

***The ideals of the teachers' union movement in the Białystok region during the first years of the restoration of the country***

**Summary**

After the Second World War the Polish Teachers Association (pol. Związek Nauczycielstwa Polskiego – ZNP) started its activity by returning to its original name. Members rebuilt its structures, actively participating the rebuilding of education, combating illiteracy and overcoming poverty. ZNP made efforts to protect teachers from Soviet and Polish state terror. In the beginnings of the new Polish state, ZNP was restricted in its activity because of losses in manpower and resources in the educational sector, and in the state in general, as well as because many of its assets having been seized by the state. This was compounded by unionists and teachers drawn into political infighting. For all these reasons, unionist teachers in the Białystok region in the early post-war years tried to operate in a way which would allow them to preserve the notion of their own value, as well as that of their workplace.