




Polish American Historical Association Newsletter

 Volume 68  Number 1  April 2011 



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT


Dear Friends,

These are exciting times for the Polish American Historical Association. Since the appearance of the last edition of the Newsletter, several important events have occurred within PAHA and its scholarly field. Chief among these is the publication of the truly monumental *The Polish American Encyclopedia*, under the imprint of McFarland and Company. Under the general editorship of James S. Pula, long a mainstay within PAHA, and including contributions by many members and friends of PAHA, this volume will long stand as a genuine landmark in the area of Polish American studies. Professor Pula merits warm congratulations and gratitude on this considerable achievement, and the book deserves wide readership and a place on the reference shelves of academic and public libraries alike.  [see p. 2](#)

PAHA'S ANNUAL MEETING IN BOSTON




PAHA President, Prof. Neal Pease, with Prof. Mieczysław B. Biskupski, holder of the S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies at CCSU and one of the recipients of the 2010 Oskar Halecki Prize.

The annual Meeting of Polish American Historical Association, held on January 6 -8, 2011 at the Westin Coplin Place in Boston, included many fascinating sessions, confirmed the new Board of Directors for 2011-2012, and ended with an Award Ceremony recognizing achievements in the field of Polish American studies and culture. The new PAHA President, Prof. Neal Pease officially started fulfilling his duties and distributed the PAHA Awards, but not before receiving one himself.  [see p. 2](#)

THE POLISH AMERICAN ENCYCLOPEDIA IS HERE!



After several years of intense collaborative working process, we are pleased to announce the publication of *The Polish American Encyclopedia*, the definitive reference work on Polish American history and culture issued by McFarland Press. The 585-page volume consists of 1,200 entries with more than 350 photographs. The encyclopedia is designed as a research tool for students, researchers and the general public. It will be available in print and in electronic version. In February 2011, the editor, James Pula, presented a copy of the encyclopedia to Maria Ciesla, President of the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. Prof. Pula stated that "The Museum provided a large number of illustrations and research material for the encyclopedia and the staff were exceptionally helpful." The

Encyclopedia's many contributors include practically the entire PAHA Board and many community members. Entries range from community organizations and churches, through biographies of individuals, to special topics, like notable publication series, journals, monuments, and other cultural artifacts. See the Encyclopedia ad below.  [p. 5](#)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, FROM P. 1

This past January PAHA held a successful annual meeting in Boston. The research presentations



put together a stimulating mix of papers given by established figures in Polish American history, with a notable inclusion of contributions by younger scholars making their first appearance on a PAHA panel—and we trust not the last! As always, the awards banquet at the conclusion of the conference provided a welcome opportunity to recognize noteworthy accomplishments of scholarship and community service reflecting the goals and activities of PAHA.

Looking to the months ahead, PAHA will hold its midyear 2011 meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (PIASA) on June 10-11 in Arlington, Virginia, continuing a tradition of cooperation between these two organizations that have much in common. One of the panels at the conference will be sponsored by PAHA.

The next annual PAHA meeting will be held in Chicago, January 5-8, 2012. The call for papers has been sent out, and as president, I will be delighted to receive proposals at: pease@uwm.edu. Please spread the word both about the conference, and the call for nominations for this year's awards, to be presented at the annual meeting. Hoping to see many of you in Chicago!

Neal Pease
President

PAHA ANNUAL MEETING AND AWARDS, FROM P. 1

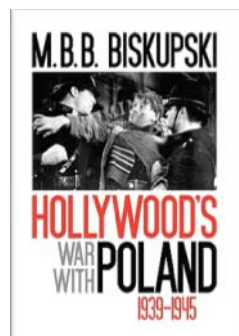
During the Boston conference, Pease's book, *Rome's Most Faithful Daughter: The Catholic Church and Independent Poland, 1914-1939* (Ohio University Press, 2009) received the 2010 John Gilmory Shea Prize from the American Catholic Historical Association. Appropriately, a considerable portion of the proceedings was dedicated to issues of Catholicism (John Radzilowski and Margaret J. Rencewicz). Other PAHA sessions focused on Polish-American history seen in a broad comparative perspective and with a richness of local color. Topics included gender studies (Pien Versteegh), presentation of archives (Neal Pease), historical events, like the 1939 World Fair (Iwona Drag Korga) and aspects of history and sociology of Polish communities in New England (Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, Cathy Stanton and Mary Patrice Erdmans), New York (Anne M. Gurnack), Milwaukee (Stephen Leahy), and Tucson, Arizona (Monika Głowacka-Musiał). The Warsaw Uprising (James Blackwell) and representations of Chopin's death (Maja Trochimczyk) were among Polish themes. One session was dedicated to new books: Biskupski's *Hollywood's War With Poland, 1939-1945* and PAHA's "magnum opus," *The Polish-American Encyclopedia*, edited by James Pula (who also found a Pole in the FBI). John Guzowski organized a poetry session and Grażyna Kozaczka discussed immigration in novels.

POLISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S 2010 AWARDS

The Mieczysław Haiman Award, offered annually to an American scholar for sustained contribution to the study of Polish Americans was presented to **Dr. Piotr Wandycz**, Professor Emeritus of History at Yale University, past

President of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America, and author of many works of Polish history, some that touch on Polonia's experience. Most notable among these is his outstanding book, the *Lands of Partitioned Poland* (1975) and even more significant, his top notch book, *the United States and Poland* (1980).

The Oskar Halecki Prize, recognizing an important book or monograph on the Polish experience in the United States, was shared jointly by:



Dr. Danusha V. Goska, for *Bieganski: The Brute Polak*

Stereotype, Its Role in Polish-Jewish Relations and American Popular Culture (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2010), and **Dr. Mieczysław B. Biskupski**, for *Hollywood's War With Poland, 1939-1945* (Knoxville: University of Kentucky Press, 2010). Both works document anti-Polish and anti-Polish American bigotry within the United States. Goska's book offers a comprehensive look at the subject while Biskupski deals with Hollywood depictions of Polish Americans. Both deserve our highest award.

The Distinguished Service Award, given occasionally to a member of PAHA who has rendered valuable and sustained service to the organization, was awarded to the **Jagiellonian University** of Kraków, Poland, for its long history of supporting foreign exchange programs with American Universities, and for the institution's recent hosting of PAHA's mid-year meeting and conference in the summer of 2010.



The Chopin Year is over, but the Miłosz Year is beginning. There is always an anniversary to celebrate. At PAHA we have lots to be proud of this



spring: our Boston meeting was full of great conversations and inspiring papers (the call for proposals for Chicago 2012 is out!). Our society has finally accomplished one of its greatest undertakings: the publication of *The Polish American Encyclopedia*. We should all order a copy. The entire Board and many PAHA members have tirelessly worked on this monumental project, but the principal recognition should be given to its Editor Prof. James Pula, ably assisted by the select, dedicated group of his Associate Editors.

In the current Newsletter, we present the winners of PAHA 2010 Awards and focus on "genealogic" research into the lives of American Polonia, in two short articles by Maureen Mroczek Morris and Phyllis Zych Budka. I also asked Dr. Mira Mataric to write about a Mickiewicz event in Los Angeles. As a Serbian-American poet and writer, she has a unique perspective. If you do not want to read this type of thing, send me more news about your own exploits and enjoy the results!

Maja Trochimczyk
PAHA News Editor

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The Amicus Poloniae Award, recognizing significant contributions enhancing knowledge of Polish and Polish-American heritage by individuals not belonging to the Polish-American community was presented to **Dr. Ieva Zake** of Rowan University (New Jersey) for her work as a scholar doing active and published research work in a field that is central to the mission of PAHA. That is, her work deals with the

place of organized American ethnic groups, particularly those from east and central Europe, in the making of U.S. foreign policy.

The Skalny Civic Achievement Award, honoring individuals or groups who advance PAHA's goals of promoting research and



awareness of the Polish-American experience and/or have made significant contributions to Polish or Polish-American community and culture. The 2010 Skalny Awards recipients include:

1) **Polish and Polish American Studies Program, Central Connecticut State University**, New Britain, Connecticut, for its invaluable contribution to the field over many years.

2) **Mr. Neil Mesick and Congressman John Lescoe** of the Pulaski Citizenship For their efforts to commemorate the contributions of Poles in the Willimantic and Windham area and to preserve historical heritage of Polish Americans in Connecticut. 3) **Mrs. Jane Kedron** was recognized for her many years of work at the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America in New York and at the *Tatrzański Orzeł* magazine. 4) **Mr. Jacek Gałazka** of the Hippocrene publishers in New York and past president of the Piłsudski Institute was recognized for his activities on behalf of the Piłsudski Institute and other Polonia ventures. 5) **Mr. Joseph Gore**, past president of the Kosciuszko Foundation of New York, for his strong support of



The Polish American Encyclopedia and his support of the PAHA as a whole. 6) **Mr. Jonathan Shea**, founder, Polish Genealogy Society of Connecticut and co-author of numerous reference works on Polish American genealogy, for his work in helping Polonia study and cherish their Polish roots.

Photo captions: (1) Central Connecticut State University staff receives the prize from PAHA President, Neal Pease (left to right): Renata Vickrey, special collection librarian; Waldemar Kostrzewa, Chair of the Polish Studies Advisory Committee; Ewa Wolynska, special collection librarian, and Prof. M. B. Biskupski. (2) Jacek Gałazka shares the award with his wife.



PAHA's 2012 Annual Meeting will be held in Chicago, Illinois from January 5-8, 2012, as part of the American Historical Association's Annual Conference. Abstracts for papers and panel proposals are now being accepted and should be submitted to the PAHA Conference Coordinator — Professor Neal Pease (pease@uwm.edu), Department of History, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201, USA. Electronic proposals in email & Word format are strongly preferred. The deadline for submissions is April 15, 2011.

Individuals and panel organizers should include the following information when submitting a proposal:

- Paper/Session title(s) (of no more than 20 words)
- Paper/Session abstract(s) (up to 300/500 words, respectively)
- Biographical paragraph or c.v. summary (up to 250 words) for each participant
- Correct mailing and e-mail address for each participant
- Chair (required) and commentator (optional) for the session
- Audiovisual needs, if any

The Polish American Historical Association holds its Annual Conference in conjunction with the American Historical Association (AHA). The full information about the AHA conference can be found at <www.historians.org>. PAHA members who plan to attend PAHA conference only do not need to register for the AHA conference, but are required to register for the PAHA conference by November 1, 2011. Registration may be done on-line at <www.polishamericanstudies.org> or by sending the \$20.00 registration fee to the PAHA Headquarters c/o Magda Jacques, Central Connecticut State University, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050.

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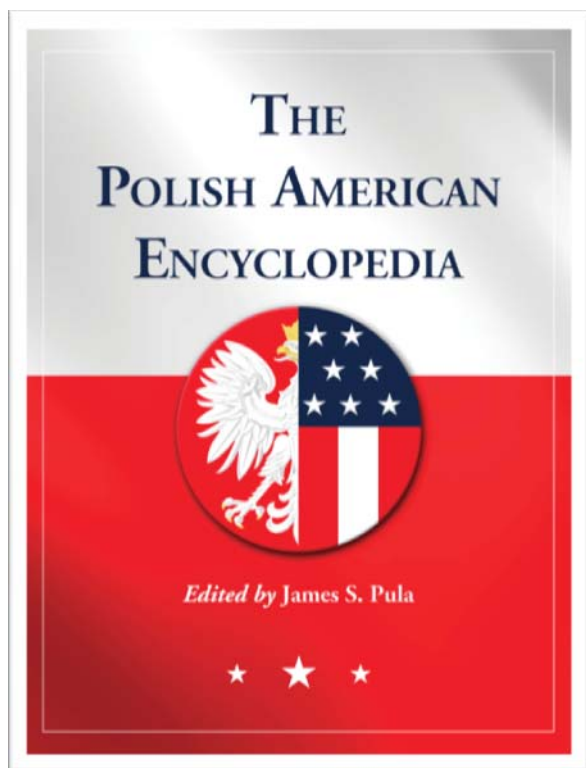
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The Polish American Historical Association is pleased to announce the publication of *The Polish American Encyclopedia*, the definitive reference work on Polish American history and culture. Its 585 pages are jam-packed with over 1,200 entries richly illustrated by more than 350 photographs. The encyclopedia is designed as a research tool for students, researchers and the general public.

“Every major ethnic group has published an encyclopedia detailing its experiences and contributions to American society,” explained editor James S. Pula. “Now, for the first time, Polish Americans have their own encyclopedia to preserve their heritage for their children and grandchildren.”

The Encyclopedia includes essays on Polish Americans in organized labor, education, politics, religious life, and other subjects, along with entries that explain the histories of Polonia organizations, the Polish Army in France, the Lattimer Massacre, and other topics. There are also biographies of prominent Polish Americans who made significant contributions to America life. The entries include references for additional information.

To Order Your Copy

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In 2008, as I prepared for my second trip to Poland, I opened an old wooden box containing my Father's things. In it was a diary of his summer 1936 Poland trip along with other Polish-American Scouts and Scout leaders. He was 23 years old at that time. Included in the box was a flier advertising the trip (Figure 1):

We believe that when these youth come to know the fatherland of their ancestors, they will come to love it and come to respect it and have within them a deep unbreakable feeling of connection to the blood, culture and spirit of Poland from afar. And then, when their love for everything Polish flows into their hearts, this youth will understand the importance of standing on free land and tradition here in Washington and to protect and to build upon the beautiful heritage of their forefathers in the form of Polish organizations, newspapers, churches and schools.

My Father, Stanley Jacob Zych, was a Scout Leader with Council 53 of the Polish National Alliance (PNA) on Crane Street in Schenectady, New York. He was born in 1913 in Schenectady of immigrant parents from Nowy Targ, Poland. Dad and fellow Schenectadian Mary Pieszczocho were the "special envoys" selected to represent the PNA on this trip.

They sailed in early July from New York City on the *M.S. Batory* ocean-liner along with more than 100 other young Americans. The first brief stop was Copenhagen, Denmark. On July 10th, the group landed in Gdynia, Poland. After touring that port city, they visited Poznań, Częstochowa, Zakopane, Kraków, Wieliczka, Lwów and Warsaw. Their final destination was Camp Brenna, Śląsk. The list of their names and travel plans were published in a booklet, "*Jedziemy do Polski*" (*We are going to Poland*; Karol Burke, Drukiem Dziennika Związkowego, Chicago, IL, 1936).

In the summer of 2008, I served as a teacher volunteer at the Kościuszko Foundation – UNESCO English Language Immersion Camp in Kraków, Poland. For 3 weeks, 17 Americans, many, like myself, of Polish heritage, and more than 100 high school students from all over Poland, lived, studied and laughed together. In my suitcase was a copy of the pages from my Father's trip diary. He documented his two weeks at the Scout camp in Brenna, Śląsk, southern Poland, mostly in English, with parts in Polish. My Father was fluent in Polish. As Language Immersion Camp newspaper editor I requested that my homeroom students transcribe the English or translate from Polish these diary pages for publication. That process sparked my interest in the details of the 1936 trip:

July 13th, 1936, Place: Częstochowa and somewhere between Częstochowa and Nowy Targ: We arrived at 5.45 AM by buses at Jasna Góra. Near the gateway, we met our procession and came into the church to the altar of Częstochowa Holy Mother (sometimes called the Black Madonna). A priest blessed us. Next we visited Skarbiec Jasnogórski where there are a lot of different old buildings. Next we went to a monastery for breakfast. After breakfast, buses took us to the railway and we went to Zakopane. At 10:00 AM, we passed through a beautiful area. About midday we arrived at the railway station in Kraków and soon set out on a journey. About 6:00 PM we passed through Nowy Targ. I stopped here so I could meet my family. I slept at Wincenty Kolasa's home.

July 14th, 1936, Place: Zakopane: At 8:30 in the morning we took the train to Zakopane. We went to the Hotel Limka and had breakfast. At 10:00 AM we took buses to Morskie Oko and saw the Paderewski waterfall; next we climbed to the top of the mountain and saw Black Lake.

July 26th, 1936 Sunday, Place: Camp Brenna, Śląsk: We arrived in camp at 10:00 AM and had army coffee and hot dogs. Got right down to business putting up tents. I spent the rest of the day building beds, grub racks also swimming Pool. Went out on general food strike. Won out the point. Had Tough Camp officer. Breaking him in slowly.





Stanley Zych



Figure 2: The Scout group in front of the Royal Palace in Warsaw, with Stanley Zych identified.

My own awareness that the trip was a special experience for my Father came in 1986. Trip participants held a "50th Anniversary P.N.A. Batory Cruise Reunion" on Saturday, September 20, 1986, in Chicago. By that time, my Father had been disabled for many years and could not attend. But in that old wooden box is a large "Get-Well Wishes For Someone Special" card full of good wishes from reunion attendees. It must have been a great trip!



A New National Museum in 2015?



A coalition of over 130 ethnic groups is working on the creation of a National Museum of the American People in Washington, D.C., to document the history of the various ethnic groups that came together in the establishing of the U.S. The motto for the museum is the same as that of the whole nation: "E Pluribus Unum" - From Many We Are One! The founding groups seek Presidential and Congressional support for this cause, without requesting federal funding. The planned museum would advance and disseminate knowledge about the story of the making of the American people, and highlight the diversity and richness of the cultures from which Americans came. According to Sam Eskenazi, the Director of the Coalition for the National Museum of the American People, "The stories about the migration and immigration of our ancestors as well as those coming today are dramatic and will be compelling in this museum. . . This museum will help us all understand our own heritage and, at the same time, the story of all other Americans." The museum's divisions will present American history in four chapters: "(1) The First Peoples Come, from the prehistoric period to 1607 with the English settlement in Jamestown; (2) The Nation Takes Form, from 1607 to 1820: the story of American Indians, English and other European settlement, the African slave trade, Hispanic settlement, the establishment of the nation and the beginning of its expansion; (3) The Great In-Gathering, from 1820 to 1924: the story of this country's century of immigration, when the ancestors of most Americans arrived; (4) – And Still They Come, from 1924 to the present: the ongoing story of American immigration and migration." About 50 scholars expressed their support for this project. Visit: <http://www.nmap2015.com>.





By Maureen Mroczek Morris



Jan Onufry Zagłoba is a beloved fictional character with a legendary fondness for drink who appears frequently in Nobel Laureate Henryk Sienkiewicz's historical novels. Zagłoba has been said to be a cross between Homer's Ulysses and Shakespeare's Sir John Falstaff because of his propensity for drinking and

exaggerated tales of his youthful adventures. He is portrayed as a lover of food and wine, and a great braggart. The world renowned stage actress, Helena Modjeska (Modrzejewska), a close friend of Sienkiewicz, and various other sources, assert that Zagłoba was based on the person of **Captain Rudolf Antoni Józef Korwin Piotrowski** (1813-1883) (Helena Modjeska, *Memories and Impressions of Helena Modjeska. An Autobiography*. New York: The MacMillan Co., 1910, p. 282).

Thus, it appears that the loveable Zagłoba was a portrait of a real-life character who, after fighting in the Polish Uprising of 1830-31, found his way to France and later to California. "It is...generally accepted that Jan Zagłoba, the Polish Falstaff and one of the most memorable characters in all of Polish literature, is based on the person of Rudolf Korwin Piotrowski, a seventy-five-year old émigré [*editor: he died at 70*] and eccentric, whom Sienkiewicz met in San Francisco" noted Konstantin Symmons-Symonolewicz (Thomas Napierkowski, "Sienkiewicz in America: 1876 and 1991," *Polish American Studies*, vol. 49, 1992, pp. 45-55).

Much has been written about Rudolf Korwin Piotrowski – in Polish, French and English. By all accounts he had a great fondness for "wine, women and song" (Modjeska, *Memories and Impressions*, p. 287). He loved a bawdy joke, had a great sense of humor, and an eye for the ladies. With it all, he had courtly manners that befitted his role as warrior, civic activist in his adopted country, and as an educated Polish patriot perpetually siding with the cause of liberty for all peoples (Modjeska, *Memories and Impressions*, p. 307;

Polish Pioneers of California, Chicago: Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, 1940, p. 74; Robert Bielecki, *Słownik biograficzny oficerów powstania listopadowego*, Vol. II, p. 297). Modjeska personally knew Piotrowski and she gave him a collection of her books as a donation for The Society of Poles in America that he was associated with (Edward J. Wheeler, ed., *Current Literature*, New York: The Current Literature Publishing Co., Vol. 46, January 1909, p. 668). *The San Francisco Call* (22 March 1907) proclaims "Author Met 'Zagłoba' in San Francisco." (See the image on the next page.)

We can trace the movements of Piotrowski through genealogic records (immigration documents, vital statistics and census records, newspaper articles, and City Directories) (see links at the end of this article). From these we learn Piotrowski's birth date, that he married Marguerite Martin de Chambaud on the 2nd of January 1839 in Agonges, France, and that he had two children there: Władysław (Ladilaus) who died in 1841 at age of 18 months and Angelina Josephine, born in 1842.

There is no evidence that Angelina Josephine accompanied Rudolf to the United States in 1846. Piotrowski's obituary mentions his daughter, who "married respectably" and was at his beside at the time of his death in France. We know the particulars of Rudolf's birth and parentage (17 April 1813; born in Kamień, near Lublin; his father, Antoni, was a Polish Officer, and so on). In America, Rudolf married Lillian Norris who died at a young age. Piotrowski's life is summarized in the eulogy delivered by his close friend, Aleksander Bednawski, with whom he fought in the Polish Revolution/Uprising of 1830-31 (*Daily Alta California*, Volume 35, Number 12042, 13 April 1883). Rudolf Piotrowski was a friend of General Krzyżanowski, Polish-born U.S. Civil War hero who, for a time, ran a saloon in San Francisco. Piotrowski's "circle" were fellow émigrés of varying backgrounds seeking refuge in California from persecution abroad. Rudolf played a significant role in California history. He was a founding member of the San Francisco Pioneer Association. In 1860 he was living in Calaveras County (*Gold Country*).

 [see p. 9](#)

SIENKIEWICZ, FROM P. 8

A few years later he can be found in Sebastopol, California (a town which he named -- for the allied victory over Russia in the Crimean War) and where he ran a store using the surname Korwin (Bielecki, *Słownik biograficzny*, Vol. II, p. 297; Charles Morley, Charles, ed., *Portrait of America: Letters of Henry Sienkiewicz*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1959, p. 265; *Sacramento Daily Union*, 27 January 1864).

BERKELEY, March 21.—Professor Charles Mills Gayley informed his class in English at the university today that one of the most prominent characters in Sienkiewicz's novels—"Zagłoba"—was met by the Polish author in San Francisco and there inspired Sienkiewicz with the idea of embodying his characteristics in the person of Zagłoba. The man figures in three of the Polish writer's stories, "With Fire and Sword," "The Deluge" and "Pan Michael."

As a designated "Political agent of the Polish Government on the Pacific Coast" Piotrowski travelled the Western States to raise money for "Polish Aid." He worked as a storekeeper in the warehouse division of a customs house in San Francisco. In 1863 he was Vice President of the Central Polish Society of the Pacific Coast in San Francisco. He was a naturalized U.S. citizen (1857) and a voter (1866 *Great Register of Voters*).

Apparently he was an opera fan! Capt Corwin Petrowski (sic) affixed his name to a letter addressed to Mme. Stella Bonheur (mezzo-soprano, born 1855), praising her as an "artiste" and requesting she select an opera in which to appear for a "complimentary benefit" (*Daily Alta California*, 12 September 1867). No spouse or children are listed with Rudolf in the 1870 San Francisco census record. By 1872, Rudolf was teaching language at San Francisco's Healds Business College.

California Governor José Antonio Romualdo Pacheco Jr. (October 31, 1831 – January 23, 1899) appointed Rudolf Korwin Piotrowski as State Commissioner of Immigration in San Francisco

(circa 1874). By 1878 Piotrowski was retired, but he remained active in the Polish Community as an officer of the Polish Society of California, which, by the way, welcomed members of all nationalities supporting the cause of liberty (and was comprised of men of all faiths, or lack thereof).

From the 1880 census we learn that Piotrowski was living as a roomer with a family. In the early 1880s, shortly before his death, City directories describe Piotrowski's profession as "capitalist." Rudolf Antoni Józef Korwin Piotrowski died in France (21 February 1883) where he had travelled to seek medical help from Dr. Xavier (Ksawery) Gałęzowski for failing eyesight (and perhaps to visit his married daughter). To date, we have not determined his burial site.

Additional information may be found on the following websites:

www.polishclubsf.org/Bednawski%20to%20Piotrowski.pdf

www.polishclubsf.org/Piotrowski%20in%20City%20Directories.pdf

www.polishclubsf.org/Newspapers.htm

Sincere thanks to Barbara Klosowicz, Société pour la Protection des Souvenirs et Tombeaux Historiques Polonais en France, Marek Poniewierski, Richard Sokoloski, Maja Trochimczyk, Irene Tomaszewski, Roman Włodek, and the Polish Art and Culture Foundation.

MAUREEN MROCZEK MORRIS is the Consular Assistant to the Honorary Consul in San Francisco and is a major sponsor of the new film series at the San Francisco Polish Club. She is a member of the Canadian Foundation for Polish Studies and a *Poland in the Rockies* Summer Study Program participant and sponsor since 2004. Ms. Mroczek Morris is a web master for the Polish Club in San Francisco, for the Honorary Consul in San Francisco, and assistant web master for the San Francisco-Kraków Sister Cities Association. She also assists with web page management for the *Poland in the Rockies* program and for the *Cosmopolitan Review*. Ms. Mroczek Morris maintains a site with information about Zagłoba, Piotrowski, Poles in America and a bibliography of related subjects:

www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=183477



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR POLISH-AMERICANS



The Polish American Association of Washington DC, an affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture, is offering scholarships for university students of Polish descent. Requirements are that the students live in Maryland, Virginia or the District of Columbia, or are attending an institution of higher education in one of these jurisdictions. For details of requirements and the application process, visit: <http://www.paaa.us/scholarship>



POETRY CORNER



Edited by John Z. Guzowski

Poems from a session at
PAHA's 2011 Meeting
*Polish American Writing:
Growing Up Polish
American and Living
to Write About It*

Meanwhile

Mark Pawlak

Next bench over from mine
in this park just off Harvard Square,
a professor in tweeds,
newspaper open on his lap,
sips coffee from a paper cup.
Beneath his seat
an oblong cardboard box
shelters someone still asleep.
From where I sit: just two boot soles visible.

Meanwhile, across the street,
in the recessed doorway of a shop soon to open,
a young man lies curled on sheets of newspaper,
cherubic face in the crook of his elbow,
around him three tall plastic cups ranged like votive offerings:
dregs of stale beer in one,
black coffee in another;
cigarette stubs in the third.

Meanwhile, just blocks away,
students in residence halls now start their day
with only cold cereal for breakfast
or so one news story reports,
and at faculty meetings professors have had to forgo
the cookies traditionally served with their tea—
belt tightening has reached the Ivy League.

Meanwhile, the street corner is already bustling.
There an early bird sitting on his overstuffed gym bag
has staked his claim. In T-shirt and shorts,
bandanna wrapping his head,
with magic marker and cardboard
spread flat on his lap he's working up
a sign to advertise services:
"DISSERT STORM VETERAN.
WILL WORK FOR CASH."

Thanksgiving Day Poem

John Z. Guzowski

My people were all Polish people,
the ones who survived to look
in my eyes and touch my fingers
and those who didn't, dying instead

of fever, hunger, or even a bullet
in the face, dying maybe thinking
of how their deaths were balanced
by my birth or one of the other

stories the poor tell themselves
to give themselves the strength
to crawl out of their own graves.

Not all of them had this strength
but enough did, so that I'm here
and you're here reading this poem
about them. What kept them going?

Maybe something in the DNA
of people who start with nothing
and end with nothing, and in between
live from one handful of nothing
to the next handful of nothing.

They keep going--through the terror
in the snow and the misery
in the rain--till some guy pierces
their stomachs with a bayonet

or some sickness grips them, and still
they keep going, even when there
aren't any rungs on the ladder
even when there aren't any ladders.

Why Poles Love Horseradish

Lisa L. Siedlarz

Names changed at Ellis Island, not greetings:
dzień dobry, good day, friend.

Grandma digs roots barehanded to feel earth,
brown caking fingernails kept filed not to snag

fabrics or catch on sewing machine moving parts.
Poles cluster like white flowers of horseradish,

work in factories where machines drown language.
Children's tongues split in two, but traditions root.

Horseradish has its place at the table, where bitterness
honors Christ's crucifixion. Softened with sugar,

it reminds us of His prophecy of salvation, of hope
tied to leaving home for this land.

Grandpa grates roots outdoors, vapors burn like memories
of his farm where horses nickered at five A.M. feedings.

Juice from shredded sweet beets, red like Poland's flag,
stain Grandpa's callused fingers like blood.

NOTE: This poem received honorable mention in New England Writers 20th annual (2007) free verse contest; published in The Anthology of New England Writers 2008.

The Taste of the Sky

Maja Trochimczyk

My mother's *zupa nic* – soup nothing –
had puffy clouds of egg whites
floating in a yellow sea
of delight. I chased them
with my spoon that perfect summer.

I'm floating now in the thinning blue
of Technicolor sky – a meadow
for ten thousand cloud sheep
I cannot count while they cast shadows
on tidy little gardens
of tidy little houses
of tidy little people

They go about their daily chores,
while I'm cooking up a storm
of dreams that will soon vanish
like clouds in my soup nothing

MARK PAWLAK is the author of six poetry collections and the editor of as many anthologies. His latest books are *Jefferson's New Age Salon: Mashups and Matchups* (poems, Cervená Barva Press 2010). His work has been translated into German, Polish, and Spanish, and has appeared widely in English in anthologies such as *The Best American Poetry*, *Blood to Remember: American Poets on the Holocaust*, *For the Time Being: The Bootstrap Anthology of Poetic Journals* and in the literary magazines *New American Writing*, *Mother Jones*, *Poetry South*, *The Saint Ann's Review*, and *The World*. For the past 30 years Pawlak has been an editor of the Brooklyn-based *Hanging Loose*, the oldest independent literary journal and press in the country. He supports his poetry habit by teaching mathematics at UMass Boston, where he is Director of Academic Support Programs.

JOHN Z. GUZLOWSKI'S poems about his parents' experiences in Nazi concentration camps appear in his book *Lightning and Ashes*. Regarding the Polish edition of these poems, Nobel Laureate Czesław Miłosz wrote the poems are "astonishing." Guzowski blogs about his parents and their experiences at <http://lightning-and-ashes.blogspot.com/>

LISA L. SIEDLARZ is Editor of *Connecticut River Review*, the national poetry journal supported by the CT Poetry Society, and Managing Editor for *Connecticut Review*. Her work has appeared in *The MacGuffin*, *Calyx*, *Rattle*, *War*, *Literature & the Arts*, *Louisiana Literature*, *Main Street Rag*, *the Patterson Review*, *Big Bridge*, *Kritya*, *Poems & Plays*, and others. Her work was nominated for the 2009 & 2010 *Best New Poets Anthology*, and is included in the anthologies, *Warsaw Tales*, and *Battle Runes: Writings on War*. Ms. Siedlarz facilitated a 16-week writing workshop with Vietnam veterans and edited a collection of their work called *A Season of Now*. She runs a bi-monthly creative writing workshop with veterans at the New Haven Vet Center. She is the author of, *I Dream My Brother Plays Baseball* (Clemson University Digital Press 2009) and *What We Sign Up For* (forthcoming from Pecan Grove Press 2011).



THE MIŁOSZ YEAR IN AMERICA



The Polish parliament has declared 2011 the Miłosz Year in honor of the centennial of the birth of Nobel Prize winning poet, essayist, translator, and scholar, Czesław Miłosz (1911-2004).



MARCH 22, 2011, NEW YORK, NY: *A Centennial Celebration of the Work of Czesław Miłosz* with Clare Cavanagh, Robert Hass, Edward Hirsch, and Adam Zagajewski at Queens College (CUNY).

MARCH 27, BROOKLYN, NY: A Book presentation with Cynthia Haven, editor of *An Invisible Rope*, Anna Frajlich, Elizabeth Kridl Valkenier, Adam Zagajewski, and photographer Zygmunt Malinowski, recalling their memories of the famed Polish poet and Nobel Laureate at the Central Library of the Brooklyn Public Library, Dweck Center.

MARCH 28, 2011, 7 PM, NEW YORK, NY: *Remembrances of Miłosz* with Cynthia Haven, editor of *An Invisible Rope*, Bogdana Carpenter, Anna Frajlich, Elizabeth Kridl Valkenier, James Marcus, and Alan Timberlake at Columbia University, Lindsay Rogers Room (IAB 707).

MARCH 30, 2011, BERKELEY, CA: *Miłosz Celebration* with Robert Hass, David Frick, and Adam Zagajewski organized by the Departments of English and Slavic Languages at the University of California, Berkeley.

APRIL 16, 2011, LOS ANGELES, CA: *Miłosz in My Life*, conversation with poets John Guzlowski and Cecilia Woloch, organized by the Helena Modjeska Art and Culture Club at The Ruskin Art Club, Los Angeles. With special guest artist, Marek Probosz, reciting Miłosz.

OCTOBER 19-21, 2011, CLAREMONT, CA: *Miłosz Festival at the Czesław Miłosz Institute*, Claremont-McKenna College, with Dr. Lillian Vallee and Prof. Robert Faggen.

OCTOBER 27, 2011, NEW YORK, NY: *Opening of an Exhibition of Miłosziana* from the Columbia University archives at Butler Library, Columbia University.

SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 2, 2011, CHICAGO, IL: *Miłosz In/On America*, Conference at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2011, NEW HAVEN, CT: *Miłosz in America*, Conference at the Miłosz archive at the Beinecke Library, Yale University, featuring Tomas Venclova, Edward Hirsch, Adam Zagajewski, Mark Danner, and others.



PIASA IN THE NEWS



Dr. Bozena Leven was appointed Executive Director of PIASA for a three year term effective June 30, 2011. Dr. Leven is Professor of Economics at the School of Business of the College of New Jersey in Ewing, N.J.

She will succeed Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, Professor Emeritus of European History at New Jersey City University, who will be retiring at the end of June 2011. Dr. Gromada has held this position since 1991 and earlier served as PIASA's Secretary General. See: www.piasa.org

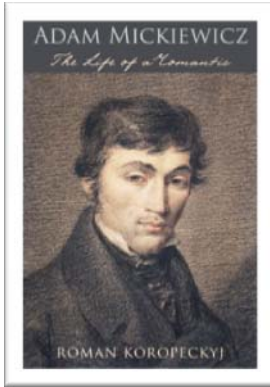
The 69th Annual Meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (A multi-disciplinary conference on Polish Studies) will be held at the Hyatt Arlington Hotel, 1325 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA 22209, on June 10-11, 2011.



ICCJ Conference in Kraków



The International Council of Christians and Jews will hold its conference, "Religions & Ideologies: Polish perspectives & beyond" in Kraków, Poland on July 3-6, 2011. For more information visit: www.iccj.org (<http://www.iccj.org/>)



On 19 February, 2011, Helena Modjeska Art and Culture Club presented an evening dedicated to new interpretations of the poetry and life of Adam

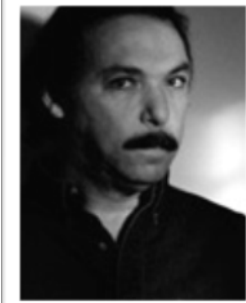
Mickiewicz (1798-1855). Guests, Prof. Leonard Kress of Owens College (a poet and translator of *Pan Tadeusz*) and Prof. Roman Koropeczyj of UCLA (author of two scholarly monographs about Mickiewicz), talked about their relationship to the poetry of the great Romantic and about their fascination with his life. Actress Beata Pożniak Daniels accompanied by pianist Sue Zhou brought to life the forgotten 19th century genre of “melo-drama” – reciting Mickiewicz’s poetry to musical accompaniment.

The Polish “Messianic” bard Adam Mickiewicz is still alive not only in his Paris Museum. His poetry is taught at the Slavic centers, high schools, colleges and universities as a part of world literature programs in European and Slavic countries. Today, perhaps more than ever, for obvious reasons, his voice speaks to many political exiles, especially in the USA but more and more in other countries of our globalized “village” world.

At the Modjeska Club event, the audience included Polish Americans and other Euro-Asian-born and more recent immigrants, not necessarily politically but intellectually alive poets, translators, writers and professors. The guests expected to learn about the most recent research and the contemporary evaluation of what is still valuable in Mickiewicz’s opus. They were not disappointed.

The first speaker, Roman Koropeczyj,

(with his name already pointing to his Slavic, Ukrainian origin), is a known Mickiewicz expert, UCLA faculty since 1992, and the author of two major studies: *The Poetic Revitalization: Adam Mickiewicz between ‘Forefathers’ Eve, part 3 and ‘Pan Tadeusz’* (2001), and *Adam Mickiewicz: The Life of a Romantic* (2008). Prof. Koropeczyj chose a charming conversational tone over that of an academic lecture, touching upon Mickiewicz’s geopolitical environment, his ethnicity, and adding a few personal life details that needed explanation. He did not discuss the poet’s connection with the Western European Romantic Movement: Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley, Keats, to mention only the English poets. Two things from this evening, old and new, to take home with us, as unforgettable: Mickiewicz’s friendship with Pushkin, Chopin, Goethe; and the critics’ comparison of Mickiewicz with Byron and Shakespeare, rating Mickiewicz as “healthier.”



The second speaker, Prof. Leonard Kress of Owens College, Ohio, after studying at the famous Jagiellonian University of Krakow and Columbia University, dedicated his life to poetry, having published six volumes of verse, including a new translation of the universally popular *Pan Tadeusz* (HarrowGate Press), *The Orpheus Complex* and *Thirteens*. Kress appeared to be the right partner for this

dialogue, geographically living apart, but working on the same poet as Koropeczyj. His translation eschews a “factual” faithfulness to the form of the Polish verse, replacing it with a more natural-sounding English form of the iambic pentameter.

The evening came gloriously together at the end, when the poetry of Mickiewicz in an inventive, fresh and delightful translation of Prof. Kress, flooded the hall through the powerfully dramatic voice of the young Polish and rightfully acclaimed actress, artist, poet and activist, Beata (what a name! *Nomen est omen!*) Pożniak Daniels. She recited Mickiewicz’ poetry accompanied by the masterful pianist, Sue Zhou. Ms. Zhou impersonated an eminent pianist-composer and

Mickiewicz’s mother-in-law, Maria Szymanowska (1790-1831) who had accompanied Mickiewicz himself in recitations at her St. Petersburg salon. Her Nocturne in A-Flat Major, *Le Murmure*, provided an accompaniment to a humorous poem, “Lis i Kozioł” (A Fox and A Goat). A special treat was the first modern performance of “Koncert na Koncertami” from *Pan Tadeusz* with music composed at the end of the 19th century by an unknown musician, Marian Signio. In this example of “melodrama” (found by Maja Trochimczyk),



p. 14



Tymczasem dwaj uczniowie przy cymbałach kłęczą,



Jankiel z przymarzniętymi na polu oczyma
Milczy i nieruchome drażki w palcach trzyma.



the piano illustrates Jankiel's cembalom performance, including the tuning of the instrument, the various melodies he played, and so forth. The illustration from the score shows how the speaking voice was coordinated with the music, moving from an image of improvised tuning to first, "triumphant" chords in the rhythm of the polonaise.

During the evening, Mickiewicz was celebrated as he deserved. He would have enjoyed, with a smile of satisfaction, the professionalism and enthusiasm of his celebrants across the globe, no need for politically constraining borders. Mickiewicz *had* to fight. We should celebrate peacefully, with the only passion showing the love of beauty and the arts. The evening will stay in our memory thanks to those mentioned and unmentioned, who show respect to the bards of the past keeping them alive and inspirational for a better future of more art and culture. Thank you all who promote art and culture through peace and love!

Dr. Mira N. Mataric

NOTE: This article is a fragment of a longer report by Dr. Mataric, soon to be published on the Modjeska Club website, www.modjeskaclub.org.



From our Mailbox



Dear Brian:

I just received a copy of the PAHA Newsletter vol. 67 no. 2, October 2010, today. I must say that Maja Trochimczyk has done a very good job editing PAHA's Newsletter, and she should be congratulated. However, I read your "Message from the President" on pages 1 and 2 and found an incorrect statement. You write that "This past June we (PAHA) held our mid-year meeting for the first time in Kraków at the Polish Academy of Arts & Sciences which proved a great success and opportunity to make our organization better known among scholars in Poland." Of course, I am delighted that a mid-year meeting of the PAHA Council was held in Kraków. But I must correct you it was not the first time that such a meeting was held in Kraków. A PAHA mid-year meeting of the Council was held in June 2000 in Kraków at the same time that PIASA held its 58th Annual Meeting in Kraków. Dr. Thomas Gladsky was President at the time. There were earlier PAHA meetings in Kraków with the Polonia Institute of Jagiellonian University in the late 1970's. The institutional memory of PAHA must be preserved by someone. I do hope that in the next issue of the Newsletter a correction will be made. As historians we should also try to know the history of PAHA so that we do not make statements that are not correct.

My warmest best wishes!

Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, Former president of PAHA



JOHN M. GRONDELSKI published an article, "Polish American Parishes in the United States: Reflections on their Future, on the Basis of New Jersey's Experience," in *Studia Migracyjne-Przegląd Polonijny*, 36/2 (2010): 105-22. The journal is published jointly by the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Jagiellonian University, Kraków. Grondelski, who is head of Visa Services at the U.S. Embassy in Bern, Switzerland, until summer 2011, is being transferred as Consul for Visa Services at the U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai, China, effective summer 2013 (via two years of Chinese language).

ANN HETZEL GUNKEL, as Director of the Cultural Studies Program at Columbia College Chicago, hosted the annual Cultural Studies Association (CSA) conference in March 2011, welcoming over 500 scholars from 30 countries. At the conference, she was a panelist presenting on "Cultural Studies and the Undergraduate: A Seminar," and Chaired a panel entitled, "Mashups, Remixes, and Authorship: Making and Meaning."

JOHN GUZLOWSKI's poem "All the Cliches about Poverty Are True" (*Connecticut River Review*) was nominated for the Pushcart Prize in poetry. This April, he and Cecilia Woloch are helping to celebrate the life and poetry of Czesław Miłosz at the Modjeska Club in Los Angeles (April 16, 2011, Ruskin Art Club, modjeskaclub.blogspot.com).

PAHA past President, **ANNA JAROSZYŃSKA-KIRCHMANN** published an article in Germany, "Wechselnde Identitäten. Die amerikanische Polonia und ihre Mission," *Osteuropa* (Berlin, Germany) 1 (2011). She served as Associate Editor for *The Polish American Encyclopedia*, ed. by James S. Pula (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, 2011), and authored a number of entries there. She also curated a historical exhibition "The Polish Past in Windham and Willimantic," February-June, 2011, at the Windham Textile and History Museum, Willimantic, CT.

MARTIN S. NOWAK has had his first book published, by McFarland and Company. Entitled *The White House In Mourning*, it covers the history of the deaths and attendant mourning and funeral rituals of the eight U.S. presidents who died in office. Each man's death and funeral is covered in detail and the book includes dozens of photos and illustrations. Nowak is also a columnist for the *Polish American Journal*.

PAHA President, **NEAL PEASE**, continues collecting honors and accolades for his book, *Rome's Most Faithful Daughter: The Catholic Church and Independent Poland, 1914-1939* (Ohio University Press, 2009). The book has been named co-winner of the 2010 Orbis Prize of ASEEES as best book in the field of Polish studies, and winner of the 2010 John Gilmary Shea Prize of the American Catholic Historical Association as best book in the field of Catholic history.

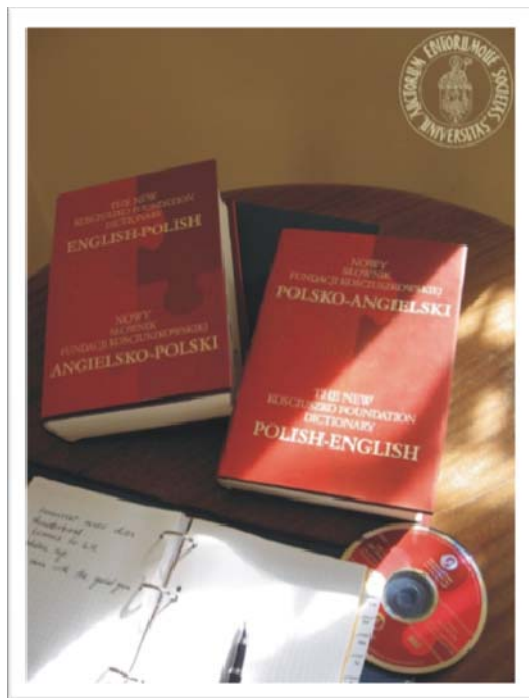
THOMAS J. NAPIERKOWSKI has been added to the Fulbright Specialist Roster which will allow foreign universities to request his expertise for seminars, lectures, and program cooperation. Since he was selected primarily for his credentials in Polish American literature, he regards the appointment, which was peer-reviewed by scholars in the area of American literature, as recognition of the standing of Polish American literature in the canon of American letters. He is expecting an invitation from the University of Gdańsk.

JAMES S. PULA presented a paper on "Bruce Bielaski and the Development of the FBI" at the annual meeting of the Polish American Historical Association in Boston; made a presentation on Kościuszko's role at Saratoga to the Chicago Chapter of the Kościuszko Foundation; made a presentation on *Kościuszko in the American Revolution* to the Polish Arts Group at Buffalo State College in Buffalo; and co-authored *With Courage and Honor: Oneida County's Role in the Civil War*.

MAJA TROCHIMCZYK presented a paper on "The Image of Chopin's Death in Art and Poetry" and participated in a poetry session at the PAHA Annual Meeting in Boston. She organized a *Chopin with Cherries* anthology group reading for the *Chopin and Paderewski Conference*, Loyola University Chicago (November 12-13), where she also read "The Image of Paderewski: An Archangel, Idol, Statesman." Her article, "Chopin in Polish-American Poetry: Lost Country, Found Beauty," was published in *Polish American Studies* 67, no. 2 (Fall 2010). Due to her social commitments, she now edits five blogs, four on blogspot.com: chopinwithcherries, modjeskaclub, poetrylaurels, and villagepoets.



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