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## Franciszek Korwin-Maternicki (1815–1899) – prison supervisor and expert, penitentiary pedagogue and social activist of the Kingdom of Poland

**Abstract:** The inspiration to learn about the life of the representative of the prison system in the Kingdom of Poland, Franciszek Korwin-Maternicki, came from the information included in the regulation of the Government Commission for Internal and Ecclesiastical Affairs dated July 3 (15), 1853, regarding his efforts towards the moral improvement of juvenile prisoners by establishing prison schools. The aim of the article is to present the little-known figure of Franciszek Korwin-Maternicki, who served as a prison supervisor in the Kingdom of Poland for as long as 32 years. The subject of the analysis will be his professional and social activities. Franciszek Korwin-Maternicki, despite being an official representing the tsarist authority in the Kingdom of Poland, stood out as an exceptional figure due to his humanitarian activities. He was renowned as a practitioner and penitentiary pedagogue, as well as a dedicated social activist.

**Key words:** Franciszek Korwin-Maternicki, prison supervisor, penitentiary pedagogue, social activist.

## Introduction

Franciszek Korwin-Maternicki was, so to speak, an age-mate of the Kingdom of Poland, a new state created by the decision of the Congress of Vienna, united in a personal union with the Russian Empire, and whose establishment was announced in the capital with a salute of 51 artillery shots (Bartoszewicz, 1916, pp. 159–160). Born on September 9, 1815 in Włocławek, he was the second son, out of five children, of Jan and Antonina, née. Ławczyńska. He came from a Catholic family, his father was a civil servant who oversaw the operation of depots important to the life of the city, and held the position of caretaker of warehouses in Gniezno. The ancestors of the Korwin family rendered meritorious service to Polish and Mazovian kings and princes, belonged to the noble state and had the right to use the Ślepowron coat of arms, which depicted a raven on a shield with a golden ring in its beak (State Archives in Poznań, ref. 53/3294/0/2/14, file 2–3; Minakowski [2022]; Kielakowie.com [2022]; Paprocki 1858, pp. 404–413). He himself did not use the surname Korwin officially. He was not included in the census of the nobility of the Kingdom of Poland. There were two likely reasons for this. The first related to the inability to provide the Heroldia of the Kingdom of Poland with the required evidence to prove the right to hereditary nobility. The second reason is associated with the reluctance towards the lengthy procedure, prioritizing the opinion of the surroundings over the decision of the Heroldia. He was, however, entitled to personal nobility by virtue of his appointment to the civil rank of collegiate assessor (he had signed with this title since 1859) and possibly in connection with the award of the Tsar's Order of St. Stanislaus. However, in this case, there is no information about the class of the order he received because, from 1845 onwards, only the first of its three grades entitled to nobility. On the other hand, in 1862, his two sons were issued appropriate documents confirming their nobility (Ukaz, 1859, p. 375; Sęczys, 2000, pp. XIX, 423).

He was educated in his hometown, where he attended schools run by the Piarist Fathers. The activities of the Piarist schools were modeled on the Collegium Nobilium in Warsaw, known for its high level of education. Teaching was divided into nine classes, the first three of which included elementary education, the next three grammar, and the rest, humanities, rhetoric and philosophy. In the departmental school in Włocławek, where the education lasted four years, great emphasis was placed on language learning. Besides the mandatory Polish language, students were taught Latin and German, and optionally French and Greek. The study of classical languages was intended to make it easier for graduating students to continue their education in provincial schools. According to information in the press, he probably finished his education at the stage of the Piarist schools (Biegański, 1898, pp. 8–10; Chodyński, 1911, pp. 27–29; Daniłowicz-Strzelbicki, 1899, p. 931).

He had broad interests, with literature and history being his favorite subjects of study. From family accounts, we can learn that he was an amateur writer, a bibliophile – he amassed a rich book collection containing many very rare works, and a collector of national memorabilia. In addition, he was friends with Antoni Pietkiewicz (alias Adam Pług) – a writer, translator and publicist who was imprisoned and exiled for his participation in an insurgent organization (Polski słownik biograficzny, 2003, p. 97).

In 1844, at the age of 29, in Brześć Kujawski, he married Magdalena Kotarska (1813–1891). He had five children: two sons, Aleksander Edmund (1845–1902) and Franciszek Henryk (1851–1919), and three daughters, Eugenia (1847–1880), Wanda (1849–1862), and Stefania (1859–1941). The elder son, Aleksander, was an engineer who studied technology in Petersburg. He worked for the Warsaw–Terespol Railway. He was married to the daughter of a participant in the 1863 uprising. To protect his children from Russification, he refused to accept the position offered to him deep within Russia. He got involved in educational activities, including participating in efforts to organize clandestine schooling conducted in the Polish language. The younger, Franciszek Henryk, was a judge at the Łódź Regional Court (State Archive in Toruń, Włocławek Branch, ref. 81, file 126; “Kurjer Warszawski,” 1862, p. 1; “Tygodnik Ilustrowany,” 1902, p. 698; “Rozwój,” 1919, p. 4; Polski Słownik Biograficzny, 1975, p. 192).

Franciszek Korwin-Maternicki lived his entire life – 84 years – under the rule of Russian tsars and did not live to see a free Poland. Throughout the years of his work in the capital, the custom of the time was to live with his family in the staff quarters of the Arsenal, at ul. Długa 36, and after leaving office, he probably had to leave the apartment for his successor and took up residence on ul. Jerozolimska 3. He died on November 21, 1899, after a long illness. He was buried in the family tomb at Stare Powązki Cemetery (quarter 178-5-30/31). The epitaph on his monument indicates that he achieved his greatest merits in his life as a penitentiary practitioner: “FRANCISZEK KORWIN-MATERNICKI, FORMER DIRECTOR OF WARSAW PRISONS” (“Rocznik Towarzystwa” 1882, part 1, p. II; “Rocznik Towarzystwa” 1883, part 1, p. 131; “Kurjer Warszawski” 1899, p. 6; Warszawskie Zabytkowe Pomniki [2022]).

His contemporaries remembered him as: “Respectable, full of humanitarian aspirations, understanding, and capable of empathizing with human misery; he could (...) alleviate, to the extent possible, the fate of those under his authority as prisoners” (Daniłowicz-Strzelbicki 1899, p. 931).

The aim of the article is to introduce the little-known figure of Franciszek Korwin-Maternicki, who held the position of director of prisons in the Kingdom of Poland for the longest period among all supervisors. Through the prism of his biography, an attempt was made to present the course of his professional career and social activities. The analysis will be based primarily on materials stored in state archives, prison regulations, regulations of the Government Commission

of Internal and Ecclesiastical Affairs, as well as yearbooks of the Society of Agricultural Settlements and Crafting Almshouses. Franciszek Korwin-Maternicki, as a prison supervisor and expert, penitentiary educator, and social activist, is not widely known in the academic community, including the penitentiary field. Only a few researchers mention his merits, limiting them to achievements related to the promotion of prison education.

## **Prison supervisor – prison service**

Franciszek Maternicki chose a career as a civil servant as his form of professional activity. According to the regulations of the Civil Service Law in the Kingdom of Poland, those entering the service submitted an application to the authorities in charge of the specific office where the position was available. Applicants were required to attach their birth and baptismal certificates to their applications, as well as a certificate attesting to their education. Civil offices were divided into classes according to a separate classification. Before receiving the post, those entering the service had to undergo a preparatory service called an apprenticeship. It was intended to prepare the candidates for performing the assigned tasks (Act of 1859, pp. 77–95).

The available materials (his personal files have not been preserved) lack information regarding the exact date of the commencement of his service, which began with his application in the Płock gubernial government. He then moved to Sieradz and was probably employed in the prison, newly built in 1839, where he became familiar with the principles of executing punishment according to the cell system (Rabinowicz, 1933, pp. 34–39).

The next step in his bureaucratic career was the position of a clerk at the prison in Piotrków Trybunalski, to which he was nominated in 1843. Two years later, he moved to Warsaw, where he was appointed as the secretary of the House of Investigations (Pawiak Prison). The position of a clerk in provincial prisons and the position of a secretary only existing in the capital, was second only to the position of supervisor in the hierarchy of prison positions. Initially, the clerk was assigned to assist the supervisor only in larger prisons. Since 1835, he was officially appointed as a deputy supervisor in the supervisor's absence and was entrusted with assisting in the overall supervision of the prison. At the time, holding the above positions was one of the paths to promotion to the position of prison supervisor. The evaluation of his work must have been positive, as after another five years, by the decree of the Commission of Internal and Ecclesiastical Affairs (KRSWiD) No. 3561/(15814) on May 4 (16), 1850, he was appointed as the supervisor of the House of Punishment and Correction in Kielce (Daniłowicz-Strzelbicki 1899, p. 931; State Archive in Kielce, ref. no. 10738, file 7–9).

Accepting the position of prison supervisor entailed financial responsibility related to purchases made for prison operations, and therefore a candidate for the position was required to provide adequate financial guarantees in the form of a so-called bond. It was a protective measure against irregularities found by the authorities in the management of prison property. The bond could be paid in cash, secured in the form of mortgage bonds from the Land Credit Society, or a mortgage of landed property or other real estate. Before the nomination was delivered to a nominee by the KRSWiD, a stamp duty fee had to be paid. It consisted of purchasing a Nomination Stamp Paper of a specified value, which was dependent on the annual salary amount. For example, in 1832, with an annual salary of 4000 Polish złoty, the stamp duty amounted to 80 złoty. In 1842, when the currency in the Congress Kingdom was changed to the silver ruble (rbs.), with an annual income of 300 rubles, the stamp duty was 75 rubles. (Main Archive of Historical Records, ref. no. 564, file 4; State Archive in Kielce, ref. no. 10738, file 4).

In the case of the financial bond, the candidate was obliged to make the payment to the account of the Bank of Poland. Its amount depended on the class of the prison. For Class I prisons, the bond was 6,000 złoty, for Class II – 4,000 złoty, for Class III – 2,000 złoty, and after the introduction of the ruble, respectively: 900 rbs., 600 rbs. and 300 rbs. (Instrukcja więzienna, 1823, p. 5; Instrukcja dla więzień i zakładów karnych, 1859, p. 17; Main Archive of Historical Records, ref. no. 564, file 3–6). The prison in Kielce was classified as Class II, so Franciszek Maternicki was required to pay a bond of 600 rbs., which was close to his two-year earnings, as his annual salary amounted to 375 rbs. Since he did not have sufficient collateral or the ability to make a one-time payment of such a high sum, he requested the Viceroy Ivan Paskevich to allow him to pay the amount in installments deducted from his salary. The viceroy allowed the amount of 93 rbs. and 75 kop. to be deducted from the deposit each year, i.e. a quarter of the annual salary. Thus, it was to take as long as six years and four months to collect the entire sum (State Archive in Kielce, ref. no. 10738, file 1).

Taking over the duties from the dismissed Antoni Kielczewski and conducting the official “installation in the position” took place on July 1, 1850. Since the prison remained under the supervision of the head of the Kielce powiat, an assistant (deputy) of the head of the powiat was assigned to oversee this process. The most important activities of the takeover order were the assumption of authority over the prison staff and the supervision of prisoners. In addition to the supervisor, the prison staff consisted of three non-permanent administrative workers who were part of the prison administration: Doctor Cezar Gralewski, assistant medical practitioner Jan Czechowski, and chaplain Rev. Józef Ćwikliński. Prison security was supervised by three senior and five junior guards. At that time, in the mid-19th century, during the period of the progressive Russification of the Kingdom of Poland, there was not a person with a non-Polish sounding

surname among the prison's crew, which, with appropriate caveats, means that they were probably all Poles. All personnel were ordered to be submissive and obedient to the new supervisor and to strictly carry out their duties as stipulated in the prison manual. While his predecessor was passing on his duties, he also assumed responsibility for 183 prisoners, including 22 women, who were in the prison on that day (Czołgoszewski, 2021, pp. 155–173; State Archive in Kielce, ref. no. 10738, file 12–16).

Assuming the post also entailed taking responsibility for the prison's fixed and movable assets. After the inventory, he received the movable assets in the form of a portrait of the tsar and office files. In addition, all of the equipment belonging to the various facilities of the prison (the chancellery, the lazarette, the sewing room, the carpentry shop, the pantry, the kitchen and the "prison factory") were handed to him. He also assumed responsibility for the prisoners' cash value deposit of 30 zlotys and 10 gr, the furnishings of the prison chambers, and clothing, underwear and bedding. The prison's property also included a gallows and a cart for transporting the dead (State Archive in Kielce, ref. no. 10738, file 7–31).

The procedure of installation to the position of supervisor at the Kielce prison concluded with the taking of an oath "in office" or later referred to as the "oath of loyalty to service. It was already his second oath. The first oath – known as the homage (loyal-subject) oath – was taken when he was the secretary of the House of Investigations in Warsaw. In the presence of the introducing deputy head of the Kielce powiat and Father Antoni Dabiński, the vicar of Kielce Collegiate, he took the oath of loyalty to Tsar Nicholas I. The process of assuming duties concluded with the act of handing the candidate the nomination, appointing him to the position of prison supervisor (Jemielity 2002, p. 212–214; State Archive in Kielce, ref. 10738, file 7–11).

During his service in the Kielce prison, he received, among other things, commendation from the KRŚWiD for efficiently organizing the management of the prison entrusted to him after his predecessor. The Chief Inspector of Health Services stated that "under the previous management, the prison was always in poor condition." He brought exemplary order and cleanliness to the facility, where, after four years of his tenure, on July 8th (20th), 1854, there were already 481 convicts (including 31 ill ones). He particularly cared about the very important and difficult matter of the quality of food for the prisoners under his supervision, especially at that time when there were limited financial resources and corruption issues (State Archive in Kielce, ref. no. 10738, file 1).

After five years of dedicated work in Kielce, Franciszek Maternicki was promoted to the position of supervisor at the Warsaw Main Criminal Prison (WGWK). The capital's prison was one of the most important prisons in the Kingdom of Poland. It was housed in the facilities of the former Royal Arsenal at ul. Długa 52, from which it took over the colloquial name "Arsenal." The placement of the prison was a symbolic humiliation of Polish society by the Russian invaders

after it was captured by insurgents during the November Uprising. The Arsenal was also a gathering place for all convicts in the Kingdom of Poland (except for those from the Siedlce province) before they were sent to Siberia. From there, they were directed to their final destinations through a transit point in Praga (Czołgoszewski, 2021, pp. 183–184, 426, 439).

Franciszek Maternicki assumed the management of the capital prison on June 19 (July 1), 1855, following the death of his predecessor Maksymilian Cwierzakiewicz. Because the transfer of property was associated with the return of the bond paid by the deceased supervisor upon taking the position, the handover protocols were certified by his wife (Regulation 1840, pp. 193–199).

The installation procedure for the post followed the order described for the takeover of the Kielce prison, and was carried out by a delegated adjunct of the Warsaw gubernatorial government with the rank of honorary counselor. He placed the prison's staff, inmates and fixed and movable assets under the supervision of the new supervisor.

The prison staff consisted of 26 people. It included five permanent supervisory representatives: secretary Józef Radziwiński, senior clerk Franciszek Modzelewski, junior clerk Jan Miklaszewski, factory clerk Henryk Morawski, and workshop master Ignacy Szewczykowski. Additionally, there were three adjuncts: doctor Jan Kosztulski, surgeon Józef Krasicki, and a chaplain from the Capuchin order (name not specified). The prison guard consisted of one Class I guard, 4 Class II guards, and 12 Class III guards. In addition, guard Antonina Łukasiewicz performed the duties of female caretaker. As in the Kielce prison, all staff and guards had Polish-sounding names, indicating that the process of Russification had not yet extended to the staff of the Warsaw prison.

On the day he took charge of the facility, there were 382 convicts, including 303 men and 79 women. Among the distinctive components of the inherited prison property were, among others, a machine for stamping escapee marks, a machine for branding criminals, and 145 pieces of leg shackles (Main Archive of Historical Records, ref. no. 10058, file 1–81).

## **Prison expert – author of a report on detention and community advisor**

In the first half of the 19th century, the main legal act regulating the operation of the prison system in the Kingdom of Poland was the Prison Instruction of 1823, known as the Mostowski Instruction (named after Count Tadeusz Mostowski, Minister of Internal Affairs and Police, who signed it). However, due to the innovative character of the prison established on the initiative of Fryderyk Skarbek after his foreign trip, the Warsaw Main Inquisitorial Prison (Pawiak), which was exclusively dedicated to pre-trial detainees, a separate instruction was developed

for this prison in 1835. However, since the beginning there were problems with its proper implementation. As the years passed, the practice of detention and the organization of Pawiak began to raise more and more objections from the Kingdom authorities. These primarily concerned the failure to follow the established order in the prison regarding safety, resulting in a large number of accidents as a result of the prison management's ignorance of the applicable regulations. Therefore, in order to improve the situation, after two decades of Pawiak's operation, the government authorities sought to enact new instructions for this type of prison (Instrukcja więzienna 1823, pp. 1–31; Skarbek, 1830, p. 161; Instrukcja dla więzienia głównego inkwizycyjnego 1835, pp. 395–403; Main Archive of Historical Records, ref. no. 10051, file 1–10).

By order of Viceroy Ivan Paskevich, this task was assigned to the Warsaw Gubernatorial Government on November 13 (25), 1855 by the KRSWiD. However, work on the new ordinance dragged on, and calls to the gubernatorial government were unsuccessful. The pretext for these delays was the anticipation of the implementation of a new judicial organization in the Kingdom, to which the new regulations had to be adjusted (as a consequence, it was finally carried out only in 1876). The second and perhaps more important reason for the failure to prepare new regulations was the lack of competent officials who could handle the task. Therefore, they were entrusted to Franciszek Maternicki. His qualifications, experience in prison administration, and knowledge of the regulations concerning both the execution of arrest in the inquisitorial prison, where he served as a secretary from 1845 to 1850, and general prison regulations, likely spoke in favor of his candidacy for the position of the prison supervisor. In accordance with the guidelines of KRSWiD, he was required to present his remarks regarding the regulations contained in the adopted 1835 instruction for Pawiak in relation to the provisions of the general prison instruction in force since 1823 and any other regulations issued in the meantime. In a report dated June 11 (23), 1858, containing eighteen points, Franciszek Maternicki submitted proposals to the gubernatorial government for updating existing regulations. As analyzed by Justyna Bieda, they concerned both general issues and specific solutions (Main Archive of Historical Records, ref. no. 10051, file 11–16; Bieda, 2021, pp. 215–232).

In terms of general norms, he proposed, among other things, changing the term “house of inquisition” to “house of investigation,” since, as he wrote, the use of these words was prohibited by later regulations. It should be noted that the change of the name of Pawiak from “main inquisitorial prison” to “main house of investigation” occurred in 1840 as a result of a personal intervention by Tsar Nicholas I. The use of the adjective “inquisitorial” was negatively associated with the Inquisition, which was non-Russian in nature (Najwyższy rozkaz 1840, pp. 183–187). He also requested the removal of articles from the instruction concerning the authority and supervision over Pawiak by the Council of Custodial Care for Warsaw Prisons, as such a council had never officially undertaken its activities.

In specific matters, he raised the need for changes in the scope of clarifying the used terms, updating, and making the regulations concerning both the service of guards and the detainees more realistic, as they were not practiced due to various reasons. Regarding changes related to prison service, he proposed the removal of articles amended by the instruction for prison guards issued in 1853. For example: limiting the chaplain's right to choose one of the guards for church service, leaving this prerogative to the prison supervisor. Additionally, he suggested removing the provision about conducting loud morning and evening prayers in six prison corridors by designated detainees (due to organizational constraints, such practice was not implemented, and a permanent chapel was established in the meantime, replacing portable altars used for conducting services in the corridors of individual prison units). Furthermore, he recommended setting an earlier time for the return of both the supervisor and other officials leaving the prison, with the permission of their superiors, to be present during the evening reporting of the guards on the course of their service. This was because the reporting took place at 7:00 PM, and the instruction required their return no later than 9:00 PM (Instrukcja dla więzienia głównego inkwizycyjnego 1835, pp. 429, 449–453; Instrukcja dla strażników więziennych 1853, pp. 685–729).

As for the provisions concerning detainees, he proposed the removal of clauses such as the necessity for female detainees to undergo searches by female guards since the staffing plan for the house of research did not include positions for female guards. He also recommended eliminating the practice of providing detainees with lists of items deposited, as prisoners were prohibited from possessing any documents. Furthermore, he suggested changing the rule for rainy days' exercise in the courtyard to walks in the corridor, as such arrangements were not implemented (Instrukcja dla więzienia głównego inkwizycyjnego 1835, pp. 405, 423, 445).

In the conclusion of his report, Franciszek Maternicki emphasized that updating the existing instruction for Pawiak according to his remarks and adhering to other applicable regulations, especially the general prison instruction from 1823, as well as norms concerning clothing, footwear, and bedding for prisoners, and the medical-prison instruction, would be sufficient for the supervising officer to maintain order and prevent prisoner unrest (Instrukcja więzienna 1823, pp. 1–31; Decyzja 1834, pp. 171–193; Instrukcja lekarsko-więzienna 1857, pp. 35–109).

As a penitentiary expert, Franciszek Maternicki also served in the capacity of a specialist member of the Society of Agricultural Settlements and Crafting Almshouses. The agricultural and craft settlement for juvenile offenders established in Studzieńce in the mid-1870s had a corrective and rehabilitative nature. Therefore, its activities in terms of maintaining the wards (providing clothing and linen, meals, and furnishing the rooms) were modeled on the principles applied to sentenced prisoners serving their prison terms. The expert's specialized knowledge regarding the issues related to managing a large penitentiary allowed him to

provide relevant advice and guidance to the society's committee. This enabled them to pursue an economical financial policy and make appropriate decisions regarding the management and organization of the planned and later operational settlement (Yearbook of the Society 1875, part 1, p. 9–15).

## **Penitentiary pedagogue – promoter of education and advocate of moral improvement of minor prisoners**

Franciszek Maternicki stood out among other prison overseers due to his exceptional sensitivity and humanitarian concern, especially regarding the care of juvenile offenders. His deep social awareness set him apart from his peers in the penitentiary system. Franciszek Maternicki was twice honored by the Commission of Internal and Ecclesiastical Affairs (KRSWiD), with his achievements being brought to the attention of the gubernatorial authorities throughout the entire Kingdom of Poland. In 1853, the KRSWiD appreciated his three-year achievements and informed that in the Kielce prison, the supervisor Maternicki, on his own initiative, organized a school for approximately twenty children aged 11 to 14. He personally purchased books for them and appointed a qualified prisoner, supervised by a guard, to teach reading in Russian and Polish, as well as arithmetic. The prison chaplain conducted moral teachings and church singing for the children. He was also personally involved in the teaching of minors by examining them, together with the chaplain, on their academic progress. The supervisor also did not forget about the other prisoners for whom he organized a Sunday school, in which they also learned reading, writing and calculus on holidays and Sundays after breakfast, service and religious instruction, from 12PM to 2PM, from books he had acquired. In addition, books with moralizing content were read to them after lunch until evening (Rozporządzenie 1853, pp. 125–127).

By separating juveniles from adult prisoners, organizing employment in the prison “factory” and various economic tasks, and providing them with education, Franciszek Maternicki aimed to achieve the intended objectives of the punishment, which included reducing the negative influence of demoralized criminals on the juveniles and promoting their moral improvement. The educational results achieved were impressive, as in three years only one prisoner was disciplined, and of the minors who were released after serving their sentences, none returned to prison. Based on this example, the commission recommended that similar schools be established in other prisons in the Kingdom of Poland (Szymańska, 1964, p. 136; Bieda, 2017, p. 139, 142).

Similarly, after assuming the position of the supervisor at the Warsaw Main Criminal Prison (WGWK), Franciszek Maternicki continued to demonstrate his dedication to educational and developmental activities for juvenile prisoners. The school for juveniles that Franciszek Maternicki found at the Warsaw Main

Criminal Prison was the oldest among all prisons in the Kingdom of Poland. It was established at the end of the 1820s on the initiative of Fryderyk Skarbek, who advocated preventing the demoralization of juveniles by placing them in separate cells and organizing lessons in writing, reading, and basic arithmetic, as well as providing religious education for their moral improvement. For about thirty years, the school operated on a social basis, as it was not until 1850, that it came under permanent funding from the general prison funds of the Warsaw Governorate. Maternicki successfully continued Skarbek's work by devoting his special attention to the conditions in which minor prisoners served their sentences (Czołgoszewski, 2021, pp. 472–489).

At the time he took over from his predecessor as supervisor of the Arsenal, the room designated as a classroom had a chalkboard, 20 inkwells and 10 glass sandboxes. A bed and two large tables stood in it. The juveniles were taught using Polish elementary books (22 copies) and Russian elementary books (12 copies). Additionally, they had access to books for reading and arithmetic (12 copies), and small catechisms (12 copies) were used for religious education (Main Archive of Historical Records, ref. no. 10058, file 55–56).

The school for juveniles at WGWK was officially established by the decision of Viceroy Ivan Paskevich in 1859. Along with the schools in Kielce, Lublin, and Płock, it became one of the four central juvenile schools in the Kingdom of Poland. From then on, it came under the supervision of the superintendent of the Warsaw Educational District and employed two local teachers. Juvenile prisoners over the age of 14 and underage girls were also allowed to receive education. Teaching followed the common school curriculum. Lessons were two hours each day as part of a 12-hour weekly program. It included learning to read and write in Russian and Polish, as well as the first four arithmetic operations. In addition, the prison chaplain conducted religious lessons (Rozporządzenie 1860, pp. 141–143).

As a direct witness, the defender before the Senate, Wedeman, on March 16, 1873, during a lecture in the Aleksandrowska Hall of the Warsaw City Hall, reported that during his visit to the Arsenal, he found several dozen boys in a large room. This room, lit from above by a small window, served as both a bedroom, dining room and classroom. According to established practice, the boys, clad in black prison uniforms, remained under the supervision of an older, specially selected prisoner. Three times a day, they spent half an hour walking around the prison yard. According to the speaker, it was a sad procession of children abandoned and forgotten by society (Moldenhawer, 1882, p. 248).

Aleksander Moldenhawer, an eminent lawyer and member of the District Court in Warsaw, described the difficult living conditions of juvenile prisoners during the period that marked Maternicki's service as the prison supervisor. The education in the prison school at that time involved 16 boys aged between 10 and 16 years, and throughout the year, approximately 60 juveniles were admitted to the school (Czołgoszewski, 2022, p. 230).

Both reporters emphasized the negative impact of prison conditions on the physical and mental health of juvenile prisoners. In addition, their incarceration in adult prisons, in the absence of strict isolation from the influence of demoralized inmates, increased the risk of recidivism. Unlike in Kielce Prison, it happened that juveniles returned to the school two, three, four or more times, already as young recidivists. One thing, however, was constant – the personal commitment of supervisor Franciszek Maternicki to both sanitation and academic progress. The good air quality in the minor's room, as well as adequate sleeping conditions and the level of food were emphasized. The supervisor's constant interest also included the minors' academic progress, which he checked together with the prison chaplain (Moldenhawer, 1882, pp. 250–251).

The school for juvenile prisoners in WGWK operated until the fall of the Russian occupation in Poland. In 1881, during the penultimate year of Maternicki's management of the prison, there were 172 students attending it (Обзорь, 1882, p. 60).

## **Social activist – member of the Society of Agricultural Settlements and Crafting Almshouses**

The various aspects of Franciszek Maternicki's interest in different manifestations of social life and his educational activities for minors were acknowledged by Polish civic activists in the Kingdom of Poland. These achievements were presented in more detail by Prof. Walenty Miklaszewski, the main reformer of the educational and correctional system for juvenile offenders, who emphasized his work and dedication, and his influence on the development of entire institutions (Miklaszewski, 1872, pp. 55–56, 61–62; Миклашевски, 1910, pp. 3–4).

Franciszek Maternicki was invited to the founding committee of the Society of Agricultural Settlements and Crafting Almshouses (TORiPR) established in 1871. The main goal of the society was the moral improvement of both male and female children sentenced by the court, as well as the improvement of the fate of underage beggars and vagrants. This goal was to be achieved by providing practical vocational training to underage individuals in agricultural-craftsmen settlements (reformatory institutions) established through social funds. In addition, the society took on the responsibility of caring for alumni released from the centers it ran. The most significant achievement of TORiPR was the establishment, in 1876, of a settlement for boys in Studzieńce and, in 1891, of a settlement for girls in Puszcza Mariańska (Ustawa Osady 1876, pp. 1–15; Внутреннее устройство 1900, pp. 1–44; Захаров 1898, pp. 165–177).

In his capacity as a member of the society, Franciszek Maternicki spoke publicly, justifying the need to establish the first agricultural and artisanal settlement for juvenile delinquents in the Kingdom of Poland. Unfortunately, only one such speech has been preserved, published in two issues of the capital's

“Tygodnik Illustrowany” (Głos Franciszka Maternickiego, 1874, issue 339, p. 399; issue 340, pp. 8–9).

From the published statement, we can learn about the views that guided his social activism, including the idea of establishing a correctional settlement for children who committed criminal acts. From the published statement, we can also learn about his stance regarding the objectives of imprisoning juvenile offenders and the reasons which, in his opinion, have a decisive influence on juvenile delinquency.

In his statement, he emphasized that the idea of establishing a corrective home for children who committed criminal acts receives support from an enlightened part of society. The main objective of this initiative is to improve the young offenders in a way that after the process of “cleansing,” they can reintegrate into society, both spiritually and physically healed, and prepared to engage in honest work. One of the arguments supporting the need for a separate institution for this category of offenders in the Kingdom of Poland was the high level of juvenile delinquency among those aged up to 17, with approximately 800 of them being sentenced each year. Due to the lack of a dedicated facility for them, these juvenile offenders served their sentences in regular prisons. Instead of being reformed, they often became enemies of property, order, and public safety.

According to Franciszek Maternicki, the three established objectives of imprisonment, which include protecting society through temporary isolation of the offender in prison, imposing punishment for the crime committed, and aiming for the moral improvement of the offenders, did not fulfill their role adequately concerning juvenile delinquents. The reason for this situation, according to Franciszek Maternicki, lay in the distinct perception of a child towards the crime. The child did not see the committed act as an act of “abhorrence and horror,” and therefore, they did not understand that it could lead to legal responsibility and imprisonment as a consequence.

Franciszek Maternicki, like most pedagogues of the time, was in favor of administering corporal punishment to children. He pointed out that the lack of physical suffering in prison (corporal punishment was abolished in the Kingdom of Poland in 1864) leads to the absence of a deterrent effect against returning to its walls. As a consequence, the stays of children in prison become increasingly longer, sometimes so lengthy that they die during their confinement. As he mentioned, the objectives of punishment (aside from temporary isolation and preventing the commission of further crimes) contribute to an increase in recidivism among juvenile offenders. This is because children as young as 15 years old are incarcerated in prisons and punished for criminal offenses, sometimes even for the sixth time. He lamented and considered it a misfortune that juvenile repeat offenders, due to the existing regulations for the facility, would not be eligible for settlement in Studzieniec, thereby becoming children lost to society (Miklaszewski 1875, part 2, p. 3–12). Therefore, in order to prevent the harmful

consequences of moral corruption in children, which was often caused or even forced by depraved parents, he advocated for the use of a remedial measure in the form of placing them in a corrective settlement rather than in prison.

Modeled after existing institutions in other countries and drawing from their experiences, the corrective settlements were intended to educate the “corrupted child” in a way that, after a few years, they would transform into an honest and industrious individual, devoted to work. The benefits for society from the activities of the settlements were expected to be even greater, as the youths leaving the institution would be prepared to raise their offspring differently than their parents. For this reason, he called for increased work in establishing a center designed for juvenile offenders, the establishment of which he considered necessary, even indispensable.

His views on the execution of punishment of juvenile offenders and their moral improvement were formed on the basis of practical experience and resulted from his knowledge of the organizational principles of correctional institutions operating on the basis of the so-called “family model” in European countries at the time (Kalinowski, Pełka, 1996, p. 72). The “Rocznik Towarzystwa Osad Rolnych i Przytułków Rzemieślniczych” (“Yearbook of the Society of Agricultural Settlements and Craftsmen’s Settlements”) included articles and exceptions from the works of both Polish authors, e.g.: Aleksander Moldenhawer on educational systems and juvenile correctional institutions in Saxony and Switzerland, Z. Zajewski about Mettray in France and the agricultural settlement near Petersburg, A. Bialecki about Studzieniec (Moldenhawer, 1873, pp. 17–41; Moldenhawer, 1874, part 2, pp. 19–40; Moldenhawer, 1875, part 2, pp. 31–51; Zajewski, 1874, part 2, pp. 41–67; Zajewski, 1875, part 2, pp. 13–30; Bialecki, 1874, part 1, pp. 88–97), as well as translated works of foreign authors e.g.: M. Bertin on the French Mettray “paternal house” near Tours, J. de Liefde` on the Dutch agricultural settlement. Son Franciszek Henryk, an honorary member of the society, translated an article from German about the corrective institutions Rauhes-Haus in Germany and Baechtelen in Switzerland, as well as a farming colony in Petersburg in the Russian Empire (Bertin, 1874, part 2, pp. 1–18; de Liefde, 1873, pp. 49–84; von der Hoven, 1874, part 2, p. 68–162).

Franciszek Maternicki held various positions in TORiPR. He was a member of the board of directors, a specialist member, served as secretary of the committee and deputy chairman of the society’s board of directors. The supervisor’s name and signature appeared in the foundation document during the ceremonial laying of the cornerstone at the inauguration of the construction of the Studzieńce settlement, which took place on June 9, 1874. He also supported the society financially, making various monetary contributions to its activities and donating material gifts. Other close family members were also involved in social and charitable activities. Members of the society, in addition to the aforementioned son Francis Henryk, included his wife Magdalena, daughter Stefania and son Alexander (Rocznik Towarzystwa, 1874, part 1, pp. 88–97, 113, 125, 128).

## Summary

Franciszek Korwin-Maternicki took up the position of prison supervisor in Kielce in 1850 at the age of thirty-five. Five years later, due to his dedication and merits, he was promoted to the position of supervisor at the Warsaw Main Criminal Prison in Warsaw, which he held for the next 27 years (1855–1882). His appointments and installations on these positions were carried out in accordance with the procedures established by the Tsarist authorities for candidates taking up civil offices in the Kingdom of Poland. He concluded his professional career at the age of 67, after nearly 45 years of service in the prison system of the Kingdom of Poland. He was a knight of the Orders of St. Anne, St. Stanislaus, St. Vladimir and again St. Anne 2nd grade. He also received a badge of honor for forty years of impeccable service. He left the position with the rank of collegiate assessor of the VIII class (Daniłowicz-Strzelbicki, 1899, p. 931; Адресь-Календарь 1877, p. 230).

His many years of professional experience and unquestionable authority were the basis for using his expertise as a penitentiary expert. He was the author of a report on amendments to prison regulations on detention and was appointed to committees reviewing the prison law. He also served as a specialist advising the TORiPR board on penitentiary matters. Unfortunately, it is not known what happened to the manuscript he left behind, which supposedly contained many valuable insights and remarks about corrective and reformatory institutions. These could have potentially provided a more comprehensive understanding of his views on imprisonment (Daniłowicz-Strzelbicki, 1899, p. 931).

The exceptional recognition in the form of a public announcement by the KRSWiD of his merits in the work for the moral improvement of prisoners, particularly his efforts in educating juvenile offenders and organizing education for adult convicts, stands as the best confirmation of his role as a penitentiary pedagogue (Daniłowicz-Strzelbicki, 1899, p. 931).

He devoted his free time, which was practically limited due to his role as a prison supervisor, to activities within the TORiPR. By fulfilling various roles, he made his contribution to changing the penal policy of the occupant, which involved sentencing juvenile offenders to stay in the corrective settlement in Studzieńce instead of sending them to serve their sentences in prison.

Another immensely important issue, which could not be determined during the research due to the lack of access primarily to personal records, is Franciszek Maternicki's stance during the national uprisings. During the November Uprising in 1830, Franciszek Maternicki was 15 years old and was a student at Piarist schools in Włocławek. These schools were known for fostering patriotic and national sentiments among the young generation of Poles. On the other hand, during the pre-Uprising period and the January Uprising of 1863, he had already

been in charge of the prison in the former Arsenal, which was a penal prison for criminal prisoners, for several years. During the massive repressions preceding the uprising, at the turn of 1861/1862, during Christmas, when on the order of Tsar Alexander II, a state of emergency was declared in the Kingdom of Poland, and mass arrests were carried out, crowds of Warsaw residents circulated around the prisons located in the City Hall, Pawiak, and the Citadel, where hundreds of detainees awaited their verdicts. They were prevented from more violent actions only by the Russian troops that had been led out into the capital city. However, it was not reported that similar events took place in front of the Arsenal. And although, as noted, it was a criminal prison to which protesters were not sent, the absence of such events was probably also due to supervisor Franciszek Maternicki. No source materials mention, for example, the beating of prisoners or other ignoble behavior by guards, unlike in prisons such as Pawiak or the Citadel, which during this period were central prisons for rebellious Poles (Grabiec, 1913, pp. 154, 162, 199–200, 204–205, 239, 476–477).

The most apt summary of his professional and social activities are the words in his memoir note: Nobility and righteousness, kindness and firmness, combined with a profound knowledge of all aspects of his service, made the late Franciszek Maternicki an outstanding figure, surrounded by well-deserved honor and respect from all who had the privilege of knowing him (Daniłowicz-Strzelbicki, 1899, p. 931).

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