



Newsletter

Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America

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A Word From the President

One of the most meaningful accomplishments of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (PIASA) is its steady digitization of the archive. Anyone who has wandered through PIASA's building knows the feeling: room after room, shelves stacked high with books and boxes, fragile papers resting in folders, volumes waiting to be handled with care. It is humbling, almost overwhelming, to realize just how much history is stored there. And it is equally humbling to know how long it takes — years, even decades — for archivists and librarians to transform these shelves into something accessible to the wider world.

Digitization is slow work. A single folder of letters might take hours to prepare, scan, and catalog. But once it is done, that folder no longer belongs only to the silence of an archive room. It can be read in Warsaw, Buenos Aires, or Tokyo; it can become part of someone's research, or part of a family's rediscovery of its past. That is the promise and power of PIASA's project.

One of the recent treasures to step into this digital light is the **collection of Józef and Halina Wittlin**.

Józef Wittlin (1896–1976) lived through a century that refused to let him stand still. Born in Dmytrów, in East Galicia, he studied in Vienna, served as a soldier in the First World War, and returned to Lwów to immerse himself in literature and philosophy. There he became associated with the Skamander poets and quickly made his mark. In 1935, he won the Polish PEN Club award for his



translation of Homer's *Odyssey*. Then history uprooted him again. The Second World War forced Wittlin and his wife Halina to flee Poland. Their journey stretched across France, Spain, and Portugal before they finally arrived in New York. There, Wittlin's life found new anchors. He worked alongside Jan Lechoń and Kazimierz Wierzyński on *Tygodnik Polski*. His novel *Sól ziemi* (*Salt of the Earth*), translated into English, was nominated for a Nobel Prize in 1939.

In *Culture.pl*, we can read: *"This extremely beautiful story, often favorably compared with the best of English or American fiction, is about the twilight of the period, the end of the epoch, warning of the death and extermination of culture. The setting is an isolated area in the Carpathian Mountains (Eastern Galicia) where news of the war portends the disruption of human fortunes throughout the world, including the rustic life of the villagers. The main character of Salt of the Earth was a simple Hutsul of Eastern Galicia, drafted into the Austro-Hungarian Army at the beginning of World War I."*

In exile, Wittlin became not only a writer but also a guardian of Polish culture abroad — collaborating with Radio Free Europe and helping to establish the PEN Club's Writers in Exile. He remained in New York until his death in 1976, though his voice reached far beyond that city.

The Wittlin Papers, entrusted to PIASA by Halina Wittlin, tell this story in fragments: letters written and received, manuscripts of poems (*Na Dzień Żydostwa Polskiego* and *Stabat Mater*), biographical notes, and correspondence related to the treatment of poet Halina Poświatowska.

Perhaps most moving is the digitized interview with Halina Wittlin by Jerzy Tępa, in which she recalls their travels and life in the United States. She speaks candidly

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Thaddeus Vladimir Gromada

1929-2025

Born in Passaic, New Jersey, in 1929, Thaddeus V. Gromada took his ethnic heritage very seriously. Bilingual from his early youth, he was involved in local Polish activities including performing in his family's Highlander dance group and co-editing with his sister Jane beginning in 1947 the quarterly *Tatrzański Orzeł/The Tatra Eagle* to promote Highlander folk culture in America.

After earning a baccalaureate degree at Seton Hall University in 1951 he entered Fordham University where his graduate education was greatly shaped by working under the direction of the preeminent Polish scholar Oskar Halecki. Specializing in East European studies, after taking time off to serve in the US Army during the Korean War, his MA thesis was on "The Spisz-Orawa Dispute: Peace Settlement 1919-1923" and his dissertation on "The Slovak Question in Polish Foreign Policy, 1934-1939," earning him a PhD.

After establishing himself as a recognized academic expert on Polish affairs, Governor Thomas H. Kean appointed him chair of the newly-formed Commission on Eastern European History with a mandate to, in Gromada's words, "conduct a thorough study of the public school curriculum including textbooks" and offer recommendations on how material on this region could be more effectively woven into students' educational experiences. The resulting report formed the basis for inclusion of East European material in curricula and supplementary events. In addition, he served as a consultant for *The Immigrant Experience: The Long, Long Journey*, a production of the Learning Corporation of America in which he played the role of an immigration inspector at Ellis Island, and PBS television for the production of the documentary *The Polish Americans*.

Nominated for membership in the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America in 1961 by his mentor Halecki, he soon gained election to its Board of Directors and then Secretary General from 1972 to 1990 and Executive Director from 1991 until his election as President in 2008, a position he held until his retirement in 2011. In each of these positions his contributions were irreplaceable. It was through his foresight that a townhouse in Manhattan became the permanent home for the Institute and his fundraising and financial management paid off the mortgage in a very short period of time.



Through his initiatives, a series of professional archivists from Poland arranged, catalogued, and conserved the Institute's archival material and listed its contents on the Internet databases SEZAM and IZA.

Academically, he changed the PIASA annual meetings into modern academic conferences, promoted scholarly and student exchanges with Poland, and began the practice of holding some annual meetings in Poland. As a scholar, he authored or edited several books and his articles ap-

peared in various scholarly collections, as well as such prominent journals as *Central European Federalist*, *East European Quarterly*, *Nationalities Papers*, *Polish American Studies*, *The Polish Review*, *Przegląd Polonijny*, and *Slavic Review*.

Among his many recognitions, he received PAHA's Mieczysław Haiman Award for sustained scholarship (1985), the American Council for Polish Culture's Distinguished Service Award (2000), was elected an honorary member of the Związek Podhalan in Poland, received the Officer's Cross of Merit of the Republic of Poland (1993) and the Commander's Cross of Merit of the Republic of Poland (2000), was elected a foreign member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Kraków (2017), was presented with the "Honoris Gratia" medal by the Mayor of the Royal City of Kraków (2017), and receiving the Commander's Cross with Star of the Order of Polonia Restituta (2020).

Aside from his many professional accomplishments, he was very easy to like the first time a person met him. Endowed with a good sense of humor, a helping disposition, and a friendly demeanor, his even temper was perfect for conducting meetings on sensitive issues and winning friends for both himself and the Institute. Quick to give others credit for good ideas, or to share recognition, he was equally at home chairing an international meeting or chatting amiably with colleagues or someone to whom he had just been introduced. His casual friendliness and smile easily turned a first-time acquaintance into a new friend. His passing is a major loss to Polish studies, as it is to his family and widespread network of friends.

A more complete review of his career and accomplishments will appear in an upcoming issue of *The Polish Review*.

— James S. Pula

A Word From the President

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of hardship — the poverty, the uncertainty, the difficulty of being a Polish writer in America. She remembers how the Polish émigré community extended kindness, and how her husband's very first speech in New York, titled "Płaszcz" (The Coat), revolved around the coat he wore on his long journey from Lisbon to America — a coat he had thanks to the generosity of the American Polonia, whose support sustained him.

The interview is available on the PIASA Archives YouTube channel. The collection is available on the pages of PIASA Archives.

After hearing Halina Wittlin's voice, I find myself reaching for Beata Dorosz's book *Nowojorski pasjans*, a work that helped me fully appreciate the first decades of the Polish Institute of Science, which later evolved into PIASA. Dorosz reminds us how vital these émigré writers were — not only for Polish culture, but also for the communities that surrounded them:

"Their very presence was consoling for part of the émigré world, because they became not only animators of patriotic emotions but also voices for ordinary human

feelings, performing poetic rites in exile much like Polish dziady."

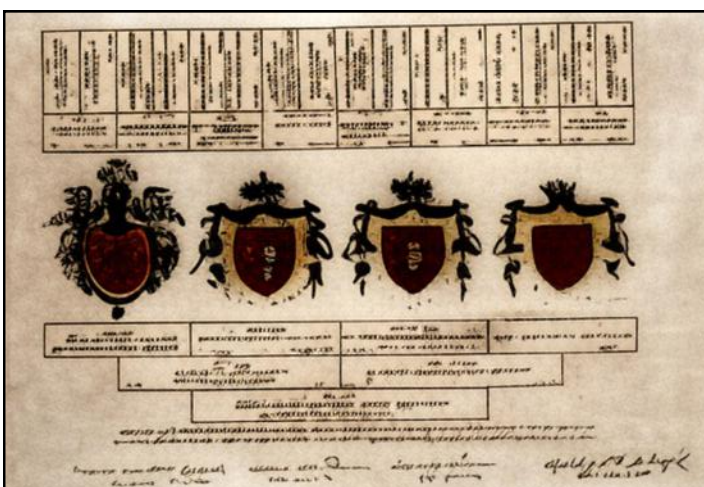
One scene she recalls is especially powerful: on October 29, 1941, a literary evening took place at the Polish Consulate in Manhattan, featuring Jan Lechoń, Julian Tuwim, and Wittlin. The response of the audience was captured in words that still resonate:

"Dear poets! If you ever doubt, if you ever face bitter disappointments and lose faith in the value of what you create, look into the eyes of your listeners, listen to their conversations, and you will know that your mission ennobles others with the strength of beauty and the charm of the heart. It fulfills itself every day. People leave your gatherings closer to angels, more noble, more beautiful than when they arrived."

In a world where the humanities are increasingly questioned, underfunded, or dismissed as impractical, these words remind us of what literature and poetry still make possible: they change people, restore a sense of shared humanity, and build communities across borders and generations. The digitization of the Wittlin Papers is more than preservation — it is an act of resistance against cultural amnesia, ensuring that voices once threatened by war and exile continue to speak into our own uncertain century.

Łańcut Records Preservation

As part of PIASA's ongoing digitalization project, partially funded by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, we completed works



on the Potocki Archival Łańcut documents containing nearly complete records of the Nowy Wiśnicz estate from 1500 to 1827. The Łańcut records contains correspondence between Elżbieta Potocka and her parents, and Antoni and Maria Radziwiłł, from the turn of the 20th century. The Wiśnicz Castle records include copies of disputes, information on the division of the estates of Piotr Kmita, the Tarło and Barż families, and inventories of the castle estates of Wiśnicz and Wiśniowczyk in Podolia, which belonged to this estate.

These materials document nearly five hundred years of history, culture, and social life of one of Poland's largest estates before and after the partitions. They reflect Poland's feudal economic system, which underpinned the wealth of the magnates and the privileges of the ruling families, the lives of prominent Polish families such as the Czartoryskis, Lubomirskis, Opalińskis, Ossolińskis, Ostrogskis, Radziwiłłs and others. The documents are available at archives.piasa.org.

—Bożena Leven

Micgiel Volume to Receive Award

The Polish American Historical Association has announced it will be awarding John S. Micgiel's edited volume *Poles, Polonia, and the Quest for Liberty* (Abingdon-on-Thames, UK: Routledge, 2025) its 2025 Halecki Prize for the best book on Polonia studies. Conceived in honor of the scholarly career of recently retired Prof. M. B. B. Biskupski, the volume contains eleven articles focusing on how Poles and Polish Americans have struggled across the centuries to achieve the ideals of liberty and democracy. Prominent researchers contributing to the volume, most of whom are PIASA members, include: John J. Bukowczyk, Richard Butterwick, Patrice M. Dabrowski, Paul W. Knoll, Dominic A. Pacyga, Neal Pease, Antony Polonsky, Tomasz Pudłocki, James S. Pula, Bogusław Winid, and Joshua D. Zimmerman.

Karolina Kołpak Appointed to Endowed Chair

Central Connecticut State University has announced the appointment of Dr. Karolina Kołpak to the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies. She earned her doctorate in History from Yale University in 2024 specializing in Modern Eastern Europe and Russia. Her dissertation, "A Microcosm of Civic Action: The Kolonie Letnie for Warsaw's Frail and Impoverished Children, Christian and Jewish, 1882–1922," examined grassroots civic engagement and intercommunal cooperation in late imperial Poland. Her scholarly contributions include peer-reviewed publications, book introductions, and public commentary in both English and Polish, all with a focus on historical memory and cultural identity. Beyond academia, she has worked closely with migrant and refugee communities in Poland and has helped organize humanitarian initiatives supporting scholars at risk. For information on the Endowed Chair and upcoming events see <https://www.ccsu.edu/polishstudies/>.

Call for Award Nominations

The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America invites nominations for its annual awards program. Nominations should be directed to the chair of the appropriate committee as indicated below. The **deadline for nominations is November 1, 2025**.

Oskar Halecki Polish and East-Central European History Award: Recognizes a book of particular value and significance dealing with the Polish experience or including the Polish experience within a larger East-Central European context, writing written in the English language, and published during the 2024 calendar year. Edited collections and self-publications are not eligible. Nominations should include a cover letter marking the submission as "Oskar Halecki Award Nomination," a curriculum vitae of the nominee, and three copies of the nominated book (one for each member of the award committee). Questions and nominations should be directed to rblobau@wvu.edu.

Casimir Funk Natural Sciences Award: Recognizes excellence, individual achievement and innovative contributions in the field of Natural Sciences. Exceptional Polish American scientists, or scientists of Polish ancestry who live and work in the United States, are eligible for the Award. Nominators must provide a letter stating the achievements on which the nomination is based and a curriculum vitae of the nominee that includes a bibliography of significant publications. Questions and nominations should be directed to Dr. Włodek Mandecki at wlodek@mandeck.com.

Bronisław Malinowski Award in the Social Sciences: Recognizes a book or seminal publication of particular value and significance to the Polish experience. The publication must be written in English language and have appeared in 2024. Edited collections and self-published books are ineligible. Nominations should include a cover letter marking the submission as a "Bronisław Malinowski Award Nomination," a curriculum vitae of the nominee, and three copies of the nominated publication (one for each member of the committee). Questions and nominations should be directed to Dr. Robert Blobaum at rblobau@wvu.edu.

Wacław Lednicki Award in the Humanities: Recognizes the most outstanding book or creative work published, produced or presented in any of the fields encompassed within the Humanities. Because Polish history has its own award, works in this field are ineligible. The nominated work must be in English and published or appeared in 2024. Edited collections and self-publications are not eligible. Nominations should include a cover letter marking the submission as "Wacław Lednicki Award Nomination," a curriculum vitae of the nominee, and four copies of the

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nominated book (one for each member of the award committee). Questions and nominations should be directed to Dr. Robert Blobaum at rblobau@wvu.edu.

Tadeusz Sendzimir Applied Sciences Award: Recognizes excellence, individual achievement and innovative contributions in the field of applied sciences including branches of science and technology in which existing scientific knowledge is applied to develop practical applications, inventions or other technological advancements. Nominations must include a nomination letter and a curriculum vitae of the nominee that includes a bibliography of significant publications or a list of accomplishments. Additional letters of support may be provided. Questions and nominations should be directed to Dr. Wladek Minor at wladek@minorlab.org.

Rachel Feldhay Brenner Award in Polish-Jewish Studies: Recognizes the best English-language book on the history and/or culture of Polish Jews published during the 2024 calendar year. Edited collections and self-published books are not eligible. Nominations must include a cover letter marking the submission as “Rachel Feldhay Brenner Award Nomination,” a curriculum vitae of the nominee, and three copies of the published book, one for each member of the award committee. Questions and nominations should be directed to Dr. Robert Blobaum at rblobau@wvu.edu.

Anna M. Cienciala Award: Recognizes the best edited multi-author scholarly volume focused on Polish studies published during 2024. Questions and nominations should be directed to Dr. Robert Blobaum at rblobau@wvu.edu.

Susanne M. Lotarski Distinguished Achievement Award: Recognizes an individual with a long-standing record of exemplary scholarly publications related to Poland and/or significant professional achievements, as well as a record of distinguished service to the profession and public advocacy for Polish studies or Polish culture. Nominations, including self-nominations, must include a cover letter marking the submission as “Susanne M. Lotarski Award Nomination” and a curriculum vitae of the nominee. Questions and nominations should be directed to Dr. Robert Blobaum at rblobau@wvu.edu.

Ludwik Krzyżanowski Award: Recognizes the best article appearing in *The Polish Review*. Publications eligible this year are those that appeared in the 2024 issues. Questions

and nominations should be directed to Ms. Renata Vickrey at vickreyrenata@gmail.com.

Karol Pilarczyk Foundation Award to Promote Democracy and the Rule of Law: The Karol Pilarczyk Foundation Award furthers democracy and the rule of law by funding Polish and non-Polish citizens working in areas of Polish studies and culture who seek to facilitate these broad goals. Nominations must be based on a book, article, film, play, literary work, or project promoting democracy and the rule of law. Nominations must include a cover letter marking the submission as “The Karol Pilarczyk Foundation Nomination,” a curriculum vitae of the nominee, and a description of the nominee’s accomplishments or future project for which an award is sought and its contribution to democracy and the rule of law. Questions and nominations should be directed to Dr. Robert Blobaum at rblobau@wvu.edu.

Literary Encyclopedia Research Awards

The Literary Encyclopedia announces the opening of the second round of submissions for this year’s Research Award, which is now more inclusive in terms of both types of scholarship covered, as well as applicants. More specifically, and in response to the worldwide crisis in higher education funding, we have opened the award to established scholars, as well as early career researchers. The Scholarship Fund is made possible by the donation of their royalties by many of the *LE*’s contributors.

The Literary Encyclopedia Research Award grants travel funding worth between £500 and £750 each to assist postgraduate higher education researchers and teachers in defraying the costs of archival research on a literary or related matter. Applicants must be members of an institution which subscribes to *The Literary Encyclopedia*, or contributors to the *LE*, or individual subscribers.

Starting in 2025, and in line with *The Literary Encyclopedia*’s commitment to lowering its carbon emissions, we will consider applications to help fund research that will enable scholars to consult archives without travelling. We will also, in the interests of inclusivity, consider applications for additional research costs, such as those which arise from caring responsibilities.

Awards of between £500 and £750 are available to fund a range of research activities within these categories:

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- Travel costs for archival research
- Research assistance to consult archives remotely
- Training in new techniques/skills
- Additional research costs, such as caring responsibilities
- Support for access needs

The Research Award does not fund conference attendance. The **deadline for applications is October 1, 2025**. Applications are considered by the Editorial Board of *The Literary Encyclopedia* whose decision is final. **Funds will be reimbursed on presentation of receipts.** Successful applicants will be required to write a formal report of their work which will be published on our website. It is a condition of the award that the contribution of the *LE Research Award* must be acknowledged in any publications resulting from these awards.

Applicants should download and complete the application form at <https://www.litencyc.com/>.

Mandel Center Annual Fellowships

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies announces its fellowship program for 2026-2027. The fellowships are to support significant research and writing about the Holocaust and related topics for projects that will benefit from a period of residence at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, and access to its resources. Proposals are welcome from all relevant academic disciplines, including — but not limited to — anthropology, archaeology, art history, comparative genocide studies, film studies, geography, history, Jewish studies, law, material culture, religious studies, philosophy, political science, and psychology. Fellowships are designed for scholars at all career levels starting with PhD candidates (ABD). Faculty between appointments and scholars currently not affiliated with a university will also be considered. Fellows receive a monthly stipend of \$5,000, which may be subject to taxes, as well as a one-time travel stipend to support roundtrip, economy transportation to Washington, DC, from their home institution. Individual awards are for two, four, or eight consecutive months of residency. Fellows may not hold a Mandel Center fellowship concurrently with other funded

fellowships. The **deadline for receipt of applications is 11:59 p.m. on November 15, 2025**. Project proposals should specify the resources available at the Museum to which a scholar needs access for their research. Applications must be submitted in English via the online system at <https://ushmmfellowships.smapply.io/>. Applications should include (1) an online application form, (2) a project proposal (in PDF format, not to exceed 1,000 words), and (3) a curriculum vitae summary (in PDF format, not to exceed four single-spaced pages) Please note that the Mandel Center does not require letters of recommendation. Further information can be found at <https://www.ushmm.org/research/opportunities-for-academics/fellowships/annual>. Questions should be addressed to vscholars@ushmm.org.

German Historical Institute Warsaw Scholarships

The German Historical Institute Warsaw (GHIW), announces scholarships for researchers in German and East Central European history that requires a stay in Poland, Lithuania, or the Czech Republic. Grants are intended primarily for non-tenured, early-career scholars and for periods ranging from one to four months. Individuals living in the country where the research takes place are generally not eligible for funding. The scholarship amount is 1,300 EUR per month for doctoral students and 1,800 EUR per month for postdoctoral researchers. Applications must be submitted to Dr. Jan Musekamp. **The deadline for scholarships starting between January and June 2026 is September 30.** The application must be sent as a single PDF file to dhi@dhi.waw.pl and should include the following elements: (1) cover letter with information about the desired scholarship period, (2) CV, (3) list of publications, (4) project description (five pages, 1.5-line spacing, 12-point font; or a maximum of 2,500 words including topic, research questions, methodological approach, current status of the project, work program, detailed plan for the scholarship period, sources, and literature), and (5) information about previous/current funding of the research project from third parties. For further information or questions, contact Dr. Musekamp or visit <https://www.dhi.waw.pl/en/the-institute/scholarships-internships/>.

Online Degree in Polish Studies

The Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS) and the Catholic University of Lublin (KUL) have signed a letter of intent to create an online Polish Studies degree program, the first of its kind in the world. The curriculum is planned to include ten online multimedia courses in English on Polish history, literature and art, contribution to science and learning, and contemporary society. Each course would end with an online exam allowing students to eventually obtain a bachelor's or master's degree. The program is designed for non-Poles who wish to explore the culture and history of Poland. Radosław Dobrowolski, the rector of UMCS, noted that "Many prestigious universities around the world already offer so-called 'national studies,' such as British, French or German Studies. Polish Studies is therefore a unique educational offer dedicated to the Polish diaspora and the international community interested in Poland." Mirosław Kalinowski, rector of KUL, indicated that course faculty would be fluent in English and that the universities planned to have the program available during the 2025/2026 academic year. For further information, see <https://www.aacrao.org/edge/emergent-news/universities-plan-world-s-first-online-degree-in-polish-studies-for-international-students>.

Foreign Students in Polish Universities

According to the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers in Washington, DC, there are around 85,000 foreign students from 189 countries studying in Poland, accounting for almost 7 percent of all students. Over half of Poland's 85,000 international students come from either Ukraine (38,473) or Belarus (9,739). However, the number coming from Asia, including India (2,563) and China (1,609), has also been growing. Among western countries, the largest number of students came from Spain (1,574), Germany (1,435), Norway (1,321), Sweden (753) and the United States (692).

Calls for Papers

The International Journal of the History of Sport is planning a special issue on "Historical Perspectives on

Sport in Polish Literature and Culture. The issue will explore how sport has been represented, narrated, and interpreted in Polish literary and cultural texts across different historical periods. The editors are particularly interested in critical approaches that consider sport not only as a subject but also as a cultural phenomenon characterized by national identity, ideology, memory, and artistic expression. A full call for papers can be found at: <https://networks.h-net.org/system/files/attachments/call-papers-ijhs-historical-perspectives-sport-polish-literature-and-culture.pdf>. The **deadline for proposals in October 15, 2025**. Questions should be addressed to Prof. Michał Mazurkiewicz at michalmazurkiewicz@op.pl.

"**Transnational Approaches to the Long 19th Century History in East-Central Europe**" is soliciting proposals for a conference to be held April 16-17, 2026. The conference invites scholars to engage with the region's history from a transnational perspective, emphasizing the interconnectedness, transfer and exchange but also the boundaries between different societies, cultures, and political systems. We seek papers that explore the various dimensions of transnationalism in the long 19th century in East-Central Europe. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, (1) imperial expansion, imperial deflation, (2) economic integration and trade, (3) nationalism as a transnational phenomenon, (4) cultural exchange and transfer, (5) migration and diaspora, (6) gender, race, and class, (7) environmental history, (8) political cultures and the rise of civil societies, (9) border studies, and (10) technological and infrastructure networks.

The conference welcomes contributions from a diverse range of disciplines, including history, sociology, cultural studies, economics, and political science. The planners encourage papers that engage with theoretical debates and methodological innovations, such as network analysis, transnational historiography, and discourse analysis. Accommodation and travel costs will be borne by the organizer. To submit your paper proposal, please provide a title, an abstract of 250-300 words, and a brief biographical statement. The **deadline for submissions is 30 November 2025**. The organizers are planning to publish selected papers. For more information see <https://www.dhi.waw.pl/aktuelle-meldungen/>. Questions and proposal submissions should be directed to Prof. Povilas Dikavičius at povilas.dikavicius@dhi.lt.

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News

The **International Forum of Young Scholars on East European Jewry** invites applications for its twelfth conference organized by the Leonid Nevzlin Research Center for Russian and East European Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in cooperation with the Faculty of History, University of Warsaw, and several other cosponsors. The conference will be held in Warsaw with the goal of promoting the research and professional development of promising early-career scholars from around the world. Proposals are welcome from scholars working in all fields of the humanities and social sciences related to East European Jewry. Further information is available at <https://nevzlincenter.huji.ac.il/forum-young-scholars>. **The application deadline is January 31, 2026.** Questions may be addressed to merkaznev@savion.huji.ac.il.

Upcoming Conferences

October 10-11, 2025—The **Annual Meeting of the New York State Association of European Historians** will take place in Albany, NY. For additional information contact Steve Molvarec at stephen.molvarec@bc.edu or see <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GoYUOfuWq-zG9RAm9xbnBacgE03TuxO/editusp=sharing&oid=106923000536433715268&rtpof=true&sd=true>.

October 20-21, 2025—**IV International Conference “Jews in Galicia. Histories, Topographies, and Texts”** will meet in Kraków, Poland, at the Galicia Jewish Museum. Inquiries should be sent to: jewsingalicia@gmail.com.

October 23–24, 2025—**57th Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies** will meet *virtually* highlighting Central Asian Studies with a theme of “Memory,” both personal and collective. For further information visit <https://aseees.org/convention/2025-convention/>.

November 20–23, 2025—**57th Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies** will meet *in person* at the Washington Hilton in Washington, DC. The theme will be “Memory,” both personal and collective. For information visit <https://aseees.org/convention/2025-convention/>.

December 4-6, 2025—“**The Topicality of Ruins in the Past, Present and Future**” conference will convene at the Europa-Universität Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder), and Collegium Polonicum in Ślubice. Focused on Architecture and

Architectural History, Art, Art History & Visual Studies, it will explore the longstanding interest in disused, decaying buildings and monument conservation. Further information is available at

<https://www.arthistoricum.net/netzwerke/>

akdpkd. Questions can be addressed to Prof.

Paul Zalewski at zalewski@europa-uni.de.

January 7-9, 2026—“**Beyond Camps and Forced Labour: Current International Research on Survivors of Nazi Persecution**,” an international multidisciplinary conference focusing on the fields of Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies, will be held at Birkbeck, University of London, and the Wiener Holocaust Library, in London, UK. For additional information see <https://networks.h-net.org/group/announcements/20061051/beyond-camps-and-forced-labour-current-international-research> or contact Johannes-Dieter Steinert at jdsteinert@btinternet.com.

January 8-11, 2026—The annual meeting of the **Polish American Historical Association** will take place in conjunction with the American Historical Association in Chicago. For further information contact Karen Majewski at kmajewska@comcast.net. The program will be posted in September here:

<https://polishamericanstudies.org/>.

April 24, 2026—**Kościuszko Conference**, West Point, NY. The general theme will focus on Pope John Paul II, Ronald Reagan, Mikhail Gorbachev and the “end” of the Cold War. For further information, contact Anthony Bajdek at a.j.bajdek@comcast.net.

June 12-14, 2026—The **10th World Congress on Polish Studies**, sponsored by PIASA, is scheduled to convene at the University of Łódź, Poland. Further information will appear in forthcoming newsletters, but for now this will serve as a date-saver.

June 22-25, 2026—The **International Forum of Young Scholars on East European Jewry** will convene in Warsaw. See the call for papers on the previous page. Further information is available at <https://nevzlincenter.huji.ac.il/forum-young-scholars>. Questions may be addressed to merkaznev@savion.huji.ac.il.



New Books on Polish Studies

Massimiliano Afiero, *The Waffen-SS in Poland, 1939* (Havertown, PA: Casemate Publishers, 2025), ISBN: 978-1636244662.

Katarzyna Babis, *Breadcrumbs: Coming of Age in Post-Soviet Poland* (New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2025), ISBN: 978-1250877871.

Tomasz Barankiewicz and **Bogusław Przywora**, eds., *Public and Civil Service in Poland* (Berlin: Peter Lang, 2025), ISBN: 978-3631928004.

Magdalena Biniś-Szkopek, *Marriage in Medieval Poland: A Study of Evidence from the Poznań Consistory Court, 1404-1428* (Leiden: Brill, 2025), ISBN: 978-9004707160.

Błażej Ciarkowski, *Architecture and Architects in Socialist Poland: Between Stalin and Le Corbusier* (London: Routledge, 2025), ISBN: 978-1040438947.

Yaacov Falkov, *Between Hitler and Churchill: Two Jewish Agents and the Attempt by the British Counterintelligence Service to Prevent a Secret Agreement Between the Polish Government-in-exile and Nazi Germany*, Michael Sigal, transl. (Newton, MA: Academic Studies Press, 2025), ISBN: 979-8887196862.

Piotr Florczyk, *Dialogue and Influence: Essays on Polish and American Poets* (Newton, MA: Academic Studies Press, 2025), ISBN: 979-8887197166.

Leszek Gardela, *The Vikings in Poland* (New York: Routledge, 2025), ISBN: 978-0429436314.

Halina Goldberg and **Bożena Shallcross**, eds., *The Jewish Inn in Polish Culture: Between Practice and Phantasm* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2025), ISBN: 978-0253072948.

Stanisław Gomulka and **Antony Polonsky**, eds., *Polish Paradoxes* (Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2025), ISBN: 978-1003642978.

Marek Jabłonowski, **Wojciech Jakubowski**, and **Daniel Przastek**, *A Companion to Political Institutions in Poland, 1944-1989* (Schöningh, Paderborn: Brill, 2025), ISBN: 978-3657796731.

Bartłomiej Kapica, *The Development Trajectory of Communism in Poland: The Life of Władysław*

Bieńkowski, Communist Leader and Socialist Thinker (Abingdon, Oxon, UK: Routledge, 2025), ISBN: 978-1040386057.

Andrew H. Kless, *Broken Ground: Building Germany's Occupation of Poland in the First World War* (Oxford: Peter Lang, 2025), ISBN: 978-1800793132.

Piotr Madajczyk, **Magdalena Lemańczyk**, **Kamila Schöll-Mazurek**, and **Anna Burek**, *Children of German-Polish Relationships: Identity and Nationality* (Abingdon, Oxon, UK: Routledge, 2025), ISBN: 978-1003507963.

Ewa Nowińska-Łaźniewska, **Joanna Kurowska-Pysz**, **Tomasz Górecki**, **Khrystyna Prytula**, and **Klaudia Plac**, *War Refugees and the Labour Market: Crisis-driven Mobility in the Polish-Ukrainian Borderland* (London: Routledge, 2025), ISBN: 978-1003471646.

Magdalena Osińska, *Economic Challenges and Young Adults: Perspectives from Germany, Poland and Czechia* (Abingdon, Oxon, UK: Routledge, 2025), ISBN: 978-1003505273.

Fabio Parasecoli, **Agata Bachórz**, and **Mateusz Halawa**, *The Pierogi Problem: Cosmopolitan Appetites and the Reinvention of Polish Food* (Oakland, CA: Univ. of California Press, 2025), ISBN: 978-0520399075.

J. Mackenzie Pierce, *Sounds of Survival: Polish Music and the Holocaust* (Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2025), ISBN: 978-0520405936.

Piotr Romanowski and **Anna Seretny**, *Polish as a Heritage Language Around the World: Selected Diaspora Communities* (Abingdon, Oxon, UK: Routledge, 2025), ISBN: 978-1032513935.

Anthony Sharwood, *Kosciuszko* (Australia: Hachette, 2025), ISBN: 978-0733650970.

Bartłomiej Sipiński, *Personalizm dialogowy Eseje. Dialogue personalism Essays* (Pelplin: Bernardinum, 2024), ISBN: 978-8383332178.

Sarah Zarrow, *Displays of Belonging: Polish Jewish Collecting and Museums, 1891-1941* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2025), ISBN: 978-1501781568.

Did You Know That . . .



Pictured to the left is a portion of the 1st Tank Regiment in Poland. Organized as part of the Polish Army in France during World War I, when transferred to Poland in 1919 it brought with it 120 Renault tanks making it then the fourth largest armored force in the world. It helped tip the balance of military force in favor of Poland during the fighting in Ukraine and later against the Bolshevik invasion.



This French officer served in the 5th Chasseurs Polonais in the diaspora army brought to Poland from France after World War I. He was awarded the *Virtuti Militari* for actions along the River Zbrucz during the Bolshevik invasion. He became much more famous during World War II and later as leader of the French Republic—Charles de Gaulle.



Ludwik and Margarethe Kaźmierczak are pictured with Ludwik in his Polish army uniform. He was conscripted into the German army during World War I, was captured, then joined the Polish Army in France. He later fought in the Ukraine and against the Bolshevik invasion of Poland. Following the war the couple settled in eastern Germany where he was able to find employment. Their granddaughter was German Chancellor Angela Merkel.



Merian C. Cooper served in the US Army Air Service in France during World War I. Following the war he formed the Kościuszko Squadron to fight for Poland against the Bolshevik invasion where he was decorated with the *Virtuti Militari*. After returning to the US, he became a filmmaker and was responsible for conceiving and creating the character and movie *King Kong* in 1933.

Michael Bernhard published a chapter entitled “Post-Communist Democracy, Civil Society, and the Problem of Accountability,” in *Global Challenges to Democracy: Comparative Perspectives on Backsliding, Autocracy, and Resilience* (Valerie J. Bunce, Thomas B. Pepinsky, Rachel Beatty Riedl, and Kenneth M. Roberts, eds.) with Cambridge University Press. On August 30 he participated in a debate entitled “Czy Solidarność zachowała dawną symboliczną moc?” with Jan Kubik, Ireneusz Krzemiński, and Shana Penn at the conference “45 lat Solidarności” held at the Europejskie Centrum Solidarności in Gdańsk. He also delivered a talk entitled “Mały Przewodnik do publikacji w czasopiśmie anglofonicznych” at the Instytut Nauk Politycznych i Stosunków Między-narodowych at the Jagellonian University in Kraków.

M. B. B. Biskupski has been honored with a *festschrift* recognizing his scholarly career after his recent retirement: John C. Micgiel, ed., *Poles, Polonia, and the Quest for Liberty* (Abingdon-on-Thames, UK: Routledge, 2025).

Krzysztof Błędowski published an opinion piece on President Trump’s economic policies in *Rzeczpospolita*, a Polish daily, titled “Dr Błędowski o planach Donalda Trumpa: nie każde złoto jasno błyszczy” (<https://www.rp.pl/opinie-ekonomiczne/art41882141-dr-bledowski-o-planach-donald-trumpa-nie-kazde-zloto-jasno-blyszczy>). He was also interviewed by *Dziennik Gazeta Prawna*.

Alice-Catherine Carls and **Piotr Florczyk**, co-translators of Krzysztof Siwczyk’s *A Calligraphy of Days: Selected Poems* (London: Seagull Books, 2024), have been notified that the book has been shortlisted for the 2025 Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize.

Anna Frajlich published “Pyl” *wiersze zebrane*, a book of poetry (Szczecin, Bezręcze: Wydawnictwo Forma, Fundacja Literatury imienia Henryka Berezy, 2025, Vol. 3) and, with **Sławomir Jacek Zurek**, “*Szklany sufit języka*” *trzyście rozmów* (Kraków: Austeria, 2025). Prof. Frajlich’s essay “Przesuwać granice rozumienia” was published in *Migotania* (No. 3 (88) 2025, 8-12) and her poetry appeared in *Akcent* (No. 3 (181) 2025, 7-8; *Migotania* (No. 3 (88) 2025, 8-12); and *Pisarze* (V, 2025). **Anna Fiedon-Kulak**’s *Emigracja, tożsamość, pamięć: życie i twórczość literacka Anny Frajlich* (Rzeszów: Frazja, 2025) is dedicated to the life and work of Prof. Frajlich.

Halina Goldberg and **Bożena Shallcross** edited *The Jewish Inn in Polish Culture: Between Practice and Phantasm* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana Univ. Press, 2025).

Tomasz Grusiecki has been named the new Bader Chair in Northern Baroque Art in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

Beth Holmgren and **Helena Goscilo** guest edited the thematic cluster “Re-Viewing the New ‘Golden Age’ in Polish Film” in *The Polish Review*, 70:1 (2025). Holmgren contributed “Hanna Polak’s Documentaries of Russia’s Lost Souls,” 90-111. Her essay “From Taverns to Courtyards and Cafes: How the Shtetl Migrated into Fin de siècle Warsaw” appeared in *The Jewish Inn in Polish Culture: Between Practice and Phantasm*, ed. by Halina Goldberg & Bożena Shallcross, Indiana University Press, 2025: 80-100. Holmgren gave two invited talks this spring: (1) “Piecing Together *Wyrok życia* (dir. Juliusz Gardan, 1933): Linking Film Analysis with Production History,” *Beyond the Horizon: Polish Culture Symposium*, at University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI., April 11, and (2) “Warsaw before the Apocalypse: The City as Set and Storyline in 1930s Polish Film.” Banquet talk for 2025 PIASA Conference, New York, New York. June 7.

Jerome Krase published “Discovering Community in Urban Society: Autoethnography of a Journey,” in *Forms of Inequality and the Legitimacy of Governance*, Volume Two, Italo Pardo and Giuliana Prato, eds., Vol. 2, 57-75 and “Terrorism and an Autoethnography of 9/11,” in a Special Issue on Terrorism of the *American Behavioral Scientist*, 69:11, 1414-1435.

John J. Kulezycki taught a summer course in the Adult Education Program of the Newberry Library entitled “Eastern Europe: From 18th Century Empires to 19th Century Nation-States.” The class was filled on the first day of registration with 28 adults.

John S. Micgiel edited *Poles, Polonia, and the Quest for Liberty* (Abingdon-on-Thames, UK: Routledge, 2025) which has been voted the Polish American Historical Association’s 2025 Halecki Prize for the best book on Polonia studies.

Witold Nazarewicz was awarded 2025 Marian Smoluchowski Medal, the highest distinction awarded by the Polish Physical Society, for his “outstanding contribu-

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Kudos

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tion to the advancement of the theory of atomic nuclei and to nuclear physics,” citing specifically his “fundamental contribution to the creation, development, and implementation of advanced theoretical methods and tools for the description of atomic nuclei, in particular for groundbreaking research on strongly deformed nuclei, pioneering studies of nuclei asymmetric to spatial reflection, and breakthrough work on the physics of superheavy nuclei and weakly bound nuclei located at the edges of the nuclear chart.”

Dominic A. Pacyga was awarded the Frederick Jackson Turner Award for Lifetime Achievement in Midwestern History from the Midwest History Association. He published *Clout City: The Rise and Fall of the Chicago Political Machine* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2025). For the book launch, see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dominic-a-pacyga-book-launch-clout-city-tickets-1607710498379?aff=oddttdcreator>.

James S. Pula was appointed to the Editorial Board of the “Yearbooks of the Kościuszko Mound Committee,” in Kraków, Poland, and presented with the 2025 Iron Brigade Award for excellence in American Civil War scholarship. His article “Poles in Heart and Spirit: The Fourth Partition’s Support for its Homeland, 1880-1930,” appeared in John S. Micgiel, ed., *Poles, Polonia, and the Quest for Liberty* (Abingdon-on-Thames, UK: Routledge, 2025).

Jean M. Szczypien published an Introduction and Translation, “From a Visit with Joseph Conrad” in *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America*, 139:3 (May 2024), 493-499 and “Three Ghosts Haunting Conrad’s 1914 Polish Visit” in *Joseph Conrad: The Centennial Perspectives*, edited by John G. Peters and Chandrakant Langare (Rawat Publications, 2025, 258-270). She also presented a paper at the University of Rome (Italy) in July entitled “Zygmunt Krasiński’s The Undivine Comedy in Heart of Darkness and The Secret Agent” and one at a Conrad conference in Kraków last October titled “Three Ghosts Haunting Conrad’s 1914 Polish Visit.”

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for the next PIASA annual meeting and conference, June 12-14, 2026.



About the Institute

New PAHA Board Members

Wojciech Sadurski is Challis Professor of Jurisprudence at the University of Sydney and Professor at the University of Warsaw's Center for Europe, as well as a lawyer, political philosopher, and commentator on public affairs. He previously held the chair in philosophy of law at the European University Institute in Florence and has taught regularly at Yale, NYU, and Princeton, as well as at universities in Europe and Asia. He is a member of the Global Rule of Law Commission. His most recent books include *Poland's Constitutional Breakdown* (2019), *A Pandemic of Populists* (2022), and *Constitutional Public Reason* (2023). He is a co-recipient of the 2023 Karol Pilarczyk Foundation Award for the "promotion of democracy and the rule of law" by the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in America (PIASA).



Agnieszka Pasioka is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Montréal and a sociocultural anthropologist whose research bridges the study of political mobilization, activism, and social movements. She explores how individuals and groups respond to inequality and hierarchical power structures, and the alternative futures they seek to create. She is the author of *Hierarchy and Pluralism: Living Religious Difference in Catholic Poland* (Palgrave, 2015), a nuanced ethnographic study of religious diversity in a predominantly Catholic society, and *Living Right: Politics, Morality, and Far-Right Youth Activism in Contemporary Europe* (Princeton University Press, 2024), which investigates the moral worlds and political imaginaries of far-right youth activists across Europe. Pasioka has published widely on topics including religious and ethnic minorities, multiculturalism, post-socialist transformations, and transnational nationalism. Her current research examines the intersections of environmentalism and far-right politics in Europe.



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