

III. REVIEWS

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Ukraine

CORRESPONDENCE 1950-2000, JERZY GIEDROYC, BOHDAN OSADCHUK, ED. BY BOGUMILA BERDYKHOVSKA AND MAREK ZHEBROVSKY, COLLEGE OF EASTERN EUROPE, WOJNOWICE 2019, PP. 937.

It is difficult to imagine the nature of modern Polish-Ukrainian relations without the influence of the ideas and concepts of Parisian “Culture”. In 2020, 20 years passed since the magazine stopped publishing with the death of its cult editor Jerzy Giedroyc (1906-2000). Bohdan Osadchuk (1920-2011), the 100th anniversary of whose birth we also had last year, became a faithful ally of the Editor in establishing a dialogue between the two peoples.

The correspondence between the two iconic figures arranged in the book by Bogumila Berdykhovska and Mark Zhebrovsky helps to open the veil of processes that preceded the appearance of important texts on the pages of “Culture”, socio-political actions initiated and participated by J. Giedroyc and B. Osadchuk. Their collaboration and correspondence began in 1950 when a Congress for Cultural Freedom was held in Berlin in June to bring together intellectuals to discuss countering communist influence. B. Osadchuk, whom B. Berdykhovska called a ‘rare bird’ (Rava Avis) in the emigration environment because of his liberal views, helped to establish contacts for J. Giedroyc with the Ukrainian emigration, as evidenced by the letters. Acquaintances with the Sovietologist Borys Levitsky (1915-1984) and the historian Ivan Lysiak-Rudnytsky (1919-1984) became especially valuable. As a correspondent for the influential Swiss newspaper *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, which was

well versed in European affairs, B. Osadchuk actively shared information with the Editor, as well as ensuring the dissemination of the ideas of “Culture” in the European media space.

“Dear Mr. Jerzy, I gave birth to a monster, not a chronicle. I am very embarrassed that it turned out so great, but I wanted to show the Polish reader the whole picture of Ukrainian views” – so wrote B. Osadchuk to J. Giedroyc in March 1952 before making his debut in “Culture”, starting the column “The Polish-Ukrainian Chronicle” (often wrote under the pseudonym BEO). In their letters, the interlocutors actively discussed important publications in the magazine and the reaction to them among the emigrants, such as the article by the priest Józef Majewski in 1952, in which the author called on Poles to finally abandon their claims to Lviv and Vilnius; proposals of Juliusz Meroszewski – a key publicist of “Culture” on politics. For the first time, the Editor initiated the publication of an anthology of Ukrainian poetry and prose by the intelligentsia destroyed by the communist authorities, entitled *The Shot Renaissance*. Correspondence helps to reveal the details of its preparation and efforts to promote it. An important document of the emigration period was the Declaration on Ukrainian Affairs of 1977, signed by representatives of Polish, Hungarian, Czech, and Russian emigration. His text said that the destinies of the peoples of the region were closely linked and that there would be no truly free Poles, Czechs, and Hungarians without free Ukrainians, Belarusians, Lithuanians, and Russians. J. Giedroyc's establishment of contacts with the environment of the Russian emigration, which gathered around the magazine “Continent” by Vladimir Maksimov, preceded the appearance of the declaration. This even led to criticism from B. Osadchuk, which follows from the correspondence. However, an agreement was reached between the allies and fruitful cooperation continued.

J. Giedroyc's political line embodied the slogan “There is no free Poland without a free Ukraine”. Therefore, in a letter to B. Osadchuk, the Editor was sincerely pleased with the independence of the Ukrainian state: “Extremely congratulations. Ukraine's independence is a historical date, moreover, in the full sense of the word. I am very glad that the Polish government did not disappoint and recognize independence, without looking at Western countries”. B. Osadchuk believed that the final issue of Polish-Ukrainian relations would not be decided in exile, but at the level of the governments of both. Therefore, the architects of the Polish-Ukrainian reconciliation, while remaining in Berlin and Maison Lafitte, actively monitored the political life in Ukraine and

Poland, looking for politicians to succeed the case of Jozef Pilsudski and Simon Petliura. In his letters, B. Osadchuk often sharply criticized the then politicians and diplomats, the lack of activity of officials, and those actions that hindered reconciliation between Poles and Ukrainians. J. Giedroyc also sought to make greater progress in bilateral relations, writing in 1997: “I am discouraged from making efforts to promote Polish-Ukrainian relations. It is hard on the Polish side, but there is no partner on the Ukrainian side”.

The correspondence between J. Giedroyc and B. Osadchuk is an exciting journey through 937 pages of multifaceted dialogue between the Pole and the Ukrainian, who made the lion's share of their efforts to achieve reconciliation of their peoples for a common movement towards a better future.