https://doi.org/10.18778/0208-6034.37.05



# Magdalena Majorek

https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1254-9917

# Anna Olczyk

https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3042-407X

#### Sebastian Latocha

https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4226-9131

# Ida Sidorczuk https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3411-5749

#### Irena Podolska-Rutkowska

iD https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1354-1725

# Covered with Writing... – Products on a Paper Base From the Archaeological Research at the Former Gestapo Headquarters in Anstadt Avenue in Łódź

Zapisane... – wyroby na podłożu papierowym pochodzące z badań archeologicznych dawnej siedziby Gestapo przy al. Anstadta w Łodzi

Abstract: During the archaeological research conducted in 2019 under the project "The Former Headquarters of the Gestapo and the Communist Provincial Office of Public Security in Anstadt Avenue in Łódź. Interdisciplinary Site Research" under the supervision of Dr Olgierd Ławrynowicz, an object filled with products on a paper base and bookbinding materials was found in one

of the excavations. This paper attempts to clarify the chronology of paper products and to identify their type (typescripts, prints of monetary value, books, bookbinding materials, arrangement drawings, other paper products) and the material used. The visible content was identified using basic research methods and digital photographic documentation of it was made to preserve it.

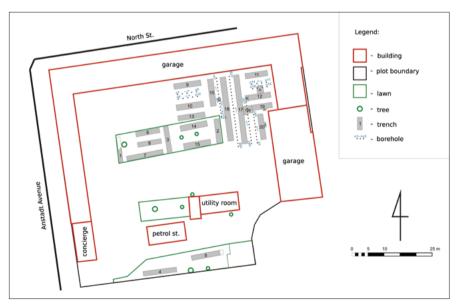
**Keywords**: former Gestapo headquarters, twentieth century, paper products, bookbinding, archaeology, historical anthropology



#### Introduction

Interdisciplinary research into urban sites allow to learn and reconstruct the history of people and places from the perspective of the items found, stratification, and written and spoken sources. Implementation of the project "The Former Headquarters of the Gestapo and the Communist Provincial Office of Public Security in Anstadt Avenue in Łódź. Interdisciplinary Site Research", coordinated by Dr Olgierd Ławrynowicz (Ławrynowicz et al. 2022), initiated ethnographic and archaeological field work in 2019. The aim was to conduct in-depth ethnographic interviews with living witnesses to the events of 1939–1959, including those whose biography and experience, even the contemporary one, are connected with the place explored, to identify the existing and former architecture, and to find objects and movable artefacts connected with the operation of both institutions.

In July 2019, archaeological research started at 7–9 Anstadt Avenue in Łódź, which in 1939–1945 was used by the German *Geheime Staatspolizei* (Gestapo) and then, in 1945–1959, by the Provincial Office of Public Security in Łódź. In 1959, the building at 7 Anstadt Avenue (plot no. S2–14/1) became a school. At first, it was Primary School No. 98, and then Secondary School No. 12, which is still located there today. The buildings at 9 Anstadt Avenue are now taken care of by the Provincial Police Headquarters in Łódź (plots no. S2–13/3 and S2–13/5).



**Fig.1.** Łódź, 9 Anstadt Avenue. Location of the archaeological excavations (prepared by O. Ławrynowicz, W. Duda, K. Wiliński).



**Fig. 2.** Łódź, 9 Anstadt Avenue. Pit 12, extension B. An object filled with products on a paper base (photograph by O. Ławrynowicz).

Before September 1939, when Gestapo officers took over the properties in Anstadt Avenue described, they were to house a modern Jewish school of the Association of Jewish Schools. These plans were thwarted by the outbreak of the Second World War.

During the archaeological research conducted in 2019 (Fig. 1), an object measuring 1.0 x 1.3 m was uncovered in trial trench no. 12 (and its extension 12 B), filled with paper products (mostly printed), elements of binder covers, and other paper items with the total thickness of approx. 0.25 m (Fig. 2), identification of which was only possible based on laboratory tests.

#### Aims and methods

Studying items on a paper base is extremely time-consuming and difficult. It requires researchers to conduct extensive comparable studies and analyses requiring specialist knowledge (e.g. Wieprzkowski 1983: 75–124; Piszczek 1990: 188–196; Van Der Reyden 1992: 117–138; Kasiura, Szymańska 2005: 63–79; Sobucki, Jeżewska 2015; Kwaśniewicz 2021; *Praktyczne rekomendacje...* 2021: 7–16). The aim of the activities undertaken was to clarify the chronology of paper products, to identify their type (typescripts, prints of monetary value, books, bookbinding materials, arrangement drawings, other paper products) and the material used, to conduct

in-depth analysis of the content using basic research methods, and to make digital photographic documentation of it to preserve it.

To achieve the aims set, the typological method, a case study, and methods for identifying the item and/or material (Sobucki, Jeżewska 2015: 173–177) were used, along with the assessment of the material biodegradation extent. All the activities were mostly based on the experience of researchers and conservator-restorers of items made of organic materials from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Methods of work on artefacts of this type, drawn from archaeological and inventorying research into the crypts in Szczuczyn (Grupa et al. 2014: 86–97), the archaeological and exhumation research in Kharkiv (Grupa 1998: 75–83; 2001: 157-158; Grupa, Kaźmierczak 2001) and in Katyn (Drążkowska, Grupa 1996: 78-90; Dutkiewicz 1996: 37-38, 44), and library collections were analysed (Ochrona i konserwacja... 1998; Beintkner 2018: 106–114; Kwaśniewicz 2021). The research on paper products from Anstadt Avenue involved also organoleptic and microscopic methods due to their non-invasive character (Bicchieri et al. 2019: 1-12). All techniques and tools available in the Laboratory of Dating and Conservation of Artifacts of the Institute of Archaeology of the University of Lodz were used, which enabled employment of the methods listed.

### Paper products from the archaeological research

Starting in the nineteenth century, the amount of paper produced considerably increased, but its quality suffered. The twentieth-century paper was mostly made of wood. Production with added so-called rags nearly disappeared, which meant that the fibre (cellulose) stopped being the main component of paper, replaced with less durable hemicellulose and lignin (Sobucki, Jeżewska 2015: 13–17). The time also saw a rapid development of printing inks and dyes, some of which fade after a dozen or so years, while some have excellent properties (e.g. those based on paraffin) (Wieprzkowski 1983: 12).

It is assumed that the state of preservation of items made of organic materials is affected by mechanical, physicochemical, and biological factors (Krzyżanowski, Apanasewicz 1969; Wieprzkowski 1983: 33–36; *Praktyczne rekomendacje...* 2021: 8–10). Determination of the reasons for and types of damage has a direct effect on the way such artefacts are handled (Piszczek 1990: 188–196). The fragments of paper items with bookbinding elements described were deposited in an excavation at a depth of 35 cm under the ground. They were exposed to many harmful damaging factors, some of which were (10) mechanical – e.g. the pressure of soil layers and the use of the area as a car park after they had been deposited, and, presumably, tears, crumpling, and the breakdown of covers during use; some were (2) physicochemical – the items were frozen, dried, and soaked in rainwater

and groundwater (in the area explored, the groundwater table is located at a depth of approx. 1 m below the ground); and some were (3) biological – the items were surrounded by soil layers with multiple micro- and macroorganisms, and rodents.

The volume of the trial trench containing paper products and bookbinding materials did not exceed 0.33 m³, which is why it was decided to explore the whole backfill along with the surrounding soil layers. This was to protect the historical material from damage and drying, and to enable identification of the historical substance under laboratory conditions. The items uncovered were immediately put into tight polyethylene bags and placed in transport boxes with lids of adequate size. Before the research and inventorying work started, the items were stored in a room with lowered temperature, in a shaded place.

## Analysis results

The historical material obtained during the archaeological work in Anstadt Avenue in Łódź includes more than 500 fragments. These are mostly concretions of mineralised paper, additionally contaminated with sand, loam, and products of organic matter decomposition. The securing and inventorying work undertaken allowed to partially identify the collection explored. Despite the efforts, it was impossible to separate individual sheets. Out of concern for the historical substance and its



**Fig. 3.** Fragment of consolidated sheets during inventorying and identification work (photograph by A. Olczyk, I. Sidorczuk).



**Fig. 4.** Compilation of products on a paper base under the microscope (with reflected and transmitted light), visible mineralisation of samples (photograph by M. Majorek).

preservation, only in a few cases were blended blocks of a few sheets separated (Fig. 3). A serious problem that made it difficult to identify paper was its considerable fragmentation and its poor state of preservation. In a majority of cases, fragments are 10–60 mm long. Only a few exceed approximately 60–110 mm. Due to the size of individual elements, the analysed collection was divided into: large (measuring 6–11 cm) and small (1–5 cm) fragments. Using the state of preservation as another criterion for classifying paper products, fragments with well and moderately well preserved print/inscriptions were distinguished, along with fragments decomposed to a considerable and medium extent (Fig. 4).

## Typescripts and prints of monetary value

In this group, among hundreds of fragments of paper artefacts studied, one of the fragments was recognised as a fragment of a banknote or a stamp, securities, a food coupon (?), with a number 40 (Fig. 5), and a few dozen typescript fragments. Unfortunately, the poor state of preservation made it very difficult to identify them or clearly read the text. On fifteen fragments classified as typescripts, the following, rather modest, content was identified:

on the first large fragment of consolidated typescripts, today light brown in colour, there are partially legible inscriptions on jagged lower edges (Fig. 6a):

 an inscription in red ink, perhaps impressed by a different paper product:

- an inscription in black ink on multiple pages:

• on the second large fragment of consolidated typescripts, today light brown in colour, there are partially legible inscriptions on jagged upper edges (Fig. 6b):

```
(...)się
awom(...)
(...)ożeby
jest
Polacy w Niemc(...) [Poles in German]
SEJMIK ZWIĄZ(...) [REGIONAL COUNCIL (...)]
W niedzie(...) [On Sunda]
sejmik dzielnicy [district council]
```

• on the third large fragment of consolidated typescripts, today white and grey and light brown in colour, there is a legible inscription on the first page (Fig. 6c):

• on the following twelve small fragments of consolidated typescripts, today white and grey and light brown in colour, there are barely legible inscriptions, with some being so-called mirror reflections; from the left (Fig. 6d):

These scanty inscriptions make it impossible to identify the typescripts. Some hopes were pinned on a fragment with the inscription *Starostwa Łódzkieg*(o) [Łódź Starosty] and, most probably, a fragment of a surname (...)siak.

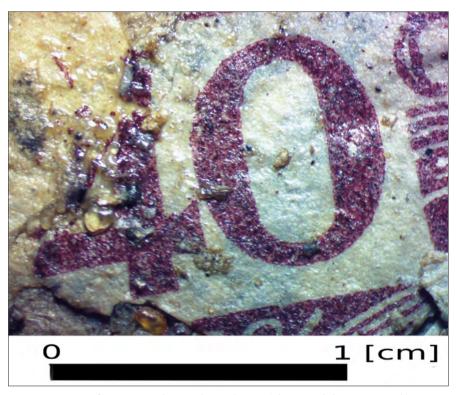
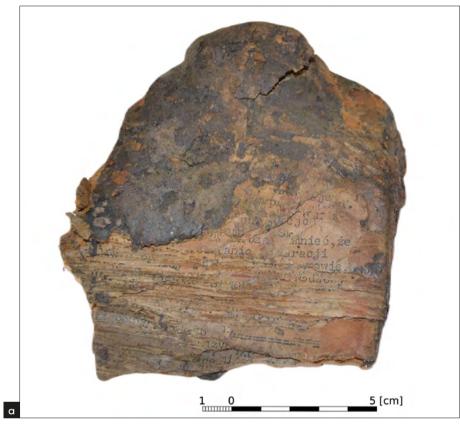
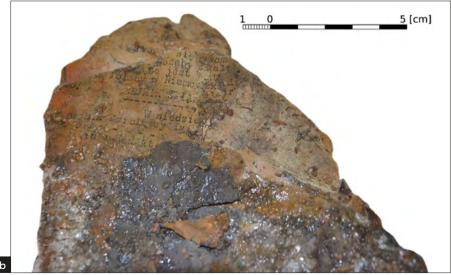


Fig. 5. Fragment of a paper product with number 40 (photograph by M. Majorek).







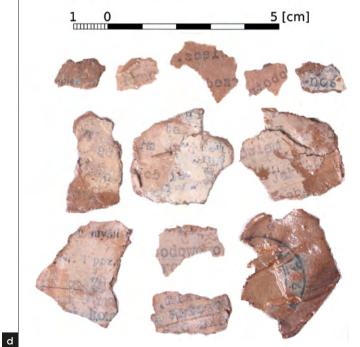


Fig. 6. Fragments of preserved consolidated typescripts (photograph by O. Ławrynowicz, M. Majorek).

Assuming that the analysed collection comes from the interwar period, personal details of those in charge of the Łódź Starosty were examined. These persons included Antoni Remiszewski (1918–1926), Jan Dychdalewicz (until 1927), Aleksy Rżewski (until 1933), Wincenty Makowski (until 1937), and Franciszek Denys (until 1939) (Kurzyk 2004: 120). Unfortunately, the list of starosts from the years 1918–1939 includes no one of this name. The search should be continued.

#### **Books**

The largest group among the analysed paper products contains fragments of books. As a result of post-deposition processes, neighbouring pages got nearly completely consolidated and paper got strongly mineralised. However, this is a group with larger fragments, lower extent of material decomposition, and a relatively well-preserved print on individual pages.

The first publication identified during securing and inventorying activities was Mechanika w swym rozwoju historycznym (Mechanics in Its Historical Development) (Fig. 7). The book was published by Instytut Wydawniczy "Bibljoteka Polska" in 1924. It is a collection of lectures of Professor Feliks Kucharzewski from the Warsaw Technical University from 1921 (Szcześniak, Ataman 2018: 957). Thus, it can be said that the publication is an example of specialist literature. Perhaps it was owned by a teacher or a student intending to study technical subjects, or it could have been one of the volumes from the school library. We know that schools had collections available for lending and that they tried to promote reading (Kaczmarek 2015: 37-46). The Report of the Girls' Gymnasium of the Association of Jewish Secondary Schools in Łódź for the school year 1929/1930, which was an institution analogous to the Gymnasium created in 1939 in Anstadt Avenue, informs that the catalogue of the students' library included 3,850 volumes, with 1,252 being Polish works and 1,016 being works in Hebrew. However, these were not all books on the inventory of the educational institution. In secondary schools, apart from collections meant for students, there were also collections for teachers. They were kept in a separate library called fundamental (Kaczmarek 2015: 41). It had 1,386 volumes (Sprawozdanie Gimnazjum... 1930: 96-97 [Report of the Girls' Gymnasium of the Association of Jewish Secondary Schools in Łódź for the School Year 1929/30]). Interestingly, according to a study of 1922/1923, the number of books on the inventory of students' libraries in gymnasia in the Łódź Province was the highest in the country (Kaczmarek 2015: 41). Due to lack of any preserved ex libris that would explicitly determine the origin of *Mechanika*... as a school or private collection, we are unable to say whether the book was one of the volumes available in the library.

#### MECHANIKA

187

przedmiocje, mianowicie: Zasady statyki układów monocyklicznych z r. 1884, O znaczeniu fizycznem zasady najmniejszego działania z r. 1886. Zasada najmniejszego działania w elektrodynamice z r. 1892. Wpływ Helmholtza na rozwój mechaniki teoretycznej odbił sie najsilniej w pracach jego ucznia Henryka Hertza. W roku 1894 ukazało sie dzieło Hertza: Die Principien der Mechanik in neuem Zusammenhange damestellt, ostatnia praca w samym początku czy roku zmarłego, mlo lego, bo zalednie 37-le profesora fizyki w Bonn. Przedmowe z pogladem la prace autora napisal Helmholik. Hertz postawa Tole na zadanie se zbudować mechanike z pominiecism sily. Do word wprowadza te tulke wielkow inga być istotnie dostrzegane i posługuje się wy pojęciami: ezasu, przestrzeni i masy. jednej zasadzie ogólnej któr uważać mema la kombinacje zasady bezwład ości z zasadą najmnie, Sago przymusu Gaussa. Masy swobodne poruszaja jednostajnie w linii prostej. Jeżeli są poddane jakim kolwiek wiazkom, to według zasady Gaussa odchylają sie jak naimujej od ruchu jednostajnego i prostolinijnego: ich ruch rzeczywisty jest więcej zbliżony do ruchu swobodnego niż wsze ny, jakiby można wymyśleć Hertz mówi, w new wych związkach ruch mas jest możliwie jak najwieci prostolinijny, a skoro która masa odchyla sie w jakikolwiek sposób od tego ruchu, to odchylenia tego nie przypisuje sile, lecz związkom nieodkształcalnym z innemi masami; a gdy te zwi widzialne, przyjmuje masy ukryte, ożywione ukry temi ruchami. Wszystkie siły fizyczne przyjmuje za skutki tego rodzaju związków. W jego wykładzie siła, funkcja sił, energja, są tylko koncepcjami pomocniczemi

**Fig. 7.** Fragment of *Mechanika w swym rozwoju historycznym* published in 1924, which is a collection of lectures of Professor Feliks Kucharzewski from 1921 (photograph by A. Olczyk, I. Sidorczuk, I. Podolska-Rutkowska).



**Fig. 8.** Fragments of *Physikalische Apparate: Preisliste nr 50, Band II und III*, a catalogue of physical equipment published after 1900 (photograph by A. Olczyk, I. Sidorczuk, I. Podolska-Rutkowska).

Another publication identified during conservation work was *Physikalis-che Apparate: Preisliste nr 50, Band 11 und 111* (Fig. 8). These are catalogues of physical equipment that, due to its educational value, could be used in school laboratories. These multi-page volumes were created c 1900 by German, French, and British manufacturers. One of them was Max Kohl, an entrepreneur from Chemnitz, dealing with electrical engineering, optics, and precision mechanics.

His plant specialised in the production of equipment for scientific, educational, and technical purposes. After M. Kohl's death, his company was transformed into a joint-stock company (Sächsische Biografie). Its activity continued until the Second World War, while its products - compasses - can be found, for example, in the equipment of German soldiers. After Germany's defeat, most machines were sent to the Soviet Union, and the plant was incorporated into the national company Volkseigener Betrieb (Sound & Science: Digital Histories). Commercial catalogues of Max Kohl's products, which included a few thousand teaching aids, were also translated into other languages, such as French (Appareils de physique...). The first pages usually presented letters of congratulation from teachers and professors, and exhibition medals (Brenni 2012: 204). The equipment on offer allowed to demonstrate all sorts of phenomena and laws of physics. The diversity of the range was reflected by the fact that the catalogue included a few instruments for performing the same experiment or demonstrating the same issue, e.g. Physikalische Apparate: Preisliste No. 50 provides more than ten instruments demonstrating the hydrostatic paradox, approx. 100 induction coils, and approx. 100 vacuum pumps. All products had numbers and prices (Brenni 2012: 216). Most educational institutions that had the equipment presented in, among others, Kohl's catalogues, probably did not used it during everyday classes. It was a marker of status rather than something used in class (Brenni 2012: 191). How was it in the case of the Gymnasium of the Association of Jewish Secondary Schools in Anstadt Avenue in Łódź? The remains of *Physikalische* Apparate. Preisliste No. 50 found during archaeological research do not prove that the institution had the equipment presented in the catalogue. The Report of the Girls' Gymnasium quoted above provides information about the equipment of the school's physical laboratory. The instruments listed included, for example, Kipp's apparatus, a parallelogram of forces according to Frick, the Atwood machine, the Oestoed instrument, a manometric flame with a rotating mirror, 10 boxes for mechanics, acoustics, and heat, 10 boxes for optics, 10 boxes for electromagnetism, copper and oxyhydrogen voltmeters, and an instrument for testing the Boyle-Mariotte Law (Sprawozdanie Gimnazjum... 1930: 96). Thus, it can be assumed that the physical laboratory of the newly created school in Anstadt Avenue also had instruments for educational purposes. Perhaps the catalogue is what remained after the equipment had been bought or an illustration of brutally changed plans for further development of the Gymnasium.

The paper artefacts discussed in this group can be definitely linked to the fact that the building at 7 Anstadt Avenue was occupied by the Gymnasium of the Association of Jewish Secondary Schools in Łódź. In terms of topics, books from 1912 and 1924 are mostly connected with teaching and education. Although they are not textbooks, they could definitely come from the school's collection.

# Bookbinding materials and arrangement drawings

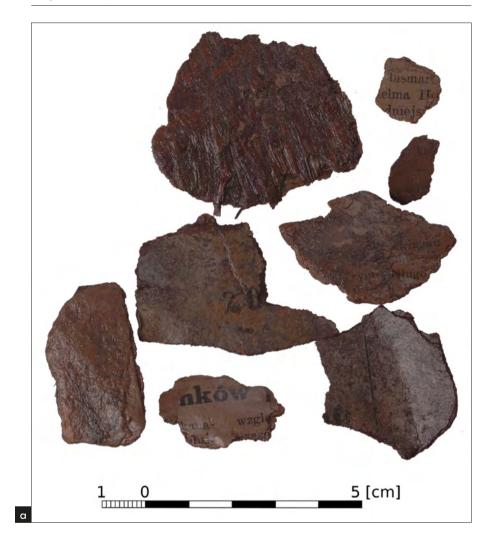
The materials books consist of, apart from the already mentioned print, included wood, cardboard, linen, bookbinding thread, metal, adhesives, and plastic (Bakalarz 2011: 45).

In the group of bookbinding materials found, a dozen or so out of a few hundred fragments of book covers and bindings as well as arrangement drawings impressed on them were subjected to protective measures and formal and identification analysis. The selection was necessary due to the very poor state of preservation of the material. The collection includes fragments of historical material, with approximate dimensions ranging from 10 x 20 mm to 60 x 90 mm. The traces registered on the damaged fragments indicate that they could come from more than one binding. Referring to the identified publications described above, the fragmentarily preserved imprints of arrangement drawings on bindings suggest that the binders or files could include technical teaching aids, such as machine sketches and sections. The documented items also include fragments of leather, wood, fabrics, and metal.

#### Leather

A majority of leather cover parts are not very characteristic fragments of diverse forms. They are dark brown in colour, which, as it may be assumed, is a result of post-deposition processes. They include fragments of leather with visible viscous imprints of binding linen and fragments forming an integral whole with a rust-eaten iron mesh. Only one damaged fragment of a leather cover, measuring approx. 35 x 40 mm, bears traces of an inventory stamp (?) with preserved numbers 2 and o (Fig. 9a).

The analysed leather artefacts were brittle and crumbly. This is a result of a long deposition in the ground, which involved soaking with water causing the rinsing off of tanning agents and fats (Drążkowska, Grupa 1996: 80). Additionally, it is worth emphasising that leather can be easily attacked by insects and microorganisms (Strzelczyk, Karbowska-Berent 2004: 125–133; Bakalarz 2011: 46). Another reason for the present state of these items is the fact that covers were probably made of low-quality materials. This was characteristic of innovative methods of leather manufacturing technology introduced in the nineteenth century. New tanning techniques led to deterioration of the mechanical properties of leather. The tradition of creating high-quality binding was virtually completely abandoned and replaced with a simplified, yet more effective, binding technology (Brade et al. 1916; Verheyen, Conn 2003: 48; Kołątaj 2020: 135). Books were bound in sheep, pig, calf, and goat skin (Bakalarz 2011: 46; Szybowska 2011: 6). The use of bookbinding leather, apart



from the aesthetic value, offered some practical properties. Leather reinforced the structure of the binding and protected places most prone to damage, meaning the spine and corners (Baker 2006: 24).

#### Wood

The collection of the archaeological materials obtained during the research in Anstadt Avenue in Łódź also contains at least fifteen fragments of flat boards. They could come from book bindings, but not necessarily. They include a small irregular fragment measuring approx. 40 x 50 mm with integral remains of leather and metal (Fig. 9b).



Wood was used for binding medieval written works, but it was much less frequently used for this purpose in the modern period (Bakalarz 2011: 45). With time, this technique was replaced with less permanent materials (Knapek 2016: 280; Kołątaj 2020: 135–139). The archaeological materials in question were identified as fragments of twentieth-century prints, which basically corresponds with the character of the site explored. The argument advanced raises a question about the point of classifying the wood obtained as an element of binding.

#### **Textiles**

The artefacts included a few small fragments of leather bound in damaged linen (Fig. 9c) and pieces covered with imprints of adhesive forming an outline of a textile weave (plain weave 1/1).

Binding linen played a significant role among the bookbinder's tools. It was used to bind books or binders. Most probably, cellulose textiles were used for this purpose. Traditionally, sturdy, thick hemp textiles or considerably thinner

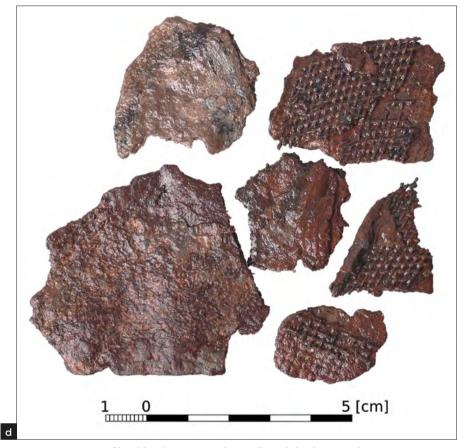


cotton and linen textiles were used. Textiles were usually not dyed due to the acidic, harmful reaction of dyes (Bakalarz 2011: 45–46). Presumably, some of the fragments bear traces of finish – a thin layer of a synthetic material (Wieprzkowski 1983: 14).

#### Metal

During the analysis of the historical material, four scraps of leather with fragments of metal mesh were identified. Three pieces, measuring approximately  $20 \times 30$  mm,  $20 \times 40$  mm, and  $30 \times 40$  mm, were selected for analysis. The characteristic red and orange corrosion indicates the use of iron (Fig. 9d).

Metal is one of the rarely used bookbinding materials. Oxidising book elements made of iron or copper have a negative effect on the durability of written and writing sources (Bakalarz 2011: 49).



**Fig. 9.** Fragments of bookbinding materials (cardboard, leather, textile imprints, fragments of wood) (photograph by A. Olczyk, I. Sidorczuk, I. Podolska-Rutkowska).

The covers and bindings from the archaeological site in Anstadt Avenue in Łódź have been preserved in a considerably degraded form. Despite in-depth analysis and a source survey, we are unable to recreate the actual appearance of the binding of the discovered book relics.

# Paper products from Anstadt Avenue as citations from the past

While we are able to accurately describe the types of the explored artefacts and their age, it is difficult to interpret them. What knowledge of the past of the place explored do they offer? What is their heuristic status? Obvious decomposition and the rudimentary possibility of "reading" paper products make the analysed

archaeological items difficult historical sources. From the perspective of classical historiography, which uses the metaphor of a historical source (from which, as if from a source of water, absolute truth spurts), the items on a paper base from the archaeological research in Anstadt Avenue in Łódź are of no great heuristic use. They raise more questions than they provide answers.

Classical historiography fetishises and emphasises the source itself, its form, origin, and content (Piasek 2019: 136). This is why the discovered remains of typescripts, prints of monetary value, books, and bookbinding materials might be disappointing to researchers who expect the studied object to reflect the past like a mirror. However, the twentieth century saw changes to the conceptualisation of historical sources, influenced by, among others, the anthropologisation of history. Sources are no longer understood as repositories of past facts, and today they constitute a dynamic information structure (Piasek 2019: 137, 139).

Non-classical historiography equates theoretical constructs, which can be used to study the past, with sources (study objects), contributing to the destruction of the myth of a historical source. The evidence of human consciousness, a cultural text, a relic, or a text from the past are terms from the dictionary of the non-classical orientation and historical anthropology, which shed some light on the value of the artefacts from Anstadt Avenue. It is not their factographic dimension that draws attention, but the circumstances in which they play the role of relics (Pomian 2014: 33).

Non-classical historiography emphasises the "reality that cannot be seen directly", the deep layer of history, and the Braudelian structures of long duration, marginalising single facts from the past and history of short duration – the surface layer of reality (Piasek 2019: 137–142). Lack of a possibility to fully "read" the paper products discussed in this paper encourages to resign from the perspective of the source and to interpret them as a text or – due to their fragmentary form – as a citation from the past. A citation that can only be understood in relationship to other citations: things and stories that grant them meaning.

#### Conclusions

Preliminarily dated to the interwar period, the analysed items on a paper base and bookbinding elements are considerably damaged due to mechanical, physicochemical, and biological factors. The reasons for paper destruction to be considered include those pre- and post-deposition. Mechanical factors that could have an effect on the state of preservation of the items include translocation (for example, on the level of *in situ* protection) and all kinds of damage caused during their use, which, at this stage, are difficult to distinguish and name, and which most probably played the most damaging role. In the case of items made of organic materials,

it is most important to ensure constant conditions (mostly in terms of temperature, humidity, and shading). This state was first disturbed at the time of deposition, and then again when they were uncovered. It is worth once again emphasising that the items were found at a freezing depth, which means that they repeatedly froze and thawed. During the site inspection, it was also noticed that the groundwater table was high. There is a fear that the items discovered could have stayed in wet conditions for a long time. Moreover, one should consider biological factors: bacteria, fungi, insects, and rodents, which undoubtedly penetrated the ground at a small depth. In the case of the collection in question, a great majority of paper products look under the microscope as transformed paper pulp. On most of the fragments identified the whole surface got spongy, while the sheets and potential covers got glued together and nearly completely consolidated, or petrified. Due to the uniqueness of the find, it seems that after consultations with representatives of many disciplines it will be possible to identify more elements of the collection, which, after advanced conservation treatment, may contribute to the identification of other products on a paper base. The time of deposition of the collection analysed has not been determined to date. The year 1939 seems to be terminus ante quem for this find.

## Bibliography

Appareils de physique: Catalogue No. 22 (1904), Max Kohl A.G., Chemnitz.

Bakalarz A. (2011), *Morfologia książki*, "Bibliotheca Nostra. Śląski Kwartalnik Naukowy", 26.4, p. 40–51.

Baker R. (2006), Springback Ledger Bindings, "Gulid of Book Workers", 26, p. 19–26.

Beintkner Ch. (2018), Minimal Conservation Treatment of Books. From Protective Storage to Partial Conservation, "Journal of Paper Conservation", 19.3, p. 106–114, https://doi.org/10.1080/18680860.2018.1642029

Bicchieri M., Biocca P., Colaizzi P., Pinzari F. (2019), *Microscopic Observation of Paper and Parchment: the Archaeology of Small Objects*, "Heritage Science", 7, article number 47, https://doi.org/10.1186/s40494-019-0291-9

Brade L., Bauer H., Kersten P. (1916), *Illustriertes Buchbinderbuch. Ein Lehr- und Han-dbuch der gesamten Buchbinderei und aller in dieses Fach einschlagenden Kunsttechniken*, Verlag von Wilhelm Knapp, Halle (Salle).

Brenni P. (2012), The Evolution of Teaching Instruments and their Use between 1800 and 1930, "Science & Education", 21, p. 191–226, https://doi.org/10.1007/s11191-010-9326-z

Drążkowska A., Grupa M. (1996), *Uwagi o konserwacji przedmiotów znalezionych w gro-bach oficerów polskich w Katyniu i Charkowie*, [in:] M. Tarczyński (ed.), *Zbrodnia nie ukarana. Katyń – Twer – Charków*, Niezależny Komitet Historyczny Badania Zbrodni Katyńskiej; Polska Fundacja Katyńska, Warszawa, p. 78–90.

- Dutkiewicz M. (1996), Badania nad mobiliami odnalezionymi przy szczątkach polskich oficerów w Katyniu, [in:] M. Tarczyński (ed.), Zbrodnia nie ukarana. Katyń Twer Charków, Niezależny Komitet Historyczny Badania Zbrodni Katyńskiej; Polska Fundacja Katyńska, Warszawa, p. 37–90.
- Grupa M. (1998), Z badań archeologiczno-ekshumacyjnych na cmentarzu oficerów polskich w Charkowie z 1995–1996 r. impresje konserwatorskie, [in:] M. Tarczyński (ed.), Zbrodnia katyńska. Upamiętnienie ofiar i zadośćuczynienie, Niezależny Komitet Historyczny Badania Zbrodni Katyńskiej; Polska Fundacja Katyńska, Warszawa, p. 75–83.
- Grupa M. (2001), Inskrypcje na przedmiotach wydobytych w trakcie ekshumacji szczątków oficerów polskich w Charkowie, [in:] A. Kola, J. Sziling (ed.), Charków Katyń Twer. W sześćdziesiątą rocznicę zbrodni, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń, p. 155–167.
- Grupa M., Kaźmierczak R. (2001), *Dowody wydobyte z ziemi*, Rada Ochrony Pamięci Walk i Męczeństwa, Warszawa.
- Grupa M., Grupa D., Kozłowski T., Krajewska M., Majorek M., Nowak M., Nowak S., Przymorska-Sztuczka M., Wojciechowska A., Dudziński T. (2014), *Tajemnice szczuczyńskich krypt*, t. II, Towarzystwo Przyjaciół 9 PSK; Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Grajewo–Toruń.
- Kaczmarek I. (2015), Biblioteki szkolne w Łodzi w dwudziestoleciu międzywojennym. Przegląd działalności, "Acta Universitatis Lodzinsis. Folia Librorum", 20.1, p. 33–57.
- Kasiura I., Szymańska U. (2005), *Pierwsza pomoc dla książki*, "Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne", 83, p. 63–79, https://doi.org/10.31743/abmk.9868
- Knapek E. (2016), Konserwacja najwartościowszych zabytków języka polskiego z kolekcji Hieronima Łopacińskiego (1860–1906), "Rocznik Biblioteki Naukowej PAU i PAN w Krakowie", 61, p. 277–281.
- Kołątaj A. (2020), Problematyka konserwacji zabytkowych druków z XIX wieku na przykładzie książki Marii Konopnickiej Historia o krasnoludkach i o sierotce Marysi pierwodruku ze zbiorów Biblioteki Narodowej w Warszawie, "Notes Konserwatorski", 22, p. 129–167.
- Krzyżanowski L., Apanasewicz J. (1969), Konserwacja papieru i pergaminu, Ośrodek Dokumentacji Zabytków; Biblioteka Muzealnictwa i Ochrony Zabytków, Warszawa.
- Kucharzewski F. (1924), *Mechanika w swym rozwoju historycznym*, Instytut Wydawniczy "Bibljoteka Polska", Warszawa.
- Kurzyk T. (2004), *Powstanie i ustrój łódzkiego starostwa powiatowego w latach 1919–1939*, "Studia Iuridica Lulinensia", 3, p. 101–124.
- Kwaśniewicz K. (2021), Współczesne trendy i kierunki w rozwoju konserwacji archiwaliów w Polsce w XX i XXI wieku (praca doktorska, https://rebus.us.edu.pl/handle/20.500.12128/20653 [15 IX 2022]).
- Ławrynowicz O., Krupa-Ławrynowicz A., Sowińska-Heim J., Latocha K., Ossowski A., Gręzak A. (2022), *The Former Gestapo Headquarters and the Provincial Office of Public Security in Anstadt Avenue in Łódź. Interdisciplinary Site Research*, "Acta Universitatis Lodziensia. Folia Archaeologica", 37, p. 89–124.
- Ochrona i konserwacja zbiorów bibliotecznych. Materiały z ogólnopolskiej konferencji Warszawa 15–17 października 1998 r. (1998), Wydawnictwo SBP, Warszawa.

- Physikalische Apparate. Preisliste nr 50, Band II und III Allgemein verwendbare Apparate und Geräte. Einleitung in die Physik. Mechanik. Wellenlehre. Akustik. Optik. Wärme. Metereologie. Kosmologie (1912), Max Kohl A.G., Chemnitz.
- Piasek W. (2019), Notatki z etnografii myśli współczesnej w dziedzinie historii. Informacje etnograficzne, diagnozy i wielkie kwestie, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń.
- Piszczek Z. (1990), Współczesne problemy konserwacji zbiorów bibliotecznych i archiwalnych, "Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne", 59, p. 188–196.
- Pomian K. (2014), *Historia dziś*, [in:] E. Domańska, R. Stobiecki, T. Wiślicz (ed.), *Historia – dziś. Teoretyczne problemy wiedzy o przeszłości*, Towarzystwo Autorów i Wydawców Prac Naukowych Universitas, Kraków, p. 19–36.
- Praktyczne rekomendacje i dobre praktyki w zakresie ochrony zbiorów w instytucjach kultury (2021), E. Krzyczkowska-Roman, A. Cyrulik, M. Stawińska (ed.), Muzeum Historii Żydów Polskich Polin, Warszawa.
- Sächsische Biografie, saebi.isgv.de, entry: Kohl Max Hans Robert [15 IX 2022].
- Sobucki W., Jeżewska E. (2015), *Wiedza o papierze dla konserwatorów zbiorów*, Biblioteka Narodowa, Warszawa.
- Sound & Science: Digital Histories, soundandscience.de, entry: Max Kohl A.G. [18 IX 2022].
- Sprawozdanie Gimnazjum Żeńskiego Towarzystwa Żydowskich Szkół Średnich w Łodzi za rok szkolny 1929/30 (1930).
- Strzelczyk A.B., Karbowska-Berent J. (2004), *Drobnoustroje i owady niszczące zabytki i ich zwalczanie*, Wydawnictwo UMK, Toruń.
- Szcześniak W., Ataman M. (2018), "Mechanika w swym rozwoju historycznym" według profesora Feliksa Kucharzewskiego, "Autobusy. Technika, Eksploatacja, Systemy Transportowe", 19.6, p. 957–963, https://doi.org/10.24136/atest.2018.209
- Szybowska U. (2011), Oprawy ze średniowiecznych rękopisów muzycznych w księgozbiorze Jana Bernarda Bonifacia, Wydawnictwo Jasne, Pruszcz Gdański.
- Van Der Reyden D. (1992), Recent Scientific Research in Paper Conservation, "Journal of the American Institute for Conservation", 31.1, p. 117–138, https://doi.org/10.1179/019713692806156394
- Verheyen P.D., Conn D. (2003), *The Springback: Account Book Binding (German Style)*, "The New Bookbinder. Journal of Designer Bookbinders", 23, p. 48–52.
- Wieprzkowski J. (1983), *Vademecum Konserwacji Ksiażki. Poradnik dla bibliotekarzy*, Stowarzyszenie Bibliotekarzy Polskich, Warszawa.

#### Streszczenie

Podczas badań archeologicznych prowadzonych w 2019 r. w ramach projektu "Dawna siedziba Gestapo i Wojewódzkiego Urzędu Bezpieczeństwa Publicznego przy al. Anstadta w Łodzi. Interdyscyplinarne badania miejsca" pod kierunkiem dra Olgierda Ławrynowicza w jednym z wykopów odnaleziono obiekt wypełniony wyrobami na podłożu papierowym oraz materiałami introligatorskimi. W artykule podjęto próbę doprecyzowania chronologii wyrobów papierowych, rozpoznania ich rodzaju

(maszynopis, druk wartościowy, książka, materiał introligatorski, rysunek techniczny, inne wyroby papierowe) i użytego surowca. Wykonano identyfikację odsłoniętych treści przy użyciu podstawowych metod badawczych oraz ich cyfrową dokumentację fotograficzną w ramach działań ochronnych.

**Słowa kluczowe**: dawna siedziba Gestapo, XX w., wyroby papierowe, introligatorstwo, archeologia, antropologia historyczna

#### Magdalena Majorek

University of Lodz Institute of Archaeology Laboratory of Dating and Conservation of Artifacts e-mail: magdalena.majorek@uni.lodz.pl

#### Sebastian Latocha

University of Lodz Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology e-mail: sebastian.latocha@uni.lodz.pl

#### Irena Podolska-Rutkowska

Univeristy of Lodz Doctoral School of Humanities e-mail: irena.podolska.rutkowska@edu.uni.lodz.pl

#### Anna Olczyk

Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography in Łódź e-mail: anna.olczyk@maie.lodz.pl

#### Ida Sidorczuk

University of Lodz Institute of Archaeology e-mail: idasidorczuk@interia.pl