

**Kolegium i szkoła handlowa OO. Pijarów w dwudziestoleciu  
międzywojennym w Lidzie**

**The Piarist college and school of commerce at Lida**

**SUMMARY**

The article presents the history of the Piarist college and school of commerce at Lida in the interwar period (1918-1939). The main source for the article is provided by the hand-written Chronicle of the Piarist Fathers' College at Lida. The chronicle begins in 1926 and ends in October 1939. It is now stored in the Piarist archives in Cracow. Until now, the chronicle has not been used as source material and has been unknown to researchers have also been little aware of other abundant archival material on the almost two hundred years of the Piarist presence at Lida.

The Piarists regained their property at Lida in 1926 – after over four years of action to reclaim it. The first rector of the college was Rev. F. Kozłowski. The buildings of the college and the church were in a very poor condition. The restoration required a lot of money and last many years. Soon after they regained the college, the Piarists opened a three-year Men's [=Boys'] School of Commerce. After some time a fourth grade, providing education on co-operatives, was added and this enabled the school-leavers to pursue their education at a tertiary level. In 1936 the school was made coeducational and its status was changed again. It became a Merchant Gymnasium, a school of a higher rank than before. The Piarist School of Commerce played an important role in the professional education of the youth of Lida and its vicinity. It was the only school of that type in the region. Throughout the interwar period, despite the financial difficulties they faced, Piarist school maintained a very high level of education; this was possible thanks to their carefully selected teaching staff, a fact corroborated by educational board inspections.

The Lida college also provided an example of good husbandry for the local community, by its exemplary maintenance of a farm and orchard.

After the Red Army entered Lida in September 1939, the school of commerce was nationalized and the priests were ordered to leave the college within twenty four hours.