

Polish literature and culture were very popular in Russia in the 2nd half or the 17th and at the beginning of the 18th centuries. A lot of Polish works were translated into Russian. Among Russian elite there was a number of people who could read in Polish. Some of them were able to write Polish and Latin poetry.

One of the most important such personalities was Stefan Jaworski (1658–1722). He was an Orthodox nobleman born in the Polish Ukraine. Despite his Orthodox background he studied in Polish and Lithuanian Jesuit (Catholic) colleges. After his studies he returned to Kiev (then Russian part of Ukraine). He became an Orthodox priest. In that time he wrote and published a number of works in Polish, Latin, Ukrainian and Church-Slavonic. In 1700 on the demand of tzar Peter I he moved to Moscow and became the Metropolitan of Rjazan. In his Moscow period he wrote a lot of sermons for the tzar and the first Russian theological treatise. Jaworski was one of the leading personalities who “imported” western culture to the Russia of Peter I. A crucial role in this ‘import’ played Poland and Ukraine.

The main purpose of our project is to investigate Polish, Latin, Church-Slavonic and Ukrainian works by Jaworski. As far he has been regarded mainly as a Russian-Orthodox author. In our project we are going to show Jaworski’s adherence to the Polish, western European and Ukrainian cultural context. We will reassess Jaworski’s complex relationship with Polish Baroque prose and poetry and with his sources in the European Counter-Reformation. Many of Jaworski’s works have never been published or researched. The chief goals of our project are:

- A. To examine the role of Stefan Jaworski as a main representative of Polish literature in Ukraine and Russia in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
- B. To investigate the literary patterns of Jaworski’s poetical Polish and Latin works.
- C. To examine the way Jaworski negotiated and self-fashioned his identity in his literary works.
- D. To analyse the visual and iconic aspects of Jaworski’s works. Polish models for printing and creating engravings of high artistic quality will form a significant part of our investigations.
- E. To investigate the library of Jaworski. We are especially interested in the marginal notes he left in his books.
- F. To examine the physical features of Polish and Latin books by Jaworski printed in Kiev and Kharkov in the context of printing material used in Poland.

We would like to show to the international audience of Slavists that Polish-educated humanists, like Jaworski, Theophan Prokopovych or Simjaon Polacki, became a fundamental vehicle for the transmission of Polish and western literature and culture in Muscovite Russia.

Our research will introduce new discoveries and facts about an important Ukrainian-Polish-Russian writer. We plan to publish (in English):

- an edition of four Polish and Latin panegyrics and an elegy by Jaworski (with commentaries);
- an edition of sermons written by Jaworski in his Ukrainian period (with commentaries);
- a volume of essays and several other papers in specialist journals.

The results of our project will be of interest for Slavists, researchers of early modern literature and culture, historians of Russia, Ukraine and Poland.