

At the beginning of 2009, the archives for the Norwegian region of Oppland (Oppland Archives, Maihaugen) located in Lillehammer approached the State Archive in Cracow with an proposal of co-operation. The idea was to collect information concerning Polish-Norwegian relations, and in particular Polish emigration to Norway from the beginning of the 19th century until the present day. At the turn of February and March 2009, the two institutions signed a declaration of intention regarding the joint project „Polish emigrants in Norway in 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>th</sup> century. Source material for studies”, to be undertaken between 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010.

As part of the project, both institutions simultaneously conducted archival research into emigration from Poland to Norway, and conducted interviews with contemporary migrants. In both countries, exhibitions presenting the collected information are planned. In addition to the above, Oppland Archives, Maihaugen, have prepared an Internet exhibition, and this publication is the work of the State Archive in Cracow.

The project was made possible thanks to funding granted by the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage within the framework of the Fund for Cultural Exchange, through the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, as well as thanks to Oppland Archives' own financial resources.

The partners' intention was to collect materials concerning Polish emigration to Norway between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, and to present these materials to a wider public. Although researchers had earlier looked into the issue of Polish emigration to Scandinavia, the information gathered relating to both emigration in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as well as contemporary emigration appeared to be particularly interesting. This is partly due to the fact that, in the different periods of emigration, both political and economic reasons for emigration were visible.

In this publication, we present the results of the work conducted by both the Norwegian and Polish sides. The two institutions conducted archival research, interviews with emigrants, and examined articles dedicated to the emigration of Poles to Norway, independently. We attempted to unify the texts prepared by the two institutions, however, a certain level of individualism can be seen in the prepared works. The attempt to look into the issue of emigration and Polish-Norwegian relations from two sides may also be of interest to readers. Although, as can be seen from the prepared works, relations between the two countries were not, and are not, the most lively, both in historical sources and contemporary interviews, some interesting tales can be found. Hope remains that every reader will find at least one story which will be of interest.

In accordance with the wishes of our partners, in the publication we present only English and Polish versions of the text.

I would like to thank Marit Hosar, Director of Oppland Archives, Maihaugen, as well as all the Archives' employees in Lillehammer for their cooperation. I would also like to express my gratitude to all the workers in the State Archives in Cracow for their hard work and effort during this project. Additionally, I am extremely grateful to the directors and workers of the following institutions for their help in conducting archival research; the Archives of New Records, the Central Archives of Historical Records, the National Digital Archives, the State Archives in Bydgoszcz, Gdansk, Poznan, Suwalki, Szczecin and Torun, as well as branches of the Institute of National Remembrance in Cracow, Katowice and Wroclaw. My heartfelt thanks also go to the authors of the texts and all those people who directly contributed to the preparation of this publication.

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