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HENRYK BATOWSKI'S INVOLVEMENT IN PROMOTING THE IDEA OF SLAVIC UNITY IN POLAND AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Abstract

After the Second World War, Henryk Batowski became deeply involved in fostering post-war cooperation among the Slavic nations. From 1945 to 1952, he served as an activist and a member of the governing body of the Polish Slavic Committee, which was responsible for promoting the idea of Slavic unity to a wide audience. For many years, he also worked as an editor for “*Życie Słowiańskie*” [“Slavic Life”], the primary publication of the association. He perceived the emergent Slavic movement as non-political and non-ideological, a stance that often conflicted with the communist authorities. This research aims to shed light on Henryk Batowski's contributions to the Slavic Committee and evaluate the significant role this distinguished scholar played in advancing the aforementioned concept amidst the socio-political landscape of post-war Poland.

Keywords: Henryk Batowski, idea of Slavic unity, Slavic Committee

Introduction

Henryk Batowski (1907–1999) stands out as a pre-eminent and internationally recognised Polish scholar in the fields of history and Slavic studies. With a bibliography of 30 monographs and several hundred articles and dissertations, he is a respected authority on modern and contemporary history, specialising in Central and South-Eastern Europe. Batowski was a member of numerous editorial boards for both Polish and international scientific journals. A revered educator, he mentored many generations of students, particularly at the Jagiellonian University, where he was affiliated for over 40 years. Additionally, he held memberships in various associations, including the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Kraków, which was reestablished in 1989. Notably,



he was the inaugural chairman of the Central European Commission of the Academy of Arts and Sciences¹.

The aim of this article is not merely to recap or slightly expand upon the biography of Henryk Batowski. Instead, it seeks to elucidate the significant role this eminent scholar played in advancing the concept of Slavic unity (also termed as Slavic reciprocity) during the late 1940s in the Polish People's Republic². Given the available evidence and based on comprehensive source material analysis, it appears justifiable to assert that the accomplishments of one of the most pivotal post-war associations, whose primary goal was the unification and cooperation of Slavic states, can actually be attributed to a select few individuals. This discussion primarily concerns the Slavic Committee (SC)³. Given the history of the association, it is hard to envisage its existence without Batowski's significant contribution. He was part of the SC's leadership for nearly its entire duration, from 1945 to 1952⁴. Furthermore, he spearheaded and orchestrated numerous crucial initiatives aimed at fostering closer ties among the Slavic nations.

Transmission of the Idea of Slavic Unity in Poland after 1945

After the Second World War, the key bodies in Poland responsible for propagating the ethos of pan-Slavic cooperation among the general populace were the Polish-Slavic friendship societies. Foremost among these was the Polish–Soviet Friendship Society⁵ (TPPR)

¹ See, for further detail: J. Kozeński, *Z kroniki naukowej. Jubileusz 90-lecia urodzin Profesora Henryka Batowskiego*, "Przegląd Zachodni" 1997, No. 4(285), pp. 209–213; A. Mania, *Henryk Batowski (1907–1999)*, in: *Jubileuszowa Księga Nauk Politycznych*, ed. A. Zięba, Kraków 2015, pp. 168–172; *Sylwetka Jubilata*, in: *Z dziejów Europy Środkowej w XX wieku. Studia ofiarowane Henrykowi Batowskiemu w 90. rocznicę urodzin*, ed. M. Pułaski, I. Stawowy-Kawka, W. Rojek, A. Patek, Kraków 1997, pp. 5–7; M. Zgórniak, *Profesor Henryk Adam Batowski (1907–1999)*, in: *Henryk Batowski 1907–1999. Materiały z Sesji Naukowej PAU w dniu 18 kwietnia 2000 r.*, ed. vol. R. Majkowska, Kraków 2003, pp. 9–14.

² This article also serves as a supplement to Sebastian Grudzień's piece on Henryk Batowski's Slavic endeavours and interests, which traces the academic's life up to 1939. See: S. Grudzień, *Henryk Batowski a współpraca słowiańska (do 1939 roku)*, in: *Henryk Batowski 1907–1999. Materiały...*, pp. 35–54. However, it is challenging to concur with the author of the aforementioned text that the two latest studies he referenced (i.e. S. Fertacz, *Komitet Wszesłowiański w Polsce*, Katowice 1991 and L.S. Pręcikowski, *Polska w «nowym ruchu słowiańskim». Z działalności Komitetu Słowiańskiego w latach 1945–1947*, "Acta Universitatis Lodzianis. Folia Historica" 2000, No. 69, pp. 173–190) address Batowski's efforts towards Slavic cooperation post the Second World War. Instead, both works provide a synthesis of the history of two Slavic organisations with which the Kraków historian was directly associated (the Slavic Committee in Poland) or indirectly linked (the All-Slavic Committee in Moscow).

³ The founding congress was held on 22–23 August 1945 in Warsaw. While the origins of the SC are not well-documented in source materials, it is generally believed that the organisational guidelines for its foundation were provided by the chairman of the All-Slavic Committee, A. Gundorov (who acted as the paramount authority over the newly-formed national committees) during his visit to Poland in July 1945. See: Central Archives of Modern Records in Warsaw (hereinafter: AAN), Slavic Committee in Poland with its seat in Warsaw (hereinafter: KSwP), *Minutes of the First General Meeting of the CS*, Warszawa, 22–23 August 1945, Ref. No. 858, vol. 1, p. 2–5; *Grunwald zwycięstwem jedności słowiańskiej*, "Życie Warszawy", 14 July 1945, R. 2, No. 192(261), p. 2.

⁴ The association was active until August 1953. Subsequently, its role was assumed by the Committee for Cultural Cooperation with Foreign Countries. See, for further detail: M. Gruszczyk, *Idea w służbie propagandy. Komitet Słowiański w Polsce 1945–1953 na tle ruchu nowosłowiańskiego*, Katowice 2019, pp. 186–195.

⁵ Other societies, like the Polish-Czechoslovak, Polish-Bulgarian, and Polish-Yugoslav Friendship Societies, also served this role. The first was founded in February 1946, the next in March, and the last in January 1947.

and the aforementioned SC. Both the TPPR and the SC emerged concurrently, ostensibly as grassroots movements⁶. They shared a similar aim: to acquaint the Polish populace with the cultural accomplishments of other Slavic nations and advocate for mutual friendship and international cooperation. The TPPR, as its name suggests, centred on popularising knowledge about Soviet culture in Poland and fortifying Polish-Soviet bonds. In contrast, the SC sought to endorse the “new” ideology of Slavic collaboration whilst honouring the uniqueness of individual nations. Its undertakings included organising events propagating Slavic unity across political, economic, and socio-cultural domains, extensive publishing activities, coordinating international exchanges, and offering language courses. Although the SC’s formal purview was considerably wider than the TPPR’s, party-imposed Soviet topics soon overshadowed all forms of its activities⁷. It is noteworthy that one of the SC’s objectives was to dispel the stereotype that the Soviet-promoted Slavic unity idea was a mere extension of 19th-century Pan-Slavism. Arguably, for the SC’s initial three years – up to the inception of the Soviet-Yugoslav dispute – this objective was partially achieved. Both societies were largely instrumental in sculpting the bilateral ties between Warsaw and Moscow as envisioned by the communist leadership. This both concealed Poland’s diminished political autonomy and highlighted the perceived advantages of leaning on the Soviet Union. Despite their similarities, the TPPR and SC had their distinctions, with membership size being the most significant. The TPPR was designed as a widespread, possibly universal, organisation and was among the most prominent in the Polish People’s Republic.

The SC, compared to the TPPR, was a small organisation⁸. From 1946 to 1949, during the zenith of Slavic unity’s appeal in Poland, it comprised several hundreds of members⁹. Yet, it is crucial to note that it was always envisioned as a specialist organisation, amassing a select group of experts and avid advocates of Slavic cooperation. Regrettably, a precise member count for the SC remains elusive due to a paucity of source data. Annual presidium reports hint that a significant portion of its members, especially at regional tiers, remained inactive. This issue plagued as many as four of the SC’s seven provincial branches located in Gdańsk, Katowice, Łódź, and Poznań. Such challenges arose from myriad deficiencies, most notably financial, but also spanning areas of expertise, facilities, and resources. Due to the lack of own income, and the consequent total organisation’s reliance on state subsidies, coupled with staff turnover and politi-

⁶ Tracing back, the TPPR’s roots can be located to November 1944 in Lublin where its first branch was established. However, the central hub for the Polish-Soviet friendship movement emerged in early 1945 in Warsaw. Józef Wasowski was the inaugural president of the TPPR’s general board (1944–1945), succeeded by Henryk Świątkowski, who held the title until 1950. Additionally, Świątkowski was a member of the SC’s presidium. Report on the activities of the Provisional General Board of the TPPR in the organisational period from November 1944 to 30 August 1945, in: *Stosunki polsko-radzieckie w latach 1945–1972. Dokumenty i materiały*, compiled by E. Basiński, T. Walichnowski, Warszawa 1974, pp. 47–50.

⁷ See: M. Gruszczyk, *Idea w służbie...*, pp. 109–144.

⁸ Contrastingly, according to official figures, the TPPR boasted a membership of 1.1 million by December 1948. This number surged to nearly 3 million by mid-1950 and skyrocketed to a staggering 7 million activists by 1953. *Documents and materials for the history of Polish-Soviet relations, vol. 10: Styczeń 1950–grudzień 1955*, compiled by W. Balcerak et al, Warszawa 1982, pp. 253–254.

⁹ AAN, KSwP, *Report on the activities of the Slavic Committee and Polish-Slavic Friendship Societies for the year 1947*, Warsaw 1948, Ref. No. 858, vol. 17, n.p.; AAN, KSwP, *Report on the activities of the SC for the year 1948*, Warsaw 1949, Ref. No. 858, vol. 17, n.p.

cally-nominated members on provincial boards, considerably hampered the growth and operation of the SC's field units¹⁰.

The dynamics within the SC's executive arm, the presidium, painted a different picture. Although it officially held continuous managerial and representative roles, between 1946 and 1949, it also shouldered the responsibilities of its regional branches. This involved initiating, organising, and executing a myriad of projects to champion Slavic heritage in all its facets. This unique stance largely stemmed from the fact that the SC's senior leaders during the 1940s comprised individuals deeply invested in the Slavic unity ethos. They perceived it, albeit mistakenly, as an apolitical notion, and thus aimed to cultivate it in Poland. This cohort was the driving force propelling the association's progress.

Before 1945

Henryk Batowski was indeed one such influential figure. His involvement within the association's framework appeared to be a logical extension of his earlier academic pursuits and prior engagements with Slavic organisations.

Henryk Batowski pursued degrees in oriental studies, Slavic philology, and history at the Jan Kazimierz University in Lviv. He had been an active community member since his younger days. His first foray into Slavophile organisations saw him take on the role of secretary for the Bulgarian-Polish Society in Lviv¹¹. Between 1925 and 1927, he held the position of secretary for the Polish-Yugoslav League, an entity dedicated to fostering collaborative endeavours between Poland and Yugoslavia¹². Starting in 1926, he was also a board member of the Polish-Czech Club, later renamed the Polish-Czechoslovak Club, which acted as a cultural bridge between local Polish and Czech communities¹³. However, Batowski's contributions did not end there. As S. Grudzień notes, in early 1926, Batowski held memberships on the boards of nine different associations and served as secretary for three of them¹⁴.

From the mid-1920s, Batowski pursued a career in journalism. In 1927, he relocated to Prague, taking on the role of a correspondent for "Słowo Polskie"¹⁵ daily and concurrently furthered his studies in Bohemian studies. He made his way back to Lviv in 1929. On his return, he achieved his doctoral degree based on a dissertation titled *Czech Linguistic Material in the Chronicle of the 12th-Century Prague Writer and Canon, Kosma*. This dissertation was penned under the guidance of the head of Lviv's Department of Slavic Studies, Prof. Tadeusz Lehr-Spławiński. Batowski knew Prof. Lehr-Spławiński from their

¹⁰ See, for further detail: M. Gruszczyk, *Idea w służbie...*, pp. 84–107.

¹¹ S. Grudzień, *Henryk Batowski a współpraca...*, pp. 35–36.

¹² H. Batowski, *Liga Polsko-Jugosłowiańska we Lwowie (Sprawozdanie z działalności w r. 1925)*, "Słowo Polskie" 1926, No. 55, p. 6; Z. Варан, *З історії діяльності Польсько-югославської ліги у Львові*, in: *Lwów. Miasto – społeczeństwo – kultura*, vol. 7, ed. K. Karolczak, Ł.T. Sroka, Kraków 2010, pp. 516–517.

¹³ H. Batowski, *Klub Polsko-Czeski we Lwowie*, "Słowo Polskie" 1926, No. 52, p. 7.

¹⁴ After: S. Grudzień, *Działalność akademicka Henryka Batowskiego we Lwowie (1925–1927)*, "Historia i Polityka" 2009, No. 1(8), p. 137.

¹⁵ It is noteworthy that even before this, Batowski had contributions published in the Lviv daily. His inaugural piece for the publication appeared in July 1925. H. Batowski, *Słowiańskie Towarzystwo w Sofii*, "Słowo Polskie" 1925, No. 178, p. 6.

earlier engagements in non-academic societies¹⁶. Intriguingly, their paths would cross multiple times throughout their careers.

Henryk Batowski spent a significant portion of the early 1930s in the Balkans, primarily in Belgrade. There, he served as a correspondent for "Słowo Polskie", later shifting to "Kurier Warszawski"¹⁷. This period allowed him to foster various acquaintances, forge significant contacts, and establish enduring friendships. Although initially focused on literary themes and Slavic subjects, he soon pivoted his academic interests towards historical research, notably on the Balkan region. This shift earned him a reputation as a Balkan expert, leading to the publication of his articles in several periodicals. Upon his return to Lviv, Batowski assumed a role teaching Slavic languages at the local university. By 1936, he relocated to Kraków, continuing his academic pursuits at the Jagiellonian University. Concurrently, he taught at the School of Political Science within the Faculty of Law at the Jagiellonian University¹⁸. Among his many talents, Batowski was renowned for his linguistic prowess. He was fluent in over a dozen foreign languages, encompassing nearly all Slavic languages (except Belarusian) and the major Western languages. Tragically, in the autumn of 1939, he was among those caught in the Sonderaktion Krakau, a Nazi German operation that targeted academics. He faced imprisonment in Sachsenhausen followed by Dachau¹⁹. However, by December 1941, Batowski secured his release and made his way back to Krakow. He took on a role as a translator at the Female Trade School, while also offering his expertise as a sworn translator. In addition, he discreetly lectured at underground university courses, catering to students of Polish and Slavic studies. By the autumn of 1944, Batowski ascended to the leadership of the underground School of Political Science at the Jagiellonian University²⁰.

After the War. Batowski and the Slavic Committee

The political landscape of the first post-war decade left many scholars baffled. Science, as with other disciplines, was almost entirely stripped of its autonomy and became subordinate to the prevailing ideology. Historians, particularly those striving to maintain a semblance of independence in the highly politicised realm of modern history, found this period especially challenging. Henryk Batowski too had to navigate his place in the new regime. His chosen path in the initial post-war years centred on advocating for Slavic unity, keenly forging principles of collaboration amongst Slavic nations.

Professionally, Henryk Batowski remained affiliated with the Kraków University. Starting from September 1945, he served as an associate professor within the Faculty of

¹⁶ After: A. Mania, *Henryk Batowski...*, p. 168.

¹⁷ S. Grudzień, *Interdyscyplinarność w bułgarystycznej twórczości Henryka Batowskiego*, "Słupskie Studia Historyczne" 2011, No. 17, pp. 167–169.

¹⁸ Archives of Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Kraków (hereafter: AN PANiPAU), The legacy of Henryk Batowski, *H. Batowski – curriculum vitae*, Kraków, 9 April 1947, Ref. No. K III–151, vol. II/2, n.p.

¹⁹ His last book before the outbreak of the Second World War was published that year. H. Batowski, *Podstawy sojuszu bałkańskiego 1912 r. Studium z historii dyplomatycznej 1806–1912*, Kraków 1939.

²⁰ A. Zareba, *UJ – i tajne nauczanie*, "Życie Literackie", 5 April 1970, No. 14(949), p. 6; A. Mania, *Henryk Batowski...*, pp. 171–172.

Humanities. The role of the head of the School of Political Science at the Jagiellonian University was then taken over by Professor Ludwik Ehrlich, a public international law expert from Lviv. Although the war brutally disrupted Henryk Batowski's academic progression, his habilitation, which he had defended (amidst challenges) in 1939 based on a thesis about Bulgaria, was not acknowledged until June 1946²¹.

Henryk Batowski consistently furthered his research within Slavic studies. In 1946, he published two significant works. The first was a treatise discussing Lusatia and Lusatian matters²², while the second addressed Slavic collaboration throughout history²³. The latter was not entirely a fresh offering; it was an augmented and slightly modified version of an article he had written in the early 1930s for the "Bellona" monthly magazine²⁴. Both pieces delved deep into the factors Henryk Batowski perceived as pivotal in shaping inter-Slavic relations. In the "Bellona" publication, Henryk Batowski elucidated his interpretation of Slavic reciprocity, describing it as efforts geared towards fostering Slavic unity, encompassing mutual understanding. He further posited that actions benefiting at least two Slavic nations could be deemed reciprocal, even if not explicitly aligned with a Slavic perspective²⁵. In his 1946 publication, he revisited and refined this definition. He pinpointed shared ancestry and the ensuing linguistic parallels, traditions, and mutual political objectives – particularly, cooperation against a shared adversary, Germany – as foundational to the Slavic community²⁶.

He believed that fostering closer ties between nations required a deeper mutual understanding. This sentiment was echoed by the prevailing international dynamics, especially with the Slavs uniting during the Second World War. Henryk Batowski posited that post-war cooperation was shaped by shared threats, collaboration within the anti-fascist coalition, and a mutual desire to secure lasting independence. He held that these combined factors held more weight than past disputes and conflicts that had fragmented the Slavic community. For Batowski, understanding history, particularly recent events, and a commitment to cultivating and sustaining positive ties – characterised by trust, honesty, and openness – were the bedrock of a united Slavdom²⁷.

Notably, he wasn't advocating for the emergence of a Slavic bloc with imperial aspirations. He deemed only political independence and external safety as paramount objectives. It is plausible that he assumed proponents of the nascent Slavic movement perceived it as he did: a beacon of post-war European peace and a countermeasure against any one state's undue dominance. This perspective, while idealistic, was not singular to him. Many repre-

²¹ In subsequent years, he carved out a distinguished teaching and research career. By 1956, he had been named associate professor and also assumed the leadership of the Department of East European and Nineteenth-Century Slavic History. A decade later, in 1967, he was conferred the title of full professor, concurrently taking on the leadership of the Department of Modern Universal History at the Jagiellonian University. He held these responsibilities until his retirement in 1977. Nevertheless, retirement did not signal the cessation of his scholarly and journalistic pursuits. A. Mania, *Henryk Batowski...*, pp. 169–171.

²² H. Batowski, *Lużyce. Zwięzła informacja*, Kraków 1946.

²³ H. Batowski, *Współpraca słowiańska. Zagadnienia polityczne, kulturalne i gospodarcze w przeszłości i teraźniejszości*, Warszawa 1946.

²⁴ H. Batowski, *Wzajemność słowiańska. Problemy polityczne i kulturalne w przeszłości i teraźniejszości*, "Bellona" 1930, R. 12, No. 35, vol. 2, pp. 335–382.

²⁵ *Ibidem*, pp. 344–345.

²⁶ H. Batowski, *Współpraca słowiańska...*, p. 8.

²⁷ *Ibidem*, pp. 94–99.

sentatives of the world of science and culture, including Jan Czekanowski, an anthropologist and linguist; Józef Kostrzewski, an archaeologist; Jerzy Loth, a geographer and traveller; Waclaw Szymanowski, a physicist; Henryk Ułaszyn, a linguist and Slavist; Tadeusz Lehr-Spławiński and Kazimierz Piwarski subscribed to this portrayal of a Slavic community, shaped in part by Communist propaganda. The last two, like Henryk Batowski, had ties to Kraków, which, after Poland's loss of Lviv and Vilnius and especially following Warsaw's decimation by Germany, emerged as the nation's scientific and cultural hub between 1945 and 1947/1948²⁸.

The exact reasons for Henryk Batowski's involvement with the SC remain elusive. Multiple factors likely influenced his decision²⁹. One could have been his conviction in the Yalta order's permanence. In 1945, the Communist leadership adeptly manoeuvred political strategy, leveraging nationalistic sentiments to galvanise support across society's spectrum. This was during a period when the horrors of the German occupation and labour camps were still vivid, perhaps even for Henryk Batowski. Another motive might have been a yearning, not solely for sustenance but also for a return to "normality", especially resuming professional duties after the war's tumult. Several intellectuals and wider sections of the intelligentsia opted for a compromise, seeking ways to conduct meaningful work, while aligning it with the prevailing ideological correctness. They aspired to find a space where they could further their academic pursuits without overt ideological conflicts³⁰. Resistance to the new regime often came with myriad challenges, sometimes even making it near-impossible to publish works, earn a livelihood, or practise the intelligentsia profession at all.

From 1945 to 1952, Henryk Batowski held successive positions as vice-chairman of the SC: first (1945–1947), fifth (1947–1950), and fourth (1950–1952)³¹. Regardless of his formal ranking within the association, he was undeniably one of its most industrious members. He frequently undertook organisational and administrative responsibilities. His monthly reports offer invaluable insights into the SC's inaugural year of operations. These accounts, initially produced monthly, provide intricate details on a myriad of subjects, including preparations for launching their own publication, the genesis of the Polish-Slavic friendship societies' leadership and the SC's regional structures, the organisation of the first post-war Slavic congress in Belgrade³², and various other pertinent topics broached during presidium sessions. Batowski was also acutely aware of accumulating challenges.

²⁸ Both were also affiliated with the SC. Tadeusz Lehr-Spławiński was concurrently part of the association's presidium with Henryk Batowski, while Kazimierz Piwarski was vice-chairman (and from 1949, chairman) of the Kraków provincial branch from 1945. M. Gruszczyk, *Idea w służbie...*, pp. 73–84.

²⁹ As Stanisław Salmonowicz highlighted, the Polish intelligentsia's response to Stalinism in the 1940s and 1950s can be grouped into several categories: resistance and rejection of the imposed system, passive acceptance necessitated by the new reality, and active endorsement. However, it is pivotal to recognise that each of these stances had numerous nuances. Drawing strict and definitive distinctions between them is impractical. S. Salmonowicz, *Postawy inteligencji polskiej wobec stalinizmu (1944–1956): refleksje historyka*, "Czasy Nowożytnie" 1999, No. 6, pp. 213–219.

³⁰ D. Jarosz, *Stalinizm polski 1948–1956: strategie przystosowawcze*, in: *Polacy wobec PRL. Strategie przystosowawcze*, ed. G. Miernik, Kielce 2003, pp. 57–74.

³¹ Additionally, he was an integral part of the Audit Committee of the SC's Kraków branch – the association's eldest and arguably most dynamic regional division. AAN, KSwP, *Report on the activities of the Branch from its foundation to 31 December 1946*, Warsaw, 19 May 1947, Ref. No. 858, vol. 22, n.p.

³² Henryk Batowski was not only a delegate but also became a member of the newly-formed international entity known as the All-Slavic Committee. Read more: M. Gruszczyk, *Pierwszy powojenny Zjazd Słowiański*

By April 1946, just eight months after the SC's inception, Henryk Batowski highlighted various oversights and structural mistakes which, he believed, hindered its efficient functioning. He believed that the most significant oversight was the appointment of governing bodies based on non-expertise-based criteria. Despite assurances at the founding congress, among others from Henryk Świątkowski and Edward Ochab, that the SC would be a specialist body comprised of Slavonic experts, primarily linguists and Slavists, these turned out to be hollow promises. This emphasis on careful candidate selection was reiterated in the policy document approved in August 1945³³. However, the SC's initial presidium was notably politicised, prominently featuring members from the Polish Workers' Party (PPR) and allied parties³⁴, with minimal expert representation. Apart from Henryk Batowski, the expert panel consisted of Józef Kostrzewski, Jan Czekanowski, and Tadeusz Lehr-Splawiński. Residing outside Warsaw and burdened with other professional responsibilities, they could not frequent the capital regularly. Batowski noted his collaboration with administrative staff who exhibited a marked lack of knowledge on Slavic matters. They frequently displayed a lack of refinement and commitment³⁵. Consequently, rather than initiating a broad-based informational and educational drive, this scenario demotivated many activists, resulting in diminished participation.

Henryk Batowski also drew attention to the administrative and clerical issues that became apparent in the first months of the SC's operations. The root causes seemed to be staff shortages and excessive reporting. Initially, the SC office was managed by Zuzanna Sobierajska. However, she also had to split her working time among other organisations, including the TPPJ, where she served as the board's secretary. Her work often became mired in an excess of paperwork and routine bureaucracy³⁶. The ramifications of this were felt by everyone. On occasions, he failed to receive the necessary documents for overseas travel in a timely manner. For instance, this occurred in October 1946, when he was scheduled to attend a preparatory meeting for the Belgrade All-Slavic Convention in Prague. Another instance occurred a month later when he was departing for the aforementioned international gathering of Slavs in the Yugoslav capital³⁷.

The truth is, the SC faced numerous constraints. Among the most significant were financial challenges. These were a result of a lack of independent revenue, leading to the organisation's complete reliance on government subsidies and grants. In this manner,

w *Belgradzie 8–11(16) grudnia 1946 roku*, in: *Letnia Szkoła Historii Najnowszej 2013. Referaty*, ed. A.M. Adamus, Ł. Kamiński, Warszawa 2014, pp. 160–169; L.S. Pręcikowski, *Kongres Słowiański w Belgradzie 8–11(16) grudnia 1946 r.*, "Studia z Dziejów Rosji i Europy Środkowo-Wschodniej" 2002, vol. 37, pp. 177–194.

³³ AAN, KSwp, *Minutes of the First General Meeting of the SC*, Warszawa, 22–23 August 1945, Ref. No. 858, vol. 1, p. 2–6.

³⁴ The PPR was represented by: Paweł Dąbek (secretary), Stanisław Feddecki, Krzysztof Gruszczyński, Edward Ochab and Kazimierz Sidor, PPS – Henryk Świątkowski, SD – Mieczysław Michałowicz (chairman), and SL – Władysław Kowalski (second vice-chairman). Many of them simply did not have the time to actively participate in the association. M. Gruszczyk, *Idea w służbie...*, p. 205–224.

³⁵ AN PANiPAU, The legacy of Henryk Batowski, *The work of the SC in April 1946*, Warsaw, 30 April 1946, Ref. No. K III–151, vol. II/4, n.p.

³⁶ In 1947, she was replaced by Jadwiga Kwiatowska, a PPR activist. M. Gruszczyk, *Idea w służbie...*, p. 81–82.

³⁷ In both cases, he did not receive his foreign exchange permit on time and held the SC office responsible. AN PANiPAU, The legacy of Henryk Batowski, *Report of the Slavic Convention in Belgrade. 4–16 December 1946*, Kraków 1946, Ref. No. K III–151, vol. II/4, n.p.

the communist regime exerted control over nearly all organisations in the country. Between 1946 and 1948, i.e. during the period when the idea of a Slavic nations community was most popular in Poland, the majority of the funds received (approximately 58% of the total) were designated for so-called propaganda activities, namely the organisation of numerous academies and special events. The second largest category of expenditure (around 25% of the total) covered the editorial costs of the association's two publications, "Życie Słowiańskie" and "Wolne Narody"³⁸.

The former title was, until 1948, the sole Slavic periodical in post-war Poland. The journal was closely associated with Henryk Batowski, who served on its editorial board from 1946 to 1952, which was almost its entire lifespan (the final issue was published in April 1953)³⁹. Observing the key shifts over time, the eight-year tenure of "Życie Słowiańskie" can be segmented into two primary phases. The initial phase, spanning 1946 to 1947, was a period when the journal's editors enjoyed a certain degree of editorial freedom, especially regarding the selection of topics for individual articles. Consequently, the editor-in-chief, Henryk Batowski, and his deputy, Fryderyk Łęski, oversaw the content of the editions⁴⁰. The most noteworthy editions hail from this period, as the articles were less ideologically driven and politicised. However, it is crucial to remember that they still underwent scrutiny by the relevant state authorities. The published articles frequently explored historical themes rather than the anticipated politically relevant subjects. A significant portion of the content touched upon literary, cultural, and Slavic artistic topics. Naturally, there were also articles chronicling the endeavours of the SC and various Slavic organisations on both national and international scales. The main contributors were, besides the editor-in-chief, officials of the association, for example, Tadeusz Lehr-Splawiński, Mieczysław Michałowicz, and Henryk Świątkowski, as well as individuals closely affiliated with the association like Walery Goetel and J. Magiera. Henryk Batowski was particularly passionate about writing on Slavic topics, though he also produced report-style articles⁴¹.

³⁸ The remaining funds went towards administrative and office staff salaries (roughly 12% of the total), premises and administrative fees, and the maintenance of an official vehicle (approximately 5% in total). AAN, KSwP, *Report on receipts and expenditures for the period 5 November 1945 to 31 December 1946*, Warsaw, 1948, Ref. No. 858, vol. 33, n.p.; AAN, KSwP, *Protocol of the SC inspection conducted from 4 to 22 June 1949*, Warsaw, 4 July 1949, Ref. No. 858, vol. 26, n.p.

³⁹ In total, 84 editions, averaging around 60 pages each, were issued. The circulation of the journal started at 5,000 copies but dwindled to 1,800 just before its cessation. AAN, KSwP, *Report on the activities of the editorial board of "Życie Słowiańskie" for the year 1951*, Warsaw, 13 March 1952, Ref. No. 858, vol. 107, n.p.

⁴⁰ Fryderyk Łęski was on extended medical leave, so the bulk of the editorial responsibilities effectively fell to Henryk Batowski. AN PANiPAU, *The legacy of Henryk Batowski, The editors of Życie Słowiańskie. Division of editorial activities*, Kraków 1947, Ref. No. K III-151, vol. II/13, n.p.

⁴¹ In 1946, six articles by him were published in the magazine. H. Batowski, *Hymn wszechsłowiański*, "ŻS" 1946, No. 1, p. 6-9; id., *Nowa Jugostawia*, "ŻS" 1946, No. 3, pp. 65-68; id., *Kwestia słowiańska i jej znaczenie dla Polski*, "ŻS" 1946, No. 4-5, pp. 97-101; id., *Słowianie w ZSRR*, "ŻS" 1946, No. 7-8, pp. 199-201; id., *Kwestia macedońska*, "ŻS" 1946, No. 9-10-11, pp. 256-257; id., *Z historii zjazdów słowiańskich*, "ŻS" 1946, No. 12, pp. 367-370. By 1947, their number had increased to nine. id., *Kongres sławistyczny, który się nie odbył*, "ŻS" 1947, No. 3, pp. 105-106; id., *O współpracy poszczególnych gałęzi nauki ze słowianoznawstwem*, "ŻS" 1947, No. 4, pp. 142-145; id., *Pakt Polsko-Czechosłowacki*, "ŻS" 1947, No. 4, pp. 123-124; id., *Słowianie w walce o swoje ziemie*, "ŻS" 1947, No. 5, pp. 162-166; id., *Międzynarodowa współpraca Słowian*, "ŻS" 1947, No. 6, pp. 204-206; id., *Przed kongresem słowianoznawczym*, "ŻS" 1947, No. 10, pp. 342-343; id., *Etapy tworzenia ZSRR*, "ŻS" 1947, No. 11, pp. 373-375; id., *Zgon profesora Włodzimierza Piczety*, "ŻS" 1947, No. 11, pp. 406-407; id., *Zbliżenie jugosłowiańsko-bułgarskie*, "ŻS" 1947, No. 12, pp. 423-426.

The second phase spanned the years 1948–1953. During this time, a single party (PPR/PZPR) infiltrated all facets of citizen activity, aiming for strict oversight of public life. This era also witnessed intensifying censorship. The print media, serving as an arm of communist propaganda, primarily aimed to indoctrinate Polish society. The SC authorities, due to top-down pressures, attempted to reshape the focus of “*Życie Słowiańskie*”. They urged the editors to more prominently showcase the achievements of the people’s government and the fruits of past collaborations with the USSR in the periodical⁴². By January 1948, it was decided that each edition of the monthly should feature a plethora of articles on current political and economic matters, ensuring they met acceptable ideological standards. This assurance was to come from the authors themselves, who typically held high-ranking state positions⁴³. Henryk Batowski endeavoured to diminish the sway of party, or more broadly political, influences on the editorial process. Given his reservations about the incoming changes, his role started to be sidelined. Early in 1948, a five-member editorial board was established with Henryk Świątkowski as its chair. Henryk Batowski was reassigned as the scientific editor, effectively a demotion. Among the notable shifts was the appointment of a political editor, a role entrusted to Stanisław Trojanowski, the general secretary of the SC⁴⁴.

A result of the restructuring within the editorial board was the diminishing decision-making authority of Henryk Batowski, which subsequently had a marked impact on the content of subsequent editions. The most conspicuous manifestation of this was the omission of topics related to the Lusatian Serbs. Between 1946 and 1947, a distinct section was allocated to these matters, which featured: news and reportage articles (for instance, from the Lusatian Studies Convention), book reviews, reprints from the initial post-war Lusatian magazine “*Naše Nowiny – Lužiskoserbski časopis*” (published in Prague, but in the Upper Lusatian language), and translations of Lusatian poetry.

Henryk Batowski was not just the brain behind this section and the author of many of its articles⁴⁵, but more importantly, he was the driving force behind the SC’s stance on the Lusatian issue. His initiative was rather audacious, given the Polish government’s reluctance to engage with the Lusatian Serb (Sorbs) matter due to Soviet pressures. The USSR overtly cautioned that advocating for the Sorbs’ independence aspirations might jeopardise Poland’s efforts to secure recognition of its western border along the Oder and Lusatian Neisse⁴⁶. The association’s leadership, aiming to avert open confrontations with either the Polish or Soviet government, refrained from discussing the political destiny of the Sorbian people. Instead, they confined their advocacy for the Sorbs to non-political undertakings. One of the earliest significant initiatives in this direction was the establishment of a Lusatian affairs desk in 1946. Its purpose was to foster cultural ties between the two nations. This endeavour was a col-

⁴² AAN, KSwP, *Report on the activities of the SC for the year 1948*, Warsaw 1949, Ref. No. 858, vol. 17, n.p.

⁴³ AAN, KSwP, *Minutes of the meeting of the Editorial Board*, Kraków, 15 January 1948, Ref. No. 858, vol. 106, n.p.

⁴⁴ AN PANiPAU, *The legacy of Henryk Batowski, General report for the year 1948*, Warsaw, 6 February 1949, Ref. No. K III–151, vol. II/12, n.p.

⁴⁵ H. Batowski, *W sprawie lużyckiej*, “*ŻS*” 1946, No. 6, pp. 176–177; id., *Lużyce, zwięzła informacja*, “*ŻS*” 1947, No. 7–8, p. 240.

⁴⁶ Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Political Department (1945–1948), *Report of the Head of the Central European Department of the MFA on Lusatia*, Warsaw, 29 October 1946, Ref. No. 6, vol. 665, line 42, p. 61.

laborative effort between Henryk Batowski and T. Lehr-Spławiński⁴⁷. Owing to Batowski's initiatives, Lusatian subjects were incorporated into the Slavonic studies curriculum for educators facilitated by the SC⁴⁸. However, this persisted only until the close of 1947. Subsequently, all Sorb-related initiatives were systematically suppressed from above.

By the late 1940s, Henryk Batowski's standing within the SC presidium had noticeably diminished. The Soviet-Yugoslav conflict not only challenged the concept of Slavic unity but also served as a reason to sideline those who displayed reluctance, opposition, or even indifference to the new regime. Academics, too, found themselves under the watchful gaze of relevant departments during this period. In the immediate aftermath of the Second World War, the not-yet-entrenched communist authorities, lacking robust popular support, largely embraced the academic community. However, the tide began to turn with the October 1947 decree on higher education organisation⁴⁹. This marked the onset of personnel purges where "academic elites", ideologically misaligned individuals, and those viewed as threats were dismissed. Rapid "advancements" during this period were often granted to those whose primary qualification was their unwavering loyalty to the regime. The crackdown on the academic sphere intensified in 1949. This transition was solidified by the 1951 Act on Higher Education and Scientific Personnel, stripping the academic community of any remaining autonomy⁵⁰.

Henryk Batowski was not spared from suspicion and allegations. Starting from March 1948, he found himself under the surveillance of the Security Office, owing to his connections with foreigners and his profound proficiency in foreign languages. He was perceived as a clever, highly intelligent individual who was, by many accounts, amiable and kind-hearted. However, these very traits led the security services to erroneously suspect him of espionage⁵¹. Sensing that some of his interactions could draw the attention and suspicion of party and government officials, Henryk Batowski often documented his meetings, such as those with the Yugoslav Ambassador, Rade Pribičević⁵².

At the initial observation stage, he was deemed to be favourably inclined towards the new regime and the alliance with the Soviet Union⁵³. The situation altered in 1949, by which

⁴⁷ AAN, KSwP, *Lusatian project – objectives of action*, Warsaw 1946, Ref. No. 858, vol. 103, p. 64–65.

⁴⁸ AN PANiPAU, *The legacy of Henryk Batowski, Curriculum for the Slavonic Studies Course (15 October 1945–15 January 1946)*, Kraków 1946, Ref. No. K III–151, vol. II/3, n.p.

⁴⁹ *Decree of the Council of Ministers of 28.10.1947 on the organisation of science and higher education* (Journal of Laws 1947, No. 66, item 415).

⁵⁰ Read more: J. Chodakowska, *Rozwój szkolnictwa wyższego w Polsce Ludowej w latach 1944–1951*, Wrocław 1981; A. Chwalba, *Dzieje Krakowa. Tom 6. Kraków w latach 1945–1989*, Kraków 2004, pp. 283–287; J. Dybiec, *Uniwersytet Jagielloński wobec stalinizmu 1945–1956*, "Prace Komisji Historii Nauki PAU" 2001, vol. 3, pp. 8–20; A. Gładysz, *Oświata – kultura – nauka w latach 1947–1959. Węzłowe problemy polityczne*, Warszawa–Kraków 1981; P. Hübner, *Polityka naukowa w Polsce w latach 1944–1953. Geneza systemu*, Wrocław 1992; T.P. Rutkowski, *Nauki historyczne w Polsce 1944–1970. Zagadnienia polityczne i organizacyjne*, Warszawa 2007.

⁵¹ One of the grounds for this surveillance was the suspicion of illicit currency trading. Moreover, Henryk Batowski's correspondence with the Yugoslav embassy in Warsaw further fuelled unwarranted speculations. Archive of the Institute of National Remembrance Branch in Kraków (hereinafter AIPN Kr), Control and investigation files concerning Henryk Batowski, vol. 1, *Case summary for prof. Henryk Batowski*, Warsaw, 25 May 1955, Ref. No. 010/1083, p. 30–31.

⁵² AAN, KSwP, *Letter from Henryk Batowski to the First Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, Kraków, 16 November 1948, Ref. No. 858, vol. 109, p. 3.

⁵³ AIPN Kr, Control and investigation files concerning Henryk Batowski, vol. 1, *Letter from the Head of the Fifth Department of the Provincial Public Security Office in Kraków to the Ministry of Public Security, Fifth Department, Sixth Division*, Kraków, 24 March 1948, Ref. No. 010/1083, p. 48.

time he had already been characterised as an individual antagonistic to the communist system and the PZPR (“strongly antagonistic, although he does not express his views”), as well as possessing a negative stance on Polish-Soviet economic ties⁵⁴. Jadwiga Kwiatowska, when evaluating Henryk Batowski’s political suitability at the behest of the General Secretary, observed that he lacked political insight. However, in her opinion, this was not due to a reactionary stance but rather to an “old-fashioned non-partisan «objectivist» approach”⁵⁵. The shift in how Henryk Batowski was perceived by the security services most likely stemmed from the intensification of the political direction following the communists’ rise and solidification of power, the divide within the communist bloc, and the souring of the USSR’s relations with Great Britain and the United States.

It is notable that the attribution of a political stance to Henryk Batowski, which was antagonistic to socialism, also had a detrimental impact on the evaluation of his editorial endeavours and academic contributions. The researcher was reprimanded for diminishing revolutionary vigilance and associating with adverse groups. The gravest criticism directed at him was the neglect of politically pertinent subjects in the pages of “*Życie Słowiańskie*”. Indeed, the initial article criticising Tito and his group was published in the second quarter of 1949⁵⁶. He was also purported to be directly accountable for the journal’s myriad issues, most prominently printing delays (which in fact were due to financial constraints) and a limited readership⁵⁷.

The issue of the negative review of the first volume of the “*Pamiętnik Słowiański*”, released by the Publishing House of the Slavonic Studies at the Jagiellonian University, which was featured in “*Życie Słowiańskie*” towards the close of 1949, also caused quite a stir within the community. Henryk Batowski critiqued not only the quality of the content but also the technical and editorial aspects of the journal⁵⁸. He highlighted that none of the seven articles tackled modern topics or those concerning the Soviet Union. Additionally, much of the content was regional in nature, with only the pieces by Tadeusz Lehr-Splawiński (which he regarded as the standout in the entire volume) and Wojśław Molè addressing Slavic matters⁵⁹. According to Henryk Batowski, none of the authors managed to steer clear of inaccuracies, omissions, and errors. In summarising the publication, he opined that in certain circumstances (and he believed this to be one such instance), it would have been preferable to hold back on releasing the issue rather than publishing it with such diminished quality.

⁵⁴ AIPN Kr, Control and investigation files concerning Henryk Batowski, vol. 1, *Letter to the Ministry of Public Security, Fifth Department, Sixth Division on the execution of the telephone order of 2 December 1949*, Warsaw, 3 December 1948, Ref. No. 010/1083, p. 51–53.

⁵⁵ AAN, KSwP, *Note on the case of H. Batowski drawn up by Jadwiga Kwiatowska*, Warsaw, April 1948, Ref. No. 858, vol. 109, p. 6–8.

⁵⁶ H. Świątkowski, *Zdrada nacjonalistów jugosłowiańskich*, “*ŻS*” 1949, No. 4, pp. 184–188.

⁵⁷ AAN, KSwP, *Minutes of the meeting of the Editorial Board*, Warsaw, 18 December 1948, Ref. No. 858, vol. 106, n.p.

⁵⁸ H. Batowski, «*Pamiętnik Słowiański. Czasopismo naukowe poświęcone słowianoznawstwu*». *Editorial Committee: T. St. Grabowski, W. Jakubowski, T. Lehr-Splawiński, W. Molè, K. Moszyński, L. Widajewicz. Editorial Secretary: R. Kiersnowski, T. I, Kraków 1949, Wydawnictwo Studium Słowiańskiego Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego Published using the grant from the Council of Ministers and the Science Department of the Ministry of Education*, pp. 236, “*ŻS*” 1949, No. 10, pp. 607–610.

⁵⁹ T. Lehr-Splawiński, *Słowianoznawstwo polskie*, “*Pamiętnik Słowiański*” 1949, No. 1, pp. 3–24; W. Molè, *Z problematyki słowianoznawczej w historii sztuki*, “*Pamiętnik Słowiański*” 1949, No. 1, pp. 25–54.

A protest against the publication of this review was submitted to the SC President, Wojśław Molè. He levelled accusations at the reviewer, alleging complete scientific ignorance, a cursory understanding of the topic, and defaming him within the community. He called for moral redress in the form of guidance for Henryk Batowski from the SC authorities, as well as financial compensation⁶⁰. Tadeusz Lehr-Spławiński also weighed in on the matter, viewing the review as biased and confrontational in nature. He perceived this as another assault – and not the first – on the Kraków Slavist community and an effort to tarnish the reputation of the new periodical's publishers in Slavic studies in the eyes of political entities⁶¹. To conclude this line of thought, it is worth noting that Prof. Roman Piotrowski, upon being requested by the SC authorities to thoroughly investigate the matter, deemed the criticisms raised by Henryk Batowski to be valid, though he found the tone of the discourse to be stern, but not excessively so⁶².

By this stage, the environment surrounding Henryk Batowski was gradually becoming more tense. His standing within the SC structures was diminishing, and his influence over the journal's direction had been notably curtailed. Disagreements typically revolved around the regular contributors in the scientific section or the political editor's decisions on whether to approve or decline a submission. The controversy regarding the political editorial board's decision to turn down an article by Alina Szklarska (then the journal's secretary) on the 75th anniversary of the April Uprising – namely, the most significant independence uprising in Bulgaria under Turkish rule – was widely noted. Henryk Batowski not only countered S. Trojanowski's reasoning but also cautioned him against dismissing an article that had received a favourable review from the scientific department⁶³.

The disagreements escalated, and so in September 1951, the editorial board relieved Henryk Batowski of his role as scientific editor, which essentially amounted to his removal from the board's membership⁶⁴. He appeared genuinely taken aback by the decision, even though he had previously indicated in March his intention to resign, effective from the first of June. As he later asserted, his aim had been to highlight the necessity of revisiting the remit of the scientific editor, as he deemed the existing one to be "too constrained and subservient"⁶⁵.

It is worth noting that Henryk Batowski made several attempts to find a middle ground, but to no avail. In July, he sought an unpaid leave from his editorial duties, coupling this

⁶⁰ AN PANiPAU, The legacy of Henryk Batowski, *Letter from Dr Wojśław Molè, Professor at the Jagiellonian University, to the SC Presidium*, Kraków, 11 January 1950, Ref. No. K III–151, vol. II/14, n.p.

⁶¹ He believed that the reviewer's malice was not manifested in the critiques and amendments (some of which he himself accepted), but rather in the patronising tone of the entire article and the "indiscriminate insinuations with a distinct political undertone". AN PANiPAU, The legacy of Henryk Batowski, *Memorial submitted by Rector T. Lehr-Spławiński on the review of the first volume of "Pamiętnik Słowiański"*, Kraków, January 1950, Ref. No. K III–151, vol. II/14, n.p.

⁶² AAN, KSwP, *Prof. Roman Piotrowski's opinion on Prof. H. Batowski's review of the first volume of "Pamiętnik Słowiański" (Kraków 1949), published in "Życie Słowiańskie" (1949, No. 10) [strictly confidential]*, Warsaw, 4 February 1950, Ref. No. 858, vol. 4, pp. 72–78.

⁶³ AN PANiPAU, The legacy of Henryk Batowski, *Note for the political editors of "Życie Słowiańskie" regarding the article by Alina Szklarska*, Kraków, 8 August 1951, Ref. No. K III–151, vol. II/18, n.p.

⁶⁴ AAN, KSwP, *Minutes of the meeting of the Editorial Board*, Kraków, 18 September 1951, Ref. No. 858, vol. 106, p. 1–4.

⁶⁵ AAN, KSwP, *Minutes of the meeting of the Editorial Board*, Kraków, 17 March 1951, Ref. No. 858, vol. 106, p. 1–4.

with a plea to re-evaluate the scope of his position⁶⁶. Ultimately, at its inaugural meeting in 1952, the executive board accepted Henryk Batowski's resignation as the vice-chairman of the Slavic Committee. He formally attributed his exit to communication challenges with Jerzy Woźnicki, who had been incorporated into the editorial board of "Życie Słowiańskie" in September 1950⁶⁷. In Henryk Batowski's perspective, given that Woźnicki was trained as a surveyor, he had a limited understanding, at best, of Slavic matters, inevitably leading to multiple disagreements. Conversely, Jerzy Woźnicki contended that while he respected the Kraków Slavist and appreciated his expertise and experience, he could not envisage any further collaboration due to "a series of political missteps" that Henryk Batowski had made, coupled with his authoritarian tendencies⁶⁸. Thus, the paths of the Slavic Committee and Henryk Batowski parted ways.

Summary

Henryk Batowski's involvement with the Slavic Committee in Poland, including his active contributions (albeit with certain internal reservations), was a logical extension of his prior interests. The scholar's fascination with Slavism in its entirety and the concept of Slavic unity predates the committee's inception.

As the vice-chairman of the SC, he centred his attention on what he perceived as pivotal and achievable matters. His genuine apprehension for the future of the Sorbian people intensified his participation in relevant discussions. He was also dedicated to maintaining the high standards of events and ensuring the regular and quality publication of "Życie Słowiańskie". His endeavours spanned significant international events, such as the Slavic Congress in Belgrade. While not all his actions received endorsement from the authorities, this did not deter his efforts.

Henryk Batowski's dedication to the committee and the broader mission of promoting Slavic unity in post-1945 Poland is undeniable. Acknowledging other contributors, it is essential to highlight his enduring active role throughout most of the association's history. He participated in both national and regional endeavours, the latter exemplified by the Slavic evenings – periodic open sessions on Slavic topics held during the late 1940s at the Kuźnica club in Kraków⁶⁹. Distinctly, Henryk Batowski's commitment spanned multiple domains: publishing, academics, culture, international liaisons, and organisational activities.

⁶⁶ AAN, KSwP, *Minutes of the meeting of the SC's Executive Board*, Warsaw, 13 July 1951, Ref. No. 858, vol. 5, p. 11–13.

⁶⁷ AAN, KSwP, *Minutes of the meeting of the SC's Executive Board*, Warsaw, 24 February 1951, Ref. No. 858, vol. 4, p. 10–11. Interestingly, it is pertinent to note that this occurrence coincided with a shift in his professional setting. From 1 October 1951, due to political purges, Henryk Batowski was relocated to the Department of Slavonic Philology at the University of Warsaw, where he remained until 1956. A. Mania, *Henryk Batowski...*, p. 172.

⁶⁸ AAN, KSwP, *Minutes of the meeting of the SC's Executive Board*, Warsaw, 30 January 1952, Ref. No. 858, vol. 5, p. 148–151.

⁶⁹ AAN, KSwP, *Report on the activities of the Slavic Committee and Polish-Slavic Friendship Societies for the year 1947*, Warsaw 1948, Ref. No. 858, vol. 17, n.p.; AAN, KSwP, *Report on the activities of the Kraków Provincial Branch for the year 1948*, Kraków, 25 January 1949, Ref. No. 858, vol. 22, n.p.

The post-1947 tightening political landscape and the ensuing Stalinisation revealed that some members of the SC lacked a deep-seated conviction and authentic enthusiasm. Their fleeting fervour waned, leading to dwindled engagement, a sentiment not shared by H. Batowski. His removal from the position of scientific editor of "Życie Słowiańskie", and ultimately also from the editorial board and the SC authorities, was the result of editorial misunderstandings over the definition of the remit of the position held by the scientist. Concurrently, the broader vision of Slavic unity began to fade, not just in Poland but across Slavic nations. The influential role of Slavic nations in global relations suffered a sharp setback in 1948. The subsequent years witnessed the solidifying of the socialist states' community idea, a concept increasingly distant from Henryk Batowski's ethos.

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