

FILIP SANBRA KAHANE – A GREAT “SOKÓŁ” WHOSE LIFE  
IS A MODEL FOR MANY GENERATIONS

ФІЛІП САНБРА КАХАНЕ – ВЕЛИКИЙ «СОКІЛ», ЧИЄ ЖИТТЯ Є ВЗІРЦЕМ  
ДЛЯ БАГАТЬОХ ПОКОЛІНЬ

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### Abstracts

The “Sokół” Gymnastic Society in Łańcut was established in 1891 at the instigation of the local intelligentsia strongly involved in social, cultural, educational, economic and political life. Filip Kahane is a person who stands out among the most active founders and social activists. This article indicates some factual data that became the starting point for an extensive description of activities and achievements, as well as the processes of shaping identity, creating a hierarchy of values and attitudes towards the world, people and his own homeland. **The aim** of this article is to give a detailed and reliable description of his life, the development of national identity, the interpretation of activities and achievements not only for the Łańcut “Sokół”, but also for the local community. It is also the unmasking of unverified information that has been reproduced for over a hundred years, as well as the facilitating of less known facts and materials. Reliable, authentic documents, which confirm the reliability of biographical data enriching the historical perspective, are the source of knowledge.

**Methods.** The analysis of literature was conducted in the historical and territorial context in order to determine the circumstances of the occurrence of the discussed issue in the source literature in Galicia. The analysis of preserved notarial deeds from the 19th century, the perpetual book, original documents, letters, photographs, memories, and handwritten notes which are in the private archive of Filip Kahane’s descendants was carried out.

**Conclusions.** Filip’s steadfast and heroic attitude during the uprising fights undoubtedly makes him the leading light in the canon of Polish heroes. He is a great patriot devoted to his homeland. Moreover, he is a feather in his cap and a role model, not only for contemporary residents of the town and the region, but above all for young Poles, young “falcons”. He proved repeatedly that his most important values are: God, Honor, Homeland. Thanks to his civic attitude, bravery and services to the country he endeared young people who joined the ranks of the Łańcut “Sokół”. Due to his personal commitment and social position, he significantly contributed to the inception of the Łańcut “nest”, the construction of “Sokolnia” and the garden that have served school and artisanal youth but also the inhabitants of Łańcut and surrounding localities for decades. From the very beginning “Sokolnia” served as a local center of sports, patriotic, socio-cultural and economic life.

**Key words:** Galicia, Sokół, Łańcut, Filip Sanbra Kahane, independence.

Гімнастичне товариство «Сокіл» у Ланьцуті було засноване в 1891 році з ініціативи місцевої інтелігенції, яка брала активну участь у соціальному, культурному, освітньому, економічному та політичному житті. Філіп Кахане – людина, яка виділяється серед найактивніших засновників і громадських діячів. У цій статті вказані деякі фактичні дані, які стали відправною точкою для розгорнутого опису діяльності та досягнень, а також процесів формування ідентичності, створення ієрархії цінностей та ставлення до світу, людей і власної батьківщини. **Метою** цієї статті є детальний і достовірний опис його життя, розвитку національної ідентичності, інтерпретація діяльності та здобутків не лише для «Сокола», але й для місцевої громади. Це також викриття неперевіреної інформації, яка відтворюється вже понад сто років, а також популяризація маловідомих фактів і матеріалів. Джерелом знань є надійні, автентичні документи, які підтверджують достовірність біографічних даних, збагачуючи історичну перспективу.

**Методи.** Аналіз літератури проводився в історико-територіальному контексті з метою з’ясування обставин появи досліджуваного питання в джерельній літературі Галичини. Проведено аналіз збе-

режених нотаріальних актів XIX століття, вічної книги, оригінальних документів, листів, фотографій, спогадів та рукописних нотаток, які знаходяться у приватному архіві нащадків Філіпа Кагане.

**Висновки.** Стийкість і героїчна позиція Філіпа під час боїв повстання, безсумнівно, ставить його на чільне місце в каноні польських героїв. Він великий патріот, відданий своїй батьківщині. Більше того, він є прикладом для наслідування не лише для сучасних мешканців міста та регіону, але передусім для молодих поляків, молодих «соколів». Він неодноразово доводив, що його найважливішими цінностями є Бог, Честь, Батьківщина. Завдяки своїй громадянській позиції, хоробрості та заслугам перед країною він припав до душі молодим людям, які вступили до лав ланьцутського «Сокола». Завдяки своїй особистій відданості та громадянській позиції він зробив значний внесок у створення ланьцутського «гнізда», будівництво «Сокільні» та саду, які протягом десятиліть служили шкільній та ремісничій молоді, а також мешканцям Ланьцута та навколишніх населених пунктів. Від самого початку «Сокільня» слугувала місцевим центром спортивного, патріотичного, соціокультурного та економічного життя.

**Ключові слова:** Галичина, Сокол, Ланьцут, Філіп Санбра Кахане, незалежність.

**Introduction.** The first “nest” of the “Sokol” Gymnastic Society on the Polish grounds was established in Lviv in 1867. The capital of Galicia became a natural place for the development of this organization due to its cultural, scientific and political importance. Following the example of the Lviv “nest”, other centers were established thanks to the huge involvement of the local community. Not only educated individuals, but also charismatic and experienced people as well as real heroes fighting for freedom and independence were the leaders and initiators of social changes. Their involvement influenced on the formation of national ideas, the fight for independence, social and political reforms. The local intelligentsia included, on the one hand, simple officials, and on the other hand, managers, clerks, lawyers, MPs and clergy.

The Łańcut “nest” was founded in 1891 at the instigation of the local intelligentsia: state officials and Count Potocki’s entail officials. We can choose three the most influential activists among them who can be called founding fathers. They were Dr. Walenty Szpunar – a state barrister, Bolesław Żardecki – a contemporary director of the Cash Advance Fund and the deputy marshal of the District Council and Filip Sanbra Kahane – a permanent official of Count Potocki’s Łańcut entail [4]. On 30 November 1890 at 3:30 p.m. the announcement in the “Gymnastic Guide” was published informing that the first meeting would be held in the offices of the Advance Association in Łańcut in order to adopt a resolution concerning establishing the “Sokol” Gymnastic Society in Łańcut [21]. Shortly after the meeting, the Founders’ Committee submitted an official writing to the “Sokol”

Gymnastic Society in Lviv, asking for the consent to establish a branch in Łańcut. On 26 November 1890, a writing signed by the president of the Lviv “Sokol” Dr. Żegota Krówczyński and the director Dr. Xawery Fisher was sent from the Department of the “Sokol” Gymnastic Society in Lviv. It declared that based on the resolution of the Faculty of 18 June 1884, in accordance with §5 of its statutes and the Act of 15 November 1867 No. 134, it consented to the establishment of a branch of its Society in Łańcut and authorized the Committee responsible for the establishment of this institution to establish the “Sokol” Gymnastic Society in Łańcut as a branch of the “Sokol” Gymnastic Society in Lviv. In order to implement the idea of establishing “Sokol nest”, at the beginning of 1891 the Founders’ Committee consisting of: Walenty Szpunar, Bolesław Żardecki and Filip Kahane sent a request to the High Imperial Court Governorship for the gracious approval of the statute of the “Sokol” Gymnastic Society in Łańcut as a branch of “Sokol” in Lviv. On 16 January 1891, the Imperial-Royal Galician Governorship approved the statute and noted in the cadaster of associations article 386, item 42 [34]. The first General Meeting was held on 8 March 1891 with the aim of constituting the Society which consisted of 72 members [22]. Dr. Walenty Szpunar became the first president. His deputy was Filip Sanbra-Kahane and Bolesław Żardecki became a member of the audit committee [23].

**The aim** of this thesis is to emphasize an essential part of the leading activist Filip Kahane, who was a great patriot devoted to his homeland, in the creation and development of the Łańcut “Sokol” Gymnastic Society.

**Methods.** The study of the issue included the analysis of literature in the historical and territorial context and the review of preserved notarial deeds from the 19th century and perpetual books. Thanks to discovering the descendants of Kahane's family, a very insightful and reliable analysis of the letters, photographs, memories and handwritten notes preserved in their private, extremely rich archive was carried out. The article and the information included in it are based largely on original personal documents from the period of Filip Kahane's life which were collected after his death. Many important previously unknown facts change the perception of the examined character and reveal his real image.

**Results.** Among the founders, apart from state officials such as Szpunar and Żardecki, there were also soldiers and officers who noticed the importance of physical preparation and fighting skills needed for the defense of the country. People connected with the army often played a key role in the organization and they contributed to the promotion of patriotic values. Filip Sanbra Kahane was certainly the embodiment of the highest patriotic values and love of the homeland. He was also a role model not only for young "falcons", but also for all inhabitants of the Łańcut grounds. There are many publications about this figure, but so far there have been little verified data and documents, which have contributed to information chaos. Thanks to reaching out to the descendants of the Kahane's family, the access to the archive of authentic documents and memorabilia was gained which allowed for a reliable elaboration of an extensive biography.

Research reliability requires emphasizing that none of the existing studies provide the exact date of birth – only the year 1838 [10] or 1839 [36] appears. Filip Kahane was born in Ratzersdorf in Austria on 27 February 1838 [11]. The Kahane family came to Sanok when Filip was only 6 weeks old [41]. The 1930s in Galicia were marked by deep economic stagnation and intense Germanization which included not only the administration, but also the judiciary and education. At the request of Emperor Francis I, a young doctor from a Catholic family, Ignacy Kahane with his wife Rozalia (née Kukiel) and

three children: Ludwika (died on 16 January 1898 at the age of 63) [27], Maurycy (born on 28 November 1836, died 27/1896) [25] and Filip, settled in Sanok. When dealing with the history of the Kahane family, one cannot ignore the thread of origin and religion. All analyzed sources state that Filip was born into a Jewish family [10], which quickly assimilated after arriving in Sanok [1; 2; 7]. In fact, the surname Kahane indicates Jewish roots, but Filip's grandfather, Andrzej Kahane, married Helena Janossy, a Hungarian, Roman Catholic. His father Ignacy was raised in the spirit of Christian values [41], and after settling in the Sanok region, he adapted to life in a foreign community very quickly, adopting its culture, customs and behavior. From the beginning, he practiced medicine in the Sanok district [15]. In the following years, he worked as a district doctor specializing in surgery [16]. From 1867 he sat in the Sanok City Council [21]. He was involved in political and social life. He also ran a private medical practice [38].

The analysis of source materials concerning births and baptisms allowed us to conclude that all seven children of Ignacy and Rozala Kahane were Roman Catholic [33; 34]. Filip himself wrote in his job application to the board of the Potocki entail that he was a Roman Catholic according to the attached certificate [45]. Ignacy and Rozalia's next children were born in Sanok: Leon (born at the end of 1838 or at the beginning of 1839 – died on 30 January 1864 at the age of 26) [28], Zygmunt (born in 1846 – died on 22 May 1889) [17], Artur (died young – at the age of 17) [41] and Zofia [38]. At home, children were raised in the spirit of love for Polishness and the tradition of fighting for the freedom of their new homeland.

There is little information about Filip's childhood and school years. From the family records, we know that he graduated from Imperial-Royal Middle School in Przemyśl [41]. On 1 August 1857, a general hospital for the sick was opened in Sanok which was founded by Apolinary Mauthner who was the head of the Sanok regional district from the beginning of that year [18]. Until 29 February 1860, Filip Kahane was entrusted with the function of administrator of the general

hospital [15; 45]. Then, by decree of the Imperial-Royal Council of the regional authorities, he was appointed an official at the Magistrate in Sanok. He acted as a controller at the town treasury. While working at the office, he passed the bankable exam. He held this office until 1863, when he voluntarily resigned in order to fight for the freedom of his homeland.

In 1862, preparations were made for an armed uprising. The direct cause of the start of the fight against the Russian invader was the impressment which was the forced conscription into the czarist army. It was announced in the Kingdom of Poland in January 1863. Thousands of young people made a difficult choice that pushed them to fight in one of the most tragic Polish national uprisings. Less than 25-year-old Filip together with his three brothers left his family home in Sanok and went to Kraków. From Kraków he went to Ojców where the centralization of insurgent units was led by Apolinary Kurowski who was the war chief of the Kraków Voivodeship. Setting out for the uprising, Philip took eight firearms and two broadswords with him, that is why he was a welcome guest among the poorly armed insurgents [41]. Philip recalls: "I intended to join the detachment of Zouaves commanded by Colonel Rochebrune who was a Frenchman" [9]. The organization of this unit was modeled on the French Zouaves who took part in the Crimean War (1853–1856) [12]. It was an elite unit with uniform uniforms and weapons and volunteers joining the unit took an oath that they would never retreat in the face of the enemy. Filip mentioned in his memories: "I will either return victorious or I will not return from the battlefield at all, for this reason we were called the Zouaves of Death" [9]. "The Zouaves were a completely separate corps and enjoyed all kinds of privileges in the camp. They had separate quarters in the newly built Swiss House, they cooked separately for themselves, they were free from the camp duty <...> but they had the eight-hour drill and target shooting exercises every day. The command was in French because of Rochebrun who understood only a few Polish words. On 11 February 1863, a field altar was set up in the garden on a mound next to the hotel. The detachment of

Zouaves was supposed to take the oath next to that mound. The camp chaplain pr. Kamiński celebrated Holy Mass and blessed the banner made of black *noire* material with the image of the Blessed Virgin of Częstochowa on one side and a large white cross on the other. The Zouaves took a vow of loyalty and courage to this banner" [13]. The Zouave company were given a baptism of fire in the unsuccessful Battle of Miechów on 17 February 1863. We know from Filip's memories that after a hard 17-hour march, on 17 February they arrived near Miechów where they attacked the Muscovites without having a rest. "I do not dare to criticize Kurowski, but I must mention that this skirmish, which can be called a massacre, was conducted recklessly without calculating the enemy's strength and considering their convenient position behind church walls. We suffered huge losses, especially of the Zouaves and we did not manage to drive the Muscovites out of the city" [9]. The Zouave unit consisted of 160 volunteers, 81 people died in Miechów, 40 soldiers were wounded and 39 survived the battle [13]. On the one hand, this battle exposed Apolinary Kurowski's incompetence in generalship and on the other hand, it showed the bravery of the undertrained and underarmed insurgents. Philip particularly remembered this battle for two reasons: it was the first battle in which he took part and saved the mentioned banner. "Moscow shots were falling thickly, the bullets were whistling past our ears <...>. While I was moving forward in the fiercest battle, I noticed one of the Wędrychowski brothers lying with a shot leg. When he saw me, he called: "Save me, brother". I turned to him to help him but at that moment I noticed that our standard-bearer, who was hit with a bullet, staggered and fell dropping the banner. I ran up and grabbed the banner but the chaos of the fight took me away from poor Wędrychowski. I carried the banner until the end of the skirmish. Then, when we straggled, I took the banner off the pole and hid it on my chest like a relic. Later I gave it to Rochebrun. This banner with the image of the Virgin Mary and a poem written by Wincenty Pol was donated to us by Count Moszyńska". After the defeat of the insurgents and the decimation of Kurowski's unit,

Filip Kahane initially took refuge in Pińczów, then he went to Tarnów, and later to Kraków, and from there he and his several other companions went to Goszcz where Rochebrun re-formed the Zouave unit. At that time, the new formation already numbered 300 people [9].

After General Marian Langiewicz had been declared the dictator of the uprising, Filip Kahane took part in his war campaign. He fought in the battle of Chrobrza on 17 March 1863 and in the battle of Grochowiska on 18 March 1863 [10]. Both these battles were victorious, but the latter ended tragically for Philip because his right arm was shot with a grapeshot bullet. As a result, he had to have his entire arm amputated. The operation was performed in hospital in Tarnów where most of the injured from the Grochowiska battle were brought and treated. Among the wounded there were also Filip's comrades such as: Władysław Zwierkowski who lost his left arm in the Battle of Grochowiska and Jan Zlasnowski who had his knee shot. All of the three seriously injured men were doing relatively well and there was hope of keeping them alive [3]. Filip stayed in hospital in Tarnów for another 3 months where dedicated doctors and the local community took care of him. He was visited by his father who was a doctor and he was also cared for by his tireless sister, Ludwisia [9; 41]. After leaving the hospital he practiced using a weapon with his left hand during a one-month rest at his family house. Despite his parents' opposition, he decided to return to the front. He set off for Volhynia where Count Wojciech Komorowski intended to attack the enemy. In the camp, he met his former commander General F. Rochebrune who greeted him with the words: *Voilà le brave entre des braves sans bras!* which meant: "Here is the brave among the bravest without a hand!" From then on, "Sanbra" became an official nickname added to his surname and his family started to use the surname Sanbra Kahane from then on [41].

After the defeat of the insurgents in the Battle of Poryck on 2 November 1863, Filip escaped Russian captivity, but he was arrested by the Austrians together with several companions while trying to cross the Russian-Austrian bor-

der illegally. Austrians disarmed the group of insurgents and placed them in a closed building in Sokal. He managed to escape the next day. He was captured but he tried to escape again, this time successfully [9]. He reached Lviv where he and Izydor Dzieduszycki by order of the commander Komorowski started forming a new unit recruiting volunteers. He was betrayed by one of the volunteers named Redl, he was arrested along with others and imprisoned in the former monastery of the Carmelites which was turned into a prison. After serving a six-month sentence, he was released but he was still under the control of the Austrian authorities [41].

Reliable archival information led to interesting findings. Filip Kahane started law studies just before the outbreak of the uprising, but did not continue his studies after the uprising. After returning from the front, he decided to pursue an agricultural career. On 1 August 1864, he began studying at the Agricultural Academy in Dublany [45]. After 2 years of practice and another year of diligent and exemplary study, he passed the exam and obtained the diploma and the title of the Member of the Dublany School on 30 June 1867. For the next three years, until 28 April 1870, he was employed as a bailiff on the estate of Tytus Trzeciecki (during his absence) in Miejsce Piastowe. Tytus Trzeciecki personally certified that Filip was a conscientious and reliable worker [44]. Thanks to a well-preserved job application from 1881, we know that he served as the independent Economic Administrator in the treasury of the prelate Henryk Skrzyński in Ustrobnia for the next 4 years until 15 April 1874. Pr. Henryk Skrzyński wrote: "throughout this entire period of time, thanks to his knowledge of his trade, his impeccable integrity of character, his extraordinary zeal at work and his entire behavior, he deserved to be conscientiously recommended to everyone who is looking for an exemplary official" [51]. From June 1874 to March 1880, he leased the Krasna estate from Mr. Ksawery Skrzyński from Krościenko in the Krosno district and at the same time he was in charge of his forests [45]. At that time, he became a classifying delegate of the estimation commission and for the next three years he clas-

sified land in the entire Krosno district. In the rescript of 27 March 1877 the Presidium of the Imperial-Royal National Land Tax Commission expressed the Exchequer's satisfaction with the achieved progress [42].

Perfectly preserved documents show that on 17 May 1877, he married the love of his life Alina Drozdowska from Biguszki. She was the daughter of Kamila Denks and Julian Mieloch Drozdowski who was the insurgent and landowner in Lithuania [39]. Thanks to his friend Julian's stories he became interested in his daughter and began to send her letters in which he wrote: "Based on your father's stories I can imagine your personality traits and disposition which I am convinced are completely consistent with reality <...> Despite your will, I counted you among my friends, that is those who my mind and my imagination deal with even when I am not with them. <...> I would like to ask you to leave me hope that over time I will be able to gain a part of these friendly feelings from you" [47]. In 1880, he went to his wife's estate Biguszki in Lithuania in order to live there permanently.

At the beginning of 1881, the Łańcut Ordinance announced a competition for the position of a bailiff or a controller. On 27 January 1881, in response to the advertisement, the required documents along with a curriculum vitae and an application were sent from Biguszki in Lithuania. Letters confirming his experience and conscientious approach to the entrusted duties were attached to these documents. Filip Kahane also turned to figures such as: pr. Adam Sapiecha, Count Stanisław Potocki from Rymanów, Count Edmund Krasicki from Lisk (Lesko), Count Tadeusz Tarnowski, Count Izydor Dzie duszycki, Piotr Gross from Koniszki, Ignacy Skrzyński from Strzyżów, Zdzisław Skrzyński from Harta, Stanisław Starowiejski from Bratkówka, Jakób Wiktor from Lviv (original spelling), Ignacy Łukasiewicz from Harkówka and Count Stanisław Karol Klobass from Zręcin who could confirm his reliability and zeal [45]. That same year, he took up the position of the chief controller of the entail estates, and a few years later he served as the deputy treasury's proxy.

After arriving in Łańcut, the Kahane family moved to the estate of Count Potocki, and in 1891 they moved to a newly built house at Sienna Street on which there was the Potocki family coat of arms with the initials RP (Roman Potocki) on the front façade. Philip's daughter 14-year-old Elizabeth Kahane described their house as the land of happiness from childhood and youth. In a well-preserved manuscript we find a beautiful description of the house where Elizabeth spent her first years of life.

In studies of Filip Kahane's biography, the issue of his immediate family, especially his children rarely appear. Only in Wikipedia there is information that he had two sons: Czesław and Ludwik. In fact, Filip and Alina had nine children: Józefa Janina (called Inia at home, born in 1879 and died in 1909), Czesław Konrad (born in Sanok on 11 November 1879 and died from bronchitis at the age of 8 months on 29 March 1880) [32], Wanda (born in 1880 and died in 1966), Zofia (born in 1881 and died in 1940), Zdzisław Witold (born in Łańcut on 17 May 1884 and died in 1933) [34], Elżbieta (called Elżunia at home, born probably in Łańcut in 1886 and died in 1974), Aldona (born in 1889 and died in 1961), Irena (born in 1891 and died in 1945) and Ludwik (born and died on 25 August 1894, he died during birth and was baptized by a midwife Józefa Śliwińska) [33].

On 4 January 1907, Alina (née) Drozdowska Sanbra Kahanowa purchased a plot of land of 10 areas 68 square meters for exclusive and perpetual ownership for the price of 500 crowns from His Excellency Count Roman Potocki who was the entail owner in Łańcut. The Kahane family built the house, which still exists, on this land [40].

Returning to the earliest period of the history of the Łańcut "nest", it should be emphasized that it was characterized by the high activity of its co-founders and members. The lack of own gymnasium was a big problem for "falcons". Therefore, following the example of other "nests" they planned to build their own house. The "nest" authorities took a number of actions, they organized festivals and profitable events in order to fund this investment. The raised money was used to build "Sokolnia". It is worth men-

tioning that many researchers of the issue say that the Łańcut society bought a plot for the construction of "Sokolnia" from Count Potocki [11; 14]. Reliable archival sources led to interesting findings. Well, thanks to Filip Kahan's exceptional commitment, social and professional position, Count Potocki donated two plots of land for the construction of a 400-fathom "Sokolnia". It is evidenced by the donation contract of 12 August 1895, signed by the ordynat in Łańcut and the notary Antoni Hanusz [29]. Less than six months after "Sokolnia" was put into service, on 26 April 1897, a vice-president Filip Sanbra Kahane convinced Count Potocki to sell the estate in the form of land adjacent to "Sokół's" land at a preferential price of 2,000 Rhine zlotys. At the beginning of 1898, the arrangement of a tasteful walking garden began under the watchful eye of Kahane himself [26].

At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, the town of Łańcut hummed with social, economic, political, cultural and educational life [6]. Cultural and educational activities in "Sokół" institutions took various forms. Usually, the most popular events such as: social gatherings, dance parties, festivals, evening parties, children's parties, and vocal and musical evenings were organized. The latter were organized along with a gymnastic exercise show. Such initiatives played an important role in uniting local "Sokół" communities. An additional integrating factor, whose importance cannot be overestimated, was the joint celebration of national anniversaries which strengthened the sense of national identity [8]. Filip Sanbra Kahane took an active part in all pro-social projects, especially in the anniversaries of national liberation uprisings, the Constitution of May 3 and celebrations related to great Poles such as: Tadeusz Kościuszko or Adam Mickiewicz. During these patriotic celebrations, he was often asked to speak and he gave speeches and proclamations. During the ceremony organized on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the January Uprising, Sanbra Kahane gave hope and faith in the future of a free homeland: "Thirty years have passed since the moment when the oppression of enemies and the despair of the oppressed nation inspired

sons who loved their homeland and wanted to perish rather than be taken captive to fight for independence and with helpless moans ask for mercy from indifferent Europe. Thirty years of unspeakable, indescribable torture have been endured by our homeland and the Polish Nation which has the right to live and which has been deprived of these rights by brutal violence. A sad anniversary, a great day, a day of sacrifice and bloody sacrifice, but also a moment that lifts the spirit and strengthens national hopes <...>. Today's anniversary teaches us faith. Faith in the future, in the victory of a good cause as a result of noble, tireless efforts, which is the source of national vitality. It is a power that will never be defeated by anything. In 1863, faith arms young hands to a life-and-death struggle. Faith does not allow our nation to fall into doubt after the defeat of the January uprising. Faith gathers us for the holy celebration of national anniversaries and reminds our enemies that we are alive. And from this faith, a comforting angel awakens in our breasts, bringing peace to our souls through tears, which is our national sister of faith. This angel is the hope of a better future" [47]. During one of the anniversaries of the Kościuszko Uprising, he emphasized firmly the role of "falcons" in striving for free Poland: "I just want to say a few words about the task assigned to us, "falcons", in this matter. Well, if the Great Commander a hero who captivated crowds by calling all classes and professions to participate in a holy cause. If he managed to unite them in the name of love for the Homeland without reservations, if Kościuszko's name has remained to this day a synonym for absolute devotion to the national cause, then the same, our role of "falcons" is designated, our post is clearly defined. We are to be the vanguard of this great army that is called a nation. We are all supposed to unite, all in the name of this great idea, we are supposed to pave the way for society to unite forces. We are to illuminate the paths that lead to the independence of the nation, we are to dispel the darkness of sybaritism, the darkness of comfort and lethargy. This is our goal and our mission, which I recommend that you follow, dear friends" [48].

Poland disappeared from the map of Europe for 123 long years. However, thanks to statesmen such as Filip Sanbra Kahane, national consciousness, common identity and sense of separateness survived in Polish society and allowed Poland to be born again. “And as long as the feeling of love for our land lives in us, for a beautiful and rich language, we will constitute an immortal nation which like a Phoenix will be reborn from its own ashes until finally cleansed of errors, passing the trials of fire it will shine with its former splendor. Long live Poland and all those who are ready to shed blood for it!”. He spoke to the residents of the Łańcut lands during the 57th anniversary of the November Uprising [49].

It is also worth noting the fact that on 27 May 1908, the entire Łańcut “Sokół” branch under the unanimous act of the General Meeting, in recognition of the extraordinary patriotic spirit, tireless zeal for development since the establishment of the “nest” and long-term significant leadership, included Filip Sanbra Kahane among its honorary members [43].

He spent his last years in the bosom of his family, which surrounded him with respect and boundless love. The outbreak of the war in 1914 had a negative impact on his health. During the Russian invasion he remained in Łańcut. It is worth noting that many sources give the wrong date of death 1907 [5], 25.11.1915 [10], but it is absolutely true that he died on 20 November

1915 [11; 19; 41]. During an extremely solemn funeral, large crowds escorted the body of the venerable veteran to the Łańcut cemetery. A comrade-in-arms and faithful friend Jan Newlin Mazaraki spoke at the grave, praising his courage and endurance in the face of hardships and wanderings through the forests on those frosty January days. The funeral was attended by residents, school children and veteran legionnaires [20]. The fact that he was a valued resident of Łańcut is evidenced by the correspondence of Jan Cetnarski, a former mayor of the town who on 25 November 1915 wrote to his daughter Elizabeth: “Having learned after returning from the trip about the death of the honorable Lady’s Father and such a distinguished Pole who did not hesitate to bring life and blood on the altar of the salvation of the Homeland, I take the liberty of sending heartfelt and warm expressions of true sympathy both to the Reverend Lady and the entire Family. I express my deepest respect and estimation” [37].

**Conclusions.** Filip Sanbra Kahane is a great role model today. An example of a soldier, a great “falcon”, who was ready to make the greatest sacrifices for the good cause. He is a figure who remains steadfast in situations when his health and life are at risk, for whom national pride and the honor of the homeland are the greatest values. It is a symbol of timeless values that mean less and less to modern generations as time passes.

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