



Newsletter

Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America

Vol. 1, No. 2

April 2021

A Word From the President

To open my remarks for this issue of the newsletter, I had hoped to begin with a note of enthusiasm for our upcoming conference in Białystok. Alas, this was not to be. In February, together with our hosts from the University of Białystok, we decided the risks to public health and the possibilities of another lockdown were still too great. After having to cancel the 2020 conference planned for Chicago, postponement of the Białystok conference to June 2022 came as an obvious disappointment.

Like many of you, we also grieve personal losses—in our case, the passing of our fellow board member Rachel Feldhay Brenner, a distinguished scholar of Polish and Jewish Holocaust literature, and of our former board member and renowned cell biologist, Zbigniew (Zbyszek) Darzynkiewicz. We honor their memory by recognizing their outstanding contributions to their fields and the many efforts they devoted to the work of PIASA.



On a more positive note, we continue to remain active in other ways. We selected the new recipients of our various awards (see page 2) and plan to recognize them by hosting or co-hosting webinars and virtual conversations in their honor. And, in the year of the pandemic our membership numbers are up, visits to our revamped website have doubled, readership and submissions to *The Polish Review* continue to grow, and we have received very positive feedback following publication of the first issue of our newsletter.

In closing, I hope that as you read or scroll through this issue you will share my impression that PIASA, well into the eighth decade of its existence, is an organization of renewed vitality and purpose.

— Robert Blobaum, PIASA President



In Memoriam

Rachel F. Brenner

(1946-2021)

It is with deep sorrow that we mourn the passing of Professor Rachel Feldhay Brenner, a member of the PIASA Board of Directors from 2018 until February 4, 2021, the day of her death in Madison, Wisconsin. Born in Zabrze in 1946, Rachel earned advanced degrees in Israel and Canada before joining in 1992 the faculty of the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies at the University of Wisconsin where she had just been selected as the inaugural Temkin Professor in Hebrew language and literature. Prof. Brenner specialized in the Holocaust in Hebrew, Canadian and, over the last decade, Polish literatures, the subject of her last two highly acclaimed books published by Northwestern University Press: *The Ethics of Witnessing: The Holocaust in Polish Writers' Diaries from Warsaw, 1939-1945* (2014) and *Polish Literature and the Holocaust: Eyewitness Testimonies, 1942-1947* (2019). Rachel presented her research for these books at successive PIASA conferences in the United States and Poland, collegial settings where she found receptive audiences and where she established many new friendships. Beyond her academic achievements, Rachel is remembered as a teacher devoted to her students and as an inspirational mentor to a generation of young scholars. As a member of the PIASA board, Prof. Brenner eagerly volunteered her valuable service for the greater benefit of the Institute, most recently in conference planning and coordination. Rachel Brenner's legacy will live on in her award-winning scholarship and especially in the memory of those of us who had the good fortune to know her.

PIASA Announces New Awardees

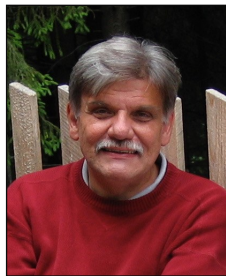
In 1995, PIASA established various awards to recognize outstanding contributions to the humanities, social sciences, and natural and applied sciences. The Institute is pleased to announce its new awardees who have made significant contributions to their fields of research. *Congratulations to all of those recognized!*

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



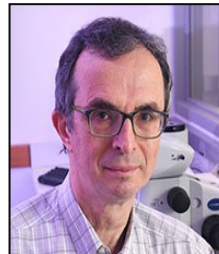
Waclaw Lednicki Humanities Award: This award is given for the most outstanding book or creative work published, produced or presented in any of the fields encompassed within the Humanities as defined by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The recipient is Dr. **Grażyna J. Kozaczka**, Distinguished Professor of English, Cazenovia College, for her book *Writing the Polish American Woman in Postwar Ethnic Fiction* (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2019).

Oskar Halecki Polish History Award: Recognizing a book of particular value and significance dealing with the Polish experience, the award goes to Dr. **Dominic Pacyga**, Professor Emeritus, Columbia College (Chicago), for his book *American Warsaw: The Rise, Fall and Rebirth of Polish Chicago* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019).



Tadeusz Sendzimir Applied Sciences Award: Established to recognize excellence, individual achievement and innovative contributions in the field of applied sciences by a Polish-American scientist or engineer in the United States, the award is presented to Dr. **Wlodek Minor**, Harrison Distinguished Professor of Molecular Physiology and Biological Physics, University of Virginia and Dr. **Zbyszek Otwinowski**, Professor of Biochemistry, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, for their development of software for the medical applications of crystallography and their entrepreneurship in promoting its distribution.

Casimir Funk Natural Sciences Award: The award honors an outstanding scientist of Polish origin (Polish born or of Polish ancestry) living and working in the United States or Canada. It is given to Dr. **Henryk Iwaniec**, Professor of Mathematics, Rutgers University, for his outstanding contributions to analytic number theory.



Bronislaw Malinowski Social Sciences Award: Recognizing a scholar in one of the fields of the social sciences who has written a book or seminal publication of particular value and significance dealing with an aspect of the Polish experience, the 2021 award goes to Dr. **Anna Grzymala-Busse**, Michelle and Kevin Douglas Professor of International Studies, Stanford University, for her outstanding scholarship on the development and transformation of the state, political parties, religion and politics, and post-communist politics in Poland and East-Central Europe .



Ludwik Krzyżanowski Polish Review Award: The award recognizes the best article published in that journal in *The Polish Review* in 2019. The awardee is Dr. **Anna Krakus**, Assistant Professor of Cross Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen, for “Death is Merely a Comma: Immortality in the Cinema and Literature of Tadeusz Konwicki” (Vol. 64, no. 4).

Congratulations!

Members' Forum

The Rise of Populism and the Threat to Holocaust History

Antony Polonsky, Professor of Holocaust Studies at Brandeis University, received PIASA's Susanne Lotarski Distinguished Achievement Award last year for exceptional achievement in Polish studies. The following essay is abstracted from his forthcoming book *The Rise of Populism and the Threat to History*.

The rise of populism in Europe and beyond has been accompanied by an attack on history as a scholarly discipline which has had a significant and often negative impact on the study of the origins and character of the genocide which the Nazis attempted during the Second World War to inflict on the Jewish people. Until recent years real progress seemed to have been made in understanding this complex phenomenon. This research was often accompanied by acrimonious debates which have only been possible in situations where the political culture permitted a public reckoning with the more dubious aspects of the national past and where there was a high level of acceptance of the practice of national self-criticism and seemed to have led to some degree of consensus. Not surprisingly, this process went furthest in Germany, first in the Federal Republic and subsequently in the united Germany established in 1989. Analogous attempts to "overcome the past" have been undertaken most notably in France, in the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria and Switzerland and elsewhere in Western and Central Europe.

In east-central Europe, such debates, with one exception, that of Poland, only really began in 1989-1991 with the collapse of communism in the region. In the Polish case, a debate on the question of the responsibility of the local population for the fate of the Jews in the Nazi genocide did begin immediately after the war, but was stifled by the imposition of a rigidly Stalinist regime in 1947, resuming in the 1980s and more vigorously after 1989. Elsewhere, both in the states which during the Second World War were allied with the Nazis and in those areas where no state-level collaborationist regimes were established by the Nazis, such as Serbia, Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine, discussion of this complex topic only really began after the end of communism. Since then there has



been considerable dispute about the role of General Ion Antonescu in Romania and Father Tiso in Slovakia and of the conduct of the Nazi satellite regimes in Hungary and Croatia. There has also been a good deal of debate in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and rather less in Ukraine and Belarus, about the participation of local militias and nationalist partisans in the mass murder of Jews.

These internal national debates have often been very vigorous, and extend beyond national borders, especially among Poles, Lithuanians, Belarusians and Ukrainians. They have highlighted the common problems in these four countries as they come to terms with the difficult issue of how to evaluate the behaviour of their citizens when confronted with the anti-Jewish genocide carried out by the Nazi occupiers. The debate among historians offers the best chance to move the historical facts forward, beyond the interpretations of politics. In north-eastern Europe after the collapse of the communist system, the first stage of approaching such issues has generally been from a moral point of view—a settlement of long-overdue accounts, often accompanied by apologies for past behavior.

We seemed to be moving into a second stage in which focus would be increasingly placed on careful and detailed research based on archives and reliable first-hand testimony. Unfortunately, this approach to history has been challenged of late on political grounds, particularly in North-Eastern Europe. What seems to be needed is to find some common ground through ongoing public and scholarly examination of the facts. The conflict is, however, more deep-rooted and reflects everywhere a clash between two views of society. One sees society as made up of different and often competing groups in which understandings of the past may differ and in which a reckoning with the negative aspects of the national history is necessary for building a pluralistic, outward-looking and tolerant polity. It sees the nation as something which emerged in particular circumstances and whose identity can change over time. The other view is centered on the nation and the community of which it is composed, which is seen as primordial and transcending the transient individuals of which it is made up. In 2016, the Polish Institute for National Memory defined the goal of historical study as follows:

Historical policy refers to the interpretation of facts, lives, and events and is assessed accord-

Continued on page 5.

Members' Forum

Screening Auschwitz

Marek Haltof, a professor at Northern Michigan University, received the Waclaw Lednicki Humanities Award for his book *Screening Auschwitz: Wanda Jakubowska's "The Last Stage" and the Politics of Commemoration* (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2018). In this essay he briefly summarizes the foci of the various chapters of his work.

Screening Auschwitz examines the classic Polish film *The Last Stage* (*Ostatni etap*), directed by the Auschwitz survivor Wanda Jakubowska (1907–1998). Released in 1948, *The Last Stage* was a pioneering work and the first narrative film to portray the Nazi German camp.

With its powerful dramatization of the camp experience, *The Last Stage* shaped subsequent Holocaust films as well as works about the “concentrationary universe,” establishing several quasi-documentary themes easily discernible in later narratives: the dark, “realistic” images of the camp; the passionate moralistic appeal; and the clear divisions between victims and perpetrators. Jakubowska’s film introduced the images of camp life that are now archetypal, for example, morning and evening roll calls on the Appelplatz, the arrival of transport trains at Birkenau, the separation of families, and tracking shots over the belongings left by the gassed camp victims. These and other images reinforced the depiction of Nazi German concentration camps and are noticeable in several subsequent American films, including George Stevens’s *The Diary of Anne Frank* (1959), Alan Pakula’s *Sophie’s Choice* (1982), and Steven Spielberg’s *Schindler’s List* (1993).

The book discusses the unusual circumstances that surrounded the production of the film on location at Auschwitz-Birkenau and summarizes critical debates surrounding the film’s release. While not a flawless film, *The Last Stage* nonetheless deserves pioneer status with its documentary feel and searing images, and enjoys a prominent place in the history of cinema as well as in our understanding of the past.

The book’s first chapter, “The Auschwitz-Birkenau Number 43513,” discusses Jakubowska’s life and career before *The Last Stage* and her imprisonment at Ausch-

witz-Birkenau and Ravensbrück during the war. The next chapter, “‘Stalin Was Moved to Tears’: The Script” discusses the prominent role that Jakubowska played in the nationalized post-war Polish cinema. Despite her high-profile connections, however, Jakubowska (along with her German co-scriptwriter Gerda Schneider) faced several problems during the script stage, among them the fact that the communist authorities in Poland were reluctant to produce a film about the German concentration/extermination camp that for Polish viewers had some obvious references to the Soviet gulags.



Chapter 3, “Return to Auschwitz: The Making of the Holocaust Classic,” introduces the unusual circumstances that surrounded the production of the film, which was made on location at Auschwitz-Birkenau, with the participation of Auschwitz survivors, the local population, and Red Army personnel, as well as some German prisoners of war as extras. Chapter 4, “The Film and Its Reception,” introduces the film itself and summarizes critical debates surrounding its release: the praise Jakubowska received in Poland and in the communist bloc for its social usefulness and adherence to the communist ideology, as well as the sometimes harsh criticism voiced mostly by former Auschwitz inmates who saw history being distorted by the heroic version of the camp. The release of Jakubowska’s film also coincided with the intense debate regarding the future of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

Chapter 5, “Fighting Auschwitz: The Heroic Account of the Camp,” deals with the political context of commemorating Auschwitz in post-war Poland. The attempts by the communist authorities to internationalize the camp, and to make it a symbol of Polish suffering and a victory over fascism, are cinematically represented in this film. Chapter 6, “Representation of the Holocaust in *The Last Stage*,” discusses how the efforts to internationalize Auschwitz, and to make it a memorial to those who fought against fascism, led to the marginalization of the camp’s largest group of victims, the Jews. This was despite the fact that the leading character in the film, Marta Weiss, is herself Jewish and based on the well-known historical figure, Mala Zimetbaum. Chapter 7, “The Legacy of Wanda Jakubowska,” discusses the continuing influence of *The Last Stage*.

The work began to serve as a semi-documentary in several films to follow, and its images were appropriated by other filmmakers for use in both documentary and fictional accounts.

Members' Forum

The Rise of Populism and the Threat to Holocaust History

(Antony Polonsky — *Continued from page 3.*)

ing to the interests of the society and the nation, as an element that has a long-range character and constitutes the foundation of state policies. Historical policy is a type of history that serves to shape the historical consciousness of society, including economic and territorial consciousness, as well as to strengthen public discourse about the past in the direction of nurturing national bonds regardless of the momentary policies of the state.

The issue here is not historical truth as such; instead, history is important because it is the “long-range ... foundation of state policies.” It is those stories that a community tells and retells in order to establish a bond between generations and to teach young people what “we” believe.

There is considerable common ground between these two understandings of how history should be written and it is important not to demonize the historians of whom one disapproves. There is a role both for a patriotic history which celebrates the achievements of the nation and for one which also points out the mistakes and wrongdoings committed in the past. In dealing with the difficult problems of the past, we need to base our work on the careful use of primary material. Governments should understand that these are complex issues. Although official support for historical study is to be welcomed, this is best carried out in universities and academic research bodies, independent of direct state intervention. Just as truth is the first casualty in war, so complexity is the first casualty in historical wars.

We also need to find ways of reaching a wider, transnational audience. In this context, it is important to stress that there are many scholars outside Poland dealing with these issues. Our collective enterprise will show how similar situations gave rise to similar reactions and that the issue is not one of a unique “national guilt.” Our goal should be to encourage scholarship based on a wide range of sources, from a variety of points of view and in different locations which will ultimately make possible a degree of normalization in the attitudes of Poles, Lithuanians, Belarusians and Ukrainians to the now disputed past, to their mutual relations and to those with their Jewish neighbors and fellow-citizens.

News

Białystok Conference Postponed

The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (PIASA) regrets that, given the on-going restrictions on travel and gatherings occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, it must reschedule its World Congress of Polish Studies in Białystok, Poland, originally planned for June 10-13, 2021. A new call for papers and complete panels will be issued in the fall for the Congress, which will be hosted by the University of Białystok in June 2022.

If you wish to take part in the 2022 event in Białystok, further information will appear in a future issue of this newsletter. In the meantime, all those who submitted proposals for the original 2021 conference, who wish to participate in 2022, are urged to resubmit their proposals to the conference chair, Prof. Patrice Dabrowski at pmd639@g.harvard.edu.

University of St. Thomas-Houston Adds Polish Studies

The University of St. Thomas-Houston, in Texas, USA, has announced the beginning of a new program in Polish Studies and Study Abroad in Poland to begin in the Fall semester, 2021. An online undergraduate minor will be available including courses on Polish culture, history, language, film, literature, and politics. It was initially developed as a complement to the university's Saint John Paul II studies program. The new effort was endowed with a generous gift \$200,000 from Dr. Ewa Thompson. For further information, contact Dr. John Hittinger, director of the John Paul II Institute, at Hittinger@stthom.edu.

Edward Loyas Scholarship

Seton Hall University offers the Edward Loyas Scholarship to students of Polish background. It is named for a Seton Hall graduate who was active in the Polish Highlander's Folk and Dance Group organized by the Gromada family. Other members included PIASA's past president Ted Gromada, executive assistant Jane Gromada Kedron and Hank Kedron. PIASA's former treasurer, Richard Hunter, has been a member of the committee since its inception. Mr. Loyas contributed over \$1 million to endow the scholarship. Applicants must write an essay on their appreciation for Polish culture the first time they apply for an award; the second time they apply, candidates must show that they attended and participated in a majority of the 15 semester meetings of the Seton Hall Slavic Club, the largest club on the Seton Hall campus. Over the years the scholarship had provided more than \$500,000 to deserving Seton Hall University Students.

Calls for Papers

POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews invites panel proposals for “What’s New, What’s Next? Innovative Methods, New Sources, and Paradigm Shifts in Jewish Studies,” an interdisciplinary online conference that will explore new directions in the study of East and Central European Jews (October, 3-7, 2021). Panel proposals are invited in the general areas of: (1) Theory in Jewish studies, (2) Paradigms, methodologies, and sources in Jewish studies, (3) Problematics, emphases, and lacunae, (4) Advantages and disadvantages of the digital revolution, (5) Ethics and politics, (6) Role of cultural institutions, and (7) Legacies. The conference language is English. Each panel will accommodate three 20-minute papers. For complete details visit <https://www.polin.pl/en/call-for-panel-proposals-2021>. **The deadline for proposals in April 30, 2021.**

Polish American Historical Association: PAHA will meet with the American Historical Association in New Orleans, Louisiana, January 6-9, 2022. Proposals for papers and sessions in the liberal arts and sciences on topics related to the Polish diaspora or relevant comparative sessions should be sent to the conference chair, Prof. Neal Pease, at pease@uwm.edu. In keeping with of the AHA deadline, the PAHA **deadline for proposals is April 15, 2021.**

Upcoming Conferences

April 23-24, 2021—Kościuszko Conference: The 18th Annual Kościuszko Conference sponsored by the Friends of Kościuszko at West Point will convene in the Thayer Hotel at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY, on April 23-24, 2021. If health concerns intervene, the conference will be held remotely using Zoom technology. For further information, contact Dean Anthony Bajdek at a.j.bajdek@comcast.net.

June 5-6, 2021—Global Studies Conference: The 14th Global Studies Conference will convene at Concordia University, Montréal, Canada, June 5-6, 2021. The conference will follow a blended model including both in person and online options for viewing and engaging. General themes include the economic, political, socio-cultural, and eco-systemic dimensions of globalization. For additional information and registration, contact Prof. Rafal Soborski at support@cgnetworks.org.

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—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 visit <https://www.polin.pl/en/call-for-panel-proposals-2021>. The deadline for proposals in April 30, 2021. See Call for Papers in column 1 of this page.

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 outreaches, 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 ASEES 53rd Annual Convention will be held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside in New Orleans 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: See Call for Papers in column 1 of this page.

New Polish Exhibit in Connecticut

The New England Air Museum, one of the largest aviation museums in the country, in cooperation with the Polish Studies Program under the leadership of Prof. M.B.B. Biskupski at Central Connecticut State University, is developing a permanent multi-media exhibit honoring the Kościuszko Squadron. The famous 303 Squadron fought with the Royal Air Force in 1940, where its record surpassed all other Allied squadrons during the Battle of Britain. British Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding stated: “Had it not been for the magnificent material contributed by the Polish squadrons and their unsurpassed gallantry I hesitate to say that the outcome of the battle would have been the same.”



Scheduled to formally open later this year, the exhibit will include artifacts, display cases, touchscreen kiosks, photographs, and other information, each telling a portion of the squadron’s history from its organization by American volunteers in Poland during the Polish-Soviet War, through the interwar period, the defense of Warsaw in 1939, and the end of World War II. Among the sponsoring organizations is the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America.

Polish Royal Documents in Buffalo

The Lockwood Memorial Library at the University of Buffalo contains 21 original parchment documents dating from the 16th to 18th centuries. They include letters and signatures from kings Zygmunt II August (1548-1572), Stefan Batory (1576-1586), Zygmunt III Vasa (1587-1632), Władysław IV Vasa (1632-1648), Jan II Kazimierz Vasa (1648-1668), Jan III Sobieski (1674-1696), August II Mocny (1697-1733), Stanisław August Poniatowski (1764-1795), and Prince Karol Stanisław Radziwiłł (1734–1790). Among the more interesting items are two privileges signed by Jan II Kazimierz, a privilege signed by Stanisław August Poniatowski with the Royal Seal, four documents signed by Jan III Sobieski, and three documents signed by August II.

Among the other holdings are rare copies of Alessandro Guagnino, *Rerum Polonicarum tomi tres* (Frankfurt 1584) and Valentinus Paschalius, *Cydicpe ad serenissimum et invictissimum Sigismundum Tertium Poloniae et Svetiæ regem* (Rome, 1622). Other valuable collections include the journalistic cartoons of Henry Archacki and the photography of Jan Bułhak. For further information, visit the university’s Polish Room at <https://library.buffalo.edu/polish-room/>.

New Book Translations from Polish to English

The Adam Mickiewicz Institute, a government-sponsored organization funded by Poland’s Ministry of Culture and National Heritage with headquarters in Warsaw, has announced that several books, originally published in Polish, appeared in English translation in 2020.

In anticipation of the centennial observance of the birth of the Polish science fiction writer, philosopher, futurologist, and literary critic **Stanisław Lem** in September 2021, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press is publishing English translations of six of his works. These include *The Invincible*, *His Master’s Voice*, *Memoirs of a Space Traveler*, *Return from the Stars* and his quasi-autobiographical *Hospital of the Transfiguration* and *Highcastle*. Other English translations include the following:

Jakub Żulczyk, *Blinded by the Lights* (*Ślepnąc od Światła*), a crime novel set against the Warsaw criminal underground. Publisher: Legend Press Ltd.

Stanisław Lubieński, *The Birds They Sang* (*Dwanaście Srok za Ogon*), contains information on historical bird watchers in a German POW camp and the author’s ruminations on Alfred Hitchcock’s birds and the “true” story behind the real James Bond. Publisher: Westbourne Press.

Szczepan Twardoch, *The King of Warsaw* (*Król*), about a Jewish boxer mixed up in a crime group in 1937 Warsaw. As such, the novel is a commentary on social realities in Interwar Poland. Publisher: Amazon Crossing.

Witold Szablowski, *How to Feed A Dictator*, based on the author’s extensive travels and interviews with cook who served some of the twentieth century’s most brutal tyrants. Publisher: Penguin Random House.

Małgorzata Szejnert, *Ellis Island: A People’s History*, explores the stories of Polish, Jewish, German and Italian immigrants entering the US through Ellis Island in New York Harbor, along with those of the immigrant receiving station’s employees who worked with the new arrivals. Publisher: Scribe US.

Wojciech Jagielski, *All Lara’s Wars*, pursues the experiences of a Georgian woman in her desperate attempts to find her sons who have joined ISIS and convince them to return home. Publisher: Seven Stories Press.

Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz, *Collected Plays by Witkacy*, a four-volume collection containing all 23 of his extant plays. Publisher: Martin E. Segal Theatre Center.

Olga Tokarczuk and **Daniel Chmielewski**, *I Nina*, is a modern retelling of the Sumerian myth of Goddess Inanna’s journey into the underworld. Publisher: Uncivilized Books.

New Books on Polish Studies

Adler, Eliyana R., *Survival on the Margins: Polish Jewish Refugees in the Wartime Soviet Union* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2020), ISBN-13: 978-0674988026.

Aleksov, Bojan and Aliksandr Piahnanu, eds., *Wars and Betweenness: Big Powers in Middle Europe, 1918-1945* (Budapest: Central European University Press, 2020), ISBN: 978-963-386-335-0.

Bajdek, Anthony J. *When Victimization of Poland was Never in Doubt: Fostering Knowledge of and Sympathy for Poland in the Early American Republic: 1811-1849, as Reported by the Niles' Register* (Point Pleasant, NJ: Winged Hussar Publ., 2021), ISBN-13: 978-1950423439.

Bem, Kazimierz, *Calvinism in the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth, 1548-1648: the Churches and the Faithful* (Leiden, NL & Boston, MA: Brill, 2020), ISBN-13: 978-9004424814.

Budrowska, Kamila and Paul H Vickers, *Writers, Literature and Censorship in Poland: 1948-1958* (Berlin: Peter Lang, 2020), ISBN-13: 978-3631801482.

Chodzko, Leonard and George Nafziger, *The History of the Polish Legions in Italy* (Chicago: Winged Hussar Publishing, 2020), ISBN-13: 978-1950423125.

Ciancia, Kathryn, *On Civilization's Edge: a Polish Borderland in the Interwar World* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2020), ISBN-13: 978-0190067458.

Dudkiewicz, Julia and Andrzej Szczerski, *Young Poland: the Polish Arts and Crafts Movement, 1890-1918* (London: Lund Humphries, 2020), ISBN-13: 978-1848224537.

Evans, Robert C. *Critical Insights: Heart of Darkness* (Ipswich, MA: Salem Press, Grey House Publ., 2019).

Fellerer, Jan, *Urban Multilingualism in East-central Europe: the Polish Dialect of Late-Habsburg Lviv* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2020), ISBN-13: 978-1498580144.

Frajlich, Anna, ed. *The Ghost of Shakespeare: Collected Essays* (Brookline, MA: Academic Studies Press, 2020), ISBN: 9781644694718.

Gierat-Bieron, Bożena, Joanna Orzechowska-Wałaszewska and Paweł Kubicki, *The European Capital of Culture 2016 Effect: How the ECOC Competition Changed Polish Cities* (Berlin: Peter Lang, 2020), ISBN-13: 978-3631818787.

Grzebalkowska, Magdalena, John Markoff and Małgorzata Markoff, *Poland 1945: War and Peace* (Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2020), ISBN-13: 978-0822945994.

Janicki, Arkadiusz, and Iwona Janicka, eds. *Kościuszko i jego następcy. Różne formy walk o Polskę i polskość od końca XVIII do początków XXI wieku* (Gdańsk: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, 2020), ISBN: 978-83-8206-020-1.

Kossakowski, Radosław, *Hooligans, Ultras, Activists: Polish Football Fandom in Sociological Perspective* (Cham, CH: Springer International Publishing AG, 2020), ISBN-13: 978-3030566067.

Kubow, Magdalena, *Poland and the Holocaust in the Polish-American Press, 1926-1945* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland Publishers, 2020), ISBN: 978-1-4766-7052-2.

Michna, Ewa and Katarzyna Wamińska, *Identity Strategies of Stateless Ethnic Minority Groups in Contemporary Poland* (Cham, CH: Springer, 2020), ISBN-13: 978-3030415747.

Mizia, Małgorzata. *Architektura twarzą kultury* (Kraków: Wydawnictwa Politechniki Krakowskiej, 2020), ISBN: 978-83-66531-44-4.

Mroz, Matilda, *Framing the Holocaust in Polish Aftermath Cinema: Posthumous Materiality and Unwanted Knowledge* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), ISBN-13: 978-1137461650.

Protassewicz, Irena, *Polish Woman's Experience in World War II: Conflict, Deportation and Exile* (London & New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2020), ISBN-13: 978-1350079922.

Sieradz, Małgorzata and Lindsay Davidson, *The Beginnings of Polish Musicology* (Berlin: Peter Lang, 2020), ISBN-13: 978-3631809587.

Sommer, Anna Karolina and Katarzyna Kosmala, *Polish Lace Makers: Gender, Heritage, and Identity* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2020), ISBN-13: 978-1498584319.

Stolarska-Fronia, Małgorzata, *Polish Avant-Garde in Berlin* (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2020), ISBN-13: 978-3631780534.

Tomka, Béla, *Austerities and Aspirations: A Comparative History of Growth, Consumption, and Quality of Life in East Central Europe since 1945* (Budapest: Central European University Press, 2020), ISBN: 978-963-386-351-0.

Kudos

Anthony Bajdek published *When Victimization of Poland was Never in Doubt: Fostering Knowledge of and Sympathy for Poland in the Early American Republic: 1811-1849, as Reported by the Niles' Register* (Point Pleasant, NJ: Winged Hussar Publ., 2021), ISBN-13: 978-1950423439.



M.B.B. Biskupski is one of the leaders in the development of a permanent exhibit on Tadeusz Kościuszko at the New England Air Museum in Hartford, CT. See the news article on page 7.



Anna Frajlich was honored with the Susanne Lotarski Distinguished Achievement Award from PIASA for her scholarly accomplishments; the Jubileuszowy Stulecia Medal from the Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski Jana Pawła II; and the Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego Medal. She published *The Ghost of Shakespeare: Collected Essays* (Brookline, MA: Academic Studies Press, 2020) and a book of poetry, *W pośpiechu rzeka płynie* (Szczecin, Bezręczce: Wydawnictwo Forma: Dom Kultury 13 Muz, 2020). Four of her poems appeared in *Twórczość* (March 2021, LXXVII, Nr. 3 (904)). Her interview on the works of Józef Wittlin and others appeared in *Konteksty Kultury*, Vol. 17, no. 2, 224-36. She was interviewed about *Ghost of Shakespeare* on www.academicstudiespress.com/asp-blog on January 13; Polish Radio “2” in Warsaw on January 27; a Zoom meeting hosted by the Harriman Institute and PIASA on January 27; and a Kościuszko Foundation Zoom meeting on February 23.



Christopher Garbowski published “The Polish Debate on the House of European History in Brussels,” in *The Polish Review*, Vol. 65, no. 4 (2020), 60-70.



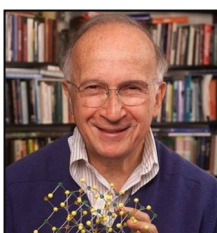
John M. Grondelski published reviews of Allan Amanik and Kami Fletcher, *Till Death Do Us Part: American Ethnic Cemeteries as Borders Uncrossed* in *Studia Polo-*



nijne, (The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin), 41 (2020), 351-53 and Tomáš Halík, *From the Underground Church to Freedom* (July 11, 2020): <https://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/a-witness-to-catholic-underground-work-for-czechoslovakias-freedom>.



Richard Hunter published “A Primer on Polish Government and Politics,” *The European Journal of Business and Management*, Vol. 12, no. 5 (2020), 1-13. He also did a virtual lecture to the Seton Hall University Slavic Club/Russian and East European Studies Program on “Polish Contemporary Politics” (October 22, 2020) and participated in the Edward Loyas Scholarship Committee at Seton Hall University of which he has been a member since its inception.



Roald Hoffmann, Nobel laureate and Frank H. T. Rhodes Professor of Humane Letters at Cornell University, was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Kościuszko Foundation.



Małgorzata Mazurek received tenure at Columbia University in New York City where she heads the Polish Studies program.



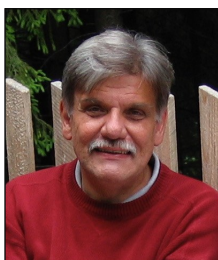
Andrzej Jaroszyński published “Wydobyć zbrodnię z mroku. Brytyjskie powieści o Katyniu,” *akcent*, No 1 (163) 2021, 10-17.



Małgorzata Mizia, published *Architektura twarzy kultury* (Kraków: Wydawnictwa Politechniki Krakowskiej, 2020) and is currently working on an English translation of the book. She retired from the Kraków University of Technology in October 2020.

Kudos

Dominic Pacyga was recognized with PIASA's Oskar Halecki Polish History Award for his book *American Warsaw: The Rise, Fall and Rebirth of Polish Chicago* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019). He also gave a presentation on "Poland Elsewhere: Creating a New Homeland in Chicago" at the University of Chicago on February 5, 2021. The Advocate Society presented him with its Award of Merit in recognition of his leadership and dedicated support of the Polish Community.



Neal Pease received the Polish American Historical Association's Amicus Poloniae Award which recognizes people who have made significant contributions to enhancing knowledge of Polish and/or Polish American heritage by individuals who are not of Polish ancestry. He was also elected to his second two-year term as the PAHA president beginning in January 2021. He previously served in 2012-2013.



James S. Pula published "Negotiating Conflict in an Ethno-Religious Community: The Leadership of Rev. Aleksander Fijałkowski," *Polish American Studies*, Vol. 77, no. 2 (Autumn 2020), 30-43. He also made a virtual presentation on "The Kościuszko Squadron in World War II" for the New England Air Museum, Hartford, CT, on Nov. 11, 2020, and another on "Poles in the Civil War" for the Polish Studies Program at Central Connecticut State University on Nov. 19.



Jean M. Szczypien published "Polish Literary References in *Heart of Darkness* and *The Secret Agent*" in Robert C. Evans, ed., *Critical Insights: Heart of Darkness* (Ipswich, MA: Salem Press, 2019), 244-53.

Ewa Thompson, Professor Emerita at Rice University, received the Transatlantyk Prize for 2020. It is awarded annually by the Book Institute to an eminent ambassador of Polish literature abroad. She was cited for her teaching "successive generations of Slavists," editing the *Sarmatian Review*, and her numerous publications including a monograph on Witold Gombrowicz.



Maja Trochimczyk is President of the California State Poetry Society and the Helena Modjeska Art and Culture Club in Los Angeles. She co-edited with Marlene Hitt *We Are Here: Village Poets Anthology* (Moonrise Press, 2020). Ten of her poems appeared in English with translations into Polish in the *Zwierzzenia Zwierza* anthology in Poland (Bezkres, 2020). Her poetry was also published in the *California Quarterly* (vol. 46, no. 4, Winter 2020); the *Blue and the Blues* anthology, edited by Carole Boyce (Pisces Press, 2021); *The Sonic Boom of Stars* haiku anthology, edited by Susan Rogers and Becki Reese (SCHSG, 2020); *When The Virus Came Calling: COVID19 Strikes America* anthology edited by Thelma T. Reyna (Golden Foothill Press, 2020); and *Spectrum* No. 24 (2020). Her poetry in Polish appeared in the anthology *Atlantyckie Strofy*, edited by Danuta Blaszk and Anna Maria Mickiewicz (Literary Waves, 2020).



Frank Wilczek, Nobel laureate and Herman Feshbach Professor of Physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Kościuszko Foundation.

Become a Member of PIASA

The mission of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America is to advance knowledge about Poland and the Polish diaspora and to assist scholars, scientists, and artists in their research and activities connected with these goals. In addition to maintaining its own archives, the Institute sponsors an annual international conference and publishes the respected quarterly scholarly journal *The Polish Review* in cooperation with the Polska Akademia Umiejętności and the University of Illinois Press.

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<https://piasa.org/membership/>

About the Institute

New Members

PIASA is pleased to welcome the following new regular academic members to the Institute —

Aleksandra Kremer is Associate Professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University. She holds M.A. degrees from the University of Warsaw and the University of Cambridge along with a Ph.D. in Literary Studies from the University of Warsaw. Her main area of research and teaching is Polish literature and culture, with special interests in modern poetry, sound studies, cultural history, visual arts, Polish-Jewish relations, migration, and translation. Her numerous publications include *Przypadki poezji konkretnej. Studia pięciu książek* [The Twists and Turns of Concrete Poetry: Case Studies of Five Books (Warsaw: IBL PAN, 2015)]. She also co-edited a special issue of *Konteksty Kultury* on transnationalism and world literature titled *Przekłady, kanony, przemieszczenia. Literatura polska w świecie* [Translations, Canons, Displacements: Polish Literature in a Global Perspective], Vol. 17, no. 1 (2020) and a special issue of *Prace Filologiczne. Literaturoznawstwo / Philological Studies. Literary Research* on the poetics of verse titled *Sources of Verse*, No. 3 (6), part 1 (2013).



Magdalena Nowak (Dr. hab.) is associate professor in the Institute of History (Faculty of History), University of Gdańsk. She holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Gdańsk. The recipient of numerous scholarships and awards, her interests include Polish-Ukrainian relations, the importance of religion in the development of national consciousness of Poles and Ukrainians, and the history of tourism. Among her 47 scholarly publications are *Narodowcy i Ukraińcy. Narodowa Demokracja wobec mniejszości ukraińskiej w Polsce 1922–1939* and *Dwa światy. Zagadnienie identyfikacji narodowej Andrzeja Szeptyckiego w latach 1865–1914*. She is also co-editor of *Historia-Mentalność-Tożsamość. Rosja i Europa Zachodnia w polskiej i ukraińskiej historiografii XIX i XX wieku* and *Polacy i Ukraińcy. Historia, która łączy i dzieli/Поляки і українці Історія, яка поєднує і роз'єднує*.



Anna Rybińska (Ph.D) is a Research Scientist in the Center for Child and Family Policy, Sanford School of Public Policy, at Duke University. She holds an M.A. degree from the Warsaw School of Economics and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill. Among her recent publications are “Trends in Intentions to Remain Childless in the United States,” *Population Research and Policy Review*; “A Research Note on the Convergence of Childlessness Rates Between Women with Secondary and Tertiary Education in the United States,” *European Journal of Population*; and “Childless Expectations and Childlessness Over the Life Course,” *Social Forces*.



PIASA is delighted to welcome two new sustaining members —

Chad Czaplă is Managing Director at Barclays Investment Bank in New York City. A graduate of Columbia University, he specializes in Corporate Finance, Capital Structure Efficiency, Asset Allocation, and Corporate Valuation. With 25 years of investment banking experience on Wall Street, he is also a guest lecturer in corporate finance at New York University.



Sherman Wesley Garnett holds an MA in Russian and East European Studies and a Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures from Yale University. A former dean of James Madison College at Michigan State University, he specializes in national security issues, US-Russian relations, and Russian and Polish literature of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In conjunction with his work on international security, he was awarded the Medal of Distinguished Civilian Service from the U.S. Department of Defense. He is currently pursuing research projects related to Zbigniew Herbert and Czesław Miłosz.



Welcome!

About the Institute

The PIASA Radio Free Europe Archives

Among the 77 collections of value to scholars that are housed in the Polish Institute archives are records and 200 tapes containing audio recordings of Radio Free Europe Broadcasts in New York between 1951 and 1989 along with a collection of bulletins and correspondence of democratic opposition activities in Poland from 1963 to 1985. The materials are presented in their originals in Polish, English, or German.

The “Polish Desk” in New York originated as part of the Polish Section of the Radio Free Europe office in Munich, Germany, in 1952 and existed until 1974.

The collection contains official annual and quarterly reports originated at the Munich headquarters (1971-76) and materials from the Polish Research Section–Information Department that includes press clippings and reports on the interior situation in Poland and the Soviet Union (1945-64) and research materials on the legal system in Poland (1951-54). There are also scripts of radio broadcasts from “The Polish Desk” (1952-56) for Głos Wolnej Polski, the first iteration of what would become the Polish Radio Broadcasting Station RWE beaming radio programs into Soviet-controlled Poland. 1953. Its purpose, as stated by Jan Nowak-Jeziorański, the station’s director for many years, was to “fight on the airwaves against the Russification and Sovietization of Polish culture, against the denationalization of young people. We will fight the falsification of our history and our traditions. We will introduce you to Polish, independent political thought, which has been suppressed in a subjugated country, but continues to develop freely under the conditions of freedom. We will say aloud what Polish society cannot say out loud, because it has a gag on its mouth.”

The collection also holds the records of the Polish Research Section–Translation Department, containing translations of scripts and research materials (from Polish to English) for other sections of RFE and approximately 200 unprocessed audio tapes dating from 1956-89. Note that the main collection of audio recordings from the Polish Section of RFE in Munich is preserved in the Archives of the Audiovisual Records in Warsaw, Poland. Additionally, many scripts and materials from the Polish Desk of RFE are located in the Jerzy Ptakowski Papers also housed in the PIASA archives.

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