

TITLE

The Price

PROJECT

TIME DIVE

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PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Instruction – A4, one- or two-sided
2. Additional materials for the facilitator – A4, one- or two-sided
3. Template Letter – A4, in color
4. Professor Cards (including Tokens) – A5, 2-sided, in color
5. Witness Cards (including Name Cards) – A5, 2-sided, in color
6. Map of Cracow – A3, in color



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Additional materials for the facilitator

Introduction to the game

[audio material: The Price_Audio_Introduction to the game]

Kraków in the nineteenth century was a provincial and rather poor city, but it enjoyed relatively considerable autonomy from the Austrian occupier.

You are a respectable individual working at the Jagiellonian University. On one March Sunday night in 1888, the peaceful life of the academic community is interrupted. A tragedy occurs: a fire breaks out in the laboratory of one of your university colleagues, Zygmunt Wróblewski. As a result, the professor is severely burned and, after a long hospitalization, dies on April 16th.

Although it might seem that the fire is an ordinary work accident, many clues indicate that the scientist's death may have been planned. The public is disturbed, and demands are being raised for a detailed investigation. The university is not comfortable with the vagueness of the situation. The scandal could damage its interests and reduce funding from the Austrian authorities. In addition, your graduate, Kazimierz Badeni is attempting to obtain the position of regent of Galicia, which would benefit the entire academic community.

The rector, who wants to solve the mystery of Wróblewski's death, has sent you all official invitations for a meeting in his office.

Rector's speech

[audio material: The Price_Audio_Rector's speech]

I am very pleased you accepted the invitation and came to my office. I invited you here because you are the most trusted people with whom I have the pleasure of working.

As you know, our colleague Professor Zygmunt Wróblewski recently passed away. Theories that have been raised and initial investigations have shown that there are four probable explanations for the professor's death: an accident at work, political sabotage, an academically-motivated conflict, or the action of unholy forces beyond people's cognitive abilities. Unfortunately, we do not have time to continue the official investigation: a delegation from Vienna will arrive this afternoon, demanding an official report on Wróblewski's death.

As you know, a meticulous report showing our university as a trustworthy organization is all the more important because Kazimierz Badani - our graduate - is trying to obtain the position of regent of Galicia. Which we are extremely keen on.

Therefore, I want to ask you to help us with the completion of our investigation. On the table you see silhouettes of the people you should go to and ask to testify. Remember that your time is limited! I will send my messenger for you as soon as I get information that the Viennese authorities are approaching our city.

Be careful and considerate. Good luck!

Historical introduction

[Multimedia presentation: The Price_Presentation_Historical Introduction]

GALICIA AND PARTITION

Between 1795 and 1918, Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was partitioned by three empires: The Kingdom of Prussia, the Habsburg Monarchy-Austria and the Russian Empire. The joint state of Poland and Lithuania ceased to exist.

Kraków, where the game takes place, is located in Galicia, as the part of former Poland under Austrian rule is referred to at the time.

It is a provincial city, quite poor, although with considerable autonomy from the invader's authorities.

JANUARY UPRISING

(1863-1864)

Polish national uprising against the Russian Empire, one of the three partitioners of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. It was the longest and largest Polish uprising. It took the form of a partisan war involving Poles, Lithuanians and Byelorussians. It ended with the defeat of the insurgents, who faced repression from the Russian Empire after the fighting ended. One of the prescribed punishments was exile to Siberia in the depths of Russia - a faraway land with a harsh climate.

KRAKÓW AND JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY

Kraków, once the capital of the Kingdom of Poland, was a small, provincial city in the 19th century. It was located in a region called Galicia, which was under the rule of the Habsburg Empire. These areas enjoyed relative autonomy from the occupying power but were also extremely poor economically and culturally.

Like Kraków, the Jagiellonian University, which is located in the city, had lost its former glory. Only the second half of the 19th century began to bring hope for development - both the city and the University.

WRÓBLEWSKI - SCIENCE

Zygmunt Wróblewski (1845-1888) - physicist, professor at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, known as the inventor of the cascade method of gas liquefaction.

He left his hometown of Grodno for Kyiv, where he began studying at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics. He did not manage to complete his studies, as in the meantime the January Uprising broke out, in which he became involved. He was sentenced to exile to Siberia for his participation in the battles. Upon his return, he returned to science, conducting research. He traveled around European universities which was possible because of a scholarship funded by Seweryn Gałęzowski. He earned a doctorate writing about electricity, and in the following years wrote his habilitation in physics on gas diffusion - its flattering review appeared in the respected journal "Nature".

After a period traveling, he settled in Kraków, where he received a scholarship from the Academy of Learning and, taking advantage of his financial independence, conducted scientific research. At the Jagiellonian University, he received the title of professor of physics, became head of the Department of Experimental Physics and dean of the Faculty of Philosophy. Together with Karol Olszewski, he conducted research on the liquefaction of gases. In 1883, they made a groundbreaking achievement in the world of science - the liquefaction

of oxygen and nitrogen, followed by carbon dioxide, which remains the greatest achievement of his life.

WRÓBLEWSKI - PERSONAL LIFE

Zygmunt Wróblewski, originally from Grodno in the Russian partition, faced significant challenges due to his involvement in the January Uprising against the Russian Empire. Unable to continue his studies in Russian-controlled territories, he sought opportunities in European universities and eventually secured a research position in Kraków, located in the Austrian partition.

Wróblewski devoted most of his time to scientific research, leaving him with little leisure. This relentless focus on work often led to overexertion. He also suffered from eye problems, which required him to travel to Berlin for surgery.

He was known as a quiet and unsocial individual, wholly dedicated to his work. In Kraków, he remained somewhat of an outsider, which may have contributed to feelings of alienation. Despite achieving a groundbreaking discovery with Karol Olszewski, their partnership dissolved after only two months, prompting both scientists to pursue their research independently.

In 1888, a fire broke out in Wróblewski's laboratory. Trapped inside, he suffered severe burns from the flames. After spending approximately three weeks in the hospital, he succumbed to his injuries. Although his death was officially ruled an accident, rumors circulated suggesting that the fire may have been deliberately set.

Epilogues

[audio material: The Price_Audio_Epilogues - download all four; play the one indicated as the solution by the Players]

POLITICAL ENDING

The report which had been written by university investigators, caused an understandable stir among the members of the Austro-Hungarian committee.

The suggestion that a foreign country could be involved in the death of such a famous scholar led to a strong reaction from the authorities. Police arrested a group of suspects presumed to have been in contact with foreign spies.

The case ceased to be a small and local affair and began to gain increasing nationwide attention. Despite that, true killers have never been found, the publicity surrounding the whole affair unexpectedly helped Kazimierz Badeni, a graduate of the Jagiellonian University, to obtain the position of regent of Galicia.

University also gained sympathy all over the Austro-Hungarian empire. Voices that undermine Badeni's candidacy have gone silent and the emperor can make him his regent without any objections which might potentially lead to a political crisis. The region of Galicia gains a more noble position. The Jagiellonian University achieved more independence and better funding conditions thanks to which it entered a period of dynamic development.

PERSONAL ENDING

According to the report presented to the Chancellor, behind Professor Wróblewski's death, extremely mundane reasons are at fault, like overwork, fatigue and poor mental state, compounded by the damage to his health suffered in his youth.

Such a reasonable explanation satisfied austro-hungarian officials who present the university report to the highest authorities in Vienna. Wróblewski's case is closed and considered resolved. Political factions and public soon forgets about it.

In Cracow itself, however, the opposite has happened. A heated discussion on working conditions at the university begins. Many voices are heard which demand rapid and far-reaching reform changes aimed at increased concern for the psycho-physical state of both lecturers and students. A multi-level program is implemented to enhance health care. Time spent at work was reduced, laboratories become better lit and equipment is checked.

Wróblewski's friends can take comfort in the fact that his death wasn't meaningless and made the life of the university community better and safer.

Politically, solving the Wróblewski case has no impact on Badani's candidacy.

ACADEMICAL ENDING

The Conclusion of The university case was very dark and gloomy: the enemy has been among us all this time and was lurking under the nose of the Chancellor whose reaction was immediate and categorical. He didn't wait for the authorities in Vienna to make a decision, instead he used his connections to put pressure on Cracow police officials.

As a result, the Wróblewski case was reopened. On the Chancellor's command, the university started strict collaboration with local law authorities providing them not only the report itself but also giving investigators access to all university buildings.

The result of the investigation was shocking. It was discovered that a French spy was involved in the case. He broke into the professor's laboratory and stole his notes which he also burned. It is possible that the professor himself was there at the same moment because he was known for his habit of working long nights (even on Sundays).

Jagiellonian University makes a report to the imperial authorities in Vienna which started legal proceedings for French scholars involved in this case.

Scholars from Cracow patented the gas liquefaction method which brought great fame to the university itself. In those circumstances, Badani was honored and became regent of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

MYSTICAL ENDING

Participants of the austro-hungarian committee were shocked after reading the report and didn't even try to hide it.

Even if it's authors didn't suggest that behind Wróblewski's death stands metaphysical forces, the attempt to explain the tragic incident with factors related to the occultism and mysticism left the visitors from Vienna stunned. After the brief stay, the imperial officials take the report to the capitol.

Soon after, the Chancellor received an official letter sent by the government in Vienna, which completely rejected the - in the Austro-Hungarians' opinion - absurd content of the report. The letter made accusations of the university's incompetence in investigating the causes of Wróblewski's death and even suggested that you maybe try to hide something about the tragedy. Croacow's University lost its trust in the capitol. Badani's opponents quickly used the fact that he was a former student of Jagiellonian University and started a campaign against him which greatly hurt his reputation. The Emperor decided that such a controversial person shouldn't be a regent and that's how the Badani's political career ended and Galicia lost all chances of becoming an important province in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The University itself lost both prestige and donations.

After a few months, all of you receive the same letter in which only one sentence is included:

"You know too much. Be careful!"



Official position of the Jagiellonian University



We wanted to inform you of the results of the investigation carried out into the death of the Honourable Professor Wróblewski. A group of experts deduced that the death occurred for reasons:

PERSONAL/POLITICAL/ACADEMIC/MYSTICAL*

**choose one of the reasons*

We have drawn the above conclusions on the basis of our examination of the evidence and witness statements. To summarise**

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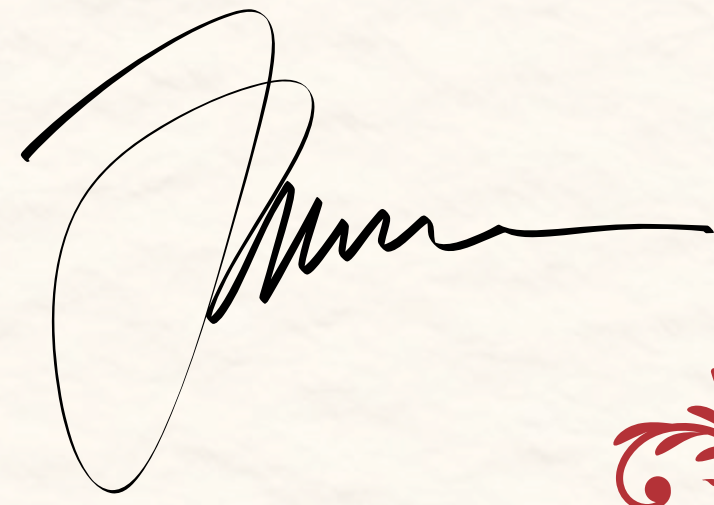
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***insert justification for choosing a particular cause of death*







Prof Wilderpress

EXPERTISE IN GEOGRAPHIC SCIENCES

YOUR PERSONALITY TRAITS

YOUR RELATIONSHIP

NOTES

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU BRING TO THE GAME, RELATED TO YOUR FIELD OF EXPERTISE

Olchon Island is the largest island of Lake Baikal, located in Russia's Irkutsk Oblast. One of the most interesting attractions of the island is, "Shaman's Rock" (Cape Burchan) – according to beliefs, one of the most sacred places in Asia. The island itself, according to indigenous Buryats, is sacred land. Legends say it was the home of the eldest of God's sons sent to earth.

Wróblewski mentioned to you that while in exile in Siberia he met a shaman who came from the village of Khuzir on Olchon Island. Thanks to him, he was introduced to shamanism.

YOUR RELATIONS WITH WRÓBLEWSKI

Wroblewski was a colleague of yours. On Wednesdays, between your classes, you had lunches together. You were extremely interested in stories about Russian cities and culture. Zygmunt told you that at the age of eighteen he was arrested for participating in the Polish January Uprising. He spent time in prisons in Grodno and Vilna, then was exiled to Tomsk. After two years, he was transferred to Tsivensk near Kazan. He didn't want to talk too much about his adventures, he definitely paid more attention to the culture and the people he met. All he knew was that he did a lot of reading and tutoring on the spot. He made plans for the future he wanted to take up the sciences.

During his exile he also became interested in the local culture, religion and language. He seemed particularly intrigued by the issue of shamanism. Although he didn't talk too much about his beliefs toward this pagan religion, you suspect he may have practiced it. Especially since he did not seem to be a man devoted to the Catholic faith. You were always a little anxious about the bizarre and dangerous practices your colleague was suspected of - wouldn't they bring him doom?

Prof Zybert

EXPERTISE IN PHYSICAL SCIENCES

YOUR PERSONALITY TRAITS

YOUR RELATIONSHIP

NOTES

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU BRING TO THE GAME, RELATED TO YOUR FIELD OF EXPERTISE

Gas liquefaction (cascade method) – starting from a simple physical theory, the boiling point of a liquid will decrease as the pressure decreases. Wróblewski and Olszewski took advantage of the relationship between pressure and temperature change, so they created a system for lowering the pressure of gases. Liquefied and boiling gases lower the temperature for further liquefaction at lower temperatures, cascading down to the lowest possible temperature. High-pressure oxygen in liquid form occurs at -130°C . The next achievements of the scientists were the liquefaction of nitrogen and carbon monoxide.

YOUR RELATIONS WITH WRÓBLEWSKI

You teach at the Department of Physics, where you happened to meet Wróblewski. He seemed standoffish and extremely introverted. In addition, you feel that he has been given a position you deserved. You are a person recognized in the world of science, so promotion within the academic structure was simply rightfully yours! When the position of head of the dean of the philosophy department became vacant, everyone expected that this position will be offered to you – after all, you too, in addition to your habilitation in physics, are a doctor of philosophy (just the same as Wróblewski).

You were sincerely pleased to hear rumors that Wróblewski may have stolen the solutions used in the groundbreaking method of gas liquefaction – perhaps the world of academics will finally see through it and understand that Zygmunt was not such a genius after all?

Dr Frampol

EXPERTISE IN LAW STUDIES



YOUR PERSONALITY TRAITS

YOUR RELATIONSHIP

NOTES

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU BRING TO THE GAME, RELATED TO YOUR FIELD OF EXPERTISE

Possession of weapons under the Austrian rule was subject to a number of prohibitions. Beginning in 1815, there was the threat of confiscation and fines. In 1852, the "Imperial Patent on the Manufacture, Possession and Carrying of Arms, and on the Trade in Arms and their Transportation" was introduced. Weapons were divided into permitted and prohibited. The division was not specified, most likely non-military revolvers and pistols, as well as hunting weapons fell into the category of weapons permitted to possess, but could not be carried. Prohibited weapons included daggers, grenades, rockets and any sharp instruments that served no purpose other than to hurt or kill. Only certain social groups, such as people in crisis of homelessness or with mental illnesses, were completely prohibited from owning any weapons.

YOUR RELATIONS WITH WRÓBLEWSKI

You were not given the opportunity to meet Wróblewski privately. However, because of your specialty, you attended the meetings of the City Council of Kraków, where you increasingly received disturbing information about Zygmunt Wróblewski. After all, he came from the territory of the oppressive Russian Empire and spent several years in exile deep into Siberia. He then traveled extensively in the most prominent scientific centers of Europe, meeting many people from different backgrounds – who knows what kind? Despite the fact that he was recognized internationally and had many offers to continue his research in important academic institutions in Europe, he eventually settled in the ever so insignificant Kraków. This all looks disturbing! Could it be that he made enemies and hid in a small city? Or is he a spy and, living on the outskirts of the Austrian Empire, passing on secret information? Admittedly, no evidence has been revealed that accuses the professor, but this matter worries you.

Prof Abramowicz

EXPERTISE IN MEDICAL RESEARCH

YOUR PERSONALITY TRAITS

YOUR RELATIONSHIP

NOTES

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU BRING TO THE GAME, RELATED TO YOUR FIELD OF EXPERTISE

The Faculty of Medicine of the Jagiellonian University teaches students, introducing into the curriculum the latest knowledge of wound treatment, disinfection, hygiene maintenance. The theory of disease-causing microorganisms and proposed methods of prevention are known: new developments such as the use of carbolic acid, iodine and other substances to disinfect wounds and surgical instruments, isolation of sick patients and maintenance of personal hygiene by staff. Unfortunately, due to doctors' old habits and lack of financial resources to raise hygiene standards, medical facilities are still struggling with the problem of not following these rules in practice.

YOUR RELATIONS WITH WRÓBLEWSKI

You met Wróblewski when you were studying under Ernst von Bergmann, a respected professor of medicine in Berlin, working on aseptics and war surgery. At that time Zygmunt was also staying there, having come to a well-known ophthalmology clinic: he was suffering from a serious eye disease and was even in danger of losing his sight. In Berlin he underwent two surgeries and in the meantime, as a free student, he tried to attend lectures at the University of Berlin. You met through mutual friends. You valued Zygmunt for his ambition and intelligence.

After your return from Germany, you and Wroblewski exchanged correspondence. You know that he continued his studies in Berlin until 1872, and then remained in Munich, where he received his doctorate in philosophy in 1874 (he did his habilitation in physics). After that, contact broke off and it was only years later, in Kraków, that you renewed collegial relations. Despite the fact that he was an extremely busy man, he was able to find time for you – for which you value him to this day.

Prof Gramowicz

EXPERTISE IN MATHEMATICS

YOUR PERSONALITY TRAITS

YOUR RELATIONSHIP

NOTES

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU BRING TO THE GAME, RELATED TO YOUR FIELD OF EXPERTISE

“Nature” is one of the oldest and most prestigious scientific journals in the world. It was founded in 1869 in England. In its pages appeared a positive review of Wróblewski's habilitation thesis, written by Maxwell - one of the most recognized physicists.

This fact testifies to the international fame and recognition the Polish physicist had among his professional colleagues. His discoveries aroused admiration as well as envy.

YOUR RELATIONS WITH WRÓBLEWSKI

The name of Wroblewski caught your eye while reading the latest issue of the weekly magazine, “Nature”. Later, people were still repeatedly talking next to you about this ambitious, talented physicist, who received a scholarship funded by Seweryn Gałęzowski, awarded by the Academy of Learnings in Krakow. You know that thanks to the scientific award, Wróblewski spent a total of two years on the road, visiting the most important scientific institutions in Europe. You were surprised that such an gifted man wanted to return to Poland and eventually settled in Kraków. You were intrigued by his character.

You remember your first meeting: handing him a snuff box, chatting about his latest research – trying to befriend him. Zygmunt, however, seemed to be reserved toward you or even unpleasant. The two of you never formed a closer relationship. Could it be that he considered himself superior? You are not surprised that there were ugly rumors about him among scientists.

Dr Krantauer

SPECIALIZATION IN MENTAL ILLNESSES

YOUR PERSONALITY TRAITS

YOUR RELATIONSHIP

NOTES

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU BRING TO THE GAME, RELATED TO YOUR FIELD OF EXPERTISE

Melancholy - in the 19th century considered a serious mental illness. It was associated with feelings of despair, helplessness, apathy, suicidal thoughts. The word “depression” was used rarely, generally in the world of psychiatric science, from the mid-19th century onward. The word “melancholy” was far more widely understood, including in the scientific community.

YOUR RELATIONS WITH WRÓBLEWSKI

Like Wróblewski, you come from Grodno, which was under the Russian occupation. After studying in Kyiv, you end up in Kraków, bypassing the Polish January Uprising – so you don't take part in the battles, nor are you affected by the repression of being sent to Siberia. You meet with Zygmunt in Kraków many years later.

You meet Wróblewski at the Jagiellonian University, during one of his lectures in the chemistry department. Thanks to a conversation about your hometown, you develop a sympathy for him. Although you don't see each other very often, you always greet each other warmly.

You happened to be sincerely worried about Zygmunt, as he looked quite unhealthy. Perhaps he is working too much? Also, maybe memories of exile deep into Russia or problems with gossip in the scientific world made him sad? You suppose he might have been suffering from melancholy.

Dr Małkov

EXPERTISE IN PHILOLOGY



YOUR PERSONALITY TRAITS

YOUR RELATIONSHIP

NOTES

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU BRING TO THE GAME, RELATED TO YOUR FIELD OF EXPERTISE

While in Siberia, especially around Olchon Island, Wróblewski may have been exposed to Northern and Central Russian dialects of the Russian language, as well as the Russian variety of the Buriatic language. Russian is an East Slavic language, written in Cyrillic, more song-like in pronunciation than Western Slavic languages. Buriatic, on the other hand, belongs to the subfamily of Mongolian languages and, despite its different origin, can also be described as a singsong language. The Buryat alphabet resembles Russian, so both in writing and speech, a person unfamiliar with these languages could confuse them and consider them foreign-sounding, melodic dialects.

YOUR RELATIONS WITH WRÓBLEWSKI

You have not been able to meet Wroblewski in person. You are too shy to approach such a well-known personality. Zygmunt appeared to you as a role model, even a mystical being – which made him fascinating to you, but at the same time a bit frightening. He was so evasive, incomprehensible.... it seemed as if he lived in his own world, detached from reality with his thoughts.

You know, there were rumors around the university that he often became thoughtful, disengaged from conversation. Sometimes he spoke words without meaning, as if to himself or to some being invisible to others. Some people used to say that he was crazy or possessed – in your opinion this is quite likely, which of course does not take away from his genius as a scientist.

Dr Gartali

EXPERTISE IN PHILOLOGY



YOUR PERSONALITY TRAITS

YOUR RELATIONSHIP

NOTES

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU BRING TO THE GAME, RELATED TO YOUR FIELD OF EXPERTISE

The Polish January Uprising, in which Zygmunt Wróblewski fought, ended with the failure of the rebels. After the battles ended, uprisers faced repression from the Russian Empire. Many people, especially those in command of riot units, were sentenced to death. Nearly 40,000 people were punished by exile to Siberia - deep into the Empire, and many also had to emigrate. Civilians who did not participate in the fighting and provided aid to the rebels were also punished. Noble estates were confiscated, churches and monasteries were closed. Laws were also tightened, actively russifying (imposing Russian language and culture) the occupied territories.

YOUR RELATIONS WITH WRÓBLEWSKI

With Wróblewski, to whom you have a neutral attitude, you made mutual friendship through a common colleague – Olszewski. You remember the beginning of their acquaintance: after moving to Kraków, Wróblewski set up a workshop, to which he invited faculty members in early 1883. Among them was the chemist Karol Olszewski. That same year, the men began researching together and achieved success: they managed to liquefy oxygen, then nitrogen and carbon monoxide. As a result of a fight, they started working independently. You regret that the two geniuses still don't work together, although it seems that individually they can also achieve a lot – or at least that's probably what some people who don't like the success of Polish researchers think. In your opinion, it's no coincidence that Wroblewski had several accidents in his laboratory before his death. You are worried that your friend Olszewski might end his life in the same tragic way, after all, he had a minor accident recently.



RESOLUTENESS



IMPULSIVENESS



TENDERNESS



EMPHATY



PROLIFIGACY



WHEALTHINESS



REASON



PERSPICACITY



COURAGE



CATEGORICITY



COMPASSION



KINDNESS



INFLUENCE



EGOCENTRISM



INTELLIGENCE



CUNNING



Piotr Piskle

A person who accompanied Wroblewski during the Polish January Uprising in 1863 and spent a period of exile in Siberia with him. After returning to Kraków, they maintained a collegial relationship.

Piotr Pisklę



BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1811 to a noble landowning family near Lublin. Revolutionary fervor led him to fight in the November, Kraków and January Uprisings. For opposing the authorities in 1863, he was exiled to Siberia near Tomsk. There he met Wróblewski. After a short time they became friends. After two years they were separated - they ended up in different cities in Russia. They met again in Kraków, where Pisklę had moved to avoid oppression in the Russian Empire's territory. Now an elderly, poor man. He earns his living as a petty smuggler across the border of Russia and Prussia. He lives in the poor neighborhood of the Rakowicki Cemetery.

In his youth he was full of hope and desire for action, in later years impulsive and eager for revenge, now socially withdrawn, full of nostalgia and a sense of injustice. He is not easy to get along with. He is not fond of the intellectuals, although he held Wróblewski in high esteem for his patriotism.

OVERALL TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS

- Pisklę and Wróblewski met every Tuesday to drink tea, talk about current affairs and remember old times.
- Pisklę visited Wróblewski twice in the hospital. On the first visit, the professor was still unconscious. On the second visit he looked better, so they talk a little. Pisklę was therefore very surprised when it was revealed three days later that Wróblewski had died.
- Wróblewski had had several accidents at work. The previous ones were harmless; Pisklę doesn't remember what happened anymore. Did something break, explode, burn? Previously he didn't pay attention to Wróblewski's stories on the subject, but now he thinks it might have mattered.

Piotr Pisklę



INTRO

By carriage you reach the area of the Rakowicki Cemetery. You pass a ring of newly built Austrian fortifications, and you notice military barracks in the background. You are in a place where three great empires meet their borders. In the event of war, nearby buildings will be demolished to clear the way for the line of fire – so citizens who choose to settle in this area can do so free of charge. It is a neighborhood of poor people.

Piotr Pisklę's house is located between the cemetery and the nearby fortifications. It is small, wooden and damaged by old age. As you approach, you notice that one of the windows is broken. Nevertheless, the property looks solid and clean.

Your group takes a short break to catch your breath and discuss whether you are in the right place. You hear a creak coming from inside Piotr's house, and after a moment a quiet voice speaks up: "What the hell...?"

Knocking on the door was unnecessary. Piotr came out and closed the door behind him. Calm and reserved, though clearly confused by your presence, he waits you to explain the reason for the visit.

Piotr Piskle



TESTIMONY - THREAT

Piotr looks at you angrily and begins to speak in a raised voice:

“Don't think you can pressure me with impunity! I may not be one of you, but I have my honor. I've lived through a lot, I'm not afraid of anything, and I won't allow myself to be threatened!

While you were being taught obedience, while you served the partitioners, I fought: both here in our country and in the Siberian wilderness. I did not choose a life of comfort, but I do not regret it, because the difficulties experienced have made me stronger today.

And what do you represent? Submission? Nowadays you don't become a university professor if you have enemies. Otherwise you die, like.... If I knew who wronged Zygmunt, I would have already pursued that Russian pig!

Yes, the Russian one! We met with dear Zygmunt there far away, in Tomsk in Siberia, where conditions were terrible. He did not lose his strength of spirit. He worked for two years, while also reading, tutoring, exploring natural sciences. He was unbreakable, which did not please those Russian pigs. They moved him inland, there.... To Civilsk near Kazan. I missed him so much! I was afraid for him! The Russians are unpredictable and cruel.

The only thing I can advise you is to stay at home. Let go, don't upset people. Otherwise you will end up like your colleague.”

Piotr Piskle



TESTIMONY – EMPATHY

“Yes, it was hard at times – such is life. I would be lying if I said that at any point it was easy! Thank you for your sympathy, but I've been able to cope with harder times as well!

Maybe that's why people like me – mentally resilient – choose to live a life of sacrifice. I chose to live my life according to my principles, wanting to serve my homeland and people. This allows me to be a valuable person. Who would understand this better than Wroblewski?

Let me tell you that in Siberia he often volunteered to help the sick. He was always persistent: in exile he kept reading and studying, even when his eyesight began to fail. And as soon as he returned to his homeland, he almost immediately began research. Aware of his scientific talent, he wanted to use it for the benefit of the university and the nation. Sometimes he stayed up all night if he couldn't solve a problem! Sleep problems had already begun in Siberia. Zygmunt looked for help from local shamans. To me this seemed dangerous, but Wróblewski was a wise man and I was sure he knew what he was doing. He received herbs from which he made special infusions, also after he returned to Kraków. He also brought back this graphic. He gave it to me so that it could serve as a talisman for me.”

Peter hands you a card with the graphic on it.

“I wish Zygmunt would take better care of himself. Maybe then he would still be with us...”

Piotr Piskle



TESTIMONY – BRIBERY

"If you want to support an old beggar, I will not stop you. However, I'll be honest, I will not say anything more than I would have said without the cash, because I am a man of honor and I am not hiding anything. I know that in your environment, among academics and other successful people, everything is done to gain fame, money and power. However, everything has a price! Some will give up everything they have – even the most important things!

Few are able to stop themselves from picking success whenever the opportunity presents itself. I thought Zygmunt was a wise and good man, but apparently he too was too weak. Too fragile in the face of false teachings, idols, demons!

I say this because Wróblewski and I met a shaman in Siberia from the island of Olchon, who could summon unearthly powers, change shape and speak in demonic tongues. I didn't understand him at all, I was afraid of him! However, Wróblewski was fascinated, they talked a lot. They spent a whole week in one tent – so long that the authorities managed to notice that Wroblewski was not in town!

After that meeting, he was very animated, and began to make ambitious plans for the future. And indeed: everything he planned, he achieved. However, the more splendor surrounded him, the paler he became, the thinner he became, the more forgetful he became.... These things must be connected in some bizarre way."

Piotr Piskle



TESTIMONY – ERUDITION

“These fancy words mean nothing! You are trying to impress me with your eloquence, while in reality you yourself probably don't know what you are saying. Isn't language for communicating? So why complicate it?

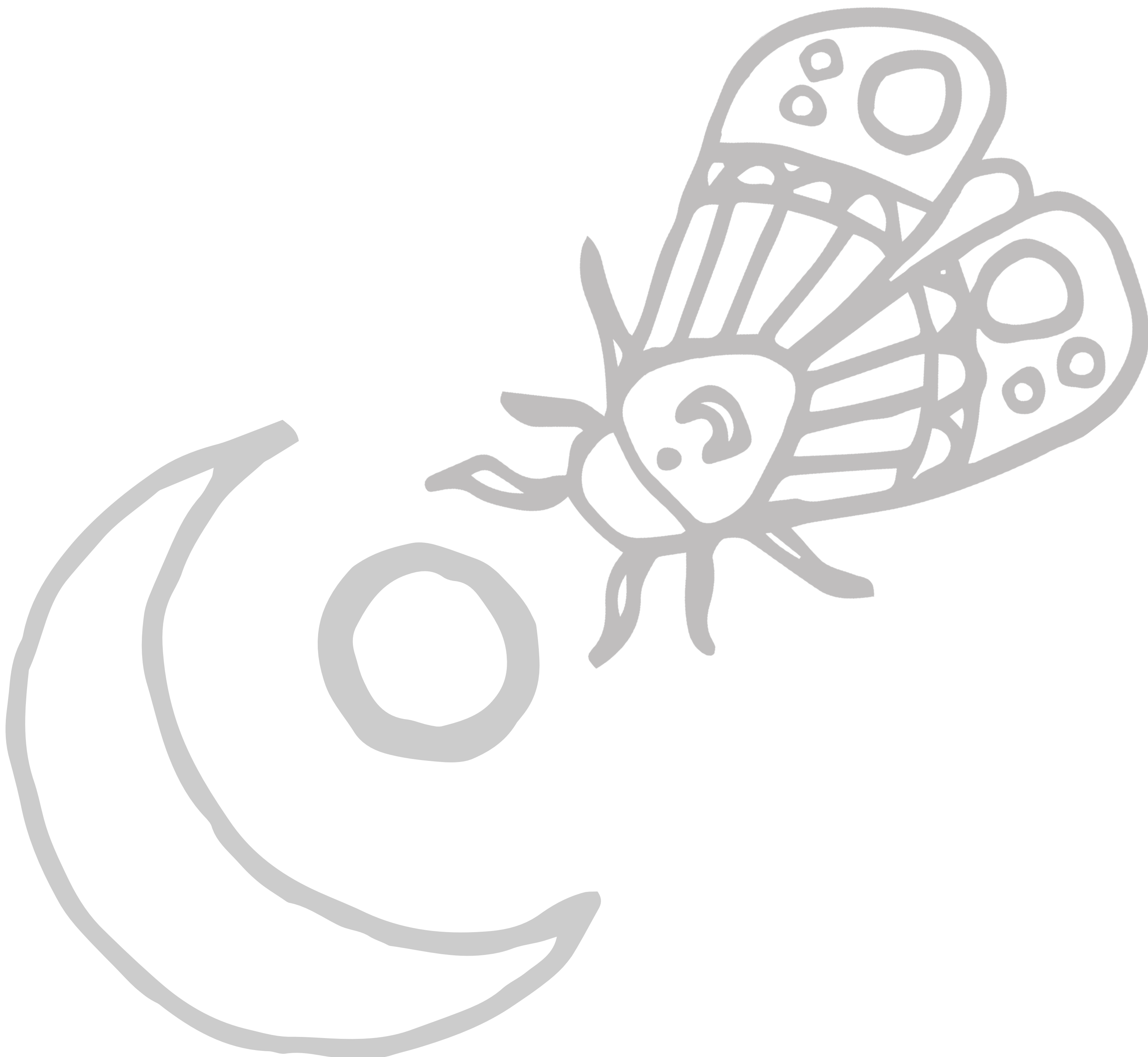
Our dear Wroblewski was a man so smart, intelligent, well-read, and he could speak in simple language. However, he was the exception in the academic world. Sometimes, when I would meet him by chance on the street and I would talk to his fellow academics – I guess – I would not be able to understand them. I wouldn't have approached them myself if Zygmunt hadn't noticed me and invited me to join the conversation. They all, these important professors, were so judgmental, high-minded, and sometimes when they spoke I didn't know whether it was still Polish or already a foreign language. Sometimes some very sing-songy, other times as if completely hard and unintelligible.

Wróblewski often told me about the petty characters and sinister attitude of the professors he met. Mediocre people! You can immediately see from such people that they consider themselves more valuable, but under the layer of politeness they hide only envy and jealousy. Rivals and competitors!

Probably even your group would have quickly removed him from the university, if only the opportunity arose. Zygmunt was too talented. No wonder he had so many accidents at work!”

Piotr Piskle

GRAPHIC FROM SIBERIA





Julia Konopska

**A person who published an articles about
Wróblewski's scientific discoveries and about
his conflict with French scholars.
She knew Zygmunt personally.**

Julia Konopska



BIOGRAPHY

Journalist, member of the women's suffrage movement, polyglot, traveler. She was born into a wealthy family and – for a woman of her time – received a high level of education. She works as a journalist for the magazine "The Illustrated Weekly." She travels frequently around Europe, where she participates in open scientific lectures. She met Wróblewski through a mutual friend, Professor Hammond of the Royal Institute in London.

Her deep passion for science and scientific discovery led her to take a great interest in Wróblewski's scientific work. Using her connections, she introduced the professor to well-known people from the academic world throughout Europe. She also helped secure a letter of recommendation so that Zygmunt could conduct research in English scientific institutions.

OVERALL TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS

- She was the last person to see Wróblewski in his laboratory on the day of the accident. She testifies that on that day the scientist was anxious, distracted and not very talkative. They had made an appointment for the next day.
- Julia reports rumors spread by French scientists to discredit Wróblewski's work. She, however, is assertive, not believing unproven rumors. In her articles, she has repeatedly defended the professor's good name.
- The journalist also saw letters in which friendly academics from London warned Wróblewski that the Krakow environment, due to politics and academic conflicts, could be dangerous. They wanted to secure Zygmunt a position at London's Royal Institute (Julia shared this information unwillingly, believing it to be exaggerated rumors).
- Julia visited Wróblewski in the hospital only once. However, the professor slept the entire time – he was reportedly too weak to talk. They never met again.

Julia Konopska



INTRO

In the centre of Kraków there is a modern café. For many it is a workplace but also it is known as popular local for local artists' social gatherings. As you enter, you can smell: coffee, tobacco, incense, perfume and dust.

You look around. Modern paintings hang on the walls, individual tables of irregular shapes are occupied by young people in extravagant clothes. Some are having a heated discussions, someone is concentrating on writing, others are sipping coffee or stronger drinks. At this time of day it is not yet excessively noisy; you will be able to talk here.

You notice a young woman sitting on a brown sofa, smoking a cigarette and looking through notes. You approach her as a whole group, politely greeting her. She looks at you with slight surprise and, without getting up from her seat, asks, 'Can I help you with anything?'

Julia Konopska



TESTIMONY – THREAT

Julia gets up from her chair and says angrily:

“I am shocked! I despise rudeness and lack of manners. And you clearly do not have them, threatening a defenseless woman.

Supposedly educated people, but rudeness always comes out! It is well known throughout the world that Poles are an ill-mannered people. They seem to be so brave, they would die for their nonexistent country, but there is no one to take care of the well-being of those who actually live in it! The University is barely surviving, and the professors only care about politics. Such is the Polish mentality.

Zygmunt was probably inconvenient for those who only care about their own interests. Which one of you tried as hard as Wróblewski to get the position of dean of the Faculty of Philosophy? He held that position well, because he looked after the interests of the common people, not his own. If only he had not accepted the position of head of the Department of Experimental Physics at Jagiellonian University, he might have stayed in England, where he would have had well-equipped laboratories and honest people around him. It's a shame that he was so drawn to his homeland. Maybe he would still be alive....

For people like you, he was competition: a worldly, wise man. Universities are terrible places, especially when ruthless politics enter into the affairs of science. Because of this, outstanding scientists are dishonored, they have no support and no sense of security. I'm glad I'm studying in England and not in this backward palce.”

Julia Konopska



TESTIMONY – EMPATHY

“Let's start from the beginning. I met Zygmunt... I met prof. Wróblewski through a mutual friend. Wróblewski was the most passionate and motivated person I had ever met. He wanted to change the world. He made discoveries that deserve the highest awards.

Zygmunt and I met last year in London when I attended an open class by the famous Louis Hammond. Hammond is a good friend of mine, also a friend of the recently deceased James Clerk Maxwell of Cambridge – you've certainly heard of him. He is the one who wrote the review of Wróblewski's PhD thesis. I was impressed by the work of the Polish professor. Hammond wanted to introduce us because I had the opportunity to spread Wróblewski's genius to the world and to clear his good name in such an envious academic environment. I researched the subject and, in my opinion, the rumours that Wróblewski had stolen his notes were just slander from the French community.

I wrote several important articles about Wróblewski, including international, scholarly publications. In addition, I asked Professor Hammond for a recommendation for Wróblewski. Thanks to it, he could get a good position at the Royal Institute in London. No offense, but the glory years of the Jagiellonian University are gone. And who knows if they will return?

I have confirmation from Professor Hammond that he will make this recommendation. Where do I have this letter? Oh here it is.”

Julia hands you a prof. Hammond's letter.

Julia Konopska



TESTIMONY – BRIBERY

“Money supposedly rules the world, but it doesn't work on me.”

Julia gently but firmly pushes away a bundle of rolled up banknotes. She laughs and rolls her eyes.

“I don't need money For my own needs I have enough. The cash could be put to better use, for example, by supporting orphanages or hospitals, so that perhaps tragic deaths like that of Wróblewski would not occur.

A better-educated staff would probably benefit the people. I can only guess that Zygmunt was not well cared for during his illness. Just like during his lifetime. He had no contact with his family, friends not very many. My guess is that he didn't eat or sleep much. No one cared enough about him to prevent him from overworking.

Back in the days when he traveled around universities as part of his scholarship: Paris, London, Glasgow, Tübingen, he had more close friends who cared about him. He felt alienated in Krakow, even though it was his home country. He often complained to me about this.

People are selfish – you too, if you think money will make me talk. Probably it would work on you, but it wouldn't work on me. Probably not on Zygmunt either. Do you know that he sent the money he saved to his cousins? He himself lived so modestly, supporting distant relatives who could not afford an education. He was a gentleman with a heart of gold, and such are lost in a world ruled by money.”

Julia Konopska



TESTIMONY – ERUDITION

“Okay, so let's talk as equals. I used my connections to find out as much as possible about the rumors spread in the international press. I knew that Zygmunt had problems with public opinion, as publicists – especially French publicists – accused him of copying other people's conclusions. You know, it was in France that Wróblewski first conducted his research using their laboratory equipment. Then he only improved it here in Krakow – hence the accusations. I did an investigation on my own and came to the conclusion that Zygmunt was innocent. He was a brilliant scientist, but too modest and shy to fight international opinion.

When I visited Wróblewski in his laboratory on the memorable day of the accident, I showed him a draft of an important article I wanted to publish in the English-language press. In it, I wrote about Zygmunt's working methods, who spends hours in the lab and only shows the result of his research when he is sure of the results – as was the case with the liquefaction of oxygen and nitrogen. I also wanted to mention the status of his latest research, but he didn't want to share the information. I think he kept some secret notes under a stack of books. Probably concerning this very research, maybe some patents on laboratory equipment. I didn't press the matter, because I knew that Zygmunt was reluctant to share unproven conclusions. Perhaps it was because of those notes that there were rumors that someone wanted to steal from him.

That same day, at night actually, there was the accident. Later, when I visited Zygmunt in the hospital, we didn't bring up the subject again. In fact, we didn't talk, because Zygmunt still hadn't regained consciousness.”

Julia Konopska

LETTER FROM PROFESSOR HAMMOND

Dear Zygmunt,

Your last letter was just wonderfull. The way how you present me you feather reaserch on your theory about the use of physical alteration of gas parameters was so exciting! I am concerned that what you are writting make sense. In the end your theories about oxygen and nitrogen was right!

I have the samples and equipment you wrote about. I would also love to hear your insights on the new project you mentioned. I can't wait for you to visit me in London and present the assumptions. I look forward to it.

I have hope that you change your accomodation. Our Istitute is open for you! I recommended your candidacy for physic professor, now it's your move and time for courage decision. Many scholars would do anything to be able to apply for this position. Don't let us down!

Moreover be aware of those fench idiots whose called themeself scholars. We have problems with them as always. French doesn't have honour. Please, don't listen rumors which they spread.

Your sincerely,
Louis Hammond



Róża Kowalska

The person who took care of Wrólewski in hospital after the fire in his laboratory. She was with him in his final days of life.

Róża Kowalska



BIOGRAPHY

Róża Kowalska is an elderly nun who works as a nurse. She comes from a poor family. As a teenager, she joined the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Krakow, beginning work on behalf of the sick and poor.

She studied medicine, attending lectures at Jagiellonian University as a free student – as a woman, she was not allowed to study, but nuns working in hospitals were allowed to listen in on lectures. She has a wide range of practical skills, as she has worked in the nursing profession for more than 40 years: she started in the well-known hospital on Szpitalna Street, and then – after its closure – in the modern St. Louis Hospital Complex on Kopernika Street.

Sister Róża is a religious person with a strict lifestyle. Through piety, she judges other people, reproaching them for any sins. However, in relation to the sick, she can be understanding and caring.

OVERALL TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS

- She took care of Wróblewski from the day of the accident (March 25) until the day he died (April 16). He arrived at the hospital in bad condition: his entire body was burned. As time went on, he felt better; towards the end, his state worsened again.
- Wróblewski was not treated in a public hospital. As a person of high esteem, he was placed in Dr. Gwiazdomorski's private facility on Karmelicka Street. The scientist's condition was consulted with Prof. Rosner and Prof. Rydygier. All of those mentioned are currently in Vienna.
- Few people visited Wróblewski: an elderly man walking with a cane, a young woman with a foreign accent and two young men, probably students. Róża knows nothing more about them.

Róża Kowalska



INTRO

You have heard that you will find Sister Róża in the new – opened just over a decade ago – hospital complex on Kopernika Street. You arrive at the modern building located in the eastern part of Krakow. Neither of you has been here before. so you spend a long while looking for the entrance. After finding the door, you ask the doorman for help. He points the way to the room where the nuns are staying getting ready for work.

You walk down a short corridor. You see empty white and gray spaces, a dimly lit corridor, and hear muffled sounds in the distance. Upon entering a suitable small room, you find an elderly nun dressed in a black habit, who harshly asks what she can help you with. While talking to you, she does not bother to stop folding the white materials into even piles. In the background you can observe metal cabinets filled with glass vials. On the wall hangs a cross and a picture of the Virgin Mary.

As you talk, you stand against the wall. Meanwhile, other nuns enter and leave the room, not wanting to disturb you. You feel an atmosphere of dignity and concentration.

Róża Kowalska



TESTIMONY – THREAT

Sister Rose looks at you outrage. She replies in a serious tone:

“Are you threatening me? I have already met many people more threatening than you. I am only afraid of God, not a group of people who have no idea about the world. Well, I will tell you about Wróblewski, if you absolutely want to know. And you are not afraid of... the truth.

I took care of the professor for the last three weeks of his short life. He ended up here in a difficult condition, his whole body was burned. I changed his bandages, so I saw all his wounds, scars and tattoos. The tattoos looked disturbing, covering part of his back, arms and chest. I've seen similar ones before, because I've sometimes taken care of people returning from exile in Siberia. They are good people, they have gone through a lot: they worked and repented in difficult conditions, suffered hunger. Unfortunately, they too are sometimes marked by Satan. These marks on the body are dangerous! They are painted by shamans to mark poor, condemned souls. Once I painted the marks that Wroblewski had on his body. I did not want to show them to anyone, however, let them be a proof of my words!”

Róża Kowalksa hands you a paper with a drawing of Wróblewski's tattoo.

“Wróblewski, in a state of fever pronounced foreign-sounding words in some Eastern dialect – I recall their sound. He repeated the same phrases.... like a prayer. I knew his soul was struggling. But can a person win against a higher power?”

Róża Kowalska



TESTIMONY – EMPATHY

Sister Róża answer with a smile.

“Yes, I took care of Wroblewski before he died in our hospital. He was morbid, weakened by exile in Siberia. The man worked too much! His body was unable to cope with the disease.

Toward the end of his life, despite two operations in Germany, he began to lose his eyesight again. I think so, because he often missed something – I read to him sometimes when he couldn't handle it on his own. Sometimes, moreover, in a fever, he did not recognize people at all.

Poor professor, he must have suffered a lot. However, he nevertheless kept his smile. He was an extremely kind and intelligent young man.... He told me about the difficulties of his life. He did not trust anyone else, he was completely absorbed in his work. He lived alone, without a wife and children. He also had no contact with his family, not even with his mother, who had previously been his last encouragement in difficult times. His family, however, did not understand him. No one understood his genius. Maybe only a friend, Olszewski, with whom he worked at the university. Then this argument between them, but Wroblewski told me that he forgave him everything.

I think Wróblewski was a loner dedicated to science. He had no time to interact with people. He didn't take care of himself: he forgot to eat, sleep, rest. He even forgot about God. However, I believe that deep inside he was a good man.”

Róża Kowalska



TESTIMONY – BRIBERY

Sister Róża looks at you disgusted and started talking irritated:

“Do you think I'm so easy to bribe? Fear God! You can only sell yourself to the devil! Who knows, maybe that's what happened to the unfortunate Wróblewski!

Yes, I think it is very possible. He was a genius at such a young age. Just how did he get such great knowledge and luck? Because of Siberia he didn't have much time to study, this exile took away his youth. His parents weren't particularly talented either. And here he immediately returned, scholarships, professorships, positions.... I think he had a pact with devilish forces, probably made there far away in Siberia, where so many heathens. He sold his soul, so he survived, made scientific discoveries, but had to repay the debt, because the devil never gives anything for free. His time came and he died tragically.

It was strange, something was sucking the energy out of him. After all, he wouldn't have caused the accident on his own. When he tried to talk to me in a scholarly manner the greater the pain was in him. By the end he was already exclusively mumbling, and a strange kind of relief was visible on his face.

A person can't help it if Satan persists. Such accidents are not a coincidence, believe me.”

Róża Kowalska



TESTIMONY – ERUDITION

"I am very pleased that you turn to me, a humble nun. With such wise people I can talk honestly. As people of science, you understand the challenges of medicine, don't you? I have a lot of experience in caring for the sick, and in the past I also gained knowledge at the university – I know what problems we face here at the hospital.

I also know that the care provided to Prof. Wróblewski was not sufficient. I took care of him personally for the last three weeks of his life, and of course I tried to help the patient as best I could. However, who is a humble nun in the face of the authority of doctors? With all due respect to educated people, however, I have the impression that they did not try to take proper care of the patient. A sick person should be approached with empathy, individually select the appropriate treatment, also take care of.... hygiene."

Sister Róża stops for a second and looks at you carefully.

"Yes, hygiene. I will share my observation. In my opinion, Wróblewski's condition worsened due to lack of proper treatment and hygiene. Who in the world of doctors thinks about this? I, however, noticed that washed bedding, washed body of the patient and clean hands of the nurse help healing. Wróblewski had his whole body in wounds, and who knows if those old bandages didn't harm him? He was running a fever, and eventually died, Lord rest his soul..."

Róża Kowalska

DRAWING OF A SIBERIAN TATTOO





STUDENTS

Students and Wróblewski's assistants at the University. They saved the professor from the fire by extinguishing his clothes using their own coats.

Students



BIOGRAPHY

Benjamin and Alojzy are students and assistants of Professor Wróblewski.

Benjamin comes from a Jewish family that lives in a village near Lublin. His Kabbalist father wanted his son to become a respected member of the community and preferably a rabbi, but his dream has always been science. He lives in Kazimierz, where he shares a room with a poor college friend, together with whom they did scientific research under the mentorship of Professor Wróblewski.

He is fascinated by physics and chemistry. He also tries to follow the rules of the Jewish religion and culture.

Alojzy is the son of a teacher from Nowy Targ. The student's dream is to become a professor at Jagiellonian University. Without Wróblewski's patronage, it will be more difficult for him to achieve his goal.

He is hardworking, precise and well-read. He is a member of many student associations and unions. He often participates not only in conferences and discussion clubs, but also in political debates and protests. He sympathizes with socialist ideas and literature.

OVERALL TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS

- On the day of the accident, they were returning from classes at the university late at night. While passing by Wróblewski's laboratory, they noticed a light in the window of his office – an unsurprising sight as he usually worked at night.
- They quickly realized that the light was a fire in the professor's laboratory. As a man ran out in burning clothes, they helped him put out the fire. Alojzy then ran to get a medic, while Benjamin (along with the janitor) took charge of extinguishing the building – burning his hands and destroying his coat.
- The students wanted to visit the professor in the hospital, but were not allowed inside.

Students



INTRO

You enter an apartment building on Joseph Street in Kazimierz. The wooden staircase is old and rotten, creaking with every step. You head for the attic.

The district is a popular choice for many students looking for affordable accommodation. Especially now that the bed of one branch of the river, previously separating the two cities, has been filled in. In 1880, a tree-lined avenue called Dietl's Planty was created instead.

As you enter the attic room, you spot two students who invite you in. There are not enough chairs for everyone, so you stand in the doorway. You look around: the room has two single beds, two desks and one closet. Books lie on the floor, next to them you see piles of scattered notes, and in a corner there are political pamphlets quickly thrown there.

The wall bears the mark of a cross removed from above the door.

Students look at you nervously. Most likely, none of the University professors have ever been here. The situation can be assessed as rather uncomfortable. You feel that you should relieve the tension by starting a conversation.

Students



TESTIMONY – THREAT

[Alojzy]: “Please calm down! You have put us in an uncomfortable situation by coming here at your free time, and now you are threatening violence! I really want to help. Where to start? Hmm...

Professor Wróblewski has recently been working on a new project. Unfortunately, I don't know exactly what he was working on. He was very secretive.”

[Benjamin]: “Yes, he didn't tell us anything. I know that he needed materials from abroad, probably from Paris. He kept exchanging letters. I was very tempted to read what was in them as I carried them almost every day to the postman! However, I never gave in to temptation, I was faithful to the professor.”

[Alojzy]: “Professor Wróblewski looked nervous when he received a new letter. I was curious what he was writing about, whether it was a new research project. However, I had never read his correspondence either....”

[Benjamin]: “Alojzy, tell the truth!”

[Alojzy]: “It's true! Before the accident, I had not read a single letter from the Professor! After his death, however, the correspondence came again, I opened the received letter. However, I don't understand anything from it. Perhaps it will be of more use to you?””

Alojzy hands you the letter.

Students



TESTIMONY – EMPATHY

[Benjamin]: “I am just a student and I stress so much in front of such an esteemed group. I myself would like to be a professor at a university in the future. My dream has always been science. When I worked with a professor, I felt that I could really accomplish a lot. My family never accepted this. As a matter of fact, I haven't seen my parents for two years. And now I have lost not only a mentor, but also a dear companion....”

[Alojzy]: “Benjamin, but let's talk about the professor, not about us! We were there on that terrible night. Benjamin and I were returning from the neighboring theater on Jagiellonian Street, where we had gone after class. We didn't know whether to go into the laboratory: we knew that the Professor would be there, as he was fond of working on Sundays, but he also preferred solitude and we didn't want to disturb him. The Professor always worked after nights, he hardly slept. We often brought him food, which he also rarely remembered to eat.

While we were considering whether to pay the professor a visit, we noticed a fire in the window of his room!”

[Benjamin]: “We also heard a terrible scream! A voice full of pain, almost inhuman. We ran into the building, the professor was running out – we caught him at the entrance door. His clothes were on fire, I put them out with my coat and started to put out the fire in the laboratory....”

[Alojzy]: “And I ran to get a medic! The doctor said that the professor was alive, he was taken somewhere, to a hospital. Poor professor...”

Students



TESTIMONY – BRIBERY

[Alojzy]: “Oh, this reminded me of the long discussions I used to have with the professor. We often talked about the socio-economic and political situation, commented on news reports and newspaper articles. Recently, we discussed Tolstoy's books, especially the historiosophical themes concerning the situation of the peasants and the exploitation of the people. We often had different opinions, but I appreciated his open-minded approach and logical thinking. He was simple and honest, without bourgeois manners. I could talk to him as an equal, he never looked down on common people.

Nevertheless, he was not modern enough to understand socialist ideals. His views were more conservative and nationalistic. Although, on the other hand, he may also have simply been cautious about sharing his private opinion when talking to a student. If powerful people, in the academy or in authority, had found out about the subversive views of someone, they might have prevented his potential promotions. When I recall our conversations, the professor had a manner to nervously look around to see if anyone was overhearing us.”

[Benjamin:] “It always seemed to me that our professor was extremely subversive in terms of his worldview. What he said was one thing, but how did he behave? He stood up for women, was always so kind and extremely helpful to the poor, and talked to students as equals. He did not live rich, and with his positions he could!

Maybe you remember my dear Alojzy, the pistol that was always in his laboratory? The professor explained that it was only an ornament and a souvenir of the uprising. He claimed that he would not be able to use it again. At one time he probably used it – he sometimes recalled distant times when he had to fight for his homeland and spent time in exile. However, he did not tell much. Perhaps he was afraid? “

Students



TESTIMONY – ERUDITION

[Benjamin]: “I will tell you in secret that recently professor was acting weirdly. He was very nervous and his hands were shaking, but whenever he was writting he did it confidently. He has been also drowing from same period of time in his private notebook which he forbade us to open. He rewrite some symbols from notebook to letters which he then sent abroad. In one of his notebooks he was also writting something in some unknown language. I don't know, maybe this was some kind of a cipher. I know that I shouldn't look inside it but now this may be relevant! And also, it seemed to me, but I dismissed the thought at the time, that the ink he used was red.”

[Alojzy]: “I will add that Benjamin once studied esoteric and cabal. Wróblewski liked to talk with him about that and even often asks for ditelies. Symbols interested him the most. He borrowed some books on this subject from Benjamin. Just did what you found resemble a cabal?”

[Benjamin]: “No, it definitely wasn't hebrew. Nor did the alphabet resemble Latin, so it wasn't a language used in science.”

[Alojzy]: “Professor sametimes acted weirdly. This notes were only his another peculiar thing. After writing he often looked very tired. It's pity that he didn't tell us more.”

Students

EXCERPT FROM A LETTER FOUND

Dear Zygmunt,

I reject this proposition. No, just no!

Do you think you are a smartest person alive? Don't forget yourself..

See you next week,
Z.O.



Marian Bułka

**The person who kept the keys to
Wróblewski's laboratory warehouses.
At the night of fire he was nearby keeping
guard in the nearest building.**

Marian Bułka



BIOGRAPHY

A janitor employed by the university. His duties include cleaning, taking care of the keys, and legitimising visitors that come to University. He was raised in a farming family near Ternopil. He moved to the city looking for a job. Despite his lack of education – he has completed a few primary school classes – he is nevertheless known as an witty conversation companion.

He is a conservative person, often praying and fasting. At the same time, however, he believes in folk superstitions, curses and supernatural beings. He holds anti-Semitic views. He values silence, order and obedience, which is why he detests students who bring chaos. He regards academic learning as irrelevant to the development of society, and treats professors as people who are ignorant of the hardships of life. However, he valued Wróblewski because of his experience and calm style of being.

OVERALL TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS

- Marian met with Prof. Wróblewski almost every day and kept the keys to his laboratory. On that terrible day, he helped him with bringing the books into the laboratory, and Wróblewski returned the favor with a smoke. In the evening, the professor gave the impression of being a sad.
- He hated Wróblewski's assistants: one he considered a person with dangerous views, the other he did not respect because of his Jewish background. Whenever they appeared outside the university building, he kept an eye on them, So that they did not enter the researcher's laboratory uninvited. During the fire, he helped the students put out the fire and administer first aid to the injured scientist.
- After the accident, Wróblewski's lab remained closed. Only exception being when city officials wanted to view the site of the fire.

Marian Bułka



INTRO

University employees, including janitors, often live in the university district for their own convenience. Knowing the neighborhood, you quickly find the janitor's apartment, located near the headquarters of the Department of Chemistry of the Jagiellonian University.

You stand in front of Marian's small room, assigned to him by the university authorities. You knock, after a moment the door opens with a creak. A middle-aged man appears. He looks tired, his face is unshaven, the dim light emphasizes the wrinkles and gray hair on his head. He is dressed tidily but poorly: he wears an old, tattered suit and well-polished, though clearly not new shoes. The man looks at you puzzled.

You explain to him the reason for your visit. You can see a slight concern on Marian's face. "I would gladly invite you inside, but you know how it is.... Eh, the life of a janitor." He giggles nervously and gestures to the open door. Indeed, the room is too small to accommodate your group. Well, it looks like you will have to conduct this conversation while standing outside. You walk out into the garden located between the university buildings.

Marian Bułka



TESTIMONY – THREAT

“I may not be the most intelligent in this company, but I realize my place in academia. So there really is no need for this kind of language! Sorry, I may have forgotten to mention one or two more important pieces of information.

I didn't want to put our dear professor in a bad light, but since every detail is important.... he had a gun. A revolver. This is not a usual thing in a man in his position, so I never told anyone about it. I suspect he was afraid of enemies. Just please don't misunderstand me: professor Wróblewski did nothing wrong. I don't think he would be able to use a weapon.

In fact, it seems to me that the revolver was just a threatening-looking prop carried for a sense of security. Maybe also out of habit – after fighting in the uprising and years in exile. I don't think anything really threatened our friend.”

Marian Bułka



TESTIMONY – EMPATHY

Marian's face softened and a great sadness appeared in his eyes.

"The death of Professor Wróblewski has torn my heart. I felt that it would come to this!

The professor spent long hours in the lab, he had worked very hard. Certainly more than me, probably more than most people at the university. He probably wouldn't have left his lab at all if he didn't have other responsibilities, such as being a dean. Once or twice I went into his lab in the morning to bring him freshly delivered mail and found him sleeping at his desk.

He looked worse and worse. Worse and worse, as if.... some ghoul was sucking the life out of him. Every time I saw him, his face got skinnier, whiter, sadder. I swear!

That evening.... call me crazy, but it was strange, unexplained! During an evening walk – I still do night walks in the university district to see if everything is okay – I saw.... ekhm... I swear I saw flickering lights in the window of the lab. It was no ordinary candle or lamp light, oh no! I had never seen anything like that before. Also, those books he kept on the shelf always bothered me: strange font, suspicious symbols, unfamiliar names.... I think I said too much."

Marian Bułka



TESTIMONY – BRIBERY

Marian hesitate a little, but in the end he took your gift.

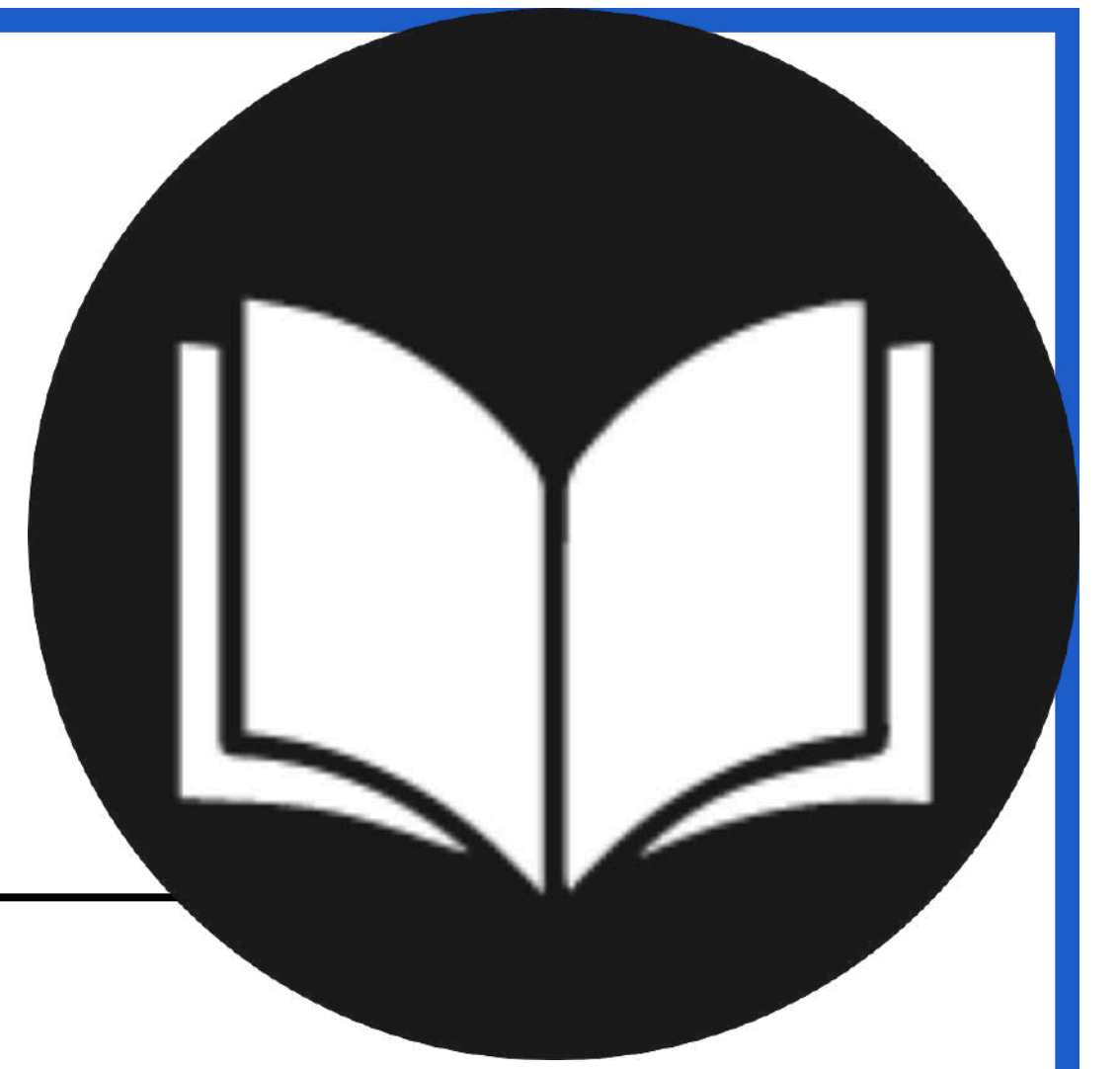
“Thank you, this is a very nice gesture. The last time someone wanted to give me something nice, it was a stranger I'd rather never meet in my life.

No one knows where he came from. He just stood and looked in Professor Wróblewski's window. Tall, darker skin, with a big mustache, only his saber was missing and we would have had a lancer from the East! I asked him his name and the purpose of his visit, but he ignored me and asked if the professor was in the office Of course, I didn't want to say anything to him. He looked so suspicious, his gaze was cold, even cruel. He looked at me, and I flinched. He reached into his pocket and pulled out some fancy-looking tobacco box. He wanted to bribe me! Ha! I'm not that greedy for riches!

Then he left, I didn't meet him again. This stranger spoke Polish, but it sounded... as if he was trying to sing every word.

And one more important thing! This stranger held a small notebook in one hand. He was writing something with a pencil and in the first moment he didn't notice me. I grunted and he almost jumped up! When he noticed me he immediately calmed down, as if he had seen a familiar face – but we didn't know each other. It was all so strange. Of course, I told the professor about the incident. Wroblewski only looked at me.... as if he was both surprised and disgusted? We didn't return to this topic again.”

Marian Bułka



TESTIMONY – ERUDITION

Marian smiles, he is a slightly puzzled:

“I am truly honored that such an esteemed group addresses me as an educated man. Unfortunately, I do not understand anything. That is, I understand the seriousness of the situation, but all these foreign-sounding words, some Latin or other French.... I always had and have this problem when the educated people come here.

Here there are almost only respectable people. Always very nice but they don't want to talk to me too particularly. Wróblewski was also sometimes visited, although not often. His friend Olszewski actually visited regularly when he was in Kraków – before they had a disagreement, of course. Students sometimes came, sometimes some sweets carried to the professor. Oh and sometimes such a stubborn young woman would come here – she was amazing, so open. She didn't look at me as a mere janitor, but as equal. She sometimes lit a cigarette – a woman! She asked about my health. This one spoke Polish, but in a strange, foreign way. Maybe some French? English? I think it was not a mistress, I do not think. Nor was it a wife, because he didn't have one. They behaved in a friendly way, but with a slight distance. I think he liked her presence.

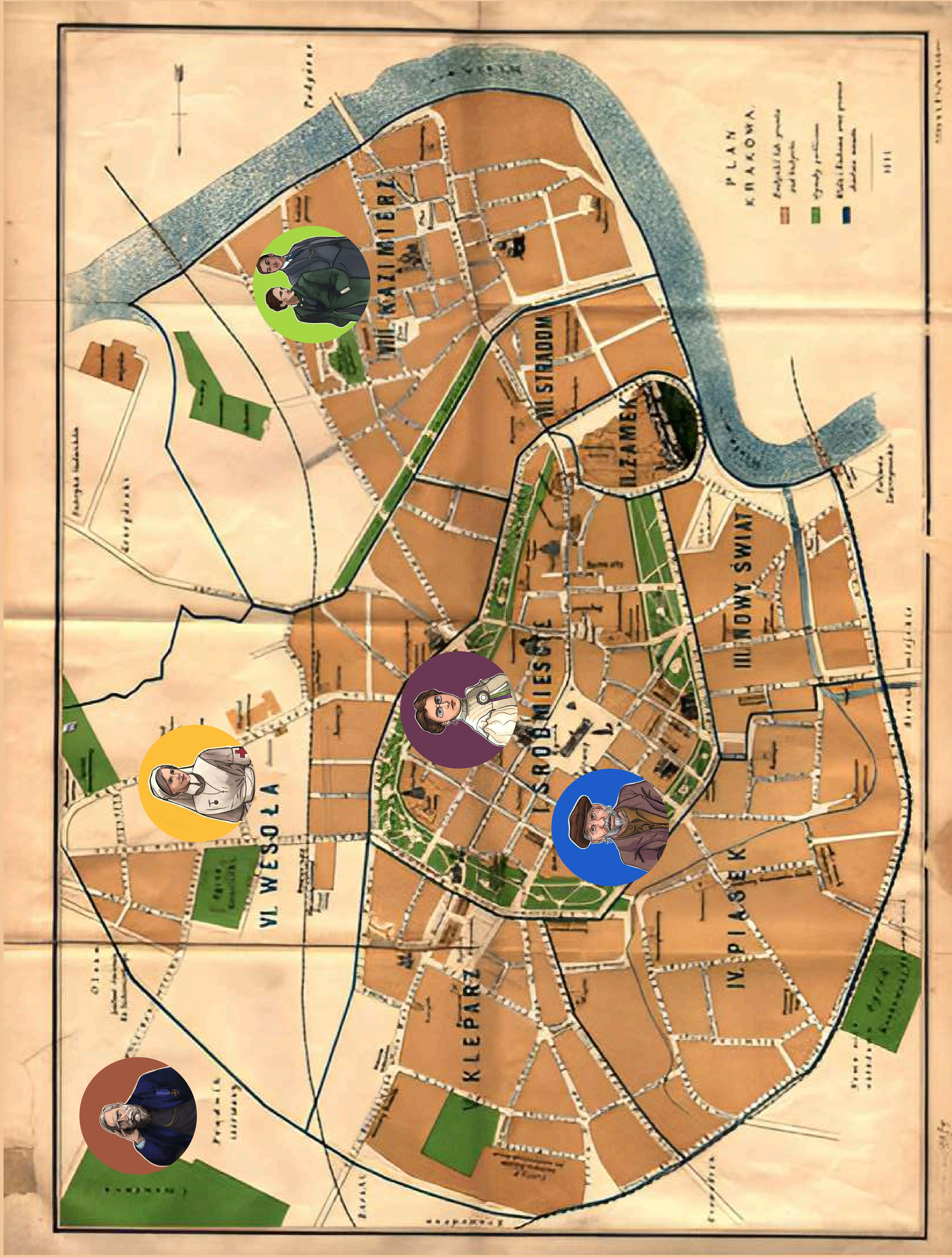
Once they had an argument and as a result of the mess, the woman lost a certain piece of paper that they had previously torn from each other. She screamed that the professor was irresponsible and had to leave. And this page fell out of her hands as she waved the file of cards in front of Wróblewski. It's like a letter from someone...”.

Marian hands you a piece of paper he was talking about.

Marian Bułka

EXCERPT FROM A LETTER FOUND

... and I warned you not everyone is your friend. I wouldn't be worry about our dearest colleague Olszewski. It doesn't matter how many bad blood there was once between you two. He is too noble to be dangerous and to plot something so evil. However, around you are other vicious people, maybe closer than you think. You are an extraordinary man, my dearest Zygmunt, and greatness often irritates mediocrity. If I were you I would pack my things quickly, but firstly I would make sure that laboratory and...



Kraków, 1891, source: CARTOGRAPHIA CRACOVIANA. Cracow and surroundings on old maps