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## POLISH GYMNASTIC SOCIETY “SOKÓŁ” IN THE PROVINCE OF TERNOPIL IN THE YEARS 1920–1939

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### Polskie Towarzystwo Gimnastyczne „Sokół” w województwie tarnopolskim w latach 1920–1939

#### Streszczenie

Celem artykułu jest przedstawienie działalności Polskiego Towarzystwa Gimnastycznego „Sokół” w województwie tarnopolskim w latach 1920–1939. W okresie międzywojennym gniazda „Sokoła” z województwa tarnopolskiego wchodziły w skład Dzielnicy Małopolskiej. W latach dwudziestych i na początku lat trzydziestych XX w. na obszarze województwa tarnopolskiego działało kilka okręgów sokolich: brodzki, brzeżański, buczacki, czortkowski, tarnopolski i złoczowski. W latach trzydziestych XX w. działalność prowadził okręg tarnopolski, część gniazd natomiast wchodziła w skład okręgu lwowskiego.

Gniazda „Sokoła” uczestniczyły w pracach na rzecz kształtowania infrastruktury dla potrzeb działalności, m.in. wznoszenia budynków sokolich (sokolni) oraz obiektów do realizacji aktywności fizycznej i przysposobienia wojskowego. Sokoli uczestniczyli w kursach wychowania fizycznego.

„Sokół” prowadził aktywną działalność na polu wychowania fizycznego, sportu, przysposobienia wojskowego. W ramach działalności sportowej, realizowano m.in. gimnastykę, lekkoatletykę, gry sportowe, strzelectwo, sporty wodne, sporty zimowe, zawody marszowe. W pracy sokolej istotną rolę odgrywała działalność wychowawcza, patriotyczna i kulturalno-oświatowa, m.in. przejawiająca się w obchodach rocznic państwowych; akademii i wieczornic poświęconych m.in. Tadeuszowi Kościuszce – patronowi Sokolstwa Polskiego.

**Słowa kluczowe:** Polska, przysposobienie wojskowe, sport, Towarzystwo Gimnastyczne „Sokół”, województwo tarnopolskie, wychowanie fizyczne, wychowanie patriotyczne.

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## Abstract

The purpose of this article is to present the activities of the Polish Gymnastic Society “Sokół” in the Province of Ternopil in the years 1920-1939. In the interwar period, the “Sokół” nests in the Province of Ternopil were part of the Lesser Poland (Małopolska) Region. In the 1920s and early 1930s, several “Sokół” regions operated in the Province of Ternopil: Brody, Brzeżany, Buczacz, Czortków, Ternopil, and Złoczów. In the 1930s, the Ternopil region functioned, while some nests were part of the Lviv region.

“Sokół” nests participated in work on shaping the infrastructure needed for their activities, including the construction of “Sokół” buildings and facilities for physical activity and military training. Sokół members took part in physical education courses.

“Sokół” was active in the field of physical education, sports, and military training. In sports activities, they engaged in gymnastics, athletics, sports games, shooting, water sports, winter sports, and marching competitions. Educational, patriotic, cultural and educative activities were important in the work of “Sokół,” including the celebration of national anniversaries, academies, and evening gatherings dedicated to Tadeusz Kościuszko, the patron of Polish Sokolism.

**Keywords:** Poland, military training, sports, Gymnastic Society “Sokół”, the Province of Ternopil, physical education, patriotic education.

## Introduction

The purpose of this article is to present the activities of the Polish Gymnastic Society “Sokół” in the Province of Ternopil in the years 1920–1939.<sup>1</sup> The Province of Ternopil was established on December 23, 1920. The end date of the publication is September 1939, marked by Germany’s aggression on September 1, 1939, and then the Soviet Union’s invasion of Poland on September 17, 1939. As a result of these actions, the territory of the South-Eastern Borderlands, including the Province of Ternopil, came under Soviet occupation. The Province of Ternopil was located in the southeastern part of the Second Polish Republic. The eastern border of the Province of Ternopil was the border of the Republic of Poland with the Soviet Union. It had an area of 16,533 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 1,600,400 inhabitants (according to the 1931 census).<sup>2</sup> The Province of Ternopil included the following districts: Borszczów, Brody, Brzeżany, Buczacz, Czortków, Kamionka, Kopyczyńce, Podhajce, Przemyślany, Radziechów, Skałat, Ternopil, Trembowla, Zaleszczyki, Zbaraż, Zborów, Złoczów.<sup>3</sup> The urban population of the

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<sup>1</sup> Apart from the Polish Gymnastic Society „Sokół”, the Province of Ternopil was home to the activity of the Ukrainian Gymnastic Society “Sokił”. See: S. Zaborniak, *Kultura fizyczna ludności ukraińskiej na ziemiach polskich (1868–1939)*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego, Rzeszów 2007, pp. 186–220; E. Małolepszy, T. Drozdek-Małolepsza, *The Outline of the History of Physical Culture in the Province of Ternopil in the Years 1920–1939*, Central European Journal of Sport Sciences and Medicine 2022, vol. 37 no 1, pp. 7; DOI: 10.18276/cej.2022.1-01.

<sup>2</sup> L. Gadowski (ed.), *Polska 1918–1988*, Główny Urząd Statystyczny Warszawa 1989, p. 16.

<sup>3</sup> *Mały Rocznik Statystyczny 1939*, Główny Urząd Statystyczny, Warszawa 1939, p. 14.

province constituted 16.8%. The society of the Province of Ternopil was multinational, with the largest ethnic group being the Poles – 49.3% (789,100 inhabitants), followed by the Ukrainians – 45.5% (728,100 inhabitants), and the Jews – 4.93% (78,900 inhabitants).<sup>4</sup>

The beginnings of the Gymnastic Society "Sokół" date back to 1867 when the first nest was established on Polish soil in Lviv. In the 1880s, further nests were established in the Austrian partition. On December 1, 1885, in Ternopil, a general meeting was held, during which the GS "Sokół" in Ternopil was established.<sup>5</sup> The first president of the nest was Tadeusz Trzcieński. In the following years, other nests were established in Podolia, in the Ternopil Land, including Rohatyn (1881), Brody (1891), Czortków (1891), Brzeżany (1892), Trembowła (1892), Zaleszczyki (1892), Załóżce (1892), Złoczów (1892), Zbaraż (1893), Buczacz (1894), Podhajce (1898), Mikulińce (1900), Olesko (1903), Podwołoczyska (1903), Zborów (1903), Busk (1904), Łopatyn (1904), Przemyślany (1904), Monasterzyska (1894), Husiatyn (1906), Mielnica (1906), Chorostków (1908).<sup>6</sup> The activists of the Ternopil nest took the initiative to create other "Sokół" nests, including the establishment of the nest in Złoczów on June 26, 1892, with the assistance of Ternopil Sokol members.<sup>7</sup> Over time, the "Sokół" activists from the Austrian partition created a uniform "Sokół" organization within the union. This idea was realized in 1892 with the establishment of the Union of Polish Gymnastic Societies "Sokół" in Austria (ZPGTS). With the formation of the ZPGTS, a new structure of "Sokół" was created, consisting of regions, with the union itself comprising individual nests. The ZPGTS structure included 7 regions, including the VI region – Ternopil.<sup>8</sup> Ternopil became the region seat in February 1896. In the Ternopil region, "Sokół" rallies were organized. The first region rally took place on June 4, 1899, in Ternopil, with the participation of the following nests: Brody, Brzeżany, Mikulińce, Ternopil, Trembowła, Załóżce, Zbaraż, Złoczów.<sup>9</sup> The second Ternopil region rally took place in Złoczów

<sup>4</sup> A. Chojnowski, *Problem narodowościowy na ziemiach polskich w początkach XX w. i w II Rzeczypospolitej*, [In:] A. Garlicki (ed.), *Z dziejów Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej*, Wydawnictwa Szkolne i Pedagogiczne, Warszawa 1986, pp. 177–194.

<sup>5</sup> C.E. Blicharski, *Miscellanea Tarnopolskie*, vol. 2, Biskupice 1995, p. 270; The source of the VI Rally of Polish Sokolism. One-day Commemorative, no time and place of publication given. The date of September 10, 1885 was accepted as the date of establishing the GS "Sokół" in Ternopil, "as a unit of Lviv Sokol. The Committee consisted of: Stanisław Przyłuski, Adolf Sahaneł, Tadeusz Trzcieński and Stanisław Wierzbicki."

<sup>6</sup> Cz. Kłoś, *Sokół Polski 1926*, no place and time of publication given, pp. 216–218.

<sup>7</sup> C.E. Blicharski, op. cit., p. 276.

<sup>8</sup> VI Rally of Polish Sokolism. One-day Commemorative, no time and place of publication given, p. 6; M.T. Olejnik, *Dzielnica krakowska Związku Towarzystw Gimnastycznych „Sokół” w Polsce w latach 1921–1939* (PhD dissertation), Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Kraków 2022, pp. 33–34.

<sup>9</sup> C.E. Blicharski, op. cit., p. 282.

on June 2, 1901. Starting in 1884, “Sokół” nests began to form in the Prussian partition, and from 1905, in the Russian partition.<sup>10</sup>

On the initiative of GS “Sokół” Macierz-Lwów and the “Sokół” activists in Ternopil, starting in 1912, Polish scouting teams began to form in the Ternopil region. In 1912, five scouting teams were established (including one female team). The scouts, in addition to school gymnastics, conducted hiking trips (including longer excursions), practised camping, and engaged in field activities (even during inclement weather). Before the outbreak of World War I, “a significant percentage of older scouting youth, together with members of permanent “Sokół” teams, joined the ranks of the Eastern Legion.”<sup>11</sup> The Eastern Legion, a Polish military organization, was formed in Lviv in early August 1914. As Jan Snopko and Dobiesław Dudek write, “from the shattered Eastern Legion, J. Haller, with a unit numbering over 500 “Sokół” volunteers [...] joined the Western Legion. Until the end of the legionary brigades, the Sokol members bravely fought on various fronts of World War I, giving their lives for future independent Poland.”<sup>12</sup>

Regarding the state of research, there are no studies specifically addressing the activity of GS “Sokół” in the Province of Ternopil in 1920–1939. Some subject matters were presented in the publication by E. Małolepszy and T. Drozdek-Małolepsza.<sup>13</sup>

## Research Problems and Methods

For the preparation of the article, the following methods were used: analysis of historical sources, synthesis, induction, deduction, and geographical and comparative methods. The following research problems were posed:

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<sup>10</sup> B. Woltmann, „Sokół” na terenach zaboru pruskiego i w Niemczech (1884–1918), [In:] E. Małolepszy, Z. Pawluczuk (eds.), *Zarys dziejów Sokolstwa Polskiego w latach 1867–1997*, Wydawnictwo Wyższej Szkoły Pedagogicznej w Częstochowie, Częstochowa 2001, pp. 29–41; M. Ponczek, „Sokół” w Królestwie Polskim i w Rosji (1888–1918), [In:] E. Małolepszy, Z. Pawluczuk (eds.), *Zarys dziejów Sokolstwa Polskiego w latach 1867–1997*, Wydawnictwo Wyższej Szkoły Pedagogicznej w Częstochowie, Częstochowa 2001, pp. 41–47.

<sup>11</sup> A. Domaradzki, *Odpowiedzi na ankietę o powstaniu harcerstwa Polskiego. Skauting w Tarnopolszczyźnie, Przewodnik Gimnastyczny „Sokół” 1934*, nr 7, pp. 137–139.

<sup>12</sup> J. Snopko, D. Dudek, *Rozwój ruchu sokolego w zaborze austriackim*, [In:] E. Małolepszy, Z. Pawluczuk (eds.), *Zarys dziejów Sokolstwa Polskiego w latach 1867–1997*, Wydawnictwo Wyższej Szkoły Pedagogicznej w Częstochowie, Częstochowa 2001, pp. 13–29.

<sup>13</sup> E. Małolepszy, T. Drozdek-Małolepsza, *The Outline of the History of Physical Culture in the Province of Ternopil in the Years 1920–1939*, “Central European Journal of Sport Sciences and Medicine” 2022 vol. 37 no 1, pp. 5–11. DOI: 10.18276/cej.2022.1-01.

1. How were the structures of the Gymnastic Society "Sokół" in the Province of Ternopil shaped?
2. What were the activities of "Sokół" in the field of physical education, sports, military training, educational-patriotic, and cultural-educative activities?

## Results and Discussion

After regaining independence by the Republic of Poland in 1918, conditions were created for the formation of a unified "Sokół" organization from the different partitions. On April 17, 1919, a

Congress of Delegates from three union organizations from the former Austrian, Prussian, and Russian partitions was held, during which the Inter-Union Commission was appointed as a temporary authority. [...] In 1919, all three unions with their former seats in Lviv, Poznań, and Warsaw merged into one nationwide Union, which included six regions: Mazovia, Lesser Poland, Cracow, Silesia, Greater Poland, and Pomerania.<sup>14</sup>

On March 6, 1921, the last congress of delegates of the Union of Polish Gymnastic Societies "Sokół" in Austria (ZPGTS) was held.<sup>15</sup> Eighty-five people participated, mainly from regions that would constitute the Lesser Poland Region of the "Sokół" Union. The congress adopted a resolution to transform the existing ZPGTS into the Lesser Poland Region, which included the former regions IV to VII (Przemyśl, Lviv, Ternopil, and Stanisławów). The Cracow Region was formed by separating the following regions from the previous ZPGTS: Cracow, Tarnów, Rzeszów. The first leadership of the Lesser Poland Region included Kazimierz Czarnek (chairman), Borowiec, Czajkowski, Aleksander Małaczyński, Tucki, Wallek, and Wolański. In issue 6 of "Przegląd Sokoli" from 1921, it was reported that

the four regions of the so-called Eastern Galicia (Stanisławów, Ternopil, Lviv, Przemyśl), which today constitute the Lesser Poland Region, consisting of 136 societies and 18,500 members, can currently count 50-60 societies and at most 8,000 members. Dozens of nests in small Polish towns and larger villages no longer exist. Efforts are being made to bring them back to life. The depopulation of leading forces stands in the way. Those nests that had their own houses, and there were 69 of them, maintain and develop their activities; perhaps others will follow them.<sup>16</sup>

The magazine's editorial pointed out the difficulties in reviving and creating nests in the Lesser Poland Region.

In 1924, there were six "Sokół" districts operating in the Province of Ternopil: Brody, Brzeżany, Buczacz, Czortków, Tarnopol, and Złoczów. They con-

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<sup>14</sup> J. Gaj, K. Hądzelek, *Dzieje kultury fizycznej w Polsce*, Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego im. Eugeniusza Piaseckiego, Poznań 1997, p. 126.

<sup>15</sup> "Przegląd Sokoli" 1921, no 4, p. 6.

<sup>16</sup> "Przegląd Sokoli" 1921 no 6, p. 4.

sisted of 31 nests and 3,350 members.<sup>17</sup> Out of 31 nests, 21 had their own headquarters, while 2 nests rented premises for their headquarters.

**Table 1.** List of Regions and Members, as well as Sports Facilities in the Province of Ternopil – as of December 31, 1924.

Region	No of nests	Number of members			Sports Facilities			
					Gyms		Sports fields	
		Men	Women	Total	Owned	Leased	Owned	Leased
VI Ternopil	7	920	93	1013	3	1	3	—
VIII Brody	5	284	117	401	2	1	2	2
XII Brzeżany	4	544	154	698	4	—	4	—
XIII Czortków	9	577	117	694	7	—	7	—
XIV Złoczów	4	269	70	339	4	1	4	1
XV Buczacz	2	133	72	205	1	—	2	—

Source: Przewodnik Gimnastyczny “Sokół” 1925, no 11, pp. 209.

As of December 31, 1925, the Lesser Poland Region of the “Sokół” Union in Poland consisted of 13 regions. The regions operating in the Province of Ternopil were: Brody, Brzeżany, Czortków, and Ternopil.<sup>18</sup> The Brody region included the following nests: Olesko – 15 members; Brody – 230 members (including 20 exercising) and 56 “young Sokół”; Busk – 88 members and 27 “young Sokół”; Łopatyn – 35 members; Dubno – 45 members (a nest located in the Volhynian Province); Założce – 41 members. The Brzeżany region included the nests: Brzeżany – 216 members (including 27 exercising) and 76 “young Sokół”; Rohatyn – 133 members (including 12 exercising) and 152 “young Sokół”; Podhajce – 107 members (including 14 exercising) and 59 “young Sokół”; Przemyślany – 205 members (including 21 exercising). The Czortków region included the nests: Chorostków – 60 members; Husiatyn, Buczacz, Czortków – 207 members (including 20 exercising); Kopyczyńce; Mielnica – 50 members and 9 “young Sokół”; Zaleszczyki – 70 members and 126 “young Sokół”; Borszczów, Jagielnica. The Ternopil region included the nests: Podwołoczyska – 130 members (including 32 exercising) and 36 “young Sokół”; Mikulińce; Skałat, Zborów; Złoczów; Ternopil – 352 members (including 11 exercising) and 38 “young Sokół”; Trembowla – 96 members (including 26 exercising); Zbaraż – 125 members (including 32 exercising) and 40 “young Sokół”; Kruchów.<sup>19</sup> The Physical Education Department of

<sup>17</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny “Sokół” 1925, nr 11, p. 209.

<sup>18</sup> Sprawozdanie Zarządu Związku Towarzystw Gimnastycznych “Sokół” w Polsce za lata 1923–1925, Warszawa 1926, pp. 54–57.

<sup>19</sup> Ibidem.

the Lesser Poland Region included "Sokół" members from the Province of Ternopil nests, including Stefan Juzwa (Ternopil), Bastecki (Złoczów), and Władysław Bielecki (Podwołoczyska).<sup>20</sup>

In the 1920s, particularly in the first half, there was an issue of region establishment and organization. The president of the Brody region – Fastnacht, at the meeting of the Board of the Lesser Poland Region on November 11, 1923, drew the participants' attention to the issue of the affiliation of nests to the region belonging to the Volhynian Province,

There is no need to assign Równe to Brody, as Równe is closer to Łuck than to Brody; it is only advisable to assign Krzemieniec to Brody; however, the region president cannot take any initiative in this matter without knowing how it would be received and understood by the Board of the Łuck Region.<sup>21</sup>

The Równe and Krzemieniec nests belonged to the Volhynian region.<sup>22</sup>

The meeting of the "Sokół" Board of the Lesser Poland Region was held on December 7-8, 1929. One of the board's resolutions concerned the VIII district (Brody):

The Board of the Lesser Poland Region resolves to temporarily abolish the VIII district in Brody, and assign the nests of this region in the following way: Brody, Busk, and Olesko to the V region of Lviv, Dubno to the XIV region of Łuck, and Założce to the VI region of Ternopil. Due to the lack of unanimity in the assignment, the assignment of the Łopatyrń nest will be made by the Region Leadership after consultation with the Łopatyrń nest board.<sup>23</sup>

Was the resolution adopted by the Region Board conducive to the development of "Sokół" structures in the north-eastern part of the Province of Ternopil (excluding the Dubno nest)? The decision to transfer the Dubno nest to the Łuck region was entirely right. The nest was located in the Volhynian Province and was much closer to the region seat in Łuck. Furthermore, the minutes of the board meeting, regarding the activities in the field of military training read as follows:

The organization of PW (military training) units has been conducted by many nests of our Region for several years. The numerical status of the units is subject to certain fluctuations both up and down – as previous statistics show – there is a downward trend, which especially in the last year has caused significant losses [...]. Only some regions, particularly IV – in Przemyśl, VIII in Brody, X in Kołomyja, and XIV in Łuck, show a more significant increase in the number of members in PW units.<sup>24</sup>

The above conclusion refers to the proper activities of the nests in the Brody region. If certain structures are doing well, should they be liquidated?

<sup>20</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1924, no 1–4, p. 11.

<sup>21</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1924, no 5, p. 26.

<sup>22</sup> E. Małolepszy, T. Drozdek-Małolepsza, *Kultura fizyczna i turystyka w województwie wołyńskim w latach 1921–1939*, Wydawnictwo Nauka i Innowacje, Poznań 2020, pp. 78–87.

<sup>23</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1930, no 1, p. 8.

<sup>24</sup> Ibidem, pp. 7.

In 1931, the Lesser Poland "Sokół" Region, which included the Province of Ternopil, had 13 "Sokół" regions, 121 nests, and 13,219 members.<sup>25</sup> The Gymnastic Societies owned 97 "Sokół" halls, 72 sports fields, 26 shooting ranges, 52 nests had banners, and 53 ran libraries.

As of December 31, 1934, the Lesser Poland "Sokół" Region had 7 "Sokół" regions, 112 nests, and 10,388 members (including 2,542 women). As of December 31, 1936, there were 7 "Sokół" regions, 112 nests, and 7,081 members (including 1,426 women). As of December 31, 1937, there were 7 "Sokół" regions, 113 nests, and 10,241 members (including 2,738 women).<sup>26</sup> In the following years, the number of regions in the Lesser Poland Region remained unchanged, and on January 1, 1937, it was as follows: Region I – Kołomyja, Region II – Lwów, Region III – Przemyśl, Region IV – Stanisławów, Region V – Stryj, Region VI – Tarnopol, Region VII – Wołyń. The Ternopil region had 1,163 members.<sup>27</sup>

The "Sokół" nests in the Province of Ternopil had an instructional and refereeing staff. Among the regional referees of the Polish Canoeing Association (PZK) were Franciszek Daszycki, Jan Hanusiewicz, Franciszek Nycz, and Ludwik Stefczyk from Zaleszczyki, as well as Zbigniew Kulpiński (Brzeżany).<sup>28</sup> Female Sokół members from Ternopil participated in a physical education instructor course in Grandzicze (near Grodno) in August 1927. The course for physical education instructors was completed by Lidia Kościuszkówna and Zofia Romańska.<sup>29</sup> Sokół members from the Province of Ternopil nests participated in a regional physical education course held in Lviv from July 7 to 31, 1930.<sup>30</sup> The course program included the following subjects: history of physical education, history and organization of Polish Sokolism, anatomy and physiology, gymnastics systematics, daily gymnastics lessons, gymnastics with equipment and with devices (clubs), athletics, sports games, and shooting school. At the end of the course, each participant conducted a practical physical education lesson. The course was completed by members from the Province of Ternopil nests: Longin Mali (Busk), Adam Gaweł (Trembowla), Bronisław Łabędkowski (Zborów), Henryk Urbański (Złoczów), Rudolf Wiśniewski, Kazimierz Zaremba (Tarnopol), Waldemar Drak (Zabłotów), Adam Froński (Brzeżany), Witold Borowski (Zaleszczyki), and Marian Steliga (Czortków).<sup>31</sup>

In addition to the instructional and refereeing staff, the infrastructure for activities in the fields of physical education and sports, cultural and educational

<sup>25</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1931, no 7–8, p. 141.

<sup>26</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1935, no 12, p. 197; 1938 no 3, p. 93; 1939 no 3, p. 69.

<sup>27</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1938, no 2, p. 67.

<sup>28</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1938, no 5, p. 182–184.

<sup>29</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1927, nr 22, p. 261.

<sup>30</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1930, no 7–8, p. 129.

<sup>31</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1930, no 9, p. 134.



activities, and patriotic education was important. The "Sokół" nests in the T Province of Ternopil, as of 1924, had: 21 gymnastic halls, 22 sports fields, 4 libraries, 6 banners, and 112 Sokół uniforms (Table No. 1).<sup>32</sup>

The Regional Department of Physical Education recommended that regional departments conduct multi-day regional courses for heads and teachers of the respective regions, following a program that included gymnastic and sports activities in the hall.<sup>33</sup> Region XIV (Złoczów) conducted a course from December 28–31, 1924. The course was led by Podgórski (head) with the active cooperation of President Gawlikowski. On the initiative of the head of the Ternopil region – S. Juzwa, and Sokół members Boroński, Szmilewski, and Kulesza, a region course was organized from January 12–15, 1925, for 21 members, including 18 from District VI (Ternopil) and 3 from District XII (Brzeżany). Participants in the course included: 11 members from Ternopil, 1 from Mikulińce, 2 from Podwołoczyska, 1 from Trembowla, 1 from Skalał, 2 from Zbaraż, 2 from Brzeżany, and 1 from Bohorodczany.<sup>34</sup>

A significant element of the activities was the "Sokół" rallies. Sokół members from nests located in the Province of Ternopil participated in national, regional, and district rallies. Thanks to the initiative of the heads of the Ternopil region and the Ternopil nest, i.e. Antoni Domaradzki and Stefan Juzwa, several dozen Sokół members participated in the National "Sokół" Rally in Warsaw in 1921. Among other activities, the "Sokół" members took part in rally exercises.<sup>35</sup> Members of Region VI (Ternopil) participated in the VII National Polish Sokolism Rally in Poznań in 1929 and the VII National Polish Sokolism Rally in Katowice in 1937. They also participated in the Mazovia Region Rally in Vilnius on June 8–9, 1924. Fifty-four male and female members from Region VI (Ternopil) participated, including members from the Ternopil, Brody, Brzeżany, and Złoczów regions.<sup>36</sup> Important rallies were the region rallies on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Ternopil nest ("Sokół" in Podolia), held in 1926 and 1936.

Region Rallies (Region VI – Ternopil) took place outside of Ternopil, including the one in 1928 in Zbaraż and the one on June 22, 1930, in Złoczów.<sup>37</sup> It is worth noting that in 1930, the president of the Ternopil region was Rajmund Schmidt. The region rally in Złoczów was attended by Sokół members from outside the Ternopil region, including those from Lviv nests. The rally program included a holy mass (celebrated by Rev. Dean Wałęga), a "Sokół" parade, and gymnastics shows and exercises. The gymnastics shows and exercises were prepared by Antoni Domaradzki (head of the Ternopil region) and Bestecki (head of the Zbaraż nest), Zajązkowski (head of the Zborów nest), Hausner (head of the Trembowla nest), Lorek (head of the Złoczów nest), and Napiórkowski (head of the Lviv IV nest).<sup>38</sup>

<sup>32</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1925, no 11, p. 209.

<sup>33</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1925, no 5–6, p. 109.

<sup>34</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>35</sup> C.E. Blicharski, op. cit., p. 290.

<sup>36</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1924, no 9–10, p. 79.

<sup>37</sup> C.E. Blicharski, op. cit., p. 291.

<sup>38</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1930, no 7–8, p. 126.



**Photo 1.** 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gymnastic Society “Sokół” in Ternopil; Rally of Region VI (Ternopil) GS “Sokół” in Ternopil; March of the female team of the Ternopil nest across the sports field (July 1936)

Source: National Digital Archive (NAC); ref. 1-P-1140-1.



**Photo 2.** Rally of Region VI (Ternopil) GS “Sokół” in Złoczów on June 22, 1930

Source: NAC, ref. 1-P-1151-2.

One of the most active "Sokół" nests was the Ternopil nest. In 1924, the nest owned its building and sports field. The building was partially renovated and poorly equipped with gymnastic equipment. The nest had 442 members.<sup>39</sup> In 1926, the "Sokół" in Ternopil had 352 members, including 238 men and 114 women. Additionally, it had 2 honorary members and 38 members from the craft youth.<sup>40</sup> The nest's infrastructure significantly improved. The "Sokół" Gymnastic Guide reads as follows:

the nest has its own building with a beautiful gymnasium equipped with the latest gymnastic equipment [...], a scouting room, and a craft youth room. The stage adjoining the gym has numerous wings and a beautiful curtain. In addition to the abovementioned building, the nest also owns a plot of land with a one-story house and a sports field with a tennis court (in winter, an ice rink).<sup>41</sup>

Gymnastic classes were held daily, attended by 40 up to 65 people. On June 25–26, 1932, the nest members organized the 40<sup>th</sup> work anniversary celebration of the head Antoni Domaradzki. The program included a holy mass, a "Sokół" gathering, a gymnastics show prepared by members of the nests in Ternopil, Zbaraż, and Złoczów. The Ternopil nest also organized athletics competitions for the Ternopil district, which representatives of 7 nests participated in. The wandering prize named after the head A. Domaradzki was won by the Złoczów nest.<sup>42</sup> This event was incorporated within the Ternopil district rally.

The 40th anniversary celebration of the Buczacz nest took place on March 4, 1934. The program included a holy mass, a gathering, a performance by a musical ensemble and a stage performance interspersed with singing and gymnastics exercises by Sokół members. During the gathering, a speech was delivered by the nest president – Engineer Przewirski, while scout Szawłowski presented the history of the Buczacz nest. The artistic and sports part was prepared by Iskrzyński and Zofia Lewartowska.<sup>43</sup>

The General Meeting of the Brzeżany nest took place on February 8, 1925. The nest's board was elected, with Ludwik Gałaczyński as president and Edward Rester as vice-president. The only unit

constantly exercising in an average number of 18 is the craft youth team, which, in addition to health gymnastics, also practises military exercises under the guidance of military instructors.<sup>44</sup>

On March 10, 1929, the General Meeting of GS "Sokół" in Czortków was held. During the meeting, the nest board members were elected and appointed

<sup>39</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1924, no 1–4, p. 4.

<sup>40</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1926, no 12, pp. 139–140.

<sup>41</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>42</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1932, no 9, p. 193.

<sup>43</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1934, no 4, p. 62.

<sup>44</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1925, no 3, p. 55.

on March 14, 1929. There were the following members: Michał Gąsiorowski (president), Kazimierz Tokarski (I vice-president), Ludwik Glodt (II vice-president), Józef Opacki (secretary), Franciszek Koszałka (treasurer), Jan Kołodkiewicz (deputy treasurer), Jakub Kostecki (manager), Władysław Senecki (deputy manager), Paweł Badura, Bolesław Koleżański, Józef Krokowski, Antoni Maksymowicz, Stanisław Ornatowski, Ludwika Winkowska.<sup>45</sup> The Audit Commission members were: Marian Łoziński, Kacper Rysiakiewicz, and Antoni Winkowski. Delegates to the Lesser Poland Region and Region XIII (Czortków) were: Andrzej Dobrucki, Michał Gąsiorowski, Bolesław Krokowski, and Jan Uhrzynowski.<sup>46</sup>

Józefa Reyowa donated about 10 acres of land to the “Sokół” nest in Mikulińce for building the “Sokół” centre. As stated by the editorial office of the “Sokół” Gymnastic Guide:

we extend our wishes to the Honorable Benefactor and the board of the Mikulińce nest so that the Mikulińce “Sokół” centre may soon be built and completed.<sup>47</sup>



**Photo 3.** 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gymnastic Society “Sokół” in Ternopil; Rally of Region VI (Ternopil) GS “Sokół” in Ternopil; Gymnastics shows by Sokół members

Source: NAC, ref. 1-P-1140-2.

<sup>45</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny “Sokół” 1929, no 10, p. 119.

<sup>46</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>47</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny “Sokół” 1931, no 9, p. 178.

The Podwołoczyska nest was very active. In the first half of the 1920s, one of the nest presidents was Mr. Pisz, while the head was Mr. Bielecki. On October 5, 1924, an autumn "Sokół" festival was held, including athletics competitions and gymnastics exercises (free exercises, equipment, and acrobatic gymnastics). In December 1924, the nest held ceremonies for the 94<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the November Uprising.<sup>48</sup> On March 1, 1925, a General Meeting was held with 75 members attending. A new board was appointed, including E. Witwicki (president), Żmuda (II vice-president), Z. Bielecki (head), Tomasz Kowal (secretary), Węgiel (treasurer), Płader (manager), Ignacy Kowal, Józef Książek, Jan Mrozowski, Pundyk, Robak, Sawicki, Sielecki, and Stanisław Wolański (members).<sup>49</sup> The nest conducted various activities, including infrastructure (renovating the "Sokół" centre, building a fence around the sports field), gymnastics displays, athletics competitions, and patriotic and artistic activities. In 1934, F. Gromnicki was the nest president, E. Witwicki was the vice-president, Wojciechowski was the secretary, K. Burghard was the head, and Oborski was the treasurer. In the autumn of 1933, a female team was established at the nest. The girls travelled to nearby towns organizing gatherings and gymnastics exercises.<sup>50</sup> In 1936, the nest had 54 members, 5 of whom had the State Sports Badge (POS).<sup>51</sup> The "Sokół" centre was renovated in the same year.

The president of GS "Sokół" in Podhajce in 1937 was Rev. Dean Stanisław Popkiewicz. The nest was active in the educational, patriotic, and cultural areas. One example of such activities was organizing "Evenings." One of them was held on February 8, 1937, with the participation of the Lesser Poland Region delegate – Antoni Pelczarski.<sup>52</sup>

GS "Sokół" in Kamionka Strumiłowa had 201 members (including 21 exercising) in April 1924. It owned its own one-storey building, which housed a hall with a stage, partially furnished.<sup>53</sup> On February 27, 1929, the annual General Meeting of "Sokół" members in Ternopil took place. During the meeting, a new board was elected and it was composed of: Tadeusz Kaniowski (president), Józefa Sidorowiczówna (secretary), Stanisław Rolski (deputy secretary), Aleksander Lisowski (deputy treasurer), Jan Rojek (standard-bearer), Wincenty Dolinkiewicz, Władysław Tarnawski (managers), Stanisław Rolski (commander of the athletics section), Aleksander Lisowski (commander of the military training section), Stanisław Nowosad, Franciszek Pieniążkiewicz, Jan Poznański, Maria Rojek (board members). The Audit Commission members were Emilia Berwida, Zygmunt Hu-

<sup>48</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1925, no 2, p. 39.

<sup>49</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1925, no 4, p. 81.

<sup>50</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1934, nr 8–9, pp. 156–157.

<sup>51</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1936, no 6–7, p. 183.

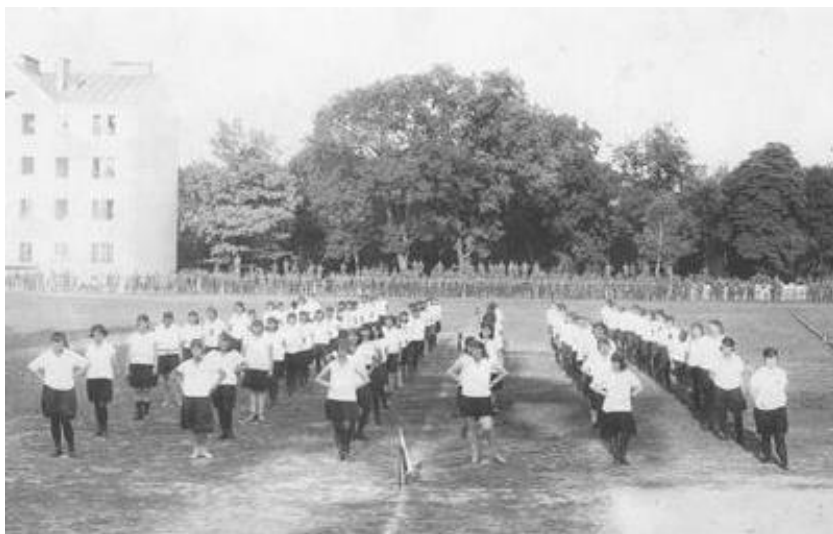
<sup>52</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1937, no 5, p. 206.

<sup>53</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1924, no 6, p. 36.

mowicz, and Stanisława Nazarewicz.<sup>54</sup> One of the most important resolutions adopted during the meeting was the decision to take a loan for building a “Sokół” centre, “which this nest, despite 35 years of existence, does not yet have.”<sup>55</sup>

Another active nest was the Zbaraż nest. The nest president was Mr. Tyc. Thanks to his efforts, in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, “Sokół” rebuilt the “Sokół” centre, which housed a gymnasium. The nest organized regular “Sokół” teams.<sup>56</sup>

On September 2, 1928, the General Meeting of the Zborów nest was held. One of the points of the agenda was the election of a new nest board, which included: Stanisław Balaryn (president), Jan Jankowski (vice-president), Jan Karabiński (head), Jan Hurich (secretary), Helena Zawadowska (treasurer), Józef Gungesberger (manager), Józef Buczkowski, Stanisław Fedorowski, Izabela Janusiewiczówna, Franciszek Korczowski, Julian Strzałkowski (members).<sup>57</sup>



**Photo 4.** Rally of Region VI (Ternopil) GS “Sokół” in Złoczów on June 22, 1930. Gymnastics display by female Sokół members

Source: NAC, ref. 1-P-1151-1.

The “Sokół” in Złoczów owned its building (with two halls) and a sports field. The smaller hall was intended for gymnastic and theatrical activities. In 1924, the nest had 262 members, including 27 exercising youth. The nest ran sports sections, including a football team.<sup>58</sup>

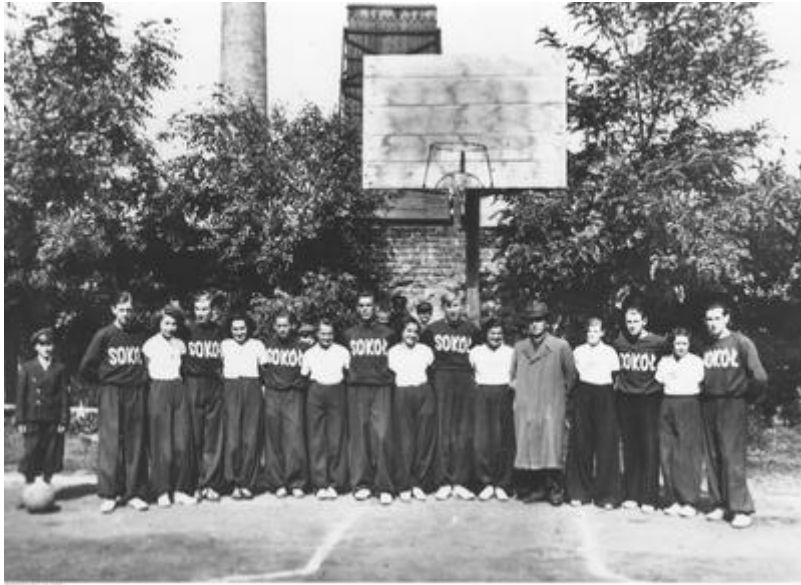
<sup>54</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny “Sokół” 1929, no 10, pp. 110–111.

<sup>55</sup> Ibidem, p. 110.

<sup>56</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny “Sokół” 1924, no 5, p. 25.

<sup>57</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny „Sokół” 1928, nr 24, p. 283.

<sup>58</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny „Sokół” 1924, no 1–4, p. 4.



**Photo 5.** Gymnastic Society "Sokół" in Ternopil. Members of the sports games team (1936)

Source: NAC, ref. 1-P-1139.

The "Sokół" nests conducted activities in the field of physical education and sports. According to Paweł Król, in the Lesser Poland "Sokół" Region, in 1934, 27 athletics sections were operating.<sup>59</sup>

In the field of sports, the Ternopil nest stood out. The Ternopil "Sokół" sports games team had an excellent performance during the union competitions held on the occasion of the VIII National Polish Sokolism Rally in Katowice, on June 26–28, 1937.<sup>60</sup> The Ternopil nest represented the Lesser Poland Region. It won in volleyball competition, ahead of teams from the Silesian Region and the Cracow Region; in handball competition, the Ternopil team took the 2<sup>nd</sup> place, with the Silesian Region team winning.<sup>61</sup> As D. Pietrzyk writes,

At the turn of 1935–1936, however, a rapid liquidation of hazena and handball teams operating under the patronage of the Polish Gymnastic Society "Sokół" in Poland began, and in December 1937, the "Grażyna" Nest from Warsaw, which had pioneering traditions in promoting hazena among female "Sokół" members in our country, was removed from the records of the Polish Handball Association. The actions of "Sokół" activists had mainly political motives, as the union authorities used the growing crisis in the reform (*Sanacja*) camp after the death of Józef Piłsudski (1935) and decidedly stood up for the patriotic-national character of the sports-educational activities carried out in the nests,

<sup>59</sup> P. Król, *Lekkoatletyka w województwie lwowskim (1920–1939)*, Podkarpackie Towarzystwo Naukowe Kultury Fizycznej, Rzeszów 2015, p. 187.

<sup>60</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1937, no 9, pp. 416–418.

<sup>61</sup> Ibidem.

and the turning point in this process were the resolutions adopted during the VI Ordinary Union Council (1936) concerning mainly the separation of the gymnastic nature of the association and its national traditions.<sup>62</sup>

However, (as mentioned earlier), the presence of handball competition during the VIII National Polish Sokolism Rally in Katowice is worth noting.

Within the structures of GS "Sokół," sports competitions were organized at the district and regional levels. On March 26–27, 1927, the Lesser Poland Region competitions were held. 113 people participated in the competitions (including 72 men and 41 women). In the women's team gymnastics competition, in the free exercises category, the Ternopil region team took the 3<sup>rd</sup> place.<sup>63</sup> The shooters from the Brzeżany nest had a very good performance during the Lesser Poland Region competitions, which took place on June 1, 1930, in Lviv. In the men's individual competition in shooting at a distance of 100m with a long gun and at a distance of 50m with a small-bore gun, Adam Froński took the 1<sup>st</sup> place; in the team competition, the Brzeżany team took the 2<sup>nd</sup> place. In the women's competition, in individual shooting at a distance of 25m with a small-bore gun and at a distance of 50m with a small-bore gun, Karolina Mazurkiewicz took the 2<sup>nd</sup> place. In the overall classification, the Brzeżany nest won, receiving the Challenge Cup.<sup>64</sup>

Another Lesser Poland Region shooting competition with the participation of Sokół members from the Province of Ternopil (Brzeżany and Busk nests) took place in Lviv on April 26, 1931. Teams from 13 nests participated in the competition. In the men's team competition in shooting at a distance of 200m, the Brzeżany team took the 2<sup>nd</sup> place; in the women's team competition in shooting at a distance of 50m, the Brzeżany team took the 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and Busk took the 5<sup>th</sup> place. In individual shooting at a distance of 50m, Mazurkiewiczówna (Brzeżany) took the 4<sup>th</sup> place.<sup>65</sup> In 1927, the VI (Ternopil) region winter competitions took place, which Sokół members from 5 nests participated in (5 male teams and 2 female teams). In the men's gymnastics competition, Trembowla took the 1<sup>st</sup> place, Złoczów the 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Zbaraż the 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Ternopil the 4<sup>th</sup> place, and Mikulińce the 5<sup>th</sup> place; in the women's competition, Zbaraż took the 1<sup>st</sup> place, ahead of Ternopil. In the shooting competition, Ternopil took the 1<sup>st</sup> place among men, ahead of Trembowla, Mikulińce, and Złoczów; among women, Ternopil took the 1<sup>st</sup> place, ahead of Zbaraż.<sup>66</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> D. Pietrzyk, *Piłka ręczna w Polsce w latach 1918–1945* (PhD dissertation), AWF Poznań 2023, pp. 480–481.

<sup>63</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1927, no 9, pp. 105–106.

<sup>64</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1930, no 6, p. 108. As the editor of the journal writes, "The Lesser Poland region introduced the shooting competition in order to make shooting popular among as many Sokół members as possible."

<sup>65</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1931, no 6, p. 113.

<sup>66</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1927, no 9, p. 107.



Athletics competitions were held on May 30, 1936, on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Przemyśl nest. In the women's competition, Mrozkówna (Ternopil) stood out. She won the 60m run (8.7 s), the 100m run, and the 200m run (32.1 s).<sup>67</sup>

Sokół members participated in marching events, including the V Winter March "Hucul Trail of the II Brigade of the Polish Legions," which took place on February 16-19, 1938.<sup>68</sup> The Ternopil nest fielded a team in the 3<sup>rd</sup> class march competition. The Ternopil team completed the event.<sup>69</sup>

It should be noted that the Brzeżany "Sokół" nest planned to organize a "Sokół" skiing competition on January 17, 1937. This event was listed in the schedule of camps and events for the winter season of 1936/1937 of GS "Sokół" in Poland.<sup>70</sup> The sports program of the "Sokół" kayak sections for 1938 and 1939 included organizing sports events in Brzeżany (on the Jezioro reservoir) and in Zaleszczyki (on the Dniester River).<sup>71</sup>

Sokół members from the Province of Ternopil nests participated in attempts to obtain the State Sports Badge (POS).<sup>72</sup> The Lesser Poland Region Leadership, regional districts, including Region VI – Ternopil, and nests in Brody, Brzeżany, Czortków, Kamionka Strumiłowa, Podhajce, Ternopil, Zbaraż, Zborów, and Złoczów were authorized to conduct POS tests.<sup>73</sup>

The "Sokół" nests in the Province of Ternopil participated in activities for military training.<sup>74</sup> As of January 1, 1925, military training units could be found in the nests of the Złoczów region (Złoczów – 30 exercising; Kruchów – 12 exercising); the Brzeżany region (Brzeżany – 27 exercising; Podhajce – 29 exercising; Rohatyn – 15 exercising); and the Brody region (Brody – 15 exercising; Busk – 46 exercising). Six individuals from the Złoczów region, 21 from the Brzeżany region (including 1 woman), and 12 from the Brody region participated in summer military training camps.

The Gymnastic Societies "Sokół" in the Province of Ternopil conducted activities in the fields of education, patriotism, and cultural and educational activ-

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<sup>67</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1936, no 8, pp. 230–231.

<sup>68</sup> D. Dyląg, *Marsz zimowy „Huculskim Szlakiem II Brygady Legionów Polskich” (1934–1939)*, "Prace Naukowe Akademii im. Jana Długosza w Częstochowie. Kultura Fizyczna" 2013 z. 2, pp. 73–86.

<sup>69</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1938 no 5, pp. 205–206.

<sup>70</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1936, no 11, pp. 296–299.

<sup>71</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1938 no 4, pp. 139–140; 1939, no 6, pp. 186–187.

<sup>72</sup> L. Szymański, *Kultura fizyczna w polityce II Rzeczypospolitej*, Wydawnictwo Akademii Wychowania Fizycznego we Wrocławiu, Wrocław 1995, pp. 123–125.

<sup>73</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny "Sokół" 1934, no 6, p. 112.

<sup>74</sup> L. Szymański, op. cit., pp. 69–88; See also: J. Kęsik, *Naród pod bronią. Społeczeństwo w programie polskiej polityki wojskowej 1918–1939*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, Wrocław 1998; J. Kęsik, *Wojsko Polskie wobec tężyzny fizycznej społeczeństwa 1918–1939*, Wydawnictwo AWF Wrocław, Wrocław 1996.

ities. In this regard, annual events (gatherings, evening gatherings) were organized in honour of the patron of Polish Sokolism – Tadeusz Kościuszko. Such a gathering was organized by the Ternopil nest on October 26, 1929; in Brzeżany on October 25, 1930; and in Zbaraż on December 7, 1930, as well as in Ternopil, Trembowla, and Zbaraż in November 1931 and in Ternopil on November 9, 1932.<sup>75</sup> Sokół members participated in national and state anniversaries. The “Sokół” nests annually organized the “Sokół Wafer,” combined with a patriotic and artistic part.<sup>76</sup> These events often included gymnastics shows. The “Sokół” nests organized carnival and New Year’s Eve parties. They served to raise funds for “Sokół” activities, e.g. covering participation in regional courses.<sup>77</sup>

The GS “Sokół” nests supported each other and provided assistance in their activities. As stated by the editorial office of the “Sokół” Gymnastic Guide,

We have received a request from the board of the nest in Zażółce to publish the resolution adopted at the general meeting of members of the “Sokół” nest in Zażółce – to express heartfelt thanks to all the nests and Sokół regions that have so far come to the financial aid of our nest, which is in a difficult financial situation.<sup>78</sup>

For their outstanding activities, Sokół members received awards and distinctions. On October 3, 1937, the Board of the Union of Gymnastic Societies “Sokół” in Poland passed a resolution to award the Honorary Sokół Badge to the vice-president of the Buczacz nest – Antoni Turczański.<sup>79</sup> The Honorary Sokół Badge was also awarded to, among others, the president of GS “Sokół” in Zbaraż – Antoni Tyc, and the head of “Sokół” in Zbaraż – Jerzy Bestecki; Kazimierz Mędrzak, Kazimierz Pękalski, Edward Schutt, Józef Wyrobiec from the Przemyślany nest; Mieczysław Czechowicz, Stanisław Kulpiński, Ludwik Gałczyński, and Edward Reiter (Brzeżany nest).<sup>80</sup>

As Czesław Blicharski writes, “after the entry of Soviet troops into Ternopil on September 17, 1939, Mr. Leon Kukułka took two banners from the “Sokół” building: from 1892 and 1935. During the occupation of Ternopil, the Kukułka and Bałaj families kept and saved them.”<sup>81</sup> According to the documentation of the collections of the Jasna Góra Monastery Museum, the banners of GS “Sokół” in Ternopil, dating from 1892 and 1935, were handed over to the Częstochowa

<sup>75</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny “Sokół” 1930 no 1, p. 12; 1930 no 11, p. 170; 1931, no 1, p. 13; 1931 no 12, p.247; 1933 nr 1, p. 17.

<sup>76</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny “Sokół” 1931, nr 2, pp. 32–33. See also: R. Urban, *Patriotic and religious activity of the Gymnastic Society “Sokol” in the Polish lands (until 1939) – an outline*, “Sport i Turystyka. Środkowoeuropejskie Czasopismo Naukowe” 2023, vol. 6, no.4, pp.11–33.

<sup>77</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny “Sokół” 1930, no 1, p. 7.

<sup>78</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny “Sokół” 1933, no 2–3, p. 37.

<sup>79</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny “Sokół” 1937, no 10, pp. 462–466.

<sup>80</sup> Przewodnik Gimnastyczny “Sokół” 1931, no 2, p. 32; 1838 no 8, pp. 292–293; 1938 no 11, pp. 434–436.

<sup>81</sup> C.E. Blicharski, op. cit., s. 291.

sanctuary on June 17, 1988, by Czesław E. Biluchowski.<sup>82</sup> The 1935 banner was made of silk, embroidered, measuring 98cm x 94.5cm. On one side of the flag, above the crown, there is a silver-pink-gray falcon with outstretched wings, holding two crossed dumbbells in its claws. Below, in an arch, the inscription in gold letters writes as follows, "Gymnastic Society Sokół in Ternopil." In both upper corners, the dates are embroidered in gold: "1885-1935". On the other side, the flag is white, with the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Częstochowa. Above the image, in an arch, the inscription in gold letters reads, "God Honor Fatherland." The flag has a white-red sash finished with gold fringes. The second one, also white-red, is wider and shorter, with gold fringes and a white-red rosette.<sup>83</sup>

## Conclusion

The Gymnastic Society "Sokół" was quite active in the Province of Ternopil in the years 1920–1939. The outbreak of World War II, Germany's aggression on September 1, 1939, and the Soviet Union's invasion of Poland on September 17, 1939, marked the end of the nests' activities. In the interwar period, the nests were part of the Lesser Poland Region. In the 1920s and early 1930s, several "Sokół" regions operated in the Province of Ternopil: Brody, Brzeżany, Buczacz, Czortków, Ternopil, and Złoczów. In the 1930s, the Ternopil region functioned, while some nests were part of the Lviv district.

"Sokół" nests participated in the work of shaping the infrastructure needed for their activities, including the construction of "Sokół" centre buildings and facilities for physical activity and military training. They took part in "Sokół" rallies: national, district, and regional. The region rallies were particularly important as they testified to the potential and possibilities for the Society's development. An important element was the "Sokół" teaching staff, trained in courses organized by the GS "Sokół" in Poland.

"Sokół" was actively involved in physical education, sports, and military training. In sports activities, they engaged in gymnastics, athletics, sports games, shooting, water sports, winter sports, and marching competitions. The nests that achieved the most significant success include Ternopil (sports games) and Brzeżany (shooting). Sokół members participated in attempts to obtain the State

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<sup>82</sup> Jasna Góra Monastery Museum (Muzeum Jasnogórskie – MJ), inv. no 129, banner of GS „Sokół” in Ternopil dating back to 1892; MJ, inv. no 128, banner of GS "Sokół" in Ternopil dating back to 1935; W. Baczyński, E. Małolepszy, *Sztandary Towarzystwa Gimnastycznego "Sokół" w zbiorach Muzeum na Jasnej Górze*, M. Mirkiewicz (ed.), *Działalność Towarzystwa Gimnastycznego "Sokół"*, Polskie Towarzystwo Naukowe Kultury Fizycznej, oddział w Rzeszowie, Rzeszów 1996, pp. 189–194.

<sup>83</sup> Ibidem, p. 191.

Sports Badge (POS) and military training activities. An important role in the work of “Sokół” was played by educational, patriotic, and cultural-educational activities, including national celebrations, gatherings, and evening gatherings dedicated to Tadeusz Kościuszko, the patron of Polish Sokolism.

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