

## HISTORY

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# Influence of the Polish martial art onto European armies in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries – an outline

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### Abstract:

The paper is an attempt to present the influence of the Polish martial art onto European armies of the 18th and 19th centuries. It is a specific paradox that Poland, non-existent as a state on the map of Europe, made greater impact with its military training in armies of Europe than during the period of being great and victorious. When Poland lost its independence, Polish army was incorporated into the annexation armies: Russian, Austrian and Prussian where in many cases was a source of training and knowledge on sabre and lance usage. A part of the army non-compliant with annexation joined the Napoleon's army and countries fighting for independence and so called "Your and our freedom" where fighting valiantly was an example for other. The attitude, bravery and combat skills as well as look and gear of the Polish soldier made many western armies adopt the style, armour and martial art. Unfortunately, lack of our own state left us with no possibility of full recognition and verification of our martial art. Hence even the name "Polish martial art" could not be widely mentioned as there was no country bearing the name "Poland". There were but Poles mentioned as soldiers of prowess. We were presented as an example, but not preserved as a Polish one which it deserved. The Hungarians possessed their state, their place on the map of Europe therefore their fencing survived, having conditions for development and preservation. Nowadays Polish traditions of martial art are promoted in periodicals and scientific conferences because their content and subject meet the definition of the martial art as perceived in the humanistic theory of martial arts as well as in the broad definition adopted by the American theory of culture [Cynarski 2013]. The above paper's aim is to draw attention to that fact and encourage further researches into the subject.

"We soon recognized that they were Poles  
by their courage and by the way they  
handled their lances."  
(*Charles Parquin, French officer*)

In 1812 the Polish cavalry  
"showed a marked superiority  
over the French" [cavalry].  
(*Riehn – "1812: Napoleon's Russian Campaign"*)

to the infantry. The West which since the end of the chivalry period and development of firearms ceased cavalry development in favour to the infantry development and firearms upgrade starts perceiving growing importance of the cavalry due to its mobility. A fighting soldier is no longer protected by his armour, hence more vulnerable to cutting (sabre) and piercing (lance) weapon.

Special mileage of the cavalry begins in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century alongside with the growth of national and liberation movements, especially in Italy. Poland is the only country in Europe with extensive horsemanship combat skills traditions. The infantry in Poland is scarcely present, if there is any, it is a foreign one – a German or Hungarian one. Throughout all his history a Pole was fighting together with the horse, therefore presence

## Introduction

At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century there are coming changes in the military systems in Europe, namely within the battle leading system where the cavalry starts playing more and more important part next

of well honed combat skills in this particular field. Wojciech J. Cynarski [2008] writes this way about it: "As a matter of fact, the Polish cavalry was one of the best in Europe, and Polish hussars were most likely the best of all the heavy cavalries."

Prowess and fitness of a Polish soldier is notably seen within the period from 1792 to 1863 when the Polish horseman is constantly present on the battlefield. Poland is also the only country to maintain tradition of joust, from the chivalry, through hussars and lance from the Napoleon period till the year 1939. That means the our biggest expertise is in those weapons. That expertise achieves an exceptional esteem during the period of Napoleonic Wars when Polish lance becomes a weapon of choice for European armies, they also take the whole system of martial combat on. In the aforementioned period (1792-1863) for both the sabre and lance the gear and combat systems are of Polish provenance.

When at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century a necessity to create cavalry formations equipped with sabres arises, the West takes from the Polish model in both the weapon type and the martial art. There is no tradition of fighting with a curve-bladed weapon on the West, nobody fights with the sabre and pole weapon is replaced by a rifle with bayonet. Frenetic search for the best models of battle sabre proves Poland possesses the best ones, alongside with the lance. Unfortunately, when all of the Europe gets equipped and fights using the Polish methods, Poland itself as a country is absent on the European map; Polish soldier fights in foreign armies: Prussian, Russian, French, Austro-Hungarian, where he passes on examples of sabre and lance usage. Alas, lack of the statehood results in citations from sources of swordmanship knowledge referring not to Poland but to the army and country which a Pole represents while on active service. Despite the fact one can find information confirming the influence, importance and role of the Polish martial art and weapon use in the battle in foreign armies. The best example here is France with Napoleon, whose army keeps particular esteem for Polish Cheval-légers and Vistula Cheval-léger Lancers 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

### Analysis of sources

When one discusses over the influence of the Polish martial art onto other armies, one should take under consideration sources of Polish armed force and Polish training in armed combat.

Polish tradition in martial art start alongside with the beginnings of the Polish state which, an

interesting fact, had emerged not by evolution, but as an entity well formed politically and administratively. That was Mieszko I's state, and its important features were possession of not only centralised authority but strong and very well trained military force in the form of warriors squad as well. Their combat capabilities are described by the following foreign sources:

1. A chronicler, bishop of Merseburg Thietmar, wrote that way about Mieszko I's armed force:

*Exercitus quantitate parvus, qualitate sua optimus et omnis est ferreus* ("the (Polish) army, being in great quantity, is equally great considering the quality, as well as manliness, and each and every is as strong as iron"). [Jedlicki 1953; Gembarzewski 1912; Korzon 1912]

2. Ibrahim ibn Jakub: "He possesses 3000 of heavy armoured man divided into squads counting 100 men, and every hundred means as much as ten such squads of different warriors). He supplies those men with garment, horses, weapons and everything they need..." [Kowalski 1946].

3. Bruno of Kwefurt: "Mieszko had won over margrave Hodon by 'art'" [Labuda 1945].

Things were similar during the reign of Bolesław III Wrymouth, who intended to sit Hungarian Prince Boryson Hungarian throne and was betrayed and attacked on the river Saja (22<sup>nd</sup> of June, 1132). In the course of the battle he was surrounded and encouraged Polish warriors to put up a fight with those words: "Strike well, it is not for the first time we fight in thousand against ten thousands – and rising his sword called Crane thus called: that Crane of mine knows how to draw blood well! And with each cut, a dead corpse was falling; and he sliced them like wooden chips, wherever he turned." [L.S. 1851]

An interesting fact: strength of a Polish soldier (1 to 10) was confirmed by the emperor Napoleon



Photo 1. From 'woj' to 'hussar' ["Tradycja" 2013]

himself some 800 years later during the battle of Leipzig in 1812 who addressed Prince Józef Poniatowski, defending his retreat with those words: “Well, then; how many Poles are with you, prince? asked the emperor – “Around 800” – was the answer: “800 Poles” - added promptly and with flattering trust Napoleon: “Then it is at least 8000 of the brave ones!” [Ostrowski 1840].

Proofs of combat abilities of our ancestors can be found in many various periods of our history. Well known writer, Mikołaj Rej, in his *The Mirror* [1567] writes this way about contemporary Poles bravery:

*„Polish prowess  
Should you wish to prowess,  
show me please a one,  
to compare with a Pole, in his strange bravery,  
both in a single combat or in a multiple one:  
It is hard to find a Pole in such a measurement non-concurrent,  
And other nations, whilst acting with somebody,  
Consider it happy, where they have Poles.” [Rej 1568]*

It is also a confirmation of the fact that every nation and army wanted to host the Poles. That was not an easy task; considering that Polish army was then formed by the means of a *mass movement*, not enlistment which itself restricted Poles' service in foreign armies or for foreign soldier's pay. Mass movement was not a mercenary type of army, but that did not stop particular soldiers or noblesmen



**Photo 2.** Prince Józef Poniatowski [Emile Marco 1847]



**Photo 3.** Edward Bignon [Iwaszkiewicz 1913]

living „from the sabre” from lighting in ranks of foreign armies. For us Rej's statement confirms only the fact of unusual popularity and acknowledgement of battle prowess of a Polish soldier in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century. By then a Polish soldier was being courted by the armies recruiting their soldiers by the means of enlistment (on the west of Europe).

A French resident of the Warsaw Duchy, acting in Poland during the Napoleonic period, the emperor's diplomat baron Edward Bignon confirmed uniqueness of the Polish soldier as the only one capable of fight against the Russian one. It is described by Antoni Ostrowski: “*Baron Bignon, a French resident in the Duchy of Warsaw reminded Poles constantly to get armed; he and his master knew well that without Poles Russian power could not be defeated: still, that is conviction of the masses; and that somehow explains sympathy shown toward us from the whole West: otherwise, that is without us everybody would enter the quarrel with the North hazardously, with sheer stroke of fortune only.*” [Ostrowski 1840].

When at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century chivalry was leaving the arena of history and the West choose bilbo to replace the sword and favoured development of infantry and firearms, Poland stepped into an entirely different way. We favoured the equity: a horse and a lance, and sword replacement with the curved sabre, a weapon which in time become beloved weapon of Polish nation, a protector of motherland, freedom and the whole of Christianity. Choice of those three weapons (horse, sabre and lance) was by no means accidental; Poland in comparison to other European countries had to face an opponent much greater and diverse. Turkey, Russia Tatars, Serbians, Vlachs, Teutonic knights, Prussians, Saxons, Swedes are only a few we were forced to combat against. Every of them had different tactics and fighting technique he



Photo 4. Z. Sawicki and R. J. Maroteaux ["AikiGoshinDo Kaishi" 2011]

was mastering. Poland was forced to face many methods of fight and many methods of combat training. To meet them we had to create such a type of army and its training to overcome all those threats, with simultaneous assumption we do not possess sufficient money to pay a numerous army. Rulers of Poland had the following task – to create an army fitting financial possibilities. Such an army was created – they were hussars who in the 16<sup>th</sup> century became the basic armed force of the Republic. Organised into banners, it consisted of the sons of the best Polish nobility, riding excellent horses, where the basic arms were: a hussar lance, a curved sabre, a saber, a pistole and a pick-axe.

Since its beginning that cavalry was an elite one of great prowess. Small numbers were compensated by its exceptional horse riding training and hand combat. Due to the fact that cavalry was designed to face many opponents in different battle conditions, from the start it worked very hard to master the teaching methods and improve the weapon. That resulted in creation of the worldwide unique sabre type called „**hussar sabre**” and to suit this sabre there was elaborated so called Old Polish Sabre fencing named “**cross fencing art**”, being alongside with the training school for the battle horse part of the Polish martial art. Art of fighting with that sabre was presented during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Scientific

Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts in Rzeszów, 2010. Thanks to the presentation Dr Maroteaux of the *Takeda-Ryu* school prepared alongside with Sawicki a comparative analysis of fencing with the Polish and Japanese sabre. The analysis was published in the 55<sup>th</sup> issue of a periodic “AikiGoshinDo Kaishi” [Cynarski 2013]. It is worth noticing here that the Polish sabre fencing was a martial art on a horse, not on foot. It means that when referring to the Polish sabre fencing one refers broadly to fighting *with* a battle horse. This is what distinguishes it from the whole family of martial arts and makes it different from the whole range of Asian combat sports and martial arts. It is not possible to consider the Polish martial art *without* the horse.

The development of hussars and connected with it development of the Polish martial art had also another face. The cavalry, being in smaller numbers had to elaborate a method of fighting which alongside with excellent training of both the rider and the horse gave it advantage during combat over more numerous opponent and guaranteed victory. Sheer prowess in martial arts was not enough, there was one more component to it. It was strength of the spirit. Inner power which the Poles took from the Christian belief. We were called defenders of Christianity and Poland – the



Photo 5. Polish hussar (*husarz*) 1683. [Wojsko polskie w obrazach 1983]

Eastern wall of the Christian world not by accident. The idea of Christianity was at the very basis of the Polish martial art and until nowadays it remains its strongest foundation; it is in accordance with our tradition, even in such gestures as touching the hilt or the bullet with the scapular in order to ensure success in combat and accuracy in shot. Besides, creation of the old Polish sabre fencing based on symbolism and sign of a cross is a main proof of the fact. That fencing style appeared only in Poland and only within the ranks of hussars; it was a **secret** martial art kept utterly confident. Nothing more wrong than to think all the Polish nobility was accustomed with the secrets of the cross art. Examples of sabre use according to those principles were available only to hussars, and only to those from so called knight nobility. Other noble masses were deprived of the access and left with *karabela* type sabre or, at best, a Hungarian or Hungarian – Polish sabre (*batorówka*).

At the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Poland was at the very peak of its military power, which pinnacle was victory in the battle of Vienna in 1683. It possessed then the biggest experience in Europe in application of horse martial art with the use of sabre and pole weapon. How big was interest in combat capabilities of contemporary Polish warrior one can deduce from the fact that just after the Vienna victory the emperor Leopold I demanded to witness in person a demonstration in lance use performed by the Polish hussars. Another witness of the demonstration, Mikołaj na Dyakowcach Dyakowski described it this way: *"Having seen all our army (the Emperor) stopped on the wing where the King and his hetmans were and asked the King to be permitted seeing lance exercitium, in which manner they do it. Promptly then the King addressed the hetman to show them jousting but choose only riders of experience, to present us honorably. Thus the great hetman, a precautionous and excellent commander, choose twenty and four officers from different companies and who knew their ways well, gave his horses if any was left with a horse not proficient enough, instructed himself on the method they were to present their weapon; those were divided into two parties, ordered to charge on each other and just before executing strike in the chest, in this very point, lifted the tips up. All that with hetman's instructions they performed with great success and without any rehearsal on such rapid notice."* [Dyariusz 1983]

Traditions after dismissing of the hussars in 1776 were upheld by the National Cavalry which exchanged hussar lance for lighter and more suitable for fencing with – lances.

When on the West in the 18<sup>th</sup> century the light cavalry was beginning to regain its position

and importance on the battlefield, western armies which did not have any significant traditions in that area began searching for methods of formation and training of such units. The best ones were in Poland, fighting with good results, on horseback, without any break for several centuries. Many European nations profited from that knowledge and experience. Alas, as the Poles we did not see to it that this fact should be properly and widely known. Michał Czajkowski regretted it writing in 1863 this way: *"The Poles were through the centuries a noble and knightly nation of fighting prowess, there was and is no denial of the fact. And the French men call as a common prayer, braves polonais. And the lazaroni of Napoli when see Poles with sabre call, bravi polaki. And a German even, when portraying General Dwernicki in a light horseman's caricature adds with anger and sigh, verfluchterbraver Pole. All was made by the strangers, the Poles – nothing – all was invented by the strangers, and the Poles not – as those poor Poles were absent on that land of God, only for gamers, for lazaroni and for mockers Germans, and for the generations to come there is no place for them on written or printed charts, or a very inferior one."* [Czajkowski 1863]

It is hard to disagree with the author of those bitter words, one can find many examples of influence of the Polish martial art in various European armies nevertheless. When mentioning martial art we refer to sabre and lance. Especially lance; its presence in European military systems was noticeably greater than the saber's. It was particularly big after Poland had lost its independence and the knowledge was transported by the Polish soldiers enlisted to the armies of Austria, Russia and Prussia and during the period of Napoleonic wars and national uprisings.

Having read the Wikipedia, one can find the following information on strength of the Polish hussars: *"...This made hussars able to fight with any cavalry or infantry force from western heavy kirassaiers to quicktatars. They were widely regarded as the most powerful cavalry formation in the world."* [Cavalry tactics, Wikipedia]

In the same Wikipedia one can find in the description of the Russian cavalry very strong influence of the Polish examples relating to the lance. The description states that Russian army had adopted *i.e.* design of the Polish lance and methods of its use: *"In 1801 was ordered that the privates in horseregiments (Polish and Tartar-Lithuanian) had lances with woodwork painted in red. In May 1806 the privates of Grand Duke Constantine Uhlan Regiment replaced their carbines with lances that had their woodwork painted in black. The shaft adopted in 1806-1807 by all regiments lance was*

**POLSKA – 1811**

Kraśiński Wincenty (Corvin) (1811), *Essai sur le Maniement de la Lance. Paryż*

**FRANCJA – 1884**

Chaperon E. (1884), *La Science des Armes DANS LA CAVALERIE. Exercices de la Lance.*



Photo 6. Comparison: Polish lancer and French lancer [Kraśiński 1811; Chaperon 1884]

**POLSKA – 1811**

Kraśiński Wincenty (Corvin) (1811), *Essai sur le Maniement de la Lance. Paryż*

**ROSJA – 1844**

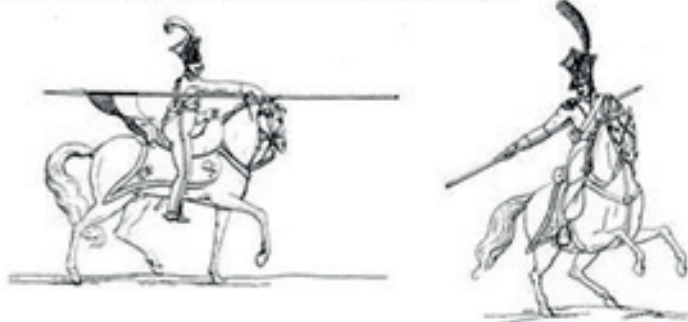
Перечень рисунков к *Уставу о строевой кавалерийской службе 1844 г.*



Photo 7. Comparison: Polish lancer and Russian lancer [Kraśiński 1811; Перечень рисунков ... 1844]

**POLSKA - 1811**

*Krasiński Wincenty (Corvin) (1811), Essai sur le Maniement de la Lance. Paryż*

**ANGLIA - 1825**

*Rules and Regulations for the exercise and manoeuvres of the Lance. London 1825.*



**Photo 8.** Comparison: Polish lancer and English lancer [Krasiński 1811; *Rules and Regulations* 1825]

black. According to Polish tradition, only the troopers in the first rank were armed with lances and the Russians followed this pattern. The total length of the lance averaged between 280 and 290 cm. The pennant was called *horonzhevka* from Polish 'chorągiewka'. In 1812 selected troopers of ulan regiments were sent as instructors to drill hussars with the use of the lance". [Russian Cavalry of the Napoleonic Wars 1805-1815. Wikipedia]

Using the knowledge acquired from the poles in 1891 H. Sokołow issued a textbook *The art of fencing with pike (Искусство фехтования пикою)* [Miedwiediew 1993], where the core techniques are presented in the form of sketches of an uhlán after the Polish style.

A similar textbook referring to the Polish sabre techniques was published in Russia in 1843 under the title: *Nachertanie pravil fekhtovalnago iskusstva* [Sokolov 1843].

Written in 1811 by the commander of *chevau-légers* general Wincenty count Krasiński, instruction for handling the lance *Essai Sur Le Maniment De La Lance* became a textbook for teaching martial art. With the use of that weapon in almost all the European armies. Excellent example was given by the Britons who in 1825 issued a textbook *Rules and Regulations for the Exercise and Manoeuvres of the Lance* [bossowski.pl], a true copy of Krasiński's

instruction. Moreover, the textbook refers directly to the Polish system and martial art – "The following *Rules and Regulations for the Exercise and Manoeuvres of the Lance*, are entirely compiled from the admirable in Polish system of the late MARSHAL PRINCE JOSEPH PONIATOWSKI, and GENERAL COUNT CORVIN KRASINSKI; the latter now in the Service of the Emperor of Russia;..." [Rules..., 1825]. Further follows description of the techniques under the common title: *POLISH METHOD* [Rules..., 1825].

As the story goes, the introduction of lance as a part of Napoleon's army equipment was supposed to be preceded by Polish *chevau-légerwachtmeister* Wiktor Roman armed with lance without head with three French cuirassiers armed with backswords. In presence of the emperor Napoleon and prince Murata the Pole defeated those three cuirassiers with efficacy which was portrayed by Juliusz Kossak. Furthermore, Polish lancers occupied instructor position in foreign armies which was witnessed by Edward Bignon, a French baron, by the Napoleon's nomination performing a residential function in Warsaw and wrote on Polish cavalry this way: "A Polish soldier is able to every kind of service, however especially in cavalry. Every peasant is born a rider in Poland; therefore one can form there cavalry regiments with such easiness, as they form infantry



Photo 9. Juliusz Kossak, *Attempt lance against Napoleon* (1885) [Olszański 1988]

elsewhere. Namely uhlans distinguished themselves with an excellent use of lance and gave instructors for French regiments”. [Iwaszkiewicz 1913]

Apart from lance, Britons were using Polish styled sabre, which is described in the following: “The Hussar sabre was perhaps the best-known type of sabre of its times and became a precursor to many other European weapons. Introduced around 1630, it served as a Polish cavalry *mêlée* weapon, mostly used by heavy cavalry, or Polish Hussars. (...)” [Wikipedia/Szabla].

And furthermore: “The Polish and Hungarian sabre’s design influenced a number of other designs in other parts of Europe and led to the introduction of the sabre in Western Europe. An example that bears a considerable resemblance is the famous British 1796 pattern Light Cavalry Sabre which was designed by Captain John Gaspard le Marchant after his visits “East” to Central and Eastern Europe and research into these and other nations’ cavalry tactics and weapons. Poland had ceased to exist as a separate nation by this time but their other co-nation from previous centuries, Hungary, was still an existing one, as such a source of all the “Hussar” elements and was an inspiration for the first “mainly cutting” sabre in the British Army rather than the oft quoted Indian tulwar. The same “1796” sabre was taken up by the King’s Hanoverian troops and also by the Prussians under General Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher who attempted to give his name to the weapon, almost

universally known as “the 1796 Light Cavalry Sabre” in the rest of Europe. This weapon also found its way into the cavalry of the newly formed United States of America in the war of 1812.” [Wikipedia/Szabla]

On Polish sabre fencing and its influence onto fencing in other countries witness the technique and description of the most famous Polish cut called “senator’s cut”, and by the Germans – devil’s Polish quart (*höllische polnische Quart*) [Zabłocki 1989]. It is mentioned in the encyclopedia *Mayer’s Lexikon*, 1885-1892 under the section HIEB one can find the following information: “Die Polnische Quart” [Lectures on the Tactics 1827] and this cut’s description which matches perfectly the Polish senator’s cut. The cut is depicted in the German textbook *Versuch einer theoretischen Anweisung zur Fechtkunst im Hiebe: Mit 20 erläutern den Kupfertafeln* [Sawicki 2012], where apart from the cuts there are old Polish patterns of 12 sabre cuts and 8 in-hand cuts. The cut in question is described as follows: “Then on the same line takes place a cut called i.e. Polish or Hallsh(?) quart (*Tab. XIII, figure 1*). It is an opposite cut to the high *tertia* and follows the same line as half-second or inner second with the distinction that cut in the quart movement comes from the right to the left side, from the bottom to the top. This cut is the hardest to execute of all; that cut requires the most uncomfortable turn of the fist. To be used mostly on the opponent who has a habit to move back with his torso which makes his weak side



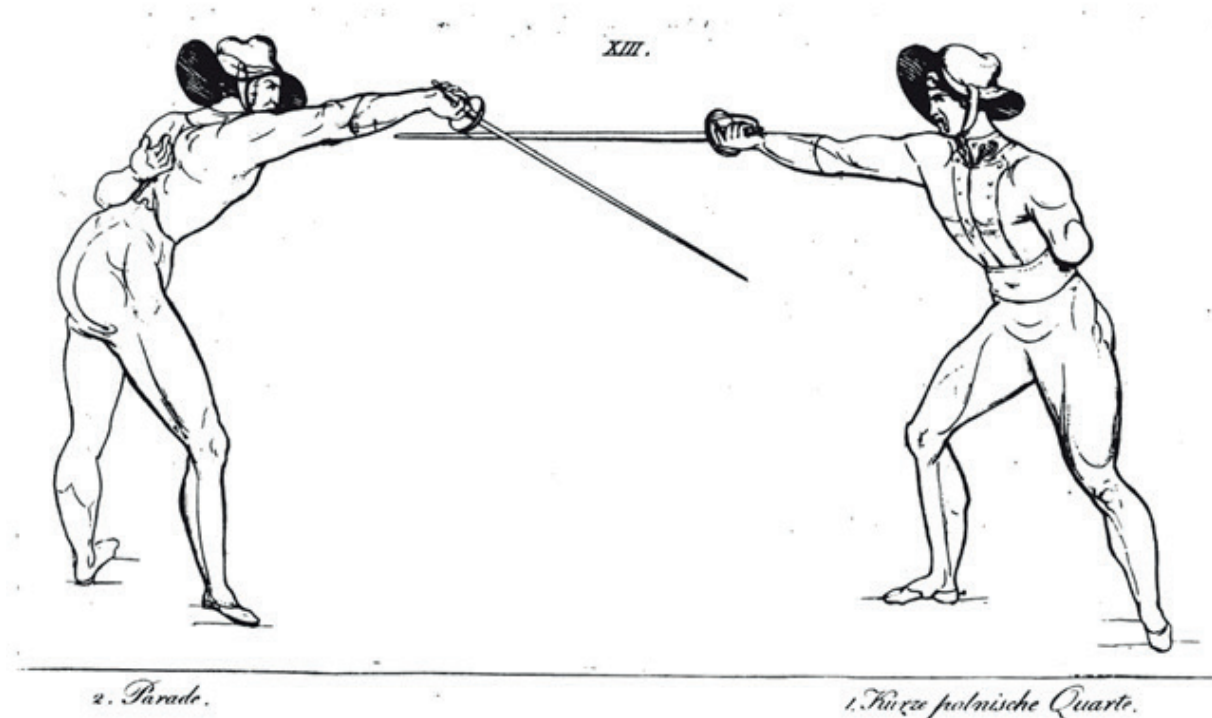


Photo 10. Die Polnische Quart [Werner 1824]

prone to the intended cut. It is not recommended if one cuts weak and reveals swordsman's inner side in all its weakness". [Sawicki 2012]

Despite such experiences and influence, Polish sabre art was not remembered. Its place was taken by Hungarian fencing which could develop without obstacles due to the fact that Hungarian state was formally present and possessed right conditions to cultivate its traditions in that area. Since 1864, after the January Uprising Poland was practically forbidden to uphold its fencing traditions. It was a slave state under partition; nonetheless strength and glory of the Polish sabre survived in the words of Polish national anthem written in 1797 by Józef Wybicki:

*Poland has not yet died,  
So long as we still live.  
What the alien power has seized from us,  
We shall recapture with a sabre.  
(...)  
The German nor the Muscovite will settle  
When, with a backsword in hand,  
"Concord" will be everybody's watchword  
And so will be our fatherland. [bossowski.pl]*

Let the conclusion of this paper be words from the book by Mary Barton: *An historical tale of Poland* by Count Henry Krasinski which excellently "join" Hungarian sabre fencing with Polish one and emphasise Polish domination in the lance:

*"In many places it would not be difficult to meet with old campaigners, brought up in the schools kept by the Jesuits, who, after a glass or two of wine, would,*

*sabre in hand, disconcert the most skillful fencers on the continent; for it is impossible to have any idea to what degree of perfection this exercise was carried in ancient Poland.*

*The Hungarians alone can rival the Poles in this particular; for at the present time the use of this weapon is well known in Hungary.*

*A special and peculiar weapon, in which the Poles are unrivalled in the world, is the lance." [Barton 1846]*

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## Wpływ polskiej sztuki walki na armie europejskie XVIII–XIX wieku – zarys

**Słowa kluczowe:** kawalerzysta, ułan, szwoleżer, lanca, szabla, sztuki walki

### Abstrakt

Artykuł jest próbą ukazania wpływów polskiej sztuki walki na armie europejskie XVIII i XIX w. Swoistym paradoksem jest to, że Polska, która znikła z mapy Europy jako państwo, swoim wyszkoleniem wojskowym wywarła większy wpływ na armie europejskie niż gdy była wielka i zwycięska. Gdy Polska utraciła niepodległość, wojsko polskie zostało wcielone do armii zaborczych: Rosji, Austrii i Prus, gdzie w wielu przypadkach było wzorem wyszkolenia i źródłem wiedzy do walki szablą i lancą. To wojsko zaś, które nie pogodziło się z utratą niepodległości weszło w skład armii napoleońskiej i

krajów walczących o niepodległość oraz tzw. „za waszą i naszą wolność”, gdzie bijąc się bohatersko dawały przykład innym. Postawa ta, dzielność i umiejętność walki, a także wyjątkowy wygląd i ubiór żołnierza polskiego sprawiły, że wiele armii zachodnich przejęło polski wzór ubioru, uzbrojenia i sztuki walki. Niestety, brak własnego kraju pozbawił nas możliwości pełnej identyfikacji i weryfikacji polskiej sztuki walki. Nie mogła się więc przebić szerzej nazwa polska sztuka walki, bo nie było kraju o takiej nazwie. Mówiło się, że Polacy to świetni żołnierze, ale nic poza tym. Brano z nas wzór, ale nie utrwalano go jako

polski, jak na to zasługiwał i co było prawdą. Węgrzy mieli swoje państwo, mieli swoje miejsce na mapie Europy, więc ich szermierka przetrwała, bo w przeciwieństwie do naszej miała warunki do rozwoju i utrwalania. *Obecnie polskie tradycje sztuki walki promowane są w czasopiśmie i na konferencjach naukowych ponieważ ich treść i tematyka pasuje do definicji sztuk walki przyjętych w humanistycznej teorii sztuk walki, a także w szerokiej definicji przyjętej w amerykańskiej antropologii kultury.* [Cynarski 2013]. Powyższy artykuł ma więc zwrócić uwagę na ten fakt i zachęcić do dalszych badań w tym zakresie.