

THE WORK AND PUBLICATIONS OF THE BALTIC INSTITUTE

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PRINCIPAL TASKS OF THE INSTITUTE

After the War the Polish state regained that portion of the coast of the Baltic which it had administered before the Partitions, and re-united the maritime province to the main regions of Poland, from which it had been cut off economically and culturally throughout the period of subjection. During these last fifteen years of union, the land and people of the three annexed portions have again come to form a compact cultural, economic and political whole. The resurgent state has manifested great vitality and a clear tendency to expand in the direction of the sea; it has formed contacts with marine nations, and has entered the family of Baltic lands as an important member, politically, economically and culturally.

The orientation of the Polish state toward the Baltic and the sea in general has been dictated not merely by political and economic necessities resulting from the geographical position of the country, between Russia and Germany, but also by an increasing consciousness of the importance of the sea in the life of the modern state.

The Baltic Institute, founded at Toruń in 1926, is designed 'to further the study of Pomeranian and

Baltic problems from the point of view of the Polish interests bound up with them'. Hitherto it has contributed both to the encouragement of scientific investigation of Pomeranian and Baltic problems and to the co-ordination of the relevant activities of various institutions and individuals, while it has aimed further at popularizing the knowledge so gained by articles in scientific publications, lectures, courses, conferences and every other means at its disposal.

The statutes of the Institute provide for the following activities: the collection and preservation in available form of scientific material relating to the Baltic; the publication of scientific works and articles in this field, and of books of general utility written in defence of Polish interests connected with the Baltic; the provision of information concerning the results of investigations made by interested groups, governmental, economic and social; the organization and maintenance of laboratories, libraries and collections in aid of scientific enquiry into all and any matters concerning Poland on the Baltic; the arrangement of lectures and discussions.

It must not be imagined that the work and interests of the Institute are narrowly Polish in conception and interpretation. From the beginning, it was realized that the possession of a sea-frontier brought Poland at once into the fellowship of the Baltic states, and not only of those which arose as national states as a result of the Great War: Poland now had direct relations with the lands on the northern and western shores of the Baltic — Denmark, Sweden

and Finland. With Sweden, indeed, it was rather a case of the resumption of relations which in the past had been close and friendly. The consideration of general Baltic problems, and of those touching the various neighbour-states, was included in the original conception of the Institute's sphere of activities, and if circumstances have, up to the present, been such that the greatest attention has been given to Poland's Baltic province and matters relating to her access to the sea, the co-operation of scholars from other Baltic countries has been invited in the work upon these questions, and it is hoped that, in the future, this co-operation may be extended to cover the whole range of general Baltic, as apart from specifically Polish Baltic, problems.

The objects of the Baltic Institute's researches may be divided into two main sections. The first embraces economic problems closely connected with the transport and exchange of commodities by sea, questions of ports, shipping and sea-borne trade, that is to say, phenomena which are not purely Baltic in character, but relate to the exchange of commodities between the Baltic countries and the rest of the world. The second comprises domestic relations in the various Baltic countries, especially the relation between the population, the land and the State. At the same time, the Institute proposes to investigate the mutual relations of the Baltic peoples and States, in the spheres both of material and of intellectual culture. In pursuance of this programme, the Institute concerns itself principally with geographical, ethnographical

and historical questions relating to the countries of the Baltic and to the region as a whole. At present, it is only at the beginning of its programme, but it is satisfactory to be able to relate that in so far as relates to Pomeranian and East Prussian problems, its aims have been realized.

PAST ACTIVITIES OF THE BALTIC INSTITUTE

At the present moment, the Institute's catalogue of publications includes considerably more than three hundred items, among which are thirty-five volumes of its 'Records', eighty-two off-prints of separate scientific papers from these, and thirty-nine pamphlets of the 'Baltic Pocket Library' series, together with nearly two hundred 'Bulletins'. More than one hundred and fifty authors have contributed to these publications, chiefly members of the academic staffs of the Polish universities. The Baltic Institute derives no income from its publications: on the contrary, they are a heavy burden, checking the development of the work in other directions — a burden, moreover, which compels the Institute to take close account of realities when planning its undertakings.

The printed and published book is the last stage of research in a scientific institution, the most efficient expression and record, and, at the same time, the most objective measure of value of the work accomplished. The publications of the Baltic Institute exercise an undoubted influence on the formation of Polish opinion regarding the significance of Pomerania

and of access to the sea, but this does not diminish their scientific value. Some of these works have achieved a circulation of twenty-five and even of sixty thousand copies, and have been translated into almost every European language. They are invariably the work of specialists.

In the Institute's programme of research and publication special emphasis has been laid on the mutual bonds of union between Pomerania and the rest of Poland on the one hand, and on the other between Poland, through Pomerania and the northern territories, and the countries and peoples of the Baltic region. In the future, it is hoped to be able to devote more attention to the cultural, political and economic connexions which bind Poland through Pomerania to the countries and peoples of the Baltic, and in the last two years, a start has been made in this direction and its development is only a matter of time.

An exhaustive enumeration of the problems which have formed the subjects of the Institute's investigations would be impossible within the scope of so short an article: it will be enough to say that there is no scholar or scientific worker in Poland who is occupied with the problems concerning in any degree Pomerania and the Baltic lands, or matters of marine policy, who is not in touch with the Baltic Institute and who has not written for its publications.

FURTHER WORK OF THE INSTITUTE

Interest in foreign affairs is no new development of the Institute's activities: for some years past, it

has enlisted the co-operation of scholars and institutions in almost every country of Europe, as well as in the United States. Its publications now include works in seven foreign languages, among them such basic studies as Sobieski's, which has been published in German, and the collective work of Lorentz, Fischer and Sławiński, which has been published in an English edition.

None the less, the real history of the Baltic Institute as a centre of research of an international character begins with the publication of *Baltic Countries*, for it is by their collaboration in this that its foreign correspondents have for the first time taken an active place within the framework of its organization. With the publication of the number in which this article appears, the periodical will have completed its first year of existence, during which time articles, reviews and scientific works by more than sixty foreign scholars have appeared in its pages. The editorial committee of the periodical includes the names of eight foreign members, and the universities represented by these, and by contributors, include not only a number of Baltic universities — Aarhus, Copenhagen, Lund, Stockholm, Helsinki, Tallinn, Tartu, Riga and Königsberg — but also two in the United States and two in England.

The purpose of this new organ of international co-operation has been defined by the editors as follows: *Baltic Countries* is intended to be a source of accurate information concerning the conditions of life and the cultural and economic development of the Baltic and

Scandinavian countries and peoples. A special aim is to throw light upon the scientific and cultural movements influencing society in the Baltic countries, and also to encourage and widen the sphere of intellectual co-operation: one of the paths leading to this goal will be the investigation of the sources of those disagreements which both in the remote past and in more recent times have hampered or prevented the possibility of co-operation.

Apart from historical questions, the chief emphasis is laid on geographic and economic studies, though at the same time occasion is not neglected to treat problems of sociology, politics and national culture in general. The aim is always to bring out the essential unity, common interests, and economic and political significance of the Baltic area.

This area, as may be seen, comprises not only the 'new' Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, but also the Scandinavian states, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. Norway will be dealt with to a smaller extent. Countries with special interests in the Baltic, such as France and England, and countries lying on the route from the Baltic to the Black Sea, will also occasionally be considered. Germany and Russia, about which there is already a considerable literature, and whose economic systems are not primarily centred upon the Baltic, receive mention only within the sphere of their contacts with other countries of the region — though an exception is made in the case of East Prussia and Pomerania. The importance of the Baltic area is obvious, not merely because (apart

from Germany and Russia) it presents a population of some fifty millions, but also because some fifteen millions of people originating from it live on the closest terms with the Anglo-Saxon world, principally as citizens of the United States and Canada.

After one year of experience it is still too early to attempt an estimate of the results of the new editorial enterprise, but it may at least be said that a number of new contacts have been established — the number of correspondents in scientific and learned circles in the Baltic countries amounts to about three hundred persons, and two hundred and fifty articles and reviews have been published, written by more than one hundred and twenty contributors. Not the least interesting, and an extremely valuable result, is the exchange which takes place between this periodical and one hundred and sixty other publications — an exchange which in many cases brings about direct contact with the scientific institutions responsible for their publication.

POLAND AND THE BALTIC REGION

As for Poland, she is united to the Baltic region by countless ties, both past and present. The return of Poland to the Baltic community, her access to the sea and her daily increasing contacts with the outside world — which she owes to her geographical situation as a coastal power — are the characteristic features of the country's position to-day. In extent of territory and in the size of its population, Poland far surpasses the other states, yet she is less strong from an economic and cultural stand-

point. Such a state of affairs lays upon Poland an obligation to promote to the best of its power the establishment of harmonious cultural and economic relations between the countries and peoples of the Baltic region; an aim which is fully in accordance with the principles established of old by the Jagellon dynasty and the ideals set forth in the testament of Marshal Pilsudski. The first issue of *Baltic Countries*, in August 1935, was destined to contain in its opening pages a short epitaph in memory of the builder of the new Poland and author of the Polish Baltic programme — that programme whose realization the periodical is intended to help.

The Director of the Baltic Institute and the writer of these pages has had occasion to pay numerous visits to the countries situated on the shores of the Baltic, and has been successful in establishing personal contacts between the Institute and the main centres of learning in those countries. These relations have been sustained by an extensive correspondence with a wide circle, whose members are fully representative of scientific, economic and learned activities in their respective lands. The Director has found a general and wide-spread desire for the establishment of a better international co-operation between the peoples and states of the Baltic region, and a general opinion that a publication in the English language was the best means of attaining this end, and of establishing economic and cultural relations with the English-speaking world. It is realized that such relations are a necessary guarantee of the future peaceful

knowledge of this region, of its peoples, problems and economic and cultural development of the lands situated in that part of Europe.

On numerous occasions, the Director has met with representatives of the scientific or economic world who have had the opportunity either of residence or travel in England and the United States, and who ever since that time have remained in contact with Great Britain and with America. The advantage of such personal knowledge of the English-speaking countries and of their people is so striking that it is felt that the furtherance and extension of any arrangements or opportunities which would allow of intellectual co-operation and exchange between the Baltic lands and America or England should be investigated and encouraged. The ideal form for such exchange to take would doubtless be the more or less regular exchange of academic staff, or the arrangement of facilities for research, with which the reading of lectures on selected subjects would be combined. Whether the establishment of such a personal exchange will be within the realms of possibility in the near future, it is as yet impossible to say. The desire is there, and the discovery of the means to put it into effect should not be difficult, when once the benefits likely to accrue from such a scheme are realized, and that the scheme, to be of any worth, must envisage an exchange between the Baltic region as a whole and the English-speaking countries. The importance of lectures and conferences in the scheme will be readily admitted, for it is generally felt that

history, is too narrowly confined. The scheme must ultimately be based on co-operation with the universities in the countries concerned, and it would be desirable to obtain the help of the various committees for international intellectual collaboration, and especially of that committee of the League of Nations. To achieve the maximum good, the interest in and responsibility for the undertaking should be the prerogative of more than one interested section of learned and scientific circles: it would offer an exceptionally favourable opportunity for the co-operation of commercial and industrial enterprise, and it is hoped that if, in the future, such an idea is given practical form, this will be made possible by the co-operation, both in Poland and in the other countries concerned, of academic and scientific interests with those of commerce and industry.

If, through the activities of the Institute, and its members and collaborators in many lands, this plan could be put into effect, it would be felt that a positive and real service to the whole of the Baltic region had been accomplished.

RECORDS OF THE BALTIC INSTITUTE

DOMINIUM MARIS

'International Trade on the Baltic': by W. Stopczyk. Toruń 1928, pp. 192 + VIII, 71 stat. tables and 6 graphs. Price: 6 zł.

'Defence of Pomerania': collective work edited by J. Borowik. Toruń 1930, pp. 237 + XV, 42 stat. tables, 14 maps, charts and graphs. Price: 10 zł.

'The Case of Gdynia': by A. Siebeneichen and H. Strasburger. Toruń 1931, pp. 180 + VIII, 43 stat. tables. Price: 7.50 zł.

'The Development of the Port of Danzig': by K. Świątecki. Toruń 1932, pp. 309 + XIV, 148 stat. tables, 5 maps and 8 graphs. Price: 10 zł.

'German Transit through Poland': by J. Piasecki. Toruń 1935, pp. 187 + VII, 2 stat. tables and 4 charts. Price: 5 zł.

'Sea Consciousness': collective work edited by J. Borowik. Toruń 1934, pp. 390 + XVI, 35 stat. tables, 13 maps, 11 graphs, 6 ills. Price: 10 zł.

'The Technical and Commercial Equipment of a Sea-Port': collective work in four volumes edited by J. Borowik, B. Nagórski and T. Seifert. Vol. I. 'Organization of Ports, with Special Regard to Gdynia and Danzig'. Toruń 1934, pp. 150 + VI, 2 maps. Price: 7.50 zł.

'Sea Transport and International Agreements in Navigation': by F. Hilchen. Toruń 1934, pp. 104 + X, 11 stat. tables. Price: 5 zł.

'Polish-British Coal Export Competition on Scandinavian Markets': by A. Jałowiecki. Toruń 1935, pp. 191 + X, 50 stat. tables. Price: 6 zł.

'The Port of Copenhagen': by B. Leitgeber. Toruń 1935, pp. 256 + X, 5 maps, 28 stat. tables. Price: 10 zł.

BALTICUM

'Polish Pomerania'. Vol. I. 'Land and People': collective work edited by J. Borowik. Toruń 1929, pp. 326 + X, 118 ills., 17 maps and graphs. Price: 12.50 zł.

'Polish Pomerania'. Vol. II. 'History and Culture': collective work edited by J. Borowik. Toruń 1931, pp. 224 + X, 55 ills. Price: 7.50 zł.

'Reply to German Corridor Propaganda': collective work edited by J. Borowik. Toruń 1930, pp. 163 + VII. Price: 5 zł.

'Pomeranian Art': by B. Makowski. Toruń 1932, pp. 250 + XIV, 78 ills., 20 plates. Price: 10 zł, bound 12 zł.

'The Struggle for the Baltic': by W. Sobieski (in German). Markert and Petters, Leipzig 1933, pp. 269 + VI. Price: 10 zł.

'The District of Malborg': by W. Łęga. Toruń 1933, pp. 256 + XVIII, 180 ills., 10 maps. Price: 12 zł.

'Farmers' Year-book': by B. Stelmachowska. Toruń 1933, pp. 271 + XI. Price: 10 zł.

'An Outline of Cassubian Civilization': by F. Lorentz, A. Fischer and T. Lehr-Splawiński. Toruń 1934, pp. 306 + XVIII, 38 ills., 1 map. Price: 12 zł. (Also published in English by Faber and Faber, London 1935).

'Economic Conditions in East Prussia': by A. Münnich and J. Wilder. Vol. I. 'German Land Settlement in East Prussia', Toruń 1934, 'The Economic Decline of East Prussia', Toruń 1936.

'Cassubian Songs': by Ł. Kamieński. Toruń 1935, pp. 351 + XXII, 1 map, 1 ill. Price: 15 zł.

'Polish Pomerania'. Vol. III. 'Agricultural Situation', Vol. IV. 'Communication in Pomerania': collective work edited by J. Borowik (printing).

'History of East Prussia': collective work in three volumes. Vol. I. 'Prussia under the Teutonic Order', Toruń 1936.

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 by J. Borowik.

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