

(講演)

ポーランドの日本研究
Studies on Japan in Poland,
a guide to the exhibition accompanying this
conference

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Oriental studies in Poland have a relatively long tradition counted in centuries but, historically and politically conditioned, they were associated with what we now label the Near East. The centers were especially the Universities in Cracow, Vilna and Lvov, later Warsaw. Far Eastern studies, especially in Poland Chinese and Japanese studies, are of a much more recent date and have been almost exclusively associated with the University of Warsaw.

Currently we have three academic centers where research on Japan accompanies five-year MA courses in Japanese studies - they are at the University of Warsaw, at Cracow (Jagiellonian University) and here at Poznań (Adam Mickiewicz University). Last year we celebrated the 75th anniversary of Japanese Studies at Warsaw with an international Japanological Conference.

Between 1931 and today over 160 MA, 10 PhD academic titles and 2 *venia legendi* titles were granted in Japanese studies at Warsaw University. Centers in Cracow and Poznań are relatively very young, they were called into existence in 1987 and - for comparison - so far we here at Poznań managed to grant a little over ten MA degrees. Now Toruń Copernicus University may turn to be the fourth center. Last year we started Workshops in Japanese Linguistics, Language, Grammar and History of Japan in the Nicolaus Copernicus University.

For decades, Japanese studies in Poland were associated with one name only - the name of a person whose influence on the discipline was overwhelming, who was teacher to virtually all Japanologists prior to the foundation of Japanese studies in Cracow and Poznań. This person was professor Wiesław Kottański whom I shall call here many times and whom I would like to dedicate this talk.

The achievement of Japanese studies is well documented, and all of you can see this documentation as well as concrete results at the exhibition next door so I do not want to repeat what has already been written. My talk, instead, will be a sort of guidance to and through the material exhibited.

The material exhibited in its entirety comes from a private collection and the exhibition itself constitutes a very unique opportunity even for our students to see many of the publications on show for the first time ever, as they are now often rarities not available in most libraries.

Let me start from personal recollections: in 1973 I started work at this University with the just newly founded Institute of Linguistics. My first task was to compile a monograph-handbook of Japanese phonology (日本波蘭両語音韻論・発音学の比較研究).

Somehow naturally, I started skimming through international bibliographies of Japanese studies to find out in older such bibliographies that the names of Polish authors mentioned in them were practically exclusively accompanying titles of works that concerned the Ainu of Japan. Poles as authors of works on other subjects appeared only in relatively recent bibliographies. A whole special lecture would have to be delivered to explain it but, to summarize it in one phrase only, it seems that it was so because the whole effort of Polish researchers of Japan was concentrated not on the research for research's sake, but on the possibly broadest introduction of "Things Japanese" (I use here the title of the famous work by Basil H. Chamberlain) to the Polish audience, traditionally greedy for any information about the country about which they knew (and continue to know) next to nothing but which fascinated them always extremely.

The study of the Ainu became - to use words of the most outstanding figure in Poland's Japanese studies, prof. Kotański - "a beautiful chapter in Polish learning". The names to be quoted here as a must are: Benedykt Dybowski who collected the richest ever anthropological and linguistic material on the Ainu of northernmost Kuril Islands, Ignacy Radliński who published an extensive dictionary of the language of North Chishima Ainu (material collected by Dybowski) and lots of other materials, Izydor Kopernicki who anthropologically investigated the osteological material (Ainu skeletons and skulls) collected by Dybowski, and, above all, Bronisław Piłsudski whom the learned world owes more than anybody else as far as Sakhalin Ainu are concerned.

It is with pride that I can say that here at Poznań we decided to continue this tradition and that we were fortunate to achieve results that are very highly valued all over the world.

A special section at the exhibition is devoted to the Ainu studies by Piłsudski and to our own studies on the Ainu and on Piłsudski. These studies are interrelated since what we are doing - among others - is the reconstruction and restoration of Piłsudski's scholarly bequeathal in its entirety.

What we expose is only a very small fraction of what has been already achieved (over 400 publications worldwide) - and I would like to point to you that our achievement already entered school handbooks in Japan: in a displayed handbook of the national language for high schools in Japan (Chūgaku Kokugo 1990) there is a 19-page reading passage on Piłsudski and our reconstructions of his work. Among items on display you should pay attention above all to the first volume of Collected Works of Bronisław Piłsudski (ピウスツキ著作集) (preprint - a very rare and very expensive edition), the original 1912 edition of Piłsudski's most important book Materials for the study of the Ainu language and folklore (樺太アイヌの言語と民話についての研究資料) and its reconstructed sequel (vol.2), and proceedings of two international conferences on Piłsudski (one in 1985 at Hokkaidō University, one in 1991 on the island of Sakhalin, Russia). Our Ainu and Piłsudski studies are part of a much larger project entitled Hokkaidō and

Ryūkyū - two poles of the Japanese ethnosphere which embraces also such adjacent areas as Russian Far East, Eastern and South Eastern China, Taiwan and virtually the entire Pacific Rim (Ring of Fire). If time permits, I shall tell you more about it towards the end of this address.

An important source of information on Japan have been reports and relations of visitors to the country. Europe learned about the very existence of Japan from Marco Polo's account on his journey to China - and the same holds true in the case of Poland: the Poles got to know about it from handwritten fragments of that account appearing in Latin in the 15th century in Poland.

The first mention of Japan in print in Poland dates back to 1579 when the Lives of the Saints by Rev. Peter Skarga appeared. This was followed by accounts of foreign priests and missionaries in Latin concerning mainly the martyrdom of missionaries in Japan. Among the oldest such reports were the famous Memoirs of count Maurice Benyovski, himself a Hungarian declaring strong Polish ties. There were several editions of these memoirs, one on display. Such accounts became popular especially in recent decades, because before very few Poles reached Japan.

On display there is a representative selection of such accounts, by Polish visitors to Japan, both of an older and a most recent date. They vary in exactness, understanding of phenomena and events observed (misunderstandings and misinterpretations are many due to the drastic cultural differences and in almost all cases - the lack of any command or understanding of the language). Another important source of information on Japan in Poland were translations of important works on Japan published abroad. Among them were translations: from *English* of John Whitney Hall - Japan from Prehistory to Modern Times (日本 -- 古代から現代まで) (1979), Ivan Morris - The World of the Shining Prince (光源氏の世界) (1973), Philip Kapleau - The Three Pillars of Zen (禪の三柱) (1988), Lord Russell - The Knights of Bushido - a short history of Japanese War Crimes (武士道の騎士たち) (1961), Rudyard Kipling - Letters from Japan (日本からの手紙) (1904); from *Russian* of: Akhmed Iskanderov - Toyotomi Hideyoshi (豊臣秀吉) (1991), Sergej Arutyunov and Svetlov - Old and New Gods of Japan (日本の新しい神、古い神) (1973), Natalia Yofan - Culture of Ancient Japan (古代日本の文化) (1977), Aleksander Spiewakowski - The Samurai (侍) (1989), or Ch. Ejodus - Japan between the Wars (戦間期の日本) (1950); from *French* of: Louis Frédéric - Daily Life in Japan in the Times of Samurai (侍の時代の日本の日常生活) (1971), Daily Life in Japan at the Beginning of the Modern Era (近代初期の日本の日常生活) (1988), Robert Guillain - Japan at War from Pearl Harbor to Hiroshima (真珠湾から広島まで戦中の日本) (1983), but also works as early as Andrea Bellessort - The Japanese Society (日本の社会) (Polish edition 1903); from *German* of: Edgar Lajtha - Japan, yesterday, today and tomorrow (Polish edition: The Land of the Rising Sun 日出る国) (193?), Hellwig and Schüffe - In Japan's capital on catholic missions in Tōkyō (日本の首都にて若いカトリックの先駆的的社会事業) (1935); from *Czech* of: Vlasta Hilska - History and culture of the Japanese nation (日本民族の歴史と文化) published in 1957, for many years it remained the basic source of information

on the entirety of Japanese history and Japanese culture and had overwhelming influence on the discipline), Jan and Vlasta Winkelhöfer - Japan (日本) (1970), from other languages, including: Pedro Arrupe - Este Japon Increible... (Japan that we don't know 私たちの知らない日本) (1970), translated from Spanish.

Of exceptional value are studies on Japanese literature both old and modern. The first history of the Japanese literature compiled on the basis of foreign sources by Julian Adolf Świącicki appeared as early as 1901 (中国日本文学史) (fragments even earlier - 1883).

In 1983-4 Mikołaj Melanowicz, Professor of Japanese Literature at Warsaw University and the most prolific translator of works of modern Japanese literature into Polish, prepared in a very small number of copies an outline of the history of Japanese literature in three fascicles for the use of students majoring in Japanology. It was only natural that that unimpressively looking tentative aid for students developed into a major three-volume work - a vivid panorama of the Japanese literary writing since its beginning to the most recent times (日本文学 - 六世紀から十九世紀半ばまで、二十世紀の散文) (volume III is to appear soon). Melanowicz wrote also two very good monographs of the literary output of Tanizaki Junichirō (谷崎潤一郎と日本の伝統文化 1976, 日本の夢の浮橋 1994).

Older literature has been studied and investigated mainly by Wiesław Kotański - and it resulted in numerous publications, the most important being the translation of Kojiki (古事記) from the old Japanese original into Polish, and an anthology of older classical literature (Ten thousand leaves - 万葉集) - about both - and others - we shall speak later. Results of studies on Japanese literature have been published in hundreds of minor (in volume, not in importance!) contributions scattered throughout numerous journals and periodicals, many remain unpublished but kept in the form of MA graduation and (not so numerous) PhD theses. Literary studies are closely connected with research on Japanese theater and drama production - and here the tradition again is impressively aged: the first important study in this domain was published in 1902. Among contemporary investigators of Japanese dramatic production I would like to mention four persons: Henryk Lipszyc - lecturer at Warsaw, currently Ambassador of Poland to Japan, Estera Żeromska - from our university (present in the audience at the conference), Jadwiga Rodowicz - of Warsaw, specializing in Nō theater and one our graduate - Beata Bochorodycz (three of them shall be mentioned again and their works are exhibited).

Translations of literary works were direct and indirect. Among those translated directly from Japanese, we have Kojiki (古事記) by W. Kotański (from Old Japanese original), an academic edition with commentaries published in 1986. It is a great achievement of Polish Japanology and the only larger work of the older period to have been translated in its entirety but at present work is in progress on the translation of Heike-monogatari (平家物語) by Krystyna Okazaki. We have at our disposal, however, a very representative anthology of translations of fragments from old Japanese works such as: Kojiki (古事記), Fudoki (風土記), Nihon-shoki (日本書紀), Man'yōshū (万葉集), Taketori-monogatari

(竹取物語), Kokin-wakashū (古今和歌集), Tosa-nikki (土佐日記), Ise-monogatari (伊勢物語), Utsubo-monogatari (宇津保物語), Ochikubo-monogatari (落窪物語), Sei Shonagon's Makura-no sōshi (枕草子), Murasaki Shikibu's Genji-monogatari (源氏物語), Sarashina-no nikki (更級日記), Konjaku-monogatari (今昔物語), Ōkagami (大鏡), Heike-monogatari (平家物語), or fragments from Nichiren's works, among others. Compiled by W.Kotański (who later translated Kojiki) it was published in 1961 under the title "Ten thousand leaves" (万葉集 日本文学選集) (evident inspiration of Manyōshū). The compiler and translator intended to prepare further volumes but the publisher expressed disinterest. At that time there was no interest in things Japanese - today, on the contrary. The anthology, now a much sought for rarity, is also a pride of Polish Japanology.

In 1913 a Polish version of the anthology Hyakunin-issu (百人一首) compiled by Remigiusz Kwiatkowski was published followed by further three editions in 1913, 1919, 1922. At that time Japanese studies were at their beginning worldwide, so in spite of discrepancies between the original and translation (or rather adaptation), curious rendering of Japanese lexical items, etc., its existence is worth mentioning. A copy of the first edition, now a great rarity, is on display at the exhibition.

The same Remigiusz Kwiatkowski compiled an anthology of Oriental aphorisms entitled "You should carry an umbrella also when the weather is fine" (天気のときでも傘を持って) which had many editions since the 1st one in 1920; exhibited is one of 1959. It was again rather an adaptation than translation, that included also some haiku themes, etc.

Marginally, we add that in 1960 another anthology of Oriental "aphorisms" was published; it included section "Japan" and here we find a very competent introduction and selection of texts with indication of the source, translated directly from Japanese by W.Kotański, also on display. We owe to Kotański as well a direct translation of Ugetsu-monogatari (雨月物語) by Ueda Akinari (上田秋成) (published 1968), Yukiguni (雪国) by Kawabata Yasunari (川端康成) (1969), and many other minor works - poems, short stories, etc., dispersed in periodicals. Among other works by Kawabata translated from Japanese into Polish are Yama-no oto (山の音) (by Ewa Szulc - a translator of younger generation; appeared 1982), Sembazuru (千羽鶴) and Nemureru bijo (眠れる美女) (both 1987) - translated by Mikołaj Melanowicz. The latter turned out to become the most prominent and most prolific translator of modern Japanese literature (the same as Kotański was for old Japanese literature).

Among Melanowicz's translatory achievements is a masterpiece of translation, A be Kōbō's (安部公房) Suna-no onna (砂の女) (several editions since 1968), then Tanizaki Jun'ichirō's (谷崎潤一郎) Fūten-rōjin nikki (瘋癲老人日記), Tade kuu mushi (蓼食う虫) (both 1972), Ashikari (芦刈), Shunkinshō (春琴抄) (both 1971), Akutagawa Ryūnosuke's (芥川龍之介) Kappa (河童) (1963), Natsume Sōseki's (夏目漱石) Kokoro (こころ) (1973), Wagahai-wa neko de aru (吾輩は猫である) (1977), Ibuse Masuji's (井伏鱒二) Kuroi ame (黒い雨) (1971), Ōe Kenzaburō's (大江健三郎) Man'en gannen-no futtobōru (万延元年のフットボール) (1979), Komatsu Sakyō's (小松左京) Nihon chimbotsu (日本沈没) (1989), Endō Shūsaku's (遠藤周作) Samurai (侍) (1987), and many minor works, especially short stories. This latter writer - Endō Shūsaku - was exceptionally frequently translated into

Polish and - had basically one translator specializing in Endō; except for Samurai, four other novels appeared in Polish translation from Japanese all translated by Izabela Denysenko: Chimmoku (沈黙) (Silence) (1971), Umi-to dokuyaku (海と毒薬) (The Sea and Poison) (1974), Obaka-san (おバカさん) (Wonderful Fool) (1976) and Watashi-ga suteta onna (わたしが・棄てた・女) (1978).

Among other direct translations worth mentioning are: Ōoka Shōhei's (大岡昇平) Nobi (野火) (Fires on the plain) (translated by Antoni Ślósarczyk, 1959), Abe Tomoji's (阿部知二) Fuyu-no yado (冬の宿) (translated by Ewelina Tchórzewska-Adamowska 1973) or an anthology of haiku (俳句選集) by Agnieszka Żuławska-Umeda (1983; she got specialized in translating haiku and other Japanese poetry - her activities contributed to the popularity of haiku in Poland to the extent that a special periodical Haiku (文芸雑誌「俳句」) is being published since November 1994 in Poland).

A number of works have been translated indirectly - from *Czech*: of Kobayashi Takiji's (小林多喜二) Kani kōsen (蟹工船) (The cannery boat) (1953), Tokunaga Sunao's (徳永直) Tsuma-yo nemure (妻よねむれ) (1964); from *French*: of Serizawa Kojirō's (芹沢光治郎) Hitotsu-no sekai (一つの世界) (La fin du samourai) (1957), Inoue Yasushi's (井上靖) Ryōjū (猟銃) (1966); from *English*: of Mishima Yukio's (三島由紀夫) Gogo-no eiko (午後の曳航), Shiosai (潮騒) (both 1972), Ōe Kenzaburō's (大江健三郎) Kojintekina taiken (個人的な体験) (1974) and from *German*: of Kaikō Takeshi's (開高健) Nihon sammon-opera (日本三文オペラ) (1973).

An interesting phenomena were adaptations rather than translations of Japanese literary works that appeared from the time of the first encounter of the Polish public with Japanese literature (eg. Tokutomi Roka's (徳富蘆花) Hototogisu (不如帰) which appeared in Polish in 1905 as Nami-ko (波子 - on display) till these days (eg. San'yūtei Enchō (三遊亭円朝) - Kaidan botan dōrō (怪談・牡丹燈籠 1981)), Kwaidan (怪談) by Lafcadio Hearn (Koizumi Yakumo 小泉八雲) may serve also as an example of such publications. Incidental translations of works by Japanese writers writing in languages other than Japanese also occurred, e.g.: Hisako Matsubara's Brokatrausch (金襴のささめき) (The rustle of brocade 1982) or Ryūji Nagatsuka's (長塚隆二) J'étais un kamikaze (I was a kamikaze 元神風特攻隊の手記 1980).

As mentioned, many minor (in volume) works occurred dispersed in periodicals. Some portion of this output has been collected into anthologies, of which at least some are worth mentioning. These are three anthologies of short stories: one of war stories The Shadow of the Rising Sun (1972), one included stories written 1945-1975 (Melanowicz 1986, this was titled after the title of the story Seisangyō-shūkan (聖産業週間) by Kuroi Senji (黒井千次) and one of mystery and horror stories titled after Narayama bushikō (榎山節考) (Blanka Yonekawa 1986). In these three, stories by Ōe Kenzaburō (大江健三郎) with the famous Shiiku (飼育) 1958, (Akutagawa prize), Abe Kōbō (安部公房), Dazai Osamu (太宰治), Endō Shūsaku (遠藤周作), Akutagawa Ryūnosuke (芥川龍之介), Tanizaki Jun'ichirō (谷崎潤一郎), Kawabata Yasunari (川端康成), Ibuse Masuji (井伏鱒

二), Umezaki Haruo (梅崎春生), Hara Tamiki (原民喜), Inoue Yasushi (井上靖), Fukuzawa Shichirō (深沢七郎), Hirabayashi Taiko (平林たい子), Mishima Yukio (三島由紀夫), Nagai Kafū (永井荷風), Noma Hiroshi (野間宏) and Nosaka Akiyuki (野坂昭如) among others, appeared.

The fourth anthology I want to mention is different in character, it is a fruit of cooperation of a Japanese lady who conceived it (Adachi Kazuko 足達和子), prof. Kotański (philological translation) and a poet Tadeusz Śliwiak (poetical Polish). It was published in Japan in 1992 bilingually (Polish translation and Japanese originals) under the title Fuyu-no sakura (現代日本名詩選 ふゆのさくら). Also certain monographic issues of monthlies as e.g.: Poetry (1/1975) devoted to haiku; Literature in the World (世界の文学) 126 (1/82) texts by Melanowicz, Kaikō Takeshi, Tanizaki Jun'ichirō, Donald Keene, Inoue Yasushi; or 212 (3/89) with texts by Mishima Yukio (including the play Sado Kōshaku fujin (サド公爵夫人) (Madame de Sade), Kyōko-no ie (鏡子の家) and Kujaku (孔雀) (translated by Estera Żeromska) and about Mishima, or 157 (8/84) devoted to Abe Kōbō can be also considered anthologies of (certain fragments of) Japanese literature.

We mention also one (or two - one as a sort of teaching aid for translation from Japanese) collection of Japanese fairy tales and legends (Maria Juskiewiczowa).

What remains to be mentioned in this section are plays for the stage. Here the tradition is long: it dates back to the publication of Terakoya (寺子屋) by Takeda Izumo (竹田出雲) and Asagao (朝顔) by Yamata Kakashi (山多かかし) translated from a German translation and published in 1905.

Several plays have been translated, and published - among them Abe Kōbō's (安部公房) Yūrei-wa koko-ni iru (幽霊はここにいる), Tomodachi (友達), Bō-ni natta otoko (棒になった男) (the latter translated by Estera Żeromska). Some remain unpublished e.g. Mishima's Kindai nōgaku-shū (近代能楽集) or Rokumeikan (鹿鳴館) (the latter translated by our student Beata Bochorodycz).

The study of Japanese religions was the domain mainly of prof. Kotański and it is reflected not only in the complete translation of Kojiki (古事記) and numerous studies on it but also in several monographs, including Japanese stories of Gods, Stories of the first rulers of Japan (日本古代の支配者たちの物語), Religions of Japan (日本の宗教). Due to his deep-insight explorations of this domain Kotański with the time passing grew into a major exegete of Japanese sacred shintoistic texts frequently invited to Japan to lecture to theologians there. Somehow close to this subject was the unique study on Superstitions, magic and mantic practices in the Heian period (平安時代における迷信、奇術、占い) published by prof. Jolanta Tubielewicz in 1980. Earlier (1977) Tubielewicz published a popular book on the Mythology of Japan (日本の神話). With the publication of a monograph of Nara and Kyōto in 1983 (you can find here art, religion, history) and especially her opus magnum, the History of Japan (日本史) in 1984, she emerged as Poland's principal specialist of the Japanese history. At the exhibition you can find some more examples of historical studies, including 4 MA theses: (1) on Japanese-Soviet relations (1936-41年の日ソ関係 - アメリカ外交文書に基づく研究), (2) on the history of

Chishima (Kuriles) as seen through the memoirs of one pioneer there (日本による北千島植民) and (4) on the life on a Presbyterian missionary and his work in Japan among the Ainu (ジョン・パチェラーの生涯 アイス民族最大・最良の代弁者). Soon to be completed is a thesis on *hoppōryōdo mondai* (problem of Northern territories). And to come back for a second to religions: since Poland is a Catholic country and it was from Poland that many Catholic missionaries went to Japan (to mention but two: Father Kolbe and Brother Zeno), a disproportionate number of Polish publications concern catholicism in Japan (a number displayed).

Studies on Japanese art develop safely and steadily in relation to and on the basis of objects of this art in possession of Polish museums. The leading specialist is Dr. Zofia Alberowa from the National Museum in Cracow where the richest collections are kept and where recently a Center of Japanese Art, Culture, Science and Technology was built and opened (it will undoubtedly contribute to further development of such studies). Japanese art was also investigated by prof. Kotański and now a new generation of students of Japanese art emerges in Poznań: - cf. exhibitions and catalogues - ukiyoe - Wiesław Rządek (浮世絵展-カタログ 1994); posters - Zdzisław Schubert and Nagisa Rządek (日本のポスター 1994); Hiroshige (広重の風景、木版画とその時代 1992) - Ewa Michalak. What we can and should be proud of in Poland is a very good monograph of the Japanese film production by Stanisław Janicki (日本映画 1982).

Research on the Japanese language was introduced and cultivated by prof. Kotański who considers himself even today a linguist in the first place. He focused his interests on the sentence structure and was somehow one of the forerunners of the text grammar. These linguistic studies have been continued by Romuald Huszcza in turn centering his interest on theme-rheme (datum-novum) structures, the functioning of Sinic elements in the languages of Eastern Asia, and keigo.

I myself also contributed a little to the study of the language by publishing two books and several minor works (some on display). My heretical views on the grammatical structure of Japanese partly presented during my lectures, however, remain in shorthand notes, unpublished.

I would like to draw your attention to one more work - Arkadiusz Jabłoński's, our graduate, on the information about person (meaning I, you, he, we, they) and lack of such information in Japanese texts (日本語文・テキストにおける人称情報とその欠如) and to a glossary of political terms (政治用語辞書) concerning Poland that were coined with the development of events here in Japanese press, by Robert Kasza, also participating at this conference.

Since this conference is one concerning teachers of the Japanese language and devoted to the teaching of the Japanese language, a few words should be said to introduce to you the Polish output in the domain of practical aids for teaching and learning the language here. I am deliberately avoiding here the word "achievement" because - it has to be admitted - so far, we achieved very little, virtually next to nothing in spite of years of

accumulated experience from the involvement in the teaching of Japanese. We have Polish aids for many Oriental and African languages, such as Persian, Hindi, Korean, Vietnamese, Arabic, Hebrew, Swahili, Hausa, Amharic, Gǝʿǝz, Coptic etc., some of them outstandingly good as far as the selection of material to be taught and its organization are concerned but mostly they are to be used only with considerable assistance from an appropriate teacher. Recently, the situation in this domain with Chinese, also long neglected, has been improving considerably - and it is precisely Japanese as the only major Oriental language that lags behind as far as the compilation of teaching aids is concerned. This does not mean that we did nothing but the field is still almost a virgin soil. There are: an introduction to Kanji (漢字入門); a strange combination of reading passages and dictionary indices entitled Japanese for economists book 1 (「日本語」 - 経済を専攻する人のため); a grammar outline of Japanese (日本語文法概要), the closest to a handbook - including reading passages and grammatical explanations, all prepared by Tsuneo Okazaki (岡崎恒夫) and Zygmunt Piątosza in early 70s (1970-1971) and duplicated by the School of Planning and Statistics (Economic University Warsaw); a series of three handbooks for Japanese writing (日本語表記) respectively for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year students by W.Kotański and T.Okazaki published 1973, 1976, 1981 by Warsaw University and two aids for teaching the Japanese writing developed in our Department here in Poznań by Koichi Kuyama (久山宏一) (日本語の書き方 - 補助教材); explanatory material (mainly lexical) for students using the Nihongo I (「日本語」 使用者のための日本語補助教材) handbook by Żeromska and Kuyama; a small anthology of legends for translation training (Urashima Tarō, Hagoromo, Kakiemon, Zō-no mekata) both developed also here in Poznań; there is also a Polish Japanese phrasebook and a small both-directions rōmaji-only dictionary; there is also a series of three (?) booklets introducing some knowledge of (rather about) Japanese for amateurs of martial arts; finally, there is work in progress on a handbook of the language in Warsaw (Tsuneo Okazaki).

An impressive amount of publications dealt with current policies, politics and economy of Japan - but it must be admitted that they usually echoed Soviet views (Soviet literature on Japan was for a long time the principal source of information on this country for many Polish scholars - non-Japanologists interested in Japanese issues) and principally criticized almost everything from the Marxist-Leninist standpoint. One book, however, deserves special mention as one of the best and most competent works on Japan ever to appear in Poland. It is a monograph of the criminal world in Japan - Dirty spots on the rising Sun (日の丸の黒点) by Jan Widacki. The author spent only half a year in Japan but his observations are exceptionally to the point. Other books usually prophesied an instant perishing of Japan, if not tomorrow then pretty soon; most of it therefore remains intellectual crap.

Recently, the publishing market in Poland has been overflooded with books and articles on various matters related somehow less directly to Japan in the sense that they for their majority constitute practical instructive manuals of martial arts, the cultivation of bonsai, Oriental healing practices, meditation, origami, ikebana, Japanese cooking, etc.

They result from growing demand for such topics, their authors' very narrow interest only in such subjects without further deeper insight into Japanese culture, usually based on Western publications of similar nature. These we have decided to exclude from the exhibition as having little if any ties to academic research.

In conclusion, however, I would like to draw your attention to four further so far unmentioned publications: Japan-Nippon- (日本) by Michał Derenicz - a sort of a popular encyclopedia for things Japanese prepared for younger readers, a special volume of the prestigious Rocznik Orientalistyczny (Oriental Studies yearly) honoring 75 anniversary of prof.Kotański, the proceedings of the International Symposium on contemporary Japan held at Warsaw in 1981, Man and Society in Japan Today, and - probably the most important - two first volumes of Japonica, the first ever academic journal in Poland exclusively devoted to Japan!

I hope that this introduction - sort of guide to the exhibition, and the exhibition itself will give all of you an idea on the intellectual output of all those involved in the study of Japan in this country. I appreciate your kind attention.