

THE ASPECTS CONCERNING SOCIAL ACTIVITY OF THE INHABITANTS OF PRZEWORSK AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE CASE OF THE GYMNASTIC SOCIETY „SOKÓŁ” (1893-1939)

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Keywords:

- Gymnastic Society „Sokół”,
- Przeworsk,
- social activity.

Abstract:

The social activity of inhabitants of Przeworsk affiliated in the Gymnastic society “Sokół” had a multidimensional character, because also the scope of society’s activity was multidimensional. The concerned organisation focused on patriotism and possibility to conduct military training among the members. In the years 1907-1912 the members of the Society 24 times organized the national celebration, they organised 34 times gymnastic events and organized 15 social gatherings. Also other aspects of the work were initiated through establishing the choir and a Scout team already in the twentieth century. An important initiative, in a broad social terms, was establishing Field Team "Sokół" before the outbreak of the First World War, which after proper equipment and preparation, already during the war counting 150 volunteers supported the Eastern Legion. Members of "Sokół" also took an active part in the work of PKN in Przeworsk, acting as its personal pillar in this organisation.

After the First World War, the Nest of Sokols from Przeworsk continued sport and recreational activity and established many new sport sections. They also were active in the scope of cultural and educational events, including the work of choir, theatre section and the brass band. During this period, the society received a licence to run a cinema. Together with the Country School Association, the Sokols established a library and reading room. Furthermore, they were involved in many artistic initiatives, which played an important role in the cultural life of the city.

At the dawn of the era of partitions of Poland, Przeworsk was one of the poorly developed cities. In the course of the 19th century, there were hardly any prospects of its possible development, what is visibly depicted through the degradation to the rank of a town (according to the nomenclature adopted by Austrian legislation over the period 1889-1896)¹. Józef Benbenek described Przeworsk from that time as follows: *The appearance of the city was dismal in the 19th century. Filled with the Jewish population, mostly poor, dirty with wooden houses characteristic for the local architecture. The walls lost their function in terms of defence and the adjacent areas were turned into construction site. The city flourished only during market days, fairs and carnivals*². New era in the history of the city started, when a sugar plant was built, contributing to its further development. In 1895, many people were employed in the plant and the cultivation of sugar beet contributed to the revival of agriculture. In 1899, the Przeworsk District was established, which was however connected

¹ Sz. Kozak, *Mieszkańcy Przeworska 1867-1914*, Przeworsk 2010, p. 30-32.

² J. Benbenek, *Eksponaty muzealne o dziejach Przeworska*, Przeworsk 1983, p. 60.

autonomously with the Łańcut District. According to the population census of 1990, the population of the city was 3 203 inhabitants, including 1 730 (54%) followers of Roman-Catholic Church, 1 434 (44,8%) representatives of Jewish Religion, 35 (1,1%) Byzantine Catholics, 4 (0,1%) Evangelicals. The construction of the sugar plant was followed by further investments. For instance, the railway connection Przeworsk – Rozwadów and two years later Przeworsk – Dynów³ was established in order to provide the plant with raw material.

That was Przeworsk at the time of Galicia, during the period when Gymnastic Society “Sokół” was established. The history of this organisation is attracting interest, causing numerous research initiatives. It is worth to mention two MA thesis that occurred quite early. One of them, entitled “*The activity of Gymnastic Society “Sokół” in Przeworsk in 1893-1914*” was developed in 1961 by Maria Urban in the Department of History and the Organisation for Physical Culture of Higher School of Physical Education in Kraków⁴. The second one, entitled “*The activity of Gymnastic Society “Sokół” in Przeworsk in 1914-1939*” was developed by Agnieszka Mirkiewicz in Pedagogical University in Rzeszów, the short version of which was published in 1995 in “Przeworskie Zapiski Historyczne”⁵. Furthermore, the history of Gymnastic Society “Sokół” from Przeworsk, drawn up by the same author, was published in 1998 in *Studies of history and physical culture*⁶. Additionally, some interesting references regarding “Sokół” from Przeworsk appeared in the stories of Paweł Stepkiewicz⁷ and regional publications of J. Benbenek - *Townspeople of Przeworsk fighting for independence and Museum exhibits about the history of Przeworsk*⁸.

This publication seeks to identify the social activity of inhabitants of Przeworsk illustrated with the example of functioning of the Society “Sokół”. Its form was closely connected with the curriculum in the nest, we are interested in, and mainly included sport, cultural and educational, patriotic (including national liberation), educational as well as social and integration activities. The article, in a broader range than previously, reminds the people who created “Sokół” from Przeworsk: CEOs, members of boards, sometimes also rank and file members who made the decisions about its shape, activity and development.

Gymnastic Society “Sokół” from Przeworsk was founded relatively late, in 1893. Previously, the “Sokół” nests emerged in larger urban centres, such as Rzeszów (1886.), Jasło (1887.), Jarosław (1889). Łańcut (1890.), Krosno (1892).

In Przeworsk at that time the population earned their living mostly from craft, trade and services, and intelligence in the city was rather sparse. Szczepan Kozak says that in 1867 the latter was represented by about 20 people, while in 1893 in comparison with 1867, the number of its representatives has increased by 41%. In the years 1893-1903 in the concerned society, only 34 people earned their living from intellectual work⁹. If we assume that in Galicia “Sokół” organizations were founded mainly by representatives of the intelligentsia, it is not surprising that the society in Przeworsk was established so late.

³ Ibid, p. 61.

⁴ M. Urban, *Działalność Towarzystwa Gimnastycznego „Sokół” na terenie Przeworska w latach 1893-1914*, MA thesis, WSWF, Kraków 1961.

⁵ A. Mirkiewicz, *Działalność Towarzystwa Gimnastycznego „Sokół” w Przeworsku w latach 1914-1939*, „Przeworskie Zapiski Historyczne” v. 2, 1995, p. 213-286.

⁶ Thereof, *Dzieje Towarzystwa Gimnastycznego „Sokół” w Przeworsku*, [in:] A. Nowakowski, H. Kulbacka, B. Maksimowska, J. Snopko (ed.): *Studia z historii i organizacji kultury fizycznej*, Częstochowa 1998. Next work of this author entitled: *Działacze Towarzystwa Gimnastycznego „Sokół” w Przeworsku (1893-1939)* – in print.

⁷ P. Stepkiewicz, *O starym Przeworsku. Gawęda*, „Przeworskie Zapiski Historyczne” v. 1, 1990.

⁸ J. Benbenek, *Mieszczanie przeworscy w walce o niepodległość*, „Przeworskie Zapiski Historyczne” v. 1, 1990; thereof, *Ekspozyty muzealne...*

⁹ Sz. Kozak, *Mieszkańcy Przeworska...*, p. 82.

Also the genesis of “Sokół” nest in Przeworsk, similarly to the Galician model, was closely associated with intelligentsia and the person who initiated its foundation was one of the first lawyers in the town - PhD Bolesław Zborowski. His involvement as well as the activity of Jan Mazepa led to the formation of the committee that on 6 June 1893 founded the local unit of “Sokół” Society.¹⁰ The developed statute was approved on 29 August 1893 by Imperial-Royal Viceroyalty of Lviv, what is deemed as the beginning of the society’s activity.

The first president of the unit was B. Zborowski (lawyer) PhD, his deputy –Jan Końciewicz (doctor and mayor) PhD and the management board consisted of: Władysław Bauman, Leonard Dąbrowski, J. Mazepa (a court clerk), Michał Pretorius (a baker), Antoni Szymański (a vet), Władysław Świtalski (a chemist), Emil Warchołowski (a court clerk) and their appointed deputies: Jan Dańczak, Kazimierz Krogulecki (a butcher), Franciszek Szarliński. Also a court of honour was elected and it composed of Edward Dymnicki (a tax assistant), Władysław Nestorowicz, Władysław Teleśnicki (a district judge), Jan Wodecki (a notary and mayor) and Antoni Zabielski (a cashier). In 1893, “Sokół” started its activity in Przeworsk, counting 40 members¹¹.

The beginnings of the society’s activity were very difficult for various reasons. Among others, there was no room to exercise, so in order to conduct classes in gymnastics, the members benefited from a room shared by the Bernardine monastery. In the chronicle of the monastery it was described in the following manner: *The stables located next to the church at Bernardine Sq. were moved to the old site, where they were located a hundred years ago by the wall next to the well; there also erected a new barn. A part of the building, i.e. the old building with a harvester, was leased to Gymnastic Society “Sokół”*¹². In such conditions Sokols from Przeworsk began learning gymnastics.

On 19 January 1896 a general meeting of the society was convened in order to elect a new management board. The term of office of this body, in accordance with the statute, lasted three years¹³. President Zborowski was re-elected, while the management board in the course of the elections radically altered its personnel. Only 3 persons have been re-elected: W. Bauman, whose become Deputy President, J. Końciewicz PhD and E. Warchołowski. The new board members were: Józef Cizek, Józef Huet, Wincenty Piestrak, Michał Wągiel and Stanisław Witkowski. The change also occurred in positions of deputies. And so, on the new group consisted of: Michał Chwalibiński, Józef Maślanka and M. Pretorius. J. Cizek held the position of a secretary, W. Piestrak become a host and S. Witkowski – a treasurer. B. Zborowski PhD was chosen to be a delegate to Rally of the Polish Gymnastic Societies “Sokół” in Austria (ZPGTS) and his deputy was Wilhelm Skrobotowicz¹⁴.

An important date in the history of the “Sokół” from Przeworsk was 2 February 1896, when at a meeting of the Society’s Department in Lviv, the nest from Przeworsk was admitted to ZPGTS and assigned to III Rzeszów District¹⁵.

An analysis of the composition of management revealed that the first head of the Przeworsk “Sokół” was already cited W. Skrobotowicz. In subsequent years, this important function responsible for physical education, sports and recreation probably had not been filled. We may conclude that in view of the situation from April 12, 1896 at a meeting of the district of the teaching staff, the chief from Przeworsk was absent. It is worth noting that a

¹⁰ „Gazeta Przemyska”1893, 10 VIII, no. 64, p. 2.

¹¹ „Przewodnik Gimnastyczny <<Sokół>>” 1893, no. 11, p. 153.

¹² Archiwum Prowincji oo. Bernardynów w Krakowie (dalej: APoo.B), sygn. IX-57, *Kronika klasztoru oo. Bernardynów w Przeworsku*, p. 16.

¹³ *Statut Towarzystwa Gimnastycznego „Sokół” w Przeworsku*, lack of print date, par. 28, p. 9. (author’s materials).

¹⁴ „Przewodnik Gimnastyczny <<Sokół>>” 1896, no. 5, p. 63.

¹⁵ *Ibid*, no. 3, p. 40.

training was conducted at that time, during which Karol Stary (Head of III Division of the Rzeszów district unit) instructed the participants, how to properly perform free exercises, with sticks and on the railing, he also presented interesting pyramids¹⁶.

This does not mean, however, that in this period the members of "Sokół" in Przeworsk did not do any exercises. From the list of entries for the third meeting in Kraków, which was to take place in June 1896, showed that Przeworsk registered 28 participants, including 20 with "Sokół" uniforms, 6 participants for free exercises, 6 for exercise on the railing, 6 persons to exercise sticks¹⁷.

On 23 January 1898 there was the annual meeting of "Sokół" from Przeworsk, which aim was to present the activity report for 1897 and election of a new management boards. It is worth noting that the position of President and Deputy President did not change. For the second time appeared the name the chief of the nest, who was Marcin Lisiewicz, S. Witkowski was re-elected as treasurer, the position of host was occupied by Mateusz Hłowiecki PhD and J. Maślanka was a secretary (foregoing deputy member of the management board). The new management board selected in 1898 consisted of Waclaw Dedeka, doctor M. Hłowiecki, doctor J. Końcowicz, Franciszek Krogulecki, J. Maślanka, Jan Reyman, S. Witkowski. The deputy board members were: M. Chwalibiński, Fryderyk Sala and E. Warchałowski. Also, a review panel, which was represented by Alexander Czepielewski and Franciszek Wertz and court of honour composed of: L. Dąbrowski, Franciszek Jopek, and W. Nestorowicz and Jan Pogorowski¹⁸. The analysis of the newly elected board indicates a very high turnover of its members, which was not conducive to stabilization in terms of implementing long-term work plans. For instance, only doctor J. Końcowicz was re-elected for the new management board.

In 1898 the nest in Przeworsk, counting 60 members, already had a building site for the department, the so-called sokolnia, collected money in the amount of 1 818 Rhine goldens [złr] 29 cents [ct] and taking into account the value of inventory, valued at 269 złr 64 ct, the assets of nest was 2 087 złr 93 ct. It is worth noting that from March, under the leadership of new chief, regular physical exercises were done and school students began classes in physical education the existing gymnasium "Sokół"¹⁹.

The organisational work in the nest in Przeworsk can be assessed critically at that time. The members from Przeworsk neither took part in the meetings of the management board of the Rzeszów District, nor gave reasons for their absence²⁰. The members of the management board elected on 29 January 1899 were also insubordinate. Although they were new in these positions, they often did not participate in the meetings of that body and the meeting could not take place due to the absence of the number of members regulated by the law²¹. Undoubtedly, the members were more mobilized on the occasion of rallies. For instance, the 1st rally of 3rd district unit, which was held on June 29, 1900 in Rzeszów, was attended by 14 persons from Przeworsk, including 12 in uniforms. In the free exercises participated 6 people, 2 with sticks, and one patrol took part in exercises with equipment. Cited numbers were not impressive, considering the fact that at that time in Przeworsk there were 90 members of the society²².

In January, 1901 a new management board was elected, headed by doctor Ignacy Smyczyński and with deputy president Romuald Radwański. During this period, efforts were

¹⁶ Ibid, no. 6, p. 76.

¹⁷ Ibid, no. 8, p. 102.

¹⁸ According to the statute the term of office of the President and his deputies lasted three years. The Board was also elected for 3 years, but every year the third part of it was changed. Therefore they made every year by-election. *Society's statute...*, par. 28, p. 9.

¹⁹ „Przewodnik Gimnastyczny <<Sokół>>” 1898, no. 4, p. 44.

²⁰ Ibid., 1899, no. 12, p. 114.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid, 1900, no. 8, p. 66.

made, among others, aiming at the improvement of housing conditions for the business office. The involvement of I. Smyczyński during the time he was the president, one focused on the old brewery building, which was bought, renovated and adapted for the needs of the society. In October 1902 the local gymnasium with new exercise machines was opened for the purposes of "Sokół"²³. However, the exercises have not been done there immediately. We know with certainty that in 1903 in Przeworsk, as in Dębica and Ropczyce, the classes in gymnastics were not carried out. District authorities appealed the aforementioned units to the imminent start of exercises²⁴. The difficult situation of the nest in Przeworsk was the consequence of a lack of gymnastics' teacher in 1901-1903²⁵. On March 9, 1902 at the meeting of teaching staff of the 3rd district unit, on which the programme of exercises intended for the rally in Gorlice was discussed, there was no remark concerning the chief from Przeworsk. This could be the reason, why the nest from Przeworsk was not represented at the above-mentioned rally, since there was nobody, who would prepare the members for exercises²⁶. In June of the following year, the representation of "Sokół" from Przeworsk participated in the 4th rally of the Union of Polish "Sokół" Movement in Lviv and consisted of 37 persons, including 27 persons took part in free exercises with stick and clubs²⁷. The list of names concerning the participants from Przeworsk was published by the publishing company from 4th rally under the number 68²⁸.

On January 28, 1904 the election and report general meeting of the concerned Sokół Society in a new building. Doctor I. Symczyński was elected to be a president again, his deputy was the registrar or of the local court – R. Radwiński. Then, ten members of the management board and three deputies were elected. The management board of that time consisted of: Stanisław Benbenek (a blacksmith), Zygmunt Czarnowski (a railway engineer), Henryk Kopecki PhD (a lawyer), Jan Mączyński (a tax assistant), Waclaw Motlik (a refinery director), J. Reyman (a school director), W. Świtalski (a mayor), Ignacy Trybalski (a butcher), Roman Wolfenburg (a chief of tax guard), Michał Wygoda (a court assistant). The deputies of the said body were: Ludwik Halporn (a chief), Waclaw Marton PhD (a chemist in sugar plant), S. Witkowski (an ordinance official). The review panel included: Waclaw Nestorowicz, Leon Świtalski and A. Zabielski. The above-mentioned data allowed to conduct analysis of the social structure concerning the management board. It is obvious that the majority of the members represented the intelligentsia, two of who were craftspeople belonged to known and respectable middle-class families.

At the above-mentioned meeting elected the head of the nest, i.e. W. Jenke. Twice a week, he conducted classes with group of 20 persons in a new, well-equipped gymnasium. To complete the picture it should be added that the new treasurer was doctor H. Kopecki, the secretary – J. Mączyński, controller – W. Motlik and host – M. Wygoda²⁹.

On September 9, 1904 in Tarnobrzeg, the unveiling of the monument of Bartosz Głowacki took place. ZPGTS instructed the nests of the 3rd district to participate in this

²³ Ibid, 1904, no. 3, p. 24.

²⁴ Ibid. , 1903, no. 3, p. 21.

²⁵ Przewodnik Gimnastyczny <<Sokół>>”, 1902, no. 12, p. 92.

²⁶ Ibid, no. 5, p. 3 i no. 11, p. 88.

²⁷ Ibid, 1903, no. 7, p. 56.

²⁸ *Pamiętnik IV zlotu sokolstwa polskiego we Lwowie w dniach 27-29 czerwca 1903 r.*, Lwów 1904, p. 144. Participants from Przeworsk's nest : Arvay Wilhelm, Barański Adam, Bauman Teofil, Bauman W., Benbenek Stanisław, Ćwierz Tomasz, Czarnowski Zygmunt, Fellner Wincenty, Haase Adalbert, Jadach Aleksander, Jarosz Julian, Jenke Walenty, Kodera Alojzy, dr Kopecki Henryk, Lisiewicz M., Łowicki Kazimierz, Martinec Józef, Maślanka J., Maślanka Mieczysław, Maślanka Stanisław, Maślanka Władysław, Mączyński Jan, Piestrak W., Pretorius M., Radwański R., Różycki Bolesław, dr Smyczyński I., Świtalski W., Szczepański Celestyn, Terlikiewicz Antoni, Trybalski Ignacy, Witkowski P. (senior), Witkowski Stanisław (junior), Witkowski Tadeusz, Wohnn Wojciech, dr Zabielski A., dr Zborowski B.

²⁹ „Przewodnik Gimnastyczny <<Sokół>>” 1904, no. 3, p. 24.

ceremony and therefore among the representatives of the Rzeszów District there were also members from Przeworsk³⁰.

Between 7 and 12 April 1906 in Rzeszów took place a course for chiefs, led by the chief of the 3rd district of K. Stary. It was attended by 11 people, including Przeworsk's Sokol – Jakub Garbacki. The course ended with gymnastic show and participants received a certificate of completion of training³¹. In the same year, the district of the centre in Rzeszów, comprised 16 societies, which were registered in a total number of 1 601 members. "Sokół" from Przeworsk consisting of 126 members occupied the fourth place in terms of number of members, behind Rzeszów (250), Jasło (173) and Gorlice (155)³².

At the beginning of the 20th century, the number of members belonging to the nest from Przeworsk increased. Jan Ślęk writes the following words in his diary: *Several railwaymen and peasants from the village Grzęska appeared. Among them, there was Jan Pieczek, devoted to the idea of "Sokół" Society. (Jan Pieczek, in consultation with the management board of "Sokół", established "Sokół" in Grzęska). Many workers of the sugar plant and academicians Teofil Anaszkiwicz, Michał Jenke, Jan Maksymczuk as well as young craftsmen and peasants from the suburbs*³³.

An important event in the history of each nest, which obtained a flag, was the moment when it was hallowed. It was also the case of Przeworsk's "Sokół", the flag of which was hallowed in 1908³⁴. It was highlighted in the report of the activity of the department of Polish Gymnastic Society in Rzeszów. There was also an information regarding the presence of the delegation thereof took part in ceremony considering Sokols' flags in Przeworsk and Głogów³⁵.

On the pole of the flag, 321 nails were placed [small metal insignia with the names or name of an institution – A. M.] in 63 rows. It confirmed the connection between "Sokół" and other societies, banks or savings banks. There were, for instance, the insignia of other "Sokół" nests: Prague, Poznań, Lviv or Zakopane. Moreover, there was also mortgage bank from Lviv, savings bank from Jarosław and Kraków, savings bank from Łańcu, the Society "Gwiazda" from Jarosław, Rzeszów and Przeworsk or the department of the district council from Tarnów. Among the engraved names there were the most distinguished persons for the Przeworsk's "Sokół" society as well as famous people from the city and the surroundings: Andrzej Lubomirski, Eleonora Lubomirska, Jan Mycielski czy Genowefa Turnau³⁶.

In the first decade of the 20th century "Sokół" from Przeworsk participated in many events: the rallies on 2 June, 1907 in Rzeszów, 7 June, 1908 in Tarnobrzeg and 3 July, 1909 in competition in Łańcut. These events mobilized young people to exercise, although in Przeworsk's "Sokół", sports were rather treated a recreation. More preferred were sport games, shooting, skating and tourism. There was not many outstanding players, as evidenced by the 5th Polish Sokół rally organized in Kraków in 1910. The Rzeszow district units in individual sports was represented by only 34 people, including 2 from Przeworsk. Probably more players from the local institution took part in free exercises and exercises with equipment. Unfortunately, there is a lack of sources confirming this event, we only know that

³⁰ Ibid., no. 11, p. 87.

³¹ Ibid., 1906, no. 6, p. 51.

³² Ibid., no. 10, p. 86.

³³ Cyt. za: J. Benbenek, *Mieszczanie przeworscy...*, p. 64.

³⁴ The flag of Przeworsk "Sokół" is preserved in good condition until today. Over the period of occupation and years of PRL it was kept by his brother Henryk Zbijewski, the last president of the nest. Only after 1989, in new political circumstances, the flag was disclosed and incorporated into collection of the Museum in Przeworsk.

³⁵ *Sprawozdanie z czynności Wydziału Polskiego Towarzystwa Gimnastycznego „Sokół” w Rzeszowie za rok 1908*, Rzeszów 1909, p. 7.

³⁶ More information: A. Mirkiewicz, *Sztandar Towarzystwa Gimnastycznego „Sokół” w Przeworsku*, „Przegląd Naukowy Instytutu Wychowania Fizycznego i Zdrowotnego WSP w Rzeszowie”, z. 1, 1997, p. 17.

in this period the position of a chief was occupied by Władysław Mirkiewicz, one of the best teachers of gymnastics in the history of this particular nest³⁷.

The cultural and educational activity developed rapidly, numerous sources confirm that in the period 1907-1912, the Przeworsk's Sokols organised 24 national celebration, 34 public performances with gymnastic shows, 15 socializing meeting³⁸, not to mention the festivals and entertaining events. At the end of the 19th century, the choir was established under the name "Echo sokole", which in 1912-1914 organized numerous performances collecting money for the Field Team of "Sokół" (SDP). The choirmaster at that time was Tomasz Tworek. In 1912, on the initiative and with help of GS "Sokół", the scouting unit was established in Przeworsk, the leaders of which were also members of local "Sokół"³⁹.

During the period prior to the First World War, "Sokół" in Przeworsk initiated numerous important activities. In 1911, the youth associated with it attempted military preparation of a Sokol team, and the volunteers were also recruited from neighbouring villages. The organizational meeting was attended by Stanisław Anaszkiwicz, T. Anaszkiwicz, Henryk Graff, Jan Jarosz, Władysław Jarosz, M. Jenke, J. Ślęk. They participated in classes in square bashing, shooting and combat exercise, which were conducted by Austrian reserve officer Florian Scholl. The management board of "Sokół" registered all the team members as Sokols and acknowledged it as own SDP, the commandant of which was Henryk Bigoszt. Soon, many volunteers from Przeworsk, Kańczuga and surroundings as well as the whole 7th class of the junior high school from Jarosław joined the team⁴⁰.

Owing to the financial help of townspeople and the local landowners, it was possible to cover all the expenses associated with the equipment needed for marching. Tens of thousands of crowns were collected a military fund was established. The archival sources lack of accurate data on the amount acquired on the occasion of mobilization of the SDP. It is only known that part of the funding in the amount of 80 000 crowns was transferred to the Eastern Legion and 5 000 crowns to the Supreme National Committee (NKN)⁴¹. Additionally, the management board of "Sokół" from its own resources handed over 1 200 K SDP for the military equipment of SDP in Sambor.

The Central National Committee (CKN) in Lviv consisted also of the Entailer of Przeworsk A. Lubomirski. At his instruction, on 9 August 1914 the representatives of social and political organisations were convened to select the District National Committee (PKN). It was composed of: A. Lubomirski as a president, his deputy J. Mąceński, and members: S. Anaszkiwicz, Jan Bigoszt, Adam Wojdałowicz. There was also Władysława Tryczyńskiego and E. Lubomirska. J. Bigoszt was responsible for military issues, while the priest Jan Sierżęga supervised the financial issues.

The above-mentioned NKN was established on 16 August, 1914 in Kraków by a group of Polish MPs from Galicia. The Lviv's CKN was incorporated into the composition of the latter as an Eastern Section headed by Tadeusz Cieński, the Western Section was headed by Władysław Leopold Jaworski⁴².

NKN did not acknowledge the PKN elected on 9 August in Przeworsk and instructed to convene a new meeting in the presence of delegate of NKN – Witold Ostrowski. Alojzy

³⁷ *Pamiętnik V zlotu sokolstwa polskiego w Krakowie w dniach 14-16 lipca 1910*, Lwów 1911, p. 132.

³⁸ „Przewodnik Gimnastyczny <<Sokół>>” 1908-1913. *Tabele statystyczne*.

³⁹ J. Benbenek, *Eksponaty muzealne...*, p. 93.

⁴⁰ Threof, *Mieszczanie przeworscy...*, p. 53-54.

⁴¹ National Archive in Kraków (APK), *Archiwum NKN, Korespondencja z PKN w Przeworsku*, microfilm 512. This was the name of archive at a time when one used the source materials thereof. Today it is the National Archive in Kraków.

⁴² A. Zielecki, *Ruch niepodległościowy w Przeworsku podczas I wojny światowej*, „Przeworskie Zapiski Historyczne”, v. 1, 1990, p. 20-23.

Zielecki describes the election in the following way: *Andrzej Lubomirski, the president of the District Council, who was a member of CKN and NKN convened the meeting in premises of Dom „Sokoła” [Sokół’s House]. Andrzej Lubomirski was elected to be the chairman one more time, his deputy was Jan Mączyński as the president of „Sokół” and director of the Credit and Trade Company, the secretary was Stanisław Anaszkiewicz, the treasurer – a priest Jan Sierżęga, a military commissioner – Jan Bigoszt, a tax inspector, the election of whom was approved by presidium of NKN and the Military Department of NKN, the head of school – Adam Wojdałowicz. Additionally other local persons were involved, i.d. a parish priest from Markowa, Władysław Tryczyński, a physician from Kańczuga Antoni Sawicki, Eleonora Lubomirska, Bronisława Graffówna, Stanisława Arvajowa, Rajska. The following sections were established: fiscal, enrolment and military, district, military and sanitary⁴³.*

The famous activists from “Sokół” Society cooperated with PKN: dr H. Kopecki, dr I. Smyczyński, J. Ślęk and dr B. Zborowski⁴⁴.

It should be emphasized that Sokols from Przeworsk greatly committed in the work of PKN, especially J. Mączyński and J. Bigoszt, who, among others, collected monetary donations and other gifts intended to equip the SDP. In the building of “Sokół” the cobblers sewed uniforms and the shoemakers made shoes for free. It was necessary to prepare the equipment for about 150 soldiers and to take care of all the members of the said nest. Also the women were trained to assist the wounded, which resulted in the creation of a Przeworsk’s sanitary points. Eventually, 95 women were trained in this aspect. On September 8, 1914 straightway in the morning after the mess, SDP went to the train station and set off in the direction of Jasło to merge with the Eastern Legion⁴⁵.

As the Central Powers’ armies entered Przeworsk on 13 May 1915 the second Russian occupation ended. This was accompanied by repression of Russophiles and supporters of Endecja. PKN was activated again, for which J. Mączyński and Maślanka were responsible. Also an action concerning collecting financial means for the help for legionists’ families and families of disabled soldiers.

In autumn 1918, the Austrian army lost the initiative. On 15 October 1918 in Kraków, the Polish Liquidation Committee (PKL) was established, which announced itself as government of Galicja. In Przeworsk, the local government was taken over in the night on 31 October/1 November 1918⁴⁶.

The chronicler of the Bernardine monastery in Przeworsk described the first days of freedom in the following manner: *Finally it was 31 October. The end of war. It started suddenly and ended so as well. The former Austrian defectors disarmed the gendarmerie. It was those people, at which gendarmes were shooting on the previous day, who were running and hiding in order not to go to front. About 3 days later, the former starost of Romanów, on the market, publicly pledged allegiance to Poland. Shortly thereafter, in our church, the Polish army made up of volunteers, numbering around 100 after a mess, made an oath of allegiance to the Polish government at the Paradise Square in front of the church,. Although, temporarily it was chaos, but there was no major elections. Some windows of Jewish people were shattered and some goods from Jews robbed. And so this silly Austria disintegrated⁴⁷.*

In conclusion, one should stress large involvement of members of "Sokół" in the work of PKN in Przeworsk. It is not only J. Mączyński, J. Bigoszt, or honorary member of "Sokół" – A. Lubomirski, but many other activists who cooperated with PKN. They were people well

⁴³ Ibid., p. 22.

⁴⁴ J. Benbenek, *Mieszczanie przeworscy...*, p. 45.

⁴⁵ A. Zielecki, *Ruch niepodległościowy...*, p. 25.

⁴⁶ Ibid., p. 29-32.

⁴⁷ APoo.B, sygn. IX-57, *Kronika klasztoru...*, p. 85.

prepared to work for national liberation, because it was just, what they learned being members of "Sokół".

When the war ended, the Sokół's units from three formerly-partitioned areas were joined, a territory division into districts was performed, the former ZPGTS was divided into two districts – Małopolska and Kraków Districts. Przeworsk was incorporated into 1st circuit with the centre in Jarosław (Małopolska District)⁴⁸.

Due to the lack of sources it is very difficult to determine precisely the years in which the individual acted as presidents of the society in the Second Republic. Even in his short diary, Andrzej Łański, former custodian [janitor - A. M.] of "Sokół" from Przeworsk incorrectly reported certain facts⁴⁹. Certainly, the period 1919-1922 was the presidency of J. Bigoszt. Then, in the years 1923-1934 (which is less certain) the president was Zygmunt Skrobotowicz, a long-time member of the city council. One can assume A. Łański 1926 provided the composition of the management board from 1926, which consisted of: J. Benbenek, Klaudiusz Bobulski, engineer Wilhelm Chwałek, PhD Marcin Głąb, Roman Harmata, Wojciech Kapusta, Stanisław Osada, Józef Pelc, PhD Leon Pieniążek, Walenty Rybacki.

In 1921 Przeworsk's nest counted 182 members and it was the most populous after Jarosław in the 1st district of Jarosław. A few members, however, among those affiliated participated in physical exercises (15%). But it was a common problem, which involved not only Sokols from Przeworsk, in Jarosław practiced only 15% of the members and the other nests and district entities in the statistical list of 1922 did not provide this type of activity⁵⁰. It seems that one more focused then on cultural and educational activities or social-entertainment, which act as an integration in the society, important after the difficult years of the war.

In the statistical tables, which appeared in the "Gymnastic Guide << Sokół >>" [Przewodnik Gimnastyczny] there is no information on the period 1924-1926 relating to the activities of Przeworsk's nest. Most likely, the members of society and particularly its secretary, did not send annual reports to Warsaw. Due to this fact, one cannot draw conclusions too quickly, which would have pejorative character while evaluating all activities of the nest in this period. Among the forms of physical activity in the "Sokół" from Przeworsk there was, among others, athletics and therefore, the representatives of the nest participated in several competitions in this discipline. For example, on 12 and 13 September 1925 in Jarosław, Kazimierz Rut from Przeworsk ranked on the first place in the javelin and Józef Krogulecki won in the 100 meter hurdles and he was forth in the pentathlon. The Sokols from Przeworsk took first place in the competition in rope pulling⁵¹.

The competitions organized on 15 May 1927 in Jarosław on the occasion of the consecration of the colours, in the 4x100 metres relay, the first race was won by Jarosław ahead of Rozwadów, while the second by Przeworsk ahead of Łańcut⁵². In the following year, in the district competition which took place on 8-9 September with the participation of the Sokół Societies from Jarosław, Łańcut and Przeworsk, Jan Łoś took the 3rd place in men's triathlon with 1 467 points⁵³. It should be noted that the representatives of the Sokół unit from Przeworsk participated in national and rally-related events as well.

⁴⁸ „Przewodnik Gimnastyczny <<Sokół>>” 1921, no. 11-12, p. 48.

⁴⁹ A. Łański noted that during the presidency of J. Mączyński, R. Harmata was the member of the board of "Sokół". From sources we know that Mączyński was president during World War I, and R. Harmata arrived to Przeworsk in 1925. (Archdiocese Archive in Przemyśl, *Akta personalne księży. Tabela służbowa kp. Romana Harmaty*).

⁵⁰ „Przewodnik Gimnastyczny <<Sokół>>” 1922, no. 1, p. 45.

⁵¹ Ibid., 1925, no. 9-10, p. 213.

⁵² Ibid., 1927, no. 15-16, p. 187.

⁵³ Ibid., 1928, no. 24, p. 283.

In the years 1928-1930, the board of the 1st district unit organized monthly trainings for the heads thereof, during which the modern methods of physical education were introduced, exemplary gymnastics lessons were taught and the best ways to play team games and practice cross-country athletics were recommended. Demonstrational drill and shooting were practiced as well. Unquestionably, it was the merit of the head of the Jarosław district Kazimierz Skarbowski, who at the same time held a senior organizational function of a deputy head of Małopolska district⁵⁴. It should be noted that during this period the athletes representing "Sokół" from Przeworsk were intensively preparing for the spring competition organized by this unit in gymnastics, athletics and shooting, which took place on 28-29 April 1929 in Lviv with the participation of 19 nests⁵⁵.

In May 1931, at the congress of the council of the said district, a report which showed that during this period it consisted of 13 precincts and 121 nests affiliating a total number of 13 219 members was presented⁵⁶.

In 1932, in order to stimulate some institutions in Jarosław precinct, it was decided to move the annual rally to Leżajsk. It was attended by the members of Sokół Societies from Jarosław, Przeworsk, Łańcut, Sieniawa, Nisko and Rozwadów. In total, the parade was attended by 175 persons, including 48 women⁵⁷. On 17-18 June 1933, the representation of the Przeworsk Sokół Society took part in the rally of Małopolska district in Lviv. Statistics regarding active people and published in "Sokół Małopolski" showed that 43 persons from Przeworsk exercised, including 16 men and 27 women⁵⁸.

In the next year, the said district unit was reorganized by reducing the number of precincts to 7, and the nest in Przeworsk, as one of 24 units, was assigned to the 4th Przemysł precinct⁵⁹. This division was not accepted from the outset, as evidenced by a regional rally held in Nisko on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the nest. It was mostly participated by the units registered in the Jarosław precinct, including Przeworsk. From the new Przemysł district unit, only "Sokół" from Radymno sent its representatives, while there were only thirteen representatives from Przemysł itself. During this rally, the women's volleyball team from Radymno was defeated by the team representing Przeworsk⁶⁰.

A peculiar reward for "Sokół" from Przeworsk was permission to organize trials testing physical fitness in terms of applying for the National Sports Shield (POS). Trials were carried out by headship of the nest, which was a great honour for the whole Sokół unit. It confirmed the fact the work related to physical education and sports was conducted properly. Properly trained instructors, equipment and sports facilities meet the required criteria to carry out the activities related therewith⁶¹.

In May 1936, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the nest from Przemysł, the rally of the 4th district with the participation of the representatives of "Sokół" from Przeworsk. In a volleyball tournament, a team associated therewith lost 1:2 against Jarosław, but there were victories in athletics, both men's and women's, recorded. Zofia Dąbska took first place in both discus and javelin throw, while in the men's category Przeworsk took first place in the Olympic torch relay, ahead of the representatives from Gródek Jagielloński and Przemysł⁶².

⁵⁴ Ibid., 1930, no. 3, p. 40.

⁵⁵ Ibid., 1929, no. 12, p. 128.

⁵⁶ „Przewodnik Gimnastyczny <<Sokół>>” 1931, no. 7-8, p. 141. In 1921 Małopolska District incorporated 15 circuits and 135 nests.

⁵⁷ Ibid., 1932, no. 7-8, p. 155.

⁵⁸ „Sokół Małopolski” 1933, no. 5, p. 49.

⁵⁹ Ibid., 1934, no. 5-7, p. 35.

⁶⁰ Ibid., p. 40.

⁶¹ „Przewodnik Gimnastyczny <<Sokół>>” 1934, no. 6, p. 112.

⁶² Ibid., 1936, no. 8, p. 230.

Taking into account the figures for 31 December 1936, "Sokół" from Przeworsk had 185 affiliated members, which was the fourth most numerous group in Przemysł district unit, which included a total of 25 nests. Only the institutions operating in Przemysł (410 persons), Jarosław (247 persons) and Sanok (246 persons) were more numerous. There were 62 persons (33,5%) associated within Sokół from Przeworsk participating in physical activities. The most successful of these was athletics, practiced by 30 persons and team games, whereas instrument gymnastics classes were attended by only 6 persons⁶³.

On 2 May 1937, the 15th ordinary meeting of Małopolska district council took place, the Sokół Society from Przeworsk was represented by P. Stepkiewicz. He was the author of tales about Przeworsk, where he made very warm comments on the society without mentioning his belonging to "Sokół" from Przeworsk and the participation in the said congress in Lviv as well as the fact that he was the second deputy president during the presidency of H. Zbijewski⁶⁴.

The said branch of Sokół organized sports events typical for the period of the Second Polish Republic. On 3 May 1937, it was the organizer of the National Cross Country Running attended by 37 top runners from Przeworsk District. In the group of seniors, the representative of this nest, Władysław Mordias, took third place in a running race of 5 000m. Three days later, an internal athletic test was conducted, which served as a qualification for the society's games in Katowice. Source materials available do not give us much information concerning athletes of "Sokół" from Przeworsk, so it is worth to recall the names of the athletes from the abovementioned qualifications. The results of these tests were as follows: 60m – 1. Mleczański 7,9 s, 2. Pieczek, 3. Kałamarz; 100m – 1. Reder 13,1 s, 2. Solarz, 3. Mirkiewicz; 400m – 1. Reder 62,2 s, 2. Mleczański, 3. Kałamarz; 1500m – 1. Bojczuk 5,29 min, 2. Prima; long jump – 1. Prima 5,00m, 2. Związek, 3. Reder; high jump – 1. Związek 1,51m, 2. Pieczek, 3. Mirkiewicz; shot put – 1. Prima 9,80m, 2. Związek, 3. Solarz; the discus – 1. Prima 29,84m, 2. Związek, 3. Gliniański; the javeline – 1. Prima 34,90m, 2. Związek, 3. Bojczuk; grenade throw – 1. Prima 61,20m, 2. Solarz, 3. Reder.

On 9 May 1937, another athletics competition took place, during which the opponent of the Sokols from Przeworsk was a representation of the local junior high school. It is important to indicate that Jan Michalski was a teacher of physical education at that school at that time, who served at the same time as the head of the local "Sokół". The competition ended up with a significant victory of the latter, 63:48 points, and the outstanding results were achieved by Prima 72,25m (grenade throw), Związek 1,5m (high jump), Solarz 40,90m (the javelin)⁶⁵.

The turn of the twenties and thirties of the 20th century is quite intense functioning of several sections within Sokół in Przeworsk: boxing, gymnastics, basketball, athletics, volleyball and fencing. Construction of a bowling alley was an impetus for both the foundation of a bowling section and the organization of meetings with players from other cities. It should be added that a special room inside the "Sokół's" building housed billiard tables, where – against payment of a fee – the games were played. The best billiard player in Przeworsk "Sokół" was Tadeusz Solarz. Playing card games was another popular pastime, bridge, skat and "preferans" were mostly played as well as poker and baccarat, but these gambling games were the domain of older members of the society.

When describing recreational activities, there should also be a mention of the ice, organized each year by Kazimierz Zawilski on the Sokół's pitch in favourable weather conditions. There were speakers placed in the windows and music was played, during the time of the carnival the rink was filled up with the oddly dressed people, who came here on the

⁶³ Ibid., 1937, no. 5, p. 77.

⁶⁴ Ibid., no. 7, p. 92; *GS „Sokół” Proclamation in Przeworsk of April 1938* (author's materials).

⁶⁵ „Sokół Małopolski” 1937, no. 6, p. 90.

occasion of cyclical balls organized at that time. W. Mirkiewicz (junior) was a very good skater, who performed difficult evolutions for the standard of those time⁶⁶.

After 1935, in the Przeworsk "Sokół" facility, a great importance was attached to military training. The activities of this nature conducted by the deputy head of the nest Aleksander Bienkiewicz were attended by 60 young men. The youth in question was well trained, as evidenced by the fact that at the district rally in Lviv the representatives of Przeworsk "Sokół" walked at the head of the whole unit led by Ak. Bienkiewicz. This trip was a great experience for those representatives of the young generation, especially for those who have not had contact with a large city⁶⁷.

Considering the issue from the point of view of the author, it must be noted that due to the insufficient documentation it is difficult to accurately reproduce the work of both cultural and educational nature, which was undertaken in the said "Sokół". Some facts, from the historical point of view, are indisputable. This activity occupied a prominent place in the work program of the society. At the end of the 19th century, as mentioned before, the male choir "Echo Sokole" reactivated its activity after 1918 under the name Music Interest Group of the "Sokół" Society. The following group of committed people contributed to this: Wincenty Kwiatkowski, Feliks Lew, Jan Orłowski, Józef Pieniążek, Stanisław Rut, Józef Smyka, Franciszek Stonoga, Stanisław Szajna, Jan Wach and Jan Żyła. Choirmaster at that time was Ludwik Michalec⁶⁸. But the heyday occurred in the thirties, when there was already a mixed female-male choir under the baton of Michał Smyka. We have managed to identify the names from a picture originating from 1932.⁶⁹

Staying in the mainstream of cultural and education activities, it should be noted that the section of theatre and performing arts was established before World War I and remained active during the period of the Second Polish Republic. Theatre life in Przeworsk was largely enhanced by Jadwiga Zabielska who graduated from a drama school in Lviv and was the wife of the then director of the junior high school. She taught declamation and acting skills that were used to prepare the Nativity play in "Sokół".

A concert band of "Sokół" was one of the forms of cultural activities pursued there. Unfortunately, except a picture from the thirties, there is no information regarding music activities. The names of the band members are unknown, we do not know whether the instruments belonged to the society in question or were privately owned.

During the carnival, on the balls organized by the Sokół's nest, people danced to the sounds of an orchestra under the baton of Stanisław Marzec, who also played the violin during silent films shown at the "Sokół's" cinema of silent movies. After World War I, the member of the "Sokół" Society obtained the permit to open the cinema and theatre complex. It was an attractive form of entertainment for the residents of the town, very much in vogue at that time, and the cooperation of the representatives of the "Sokół" Society with Polish Telegraphic Agency (PAT) made it possible to bring new movies regularly. Although the nest incurred expenditures associated with running the cinema, it definitely was a profitable activity⁷⁰.

⁶⁶ Interview with Zbigniew Zbijewski of 27 March 1994 (Interview with Z. Zbijewski...), (author's materials).

⁶⁷ Interview with Jan Bienkiewicz, brother of Aleksander, former member of the military team of 14 November 1993, (author's materials).

⁶⁸ P. Lew, *Karty z dziejów szkolnictwa i kultury Przeworska*, [in:] A. Kunysz (red.): *Siedem wieków Przeworska*, Rzeszów 1974, p. 189-190.

⁶⁹ Bienkiewicz, Maria Czado, Roman Czech, Janina Jęczke, Roman Jęczke, Zofia Jurkiewicz, Oskar Klein, Krakowiecka, Adela Marzec, Jan Mirkiewicz, Karolina Mirkiewicz, Julian Nawrocki, Władysław Nawrocki, Maria Rolska, Zofia Rolska, Aniela Sala, Stanisław Sala, Henryk Stuchliński, P. Szajna, Śnieżek, Stanisław Świtalski, Maria Trybalska, Stanisława Uchańska, Matylda Zaleska.

⁷⁰ A. Mirkiewicz, *Działalność Towarzystwa...*, p. 276.

The Gymnastic Society “Sokół” in Przeworsk reached an agreement with the Society for Public School to cooperate in terms of the promotion of reading, as a result they have jointly conducted the library and the newspaper reading room. The library had 2 230 books and the travelling one was intended for the residents of the surrounding villages had 1 426 books. The cost of renting one book per week was five grosz, while the reading room was free of charge. It is worth noting that the members of “Sokół” did not receive any compensation for carrying out the library⁷¹.

In 1934, the general meeting of the Sokół Society in Przeworsk approved the project to extend the building, which was too small for those times. It was decided, inter alia, to build a separate gym, a common room for the youth, enlarge the meeting room. The necessary fundraising began. It was agreed that the annual cost of renting the room for physical education classes shall amount to one thousand zloty. On 4 August 1937, the City Council made an advance payment in the amount of 15 000 zloty to the Society, to which the debt of the facility in the amount of 2 080 zloty was added, reaching a total amount of 17 080 zloty, so renting the room was to cover the period of 17 years starting from 1 September 1937. The relevant agreement with the City Board of Przeworsk was signed on 16 January 1938.⁷²

The collected funds were not sufficient, therefore, in April 1938 the local community was urged to financially support the project⁷³. Its finalization took place on 10 December 1938, when the ceremonial opening of the new Sokół’s nest was held⁷⁴. Undoubtedly, the implementation of this task was to a large extent possible thanks to the activity of people who formed the last board headed by the president H. Zbijewski and his deputies W. Rybacki and P. Stepkiewicz⁷⁵.

World War II interrupted the activities of the society, which was deserving on a local basis in many areas of social life. The activities carried out by this organization were not limited to gymnastic activities which was entered into its signboard, but also included cultural, educational and patriotic activities. “Sokół” in Przeworsk was a pioneer in sports, it was the first to teach classes in a number of sports sections, promote both recreation and tourism. In addition, it was in this institution where a theatre group, choir, orchestra were all formed, there were many other artistic initiatives, which played an important role in the cultural life of the town, undertaken. The society’s room hosted all kinds of assemblies, lectures and educational events. Carnival balls, costume balls, Nativity plays, both pre-Christmas and pre-Easter meetings, cinema and contacts with a *great culture* (“Sokół” hired an events hall, inter alia, to such theatres as: Cracow Theatre, Małopolski Theatre, Pokucko-Podolski Theatre and Warsaw Theatre) are the events which created a multi-dimensional history of the Przeworsk community. The outbreak of World War II was *the beginning of the end* for “Sokół” and many other nests. The definite end came in the first years after the war, which were unfavourable for the Sokół Societies.

⁷¹ Museum in Przeworsk. Palace and Park complex, MP DZH OP 63, J. Benbenek, *Rozwój kultury i sportu w XXV-leciu PRL*, p. 25; Interview with Z. Zbijewski....

⁷² Own materials J. Benbenka (Own materials...). Teka no. 7.

⁷³ *Society’s proclamation*... .

⁷⁴ *Celebration’s programme*, Own materials... .

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*