to an interuniversity agreement, every year Mexico sends lecturers to Poland, but occasionally professors from other countries (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela) deliver guest lectures there. Two U.S. professors (E. S. Urbanski, H. Ziomek) with Latin American or Hispanic specialties visited the University of Warsaw for extended periods to help the promotion of these disciplines. The publication of "readers" and anthologies of Spanish American and Brazilian literature by the University of Warsaw was a positive scholarly step.

The Department of Iberian and Latin American Studies in Warsaw has an enrollment of approximately 250 students. They complete an intensive language program in Spanish or Portuguese that requires ten hours of instruction per week for three years; this training enables them to attend lectures and seminars of their chosen specialty in these Iberian languages. Over 60 percent of the faculty are native Spanish- or Portuguese speakers. Presentation of M.A. theses is obligatory. The department's library holds approximately ten thousand volumes, generously donated by various Latin American governments or cultural institutions. Exchange of publications between Polish and Latin American universities is constantly intensified, just as attempts are also made to exchange students; in the course of graduate studies many students are able to improve their language skills in Spain, Portugal, and Cuba.