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NEWLY FOUNDED ARCHIVES MATERIALS ABOUT SEWERYN OLESZCZYŃSKI

Creative activity of well-known Polish artists and engravers of the XIX century, the Oleszczyńskis brothers, Antoni (1794-1879)¹, Vladislav (1807-1866) and Seweryn (1801-1876) paid an important role in the development of Polish prints and put them at the peak of development. Archive materials presented in this article might be interesting for history of art specialists due to new facts in the biography of one of the Oleszczyński brothers, Seweryn Oleszczyński.

Many Polish artists (and among them there were graduates of Kreminetsky Liceum and Vilnius University) received certificates with the right to teach

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¹ Famous Russian engraver Theodore Jordan left interesting memories of Anthony Oleszczyński in particular, he wrote, “Having found as I have said, my consociate from the Academy Oleszczyński who had lived in Paris for more than five years I went to see him. I parted with him at the academy in 1824 and he became a real Parisian since then and was familiar with all the mysteries of Paris; and it was due to this friendship that I got acquainted with this bustling city. See: Notes of Professor and Rector of the Imperial Academy of Arts Fedor Jordan (1800 - 1883 // *Russkaya Starina*. Historical monthly; M. I. Semevsky; St.Petersburg, 1891; Vol. 70, April-May-June, p. 89. [Записки профессора и ректора Императорской академии художеств Федора Ивановича Иордана (1800–1883 гг.) // *Русская старина*. Ежемесячное историческое издание Мих. Ив. Семевского. – С.Пб, 1891. – Т. 70. – Апрель. – Май. – Июнь. – С. 89.]

drawing and painting, they worked in higher and educational establishments and schools of Kiev Educational District during the first half of the XIX century. Kiev archives such as Kiev State Historical Archive of Ukraine (the Fund of Trustee of Kiev School District. / fond 707/) and State Archive of the city of Kiev (the Fund of the Committee of Kiev University / fond. 16. File. 482/) contain valuable materials on their educational activity. As a rule, appeals of artists on placement (for us these documents are also autographs of the artists) are included in these archival files which contain interesting biographical facts, including information regarding professional training and education on specialty, their works which were to be presented to the officials of the institutional establishments in order to get a position of a teacher of drawing and painting, etc. The author of this article happened to find just such a file relating to famous Polish lithographer, zincographer and calligrapher Seweryn Oleszczyński in State Archive of the city of Kiev².

Creative activity of S. Oleszczyński takes an important place in the history of Polish prints of the XIX century. The artist worked in Warsaw throughout all his life. He worked at the Prints Room of the Main Library from 1821 to 1823, he worked as a teacher of calligraphy at the Warsaw Liceum from 1823 and he studied lithography in Paris as a state scholar. After returning from abroad in 1827 S. Oleszczyński was in charge of Lithography Department of School Institute and in 1833 he transferred to Lithography Department of the Bank of Poland where he was at the position of its director from 1837 to 1862. It is just due to his knowledge and skills that the level of lithography technique increased. But innovation of S. Oleszczyński was due to the fact that he made many technological inventions in zincography on his own. For example, he published an Album of Zincographies for Y.F. Pivarski (Warsaw 1841). (By the way the artist usually printed his works in the lithography shop of the Bank of Poland).

S. Oleszczyński successfully worked as an illustrator of books, magazines, journals and he was quite popular among publishers and readers. (By the way, the artist had a considerable literary talent; he was the author of witty satirical

² On the presentation of Director of Vinnitsa Gymnasium, on assignment of calligrapher Oleszczyński to the position as a teacher of drawing. Beginning: April 27, 1833, end- May 10, 1833; four pages; State Archive of the city of Kiev; Fond 16, Inventory list 482; File. 22, pp. 1-4. [По представлению директора Винницкой Гимназии, об определении Каллиграфа Олещинского к должности рисовальной. Нач. 27 апреля 1833 г. – Кон. 10 мая 1833 г. На 4 листах. – Державний архів м. Києва. – Ф. 16. – Оп. 482. – Спр. 22 – 1-4 арк.]

poems³. He was a superb master of Ex-Libris as well. His skill is evident in the engraving of maps, including those known as “The Map of Religious and Scientific Institutions in the Kingdom”, “The Map of European Part of Russia” (1835), “The Map of Germany” and others. He was also a talented calligrapher, so in 1821-1843 the artist published at his own expense samples of handwriting in different languages as separate books in the most popular languages: “Polish, Russian, French and German (three parts) Calligraphy”, “Writing Samples in Russian, French, German and Italian”, “Selected Calligraphic Decoration” (1848). So this briefly outlines the basic facts of the creative biography of the artist.

According to the archive file that has been found we learn that in April-May 1833 Oleszczyński had serious intentions to find a job as a teacher at Vinnytska Gymnasium [*High School*] and was ready to leave the service at the Bank of Poland. The works of the artist “The Map of Germany”, engraving “Portrait of the Prince of Warsaw Count Paskevich Erivanskiy”, “School Map of the Russian Empire in Europe”, “Samples of writing in Russian and Polish” were presented to Director of Vinnitsa Vinnytska Gymnasium [*High School*]. But at that time there was no vacancy of a teacher of drawing at Vinnytska Gymnasium [*High School*] and the director of the the gymnasium sent “a petition” along with his letter and S. Oleszczyński’s graphic works to von Bradke, Kiev School District Curator. Upon reviewing the case of the artist von Bradke promised that he would have in mind his candidacy.

It is necessary to explain what von Bradke meant while mentioning Kiev Lyceum. It is connected with the history of Kiev University foundation. The question of founding the university in Kiev was actively discussed earlier at the beginning of the XIX century. in connection with the development of a new system of public education. In September 1802 the School Commission of the Ministry of Education at its second meeting concluded on the need to open one more university in Kiev or in Kazan but the university was opened in Kharkov because representatives of Polish cultural circles had a great influence on Alexander I. So under their influence a gymnasium (grammar school), (later a college) was established in 1805 in the ancient city of Kremens, Volyn province with an extended course of study and it became the precursor of future University of Kiev. Kremenetski Gymnasium was an outpost of Polish culture in the Right-Bank Ukraine. But the rebellion of

³ See: S. Orgelbrand *Encyklopedia Powszechna*. Warszawa 1901, t. XI, s. 71; *Encyklopedia Powszechna PWN*, Warszawa 1975, t. III, s. 365. *Encyklopedia wiedzy o książce*, Wrocław-Warszawa-Kraków 1971, s. 1674; Th-B, XXV 1931, s. 593.

1830-1831 entailed repressive measures against the Poles and in particular the closure of all schools with teaching in the Polish language.

Kyiv Educational District was created on the basis of educational establishments of Kyiv, Chernihiv and Volyn and Podolia provinces in December 1832. A lyceum, an establishment of university type, but not a university was expected to be opened on the basis of the Volyn Lyceum in Kiev. However petitions of liberal local circles resulted in opening of the university which had two departments, Department of Philosophy (with two divisions, historical and philological division and physical and mathematical division) and Department of Law. Most of first teachers and professors were from Volyn Lyceum. Kyiv University of St. Vladimir University became the sixth university in imperial Russia.

B. Klembovski who was well acquainted with Antoni Oleszczyński⁴ and with his brother Seweryn became the first teacher of drawing and painting at the University of Kiev.

So, as we know for researches any facts that can complement, clarify this or that event in the life of artists in the study of artists' creative biographies are important and valuable.

Archival File: On presentation of Director of Vinnitska Gymnasium [High School], on placement of Calligrapher Oleszczyński at the drawing position (the position of a drawing teacher). Starts from April 27, 1833 and ends. May 10, 1833.

The Ministry of Education
The Department of Public Education
Kyiv Educational District
Director of Vinnitska Gymnasium [*High School*]
The city of Vinnitsa
Dated this the 15th day of April, 1833
No.205
Received April 27, 1833

To His Excellency Curator of Kyiv Educational District, Actual State Councilor
Commander Egor Fedorovich von Bradtke

At the beginning of this year one of my colleagues in the service have written to

⁴ In 1830 in Paris Antoni Oleszczyński engraved portraits of Jan Sniadelski, Jan Zamoyski and B. Klembovski who was there as a state scholar.

me from Warsaw that a calligrapher and lithographer S. Oleszczyński, known to you, wanted to be appointed at Vinnitska Gymnasium as a teacher of drawing and calligraphy and then sent me his lithographic works the Map of Germany and an engraving of Prince of Warsaw Count of Erivan (Count Erivanskiy) which are very well done. Taking into consideration that Mr. Oleszczyński can be very behooveful not only for Vinnytska Gymnasium but also for other places he can be very useful for his proficiency in arts, I wrote to Warsaw to one of my acquaintances in order to notify Mr. Oleszczyński that the salary of a teacher of these two subjects was only 300 silver rubles at Vinnytska Gymnasium and that we could think about arriving of Mr. Oleszczyński from Warsaw only after he would agree to this payment. Presently Mr. Oleszczyński writes to me that he agrees and he sent to me the Map of the European Part of Russia and Samples of calligraphy in the Russian and Polish languages made by him.

Assuming that at today's education process at Kiev Lyceum such artist can be of service to Your Excellency, I have the honor to send both the letter of Mr. Oleszczyński in the original and the above-mentioned samples of his art, except the portrait of Prince of Warsaw, for you Your Excellency kind consideration.

Director Ivan Fovitskiy

Resolution of von Bradtke on the letter of Director of Vinnitska Gymnasium [*High School*], "Notify [*him*] that as on today all vacancies are filled but that at the establishment of Kiev Lyceum I'll have Mr. Oleszczyński in mind. April 27.

Wielmożny Panie Dobrodzieiu

Uwiadomiony przez w Izaef, iakoby WP Dobrodziéy w odpowiedzi na pismo P. Staweckiego, oświadczyć raczyt, iż życzeniem iest Iego, abym przyiąt obowiązki Nauczyciela rysunków i kalligrafii u Gymnazyum Winnickiém, za szczyconém zwierzchnictwém Iego, a do którétó posady 300 r: s: ma bydz przywiązane, mam honor oświadczyć, iż posadę tę pragnę przyiąć z nayzywszą wdziecznością.

Nie opuściłem ia wprawdzie dotąd obowiązków Rządu Instytutu Litograficznego Szkolnego, które lubo saméy stały pensyi 4000 złp: rocznie przynoszą, z nayszczerszą iednak chęcią opuścić ie gotów iestem, skorobym tylko ze strony WP Dobrodzieja urzędowe zapewnienie otrzymać mógł, gdyż położenie moje niedozwała mi, azebym choćby naykrociey między obicną a przyszlą posadą zostawał bez pensyi. Tego tylko obawiam się ażeby 16 lat służby publicznég nie były dla mnie straconemi, ile żem od nich emevyturę opłacał.

Jeżeli WP Dobrodziéy uznasz potrzebę świadectw, tak zpełnionych przezemnie obowiązków publicznych to iest: u Bióvze Rady Stanu, u Bibliotece Publicznéy, w Lyceum i Rządcy Instytutu Litograficznego Szkolnego, równie iako z odbyłych przezemnie kosztem Rządu naukowych podrózy, u Niemczech i Trancyi, takowe każdéy chwili złożé.

Nie iest to żadnym warunkiem z moiéy strony, lecz prywatnie ósmielam się WP Dobrodzieja, zapytać, czyliby Rządowi niepodobało się |: tak iak u Odessie: | zaprowadzić przy Gymnazyum Winnickiim Litografii, któraby znaczne korzyści przyniosła mogła, nietylko dla młodzieży uczacéy się, alé i dla obywateli w okolicach.

Upraszaiąc o rychłą odpowiedź, považam się załączyć świeżo wydane przezemnie prace, iako to: Szkolna Mappa Państwa Rossyiskiego w Europie, Wzory pisma Ros-syiskiego i Polskiego co racz WP Dobrodziéy przyjąc iako dowód mego uwielbienia i naywyższego szacunku, z iakim zostaię

naynizszy sługa
Seweryn Oleszczyński,

Warszawa
d. 7 Lutego 1833
Instytucie Litograficznym
Szkolnym
w Kadeckich Koszarach.

No. 749

Dated this 10th day of May, 1833....

To Director of Vinnytska Gymnasium [*High School*]

On petition of Your Honor dated April 15, No. 205, in which you move for placement of Mr. Oleszczyński as a teacher of drawing and calligraphy, we hereby give notice that now all vacancies are filled; with the establishment of Kiev Lyceum I will have Mr. Oleszczyński in mind and I charge you to inform him of this.