



FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th.

The University of Chicago today launched a program to strengthen its studies in the language, literature, and culture of Poland.

A long-range objective of an endowed chair in Polish language and literature was set and an immediate program seeking support for a larger faculty in Polish studies was announced.

George Wells Beadle, Chancellor of The University of Chicago, outlined the program Wednesday, September 6th, at a reception for leaders of the nation's Polish-American community, held at the Quadrangle Club, 57th Street at University Avenue.

"It is our hope to establish one of the leading programs in the study of Polish language, literature, and culture," the ~~Chancellor~~ said. "We feel that in a free society, the cultural history of a great nation such as Poland can be studied with objectivity."

The Legion of Young Polish Women, 2222 North Kedzie Avenue, Chicago, agreed to provide financial support to help establish the program and pledged its continued assistance for several years. At the reception, Mrs. Paul Miczko, 3056 West Palmer Square, Chicago, president of the Legion, presented Chancellor Beadle with its initial grant of \$4,500.

"This is the first time our organization has attempted any project of this kind," she said. "We are proud to be able to encourage scholarship in the United States and on the campus of a great university in the literature and culture of the Polish people."

The Legion of Young Polish Women will ask the 700,000 Polish-Americans living in the Chicago community to support the program for the establishment of a permanent professorship.

Hugh McLean, Chairman of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at The University of Chicago, explained the University's interest in expanding its present program in the Polish language. He said:

"Polish literature should be an integral part of the study of the humanities program and the need for strengthening Polish studies at The University of Chicago is long overdue.

"In addition to the University's providing a scholarly atmosphere for the objective examination of the Polish contribution," he said, "the new program will help meet the critical need in the United States for authorities in Polish language and literature."

McLean said The University of Chicago has a responsibility to the Slavic communities of Chicago, which have made a unique contribution to American life, and cited the example set by the Legion of Young Polish Women in developing the interest of Slavic studies in Chicago.

A visiting professor of Polish literature under the new program is expected to be appointed this academic year.

McLean said that Chicago has the largest population of Polish extraction of any city in the country.

The launching of the fund-raising program for the establishment of a permanent professorship coincides with the celebration of the One Thousandth Anniversary of the Polish State.

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