A Word From the President

Greetings! I had hoped to begin this column with a postmortem to the COVID pandemic, but that may have to wait. Yet there are many reasons for optimism. A year ago, we had hoped that the pandemic would be sufficiently behind us to plan our international meeting in Białystok, which we were then forced to cancel. We can now look forward to doing so with confidence. A year ago, our office in New York was closed to visitors, as was the city itself. Today we are preparing to restore normal business operations and to welcome you again to our facilities. Meetings of the PIASA board have been held virtually since March 2020. We can now think about the restoration of in-person gatherings.

We have also learned a good deal. Unable to have “normal” award ceremonies two years in a row, we hosted virtual events featuring our 2020 award recipients. For those of you who could not attend the first time around, we invite you to view the recordings on our website. We have found other ways to make ourselves visible through our revamped website and this very newsletter. The Polish Review is becoming the top shelf journal we had always hoped it to be, reflected in the number and quality of submissions and leaps in readership. Finally, after years of stagnation, membership is up and PIASA is becoming a genuinely international organization.

All these signs encourage us to believe in a brighter future. We hope to see you soon!

— Robert Blobaum, PIASA President

Polish Institute to Meet in Białystok

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for the next PIASA annual meeting to be held at the University of Białystok, Poland, on June 10-12, 2022.

The call for papers will appear in the next issue of the newsletter in October, and may be posted on the Institute’s website prior to that at: https://piasa.org/annual-meetings/. In the meantime, questions may be addressed to the conference chair, Prof. Patrice Dabrowski at pmd639@g.harvard.edu.

Polonicum Centre’s 65th Anniversary

In 2021, the Polonicum Centre of Polish Language and Culture for Foreigners at the University of Warsaw, has been celebrating its 65th anniversary. Each year, the Centre welcomes hundreds of students from all over the world to study Polish at all proficiency levels, as well as enroll in courses on Polish culture, both in Polish and in English. It has organized intensive Polish summer programs since 1956. It also offers a postgraduate program for future teachers of Polish as a foreign language and organizes Polish language state examinations.

The Centre publishes an editorial series “Studia Glotodydaktyczne,” as well as numerous handbooks and teaching materials. It also collaborates with many universities and institutions abroad, from Canada to China. Its faculty participate in international conferences, conduct workshops, and give guest lectures all over the world. The Polonicum Centre awards the prestigious Polonicum Prize for researchers from abroad who have outstanding achievements in promoting Polish language and culture.

The anniversary celebrations, together with a conference on teaching Polish as a foreign language, will take place November 26–27, 2021. A conference volume will be published on this occasion. For information, contact Justyna Zych at j.zych@uw.edu.pl.

— by Justyna Zych
Introducing The Polish Review’s New Editor-in-Chief

The Institute is pleased to introduce Dr. Halina Filipowicz, the editor of The Polish Review and its first female editor-in-chief. She grew up in Russia and Poland and was educated in Poland and the United States, receiving an M.A. from Warsaw University and a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas, and even managing to get some theatre training along the way. She has taught at Warsaw University, the University of Wrocław, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she continues to hold an appointment in the Department of Gender and Women’s Studies. Her awards include fellowship grants from the Andrew Mellon Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College of Harvard University.


In 2014, Filipowicz guest-edited a special issue of The Polish Review (vol. 59, no. 1) on feminism and Polish culture. In 2016-2019, she served as book review editor for the arts and humanities of The Polish Review, and in 2020 was appointed its editor-in-chief. In accepting this appointment, she said: “I am humbled by the trust placed in me by the PIASA Board of Directors, honored to serve as editor, committed to building on the many accomplishments of my predecessors – most recently, James Pula and Neal Pease, and excited to publish cutting-edge scholarship in the Review’s subject areas. I am well aware that there is always more work to do and that there will always be challenges to overcome, but I know that the Review’s editorial team is ready, able, and willing to address those challenges head on.”

The Polish Review is a peer-reviewed, international, and multidisciplinary scholarly quarterly. Its mission is to disseminate scholarly research in the various fields of Polish studies broadly defined to include focus on Poland and the Polish diaspora. To accomplish its mission, The Polish Review publishes original research articles, review articles, book reviews, annotated translations from significant Polish-language literature, and other scholarly materials.

HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES: Manuscripts should be submitted in Microsoft Word via e-mail attachment to the Editor, Halina Filipowicz, at — hfilipow@wisc.edu.

Submissions should be no longer than 6,000 to 10,000 words plus notes, tables, etc. They should include an abstract of approximately 250 words. Manuscripts are evaluated on the basis of their originality; relevance to the mission of the journal; the clarity of the thesis, presentation, and conclusions; and the scope of research. For more information, please consult https://www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/pr/preditors.html.
American Association of the Friends of Kościuszko at West Point, Inc.

Founded in 2003 by Dean Emeritus Anthony J. Bajdek, the Association sponsors an annual Kościuszko Conference at the Thayer Hotel on the grounds of the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY. Held at the end of April, the conference features presentations by American and international scholars and diplomats on various aspects of Kościuszko’s career and related topics. It concludes with a ceremony at the Kościuszko statue overlooking the Hudson River and a formal review of the Corps of Cadets on the fabled Plain.

Organized by Dean Bajdek and Lt. Col. Stephen N. Olejasz, the pandemic forced cancellation of the “in-person” sessions of the 18th annual conference in 2021, necessitating the use of Zoom technology. Centering on “The World of Kościuszko, 1746-1817,” presentations on individual nations highlighted the internal issues and international relations that provided the historical context for the world in which Kościuszko lived and which shaped his opportunities and actions.

Among the participants, in addition to Dean Bajdek and Col. Olejasz, were Hon. Piotr Wilczek, Ambassador of Poland to the United States; Hon. Vaclovas Šalkauskas, Consul General of the Republic of Lithuania in New York; Hon. Adrian Kubicki, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York; Lt. Col. Sean Sculley, Department of History, West Point; Major Andrew Campbell, Department of History, West Point; Lt. Col. Christian Klein, German Army Liaison Officer, West Point; 1st Lt. Gabriel Garrote, Professor of Military History. Académie Militaire Saint-Cyr Coëtquidan; Prof. Guillaume Lasconjarias, Head, Defense Policies and Environment, International Relations and Strategy Directorate, French Ministry of Defense; Prof. Lawrence K. Mansour, Department of Modern Languages, West Point; Prof. Emeritus James S. Pula, Purdue University; Prof. Robert A. Vitas, Chair, Lithuanian Research and Studies Center; Col. Matthew Pawlikowski, U.S. Army chaplain (ret.); and Cynthia J. Bajdek, the Association’s Founding Secretary-Treasurer.

The Association’s website contains information on future and previous conferences, as well as other items. See www.kosciuszkoatwestpoint.org.

The 19th Annual Conference is being planned for West Point, NY, on April 22-23, 2022. For information, contact Dean Bajdek at a.j.bajdek@comcast.net.

Janusz Korczak Digital Archive

President Jerry Nussbaum of The Janusz Korczak Association of Canada recently announced the beginning of an open access electronic archive containing material about the developer of an innovative system for raising children largely responsible for the 1989 United Nations convention on universal children’s rights. Korczak died at the hands of the Germans, along with a group of children, in Treblinka in 1942. The archive contains personal writings and documents, along with texts about him. Gathered from around the world, the materials are available in English and Polish. For information, visit http://korczakarchive.ca/ and http://korczak.ckc.uw.edu.pl/.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library contains records, reports, and correspondence relating to Polish foreign relations including materials on Polish-Soviet and German-Polish affairs and the international wartime conferences in Casablanca, Québec, Cairo, Tehran, and Yalta. It also has the diaries of James F. T. O’Connor, comptroller of the currency under FDR, which include information on relief efforts for Poland. The Aldrich Family Papers contain documents associated with Gen. John Armstrong, a diplomat, politician and Revolutionary War colleague of Tadeusz Kościuszko and include letters from Kościuszko, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and the Marquis de Lafayette. The library is managed by the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. Finding aids and some documents can be found at https://www.fdrlibrary.org. The library is located in Hyde Park, NY, and can be reached by email at library@roosevelt.nara.gov.

Polish Studies at Academic Studies Press

Andrzej Karcz, associate professor in the Institute of Literary Research at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, has been appointed Series Editor for the Polish Studies Series at Academic Studies Press, Boston, MA. Previously, Prof. Karcz served on the editorial board of the series at ASP. The publisher and the editor invite authors to submit their book proposals in all areas of Polish studies, including literature, film, performance studies, gender and women’s studies, cultural and intellectual history, folklore, and critical theory. See —

Calls for Papers

The Polish Review: The Polish Review, a peer reviewed, international, English language, interdisciplinary academic journal published by the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America, invites submissions on any aspect of Polish or diaspora studies. The Polish Review is abstracted in Historical Abstracts, ABC POL SCI, America: History and Life, Index of Articles on Jewish Studies, MLA International Bibliography, and International Political Science Abstracts. It is also listed among the journals recognized by the American Historical Association and the Polish Ministry of Science. Contributions and correspondence dealing with editorial matters should be sent to Prof. Halina Filipowicz, at hfilipow@wisc.edu. Submissions should be sent via e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word with citations following the Chicago or Turabian style. Quotations, phrases or publication titles in languages other than English should be followed by English translations in parentheses. The editors accept no responsibility for statements of fact or opinion made by contributors.

Upcoming Conferences

August 3-8, 2021—International Council for Central and East European Studies: ICCEES will host its 10th World Congress virtually from Concordia University in Montréal, Canada. Under the theme “Bridging National and Global Perspectives,” the organizers anticipate as many as 1,500 participants from around the world including professors and graduate students in a broad cross-section of disciplines including political science, history, literature, linguistics, journalism, public policy, economics, international trade, and other fields. For further information, contact iccees2021@concordia.ca.

September 22-24, 2021—Treaty of Riga and Other “Post-Versailles” Treaties: The Institute of History and Archival Studies at the Pedagogical University of Kraków will be hosting an international conference on the Treaty of Riga and other “post-Versailles” agreements during the interwar years. For further information, contact the organizers at riga1921@up.krakow.pl.

October 3–7, 2021—What’s New, What’s Next? Innovative Methods, New Sources, and Paradigm Shifts in Jewish Studies: Sponsored by the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, topics include questions such as “What constitutes Jewish studies today? In which direction should the field be heading? What paradigms are guiding the field today? How are theoretical and methodological developments in the humanities and social sciences shaping Jewish studies? What are interdisciplinary approaches contributing to the field? What is the impact of studies of Jewish life in the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth on a wider understanding of world history?” For further information see https://www.polin.pl/en/whatsnew-whats-next-2021 or contact the organizers at whatsnewconference@polin.pl.

October 3-7, 2021—POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews interdisciplinary online conference that will explore new directions in the study of East and Central European Jews. For details contact polin@polin.pl.

October 23, 2021—Polish National Catholic Church: The PNCC Commission on History and Archives will host its 21st Conference of Scholars to be held virtually due to the ongoing pandemic. Papers will include topics devoted to the Polish National Catholic Church, its associations, its outreachs, and various independent movements that preceded or were contemporaneous with the Church. For further information contact Mr. Joseph Seliga at Conference@pncc.org.

November 18–21, 2021—Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies: The ASEEES 53rd Annual Convention will be held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside in New Orleans, LA, emphasizing a theme of “Diversity, Intersectionality, Interdisciplinarity,” especially as the topics shed light on how issues of ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, and sexuality are often perceived differently in Eastern Europe and Eurasia than in the Americas or Western Europe. For conference information contact aseees.convention@pitt.edu.

January 6–9, 2022—Polish American Historical Association: PAHA will hold its 78th annual meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in New Orleans, Louisiana, January 6–9, 2022. For a program and other information, contact the conference chair, Prof. Neal Pease at pease@uwm.edu.

April 22-23, 2022—Kościuszko Conference: The American Association of the Friends of Kościuszko at West Point, Inc., will host its 19th Annual Conference at the Thayer Hotel, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY. A call for papers will appear in a future issue of the newsletter. For information, contact Dean Anthony Bajdek at a.j.bajdek@comcast.net.
The Year of the Pandemic

Anna Frajlich-Zajac, Senior Lecturer Emerita of Polish Language and Literature at Columbia University, received the Susanne Lotarski Distinguished Achievement Award from PIASA. The award recognizes significantly distinguished accomplishment over time and was presented for her many contributions to Polish culture in poetry, prose, and literary studies extending over several decades.

Despite the fact that Covid19 totally sapped our energy, lives and attention, I have many reasons to be thankful over this immensely difficult time that officially started in the United States in the second part of March 2020 and now in June 2021 we are nearing the end.

At the beginning of this period my new collection of poems was published in Szczecin, Poland, and 16 poetry readings in four cities throughout Poland had been arranged. On March 10 our suitcases were waiting at the door, but a few hours before our flight I learned that the universities and cultural institutions in Poland had cancelled all events. We cancelled our flight. The publisher of the book, Paweł Nowakowski of FOR-MA in Poland, arranged a Zoom interview and some YouTube readings that had quite a following.

A few month later, in the US, after lengthy preparations by myself and Ronald Meyer my Ghost of Shakespeare. Collected Essays, sponsored by The Harriman Institute, Columbia University, came out in Boston’s Academic Studies Press. This all happened in the midst of the pandemic.

Nevertheless, institutions with which I have been associated for decades arranged two Zoom promotional interviews. The first, by the Polish Institute of Arts and Science and the Harriman Institute, was introduced by Robert Blobaum and led by Ronald Meyer, the editor of the collection.

The next talk was sponsored by The Kościuszko Foundation, introduced by Ewa Zadworna and conducted by Ross Ufberg, my former student, Columbia Slavic Department M.Phil, and well-regarded translator of Polish literature, including my poetry.

The Ghost of Shakespeare presents various aspects of my interests and studies. I concentrated on the issues that fascinated me in the poetry of Czesław Miłosz, such as “the landscape of return”; Shakespearean motifs guided me to certain elements in the poetry of Wisława Szymborska and the prose of Michał Choromański. Studying Russian literature at New York University and teaching Polish literature at Columbia University inspired in me an appreciation for comparative analysis. My essay “Two Unknown Soldiers” on Joseph Wittlin’s Salt of the Earth also represents that passion of my scholarship. In 1996, I organized at Columbia University an international conference dedicated to Wittlin, which was cosponsored by PIASA and the Kościuszko Foundation.

With time I was given the opportunity to share my research with a wider audience. The essay “Identity and Difference: the Power of Language” was presented in 1998 at the International PEN Congress in Helsinki; “The Scepter of the Far East and the Crown of the Third Rome” came about as an invitation to a conference in Israel in 2004, dedicated “The Russo-Japanese War”; and I presented the text “Must Poetry be Absolutely Modern” to the International Biennial of Poetry in Liege, Belgium in 2012.

When I came to the United States in 1970 as a political refugee, I had a master’s degree in Polish literature from Warsaw University and no expectations for any scholarly future. It was the late Prof. Zoya Yurieff who admired my poetry published in the London émigré magazine Wiadomości who encouraged me to apply for the graduate program in Russian literature studies at New York University that led me to my dissertation.

My 35 years of teaching Polish language and literature at Columbia University, participating in numerous US and international conferences and organizing a number of others myself at Columbia University inspired my own scholarly contributions.

The Ghost of Shakespeare brought me the prestigious Suzanne Lotarski Distinguished Achievement Award “for many contributions to Polish culture in poetry, prose, and literary studies extending over several decades.” The PIASA award conferred upon me, also in the year of pandemic, happened to coincide with the forty-fifth anniversary of my membership in the Polish Institute of Arts and Science. In 1976, six years after my arriving in the United States I became a member. It was the same year my first book of poems was published in London.

This year of Covid19 has brought more events to my plate: in Spain my first Spanish-Polish collection was published, and in Poland I was awarded medals by two universities.

My retirement from teaching opened up some new opportunities to concentrate on projects related to my literary and scholarly writing. I plan to prepare a collection of my essays in Polish, as well as new collections of my poems in English and Polish.
If the Walls Could Speak

Anna Müller received the Oskar Halecki Polish History Award in 2020 for *If the Walls Could Speak: Inside a Women’s Prison in Communist Poland* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018). Cited as the best book on Polish and East Central European history, Müller uses interviews, interrogation records, and the writings of imprisoned women to explore her topic. In this essay she explains her research and writing experience.

My journey that eventually resulted in writing *If the Walls Could Speak: Inside a Women’s Prison in Communist Poland* began in the summer of 2007, when, as a graduate student at Indiana University, I embarked on pre-dissertation research. My plan was to write about the women of Solidarity, those that participated in building and then maintaining Solidarność that is today so often perceived as one of the bricks that led to the fall of communism. In the summer of 2007, I was in Warsaw trying to peruse archives and talk to various Solidarity activists in order to find a key concept that would allow me to understand that history and their experiences. For many reasons, I felt defeated. At some point, one of my interlocutors introduced me to her family member Jadwiga Janiszowska, a former Home Army activist, a Warsaw Uprising insurgent, and finally a prisoner in post-war Poland, who in 1952 received a life sentence that was later commuted to 12 years in prison. Because of the destalinization and the thaw, she was released in 1958. Pani Jadwiga was reluctant to talk with me at first. It took a number of meetings and telephone conversations before I felt that she trusted me. But even in the moments of her certain reluctance, she shared stories but also her interpretations of her experiences, which haunted me for years to come. The question of why did it happen to her? How did the long-term imprisonment affect her later life, and how did she manage to recreate an alternative life in prison? These were questions that still resonated with her over 50 years after her release.

Over time, I spoke with many former female prisoners. The world that they recreated for me was one of pain and suffering, but also ongoing efforts to find resources in themselves to refashion who they are and provide their imprisonment with meaning in light of their earlier experiences during the war, but also in light of everything that happened in a prison cell and after their release. The world that they built in prison, as well as their understanding of the world around them – including efforts to rebuild the country after war destructions and the establishment of communism – played a role in their search for a new identity, or refashioning of their previous identity in prison. They created new relationships in prisons, but they also maintained old ones as mothers, wives, and family members, as well as Polish patriots who had to position themselves anew toward their past life, but also toward the new authorities and the state.

The majority of the book deals directly with the logic of prison life – an ethnography of life in a prison cell: the daily concerns; the poverty and shortages that affected the penitentiary system; the real and imagined relationships that the prisoners continued building, but also the fragile semblance of normalcy and even cultural life that emerged there as it always emerges in spaces of confinement. The interviews and private archives that the women I talked to shared with me guided me through this journey: the interviews, the letters, various recollections that they left behind. In a gesture of respect, but also appreciation, I really wanted their voices to be heard, even if that sometimes meant a lack of robust academic interpretation. The archival research provided some interesting insight as well. At first, I thought that it was not sufficient; now I am thinking that much more could be done with it. The women’s state files consisted mostly of long interrogation protocols and occasionally of cell spy reports. In the book, I try to show how even documents created under coercion provide us with snippets of insight into their trials and even cell life. The prison archives offer a bit on the place of prisons and penitentiary practices in the new post-war Poland. The juxtaposition of the strength and that ominous image that the Ministry of Public Security projected and at the same time the daily struggles and incompetence of the employees of the penitentiary apparatus is striking.

There were a number of issues that I did not manage to cover or did not cover sufficiently. The questions that were driving me – the link between generations of activists, the nature of their war resistance, finally how the trauma of the difficult past became embodied – were only echoes in the book, but need to be further developed. Also, I was very interested in the women political prisoners’ relationship with criminal prisoners, imprisoned communists, or prisoners of different nationalities: Germans and Ukrainians. I opened some of these questions and

Continued on next page.
provided fragmentary answers, but there is much more research that could be done in this regard. The majority of the problems are linked with the lack of sources or at least readily available sources. The women – either Poles or Ukrainians – are rather reluctant to talk about their cell interactions. The criminal prisoners remained largely an unnamed group that did not leave any sources behind and left hardly any traces in the archives. In the book, I tried to read some of these silences, but I am convinced that there is much more that can be done in this regard. In general, the stories that can challenge the image of strength that the majority of women project – the existence of homosexual relationships; positive contacts with guards; the benefits of becoming a cell spy; the difficulties that the women experienced dealing with bodily problems in a prison cell – belong to the difficult topics and ones that many of the women found almost impossible to narrate. There is a deep tension between how an individual and the collective tell their stories. Some of these issues drive my current research as well: the way trauma affects individuals and collectives; ways it is embodied and, hence, is often difficult to understand and expressed; finally the intersectional nature of identity that is always in flux.

PIASA Honors Anna Cienciala

Anna Cienciala Award

In establishing the Anna Cienciala Award for an outstanding edited multi-author scholarly volume, the Polish Institute honors the life and career of one of its most distinguished past members, a world-renowned scholar in the field of the history of Poland. Its namesake was a proud native of the Free City of Danzig who was one of the many Poles of her generation forced into exile by World War II. After earning degrees in the United Kingdom and Canada, she became the first doctoral student of Piotr S. Wandycz at Indiana University, receiving her Ph.D. in 1962. She joined the Department of History at the University of Kansas in 1965 and taught there until her retirement in 2002.

Over the years, Professor Cienciala carved out a formidable record of research and publication on Polish international relations from the era of the First World War to the end of the Second. She made her mark with her first book, *Poland and the Western Powers, 1938-1939: A Study in the Interdependence of Eastern and Western Europe* (1968), calling for a re-evaluation of interwar Polish foreign policy, and followed that up with an abundance of influential articles and essays on similar themes.

It is fitting that a prize for multi-author scholarship should be named for Anna Cienciala, for she carried out much of her finest work in collaboration with others. Many of her essays appeared as chapters in edited volumes. Her revision and expansion of an uncompleted manuscript by the Polish diplomat and historian Tytus Komarnicki was published as *From Versailles to Locarno: Keys to Polish Foreign Policy, 1919-1925* (1984). Above all, the new PIASA award calls to mind her landmark *Katyn: A Crime Without Punishment* (2007), co-edited with Natalia S. Lebedeva and Wojciech Materski, still an unmatched compendium of documentation on the infamous Soviet wartime atrocity and its decades long coverup.

These accomplishments, just to note a few, won Dr. Cienciala a series of deserved accolades, including the Commander’s Cross of the Order of Merit with Star of the Third Polish Republic, and the PIASA Distinguished Achievement Award. She served for many years as a member of the board of directors of the Polish Institute, and made numerous contributions to its journal, *The Polish Review*. Upon her death in 2014, in view of her standing in the Institute and the field of Polish studies, the *Review* dedicated a special issue (v. 61/1, 2016) in her honor, accessible here to subscribers to JSTOR: https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5406/polishreview.61.1.issue-1

Books for consideration for the inaugural Anna Cienciala Award must be edited multi-author collections of scholarly articles in the various fields of Polish studies broadly defined. Books must have been published in English in the two years prior to the year in which nominations are due. Editors and contributors need not be members of PIASA. Three copies of the book are required. The deadline for submission is November 15, 2021.

— by Neal Pease
New Books on Polish Studies


Kudos


Silvia G. Dapia was named Distinguished CUNY Scholar at the Advanced Research Collaborative, The Graduate Center, City University of New York. She also received a CUNY Research Award from the University Committee on Research to support work on her next book.


Joanna Trzeciak Huss was awarded the 2020 Michael Heim Prize for Collegial Translation by the American Council of Learned Societies for her translation of Prof. Przemysław Czapliński’s essay “Retro-active Catastrophe.” The award will be presented at the 2021 meeting of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies in New Orleans. The essay is slated to appear in a forthcoming issue of East European Politics, Societies and Cultures. She guest-edited an issue of The Polish Review on Nobel Laureate Olga Tokarczuk (Vol. 66, no. 2, 2021) featuring scholars from Poland, Canada, the U.S., and the U.K., and has been appointed associate editor of The Polish Review.


Dominic Pacyga made a PIASA virtual presentation about “Chicago: The Capital of Polonia” on April 24. In it he discussed the findings of his book American Warsaw that received PIASA’s Halecki Prize.

Antony Polonsky was recognized by the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies on March 16, 2021, with a symposium in his honor on “The Holocaust in Eastern Europe: Sources, Memory, Politics” hosted in his honor. The Institute is associated with the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies in the UK.


Marek Sroka published “Spreading the Word’ in the Polish People’s Republic: The British Council and the English Reading Room at the Jagiellonian Library in Kraków, 1946-1989,” Library and Information History, Vol. 36, no. 3 (2020), 175-93 and had a related blog post on “Cultural Cooperation and Intel-

Continued on next page.
In Memoriam

Zbigniew Darzynkiewicz 1936 - 2021

A world-renowned biologist specializing in fundamental cancer research, passed away after a long illness on February 28, 2021. He was a distinguished professor at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York and Cornell University, and from 1990 served as Professor of Pathology, Medicine and Microbiology/Immunology at the New York Medical College at Valhalla, NY, and Director of the Brander Cancer Research Institute at this College. Holding a Ph.D. from the Medical University of Warsaw, he was a member of both PIASA and the Polska Akademia Umiejętności and a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. As of December 2020, he had published over 780 articles in peer-reviewed journals, edited and co-authored 15 books and was granted eight U.S. patents. Since 1980, he presented by invitation over 380 lectures and seminars at national and international congresses, symposia, and in various research institutions. His publications have been cited over 52,000 times. Always friendly and convivial, he will be remembered for his kindness and supporting attitude by everyone privileged to know him.

Wacław Szybalski 1921 - 2020

Born in Lwów, Dr. Szybalski was an internationally known authority on molecular biology, genetics and microbiology, who earned his Ph.D. at the Gdańsk Institute of Technology. Following the Second World War, he emigrated to the United States where he became a Professor of Oncology in the McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research at the University of Wisconsin–Madison Medical School studying mutagenesis and genomics. His genetic studies of drug resistance led to the use of multi-drug therapy that is now widely used to treat bacterial and viral infections and cancer. His studies of the antibiotic-producing soil microorganism, Streptomyces, led to the commercial production of streptomycin, an effective therapeutic for treating tuberculosis. He and his wife Elizabeth were the first researchers to perform gene transfer into mammalian cells and to introduce the groundbreaking idea that treatment for human genetic diseases could be made possible through gene therapy. In 2011, he received the highest honor awarded in Poland, becoming a Knight of the Order of Polonia Restituta, First Class. He passed away in Madison in December 2020.

Kudos


Send your personalia for the next issue to the editor at jpula@pnw.edu.

In Memoriam

Renata Vickrey

10
Feliks Gross Papers

Feliks Gross (1906-2006), an eminent sociologist, was for many years a politician and activist of the Central European federalist movements. He was the President of PIASA (1988-1999). His papers include material in English, Polish, Italian, and German.

The collection contains correspondence, documents, reports, and news clippings about the activities of the Assembly of Captive European Nations, European Federalist Projects and Defense of Human Rights in Central Europe (1945-1971). The Archive of the Central and Eastern European Planning Board includes documents and reports of the Board, news clippings about the European Federalist Project about Czechoslovakia, Greece, Yugoslavia, and Poland, and photocopies of classified documents of the Czech-Polish Confederation (1942-1943). Publications on European integration include the periodical New Europe. Materials regarding the activities of the Pan-European movement, publications (1926-1938) and Pan-Europa Conference in New York (1943). Original documents related to the Polish Socialist Party (PPS) include correspondence with socialist leaders, pamphlets and the socialist publications Robotnik, Robotnik Polski, and Światło. There is private correspondence of Feliks Gross with Radio Free Europe and U.S. universities, publications and manuscripts by Gross on political and sociological issues, and correspondence by Gross with other universities and colleges in the U.S. and abroad from the Institute of International Studies of University of Wyoming and Sociological Studies in Brooklyn College in New York City. Additional material includes outlines of classes, bibliographies and lectures on sociology; press clippings and source materials on social tensions, revolutionary movements; and political and social structures in Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and the United States. There are documents related to Soviet labor camps, Joseph Stalin, and the case of Lavrenti Beria; transcripts of the Czech Central Committee member Rudolf Slansky’s trial (1952); notes and lectures from his sociological studies at University of Rome; and documents filed under the labels The Assembly of Captive European Nations; The Central and East European Planning Board; The Pan-Europa Movement; The Polish Socialist Party (PPS); Private Papers and Correspondence; and Political Studies; Sociological Studies.

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