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**“[...] our society has lost one of its most respectable members”.**

**Cognitive aspects of a memorial profiles  
(based on texts from “Wędrowiec” weekly)**

**Summary.** The author analyses the selected issues observed in memoir profile at the cognitive level of the genre. This level includes the subject matter and the way it is presented, that is, the adopted point of view, perspective and axiological order. The analyses include those contents that refer to the social conditions of life (and death) of the depicted persons. Memoir profiles were excerpted from more than 30 annuals of “Wędrowiec” from 1863–1899. Other titles of the Warsaw press were cited for comparative purposes. The analyses proved that the way to emphasize the social dimension of death was to draw attention to the number of funeral attendees (quantitative aspect), and to mark the loss that society suffered with the death of a person (qualitative aspect). The analysed texts showed differences in the characterization of deceased men and women. What was common, however, was the great scope of axiological lexis (mainly evaluative and valourising vocabulary) in the texts.

**Keywords:** memoir profile, genre analysis, “Wędrowiec”, 19<sup>th</sup> century press

**„[...] społeczeństwo nasze straciło jednego z najzacniejszych swych członków”.**

**Poznawcze aspekty sylwetki wspomnieniowej  
(na podstawie tekstów z „Wędrowca”)**

**Streszczenie.** Przedmiotem analiz są wybrane zagadnienia utrwalone w sylwetkach wspomnieniowych na poznawczym poziomie gatunku. Poziom ten obejmuje tematykę i sposób jej przedstawienia, czyli przyjęty punkt widzenia, perspektywę oraz porządek aksjologiczny. W analizach uwzględniono te treści, które odwołują się do wspólnotowych uwarunkowań życia (i śmierci) przedstawianych osób. Przedmiotem ekscerpcji uczyniono ponad 30 roczników „Wędrowca” z lat 1863–1899, a w celach porównawczych przywołano inne tytuły prasy warszawskiej. Analizy dowiodły, że sposobem zaakcentowania społecznego wymiaru śmierci było zwrócenie uwagi na liczbę uczestników pogrzebu (aspekt ilościowy) oraz zaznaczenie straty, jaką ponosiło społeczeństwo (aspekt

jakościowy) ze śmiercią osoby. Analizowane teksty uwidoczniły różnice w charakteryzowaniu zmarłych kobiet i mężczyzn. Wspólne natomiast było nasycenie tekstów leksyką aksjologiczną (głównie słownictwem oceniającym i waloryzującym).

**Słowa kluczowe:** sylwetka wspomnieniowa, analiza genologiczna, „Wędrowiec”, prasa XIX wieku

The genre name *memorial profile* [Pol. *sylwetka wspomnieniowa*] used in the title of the article refers to a press statement which started to gain its generic autonomy in the press of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although the term *posthumous tribute* [Pol. *wspomnienie pośmiertne*] was used more often. This is evidenced by both metatextual comments accompanying statements about a deceased person, for example:

W chwili, gdy to **wspomnienie**<sup>1</sup> dojdzie, czytelnicy, do rąk waszych, będą odprowadzone zwłoki ś.p. Klemensa Junoszy-Szaniawskiego na wiekuisty spoczynek. [When this **tribute**, dear readers, gets to your hands, the body of late Klemens Junosza-Szaniawski will be taken to the place of its final rest.] (W, 1898, no. 13, p. 246)<sup>2</sup>

Krótkie to **wspomnienie pośmiertne** najodpowiedniej zakończymy, cytując słowa dr. W. Matłakowskiego [...] [This short **posthumous tribute** is best ended with a quote from doctor W. Matłakowski [...]] (W, 1884, no. 4, p. 518)

Żegnaj nam drogi cieniu – niech to **wspomnienie** będzie dla ciebie garścią ziemi, z życziwej ręki na grób posypaną. [Farewell, dear shadow – let this **tribute** be a handful of earth for you, scattered on the grave by a friendly hand.] (GP 1871, no. 188, p. 1),

and genre names describing such texts:

Władysław Podkowiński. (**Wspomnienie pośmiertne**) [**Posthumous tribute**] (W, 1895, no. 2, p. 38)

Ludwik hr. Krasieński. (**Wspomnienie pośmiertne**) [**Posthumous tribute**] (W, 1895, no. 17, p. 325)

It should be noted that in the press nomenclature of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, terms referring to texts devoted to deceased persons were used quite freely. Such texts were called, among others, *biographies*, *obituaries*, *life stories*, *portraits* [Pol. *biografia*, *nekrolog*, *życiorys*, *wizerunek*]. Since the problem of different names is discussed by me in another article (Pietrzak 2021), where I present my position regarding the choice of the genre name *profile* [Pol. *sylwetka*], I will use the term *memorial profile* (in short *profile*) to refer to press texts about deceased persons. Alternatively, I will use the term *posthumous tribute* to describe such statements.

The main purpose of such a statement was to inform about the death of a person, to present their profile, including their key achievements, and to show respect (Wojtak 2004: 124, Wojtak 2020: 134–135, Worsowicz 2008: 66–68). The object of the present analysis will be selected aspects presented in profiles on

<sup>1</sup> All highlights in the source texts come from the author of the study.

<sup>2</sup> Quotes from source texts are provided in their original form (spelling, punctuation, etc.). When locating the quotes, the abbreviation W is used instead of the full name “Wędrowiec” [Wayfarer].

the cognitive level of the genre. That level encompasses the topic and the manner of its presentation, that is the adopted point of view, the perspective and the axiological order (Wojtak 2004: 16). Mainly those contents will be of interest which refer to community determinants of life and death of the presented persons. A *posthumous tribute (memorial profile)* is a form of press statement which in its origins emphasizes the supra-individual dimension. As Tadeusz Budrewicz observes:

Niewątpliwie ten gatunek formował się w głębokich pokładach kultury ludowej (tradycyjne mowy pogrzebowe) oraz religii chrześcijańskiej (*memoria, komemoracja*). Ludowe oracje były jednak skupione na uniwersalnym porządku świata, łączącym człowieka ze zbiorowością, eksponowały anonimowość, wzory ról społecznych i cnoty ogólnoludzkie. Ich zasadniczą funkcją było pożegnanie zmarłego ze światem najbliższym, toteż trudno tu dopatrywać się wzorów przedstawiania indywidualnego obrazu biegu życia. [The genre was definitely formed in deep layers of folk culture (traditional funeral speeches) and Christianity (*memoria, commemoration*). Popular oratories, however, focused on the universal order of the world, joining an individual with the collective, they emphasized anonymity, social role models and general human virtues. Their main function was for the deceased to bid farewell to their closest world, therefore, presentations of an individual life can be hardly found there.] (Budrewicz 2018: 109)

In Doroszewski's dictionary (SJP Dor), the lexem *community* has been assigned four meanings, with the first three reflected in the studied texts: 1. 'being characterized by common traits, joint possession, usage of something; commonality'; 2. 'something which joins, connects; a tie, a bond'; 3. 'an organization, a community joined by a common origin, common interests, common possessions'. In the context of the studied texts, two community determinants become obvious, the first one being the fact of belonging to the national community (back then, outside formal structures) and the other one – belonging to the community of readers as determined by the relation between editors and readers of the paper. Notably thematic papers, with "Wędrowiec" being one of them, had their groups of subscribers, interested in popular science.

The object of excerption are 30 annual editions of "Wędrowiec" [Wayfarer] weekly from the period of 1863–1899, available on the website of the Digital Library of the University of Lodz (see the list of abbreviations) and, mainly for comparative purposes, "Gazeta Polska" [Polish Gazette] weekly, which was very popular in Warsaw. "Wędrowiec" was a weekly paper specializing in travel and geographical topics<sup>3</sup> and regularly publishing profiles of famous persons. The main purpose of the weekly was to present and popularize the current state of science. Researchers (Kamisińska 2010, 2011; Kmiecik 1984) often emphasized the popularizing nature of "Wędrowiec", which led to increased interest

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<sup>3</sup> "Wędrowiec" was published in Warsaw in the years 1863–1906. The paper was founded by Józef Unger – a well-known Warsaw printer and publisher. Its chief editors were, in the following order: Władysław Anczyc, Filip Sulimierski, Artur Gruszecki, Waclaw Holewiński, Józef Sikorski and Artur Oppman. More information about the paper, its publishing profile, topics of articles can be found in the following studies: Kamisińska (2010, 2011); Kmiecik (1984).

in travel and scientific discoveries. The popularization task was also fulfilled by biographies of scientists, researchers and travellers, published on the pages of "Wędrowiec". A pretext for publishing a profile was usually the death of the given person. Another reason could be a jubilee of scientific (or research) work or a thematic cycle (e.g., about travellers to Siberia) prepared by the editorial team. Due to the theme of the paper, most of the analysed profiles refer to deaths of well-known persons, distinguished and respected for their professional achievements and often for making Poland's name famous in Europe. The choice of persons clearly had an impact on the cognitive content of the texts and the adopted perspective.

In the funeral discourse, which a memorial profile drew abundantly from, the community dimension of death was manifested mainly in the "ostentatious funeral spectacle" (Baczewski 2002: 224). Images of the old Polish *pompa funebris* (Chrościcki 1974) resonate also in the seventeenth century press, mainly through extensive descriptions of funerals (presentation of the church, summaries of funeral speeches). Death notices, posthumous tributes or profiles of deceased published in the nineteenth century press present significantly reduced information about the funeral ceremony. However, a suitable funeral segment constituted an almost mandatory element of all such statements – mainly their final part. Here the examples:

[1] Cicha zazwyczaj i dosyć pusta ulica Krupnicza w Krakowie zawrzała w niedzielę dn. 30 grudnia r. z. ruchem i gwarem. Przed godziną trzecią **zjawiło się kilka tysięcy osób, do czoła inteligencji należących, ludzie nauki, artyści, literaci.** / Na smutny atoli zebrali się oni obrządek; za chwilę miano ponieść do grobu śmiertelne szczątki jednego z najgłośniejszych i najpopularniejszych malarzy polskich, Henryka Rodakowskiego. [On Sunday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of December, the usually quiet and rather empty Krupnicza street in Cracow was full of noise and commotion. Before three o'clock, **several thousand people appeared, belonging to the highest intelligence circles, people of science, artists, writers.** / They gathered to a sad ceremony; in a moment, the mortal remnants of Henryk Rodakowski, one of the most famous and most popular Polish painters, were to be carried to the grave.] (W, 1895, no. 2, p. 32)

[2] Zwłoki nieodżałowanego przyrodnika spoczęły na cmentarzu Powązkowskim, **odprowadzone na wieczny spoczynek przez liczne grono nie tylko przyrodników i ludzi nauki,** gdyż Waga był znanym i cenionym i lubionym **w szerokich kołach naszego społeczeństwa.** [The body of the dearly departed naturalist was laid to rest in Powązkowski cemetery, **accompanied on its way to eternal peace by a numerous group of not only naturalists and scientists,** as Waga was well-known, respected and well-liked **in broad circles of our society.**] (W, 1890, no. 48, p. 304)

[3] Pogrzeb ś.p. Teichmanna był wspaniałą manifestacją czci i uznania dla niezastąpionego profesora. W **kilkutysięcznym orszaku,** jaki towarzyszył zwłokom **nie brakowało reprezentacji wszystkich ciał naukowych i delegaj z Galicji i zagranicy.** Trumnę okoloną berłami jagiellońskiej „Almae matris” przy dźwiękach śpiewanego marsza na swych barkach studenci, a olbrzymi pochód wieńców, niesionych przez różnych delegatów, przypominał wspaniałością i powagą, że **społeczeństwo oddaje ostatnią posługę wielkiemu dygnitarzowi nauki i szlachetnemu człowiekowi.** [The funeral of late Teichmann was a glorious manifestation of respect and appreciation for the unreplaceable professor. In the **procession of**

several thousand people, accompanying the body, there were representatives of all scientific bodies and delegations from Galicia and abroad. The coffin with sceptres of Jagiellonian "Almae matris", to the sound of a sung marching tune, was carried by students on their shoulders, and the vast procession of wreaths, carried by various delegates, reminded with its magnificence and solemnity that the society is performing the last rites for a great dignitary of science and a noble man.] (W, 1895, no. 49, p. 975; Ludwik Teichmann)

[4] Pochowanie zwłok Jana Jędrzejewicza na cmentarzu plockim, w grobie familijnym Weyherów odbyło się w środę, dnia 21 grudnia roku zeszłego, w asystencji licznego orszaku osób z miasta i okolicy, różnych wyznań i stanów. [The body of Jan Jędrzejewicz was buried in the cemetery in Plock, in the tomb of Weyher family, on Wednesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of December last year, in assistance of a numerous procession of people from the town and the surrounding area, of various creeds and estates.] (W, 1888, no. 1, p. 8)

It can be noted that authors of the profiles emphasize the significant number of participants of the funeral. For that purpose, they use phrases with an adjective modifier: *several thousand* [1], *a numerous group* [2], *a numerous procession* [4], *a procession of several thousand people* [3]. The listing series made of names of representatives of various professions and inhabitants of geographical regions indicate the communities to which the deceased belonged based on his professional ties, his origin or residence in the given town/region: *people of science, artists, writers* [1], *a group of not only naturalists and scientists* [2], *representatives of all scientific bodies and delegations from Galicia and abroad* [3]. Exposing of the large number of funeral participants opens a way for remarks about the role of the deceased in Polish science and culture. Those statements are full of evaluative lexis (adjectives and participles), organized in listing series: "Waga was **well-known, respected and well-liked** in broad circles of our society" [2], "the society is performing the last rites for a **great dignitary of science and a noble man**" [3]. The abovementioned quotes lead to believe that the higher the number of participants of the funeral, the higher the given person's merits to the general society or the local community. This is supported by the information about the death of Ludwik Geyer, an entrepreneur from Łódź, in "Gazeta Polska" published in Warsaw:

[5] - Piszą nam z Łodzi: Olbrzymi orszak pogrzebowy złożony z blisko 10 000 osób, wymownie świadczył, że w trumnie spoczywały zwłoki męża znanego i zasłużonego krajowi. I rzeczywiście - pochowaliśmy ś.p. Ludwika Gajera. [They write to us from Łódź: A huge funeral procession of almost 10,000 people was a clear evidence that the coffin contained the body of a noble and distinguished man. And this was truly so - we buried late Ludwik Gajer.] (GP 1869, no. 249, p. 2)

It follows from the above quotes that death of a generally known person, a representative of science or culture or an entrepreneur gathered large crowds. The focus on that perspective in memorial profiles emphasized the social (community) dimension of death. In that context, a loss for the community was stressed, especially if the deceased was a great scientist (see examples [6]-[8]). Polish scientists not only brought a significant contribution to the development of contemporary science (Rederowa 1987) but they were also ambassadors of Poland in Europe.

[6] Nauka nasza w porównaniu z zagraniczną jest tak uboższą, prac oryginalnych z dziedziny wiedzy posiadamy tak niewiele, że **ubytek poważnego uczonego i badacza jakim niezaprzeczalnie był Jędrzejewicz, bolesnem echem musiał się odbić we wszystkich umysłach, które potrzeby kraju rozumieją i czują.** [In comparison with the abroad, our science is so poor, we have so few original works in the area of knowledge that **the loss of such a serious scientist and researcher as undoubtedly was Jędrzejewicz must have echoed painfully in the minds of all those who understand and feel the needs of the country.**] (W, 1888, no. 1, p. 8)

[7] W osobie jego [tj. Ludwika Teichmanna] **świat naukowy polski stracił jedną z najwybitniejszych sił, Akademia umiejętności swego wiceprezesa, a uniwersytet profesora, który chlubą okrył wszechnicę i wykształcił całe pokolenie lekarzy w tej gałęzi umiejętności, która jest podstawą medycyny.** [In his [i.e. Ludwik Teichmann's] person, **the Polish world of science lost one of its most brilliant forces, the Academy – the skills of its vice-president, and the University – a professor who brought it glory** and educated a whole generation of doctors in the field which is the basis of medicine.] (W, 1895, no. 49, p. 975)

[8] **Z niezbyt licznego grona naszych uczonych, ubył mąż,** odznaczający się rozległą wiedzą [The **not very numerous circle of our scientists is diminished by a man** characterized by extensive knowledge] (W, 1890, no. 48, p. 304)

[9] **Przez śmierć Antoniego Wagi tracimy jednego z pierwszych pionierów nauk przyrodniczych w naszym kraju, męża, który przeszedł niemal cały kraj wzdłuż i wszerz, aby zbadać jego florę, aby gromadzić zbiory swoich owadów i dokonywać badań drobnowidzowych** [With the **death of Antoni Waga, we lose one of the first pioneers of natural sciences in our country,** a man who travelled almost the whole country far and wide to study its flora, collect insects and conduct microscopic examinations] (W, 1890, no. 48, p. 304)

In the quoted fragments, the use of possessive pronoun *our* (*our science, our scientists, our country*) can be observed, being a semantic equivalent of the adjective *Polish*, as well as narration presented from the perspective of the 1<sup>st</sup> person plural – inclusive “we” (“we lose one of the first pioneers”). Those are linguistic markers of a national (Polish) community, which both the deceased and the circle of “Wędrowiec” readers belong to. That perspective being exposed in the descriptions was determined by the Polish point of view. In other contexts, the pronoun *our* (and, sporadically, the adjective *Polish*) defines the name of the community suffering from the loss of the given person. Lexical markers of a community are usually *collectiva*: *society* [10], [14], *literature* meaning ‘all writers’ [11], *journalism* meaning ‘all journalists’ [12] or plural nouns: *activists* [14].

[10] Dnia 16 b.m. **społeczeństwo nasze straciło** jednego z najzacniejszych swych członków, **piśmiennictwo** – zdolnego i zasłużonego pracownika. [On the 16<sup>th</sup> day of this month, **our society lost** one of its most respectable members, and **literature** – a talented and distinguished contributor.] (W, 1890, no. 38, p. 190)

[11] **Piśmiennictwo polskie dotknęła ciężka strata.** Jeden z najbardziej utalentowanych i najpopularniejszych autorów doby dzisiejszej, ś.p. Klemens Junosza Szaniawski, w dniu 22-im b. m. rozstał się z tym światem. [**Polish literature suffered a great loss.** One of the most talented and popular modern authors, late Klemens Junosza Szaniawski, departed from this world on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of this month.] (W, 1898, no. 13, p. 245)

[12] **Dziennikarstwu naszemu** ubyla siła niepoślednia. [Our journalism lost a considerable asset.] (W, 1895, no. 33, p. 649)

[13] Taką okrutną niespodziankę stanowi nagły, wypadkowy zgon ś.p. Maryi Paprockiej, utalentowanej, tyle budzącej nadziei na przyszłość, powieściopisarki, która pod pseudonimem „Znicza”, była **naszą współpracowniczką**. [Such a cruel surprise is the sudden, accidental death of late Maria Paprocka, a talented novelist raising so much hopes for the future, who was **our collaborator** under the pseudonym “Znicza”.] (W 1896, nr 27, s. 5)

[14] Drugi to już raz w bieżącym tygodniu z niewypowiedzianym smutkiem zasiadam do pisania, żeby znów zawiadomić **moich czytelników** o śmierci jednego z **naszych działaczy**, prawdziwie **zasłużonych swemu społeczeństwu**. [It is already the second time this week that I write to inform **my readers** about the death of one of **our activists**, having true **merits for their society**.] (W, 1888, no. 1, p. 10)

Worth noting are the two last examples [13]–[14]. In the metatext comment, the author of the tribute speaks on behalf of the editorial staff of “Wędrowiec”, also in the context of a community which feels obliged to inform about the death of its member (*our collaborator, our activist*) and their farewell.

Death of a person is felt mainly by the closest circle of the deceased, in the first place by their **family**, friends, and then by co-workers. That order is observed in the fragments describing the course of the funeral ceremony:

[15] Zwłoki sprowadzone do Warszawy w dniu 13 września, złożone zostały na cmentarzu Powązkowskim. **Orszakowi pogrzebowemu prócz owdowiałej małżonki, trojga dzieci i licznej rodziny, towarzyszyli koledzy zmarłego tak dzisiejsi, jako i kaukascy**, jedni przebywający w Warszawie, inni przybyli z różnych miejsc kraju. [The body was brought to Warsaw on 13<sup>th</sup> September and laid to rest in Powązkowski cemetery. **The funeral procession, apart from the widowed wife, three children and numerous family-members, was accompanied by colleagues of the deceased, both present ones and those from the Caucasus**, some staying in Warsaw, others travelling from various parts of the country.] (W, 1882, no. 45, p. 291)

[16] Zwłoki jego z majątku Kieny zostały przewiezione wprost do kaplicy na cmentarzu Rossie, gdzie nazajutrz 22 maja (3 czerwca) po żałobnem nabożeństwie, **wobec rodziny, zgromadzonych przyjaciół i znajomych**, złożono je do ziemi. [His body was brought from Kieny estate directly to the chapel in Rossa cemetery, where on the next day, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May (3<sup>rd</sup> of June), after a memorial service, **in the presence of the family, gathered friends and acquaintances**, it was laid in the ground.] (W, 1879, no. 133, p. 34)

References to the community of relatives mourning the death of a close one are present also in segments describing the profile of the deceased. Evaluative fragments are quite numerous (due to the renown of the given person). Valourising attributes: *good* [colleague], *talented* [specialist], *best* [father] as well as the periphrastic expression *true Providence* do not individualize a person, they refer to general virtues and fall into the canon of writing only good things about the deceased. Again, strongly exposed is the thread of the community being weakened due to the death of an outstanding person – a representative of the world of science or culture, with an additional emphasis on the loss suffered by their close ones:

[17] Bo jakkolwiek zgon ś.p. Fritschego przedewszystkim **dotyka najbliższą rodzinę i przyjaciół, jakkolwiek i świat lekarski żałuje dobrego kolegi, oraz uzdolnionego specjalisty** – największą stratę ponoszą przecież ci nieszczęśliwi, dla których **nieboszczyk był prawdziwą Opatrznością**. [Although the death of late Fritsche is mainly **felt by the closest family and friends, although the medical world mourns a good colleague and a talented specialist** – the greatest loss is experienced by those unfortunate ones for whom **the departed was a true Providence**.] (W, 1892, no. 48, p. 757)

[18] **Rodzina straciła w nim ojca najlepszego**, będącego przykładem dla tych, co głosząc publicznie teorie moralne, powinni je także stosować praktycznie w życiu prywatnym. **Cios to dla niej straszny**. [The family has lost the best father, who was a model for those who publicly spread moral theories but should also apply them in practice in their private life. **This is a terrible blow for the family**.] (W, 1896, no. 30, p. 65)

[19] Ś.p. Antoni Łycki nietylko **zdolny był kochać swoją rodzinę**, dla której gotów był zawsze poświęcać się bez trudu, ale również **potrafił on być ojcem, bratem, przyjacielem dla wszystkich, którzy mieli z nim do czynienia**. [Late Antoni Łycki was able not only to love his family, for which he was always ready to sacrifice himself, but also to be a father, brother, friend to all those who encountered him.] (W, 1890, no. 6, p. 71)

Another type of community referred to in the context of presenting profiles of the deceased is the **parish community**. Although tributes to late priests are not so often in the press of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (compared to, for instance, to the 17<sup>th</sup> century press owned mainly by Piarists and Jesuits), such texts were also published. Here are selected quotes:

[20] Zgon zacnego kapłana [tj. Rocha Wojcickiego] obudził szczerzy żal, nie tylko wśród rodziny, której był dobroczyńcą, **ale i wśród tysięcy parafian, tak w Belsku, jak w Łowiczu, tłumnie odprowadzających zwłoki na miejsce wiecznego spoczynku**. [The death of the respectable priest [that is Roch Wojcicki] caused true grief not only among the family, to which he was a benefactor, **but also among thousands of parishioners, both in Belsk and Łowicz, accompanying the body to the place of its final rest in large crowds**.] (W, 1896, no. 40, p. 265)

[21] Parafia Przemienienia Pańskiego w Warszawie **osieroconą została przez śmierć swego proboszcza**, ś.p. Bronisława Podolskiego, który w dniu 5-ym grudnia **zasnął w Panu**. [The parish of Transfiguration of Jesus in Warsaw **was orphaned because of the death of its priest**, late Bronisław Podolski, who on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December **fell asleep in Lord's peace**.] (W, 1895, no. 50, p. 475)

[22] Z szeregu cichych **pracowników w Winnicy Chrystusowej ubył znów gorliwy sługa Boży i prawdziwy w ewangelicznemu znaczeniu dusz pasterz**. [From the numbers of quiet workers in the Christ's Vineyard, yet another devout servant of God and a true shepherd of souls in the evangelical meaning was taken.] (W, 1896, no. 40, p. 265)

[23] Zgasał po długich cierpieniach, spowodowanych nadmierną pracą przy wątłym organizmie, **pozostawiając szczerzy żal wśród parafian i towarzyszy pracy w Winnicy Chrystusowej**. [He died after long suffering caused by excessive work and his frail organism, **leaving true grief among parishioners and companions of his work in the Christ's Vineyard**.] (W, 1895, no. 50, p. 475)

The loss – according to the authors of posthumous tributes – was felt mainly by the parish community, for which the departed was *a priest* [21], *a devout servant of God* [22], *a true shepherd of souls* [22], *a worker in the Christ's Vineyard* [22]. As we



can see, the range of terms used includes both the canon of names describing church positions and figurative expressions. Those last ones emphasize solemnity of the statement, similarly to other expressions describing death: *to orphan the parish* [21], *to fall asleep in Lord's peace* [21]. Again, the number of participants of the funeral (*thousands of parishioners, in large crowds*) is stressed.

An important element of the structural level of memorial profiles, affecting the model of that genre, was the presence of a biographical segment. Recalling of key stages in the career as well as scientific or artistic achievements (in profiles of representatives of science and culture) was often a pretext to acknowledge the work of the deceased and to emphasize their merits for the field they represented. Authors of memorial texts recorded also teaching achievements, noted the ability to gain respect of academic youth, being open to their needs, aptitude for passing knowledge, that is all those strengths which allow to build a community of students gathered around the teacher. That didactic perspective of descriptions of the deceased can be illustrated by the following examples:

[24] Prowadząc wykłady w b. szkole głównej i uniwersytecie prof. Aleksandrowicz jasnością wykładu, łagodnością obejścia i słodczą charakteru, **potrafił sobie zjednać serce akademickiej młodzieży, przyciągnąć wielu z młodych ludzi i rozbudzić w nich zamiłowanie** do botaniki, a służąc najchętniej radą, zbiorami i dziełami (literaturą przedmiotu), dał pierwsze podstawy naukowe **całemu zastępowi młodych, dzisiejszych botaników naszych**, którzy ze swych prac na polu botaniki znani są zaszczytnie całemu naukowemu światu. [Giving lectures at the former main school and the university, prof. Aleksandrowicz with his clear presentation, gentle manners and sweet nature **was able to win the hearts of academic youth, attract many young people and awaken in them a passion** for botany, and eager to help with advice, collections and works (reference books), he offered the first scientific foundation **to a whole group of our young contemporary botanists**, who are known and distinguished in the whole scientific world for their works in the field of botany.] (W, 1878, no. 101, p. 354)

[25] W pracowni jego [tj. Andrzeja Pruszyńskiego] kształcił się **liczny zastęp młodzieży artystycznej**, bo Pruszyński **był doskonałym nauczycielem, chętnie udzielał rad i wskazówek** i nie szczędził zachodów, aby krzesać talent w tej **młodzieży, która się do niego garnęła chętnie** po wiedzę techniczną i materyalny zasilek. [In his [that is Andrzej Pruszyński's] atelier, **numerous artistic youth** was educated as Pruszyński **was an excellent teacher, eager to offer advice and tips**, and spared no effort to muster talent in that **youth who gladly came to him** for technical knowledge and material support.] (W, 1895, no. 11, p. 205)

[26] **Umiał** [tj. Kopernicki] tam **pozyskać sobie szacunek i przywiązanie młodzieży akademickiej i należał do jej najulubieńszych profesorów**. [**He** [that is Kopernicki] was able to **gain there respect and affection of the academic youth** and was **one of its favourite professors**.] (W, 1879, no. 133, p. 34)

[27] Jako profesor pozostawił ś.p. Teichmann po sobie pamięć **najszlachetniejszego opiekuna uczącej się młodzieży**, który nigdy nie zniżył się do utilitarnego kompromisu w trudnych krakowskich warunkach. [As a professor, late Teichmann left the memory of **the most noble guardian of studying youth**, who never stooped to a utilitarian compromise under the difficult conditions in Cracow.] (W, 1895, no. 49, p. 975)

[28] Człowiekiem ś.p. Piąskowski był nieposzlakowanej uczciwości. Jowialny, pełen pobłażania dla swych chorych, troskliwy o nich aż do zaparcia się siebie, wytworny mówca i pełen prostoty w obejściu profesor, **zostawił w licznym gronie swoich uczniów niezatarte wspomnienie**. [Late Piąskowski was a man of unblemished honesty. Jovial, full of understanding for his patients, caring for them even to his own detriment, an excellent speaker and a professor with straightforward manners, **he left a lasting memory among the numerous circles of his students**.] (W 1896, no. 27, p. 9)

The parts presenting the deceased as a teacher are full of axiological lexis, giving the statement an almost panegyric tone. Valued is the ability to attract students and gain their respect. In that function, next to popular verbal structures such as: *attract many* [24], *come to* (about the youth [25]), *awaken a passion* [24], metaphorical expressions can be found *heart – win the hearts of academic youth* [24]<sup>4</sup> or expressions with evaluative nouns: *gain respect and affection* [26]. Emphasized is the large number of students, with such nouns used in that function as *group* (of young people, youth [24], [25]) and *circle*, additionally strengthened by the epithet *numerous* [28]. Naturally, the majority of evaluative expressions are used with regard to the described persons. Used as valorisation markers are: a. lexical forms, mostly adjectival epithets *excellent, unblemished; jovial, caring, refined*, and b. grammatical forms, mainly adjectival superlatives: *the most favourite professor* [26], *the most noble guardian* [27].

In biographical segments of the analysed profiles, in particular of representatives of science or aristocrats, the membership of the persons in various associations is recorded, such as scientific societies, boards, with one of the described persons being a member of parliament [29]:

[29] [...] był gorliwym członkiem Rady Szkolnej, posłem do sejmu i parlamentu, gdzie w sprawach oświecenia, jako ceniony ogólnie fachowiec, głos zabierał. [...] **was a dedicated member of the School Board, a Sejm deputy and a member of parliament**, where he spoke about education as a generally valued specialist.] (W, 1896, no. 39, p. 244)

[30] [...] trzeba wspomnieć, iż ś.p. Ludwik hr. Krasiński był twórcą warszawskiego muzeum przemysłu i rolnictwa; **pod jego egidą utworzył się w Warszawie oddział popierania ruskiego przemysłu i handlu**, którego był czynnym prezesem od chwili jego powstania. [...] Na zebraniach sekcyjnych w muzeum przemysłu i handlu, **wszystkich serdecznie witał, z każdym chętnie rozmawiał** i nigdy nie manifestował swego stanowiska hrabiowskiego. [...] it should be noted that late Ludwik count Krasiński was the founder of the Warsaw museum of industry and agriculture; **under his auspices, a section supporting Russian industry and trade was established in Warsaw**, of which he was an active president since its beginnings. [...] **At section meetings in the museum of industry and trade, he greeted everyone cordially, talked gladly to everyone** and never manifested his count position.] (W, 1895, no. 17, p. 325)

<sup>4</sup> Similar expressions can be found in profiles of doctors, for example: "Obdarzony niezmiernie pewną ręką, pełen dobroci i współczucia dla niedoli swych małych pacjentów, wszędzie **zjednywał dla siebie ufność**, a ileż to matek ze łzami wdzięczności wspomina dotąd tego szlachetnego, delikatnego i bezinteresownego lekarza". [Gifted with a very steady hand, full of goodness and compassion for the suffering of his young patients, he **gained trust** everywhere, and so with tears of gratitude many mothers still remember this noble, gentle and selfless doctor.] (W, 1898, no. 11, p. 209)

[31] **Był on członkiem wielu towarzystw naukowych**, między innymi członkiem honorowym Towarzystwa lekarskiego warszawskiego [...]. [**He was a member of numerous scientific associations**, among others an honorary member of the Warsaw Medical Society [...]] (W 1896, no. 27, p. 9)

The presence of such mentions was supposed to emphasize the service of the deceased for the society, in particular for the given professional group. It also offered yet another possibility to emphasize character traits or the individual nature, such as: dedication, professionalism [29], friendliness and openness to others [30], professional activity [31].

It can be easily observed that among the presented profiles, there are rather few tributes devoted to women. This fact reflects the presence of women in public life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There were few women writers, and practically no women in science. Death of a woman was usually considered from the perspective of the family and the local community which the deceased (usually a wife of a landowner) supported. It is the family, house servants and inhabitants of surrounding towns or villages who participate in the funeral:

[32] Ekspozycyji ciała, obok familii zebranej na pogrzeb asystowała z własnego popędu **cała gromada wsi Helenówki**, a z miasteczka Motowidłoki **wyszła też cała gromada** na spotkanie zwłok prowadzonych. Bardzo silne i rzewne robili wrażenie starzy ludzie, dla których wspomnienia tej rodziny miłemi są. **Słudzy domowi, płaczem szczerym żegnali dobrą panią swoją**. [Exposition of the body, apart from the family gathered for the funeral, was assisted, at their own initiative, by the **whole Helenówka village bunch**, and also a **large bunch** came from the town of Motowidłoki to meet the carried body. A very strong and sad impression made old people who cherish the memory of that family. **House servants bode farewell to their good lady with heartfelt weeping.**] (GP, 1876, no. 4, p. 2)

[33] Śmierć tej zacnej. Pełnej chrześcijańskich cnót niewiasty [tj. Albertyny z Bielskich Karczewskiej], pogrążyła w niemej boleści: **męża, syna, trzy córki, i przejęła głębokim smutkiem krewnych i tych wszystkich, którzy ś.p. Albertynę znali i piękne jej cnoty cenili**. To też na wieść o zgonie, **bliźsi i dalsi sąsiedzi pośpieszyli uczcić jej zwłoki**, i gorącą modlitwą i łzą rzewną pożegnać zmarłą, którą **w asystencji duchowieństwa, rodziny, krewnych i przyjaciół** odprowadzono z majątku Lipowej do parafialnego Kobryńskiego kościoła. [The death of this noble woman, full of Christian virtue, [that is Albertyna Karczewska nee Bielska], left in silent sorrow: **her husband, son, three daughters, and filled with deep sadness her relatives and all those who knew late Albertyna and valued her beautiful virtues**. Therefore, hearing about her death, **close and more distance neighbours hurried to pay respect to her body** and with a heartfelt prayer and bitter tears to bid farewell to the departed, who was carried from Lipowa estate to Kobryński parish church **in assistance of clergy, family, relatives and friends.**] (GP, 1874, no. 40, p. 4)

Similarly to descriptions of funerals of men, also in the case of women, funeral segments focus on the emphasis of the large number of participants. For that purpose, mainly listing series are used: *left in silent grief: her husband, son, three daughters; in assistance of clergy, family, relatives and friends* [33], as well as nominal expressions with the lexeme *bunch* [Pol. *gromada*]: *the whole village bunch* [32]. Noted are reactions of participants of the funeral: "A very strong and

sad impression made old people" [32], "House servants bid farewell to their good lady with heartfelt weeping" [32], "with a heartfelt prayer and bitter tears to bid farewell" [33]. Filling the descriptions with lexis from the semantic field *to cry* (*heartfelt weeping, bitter tears*) or lexis evoking emotional states (*sorrow, grief, sad impression*) makes them very suggestive. It seems that death of a woman stirred more emotions in participants of the funeral. On the other hand, in the case of women aristocrats who were devoted to charity or cultural work, strongly emphasized was also the loss suffered by wards [34] or members of high society meetings [36]. Praised was dedication to helping the poorest, as evidenced by the following quotes from the memorial profile of Aleksandra countess Potocka [34]–[35]. Appreciated is also her contribution to organization of the cultural life [36]:

[34] **Wieść, niestety, sprawdziła się i odbiła smutnem echem w sercach tych przedewszystkim, którzy dla zmarłej damy, wysokiego stanowiska niewiasty, mieli obowiązki wdzięczności – a jest ich arcywielka liczba. [...]** / Nie było filantropijnej instytucji, nie było celu filantropijnego, aby szczerą swą ręką pani Augustowa z pomocą nie przyszła. Trwały **pomnik pamięci ludzkiej budowała sobie przedewszystkiem w sercach ludzkich**, czynami dobrymi, a szpitalik dla dzieci będzie murowanym pomnikiem jej wysokich pojęć o zadaniach życia. [Unfortunately, the news proved true and echoed sadly **in the hearts of mostly those who were obliged to gratitude for the departed lady, a woman of high standing – and there are lots of them.** [...]] / There was no charitable institution or a charitable cause which was not generously supported by Ms. August. A permanent **monument of people's memory was built by her mainly in people's hearts**, with her good deeds, and the children's hospital will be a brick-and-mortar monument of her high notion of life's tasks.] (W, 1898, no. 11, p. 209)

[35] **Ubywa ze społeczeństwa naszego siła jedna, wielka, potężna – siła której zastępstwa, na pożytek Boży i ludzki, dopatrzeć się i doczekać trudno.** [Our society loses one great and strong force – a force whose replacement, to the benefit of God and people, can be hardly found and expected.] (W, 1898, no. 11, p. 209)

[36] **Salon ś.p. Łuszczewskich**, któremu przewodniczyła nieboszczka [tj. Magdalena z Żółtowskich Łuszczewska] przez długie lata, **był punktem zebrania wszystkiego co w Warszawie a nawet i na prowincji było najświetniejszego z nauki, talentu, urzędu, majątku, wreszcie urodzenia.** Z tego powodu salon ten wywierał wpływ na wewnętrzne życie warszawskiego społeczeństwa. [High society meetings at the house of late Łuszczewski spouses, led by the deceased [that is Magdalena Łuszczewska, nee Żółtowska] were for many years **gatherings of all that which is most exquisite in Warsaw or even in the countryside based on science, talent, office, estate, or finally birth.** Thus, those meetings had an impact on the internal life of the Warsaw society.] (GP, 1869, no. 60, p. 2)

A man's death, just like their life, is a community phenomenon. The fact of belonging to a family, professional or local community (determined by living in the given town or region) was (and still is) reflected in press texts presenting memorial profiles. The travel and geographical character of "Wędrowiec" weekly as well as its purpose, that is popularization of science, significantly affected the choice of persons whose death the editorial team decided to commemorate by printing a posthumous tribute. This was a form of acknowledging achievements of the deceased, paying respect and bidding farewell on behalf of the society or

the given community. Death of a famous person (a scientist, a writer, a painter) affected in the first place the society and then the given professional community (science, journalism, literature, parish) and the closest ones of the deceased, that is their family. A way to emphasize the social dimension of death was to stress the number of participants of the funeral (quantitative aspect) and the loss suffered by the society (qualitative aspect) due to the death of an important person. The analysed texts show differences in depictions of men and women. In posthumous tributes devoted to women, the family and local perspective dominates. In contrast, the social and national aspect is presented in profiles of men. A common characteristic is the abundance of axiological lexis in that type of texts (evaluative vocabulary), with the deceased being presented only in a positive way.

### List of abbreviations

- GP – "Gazeta Polska", <https://crispa.uw.edu.pl/object/files/351636/display/Default> (access: 25.01.2021–22.03.2021).
- SJPDor – Doroszewski W. (ed.), 1958–1959, *Słownik języka polskiego* [Polish dictionary], vol. 1–11, Warsaw: PWN, <http://sjp.pwn.pl/doroszewski/html> (access: 08.09.2021).
- W – "Wędrowiec", <https://bcul.lib.uni.lodz.pl/dlibra/publication/378?language=en#structure> (access: 25.01.2021–22.03.2021).

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