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Leopold Jan Szersznik’s Encyclopaedia of Teschen Scholars*

Abstrakt: Artykuł został poświęcony encyklopedii *Nachrichten von Schriftstellern und Künstlern aus dem Teschner Fürstenthum* (1810), dziełu cieszyńskiego uczonego, byłego jezuitę Leopolda Jana Szersznika (1747–1814). Encyklopedyczne opracowanie na 220 stronach zawiera artykuły hasłowe poświęcone 109 postaciom związanym z regionem cieszyńskim. Są wśród nich zarówno rdzenni cieszyńskimi, jak i osoby przybyłe tu i działające w późniejszym okresie swego życia. W gronie tym znaleźć można teologów, kaznodziejów, filozofów, przyrodników, lekarzy, historyków, pisarzy, artystów, prawników oraz przedstawicieli innych profesji, w tym również uczonych niepiśmiennych.

Słowa kluczowe: Leopold Jan Szersznik, *historia litteraria*, encyklopedie, Śląsk Cieszyński, uczeni

There are many reasons why Leopold Jan Szersznik’s personality, life (1747–1814) and literary output have drawn a heightened attention within the last decade. The factors that contributed to this were the following anniversaries: 250 years from his birth and 200 years from his passing¹. Curiously, his most important publish-

* This contribution was written as a part of the project titled *Johann Peter Cerroni a historia litteraria jeho doby I* [Johann Peter Cerroni and the *historia litteraria* of his age, I] (GAČR, P406/12/2254).

¹ *Ks. Leopold Jan Szersznik znany i nieznaný. Materiały z konferencji naukowej, Cieszyn, 6–7 listopada 1997*. Eds. H. ŁASKARZEWSKA, A. BAĐUROVÁ. Cieszyn 1998; *Malo invidiam quam misericordiam. Wybór pism i dokumentów dotyczących Leopolda Jana Szersznika*. Eds. J. SPYRA, G.M. CHROMIK. Cieszyn 2014. For the most important bibliography about Szersznik, see *190 lat założenia Muzeum i Biblioteki Leopolda Jana Szersznika 1802–1992*. Cieszyn 1993, pp. 91–94; *Lexikon české literatury. Osobnosti, díla, instituce* [Lexicon of the Czech Literature] 4/I. Praha 2008, p. 592; O. PODAVKA: *Leopold Jan Šersník SJ a jeho encyklopedie učenců* [Leopold Jan Szersznik SJ and his Encyclopaedia of Scholars]. In: M. SVATOŠ et al.: *Historia litteraria v českých zemích od 17. do počátku 19. století* [Historia litteraria within the Bohemian lands during the 18th and at the beginning of the 19th centuries]. Praha 2015, p. 173, note no. 3.

ed work, that is, the encyclopaedia of Teschen scholars entitled *Nachrichten von Schriftstellern und Künstlern aus dem Teschner Fürstenthum*, published in Teschen in 1810, has not been fully appreciated to date. This essay aims at filling this lacuna². My intention is to describe the process of creating the *Nachrichten*. Apart from it, I also use it as a source of information on Szersznik's acquaintances, relatives, and finally, I provide readers with a discussion of the book's reception.

The *Nachrichten* were not, by far, the first encyclopaedia of scholars written in the Bohemian lands³, nor Szersznik's first work of this kind — already in 1775 he published a short Latin treatise titled *De doctis Reginae-Hradecensibus Commentarius* containing thirty pages of introduction, brief entries devoted to twenty-six personalities of the Hradec Králové region⁴ and an appendix. At that time Szersznik was briefly employed as a tutor to the district Hauptmann Karl Josef Bienenberk's family in the town of Hradec Králové. When we compare the mentioned treatise with the later *Nachrichten*, we can observe that in terms of scholarly writing, Szersznik reached a qualitative change in the *Nachrichten*. The most striking is the scope of the book: unlike *De doctis*, which was merely thirty-pages long, *Nachrichten* included 220 pages. The initial twenty-one pages of the book contain a dedication to the city council and deputation, as well as a preface. On the following pages we can find biographical and bibliographical entries on, altogether, 109 acclaimed persons of the Teschen region (pp. 23—193). From page 194 onwards, these entries are followed by four lists of authors: provided in chronological order, ordered according to their birthplace, spheres of activity, and finally — provided in alphabetical order. The language in which *Nachrichten* is written exemplifies another difference between the two discussed works, since Szersznik abandons Latin for German. As a matter

² This article is an updated version of O. PODAVKA: *Encyklopedie těšinských učenců Leopolda Jana Šeršníka* [Encyclopaedia of Teschen Scholars by Leopold Jan Szersznik]. „Opera historica. Časopis pro dějiny raného novověku“ 2015, no. 2 (16), pp. 228—246. Cf. contemporary literature about the *Nachrichten*, chiefly: M. KUDĚLKA: *Leopold Jan Šeršník (1747—1814). Život a dílo* [Leopold Jan Szersznik (1747—1814). Life and works]. Ostrava 1957, pp. 108—119; G. SZEWCZYK: *Dykcjonarz pisarzy i uczonych cieszyńskich Leopolda Jana Szersznika*. In: *Śląskie miscellanea. Literatura — folklor. Zbiór studiów*. T. 2. Eds. J. MALICKI, K. HESKA-KWAŚNIEWICZ. Wrocław 1989, pp. 57—69; J. SPYRA: *Życie i działalność ks. Leopolda Jana Szersznika (1747—1814)*. In: *190 lat założenia Muzeum i Biblioteki Leopolda Jana Szersznika...*, pp. 23, 29—30; G.M. CHROMIK: *Niemieckie rękopisy i druki Ks. Leopolda Jana Szersznika w zbiorach Książnicy Cieszyńskiej*. In: *Ks. Leopold Jan Szersznik znany i nieznan...*, pp. 119—120.

³ See M. SVATOŠ et al.: *Historia litteraria v českých zemích...*, pp. 31—52 and *passim*.

⁴ L.I. SCHERSCHNICK: *De Doctis Reginae-Hradecensibus Commentarius ad doctissimum virum Stanislaum Wydra*. Pragae 1775, pp. 5—22. The entries are prefaced by a letter, addressed to Szersznik's friend S. Vydra, and an edition of Ferdinand II's charter of 1567 is incorporated at the end of this piece of writing, through which the emperor promoted a coat of arms to Balbín brothers — Jan and Filip of Vorličná. For more detailed information about the author, see O. PODAVKA: *Leopold Jan Šeršník SJ...*, pp. 179—182.

of fact, he wrote the majority of his works in German when he returned to Teschen in 1776 after ten years spent in Bohemia.

Similarly to many other Szersznik's works during his stay in Bohemia, *De doctis* came to existence as a side-project while Szersznik worked on a more extensive project — the history of scholarship of the entire Bohemia⁵. However, he did not have such ambitions during his engagement in Teschen. He focused his attention on the Teschen region, as he mentioned in a letter to Czikkann dated June 17, 1808⁶. With an extensive publication on the history of scholarship in the region he aimed at demonstrating that the Teschen with its surroundings was not an intellectually barren land⁷. The reason for this intention was Szersznik's personal relationship to the region and its past, which is emphasised in the foreword to the *Nachrichten*. At its beginning he claims that his love for history always centred on his little homeland and even while being abroad, he has always collected and followed everything related to it⁸. When referring to his homeland, he means the Teschen region: “[...] this town and a little state of which this town is the capital”⁹. He literally writes that the presented treatise was to prove that the Teschen folk has its merits in the field of literature, and that many individuals who became famous in the scholarly world were either born or resided in that region¹⁰. And so he decided to devote his work both to persons of scientific significance who were born there, and to the ones who later relocated there. Among the one hundred and nine personalities whose portraits Szersznik depicts in the *Nachrichten*, there are only twenty-three that actually originated from the town of Teschen and thirty-six that were from the other towns of Teschen region; the others are from other countries or their birthplace is unknown¹¹. Thus it is not a mere collection of portraits of the natives. Szersznik argued that even role figures of the ancient Rome, such as Cicero or Ovidius, were not all born in the city of Rome¹². And so he presented himself as a local patriot with a significant aim of highlighting the attained level of development of the region with which he identified himself and to which he wanted to be of service¹³.

⁵ Cf. M. KUDĚLKA: *Leopold Jan Šeršník...*, pp. 54, 56.

⁶ „Mein historisches Studium [...] schranket sich auf mein kleines Vaterland, das Teschnische, ein“. *Malo invidiam...*, p. 307, the letter no. II/40.

⁷ L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten von Schriftstellern und Künstlern aus der Teschner Fürstenthum*. Teschen 1810, p. XV.

⁸ *Ibidem*, p. XII.

⁹ „[...] diese Stadt und der kleine Staat, von dem sie das Haupt ist“. *Ibidem*, p. XV.

¹⁰ *Ibidem*, pp. [VI]—[VII], XV.

¹¹ *Ibidem*, pp. 199—202 (*Verzeichniss der Gelehrten nach den Geburtsorte*).

¹² *Ibidem*, p. XV.

¹³ For more on the enlightened patriotism see M. HROCH: *Na prahu národní existence. Touha a skutečnost*. [On the threshold of a national existence. A desire and reality] Praha 1999, pp. 62—66; F. KUTNAR: *Obrozenské vlastenectví a nacionalismus. Příspěvek k národnímu a společenskému obsahu české doby obrozenské* [Revival patriotism and nationalism. A contribution to a national

The *Nachrichten* reveals the breadth of Szersznik's interests — he portrays theologians, preachers, philosophers, natural scientists, doctors, historians, writers, artists, lawyers and others. The portrayals of personalities were included within the *Nachrichten* regardless of their occupation and language — Szersznik included Czech, Latin, German, and Polish works. Not even the denominational viewpoint was a decisive factor for him. He dedicated his entries to Catholics, Protestants, and Jews alike, although there were fewer entries dedicated to the non-Catholics, which he was reproached for by the two authors of reviews of the *Nachrichten* (as I will discuss in the following pages). Szersznik accounts for this lack of such entries in a footnote to an entry on Traugott Bartelmus: although he asked the Protestants many times to provide him with information, he was left with nothing but promises¹⁴. (Szersznik wrote to his friend Johann Peter Cerroni on January 18, 1810, stating that he had waited nine months for materials about them)¹⁵. Szersznik also included several noblemen from both municipal and rural areas in his work, for instance, Friedrich, Duke of Teschen (ca. 1480/3—1507), Wenceslaus III Adam of Teschen (1524—1579¹⁶), and Albert Casimir of Saxony, also Duke of Teschen (1738—1822). Whether a Teschen region scholar was active in written production or art-related activity was not a (decisive) factor for Szersznik¹⁷. However, contemporary modern authors prevailed among the personalities included in the *Nachrichten* — sixty-three scholars in total are listed in Szersznik's (incomplete) chronological summary of the 18th and 19th centuries¹⁸. The then youngest persons included in *Nachrichten* were Ignaz Beidtel, who later went on to become a professor of law in Olomouc and Lviv, a Moravian and Silesian Land advocate and court councillor; and doctor Johann Kostein, both born in 1783.

Szersznik provides a brief survey of the referenced literature¹⁹ at the end of the preface and he mentions therein even further ways of gathering information for *Nachrichten* which he also tried to obtain personally from other scholars, as mentioned

and social meaning of the Czechness of the Era of the National Revival]. Praha 2003, pp. 81—84; M. ŘEZNÍK: *Formování moderního národa. (Evropské „dlouhé“ 19. století)* [Forming of a modern nation (European “long” 19th century)]. Praha 2003, pp. 47—50.

¹⁴ Ibidem, p. 51.

¹⁵ *Malo invidiam...*, p. 318, the letter no. II/44. For more about Cerroni, see M. SVATOŠ, O. PODAVKA: *Johann Peter Cerroni — jeho život a dílo* [Johann Peter Cerroni — his life and works]. In: M. SVATOŠ et al.: *Historia litteraria v českých zemích...*, pp. 203—244.

¹⁶ Szersznik states Wenceslaus III's year of birth incorrectly as 1526.

¹⁷ L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, pp. XIX—XX.

¹⁸ Ibidem, pp. 196—198. Cf. ibidem, p. XVI f.

¹⁹ „Exners, Kundmanns, Hennels, Hankes und Streits Werke, Beyträge zur Fortsetzung der Bibliotheca S. I. Sotvelli Msc. Polzers Biographische Nachrichten Msc. und des [...] Herrn Joseph Karl Schipp Historia Ecclesiae et Parochiae Fridecensis Msc.“. Ibidem, p. XX. For Szersznik's sources viz G. SZEWCZYK: *Dykcionarz pisarzy i uczonych cieszyńskich...*, pp. 59—64.

above, including the non-Catholics and Jews²⁰. He named some of the sources, for instance, his former teacher Jan Kubíček, who provided him with much information, particularly on personalities from the Friedeck region. Szersznik's friend David Pisch²¹ gave him a map of the Teschen region, issued by a teacher and an amateur cartographer Jonas Nigrini (†1742)²². Szersznik thanks Jan Brzuska (1757—1840)²³ in the entry devoted to Doctor Johann Bury. He learned a lot from oral tradition, too and knew some of the depicted scholars personally. He quotes his further sources in some entries, for example *Zrcadlo Slawného Margkrabstwij Morawského* by Bartosz Paprocki²⁴, *Allgemeines Gelehrtenlexicon* by Christian Gottlieb Jöcher²⁵, or *Historia Societatis Jesu Provinciae Bohemicae* by Johann Schmidl²⁶. Furthermore, his sources are both published and unpublished²⁷ works of the portrayed scholars; in some cases, these were sole sources for a particular entry²⁸.

Some circumstances of the origin and completion of *Nachrichten* are made clear in Szersznik's correspondence. Milan Kudělka assumes that Szersznik had already been working on *Nachrichten* since the brink of the 19th century²⁹, judging by Szersznik's letter to Johann Peter Cerroni dated May 18, 1801 and also from Cerroni's reply dated June 13 (of the same year). Cerroni was a collector, historian, and secretary of Moravian-Silesian Gubernium as well as a censor from the city of Brno. Szersznik then asked whether Cerroni knew some scholars from Teschen³⁰

²⁰ For example, Szersznik wrote in the entry devoted to a physician Heimann Holländer that he had asked Holländer's fellow believers for information on Holländer and received nothing. L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, p. 93.

²¹ *Slovenský biografický slovník (od roku 833 do roku 1990)* [Slovak biographical dictionary, 833—1990], 4. Martin 1990, p. 123. See *Malo invidiam...*, pp. 322—323, the letter no. II/45, too. For more about Pisch, see below in the main text.

²² About him: C. VON WURZBACH: *Biographisches Lexikon des Kaiserthums Oesterreich*, XX. Wien 1869, p. 354; *Slovenský biografický slovník...*, 4, p. 289.

²³ L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, p. 69. Brzuska was a Teschen dean and natural scientist; about him *ibidem*, pp. 66—68.

²⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 91.

²⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 121.

²⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 90.

²⁷ Here for example a diary of Johann von Tylgner, preserved in Książnica Cieszyńska [Teschen Library], sign. DD VII 44, about him cf. G.M. CHROMIK: *Niemieckie rękopisy i druki...*, p. 118.

²⁸ L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, p. 71 (Johann Chmel), p. 76 (Franz Dietrich), p. 84 (Johann Wilhelm Früschmann), and p. 116 (Daniel Logue).

²⁹ „Když Šeršník začínal pracovat na *Nachrichten*, upozorňoval ho Cerroni na nedostatek materiálu; nezná prý sám na Těšínsku jiného literáta kromě Šeršníka“. [“When Szersznik started his work on *Nachrichten*, Cerroni drew his attention to the lack of sources; he, Cerroni, supposedly did not know himself any literate within the Teschen region, apart from Szersznik”]. M. KUDĚLKA: *Leopold Jan Šeršník...*, p. 116.

³⁰ „Itzt hätte ich manches zu wissen nöthig, da ich mich mit der Geschichte des hierortigen Gymnasiums abgebe [...] und außer einigen Annuae nichts in Händen [...] habe [...]. Ich weiß daher nicht, wo ich die Namen der Teschner Superioren, die zugleich Präfecten gewesen, erfah-

and Cerroni replied that he knew none but Szersznik³¹. However, this correspondence cannot be used as a clear evidence that Szersznik had already been in the process of creating his *Nachrichten*, although the process itself surely spanned several years. The question he directed at Cerroni was with regards to his ongoing work on the history of the Teschen *gymnasium*.

Cerroni's reply, however, could have inspired Szersznik to start working on an encyclopaedia of Teschen scholars, as indicated in his letter to Cerroni from January 18, 1810³². Most definitely, he must have received some information on some personalities at least by 1807 as he sent information about Jan Janík, Josef Božek, František Bezečný, and Jan Brzuska — also appearing in the *Nachrichten*³³ — to Cerroni's nephew Czikann on September 13 of that year. A little less than a year later, on August 30, 1808, he wrote to him about other eleven individuals³⁴.

Another question pertains to the date when Szersznik actually completed his *Nachrichten*. Undoubtedly, he was still working on it at the time he wrote his dedication to the city council and deputation, dated November 26, 1808. He states there that he has designed the treatise as a stimulus to participate in the thousand-year anniversary celebrations of the town, falling on the year of 1810³⁵. According to the note made on the last page of the preserved manuscript, it is possible to share Kudělka's assumption that Szersznik finished the manuscript on October 12, 1809³⁶. However, this assumption does not correspond with information we receive from the book itself and from Szersznik's correspondence with Cerroni. Not only do a couple of entries contradict that assumption while referring to the events of 1809³⁷, but there is included even a decree from January 9, 1810³⁸. What is more, the entry about Albert Casimir of Saxony, Duke of Teschen (I will report other particularities of this entry below), is the only dated entry of the book, and the date is January 9, 1810, too. Consequently, Szersznik sent a handwritten

ren werde? Sind ihnen keine Teschner Gelehrten bekannt?“ *Malo invidiam...*, p. 257, the letter no. II/12.

³¹ „Von Teschner Gelehrten weiß ich keinen einzigen, den Leopoldum Scherschnik ausgenommen, weil ich mich blos auf Mähren beschränket“. Ibidem, p. 260, the letter no. II/13.

³² „Ich ließ mich nicht durch Ihre Antwort abschrecken, die Sie mir vor einigen Jahren auf mein Ansuchen um Beyträge zu diesem Zwecke gaben, daß Sie keinen Schriftsteller kennen außer mir“. Ibidem, p. 317, the letter no. II/44.

³³ Ibidem, pp. 300—301, the letter no. II/38.

³⁴ Ibidem, pp. 313—317, the letter no. II/43.

³⁵ „[...] als eine Aufforderung zur Antheilnahme an der im J. 1810 zu haltenden tausendjährigen Jubelfeyer [...]“. L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, p. IV. His preface, too, began with: “Im künftigen Jahre 1810 wird ein sehr merkwürdiger und interessanter Tag für uns Teschner erscheinen”. Ibidem, p. [XI].

³⁶ M. KUDĚLKA: *Leopold Jan Šeršník...*, p. 116.

³⁷ L. J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, pp. 50—51, 84, 100, 167.

³⁸ Ibidem, p. 95.

“Verzeichnisse der Teschner Gelehrten” to Cerroni on January 18, 1810, and made a comment that Cerroni himself had perhaps found out something which would enable to complement or correct *Nachrichten*³⁹. Cerroni's reply to this letter has not been preserved but Szersznik wrote to him again on February 19, confirming that he had received his manuscript back from Cerroni on February 17. Therein he also expressed his gratitude to Cerroni for his additions as well as for information on George Tranoscius, of whom he had no previous knowledge⁴⁰. (These can be found in the *Nachrichten* after the entry on Tranoscius⁴¹). And so Szersznik still worked on the *Nachrichten* for a couple of months at the brink of the years 1809 and 1810. However, already on March 8, 1810, Szersznik wrote to Cerroni that only a single printing sheet of the *Nachrichten* had been printed out⁴². He wrote to Czikann a month later, stating that the printing of the book proceeded rather slowly⁴³. He informed him on October 27 that he had already had three copies of the book for him for a long time⁴⁴.

Szersznik originally considered to title his second biographical lexicon differently. This fact was pointed out already by Kudělka with a link to a commentary, added by another writer, to the end of the Szersznik's letter to Cerroni from January 18, 1810: “Teschner Bibliothek oder Schriftsteller aus dem Teschner Fürstenthume”⁴⁵. Still, a slightly different title was present on the title page of the manuscript of the *Nachrichten*; a part of which was later crossed out and altered. However, it is still distinguishable and legible: “Teschner Bibliothek oder Verzeichniß der Schriftsteller aus dem Teschner Fürstenthum”⁴⁶. The beginning of the manuscript's previous versions remained in the heading of the first list printed at the book's end: “Chronologisches Verzeichniss über die Teschner Bibliothec”⁴⁷, which was not left unnoticed by one of the *Nachrichten*'s reviewers (see below). In the letter to Cerroni from February 19, 1810, Szersznik accounted his reasons for choosing the word “Bibliothek” for the title of his “Werkchen”, which is how he had once referred to his lexicon⁴⁸. He pointed out brevity of the intended title which expressed aptly both

³⁹ *Malo invidiam...*, pp. 317–318, the letter no. II/44.

⁴⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 267, the letter no. 5. The entry “Trzanowsky Georg” (cf. L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, pp. 152–153) had not been included in the appropriate place within the manuscript (Książnica Cieszyńska, DD IV 16, f. 119), only a mark is there referring on a text written consistently in the margin (*ibidem*, f. 118–119).

⁴¹ L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, p. 153.

⁴² *Malo invidiam...*, p. 326, the letter no. II/47.

⁴³ *Ibidem*, p. 327, the letter no. II/48.

⁴⁴ *Ibidem*, pp. 333–334, the letter no. II/53.

⁴⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 318, the letter no. II/44.

⁴⁶ Książnica Cieszyńska, DD IV 16, f. 3.

⁴⁷ L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, p. 194.

⁴⁸ *Ibidem*, p. XI; *Malo invidiam...*, p. 318, the letter no. II/44.

the content of the book and its thematic scope, that is, *historia litteraria*⁴⁹. Cerroni could possibly have had some reservations in relation to such a title, although Szersznik implies in his letter from February 19, 1810 that it was Cerroni himself who had suggested it⁵⁰. The intended title of the book was subject to changes and, still in February of 1810, it was designed to be *Teschner Bibliothek*. The final decision in favour of the word *Nachrichten*, which was how Szersznik referred to his book in his letters to Cerroni from January 18 and February 19, 1810⁵¹, was possibly made at the very last moment.

The entries differ in terms of their extent: they are from a couple of lines to several pages in length. The longest ones are devoted to Joseph Wussin⁵², Georg Joseph Ulrich Zaugelius von Altenbach⁵³, and Albert Casimir of Saxony, Duke of Teschen⁵⁴. A person's name is followed by data on the place and date of birth, sphere of activity, relatives, education and further data about their life (and optionally — death), or in some cases data about their death. Some entries, particularly more extensive ones, contain more detailed data and sometimes even attempt to characterize personality features of a given character⁵⁵. Some entries are provided with a list of a scholar's works, ordered chronologically.

Due to the fact that Szersznik devoted more entries of his *Nachrichten* to the then living persons, his lexicon is (to some extent) a testimony to his personal contacts, who were naturally only people connected to the Teschen region⁵⁶. Szersznik mentions specifically that he knows or had known several of those people personally — however, we can presume that he knew even more of them, although it is not explicitly mentioned. Some of them were active in Teschen, for instance

⁴⁹ „Was den Titel betrifft, so bewunderte ich von jeher die Kurze derselben bey den Römern und Griechen und suche sie nachzuahmen. [...] Zweytens [soll] der Titel sogleich den Inhalt des Werkes und in welches Fach dasselbe gehöre, andeuten. Ich glaube, mein Titel habe beide Eigenschaften: Es ist kurz und das Wort Bibliothek weist auf die litterar Geschichte hin“. He explained then the use of the word *Bibliothek* by other authors, in terms of set of news (*Nachrichten*) about writers. Ibidem, p. 320, the letter no. II/45.

⁵⁰ „Was thut aber einem Freunde nicht zu gefallen? Ich nahm den von Ihnen verschlagenen Titel an“. Ibidem Cerroni expressed his reservations probably in the reply to the Szersznik's letter of January 18, 1810, which yet has not been preserved.

⁵¹ *Malo invidiam...*, pp. 318, 320, the letter no. II/44–45.

⁵² L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, pp. 170–181.

⁵³ Ibidem, pp. 181–193; beginning at the p. 184, it is though composed of a Zaugelius's letter „an die Herren Maire und Munizipal-Beamten der Stadt Strassburg“ of January 18, 1791.

⁵⁴ Ibidem, pp. 23–48. For more about this entry see below.

⁵⁵ For example, ibidem, p. 114 (Löhn, Anton Alois), p. 136 (Rapalius, Stanislaw), p. 160 (Wenzel Adam, Herzog zu Teschen).

⁵⁶ After having written his *Nachrichten*, Szersznik was no longer in touch with anybody from Bohemia; the last of his Czech correspondents, Stanislav Vydra, died in 1804. For more about Szersznik's penfriends see *Malo invidiam...*, pp. 35–53.

teachers, such as Anton Valentin Schneider (1740—1806), who was a prefect of the Teschen *gymnasium* between 1784—1786⁵⁷, and therefore, Szersznik had to know him in person. We can find out about his other personal acquaintances, such as Ignaz Chambréz or Adam Nechay, thanks to other sources⁵⁸. In other entries, based on their content, structure of data and evaluations of their characters, we can infer that these were provided to Szersznik through personal acquaintances as well. Ignaz Beidtel (1783—1865), who studied in 1790s in Teschen, can serve as a good example: Szersznik wrote about Beidtel's talent, diligence and effort exhibited by him while writing his textbook, however, it is not explicitly stated that Szernik knew him personally, or established written contact with him⁵⁹. Similarly, Szersznik wrote an entry on Cajetan Johann Gatty, who came to Zarzicz as a chaplain and lived there contentedly, remaining wholly devoted to the pastoral care⁶⁰.

Portraits devoted to then two students of the Teschen *gymnasium* of the turn of the century are placed among first entries of the lexicon. The older one was an engineer František Bezecný⁶¹, whose diligence was greatly praised by Szersznik⁶². Bezecný firstly attended a school in Dobrá, then the *gymnasium* in Rauden and after its abolition in 1801, he attended the Teschen *gymnasium*. He studied music and learned to construct fortepianos and musical machines. His skills attracted attention of Archduchess Maria Ludovika who inhabited Skotschau (Skoczów) at the time. She took Bezecný with her to Vienna where he received a scholarship of annual 300 Fl. from the Emperor Francis. The amount was increased by Albert Casimir Duke of Teschen by 20 Fl. per month. Bezecný also invented several machines⁶³. Mechanical engineer and inventor Josef Božek (1782—1835)⁶⁴ attended the Teschen *gymnasium* within the years of 1799—1803 as well. Already then, Szersznik recognised his talent and helped him to develop it further⁶⁵.

⁵⁷ L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, pp. 144—145.

⁵⁸ Szersznik mentioned both in his letters to Cerroni and Czikan. *Malo invidiam...*, *passim*. Fore more about them see below in the main body of the text.

⁵⁹ L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, p. 51.

⁶⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 86.

⁶¹ *Ibidem*, pp. 52—56. I have not succeeded in finding data concerning Bezecný's life. More on him, cf. *Slovník naučný* [Riegers's Encyclopaedia], 1. Ed. F.L. RIEGER. Praha 1860, p. 680, s.v. "Bezecný Frant"; "Doberské listy. Obec Dobrá" 2005, no. 7, pp. 9—10.

⁶² L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, pp. 52—53.

⁶³ *Ibidem*, p. 56.

⁶⁴ On him, cf. *Biografický slovník českých zemí* [Biographic Dictionary of the Czech Lands], VI., Praha 2007, p. 106.

⁶⁵ L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, pp. 61—66. It seems remarkable that Szersznik put different data on Božek's birthdates (1785, p. 61 and 1783, p. 198) in his portrayal, resp. in the list at the end of the book, both of which are actually wrong, along with Božek's first name Johann (pp. 61, 214). However, elsewhere in the book he states Božek's correct first name (pp. 198, 199, 214).

In turn, by including an entry dedicated to Niklas Krebs (1728—1796)⁶⁶, Szersznik remembered a man whose student he had once been himself. Krebs was a member of the Jesuit order from 1748 onwards; he worked in Teschen, Olomouc, Prague and in Neuhaus from 1772 until his death. Szersznik was his student in his third and fourth *grammatical* classes and still, after the lapse of almost fifty years, he only remembered him in good terms as a teacher popular with students and educated in many spheres of knowledge, who, according to Szersznik, possessed a natural talent and was characterised by immense modesty and kindness, along with his friendly and honest character, and unselfish disposition, amongst other qualities⁶⁷. Apart from him, Szersznik also mentions František Mezitzký (1713—1796) whom he got to know during his stay in Prague in 1772, and whom he persuaded to publish the poem “Nepomucensis” by Mathias Eudonius Persicus⁶⁸.

Szersznik even held his younger contemporaries in high regard, amongst whom was also a parish priest and author of several books about local history and churches, Joseph Karl Schipp (1751—1836)⁶⁹. He reports his unflagging enthusiasm thanks to which his diocese flourished⁷⁰. He attributes great merits to the Teschen region to Adam Nechay (1749—1820)⁷¹ and Joseph Wussin. Nechay had joined the Jesuit order, like Szersznik, he studied at the brink of 1760s and 1770s and was active in Bohemia; a couple of years after the order’s suppression, he returned to Teschen. Unlike Szersznik, he concentrated on law and became an advocate in Teschen, and a secretary between 1780 and 1805. It was him who broke to Cerroni the sad news about Szersznik’s death on January 25, 1814⁷². Wussin designed and constructed roads in the Bohemian lands, later he became a director in charge of roads’ construction in Moravia and Silesia. From 1775 he was active in Opava. He stayed in north Moravia and Silesia by the half of 1780s and since 1805 lived in Teschen. It was around 1777, when Szersznik: “got acquainted with him, befriended him and this friendship lasted uninterrupted since then.”⁷³ Szersznik credits him, apart

⁶⁶ Ibidem, pp. 105—108, s.v. “Krebs Niklas”. About him: *Biographisches Lexikon zur Geschichte der böhmischen Länder* II. Ed. H. STURM. München 1984, pp. 295.

⁶⁷ Ibidem, pp. 106—107.

⁶⁸ Ibidem, p. 118. The book was issued the following year as *Nepomuceneneidos libri VIII*.

⁶⁹ Ibidem, pp. 141—143. On him: *Biographisches Lexikon zur Geschichte der böhmischen Länder* III. Ed. F. SEIBT, H. LEMBERG, H. SLAPNICKA. München 2000, p. 653; <http://www.basilica.cz/cz/text/9-historie-farniho-kostela-sv-jana-krtitle-ve-frydku.html> (accessed: 23.11.2016).

⁷⁰ L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, p. 142.

⁷¹ On him: J. SPYRA: *Adam Nechay (1749—1820) i jego rodzina*. „Kalendarz Skoczowski” 1996, pp. 46—48.

⁷² Moravský zemský archiv v Brně [Moravian Land Archives in Brno], G11, sign. 736, f. 21. There are altogether five Nechay’s letters to Cerroni preserved. Ibidem, f. 21—29.

⁷³ „[...] vešel ve známost a uzavřel přátelství, která nepřetržitě trvá ještě nyní“. L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, s. 172. For Szersznik’s correspondence with Wussin from the years 1810 and 1812 see *Malo invidiam...*, pp. 330—332, 343—345, dop. č. II/52, 60—61.

from the construction and maintenance of roads, for providing him and the whole region of Teschen with first scientific data from the sphere of mineralogy, as Wussin passed on to Szersznik mineralogical treatises and even gave him a collection of Moravian rocks. He further acquainted Szersznik with geology and provided him with contacts of other mineralogists⁷⁴.

Szersznik cultivated great and deep friendship with the already mentioned natural scientist, rector of the Teschen Evangelical school and occasional poet David Pisch (sometimes spelled Piesch, 1761—1802), to whom he was grateful for “many literary rarities”⁷⁵. Szersznik maintained further contacts with Ignaz Chambréz (1758—1842), a painter and a teacher of painting in Teschen and Krakow and a professor of architecture in Krakow from whom he obtained information on history of arts in Moravia for Cerroni and Czikann⁷⁶. As late as during the first decade of the 19th century, Szersznik met the previously mentioned Zaugelius von Altenbach (1748 — †after 1833), once a doctor of canon law in Strasbourg⁷⁷.

Apart from portrayals of his friends and acquaintances, Szersznik included entries about his maternal relatives into the *Nachrichten*, too. He dedicated an entry to his mother Johanna Aloisia, née Polzer⁷⁸ where he laid stress on her desire for education⁷⁹. Her father had obtained private tutor Ludwig Heimb for her who later became a parish priest in Pruchná and also wrote poems in Polish⁸⁰. Johanna Aloisia learnt to play the piano, had basic knowledge of rhetoric and could both speak and write in Latin. She wrote letters in Latin with her brother Georg (1725—1745), who was a Jesuit from 1741 onwards and to whom Szersznik also dedicated a brief entry⁸¹. He further included a portrayal of their father, Leopold Gottlieb Inocenz Polzer (1697—1753)⁸² of which a whole third is dedicated to Polzer's parents, Georg (1653—1703) and Helene Katharina (†1746), and to their parents. Major remaining parts of the entry deal with Polzer's educational process, which was completed with his legal studies in Vienna. Szersznik only briefly mentioned his carrier — gradually, Polzer became a court notary public, a municipal syndic, the mayor and a fiscal clerk in Teschen. Szersznik equally mentions Polzer's merits of the town in the dedication of the book along with merits of Szersznik's father, whose example he followed in his activities⁸³.

⁷⁴ L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, p. 172.

⁷⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 127.

⁷⁶ *Malo invidiam...*, p. 337, the letter no. II/56; M. KUDĚLKA: *Leopold Jan Šersznik...*, p. 129.

⁷⁷ L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, p. 183.

⁷⁸ *Ibidem*, pp. 140—141.

⁷⁹ Szersznik apparently cared for the education of women. He stated about the mentioned teacher J. Novák from Opava in detail that Novák had been tirelessly teaching 72 girls religion, reading, writing, and arithmetics at his home. *Ibidem*, pp. 125—126.

⁸⁰ On him: *ibidem*, pp. 92—93.

⁸¹ *Ibidem*, pp. 128—130.

⁸² *Ibidem*, pp. 130—133.

⁸³ *Ibidem*, p. [VIII].

Szersznik did not write an entry about himself, although he wrote about his life in the preface to *Nachrichten*. He recollects and evaluates some moments of his life within first two pages thereof⁸⁴. He recalls visits to many libraries in Bohemia and Moravia and the fact that there was not a single manuscript in the Prague Klementinum library that he had not analysed. He remembers František Pubička, who “honoured him with his friendship,”⁸⁵ as well as two years spent by Szersznik on organising the Chapter Archives by Metropolitan Chapter at Saint Vitus. It is remarkable that Szersznik did not spare a word on circumstances of his return to Teschen, nor on the suppression of the Jesuit order⁸⁶. He does not comment on his Jesuit past either — his words do not indicate that he had arrived to Olomouc and Prague in order to obtain higher education from Jesuits. He presents the years spent in Bohemia and Moravia as an opportunity to collect records on the Teschen history and he refers to them only in such manner. This period looks like a purposeful research stay filled with work, and the return to Teschen represents its logical conclusion. He follows the sentence-long fragment about his return to Teschen⁸⁷ with a mention about the fire of Teschen in 1789. Then, he goes on to saying that he resumed the process of collecting, and would have collected many items again, had “some unfortunate circumstances”, official business and work not deprived him of opportunities and the required amount of time⁸⁸. He returns to it elsewhere, managing to commemorate, in a meanwhile, not only personal merits of his father and grandfather, but also his own⁸⁹. Finally, he mentions his age as a significant factor⁹⁰, but at the same time, a couple of pages further, he states that his readers could expect him to produce more of his works, such as a history of the Catholic *gymnasium* in Teschen, accounts on the local principal school and others, to which he had collected sources⁹¹. Although he states explicitly the reason for writing this book in the dedication of the *Nachrichten* — a thousand-year anniversary of the (legendary) founding of the city⁹² — surely, it was not the only reason for publishing the book; however, reviewers of the *Nachrichten*

⁸⁴ Ibidem, pp. XII—XIV.

⁸⁵ „[...] P. Franz Pubitschka, der mich seiner Freundschaft würdigte [...]“ Ibidem, p. XIII. About Pubička: J. ZOUHAR: *František Pubička S. I. (1722—1807). Barokní historik ve století rozumu* [František Pubička S. I. (1722—1807). A baroque historian in the century of reason]. Červený Kostelec 2014.

⁸⁶ Szersznik only observed: „Mit gleicher Emsigkeit benahm ich mich, als ich in dasselbe im J. 1775 zurückkehrte“. L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, p. XIII.

⁸⁷ See the previous footnote.

⁸⁸ Ibidem.

⁸⁹ Ibidem, pp. [VII]—[VIII], XVII. Szersznik commemorates his merits here on the town’s reconstruction after the fire of 1789 as well as his library and collections.

⁹⁰ Ibidem, pp. XIII—XIV.

⁹¹ Ibidem, pp. XVIII—XIX.

⁹² Ibidem, p. [VI].

intimated that it would have only improved the book's quality, had Szersznik still been working on it.

The most exceptional entry, in comparison to the others, is a vast portrait dedicated to the above mentioned Albert Casimir of Saxony, duke of Teschen (1738—1822), husband to Empress Maria Theresa's daughter, Maria Christina, and a significant patron of arts, who founded an immense collection of engravings and drawings in Vienna in 1768, which has borne his name — the Albertina — since 1921⁹³. Nevertheless, a different impulse was the reason for writing the duke's portrayal — during the duke's stay in Teschen, Szersznik found out that the duke was an “illustrious writer”, as Szersznik put it in his letter to Cerroni on January 18, 1810 — that is, nine days after the entry on duke had been written⁹⁴. This entry differs from the other ones not only in terms of its subject and extent — it is by far the most extensive entry in the *Nachrichten*. Moreover, it is the only of all *Nachrichten* which was not written by Szersznik, who was only the author of the entry's introduction (pp. 23—24). The portrait itself was written by Zaugelius von Altenbach (originally in French⁹⁵), who had read the duke's autobiographical notes in three volumes and based the entry on them⁹⁶. Szersznik considered it the most important of all⁹⁷ and so he must have been saddened when it was later expunged. It is difficult to establish when those pages were removed, Szersznik did not mention it in the preserved correspondence; most definitely, it must have been done after the book was printed, as the surveys enclosing the book contain the references to this entry. Moreover, the entry was not removed from all existing copies⁹⁸ and also the contemporary reviewers worked with a copy containing this entry (see below). It is possible to find reasons for the entry's removal, along with Kudělka, in the fact that Albrecht did not share Szersznik's concept regarding the duke's portrait being placed amongst “common people”⁹⁹. It is also possible that Albrecht's main complaint was that Zaugelius obtained information about him from the manuscript, which was not intended for public.

⁹³ Ibidem, pp. 23—48.

⁹⁴ *Malo invidiam...*, p. 318, dop. č. II/44. He alluded to this event even in the introductory part of the entry: „Ich erfuhr: dass dieser königlicher Prinz an einer Geschichte seiner Zeiten immer fort arbeitet“. L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, p. 24.

⁹⁵ „[...] diesen Aufsatz bekam ich vom Abbé Zeugelius französisch geschrieben [...]“. Szersznik's letter to Cerroni of February 19, 1810, *Malo invidiam...*, p. 320, the letter no. II/45.

⁹⁶ L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, p. 25.

⁹⁷ *Malo invidiam...*, p. 318, the letter no. II/44.

⁹⁸ One of a few copies accessible today, which contain Albert's portrait, is kept within the Moravian Land Library [*Moravská zemská knihovna*], sign. 1-0007.285. The copy is also accessible in a digital library, sub <http://kramerius.mzk.cz>. This copy is pointed out by J. KUBÍČEK: *Literární pozůstalost Leopolda J. Šeršníka v archivních sbírkách v Brně* [Literary estate of Leopold J. Szersznik within archive collections in Brno]. In: *Ks. Leopold Jan Szersznik znany i nieznany...*, p. 81.

⁹⁹ M. KUDĚLKA: *Leopold Jan Šeršník...*, p. 116.

The *Nachrichten* drew attention quickly and were used by other authors, amongst whom were, needless to say, Szersznik's friends Cerroni and Johann Jakob Heinrich Czikan, Cerroni's nephew. Czikan used the *Nachrichten* as a source for four entries in his *Die lebenden Schriftsteller Mährens* (Brno, 1812), namely, for Ignaz Chambréz, Kajetan Johann Gatty, Joseph Engel Gerich, and Niklas Teuchmann. He took over Szersznik's whole parts of texts, word for word, or with some slight changes; he referred to the *Nachrichten* in respective places in his text. Also the Cerroni's *Nachrichten über die Lebensumstände verstorbener und jetzt lebender Schriftsteller Mährens* contain several — exactly ten — entries dedicated to the very same people about whom Szersznik wrote. The title page of the first volume of Cerroni's *Nachrichten* contains dating inscription with the year 1780, yet Cerroni was working upon them until his death — we find information referring to later years in some entries, the youngest to the year 1826, in an entry dedicated to Franz Xaver Richter (1783—1856)¹⁰⁰. Thus, Szersznik could obtain information from Cerroni — but unfortunately, their mutual correspondence of the years 1801—1810 has not been preserved and so we cannot prove it specifically — and Cerroni could equally draw from Szersznik's book. At four out of ten mentioned entries, Cerroni's note at the margin reveals that he drew from the Szersznik's *Nachrichten* (entries: Ignác Chambréz, Adam Matěj Chmel, Joseph Gerisch, and Franz Ignaz Kohlass). It is also possible that Cerroni — although he did not specifically write it — based his work on Szersznik in an entry on Ignatz Beidtel — with regards to the entry's content and Beidtel's studies in Teschen. We cannot determine who drew from whom in the remaining five entries.

Several reviews of the *Nachrichten* were published. One of them was even written by Czikan, as can be deduced from Szersznik's letter to Czikan from October 28, 1812¹⁰¹. It was possibly about the review issued in the *Annalen der Literatur und Kunst* which contained such appendices¹⁰². The reviewer first of all paraphrases what Szersznik stated in the preface. He further ponders the Albert Casimir, Duke of Teschen's entry and deems that Zaugelius should have paid more attention to formal style when writing it¹⁰³. He states that regardless of the fact of having not been a Protestant himself, he argued that Szersznik should have paid more attention to the Moravian (!) Protestant scholars and also should have drawn more from journals

¹⁰⁰ Moravian Land Archives in Brno, G12, Cerr. I 86, p. 119.

¹⁰¹ „Ihre Rezension las ich und wünschte, daß Sie mir die Zusätze zu den Teschner Gelehrten vor deren Drucke mitgetheilt hätten!“. *Malo invidiam...*, p. 342, the letter no. II/59.

¹⁰² „Annalen der Literatur und Kunst in der Oesterreichischen Kaiserthume“ 1811, no. 9, pp. 309—316.

¹⁰³ In his review he rebuked him that his portrait was „übrigens bloss eine Uebersicht oder ein ganz kurzer Auszug der von dem Herzog verfassten Geschichte [...] Der Hr. Abbé hätte dabey auf den Styl viel mehr Fleiss wenden sollen“.

on literature¹⁰⁴. In this manner, he presents information about two authors whom Szersznik omitted — the rector of a Teschen school Immanuel Traugott Zerichovius (1694—1734) and Andreas Macher (†1762) who was a preacher¹⁰⁵. Consequently, he adds some information about a writer, theologian and teacher Georg Sarganek (1702—1743)¹⁰⁶, which Szersznik did not include in his Sarganek entry¹⁰⁷. In conclusion, he mentions the indexes and points out the title which the work used to have instead of the final one.

The author of the second review, issued in the *Allgemeine Literatur-Zeitung*¹⁰⁸, firstly echoes Szersznik's preface and pays the largest attention to the entry on the Duke Albert Casimir, from which he quotes entire paragraphs, including a vast part on passing of Maria Theresa¹⁰⁹. Then the reviewer provides an approximately one-and-a-half-page list of some personalities to whom Szersznik devoted entries, presenting basic data on them¹¹⁰. Like the other reviewer, in the conclusion, he criticises Szersznik for gathering very little information on Protestant scholars who deserved more extensive biographies — their entries were, according to him, insufficient, wrong, and erroneous to such extent that the *Nachrichten* would require a whole additional volume of appendices. He too presented names of other personalities — in his case 18 living scholars — whose portrayals Szersznik had not included in the *Nachrichten*¹¹¹. At the same time, apart from the mentioned critical remarks, the beginning of his review laid stress on the fact that Szersznik was one of the few then still living ex-Jesuits, and thus his “literary gift” was considered even more valuable, regardless of the imperfections in both style and content¹¹².

It would not be correct to accept Szersznik's *Nachrichten* without reservations. However, they are more significant than his first encyclopaedic work, the rather brief *De doctis* and also the most significant work published by Szersznik. They did not represent any novelty within a broader context, but within the Austrian region of Silesia they were the first attempt of the kind. Their significance does not solely lie in their own origin, but also in their content, thanks to which they have been a valuable source of information namely when it comes to less known personalities, about whom much has not been written elsewhere. The *Nachrichten* are quoted

¹⁰⁴ „[...] unmöglich wäre es ihm nicht gewesen, über protestantische Schriftsteller Mährens weit mehr zu sagen, hätte er sich nur an mehrere literarische Zeitschriften und andere Hilfsquellen gehalten“. Ibidem, p. 311.

¹⁰⁵ Ibidem, pp. 311—314.

¹⁰⁶ Ibidem, pp. 314—315.

¹⁰⁷ L.J. SCHERSCHNIK: *Nachrichten...*, pp. 138—140.

¹⁰⁸ „Allgemeine Literatur-Zeitung“, May 6, 1811, no. 124, columns 33—38.

¹⁰⁹ Ibidem, columns 34—36.

¹¹⁰ Ibidem, columns 36—38.

¹¹¹ Ibidem, column 38.

¹¹² Ibidem, column 33.

amongst others in a biographical dictionary by Constantin von Wurzbach, the *Biographisches Lexikon zur Geschichte der böhmischen Länder* and even the *Word Biographical Archive* draws from them. Last but not least, they contain several remarkable pieces of information on Szersznik's family and life.

Translated by Veronika Knotková

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Ondřej Podavka

Encyklopedia cieszyńskich uczonych Leopolda Jana Szersznika

Streszczenie

Artykuł został poświęcony encyklopedii *Nachrichten von Schriftstellern und Künstlern aus dem Teschner Fürstenthum* (1810), dziełu cieszyńskiego uczonego, byłego jezuita Leopolda Jana Szersznika (1747—1814). Encyklopedyczne opracowanie na 220 stronach zawiera artykuły hasłowe poświęcone 109 postaciom związanym z regionem cieszyńskim. Są wśród nich zarówno rdzenni cieszyńianie, jak i osoby przybyłe tu i działające w późniejszym okresie swego życia. W gronie tym znaleźć można teologów, kaznodziejów, filozofów, przyrodników, lekarzy, historyków, pisarzy, artystów, prawników oraz przedstawicieli innych profesji, w tym również uczonych niepiśmiennych. Tworząc encyklopedię dziejów wiedzy, jej autor chciał udowodnić, że ziemia cieszyńska nie jest w żadnej mierze intelektualną pustynią, pragnął również przybliżyć dotychczasowe osiągnięcia i rozwój regionu.

W artykule zwrócono również uwagę na szatę graficzną encyklopedii oraz okoliczności jej powstania, przedstawiono również analizę wybranych artykułów hasłowych i recepcję *Nachrichten...*

Słowa kluczowe: Leopold Jan Szersznik, *historia litteraria*, encyklopedie, Śląsk Cieszyński, uczeni

Ondřej Podavka

Enzyklopädie der Teschener Gelehrten von Leopold Jan Szersznik

Zusammenfassung

Der Beitrag befasst sich mit der vom Teschener Gelehrten und ehemaligen Jesuiten Leopold Jan Szersznik (1747—1814) verfassten und im Jahre 1810 veröffentlichten Enzyklopädie *Nachrichten von Schriftstellern und Künstlern aus dem Teschener Fürstenthum*. Auf 220 Seiten enthält sie bibliografische Stichworte, welche den 109 mit Teschener Region verbundenen Persönlichkeiten gewidmet sind. Darunter befinden sich nicht nur ausschließlich eingeborene Teschener, sondern auch Personen, die sich in Teschen niedergelassen haben und sich erst später am Leben des Gebiets aktiv beteiligten. Bei deren Auswahl waren für L. J. Szersznik weder die Konfession und die Sprache, in der der Gelehrte seine Arbeiten veröffentlichte, noch wissenschaftliche Disziplin, die er betätigte wichtig. In seinem Werk befinden sich Theologen, Prediger, Philosophen, Naturforscher, Ärzte, Historiker, Schriftsteller, Künstler, Juristen und andere, in der Zahl auch schreibunkundige Gelehrte. Die Enzyklopädie sollte bisherige Errungenschaften der Region und deren Entwicklung näherbringen und aufzeigen, dass Teschen Land kein intellektuelles Ödland ist.

In dem Beitrag werden die grafische Seite des Werkes und seine Genese geschildert. Der Verfasser analysiert ausgewählte Stichworte und die Aufnahme der *Nachrichten von Schriftstellern und Künstlern aus dem Teschener Fürstenthum* von den Lesern.

Schlüsselwörter: Leopold Jan Szersznik, *historia litteraria*, Enzyklopädien, Teschener Schlesien, Gelehrten