



## Polish American Historical Association Newsletter

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### PAHA Awards at the 73rd Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, January 7-9, 2016



At the 73rd Annual Meeting held in Atlanta, GA, January 7-9, 2016, the Polish American Historical Association announced the winners of its Annual Awards. The PAHA Meeting included also many scholarly presentations as a part of the conference of the American Historical Association.

The **Mieczysław Haiman Award**, offered annually to a scholar for sustained contribution to the study of Polish Americans, was bestowed on Prof. **Dorota Przaszłowicz** of Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland. Her contributions to the field of Polonia studies have had considerable influence not only in the U.S. but also in Europe. An independent researcher at the

Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora of the Jagiellonian University, she is the editor of the scholarly journal *Studia Migracyjne*, and author of many articles, conference papers and two monographs (in Polish). The biannual migration conferences she organizes gather eminent scholars from the United States and Europe.

The **Oskar Halecki Prize** recognizes an important book or monograph on the Polish experience in the United States. Eligibility is limited to works of historical and/or cultural interest, including those in the social sciences or humanities, published in the two years prior to the year of the award. The 2016 Halecki Prize was presented to Prof. **Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann and Theodore Zawistowski**, [Continued on Page 3](#)

Photo, L to R: Awardees Pien Versteegh, Silvia Dapia, Theodore Zawistowski, Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, with Pres. Grażyna J. Kozaczka.

### Message from the President – by Grażyna J. Kozaczka

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

PAHA opened the New Year 2016 with a strong 73rd Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz, PAHA's First Vice President, organized an impressive program, which included eighteen papers grouped into eight sessions that testified to the multidisciplinary nature and vibrancy of the research conducted in the field of Polish American history and culture as well as migration studies. Presentation topics ranged from Cold War issues, to Kaszubian funeral traditions in Canada, post-war experiences of women prisoners of German concentration camps and the concept of a double diaspora in Polish American lesbian fiction. Dr. Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann

organized a session devoted to the work of the late Victor Greene (1931-2014), an eminent historian interested in the fields of immigration, popular culture and labor. During this fitting tribute to a scholarly life, many of his colleagues and former students discussed Professor Greene's scholarship as well as shared personal stories and anecdotes. In addition, the 73rd Annual Meeting provided PAHA with an opportunity to recognize excellence in scholarship and service during the awards ceremony held at a charming and historic southern restaurant. As members of PAHA, we should also be proud [Continued on Page 2](#)



of the strong showing of scholarly monographs on Polish American and Polish topics at the book fair organized in conjunction with the AHA conference. Many of these titles were authored by our members. It was also a pleasure to see our own journal, *Polish American Studies*, prominently displayed and advertised by the Illinois University Press.

May I also extend my appreciation to ALL those PAHA members that attended or contributed in any way to the planning and success of the program. Without their volunteer efforts and their dedication to PAHA, nothing in our organization could possibly work. *Bardzo dziękuję!*

As proud as we are of past accomplishments, it is time to look to the future. We are already planning our 74th Annual Meeting to be held in Denver, Colorado, January 5-7, 2017. Hopefully, many of you will be able to join us there to present your scholarship. And, of course, it is impossible not to notice that in about a year and a half, we will be celebrating PAHA's 75th Annual Meeting. What a great accomplishment for our organization!

The 75th Annual Meeting will also coincide with PAHA's 70th anniversary as an autonomous scholarly society. Even a cursory glance at the history of PAHA allows us to appreciate the changes this organization has undergone from its original heavily religious profile to what we see now, a multidisciplinary and multinational association of scholars who study the history and culture of Polish Americans, respond to the changes in the fields of migration studies, look at the larger Polish Diaspora, and who research the experience of Polish immigrants on different continents.

Also as can be attested by our latest meeting in Atlanta, PAHA begins to attract scholars of other ethnic groups who seek comparative approaches and topics. In addition, PAHA keeps strengthening its connections to migration scholars in Poland by again cosponsoring migration workshops together with the Jagiellonian University and Polska Akademia Umiejętności. The workshops will be held in Kraków in early June 2016.

We have already started planning special projects to mark PAHA's double anniversary. One is a plan to digitize the past issues of PAHA's Bulletin/Newsletter all the way back to 1943. This publication provides not only a wealth of historical material chronicling the evolution of PAHA but also of the changes in the approach to ethnic studies. With the help of Ms. Renata Vickrey, University Archivist, of the Central Connecticut State University Library and Ms. Magda Jacques also of CCSU, we hope that the whole run of the Bulletin/Newsletter will be available to researchers in a digital format (issues from 2002-15 are posted online). An easy access to the full run of this publication may attract researchers interested in conducting an analytical study of the Bulletin/Newsletter. Such a study could become a fitting celebratory gesture to mark PAHA's Anniversary.

The second project under consideration is a revision of *Polish Heritage Guide to USA and Canada* edited by Jacek Gałązka and Albert Juszcak (Polish Heritage Publications, 1992). Thanks to sensitive negotiations conducted by Dr. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, PAHA obtained rights from Mr. Gałązka to revise and edit the previously published material and seek publication for the revised edition.

The final project that PAHA might implement is a planned and systematic strengthening of Polish American topics available through Wikipedia. All projects will be discussed at the May 2016 midyear board meeting to be held at the Joseph S. Skalny Welcome Center, St. John Fisher College, Rochester, NY, thanks to the kind invitation PAHA received from Mr. Frederic Skalny and the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester.

I would like to end on a couple of personal notes. I received an invitation from Polska Akademia Umiejętności to represent PAHA at a seminar "Poles in World Scholarship" organized in Krakow in mid-June of this year to plan the 2017 Congress of Polish Scholarly Associations Abroad. I accepted this invitation since I believe that it is very important for PAHA to be represented during the planning stages for such an important Diasporic event.

Also, this past winter, I was fortunate to visit the Józef Piłsudski Institute of America in their new headquarters in Brooklyn, NY on a kind invitation of its Executive Director and PAHA's Second Vice President, Dr. Iwona Drąg Korga (see the photo on the next page). It is truly impressive what the Institute was able to accomplish in such a short time. Not only are the collections beautifully displayed, but the archives now boast archival shelving which maximizes space. Likewise the Institute immediately after its forced move from Manhattan grew into the fabric of its new Polish American community through an impressive number of programs both scholarly and popular that it organizes on its premises. I would like to wish the Institute continued success.

Respectfully submitted,

*Grażyna J. Kozaczka*  
*Cazenovia College*  
*President of the Polish American*  
*Historical Association*



Dr. Iwona Drag Korga, Executive Director of the Piłsudski Institute in New York, [www.pilsudski.org](http://www.pilsudski.org).

## **Anna Maria Anders** **at the Piłsudski Institute**

On April 1, 2016, the Piłsudski Institute hosted a lecture by Senator Anna Maria Anders, the daughter of the legendary General Władysław Anders, born in England, and since 2015, a Senator of the Republic of Poland. Anders is also the President of the Council for the Protection of Struggle and Martyrdom Sites and the Prime Minister's representative for international dialogue and collaboration. Anders serves as the President of Gen. W. Anders Foundation in England, awarding scholarship to Polish émigrés. She discussed her interests in military matters, and in education, especially in patriotic and civic training for future citizens and leaders of a free Poland.

## **PAHA Call for Papers for the 2017 Meeting in Denver, Colorado**

PAHA's 74th Annual Meeting will be held on January 5-7, 2017 in Denver, Colorado as part of the 131st American Historical Association's Annual Conference. The theme for the 2017 AHA conference is "Historical Scale: Linking Levels of Experience." AHA encourages contributors "to trace links among scales—spatial, temporal, and topical." This theme provides an excellent opportunity for the Polish American Historical Association to showcase research carried out by its members, as well as to present it in a comparative perspective. We invite scholars who work on the Polish American experience as part of the greater Polish diaspora as well as those who deal with migration, ethnic, and regional studies. We invite proposals for sessions as well as individual papers.

Presentations may address the following areas:

- Polish American experience – all aspects (history, sociology, literature, art, music, etc.) in the Americas
- Migration and settlement patterns, ethnic experience and interethnic encounters, Polish Americans and Poland
- Intersections of ethnicity, gender and race
- Ethnic press, ethnic lobbying, labor issues
- Polish Americans and Polish American communities in the American West

The deadline for submissions is April 15, 2016. Abstracts for papers and panel proposals are now being accepted and should be submitted to the Chair of the Program Committee:

**Grazyna J. Kozaczka, Ph.D., Cazenovia College,  
Cazenovia, NY 13035; phone: 315-655-7302;  
email: [gkozaczka@cazenovia.edu](mailto:gkozaczka@cazenovia.edu).**

Electronic proposals in email and word format are strongly preferred. Individuals and session 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.

Please be advised that it is not always possible for PAHA to provide AV equipment for all sessions due to the high cost of mandatory rental from AHA so let us know in your proposal if using AV equipment is necessary for your presentation. We also encourage distribution of paper handouts as an alternative.

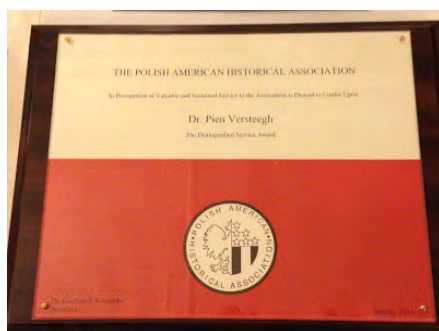
[www.polishamericanstudies.org/  
CallForPapers.html](http://www.polishamericanstudies.org/CallForPapers.html)



L: Dr. Dapia with Dr. Pula and Dr. Jaroszyńska Kirchmann. R: Michal Mydlowski, John P. Dunn and Theodore Zawistowski

for *Letters from Readers in the Polish American Press, 1902-1969: A Corner for Everybody* (Lexington Books, 2014). This unique collection features nearly five hundred letters from Polish American readers, published in the Polish-language-weekly *Ameryka-Echo* (1902-1969). The translated and annotated letters are a rich source of information on the history of Polish Americans and provide a new, fascinating, and lively look into the passions and experiences of individuals who created the larger American historical experience.

The **Amicus Poloniae Award** that recognizes significant contributions enhancing knowledge of Polish and Polish-American heritage by individuals not belonging to the Polish-American community was presented to Dr. **Silvia Dapia** of John Jay College and The Graduate Center, City University of New York. She has provided significant service to Polonia and PAHA through her work on the Polish experience in Latin America, guest-editing a special edition of *Polish American Studies* on this topic and a special issue of the *Polish Review* on the work of Witold Gombrowicz. She has also presented papers on Polish-related topics at PAHA and PIASA conferences and international conferences on Polish-American subjects. Further, she organized several Gombrowicz sessions and conferences in Poland and Argentina.



*Distinguished Service Award for Dr. Pien Versteegh, PAHA's Executive Director (on the right with Maja Trochimczyk).*

Dr. **Pien Versteegh**, Dean of Avans School of International Studies at the Avans University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands received the **Distinguished Service Award**, given occasionally to a member of PAHA who has rendered valuable and sustained service to the organization. Dr. Versteegh's role as executive director of PAHA since 2007 has been vital to the smooth and successful operation of the organization and its annual meetings. Her own scholarly interests focus on migration and ethnicity and her contributions as a scholar and as a PAHA officer are a model of service and scholarship to the academic community.

The **Swastek Prize** is awarded annually for the best article published in a given volume of *Polish American Studies*, the journal of the Polish American Historical Association. This award, established in 1981, is named in honor of Rev. Joseph V. Swastek (1913-1977), the editor of *Polish American Studies* for many years, and a past president of PAHA. The journal's Editorial Board recommended that the Swastek Prize for the best article in *Polish American Studies* for the year 2014 be awarded to **Lori A. Matten** for "Scouting for Identity:

Recruiting Daughters to Save the Traditional Polish Family During the Interwar Years” (PAS 71/1, Spring 2014). The author presents sound exploration of the history and formation of Polish American organizations conceptualized by questions of gender and ethnicity. She skillfully examines processes of identity transformations and assimilation of the second generation in the interwar period.

After distributing the awards, PAHA President Grażyna Kozaczka commented: "It was an honor for to be able to congratulate this year's distinguished award winners. PAHA awards are an important vehicle for our organization to recognize and honor achievement as well as to encourage research in the field of Polish American history and culture."



## Notes from PAHA's Annual Meeting, January 7-9, 2016



*Conference organizer, Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz and the Awards Banquet at Mary Mac Tea Room in Atlanta.*

The program of PAHA's 73rd Annual Meeting commenced with the Board Meeting and included six sessions on diverse aspects of Polonia's culture, presented from historical, sociological, anthropological, gender-studies, feminist and literary perspectives: Polish immigrant adaptation and cultural transitions; Polish immigrant and Polish American ethnic women; foreigners' view on the American Civil War; Émigré political activism during the Cold War; and the reception of Polish culture in the United States. Scholars discussed traditions of ethnic and immigrant communities such as the Kashube, Ukrainians, miners in Germany, Polish Americans in Toledo, Ohio and in Georgia, or former female prisoners of Nazi camp at Ravensbrück dispersed around the world.



*L: Mary Patrice Erdmans. R: PAHA Board in Atlanta: Anna Mazurkiewicz, Grażyna Kozaczka, James Pula, Pien Versteegh, Anna Miller, Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, Mary Patrice Erdmans, Robert Synakowski and Maja Trochimczyk.*



A special session, co-sponsored by the Immigration and Ethnic History Society and entitled "Honoring Victor Greene: Immigration and Ethnic History since the 1960s," was held on January 9, 2016, with the participation of Profs. James R. Barrett, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Ronald H. Bayor, Georgia Institute of Technology; Dominic A. Pacyga, Columbia College Chicago; James Pula, Purdue University North Central; and Dorothee Schneider, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The session's organizer, Prof. Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, Eastern Connecticut State University, stated: "Victor R. Greene (1931-2014) was a prolific scholar who made a fundamental impact on many fields of research, from labor history, to immigration, cultural studies and musicology. He left an indelible mark on PAHA and American culture." Dr. Maja Trochimczyk presented her recent book of verse, *Slicing the Bread* (Finishing Line Press, 2014), filled with bitter family memories from World War II and its aftermath, the takeover of the country by the Stalinist regime.

New Board members, appointments and policies were presented at the Board Meeting, facilitated by PAHA President, Grażyna Kozaczka, with Mary Erdmans, Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann (Editor of *Polish American Studies*), Anna Mazurkiewicz (First Vice President), Anna Miller, James Pula (Treasurer), Robert Synakowski, Maja Trochimczyk (Secretary), and Pien Versteegh (Executive Director). Dr. Anna Miller, of the University of Michigan at Dearborn joined the Board as its newest member and Dr. Iwona Drąg Korga, Executive Director of the Piłsudski Institute in New York City, became the Chair of the Awards Committee for 2017. The Committee will accept nominations to PAHA Awards at email: [i.korga@pilsudski.org](mailto:i.korga@pilsudski.org).



The Annual Meeting's materials featured prominently the artwork of Polish American painter, Julian Stanczak, winner of PAHA Arts Prize of 2014. The Book Exhibit at the American Historical Association's meeting presented *Polish American Studies* journal, edited by Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, and books on Polish and book series on *Polish American Studies* from Ohio University Press, edited by John Bukowczyk.



## Graduate Student Research Paper Award

The Polish American Historical Association announces the call for nominations and applications for the Graduate Student Research Paper Award. The Graduate Student Research Paper Award recognizes a substantial original research paper on Polish-American history and culture produced by a young scholar in the humanities or social sciences. A paper should be sent via e-mail to: [i.korga@pilsudski.org](mailto:i.korga@pilsudski.org) before April 15th, 2016. In addition to the recognition by PAHA and a potential paper publication offer from the interdisciplinary, refereed scholarly journal *The Polish American Studies* (the publication is not guaranteed), the winner will receive a \$1,000 travel grant to present the paper at the PAHA 2017 Annual Meeting in Denver, January 2017. The conference is held in conjunction with the American Historical Association.

The candidate for the award must be a graduate student at the time of the application or nomination. In addition to the paper (up to 25 pages, 1.5 spaced, Times New Roman 12) any submission must contain: the graduate student's short biographic note, a 250-word abstract, and one letter of reference. The results will be announced by June 15, 2016.

## Graduate Student/Young Scholar Travel Grant







PAHA encourages graduate students and young scholars (up to three years after graduation) to apply for our travel grants. Two such grants of \$500.00 each will be awarded to offset travel costs to attend the 2017 PAHA Annual Meeting in Denver. The grants will be awarded by the program committee to the two best conference proposals dealing with Polish American topics submitted by graduate students/young scholars.

To apply please include a brief letter of application and a CV together with the paper proposal. Each awardee must present the paper at the conference in person and will receive the check at the conference in Denver. Also Graduate Students are encouraged to apply for the Graduate Student Research Paper Award, please see details on the left.

All presenters are encouraged to submit their papers for possible publication in PAHA's scholarly journal, *Polish American Studies*. 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](http://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 15, 2016. Registration on-line at [www.polishamericanstudies.registration.html](http://www.polishamericanstudies.registration.html).

## Call for Nominations for PAHA's Awards for the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Denver, CO

Nominations are sought for the following awards. Kindly send all nominations by April 15, 2016, to the chair of the awards committee, Dr. Iwona Drag-Korga (Pilsudski Institute) at [i.korga@pilsudski.org](mailto:i.korga@pilsudski.org).

-  **Mieczysław Haiman Award** is offered annually to an American scholar for sustained contribution to the study of Polish Americans.
-  **Oskar Halecki Prize** recognizes an important book or monograph on the Polish experience in the United States. Eligibility is limited to works of historical and/or cultural interest, including those in the social sciences or humanities, published in the two years prior to the year of the award.
-  **Skalny Civic Achievement Award** honors 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.
-  **Amicus Poloniae Award** recognizes significant contributions enhancing knowledge of Polish and Polish-American heritage by individuals not belonging to the Polish-American community.
-  **Distinguished Service Award** is given occasionally to a member of PAHA who has rendered valuable and sustained service to the organization.
-  **Creative Arts Award** recognizes the contributions in the field of creative arts by individuals or groups who have promoted an awareness of the Polish experience in the Americas.



Niemcewicz by Antoni Brodowski

Several months ago I had a chance to visit Liberty Hall Museum, a well preserved former estate of William Livingston, New Jersey's first governor. The Georgian style house, from 1772, is located on Kean University Campus, in Union, former Elizabethtown. Families inhabiting the mansion, passed on furniture, books, portraits, decorative items and artifacts from generation to generation creating an unrivaled historical collection.

We were given a detailed house tour by Bill Schroh, who told us that Susan Livingston Kean was married to a Polish Count Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz. She renamed Liberty Hall 'Ursino' in his honor for a period of time. Jonathan Mercantini, Associate Professor of History at Kean University, kindly shared an excellent article with me written by Ryszard Walicki, entitled: "The Marriage of J.U. Niemcewicz." I partially based my piece on his work.

Niemcewicz, born in 1758, was a Polish playwright, poet, leading advocate for the Constitution of 3rd May and a statesman. He is best known for two works: a political comedy, *The Return of the Deputy* (1790) and *John of Tenczyn* (1825), reflecting life in old Poland. His stay in New Jersey is depicted in a book entitled *Under their Vine and Fig Tree, Travels in America in 1797-1799*, (1805) with some further account of life in New Jersey.

Niemcewicz came to America in exile, under the influence of Tadeusz Kościuszko. He settled in 1796 in Elizabethtown, NJ. Kościuszko introduced Niemcewicz to Susan Kean, a widow of John Kean, delegate to the Continental Congress. Ursynowicz thought of her as a handsome lady with a lot of knowledge and paid her frequent visits. Susan was tall, with blonde hair and blue eyes. She read voraciously and had a great memory, enjoyed a good conversation and had a witty sense of humor.

They became friends and enjoyed reading side by side, by candlelight, late into the night, "not noticing the passing time." After a two year courtship, Susan, against all conventions, asked Niemcewicz to marry her, to which he said "yes." Following their wedding on July 2, 1800, they moved to a small house at the edge of Elizabeth, surrounded by a garden and 18 acres of property. Susan and Julian were somewhat opposites of each other. He, happy, healthy and curious and she, more of an introspective introvert, often of weak health and moody. While Niemcewicz enjoyed socializing and visiting his French neighbors, it was difficult for Susan, who did not speak the language. He was inspired by the political discourse of an émigré. He felt that American political life at that time was quite stable.

Two years following the wedding Julian received sad news of his father's illness. He decided to visit him. He travelled through Hamburg, Berlin, to Warsaw and finally to Skoki, where he was born. During his stay in Poland, Niemcewicz exchanged many detailed letters with his wife. Most of them survived and are archived at Liberty Hall.

Upon his return to the States, he brought beautiful gifts for Susan, but he did not stay long. Following Napoleon's invasion in 1807, Niemcewicz traveled to Poland again where he became the secretary of the Senate. Several letters per year were written between him and his wife until her death in 1833. He was never to return to the United States. Julian Niemcewicz died in 1841 in exile in Paris.



### Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz Visits Washington's Mount Vernon in 1798



*From the Editor: In June 1798, Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz, Polish statesman, historian, writer and poet, visited General George Washington in Mount Vernon, and described this visit in a diary, translated by Metchie J. E. Budka, "Travels Through America" (Grassmann Publishing Company, Number XIV of The Collections of the New Jersey Historical Society). The memoirs are a rich source of information I used in my paper "The Impact of Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz's American Years on Śpiewy historyczne" (PAHA's Annual Meeting, January 2015).*

Niemcewicz writes: "June 2. [...] We took a road newly cut through a forest of oaks. Soon we discovered still another hill, at the top of which stood a rather spacious house, surmounted by a small cupola,

with mezzanines and with blinds painted in green. It is surrounded by a ditch in brick with very pretty little turrets at the corners; these are nothing but outhouses. Two bowling greens, a circular one very near the house, the other very large and irregular, form the courtyard in front of the house. All kinds of trees, bushes, flowering plants, ornament the two sides of the court. Near the two ends of the house are planted two groves of acacia, called here locust, a charming tree, with a smooth trunk and without branches, leaving a clear and open space for the movement of its small and trembling leaves. The ground where they are planted is a green carpet of the most beautiful velvet. This tree keeps off all kinds of insects. There were also a few catalpa and tulip trees there.[...]

June 4 [...] This morning we saw vast fields covered with different kinds of grain. One hundred acres in peas alone, much rye, which is distilled into whisky, maize, wheat, flax, large meadows sown to lucerne [alfalfa]; the soil, although for the most part clayey, produces, as a result of good cultivation, abundant harvests. All these lands are divided into four farms with a number of Blacks attached to each and a Black overseer over them. The whole is under the supervision of Mr. Anderson, a Scottish farmer.[...]

We entered one of the huts of the Blacks, for one cannot call them by the name of houses. They are more miserable than the most miserable of the cottages of our peasants. The husband and wife sleep on a mean pallet; the children on the ground; [there is] a very bad fireplace, some utensils for cooking, but in the middle of this poverty, some cups and a teapot. A boy of 15 was lying on the ground, sick, and in terrible convulsions. The Gl. had sent to Alexandria to fetch a doctor. A very small garden planted with vegetables was close by, with 5 or 6 hens, each one leading ten to fifteen chickens. It is the only comfort that is permitted them, for they may not keep either ducks, geese, or pigs. They sell the poultry in Alexandria and procure for themselves a few amenities. They allot them each one pack [peck] ... of maize per week; this makes one quart a day, and half as much for the children, with 20 herrings each per month. At harvest times those who work in the fields have salt meat; in addition, a jacket and a pair of homespun breeches per year.

Not counting women and children, the Gl. has 300 Negroes of whom a large number belong to Mrs. Washington. Mr. Anderson told me that there are only a hundred who work in the fields. They work all week, not having a single day for themselves except for holidays. One sees by that that the condition of our peasants is infinitely happier. The mulattoes are ordinarily chosen for servants. According to the laws of Virginia the child follows the condition of the mother; the son or daughter of a mulatto woman and a white is a slave and the issue through the daughter, although white, are still slaves. Gl. Washington treats his slaves far more humanely than do his fellow citizens of Virginia. Most of these gentlemen give to their Blacks only bread, water and blows. Either from habit, or from a natural humor disposed to gaiety, I have never seen the Blacks sad. Last Sunday there were about thirty divided into two groups and playing at prisoner's base. There were jumps and gambols as if they had rested all week. I noticed that all spoke very good English. Why then do the Blacks of the French colonies never speak a good French; rather make a jargon of their own? The reason for it is perhaps that the American masters speak and communicate with them more often than the French who depend entirely for the management of their farms on their overseers who are also black.[...]

June 5. I have often heard the Gl. reproached for his reserve and his taciturnity. It is true that he is somewhat reserved in speech, but he does not avoid entering into conversation when one furnishes him with a subject. We spoke of the French Revolution, and these were his words, "The acts of the French, that which they do in Holland, in Italy, and in Switzerland, ought to warn all nations of their intentions; ought to teach them that it is not freedom nor the happiness of men, but an untrammelled ambition and a desire to spread their conquests and to rule everywhere which is the only goal of their measures!" At the table after the departure of the ladies, or else in the evening seated under the portico, he often talked with me for hours at a time. His favorite subject is agriculture, but he answered with kindness all questions that I put to him on the Revolution, the armies, etc. He has a prodigious memory. One time in the evening he listed all the rivers, lakes, creeks and the means to procure a communication between these waters from Portsmouth [Portland] in the province of Maine as far as the Mississippi. This man may have erred during his administration; he may not be exempt from a few faults connected more with his age than with his heart, but in all he is a great man whose virtues equal the services that he has rendered his Fatherland. He has shown courage and talent in combat, perseverance and steadfastness during reverses and difficulties, disinterestedness, having at all times served without reward, and in the time of general enthusiasm of a grateful nation he never wished to accept the slightest recompense. Finally he has shown that he was not eager for glory, for being able to remain all his life at the head of the government he resigned voluntarily from the office of President. "

*~ excerpts selected by Maja Trochimczyk*



The Polish American Historical Association's interdisciplinary refereed scholarly journal (ISSN 0032-2806; eISSN 2330-0833) has been published continuously since 1944. It appears biannually and is available world-wide through JSTOR, a database of full-text research journals. PAS is indexed in *America: History and Life*; *American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies*; *ATLA Catholic Periodical and Literature Index*; *Bibliographic Index*; *Current Abstracts*; *Historical Abstracts*; *MLA International Bibliography*; *PIO - Periodical Index Online*; *PubMed*; and *TOC Premier*. The journal is also ranked by the Polish Ministry of Science and Education. To subscribe visit: [www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/pas.html](http://www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/pas.html).

The editors welcome scholarship including articles, edited documents, bibliographies and related materials dealing with all aspects of the history and culture of Poles in the Western Hemisphere. They particularly welcome contributions that place the Polish experience in historical and comparative perspective by examining its relationship to other ethnic experiences. Contributions from any discipline in the humanities and social sciences are welcome. The Swastek Prize is awarded annually for the best article published in a given volume of *Polish American Studies*. Manuscripts or inquiries should be submitted in Microsoft Word via e-mail attachment to the editor at [anna.k@polishamericanstudies.org](mailto:anna.k@polishamericanstudies.org). Manuscripts are evaluated based on their originality; relevance to the mission of the journal; the clarity of the thesis, presentation and conclusions; and the depth of research based upon the nature of the sources cited. Contributors whose first language is not English should have their work reviewed for clarity prior to submission. The journal employs a "double-blind" review process with each submission being read by a minimum of two reviewers, and usually three. Comments of the reviewers are summarized by the editors and provided to the authors.

► **Editor:** Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, Eastern Connecticut State University, [anna.k@polishamericanstudies.org](mailto:anna.k@polishamericanstudies.org)

► **Book Review Editor:** Mary Patrice Erdmans, Case Western Reserve University, [mary.e@polishamericanstudies.org](mailto:mary.e@polishamericanstudies.org)

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## PIASA's Call for Papers for the 2016 Conference, Due April 15, 2016



The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America is pleased to invite proposals for PIASA's 74th Annual Conference to be held in Washington, DC, June 16-18, 2016. Proposals are solicited for complete sessions or individual papers in any of the disciplines in the liberal arts, sciences, or business/economics. Since the Institute values comparative sessions, individual papers need not focus on Poland or the Polish diaspora, but it is hoped that at least one paper in each session will do so. Sessions including presenters from more than one nation are encouraged. Each session is scheduled for 90 minutes to accommodate three papers or about 20 minutes per paper. The conference language is English and all conference rooms will be equipped with AV for the use of PowerPoints and CD/DVD presentations. It is expected that acceptable conference papers will be submitted for possible publication in *The Polish Review* subsequent to the conference.

To submit a paper or complete session, please send the name, e-mail address, institutional affiliation, a tentative paper title and brief abstract (one short paragraph is OK) for all presenters to the chair of the program committee at [jpula@pnc.edu](mailto:jpula@pnc.edu). The deadline for proposals is April 15, 2016. All participants are expected to pay the conference registration fee.



## OFFICERS AND COUNCIL OF THE POLISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION IN 2015-2016

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### **ABOUT PAHA**

The Polish American Historical Association is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, interdisciplinary organization devoted to the study of Polish American history and culture, and its European origins (EIN 362729972). Founded in 1942 as part of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America, PAHA became an autonomous scholarly society in 1948. As an affiliate of the American Historical Association, PAHA promotes research and dissemination of scholarly materials focused on Polish American history and culture, as part of the greater Polish diaspora. PAHA publishes a newsletter and a biannual scholarly peer-reviewed scholarly journal, *Polish American Studies* (published by the University of Illinois Press, with past issues on JSTOR, [www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/pas/subscribe.php](http://www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/pas/subscribe.php)). The organization sponsors an annual conference, in conjunction with the American Historical Association, which serves as a forum for research in the field of ethnic studies. PAHA membership is open to all individuals interested in the fields of Polish American history and culture, and immigration studies.

### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT identifies the following goals:**

- To promote the study of Polish American history and culture as part of the greater Polish diaspora.
- To encourage and disseminate scholarly research and publication on the Polish American experience in the fields of history, the social sciences, the humanities and the arts, and advance scholarly collaboration across disciplines.
- To support collection and preservation of historical sources regarding the Polish past in America.

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## POETRY CORNER: *ECHOES OF TATTERED TONGUES*

### A "Searing Memoir" by John Z. Guzłowski



#### **My Mother Tells Me How She Met My Father: Prose Poem**

I first saw him in front of the barracks. He was walking with six other prisoners, a German soldier behind them pushing at them with some kind of rifle. Your father wasn't how he is now. He was skinny then, like two shoelaces tied together.

I was not such a prize after three years in the camps either. When the Americans came, they weighed me and found I was less than a 100 pounds—and what was I wearing? You want to know? Woolens on my legs, a grey rag to hide my hair, a stripped dress.

And him? Your father? Like I said, skinny with a bleeding towel across his face from where he lost his eye.

Still, he walked up to me, took my hand, and said in Polish, "Proszę, pani."

Yes, he said, "Please, miss," and like a proper gentleman, he clicked his heels. I thought he was at least a count, maybe a prince.

Then just before your dad had a chance to kiss my hand, the German behind him kicked him in the pants and said, "Dumkopf raus." Get moving, dummy.

Your father was like that. Always putting on airs, even then in the camps talking of Polish honor as if he and Poland shared a soul.

Really, he was worthless. I wish he had left me there in the camp. He couldn't drive a car, he couldn't fix a leaky roof.

When I asked him in the refugee camp to help me pack to come to America, he took a little drink and bundled all the clothes together in a bed spread like America was across the street.

The fool, I should have kicked him like the German soldier did when I met him.

Instead, I kissed him and wept.

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Visit *Echoes of Tattered Tongues: Memory Unfolded* website:  
<http://www.polandww2.com/echoes-of-tattered-tongues/>



*Continued on Page 13*

#### **My People**

My people were all poor 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

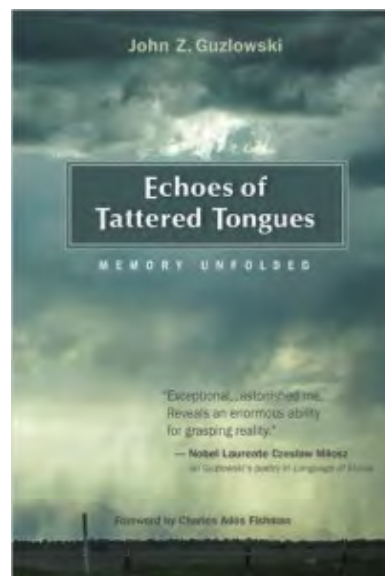
stories the poor tell themselves  
to give themselves the strength  
to crawl out of their own graves.

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 souls  
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.

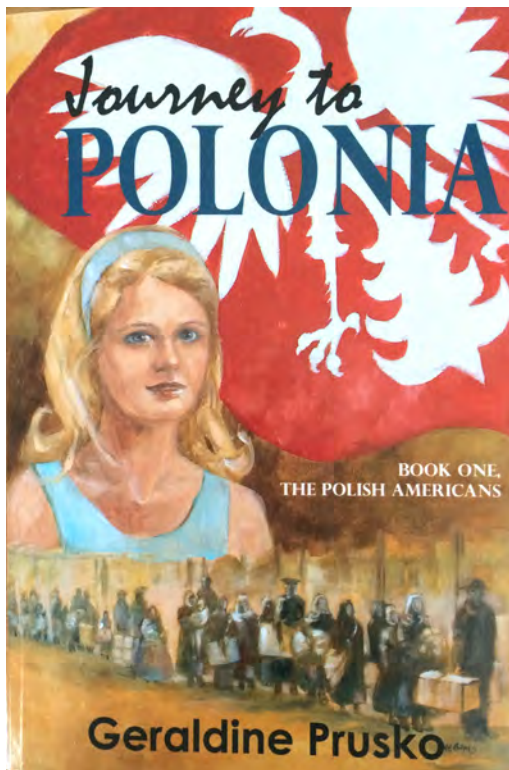




Published by Aquila Polonica in March 2016, this critically acclaimed book has already attracted many positive critical responses. *Foreword Reviews*, one of the leading publishing industry trade media, chose *Echoes of Tattered Tongues: Memory Unfolded*, as one of only six books to highlight in its Poetry Feature in the Spring 2016 issue. Maja Trochimczyk wrote in *Cosmopolitan Review*: "Some books take a lifetime to write, yet they can be read in one sleepless night, filled with tears of compassion and a heaviness of heart. John Z. Guzlowski's book of poetic memoirs is exactly such a book: an unforgettable, painful personal history, distilling the horrors of his parents' experiences in German labor and concentration camps into transcendent artwork of lucid beauty." (January 2016, [www.cosmopolitanreview.com/echoes-of-tattered-tongues/](http://www.cosmopolitanreview.com/echoes-of-tattered-tongues/)).



Geraldine Prusko's "Journey to Polonia" - by Grażyna J. Kozaczka



*Journey to Polonia, Book One: The Polish Americans* (Indianapolis: Dog Ear Publishing, 2015), Geraldine Prusko's debut novel, takes on an ambitious topic of the epic journey of thousands of Polish peasants from the reality of poverty and persecution in the partitioned Poland of the late 1800s to the dream of prosperity and freedom in the United States. The information on the book cover suggests that Prusko's own family stories of emigration from Poland inspired this novel, which the author promises to be the first one in a series.

The narrative begins in 1965 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with a dramatic scene of a sexual assault on a teenage girl returning home from school on a dark winter afternoon. As in many similar situations, the rapist is known to Olivia Medjeski – he is a cousin. And as in many similar situations at the time, Olivia is urged by the women in her family, by her mother and her grandmother, to just forget what happened to her, to keep quiet so she would not be blamed for the attack and further victimized by the community.

Yet how can this high school senior deal with the feelings of fear, disgust, guilt, and shame, while keeping it all to herself? Her mother suggests a way to begin the healing process: Olivia should investigate the history of her family, a family of Polish immigrants

who settled in Milwaukee in the 1890s. For Olivia, the past creates a badly needed distraction and allows her to learn about some extraordinary women who endured many hardships as they kept their families together and continued Polish traditions in the new land.

Olivia's investigation provides the framework for Prusko's plot, constructed of separate stories chronicling the journey to America of Olivia's four sets of great-grandparents. At first the reader gets to know Olivia's ancestors within their original Polish setting. For the most part, they are all peasants although some of them managed to gain some education. Through their stories, Prusko investigates different reasons for peasant emigration and with great sensitivity shows the trauma of emigration: the leaving behind of all that was familiar and loved to venture into the frightening unknown. Some of the best, but also most disturbing, chapters of *Journey to Polonia* deal with the journey itself, from Polish villages by horse-drawn carts and trains, through Prussian ports and finally the ocean crossing in steerage to reach the port of New York.

*Journey to Polonia* is a chapter in the Polish American narrative albeit a family one. However, in the future editions of this novel, the author should consider changing the map insert to include an accurate representation of the partitions of Poland: Krakow was not a part of the Russian Empire. Likewise, it might be helpful to readers unfamiliar with Polish history to include precise information about the partitions.



## PAHA President Kozaczka – The “Pole of the Year 2016”



Grażyna J. Kozaczka, Ph.D. was recognized by the Polish Scholarship Fund of Syracuse, New York with an award “Pole of the Year 2016” for “her overall professional career and for increasing engagement in the Polish culture.” She is the Professor of English and Honors Program Director at Cazenovia College and serves as the President of PAHA. She has also received an invitation from Prof. Andrzej Białas, the President of Polska Akademia Umiejętności, to attend planning meetings for the 2017 Congress of Polish Scholarly Societies Abroad. She will represent PAHA at these meetings on June 17-18, 2016 in Kraków.

*Depicted at Le Moyne College Library, Syracuse, NY, Polish Legacy Collection.*



## PAHA Welcomes Dr. Anna Muller as a New Council Member



In January 2016, Dr. Anna Muller joined PAHA Council as its regular member. She holds a Ph.D. from Indiana University. She works as an assistant professor at UM-Dearborn (endowed chair in Polish history). Prior to that she worked for two years at the University of Florida in Gainesville at the Center for European Studies. Her most recent publications include: “Polish Solidarity’s Heroine - Anna Walentynowicz– an exercise in memory studies,” published in *Rocznik Antropologii Historii*, Winter 2015 and “A More Manly Man.... Masculinities, Body, and Fatherhood in the 1980s Polish Political Prisoners’ Correspondence” forthcoming in a volume on gender in Eastern Europe as part of ‘Gender and History’ series within Palgrave Macmillan. She has two books under contract: *My Body and My Cell* – A collection of oral history interviews with female political prisoners from Eastern Europe (under review with the Institute of National Remembrance, Poland) and *If the Walls Could Talk: Women Political Prisoners in Stalinist Poland, 1945-1956*, (under review with Oxford University Press).

Her research interests include modern Polish and Eastern European history, gender, oral history, memory studies, and cultural history. Dr. Muller has taught on Polish history, Russian Revolution, history of Central Europe, and the history of European women. From 2010 to 2012, she worked as a curator for the Museum of the Second War in Gdańsk, Poland, where she co-curated exhibitions on concentration camps and the Holocaust. In 2011, she curated an exhibition at The Harn Art Museum (University of Florida) titled “A Study in Gender Roles: he, she, me” on questions around contemporary femininity and masculinity in Eastern Europe. She is involved in an oral history project in Hamtramck, MI, including oral histories and photos. It is financed by the Museum of Emigration in Gdynia and the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There were two exhibitions—the first opened on November 12, 2015 in Hamtramck and the second on December 7, 2015 in Gdynia. She has led two study abroad trips to Poland. In 2011, she took University of Florida students for a three-week tour. Last summer, she took University of Michigan students for a four-week tour to Krakow, Zakopane, Lublin, Łódź, Warsaw, and Gdańsk. During the tour she taught a class entitled “Memory and Oblivion in Polish History.” For the biographies of all PAHA Officers and Council Members visit: [PAHANews.blogspot.com/council.html](http://PAHANews.blogspot.com/council.html).



## The Way from Siberia to America in *My Sister's Mother* by Donna Urbikas



Donna Solecka Urbikas grew up in the Midwest during the golden years of the American century. But her Polish-born mother and half-sister endured dehumanizing conditions during World War II as slave laborers in Siberia. War and exile created a profound bond between mother and older daughter, one that Donna would struggle to find with either of them. At four o'clock in the morning on February 10, 1940, Janina Ślarzynska and her five-year-old daughter, Mira, were taken by Soviet secret police from their small family farm in eastern Poland and sent to Siberia with hundreds of thousands of others. So began their odyssey of hunger, disease, cunning survival, desperate escape across a continent, and new love amidst terrible circumstances. After the war, Mira, Janina and her new husband—a Polish Army officer who had helped them escape the Soviet Union—are haunted by the past. Baby boomer Donna, born in post-war England and growing up in 1950s Chicago, yearns for a “normal” American family. In this unforgettable memoir, Donna recounts her family history and her own survivor’s story, finally understanding the damaged mother who had saved her sister.

The book has been described as “a gripping study of family dynamics, this is also a must-read for World War II history buffs” by Leonard Kniffel (author of *A Polish Son in the Motherland*) and “an unprecedented saga of a loving mother and her two daughters raised years and oceans apart . . . A unique perspective on the tragic deportation of Poles to Siberia” by Wesley Adamczyk (author of *When God Looked the Other Way*). Allen Paul concluded: “. Her book is a primer for all who seek to understand the harrowing journey of the Poles during this fateful period.” Events are planned at the Kosciuszko Foundation on May 7 and at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago on May 22. More information [www.danutaurbikas.com](http://www.danutaurbikas.com).



## The Second South Africa Poland History Conference Held in 2015



In October 2015, the 2nd South Africa Poland History Conference was hosted by the Sol Plaatje University in Kimberly and the Polish Association of Siberian Deportees in South Africa. The speakers were Dr. Cobus Rademeyer from the Sol Plaatje University, Amanda Chalupa from the McGill University in Canada, Johanthan Durand from Canada, Rachael Jarosh from the USA and Stefan Szewczuk. A summary of the conference including pictures can be found on the Polish Embassy in Pretoria's website: [http://www.pretoria.msz.gov.pl/pl/aktualnosci/ii\\_konferencja\\_historyczna\\_polska\\_\\_poludniowa\\_afryka](http://www.pretoria.msz.gov.pl/pl/aktualnosci/ii_konferencja_historyczna_polska__poludniowa_afryka)



## New Book: Ruta Sepetys's "Salt to the Sea" – by Thomas Duszak



One of the main characters in Ruta Sepetys's *Salt to the Sea*, a fifteen-year-old Emilia is Polish and hails from Lwów (now Lviv in the Ukraine). *Salt to the Sea* is a work of historical fiction. The plot is based on the sinking of the *Wilhelm Gustloff* in the Baltic Sea, one of the deadliest disasters in maritime history. As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull. This volume from Philomel Books, published in February, 2016 is designed for young readers. Philomel is an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC and the target audience is grades 7 and up. For more information visit Ruta Sepetys's homepage at [www.rutasepetys.com](http://www.rutasepetys.com).



## Pulaski Birthday Observed in Savannah, GA and Warka, Poland



This year's annual birthday ceremonies honoring Revolutionary War General Pulaski, the Polish cavalryman known as "The Father of the American Cavalry" took place on the afternoon of March 5 on Monterey Square in Savannah, Georgia, at the foot of the monument dedicated to the Polish and American hero. Edward Krolkowski, from the Savannah Gen. Casimir Pulaski Committee, was master of ceremonies. In this role he wore a historically correct replica of the dragoon's helmet standard the commander of the Pulaski Legion, the mixed cavalry-infantry unit organized by Pulaski.

National Hymns were sung to the accompaniment of the Benedictine Military High School band. Congressman Earl "Buddy" Carter and Mayor of Tybee Island Jason Buelterman spoke briefly but eloquently addressing the debt of gratitude we have toward Pulaski and the values he personified. Such values are still present in the exemplary service performed by our armed forces. Peter Obst read a letter from Dariusz Gizka, Mayor of Warka in Poland, where a museum dedicated to Pułaski stands on that family's former estate.

Then wreaths from the Poles in America Foundation, the American Council for Polish Culture, the Savannah Gen. Pulaski Committee, the Polonia Club of Korona, Florida and descendants of the Pułaski family of Pułazie, Poland now living in Greenville, S. Carolina, were placed at the monument. On command, a musket salute was fired in honor of Pulaski's sacrifice on the Savannah Battlefield. This completed the formal ceremonies but a number of people lingered at the site conversing with historian Edward Pulaski and his son Jack about the research that was done on the bones found in the monument and reinterred in 2005. Though not confirmed by a DNA study which was inconclusive, forensic evidence shows that those were the mortal remains of Casimir Pulaski. Mr. Pinkowski and his son, who is the president of the Poles in America Foundation, came from Florida where the elder Pinkowski is in semi-retirement but still doing historical research.

Some of the attendees re-assembled later at the Plantation Club Ballroom for a Polish-style banquet. Among the speakers were Eric Norton, Deputy Superintendent of Ft. Pulaski National Monument (National Park Service), writer Mel Gordon, and Jack Pinkowski. Since this year (on August 12, 2016) Edward Pinkowski will be 100 years old, a cake was served and various version of Happy Birthday in Polish and English sung. The tribute was well deserved as Mr. Pinkowski has devoted most of his life to research and writing about Polish-American heroes and history. The Poles in America Foundation he founded, where his son Jack is president, is intended to carry this legacy well into the future.



*L: Edward Pinkowski, Jack Pinkowski, and Pulaski Cadets, Perth Amboy, NJ. R: Georgia Coastal Heritage Society.*



During this same weekend Pułaski's birthday was also observed at the Pułaski Museum in Warka, Poland. Wreaths were laid at the statue of Pułaski which is a twin of the one found in the city of Buffalo, NY. In addition, this year in time for this 271st anniversary of Pułaski's birth, his story was re-told in the form of a comic book - what today is also called a "graphic novel." Written by Remigiusz Matyjas and illustrated by Jacek Przybylski this 36 page book tells the story of Casimir Pułaski as a fighter for independence, in Poland and in America. A figure which is given prominence in the story is Franciszka Krasińska, who according to some sources was also the only

significant feminine influence (or perhaps a love interest) in Pułaski's life. In the history of 18th century Poland she is also known as the wife of Duke Charles Wettin of Courland and a leading light in the Bar Confederation, an armed movement which Józef Pułaski, Casimir's father, co-founded. An English version of this biographical comic book is planned for publication later in the year. For more information, visit the Pułaski Museum website at: <http://www.muzeumpulaski.pl/html/komikspulaski2016.html>

The Poles in America Foundation ([www.poles.org](http://www.poles.org)) and the American Council for Polish Culture ([www.polishcultureacpc.org](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org)) invite interested parties to view additional information presented on their respective websites.

~ Peter J. Obst



## 2015 Pułaski Conference in Poland – by Peter J. Obst



For the 270th anniversary of Pułaski's birth the Kazimierz Pułaski University of Technology and Humanities in Radom, Poland, in cooperation with the Radom Scientific Society and the Pułaski Museum in nearby Warka, organized a two-day conference which took place on October 6-7, 2015. The conference, entitled "Kazimierz Pułaski and his times in history, literature, and culture" was attended by Christopher Midura, Counselor for Public Affairs at the American Embassy in Warsaw who gave the keynote address. The first day took place in a lecture hall of the university, while for the second day the participants moved to the recently renovated Pułaski Manor, the main building of the museum in Warka.

Among the attendees were scholars from the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University of Lublin, the John Paul II University in Kraków, and Universities in Łódź, Radom, Białystok and Opole. Coming from the United States were Ann Marie Kajencki (Bismarck State College in North Dakota) and Peter J. Obst (The Poles in America Foundation). They were joined by Joan Wilson and Mel Gordon, writers from Savannah, Georgia, who are in the process of writing a novel about Pułaski. Some interesting and perhaps neglected themes were explored in the presentations given during the two days.

Dr. Dariusz Kupisz explained the military actions of Pułaski and his Bar Confederation brethren that took place in the vicinity of Radom. Marcin Kozdrach analyzed the dissolution of the Pułaski estates, and the disintegration of Józef Pułaski's fortune in those times. Many interesting facts about Kazimierz's brother Anthony were brought out by Dr. Jerzy Ternes, while Prof. Dariusz Trzeźniowski commented with zeal on the turbulent times during which the Pułaski family lived. Peter Obst was able to relate some colorful stories about how Pułaski is honored and remembered in the United States, while Dr. Ann Marie Kajencki gave a detailed treatment, with illustrative slides, to the Battle of Brandywine. Prof. Tomasz Ciesielski delved into Pułaski's military activities in Podole, while Dr. Jolanta Daszyńska addressed similar activities during his time in America. Iwona Stefaniak, director of the Pułaski Museum in Warka, explored his image in painting and sculpture. Opera lovers would have been delighted to learn from Dr. Andrzej Pytlak that Pułaski's



persona had found its way into the post-revolutionary French opera *La Lodoiska*. Dr. Ewa Klęczaj-Siara took up the topic of Pułaski in children's literature. Fr. Dr. Rafał Szczurowski spoke about how Pułaski was portrayed in stories of the Polish nobility, while Dr. Anna Kiezuń presented his character from the 1917 play *Pułaski in America* by Adolf Nowaczyński. A very interesting presentation was given by Dr. Remigiusz Matyjas concerning the methods used to portray Kazimierz (Casimir) Pułaski in comic books, or rather as they are now known, the graphic novel form.

It was a very successful conference. In addition to absorbing presentations there was enough time for socializing and private discussions on the various points raised. The Kazimierz Pułaski University of Technology and Humanities in Radom plans to publish all of the texts, both in Polish and English. It will be a book much desired by Pułaski scholars, just as was the one from the 2007 Pułaski Conference in Warka (now out of print). Much deserved praise goes to Dr. Dariusz Trzeźniowski of the Pułaski University in Radom and Dr. Dariusz Kupisz from the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin for organizing the conference. On Friday Oct. 9 an observance of Pułaski Day took place at the museum to memorialize the hero of two nations who gave his life for the cause of American freedom. A brass band from the Polish Armed Forces played not only Polish patriotic hymns but also a medley of traditional American folk tunes. After the ceremonies, an oak tree was planted near the entrance to the museum's new visitors' center which opened in 2015.



## **Chopin Monuments in North America – by Maja Trochimczyk**



It is strange, with American Polonia being so patriotic and so attached to the Old Country, to find such a dearth of Chopin monuments in the U.S. So far, only Cleveland, Buffalo, and Chicago are on my list. If you are in Cleveland, Ohio, go to visit the Polish Cultural Garden, at the corner of St. Clair and East Boulevard. The Garden was dedicated in 1934 and originally contained an elm tree brought from Poland and planted there. In the center there is a large fountain surrounded with sculptures of notable figures from Polish history and culture, including Fryderyk Chopin, Nicholas Copernicus (1473-1543), Maria Skłodowska Curie (1867-1934), and Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860-1941). All the historical figures depicted in these white marble or bronze busts, on rectangular red marble or granite columns look solid, healthy and "proud to be Polish." Accordingly, the young Chopin looks strong, with full cheeks, and a hopeful gaze. Here's the young man ready to conquer the world as he leaves Poland to start his career abroad: Vienna, Stuttgart, and Paris await. See Cleveland Historical blog ([clevelandhistorical.org](http://clevelandhistorical.org); thanks to Ewa Sobotowski for this information!).

According to Greg Witul, the Chopin monument in Buffalo, NY, is located in a park on the south end of Symphony Circle. The monument consists of the composer's bust on a rectangular column with a larger foundation. Mr. Witul writes: "Buffalo's Chopin Monument was a gift to the city courtesy of the Chopin Singing Society. Executed by Polish-American artist Joseph Mazur, the bust was dedicated June 7, 1925 in Humboldt Park. It was later moved to the front lawn of Kleinhans Music Hall facing Symphony Circle."



Fryderyk Chopin in the Polish Cultural Garden in Cleveland, Chopin Monument by Wacław Szymanowski in Warsaw (Photo by Maja Trochimczyk) and Chopin Monument in Buffalo, NY (Photo by Greg Witul).

In Chicago, Il., Chopin monument exists only as a plan, not in the present. There is a very ambitious plan to erect an exact replica of Warsaw's Chopin Monument by Wacław Szymanowski in the Art Nouveau style. The monument will be located in Chicago's Grant Park. The organizers of the project hope that this location "will expose it to the greatest number of people of Chicago and tourists alike." The "Chopin Garden" seeks donations from the general public: <http://www.chopinmonumentinchicago.com/sites/project.php>.



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