

Memory of the World International Register

Collections of the 19th century of the Polish Historical and Literary Society / Polish Library in Paris / Adam Mickiewicz Museum
(Poland)

2012-26

1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

The Polish Library in Paris (Bibliothèque Polonaise de Paris—BPP) was created in 1838 by Polish political émigrés who had found shelter in the French capital. This is where they could carry on various actions aiming at gaining back the independence of the State which had been lost at the end of the 18th century. Led by the wave of ideologies linked to independence and people's freedom movements arisen in Europe in the early 19th century, it was established as a peaceful form aiming at fighting for freedom and independence.

In the 19th century, Europe built places of memory such as libraries and archives in the independence States. At that time, the BPP acted as a means of substitution and continuity of the institutions destroyed by the foreign forces occupying the Polish territories.

It came to birth thanks to the efforts carried out by the émigrés and the support of European intellectual elites as well as the authorities of the French State. The latter felt involved in the idea originating the creation of the BPP and they supported the action of a nation whose fight for independence, during the Uprising of 1831, had moved many European nations, aroused their admiration and strengthened their own aspirations for independence.

The Polish Library gathered the scattered sources which enabled to document the history of Poland, along with the publications carried out by the emigration. It kept the legacy brought by the émigrés as well as the archives of the institutions they created in France.

It represented a fight for independence by collecting the national documentary heritage—although there was no Polish State—through the affirmation of national memory and identity and through the international solidarity supporting the cultural actions of the émigrés. It was also a place which disseminated knowledge on *the Polish question*, one of the main political issues in Europe in the 19th century.

Therefore, the Polish Library is characterized by the fact that it could embody and raise awareness of a fight for independence which could embrace the creation of institutions dedicated to culture and art.

Based on the Right in France, the Polish Library in Paris is the oldest non-French library, located on the banks of the Seine. It has existed ceaselessly since it was created. Its collections have been established at the same place for more than 150 years and they are still run by the circles of the Polish emigration and the independent Poland.

2.0 Nominator

2.1 Name of nominator – person or organization

Polish Committee of UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme and Polish Historical and Literary Society

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Property of the Association de la Bibliothèque Polonaise de Paris (published in the Official Journal n°33 of 08/16/2003, registration n°1209, page n°4370, date of the declaration: July 10th, 2003).

Mister C. Pierre Zaleski – President of the Association de la Bibliothèque Polonaise de Paris

2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)

Mister C. Pierre Zaleski – President of the Association de la Bibliothèque Polonaise de Paris and President of the Polish Historical and Literary Society

Miss Danuta Dubois – Director of the Polish Library in Paris

2.4 Name and contact details

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
<i>Polish Historical and Literary Society</i>	<i>6 quai d'Orléans 75004 Paris</i>

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2.5 Declaration of authority

I certify that I have the authority to nominate the documentary heritage described in this document to the International Memory of the World Register.

Signature	Full name (please PRINT) Institution(s), if appropriate Władysław Stępniaak, President of the Polish Committee of UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme Date 30/30/2012
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3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage

3.1 Name and identification details of the item being nominated

If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given

In this part of the form you must describe the document or collection in sufficient detail to make clear precisely what you are nominating. Any collection must be finite (with beginning and end dates) and closed.

Here are the choices of the collections of the Polish Historical and Literary Society, the Polish Library in Paris and the Adam Mickiewicz Museum, illustrating the step 3.4 of the form:

- Collections of manuscripts from the 16th century to the 19th century, including Acts of State dating back to the 19th century, archives of the Great Emigration in France, archives of the Polish émigrés in France in the 19th and 20th centuries;
- Manuscripts of the Adam Mickiewicz Museum (19th century);
- Legal and political incunabula (15th century), old books (from the 16th century to the 18th century), collections of books dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries (Fonds Ancien) which account for about 120,000 copies;
- Iconographical collections dating back to the 19th century, including photographs;
- Map collections dating back to the 19th century.

3.2 Catalogue or registration details

Depending on what is being nominated, appending a catalogue can be a useful way of defining a collection. If this is too bulky or impractical, a comprehensive description accompanied by sample catalogue entries, accession or registration numbers or other ways of defining a collection's size and character can be used.

- Katalog rękopisów Muzeum Adama Mickiewicza w Paryżu, oprac. Adam Lewak; przedm. poprzedził Franciszek Pułaski; Polska Akademia Umiejętności. Biblioteka Polska w Paryżu. Adres wydawniczy, Kraków: Polska Akademia Umiejętności, 1931
(Catalogue of the manuscripts of the Adam Mickiewicz Museum in Paris, listed by Adam Lewak; foreword by Franciszek Pułaski; Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters. Polish Library in Paris. Publishing address, Cracow: Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters, 1931)
- Katalog rękopisów Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu. T. 1, Rękopisy nr 1-431, [Oprac] Czesław Chowaniec, Kraków: Biblioteka Polska w Paryżu, 1939
(Catalogue of the manuscripts of the Polish Library in Paris. T. 1, Manuscripts n°1-431, [listed by] Czesław Chowaniec, Cracow: Polish Library in Paris, 1939)
- Katalog rękopisów Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu. T. 1, Rękopisy nr 1-431: Indeks, oprac. Czesław Chowaniec i Irena Gałęzowska; przygotował do druku Janusz Pezda, Paryż: Biblioteka Polska w Paryżu, 1995

(Catalogue of the manuscripts of the Polish Library in Paris. T. 1, Manuscripts n°1-431: Index, listed by Czesław Chowaniec and Irena Gałęzowska; written by Janusz Pezda, Paris: Polish Library in Paris, 1995)

- Katalog rękopisów Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu. T. 2, Inwentarz rękopisów Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu, Rękopisy nr 432-545: Oprac. Czesław Chowaniec, Irena Gałęzowska, Wstęp: Edward Borowski, Indeks: Ryszard Matura. Paryż: Biblioteka Polska w Paryżu, 1986
(Catalogue of the manuscripts of the Polish Library in Paris. T. 2, Inventory of the manuscripts of the Polish Library in Paris, Manuscripts n°432-545: Listed by Czesław Chowaniec and Irena Gałęzowska, Introduction: Edward Borowski, Index: Ryszard Matura. Paris: Polish Library in Paris, 1986).
- Katalog rękopisów Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu. T. 2, Rękopisy nr 432-545: Oprac. Czesław Chowaniec i Irena Gałęzowska; uzupełn., przygot. do dr., zredagował, sporządził indeks i poprzedził przedm. Marek P. Prokop, Paryż: Biblioteka Polska, 1994
(Catalogue of the manuscripts of the Polish Library in Paris. T. 2, Listed by Czesław Chowaniec and Irena Gałęzowska, Manuscripts n°432-545: Additional information, writing, index and foreword: Marek P. Prokop, Paris: Polish Library, 1994)
- Katalog rękopisów Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu. T. 5, Instytucja "Czci i Chleba", Nr 664-755 [Oprac. Jan Skarbek, Jan Ziótek. Przedmowę napisał Jerzy Mond], Lublin; Paryż: [Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski]: [Biblioteka Polska], 1990
(Catalogue of the manuscripts of the Polish Library in Paris; T. 5, Institution "Honour and Bread", N°664-755 [listed by Jan Skarbek, Jan Ziótek. Foreword by Jerzy Mond], Lublin; Paris: [Catholic University in Lublin]: [Polish Library], 1990)
- Katalog rękopisów Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu. T. 6, Archiwum Czarotoryskich – Hôtel Lambert: Sygnatury 760-1135, Oprac. Janusz Pezda; Towarzystwo Historyczno-Literackie w Paryżu, Paryż: Biblioteka Polska w Paryżu; Warszawa: Biblioteka Narodowa, 1996
(Catalogue of the manuscripts of the Polish Library in Paris. T. 6, Archives Czarotoryski – Hôtel Lambert: shelf marks 760-1135, Listed by Janusz Pezda; Polish Historical and Literary Society in Paris, Paris: Polish Library in Paris; Warsaw: National Library, 1996)
- Katalog rękopisów Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu. T. 7, Sygnatury 1136-1359, Oprac. Maria Gamdzyk-Kluźniak [et al.]; Towarzystwo Historyczno-Literackie w Paryżu, Biblioteka Narodowa w Warszawie, Paryż: Biblioteka Polska w Paryżu; Warszawa: Biblioteka Narodowa, 1996
(Catalogue of the manuscripts of the Polish Library in Paris, T. 7, Shelf marks 1136-1359, Listed by Maria Gamdzyk-Kluźniak [et al.]; Polish Historical and Literary Society in Paris, National Library in Warsaw, Paris: Polish Library in Paris; Warsaw: National Library, 1996)

- Katalog rękopisów Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu. T. 8, Archiwum administracyjne Towarzystwa Literackiego, Wydziału Statystycznego, Wydziału Historycznego, Towarzystwa Historycznego, Towarzystwa Historyczno-Literackiego i Biblioteki Polskiej z lat 1832-1893, Rękopisy nr 1360-1705, Oprac. Janusz Pezda, Marek P. Prokop; Towarzystwo Historyczno-Literackie w Paryżu, Polska Akademia Umiejętności, Paryż: Biblioteka Polska; Kraków: Polska Akademia Umiejętności, 2006
(Catalogue of the manuscripts of the Polish Library in Paris. T. 8, administrative archives of the Literary Society, the Department of Statistics, the Department of History, the Historical Society, the Historical and Literary Society and the Polish Library from 1832 to 1893, Manuscripts n° 1360-1705, Listed by Janusz Pezda, Marek P. Prokop, Polish Historic and Literary Society in Paris, Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters, Paris: Polish Library; Cracow: Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters, 2006)

- Archiwum Zygmunta Lubicz Zaleskiego w zbiorach Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu: informator o zasobie, Oprac. Urszula Klatka przy współpr. Grzegorza Fulary [et al.]; pod red. Moniki Jaglarz i Urszuli Klatki; Polska Akademia Umiejętności. Kraków: Polska Akademia Umiejętności, 2011
(The archives of Zygmunt Lubicz Zaleski in the collections of the Polish Library in Paris: fund guide, Listed by Urszula Klatka in collaboration with Grzegorz Fulara [et al.]; writing: Monika Jaglarz and Urszula Klatka; Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters. Cracow: Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters, 2011)

- Inwentarz Archiwum Izby Obrachunkowej Powstania Styczniowego, Oprac. Edward Borowski, Towarzystwo Historyczno-Literackie (Paryż), Polski Ośrodek Wydawniczy – POW, 1987
(Inventory of the Archives of the Accounting Chamber of the January Uprising, Listed by Edward Borowski, Polish Historical and Literary Society (Paris), POW, 1987)

- Album Musical Marii Szymanowskiej, Opr. i wstęp: Renata Suchowiejko, Musica Iagellonica, Société Historique et Littéraire Polonaise de Paris, Kraków, 1999
(Musical album by Maria Szymanowska, Inventorization and introduction: Renata Suchowiejko, Musica Iagellonica, Polish Historical and Literary Society in Paris, Cracow, 1999)

Furthermore, there are some detailed descriptions and partial inventories of large amounts of archives as yet unpublished or already published—e.g. in the *Actes de la Société Historique et Littéraire Polonaise de Paris*—which can be consulted by researchers, as well as a paper filing system of the collection of the books named *Fonds Ancien*.

3.3 Visual documentation if appropriate (for example photographs or DVDs of the documentary heritage)

It is useful to append photographs (or in the case of audiovisual material a CD, DVD, USB key of all or some of the material), where this adds additional information, to help the assessors visualize or listen to the collection or document.

Along with this nomination form, you can find a CD with examples illustrating the content of the collections.

3.4 History/provenance

Describe what you know of the history of the collection or document. Your knowledge may not be complete, but give the best description you can.

The history of the Polish Historical and Literary Society (SHLP) and the Polish Library in Paris begins after 1831, and more precisely after the failure of one of the two major Polish national uprisings against the Russian occupiers that took place in the 19th century. At that time, a wave of political refugees made up of soldiers, officials, generals, politicians, writers and artists—they accounted for about 6,000 people—arrived in France. They were named the *Great Emigration*. Various organizations of émigrés—mainly political, military and mutual aid organizations—were rapidly created. However, there was a growing recognition by the Polish elites in exile of the need for an institution which would collect the historical mementoes, the sources of the history of Poland and the old and contemporary publications regarding Poland. The objective of this institution would be to oppose to the Russification of the Polish culture in the part of the territory annexed by Russia and to the Germanization in the territories annexed by Prussia and Austria, the presentation of forms specific to the Polish culture as well as a Polish political thought in the European context. At first, the émigrés created learned societies such as the Society of Scientific Help (1832), the Literary Society (1832), and then its Historical Department (1836) and its Statistics Department (1838), and the Polytechnic Society. Each one included its own collections. The Literary Society turned out to be the most significant and the most sustainable. Its first President was Adam Czartoryski, former President of the National Government of the Uprising of 1831 and prominent European politician. In 1854, the Literary Society and the Historical Society were combined, creating the Polish Historical and Literary Society which still exists today.

On September 24th, 1838, a group of émigrés, headed by Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz and Karol Sienkiewicz, created the Polish Public Library which collected the collections previously established by the Historical and Literary Society, the Historical Department and the Society of Scientific Help. In 1832, Aleksander Gołyński and Leon Wodziński put forward the idea of creating a library. The following year, a similar appeal was addressed to “all the civilized nations” by General Lafayette and the Society of Civilization. The latter condemned the destruction of the libraries in Warsaw, Vilnius, Krzemieniec and other cities by the Russian occupier as well as the relocation of the scientific collections in St-Petersburg, decided by the government of Tsar Nicolas I. The manifesto of the Society of Civilization also asked for the creation of a library in Paris and a documentation center dedicated to Poland. The most prominent representatives of the political and cultural life in France supported the creation of this place such as Daniel de Saint-Antoine, Pierre David d’Angers, Camille Odilon-Barrot, Edouard Bignon, Lazare Hippolyte

Carnot, Alphonse de Lamartine, Charles de Montalembert, Edgar Quinet, Alfred de Vigny, Félicité de Lamennais, Jean Henri Burgaud des Marets, Charles Augustin Sainte-Beuve, Abel-François Villemain. The project was also supported by English intellectuals such as Lord Dudley Coutts Stuart, Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, Thomas Campbell, Robert Cutlar Fergusson, and other personalities such as the American writer James Fenimore Cooper, the German historian Richard Otto Spazier, the Italian patriot Giuseppe Poerio and his son Alessandro, a poet.

Those who initiated the project wanted the library to perform the duties of archives and exiled national library but it turned out to be a center of Polish culture receiving precious donations of books, documents and manuscripts. Among the donors, we can find prominent French personalities such as Ch. De Montalembert, A. Lacaussade, J. Michelet, E. Quinet, F. de Lasteyrie, F. de Money and some ministers of the French government. As the collections grew rapidly, requiring proper premises, it became urgent to acquire a headquarters for the library. Money was raised among the emigrants. Thus, in 1854, the funds collected as well as a loan from Credit Foncier de France allowed to buy a building located at 6, Quai d'Orléans, which still houses the collections of the Polish Library today. The Historical and Literary Society, which became afterwards the Polish Historical and Literary Society, was given the task of running the Library. Among its members are some prominent personalities of the Polish army, romantic poets, politicians or world renowned men related to culture such as General Józef Bem, Frédéric Chopin, poets like Juliusz Słowacki, the historian Joachim Lelewel, General Henryk Dembiński, Aleksander Walewski (the son of Napoléon I and Maria Walewska who became minister of Foreign Affairs during the Second Empire), Ignacy Domeyko, Albert Grzymała, Ludwik Plater, Karol Sienkiewicz, Adam Mickiewicz, Józef Ignacy Kraszewski, Aleksander Fredro, Krzysztof Celestyn Mrongowiusz, Ludwik Wołowski, Charles Edmond Chojecki. Among the members, some French personalities could also be found such as Alphonse d'Herbelot, Marc-Antoine Jullien, called "Jullien de Paris", Henri Burgaud des Marets, Marc Girardin, called "Saint-Marc Girardin", Abel-François Villemain, Lazare Hippolyte Carnot, Edouard Bignon, Camille Odilon-Barrot, Henri Martin, Charles de Montalembert and Prince Eugène d'Harcourt. Among its supporters, we can mention Marquis Marie Joseph de La Fayette, Jules Michelet, Alfred de Vigny, George Sand and Prosper Mérimée. Some Englishmen such as Lord Dudley Coutts Stuart, Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, Adolphe Bach and Henry Reeve, the Scottish Thomas Campbell and Robert Cutlar Fergusson, the American James Fenimore Cooper, the Italians Giuseppe Poerio and his son Alessandro, the Belgians Edouard Ducpétiaux and Félix de Mérode, the Croats Antonio Sorgo (also Antun Sorkočević), Franjo Rački or Bishop Josip Juraj Strossmayer, the Czech priest Václav Štulc and the Germans Karl von Rotteck and Carl Theodor Welcker, all became members of the SHLP.

Thanks to these personalities, the Historical and Literary Society rapidly became a center for intellectual exchanges which played an essential role in the creation of the liberation movements of the 19th century and the intellectual life of Paris. For this reason, the collections of the Library bear witness to the intellectual movements and streams which influenced the destiny of Europe in the second half of the 19th century and in the 20th century.

When it was created, the Polish Library, which opened to the public in 1839, had in its holdings 2,194 books, 147 maps and a few works of art. These collections grew rapidly thanks to the donations and the purchases. The Library was also in charge of the preservation of the legacies and archives, those of the

deceased émigrés, in order to protect the remains of their actions and their accomplishments, as well as those of institutions which had ceased activity. The most significant meetings of the emigration and the conferences of politicians and poets took place within the Library. The latter, along with the Historical and Literary Society, also began to perform many editing works dedicated to the Poles and to the other European nations. For example, they edited a large map made up of 48 sheets, entitled the *Map of Old Poland and the Neighbouring Countries* (Paris, 1849-1859), created by a team led by General Wojciech Chrzanowski. They also edited in 1850 the *Map of Old Poland* by Feliks Wrotnowski and Auguste Henri Dufour.

The Polish Library continued and still continues today this kind of activities with variable intensity by associating the French intellectual circles. In 1935, Franciszek Pułaski, André Mazon and Zygmunt Lubicz-Zaleski were at the head of the Center for Polish Studies. This center was composed of three chairs: the Chair of Polish Civilization headed by Paul Cazin, the Chair of Contemporary Poland led by Henri de Monfort, Director of Administrative Services of the Institut de France, and the Chair of the French Military Mission to Poland headed by General Louis Faury. During this period, conferences of prominent personalities such as Alexandre Millerand (President of the French Republic from 1920 to 1924), Pierre de Nolhac (member of the Académie Française, or French Academy), Sébastien Charléty, Rector of the Sorbonne, André Gide or Paul Valéry took place in the Library. The students of the universities of Paris attended those conferences as non-degree students. The Library also organized many exhibitions which were highly appreciated and published works on the history of Poland and the Franco-Polish relations.

During World War II, the occupation of Paris by the Nazis led to the scattering of the holding collections and a partial damage of the premises. In the early 1945, Jean Laran, Administrator of the Bibliothèque Nationale (the National Library), launched the creation of a "Committee for the Help of the Polish Library". Several personalities such as Georges Duhamel and Admiral Lucien Lacaze, both members of the Académie Française, or Camille Gronkowski, honorary curator of the Parisian museums, including the Petit Palais, took part in the creation of the Committee. The committee wrote a text entitled "Appeal from the French scholars and writers to the civilized world in favor of the Polish Library". It showed how significant the Polish Library and its holding collections were and it called for its reconstruction. Here is an extract from this appeal: *"For almost a century, the Library has been, under the protection of France, the only Polish institution allowed to exercise freely its activities. Within its walls, it kept the books and the archival documents condemned by the censorship established by the occupiers of the country. It gave to numerous émigrés the resources and the consolations of an intellectual center while revealing to the research of the foreigners interested in Polish literature and history, all the titles acquired by Poland on behalf of the civilized world. The Library embodied the thought of a whole nation. It was really "the arsenal of war for independence"... Researchers were made joyful and admiring by its operation. It became so important that it was ranked among the richest specialized library in the world... The Museum keeping the mementoes of Adam Mickiewicz was the most moving legacy of the Franco-Polish friendship..."*

This appeal was signed by 136 prominent representatives of the intellectual life in France as well as in England, Belgium and Switzerland. Among the signatories were 22 members of the Institut de France, including the President and the Permanent Secretary of the Académie Française, Professors at the

universities of Paris, Senior Officials in the State and Ambassadors. As a consequence of this action, the international community was brought to commit itself to defending once again the cause of the Polish Library. Thus, the “Oeuvre internationale de secours à la Bibliothèque Polonaise” was created in 1945.

The Polish Historical and Literary Society and the Polish Library have been able to exist ceaselessly for more than 150 years thanks to the international solidarity, the desire for a community of ideals, the participation of the French elites in the process of their creation and the involvement of the French authorities who grasped this idea and supported it. Afterwards, the French State brought its support to the work produced. In 1865, the Ministry of Public Instruction recognized by decree the status of learned society to the Polish Historical and Literary Society. Then, in 1866, Emperor Napoleon III signed a decree which allowed the SHLP and the holding collections of the Polish Library to acquire the status of public utility institution.

The Polish Library currently holds rich collections ranging from the 15th century to nowadays. The latter include about 200,000 bound prints, 30,000 brochures and leaflets written essentially by the emigration, 1,200 titles of newspapers, about 7,500 records of manuscripts and archives, about 4,200 maps or plans and 5,000 photographs.

The collections, more specifically those collected during the 19th century, reveal the printing activities of the emigration as well as the desire for collecting the oldest printed works carried out within the Polish territories. They show the desire for collecting old manuscripts related to the history of Poland and preserving the heritage of the émigrés and the emigration institutions. They also enable the emergence of private collectors during the 19th century.

The most significant collections are the collection of books collected during the 19th century—it accounts for about 56,000 shelf marks in the Fonds Ancien—, the collection of brochures and leaflets of the emigration, the collection of archives and manuscripts—including the manuscripts of the Adam Mickiewicz Museum—, and the map collection.

Collections of archives and manuscripts

The most significant collections of archives consist of the archives of the Kingdom of Poland brought by the refugees and dealing with the November Uprising (1830-1831), the archives of the Great Emigration, those of the Springtime of the Peoples, the January Uprising (1863-1864) and the emigration that followed. We can also mention the Actes de la Mission polonaise à Paris (Acts of the Polish Mission in Paris) in 1830, the papers of the Diet of 1831 among which we can find the act of dethroning Tsar Nicholas I as the king of Poland, the papers of the Polish Army Headquarters dating back to 1831, the archives of organizations and those of the Polish schools created by the émigrés, a whole collection of mementoes, a comprehensive correspondence and the manuscripts of the Adam Mickiewicz Museum.

Collections of printed works

In the collections of the Polish Library, we can find dozens of incunabula, rare printed works dating back to the beginning of printing in Poland in the 16th century – they come from workshops in Cracow such as

Jan Haller, Hieronim Wietor, Łazarz Andrysowic and Jan Januszewski—and also books printed all across Europe.

We can mention the works of the Polish humanist Marcin Kromer which were edited in Basel, Cologne and Cracow, *Chronica Polonorum* by Maciej de Miechów edited in 1521, *Chronica Polska* by Marcin Bielski edited in 1597, the first three editions of *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* by Nicolas Copernic (Nuremberg 1543, Basel 1566, Amsterdam 1617). There are also rare books such as Seneca's tragedies (Venice in 1492), Virgil's works edited in Strasbourg in 1502, *Wandalia* (1519) and *Saksonia* (1520) by Albertus Kranz, and *De bello Gothorum* by Agathius Scholasticus (1518). Last, the books containing the super ex libris of the Kings of France or books held by the royal library can be seen.

There is another rare and valuable collection made up of printed works dating back to the 19th century such as brochures, appeals and many leaflets dealing with the Polish uprisings of the 19th century and the activities of the various organizations led by the emigration. The last significant collection is the Polish press of the 19th and 20th centuries which includes some unique copies.

We can also mention the books coming from the Załuski Library in Warsaw—the first national library created in Poland in the 18th century—such as the *Statuta Ducatus Mazouie* by Piotr Góryński (Cracow 1541).

Collection of maps

The collection of maps and atlases is particularly interesting thanks to the factors that contributed to its constitution. These maps form a collection showing the history of the evolution of the Polish territory. The oldest map is entitled *Tabula Moderna Hungaria, Poloniae, Russiae, Prussiae et Valachiae* and is extracted from the *Geography* by Ptolemy (edited in Lyon in 1535). The most interesting maps are woodcut and copperplate engravings revealing the territories of the first Republic of Poland. They are extracted from the atlases of Mercator, Ortelius and Munster or the map entitled *Poloniae finitimarumque locorum descriptio* (Antwerp 1579) and created by Wacław Grodecki (1535-1591). At the time of the Great Emigration, a team led by General Wojciech Chrzanowski prepared a large map made up of 48 sheets entitled *The Map of Old Poland and the Neighbouring Countries* (Paris, 1846-1859), edited by the Polish Library and the SHLP. They also published the *Map of Old Poland* by Feliks Wrotnowski.

3.5 Bibliography

A bibliography demonstrates what others have independently said and written about the heritage you are nominating. It is best if you can cite scholars from several countries, rather than just your own country, and if they are authoritative voices clearly independent from both your own institution and UNESCO.

- Akta Towarzystwa Historyczno - Literackiego w Paryżu, T. I-V, Paryż, 1991-2000
(*Actes de la Société Historique et Littéraire Polonaise de Paris, T. I-V, Paris 1991-2000*)

- Appeal from the French scholars and writers to the civilized world in favor of the Polish Library in Paris (followed by a list of signatories), Paris, 1945

- Chowaniec Cz., Jak powstała Biblioteka Polska w Paryżu. Dzieje aktu fundacyjnego z 1838 r., Paryż 1939, k. 89, maszynopis, BP Akc.5097
(*Chowaniec Cz., How the Polish Library in Paris was born. History of the Founding Act in 1838, Paris 1939, 89 sheets, typewritten text, BP Shelf mark 5097*)

- Chowaniec Cz., Podstawy ideowe Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu, Cahiers de la Société Historique et Littéraire Polonaise, Nr 3, Paryż, 1946
(*Chowaniec Cz., The fundamental ideals of the Polish Library in Paris, Cahiers de la Société Historique et Littéraire Polonaise, N°3, Paris, 1946*)

- Chowaniec Cz., Sprawa Biblioteki Polskiej w Paryżu u schyłku XIX wieku, Cahiers de la Société Historique et Littéraire Polonaise, No 5, Paryż, 1958
(*Chowaniec Cz., The question of the Polish Library in Paris at the end of the 19th century, Cahiers de la Société Historique et Littéraire Polonaise, N°5, Paris, 1958*)

- Gadon L., Z życia Polaków we Francji. Rzut oka na 50-letnie koleje Towarzystwa Historyczno-Literackiego w Paryżu 1832-1882, Paryż, 1883
(*Gadon L., From the life of the Poles in France: a glance at 50 years of vicissitudes of the Polish Historical and Literary Library in Paris, 1832-1882, Paris, 1883*)

- Gałęzowska I., Biblioteka Polska, własność narodu, Cahiers de la Société Historique et Littéraire Polonaise, Nr 3, Paryż, 1956
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3.6 Name, qualification and contact details up to three independent people or organizations with expert knowledge about the value and the provenance of the documentary heritage

Name	Qualification	Contact details
1. Miss Hélène Carrere d'Encausse	Prof. Permanent Secretary of the Académie Française	Académie Française 23, quai de Conti 75270 Paris Cedex 06 – CS 90618 Telephone of the Secretariat: 00 33 1 44 41 43 00 – email: isabelle.noel@academie-francaise.fr
1. Mister Jacques Legrand	President of INALCO	National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations 65 rue des Grands Moulins CS21351 75214 PARIS Cedex 13 Telephone of the Secretariat: 00 33 1 70 23 26 00 Jacques.legrand@inalco.fr

2.	Mister François-Xavier Coquin	Prof. at the Collège de France	Collège de France Chair of Modern and Contemporary History of the Russian World 11, place Marcelin Berthelot 75231 Paris Cedex 05 Telephone of the Secretariat: 00 33 1 44 27 12 12 – no email
3.	Mister Jerzy Zdrada	Prof. Emeritus, historian, Jagellone University in Poland	Ul. Mazowiecka 68A/17 30-019 Kraków Poland Telephone: 00 48 12 633 71 52 Email: jerzy.zdrada@gazeta.pl

The referees you cite will be asked for their opinions. UNESCO may also contact other authoritative referees so that a good spectrum of opinion is available for assessment purposes.

4.0 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name	Address	
Association de la Bibliothèque Polonaise	6 quai d'Orléans 75004 Paris Association de la Bibliothèque Polonaise de Paris	
Telephone +33 155429187	Facsimile +33 146333631	Email cp.zaleski@bplp.fr

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address	
Ewa Rutkowski	6 quai d'Orléans 75004 Paris	
Telephone +33 155428388	Facsimile +33 146333631	Email e.rutkowski@bplp.fr

4.3 Legal status

Provide details of legal and administrative responsibility for the preservation of the documentary heritage.

Property of the Association de la Bibliothèque Polonaise de Paris (published in the Official Journal n°33 of 08/16/2003, registration n°1209, page 4370, date of the declaration: July 10th, 2003).

4.4 Accessibility

Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed
All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:

The collections can be accessed in the Lecture Room and the Researchers' Room from Tuesday to Friday, from 10am to 1pm and from 2pm to 6pm. Partial access to the information on the collections of printed works is available online at the following website: <http://katalog.bpp.kzb.krakow.pl>

Encouraging accessibility is a basic objective of MoW. Accordingly, digitization for access purposes is encouraged and you should comment on whether this has been done or is planned. You should also note if there are legal or cultural factors that restrict access.

The original books of the collections can be consulted in order to conduct scientific research. Access is restricted on the collections not inventoried or in bad condition.

4.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

Where copyright status is known, it should be stated. However, the copyright status of a document or collection has no bearing on its significance and is not taken into account in determining whether it meets the criteria for inscription.

The collections can be reproduced after approval by the President of the Polish Historical and Literary Society.

5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 Authenticity

Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Have identity and provenance been reliably established?

The archival documents of the collections of the SHLP, the Polish Library and the Adam Mickiewicz Museum are mostly originals or copies of old written documents dating back from the 16th to the 19th centuries. The other collections—printed works and maps—are authentic.

The authenticity of the documents is unquestionable.

5.2 World significance

Is the heritage unique and irreplaceable? Would its disappearance constitute a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created great impact over time and/or within a particular cultural area of the world? Has it had great influence (positive or negative) on the course of history?

The Polish Library, created in Paris in the 1830s by Polish political émigrés, and all its collections reveal that other means than the political and military action could be used so that Poland could gain back its lost independence. The Polish émigrés have been able to create and maintain for decades an institution aiming at collecting scattered documentary sources of the history of the Polish nation, gathering meticulously the old and contemporary publications, including those edited in exile and storing the archives of the émigrés died in land of exile as well as the archives of the institutions that had ceased activities. The example of the BPP shows that this goal could be reached through actions in the fields of culture such as the preservation of the documentary heritage, the conservation of the collective memory, the perpetuation of national identity through collections available to the public, through the creation in exile of the premises of memory institutes such as the libraries and the national archives which had emerged in the independent States in the 19th century. These means of action brought together involved and supportive prominent representatives from other countries.

The Polish Library is also an example of solidarity and cooperation among the international intellectual elites, including the French elites who understood how important its mission was and who contributed to expand its collections. The French authorities acted the same way as they deemed it could be an effective means of fight for freedom and independence.

For this reason, the BPP bears witness to the international intellectual movements and streams whose influence allowed the European and worldwide nations to gain independence.

For more than 150 years, the Polish Library in Paris has been unique in the world. At the time, its national collections could neither be constituted nor play a role as a means of strengthening the cultural and political identity on the national territory. It is a unique case as it has existed ceaselessly over time. There are no other examples in Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries, or even in the whole world. Needless to say that it had a major impact on the preservation of the Polish national identity and it allows Poland to gain back independence following the Treaty of Versailles, after 123 years of partitions. Obviously, after 1945, it also influenced the creation of organizations and the cultural life of the emigration. Their political and cultural actions really mattered to maintain the spirit of freedom and to spread democratic aspirations in the societies in transition between the Soviet communist system and the democracy. This eventually led to the fall of “the iron curtain”. This role of the Polish Library was made possible thanks to its geographical location in the capital of France. In this country, the intellectual elites spoke on behalf of the aspirations towards democracy and they also supported the nations suffering the same fate as Poland.

The collections of the Polish Library, often made up of rare items, have been exhibited in the same place for more than 150 years. Today, they are still managed by the communities coming from the old political emigration. Their profile, the way they have organized themselves, the support they have received to their constitution by the French intellectual and state elites and the fact they have been stored in the same place for decades offer a unique testimony of the spirit of a time and a place.

Thus, the Polish Library meets the criteria for inscription on the Memory of the World International Register, including those mentioned in the steps n°5.3.1, 2, 3, 6 and 6.1.

5.3 Comparative criteria

Does the heritage meet any of the following tests? (It must meet at least one of them)

1 Time

Is the document evocative of its time (which may have been a time of crisis, or significant social or cultural change)? Does it represent a new discovery? Or is it the “first of its kind”?

The collections of the Polish Library have been constituted during the 19th century. At that time, movements for freedom as well as a trend towards the implementation of national States emerged in Europe and elsewhere. As regards the Polish case, these aspirations led to the creation of political, military and conspiracy organizations and the involvement of Polish people in many fights “for your freedom and ours”. A part of the Polish political emigration settled down in Paris was aware that the process to gain back independence would take a long time. By creating institutions like the Polish Historical and Literary Society and the Polish Library, the emigration could expand its collections as well as its scientific, editing and outreach activities which provided a basis for the development of cultural identity, the national memory and the links of the Polish nation with Europe. From the 1850s, the collections became available to the public. In the second half of the 19th century and in the first two decades of the 20th century, the Library was the only Polish institution on the French territory where a free national life blossomed. In this place, the country split by the annexations was reunited and members of associations, organizations and different political parties could meet each other. They were all guided by the common desire to re-establish an independent homeland with the sense of a common duty to accomplish. These ideas and these activities emerged once again in 1945 when, due to the partition of Europe by the “iron curtain”, the Library was managed by a new generation of political émigrés who did not accept that Poland was enslaved by the Communist system. For years, the Library became once again a center for free thought and a place housing new collections of books whose publication was forbidden in Poland.

2 Place

Does the document contain crucial information about a locality important in world history and culture? For example, was the location itself an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the document? Does it describe physical environments, cities or institutions that have since vanished?

The Polish Historical and Literary Society and the Polish Library, managed by the Society, were created in Paris. At the time, Paris was one of the main civilization centers in the world. This is where the ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity phrased during the French Revolution spread actively during the 19th century. It was the capital of a State which had already provided safe shelter to the political refugees

and brought support to the oppressed nations at the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century. For this reason, the Polish political emigrants, forced to leave their country, chose Paris once again as a place to stay after 1831. They did the same during the following waves of emigration, all linked to political repressions. Not only did they find in Paris the means to survive but they were also able to continue lawfully their actions. At the time, all the European intellectual elites were brought together in Paris; they influenced the development of the political, social and artistic ideas of the time. Thus, the Polish refugees found support from the most prominent representatives of the cultural and political life in France and also in England and in America. This support was based on a community of values and thought.

3 People

Does the cultural context of the document's creation reflect significant aspects of human behaviour, or of social, industrial, artistic or political development? Or does it capture the essence of great movements, transitions, advances or regression? Does it illustrate the lives of prominent individuals in the above fields?

The collections of the Polish Library result from the offshoot of the intellectual and cultural contacts between its founders and its successors, between its sponsors, donors and creators of private funds. They reveal a wide range of all the issues related to the political, social and cultural contexts of Europe in the 19th century and the fights for freedom and independence. The Polish diaspora co-operated with the oppressed nations with whom they often took part in fights, such as the Springtime of the Peoples, in order to create a new balance for the *Old Continent*.

Among the numerous collections of documents of the Polish Library, the collection of documents of the Mickiewicz Fund (1798-1855) deserves particular attention. Adam Mickiewicz was the most famous Polish romantic poet. George Sand compared him to Goethe and Byron. It was a prominent figure of the Polish, French and European culture. He was a Professor at the Collège de France at the same time as Jules Michelet and Edgar Quinet. A "soul saver", defender of the Human Rights and the independent States, pilgrim and visionary, editor of *La Tribune des Peuples* ("The Peoples' Tribune"), a daily through which he spoke on behalf of the idea of a fraternal community between free peoples and independent States, a kind of European Union before its time.

The Adam Mickiewicz Museum, created in 1903 by his son Ladislas, is currently a part of the collections of the Polish Library. It is one of the oldest literary museums in France and the first Polish museum created in foreign land. It is also the first museum created by a foreign community on the French territory.

The destiny of Adam Mickiewicz led him to be in contact with the most prominent figures of the intellectual life of the first half of the 19th century, including Marie d'Agoult, Frédéric Chopin, Victor Cousin, Pierre Jean-David d'Angers, Alfred Dumesnil, Léon Faucher, Johann wolfgang Goethe, Alphonse d'Herbelot, Victor Hugo, Auguste Lacaussade, Marie-Joseph de La Fayette, Alphonse Lamartine, Félicité de Lamennais, Henri Burgaud des Marets, Charles de Montalembert, Antoine-Auguste Prévost, Alexandre Pouchkine, Charles-Augustin Sainte-Beuve, Alfred de Vigny. In the correspondence of the

poet, we can find letters and autographs from these prominent figures who reveal the birth of a new movement of political thought in Europe and an aspiration for a union of free peoples.

The statue of Mickiewicz located in Paris and sculptured by Antoine Bourdelle, also bears witness to this new idea at the time. In 1998, UNESCO joined the bicentenary celebration of the birth of Mickiewicz.

One of the co-founders of the Polish Library was Adam Czartoryski (1770-1861). In his youth, he was the friend of Tsar Alexander I and became minister of Foreign Affairs of Imperial Russia. During the uprising against Russia (1830-1831), he was President of the Polish National Government. As an émigré in Paris in 1833, he created a political group which led to a comprehensive diplomatic action for the defense of the Polish question. He also supported the revolutionary and national movements. From the 1840s, he undertook a program to breathe new life into the Slavic world which was based on the model of the Ottoman Empire and took part in diplomatic and military actions, including during the Crimean War (1853-1856).

4 Subject and theme

Does the subject matter of the document represent particular historical or intellectual developments in the natural, social and human sciences? Or in politics, ideology, sport or the arts?

All the collections of the Polish Library in Paris gathered during the 19th century reveal how important it was for the Polish emigration to collect and preserve the literary heritage at a time when this heritage had been damaged due to the absence of a Polish State. This mission of the Polish Library was defined from its early stages and phrased in the *Appeal to the civilized peoples to create a library for Poland*, and it was launched in 1833 in Paris by a French association, the Civilization Society: *“The destruction of the kingdom of Poland and the annihilation of its political power cannot destroy its moral power as long as the Poles keep their spirit of independence, the spirit of civilizing propaganda which is the founding principle of their nationality. Their oppressors are very much aware of that. For this reason, they struggle hard to extinguish this vital spark, this dogma which arouses the Polish patriotism. They claim their goal loud and clear; they proclaim their means. First, by destroying all the literary and artistic monuments, outlawing the history and the national language, they wish they could erase all the traditions related to freedom and glory and every memory of the independence. Then, by closing the schools, forbidding Poland from having contact with the foreigners, they prevent the Poles from taking part in the major social movement of our era. Thus, they undermine a nation, old with glory and young with enthusiasm, in its past as well as in its future. In this war of a new kind, a moral and intellectual war which prejudices the future existence of a nation, will the Poles be abandoned as they used to be on the battle fields?”*

The collections of the Library also show the common aspiration of the European Peoples for freedom and the cooperation of the intellectual and political elites who worked for this common cause.

5 Form and style

Does the document have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value? Or is it a typical exemplar of a type of presentation, custom or medium? Is it an example of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format?

6 Social / spiritual / community significance

Application of this criterion must reflect living significance – does documentary heritage have an emotional hold on people who are alive today? Is it venerated as holy or for its mystical qualities, or revered for its association with significant people and events?

The collections of the Polish Library in Paris show the will, emerged in the 19th century in the circles of the Polish emigration, to create long-lasting institutions dedicated to collect the documentary sources related to the past of an enslaved nation deprived of its political autonomy since the end of the 18th century, preserve forever the messages let by the generations who fought for freedom, assert its cultural identity and spread freedom of thought. As soon as it opened to the public, the Polish Library became a place to acquire knowledge both for the Poles and the foreigners, which made it an example of innovative institution in the 19th century.

Today, the Polish Library and its collections are well known and appreciated by the Poles and the French as well as by the representatives of other nations such as the Americans and the Japanese.

Thanks to its sustainability, the involvement of successive generations of émigrés, the cooperation between the intellectual elites of other nations which support an ideal, the collections of the Polish Library show that you cannot only gain back freedom and independence through military and political action. It also reveals that the setting up of an institution, which preserves the memory of a society or a nation, disseminates the knowledge of the past through its activities and all its collections. It is an effective and peaceful weapon in the fight for the future.

(Once those who have revered the documentary heritage for its social/ spiritual/ community significance no longer do so, or are no longer living, it loses this specific significance and may eventually acquire historical significance.)

6.0 Contextual information

6.1 Rarity

The Polish Library and its collections are an exceptional example of an institution created by émigrés in the first half of the 19th century in order to preserve the collective memory and the national identity of a nation. This institution is based on different kinds of institutions such as the libraries, the archives or the national museums which implemented in the independent States the principle of gathering their cultural heritage. The Library collected the old sources – manuscripts and old books – and the current publications of the emigration. It stored the legacy of the émigrés and the archives of the emigration institutions. The Historical and Literary Society and the Library both benefited from the cooperation and the support of prominent representatives of the French and foreign elites. It has existed ceaselessly since 1838 and it is still managed by the Polish emigration today.

The comparison with similar institutions shows how exceptional the Polish Library is. Indeed, the Tourgueniev Library created in 1875 by Russian emigrants and the Symon Petliura Library created in 1927 by Ukrainian emigrants could not survive World War II. Their collections were partially destroyed or scattered and none of these two institutions resumed its activities.

In the collections of the SHLP and the Library, some unique items can be seen. They reveal the practice contributing to the constitution of exceptional collections which enable to preserve forever information on major events of the world culture. In this category, different elements can be found:

- Several autograph books of the talented pianist Maria Szymanowska (1789-1831) who made an international career in Europe at the beginning of the 19th century. These books are all the more interesting because we can find inscriptions and autographs from the most prominent personalities of the artistic set at that time. We can mention those of writers such as C. Delavigne, A. Mickiewicz, T. Moore, A. Pouchkine, W. Scott, or composers such as J. S. Bach, J. Beethoven, L. Cherubini, J. Haydn, A. Mozart, subsequently supplemented by the daughter of the musician, Celina Mickiewicz—who became the wife of Adam Mickiewicz—with autographs of F. Liszt, S. Moniusko, a famous Polish composer of the 19th century, and F. Chopin. Among the personalities that registered in the books of M. Szymanowska is Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, one of her admirers. The inscriptions in the form of musical notes illustrate the different musical styles from the 17th century to the 19th century and the artistic tastes of the time. These books also provide information about the historical context. Indeed, so little is known about the era in which the pianist lived [call numbers MAM 969, MAM 970, MAM 971, MAM 972, MAM 973, MAM 974]
- The first three editions of Nicolaus Copernicus's work: *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* (Nuremberg 1543, Basel 1566 and Amsterdam 1617) [call numbers THL REZ. FA 8864, THL REZ. 7881, THL REZ. 4368]
- A collection of the first editions of F. Chopin's works with dedications and handwritten corrections (Zofia Zaleska-Rosengardt collection, one of the students of the composer) [call number FN 140610, FN15 834].

6.2 Integrity

The oldest collections, established in the 1930s, have been almost entirely preserved at 6, quai d'Orléans in Paris for more than 150 years. A small part was destroyed after the arrival of the German army in the French capital in 1940. Another part, moved by the Germans, was intercepted by the Soviet Union and handed on to Warsaw in 1955. It is currently located in the collections of the Adam Mickiewicz Museum in Warsaw. A part of the graphic collections handed on to Cracow during the restoration carried out in 1930-1931 can be found in the collections of the Scientific Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters in Cracow.

7.0 Consultation with stakeholders

7.1 Provide details of consultation about this nomination with the stakeholders in its significance and preservation.

Danuta Dubois – Polish Library in Paris – Director

Ewa Rutkowski – Polish Library in Paris – Head of Manuscripts and Archives at the Adam Mickiewicz Museum

Maria Wrede – National Library in Warsaw – Historian and Archivist

Janusz Pezda – the Princes Czartoryski Library in Cracow – Historian and Archivist

Apart from the nominating institution itself, have other organizations or groups been consulted in the process of preparing the nomination – and, if so, did they support it or oppose it, or have useful comments to make?

8.0 Assessment of risk

Detail the nature and scope of threats to this documentary heritage.

The handwritten collections are stored in a shop with air conditioning. The parameters of conservation are kept under control.

The collections are fragile and exposed to the following risks:

- In the event of a natural disaster, a risk of flooding might occur as the Library is located on the banks of the Seine;
- Some mechanical damage as the original documents can be consulted in the Researchers' Room—only a small part of the collections is microfilmed or scanned;
- Some mechanical damage resulting from the exposure to light or UV rays;
- Some mechanical damage or chemical change – rapid deterioration of the paper and the inks;
- Map and iconographical collections exposed to climatic variations.

Attach a separate statement if space insufficient.

Be accurate and honest. If your document(s) is at risk for any reason, say so. UNESCO needs to know its true situation.

9.0 Preservation and Access Management Plan

9.1 Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage?

NO

If yes, attach a summary of the plan. If no, please attach further details about current storage and custody of the materials.

Works have been carried out for several years in order to store the collections in better conditions.

The following works are completed or in progress:

- Full renovation of the building between 2000 and 2004;
- Installation of sliding shelving as well as air conditioning and airing of the shop in which the manuscripts are stored;

- Ongoing comprehensive scientific inventory of the collections;
- Examination of the collections in order to analyze their state of conservation and assess the risks to which they are exposed;
- Partial restoration of the most valuable and threatened items using the financial means at our disposal;
- A part of the collections has been microfilmed or digitalized.

10.0 Any other information

Detail any other information that supports the inclusion of this documentary heritage on the International Memory of the World Register. If the nomination is successful, how will you use this to promote the MoW Programme?

Attach a separate statement if space insufficient.