

Iwonna Michalska

University of Lodz
The Faculty of Educational Sciences
The Department of History of Education and Pedology

About a Forgotten Newspaper for Children *Nasz Głosik* [Our Young Voice] (1935-1936)

O zapomnianym piśmie dla dzieci –
Nasz Głosik (1935-1936)

KEYWORDS ABSTRACT

children's periodicals,
juvenile periodicals
written by children
and for children,
booklet "Our Young
Voice", Department
of Polish Teachers'
Union, regionalism,
the inter-war period

The subject of the article is a comprehensive summary of the characteristics of a newspaper for children, *Our Young Voice*, published in the years 1935 – 1936 by the County¹ Department of the Polish Teachers' Union (Polish: *Związek Nauczycielstwa Polskiego*) in Augustów. A monograph of the periodical has not yet been written, and its title hardly ever appears in the register of children's periodicals. In order to attain that goal, an attempt has been made to answer the following questions: Who prepared the message targeted at its readers? How was this message conveyed? What was its content like? What was its graphic design like? The conducted research concluded that *Our Young Voice* was a juvenile periodical written by children and for children, which meant that its young readers wrote the vast majority of articles. Stories, accounts, reports, articles and poems as well as puzzles, riddles and brief answers to subscribers' letters could all be found within the pages of the newspaper. The Augustów periodical as a whole implemented the idea of regionalism by including texts relating to the "small children's homeland", which meant concentrating mainly on the history of particular cities, towns and villages of the Augustów-Suwałki region, its specific terrain features and tourist

¹ In Polish, *Powiat*

assets, local customs, recently developed ventures and newly established institutions, local schools, and child and youth organisations functioning there. *Our Young Voice* was targeted at younger and older school children. It was also used as either the main or supplementary material during school lessons.

SŁOWA KLUCZOWE ABSTRAKT

czasopiśmiennictwo dla dzieci, periodyki dzieci i dla dzieci, pisemko „Nasz Głosik”, Związek Nauczycielstwa Polskiego, regionalizm, okres międzywojenny

Przedmiotem artykułu jest pełna charakterystyka pisemka dla dzieci „Nasz Głosik” wydawanego w latach 1935-1936 przez Oddział Powiatowy Związku Nauczycielstwa Polskiego w Augustowie. Periodyk ten nie doczekał się własnej monografii, a jego tytuł niezwykle rzadko figuruje w różnych wykazach czasopiśmiennictwa dla dzieci. W celu realizacji powyższego zamierzenia dokonano próby odpowiedzenia na następujące pytania: Przez kogo przygotowywany był przekaz kierowany do czytelników? W jaki sposób był prezentowany? Jakie treści zawierał? Jaką szatę graficzną posiadało pisemko? W rezultacie przeprowadzonych badań ustalono, że „Nasz Głosik” był periodykiem dzieci i dla dzieci, co oznaczało, że autorami większości tekstów zostawali mali jego czytelnicy. Na kolejnych stronach drukowano artykuły, opowiadania, sprawozdania, relacje oraz wierszyki, a także łamigłówki i krótkie odpowiedzi na listy prenumeratorów. Augustowski periodyk w całości realizował idee regionalizmu, zamieszczając treści dotyczące „małej dziecięcej ojczyzny”, czyli koncentrujące się głównie na dziejach poszczególnych miejscowości regionu augustowsko-suwalskiego, ich walorach krajoznawczych i turystycznych, lokalnych zwyczajach, nowo powstających inwestycjach oraz instytucjach, miejscowych szkołach i działających w nich organizacjach dziecięcych i młodzieżowych. „Nasz Głosik” adresowany był do młodszych i starszych uczniów szkoły powszechnej. Wykorzystywano go również jako materiał podstawowy albo uzupełniający podczas lekcji.

A few words on the subject of juvenile periodicals targeted at children and youth

Polish periodicals for children and youth enjoy an almost two-hundred-year history and merely a fraction of that history is to be the subject of this article. Since the first juvenile periodical “Entertainment for Children”, founded by Klementyna Hoffmanowa (née Tańska) appeared in Poland, adults became more and more interested in publishing children’s newspapers and magazines targeted at young readers. With time, the number of such periodicals was increasing steadily, with some of these

being independent publications, and others – few-page supplements for young readers which were usually issued periodically with magazines and daily newspapers.² This trend did not weaken but, on the contrary, became stronger after the World War I, when various groups became involved in setting up new newspapers and magazines. Among these, there were private individuals (writers, folk writers), booksellers, teacher organisations, associations and unions, and even individual parishes. Alongside the Polish periodicals, publications prepared by minorities also appeared.³

Although systematic research on children's periodicals has been conducted for many years, it is impossible to estimate with certainty the number of all the titles which appeared from 1824,⁴ due to the fact that a considerable number of them were ephemeral, which means that their existence in circulation was very short and ended with a few or, at most, several dozen issues. The ones which were published in small numbers were also distributed over a small area. They often did not last until the present day and there is no material trace of their existence. Furthermore, access to many other publications is limited, because of the large space requirements and, most of all, library resources. It is worth mentioning here a record of children papers by B.E. Łaszewska-Radwańska published in 1924-1939, containing 48 titles, as well as the periods of their issue, place, founders and/or editors. And despite the fact that it is incomplete, it may be treated as a good basis for further research and completion in this area of interest.⁵

² For instance: *Monika*, weekly had a supplement *Anioł Stróż. Pismo poświęcone dzieciom chrześcijańskim*, *Gazeta Gdańska* – a weekly supplement *Anioł Stróż. Czasopismo dla dzieci i młodzieży polskiej*, *Katolik* – a monthly, later a biweekly supplement *Dzwonek. Gazetka dla dzieci, Przewodnik Katolicki – Opiekun Dziełek. Pismo poświęcone wychowaniu dzieci*, *Gazeta Niedzielną – Anioł Stróż. Przyjaciel i nauczyciel dzieci, Przedświt. Dwutygodnik dla Kobiet – Anioł Stróż. Czasopismo dla dzieci i młodzieży polskiej*, *Niewiasta Polska. Pismo dla Mieszczanek i Gospodyń Wiejskich – Anioł Stróż. Przyjaciel i nauczyciel dzieci*, *Niewiasta Katolicka – Gwiazdka. Pismo dla Działki Polskiej, Górnoślązak – Dzwonek. Gazeta dla dzieci*, See, R. Bednarz-Grzybek, K. Kabacińska-Łuczak, “Wydawcy i redaktorzy czasopism katolickich dla dzieci i młodzieży w latach 1864-1914”, in: *Oświatowe i edukacyjne aspekty działalności wydawniczej w XIX i początkach XX wieku*, eds. I. Michalska, G. Michalski, Łódź 2016, pp. 139-149.

³ E.g. Jewish and Polish-Jewish communities issued *Nasza Jutrzenka, Okienko na Świat*. A Jewish newspaper *Chwila* had a supplement *Chwila Dzieci i Młodzieży*, and *Nowy Dziennik – Dzienniczek dla Dzieci i Młodzieży*.

⁴ Some of these were listed in the following publications: P. Chmielowski, “Czasopisma polskie dla młodego wieku”, in: *Encyklopedia Wychowawcza*, eds. J.T. Lubomirski, E. Stawiski, S. Przystański, J.K. Plebański, Warsaw 1885, vol. III, pp. 111-154; S. Karpowicz, A. Szycówna, *Nasza literatura dla młodzieży*, Warsaw 1904, pp. 53-54; 60-65; I. Kaniowska-Lewańska, *Literatura dla dzieci i młodzieży do roku 1864*, Warsaw 1980, p. 114-163; K. Kuliczowska, *Literatura dla dzieci i młodzieży w latach 1864-1918*, Warsaw 1975, pp. 24-31; 123-129; J.Z. Białek, *Literatura dla dzieci i młodzieży w latach 1918-1939*, Warsaw 1987, pp. 188-209; S. Grabowski, “Z dziejów polskiej prasy dziecięcej w latach 1824-1939. Spojrzenie na redaktorów”, *Przegląd Historyczno-Oświatowy* 1986, vol. 114, No 4, pp. 470-495; J. Jarowiecki, *Czasopisma dla dzieci i młodzieży. Część pierwsza 1918-1945*, Kraków 1990, pp. 8-28.

⁵ B.E. Łaszewska-Radwańska, “Czasopisma dla dzieci i młodzieży – od *Rozrywek dla Dzieci* do wybuchu drugiej wojny światowej”, *Biuletyn EBIB* 2006, vol. 79, <http://www.ebib.info/2006/79index.php> (accessed: 22.07.2017).

At the same time, it is worth mentioning the fact that there is a certain difficulty in making internal divisions of periodicals resulting from the fact that, in many cases, there was no clear specification by their creators as to which age group were the target readers of particular periodicals. Their titles or subtitles are not always a reliable indicator. Titles like *Register for Children* (Polish: *Dziennik dla Dzieci*), *Weekly for Children* (Polish: *Tygodnik dla Dzieci*), *Children's Friend* (Polish: *Przyjaciel Dzieci*), *Polish Children's Friend* (Polish: *Przyjaciel Polskich Dzieci*), *Little Witness* (Polish: *Mały Świadek*), *Little Review* (Polish: *Mały Przegląd*), *Little Disciple* (Polish: *Mały Apostoł*), *Little Animals' Friend* (Polish: *Mały Przyjaciel Zwierząt*), *School for Children* (Polish: *Szkółka dla Dzieci*), were only an indication for the buyer, saying that they were targeted towards the younger part of the society. The category “child” or “children” was often treated very broadly, including younger and older children as well as youth. It is only a review of their content that allows one to discover their intended readers. A good example illustrating the above mentioned situation is “Entertainment for Children”, which despite its name, was not targeted towards young, but rather older children, yet as Stanisław Grabowski writes: “it was read by growing girls (they were the target readers) and boys, as well as their parents belonging to upper-middle landowning class because the author [Klementyna Hoffmanowa (née: Tańska)], came from that social group and saw them as the addressees of her periodical.”⁶

Our Young Voice – a comprehensive overview of its characteristics

Our Young Voice found itself in a similar situation to the above mentioned periodicals. The second word of the title indicated only that it was targeted towards younger readers but without determining the approximate age of the target reader. The periodical was created on the initiative of the authorities of County Department of Polish Teachers' Union in Augustów, which initially established its own periodical – *Our Voice*, aiming at increasing the readership level in the region, informing about the local social and cultural issues concerning the community, union members, teachers and, in summer months, it was meant to serve as a medium between tourists and the local community. The good experience, favourable reception and continuing popularity of the monthly inspired its editors to take on another challenge which was *Our Young Voice*. Despite considerable enthusiasm and engagement from publishers, the periodical had two “premieres” presenting itself to young readers. For the first time, it appeared on 20th August 1934 by Pedagogical Outpatient Clinic (the Polish

⁶ S. Grabowski, *Na przyszły pożytek. Z dziejów polskiej prasy dla dzieci 1824-1939*, Pułtusk 2001, p. 8.

Teachers' Union (Polish: *ZNP*) as an eight-page supplement to *Our Voice*, with the subtitle *Illustrated Regional Newspaper for the Children of the Suwalki-Augustow Region*. It received content-related supervision of J. Witek – a teacher and out-of-school instructor. *Our Voice*, announcing its introduction into the editorial market, explained: “if a strong tendency towards regionalism in the new curricula is to become everyday reality in the education of our children (...) it requires a suitable children’s newspaper.”⁷ Among the specific objectives of the new publications there were, among other things, to increase children’s affection for their region by presenting them with the beauty of landscape, natural sites and historical landmarks, create a spirit of unity and community, discover talents of various kinds, provide region-oriented teaching material for classes, raise readers’ awareness, present the results of actions undertaken by the older generations for the sake of the young ones and, finally, familiarise them with state, self-governing and social institutions.⁸ However, the periodical quickly disappeared from the market and no reasons for its withdrawal were provided. A statement saying that it was “a so-called specimen”, made in *Nasz Głos* (English: *Our Voice*) along with the announcement informing about its introduction as a children’s supplement, should perhaps be taken literally. Such an interpretation may be observed in E. Bezzubik’s suggestion that the supplement should be treated as a “herald” of future intentions from the editors.⁹ For the second time, on this occasion as an independent newspaper, *Our Young Voice* appeared on 15th December 1935, with a subtitle saying *Illustrated Regional Newspaper by Children and for the Children of the Augustow Suwalki Lake District*. It was intended to be a biweekly, issued on the 1st and 15th day of every month, except for the school holidays. Editorial duties were assigned to W. Feiner, who was in charge of the Augustow school, whereas Z. Warakowski became the publisher on the recommendation of the local department of the Union. *Our Young Voice*, advertising and familiarising readers with its ideas, mostly referred to the objectives published several months earlier, informing the community about its offer targeted towards the younger groups of the society. In the final part of the announcement addressing its readers it said: “We appeal to teachers for support and to parents to take interest in our publication. We wish to raise our children’s social awareness and to encourage them to contribute to the better future of our Homeland.”¹⁰

It should be mentioned that in order to provide a complete description of a periodical the following questions need to be answered: Who prepared the message

⁷ J. Witek, “O *Nasz Głosik*. Ilustrowane piśmko regionalne dla dzieci”, *Nasz Głos* 1934, vol. 26, No 8, p. 92.

⁸ *Ibidem*, pp. 92-93.

⁹ E. Bezzubik, “Prasa regionalna w Podlaskiej Bibliotece Cyfrowej”, *Bibliotekarz Podlaski* 2011, vol. 22, p. 56.

¹⁰ H. Kodź, “Nasza kronika miesięczna”, *Nasz Głos* 1935, vol. 41, No 11, p.124.

addressed to its readers? How was it presented? What was its content like?, as well as examining its graphic design. These two inseparable dimensions – substantive and formal or, in other words, internal and external, constitute the ultimate result of the writing-editorial-publishing efforts known as a periodical.

The articles published in *Our Young Voice* were written not only by its editor, but the majority of these articles were sent by students, who willingly submitted their essays and assignments containing descriptions of their hometowns, school events, accounts of events organised by their associations, school trips they took part in, and historical events connected with their immediate environment. The submitted works had one or many authors, were mostly written by 4th, 5th or 6th – graders from public schools and by students of lower grades of lower secondary schools. It is worth mentioning that until then it was rare for periodicals to devote such a considerable part of their publications to their readers based on the idea “children for children”. Certainly, *Mały Przegląd* (English: *Little Review*) which was entirely created by the younger “writers”, set an example for *Our Young Voice*.¹¹

The Augustow periodical had a permanent structure. Subsequent pages of the newspaper contained articles, stories, accounts, reports and poems. The final pages were devoted to puzzles and riddles and solutions to the ones published in the previous issue as well as brief answers to letters from readers. A frequently applied rule of focusing on a selected “centre of interest,” setting a substantive direction for subsequent issues, gave the periodical the form of a small monograph of the undertaken subject. A particular town or city in the Augustow Suwalki region, presented in the leading article, served as a focal point and was the basis for a multifaceted discussion conveyed through various features.

The undertaken subject matter of *Our Young Voice* entirely implemented the idea of regionalism promoted in the interwar period. Its basic principle: national unity and regional diversity of economic, social and cultural life, included in the “Programme of Polish Regionalism” from 1926, was meant to encourage the active engagement of the press in this trend. This involvement imposed the following requirements: “to reflect the diverse life of its own community, to develop attachment and interest for everything in the immediate environment, to instil energy and promote initiative, to guard every citizen’s ability to fulfil their duties.”¹² A few years later, A. Patkowski developed this thought, indicating that regional newspapers needed to undertake issues concerning local history, regional folklore and natural beauty sites, crafts and handicrafts, activities and initiatives of regional self-governments, non-governmental organisations,

¹¹ See, e.g. J. Hen, *Nowolipie*, Łódź 1991, pp. 98-103, 91; M. Gliński, “*Mały Przegląd*” – gazeta inna niż wszystkie, <http://culture.pl/pl/artykul/maly-przeglad-gazeta-inna-niz-wszystkie> (accessed: 24.07.2017); E. Janicka, *Festung Warschau*, Warsaw 2011, pp. 290-294.

¹² “Program regionalizmu polskiego”, *Ziemia* 1926, No 13-14, p. 212.

educational institutions, social care centres, schools, extracurricular activities organised by teachers.¹³ In response to these postulates advocating local periodicals' active engagement in the promotion of the "immediate environment", the editorial staff of *Our Young Voice* decided to give the periodical its unambiguous profile of a children's periodical, focusing on getting to know the immediate surroundings. As a matter of fact, motifs related to the ideas of regionalism could be found in other juvenile periodicals, but they were never the main focus of attention.

The majority of articles in the periodical presented the history of the region, particularly, the history of its towns and cities. Their past was always portrayed in a similar way – the origins of a city, town or village were mentioned, often connected with some royal decrees and the influence of Christianity. Among other themes there were various dimensions of their development, significant positive and negative events over the centuries and decades, architecture and types of buildings in the presented locations, population numbers, finishing the story of a particular location with the description of present-day conditions. For instance, recollecting the 600-year turbulent history of Filipów, the contribution of Sigismund II Augustus and Stephen Bathory to the welfare and prosperity of this village was emphasised. Commencing the construction of the Church of St. Wawrzyniec in the 16th century, the outbreaks of huge fires and epidemics in the next century and the difficult times of the Partitions were among other significant events recalled in the periodical. In the closing part of the article, it concluded: "Under bondage, inhabitants of Filipów took an active part in the fight for freedom in the January Uprising (1863). A few of them might have lived long enough to appreciate the joyful moment when, on the first days of September 1920, the Polish Army entered the streets of Filipów. There came freedom!"¹⁴ Similar characteristics of Suwałki, Augustów, Sejny, Bargłów, Wigry, Raczki, Bakalarzewo, Lipsk, Krasnopol, Wiżajny, Jeleniewo, Sopoćkinie, Jatwież and Jaćwieża appeared in the periodical.¹⁵ A brief account of the events taking place in the area of Augustów and Suwałki during the Kościuszko Uprising

¹³ A. Patkowski, "Program i zadania czasopism regionalnych", *Polska Oświata Pozaszkolna* 1932, No 1, pp. 39-47.

¹⁴ "Filipów", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 5, p. 51.

¹⁵ "Tak było naprawdę", *Nasz Głosik* 1935, No 1, pp. 1-2; "Królewskie miasto Augustów", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 2, pp. 13-15; "Augustów w latach wojny światowej", *ibidem*, pp. 16-17; "Sejny", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 3, pp. 24-26; W.J. Sobotko, "Sztabin", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 4, pp. 37-38; "Bargłów", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 6, pp. 61-62; "Z przeszłości Bargłowa", *ibidem*, pp. 66-67; J. Jasińska, "Wigry", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 7, p. 73-75; "Raczki", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 8, pp. 85-86; E. Gajewska, "Bakalarzewo", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 9, pp. 97-99; I. Kubatówna, "Lipsk", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 10, pp. 113-114; Z. Kowalewska, "Krasnopol", *ibidem*, pp. 17-18; "Wiżajny", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 11, p. 121-123; P. Lebediew, "Jeleniewo", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 12, p. 133-134; H. Stankiewiczówna, "Sopoćkinie", *ibidem*, pp. 135-136; b. ch., "O wsi Jatwiezi i Jaćwieży", *ibidem*, pp. 137-137.

and the January Uprising also featured, and the activities of the Polish Military Organisation were also recalled. The camp life of the insurgents, fighting with the Russian army and children's heroic deeds, were portrayed.¹⁶

Students' accounts from school trips were meant to inspire admiration in schoolchildren for the landscape of the Augustów and Suwałki region. Among these accounts, there was a boat trip from Augustów to the village of Studzieniczna, first on the River Netta, through the channel at Klonownica and on Krechowieckie Lake to Studzieniczne Lake. Reaching the destination gave an opportunity to pray in the chapel at the miraculous picture of the Mother of God of Studzieniczna and at the tomb of the Unknown Commander of Insurgents. Students took part in cycling trips on roads and along paths to Wigry Lake and by horse-drawn carriages to the remains of the Pac Palace in Dowspuda and to the Polish-German frontier. They also went from Bargłowo to Augustów on foot or by boat, to see the natural beauty and historical sights of the city, whereas train journeys took them from Włocławek to Augustów in order to see the most beautiful and interesting attractions of the region.¹⁷

The readers published their descriptions of local customs. It was indicated that in Białobrzegi, on Christmas Eve, tables were adorned with hay, and after Christmas dinner, to ensure a good harvest, every farmer and landlord would wrap fruit tree trunks with fabric. In the vicinity of Suwałki, boys dressed up as King Herod used to visit their neighbours and act out scenes about Jesus' birth. In Bargłowo, on Ash Wednesday's Eve, a procession of youth walked along the main route reminding everyone about the approaching Lent. Whereas in Raczki, on Easter Sunday, young people used to visit houses in their neighbourhoods wishing one another happy holidays, singing songs about Resurrection and asking for gifts in the form of eggs, Polish dumplings or money. There was also a detailed description of a wedding in Łonowicze, presenting step by step all of the stages of the ceremony.¹⁸

Our Young Voice informed readers about ventures undertaken and the functioning of organisations and institutions in the region. With joy and pride, it announced the

¹⁶ "Jak carskie ruble szły na polskie powstanie", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 3, pp. 34-35; "Jak mały Ludwiś uratował oddział powstańców", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 4, pp. 43-46; H. Bobowiczówna, "O ukrytej broni braci Minkiewiczów", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 5, p. 53; "Bohater z Bargłowa", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 6, p. 63-65; "Kozł Rynek", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 10, pp. 115-116.

¹⁷ "Wycieczka do Studzienicznej", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 2, p. 17-19; M. Feiner, "Wycieczka do jeziora Wigierskiego", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 7, p. 83-84; "Wycieczka do Lipówki", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 8, pp. 93-95; N. Stankiewiczówna, "Wycieczka z Bargłowa do Swobody", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 9, pp. 103-104; W. F., "Wycieczka szkoły powszechnej nr 5 do z Włocławka – w Augustowie", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 12, pp. 139-140.

¹⁸ A. Witkowska, "Zwyczaj ludowe z okolic Augustowa", *Nasz Głosik* 1935, No 1, p.11; H. Pawłowska, "Chodzenie z herodem", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 2, p. 22-23; J. Kozłowska, "Zapusty", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 6, p. 71; T. Gaździński, "Zwyczaj Wielkanoc w okolicy Raczek", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 9, pp. 104-105; "Wesele Jagusi", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 5, pp. 55-58.

construction of a new road connecting Augustów with Białystok, thus making communication for Sztabin more convenient. It said: "Sztabin inhabitants will no longer be cut off from the remaining part of the county. The town itself will revive. There will be heavy traffic both passenger and commercial. The quality of life will improve since the bigger the traffic, the greater affluence."¹⁹ It also informed them about the tasks undertaken by the Brigade of the Border Protection Corps in Bakałarzewo, the benefits of installing a station situated in the Old Manor Farm and fish hatchery in Piła, facilities for tourists in the form of shelters of the Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society near Wigry, and the beginning of the construction of.²⁰

The articles, which were written by students who described their school in them, were of various subjects, remaining in the trend of regionalism. Many of the students praised newly built or renovated buildings. It was the case in Suwałki, Sejny, Sztabina, Huta and Jeleniów.²¹ The situation was quite different elsewhere. Stanisław Gąskowski from Bargłów, describing the history of the local school since 1919, wrote with concern: "There is only one thing we lack: our own school building. The school is situated in private, dark buildings with low ceilings. Yet we do hope that maybe soon, our school will also have an attractive and comfortable school building."²²

According to the children's correspondence sent to *Young Voice*, it can be deduced that there were child and youth associations at schools. The newspaper's editors published these letters so as to promote social and economic activity. They encouraged young children to become Cub Scouts and older ones to join Scouts. They explained the rules governing these organizations, what kind of badges they had, and how the young were able to attain them and, finally, what the den and pack meetings of these organizations were like.²³ The letters recommended that students of the 6th and 7th grade should establish school groups of the Airborne and Antigas Defence League as well as the Maritime and Colonial League. On the other hand, they encouraged everyone attending public schools to participate in the activities of the Polish Red Cross

¹⁹ K., "Niedługo już będziemy jeździli przez Sztabin do Białegostoku", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 4, p. 42.

²⁰ W. Bibikowówna, "Nasza strażnica K.O P-u", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 9, p. 99-100; "Stacja hydrobiologiczna", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 7, p. 78; "Wylegarnia ryb", *Nasz Głosik*, ibidem, pp. 78-79; S. Sankiewiczówna, "Schronisko Polsk. Towarzystwa Krajoznawczego nad Wigrami", *Nasz Głosik*, ibidem, p. 77-78.

²¹ K., "Pierwszy dzień w nowej szkole", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 1, p. 10; J. Krzywiński, "Nasza szkoła", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 3, pp. 27-29; G. Ryszkiewiczówna, "W starej i nowej szkole", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 4, pp. 39-41; S. Poświatowska, "Nasza szkoła", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 7, pp. 81-83; M. Jankowska, "Z życia szkoły powszechnej w Jeleniewie", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No10, p. 119.

²² S. Gąskowski, "Nasza szkoła", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 6, pp. 65-66.

²³ "Zuchy", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 1, pp. 6-8; L. Grażewiczówna, "Nasze harcerstwo", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 11, pp. 129-131.

and to engage in the school cooperative movement²⁴. In the context of the latter, it was explained: “Belonging to a community, we learn to help one another (...). We discover that it is only through cooperative effort will we change the world for the better, more noble, and will we make life easier not only for ourselves, but for others.”²⁵

In the end, finishing the presentation of the content of *Our Voice*, it should be mentioned that the regional subjects were complemented with a few publications reminding the reader that living in a local environment means at the same time being an integral part of a bigger organism, which is the nation. This was the purpose of an article about the school celebrations of the National Emblem with the participation of county education authorities. When celebrating the name-day of the President of the Polish Republic – Ignacy Mościcki, it was emphasised what a major figure he was, especially when describing his stay in Augustów on two occasions: in 1928, when he visited the barracks there, and four years later, when he participated in army celebrations and meeting teachers and scouts. On the first anniversary of the death of Józef Piłsudski, his words on the subject of the role of the mother and the phenomenon of the child were cited.²⁶ The newspaper also celebrated the feast of Piłsudski’s wife’s patroness, explaining to readers that they should regard that day as significant “firstly, because Aleksandra Piłsudska is the Mother who loves Polish children dearly, secondly because Aleksandra Piłsudska came from these parts, as she was born in Suwałki.”²⁷

The graphic design of *Our Young Voice* was considerably modest. Apart from black-and-white illustrations, the paper had hardly any other ornamentation. There were three to six photographs in each issue and most of these were of a low quality. The texts were written in a font heterogeneous in size, suitable for the age of the target reader. At first glance, it was considerably different from its counterparts issued by the Board of the Polish Teachers’ Union which, at that time, applied a wide range of graphical expression, including a rich choice of colours.²⁸ Every issue of the newspaper consisted of 12 pages, using consecutive numbering, throughout the entire period of its existence on the editorial market. The periodical had a circulation of 3,000

²⁴ B. Dyczewska, “Nasze koło L.O.P.P.”, *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 10, pp. 116-117; “Nasze koło L.O.P.P. i L.M.K.”, *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 11, pp. 123-125; E. Esselówna, “Koło młodzieży P.C.K.”, *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 8, p. 90-91.

²⁵ J. Łanczkowska, “Nasz kącik spółdzielczy”, *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 11, p. 126.

²⁶ A. Dowborówna, M. Niemuniśiówna, “Godło Państwa”, *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 1, pp. 5-6; G. Jonkajtysówna, “Na Dzień Imienin Włodarza Rzeczypospolitej. Wspomnienia z pobytu P. Prezydenta w Augustowie”, *Nasz Głosik* 1933, No 3, pp. 31-34; “Józef Piłsudski – o Matce”, *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 10, p. 110; “Józef Piłsudski o Dziecku”, *ibidem*, p. 11.

²⁷ “Imieniny Marszałkowej Aleksandry Piłsudskiej”, *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No 1, p. 10.

²⁸ More on the subject in: I. Michalska, *Czasopisma Związku Nauczycielstwa Polskiego dla dzieci w okresie Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej*, Łódź 1994, pp. 20-44.

copies. 1,368 went to 96 schools of the Augustow County and 1,549 to 138 schools from the Suwalki County.²⁹ Its low price of 5 groszy (PLN 0,05 zloty) was established in order to ensure it would sell out. According to J. Szlaszyński, this decision was meant to guarantee success by attracting a large number of subscribers, but in fact it contributed to the withdrawal of the periodical, since the editors were unable to cover the cost of paper and printing from the obtained income.³⁰ The last booklet was issued by the Krzewiński Brothers' Printing House, on 15th June 1936.

Final comments

To conclude, there are a few issues that should be taken into account. First of all, both the analysis of the content and the formal side of *Our Young Voice* confirm that the paper was targeted at children attending lower and higher grades of public schools. Texts of a varied level of difficulty show that some of them were written in simple language comprehensible for 8 and 10-year-olds, and others were more sophisticated. A similar conclusion is relevant with regard to the undertaken subjects. A number of them met the interests of younger children, whereas others were more suitable for older readers. Additionally, the proposed thesis is supported by the fact that some texts were printed in a small font while others were in a large font more suitable for beginner readers.

Secondly, the periodical from Augustów, as a whole, can be considered as an example of a press publication remaining under the influence of the idea of regionalism. Its above mentioned "locality", in this case, was understood as driving the younger generation's attention to the issues concerning their places of residence. Therefore, it was a regional paper, in its range of influence, devoted entirely to its own region.

Thirdly, the paper was read not only by individual subscribers but was used as the main or as supplementary teaching material during lessons with younger and older students. Sometimes a public school teacher of the 2nd or 3rd grade read longer texts from *Our Young Voice* which their students may have found too difficult to read on their own.

Fourthly, *Our Young Voice* increased the number of trade union periodicals, whose core was the so-called *Płomykowa Family* (*Płomyk* English: *Flame*, *Płomyczek* English: *Little Flame*) as well as *Młody Zawodowiec* English: *Young Professional* and

²⁹ J. Iwasiewicz, W. Dymarczyk, A. Chrościelewski, K. Iwasiewicz, W. Figiel, B. Borkin, "Jak pracujemy w administracji *Naszego Głosiku*", *Nasz Głosik* 1936, No. 8, p. 92.

³⁰ J. Szlaszyński, "Dzieje oświaty w Augustowie do wybuchu drugiej wojny światowej", *Rocznik Augustowsko-Suwalski* 2005, No 5, p. 12, accessible online, <http://www.astn.pl/r2005/dzieje2.htm> (accessed: 25.06.2017).

Szkolna Gazetka Ścienna English: *School Wall Newspaper*. These periodicals published in Warsaw were targeted towards children and young people all over Poland. What distinguished the newspaper from these publications was its regionalism and considerably wide readership in terms of age.

Bibliography

- Bednarz-Grzybek R., Kabacińska-Łuczak K., “Wydawcy i redaktorzy czasopism katolickich dla dzieci i młodzieży w latach 1864-1914”, in: *Oświatowe i edukacyjne aspekty działalności wydawniczej w XIX i początkach XX wieku*, eds. I. Michalska, G. Michalski, Wydawnictwo UŁ, Łódź 2016.
- Bezzubik E., “Prasa regionalna w Podlaskiej Bibliotece Cyfrowej”, *Bibliotekarz Podlaski* 2011, No 22.
- Białek J. Z., *Literatura dla dzieci i młodzieży w latach 1918-1939*, WSiP, Warszawa 1987.
- Chmielowski P., “Czasopisma polskie dla młodego wieku”, in: *Encyklopedia Wychowawcza*, eds. J.T. Lubomirski, E. Stawiski, S. Przysański, J.K. Plebański, Wydawnictwo Gebethner i Wolff, Warsaw 1885, vol. III.
- Gliński M., “*Mały Przegląd*” – gazeta inna niż wszystkie, <http://culture.pl/pl/artykul/maly-przeglad-gazeta-inna-niz-wszystkie> (accessed: 24.07.2017.)
- Grabowski S., *Na przyszły pożytek. Z dziejów polskiej prasy dla dzieci 1824-1939*, Wyższa Szkoła Humanistyczna, Pułtusk 2001.
- Grabowski S., “Z dziejów polskiej prasy dziecięcej w latach 1824-1939. Spojrzenie na redaktorów”, *Przegląd Historyczno-Oświatowy* 1986, vol. 114, No 4.
- Hen J., *Nowolipie*, Wydawnictwo Prospero, Łódź 1991.
- Janicka E., *Festung Warschau*, Wydawnictwo “Krytyki Politycznej”, Warsaw 2011.
- Jarowiecki J., *Czasopisma dla dzieci i młodzieży. Część pierwsza 1918-1945*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe WSP, Krakow 1990.
- Kaniowska-Lewańska I., *Literatura dla dzieci i młodzieży do roku 1864*, WSiP, Warsaw 1980.
- Karpowicz S., Szcówna A., *Nasza literatura dla młodzieży*, Księgarnia Naukowa, Warsaw 1904.
- Kodź H., “Nasza kronika miesięczna”, *Nasz Głos* 1935, vol. 41, No 11.
- Kuliczowska K., *Literatura dla dzieci i młodzieży w latach 1864-1918*, WSiP, Warsaw 1975.
- Łaszewska-Radwańska B. E., “Czasopisma dla dzieci i młodzieży – od “Rozrywek dla Dzieci” do wybuchu drugiej wojny światowej”, *Biuletyn EBIB* 2006, vol. 79, <http://www.ebib.info/2006/79/index.php> (accessed: 22.07.2017).
- Nasz Głosik* 1935-1936.
- Michalska I., *Czasopisma Związku Nauczycielstwa Polskiego dla dzieci w okresie Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej*, Wydawnictwo UŁ, Łódź 1994.
- A. Patkowski, “Program i zadania czasopism regionalnych”, *Polska Oświata Pozaszkolna* 1932, No 1.
- “Program regionalizmu polskiego”, *Ziemia* 1926, No 13-14.

- Szlaszyński J., “Dzieje oświaty w Augustowie do wybuchu drugiej wojny światowej”, *Rocznik Augustowsko-Suwalski* 2005, No 5, accessible online, <http://www.astn.pl/r2005/dzieje2.htm> (accessed: 25.06.2017).
- Witek J., “O *Nasz Głosik*. Ilustrowane piśmko regionalne dla dzieci”, *Nasz Głos*, 1934, vol. 26, No 8.

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

ADRES DO KORESPONDENCJI

Prof. Iwonna Michalska, PhD
University of Lodz,
The Faculty of Educational Sciences,
The Department of History of Education and Pedagogology
e-mail: iwonna.michalska@neostrada.pl