

THE INFLUENCE OF THE 1918 CONCORDAT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CATHOLIC PRESS IN THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF POLAND

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Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to examine the influence of the 1918 Concordat on the development of the Catholic press through a comparative analysis of the Catholic press and the press as a whole published in 1918-1939. The data used come from the publication of the Central Statistical Office, industry statistical publications and publications of press researchers of that period.

The results of the analysis are the collected quantitative data of the Catholic press and the press as a whole for individual years, broken down into data sources. The results of the study provide an image confirming the thesis about the influence of the concordat on the development of the Catholic press of the Second Republic of Poland.

Keywords: Concordat 1925, Catholic Press of the Second Republic of Poland, Polish Press 1918-1939, Constitution 1921,1935.

Introduction

In the beginning there was the Word – the first words of the Gospel according to St. John[Holly Bible of the New Testament,1955, p.265]. It refers to God; however, it is the essence of expressing and transmitting thoughts[Goban-Klas, 2005, p.11]. The word occupies a leading position in the activities of the Church, it is a live word as well as a printed word [Mysiek, 1966, p.189].

In Europe, the first work that was printed using movable type was the Gutenberg Bible, it was also the first religious book printed on a massive scale[Goban- Klas, 2005, p.69].

During the interwar period, the church's definition of the press was outlined by Fr. Ludwig Civardi, he divided it into two groups, the good press and the bad press. The press that possessed the features of the good press could be the Catholic press. In 1935, Fr. PhD. Bolesław Kominek wrote: »There is no doubt that today the opinion of a given

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environment is being made, prominently and even predominantly by printed word«[Ks. Kominek, 1935].

The Catholic Church devoted much attention to the development of Catholic publications and press, it was one of the most important links in the Church's activity[Mysłek, 1966,s.189.]. Independence in 1918 and the friendly attitude of state authorities were a strong stimulus for the development of the Catholic press. The Catholic press of the Second Republic of Poland is a mosaic of types and levels, from professional magazines to official, social and political publications. It is also a press published by parishes, movements and church campaigns, or a very powerful religious press.

One of the most important events for the Catholic press in the interwar period was the May coup in 1926. It was the moment when the hierarchy of the Catholic Church distanced itself from state power. Wanting to be above party disputes, the Church began to build its own press, in it, the information and political press.

The religious press of the interwar period is mostly in the Polish language and almost exclusively the press of the Catholic Church. The Catholic press of this period is a publishing power, the largest press with the largest number of magazines and the rate of quantitative development exceeding the press as a whole.

The strong position of the Catholic Church in the Second Republic of Poland resulted in the serious influence of the Catholic press on the face of the press and publishing production. A strong emphasis was placed on the press and publishing activities, and actions were directed in three directions: exerting pressure on political parties and state administration to limit anti-religious or secular press, creating their own publishing base, and in pastoral activities supporting their own Catholic press [Paczkowski, 1971, pp. 293-295].

The bishops participating in the Gniezno conference on 17-20 September 1928, considered the most important tasks, i.e., the organization of press centers and the improvement of press distribution. However, the resolutions of the plenary council of 1936 obliged »bishops to create in their dioceses a press fund to support and spread Catholic publications«[Olszar, 2004, pp. 37.41].

However, the most important legal act that outlined the limits of the Catholic Church in the Second Republic of Poland, and indirectly gave the basis for the development of the press, was the concordat.

It can be assumed that over the centuries, concordats regulated the functioning of the Catholic Church in the legal systems of states, nations and communities, defining their legal framework, imposing duties and giving privileges. The privileges depended on the position and role that the Catholic Church played at a given historical moment [Nowaczyk, Stachowski, 1989, p.7].

The influence of the concordat on the legal system of the Second Republic of Poland was visible in the constitution of 1921. It states that the Roman Catholic denomination is the religion of the overwhelming majority of the nation and that it holds the supreme position among the equal rights in the state, and the Catholic Church is governed by its own laws. This record functioned until the end of the interwar period. In addition, the relationship between the state and the Church was determined on the basis of a treaty with the Holy See [The Act of 17 March 1921 - the Constitution of the Republic of Poland].

The concordat with Poland that was concluded in interwar Europe was one of the most beneficial for the Church [Nowaczyk, Stachowski, 1989, pp. 18, 9, 23]. The most important legal acts regulating the position of the Catholic Church in the period of the Second Republic of Poland were: the March Constitution of 1921, the Concordat of 1925, and the April Constitution of 1935 [Mysłek, 1966, p.13.].

Among the scientific papers describing the various levels of the concordat concluded in 1925, the following articles can be mentioned: Zbigniew Cieślak, State-Church Rela-

tions in the Second Republic of Poland in the light of the Concordat of 1925, J. Szczepaniak, Conflict between the State and the Church regarding executive regulations for the 1925 Concordat on matters related to religious education in schools, J. Krasowski, Polish Concordat from 1925 Genesis-resolution-execution. Comparative works: Benedykt Glinkowski, Legal regulations of Polish concordats from 1925 and 1993 in relation to immovable property of the Catholic Church, doctoral thesis by Bartłomiej Szymon Urbanowicz, Property matters of the Catholic Church in concordats from 1925 and 1993. Legal and comparative study, Stanisław Gąsior Regulation of relations between the church and the state in Polish concordats from 1925 and 1993. One should also mention the books from the period of the Second Republic of Poland by Edmund Bursche, History of Concordats or Stanisław Łukomski, Concordat concluded on February 10, 1925 between the Holy See and the Republic of Poland.

No works, however, examine the impact of the concordat on the development of the Catholic press of the interwar period.

Methodology and scope of research

The analysis of the development of the Catholic press of the interwar period through the prism of the concluded concordat is an attempt to answer the question whether the international agreement of the concordat contributed to the development of the Catholic press in 1918-1939.

The subject of the analysis is the quantitative development of the press. The research was subjected to the Catholic press from 1918-1939. It was checked whether the quantitative development of the Catholic press was part of the general trends of the press development in that period. The study assumed that the ratification and entry into force of the concordat had no impact on the development of the secular press. It seems reasonable to assume that the development of the press was influenced by the legal system of the Second Republic of Poland, regulating the freedom and limitation of the press, and based on the constitution.

Andrzej Paczkowski, speaking about the conditions for the development of the press, distinguished two factors [Paczkowski, 1971, p.9]. General factors - political, socio-cultural and economic as well as specific factors, press legislation and technical conditions.

Political factors can be considered as decisive. This is indicated by the fact that the development of the press depends on the appropriate political and legal conditions that are a catalyst for this development [Notkowski, 1982, pp. 124, 500-502, Paczkowski, 1980, pp. 10-16]. It should be noted that the development of the press here is understood very narrowly and has been limited to a quantitative analysis of published magazines. However, it is a reflection of the condition of the press of that period.

The material for the quantitative analysis was Central Statistical Office data, the Newspapers and Magazines Registry of the Republic of Poland and the PARA Press Catalog. Data from the Central Statistical Office is the Statistical Yearbook, and Small Statistical Yearbook. The statistical data presented in the books of Andrzej Paczkowski *The Polish Press 1918-1939* and Andrzej Notkowski *The Polish Provincial Press of the Second Republic of Poland* were also used. The analysis of the Catholic press was mainly based on a study by Zygmunt Zieliński entitled *Bibliography of Catholic Religious Magazines in Poland 1918-1939*.

The term "Catholic Church" should be understood as the Roman Catholic ecclesial structure under the Holy See, representing four liturgical rites in the Polish territories: Roman Catholic (Latin), Greek Catholic (Uniate), Armenian Catholic and Byzantine Slavonic [Derdej, 2013, p. 18.].

Concordat [Latin. concordia 'agreement'], meaning an international agreement concluded between the state and the Catholic Church (Roman Catholic), regulating the legal

situation of the Church in a given state. The contents of the mutually negotiated and accepted concordat is signed by the competent representatives, ratified and published, takes legal effect and becomes the applicable church and state law [Encyclopedia of the "whitespots", 2003, p.9].

Press according to the PWN dictionary [Latin *presso* 'stamping'], is general printed works with a regular frequency of publishing, and covering all types of periodicals, i.e. daily newspapers, newspapers, weeklies, monthlies, quarterly magazines, biyearlies and yearbooks, in the ordinary sense of daily newspapers and newspapers (press of general content) and weeklies (magazines) with general content [https://encyklopedia.pwn., 08.10.2018.].

Walery Pisarek described this as a group of collectively edited periodicals published at least once per quarter under a common title and with current numbering to shape social attitudes by means of informing and commenting on them, and characterized by significant news content, versatility of subject matter, public accessibility and anonymity and diversity of recipients [Pisarek, 1978, p.14.].

For the analysis of the Catholic press, Polish-language printed materials were chosen, such as: journals, materials appearing 2-3 times a week, weeklies, bi-weekly magazines, monthlies, bimonthly periodicals, quarterly periodicals, irregular journals appearing at least once per quarter, chronicles, indications, additions. Foreign language materials, dailies, lists, letters - in the form of magazines, calendars and calendars, catalogs, censuses, messages, reports, schematisms, circulars, yearbooks and semi-annuals - are not included.

The Catholic press is a means of social communication in the form of periodicals that recognize the Christian hierarchy of values [Catholic Encyclopedia, 2012), p.263]. This is part of the religious press created and published by ecclesiastical and secular institutions.

Constitution

Poland regaining independence in 1918 was associated with the creation of new state structures and put a number of issues before the young state to regulate the legal, social or economic nature. The three different legal systems inherited from the partitioning powers had to be changed and adapted to one state area.

The adoption of the *Small Constitution* on 20th February 1919 opened the way to the creation of legal regulations for an independent Poland in the interwar period [Ajnenkiel, 1968, p.38].

Historically, the period of the Second Polish Republic can be divided into three stages. The first was the years of parliamentary rule in 1918-1925, then the authoritarian rule of 1926-1930 and then the years of crises in 1931-1939.

The initial period is the time of the creation of state structures and the construction of publishing institutions. In November 1918, around 400 magazines appeared in Polish territories [Paczkowski, 1971, p.31]. After regaining independence, there was a rapid growth of the political and information press. For the most part, it was a right-wing and centrist press, but there was also a democratic, liberal and left-wing press

The freedom of the press in the interwar period was guaranteed by the constitution. However, this freedom was limited and even referred to as a presumption of freedom. This was nothing new in the European constitutionalism of that period. Another, were the provisions of the American constitution, where in the first amendment, apart from freedom of speech, freedom of the press was explicitly guaranteed [Sokolewicz, 2011, p. 58].

The Constitution of 1921 guaranteed the freedom of the press, and the completion was a point that guaranteed the freedom to express their thoughts and beliefs. The principle of preventive censorship and the concession system for publishing printed

matter, as well as the guarantee of the freedom of distribution were rejected. Repressive censorship functioned.

This constitution, in art. 105, states that "freedom of the press is guaranteed." Censorship, or a concession system for publishing prints cannot be introduced. The national postal debit may not be taken away from newspapers and magazines, or their dissemination in the territory of the Republic of Poland limited [Sokolewicz, 2011, p. 58]. A separate law will determine the liability for abuse of this freedom".

The attitude towards the Catholic Church is defined in art. 114, where we find the entry "Roman Catholic confession," which is the religion of the overwhelming majority of the nation, holds in the State the supreme position among the equal rights of denominations.

The Catholic Church (Roman Catholic) is governed by its own laws. The attitude of the State to the Church will be determined on the basis of an agreement with the Holy See, which is subject to ratification by Parliament".

However, in reference to other religions, their internal laws may not be in conflict with applicable law. In art. 115 of the Constitution, the following entry reads: »Churches of religious minorities and other legally recognized religious associations are governed by their own laws, which the State will not refuse to recognize unless they contain provisions contrary to the law. The attitude of the State to these Churches and religious denominations will be determined by law upon communication with their legal representations« [The Act of 17 March 1921 - the Constitution of the Republic of Poland].

The April Constitution of 1935 limited freedom of speech to the "general good", it was a broad concept where borders were difficult to determine [Paczkowski, 1971, s.16].

Chapter V of the Constitution, i.e. art. from 87 to 124 lost their binding force. Only art. 5 stated, "1- The individual's creativity is the lever of collective life, 2- The state provides citizens with the opportunity to develop their personal values and freedom of conscience, words and associations, 3- The limits of these freedoms are the common good"[Constitutional Act of April 23, 1935].

Concordat

The agreement concluded on 23rd September 1122 in Worms, also known as the Pactum Callixinum between Emperor Henry V and Pope Kalikst II, is considered to be the first concordat. This concordat finishes the struggle for investiture between the empire and the papacy[Nowaczyk, Stachowski, 1989, p. 9].

The first concordat which reversed the relationship between the state and the Church and opens a new stage of concordat policy, is the concordat of July 15th, 1801, concluded between Pius VII and the government of the French Republic.

Beginning with the first Concordat of Worms, such agreements in their nearly one thousand-year history have had a huge impact on legislation and the shape of the rulers 'and states' policies.

The ratio of the Roman Curia to the legal order of the states can be determined in several ways, one of the extreme examples of such a relationship are the nineteenth-century concordats between the Pope and Austria or Spain de facto giving their legislation under the authority of the Roman Curia.

The opposite is the concordat with Joseph Bonaparte, where the Roman curia, willing to save the signing of the concordat, was willing to rescue the split in the French church for all conditions.

To sum up, it can be stated that the Roman Curia contained such concordats as the other side allowed. The Concordat concluded on February 10th, 1925 with Poland, was one of the most favorable for the Holy See at that time. Announced in art. 114 of the March Constitution of 1921, it was signed on May 30th, 1925. The exchange of

instruments of ratification took place in Warsaw on June 2nd, 1925, and the text was announced on July 18th, 1925[Nowaczyk, Stachowski, 1989, p. 18, 19,23].

As it is stated in art. 1 of the Concordat "The Catholic Church, without distinction of rites, will enjoy full freedom in the Republic of Poland. The state provides the Church with the freedom to exercise its spiritual power, its jurisdiction as well as the free administration and management of its affairs and its estate, in accordance with divine laws and canon law [Concordat between the Holy See and the Republic of Poland, signed in Rome on 10th February 1925].

From the most important provisions in the concordat, it should be recognized that unlike other concordats that the Holy See contained, there was no clause stating that the Church's powers cannot be contrary to the Polish legal system. The concordat assured the bishops of the decisive influence on the choice of religion teachers in all types of schools and introduced the duty of this teaching. Buildings serving religious purposes were exempt from all fees, and the clergy were to receive salaries and pensions until the properties occupied by the partitioning authorities were settled.

The concordat also does not mention the influence of the state on the selection of clerical positions outside the veto law in special cases, and the clergy received the right to communicate with their superiors without the control of secular authorities. In criminal proceedings before civil courts, the clergy had rights that were not available to other citizens.

The proposals of the church side were larger and not all the demands were taken into account. The most important are the recognition of the Roman Catholic religion as a state religion, the adoption of the principle of a denominational school and the introduction of Catholic marriage legislation [Derdej, 2013, p. 24-25].

The Concordat concluded with Poland in 1925 had many opponents, especially from leftist groups criticizing large concessions to the church as well as the clergy which counted on greater privileges.

In the Parliament of the first term, the anti-clerical programme was presented by two political groups of the PSL "Liberation" and ZPPS. They appealed unfavorably to the concordat and considered it to be the manifestation of Poland's submission to the Vatican State [Łukaszewicz, 2006].

After the ratification of the concordat, the church had an unrestricted and unlimited opportunity to carry out its mission. The proclamation of the word by the press was one of the most important. The Catholic press did not possess special privileges, yet it was able to develop steadily in a state of constant political tensions and upheavals. It had an unfettered scope due to authority in the provisions of the concordat.

Such provisions are: Article 1, which gave the freedom to exercise spiritual authority, jurisdiction, administration and management of its affairs and property, art.2 guaranteed to the clergy freely to publish bans, orders and pastoral letters, art. 4 imposed the obligation of civil authorities to enforce the provisions and decrees of the church, Article 5 equated clergy in the performance of their duties with officials, art. 15 spoke about the exclusion of objects and institutions from the tax obligation for religious worship and which did not provide personal income to the beneficiaries and Annex A to Art. 24 specifying the height of speculation granted to the Catholic Church by the Polish State [Concordat between the Holy See and the Republic of Poland, signed in Rome on 10th February 1925].

Press

The religious press of the Second Republic of Poland was primarily the Catholic press. In 1936, 225 religious journals included 199 Catholic. Divided by thematic groups, the religious press was in fourth or fifth place.

The foundations for the development of the Catholic press of the interwar period were laid already in the times of partitions.

The activities of Catholic priests such as: Father Józef Stojałowski (1845-1911) contributed to this, he published at least 22 press titles, including *Crown and a Bee* [Myśliński, 1991]. Ks. Józef Kłos (1870-1938), editor of the *Catholic Guidebook*, published since 1895, the oldest Polish weekly published till the present day [<https://www.przewodnik-katolicki.pl>]. Ks. Ignacy Kłopotowski (1866-1931), considered a »pioneer of the Catholic press in Poland« Thanks to his timeless vision, he broke old ideas and shaped a new approach to the Catholic press [Adamski, 2010].

Geographically, the largest number of religious magazines appeared in Poznań, which was the largest publishing center of the Catholic Church. Then there were Krakow and Lviv and Warsaw. The worst Catholic press was represented in eastern regions.

The phenomenon seems to be the activity of the Franciscan Maximilian Maria Kolbe who, without money, in the country ruined by the First World War created the largest publishing center in Niepokalanów [<http://www.nasza-arka.pl>]. In Niepokalanow of fathers Franciscans, in 1936, 3 letters were issued with a total one-off circulation of approx. 1.2 million copies.

The second in this respect is the Warsaw publishing house of the Missionary Association of Fr. Pallottines publishing 4 magazines with a circulation of 360,000 copies, followed by a Jesuits' Krakow publishing house with 8 magazines and a circulation of 190,000 copies, as well as a printing house in Poznań and St. Wojciech Bookstore with two magazines and a total circulation of about 200,000 copies

Catholic magazines in 1936 accounted for 27% of total expenditure in relation to 8% of published titles. From 1927, the Catholic Press Agency started to operate, and from 1928 the Episcopal Press Commission with its counterparts in all dioceses [Paczkowski, 1971, pp. 9-16].

Already at the beginning of the twenties, various circles of the episcopate initiated social movements such as the Catholic League to work for the development of the Catholic press. In the 1930s, the first and the Plenary Synod, which took place in Częstochowa in 1936, dealt with the development of Catholic press and publications. It devoted the whole chapter to the press and publishing houses, stating the position of the church authorities in the form of a resolution of the categorically valid for the Catholics [Mysiek, 1966, p.196].

Wiesław Mysiek in the book *Catholic Church in Poland in the years 1918-1939* writes that many factors contributed to the development of the Catholic press in the interwar period. One of the most important ones is sufficient funds of publishing houses, which did not feel financial disadvantages. The development of Catholic writings was mainly influenced by political considerations. After the May coup we see a visible separation of the interests of the ruling political parties and the church.

The process of secularizing the society also influenced the development of the press. The church hierarchy, wanting to counteract and suppress the process of secularization, carried out activities resulting in an increase in the number of titles published in the press. For the most part, these were devotional letters. The network of parish and diocesan press was also expanded.

Church magazines of the Second Republic of Poland can be divided into several groups depending on what criterion we accept. According to the publisher, we can divide them into bishops curia, religious orders, ecclesiastical organizations, parishes [Mysiek, 1966, p.218]. Bp. Mariusz Leszczyński describing magazines in the Archdiocese of Lviv in the years 1918-1939 divided them, according to the criterion of provenance and type, into: official, theological and scientific, ecclesiastical organizations, associations and associations, devotional and other, calendars, informers [Leszczyński, 2014].

Quantitative data

When examining the press of the interwar period, including the Catholic press, we encounter a problem in the form of incomplete quantitative data and discrepancies in the statistical data of individual researchers. The numerical data of titles issued in individual years is different in Notkowski, Czarnowska, Jarkowski [Paczkowski, 1980, p.406] or official data (CSO). However, these are not the differences that change the way we look at the development of the press of that period.

These differences as well as data that are residual and incomplete in the periods 1918-1922 [Paczkowski, 1980, p.404], 1938-1939 do not affect the research assumptions of this analysis. It only shows the trends and the picture of the quantitative development situation [Notkowski, 1982, Paczkowski, 1980, p.52]. For the period 1918-1926, that is before the adoption of the concordat, the growth rate was similar for Catholic belts and press in general.

Comparing Czarnowska's [Paczkowski, 1980, pp .404-406] data and data from the bibliography of Catholic religious periodicals *Zieliński, Bibliography of Catholic religious periodicals in Poland in 1918-1939* [Zieliński, 1981] from 1918 and 1926, the Catholic press shows similar dynamics of growth. One can risk a statement that the subsequent acceleration of the development of the Catholic press resulted from the adoption by the Second Republic of a concordat with the Holy See.

In the years adopting the takeover of the concordat, that is after 1926, the rate of quantitative development of the religious press exceeded the pace of development of the Polish press as a whole. For example, according to statistics of the Central Statistical Office, in 1926 there were 109 religious publications and in 1935 as many as 302, which is about a 2.5-fold increase in the global number of titles by about 1.6 times [Paczkowski, 1971, p. 293.].

The first official quantitative research of the press of the Second Republic of Poland is in 1924/1925, conducted by the Press Department of the Ministry of the Interior, from 1929 the Bibliographic Institute of the National Library in Warsaw took it over. Statistical publications were kept by the Central Statistical Office. Quantitative studies were also conducted by journalists Stanisław Jarkowski and Piotr Grzegorzcyk [Paczkowski, 1971, p. 404.].

Maria Czarnowska in her research on press statistics in the years 1918-1923 relied mainly on Jarkowski's information. The research on the amount of published press was also conducted by Andrzej Notkowski [Paczkowski, 1971, p. 405.].

It is worth noting that in the years 1926-1931 only the state for the whole year was included in the statistics, whereas in 1923-1925 the state was recorded for one day a year. For 1938 and 1939, there is no statistical data from the Central Statistical Office.

The first *List of Newspapers and Magazines of the Republic of Poland* was published in 1921. With subsequent releases it was expanded, developed and refined. The first edition has not been analyzed, the second edition of 1922 contains the section Church and Religious, where we find 53 items.

The second edition consists of seven parts: I List of newspapers and magazines and the alphabetical order of cities, II List of newspapers and magazines and the alphabetical order of names, III. Daily Polish press and official letters, IV Professional and special Polish press, Foreign Press in Poland, V Polish press outside the borders of the Republic of Poland [<http://mbc.cyfrowemazowsze.pl>]. The first three editions bear the edition number.

A list of newspapers and magazines of the Republic of Poland and an advertising guide published by the Publications Office Teofil Pietraszek includes materials on the

amount of published press from the parliament library, press department of the Ministry of the Interior and the Government Commission [<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl>]. The Polish Advertising Agency in 1925 publishes the third annual *Catalog of the Press PARA*, earlier published in 1921 under the name *The First Directory of Newspapers and Magazines* Franciszek Krajna, which included periodical publications in Poland and the Polish press abroad.

In the first edition of the Second Republic of Poland List of Magazines and Newspapers, the letters were divided into four parts. Political, educational and social writings with further geographical distribution A. Western Poland, B. Poland Kongresowa, C. Małopolska, D. Górny Śląsk, E Outside Poland. The next chapter contains professional letters that are divided into: medical, pharmaceutical and chemical, commercial, industrial, agricultural, craft, clerical, Trade unions, sports. Foreign-language writings were divided into: French, German, Russian, Rusyn and Jewish. The last chapter includes advertisements.

In the fourth edition for 1928, the section "Religious" appears in Part VI, divided into Catholic, Orthodox, Evangelical, Baptist [<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl>].

Table 1. Church and religious press (Roman numerals - issue numbers)

Year	List of newspapers and magazines of the Republic of Poland. Polish Advertising Agency. Acc. (from 1925) PARA Press Catalog	List of newspapers and magazines of the Republic of Poland and advertising guide Teofil Pietraszek
1918		
1919		
1920		
1921	I	I
1922	II	II 53
1923	II	
1924		III 62 (1924/1925)
1925	III	III 62 (1924/1925)
1926		
1927		81
1928	IV 87	
1929	V 105	140
1930	VI 141	
1931	VII 136	
1932		151
1933	VIII 135	
1934		
1935		
1936	X 176	
1937		
1938	XI 217 (1938/1939)	
1939	XI 217(1938/1939)	

Data source: List of newspapers and magazines of the Republic of Poland. Press Catalog PARA Year 1928,1929,1930,1931,1933,1936, 1938/39, List of newspapers and periodicals of the Republic of Poland and Advertising Guide Teofil Pietraszek Year 1922,1924/25,

1927,1929,1932.

Available at: <http://www.wbc.poznan.pl>, <http://mbc.cyfrowemazowsze.pl>

Statistical data

Statistical yearbook of the *Central Statistical Office of the Republic of Poland* was published in the years 1920-1930. The first edition of the year appeared in two parts. *Yearbook of statistics of the Republic of Poland 1920/21* and the second in 1923 *Roczniki statystyczne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej (Statistical Yearbooks of Republic of Poland) 1920/22*. It's 9th edition of the year. In the compilations, the quantitative data covering the press appeared only in 1922.

The first year lists 13 religious periodicals in 1922, including 11 in Polish. In addition to religious magazines in Polish, the data includes tables according to languages: Ruthenian, Belarusian, German, Jewish and Hebrew, others. In the yearbook for 1924 (the third edition in 1925) data for 1924 are provided.

A small statistical yearbook appeared in the years 1930-1939. This is a separate publication from the Yearbook of Statistics of the Republic of Poland, which covers the scope and content of statistical data for specific recipients. Data are not limited only to official sources, but also announced by various institutions and authors. It was written not for specialists but for a wide audience, especially for school children and students.

Prints statistics a publication issued by the Central Statistical Office of the Republic of Poland in the years 1930-1937. It includes statistics of periodic prints and magazines. The first four editions also included non-periodic prints, i.e. social life documents such as balance sheets, statutes, leaflets, appeals, calendars, etc.

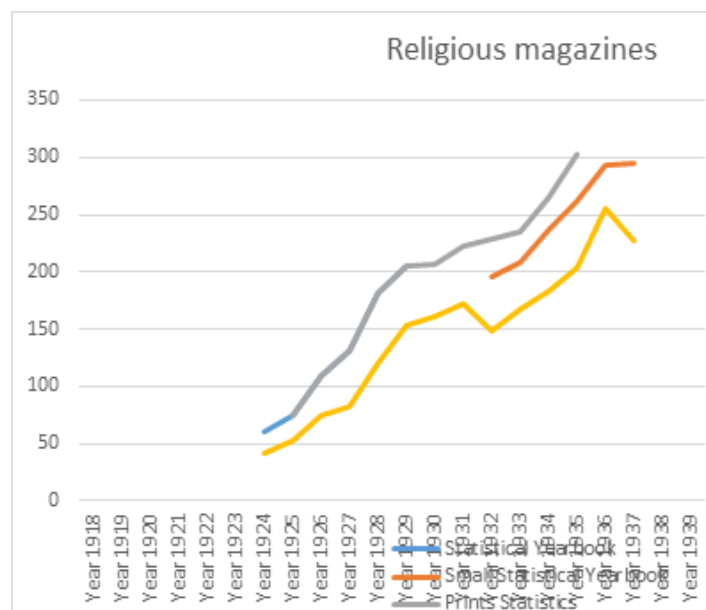
Table 2. Religious press (numbers in parentheses relate to religious magazines in Polish)

Year	Statistical Yearbook appears in 1920-1939 (9 editions)	Small Statistical Yearbook Distributed in 1930-1939 (as of December 31st)	Prints Statistics Distributed in 1930 -1937
1918			
1919			
1920			
1921			
1922	13 (11)		
1923			
1924	60 (41)		
1925	75 (52)		75
1926	109 (75)		109
1927	131 (82)		131
1928	182 (121)		182
1929	205 (154)		205
1930			207 (161)
1931			222 (172)
1932		195 (149)	229
1933		209 (168)	235
1934		236 (183)	265

1935		262 (204)	302
1936		293 (255)	
1937		295 (228)	
1938			
1939			

Data source: Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Poland Year 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, Small Statistical Yearbook Year 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, Print Statistics Year 1927, 1927, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935.

available at: <http://mbc.cyfrowemazowsze.pl>, <http://www.bc.radom.pl>, <http://www.rcin.org.pl>, <http://rcin.org.pl>



In Table 3 "Official data - press in general", the figures were taken from the studies of Andrzej Paczkowski. This is the number of titles published by the Polish press during the year. The most complete statistical data of inter-war press could be found in works of Maria Czarnowska. As part of her research, she carried out an analysis of the publishing movement in the years 1918-1937. Her studies raise certain doubts, however, they are the most comprehensive picture of the development of the quantitative press in Poland during the period of the Second Polish Republic [Paczkowski, 1971, pp. 405-406].

The quantitative data of the Catholic press was based on the book by Zygmunt Zieliński *Bibliography of Catholic Religious Magazines in Poland 1918-1939*. For the purposes of this work, the data has been analyzed in terms of the type of magazines and the years of their publishing. Selected data includes: journals, materials appearing 2-3 times a week, weeklies, biweekly, monthly, bimonthly, quarterly, and irregular journals appearing at least once a quarter, such as chronicles, indications and supplements.

Table 3.

Year	Zofia Czarnowska Press in general	Official data Press in general	Zygmunt Zieliński "Bibliography of Catholic religious periodicals in Poland 1918-1939" Catholic press
1918	575		73

1919	837	1099	76
1920	993		85
1921	1197		97
1922	1283	1255	97
1923	1305	986	105
1924	1122	1348	110
1925	1300	1606	137
1926	1317	1771	173
1927	1481	1975	191
1928	1945	2353	209
1929	1593	2329	244
1930	1837	2349	260
1931	1870	2406	264
1932	1831	2503	273
1933	1831	2572	288
1934	21829	2566	293
1935	2089	2854	296
1936	2426	3043	297
1937	2547	3592	320
1938			331
1939			324

Data source: Andrzej Paczkowski, Polish Press 1918-1939, Zygmunt Zieliński, Bibliography of Catholic religious periodicals in Poland 1918-1939

Analysis and conclusions

Quantitative analysis of the Catholic press in 1918-1939 seems to confirm the thesis about the influence of the concordat adopted in 1926 on the development of the Catholic press. The adoption of the concordat stabilized the legal and economic situation of the Roman Catholic church in the Second Republic of Poland. Stabilization and privileged position had a positive impact on its development.

The years 1918-1922 are characterized by a rapid increase in the volume of the press, we observe its reconstruction from the state before World War I. However, in the years 1921-1923 we observe a regression in relation to previous years [Paczkowski, 1971, pp. 406-407].

After the euphoria of regaining independence and the appearance of the Polish press, the crisis has come, caused by economic and political difficulties. The decrease in the number of titles issued first touched the provincial press in the years 1920-1922, then in 1923 the central areas [Notkowski, 1982, p.66].

This is the period of devaluation of the Polish mark to the zloty, many small magazines have not survived these changes, while others, larger emerged. The publishing conditions are stabilizing and the number of readers is growing [<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl>].

Data regarding mild regression and slowdown in growth rate is variously presented due to the lack of official data for the years 1920-1921 [Paczkowski, 1980, p.407].

The Catholic press has suffered a slight breakdown in the overall growth trend. In contrast to general trends in the decline in the number of published magazines. There is no drop in the number of Catholic press titles published

After the breakdown in 1923, there is another increase. The years 1924-1928 are a dynamic development of the press, where at the end of this period we have at least a double increase compared to 1919

The Catholic press reports a dynamic increase in the pace from 1924 to 1929, doubling during this period (5 years) the number of journals published. The overall rate of press growth is much lower and falls within the limits of 1.4-1.7. This is the period of accepting the concordat and numerous activities of the hierarchy of the Catholic Church.

The years 1929-1934 are a period of stagnation and very slow growth. This is the time of the global crisis, which began in 1929, the end of the recession in Poland is 1935, but the breakthrough took place already in 1933.

The data indicate that the increase in this period amounted to only 7-8% in relation to the initial year. The Catholic press achieves a few percent higher increase in published titles. It should also be noted that it does not record a decrease in the number of titles compared to the previous year, as was the case for all published titles.

Another rapid acceleration is 1935- 1937 (perhaps until 1939 – however, there is no data for the press in general). In 2 years, the gain reached 25% [Paczkowski, 1980, pp.406-408].

The Catholic press of such a rapid increase in published titles does not record and it is more than half lower. The only year in which we record a decrease in the number of titles published is 1939, but it may be due to the war explosion and incomplete data for this year.

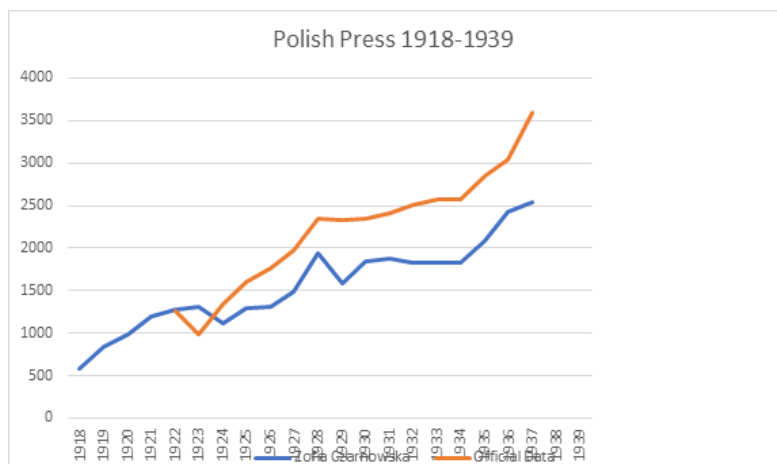
It is also a time of increased publication of the leftist press, which could have reflected the dynamics of the growth of the Catholic press.

Data for the years 1918-1939 show two periods of crisis and dynamic development. The first breakdown is in 1923, it is the peak year of Polish zloty inflation, and the parliament of the 1st term begins to function.

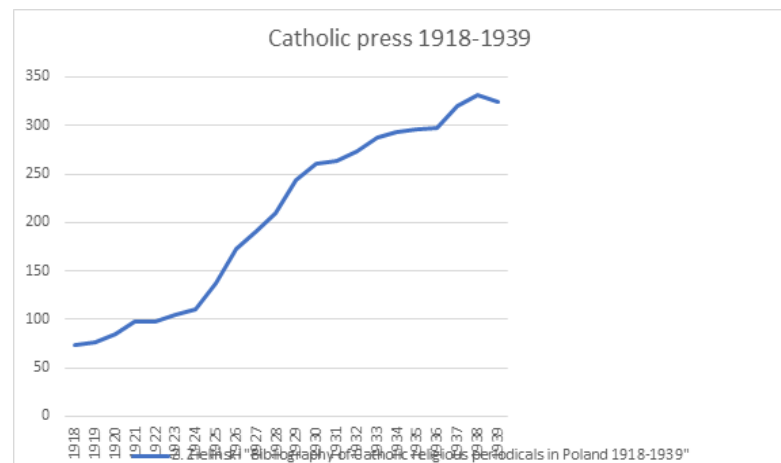
Paczkowski suggests that quantitative changes in the published press are strongly related to the general tendencies of the economy and the quantitative development of magazines and the economic condition of the country.

On the other hand, the stagnation of 1929 was the beginning of a great crisis and its ending with a new growth. The press situation reflects the political life in the country, which exerted a large influence on the amount of the press published [Paczkowski, 1980].

Political issues also influenced the development of Catholic magazines. The church hierarchy begins to emphasize the differences between the Catholic press and the press of the ruling parties, the period of support policy of authorities ends. This separation can be visible even more strongly after the May coup in 1926 [Mysłek, 1966, p.210].



Data source: Andrzej Paczkowski, Polish Press 1918-1939



Data source: Zygmunt Zieliński, Bibliography of Catholic religious periodicals in Poland 1918-1939

The scale of the press and publishing activity of the Catholic church and the commitment to its development after the adoption of the concordat, suggests that this was one of the most important goals of the church hierarchy [Mysiek, 1966, p.224.].

An important trend when examining the Catholic press of 1918-1939 is the continuous increase in the number of titles published. The press does not undergo general trends to a small extent, there are no declines in the titles published (except in 1939).

Quantitative research shows that the concordat had no direct impact on the development of the press. On the other hand, taking into account the general position of the Catholic Church in relation to the Catholic press, one can conclude that indirectly such an influence existed, although it did not manifest either an increase in the number of titles published or expenditures.

The qualitative change was related to the fact that the Catholic Church, whose main tool of its mission was the press, was based on solid legal foundations guaranteed in the concordat. He also regulated financial issues, which was extremely important during periods of crises and parliamentary and governmental turmoil and guaranteed at least maintaining the current status of the Catholic press and its quantitative scale, including a systematic increase in the number of titles published.

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