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# REV. ANDRZEJ KWAŚNIEWSKI\* – WARSAW

# PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE DIOCESAN ARCHIVES IN KIELCE

## Abstract

The collection of the archival photographs in the Diocesan Archives in Kielce contains 480 archival items relating to the history of the Kielce diocese. The photographs were taken in the 20th and 21st centuries, but there are also those depicting people who lived at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. The photographs are annexes to the documents produced by the offices of the Diocesan Curia in Kielce. Some of the photographs are legacies of the clergy. The photographs analyzed in this study should be referred to as "photographic documentation".

Keywords: the Diocesan Archives in Kielce; archive studies; accumulation; inventorying; archival holdings; record group; archival collection; photographs; the relation between photographies and office records; photographic documentation; Władysław Rut; Mieczysław Kłeczek

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Research on the resources of the Diocesan Archives in Kielce is related to the figure of Rev. Prof. Daniel Olszewski, who published an article on the usefulness of consistory records for historical studies.<sup>1</sup> This groundbreaking article was the most complete and early recognition in the realities of Polish science of the resource of a well-preserved 19th-century archive group called the Kielce Consistory (*Konsystorz Kielecki*). In addition to this article, Rev. Prof. D. Olszewski has

<sup>\*</sup> Rev. Andrzej Kwaśniewski – Ph.D. in History, lecturer at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw

e-mail: andrzej220777@wp.pl

https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7174-2122

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Cf. D. Olszewski, *Akta konsystorza kieleckiego, jako podstawa do badań nad parafiami i duchowieństwem pierwszej połowy XIX wieku*, "Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne" (hereinafter: ABMK), 19 (1969) pp. 5–30.

published many works on this collection;<sup>2</sup> he is also the author of other historical studies.<sup>3</sup> Owing to those studies, the largest archive group in the Kielce Diocesan Archive has entered the scholarly circulation. Until these files were read in their entirety and their source suitability for historical research was recognized, they were used only as contributions.<sup>4</sup>

Following the research of Rev. Prof. D. Olszewski, Rev. Tomasz Wróbel compiled the history of the archive. The work he prepared is in typescript form and encompasses all of his knowledge and findings.<sup>5</sup> Rev. T. Wróbel's study was written just before his death and was related to the efforts of Rev. Prof. Olszewski, who, thanks to the mobilization of Rev. Wróbel, was able to successfully preserve a previously unpublished oral tradition produced in the former Kielce Consistory.<sup>6</sup> An article on the 20th-century Diocesan Curia in Kielce, the successor to the 19th-century consistory, is a continuation of the research on the resources of the Diocesan Archives in Kielce.<sup>7</sup>

An article on the records of the Kielce Chapter was developed in the following years.<sup>8</sup> The scattered medieval and modern records of the Officiality of Wiślica have attracted the attention of Elżbieta Knapek, Ph.D.<sup>9</sup> The church archives in the Kielce Diocese remain in connection with the resources of the Diocesan Archives in Kielce. A well-developed archive is the one in Imbramowice.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Current literature on the scientific output of Rev. Prof. D. Olszewski: A. Kwaśniewski, *Ksiądz profesor Daniel Olszewski (1934–2015)*. *Prace wykonane dla diecezji kieleckiej*, "Kielecki Przegląd Diecezjalny", 92 (2016) issue 1, pp. 154–169; idem, *Ks. prof. dr hab. Daniel Olszewski (1934–2015) – biogram oraz bibliografia podmiotowa i przedmiotowa*, "Kościół w Polsce. Dzieje i kultura", 15 (2016) pp. 399–432.

<sup>5</sup> T. Wróbel, *Archiwum Diecezjalne w Kielcach. Rys historyczny* (typescript, author's own collection).

<sup>6</sup> Information provided to the author by Rev. Prof. D. Olszewski in an interview.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> To exemplify: D. Olszewski, Archiwalia diecezji kieleckiej jako podstawa źródłowa do badań działalności społecznej Kościoła na przełomie XIX i XX w., in: Na przełomie stuleci. Naród – Kościół – państwo w XIX i XX wieku. Księga jubileuszowa dedykowana profesorowi Ryszardowi Benderowi, ed. M. Piotrowski, Lublin 1997, pp. 715–721.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Representative examples: D. Olszewski, *Struktura społeczna duchowieństwa diecezji kielecko-krakowskiej (1835–1864)*, in: *Społeczeństwo Królestwa Polskiego*, vol. 6, ed. J. Lest-kiewiczowa, Warsaw 1974, pp. 129–183; idem, *Przemiany społeczno-religijne w Królestwie Polskim w pierwszej połowie XIX wieku. Analiza środowiska diecezjalnego*, Lublin 1984.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> G. Bujak, Kuria diecezjalna w Kielcach w latach 1918–1938. Studium kancelaryjno-archiwoznawcze. Zarys problematyki badawczej, ABMK 64 (1995) pp. 49–57.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> P.J. Starzyk, Źródła rękopiśmienne do dziejów kieleckiej kapituły kolegiackiej (ok. 1171–1810) i funkcjonującego przy niej kolegium księży wikariuszy zgromadzone w kościelnych archiwach Kielc, ABMK 81 (2004) pp. 263–299.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> E. Knapek, *Księgi oficjalatu wiślickiego z XV–XVIII wieku*, "Rocznik Biblioteki Naukowej PAU i PAN w Krakowie" 54 (2009) pp. 9–22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> M. Dębowska, Archiwum Norbertanek w Imbramowicach, ABMK, 94 (2010) pp. 29–38.

The findings of Rev. Wróbel and Rev. Prof. Olszewski are complemented by an article on the origins of the Kielce consistory records.<sup>11</sup> A little information about this resource was included in a review article of the directory by Prof. Maria Dębowska.<sup>12</sup> Selected phenomena are illustrated in it with examples of archival materials from Kielce. Moreover, the publication of biographies of Kielce archivists in *Świętokrzyskie Studia Archiwalno-Historyczne* created an opportunity to provide information about the work that was done by the various custodians of the church archival resource in Kielce.<sup>13</sup>

Thanks to the activity of the Blessed Wincenty Kadłubek Society of Friends of Diocesan Archives in Kielce in recent years, it has been possible to gather a scientific community at the Archives to promote the idea of Church Cultural Assets with particular emphasis on historical library collections and archival resources.<sup>14</sup> Over the years, scientific papers presented at the society's forum have been included in the program titled "The role of the Church as educator and guardian of national culture". The scientific works to be demonstrated also include research on the collection of elenchi.<sup>15</sup> Another achievement was the organization of the Study of the History of the Diocese of Kielce and the development of a model for the use of Church Cultural Assets for ecclesiastical formation.<sup>16</sup> Inspired by

<sup>13</sup> A. Kwaśniewski, *Ks. Józef Zdanowski – historyk Kościola, muzealnik, bibliotekarz i archiwista*, "Świętokrzyskie Studia Archiwalno-Historyczne" (hereinafter: ŚSAH), 8 (2020) pp. 345–355; idem, *Ks. Adam Paszkowicz (1784–1834). Organizator Archiwum Konsystorza Generalnego w Kielcach* (in print).

<sup>14</sup> A. Kwaśniewski, *Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Archiwum Diecezjalnego imienia błogosławionego Wincentego Kadłubka w Kielcach w latach 2012–2015*, in: *Nova et vetera. Aktualne problemy archiwów diecezjalnych w Polsce*, ed. W. Żurek, Lublin 2016, pp. 133–172.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> A. Kwaśniewski, Akta Konsystorza Generalnego Krakowskiego, jako zaczątek akt Konsystorza Generalnego w Kielcach na podstawie zasobu Archiwum Diecezjalnego w Kielcach (1797–1807), "Archiva Ecclesiatica. Biuletyn Stowarzyszenia Archiwistów Kościelnych" (hereinafter: AE), 6 (2013) pp. 51–76.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> A. Kwaśniewski, Znaczenie katalogu mikrofilmów kościelnych archiwaliów oraz zbiorów liturgicznych i bibliotecznych. Recenzja opracowania Katalog mikrofilmów Ośrodka Archiwów, Bibliotek i Muzeów Kościelnych Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego Jana Pawła II, oprac. Maria Dębowska, Kraków 2017, wydawca: Wydawnictwo Instytutu Teologicznego Księży Misjonarzy w Krakowie, ss. 677, "Archeion", 121 (2020) pp. 1–13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> P. Kardyś, *Rubrycele i schematyzmy diecezji żmudzkiej z lat 1853–1914 zachowane w Archiwum Diecezjalnym w Kielcach*, "Nasza Przeszłość", 126 (2016) pp. 291–319; idem, *Katalog rubrycel i schematyzmów polskich cystersów, znajdujących się w księgozbiorze podręcznym Archiwum Diecezjalnego w Kielcach (1788–1816)*, "Hereditas Monasteriorum", 1 (2012) pp. 189–205; idem, *Rubrycele i schematyzmy diecezji kieleckiej (1808–1818)*, "Rocznik Oddziału Polskiego Towarzystwa Historycznego w Skarżysku-Kamiennej. Z dziejów regionu i miasta", 4 (2013) pp. 57–77; idem, *Rubrycele i elenchusy diecezji krakowskiej z lat 1801–1848*, ŚSAH, 3 (2014) pp. 205–245.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> A. Kwaśniewski, *Geneza i program Studium Historii Diecezji Kieleckiej*, "Kieleckie Studia Teologiczne", 13 (2014) pp. 179–204; idem, *Kościelne Dobra Kultury jako narzędzie formacji Christifideles laici przy Archiwum Diecezjalnym w Kielcach*, "Veritati et Caritati", 7 (2016) pp. 115–143.

the society, many articles have been written about the resources of the Diocesan Archives in Kielce.<sup>17</sup>

The above analysis of the state of research on the history, resources and promotion of the Diocesan Archives in Kielce has been limited to the more important works. The entire extensive bibliography on the subject, covering 100 years of the institution's history, was compiled and published in 2016. It also includes contributory studies.<sup>18</sup> A review of the state of research on Kielce church archives shows their extent and demonstrates the lack of scholarly interest in photographic documentation, to which this pioneering study is devoted. The genesis of this work can be traced to the scientific inspiration of the Centre for Church Archives, Libraries and Museums (*Ośrodek Archiwów, Bibliotek i Muzeów Kościelnych*). The purpose of this article is to analyse church photographs from the Kielce institution, evaluate the way they were archived, search for their relationship with registry records, and point out further prospects for archival work on photographic material.

# Sources - book of acquisitions and physical inventory

The source basis for the topic undertaken includes the book of acquisitions and the physical inventory. These means of recording are kept in the office of the Diocesan Archives in Kielce. The book of acquisitions was introduced in 1983. It is used to note in chronological order the files arriving at the Archive.<sup>19</sup> The date of receipt determines the numbers assigned to new files in the acquisition book. The institution or individual donating the archives is also provided during their entry. The files are then titled and the years in which the unit was produced are specified (at least approximately). Once the above data is determined, the files are assigned to the collection and a reference is assigned to the unit. The book of acquisitions was established by Rev. Wróbel in his final years as diocesan archivist. After Rev. Jan Szarek took over the institution, entries in the acquisitions book continued after the transfer of the resource from the Theological Seminary to a new building erected for the Archives on the curial square.

Rev. J. Szarek additionally introduced a new inventory dividing the resource in terms of subject matter.<sup>20</sup> In this way, there is a dual process of record-keeping – in the acquisitions book, recording the chronology of receipts, and in the physical inventory, showing the entirety of a given collection. In addition, in the process of subject-based classification of a given unit, a decision is made to assign a signature,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> To exemplify: P. Kardyś, Zbiór dokumentów pergaminowych i papierowych Archiwum Diecezjalnego w Kielcach, ROPTHSK, 4 (2013) pp. 35–56.; P. Kardyś, M. Medyński, Inwentarz akt parafialnych dekanatu Bodzentyn przechowywanych w Archiwum Diecezjalnym w Kielcach (cz. I), "Studia Muzealno-Historyczne", 9 (2017) pp. 73–112; R. Prejs, Kancelaria dziekańska w Kurzelowie w XIX wieku. Przyczynek do dziejów kancelarii dziekańskich w Królestwie Polskim, ŚSAH, 5 (2016) pp. 71–80.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> A. Kwaśniewski, *Bibliografia Archiwum Diecezjalnego w Kielcach za lata 1916–2016*, AE, 10 (2017) pp. 168–189.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Diocesan Archives in Kielce (hereinafter: ADK), Office of the Diocesan Archives in Kielce (hereinafter: KADK), Book of files acquired in the archives since 1983, no ref.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> ADK, KADK, Inventory. Videophony, no ref.

usually containing letters and numbers. The letters identify the archival collection to which the unit is attached, the numbers correspond to a typical signature and indicate the ordinal number in the collection.

In the book of acquisitions (*Księga akt wpływających do archiwum od 1983 roku*), each new archival unit is recorded in the appropriate place with the date of admission to the archives. The record is then entered again in the physical inventory, which divides the acquired units into collections. The order of entry in the physical inventory is also in chronological order, which is contained in consecutive reference numbers. In practice, an archival unit should be created and entered simultaneously in the acquisition book and the physical inventory. The date of receipt is specific in the book of acquisitions, and the physical inventory contains the signature, which should be transcribed into the book of acquisitions after its creation.

When entered into the physical inventory, archival units containing photographs are registered in the photo collection and divided into five groups: VA – albums, VZG – group photos, VZJ – photos of individuals, VZO – photos of objects, VZU – celebration photos. This division is reflected in references. The letter V in the signature stands for the word videophony, the letter Z for photos (Pol. *zdjęcia*). The third letter that makes up the created reference designates the group (series) containing the archival unit: G – group, J – individual, O – object, U – celebration.

The theory of archival science points to three principles used in evaluating photographs: historicity, multifacetedness and completeness in capturing the life of a society. Three criteria are used for detailed evaluations: content, origin and properties. The property criterion helps preserve photographs depicting events, people and objects.<sup>21</sup> The Kielce church system of classifying photos and assigning references stems from the last criterion (photos: G – group, J – individual, O – object, U – celebration).

The accusation to be levied against the method of archiving used at the Diocesan Archives in Kielce is the failure to respect the principle of collectivity. Photos from different archive groups (curia and priests' legacies) are contained in one collection, the equivalent of a single group. For clarification, one should point to the conditions of the diocesan archives, to which much of the material came from open-ended groups. People who are still alive – bishops and priests – donate albums and often convince the director (archivist) to accept their photographs for the archive. Had these photos been left in storage as uninventoried, their fate would have been unpredictable. By entering the inventory and assigning a reference mark, the photos gain "archival citizenship" and thus operate in the card inventory available to users; furthermore, they have their references in the reference sequence of the archival collection, which means that their removal or disappearance is transparent. All this determines their (practically) perpetual storage, despite the fact that they are catalogued against the respect des fonds principle. The question to be asked at this point is – what is more important? The respect des fonds principle or the method of preserving a given group of photographs?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Cf. H. Robótka, B. Ryszewski, A. Tomczak, Archiwistyka, Warsaw 1982, pp. 154–155.

Apart from the book of acquisitions and physical inventory, the third way consisting in describing photographs by creating inventory cards should be employed. In the archival practice, this third way is also important, as there may be cases where a particular archival unit is not listed in the book of acquisitions and physical inventory. The inventory card is then the only evidence of the unit's existence. It is known that most of the photos were not entered in the book of acquisitions, which had not been established until 1983. The arrangement found and developed by Rev. J. Szarek was introduced to the subject inventory in the 1980s and after such arrangement the photos were marked with reference numbers. Subsequent units were entered simultaneously in the book of acquisitions and the physical inventory.

A comparison of the three descriptions shows the practical similarities between the information provided in the descriptions in the book of acquisitions and physical inventory and the description on the card in the card inventory. However, inventory cards often include additional information about the photos. Moreover, the notes on the envelopes in which the photos are stored are also of a unique nature. They contain interesting practical information about the unit. Sometimes this information brings new knowledge about the collection. One may come across envelopes with the unit's name changed, which can be helpful in understanding the process of creating, collecting and cataloguing collections.

Another archival aid to the photo collection is a personal card catalogue. It includes index cards dedicated to individual priests. The card indicates the name of the priest and the reference of the unit (often the references of several units) that includes his photograph. This catalogue covers most of the important clergymen living in the 19th and 20th centuries, although 19th-century photos are unlikely to be found in the resource.

The described method of cataloguing involves treating photography in a way that is close to a museum object (a collection instead of a group, and recognizing the photo as an object rather than as a file record). The same practice is followed at the Jagiellonian University Archives.<sup>22</sup> The university's collection is called iconographic documentation under the premise that "photography should be treated as a museum exhibit."<sup>23</sup> It has a physical inventory, dividing the collection into sections: I – objects, II – events, III – other. The similarity of the two archival institutions also lies in the fact that both have an index of persons in the form of a personal card catalogue, which contains names with reference to specific photos under the corresponding reference. Unlike the case in Kielce, the Kraków collection does not have a book of acquisitions and thus it is impossible to determine the date and person donating the photos.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> M.M. Tytko, *Kolekcja fotografii w zbiorach specjalnych Archiwum Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego*, https://ruj.uj.edu.pl/xmlui/bitstream/handle/item/34192/tytko\_kolekcja\_fotografii\_w\_zbiorach specjalnych archiwum 1999.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y (accessed on: 15.09.2021).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Ibidem.

# **Collection process**

In 1992–1995, after Bishop Stanisław Szymecki left for the Bialystok Archdiocese, his photographs related to his stay and work in the Kielce Diocese were acquired by the Archives. Information on this subject fills most of the pages of the chronological inventory. Dozens of units were accepted and entered into the book of acquisitions and physical inventory over four years. Bishop S. Szymecki also donated numerous cassette tapes and slides. Among these materials, two units containing photos of the pilgrimage of Pope John Paul II to Kielce deserve more attention (ref. VZU-55/1-13, ref. VZU-56/1-65, ref. VZU-56/66-127).<sup>24</sup>

The collection of Bishop Szymecki is unique in terms of the number of units. Over the years since the establishment of the book of acquisitions, there have been very few examples of the donations of photographs by other bishops and priests of the diocese. In 1993, one unit was donated by Rev. Lucjan Skolik.<sup>25</sup> In 1994, a group of photos was donated by Bishop Jan Gurda.<sup>26</sup> In 2009, Rev. Aleksander Chycki donated an album of the 1984 health care pilgrimage to Rome to the Archives.<sup>27</sup>

Resources donated by the curia were also modest. In 1999, there were three units concerning the visitation of the cross in Lelów and the Third Synod of the Diocese of Kielce, and also photographs from the Catholic University of Lublin in 1955.<sup>28</sup> In 2005, the Diocesan Curia donated photos of the shrines.<sup>29</sup>

In 2017, contemporary photos of ecclesiastical buildings in the Diocese of Kielce were found in the Archive's storeroom. They mostly depicted churches. The photographs were probably brought from the curia after conservation activities and other pending matters. However, the unofficial method of transferring largely disorganized photos of uncertain origin was provisionally controlled by the Archive staff, and all photographic material was classified for archival storage.<sup>30</sup> The collection happened to include photos of the pilgrimage of John Paul II to Kielce.<sup>31</sup>

In 2016, pre-war photos of Catholic Action were found, presumably while cleaning up the curia's premises.<sup>32</sup> It is possible that Bishop Kazimierz Ryczan was the donor, as the inventory below this entry contains information about photographs related to his activities.<sup>33</sup> The photographs of Catholic Action were probably found during the cleaning of the bishop's apartment after his retirement and, along with his own, were donated to the Archives. During cleaning work in the curial premises in 2017, photos of Bishop Czesław Kaczmarek were found.<sup>34</sup> They were compiled into three groups (wholes), so three archival units were formed from

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> ADK, KADK, Inventory. Videophony, p. 53.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> ADK, KADK, Book of archive acquisitions, no. 101.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> ADK, KADK, Book of archive acquisitions, no. 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> ADK, KADK, Book of archive acquisitions, no. 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> ADK, KADK, Book of archive acquisitions, nos 8–10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> ADK, KADK, Book of archive acquisitions, nos 14-15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> ADK, KADK, Book of archive acquisitions, nos 120–155.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> ADK, KADK, Book of archive acquisitions, no. 156.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> ADK, KADK, Book of archive acquisitions, nos 43-48.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> ADK, KADK, Book of archive acquisitions, nos 49-51.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> ADK, KADK, Book of archive acquisitions, nos 181–183.

them.<sup>35</sup> Photos of Bishop Cz. Kaczmarek taken on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his anointment were found in 2003.<sup>36</sup> Photos from the partition period are occasionally found in addition to pre-war photos. In 1997, photographs of the seminary's professors and seminarians taken in 1913 were added to the catalogue.<sup>37</sup>

The photo collection process under analysis only applies to acquisitions since 1983. The legacy of Bishop Szymecki prevails among the accepted photographs, while the legacy of Bishop Ryczan is relatively modest. The aforementioned photographs of the objects need to be researched, and at this point their value is as unclear as the indication whether it was a good decision to include them in the catalogue. A certain general conclusion arises from comparing the records of the book of acquisitions with those of the physical inventory. Only about 25% of the units appear in the book of acquisitions. This means that 75% of the photographic units had been in the Archive's collection before 1983, but the inventory that would have recorded them at that time is unknown. It should be assumed that they had previously been uncatalogued. The arrangement should be linked to the establishment of the physical inventory by Rev. Szarek. It was in that inventory that photographic units were given reference numbers for the first time.

## Resource

Thanks to the process of systematic archiving, there are practically no photographs in the Diocesan Archives in Kielce that are not described in a cataloguing manner and remain only in storage, without being shown through the card inventory available in the research room. The way of archiving the church collections of Kielce makes it possible to determine their number according to the groups marked with the following letters: VA – albums – 169 units, VZG – group photos – 79 units, VZJ – photos of individuals (private) – 52 units, VZO – photos of objects – 79 units, VZU – photos of ceremonies – 101 units. Total 480 units.

The album collection (AV) and the ceremony photo collection (VZU) contain materials that correspond to each other in content. The photographs in the albums are mostly linked with the same people and events as the photo collection. The albums were created for major events, and all major events were attended by bishops and significant priests of the diocese. Both collections date back to the time of Bishop Augustyn Łosiński. It was the time of the end of the partition era, World War I and the interwar period. The collections mainly concern the ordinaries and suffragans of Kielce. These are albums containing photos of parish visitations, worship at shrines, and various forms of pastoral care (including Catholic Action). A large group consists of albums of consecrations, bishop appointments, jubilees, name days and episcopal funerals. A small collection includes similar albums related to the priests and major events in the diocese's history (including the Second and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> ADK, Diocesan Curia in Kielce (hereafter: KDK), Photographs of Bishop Czesław Kaczmarek (1938–1963), ref. VZJ-36/1-45; ADK, KDK, Photographs from the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the ministry of Bishop. Czesław Kaczmarek (1957, 1963), ref. VZJ-37/1-39; ADK, KDK, Photographs from the funeral of Bishop Czesław Kaczmarek (1963), ref. VZJ-38/1-13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> ADK, KADK, Book of archive acquisitions, no. 20.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> ADK, KADK, Book of archive acquisitions, no. 47.

Third Synod of the Diocese of Kielce; the peregrination of the image of Our Lady of Częstochowa, 1972–1983; the peregrination of the Holy Cross, 1986; Kielce pilgrimages to Jasna Góra; the pilgrimage of John Paul II, 1991).

The collection of group photos (VZG) is linked with the photos of individuals (VZJ). They show the episcopate members from 1916 onward, groups of priests, especially from the interwar period, and seminarians from 1912 onward. Usually those appearing in the group photos also have their individual photos, which sometimes helps in identifying the individuals in question. In addition, it should be noted that the rich collection of priests' personnel files includes numerous photos sewn into the documents. This regularity applies to twentieth-century portfolios, but is rare among the 19th century files. Photos of objects (VZO) is a collection of photographs of diocesan buildings in Kielce (cathedral, curia, seminary and others) from the interwar period. The photographs of buildings from the 1980s and 1990s mainly depict churches in the diocese.

Most of the Kielce photos relate to diocesan affairs and produce a specific image of church regionalism. Exceptions include extra-diocesan topics, such as Bishop Szymecki's travels and his work with the Iustitia et Pax Commission, or Bishop Ryczan's pastoral activities from his time at the Catholic University of Lublin, where he created the "Monolit" group.

An analysis of the photo resource of the Diocesan Archive in Kielce allows us to conclude that it includes photographs of important ceremonies and diocesan events. Therefore, in interpreting and compiling the collection, the solutions adopted by the Central Military Archives, which collects photos according to events and dates related to the history of Polish arms, are useful.<sup>38</sup> In the ecclesiastical realities of the Diocese of Kielce, the counterparts of the above are celebrations and other events.

#### **Pictures as photographic documentation**

An example of arranged sets of pictures are units containing the collections related to the millennium events concerning the baptism of Poland.<sup>39</sup> The order of photographs was arranged according to the succession of the various points of the millennium celebrations. What is more, the pictures were created according to the curial plan. The photographer who was hired must have received training from the curia, because he captured in pictures what was important to diocesan officials. The Diocesan Curia in Kielce was therefore the organizer of the ceremony in this context, and the creator of the files containing plans and office documentation concerning the course of the ceremony. Moreover, it commissioned a photographer to take photographic records according to the accepted official concept.

In a strict sense, two analogous groups of images should be distinguished in the two archival units, namely groups from Kielce and Wiślica. These are larger

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> H. Kudła, *Zbiory fotograficzne Centralnego Archiwum Wojskowego*, https://docplayer. pl/10601302-Zbiory-fotograficzne-centralnego-archiwum-wojskowego-1-wstep.html (accessed on: 15.09.2021).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> ADK, KDK, Millennium. Kielce Cathedral. Photos, ref. VZU-24; ADK, KDK, Millennium. Wiślica and Gorysławice. Photos, ref. VZU-25.

format photographs, taken, as evidenced by the stamp appearing on the back of each of them, by a well-known author, Władysław Rut, a member of the Union of Polish Artists Photographers. It had its branch facility in Poznań, at 28 Gromadzka Street. The artist's photographs in the Kielce millennium group with the reference VZU-24 include pictures numbered from 1 to 95. This author's Wiślica photos with the reference VZU-25 include units numbered from 1 to 72.

Both analysed collections include photographs by anonymous authors; they are of different formats and probably authored by different photographers. The VZU-24 marking refers to images numbered 96 to 119, and VZU-25 – to those numbered 73 to 109. Adopting a consistent principle of archiving, it was necessary to divide them into four archival units: photos authored by Władysław Rut – Kielce unit and Wiślica unit, other photos (at least) two units – Kielce and Wiślica.

Additional millennium material includes photos from celebrations held outside the Kielce Diocese.<sup>40</sup> The collection includes 28 photographs, organized in a unit according to the principle – non-Kielce and non-Wiślica millennium photos. Some of them concern the millennium celebrations at Jasna Góra and were taken by a photographer named Mieczysław Kleczek, operating in Głogów Małopolski (information taken from the stamp appearing on the back of the photos). The willingness to save these objects, probably found in the private collection of Bishop John Jaroszewicz, is commendable. However, it was necessary to divide them into two units – Jasna Góra millennium photos and miscellaneous millennium photos.

There is one general conclusion from the analysis of the millennium photographs – they are a collection of attachments to the office records. Thus, they can be treated as auxiliary documentation, introducing the concept of photographic documentation. This regularity should be analogously extended to other photographs related to ceremonies and important church events. In addition, with regard to the millennium photographs, another value appearing in the context of the analyses should be mentioned, as there were discrepancies between church and state data in the information reported on attendance at the millennium celebrations. In view of the underreporting of data by state registry sources, the photographic material is an additional source to confirm the veracity of the church data. It then becomes another argument for treating photographs as sources that correspond with file sources. In this context, it seems fully justified to use the term photographic documentation for this purpose.<sup>41</sup>

Millennium photos from Kielce and Wiślica depicting an important event have been included in the collection of the National Digital Archive, and they can be used owing to scans posted on the Internet<sup>42</sup>. According to information provided by Aleksandra Masny, they are in a group bearing the name The Collection of Photographs Concerning the Church's Celebration of the Millennium of the Baptism of Poland. Their authors are photographers selected by the bishops' curiae.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> ADK, KDK, Millennium. Outside the Diocese of Kielce. Photos, ref. VZU-26.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Cf. A. Kwaśniewski, *Obchody Milenium Chrztu Polski w Kielcach i Wiślicy (16–17 lipca 1966 r.)*, in: *Kardynał Wyszyński a wolność religijna w Europie*, eds. W. Cisło et al., Pelplin 2021, pp. 199–123.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> https://audiovis.nac.gov.pl/zespol/19:28/ (accessed on: 3.08.2021).

This is because at the time there was no regular personnel to provide photographic services for ceremonies across the country. Most often, local photojournalists were assigned to this task and remained anonymous (probably for security reasons). After the celebration, services from each diocese reached the Primate's Secretariat. On 26 June 1973, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński's niece Maria Sułek handed over, free of charge, 591 positives (the fate of the negatives is unknown) concerning the millennium celebrations throughout Poland, received from the episcopate, to the Archives of Mechanical Documentation (now the National Digital Archives). This resource has been made available in its entirety.<sup>43</sup> Of the 591 prints, only a small portion are pictures of the Kielce millennium celebration.

The postulate of securing images of the Diocesan Archives in Kielce through digitization is a far cry from the contemporary situation in church archives. The collection of Kielce millennium photos is the only case of securing church photographs from Kielce and additionally making them available on the Internet. The ability to use modern and rather expensive technical developments is more applicable to non-church institutions. Representative of the modern mentality in the approach to historical photography is the community centred at the Library and Archives of the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk. Digitization of collections is understood there as a safeguard, and the Internet as a place to share resources.<sup>44</sup>

## The value of Kielce church-related photographs

Comparing the collection of photographs held in the Diocesan Archives in Kielce with the analogous collection of the State Archives in Kielce is interesting in academic terms. Photographs in a state institution are found in official records for passports, ID cards, court cases, police cases and others. They are present in archival groups produced by municipal and county offices, as well as by the provincial office. Typically, larger photo collections are archived with incoming archive groups. Photographs appear in relatively large numbers in the files of schools and workplaces.<sup>45</sup> This compliant way of archiving makes it difficult to calculate the numbers of the photos themselves, selected, so to speak, from among archive groups as objects. Consequently, calculating the number of photos in the State Archives is not as easy as in the case of the Diocesan Archives.

State Archives also include collections comprising of photographs alone. Take legacies as examples.<sup>46</sup> The unit concerning the Solidarity movement also includes

<sup>45</sup> Cf. Private Archive of Rev. Andrzej Kwaśniewski, Interview with Wiesława Rutkowska, Director of the State Archives in Kielce, 20 September 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Cf. Private Archive of Rev. Andrzej Kwaśniewski, Letter from the National Digital Archives by Ms Aleksandra Masny, dated 9 August 2021; National Digital Archives, Collection of Photographs Concerning the Church's Celebration of the Millennium of the Baptism of Poland (1966), ref. 3/19/0, https://www.szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl/zespol/-/zespol/55720 (accessed on: 3.08.2021).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Cf. A. Polańska, *Zbiory fotograficzne przechowywane w Bibliotece i Archiwum Akademii Sztuk Pięknych w Gdańsku, i co dalej*?, "Photographia Academica" (hereinafter: PA), 1 (2018) issue 1, pp. 57–72.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> State Archives in Kielce (hereafter: APK), Photographs and postcards, and epistolographic documentation from the collection of Januariusz Glibowski, ref. 21/3262; APK, Collection of Edmunad Massalski (1913–1980), ref. 21/664.

more photographs.<sup>47</sup> A typical collection of photographs comes from various archive groups and creators; the most valuable is the Chroberz collection of the Wielopolski family.<sup>48</sup> Unlike the Wielkopolski family, the Platers of Białaczów have a collection of photographs that are not separated into sub-collections, located as an archival unit in their family archive group.<sup>49</sup> The method of archiving photos in accordance with the principles of archival science utilised at the State Archive in Kielce, can be compared with a similar practice in Częstochowa. The State Archives in Częstochowa has a practice of collecting photographs treated as a "visual supplement to written documentation".<sup>50</sup>

For the sake of the overall picture, it is important to note the regularities in the Świętokrzyskie region. Nineteenth-century and pre-war photos are stored in Kielce museums. These collections are well analysed, with the descriptions of the collections of photographs stored at the State Museum in Kielce (including, among other things, court records), the Museum of Stefan Żeromski's School Years in Kielce, the Henryk Sienkiewicz Museum in Oblęgorek, the Przypkowski Family State Museum in Jędrzejów, and the Regional Museum in Ostrowiec.<sup>51</sup> An example of photographs pertaining to the Kielce region is the collection of the Central Military Archives related to Józef Piłsudski's activities during World War I in the Kielce area and around Nowy Korczyn.<sup>52</sup>

A cursory comparison of the photographs held in the stock of the Diocesan Archives in Kielce with the collection of the State Archives in Kielce leads to the conclusion that the diocesan institution has a significant collection of photographs important to the history of the Kielce region. Thematically, the photographs of the Diocesan Archives address ecclesiastical affairs and major lay figures involved in church activities.

# Postulates

An analysis of the millennium photos as an example of photographic documentation shows the relationship of the photographs with the curia's office records. In archival theory, the study of the relationship between photos and files belongs to the preliminary study in archiving photos.<sup>53</sup> In the existing state of affairs, it seems possible to use this principle and further organize the church collections of Kielce. It also seems necessary to prepare a preliminary selection of photos related to ceremonies and diocesan and parish events, treat them with official care

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> APK, Collection of photographs, pamphlets and memorabilia related to the activities of the Solidarity Trade Union, ref. 21/3354.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> APK, Collection of photographs (1830–1987), ref. 21/1125.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> APK, Photographs of the Plater family, 21/292/211.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> E. Surma-Jończyk, *Fotografie w zasobie Archiwum Państwowego w Częstochowie – przyj*mowanie, przechowywanie, przyczyny destrukcji, PA, 1 (2018) issue 1, p. 165.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Cf. M. Janik, *Zbiory fotografii w muzeach województwa kieleckiego*, "Rocznik Muzeum Narodowego w Kielcach", 14 (1985) pp. 215–240.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Cf. H. Kudła, Zbiory fotograficzne Centralnego Archiwum Wojskowego, p. 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Cf. H. Robótka, B. Ryszewski, A. Tomczak, Archiwistyka, p. 154.

and compare them with the curia's office records. This group of photos should be recognized as having been produced at the behest of the local curia and belonging to the group called the Diocesan Curia in Kielce. Photos related to the figures of bishops and priests should be considered as belonging to the legacy group. Each legacy should be treated as a separate group produced by a specific person. It also seems worthwhile to consider other units that will be difficult to classify as documents produced by the curia or a specific person. If there were an opportunity to catalogue archival materials while respecting the respect des fonds principle, one could treat the current references given to the photos as topographical and preserve their structure for separate storage of the photos. Concurrently, by discovering the affiliation of the photos to the originator (curia, the legacy of a particular priest and others), they could be useful to start by adding at least group names to the existing unit names and at the same time standardizing strict unit names according to the scheme: event name and date.

As for photos secured in digital form and those published in books, a few selected cases should be cited. In addition to the millennium photos secured through scans, one should point out the valuable photo of Bishop Maciej Majerczak, made available by the National Library. It was taken around 1863 by Karol Beyer Photographic Company in Warsaw.<sup>54</sup> Photographs of the 19th-century intellectual Rev. Władysław Siarkowski, a prominent representative of Kielce clergy, are kept at the Museum of the History of Kielce.<sup>55</sup> Interesting in terms of the photographs depicting Kielce clergy is the work of Rev. Jan Wiśniewski, who included pictures of selected clergymen<sup>56</sup> in his text on the participation of priests in the January Uprising (they probably no longer exist today). An example of the planned publication of photographs and their simultaneous preservation is the Africa-themed collection by Ryszard Buchta.<sup>57</sup> The search for photographs of priests of the Diocese of Kielce, especially those from the nineteenth century, remains a vital postulate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> https://polona.pl/item/portret-biskupa-macieja-majerczaka,NTA5Mzc4Mw/0/#info:metadata (accessed on: 3.08.2021).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> M. Kolasa, Fotografie ks. Władysława Siarkowskiego ze zbiorów Muzeum Historii Kielc, in: W. Siarkowski, Materiały do etnografii i historii Kielc. Pisma wybrane, rozproszone, prepared for print by K. Bracha, M. Marczewska, Kielce 2017, pp. 3–4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> J. Wiśniewski, *Słów parę o duchowieństwie kieleckiem w 1863*, in: idem, *Udział księży z diecezji sandomierskiej w Powstaniu Styczniowem 1863 r.*, Radom 1926, pp. 90–102.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> J. Różański, *Ryszard Buchta – małopolski fotograf i badacz Sudanu*, in: *Ex Africa semper aliquid novi*, vol. V, eds. L. Buchalik, J. Różański, Żory 2020, pp. 51–62.

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# FOTOGRAFIE W ARCHIWUM DIECEZJALNYM W KIELCACH

## Streszczenie

W Archiwum Diecezjalnym w Kielcach znajduje się kolekcja zdjęć ziwentaryzowanych w postaci 480 jednostek archiwalnych. Jest to znacząca kolekcja zdjęć do dziejów diecezji kielekciej kieleckiej. Obejmuje ona fotografie wykonane w XX i XXI wieku, często dotyczy osób, kótre żyły na przełomie XIX i XX wieku. Zdjęcia te są dokumentacją załacznikową do akt kacelaryjnych kancelaryjnych Kurii Diecezjalnej w Kielcach. Część zdjęć to spuścizny duchowieństwa. W odniesienieu do analizowanych zdjęć należy używać pojęcia dokumentacją fotograficzna.

Słowa kluczowe: Archiwum Diecezjalnym w Kielcach; archiwistyka; gromadzenie; zasób; inwentaryzowanie; zespół archiwalny; kolekcja archiwalna; fotografie; związek fotografii z dokumentacją kancelaryjną; dokumentacja fotograficzna; Władysław Rut; Mieczysław Kłeczek