



Silesia

Annotated bibliography

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Abstract	<p>In the age of frequent business and social interactions between Poles and French, it's crucial to recognise the similarities and differences stemming from the distinct underlying norms of courtesy in each country. Ignorance of these norms can lead to unnecessary misunderstandings and disappointments.. For a significant period, France served as a model of elegant behaviour and good manners for many European nations. Admiring and emulating French manners and behaviour, numerous phrases and expressions were adopted that are still prevalent today in various aspects of life, especially in social contexts. Following the behavioural standards of France from the period of 1876 to 1922 was particularly favoured, marked by the widespread popularity of translations of French manuals on etiquette. In this article, I address the issue of the Polish and French models of courtesy and the resulting codes of conduct that govern social interactions. These codes dictate what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in the company of others, specify obligations towards elders and superiors, and delineate the</p>	

	<p>conduct of men towards women. I analyse the nuances of polite conversation, the act of a man kissing a woman's hand and the attitudes of Polish and French students towards the concept of savoir-vivre.</p>
<p>Content and main findings</p>	<p>This article explores the similarities and differences in polite behaviour between Poland and France. In an era marked by extensive business and social interactions between individuals from both nations, this issue is particularly significant. The lack of understanding regarding the norms of appropriate behaviour, which reflects the mindset of each respective nation, can result in unnecessary misunderstandings and errors.</p> <p>The author underlines that France served as the epitome of elegant behaviour and good manners for many European nations over an extended period. Poles held France in high regard, admiring and emulating the customs and behaviours of the French people. To this day, the Polish language incorporates numerous French expressions across various disciplines including art, architecture, astronomy, botany, zoology, chemistry, diplomacy, military affairs, linguistics, medicine, commerce, gastronomy and in everyday life.</p> <p>The norms of behaviour among the French were particularly imitated during the years 1876-1922, when translations of French etiquette manuals were highly valued throughout Poland. In the article, the author compares the Polish and French models of behaviour, examining what is socially endorsed and what is not accepted with regards to attitudes towards elderly individuals, subordinates towards superiors and men towards women. The author analyses the rules of polite conversation, hand-kissing and the attitudes of Polish and French students toward the concept of 'savoir-vivre'.</p>