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## DILEMMAS IN THE EDITING OF HISTORICAL SOURCES: FACTORS INFLUENCING TRANSLATION USING THE EXAMPLE OF TEXTS FROM THE TURN OF THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES

### ABSTRACT

The principles of editing historical sources have been discussed for decades, but most of the dilemmas cannot be unequivocally resolved. These include the decision to translate a foreign language source into Polish. Several factors should be taken into consideration, above all: 1. The editorial practice; 2. The language of the source; 3. The type of the text and the recipient of the publication; 4. The availability of the original for researchers of the era. Each of these aspects deserves separate evaluation.

KEYWORDS: editing, historical sources, translation, partitions of Poland

### STRESZCZENIE

Zasady edytorstwa źródeł historycznych są od dekad dyskutowane, jednak większości dylematów nie będzie się dało jednoznacznie rozwiązać. Do takich zaliczyć możemy decyzję o tłumaczeniu obcojęzycznego źródła na język polski. Decydować o niej powinno kilka czynników, przede wszystkim zaś: 1. praktyka edytorska; 2. język źródła; 3. Rodzaj tekstu i odbiorca publikacji; 4. dostępność oryginału dla badaczy epoki. Każdy z tych aspektów zasługuje na osobne rozważenie.

SŁOWA KLUCZOWE: edytorstwo, źródła historyczne, tłumaczenie, rozbiory Polski

## INTRODUCTION

Over the decades, editing of historical sources have presented researchers of history with more and more questions and problems, which will most probably never be unequivocally answered. However, this must not discourage us from continuous discussion aimed at uninterrupted improvement of editing principles and sharing of experience (Tandecki, Kopiński 2014; Perłakowski 2011, 2014, 2018; Zielińska 2011). The dilemmas will certainly include the selection of published materials and the designation of the scientific apparatus used, which with each source – and their number and variety dynamically increases with each studied century – requires the editor's caution and prudence. The linguistic aspect of the publication is also a complex problem. A Polish-language source will require

the use of an appropriate publishing instruction, but in the case of foreign-language material, a researcher must ask himself whether it should be published in the original language, in translation, or with a translation (i.e. in a bilingual version). The answer is not and cannot be unequivocal, and one needs to consider many factors that I decided to introduce to the Reader in this article.

Even in the last century, a conviction prevailed that the editing of sources should be based on a careful rewriting of a selected historical text and printing it in this form. An example of the above are the numerous works published in this way before the Second World War. With the passage of time, however, this practice started to be abandoned with greater or lesser consistency, depending on the experience, maturity and perspective of the editor. Avoiding the use of the correct scientific apparatus is perceived rather negatively in the scientific community. The necessity for the publisher to include some explanations in the publication was postulated by Władysław Konopczyński in 1919, referring to late-modern sources. In the case of texts that require critical findings, and therefore, in the opinion of the researcher, needing publication – “it is impossible to demand that every researcher who uses them occasionally that he conduct all his critical work for his sole use”<sup>1</sup> (Konopczyński 1919: 219). Although there are many editors who, even after the war, limited themselves to source publications devoid of even an index (which could greatly facilitate the use of the source), the contemporary discourse aims at the development of the scientific apparatus and a deeper elaboration of the published material. Source editing, in order to exhaustively and completely present this term in his contemporary perception (Tandecki, Kopiński 2014: 13–15), requires several essential elements.

1. It should be preceded by an introduction, which may be divided into three parts:
  - a) substantive – in it the reader may require the opportunity to become acquainted with the specific time and historical space in which the text was created, the characteristics of the sender and, possibly, the recipient of the source;
  - b) source studies – this requires, first of all, a reliable erudite criticism (so-called external criticism; Handelsman 2010: 129–132) and determining the nature of the source itself in the context of the time of its creation;
  - c) methodological – it should, in turn, describe the method of publishing, the rules which the editor uses, indicate the publishing instruction, as well as contain a justification for making some deviations from it.
2. Particularly important for a reader are the following footnotes:
  - a) substantive – i.e. explaining the statements in the original text, the mentioned people (especially little known persons), at the author's discretion, also the

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<sup>1</sup> Here and further on the author's translations are used. In the original: „niepodobna bowiem żądać od każdego badacza, który ich dorywczo używa, aby całą pracę krytyczną przeprowadzał na swój wyłączny użytek”.

places and events (resolving these doubts may be helpful even for the editor due to developing higher awareness of the material);

- b) text – informing the reader on an on-going basis about any characteristic elements in the text (change of ductus or ink, deletions, etc.).
- 3. The publication should end with the indexes of: a) persons; b) geographical names; c) names (the necessity to include it most depends on the nature of the source).

Of course, it is difficult to outline here the editorial principles that are so ambiguous and widely discussed, and even more to explain them. The above pattern, however, should serve as an introduction to further considerations, especially taking into account the fact that its elements largely relate to the issues referred to the dilemmas from the title.

The sources referring to the period in question, which I propose are quite special. First of all, they are multilingual – compared to, for example, medieval and early modern sources. Although the French and Polish languages (which should already be treated as bilingual ones, even from the perspective of a Polish researcher, because Polish is a foreign language for the vast majority of foreign researchers) definitely dominate, many materials are prepared in German, Russian and Latin. Diplomatic papers expand the scope even more, and thus, a historian can easily encounter a completely exotic language. For example, examining the times of the fall of the Kościuszko Uprising and the Third Partition, we will come across a source already published in Greek (Legrand 1872), although strongly related to the topic of Polish-French relations. Another example, especially relevant to the history of the Commonwealth at the end of the 18th century, are numerous Turkish manuscripts (Kołodziejczyk 2013; Reychman 1961).

In addition, there is much more material relating to the period in question than in earlier times. To make matters worse, as a result of partitions and wars, many sources were scattered or destroyed. Therefore, a researcher must rely to a large extent on foreign archives, e.g. French, German or Russian. Then, it can be expected that access to some of them is logistically difficult and the value of editing the sources in non-Polish collections has a completely different dimension. It is difficult to compare the publication of a Polish-language text, which is available in the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw, with Russian materials, the use of which is often extremely difficult for a Polish researcher. However, it is hardly possible to depreciate the value of the publications of materials among Polish handwritten collections.

The specificity of the sources at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries corresponds to a large extent to the basic dilemma contained in the title of this article: should an editor translate the published text and what should influence their decision?

The above is always determined by a number of factors that I have decided to introduce to the reader. They mainly include:

- 1. accepted editorial practice;
- 2. language of the source material;

3. its type and potential recipient of the publication;
4. availability of the original for researchers.

## PRACTICE USED

Historians, archivists and translators since the nineteenth century have approached publishing source texts more and more consciously. It is worth distinguishing and indicating the most prominent names in Polish historiography, who edited texts which bare used to this very day.

It should come as no surprise to the reader that most of the prints published from the end of the 1820s appeared in their original language, i.e. in Polish and French. The diaries of Michał Kleofas Ogiński, published in 1826–1827, with numerous source documents describing the events of 1788–1815, may serve as an example here. At that time, the subject of emigration after the Kościuszko Uprising and the history of the Polish Legions was of particular interest. This was reflected in texts published by Leonard Chodźko in 1829, referring to the history of the Legions. The author not only published the text of the book in French, but also consistently published extensive source annexes both in the first and second volumes of the work in this language (with very few exceptions). The publisher, who edited *Listy znakomitych Polaków wyjaśniające historię Legionów Polskich* explained that the main effort was “to print the manuscript faithfully: because only in this way can the original be replaced. Corrections, polishing the style, do not add internal value; they can only give temporary satisfaction”<sup>2</sup>. Thus, it can be seen that the main aim was to reflect the original text, and the commonly known French was not treated as problematic in its reception.

This idea must have guided many other editors, certainly also Walerian Kalinka, who in 1868 published the famous *Ostatnie lata panowania Stanisława Augusta* – a work with extensive source material. The author employed an interesting principle: he left documents written in French in the original, and translated Russian-language ones. Thus, his linguistic requirements towards the reader are constantly evident. Subsequent publications do not depart from the above principle. In the case of Amilkar Kosiński's documents, published in 1877, relating to the history of the Polish Legions, the editor noted: “we adhere to the principle that French documents are written in a commonly known language, without translation, and Italian, if necessary, with Polish translation” (Amilkar Kosiński 1877: XII)<sup>3</sup>. The important publication by Bronisław Dembiński in 1902, in which political

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<sup>2</sup> „wierne wydrukowanie rękopismu: ponieważ wyłącznie tym sposobem, może być oryginał zastąpionym. Poprawki, oglądanie stylu, nie dodają wewnętrznej wartości, chwilowo tylko zaspokoić mogą”.

<sup>3</sup> „Trzymamy się zasady, iż dokumenta francuskie, jako w języku powszechnie znanym pisane, bez tłumaczenia, włoskie zaś, o ile potrzeba, z tłumaczeniem polskiem drukujemy”.

sources from 1788–1791 were edited, has not been translated into Polish, but is available entirely in French. Karol Lutostański published a two-volume work of similar importance to the political history of Poland during the partitions, entirely in French (Lutostański 1918).

In terms of form and rules, a flagship example, and at the same time a historiographic monument of Polish editing, are the publications by Marcełi Handelsman, containing instructions and messages from French residents in Warsaw from 1807–1813, published, of course, in French (Handelsman 2014). The author not only provided the source material with rich footnotes, but also an index of people and a professional introduction.

Another interesting example are fragmentary source appendices located at the end of historical works. Contrary to the above-mentioned texts (for example, the history of the Legions written by Chodźko, in which the appendices contain separate sources), the publications of such researchers as Szymon Askenazy or Marian Kukiel were enriched with very extensive notes, often constituting even half of the entire work. It is worth noting that the authors completely gave up translating the quoted fragments of sources. In the case of Askenazy's three-volume work, the reader needs to know at least several foreign languages: French, German, Italian and English (Askenazy 1918–1919). In the case of Kukiel's work, these are in turn: French, German, Russian and Latin (Kukiel 1912). What is interesting, Adam Skałkowski's source annexes are already translated from French into Polish, which was rare (Skałkowski 2015). However, in the above cases, source edition is not the primary purpose of the publication. The quotes are a substantive supplement to the actual text written in Polish, therefore the author has much more freedom in the choice of citation languages. The linguistic competence of the recipient does not need to be considered, because the main content will be fully understood, and foreign-language annexes can only extend this understanding if necessary.

The destruction of the Second World War contributed to the new awareness of the value of source editions, especially in Poland. Much of the content, for example from the Rapperswil collection, survived thanks to their publication. Undoubtedly, a perfect example is *Listy Kniaziewicza do Dąbrowskiego i Kościuszki* published by Władysław Kozłowski in 1899. The article by Jan Reychman entitled *Z nieznanej korespondencji Descorchesa i La Roche'a z 1794/95* (Reychman 1956) is of similar value. It contains a substantive introduction by the author and a few excerpts from letters that no longer exist today. Although the texts are very short, they contain a lot of relevant information. Fortunately, Reychman published them in the language of the manuscript, i.e. French. Translating them would be a huge drawback in the context of the lack of the original. *Archiwum Wybickiego* published by the aforementioned Adam Skałkowski (1948–1950) has a similar value. Most of the materials constituting the basis of the publication were destroyed, looted or dispersed during the war. The copies made by the author in the interwar period miraculously escaped destruction. For these reasons, the published documents are of such special value. Perhaps due to the awareness of the

importance of the materials, Skalkowski completely gave up translations and published them in the original.

A particularly valued editorial work, which was published in print in 1986, are the diaries and political memorials of Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski (Skowronek 1986). It was a huge challenge for the publisher. There was no original, one version of the diary. He had to deal "with various, often parallel, notebook variants of individual fragments of memories"<sup>4</sup>. The author decided to strive to

[...] create a maximum version, which is at the same time understandable, taking into account in the main text and in footnotes all additions and changes occurring in individual variants, and having any significance for the content of the diary, researching the views of its author (and people cooperating with him in the preparation of the memoirs)<sup>5</sup> (*ibidem* : 69–70).

First, it was necessary to establish a single version for editing, and then approach it with an appropriate scientific apparatus and work on it applying methods of linguistic research. The handwritten material constituting the basis for the publication was written in Polish and French, and the entire work was published in Polish. It is worth mentioning in this context, however, that various versions of Czartoryski's diaries had previously been published in French, English, Russian and also Polish – as Skowronek pointed out, however, they did contain errors and covered only a minor of the material (*ibidem*: 64–67).

The publications of Henryk Kocój made a considerable contribution to the Polish historiography. He edited hundreds of letters in the collections of Paris, Berlin, Dresden and Vienna, relating mainly to the Great Sejm and the Kościuszko Uprising. Although these publications are largely devoid of scientific apparatus and are published in an inaccurate manner, they can undoubtedly be of use to any researcher interested in the political history of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the years 1788–1794, for example to prepare for archival queries in the above-mentioned collections. For this reason, despite so many shortcomings, Kocój's publications occupy a special place in the history of Polish editing. For this reason, it is worth looking at the author's approach to translating the sources he printed. In most editions, he adhered to the principle of publishing in the original language, i.e. French and German. However, in a few cases the materials were translated into Polish. I am talking mainly about the accounts of German diplomats during the Kościuszko Uprising and the letters of French ministers from Warsaw in the times of the Great Sejm, although we will also receive most of them in the original language. Although in the above-mentioned publications (and these are only

<sup>4</sup> „z różnymi, często paralelnymi brulionowymi wariantami poszczególnych fragmentów wspomnień”.

<sup>5</sup> „wypracowania wersji maksymalnej, a zarazem czytelnej, uwzględniającej w tekście zasadniczym i w przypisach wszelkie uzupełnienia i odmianki występujące w poszczególnych wariantach, a mające jakiegokolwiek znaczenie dla treści pamiętnika, badania poglądów jej autora (i ludzi współpracujących z nim przy opracowaniu wspomnień)”.

a few of this author) it is difficult to see a model worth imitating, omitting them from the considerations would be a serious mistake.

Nowadays, editing rules have been clarified by the Polish Academy of Sciences, offering the researcher not only an editorial series of sources on the last decades of the existence of the Commonwealth, but also articles explaining many dilemmas or proposing various solutions. For over a decade, researchers have pursued the noble undertaking of publishing documents on the political activity of Stanisław August Poniatowski, and these publications should be treated as valuable guidelines for subsequent editors. The broadest chronological range covers the correspondence of the monarch with Tsarina Katarzyna from 1764–1796 published in 2020 by Zofia Zielińska, as well as the instructions and rescripts sent to the Russian ambassadors in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1772–1794 (Danilczyk *et al.* 2019). Both of these publications not only occupy a special position in Polish editing, being extremely helpful collections for researchers of this period.

A narrower time scope is involved in *Entretiens du roi Stanislas-Auguste avec Otto Magnus von Stackelberg* from 1773–1775 (Dukwicz, Zielińska 2017), including the king's correspondence with: Count di Canale from 1765–1773 (Bajer 2020), Augustine Deboli between 1780 and 1782 (Zielińska, Danilczyk 2013–2017) and the legation of the Commonwealth in Vienna in the era of the Great Sejm (Jusupović, Danilczyk 2016). In all the above publications referring to the reign of Stanisław August, the prevailing principle of faithful adherence to the handwritten version, i.e. the Polish, French and Russian languages, is clearly visible.

A particularly important example of the editing of the past decade are the diaries of King Poniatowski, covering the years 1771–1778. They have been published many times, and recently, according to modern rules, they were first published in original French (Grześkowiak-Krwawicz, Triaire 2012), and then as an anthology in Polish translation (Dębowski 2013).

It is difficult to comprehensively present the editions of foreign-language sources in a few paragraphs, and perhaps there is no such need. The above-mentioned examples, in many respects of particular value, published by eminent historians many times, shed some light on the subject matter. Of course, many more examples of texts can be given, but since in the above-mentioned ones – and these are mainly outstanding works and tools of extraordinary importance in the historian's workshop – a certain methodology has been laid out, one may follow these examples or draw certain conclusions on their basis.

## LANGUAGE OF SOURCES

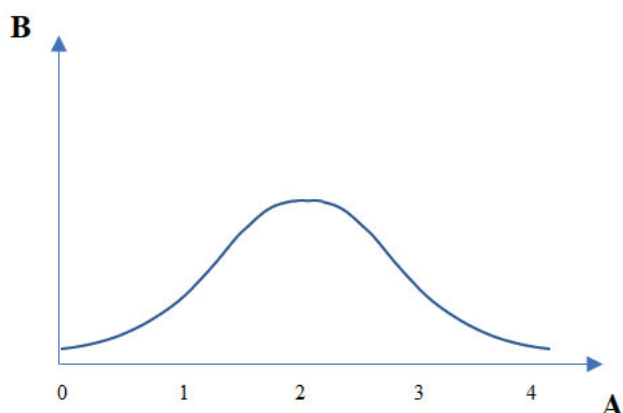
A historian interested in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries is surely aware of the need to master French at least passively. Undoubtedly, however, it is difficult to limit ourselves to only French. Nevertheless, even when speaking

German, Russian or Latin, an insightful researcher will have to come into contact with written sources not only in languages known, but also foreign to him.

Thus, there is a need to propose a system of gradation of languages, whose basic classification would rest on the popularity and presence of a given language in texts produced in the time period in question. The aim is to strike a balance between requiring the author to know them and being faithful to the original of the source. Since the message of each translation is doomed to be somewhat crooked, even more so if the editor does not use a given language perfectly, or if the message has been conveyed in a way that is difficult to receive, it can be concluded that each translation is, in a sense, a description of the original, and not its most faithful rendering. In order to reflect the problem, I divided the languages used in the sources of the era into five groups, the first of which should almost never be translated, and the last – almost always (parameter B):

| Language                                               | Group |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Polish                                                 | 0     |
| French                                                 | 1     |
| German, Russian, Latin                                 | 2     |
| Italian, English, Spanish                              | 3     |
| Swedish, Danish, Dutch, Greek, Turkish, Hungarian etc. | 4     |

In many cases, however, some scope for decision-making should be left to the author of the edition. However, this freedom also depends on the group presented above. In both extreme variants, the possibility of decision-making is minimized, and as the curve moves towards the centre – It increases (parameter A).





Since the French language has become almost ubiquitous in the period in question, first due to the culture of the Polish Enlightenment political elite and international relations (until the fall of the Commonwealth), then in the context of research on Polish emigration and Legions, and later in the time of the existence of the Duchy of Warsaw, it should be looked at differently. Lack of familiarity with French makes it impossible to understand the contemporary world, the environment and the authors of the sources, and above all, robs one the freedom to conduct basic archival inquiries. For example, the correspondence between the brothers Stanisław Kostka (the author of *Rosprawa o potrzebie ćwiczenia się w oyczystej mowie*) and Ignacy Potocki frequently took place in French (AGAD: APP), just like most of King Stanisław August's correspondence (AGAD: ZP, KSP).

Especially since the 1790s, the German language became especially common due to the two partitioners. However, one should not fall under the illusion that the German was associated only with the Prussian and Austrian administration; for centuries it was present among the bourgeoisie and the Lutheran population. Looking at the Polish military elite, we can see a similar dependence: it was commonplace for such outstanding figures as Józef Poniatowski, Jan Henryk Dąbrowski or the less famous Antoni Sułkowski, who hardly used the Polish language (Jobert 1979: 6). Of course, the Saxon times and the relationship with the Dresden court had a considerable influence on the consolidation of the German element. It may come as a surprise that even in Russian-speaking circles the German language may be present because of the Livonian (Courland) nobility, a great example of which in the context of Polish history are the memoirs of Jacob Sievers, the Russian ambassador to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1793. The manuscript has been lost, and the Polish version (Grochulska, Ugniewski 1992) is based on the printed German version.

The Russian language basically concerns mainly documents related to the administration in the partitions and ambassadorial governments in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, as well as, the Eastern Ruthenian and Orthodox people. It should be remembered, however, that Russian documents surprisingly often appear in French. However, while German may turn out to be indispensable in a situation where attention is shifted to Western European issues, this is where the Russian language becomes almost completely absent.

The necessity to know Latin is connected primarily with research on the history of the Church and political relations between Rome and Warsaw. Especially in local matters (parishes, dioceses, church structures at the state level), the burden falls almost exclusively on the use of Latin. It can also be helpful in studies of the history of literature, education and science.

When it comes to politics, it is primarily the Italian language that must be taken into account. Examples include the files of the nunciature of the Holy See (AGAD: NSA) or the Ghigiotti Archives (AGAD: AG), related to court aspects. Among the editions, a particularly interesting and one of the most important examples will certainly be *Vetera monumenta Poloniae et Lithuaniae gentiumque*, published in

four volumes by Augustino Theiner in the early 1860s. For the purpose of present research, the most interesting issue is the fourth published in Italian and French.

Without Italian, it is also difficult to undertake research on the royal court and agency. The person of Stanisław August was related to Italians or people of Italian origin, for example, J. Albertandy, Ghigiotti, Bacciareli, Piattoli, Antici, or dall'Oglio. One can also find Italian documents in a broader political context. An enormous amount of Poland-related Italian-language material appears also in the context of the history of the Legions (Pachoński 1969: 19–22).

Although the knowledge of languages is an inseparable element of the historian's skills, and philology was rightly included by Konopczyński among the disciplines auxiliary ("posiłkowe" in the original) to history (Konopczyński 2015: 23), it is difficult to require a researcher dealing with the history of Polish military activities to understand the correspondence of the Swedish envoy in Stockholm during the Kościuszko Uprising, translated by Leokadia Postén and published in 1989. Assuming the publication of these sources in their original form, we would come to the conclusion that the audience would be extremely small, so the usefulness of the publication would decrease dramatically. Thus, some other languages, especially those less frequently used in a given epoch, may pose significant difficulties and challenges to the historian, which may result in misunderstanding the content, and in consequence, may lead to wrong conclusions. An example of a source published in an "unavailable" language is the aforementioned correspondence of Constantine Stamati in Greek, which is undoubtedly interesting for a researcher of the history of the period of the Third Partition.

## POTENTIAL RECIPIENT

An editor should also take into account the target group when it comes to translating; this is due to the nature of the source (Tandecki, Kopiński 2014: 115–120). If a text may be targeted at amateurs or high school students, translating it into Polish is advisable, even necessary. On the other hand, if a material is strictly specialized, much higher requirements can be imposed on the recipient, and thus conveying the source linguistically faithful to the original. However, in the case when the text may be used by recipients other than those from the unprofessional and specialist groups, the solution to the dilemma is no longer as obvious as in the previous two. Such a group may include people related to science, but undertaking it in an interdisciplinary way, who are at the beginning of their career, or treating given historical sources in way auxiliary to their field.

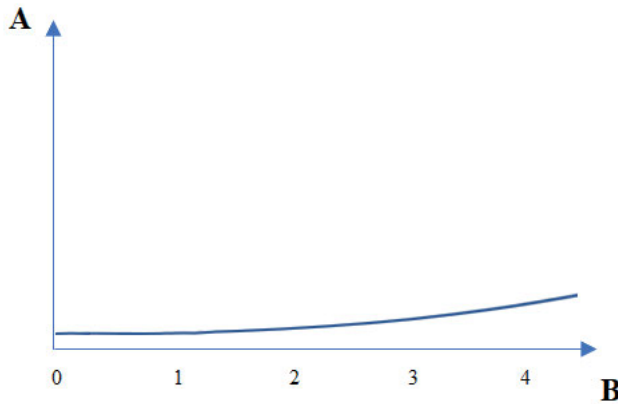
Referring to the above, groups included in the table below come to mind:

| Group              | 1:                                                                                      | 2:                                                                                                                                                                  | 3:                                                                                                    |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Recipients:        | Amateurs, enthusiasts, pupils and students                                              | Researchers interested in other fields                                                                                                                              | Specialist in the field                                                                               |
| Nature of source:  | Crucial documents for understanding history; the most famous diaries and literary works | Texts on various topics, relating to culture, particularly important historical figures, relating to a wide chronological range; diaries less often correspondence. | Specialized materials; next to the previously mentioned: files, lists, protocols, records, codes etc. |
| Example of source: | <i>Listy Napoleona i Józefiny</i>                                                       | Memoirs of Stanisław August                                                                                                                                         | <i>Entretiens du roi Stanislas Auguste...</i>                                                         |

Since we came to the conclusion that in the case of the first and third group of recipients, it is relatively easy to solve the problem, it is necessary to focus on the second one, which is particularly extensive and can definitely be most challenging. If we wanted to consider the most representative examples, apart from the memoirs of Stanisław August, the memoirs of Ogiński and Czartoryski would certainly be right. As regards correspondence, mention should be made of the *Pisma Tadeusza Kościuszki* published in Polish (Mościcki 1947).

## SOURCE AVAILABILITY

The decision to translate a published source should also result from the aspect of its widely understood accessibility. The value of an original text, coming from an archive far from Poland's borders, legally difficult to access or in private hands, is other than the value of a digitized source, or located in one of the European, especially Polish, collections. Therefore, it is not a great drawback for the critical edition, if materials from the Paris archives are translated, since the researcher, if they have relevant reasons for it, can easily go to France to study the original. Similar examples can be applied to German archives, and even more so to Polish ones. It is known, however, that access to Russian, Ukrainian or Belarusian collections is much more difficult. Especially from the perspective of a Polish researcher, finding Western European materials is significantly simpler than those located beyond the eastern border of the country. Thus, the conclusion arises that texts that are more difficult to access should be published primarily in the original, especially since the vast majority of them will be written in languages marked with groups 0 to 3. And if we are talking about materials from group 4, especially rare and difficult to access for the reader (for example, these located in Turkish archives), it is worth considering a bilingual edition, with a particularly extensive commentary. In the presented cases, therefore, the graph presented above changes significantly:



When talking about the availability of a historical source, we should not only consider the issue of getting the document in our hands, but also the possibility of reading the content. Problems that can be encountered in this aspect may be of different nature: the document may be written in a particularly illegible script, an author of the source may have neglected all the rules of punctuation (which complicates the perception of logical sense, even in the case of correct reading), the manuscript material may be damaged, the ink faded, and deep sewing in the case of many archival units can complicate a reliable understanding. In this context, therefore, a document that is deteriorating or exposed to destruction will be a particularly sensitive and demanding case (Konopczyński 2015: 89–90).

Referring both to the first aspect of source availability, i.e. to the archival query itself, and to the second, i.e. erudite terms, one common conclusion can be drawn: the more difficulties a document presents to a researcher, the more justified the decision to publish it in the original language is. The publication must of course be made with greatest care and reliability. Editing such a source should focus on its full reliability. Although these words should apply to each publication, it is worth paying attention to the fact that in the event of an inaccurate edition or a poor translation of a manuscript located, for example, in Berlin, the recipient will use the edition to conduct the on-site query much faster and more efficiently. The use of inaccurately prepared edition of documents that are difficult to access, the verification of which is particularly complicated, will certainly be the source of frustration.

## CONCLUSIONS

The problems and dilemmas presented above, supported by examples, deserve specific solutions that may give rise to further discussion or even facilitate decision-making. The first option may be a bilingual edition – containing the original text and

its translation. Although in this form a publication becomes almost twice as extensive, it first of all completely solves the problem, making the work available to a wider group of researchers. We can go in a similar direction by publishing the foreign (original) and Polish (translation) versions separately, but at the same time. This path was followed by Kocój and the publishers of Stanisław August's diaries (Kostkiewiczowa 2015). In both cases, however, there are slight differences in the intention of the publication, as the selection of texts differs from each other. In a sense, the model of quoting source texts by historians, presented above on the example of Askenazy and Kukiel, also fits the bilingual approach. In Polish, the reader receives a narrative (and the translation is always a narrative, not a message), and the original, if needed, for the sake of the insight. An editor should follow a similar path by including summaries in a publication, especially in a foreign language. This solution is suggested by the publishing manual (Lepszy 1953: point 66).

In conclusion, the only real drawback is the volume of the publication, especially in the case of larger projects. The double work of the editor can also be taken into account, but a perfect knowledge of the sense of the text which they publish is required – in this case the translation should not be so time-consuming. Therefore, it is highly justified that more and more often work on source editions is undertaken by several specialists. The idea is recommended, especially if they represent various fields: philology, history, linguistics, etc.

Finally, the postulate of developing a detailed publishing instruction or a proposed scheme for resolving certain dilemmas is noteworthy. Of course, editing would require the work of the best broad research team, composed of the most experienced specialists in their fields.

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