

An Undiscovered Woman - from Antiquity to Modern Era

The academic conference
22-23 September 2016

Exhibition
September-October 2016

Conference venue Faculty of Humanities UMCS
Plac Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej 4a

The research on the place, meaning and manner of perceiving women who lived in the past has for quite a long time been within the sphere of historians' interests, the expression of which is the increasing number of publication on that particular subject. However, so far the scholarly focus has been placed primarily on women from the privileged social strata and communities. Numerous discussions were therefore dedicated to the historical figures of queens, female representatives of aristocratic families or rich middle classes, who were then usually presented through the prism of their social roles or professions, typical for the given historical period and cultural circles.

Female images captured on the photographs from the past are in many respects remarkable documents. Portraits made in photography studios are usually very serious. The stylised poses captured on camera are the same, regardless of the age of models. The only changes, taking place in accordance with fashion of a given period, occur in clothing and hairstyle. On the other hand, situational photographs are different in nature. They are a record of life of the city and countryside as well as of the daily activities performed by women. Photographs from family albums also have an extraordinary value. They immortalise the emotional moments accompanying various stages of life. All of the above-mentioned types of photographs are invariably combined by the figure of a female character, an unknown woman.

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Galeria



Lucyna Żukowska of Skrzyński Family (1844–1944) – a veteran of the January Uprising, participant of the battles of Żyrzyn, Fajslawice and Tyszowce. Photo by Zakład „Bernardi”, E. Funk, Lublin, 1929–1939



Grodzka Street in Lublin. Photo by Stanisław Magierski, the 1930s.



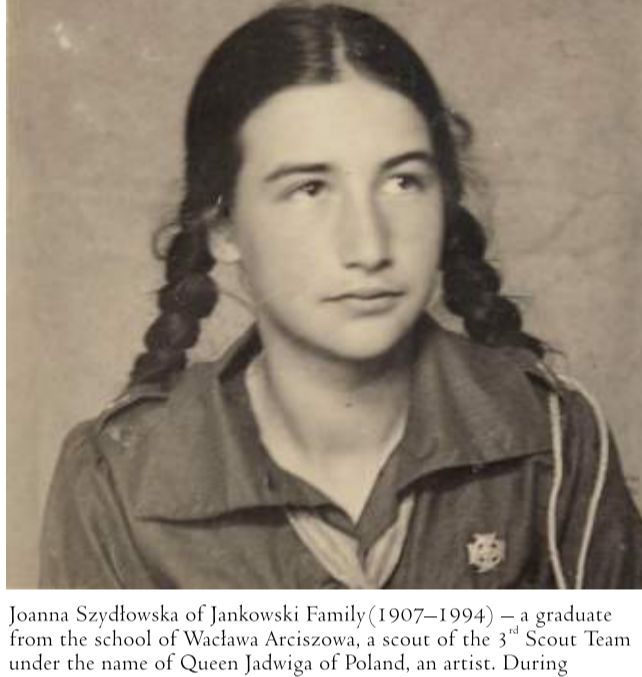
Maria of Obuchowski Family – a wife of the January Uprising insurgent, Julian Morzycki. She accompanied her husband to the exile to Siberia. Photographer unknown, second half of the 19th century



Waława Arciszowa (1870–1953) – a daughter of Maria and Julian Morzycki. In 1912 she founded a private female secondary school in Lublin, which she ran until 1949. Photographer unknown, the 1920s.



Zofia Kozicka, a daughter of Lublin-based ethnographer Janusz Świeży, as a student of the former Secondary School of Waława Arciszowa. Lublin, the 1930s.



Joanna Szydłowska of Jankowski Family (1907–1994) – a graduate from the school of Waława Arciszowa, a scout of the 3rd Scout Team under the name of Queen Jadwiga of Poland, an artist. During the Second World War she was sent to Ravensbrück concentration camp for her conspiracy operations. She was in the group of “guinea pig” female prisoners on whom crippling medical experiments were carried out. After the war she ran a jewellery atelier in Lublin. Photographer unknown, the 1920s.



Joanna Szydłowska in jewellery atelier. Photographer unknown, Lublin, the 1960s.



Bride. Krzczonów, Lublin District. Photo by Janusz Świeży, 1933



Married woman in a bonnet. Wólka Lubartowska, Lubartów District. Photo by Janusz Świeży, 1952



In a cradle. Krasne, Parczew District. Photo by Alfred Gauda, 1968



Emilia Świeżowa with her son Waław. Photo by Janusz Świeży, the 1920s.



Maria Szwarcenberg-Czerna. Photo by Józef Wasilewski, Lublin, beginning of the 20th century



At the market in Lublin, between Lubartowska and Świętoduska Street. Photo by Stanisław Magierski and Wiktor Ziółkowski, the 1930s.



Florist in Plac Litewski (Lithuanian Square). Photo by Zofia Chomętowska, Lublin, the 1930s.



Swimming competition at a swimming pool in Lubomelska Street. Photographer unknown, Lublin, 1934



Athletics competition. Photographer unknown, Lublin, 1930



Maria Ksenia Bechczy-Rudnicka (1888–1982) – a novelist, translator, theatre critic. Chairwoman of Lublin department of the Polish Writers' Association, in 1947–1964 she was a literary manager of the National Theatre by the name of Juliusz Osterwa, in 1960–1965 a chief editor of the magazine “Kamena”. Photo by J. Malarski, Warszawa, 1925. Photo by Wanda Parys, Lublin, 1963

