The Physical Laboratory under Professor Józef Mickiewicz
(materials on the history of the teaching of physics at Wilno University)

SUMMARY

The article deals with the forty two years of work by the Rev. Józef Rinwid Mickiewicz (1744-1817) as professor of physics at the University of Wilno, and its impact on the development of physics as a science and the teaching of physics in Lithuania. So far, there have been only fragmentary accounts of Professor Mickiewicz’s activities at the university.

After a separate Laboratory of Physics was established at the university in 1775, Professor Mickiewicz took over the physical instruments that had previously belonged to the Astronomical Observatory and which had been acquired by the former heads of the Observatory, especially T. Żebrowski. During Professor Mickiewicz’s tenure, the Physical Laboratory could already boast of a quite rich range of instruments, and new instruments were constantly added as well. The resources of the Laboratory are presented in an edition of the manuscriptural List of instruments of the Physical Laboratory in the years 1775-1802. In 1841, the collection of instruments from the laboratory was taken away to Kiev, where it disappeared during World War Two.

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