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POLISH SCHOOLS IN BUCOVINA UNDER THE AUSTRIAN RULE (1774-1918)
(Summary)

To this day there have been no studies or references mentioned in the entire Romanian contemporary historiography that looks at Bucovina's history with regard to the Polish education system that was in place in the former Austrian province. The beginnings of the Polish education system in Bucovina can be traced back to the 19th century, when on May 22, 1812 the first official Polish catholic school opened at Cacica. Then, on December 16, 1808 the Cernauti Gymnasium opened its doors to the public and we can determine that in the 19th century a high number of Polish students attended the gymnasium. In regard to the faculty's nationality at the gymnasium during the first half of the 19th century, Polish professors presented the highest numbers. As such, between 1808 and 1850 Polish professors were numbered at 40.5%, with Germans professors at 27%, Ukrainian professors at 13.5%, Romanian professors at 10.8%, and Czech professors at 8.3%.

Witold Sworakowski mentions that during the 5th decade of the 19th century schools found in Siret and Radauti required the Polish language to be studied as a mandatory subject. Polish was also a mandatory subject at school in Huta Veche, Crasna, Suceava, Sadagura, Rohozna, Jucica Noua, Rarancea, Boian, Cacica, and Solonetul Nou. During the 1853-1854 school year classes were held in Polish in most of the 29 Catholic schools in Bucovina. Similar to the report made by the Cernauti Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the year 1869, during the 1868-1869 school year the total number of Polish students enrolled in schools in Bucovina at the time were 1,113 or 11.37%. A similarity high percentage of students can be found a few years later in schools located in the province's capital. Thus, with regard to nationality and number of students attending both public and private schools in Cernauti during the period of 1880-1889, it can be determined that of a total number of 42,245 students, 8,097 or 17.89% were Polish. The rest of the students were German, with a number of 8,710 or 19.24% and Jewish, with a number of 17,770 or 39.27%. Similarly, a notable frequency of Polish youths participating in the education process in the province can be noted at other gymnasiums and professional schools as the 2nd Gymnasium in Cernauti, the Girls Pedagogical School, the private Catholic Pensions schools in Cernauti and Siret, the Greek-Oriental School in Cernauti, the Gymnasium in Suceava, the Franz Joseph Gymnasium in Siret, and the Franz Joseph University, Cernauti.

The major Polish and bucovinian educational achievements made in general would not have been possible without the significant contributions made by the Polish priests and the leaders of Polish organizations found in Cernauti, Suceava, Siret, and Sadagura. At the same time, the Polish bucovinian educational and cultural development had ties to other educators such as Daniel Mielnik from the Polish School in Solonetul Nou, Józef Grabowski from the Polish schools in Poiana Micului and Cacica, and the efforts made by the Public Schools Association (Kola Towarzystwa Szkoły Ludowej) and its representative – Grzegorz Cicimirski. Polish professors and teachers were also directly involved in the leading efforts made in the bucovinian educational system at the beginning of the 20th century. Of these educators the following can be mentioned: Józef Grabowski, O.M. Zukowski, Alfred Halban, and Władysław Swiderski, all of which performed the function of school inspector either in the districts found in the southern part of the province or in the province's capital, Cernauti.

Keywords: Polish schools, Bucovina, 19th Century, cultural development, education system.