

***Agent of revolutionary France in the service of the Republic of Poland.
The activities of Pierre Parandier in the years 1792-1799.***

The purpose of the project is to present the figure of Pierre Parandier - the agent of revolutionary France, who in the years 1792-1799 was active in the political arena. He spent most of his activity alongside Polish political emigrants, acting as an intermediary between them and the French government. The main source for the research will be Parandier's correspondence stored in the Archives of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris. The letters not only describe the political situation in Poland, Germany and France, but also relate to many spheres of history: they touch upon social and economic issues, and also contain biographical and prosopographic threads. Especially the last two aspects also touch upon many Polish representatives of power and initiators of the Commonwealth policy in the time of the partitions.

At first, Parandier served as secretary to Ignacy Potocki, then from 1792 he moved to Saxony together with a group of Polish politicians to mediate between them and the French government. The reports sent by the agent perfectly illustrate the prevailing atmosphere both in Poland and in the émigré community at the time of the Targowica Confederation and the Grodno Sejm. After the fall of the Uprising, Parandier tried to create a Polish colony in exile in Altona, and later would be sent to Berlin, where he was to officially represent the French government.

However, he invariably tried to convince the courts to stop the liquidation of the Polish state. The letters contain many interesting details relating to the intervention of neighbouring powers, as well as the situation of citizens in Poland and the repressions applied by the partitioning powers.

The content of Parandier's reports does not only concern foreign policy, but also shows the character and attitude of many Polish statesmen. Through the prism of their correspondence, one can see their approach to numerous aspects of the socio-political situation at that time. An extremely interesting theme is the attitude of Parandier and a group of Polish patriots towards Stanisław August Poniatowski - an extremely controversial figure to this day. Undoubtedly, it was at this time that a fierce discussion in historiography about the perception of the ruler began.

It is also particularly important to show the efforts of the French agent for the Polish cause. Contrary to government's policy, many French became involved in attempts to save the Republic of Poland. Parandier is one example of such people. Historians, however, over the past decades have shown Polish-French relations almost exclusively through the prism of government's policy. Undoubtedly, it is worth illustrating the relations of that time not only from the perspective of decision-makers, but also ordinary citizens - townspeople, semi-official agents, or lower rank diplomats. This perspective completely changes the image and perception of Polish-French relations at the time.

The subject chronologically follows the modern era - both the history of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the *ancien regime*; and it also relates to the new order - Poland under partitions and the French Revolution. Moreover, these issues may be interesting for both foreign (French, German) and Polish historians, as they relate to universal history.