

SUMMARY

The doctoral dissertation "The Japanese, Russian and Polish Surroundings of Bronisław Piłsudski" is part of a long-term project aimed at restoring the legacy of Bronisław Piłsudski, coordinated by the ICRAP (International Committee for the Restoration and Assessment of Bronisław Piłsudski's Scholarly Legacy). The dissertation responds to the need to fill gaps in knowledge concerning Bronisław Piłsudski's international literary contacts. Bronisław was a pioneer in building Polish-Japanese literary and scholarly relations during the Meiji era in Japan (1868–1912), at a time when Poland was under partition.

The first chapter introduces the circumstances under which Bronisław Piłsudski's international contacts came into being. Bronisław's worldview took shape through his experience of life among the impoverished Lithuanian nobility in his family home in Zułów, later in the austere setting of Russian education in Saint Petersburg, and during his exile to Sakhalin for alleged involvement in a plot to assassinate Tsar Alexander III. In Japan, where he encountered a high degree of cultural difference, he became acquainted with Japanese people involved in social, emancipation-focused, as well as anarchist and revolutionary movements. Due to the increasingly tense political climate in the world, he decided to return to Poland via America, and in Zakopane became active in folklorist circles.

The second chapter presents the literature that shaped Bronisław Piłsudski during his childhood and youth. The analysis concerns the patriotic reading choices of Bronisław's mother, the agricultural and economic publications read by his father, as well as the satires, novels, and socialist writings that circulated in Polish households under the partitions. The chapter includes a detailed list of literary and press titles mentioned by Bronisław in his youth diary. These were materials read by Bronisław, his family, and his closest circle of friends.

The third chapter presents Bronisław Piłsudski's contacts with the most crucial figures in the Russian literary and academic world, the most recognisable among them being Anton Chekhov. It also addresses numerous mentions of Bronisław's Sakhalin-related activities, included by his fellow exile Ivan Yuvachov in his multi-volume diaries. These diaries are a record of the trauma of a Sakhalin prisoner.

The fourth chapter concerns Piłsudski's cultural and journalistic activity in Japan. It is also an analysis of his extensive network of contacts composed of Japanese social activists, journalists, and writers. The chapter includes descriptions of 23 individuals significant to the Japanese literary world, with whom Piłsudski either shared close personal ties or referred to in his publications for specific reasons.

The fifth chapter describes Bronisław Piłsudski's literary acquaintances in Galicia, with particular emphasis on the families of Stefan Żeromski and Wacław Sieroszewski. The chapter cites the extensive correspondence between Bronisław and the Żeromski family, from which one may infer a growing closeness between both sides. Through the lens of these letters, Bronisław's understanding of colonialism is also presented.

The sixth chapter presents a correspondence dispute between the Polish intellectual and author of historical publications Ludwik Janowski and Bronisław. In the background of this dispute, intensifying conflicts between Polish and Lithuanian circles become visible, as new national identities were taking shape among nations oppressed by the Russian Empire.

The seventh chapter discusses literary and artistic inspirations drawn from the figure of Bronisław Piłsudski. The creators mentioned include both contemporaries of Bronisław and modern authors. Among them are Poles, Russians, Japanese, Yakuts, and Ainu. The chapter shows how Piłsudski remains a valued and inspiring figure for creators engaged with themes of cultural and personal identity.

The seven chapters are concluded with reflections on the significance of Bronisław Piłsudski and figures like him in times of great instability and transformation – both in the era of the partitions and in the contemporary world.

The dissertation includes an appendix presenting the results of a survey on the public recognition of Bronisław Piłsudski in Poland. A total of 672 individuals responded, differing in gender, age, place of residence, and level of education.

The dissertation concludes with a bibliography and a detailed index, which includes the dates and places of birth and death of the individuals mentioned in the text. Japanese kanji renderings have also been provided for the names of persons from Japan, as well as for all Japanese titles and terms appearing in the dissertation.

Keywords: Bronisław Piłsudski, Futabatei Shimei, Wacław Sieroszewski, Meiji-era Japan, emancipation literature, Polish-Japanese literary collaboration, exile literature, memoir literature, Polish and Lithuanian artistic circles of the 19th and 20th centuries, works inspired by Bronisław Piłsudski

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