

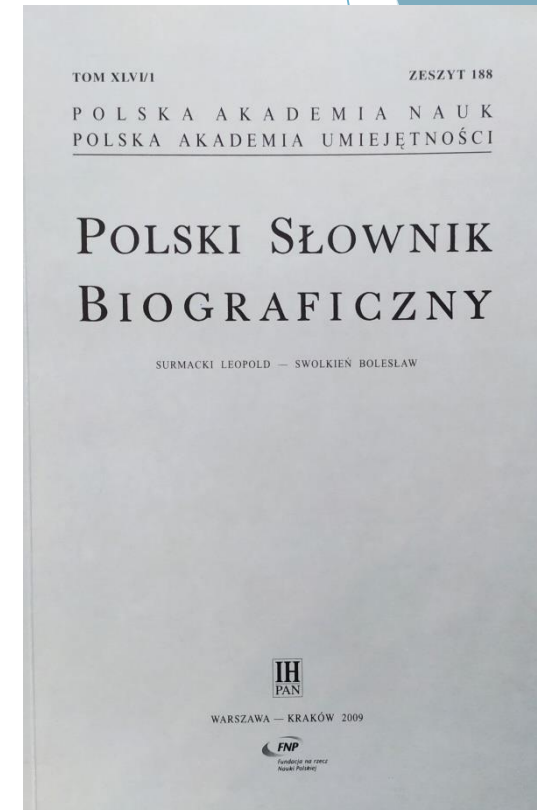


# **The concept of the Polish Biographical Dictionary.**

**Among ordinary and great people from the past**

# The Polish Biographical Dictionary (PSB)

- ▶ **85 years of history of the PSB.**
- ▶ **A multi-volume publication of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) in Warsaw and the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (PAU) in Krakow.**
- ▶ Realized by the Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History (PAN).
- ▶ Since **1935**, when **1st issue** starting from A was issued **until today**, the PBS **published 52 volumes.**
- ▶ Each volume consisted of 4 issues per 160 pages each. In January 2020 the PBS published the 1st issue (no. 216) of **volume 53.**
- ▶ The entries are arranged in alphabetical order for the whole series.



# The Polish Biographical Dictionary (PSB)

- ▶ The **initiator of the PSB and its first editor in Chief** (1931–1949) - historian, a professor in Jagiellonian University **Władysław Konopczyński**, who had advocated the need for a Polish biographical lexicon as early as 1922.
- ▶ **The issuing of the PSB suspended twice** - during the Nazi occupation of Poland during the Second World War (1939–1945) and during the Stalinism regime (1949–1958).
- ▶ The **publication of the PSB resumed in 1958** by the Institute of History of PAN in Warsaw, the editorial office reminded in Krakow, in the building of the Polish Academy of Art and Sciences.

# The PSB's editorial standard and rules

## ▶ Characters selection

The PSB contains biographies of Poles and foreigners operating in Poland and people of Polish origin operating abroad who represent all possible professions and activities.

The concept of historical Poland is taken into account, which includes historical borders changes.

## ▶ Construction of entries

**A heading:** surname (also other names used), first names, nicknames, year of birth and death, short description of profession or field of activity.

**Family relationships** (next of kin), **social class origin, confession**

**The chronological biography.**

**Other information:** the burial place, decorations, marriage and children, in some cases – different form of commemoration.

**The bibliography** (iconography, dictionaries, covers, press, archival material).

## ► The list of entries

The **PSB collects card index** - a **catalogue of names of potential characters**, sometimes with references to archival material or books.

Selection of characters for the future issues and authors of entries takes place twice per year.

## ► Authors and editors

The entries are written by external authors. **The PSB cooperates with the most eminent Polish and foreign specialist** (over 4.5 thousand researchers).

The **final shape of a biography is created by editors from PSB**. The editor in PSB is not only responsible for the editorial and corrections, but first of all conducts – in parallel with the author – a research on the character and is responsible for its substantive scope.

# Achivements

- ▶ Published about **28 thousands of entries**.
- ▶ The general content of the series is about **34 thousand of pages**.
- ▶ **The PSB brand built.** Dictionary is perceived as a synonym for highest-quality of historical research (publications focused not only on documenting facts but also on historical researches leading to many corrections as dates, biographical facts etc.) and new historical discoveries.
- ▶ The PSB is an indispensable **aid in research work** – the most polish heraldic publication end in the middle of the alphabet while PSB has already filled the gap.

# Plans and challenges

- ▶ A completion of the first series of the PSB, which is predicted for **2030**.
- ▶ Acquiring a **new authors** to maintain the PSB's entries on a high quality level.
- ▶ The next series of the dictionary: **the second series** consisting of supplements for first edition and **the third series** with biographies of people who died after 2000.
- ▶ The **digitalisation** of the PSB – the biggest challenge ahead.

- ▶ **8 500 entries** of the PSB published in the Internet [www.ipsb.nina.gov.pl](http://www.ipsb.nina.gov.pl) in cooperation with National Audiovisual Institute (from 2017 FINA). Access is **free of charge**

- ▶ [www.psb.krakow.pl](http://www.psb.krakow.pl)

The screenshot shows the iPSB website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "iPSB" and "wyszukiwanie zaawansowane". Below the search bar, there is a navigation menu with the text "INTERNETOWY POLSKI SŁOWNIK BIOGRAFICZNY". The main content area features a biography of Tomasz Panufnik, including a photo and a "BIOGRAFIA TYGODNIA" label. Below the biography, there are navigation buttons for "NA SKRÓTY", "BIOGRAFIE SŁYNNYCH POLAKÓW", and "GRAF POWIĄZAŃ". The "NAJPOPULARNIEJSZE" section lists four biographies: Władysław II Jagiełło, Emilia Plater (Broel-Plater), Tadeusz Kościuszko, and Jan Kochanowski h. Korwin. The "A TO CIEKAWE!" section features a painting and the text "PROROK NARODOWEJ KLĘSKI". At the bottom, there is a footer with the text "Biogramy pochodzą z POLSKIEGO SŁOWNIKA BIOGRAFICZNEGO" and a "WYDARZYŁO SIĘ" section with a "zapisz się" button.