

ZBIGNIEW FLESZYŃSKI ur. 1921; Lublin



Tytuł fragmentu relacji	Krakowskie Przedmieście Street
Zakres terytorialny i czasowy	Lublin; dwudziestolecie międzywojenne
Słowa kluczowe	English, Krakowskie Przedmieście street, ulica

Krakowskie Przedmieście Street

A characteristic feature of Krakowskie Przedmieście Street was the presence of messengers wearing funny red caps; they sat in front of Europa Hotel. They always had such special stools, they sat on them and waited for orders to deliver a letter, a parcel or flowers and ... I remember the streets of Lublin: if we started from the Cracow Gate for example and walked along Krakowskie Przedmieście Street, we would see a large shop on the left, it was Mr. Kuropatwa's shoe shop. The owner was a Jew. Next, also on the left, one of the largest shops was Bata shoe shop, a Czechian shop, a branch of the Czech company. Who ran the shop I do not remember, but anyhow there was the name of Bata company on the shop-sign. The next shop on the left belonged to Mr. Krychowski; it was a delicatessen, but such shops were called colonial food shops at that time, not „delicatessens”, but „colonial shops,” and among extra goods one could buy there: all kinds of cheese, venison was available 24 hours a day, charcuterie, and it was not ordinary cured meat but only best quality charcuterie. Fruits from southern countries were also available: fresh and processed or dried, or sirrups; anyway all those goods were available at any time. There was a large shop owned by Mr. Framboli. Near the Capuchin Order Church, but the building where the shop was, was knocked down. The department store was built there after the war, but it is a bit receded against the building which used to be there, which was aligned with the façade of the Capuchin Order Church. There was just a large Framboli shop selling candies, and at the corner there was that Krychowski's shop I mentioned before. There was a large bookshop opposite Kapucyńska Street where they sell stationary; the owner's name was Cholewiński. If we walked further ahead, towards Narutowicza Street we could pass by Mr. Morajny's Currency Exchange Office on the right; the owner was also of the Jewish faith. I do not remember his name, anyway, he was one of the most affluent citizens of Lublin; I know it because his son went with me to primary school in Lublin where the students of the teacher training college were trained. The left handside of Kapucyńska Street: at the corner of Narutowicza Street and Kapucyńska Street, there was Ms. Arciszowa's lower secondary school. Oh, and I forgot about another secondary school which was also prestigious: it was a secondary school ran by Ursuline nuns. The Ursuline nuns have their convent at the same place today, however, some part of the building where the convent is located was taken away from the nuns and they occupy only a limited space and deal with gardening only. Now, if we go further,

towards Saski Park we go past the Capuchin Order Church and, on the left there was a shop, I remember it well, we stopped there when going back home from school, so it was Mr. Chatys's weapon shop. There were hunting rifles, double-barrelled shotguns, revolvers, and stuffed wild game displayed in the shop window. It was a very interesting shop, and that display: it was not always the same, but changed every time and then; so there were always crowds of young people in front of the weapon shop. Further on, there was a café on the right handside when walking to the Saski Park, near Kapucyńska Street, at the corner of Staszica Street there was Semadeni café. And earlier, there was Chmielewski Café opposite the Holy Spirit Church. Semadeni café was the next one: just as I am saying - Staszica Street and Krakowskie Przedmieście Street, and further on Lithuanian Square on the left: at the corner of Kołłątaj Street and Krakowskie Przedmieście Street there was Rutkowski café which was later taken over by the German invaders. It was quite a large cafe, a popular one, there was a restaurant and a colonial goods shop behind the cafe, probably the largest one in Lublin, which was owned by Mr. Radzyński. The restaurant was a high quality one: mainly land owners went there; the ones from the Lublin region and from Lublin, and the notables of Lublin, of course. What else, what was interesting in Krakowskie Przedmieście Street? I already do not remember where was the site where we, young students, used to stop for a while to look at motorcycles displayed right on the sidewalk: Sokół, I remember as if it were yesterday, there also was that SHL motorcycle; the company's name was Puch, I do not know whether it was Polish, but we always stopped there, as they were the last years before the war, that is why we stopped there and we watched the motorcycles with great interest. Any time we walked nearby we stopped there. The meeting place for youngsters was Saski Park. There was nothing special there, except for fountains, but still there were biliards, which were a forbidden fruit as it was forbidden for secondary school students to play billiards. However, the clients of the biliards were mostly school youth.

Translated by Beata Pleskaczyńska (contact translator: beata.ples@wp.pl)

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Rozmawiał/a	Maria Pleskaczyńska
Transkrypcja	Marta Grudzińska
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