

Турежанова София Абдугалиевна\* – кандидат исторических наук, ассистент профессора кафедры социально-гуманитарных дисциплин, Костанайский региональный университет имени Ахмет Байтұрсынұлы, Республика Казахстан, 110000 г. Костанай, 5 мкрн., д. 9, кв. 39, тел.: +77054465113, e-mail: sofia-kz59@bk.ru.

Нурушева Гульмира Келдыбаевна – доктор PhD, старший преподаватель кафедры социально-гуманитарных дисциплин, Костанайский региональный университет имени Ахмет Байтұрсынұлы, Республика Казахстан, 110000 г. Костанай, мкрн. Береке, 53, кв. 85, тел.: +77773799827, e-mail: ng-8080@mail.ru.

Саметова Гульмира Сейтбековна – доктор PhD, ассистент профессора социально-гуманитарных дисциплин, Костанайский региональный университет имени Ахмет Байтұрсынұлы, Республика Казахстан, 110000 г. Костанай, пр. Назарбаева, 195, кв. 137, тел.: +77052153477, e-mail: sametova102@gmail.com.

Легкий Дмитрий Максимович – тарих ғылымдарының докторы, профессор, әлеуметтік-гуманитарлық пәндер кафедрасы, Ахмет Байтұрсынұлы атындағы Қостанай өңірлік университеті, Қазақстан Республикасы, 110000 Қостанай қ., Садовая көш. 73-үй, 46-пәт., тел.: +77772882577, e-mail: Legk\_d@mail.ru.

Турежанова София Абдугалиевна\* – тарих ғылымдарының кандидаты, әлеуметтік-гуманитарлық пәндер кафедрасының профессор ассистенті, Ахмет Байтұрсынұлы атындағы Қостанай өңірлік университеті, Қазақстан Республикасы, 110000 Қостанай қ., 5 ш/а, 9-үй, 39-пәт., тел.: +77054465113, e-mail: sofia-kz59@bk.ru.

Нурушева Гүлмира Келдібайқызы – PhD докторы, әлеуметтік-гуманитарлық пәндер кафедрасының аға оқытушысы, Ахмет Байтұрсынұлы атындағы Қостанай өңірлік университеті, Қазақстан Республикасы, 110000 Қостанай қ., Береке ш/а., 53-үй, 85-пәт., тел.: +77773799827, e-mail: ng-8080@mail.ru.

Саметова Гүлмира Сейітбекқызы – PhD докторы, әлеуметтік-гуманитарлық пәндер кафедрасының профессор ассистенті, Ахмет Байтұрсынұлы атындағы Қостанай өңірлік университеті, Қазақстан Республикасы, 110000 Қостанай қ., Назарбаев даңғ. 195-үй, 137-пәт., тел.: +77052153477, e-mail: sametova102@gmail.com.

Legkiy Dmitriy Maximovich – Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, Department of social and humanitarian disciplines, Akhmet Baitursynuly Kostanay Regional University, Republic of Kazakhstan, 110000, Kostanay, 73 Sadovaya Str., apt. 46, tel.: +77772882577, e-mail: Legk\_d@mail.ru.

Turezhanova Sofiya Abdugaliyevna\* – Candidate of Historical Sciences, Assistant Professor of the Department of social and humanitarian disciplines, Akhmet Baitursynuly Kostanay Regional University, Republic of Kazakhstan, 110000, Kostanay, 5 m/d, bld. 9, apt. 39, tel.: +77054465113, e-mail: sofia-kz59@bk.ru.

Nurusheva Gulmira Keldybayevna – PhD, Senior Lecturer of the Department of social and humanitarian disciplines, Akhmet Baitursynuly Kostanay Regional University, Republic of Kazakhstan, 110000, Kostanay, 53 Bereke m/d, apt. 85, tel.: +77773799827, e-mail: ng-8080@mail.ru.

Sametova Gulmira Seitbekovna – PhD, Assistant Professor of the Department of social and humanitarian disciplines, Akhmet Baitursynuly Kostanay Regional University, Republic of Kazakhstan, 110000, Kostanay, 195 Nazarbayev Ave., apt. 137, tel.: +77052153477, e-mail: sametova102@gmail.com.

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#### SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND IN THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN AND AKHMET BAITURSYNULY KOSTANAY REGIONAL UNIVERSITY (2012-2023)

Khazbiyevich S. – PhD in Political Sciences, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Kazakhstan 2017-2023, Gdansk, Poland.

Borissova A.\* – Master of Humanities, Z. Aldamzhar Kostanay Social and Technical University, Kostanay, Republic of Kazakhstan.

The article summarizes the results of scientific and educational cooperation carried out during the period from 2012 to 2023 by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Akhmet Baitursynuly Kostanay Regional University. Special emphasis is placed on the contribution of Kazakhstani scholars to the study of the circumstances surrounding the deportation of Polish citizens to the Kazakh SSR

during the Stalinist repressions, as well as on the examination of how the history of the formation of General Władysław Anders' army – using the Kostanay Region as a case study – has been represented in the Kazakhstani media. The prospects for further expansion and deepening of Polish–Kazakh scientific and educational cooperation are highlighted, emphasizing the significance of the initiatives of the Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland in Kazakhstan, whose efforts have significantly enhanced the effectiveness of interactions between Polish diplomatic missions and Kazakhstani universities and research centers. The importance of agreements and joint projects concluded by the Akhmet Baitursynuly Kostanay Regional University with the Embassy of Poland and leading Polish research institutions is underlined. On this basis, major international scientific conferences and thematic exhibitions were organized, collective monographs were published, and joint scientific articles by Polish and Kazakhstani researchers, involving master's and doctoral students, appeared both in Poland and in Kazakhstan. These initiatives not only improved the quality of the educational process and research work but also strengthened bilateral academic ties, laying a solid foundation for long-term cooperation in the humanitarian and educational spheres.

**Key words:** diplomacy, Kazakhstan, Poland, science, higher education, World War II.

### **ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНДАҒЫ ПОЛЬША РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫҢ ЕЛШІЛІГІМЕН АХМЕТ БАЙТҰРСЫНҰЛЫ АТЫНДАҒЫ ҚОСТАНАЙ Өңірлік университетінің 2012–2023 жж. ҒЫЛЫМИ-БІЛІМ БЕРУ САЛАСЫНДАҒЫ ЫНТЫМАҚТАСТЫҒЫ**

Хазбиевич С. – саяси ғылымдар докторы, 2017–2023 жылдары Қазақстан Республикасындағы Польша Республикасының Төтенше және Өкілетті Елшісі, Гданьск қ., Польша.

Борисова А.\* – гуманитарлық ғылымдар магистрі, З. Алдамжар атындағы Қостанай әлеуметтік-техникалық университеті, Қостанай қ., Қазақстан Республикасы.

Мақалада 2012–2023 жж. Қазақстан Республикасындағы Польша Республикасының Елшілігі мен Ахмет Байтұрсынұлы атындағы Қостанай өңірлік университеті арасындағы ғылыми-білім беру ынтымақтастығының қорытындылары жасалған. Әсіресе сталиндік қуғын-сүргін жылдары Қазақ КСР аумағына жер аударылған поляк азаматтарының жағдайын зерттеудегі қазақстандық ғалымдардың рөліне және генерал Владислав Андерс армиясының құрылу тарихының (Қостанай облысы мысалында) Қазақстан БАҚ-тарында бейнеленуіне ерекше көңіл бөлінеді. Польша мен Қазақстан арасындағы ғылыми-білім беру байланыстарын одан әрі кеңейту мен тереңдетудің болашағы ашып көрсетіліп, Қазақстан Республикасындағы Польша Республикасының Төтенше және Өкілетті Елшілерінің бастамалары поляк дипломатиялық өкілдіктері мен қазақстандық жоғары оқу орындарының өзара іс-қимыл тиімділігін айтарлықтай арттырғаны атап өтіледі. Ахмет Байтұрсынұлы атындағы Қостанай өңірлік университетінің Польша Республикасының Елшілігі және жетекші поляк ғылыми орталықтарымен жасасқан келісімдері мен бірлескен жобаларының маңыздылығы көрсетіледі. Осы негізде ірі халықаралық ғылыми конференциялар мен тақырыптық көрмелер ұйымдастырылып, ұжымдық монографиялар жарық көрді, сондай-ақ магистранттар мен докторанттардың қатысуымен поляк және қазақстандық зерттеушілердің бірлескен ғылыми мақалалары Польша мен Қазақстанда жарияланды. Бұл бастамалар оқу процесінің және ғылыми-зерттеу жұмысының сапасын арттыруға ғана емес, сонымен қатар екіжақты академиялық байланыстарды нығайтып, гуманитарлық және білім беру салаларындағы ұзақ мерзімді ынтымақтастықтың берік іргетасын қалауға ықпал етті.

**Түйінді сөздер:** дипломатия, Қазақстан, Польша, ғылым, жоғары білім, Екінші дүниежүзілік соғыс.

### **НАУЧНО-ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО ПОСОЛЬСТВА РЕСПУБЛИКИ ПОЛЬША В РЕСПУБЛИКЕ КАЗАХСТАН И КОСТАНАЙСКОГО РЕГИОНАЛЬНОГО УНИВЕРСИТЕТА ИМ. АХМЕТ БАЙТҰРСЫНҰЛЫ (2012-2023 ГГ.)**

Хазбиевич С. – доктор политических наук, чрезвычайный и полномочный Посол Республики Польша в Республике Казахстан 2017-2023 гг., г. Гданьск, Польша.

Борисова А.\* – магистр гуманитарных наук, Костанайский социально-технический университет им. З. Алдамжар, г. Костанай, Республика Казахстан.

В статье подводятся итоги научно-образовательного сотрудничества, развивавшегося в 2012-2023 гг. между Посольством Республики Польша в Республике Казахстан и Костанайским региональным университетом имени Ахмет Байтұрсынұлы. Особое внимание уделено роли казахстанских учёных в исследовании положения польских граждан, депортированных в годы сталинских репрессий на территорию Казахской ССР, а также анализу отражения истории формирования армии генерала Владислава Андерса (на примере Костанайской области) в средствах массовой информации Казахстана. Раскрываются перспективы дальнейшего расширения и углубления польско-казахстанского научно-образовательного взаимодействия, подчёркивается значение

дипломатической деятельности чрезвычайных и полномочных Послов Республики Польша, чьи инициативы позволили значительно повысить результативность контактов польских дипломатических представительств с казахстанскими вузами и научными центрами. Отмечается важность заключённых Костанайским региональным университетом имени Ахмет Байтұрсынұлы соглашений и реализации совместных проектов с Посольством Республики Польша и ведущими польскими научными учреждениями. На их основе были организованы и проведены ряд крупных международных научных конференций и тематических выставок, изданы коллективные монографии, опубликованы совместные научные статьи польских и казахстанских исследователей при участии магистрантов и докторантов как в Польше, так и в Казахстане. Эти инициативы не только способствовали повышению качества учебного процесса и научно-исследовательской работы, но и укрепили двусторонние академические связи, заложив прочный фундамент для долгосрочного сотрудничества в гуманитарной и образовательной сферах.

**Ключевые слова:** дипломатия, Казахстан, Польша, наука, высшее образование, Вторая мировая война.

**Introduction.** The cooperation between the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Akhmet Baitursynov Kostanay Regional University is currently a striking example of the strengthening of Kazakh-Polish relations in the fields of science, culture, and education. A significant contribution to this process in 2011-2023 was made by representatives of the Polish diplomatic mission in the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic: Jacek Kluczkowski, 2011-2015, professor at the Institute of East European Studies, Warsaw, Poland; Maciej Lang, 2015-2016; Selim Khazbiyevich, 2017-2023, Doctor of Political Science, Professor at the Institute of Political Science, University of Warmia and Mazury.

The conclusion of international agreements became the basis for cooperation: 2012 international project of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in the Republic of Kazakhstan "Polish diplomatic missions in Kazakhstan 1941-1943"; Agreement between A. Baitursynov KSU (further KRU) and the University of Warmia and Mazury, extended on June 10, 2019; Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between A. Baitursynov KRU and the W. Pilecki Institute of Solidarity and Courage on August 21, 2019. ; Agreement on joint supervision of doctoral research by A.S. Berkimbaeva and A.P. Borisova between D.M. Legky, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor at A. Baitursynov KRU, and S. Khazbiyevich, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic in 2018-2022. In addition, cooperation was carried out in accordance with a scientific project registered with the National Center for Historical and Cultural Research from 2013 to 2023. "The history of the deportation of Polish citizens to Kazakhstan and the activities of the delegation (embassy) of the Republic of Poland in the Kostanay region during World War II, 1939-1945 (initiative topic), Regional registration number 0116RK 00265." The working group of the Department of Social Sciences and Humanities of the Kostanay Regional University named after A. Baitursynov included: D. M. Legky, head; A. M. Berkimbaeva, master's student, doctoral student (2015-2018); A. P. Borisova, master's student, doctoral student (2015-2023); G. M. Kenееva, master's student (2018-2020); A. A. Logvinchuk, master's student (2023).

**Goal and objectives. Goal:** to present the results of scientific and educational cooperation between the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Akhmet Baitursynov Kostanay Regional University (2012-2023). **Objectives:** to highlight the role of scientists from the Akhmet Baitursynov Kostanay Regional University in studying the situation of Polish citizens deported to the territory of the Kazakh SSR; to shed light on the coverage of the history of the formation of General Anders' army (using the example of the Kostanay region) in the Kazakh media; to reveal the prospects for scientific and educational cooperation between Poland and Kazakhstan.

**Materials and methods.** Discussion. To solve the set tasks, three fundamental scientific publications were published under the auspices of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in the Republic of Kazakhstan, where, on the basis of declassified documents, a number of controversial issues of the studied topic were highlighted. These include the books: "From the History of the Deportation of Poles to Kazakhstan during World War II" and "Polish Diplomats in Kazakhstan 1941-1943" [1,2]. Their subject matter has attracted keen interest from a wide range of researchers in the field. The joint work of scientists from Kazakhstan and Poland resulted in a collection of documents entitled "The Polish Delegation in Kazakhstan in 1941-1943: The War Era and Diplomats in Documents (based on the example of the Kostanay Region of the Kazakh SSR)" [3]. In addition, collective monographs were published under the auspices of the Council of Veterans of the Kostanay Region [4,5] and the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan [6].

As scientific advisors for two doctoral dissertations, D. M. Legky and S. Khazbiyevich, together with their doctoral students A. M. Berkimbaeva and A. P. Borisova, published articles in the international peer-reviewed journals Scopus, Web of Science: the journals "History" and "Modern and Contemporary History" of the Institute of General History of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In Poland, an article was published in the journal "Przegląd Wschodnioeuropejski" ("Eastern European Review") [7, 8, 9]. In addition, D. M. Legky, in collaboration with master's student A. A. Logvinchuk, has a 2024 publication in the Bulletin of Volgograd State

University, History. Regional Studies. International Relations [10]. A number of articles have been published in socio-political journals in Poland [11,12] and Kazakhstan [13, 14], in which D. M. Legkyi recounts the history of the deportation of Poles to the Kostanay region, including his publications together with master's and doctoral students in the journal of the Polish diaspora in Kazakhstan, Kurier Polonijny. Almaty Courier [15-20]. Participation in international scientific conferences in Kazakhstan provided an opportunity to present the results of his scientific research [ 21-24].

A number of articles by D. M. Legky, including those with doctoral students [25-30], have been published in the local press, allowing the results of scientific research to be communicated to a wide audience. Newspaper editors have been quick to highlight major scientific and socio-political events involving Kazakh and Polish scientists and diplomats, as well as exhibitions held by the Polish Embassy in Kazakhstan [31-39].

**Results.** The results of cooperation between Kazakh and Polish researchers proved to be very effective as a result of joint events held by the Polish Embassy in Kazakhstan and the Akhmet Baitursynov Kostanay State University, with agreements signed with foreign universities and research centers. When the international project of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in the Republic of Kazakhstan "Polish diplomatic missions in Kazakhstan 1941-1943" was created in 2012, D. M. Legky was included in the working group.

With the assistance of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic, agreements were concluded on a parity basis for grant financing of scientific research for the project "Activities of Polish diplomatic missions in Kazakhstan during World War II" in the KRU Akhmet Baitursynov: 2012. On October 1, an agreement was signed with the foreign research institute in Poland "Fundacja Ośrodka KARTA" for the project "Index of the Repressed. Issue XXI" with a corresponding research grant; 2014 grant for the preparation of the international exhibition "Activities of Polish Delegations in Kazakhstan (1941-1943)" (co-authored by Professor Legky D.M.); 2016, June 6-8, travel grant to D.M. Legky for participation in the international scientific conference "Europe in Asia. From the history of Polish citizens in Kazakhstan during World War II" at the Pedagogical University named after the Commission of Public Education; In 2017, D.M. Legky took part in a national creative competition dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the deportation of Poles to Kazakhstan, organized by the NGO "Polska Jedność" ("Polish Unity") in Astana, where he took first place [www.inform.kz]. In 2019, from June 15 to 30, D. M. Legky received a travel grant to Poland at the invitation of the University of Warmia and Mazury; 2021, August 29, grant from the W. Pilecki Institute for the collective monograph "The Fate of the Polish Intelligentsia during World War II"; 2021 September 16-23 - Travel grant from the Museum of Memory of Siberia in Poland for the opening of the museum in Białystok.

The cooperation between the Polish Embassy in Kazakhstan and the Akhmet Baitursynov KRU has resulted in the organization of international documentary exhibitions. Official sources have highlighted the significant role of these events. We quote: "On June 15, 2015, the Museum of the First President of Kazakhstan will host the opening of the documentary exhibition 'Polish Diplomats in Kazakhstan (1941-1943).' The exhibition materials are the result of research conducted by the Centre for Documentation of Exile, Deportation and Resettlement at the Pedagogical University in Krakow, Dmitry Legky, Doctor of Historical Sciences, and Nadezhda Stepanenko, Candidate of Historical Sciences" [35]. The presentation was repeated in Kostanay on November 17, 2015. The exhibition "Polish Diplomats in Kazakhstan in 1941-1943" opened at the regional House of Friendship with the participation of the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Poland to Kazakhstan, Maciej Lang. Kostanay was the first stop not only because it was one of nine Kazakh cities where Polish delegations were based, but also because Professor Dmitry Legky, Doctor of Historical Sciences at Kostanay State University, took an active part in preparing the exhibition materials [32]. A year later, on June 6-7, 2016, the presentation continued in Poland (Krakow and Warsaw) and the United Kingdom (London).



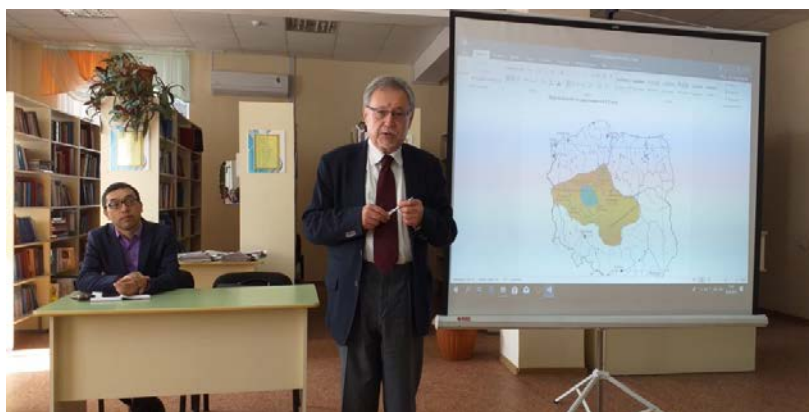
*Pic. 1. Polish Ambassador to Kazakhstan Maciej Lang and Professor Dmitry Legky. Kostanay, November 17, 2015*

A notable event in the public life of Kazakhstan was the international exhibition “Struggle and Suffering,” dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the start of World War II, held on October 7, 2019, by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Polish Embassy in Kazakhstan at the Akhmet Baitursynov KRU. The regional press noted the significance of the international forum. We quote: “Its organizers are the A. Baitursynov Kostanay Regional University and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Kazakhstan. The Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented a documentary exhibition entitled” Struggle and Suffering.” “This is how the Poles see World War II, which began with them”. The conclusion of two agreements in 2018-2021 on the joint supervision of doctoral students with Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Professor S. Khazbiyevich, made it possible to solve educational tasks, including joint scientific supervision with Doctor of Historical Sciences D. M. Light scientific research by doctoral student A. S. Berkimbayeva in 2018-2021 and doctoral student A. P. Borisova in 2021-2023.



*Pic. 2.* Vice-Rector for Research and External Relations at Baitursynov Kostanay Regional University Zhenis Zharlygasov, Polish Ambassador to Kazakhstan Selim Khazbiyevich, Professor Dmitry Legky. September 29, 2017

The terms of the agreements enabled the Polish Embassy in Kazakhstan to hold a series of events in Kostanay. Official information: “On September 20-22, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Kazakhstan, Selim Khazbiyevich, visited Kostanay and took part in the Kostanay-Invest 2017 investment forum held there. He also visited the A. Baitursynov Kostanay Regional University, where he gave a lecture on the history of Poland. The lecture was attended by students majoring in Eastern European Studies at the Faculty of History and Political Science. Similarly, on June 5-7, 2019, he gave three public lectures: “Polish-Lithuanian Tatars and the Golden Horde,” “European Integration. History and Genesis” and “Geopolitical Relations between Poland and the Russian Empire.”



*Pic. 3.* Serikzhan Ismailov, Head of the Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, and Selim Khazbiyevich, Polish Ambassador to Kazakhstan.

As a reciprocal exchange, on the initiative of S. Khazbiyevich, D. M. Legky was sent on a business trip to Poland from June 15 to 30, 2019, at the invitation of the University of Warmia and Mazury. As a result, negotiations were held with the leadership of the history departments of the following universities: Warmia and Mazury, Jagiellonian, Warsaw; research institutions: the Institute of National Remembrance of Poland in



Warsaw and Krakow, the W. Pilecki Institute in Warsaw, the Museum of Siberian Memory in Bialystok, with the conclusion of cooperation agreements.

Thanks to invitations from the Polish Embassy in Kazakhstan, D.M. Legky gave presentations: on November 17-18, 2011, at a conference dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the deportation of Poles to Kazakhstan, in Karaganda, on the topic "Deportation of Polish citizens to Kazakhstan (using the example of the Kostanay region) at the beginning of World War II"; On June 15, 2015, he spoke at an international scientific conference in Astana entitled "Polish diplomats in Kazakhstan (1941-1943)" with a presentation entitled "The activities of the Polish embassy delegation in the city of Kostanay, Kazakh SSR (1941-1943): Restoring Historical Memory." On October 7, 2019, A. Baitursynov KRU, together with the Polish Embassy in Kazakhstan, held a Polish-Kazakh scientific and practical conference entitled "World War II and Its Legacy" with a grant from the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The international scientific forum was covered in the media [38-39]. We quote: "Its organizers are A. Baitursynov Kostanay State University and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Kazakhstan. As part of the forum, a book by Polish and Kazakh scientists entitled "The Polish Delegation in Kazakhstan. 1941-1943" was presented. Its authors are Polish Ambassador Selim Khazbiyevich, Doctor of Historical Sciences Dmitry Legky, and Master of History Asel Berkimbayeva" [39].



*Pic. 4. Polish Ambassador to Kazakhstan Selim Khazbiyevich and Professor Dmitry Legky. A. Baitursynov Kostanay National University, October 7, 2019*

On November 10, 2020, doctoral student A. P. Borisova, together with her academic advisor D. M. Legky, participated in the opening of the exhibition "John Paul II – Pope of Dialogue" in Astana as part of the international project "Dialogue through Culture," organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in the Republic of Kazakhstan. On May 26, 2022, doctoral student A. P. Borisova was invited to participate in the International Round Table "The Experience of Regional Cooperation of the Visegrad Group: What Lessons Can Be Learned by Central Asia," organized with the support of the Institute of Foreign Policy Studies under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan with the participation of representatives of diplomatic missions. During the presentation of the report "Kazakhstan's point of view for the Visegrad Group," the doctoral student presented an analysis of the key mechanisms of interaction between the Visegrad Group countries and considered the potential for their application in the Central Asian region. Participation in the event was particularly significant in the context of the doctoral student's research topic, "Historical and cultural ties between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Visegrad Group countries."

**Conclusion.** As a result, the participants of the scientific project of the Department of Social Sciences and Humanities of the Akhmet Baitursynov Kostanay Regional University of the Republic of Kazakhstan have done a significant amount of work. Twenty-five scientific works were published, including: six collective monographs (two with foreign scientists and two with university doctoral students); eleven articles in scientific journals (four of which are indexed in Scopus, two published in Poland, six jointly with doctoral students and master's students); four theses from international conferences in Kazakhstan; in addition, five articles have been published in local periodicals and eight articles in the media about various events organized by the Polish Embassy in Kazakhstan at the Akhmet Baitursynov Kostanay Regional University.

Polish diplomats are unanimous in their opinion that Kazakhstan is a very interesting country. In fact, not only for us. Here, East meets West, North meets South in terms of cultural influence, and above all, the ancient culture of the great steppe is evident. The vastness of the country is astonishing. Northern Kazakhstan is home not only to Kazakhs, but also to Russians, Ukrainians, Poles, Germans, Tatars, and other nations. Poles live in Kostanay, where there is a Polish association. "During my diplomatic service in 2017-2023, the Polish Embassy cooperated with the university in Kostanay, primarily on matters related to the history of the Polish diplomatic mission during World War II. This is stated by Selim Khazbiyevich, Doctor of Political Science

and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Kazakhstan from 2017 to 2023. "For me, as a historian and ambassador, this was a very important aspect of the embassy's activities in the cultural sphere, and I also found the meetings with students at the Akhmet Baitursynov Kostanay Regional University to be a wonderful experience."

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**Information about authors:**

*Khazbiyevich Selim – PhD in Political Sciences, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Kazakhstan 2017-2023, Poland, 80-008–80-958, Gdansk, e-mail: sKhazbiyevich@gmail.com.*

*Borrisova Anna\* – Master of Humanities, Z.Aldamzhar Kostanay Social and Technical University, Republic of Kazakhstan, 110000, Kostanay, 27 Koblandy Batyr Str., tel.: +77059027301, e-mail: fialka.anechka@mail.ru.*

*Хазбиевич Селим – саяси ғылымдар докторы, 2017-2023 жж. Польша Республикасының Қазақстан Республикасындағы Төтенше және Өкілетті Елшісі, Польша, 80-008–80-958 Гданьск қ., e-mail: sKhazbiyevich@gmail.com.*

*Борисова Анна\* – гуманитарлық ғылымдар магистрі, Қостанай әлеуметтік-техникалық университеті. З. Алдамжар, Қазақстан Республикасы, 110000 Қостанай қ., Қобланды батыр көш., 27, тел: +77059027301, e-mail: fialka.anechka@mail.ru.*

*Хазбиевич Селим – доктор политических наук, чрезвычайный и полномочный Посол Республики Польша в Республике Казахстан 2017-2023 гг., Польша, 80-008–80-958 г. Гданьск, e-mail: sKhazbiyevich@gmail.com.*

*Борисова Анна\* – магистр гуманитарных наук, Костанайский социально-технический университет им. З. Алдамжар, Республика Казахстан, 110000 г. Костанай, Кобланды батыра, 27, тел: +77059027301, e-mail: fialka.anechka@mail.ru.*