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GENESIS AND EFFECTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BRANCH OF POZNAŃ UNIVERSITY OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN GORZÓW WIELKOPOLSKI FROM 1971 TO 1984

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Geneza i efekty działalności gorzowskiej filii Akademii Wychowania Fizycznego w Poznaniu w latach 1971–1984

Streszczenie

Celem artykułu jest ukazanie 13 lat działalności gorzowskiej filii Akademii Wychowania Fizycznego. Artykuł przygotowano zgodnie z metodologią badań historycznych. Opiera się on na analizie materiałów archiwalnych, dokumentów oraz relacji. W wyniku wieloletnich starań władz lokalnych oraz wojewódzkich w 1971 roku w powiatowym wówczas Gorzowie Wielkopolskim powstał zamiejscowy ośrodek Wyższej Szkoły Wychowania Fizycznego (od 1973 roku Akademii Wychowania Fizycznego) w Poznaniu. Początkowo nowa uczelnia działała jako Filia (1971–1984). Był to najtrudniejszy i najmniej znany okres w jej pięćdziesięcioletnich dziejach. Brakowało własnej kadry wykładowców, wielu nauczycieli dojeżdżało z Poznania, a baza dydaktyczna była skromna. W latach 1971–1984 gorzowska placówka kształciła w trybie dziennym i zaocznym na kierunku wychowanie fizyczne. Ogółem w omawianym okresie studia ukończyło 1,4 tys. absolwentów studiów magisterskich. Istotny wkład w rozwój uczelni wnieśli jej szefowie w randze prorektora: doc. Lech Erdmann (1972–1974), doc. Tadeusz Łobożewicz (1974–1976), prof. Jerzy Gaj (1976–1984). W latach 1971–1984 nieocenionej pomocy udzieliła macierzysta uczelnia – Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego w Poznaniu. Wyróżnił się zwłaszcza rektor prof. Stefan Bączyk, który doprowadził do utworzenia Filii, oraz jego następcy – prof. Zbigniew Drozdowski oraz prof. Aleksander Kabsch. W 1982 roku w okolicznościach stanu wojennego doszło do niespodziewanej, nieudanej próby usamodzielnienia się Filii i przekształcenia w samodzielną szkołę wyższą.

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Słowa kluczowe: Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego w Poznaniu, Filia WSWF/AWF w Gorzowie, wychowanie fizyczne, kształcenie, badania naukowe.

Abstract

The purpose of the article is to present the 13-year-long activity of the Gorzow branch of the Academy of Physical Education. The article was prepared in accordance with the methodology of historical research. It is based on the analysis of archival materials, documents and files. The branch of the Higher School of Physical Education in Poznań (since 1973 known under the name of the Academy of Physical Education) was established in 1971, in the Gorzow district as a result of the efforts of local and provincial authorities. Initially, the new educational institution functioned as the Branch (1971–1984). The period of 1971–1984 was the most difficult and least known in the fifty-year history of the university. Many teachers commuted from Poznań, and the teaching base was modest. From 1971 to 1984, the Gorzow school educated full-time and part-time students. During the period under review, a total of 1,400 graduates completed their master's degrees. Significant contributions to the development of the university were made by: associate professor Lech Erdmann (1972–1974), associate professor Tadeusz Łobożewicz (1974–1976), Professor Jerzy Gaj (1976–1984). The rector, Prof. Stefan Bączyk, and his successors Prof. Zbigniew Drozdowski and Prof. Alexander Kabsch were also meritorious. In 1982, under martial law, an unexpected, unsuccessful attempt was made to make the Branch independent and transform it into an independent university.

Keywords: Poznań University of Physical Education, the Branch in Gorzów Wielkopolski, physical education, learning, research.

Introduction

The article constitutes a historical study, whose aim was to depict 13 years of organizational and didactic activity of the Branch of the Academy of Physical Education (AWF) in Gorzów. The timeline covers the years 1971–1984, i.e. the pioneering, scarcely known stage of its activity – from its establishment in 1971 to 1984 when the Branch was transformed into the Overseas Faculty of Physical Education.¹ In this period of time, the Faculties were active in the province of Zielona Góra (1971–1975) and Gorzów (1975–1984). During the period of time in question, 1376 Physical Education students graduated from Poznań AWF in Gorzów and were granted their M.A. degrees. What is more, students attended numerous instructor and coaching courses, gaining additional training qualifications and other specialist skills in the field of physical culture, and especially sport. It was an educational establishment at the academic level, and the place where science research was conducted both by the teaching staff and the students.

¹ The publication does not present detailed data concerning the scientific, socio-cultural and sports activity of students that the authors shall discuss in separate publications.

The professional literature on the Gorzów Branch of the AWF in Poznań is quite ample, but of a varying nature and it does not cover the whole period during which the AWF Branch in Gorzów operated. There are three works that should be regarded as the most comprehensive studies of this establishment (in chronological order): *Gorzowski ośrodek akademicki w latach 1971–1996* (Gorzowski ośrodek akademicki w latach 1971–1996),² *35 years of the Gorzów Branch of Poznań University of Physical Education (1971–2006)* (35 lat działalności gorzowskiego ośrodka akademickiego Akademii Wychowania Fizycznego im. Eugeniusza Piaseckiego w Poznaniu (1971–2006)),³ and *Half a century of the Gorzów Branch of Poznań University of Physical Education (1971–2021)* (Pół wieku gorzowskiego ośrodka AWF im. Eugeniusza Piaseckiego w Poznaniu (1971–2021)).⁴ What is more, among the publications reviewed one can find works dedicated to the 15th, 30th and 45th anniversary of the institution as well as several articles and announcements authored mainly by historians affiliated to the AWF in Poznań.⁸ However, what is lacking is a synthetic study which would comprehensively depict these worthy achievements of the Gorzów Branch in its first, most difficult period of its functioning. Hence the initiative to write and publish an article, indispensable to learn about a complex history of the Gorzów Branch of the AWF in Poznań.

Research problems and methods

The publication uses unknown archive sources stored in the State Archive in Gorzów Wielkopolski, the Archive of Poznań University of Physical Education,

² B.J. Kunicki, B. Woltmann (eds.), *Gorzowski ośrodek akademicki w latach 1971–1996*, Wyd. Polskie Towarzystwo Naukowe Kultury Fizycznej, Gorzów 1996. The group of authors: P. Godlewski, T. Jurek, M. Kołakowska-Kiełbasiewicz, B. J. Kunicki, L. Nowak, R. Turko, B. Woltmann.

³ T. Jurek (ed.), *35 lat działalności gorzowskiego ośrodka akademickiego Akademii Wychowania Fizycznego im. Eugeniusza Piaseckiego w Poznaniu (1971–2006)*, Monografie AWF w Poznaniu, nr 371, Wyd. Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego im. Eugeniusza Piaseckiego w Poznaniu, Poznań 2007. The group of authors: P. Godlewski, T. Jurek, J. Kuriańska-Wołoszyn, L. Nowak, J. Płaczek, G. Sopalak, R. Turko, B. Woltmann, T. Zaleska.

⁴ T. Jurek, D. Pilecka, *Pół wieku gorzowskiego ośrodka AWF im. Eugeniusza Piaseckiego w Poznaniu (1971–2021)*, Monografie AWF w Poznaniu, nr 460, Wyd. Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego im. Eugeniusza Piaseckiego w Poznaniu, Poznań 2021.

⁵ B.J. Kunicki (ed.), *Gorzowski ośrodek poznańskiej Akademii Wychowania Fizycznego w latach 1971–1986. Rozwój – dorobek naukowy – perspektywy*, Monografie AWF w Poznaniu, nr 242, Wyd. Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego im. Eugeniusza Piaseckiego w Poznaniu, Poznań 1986. The authors of the texts were: J. Gaj, B.J. Kunicki, M. Kwilecka, L. Nowak, S. Strzyżewski, B. Woltmann.

⁶ B.J. Kunicki, *Instytut Wychowania Fizycznego w Gorzowie Wlkp. (1971–2001)*, Wyd. Fundacja Rozwoju IWF „Academia” w Gorzowie Wlkp., Gorzów Wlkp. 2001.

⁷ T. Jurek, P. Pieczyński, *45-lecie Zamiejscowego Wydziału Kultury Fizycznej w Gorzowie*, Wyd. ZWK Gorzów Wlkp. 2016.

⁸ The other publications were listed in the footnotes and bibliography.

the Archive of the AWF Branch in Gorzów Wielkopolski, printed sources and thematic studies regarding the history of Gorzów academic centre of the AWF in Poznań. In accordance with historical methodology, the research material was analysed with the help of analysis and synthesis of historical sources, induction and deduction as well as comparative method. The authors put forward the following research problems:

1. What were the origins of the branch of Poznań University of Physical Education in Gorzów Wielkopolski?
2. Which faculties and forms of education were implemented in the years 1971–1984 and what were didactic outcomes in the area of physical culture?
3. What were external (socio-political, economic, regional) and internal (human resources, material, strategic) factors impacting the development of the Branch?

Results and discussion

The interest in a higher school in Gorzów Wielkopolski⁹ goes back to the post-war period of the 20th century. In the second half of the 40s, in the district town located on the north-western outskirts of Poznań province, there were talks about bringing a tertiary education institution to life. It was regarded as a civilisation advance and bigger development opportunities for the town in question. The town already hosted the Lower Theological Seminary (1946–1960)¹⁰ and the Higher Theological Seminary (1947–1961),¹¹ educating future priests, the latter one being the first educational establishment in the history located on the Warta river. Yet, there was no school of a larger range and profile of education for the inhabitants of the town and the whole region. Those aspirations could be attributed to the fact that in the years 1946–1950, Gorzów hosted the Branch of the Poznań Province Office and the voivode deputy held his office there.¹² From 1945, the town also enjoyed the prestigious status of the seat of the Apostolic Administration covering the seventh part of Polish territory, where bishops resided since 1956.¹³

⁹ Further on in the article, the authors use the widely-used, shortened name of the town, i.e. Gorzów.

¹⁰ J. Sikorski, *Niższe Seminarium Duchowne w Gorzowie. Powstanie i likwidacja (1946–1960)*, „Nadwarciański Rocznik Historyczno-Archiwalny” 2006, no 13, pp. 169–179.

¹¹ D. Mazurkiewicz, *Ingerencje Wydziału do Spraw Wyznań w Zielonej Górze w funkcjonowanie seminariów duchownych Kościoła gorzowskiego w latach 1946–1972*, „Studia Paradyskie” 2019, vol. 29, p. 76.

¹² See also: H. Szczegółta, *Działalność Ekspozytury Urzędu Wojewódzkiego Poznańskiego w Gorzowie Wlkp.*, „Przegląd Zachodni” 1967, no 5, pp. 109–124.

¹³ P. Socha, *Sylwetki administratorów apostolskich i biskupów diecezji zielonogórsko-gorzowskiej*, „Nadwarciański Rocznik Historyczno-Archiwalny” 1998, no 5, pp. 334–335.

Academic education in Gorzów was performed by E. Estkowski Teachers Training College (SN) established in 1958.¹⁴ It was founded on the traditions of Adam Mickiewicz Pedagogical Secondary School established in 1950.¹⁵ In the 60s, there was a need to establish a pedagogical higher education institution, which derived from the fact of these two former schools' existence and an acute shortage of teachers.¹⁶ Thanks to the approval of the province's and the town's political authorities, the attempts to establish a higher education institution gained new perspectives. The most important factor that contributed to the aforesaid idea of the Teachers Training College and sped the process of founding a new establishment was also a reform of pedagogic training that was about to shut down teachers' training centres within the framework of existing studies. Thus, in 1971, the SN in Gorzów was to be shut down as well.¹⁷ Facing the situation in question, the local government in Gorzów (the Municipal State Council) and the political one (the Municipal and Provincial Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party – PZPR) began to look for possibilities to establish a new institution or at least a branch in place of the former SN. The first opportunity was not approved by the provincial and central authorities as two new “developing” educational establishments were setting sail in the province's capital. In 1971, the Higher Teachers College in Zielona Góra was founded and in the reality of central planning the limit of higher education pedagogical institutions for the province was exhausted. There was only a compromise solution left – organizing a branch of an already existing tertiary education institution.¹⁸

¹⁴ Among 4151 graduates of this establishment, there were teachers – specialists in Physical Education with Biology and Pre-school Education with Physical Education. K. Stachura, *Leksykon gorzowski. Studium Nauczycielskie*, “Ziemia Gorzowska” Jednodniówka GTSK, Gorzów Wlkp. lipiec 1976, p. 21; J. Zysnarski, *Encyklopedia Gorzowa*, Wyd. Tekst, Bydgoszcz 2007, p. 596.

¹⁵ Pedagogical Secondary School (LP) in Gorzów existed in the years 1950–1970. The school was graduated by 771 students. Till 1964, both schools (LP and SN) were located in the same building at 13 Estkowskiego St. D. Koźmian, *Działalność Liceum Pedagogicznego imienia Adama Mickiewicza w Gorzowie Wielkopolskim w latach 1950–1970*, Wyd. PWSZ, Gorzów Wlkp. 2005, pp. 48, 51–52, 59, 64, 115.

¹⁶ Cf. D. A. Rymar, *Gorzów Wielkopolski w latach 1945–1998. Przemiany społeczno-polityczne*, Wyd. Dokument Oficyna Wydawnicza Archiwum Państwowego w Szczecinie, Szczecin – Gorzów Wlkp. 2005, pp. 257.

¹⁷ Written report – A. Natanek (in the authors' collection).

¹⁸ Higher School of Physical Education in Poznań (AWF since 1973) was established in 1950. Apart from the AWF in Warsaw and the Higher School of Physical Education (WSWF) in Cracow, it belongs to the oldest Physical Education teacher, coach and sports instructor training centres in Poland. In the years 1950–1974, it was a one-faculty establishment. Since 1969, it has had the right to grant PhD degrees, and since 1993 to grant post-doctoral degrees and run the procedure to obtain the professor's degree in the area of Physical Education and Physical Culture sciences. Up to 2021, 36 885 students graduated the school with the M.A. degree in Physical Education, Tourism and Recreation and Physiotherapy. The AWF in Poznań has granted 638 PhD degrees, 69 post-doctoral degrees and 25 professor degrees. More information on the

The fact of establishing the branch in Gorzów attracted the attention of the rector of the Higher School of Physical Education (WSWF) in Poznań, Prof. Stefan Bączyk.¹⁹ In the academic year 1970/1971, the rector appointed Prof. Zbigniew Drozdowski to be his representative dealing with the establishment of the Gorzów branch of the WSWF in Poznań. On April 24, 1971, the Head of the Main Committee of Physical Culture and Tourism issued the directive to establish the Poznań WSWF Branch in Gorzów.²⁰ Once the historical document was issued, Lech Erdmann, PhD²¹ became the proxy of the Branch rector. Further on, at the rector's request, he was appointed by Włodzimierz Reczko, the Head of the Main Committee of Physical Culture and Tourism, for the position of the Branch pro-vice chancellor, which he held till January 1, 1972. This new function of pro-vice chancellor was a sign that the WSWF authorities attributed a high rank to the Branch and were willing to witness its further development.²² Establishing the

history of the WSWF/AWF in Poznań can be found in: T. Jurek, M. Łuczak, I. Wyszowska, *Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego im. E. Piaseckiego w Poznaniu w latach 1950-2019*, Wyd. Naukowe UAM, Poznań 2019; J. Gaj (ed.), *Dzieje Akademii Wychowania Fizycznego w Poznaniu (1919–1994)*, Monografie AWF w Poznaniu, no 312, Wyd. Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego im. Eugeniusza Piaseckiego w Poznaniu, Poznań 1996; Z. Grot (ed.), *Dzieje poznańskiej Wyższej Szkoły Wychowania Fizycznego 1919–1969*, PWN, Poznań 1970.

¹⁹ Stefan Bączyk (1911–2001) was a distinguished biochemist. In 1939, he graduated from the Faculty of Chemistry at Poznań University. From 1947, he was affiliated to the Faculty of Medicine of Poznań University, and then the Medical Academy, where he worked till his retirement in 1982. He obtained his PhD degree (1950), post-doctoral degree (1960), professor's degree (1975). At the same time, he lectured at the WSWF/AWF (1954–1982), holding many functions such as the Head of the Institute of Sports Biochemistry, the Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education (1961–1965), the Rector (1965–1975). Altogether, he promoted 10 students with PhD degrees, including B. Sobańska from the Branch in Gorzów. See: T. Jurek, M. Łuczak, I. Wyszowska, *Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego...*, pp. 293–294, 341–346; oral report – I. Bączyk.

²⁰ Ordinance no 27 of the Head of the GKKFiT of 24.04.1971 (Zarządzenie nr 27 Przewodniczącego GKKFiT z dnia 24 IV 1971 r.) Dziennik urzędowy GKKFiT, no 3, item. 8.

²¹ Lech Erdmann (1931–2021) was educated and worked in Poznań. He studied at the WSWF (1951–1954, M.A. degree in 1957). He obtained his PhD degree at the AWF in Warsaw (1965, promoted by Prof. Halina Szwarz). He ran the first Physical Recreation Studio in Poland (1967–1972). In the years 1971–1974, he was the Head of the WSWF Branch in Gorzów. From 1974, he was a lecturer at the Faculty of Tourism and Recreation. Initially, he was the Head of the Institute of Theoretical Foundations and Recreation Programming (1974–1984) and the Institute of the Theory of Leisure Time and Recreation (1991–1997). He was the promoter of five PhD degrees, including L. Gębka and A. Wójtowicz from the Gorzów Branch of the AWF. See: Archiwum Zamiejscowego Wydziału Kultury Fizycznej w Gorzowie (AZWKFG), Akta osobowe L. Erdmanna; L. Erdmann, Z. Kozłowiecka-Tyll, *Instytut Teoretycznych Podstaw i Programowania Rekreacji w 60-lecie Akademickiego nauczania Wychowania Fizycznego*, Monografie AWF, nr 172, Wyd. Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego im. Eugeniusza Piaseckiego w Poznaniu, Poznań 1979, pp. 4–6, 9–10, 21; B. Pluta, *Lech Erdmann*, [In:] S. Bosiacki, M. Stuczyński, *40 lat kształcenia na Wydziale Turystyki i Rekreacji Akademii Wychowania Fizycznego im. Eugeniusza Piaseckiego w Poznaniu*, Poznań 2015, pp. 74–75; oral report – Lech Erdmann.

²² Many publications quote the year 1971, but till the end of this year, L. Erdmann was the rector's proxy. See: AZWKFG, Personal files of Lech Erdmann 1971–1974, The Rector's letter of

Branch of Poznań Academy in Gorzów also constituted part of a larger plan regarding Physical Education teachers' training and development as their number was scarce in Poland, and Zielona Góra province was not an exception.²³

Once the academic year 1970/1971 was over, on August 31, 1971 the SN was closed down and its facilities were gradually taken over by a new owner. All the SN property was inventoried and its facilities were quickly adapted to the needs of the WSWF. Former specialist classrooms were to fulfil a different function, being converted into didactic offices and teaching and research rooms. Teaching aids not needed any more were given to other schools, and the building at 13 Estkowskiego St. was gradually changing into a complete academic establishment, while a boarding house at 1 Nowotki St. became a dormitory with rooms for academy teaching staff. The value of the property taken over was estimated to be PLN 32 861 thousand, so it was significant.²⁴ Few SN teachers were given an opportunity to continue their career in the new establishment, while the majority of its staff were looking for new positions, mainly in secondary schools. The newly-opened Branch was looking for PhD employees, but there were only three of them with such qualifications in Gorzów (Maria Kwilecka, Kazimierz Stachura, Józefat Zywert), so, to a large extent, the teaching personnel was recruited from the outside. Nevertheless, it made it possible to employ only five teachers with PHD degree, which clearly showed staffing difficulties at that time. The rest of the teaching staff consisted of M.A. employees, mainly PE teachers, usually straight after graduation. The age average of the teaching personnel did not exceed 30, but there was great enthusiasm and faith in overcoming all the difficulties. For many people, the prestigious position of a junior lecturer was the fulfilment of their dreams and meant genuine social advancement.²⁵ Due to a challenging personnel situation in the Gorzów Branch, especially lack of specialists with PhD degrees, Rector's council took a decision to temporarily supplement the branch staff with specialists from the main establishment.²⁶

The Branch commenced symbolically its activity at the grand inauguration of the academic year on October 28, 1971. It was the first event of that kind in Gorzów, gathering not only 25 lecturers and 110 students, but also many guests, including Head Deputy of the GKKFiT (the Chief Committee of Physical Culture and Tourism), Leszek Benarski, and Head of the Provincial National Council

30.12.1971 appointing L. Erdmann for the position of pro-vice chancellor (Pismo rektora w sprawie powołania L. Erdmanna na funkcję prorektora z dnia 30.12.1971 r.)

²³ J. Gaj, B. Woltmann, *Rozwój i dorobek Zamiejscowego Wydziału Wychowania Fizycznego poznańskiej AWF w Gorzowie*, [In:] B. J. Kunicki (ed.), *Gorzowski ośrodek...*, p. 9.

²⁴ Kronika. Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego w Poznaniu, z. 16, 1971/72, Poznań 1973, p. 31.

²⁵ Written report – B. Woltmann (the authors' collection).

²⁶ T. Jurek, M. Łuczak, I. Wyszowska, *Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego...*, pp. 365–370.

(WRN) in Zielona Góra, Jan Lembas.²⁷ In his inauguration speech, Prof. S. Bączyk said, "[...] today's event is undoubtedly a special moment in the history of the province. It is the fulfilment of its community's dreams that has been striving for years to have such tertiary education at their disposal."²⁸ Further on, the dean of the Faculty of Physical Education, associate professor Wanda Rożynek-Łukanowska, led first year students' matriculation. The next day, "Gazeta Gorzowska", organ of the Provincial Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR), informed its readers of the inauguration ceremony on the first page of the issue.²⁹

In the first year of the Branch's activity, it was supervised by the rector's proxy (who obtained the title of pro-vice chancellor in 1972), associate professor, Lech Erdmann, PhD, who was supported by the Branch deputy dean, Bernard Woltmann, PhD³⁰ arriving from Kołobrzeg SN. The pro-vice chancellor focused on the Branch's development and contacts with his home establishment,

²⁷ Kronika..., z. 16, 1971/72, Poznań 1973, p. 25.

²⁸ The Rector said, "It is not a coincidence that Poznań Academy was given the task to create its Branch. We are the oldest Establishment in Poland, and the third in Europe, educating Physical Education specialists at the academic level. We are proud to employ highly-qualified specialists, lecturers and researchers among whom there are 14 professors and associate professors, 8 lecturers, 23 PhD specialists." Ibidem, pp. 28–29.

²⁹ "So, we already have three tertiary education institutions in Lubuskie Lands. *Gaudeamus igitur* could be heard for the first time at the inauguration of the academic year in the Branch of Poznań Higher School of Physical Education in Gorzów. In the morning, the students laid flowers at the monument of Victory and the monument of Adam Mickiewicz. Next, on the branch's premises, research and teaching staff took the oath of office at the hands of the dean, associate professor, dr hab. Wanda Rożynek-Łukanowska. The staff consisted mostly of the lecturers from the former Teachers Training College, and the rest of them came from Poznań. Lech Erdmann, PhD, was appointed the rector's proxy for the Branch in Gorzów. At 11:00 a. m., the ceremonial inauguration began in the school's auditorium. [...] The opening lecture entitled "The Role of Physical Culture in a Contemporary Society" was given by Prof. Zbigniew Drozdowski". "Gazeta Gorzowska" 1971, no 257.

³⁰ Bernard Woltmann (1932–2013) came from Szamocin. He graduated the WSWF in Poznań in 1954 r. For 48 years he worked in the field of education, out of which 41 years at Gorzów AWF (1971–2012). He was granted his M.A. degree (1958), PhD degree (1970), post-doctoral degree (1981) and professor's degree (1993). He was the Branch's pro-vice chancellor (1971–1982, 1984), education pro-vice chancellor (1982–1984), dean (1984–1987), rector deputy (1987–1990, 1993–1999), head of the Institute (1999–2003). He was the promoter of 21 PhD theses, including seven written by the employees of Gorzów AWF (P. Godlewski, T. Jurek, L. Nowak, P. Pieczyński, J. Płaczek, Z. Szafkowski, R. Urban) and over 500 M.A. theses. On the whole, he published 280 works. See: T. Jurek, R. Urban, *Profesor Bernard Woltmann 1932–2013. Nauczyciel i naukowiec*, PTNKF, Gorzów 2018; T. Jurek, B. Woltmann (1932–2013), *Kultura Fizyczna. Prace Naukowe Akademii im. Jana Długosza*, vol. 12, Częstochowa 2013, pp. 237–244; B. Woltmann 1932–2013 – *prekursor polonijnej kultury fizycznej*, [In:] T. Jurek, M. Łuczak, I. Wyszowska, *Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego...*, pp. 426–431, AZWKFG, Akta osobowe prof. Bernarda Woltmanna.

town and region authorities, and the Department of Physical Culture, whereas B. Woltmann predominantly took care of the teaching process and students' cultural-sports activity. The Branch's organizational-didactic structure mirrored the main establishment. The academic year 1971/1972 saw the opening of three laboratory units gathering 11 independent laboratories whose names referred to units in Poznań and its didactics. Apart from the laboratories' structure, there was also an autonomous laboratory of foreign languages. The following laboratory units initiated their activity in the first academic year: I. The Unit of Natural Foundations of Physical Culture (the Laboratory of Human Physiology, the Laboratory of Functional Anatomy), II. The Unit of Humanistic Foundations of Physical Culture (the Laboratory of Psychology, Pedagogy and Pre-School Education, Social-Political Sciences), III. The Unit of Theory and Methodology of Physical Education (the Laboratory of Methodology of Physical Education, Gymnastics, Music-Motor Exercise and Dance, Theory and Methodology of Athletics, Theory and Methodology of Team Games, Theory and Methodology of Swimming and Water Rescue, Theory and Methodology of Tourism and Campsites).³¹

On September 1, 1974, the rector created the post of the Branch's deputy dean for student affairs, which was initially occupied by Włodzimierz Puczyński, PhD³² (1974–1977), and later on by Wojciech Sroczyński, PhD³³ (1977–1980). Apart from the foundation of teaching and didactics structure, there were necessary administrative and technical facilities of the teaching process and scientific activities in the form of the administrative unit led by the administrative director deputy. He supervised and provided the following units with personnel: the vice-chancellor's Office, the Branch's secretariat, the library, the HR and Finance Department, the Teaching Department and the Dean's Office, the Stu-

³¹ L. Nowak, *Podstawy rozwoju uczelni*, [In:] T. Jurek, *35 lat działalności...*, pp. 9–10.

³² Włodzimierz Puczyński (1931–2011) came from Chojnice. He was an extramural student at the WSWF in Poznań (1953–1956, 1962–1965). He was granted his PhD degree in his alma mater in 1971. He worked in Gorzów AWF in the years 1972–1992 at the position of lecturer and associate professor. He also held the function of deputy dean for student affairs (1974–1977), for studies (1986–1987), for didactics (1987–1990), for extramural studies and training (1989–1990). He was also head deputy of the Institute of Physical Education and Sport (1984–1987), head of the Extramural Unit for Working Students (1977–1984). See: AZWKFG, Akta osobowe dra Włodzimierza Puczyńskiego; oral report – M. Puczyńska.

³³ Wojciech Sroczyński (born in 1944) graduated from Adam Mickiewicz University (UAM) in Poznań at the Faculty of Pedagogy (1969). He was granted his PhD degree at UAM in 1976, and his post-doctoral degree at the Faculty of Social Sciences of University of Warmia and Mazury (UWM) in Olsztyn (2009). He worked in Gorzów AWF in the years 1972–1994. During the term of 1977–1980 he was deputy dean for student affairs and head of the Institute of Pedagogy, Department of Pedagogy, Department of Pedagogy and Psychology. All in all, he published 142 works. See: AZWKFG, Akta osobowe dra Wojciecha Sroczyńskiego; written report – W. Sroczyński (in the authors' collection).

dents' Canteen and the Economic Department.³⁴ The first administrative head deputy of the WSWF for administrative and economic affairs in Gorzów Branch was Zygmunt Brzeziński (1971–1974), and then the post went to Marian Mielczarek (1974–1975), Krzysztof Kozłowski (1976–1978), Witalis Mańszewski (1978–1984).³⁵ In the initial period of its activity, the structure of Gorzów Branch underwent numerous modifications, catering for its current needs and reflecting the changes experienced by tertiary education in Poland. In the academic years to come, i.e. 1972/1973–1973/1974, the already existing laboratories were joined by the following ones: the Laboratory of Anthropology, the Laboratory of Biochemistry of Sport, the Laboratory of Biology, the Laboratory of Biomechanics, the Laboratory of Hygiene, the Laboratory of History and Organisation of Physical Culture, the Laboratory of Rehabilitation. Within the framework of the Laboratory of Physical Education and Sport, in 1975 the Laboratory of Various Sports Disciplines was created, followed by the Laboratory of Theory and Methodology of Sport in 1976. In the academic year 1977/1978, the Laboratory of Medicine (within the framework of the Unit of Natural Foundations of Physical Culture) was established. The restructuring process also covered the Military School founded in the academic year 1973/1974 and the Centre of Scientific Information operating at the library. To modernise the teaching process, the Laboratory of Teaching and Scientific Aids was created in 1977. Within the framework of managerial operations, during the pro-vice chancellor's meeting in 1975, a 10-year Regulations and Branch Development Plan up to 1985 was drawn. Due to the evolution of the organizational structure, in the academic year 1978/1979 the Branch had the following units at its disposal: the Branch Rectorate, Dean's Office, Secretariat, Independent Section for Employees Affairs, Independent Inventory Section, Finance Office, Investment-Technical Department, Administration and Economic Department, Scientific Information Centre, the Branch Main Library, Students' House. All the administrative and didactic units of the Branch operated in conjunction with their counterparts in Poznań establishment.³⁶

After three years of a fruitful activity, the term of L. Erdmann came to an end. He did not want to prolong his function in Gorzów. The lack of any candidates from alma mater made it possible for associate professor Tadeusz Łobożewicz, PhD³⁷ to take over. So far, he had been working in the AWF in War-

³⁴ W. Sroczyński, D. Stachura, *Działalność Filii Poznańskiej Akademii Wychowania Fizycznego w Gorzowie Wlkp. w latach 1971/72–1978/79*, Monografie AWF w Poznaniu, no 183, Wyd. Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego im. Eugeniusza Piaseckiego w Poznaniu, Poznań, 1979, pp. 7–8.

³⁵ T. Jurek, M. Łuczak, I. Wyszowska, *Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego...*, pp. 295–296; oral report – W.S. Kuhnert, F. Molski, J. Znoj.

³⁶ AZWKFG, Regulamin i plan rozwoju Filii do 1985 r. Maszynopis, Gorzów 1975.

³⁷ Tadeusz Łobożewicz (1935–2002) came from Toruń. In the years 1955–1959, he studied at the AWF in Warsaw, where he stayed after his graduation. He was granted his PhD degree in 1965, and his post-doctoral degree in 1992. In the years 1974–1976, he was pro-vice chancellor of

saw and in the Chief Committee of Physical Culture and Tourism. He gained experience while running the Consultation Point of the AWF in Łódź (1973–1974). The choice of the Warsaw lecturer for the term of 1974–1977 was surprising for Poznań Academy as its rector, Prof S. Bączyk was planning to appoint a candidate from Poznań.³⁸ After two years, associate professor Tadeusz Łobożewicz, PhD unexpectedly resigned from his post in Gorzów and during the academic year, at the end of April 1976 he came back to Warsaw. The issue of this unexpected leave and abandoning the Branch without any supervising authority resonated with the academic community in Poznań.³⁹ Years later, pro-vice chancellor T. Łobożewicz explained his disappearance by difficulties in acclimatizing in Gorzów and a negative mark of his post-doctoral procedure.⁴⁰

Surprised by the aforesaid situation and the vacancy at Gorzów Branch, rector S. Bączyk undertook an urgent search for a new candidate for the post of pro-vice chancellor for the Branch's affairs, which he found in the person of a distinguished historian, associate professor, dr hab. Jerzy Gaj.⁴¹ Due to the fact that he had organizational experience and knowledge about the AWF in Poznań, where he had previously worked for 15 years, J. Gaj agreed to the rector's proposal and at the beginning of May 1976 as a matter of urgency he began his duties as pro-vice chancellor in Gorzów. It marked the beginning of a long, 11-year period of stabilization as far as managing the Branch in Gorzów was concerned. In 1979, the post of the third pro-vice chancellor was created and that person was to be responsible for science matters in the Branch. The first person

the AWF Poznań Branch in Gorzów, where he headed the Unit of Natural Foundations of Physical Culture. In 1980, he came back to the AWF in Warsaw, where, in 1993, he became head of the Faculty of Tourism and Recreation and head of the Institute of Tourism and Recreation (1999–2000). From 1994, he was also professionally linked with Warsaw School of Economics. "Gazeta Wyborcza Stołeczna" 31.10.–1.11.2006, p. 24; K. Hądzulek, A. Mazur, *Słownik Biograficzny Pracowników CIWF i AWF*, vol. 3, Wyd. AWF w Warszawie, Warszawa 2002, pp. 33–35.

³⁸ Archiwum Centralne AWF w Warszawie (ACAWFW), Akta osobowe T. Łobożewicza, Pismo kierownika Działu Spraw Osobowych AWF w Warszawie Elżbiety Stasikowskiej z dnia 7.09.1974 r. o przeniesieniu doc. dra T. Łobożewicza z AWF w Warszawie do AWF w Poznaniu Filia w Gorzowie na okres trzech lat od 1.09.1974 do 30.09.1977.

³⁹ Written report – B. Woltmann (in the authors' collection).

⁴⁰ ACAWFW, Życiorys T. Łobożewicza z dnia 25.04.1984 r.

⁴¹ Jerzy Gaj (1929–2016) was born and raised in Leszno. He graduated from the WSWF in Poznań (1954) and the Faculty of History in UAM (1960), where he was granted his PhD degree (promoted by Prof. Zdzisław Grot). In 1973, he was granted his post-doctoral degree, and his professor degree in 1978. In the years 1954–1969, he was a lecturer of the WSWF in Poznań, and then from 1969 he worked in the newly-open WSWF in Gdańsk. In 1976, he arrived at the AWF Branch in Gorzów, where he was pro-vice chancellor (1976–1987) and head of the Institute of Humanities (1987–1991). He was the first lecturer of Gorzów Branch with professor degree, which he was granted in 1978. Altogether, Prof. J. Gaj published 160 works, and promoted 11 students with PhD degrees, including one from the AWF Branch in Gorzów (A. Natanek). See: AZWKFG, Akta osobowe prof. Jerzego Gaja, nr 1129; *J. Gaj (1929–2016) – współtwórca historii sportu i turystyki* [In:] T. Jurek, M. Łuczak, I. Wyżowska, *Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego...*, pp. 377–382.

appointed to this position was associate professor Lucjan Agapow, PhD (1979–1982).⁴² The main aim of pro-vice chancellor, J. Gaj's activity was an increase in the number of Branch's students and improvement of its teaching facilities. The first goal was not reached as in the years 1976–1984 the number of the AWF students in Gorzów remained constant, which mainly derived from the fact that more and more of them studied full time but, at the same time, from 1981, the number of part-time students was gradually decreasing.⁴³ On the other hand, a much needed, new teaching facility in the shape of the sports hall was built. Thanks to Prof. J. Gaj's efforts, in 1979, the AWF sports hall at Słowiańska St. was open.⁴⁴ The place was ideal for practical laboratories (and then faculties) running classes in the field of sports games, athletics and various sports disciplines, as well as the theory and methodology of sport. Once the sports complex at Słowiański Park was available, the situation of sports-teaching facilities of the Branch in the 80s could be considered satisfactory.

The first decade of the Branch's activity (1971–1981) was relatively calm, producing tangible results in the form of better teaching and learning conditions and promoting the first thousand of alumni. However, the end of this period is linked with dramatic events.⁴⁵ The mood in the Branch gradually polarized, and the establishment of the Staff Committee of the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union (NSZZ) "Solidarity" on November 10, 1980, and then the Independent Students' Association (NSZ) contributed to the surge of anti-system sentiment. It was reflected in students' strikes organized by the Independent Stu-

⁴² Lucjan Agapow (1934–2018) was from the region of Lublin. In 1957, he graduated from the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences of the University of Łódź. He was granted his PhD degree in 1971 (promoted by Prof. Franciszek Wojtas), post-doctoral degree in 1989, and the degree of Professor of Biological Sciences in 1999. In the years 1973–1990, 1991–1997 and 2000–2005 he worked at the AWF Branch in Gorzów, where he occupied the following positions: pro-vice chancellor for science (1979–1982), pro-vice chancellor for didactics (1990), head deputy of the Institute of Natural Foundations of Physical Culture (1984–1987), head of the Unit Complex (1976–1979), head of the Laboratory of Biology and Nature Protection (1973–1990). In the years 1990–2000, he was employed at the University of Szczecin, and in the years 2000–2002 he was lecturing at PWSZ (State Higher Vocational School) in Gorzów. See: J. Zysnarski, *Nekrolog gorzowski. Lucjan Agapow*, „Nadwarciański Rocznik Historyczno-Archiwalny”, nr 26, Gorzów 2019, pp. 499–500; AZWKFG, Akta osobowe prof. Lucjana Agapowa.

⁴³ Part-time students were recruited among active teachers and employees of physical culture institutions. The system of part-time studies with students applying after secondary school graduation did not exist yet.

⁴⁴ There were many locations taken into account as for the development of this complex: Estkowskiego, Żelazna St., Słowiański Park, Chwałęcice. See: Archiwum Państwowe w Gorzowie (APG), Urząd Miejski w Gorzowie, sygn. 788, Teczka: Lokalizacja ogólna i szczegółowa inwestycji 1977, volume 4, pp. 855–875.

⁴⁵ More information in: D.A. Rymar, *Niezależny Samorządny Związek Zawodowy Solidarność w Regionie Gorzów Wielkopolski w latach 1980–1982*, Wyd. Region Gorzów Wielkopolski NSZZ "Solidarność", Gorzów Wlkp. 2010.

dents' Association (NSZ) and supported by the lecturers – members of NSZZ "Solidarity". The peak of students' protests in the only Gorzów higher education institution fell for November and December 1981.⁴⁶ The strikes led to breaks in teaching activities. After the imposition of martial law and the ban on strikes, they were suppressed. There was a tense situation at the branch, illustrated by the fact that Prof. Eugeniusz Wachowski was forced to resign from his post under the threat of the university militarization and students being called up for military service. Facing the blackmail, the dean of the Faculty of Physical Education stepped down.⁴⁷ In the Branch, Adam Wójtowicz⁴⁸ was forced to resign from his deputy dean's post for student affairs on January 31, 1982. On the basis of the disclosed documents of the Provincial Defence Committee in Gorzów, it is possible to partly reconstruct the Branch's management actions towards its employees and students. On January 25, 1982, the Provincial Defence Committee (WKO) analysed the situation at the only higher education institution in the Province of Gorzów. Prof. Jerzy Gaj informed the members of the WKO in Gorzów that in accordance with the decision of this body, the Branch's authorities conducted the staff's evaluation and developed the action plan covering the aforesaid assessment and the ideological and educational work plan.⁴⁹ The province chancellor advocated staffing implications for some teachers.⁵⁰

⁴⁶ A. Marczyk, D.A. Rymar, *Warto było: Niezależne Stowarzyszenie Studentów, Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego w Poznaniu filia w Gorzowie Wielkopolskim – wspomnienia uczestników*, Wyd. Naukowe Państwowego Instytutu Badawczego w Radomiu, Radom, 2010, pp. 22–23.

⁴⁷ Archiwum AWF w Poznaniu, Akta osobowe prof. E. Wachowskiego, Ankieta osobowa.

⁴⁸ Adam Wójtowicz (ur. 1949) comes from Tomaszów Lubelski. He studied at the AWF in Poznań, and in 1972, after graduation he started working at Gorzów Branch of the AWF, which he was linked with up till 2008. He specialised in physical recreation, and he was granted his PhD degree in that field in his alma mater in 1980 r. (promoted by associate professor Lech Erdmann, PhD). In the years 1980–1982, he was deputy dean for student affairs. Under the pressure from the university authorities at the time, he stepped down from his office on 31.01.1982. He was head deputy for teaching-educational affairs at the Institute of Physical Education and Sport (1986–1990), head of the Faculty of Theory and Methodology of Tourism, Recreation, Various Sports and Combat Sports, and the Laboratory of Tourism and Recreation. See: AZWKFG, Akta osobowe dra Adama Wójtowicza; written report – A. Wójtowicz (in the authors' collection).

⁴⁹ The report no 010/82 from the WKO meeting of 25.01.1982 reads as follows, "Professor Gaj informed the members of the WKO that in accordance with the WKO's last decision, the AWF authorities conducted the staff's evaluation and developed the plan of future undertakings that consists of the following documents: general evaluation of the staff and students, ideological and educational work plan and the deans' offices undertakings (new arrangement of the academic year), the year shall be five weeks longer at the cost of winter courses, spring break and free Saturdays. The opinion was drawn in a 7-person group, where it was determined which staff members should be partially removed from teaching, and the decisions concerning the working regulations were taken." See: APG, Urząd Wojewódzki w Gorzowie Wlkp. (UWG), sygn. 1753, Protokół nr 010/82 z posiedzenia WKO 25.01.1982 r.

⁵⁰ No one from the whole university was interned at that time, and the group of rebellious teachers in Gorzów that should be fired was enlarged by deputy dean Adam Wójtowicz, PhD, Aniela

The beginning of 1982 is linked with an interesting event, not known so far. It concerned an unexpected attempt to establish an independent university in Gorzów on the base of the already existing Branch. It is proven by the reports of the Provincial Defence Committee, during which the invited guests, i.e. Prof. Jerzy Gaj and the First Secretary of the Works Committee (KZ) PZPR, associate professor Arkadiusz Ogródowczyk, PhD strongly advocated for the establishment of an independent university. They resorted to the Bureau of the WKO and the First Secretary of the Provincial Committee (KW) PZPR in Gorzów, Florian Ratajczak, to support their initiative. In the outcome of the discussion it was agreed that Prof. Jerzy Gaj, acting in the capacity of pro-vice chancellor, was to write a special letter to the head of the Chief Committee of Physical Culture and Tourism, Marian Renke, with supporting signatures of political and administrative authorities of Gorzów province and the proxy of the National Defence Committee. There is no information in the WKO meetings reports concerning further development of this project. Other surviving sources from the university are also silent.⁵¹ Prof. Aleksander Kabsch knew nothing of that initiative: he stated that the situation in Gorzów was tense at that time but he did not expect that such an idea of cutting off the Branch from its alma mater could arise.⁵²

Initially, the Branch developed largely thanks to the help provided by its alma mater, which proved priceless especially during the first stage.⁵³ In 1971,

Czarnecka, PhD and Tadeusz Rynkiewicz, PhD. Rector A. Kabsch, who arrived at the WKO meeting in Gorzów, supported the resumption of classes in Gorzów from February 1, 1982. See: APG, UWG, sygn. 1753, Protokół nr 012/82 z posiedzenia WKO z 1.02.1982 r., pp. 116–118.

⁵¹ APG, UWG, sygn. 1753, protokół nr 018/82 z posiedzenia WKO z 10.03.1982 r., pp. 236–238. The Provincial Commander of Citizens' Militia (MO) was critical of the Branch authorities' attitude. He claimed that, "[...] Prof. Gaj and Woltmann do not feel guilty, among all, because in November at the AWF the party's executive was smashed and now all of those who were against and as it turns out innocent, did what they could and are full of hope – they are running individual and group talks – that order should be restored." See: APG, UWG, sygn. 1753, Protokół nr 05/82 z posiedzenia WKO z 11.01.1982 r., p. 45.

⁵² Oral report – A. Kabsch.

⁵³ It is worth writing about Poznań lecturers who regularly commuted to Gorzów at the time of the Branch's activity: Prof. Stefan Bączyk (1971–1984), Krystyna Błachnio, M.A. (1971–1972), Józef Burbelka, M.A. (1974–1977), Prof. Zbigniew Drozdowski, Danuta Dytz-Świtek, PhD (1982–1983), Lechosław Dworak, PhD (1973–1976), Alicja Gajewska-Stańda, PhD (1972–1975), Danuta Harasymowicz, PhD (1982–1983), Marian Jakubowicz, PhD (1972–1975), Grzegorz Jarecki, M.A. (1975–1979), Maria Jaruga, M.A. (1982–1983), Andrzej Jastrzębski, PhD (1983–1984), Januarey Jaśkowski, PhD (1971–1973), Prof. Aleksander Kabsch (1973–1984), Teresa Kania-Gudzio, M.A. (1975–1983), Prof. Zdzisław Kołaczkowski (1971–1974), Bogdan Kosicki, PhD (1973–1974), Prof. Witold Kraśnik (1974–1983), associate professor Bogusław Marecki (1974–1976), Janina Mikołajczak-Bartz, PhD (1972–1975), Prof. Kazimiera Milanowska (1974–1983), associate professor Gertruda Olszewska, PhD (1971–1983), Wiesław Osiński, PhD (1974–1975), Tadeusz Ostrzycki, MD (1975–1976), Prof. Wanda Rożynek-Łukanowska (1971–1984), associate professor Janina Skarżewska, PhD – General Pedagogy and Pedagogy of Sport (1971–1972),

the Branch employed only 25 academic teachers, a laboratory employee and a librarian, whereas in 1975 there were more than 50 teachers.⁵⁴ In his report on the Branch operation in the academic year 1975/1976, pro-vice chancellor for the Branch, assistant professor, dr hab. Jerzy Gaj wrote highly of the staff's professional engagement and their scientific development during the first five years of the Branch's activity.⁵⁵ In the academic year 1977/1978, the number of employed teacher-assistants (trainees, assistants, senior assistants) equalled 47, there were 4 lecturers and senior lecturers, 10 adjunct professors, 3 assistant professors, 3 foreign language teachers, 6 librarians and employees of the Scientific Information Centre.⁵⁶

The development of research and teaching staff was crucial for the Branch and its functioning, which was emphasized many times in the reports and during the inauguration of a given academic year. The first lecturer of Gorzów Branch who was granted the professor's degree was associate professor dr hab. Jerzy Gaj (in 1978). This fact resonated in Gorzów and young Gorzów province. In the academic year 1979/1980, twenty employees were holders of PhD degrees, including five associate professors and one professor. At that time, thirty teachers were preparing their doctoral dissertations, thirteen of them had their doctoral theses open, and four employees were preparing their post-doctoral dissertations.⁵⁷ Up till 1984, 32 lecturers of Gorzów Branch were granted PhD degrees. All in all, there were 174 staff members employed at that time. There were 62 academic teachers among them. In the following academic year, there were 40 M.A. degree holders, 27 PhD degree holders, four associate professors and one professor.⁵⁸ In 1984, the Branch employed 94 academic teachers, including seven independent research employees (1 professor, 7 staff members with their post-doctoral degrees, 41 PhD degree holders and 45 M.A. degree holders).

In the years 1971–1984, students could only study at the Faculty of Physical Education. They could choose a teaching specialization or a training one, and

Prof. Zdobysław Stawczyk (1971–1980), Ryszard Strzelczyk, PhD (1974–1982), Col. Jerzy Swarowski, M.A. (1972–1973), Piotr Sworowski, PhD (1983–1984), Seweryn Toboła, PhD (1971–1973), associate professor Eugeniusz Wachowski, PhD (1974–1984), Stanisława Wasilewska-Hładka, PhD (1974–1982), Andrzej Winkler, M.A. (1974–1982), Stanisław Wylegalski, PhD (1974–1984), Ewa Ziolkowska, PhD (1983–1984). The employees listed above were mentioned with their academic degrees and titles from the period of their work in the AWF Branch in Gorzów. See: L. Nowak, *Aneksy*, [In:] B. J. Kunicki, *Gorzowski ośrodek...*, p. 85.

⁵⁴ In the first year of the Branch's activity, 15 teachers of the former Teachers College started their work there. Archiwum Państwowe w Gorzowie, Urząd Miejski w Gorzowie, sygn. 711, Teczka: Plany wieloletnie 1976, volume I, p. 104.

⁵⁵ *Kronika...*, 1976/77, z. 21, Poznań 1978, p. 39.

⁵⁶ *Kronika...*, 1977/78, z. 22, cz. I, Poznań 1979, p. 41.

⁵⁷ *Kronika...*, z. 24, 1979/80, z. Poznań 1981, p. 47.

⁵⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 40.

various forms of studying, both full time and part time. In the academic year 1971/1972, 110 full time students started their education in the field of Physical Education and Pre-School Education. The recruitment process was conducted in Poznań. Only in June 1972, the first recruitment process was conducted in Gorzów. Some candidates came from a supplementary recruitment process conducted in Poznań.⁵⁹ In the following year, the teaching process covered 3-year vocational studies at the Faculty of Physical Education, without pre-school education. In 1973, due to the changes in educational programmes, four-year M.A. studies were initiated also in Gorzów. First M.A. diplomas of Physical Education in the history of Gorzów Branch were given to 56 alumni in 1975.⁶⁰ It is worth adding that in January 1973, the Extramural Unit for Working Students commenced its activity, running part-time studies.⁶¹

There was a great need for such a teaching institution in Gorzów, which was illustrated by the recruitment process conducted in June 1976, when the number of candidates exceeded the number of places. The general number of students in the academic year 1975/1976 was over 900 – 513 full-time and 393 part-time, extramural students.⁶² In 1981, the overall number of graduates exceeded 1000 people, and in 1984 it equalled 1376. The students mainly came from the area of former Gorzów, Zielona Góra, Koszalin and Szczecin provinces. After graduation, they usually came back to their hometowns and cities and most often worked as Physical Education teachers at school. Many of them got promoted and worked as heads of educational institutions. Three graduates from the aforementioned period became Members of Parliament (Elżbieta Rafalska, Stefan Strzałkowski, Wojciech Ziemniak).

Conclusion

Concluding, it can be stated that in the years 1971–1984, the Branch created organisational, personnel and material foundations of the teaching process and scientific research. The help of Poznań Academy proved priceless at that time, as it supported its branch with their employees, i.e. professors, associate professors and PhD degree holders, who regularly organized lectures and seminars and who were severely lacking in Gorzów. As a result of this academic activity, one could notice the development of teaching staff (one professor, three post-

⁵⁹ T. Jurek, P. Pieczyński (eds.), *45-lecie Zamiejscowego Wydziału Kultury Fizycznej w Gorzowie Wlkp. 1971–2016*, Gorzów Wlkp. 2016, p. 14.

⁶⁰ T. Jurek, P. Pieczyński (ed.), *45-lecie....*, p. 16.

⁶¹ During the first graduation of part-time students in 1976, 123 alumni received their diplomas. *Kronika...*, z. 19, 1974/75, Poznań 1976, p. 396.

⁶² *Kronika...*, z. 22, cz. I, 1977/78, Poznań 1979, p. 43.

doctoral degree holders and 32 PhD degree holders were promoted) and completing M.A. studies by 1376 alumni. The AWF students environment contributed to the enrichment of the town's cultural life by new artistic projects in the form of the International Student Week, Lubuskie Student Spring and others. Thanks to the achievements of students training in the AZS AWF students club and other associations, in the years 1971–1984 Gorzów belonged to mid-size towns with the biggest sports potential in Poland. On the other hand, the Branch employees contributed to the intellectual and cultural life of Gorzów, creating new regional associations and enriching the activity of already existing ones. The educational establishment changed the town's image, especially after 1975 when Gorzów province was created and it has definitely made a positive mark on the history of Gorzów.

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