

WRITERS SEDUCED BY THE SOVIETS

Even before the war, Wanda Wasilewska was a socialist activist

Former Polish citizen

The dream of Wanda Wasilewska, the famous Polish communist, was for Poland to become one of the Soviet republics. When she accepted Soviet citizenship, she called herself „a former Polish Citizen”.

Before the war, Wanda Wasilewska was a socialist activist, novelist, and

journalist. After the German invasion, she fled to Lviv, during the Soviet occupation, she took Soviet citizenship and became an agitator for her new homeland. She believed that the Red Army invasion on September 17 was the best thing that could have happened to the Polish people. In 1940, Stalin appointed her a member of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. There were rumors of her affair with the dictator. However, this

was never confirmed. After the occupation of Lviv by the Germans in 1941, she encouraged people to fight alongside USSR. She even joined the Red Army and was working on propaganda materials.

She participated in the establishment of the Polish 1st Tadeusz Kościuszko Infantry Division and the 1st Polish Army. By order of Stalin, she created and became head of the Union of Polish Patriots. She did not return to Poland after the end of World War II. For several terms, she was a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. She died in Kyiv in 1964.

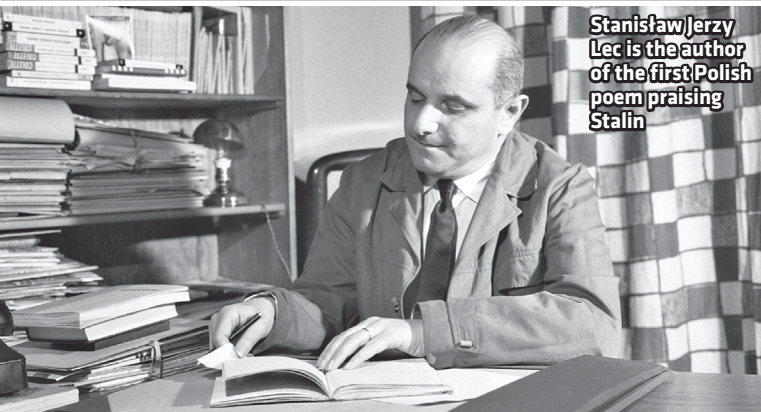
Adam Ważyk supported the Soviet authorities in Lviv

Communist oppositionist group

Adam Ważyk, poet, prose writer, and translator, ended up in Lviv after the outbreak of the war. There, he supported the communist authorities - he signed the infamous declaration of Polish writers in November 1939. He published, inter alia, in the propaganda newspaper, „Czerwony Sztandar” („Red Banner”). He was a member of the Union of Soviet Writers of Ukraine. He also joined the Polish Armed Forces in the USSR and was an active member of the Union of Polish Patriots. He is the author of the words „1st Corps March” - beyond the mountains and rivers.

After the war, Ważyk returned to Poland the alongside 1st Polish Army, in which he was a political officer. He became the prophet writer of socialist

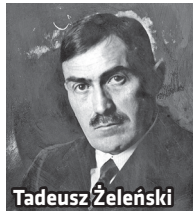
realism. A turning point in Ważyk's life was the publication of „A Poem for Adults” in 1955, where he criticized socialist realism, communist propaganda, and the construction of Nowa Huta. The poem became extremely popular. Its author radically changed his views. He left the Polish United Workers' Party, and in 1964 he signed the protest Letter of 34, which opposed the violation of the freedom of speech in the People's Republic of Poland. He also protested in March 1968, defending the repressed students. Later, he criticized the draft amendment to the Constitution of the People's Republic of Poland, which provided for, inter alia, an entry about „eternal friendship with the USSR”.



Stanisław Jerzy Lec is the author of the first Polish poem praising Stalin

Boy collaboration

Tadeusz Żeleński, after graduating in medicine, worked in one of Krakow's hospitals. He was friends with Stanisław Przybyszewski and collaborated with the Zielony Balonik (Green balloon) comedy club. Due to his father's fame as a composer, he used to use a pseudonym-Boy. He was a liberal. In the 1930s, together with Irena Krzywicka, he ran a clinic in Warsaw that promoted conscious motherhood. He used to write theater reviews and was an outstanding translator of French literature.



Tadeusz Żeleński

After the outbreak of the war, „Boy” went to Lviv, where he took over the department of French history and literature at the local university. For this reason, he was accused of collaboration. He was active in the Lviv branch of the Polish Writers' Union, he wrote articles for the propaganda newspaper, „Czerwony Sztandar” („Red Banner”). In November 1939, he signed a Polish writers' declaration welcoming the annexation of Western Ukraine to Soviet Ukraine. After the city was occupied by the Germans, he was arrested and executed in July 1941.

Leopold Tyrmand made history as the author of the famous novel „Zły” („Bad”) and a jazz lover. During the war, he had an episode of cooperation with the Soviets, to which he did not confess until 1967.

After the outbreak of the war, 19-year-old Tyrmand managed to get from Warsaw to Vilnius. When in June 1940 the city was occupied by the Soviet army, he started working in the Polish edition of „Komsomolska Pravda”. There, he was writing propaganda columns. At the same time, he



was the editor-in-chief of Pravda Pioneer. In 1941, the writer was arrested by the NKVD for contacts with the Home Army. He escaped during his transportation, got through to France, and stayed in Germany and Sweden. After returning to Poland, he worked as a journalist. In 1955, he published the novel „Zły”. The censorship, however, prohibited his future novels. Tyr, introduced jazz to Poland by organizing concerts. In 1965, after many years of effort, he received a passport and moved to the USA, where he died in 1985.

Unkempt thoughts

Before the war, the aphorist and poet, Stanisław Jerzy Lec collaborated with communist magazines, he also wrote for the satiric magazines „Cyruлик Warszawski” („Warsaw Barber”) and „Szpilki” („Pins”).

When he lived in Lviv between 1939 and 1941, where he joined the Union of Soviet Writers of Ukraine. He willingly signed a declaration by Polish writers welcoming the annexation of Western Ukraine to Soviet Ukraine. Lec is also the author of the first Polish poem praising Stalin. He wrote reportages, poems, and satires for Soviet propaganda maga-

zines. In 1942 he was sent to a German work camp, from where he escaped disguised as a Wehrmacht soldier. After getting to Warsaw, he conspired with the People's Guard. After the war, he reactivated the Szpilki (Pins) magazine. In 1950, he emigrated to Israel, which resulted in his literary work being censored. After two years, he unexpectedly returned to Poland. Later he was publishing, in the weekly magazine, „Świat” („the World”). Lec was famous as the author of excellent aphorisms collected in the book called „Myśli nieuczesane” („Unkempt thoughts”).

The Betrayed Futurist

Aleksander Wat, a poet, founder of the Polish futurism movement, was a supporter of communism even before the war started. In September 1939, he fled to Lviv, where he enthusiastically acknowledged the incorporation of Western Ukraine into the USSR. A few months later he was arrested by the NKVD. He spent some time in prison.

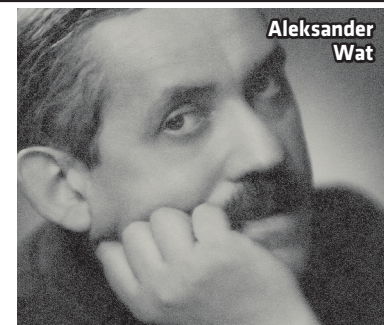
Then, he was sent to Kazakhstan, where he became a delegate of the London government of the Republic of Poland. He never accepted Soviet citizenship. His stay in the USSR cured him of communism.

After the war, he returned to Poland and became the head of the State

Publishing Institute. He was still actively writing for newspapers. During the period of socialist realism, he withdrew from literary life.

In 1953 he became seriously ill with Wallenberg's bulbar syndrome. He traveled abroad to get help. Despite his illness, he was trying to write. In 1957, a volume entitled „Wiersze” („Poems”) was published. The book was positively reviewed by critics. A few years later, Wat finally emigra-

ted to the West. He was being published in the Paris-based newspaper, „Kultura” („Culture”). He was working in Radio Free Europe. He received a scholarship at the University of Berkeley (USA) where he recorded his memories and conversations with Czesław Miłosz. This is how the biographical story „My Age” was created. Unfortunately, his disease kept progressing. In 1967 Wat committed suicide.



Aleksander Wat

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