

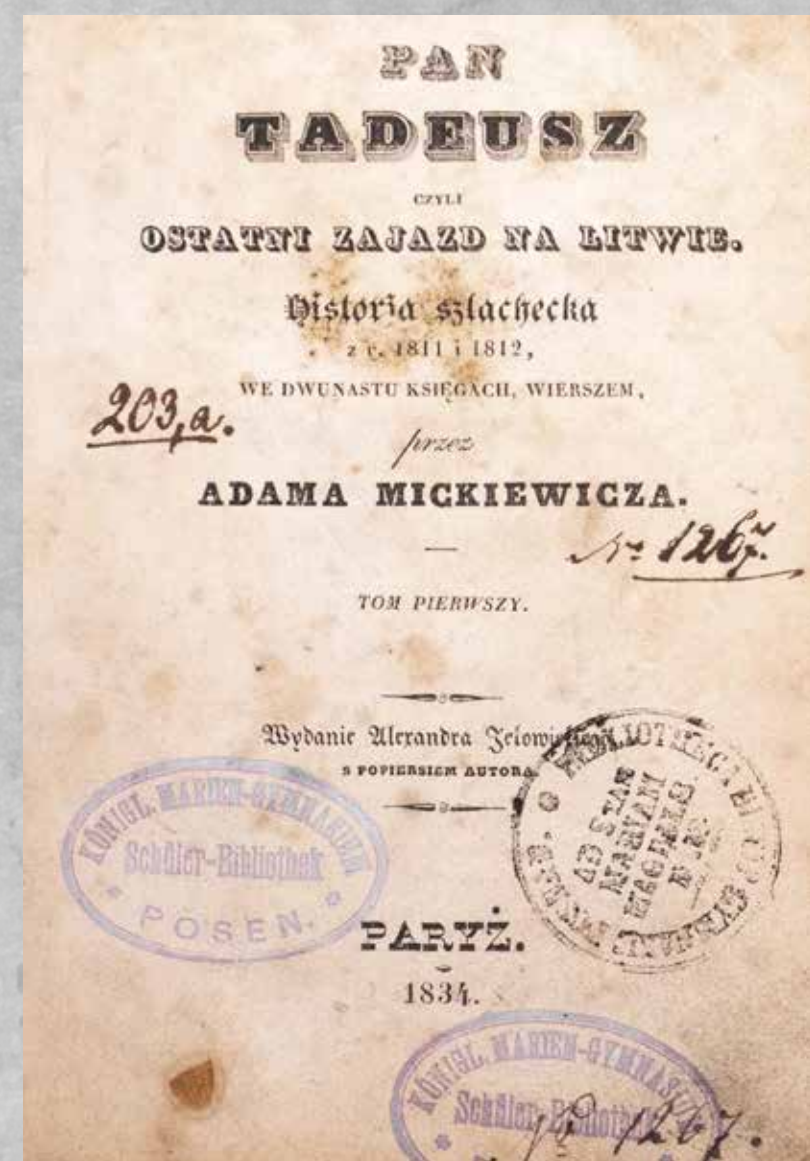
# ARDUOUS ROAD TO STATEHOOD AT THE END OF IMPERIAL RULE

## SACRIFICE COOPERATION TRADITION

### RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE AS A CORNERSTONE FOR PRESERVING NATIONAL IDENTITY

Despite the fact that Poland was taken over in 1795 by three linguistically and culturally separate states that pursued active policies of Germanization and Russification, our national identity survived. A major role in this work was played by the Church, which safeguarded Polish values and opposed their suppression by the partitioners. Also Polish painters, writers (including those honored with the Nobel Prize) and composers, through their works, showed our spirit, history, language and culture by promoting it around the world, which gave hope for the rebirth of the state.

*For whoever sits in the Homeland and suffers captivity to preserve life, will lose the Homeland and life; but whoever leaves the Homeland to defend Freedom at the risk of his life, will defend the Homeland and live forever.*  
Adam Mickiewicz



Title page of the first edition of the national epic Pan Tadeusz (published in 1834) by Adam Mickiewicz - a Polish poet and writer who created works depicting the Homeland and encouraging Poles to fight for its independence



Unveiling of the monument to Adam Mickiewicz, Warsaw 1898

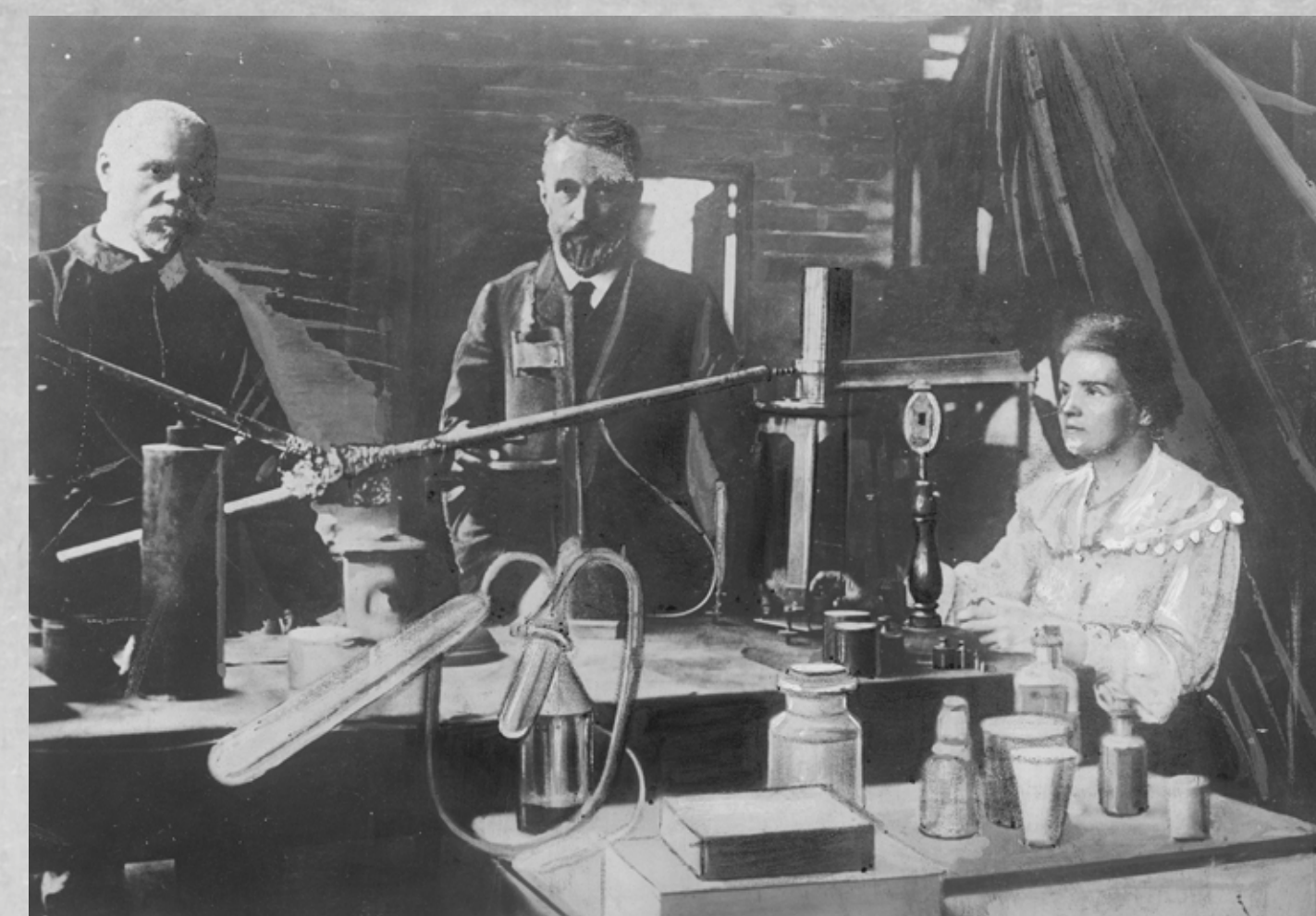


Constitution of May 3, painting by Jan Matejko depicting an important event for Poland, which was the signing of the first in Europe and second in the world Constitution of May 3, 1791, the painting was intended to commemorate the 100th anniversary of this event

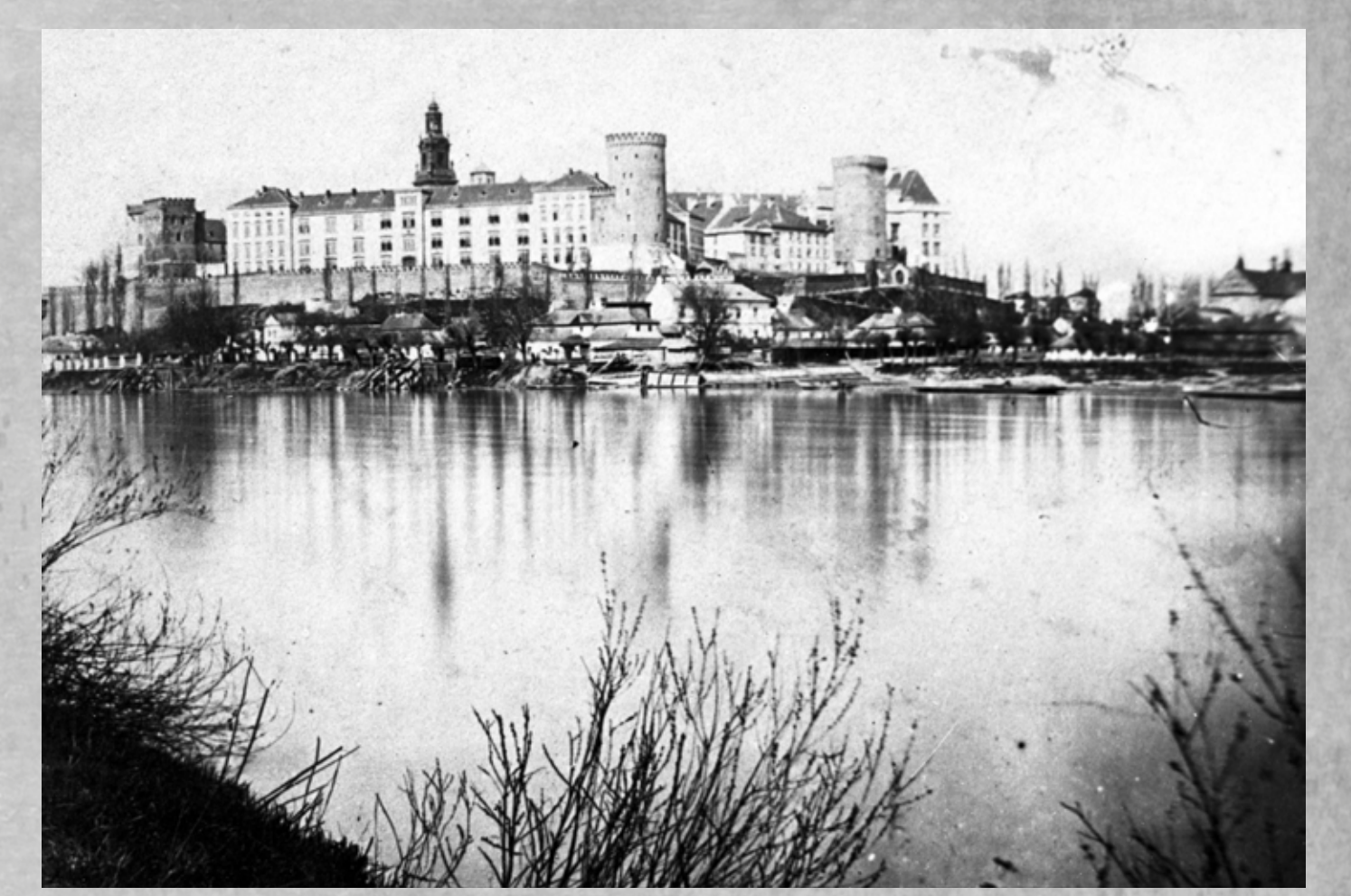


Archbishop Józef Bilczewski and Archbishop Andrzej Szeptycki - important church hierarchs in reborn Poland - leaving the cathedral in procession, 1900

*I consider it to be the first and most important national task to strive for and work towards the moral ennoblement of every citizen, and for the spiritual and moral ascent of all social classes in holy competition.*  
Józef Bilczewski



Maria Skłodowska - Curie, Polish chemist, discoverer of polonium and radium, two-time Nobel Prize winner, 1900



Wawel Royal Castle - for many centuries the seat of Poland's rulers and symbol of the strong Republic from the golden age of the Jagiellonian dynasty, 1870



The "Prussian Homage" - a painting by Jan Matejko

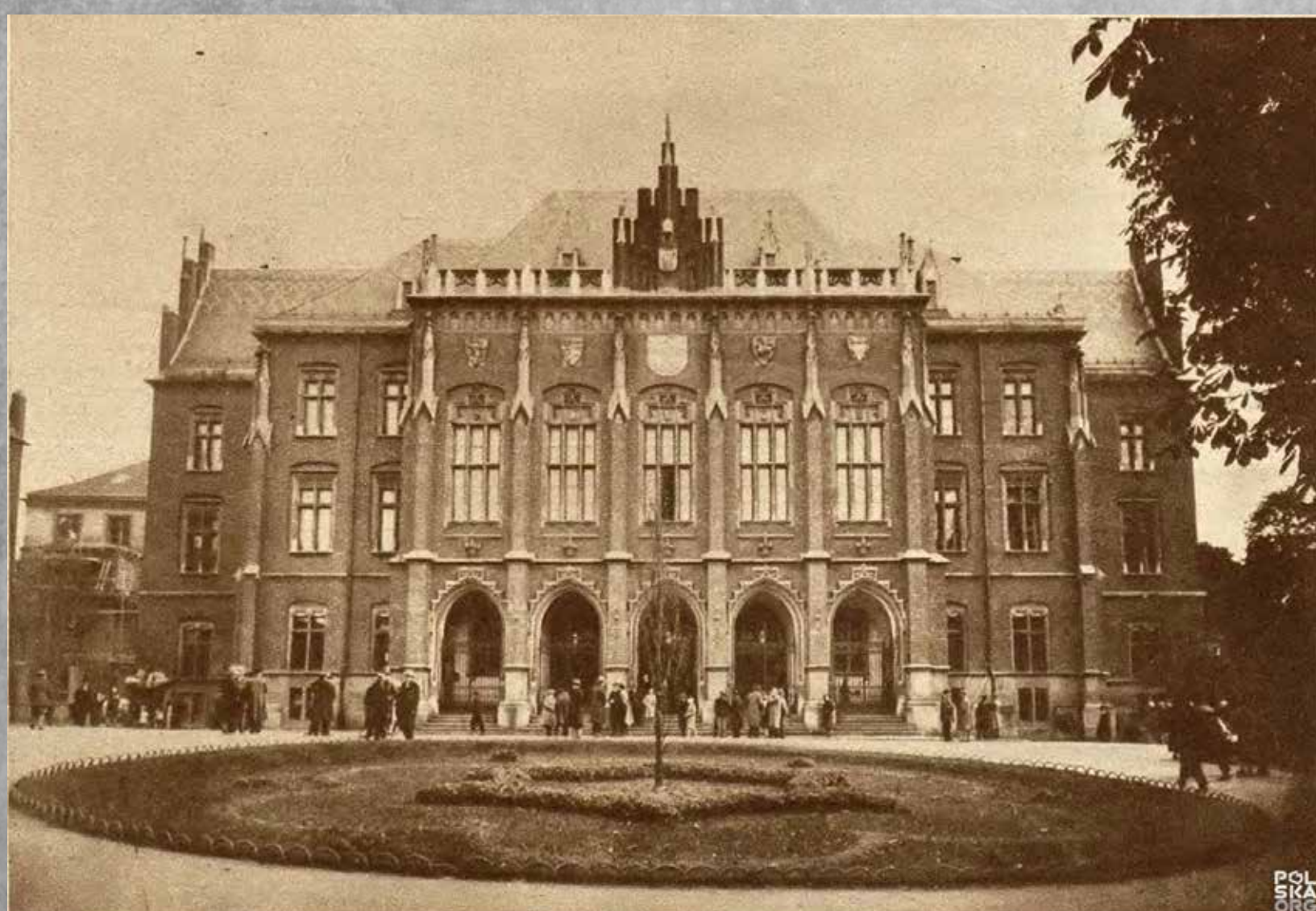


Jan Matejko - one of the most eminent Polish painters of the 19th century, he painted "to gladden hearts" referring in his paintings to the great pre-partition victories of both Polish arms and diplomacy



Henryk Sienkiewicz - well-known Polish writer, depicting in his works important events in Polish history, including successes over invaders who attacked the First Republic over the centuries; winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1905 - partition victories of both Polish arms and diplomacy

*While this honor is due to everyone, it is infinitely more due to Poland. Poland is said to be dead, exhausted, enslaved, but here is proof of its life and triumph. Like Galileo, one must think "E pur si muove" when a tribute has been paid to Polish achievements and genius before the eyes of the world.*  
Henryk Sienkiewicz



The Collegium Novum building of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, erected in the 19th century as a holdover from the tradition of Poland's first and one of Europe's oldest universities



The building of the common school - a manifestation of the attention to elementary education, which in the reborn Republic was introduced as compulsory for boys and girls of all social classes



Education of female youth carried out (despite the resistance of the partitioners) at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries as the so-called "organic work" - it aimed to develop and raise the level of all classes of Polish society treated as a single organism



Juliusz Słowacki Theater in Krakow, 1893, from the beginning of its existence it served as an institution sustaining and promoting national culture allowing the popularization of Polish stage masterpieces

