

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND LEGACY OF PROF. STANISŁAW KASZNICA IN THE MEMORIES OF PROF. JÓZEF FILIPEK AND PROF. JANUSZ HOMPLEWICZ

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ABSTRACT

The article presents unknown or little-known aspects of the life of prof. Stanisław Kasznica and his family. In particular, Krakow threads were presented, including the memories of prof. Józef Filipek and prof. Janusz Hoplewicz.

KEYWORDS

Stanisław Kasznica; Józef Filipek; Janusz Hoplewicz

1. INTRODUCTION

During the ceremonial promotion within the historic walls of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, doctoral candidates pledge several commitments, including: “vos huius Universitatis, in qua summum in scientiis vel litteris gradum ascenderitis, piam perpetuo memoriam habituros eiusque negotia, opera, rationes, quoad possitis, semper adiuturos.” This oath signifies the profound and enduring connection between the doctorate recipient and the University. The relationship is one of mutual respect and lifelong dedication.

In my opinion, this commitment carries an implicit and unspoken responsibility. While it might seem so evident that it does not necessitate articulation, the Jagiellonian University itself is bound by a reciprocal, timeless obligation. This obligation entails upholding and reinforcing the University’s relationship with its alumni, the “Nurturing Mother”, whenever and wherever appropriate and feasible. This can be achieved either through an institutional, top-down approach or through a grassroots effort via the works and statements of its scholars at various venues, such as scientific conferences.

As a scientific and didactic employee of the Jagiellonian University, I am compelled to present a brief account of the life and work of Prof. Stanisław Kasznica, as well as to highlight some of his connections with the Jagiellonian University and the city of Cracow. This statement is made in a de-formalized manner and adheres to the principles of honesty, truth, and objectivity.

2. THE CRACOW CONNECTIONS OF PROF. STANISŁAW WINCENTY ANTONI KASZNICA¹ AND HIS FAMILY

Prof. Stanisław Wincenty Antoni Kasznica (23 II 1874 – 17 XIU 1958), Rector of the University of Poznań, an eminent scientist and distinguished political and social activist, is a person with multiple ties to Cracow. One can mention, for example, that he lived in Cracow and attended secondary school there, and it was in the “City of Krak”, at St Anne’s Gymnasium on 3 June 1893 – to use the Old Polish, he “matriculated”² and at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, on 23 April 1904, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws³. At the Jagiellonian University, his academic supervisor was Professor Fryderyk Zoll (1834–1917)⁴. He did his studies at the Jagiellonian University: “Faculty of Medicine, ordinary student 1893/94 sem. I. Faculty of Law, ordinary student 1901/02; graduation 2 III 1903. (...) Samuel Głowiński scholarship 1893/94 sem. I.”⁵. It should be added that within his legal competence he took the state law exam: “judicial exam 27 III 1903; political science exam 7 III 1904.”⁶.

Józef Kasznica (20 May 1834 – 7 October 1887), father of Stanisław Wincenty Antoni Kasznica, was also a lawyer, a professor at the Warsaw Main School, who attended St Anne’s Gymnasium in Kraków, where he took his baccalaureate in 1850.⁷ Józef Kasznica studied at the Jagiellonian University, Faculty of Law, “as an ordinary student” in the academic years 1852/53 and 1853/54⁸. Documents preserved in the Archives of the Jagiellonian University show that he resided in Podgórze, at that time a town separate from Cracow, although very close to it⁹. “After taking the First Examination in Cracow” he continued his legal studies in Vienna¹⁰.

Also Wincenty Kasznica (1798–1867)¹¹ or (1801–1868)¹², grandfather of Prof. Stanisław Wincenty Antoni Kasznica, was associated with Kraków as a lawyer and activist¹³ – official¹⁴ in the Republic of Kraków.

1 Z Janowicz, ‘Kasznica Stanisław Wincent Antoni (1874–1958)’ [Kasznica Stanisław Wincent Antoni (1874–1958)] in E. Rostworowski (ed), *Polski Słownik Biograficzny Kapostas Andrzej – Klobassa Zręcki Karol* [Polish Biographical Dictionary Kapostas Andrzej – Klobassa Zręcki Karol] (Ossolineum 1966–1967) 206–208.

2 *Wykaz maturzystów* [List of High School Graduates] in H Sędziwy (ed), *Z dziejów Liceum Nowodworskiego w Polsce Ludowej* [From the History of the Nowodworski Secondary School in People’s Poland] (Komitet Organizacyjny Jubileuszu 375-lecia Liceum im. Bartłomieja Nowodworskiego 1963) 26.

3 K Stopka (ed), *Corpus studiosorum Universitatis Jagellonicae in sacculis XVIII – XX. Tomus III: K – Ł* (Księgarnia Akademicka Kraków 2009) 128.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.

9 Ibid., 127.

10 B Leśnodorski, ‘Kasznica Józef (1834–1887)’ [Kasznica Józef (1834–1887)] in E. Rostworowski (ed), *Polski Słownik Biograficzny Kapostas Andrzej – Klobassa Zręcki Karol* [Polish Biographical Dictionary Kapostas Andrzej – Klobassa Zręcki Karol] (Ossolineum 1966–1967) 204.

11 ‘Wincenty Kasznica (ID: sw.18192)’ [Wincenty Kasznica (ID: sw.18192)] in MJ Minakowski (ed), *Genealogia Potomków Sejmu Wielkiego* [Genealogy of the Descendants of the Great Sejm], <<https://www.sejm-wielki.pl/b/sw.18192>> accessed 22 Mar 2023. See also M Szczesiak-Ślusarek, ‘Historia rodu Kaszniców’ [The History of the Kasznica Family] in SW Kasznica (ed), *Druga wojna światowa wspomnienia spisane na podstawie codziennych notatek* [World War II. Memories Written Based on Daily Notes] (Instytut Pamięci Narodowej 2013) 11.

12 So S Cyrankiewicz. See S Cyrankiewicz, *Przewodnik po cmentarzach* [Cemetery Guide] (Krajowa Agencja Wydawnicza 1986) 160.

13 B Leśnodorski (1966–1967) 204.

14 S Cyrankiewicz (1986) op. cit.

Both Wincenty Kasznica and Józef Kasznica were interred in the Rakowicki Cemetery in Kraków. However, contrary to the press information published in 1887, which announced that Józef Kasznica would be laid to rest in the family grave next to his father, this did not occur.¹⁵ They were buried in two different graves¹⁶ and the grave of Wincenty Kasznica has not survived to this day. His wife Izabella (née Trębicka) Kasznica (1844–1911) is also buried in the grave where Józef Kasznica was buried¹⁷.

Stanisław Wincenty Antoni's siblings, that is Izabela Kasznicówna and Kazimierz Kasznica, also had connections with Kraków. Izabela Kasznicówna (1875–1915)¹⁸ matriculated externally at St Anne's Gymnasium in Kraków in 1901¹⁹. She studied at the Jagiellonian University: "Faculty of Philosophy, extraordinary student 1899/1900-1900/01; ordinary student 1901/02-1903/04 sem. I, 1904/05 sem. I, 1905/06 sem. I; certificate of departure: 17 XII 1908"²⁰.

Kazimierz Kasznica (1879–1925²¹), studied at the Faculty of Law of the Jagiellonian University as an ordinary student 1899/1900, Doctor of Laws of the Jagiellonian University, scientific supervisor Prof. Fryderyk Zoll²².

3. THREE LEVELS OF THE AUTHOR'S ENCOUNTERS WITH PROF. STANISŁAW WINCENTY ANTONI KASZNICA

I have encountered the figure of Professor Stanisław Wincenty Antoni Kasznica at three distinct levels of cognition, which I have organized chronologically and subjectively categorized.

The first level relates to my early academic career and my burgeoning interest in law and administration. During my studies, as I began to delve deeper into administrative law, I found it to be a field of intense didactic and scientific intrigue. It was during this period that I familiarized myself with both contemporary and historical works on the science of administrative law. Among these, I encountered Professor Stanisław Wincenty Antoni Kasznica's textbook, which was originally published under a pseudonym during World War II and subsequently reissued post-war. Understanding the German actions against Polish academics – particularly the "Sonderaktion Krakau" and the murders in the Wuleckie Hills in Lviv – highlighted the personal courage of Prof. Kasznica in publishing this textbook. The potential consequences he faced if the Germans had discovered the textbook's publication and his identity are not difficult to imagine.

During my studies, in addition to the curriculum provided in lectures, exercises, proseminars, and seminars on administrative law, we relied on an academic script from Cracow. This script, over a decade old and edited by Professor Waław Brzeziński, was available in a limited edition and not easily accessible, and was commonly referred to as the "Filipek script". Professor Józef Filipek, who co-authored this script, was a lecturer in administrative law at the Faculty of Law and head of the research unit in administrative law at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, hence the nickname used by students.

15 BUJ DŻS 224649 V Ka 188, <<https://jbc.bj.uj.edu.pl/dlibra/doccontent?id=865198>> accessed 22 Aug 2024.

16 Stanisław Cyrankiewicz (1986) op. cit.

17 'Izabella Kasznica (ID: psb.11141.10)' [Izabella Kasznica (ID: psb.11141.10)] in MJ Minakowski (ed), *Genealogia Potomków Sejmu Wielkiego* [Genealogy of the Descendants of the Great Sejm], <<https://www.sejm-wielki.pl/b/psb.11141.10>> accessed 22 Mar 2023.

18 M Szczesiak-Ślusarek (2013) 17.

19 *Wykaz maturzystów* (1963) 30.

20 K Stopka (2009) 128.

21 M Szczesiak-Ślusarek (2013) 17 et seq.

22 Ibid.

Beyond the opportunity to use Prof. Kasznica's textbook in the faculty library, I was fortunate enough to acquire a copy of his book from a Cracow antiquarian bookshop during my student days. The content of this book was as enriching and satisfying as the textbooks by historical authors such as Władysław Leopold Jaworski, Jerzy Stefan Langrod, Szczesny Wachholz, Kazimierz Władysław Kumaniecki, Tadeusz Hilarowicz, Jerzy Panejko, Feliks Ochimowski, and Emanuel Izerson.

The second level of encounter pertains to my broader historical understanding of both Polish and global history. My studies commenced in the academic year immediately following the watershed events of August 1980, a period characterized by newfound access to previously restricted books and periodicals, as well as the rise of second-circulation publishing. It was through these avenues that I first learned about Prof. Kasznica's son, also named Stanisław (1908–1948), a Polish professional soldier who held the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He was the last commander of the National Armed Forces and was executed by the communist regime. I was certain that the heroic stance of Prof. Kasznica's son had a profound impact on his life. It seemed evident that the arrest of Stanisław Kasznica, the commander of the National Armed Forces, in February 1947, and his role in the underground resistance, likely led to the retirement of Professor Kasznica from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań that same year. This assumption was later confirmed by Prof. Zbigniew Janowicz (1921–2011), who wrote about these circumstances:

The Professor's university activities were interrupted by his transfer by decision of the Minister of Education on September 9, 1947. Despite the efforts of the Faculty Council and Senate, he was retired on December 31 of that year. The reason for this decision was not only the entirety of Professor Warmus's activities – scientific, political, and religious – but also the arrest of his son, Stanisław Józef, who had been very active in pro-independence work during the occupation and was one of the leaders of the National Armed Forces. S. Kasznica rejected the proposal to continue employing him as a contract professor, as it did not align with the dignity of a university professor. He did, however, continue to teach administrative law at the Academy of Commerce until that subject was abolished with its transformation into the Higher School of Economics in 1950.²³

In my student years, my understanding of the figure of Prof. Stanisław Wincenty Antoni Kasznica was primarily developed through his textbook and various publications. These sources offered fragmented pieces of his family history which, in the pre-internet era and without full, unrestricted access to the relevant literature, could not provide a complete or sufficiently in-depth picture.

The third level of my encounter with Prof. Stanisław Wincenty Antoni Kasznica came through intergenerational transmission within the field of administrative law. This occurred when I had the honor and pleasure of working with Prof. Józef Filipek (1931–2020)²⁴ and Prof. Janusz Homplewicz (1931–2006), who generously shared their extensive knowledge and insights into administrative law and the science of administration. These esteemed professors, whom I regard

23 Z Janowicz, 'Stanisław Kasznica (1874–1958)' [Stanisław Kasznica (1874–1958)] (1995) *Analecta* 4/1(7), 180.

24 I Niżnik-Dobosz, P Dobosz, 'Wspomnienie o prof. dr hab. Józef Filipek (1931–2020)' [Memories of prof. dr hab. Józef Filipek (1931–2020)] (2020) *Przegląd Prawa Publicznego* vol. 12, 169–173; I Niżnik-Dobosz, P Dobosz, 'Prof. dr hab. Józef Filipek (1931–2020). Wybitny przedstawiciel krakowskiej szkoły prawa administracyjnego i jego związki z samorządowymi kolegami odwoławczymi' [Prof. dr hab. Józef Filipek (1931–2020). An Outstanding Representative of the Krakow School of Administrative Law and his Connections with Local Government Appeal Boards] (2020) *Casus* vol. 98–99, 149–154.

as my incomparable mentors, imparted their knowledge to me through direct discussions about the historiography of Polish administrative law. Prof. Janusz Homplewicz continued to provide his insights even after his tenure at the Jagiellonian University had ended²⁵.

The most significant of the three levels outlined is the one that conveys the insights of the noted Kraków professors who were contemporaries of Prof. Stanisław Kasznica. Professor Józef Filipek was at the threshold of his academic career when Professor Stanisław Kasznica was approaching the culmination of his scientific and didactic journey.

Years ago, in room 110 of the Wróblewski Collegium at 2 Olszewskiego Street – then the office of the Head of the Chair of Administrative Law, Prof. Józef Filipek – I was engaged in a conversation with Prof. Iwona Niżnik-Dobosz (then Iwona Skrzydło-Niżnik), Prof. Józef Filipek, and myself. During this discussion, I inquired about Prof. Stanisław Wincenty Antoni Kasznica. Addressing this question to Prof. Józef Filipek was entirely appropriate, considering his educational background. Prof. Filipek studied in Kraków from 1949 to 1952, where he earned his bachelor's degree in law from the Faculty of Law at the Jagiellonian University. He then continued his studies in Poznań from 1953 to 1954, completing his degree at Adam Mickiewicz University. Furthermore, Prof. Józef Filipek maintained connections with Poznań in later years, particularly with Prof. Marian Zimmermann (1901–1969). Prof. Filipek was instrumental in hiring Prof. Jan Zimmermann, a graduate of the Faculty of Law and Administration at Adam Mickiewicz University, for the department he headed at the Jagiellonian University. Beginning in 1970, Prof. Józef Filipek served as the head of the Department, and later the Chair, of Administrative Law at the Jagiellonian University.

Prof. Józef Filipek's remarks on the life of Prof. Stanisław Wincenty Antoni Kasznica focused particularly on the latter years of his teaching and scholarly activities. Prof. Filipek recollected the image of Prof. Kasznica in the late 1950s, following the "October Thaw" of 1956, as a person of such advanced age that his visits to Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań – specifically, to meet with students – required substantial physical effort on his part. To quote Prof. Filipek, Prof. Kasznica, then the erstwhile rector of the university, was a man with significant health challenges. Prof. Filipek recalled that Dr. Zbigniew Janowicz, later a professor associated with Adam Mickiewicz University, frequently assisted Prof. Kasznica in attending these student meetings. He also mentioned that not everyone was pleased with Prof. Kasznica's visits to Adam Mickiewicz University in the final years of his life.

Both Prof. Józef Filipek and Prof. Janusz Homplewicz emphasized the valuable contributions of Prof. Stanisław Wincenty Antoni Kasznica to the field of administrative law, particularly highlighting his textbook.

25 P. Dobosz, 'Niepublikowane aspekty życia oraz działalności naukowej i literackiej Profesora Szczęsnego Wilhelma Wachholza – pseudonim "Tomasz Strażyc" (1897–1957) we wspomnieniach Profesora Janusza Homplewicza (1931–2006)' [Unpublished Aspects of the Life and Scientific and Literary Activities of Professor Szczęśny Wilhelm Wachholz – Pseudonym "Tomasz Strażyc" (1897–1957) in the Memories of Professor Janusz Homplewicz (1931–2006)] in B. Jaworska-Dębska, Z. Duniewska, M. Kasiński, E. Olejniczak-Szałowska, R. Michalska-Badziak, P. Korzeniowski (eds), *O prawie administracyjnym i administracji: refleksje: księga jubileuszowa dedykowana profesor Małgorzacie Stahl* [On Administrative Law and Administration: Reflections: an Anniversary Book Dedicated to Professor Małgorzata Stahl] (Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego 2017) 149–155; P. Dobosz, 'Profesor Szczęśny Wachholz we wspomnieniach Profesora Janusza Homplewicza' [Professor Szczęśny Wachholz in the Memories of Professor Janusz Homplewicz] (2018) *Alma Mater* vol. 199, 118–121.

4. CONCLUSION

I am convinced that the information presented in this article supplements, in a modest yet significant way, the existing knowledge about the life and family of Prof. Stanisław Wincenty Antoni Kasznica.

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