

Summary

This dissertation presents the life history and pro-Polish activities of Laurence Alma-Tadema (1865-1940), the Brussels-born British poet and writer. The analysed sources were mainly from Polish, English, and American archives. The work has a chronological and problematic structure and consists of seven chapters. The following issues have been analysed: the personal life of Alma-Tadema, including childhood, family and love relationships, friendships, interests, and her views; literary works with a split of the various literary genres and journalism practiced by Laurence; the beginnings of her interest in Polish history and culture, the issue of knowledge of the Polish language, as well as the first pro-Polish activities before the outbreak of World War I; her political and charitable activities for the Polish cause, victims of the war, emigrants, and Polish prisoners of war in Britain, and in addition, since 1918, her activities for the Polish children in the British Isles; post-war pro-Polish activities of Alma-Tadema, including during the Paris Peace Conference. An important part of the work is an analysis of the relationships between Laurence and Ignacy Jan Paderewski and Roman Dmowski. To introduce and at the same time attempt to synthesize the phenomenon, the issues of the Polish colony in England before 1914 and Polish civilian prisoners of war in Britain during the conflict are also addressed in separate subsections. Four hypotheses stated in the introduction were verified. Two were able to be confirmed, and the others were confirmed in part due to the lack of quantifiable sources. The analysis carried out expands the existing status of research on the life and activities of Laurence Alma-Tadema.

Keywords: Laurence Alma-Tadema, World War I, British literature, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Roman Dmowski, charity, Polonophile activities.