



Newsletter

Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America

Vol. 1, No. 4

October 2021

A Word From the President

I had expected this column to be without some opening reference to COVID but we are now in the fourth wave of the pandemic which may not be the last. Nonetheless, PIASA has reopened its New York office on East 30th Street for regular business on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Those who wish to enter the building to use our library and archives are welcome to do so. Unfortunately, we are still unable to host events attended by larger groups.



Meanwhile, our Board of Directors has hardly been inactive. The Board unanimously approved a non-discrimination policy statement which was long overdue. We also felt that we could not remain silent in the face of a poorly veiled assault on independent media contained in legislation passed by the Polish parliament but now held up in the Senate. As a non-profit academic and cultural organization, our long-standing practice has been to support principles such as democratic governance and civil liberties but to refrain from any involvement in partisan politics. We believe that our statement in support of independent media in Poland, accessible on our website, meets that standard.

A genuinely international organization in the making, PIASA has a bright future attested to by a growing membership, the expanding readership of *The Polish Review*, and our creation of new awards to recognize outstanding work in new areas of scholarship. That we have sustained this momentum during the COVID era is truly remarkable. But growth also brings challenges, which we will highlight in future newsletters. Stay tuned!

— Robert Blobaum, PIASA President

Polish Institute to Meet in Białystok June 10-12, 2022

Proposals are solicited for complete sessions or individual papers in any of the disciplines in the liberal arts, sciences, or business/economics. The general theme of the conference is “Borderlands (Pogranicza),” for which Białystok, a city on Poland’s eastern frontier, is a most



appropriate setting. We welcome proposals which address the multiethnic and contested nature of borderlands. The borderland region known as the “kresy” has long inspired outstanding literary works and other cultural products, both national and transnational. Papers do not necessarily have to

address the main conference theme. Since we value comparative sessions that place the Polish and East Central European experience in context, papers need not focus specifically on Poland or Polish themes. Similarly, sessions including presenters from more than one country are encouraged.

Sessions are scheduled for 90 minutes to accommodate three papers or about 20 minutes per paper, with time left for discussion. The conference language is English; however, the organizers of complete sessions may opt for their sessions to be conducted entirely in Polish. All conference rooms will be equipped with AV for PowerPoint presentations. Presenters are invited to submit their conference papers to be considered for possible publication in *The Polish Review* after the conference.

The deadline for proposals is February 15, 2022, To submit a proposal, send the name, e-mail address, institutional affiliation, tentative paper title and one-paragraph abstract for each presenter to program chair Patrice Dabrowski at pmd639@g.harvard.edu. All participants are expected to pay the conference registration fee of \$80, discounted to \$40 for students.

Rachel Brenner Fund

The passing of PIASA Board member Rachel Brenner in February 2021 was a shock to all of us and a great loss to the scholarly community. To honor her memory, the George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison created a student support fund that will be part of the Center's new Rachel Feldhay Brenner Award for Research and Study of the Holocaust. Founded in 1991, the Center brings together scholars from a variety of disciplines to study and interpret Jewish and ancient Israelite history, religion, politics, society, and culture. According to Gwen Walker at the Center, the annual award may be used to cover such Holocaust-related expenses as airfare, ground transportation, lodging, and food, conference registration fees, and membership fees.

I am also pleased to report that an issue of the Center's newsletter is publicizing Rachel's publications (both articles and book reviews) that appeared in *The Polish Review*.

— Halina Filipowicz

Tatra Eagle Digitized

The quarterly publication *Tatrzański Orzeł/The Tatra Eagle*, co-edited by Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada and Janina Gromada Kedron received the prestigious Oskar Kolberg Award from the Polish Ministry of Culture in Warsaw in June 2018 for its contributions to Polish Folk Culture in the United States and Poland for over seven decades. Now this important resource has been designated part of the rich folk heritage of the Polish highlanders (górale) by Prof. Anna Mlekodaj of the Podhalańska Państwowa Szkoła Zawodowa in Nowy Targ. The college's Podhalańska Biblioteka Cyfrowa (Podhalań Digital Library) digitized all of the issues of the 72 year old periodical which Prof. Mlekodaj characterized as one the most valuable objects in its collection. Because the Nowy Targ Digital Library is affiliated with the regional Małopolska Province's Cyfrowa Małopolska Biblioteka, the journal will be accessible at: <http://MBC.Małopolska.pl>.

To complement the digitization and provide further assistance to scholars, the journal's editors published a complete index titled *Indeks/Index to Tatrzański Orzeł—The Tatra Eagle 1947-2018*. For further information contact thadgromada@gmail.com. The journal's contents are mostly in Polish and include articles on the art, music, theatre, literature, architecture, environment, religion, economics, and linguistic dialect of the Polish górale in

the United States. The index also contains biographical information and obituaries on almost 200 prominent individuals. The Polish highlanders were a very large part of the Polish immigration to America beginning in the late 19th century.

— Thaddeus V. Gromada

Hoover Institute Digitized Polish Archival Collections

Over half of the more than 1.5 million documents held by the Hoover Institute relating to Poland in the era of the Second World War have been digitized by Poland's National Digital Archives (Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe) and are now available on the Archiwum website at: www.szukajwarchiwach.pl.

The material available online includes the following taken from the Hoover Institute website:

Władysław Anders Collection
Stanisław Mikołajczyk Papers
Poland, Diplomatic Papers —

Ambasada (Great Britain), Records
Ambasada (Italy), Telegrams
Ambasada (Soviet Union), Records
Ambasada (U.S.), Records
Delegacja przy Lidze Narodow, Telegrams
Konsulat Generalny (Dublin), Records
Konsulat Generalny (Lille), Records
Ministerstwo Informacji i Dokumentacji, Records
Ministerstwo Spraw Zagranicznych, Records
Poselstwo (Belgium), Records
Poselstwo (Czechoslovakia), Records
Poselstwo (Denmark), Telegrams
Poselstwo (Hungary), Telegrams
Poselstwo (Netherlands), Records
Poselstwo (Romania), Telegrams
Poselstwo (Switzerland), Telegrams

If you have news items to share (not advertisements), please send them to the editor, James S. Pula, at jpula@pnw.edu. They will appear in the next available issue.

Calls for Papers

Baltic Studies at a Crossroads: The Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS) and the Baltic Studies Program at the University of Washington jointly invite proposals for papers on a variety of topics and in varied formats (paper, panel, roundtable, book discussion roundtable, film screening, workshop). The conference will convene May 27-29, 2022, at the University of Washington in Seattle. **The deadline for submissions is October 15, 2021.** For information, see: <https://aabs-balticstudies.org/aabs-2022-in-seattle/>

Polish Review: *The Polish Review*, a peer reviewed, international, English language, interdisciplinary scholarly journal published by the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America invites submissions on any aspect of Polish or diaspora studies. *The Polish Review* is abstracted in *Historical Abstracts*, *ABC POL SCI*, *America: History and Life*, *Index of Articles on Jewish Studies*, *MLA International Bibliography*, and *International Political Science Abstracts*. It is also listed among the journals recognized by the American Historical Association and the Polish Ministry of Education and Research. Correspondence dealing with editorial matters should be sent to the editor, Prof. Halina Filipowicz, at hfilipow@wisc.edu. Submissions should be sent via e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word with citations following the Chicago or Turabian style. Quotations, phrases or publication titles in languages other than English should be followed by English translations in parentheses.

Upcoming Conferences

October 3–7, 2021—The **POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews** will host an online conference “What’s New, What’s Next? Innovative Methods, New Sources, and Paradigm Shifts in Jewish Studies” that will explore new directions in the study of East and Central European Jews. For further information, contact the organizers at: whatsnewconference@polin.pl.

October 23, 2021—**Polish National Catholic Church:** The PNCC Commission on History and Archives will host its 21st Conference of Scholars to be held virtually due to the ongoing pandemic. Papers will include topics devoted to the Polish National Catholic Church, its associations, its 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, LA, emphasizing a theme of “Diversity, Intersectionality, Interdisciplinarity,” especially as the topics shed light on how issues of ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, and sexuality are often perceived differently in Eastern Europe and Eurasia than in the Americas or Western Europe. For conference information contact aseees.convention@pitt.edu.

January 6-9, 2022—**Polish American Historical Association:** PAHA will meet with the American Historical Association in New Orleans, Louisiana, January 6-9, 2022. For a program and other information, contact the conference chair, Prof. Neal Pease at pease@uwm.edu.

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

May 27-29, 2022—**Baltic Studies at a Crossroads:** The Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies and the Baltic Studies Program conference will be held at the University of Washington in Seattle. See the Call for Papers in the column to the left on this page.

June 10-12, 2022—**Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America:** PIASA will convene its annual conference on Polish studies at the University of Białystok, Poland. For further information, including the submission of proposals, see the description on page 1.

October 19-22, 2022—**4th International Congress of Polish History:** Kraków will host “War and Diversity Beyond the Battlefield: Cultural Encounters in the Polish Lands 1914–1923” which will explore the history of the Polish lands through the cultural, ethnic, linguistic, religious, economic, demographic, and social diversity that has always been a factor in Poland’s history. The focus will be on the eras of the First World War and the early post-war period. The languages of the Congress will be English and Polish. For further information contact Prof. Keely Stauter-Halsted (stauterh@uic.edu) or Prof. Kamil Ruszala (kamil.ruszala@uj.edu.pl).

New Books on Polish Studies

Ambrosewicz-Jacobs, Jolanta. *Islands of Memory: The Landscape of the (Non)Memory of the Holocaust in Polish Education between 1989–2015* (Kraków: Jagiellonian University Press, 2021), ISBN: 978-8323371892.

Armour, Ian D. *A History of Eastern Europe 1918 to the Present: Modernisation, Ideology and Nationality* (London & New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021), ISBN: 978-1472508614.

Best, Jolanta Wróbel, ed., *Wheels of Change: Feminist Transgressions in Polish Culture and Society* (Warsaw: Warsaw University Press, 2021), ISBN: 978-83-235-4940-6.

Bukowczyk, John, ed., *Through Words and Deeds: Polish and Polish American Women in History* (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2021), ISBN: 978-0252086236.

Chmielewska, Katarzyna, Agnieszka Mrozik, and Grzegorz Wołowicz, eds., *Reassessing Communism: Concepts, Culture, and Society in Poland, 1944–1989* (Budapest & New York: Central European University Press, 2021), ISBN: 978-9633863787.

Czapski, Józef, Irena Grudzińska-Gross, and Alissa Valles, *Memories of Starobielsk: Essays Between Art and History* (New York: New York Review Books, 2021), ISBN: 978-1681374864.

Goscilo, Helena, and Beth Holmgren, *Polish Cinema Today: A Bold New Era in Film* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2021), ISBN: 978-1793641656.

Grabowska, Mirosława, and Jolanta Scicińska. *The Post-Communist Cleavage. Social Bases of Politics in Poland after 1989* (Berlin: Peter Lang GmbH, Internationaler Verlag der Wissenschaften, 2021), ISBN: 978-3631832141.

Guesnet, François, Antony Polonsky, Ada Rapoport-Albert, and Marcin Wodziński, eds. *Jewish Religious Life in Poland Since 1750* (Liverpool, UK: The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization in Association with Liverpool University Press; *Polin* Vol. 33, 2021), ISBN: 978-1906764753.

Jacuński, Michał, Barbara Brodzińska, Anna PACEŚNIAK, and Maria Winclawska. *Party Organization and Communication in Poland* (Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021), ISBN: 978-3030599928.

Jedruch, Eva Cristina Hoffman. *Crossing the Bridges: From Lvov Across the Steppes of Asia to London's Doodlebugs: One Woman's Wartime Odyssey* (London: Austin Macauley Publ., 2021), ISBN: 978-1528985611.

Koval, Matthew B. *Childhood in Medieval Poland (1050-1300): Constructions and Realities in a European Context* (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2021), ISBN: 978-9004460997.

Lubecki, Jacek and James W. Peterson, eds. *Defending Eastern Europe: The Defense Policies of New NATO and EU Member States* (Manchester, UK: Manchester University Press, 2021), ISBN: 978-1-5261-4755-4.

Millard, F. *Transitional Justice in Poland: Memory and the Politics of the Past* (London and New York: I. B. Tauris, 2021), ISBN: 978-0755601332.

Modzelewski, Karol, and Frank L. Vigoda. *Riding History to Death: Confessions of a Battered Rider* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2021), ISBN: 978-1538141625.

Mróz, Tomasz. *Plato in Poland 1800-1950 Types of Reception — Authors — Problems* (Baden-Baden: Academia Verlag, 2021), ISBN: 978-3896659460.

Opilowska, Elżbieta and Monika Sus. *Poland and Germany in the European Union: the Multi-dimensional Dynamics of Bilateral Relations* (New York: Routledge, 2021), ISBN: 978-0367490799.

Person, Katarzyna. *Warsaw Ghetto Police: The Jewish Order Service During the Nazi Occupation* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2021), ISBN: 978-1501754074.

Rau, Zbigniew, Katarzyna M. Staszyńska, Krzysztof Zagórski, and Maciej Chmieliński. *Classical Political Philosophy in Popular Discourse: The Case of Poland* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2021), ISBN: 978-1793612267.

Röger, Maren and Rachel Ward. *Wartime Relations: Intimacy, Violence, and Prostitution in Occupied Poland, 1939-1945* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), ISBN: 978-0192549280.

Staliūnas, Darius and Yoko Aoshima, eds., *The Tsar, the Empire, and the Nation: Dilemmas of Nationalization in Russia's Western Borderlands, 1905–1915* (Budapest & New York: Central European University Press, 2021), ISBN: 978-9633863657.

Trencsényi, Balázs, Constantin Iordachi, and Péter Apor, eds., *The Rise of Comparative History* (Budapest & New York: Central European University Press, 2020), ISBN: 978-9633863619.

Wciślik, Piotr. *Dissident Legacies of Samizdat Social Media Activism Unlicensed Print Culture in Poland 1976-1990* (New York: Routledge, 2021), ISBN: 978-0367756697.

Members' Forum

American Warsaw

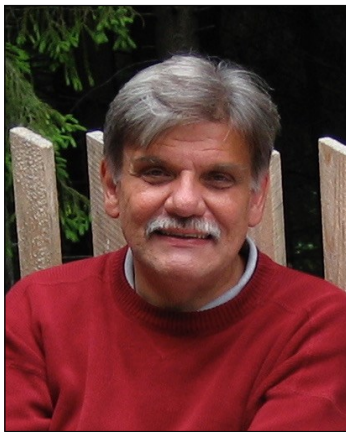
Dominic Pacyga, Professor Emeritus at Columbia College in Chicago, received PIASA's Oskar Halecki Award for his comprehensive, yet nuanced *American Warsaw: The Rise, Fall and Rebirth of Polish Chicago* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019). In this brief contribution he explains his interest in the subject, his journey in the book's creation, and why the diaspora must still be considered part of Polish history.

In some ways my book, *American Warsaw: The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of Polish Chicago*, has been a work in the making throughout my career as a historian. As early as 1980, at a conference in Toronto, the issue of *Polskość* presented itself to me. How was it defined? How did that definition change between the generations of Polish immigrants and ethnics across the United States, but particularly in Chicago? Being Polish, even though I am a third generation American, was part of my self-definition. It was, and is, who I am. The Polish sociologist, Gregorz Babiński, challenged that supposition and in many ways led me to writing *American Warsaw*. I am most thankful to him, for making me think out of my rather parochial box and sending me on a life-long quest to understand what it meant to be both a Polish American and a Pole — and more importantly what the differences were.

A major theme of *American Warsaw* is how was *Polskość*, or Polishness, defined in the capital of the Polish diaspora and how did that change overtime? Another related topic is exactly what was the relationship between the Chicago Polonia and Poland, and how did it fluctuate throughout history? While I am recognized as an urban historian, one of my major interests has always been the experience of Polish Chicagoans and how they reacted to the larger American society as well as to Poland. *American Warsaw* is a direct result of that body of work, a sort of closing of the circle of inquiry. At least that was the way I thought of it when I began researching and writing. In fact, it opened many more circles of inquiry which I will never be able to close.

While I have long studied the Chicago Polonia, many new facts presented themselves to me while writing the book. I was unaware of Polonia's participation in the 1894 Lwów Provincial Fair and its importance for the movement for Polish independence. I was also not as

familiar with the awakening of the peasantry, especially in Galicia, to the independence movement. While I had knowledge of the disagreement between the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America and the Polish National Alliance, my research on the book enabled me to learn so much more of that conflict. The issue of gender and its role in Polonia opened new venues of explorations. Chicago Polonia's political history is a long one, but my research opened new avenues of understanding and led me to my next project exploring the religious, cultural, and communal roots of the various Chicago political machines. The beauty — or perhaps the danger — of being an historian is that a simple question leads to so many others. It is part of the joy of being a student of history.



I have always felt that the history of Polish immigration should also be an important part of Polish history. Unfortunately, it has not always been treated in that manner. I hope my book helps to rectify that situation. You cannot understand Polonia without understanding Poland. Also, you cannot understand Polish history without understanding the immigration. Polish Chicago never stopped caring about Poland. Even when at times it broke with Warsaw, such as during the Światpol conference in 1934, it kept its eyes on events in Poland. Five years later, Polonia would begin raising millions of dollars in war relief for the beleaguered homeland. The creation of the Polish American Congress resulted in an organization that labored to promote Polishness in America and freedom in Poland. The bond between the diaspora and Poland may seem tenuous today, but time and time again, my research has shown, Polonia has always risen to help the homeland. Whether that was through political organizations, raising money for war relief, forming the Blue Army, or aiding the Solidarity movement, Chicago has been at the forefront of that struggle. My argument for including the diaspora in Polish history is clear, the "Fourth Partition" played a central role in the struggle for Polish independence.

Over the years many have helped me to understand the Polish community. President Aloysius Mazewski of the Polish National Alliance encouraged my scholarship as a young graduate student. I owe much to various professors at the University of Illinois at Chicago, especially Edward Thaden, Leo Schelbert, and Perry Duis. My parents and grandmothers imparted in me a sense of pride and *Polskość*. My colleagues, both in Poland and the United States, have widened my perspective. The result was *American Warsaw*, and, I hope, yet more to come.

Members' Forum

Now retired as Professor Emeritus from New Jersey City University in New Jersey, Thaddeus V. Gromada received his Ph.D. from Fordham University where he studied under the eminent Polish historian Oskar Halecki. During his *sixty years* as a member of PIASA, he has held important leadership positions as secretary general, executive director, and then president spanning a time when the Institute underwent fundamental changes and expansion first as an American academic association and then through internationalization of its membership, annual conferences, and the reach of its academic journal *The Polish Review*. It was largely through his leadership and constant efforts that PIASA enjoys the success that it has today. We are pleased to present below, some of his reminiscences about this formative era that constitute, in themselves, an important historical document.

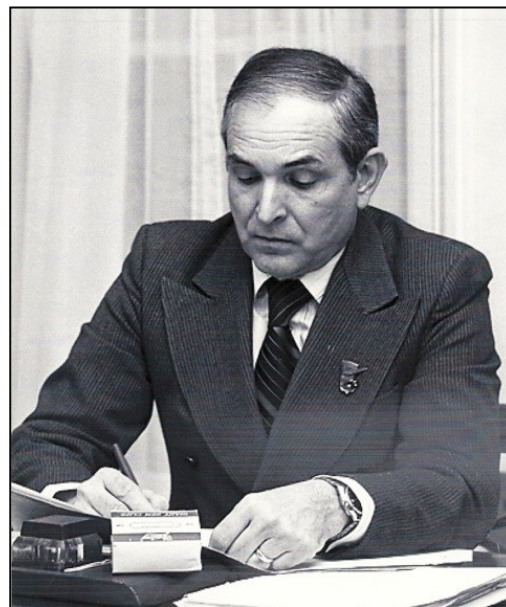
— *The Editor*

My Reflections on PIASA

Thaddeus V. Gromada

I was asked to reflect on my association with PIASA especially when I was in leadership positions from 1970 to 2011. But my connection with PIASA began earlier when I was a graduate student at Fordham University under the mentorship of Prof. Oskar Halecki. My mentor was co-founder of the Polish Institute, its first Executive Director from 1942 to 1952 and its *spiritus movens* until his death in 1973. Much to my surprise Prof. Halecki invited me as the organizer and President of the Polish Cultural Club at Fordham to be a speaker at PIASA's commemoration of the 161st Anniversary of the Constitution of the Third of May. The other speakers at this May 2, 1952 event included such notables as poet Kazimierz Wierzyński, historian, past Polish prime minister, and PIASA President Jan Kucharzewski, and Halecki himself. Quite an introduction to PIASA. Later, after receiving my Ph.D. and a position on the faculty New Jersey City University, Halecki nominated me for membership in the Polish Institute in 1961. Then, in 1970, I was elected Secretary General and in 1992 Executive Director to 2011, the last three years also President.

I was the first American born member in a leadership position with major responsibility for academic affairs, organizing lectures, conferences, etc. PIASA was still essentially an émigré organization burdened by its stereotyped image of Cold War warriors unable to be objective about their native Poland and oblivious to American issues. Shedding this image was my major goal. I wanted PIASA to be recognized by mainstream American academic circles as an important center of learning and culture advancing knowledge about Poland's intellectual and cultural traditions and its contributions to Western civilization. Its mission was to promote this knowledge to America's pluralistic society and advance knowledge in general. The first major step in that direction was taken in 1972 when, on my recommendation, I arranged for



PIASA to be affiliated with the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Slavic, and East European Studies (AAASES) based in Harvard. From then on PIASA became visible at the Association's Annual Conventions held in major American cities. This gave us an opportunity to organize informational meetings, sessions, panels, book exhibits and network with our peers. This new policy was especially supported by the first American born PIASA president, elected in 1974, Dr. John Gronouski, who had served in President John F. Kennedy's cabinet and later as Ambassador to Poland. In addition, the Institute began cooperating with ethnic academic organizations co-sponsoring conferences, meetings, and other programs. They included Ukrainian, Czech, Slovak, Byelorusin and Jewish societies.

Probably a more important innovation was changing the character of PIASA Annual Meetings. They were primarily business meetings with long administrative reports that engendered endless discussions, often very heated.

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Members' Forum

My Reflections on PIASA

(Continued from previous page.)

On my recommendation the Institute's Board of Directors agreed in the fall of 1977 to follow the model of American Learned Societies. The Annual Meetings thus became scholarly conferences with less time for business reports. The change encouraged greater membership participation with opportunities for social contacts and networking. In 1980 another decision was made to change the bylaws to permit scheduling Annual Meetings outside of New York. So, PIASA began holding its meetings in other cities like Washington, DC, Boston, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, and Montréal, usually in cooperation with major universities.

In 1978, thanks to our distinguished member Zbigniew Brzeziński, who was National Security Advisor to President Jimmy Carter, PIASA began to receive invitations to White House and State Department briefings and luncheon meetings on foreign and domestic affairs. Usually it was the Secretary General who travelled to Washington to represent PIASA. These types of invitations continued under Presidents Reagan, Clinton, Bush 1 and Bush 2. They were important for PIASA since it recognized our interest and participation in national American affairs. At the same time PIASA made a greater effort to reach out to Polonia and its major professional and cultural organizations, at times offering them space in our townhouse headquarters in Mid-Manhattan. These organizations included the Kościuszko Foundation, Polonia Technica, the Polish American Congress, the Polish American Historical Association, the American Council of Polish Culture, and the Polish Teachers Association. Individual Polish American artists and scholars were provided a forum for their creative work in the heart of New York City.

During the dramatic events of the 1980s associated with the Solidarity Movement in Poland, the media in New York City, newspapers like the *New York Times*, television and radio turned to PIASA for authoritative and objective information and comments. We of course gladly responded. Texts of our statements were published in newspapers and broadcast on radio stations. Voice of America and Radio Free Europe broadcast them directly to Poland as well as the interviews with the PIASA president, Feliks Gross, and myself as Secretary General. Stranded Polish scholars seeking asylum in America in 1981 following General Jaruzelski's imposition of martial law found help, advice, and moral and material support from PIASA. A "Special Counseling and Academic

Assistance Committee" headed by Mrs. Wanda Wolińska and her many mostly women volunteers, facilitated the aid. It happily received funds from the Rockefeller Foundation and International Research and Exchange Board (IREX).

With the "Grand Failure of Communism" in Poland and Eastern Europe in 1990-1991, PIASA could at last have normal and direct contacts with Poland and in particular with leading Polish academic and cultural institutions. Soon news arrived that the Polska Akademia Umiejętności (PAU), our parent organization, had re-emerged from its forced closure in 1951 and announced in 1990 its readiness to establish collaboration with our Institute. President Feliks Gross and Executive Director Thaddeus V. Gromada made a formal visit to PAU in Kraków in 1992 and initiated cooperation between PAU and PIASA. The cooperation was greatly strengthened in the year 2000 by our enormous efforts organizing the 58th Annual Meeting in Kraków, with the close cooperation with PAU and the Jagiellonian University. Over 300 PIASA members participated with several hundred more PAU members and Jagiellonian professors. This meeting was hailed in the press as "PIASA's triumphant return to its roots." But PIASA contacts were not limited to PAU. We also developed close and productive relations with the Polska Akademia Nauk (PAN), the Polish National Archives, the Biblioteka Narodowa, the Foundation for Polish Science, the Semper Polonia Foundation and the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, all in Warsaw. These were not superficial contacts. PIASA benefited a great deal from the concrete aid it received in various forms. Funds were received from foundations and other institutions to get needed equipment such as computers, upgrade conditions for the preservation of archives, and to provide Polish archivists and librarians to upgrade our library and archives which helped to attract more researchers not only in America but from Europe. The Kościuszko Foundation was also very helpful providing scholarships to these visiting professionals from Poland. In the years 2000 to 2011 it was important for me to visit Poland at least once a year not only to keep the fruitful cooperation alive but if possible help it grow. This is not an easy task but it is essential.

It would be remiss not to recall the impressive 50th anniversary celebrations in 1992. It began with a three day International Congress at Yale University June 18-20 with over 400 in attendance. The Congress consisted of 45 sessions/panels in many disciplines. Among the participants were rectors of three major Polish universities, official representative of PAU and the Polish Ambassador, Kazimierz Dziewanowski. The second major event was

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Members' Forum

My Reflections on PIASA

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an Academic Convocation convened at the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York on October 1, at the very site of PIASA's inaugural meeting in 1942. In the academic procession were not only PIASA members in their academic robes but representatives of 20 major American learned societies and universities which included the American Council of Learned Societies, Yale, Columbia, and Fordham Universities. The main address was given by Dr. Richard Pipes, Professor of History at Harvard University. To mark the golden anniversary PIASA established five awards to honor North American scholars namely, the Oskar Halecki History Award, Bronisław Malinowski Social Science Award, Waław Lednicki Humanities Award, the Casimir Funk Natural Science Award, and the Tadeusz Sendzimir Applied Science Award. The next year we were able to announce the final payment on the \$300,000 mortgage on our townhouse headquarters. For the first time PIASA had its own secure home on 208 East 30th Street in the heart of Manhattan, New York City, capitol city of the world. What ever was achieved during my tenure as Secretary General, Executive Director and President was due largely to the support I received from my wife Terry, my Deputy Jane Gromada

Kedron and countless PIASA members and friends.

PIASA members have good reasons to be proud. We received formal recognition from the Polish government of independent Poland. On September 14, 2000, none other than Władysław Bartoszewski, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Poland's "wise man," accompanied by two Polish Ambassadors, Przemysław Grudziński (Ambassador to the US) and Janusz Stańczyk (Ambassador to the UN) made a formal visit to our Institute on East 30th Street. He said the following to me: "The promotion of knowledge about Poland's historic achievements is one of the most important Polish foreign policy aims. I am pleased to acknowledge that we can count on the Polish Institute's valuable experience and professionalism in our activities in the United States." Earlier, Pope John Paul II wrote: "The Polish Institute has gained full rights of citizenship in the field of learning and culture in the United States and in the world. It has won respect and many friends and has become one of the important points in the world where the Polish spirit and Polish thought have come into live contact with the spiritual heritage of the nations of the world." Clearly PIASA's mission of enriching the intellectual life of America and being a link between Poland and America is still very much relevant and must be continued. To meet the challenges and opportunities of the future will require the creative energies of PIASA's leadership and its members.



Prof. Gromada (left) with Czesław Miłosz and then-president Prof. Feliks Gross.

Call for Nominations

Each year the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America recognizes excellence in the various disciplines encompassed in the field of Polish studies through a series of awards presented at its annual meeting. Nominations must be received by November 15, 2021, for the awards to be presented at the meeting in Białystok, Poland, in June 2022. The list of awards and the email addresses for submitting nominations are as follows. A full description of the criteria for each award is available on PIASA's website at <https://piasa.org>.

Oskar Halecki Polish History Award: Recognizes a book of particular value and significance dealing with the history of Poland or the Polish diaspora. The book must have been published in the two years preceding the year of nomination—in this case 2019 or 2020. Send nominations to James Pula: jpula@pnw.edu.

Casimir Funk Natural Sciences Award: The Casimir Funk Natural Sciences Award honors an outstanding scientist of Polish birth or ancestry living and working in the United States or Canada. The nominee should have contributed in a major way to scientific research and be widely recognized. Nominations should include a letter stating the achievements on which the nomination is based and the nominee's Curriculum Vita. Send nominations to Hanna Chroboczek Kelker: kelker01@verizon.net.

Bronisław Malinowski Social Sciences Award: The award recognizes a scholar in 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 book, outstanding publication or body of work should represent exemplary scholarly research published in one of the fields encompassed by the social sciences—including anthropology, economics, political science, and sociology—according to standards recognized by those disciplines. Send nominations to Bozena Leven: bleven@tcnj.edu.

Wacław Lednicki Humanities Award: Named after the first director of the Literature and Arts Section of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America, the Wacław Lednicki Award recognizes 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, to include fine arts, history, languages, literature, philosophy, religion, etc. However, since Polish history has its own PIASA award, works in this field are ineligible. The book or cultural product must have been published or appeared during the 2019 or 2020 calendar

years. Send nominations to Marek Haltof: mhaltof@nmu.edu

Tadeusz Sendzimir Applied Sciences Award: Recognizes excellence, individual achievement and innovative contributions in the field of applied sciences by a Polish-American scientist or engineer living and working in the United States. Nominations should include a letter stating the achievements on which the nomination is based and the nominee's Curriculum Vita. Send nominations to Wlodek Mandrecki: wlodek@mandrecki.com.

Susanne Lotarski Distinguished Achievement Award: Recognizes significant distinguished scholarly accomplishment over time. Nominations should include a letter stating the achievements on which the nomination is based and the nominee's Curriculum Vita. Send nominations to Robert Blobaum: rblobau@wvu.edu.

Anna Cienciala Award: The award recognizes the importance of collaborative scholarship while honoring the work of Anna Cienciala. The award is for the best edited multi-author scholarly book in the various fields of Polish studies broadly defined. Eligible books must have been published in English in the two years prior to the year in which nominations are due—in this case 2019 or 2020. Nominations must be accompanied by *three* copies of the book. Send nominations to Neal Pease: pease@uwm.edu.

Rachel Brenner Award: The award, named for Rachel Feldhay Brenner (1946-2021), an eminent Polish-Israeli-American literary scholar, is given every two years to the author of the best English-language book on the history and/or culture of Polish Jews. Books published in 2019 and 2020 are eligible this year. Send nominations to Piotr Wrobel: piotr.wrobel@utoronto.ca.

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 co-operation with the Polska Akademia Umiejętności and the University of Illinois Press.

To become a member,
please go to the PIASA website at:

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

New Members

Jaroslav Anders holds an M.A. in English from Warsaw University with a specialty in contemporary Polish literature. His research interests include post-war Polish poetry, comparative literature, literary translation, East European politics, and human rights issues. He is the author of *“Between Fire and Sleep” Essays on Modern Polish Poetry and Prose* (Yale University Press, 2009). A retired deputy office director in the Office of European Affairs, U.S. Department of State, he has also published various essays and translations in *The Polish Review*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The New Republic*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and other venues.



Joanna Trzeciak Huss earned a Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures from the University of Chicago and is currently Associate Professor of Russian and Polish Translation in the Institute for Applied Linguistics at Kent State University in Ohio. She is the translator and editor of *Sobbing Superpower: Selected Poems of Tadeusz Rozewicz* (W.W. Norton, 2011), *Miracle Fair: Selected Poems of Wislawa Szymborska* (W.W. Norton, 2001), and over 100 translations of Szymborska's poetry that appeared in a variety of journals. Her current project is to translate and edit the collected poems of Zuzanna Ginczanka.



Among her recognitions is Michael Heim Prize for Collegial Translation from the American Council of Learned Societies; a Fulbright Research Fellowship at the Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Jagiellonian University, Kraków; a Scholarly Translation award from the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages; a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship; a Newhouse Center for the Humanities Fellowship; a Heldt Translation Prize; and various research and travel grants.

Ronald J. Meyer is Communications Manager in the Harriman Institute at Columbia University where he is also Adjunct Associate Professor and Director of the M.A. Program in Russian Literary Translation. He is the editor of *The Ghost of Shakespeare: Collected Essays of Anna Frąjlich* (Academic Studies Press, 2020) and has published translations of works by Oleg Sentsov, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Anna Akhmatova, Nikolai Gogol, and Tatiana Smoliarova. His translation of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's *April 1917* is forthcoming from the University of Notre Dame Press. Among his recognitions are several



research and travel grants, a research fellowship from the Likhachev Foundation in St. Petersburg, Russia, and a Wheatland Foundation Translation Grant.

Beata Pozniak was born in Gdańsk and earned a Master of Fine arts degree from the National Film School in Łódź. She is the founder and president of Women's Day USA and led the effort to have International Women's Day recognized by the U.S. Congress in 1994. As an actress, she appeared in *JFK*, *Babylon 5*, *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*, *Dark Skies*, and in the popular television series *Melrose Place*, *Mad About You*, and *The Drew Carey Show*.



She has taught courses in writing, television, and cinema at the University of Southern California and U.C.L.A., while her extensive list of credits as an actress, director, and producer spans television, film, and the theatre. She has served as a member of the Television Academy's Judging Panel for the Primetime Emmy Awards since 1996 and is also a member of the International Board of Governors of the United Nations International Film Showcase. Among her many awards and recognitions are a star in Festiwal Gwiazd (Poland's equivalent of the Hollywood Walk of Fame), the *Washington Post's* Best Audiobook of the Year, an Audie Award for Multi-Voiced Performance, a Voice Arts Award for Outstanding Video Game Character, the International Maria Konopnicka Prize, the Ianicius Klemens Janicki Award for Artistic and Literary Achievements, the Tadeusz Micinski Award for outstanding interpretation of poetry, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the magazine *Osobowości i Sukcesy*.

Richard I. Suchenski is an Associate Professor at Bard College in Annandale-On-Hudson, New York. He received a joint Ph.D. with distinction in Film Studies and the History of Art from Yale University in 2011. A specialist in Art History, Film History and Criticism, Film Production, and Curatorship, he is the founder and director of the Center for Moving Image Arts at the college. Prof. Suchenski holds memberships in the College Art Association, the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, and the Association of Art Historians.



With an interest in the relationship between film and

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New Members

Continued from previous page.

the other arts and the development of cinematic modernism globally, his research has centered on silent and early cinema and new wave movements in the post-1945 period), as well as Romanticism, Symbolism, Early Modernism across Europe including Poland), and artistic exchanges between Europe and Asia. His two most recent books are *Projections of Memory: Romanticism, Modernism, and the Aesthetics of Film* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2016) and *Hou Hsiao-hsien* (Vienna: Österreichisches Filmmuseum and New York: Columbia University Press, 2014). His current research project, a book manuscript tentatively titled *Cinema's Symbolist Inheritance*, received support from the Adam Mickiewicz Institute in Warsaw, Poland.

Bożena Shallock is a professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Chicago where she pursues research on 20th century Polish

literature and the visual arts, the interrelationship between questions of identity and the home, and Holocaust studies. Her most recent work, *The Holocaust Object in Polish and Polish-Jewish Culture* (Indiana University Press) appeared in 2011. Her current research project, tentatively titled *The Witness as Person: Kulmhof-am-Ner Extermination Camp and Its Survivors*, is scheduled for completion this year.

Among her many honors and awards is a Fulbright U.S. Scholars Fellowship, a Polish government award for “Outstanding Achievement in Promoting Polish Culture in the World,” and numerous travel and research grants. She is a member of the editorial boards of the *Slavic Review*, *Teksty Drugie*, *The Polish Review*, *Kultura Współczesna: Teoria. Interpretacja. Praktyka*, and fills various other editorial and advisory roles.



Kudos

Jolanta Wróbel Best edited *Wheels of Change: Feminist Transgressions in Polish Culture and Society* (Warsaw: Warsaw University Press, 2021), ISBN: 978-83-235-4940-6.



Krzysztof Bledowski was named a laureate of the Annual Alumni Leader awards for 2021 by the Szkoła Główna Handlowa (Warsaw School of Economics), a recognition given for “significant positive impact and achievements as a leader in science or business.” He published “American Spending Spree—Echoes from the Past and Lessons for the Future,” an opinion piece on the pending financial spending bills in the U.S. Congress, through the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, and also chaired a panel on “Post-Covid Economic Priorities in the United States and Europe” during the 30th edition of the Karpacz Economic Forum in southwestern Poland, the largest gathering in central Europe of economists, policy makers, academics and journalists to debate current economic challenges.



John Bukowczyk, Professor of History, Wayne State University, published a collection of essays on Polish and Polish American women drawn from *Polish American Studies* and *The Polish Review*. The volume, titled *Through Words and Deeds: Polish and Polish American Women in History*, appeared in the University of Illinois Press Common Threads Series and is available in paperback and electronic editions either directly from the press or on Amazon.



Krzysztof J. Cios became a Life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, a Member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, and a Foreign Member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences.



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Kudos

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Patrice Dabrowski published *The Carpathians: Discovering the Highlands of Poland and Ukraine* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2021). An interview about the book is available at <https://youtu.be/ZDJFv9gI-3o>. On August 21 she gave a lecture for the Chicopee Public Library Cares series on the subject “Poland: The First Thousand Years,” which is available at <https://youtu.be/V3PR2QtLmuM> and is based on her second book of the same title.



Silvia G. Dapia was named Alcala-Bodian Distinguished Fellow at the Advanced Research Collaborative, the Graduate Center, City University of New York.



Beth Holmgren co-authored with Helena Gosciolo *Polish Cinema Today: A Bold New Era in Film* published by Lexington Books. It provides thematic coverage and a contextualization and analyses of scores of 21st-century Polish films.



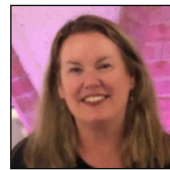
Eva Cristina Hoffman Jedruch published *Crossing the Bridges: From Lvov Across the Steppes of Asia to London's Doodlebugs: One Woman's Wartime Odyssey* (London: Austin Macauley Publishers, 2021), ISBN: 978-1528985611.



Steve Leahy published “William J. Grede, the Freedom School, and the Rise of the Koch Brothers” in the Spring 2021 issue of *Milwaukee County History*. He also celebrated his tenth anniversary of teaching at Shantou University in China.



Lynn Lubamersky published “I am a Woman, I am Quite Aware of My Own Capabilities: the Distinctive Voice of Franciszka Urszula Radziwiłłowa on Love, Marriage, and Freedom” in Jolanta Wróbel Best, ed., *Wheels of Change: Feminist Transgressions in Polish Culture and Society* (Warsaw: Warsaw University Press, 2021).



Jacek Lubecki co-edited with James W. Peterson *Defending Eastern Europe: The Defense Policies of New NATO and EU Member States* (Manchester, UK: Manchester University Press, 2021), ISBN: 978-1526147554.



Jaroslaw Piekalkiewicz was decorated at his home on his 95th birthday by the Polish General Council with the Krzyż Walecznych (Cross of Valor) for his bravery in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. He also published *Dance with Death, A Holistic View of Saving Polish Jews During the Holocaust* (Lanham, MD: Hamilton Books, 2019), ISBN: 978-0761871675.



Richard P. Poremski was named Honorary Consul for Maryland by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on March 23, 2021. The appointment coincided with the announcement of the establishment of a Consulate in Baltimore.



James S. Pula made a presentation on “Poles in the American Civil War” for the Kenosha (WI) Civil War Museum in September, and was interviewed by the Polish National Television program “Niepodległa” for a documentary it is preparing about Tadeusz Kościuszko.



Ewa Thompson published “Hollow Words, Shallow Politics” in *Humanum Review*, No. 3 (Dec. 2020) and a book review of Jo Harper’s *Our Man in Warszawa: How the West Misread Poland in New Eastern Europe*, No. 4 (XLVII, June-Aug. 2021), 174-77. She was also named a biweekly columnist for *Teologia Polityczna* where her columns are available at teologiapolityczna.pl.



Maja Trochimczyk, President of the Helena Modjeska Art and Culture Club in Los Angeles, coordinated commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the Club, established in 1971 in Los Angeles by the actor, director, and journalist Leonidas Dudarew-Ossetyński. Activities include a 50th Anniversary Ball to be held at the University Club of Pasadena on October 10. She is the editor-in-chief of the *Album 50-lecia Klubu Kultury im. Heleny Modrzejewskiej* including articles, lectures, interviews, lists of events, and photographs gathered to document Polish culture on the shores of the Pacific. An English translation is to follow.



About the Institute

Aleksander Lednicki Papers

Aleksander Lednicki was an attorney and political activist who served as a deputy in the first Russian State Duma in 1905. An active member of the Constitutional Democratic Party (Kadets) in Russia and president of the Komisja Likwidacyjna do spraw Królestwa Polskiego (Liquidation Commission for the Polish Kingdom).

The collection contains manuscripts and personal correspondence of Lednicki, photocopies of his articles and essays published in Russian and Polish newspapers (1905-1906), typescripts of speeches and memoranda (1905-1906), and a diary written in a Russian prison (1906). There are also political materials relating to the Russian State Duma (1905-1917), Constitutional Democratic Party (Kadets) documents (1905-1916), material from the Russian federalist movement and the Progressive-Democratic Party (SPD; (1904), manuscripts about the Russian Provisional Government including an official decree signed by Prime Minister Aleksander Kerensky from 1917, material relating to the Polish Kingdom and the Polish National Committee regarding the creation of an independent Polish state. Photocopies of documents include some from British Public Records Office concerning Poland and Russo-Polish relations (1905-1918), and reports by French Consulates in Warsaw, Moscow, and St. Petersburg to the French Foreign Ministry on Russo-Polish relations (1904-1910). There are biographical materials on Lednicki's life including original typescripts by Marian Jodko-Narkiewicz (1959), the original diary of Lednicki's sister, Amelia Lednicka-Nikolska, and personal documents and photographs.

Among the people mentioned in the correspondence are Jan Baudouin de Courtenay, Tadeusz Brzeski, Wilhelm Feldman, Artur Górski, K. Jaworski, Alexander Kerensky, Jan Lorentowicz, Hieronim Lubecki, Wincenty Lutosławski, Tadeusz Miciński, Iza Moszczeńska, Stanisław Noakowski, Eliza Orzeszkowa, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Józef Piłsudski, Erazm Pilz, Stanisław Posner, F. I. Rodiczew, Eduard von der Ropp, Henryk Sienkiewicz, Waclaw Sieroszewski, Aleksander Świętochowski, Kazimierz Tetmajer, Evgenii Nikolaevitch Troubetzkoy, Marian Zdziechowski, Stefan Żeromski.

Organizational materials are from the British Public Office (1905-18), Komisja Likwidacyjna do spraw Królestwa Wojskowa (1917-18), Constitutional Democratic Party (Kadet) in Russia (1916-17), Polish Organization for Help to Victims of War, Polish National Committee in Paris (1917-18), Polska Organizacja Wojskowa (1917-18), Rada Regencyjna Królestwa Polskiego, Russian Duma (1906-16), Związek Postępowo-Demokratyczny.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America
208 East 30th Street
New York, NY 10016

piasany@gmail.com
<http://www.piasa.org/>

Tel: 212.686.4164
Fax: 212.545.1130

Prof. Robert Blobaum, President
rblobau@wvu.edu

INFORMATION FOR THE NEWSLETTER

should be sent to its editor,
Prof. James S. Pula, at jpula@pnw.edu