PAHA’s Semi-Annual Board Meeting in Kraków, Poland, June 2017

The Board of the Polish American Historical Association meets twice per year, with a mid-year meeting scheduled either independently of other events, or in association with an important conference. The Summer 2017 Mid-Year Board Meeting took place in Kraków, Poland, on June 18, 2017, at the end of the Sixth World Congress of Polish Studies, organized jointly by Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America, Polska Akademia Umiejętności, and the University of Gdańsk. The Congress was scheduled for June 16-18 at the Polska Akademia Umiejętności at ul. Sławkowska 17 in Kraków, and included presentations by nearly 200 scholars from various areas of the humanities and social sciences, including studies of Polish history, literature, art, music, institutions and individuals. There was a large number of panels with papers on Polish American topics. These included: Session 3 on Chicago Polonia; Sessions 7 and 12 on Heroes and Anti-Heroes; Session 13 on Migration Studies; Session 17 on Polish Diaspora Communities; Session 26 on Polish American Support for Poland; Session 21 on Australian Immigration (Western Hemisphere!); Session 31 on Poles in American Civil War; Session 35 on Immigrant Social Identities; Session 41 on Eastern Europeans in North America; and Sessions 46 and 52 on Post-Solidarity Immigrants in the US and Canada respectively. See Page 3


A Letter from the PAHA President Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz

Dear Readers,

Thank you for taking the time to catch up with PAHA. We are truly glad to have you as a member.

Since the annual PAHA meeting January 2017 in Denver, the PAHA Board met again in June – this time in Poland (see the text about PAHA’s participation in the Sixth World Congress on Polish Studies in Kraków in this newsletter). Our association is currently mobilizing its resources and focusing its energy on preparations for a double anniversary. See Page 2

L to R: James Pula, Anna Mazurkiewicz and Piotr Drag after the plenary session, The Year of Kościuszko, at the opening of the Sixth World Congress of Polish Studies, Kraków, June 2017.
**Letter from the President, Anna Mazurkiewicz**

The 2018 marks the centennial of Poland’s regaining independence after 123 years of partitions, as well as the 75th Anniversary of PAHA. The Board confirmed there that the official celebration of PAHA’s 75th Anniversary will be held on 7-9 September 2018 in Chicago at Loyola University. A special Committee was established within our Board to coordinate this effort. It is co-chaired by Bożena Nowicka-McLees and Dominic Pacyna. In addition to the planned event, James Pula has been working on a special anniversary publication on PAHA’s history and achievements. We will let you know once it is available in print.

This may be a good opportunity to remind you about *Polish American Studies*. It has been published uninterruptedly since 1944! Please remember to have a look at the recent issue of our journal (74/1). It contains fascinating stories about Zbyszko – the all-time famous Polish wrestler in America, Polish-Americans’ ways and means of organizing. If you are our member you should have already received your copy of the journal – the subscription comes with the membership. Please renew, if you haven’t done so already!

Finally, please note that PAHA maintains its ongoing projects. We are continuously on the lookout for collecting Displaced Persons’ memoirs, documents, and oral histories. We also seek contributions to our “Objects that Speak” collection of personal artifacts dear to Polish-Americans. Before the end of this year we are planning to launch a modern version of our web page which shall contain special sections devoted to both projects.

The upcoming centennial of Poland’s regained independence may be the spark to reinvigorate your interest in all things Polish and Polish-American. Please stay tuned for more information on PAHA planned events and publications – come to meet us in Washington (4-7 January, 2018) during our annual conference, see us on Facebook, read the blog, or visit our web page for more details. By maintaining your membership in PAHA you are helping us fulfill our mission to study and promote scholarly research and preservation of historical sources on Polish American history and culture.

Thank You!

Anna Mazurkiewicz  
*University of Gdańsk, Poland*  
*President of the Polish American Historical Association*

Anna Mazurkiewicz is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of History, University of Gdańsk, and the Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at Stanford University for the Fall/Winter 2017/18. She has published three books: on the American responses to elections of 1947 and 1989 in Poland, and on the role of the exiles from East Central Europe in American Cold War politics (1948-1954).

L to R: Mary Patrice Erdmans speaks and a Group poses with Copernicus at the Sixth World Congress of Polish Studies.
The Conference Organizing Committee included three PAHA members: Chair — M. B. B. Biskupski (Central Connecticut State University, former President of PAHA); Vice Chair and Program Chair — James S. Pula (Purdue University Northwest, PAHA Treasurer and former editor of the Polish American Studies); Chair of Administration and Finance — Bożena Leven (The College of New Jersey); Committee Members: Andrzej Białas (President, Polska Akademia Umiejętności), Arkadiusz Janicki (Director of the Institute of History, University of Gdańsk), and Anna Mazurkiewicz (President, Polish American Historical Association).

The Program also included a thank-you note to individuals and institutions that organized two or more sessions at the Congress: Silvia G. Dapía (John Jay College, City University of New York); Christopher Garbowski (Marie Curie-Skłodowska University); Arkadiusz Janicki (University of Gdańsk); Anna Mazurkiewicz (University of Gdańsk); Anna Reczyńska (Jagiellonian University); Maja Trochimczyk (Moonrise Press); Centre POLONICUM (University of Warsaw); Polish American Historical Association; and the University of Gdańsk.

**Sessions with Participation of PAHA Members:**

JUNE 16, 2017, OPENING CEREMONIES: Chair: James S. Pula (Purdue University Northwest); Speakers: Andrzej Białas (President, Polska Akademia Umiejętności) – M. B. B. Biskupski (President, Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America) – Arkadiusz Janicki (Director of the Institute of History, University of Gdańsk)

JUNE 16, PLENARY SESSION: “The Year of Kościuszko: How We Remember Him” — Chair: Anna Mazurkiewicz (University of Gdańsk; PAHA President). Speakers: Piotr Drąg (Jagiellonian University), “Tadeusz Kościuszko: How the National Hero of Poland is Remembered in Poland in the Bicentenary Year of His Death” – James S. Pula (Purdue University Northwest), “Kościuszko in American Historical Memory”


Left: PAHA Board Meeting (P. Versteegh, G. Kozaczka, A. Muller, D. Praszalowicz, B. Nowicki-McLees, A. Mazurkiewicz, J. Pula, D. Pacyga, J. Wojdon; Right: Discussion at the banquet, with D. Pacyga, N. Pease, C. Grabowski, A. Mazurkiewicz.
JUNE 16, SESSION 3: The Chicago Polonia: From the Za Chlebem Migration to Today (Organized by the Polish American Historical Association). Chair: Dominic A. Pacyga (Columbia College -Chicago). Speakers: Megan Geigner (U.S. Naval Academy), "Building the Kościuszko Statue in Chicago: Civic Performance and Chicago's Polonia" — Marek Liszka (Jagiellonian University), "Polish Orava Highlanders at the Turn of the 20th and the 21st Century in the United States" — Mary Patrice Erdmans (Case Western Reserve University), "Residential Patterns of Polish Immigrants in Chicago in the 21st Century"


Świercz (Jesuit University Ignatianum), “Polishness, Politics, and the Facilitated Life in Witold Gombrowicz’s Works”


JUNE 17, SESSION 31: Polish Participants in the American Revolution and Civil War (Organized by the Polish American Historical Association) — Chair: Piotr Derengowski (University of Gdansk). Speakers: Anthony Bajdek (Northeastern University, retired), “Revisiting the Subject of West Point and the Secular Sainthood of Tadeusz Kościuszko in the Early American Republic” — Tomasz Pudłocki (Jagiellonian University), “The Polish Delegation to the U.S. Pulaski Celebrations, 1929 – Honoring the Glorious Past or Mere Propaganda?” — Michał Krzysztof Mydłowski (University of Warsaw), “Krzyżanowski’s Civil War”


JUNE 17, SESSION 38: Witold Gombrowicz (III): Polish Emigré Literature and Literary Criticism: Life of an Idea from ACLA 1994 to PIASA 2017 — Chair: Silvia G. Dapia (John Jay College, City University of New York). Speakers: A roundtable discussion on the life of a conference paper, the life of its idea, and the currency of an idea, featuring Katarzyna Jerzak (Pomeranian University, Słupsk), Marzena Grzegorczyk (Reverie Chase Productions), Paweł Kozłowski (Pomeranian University, Słupsk), and Marcin Wołk (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń)

PAHA Board at PAU in Kraków, L to R: Grażyna Kozaczka, Anna Muller, Dorota Praszałowicz, Bożena Nowicka-McLees, Anna Mazurkiewicz, James Pula, Dominic Pacyga, Maja Trochimczyk, Mary Patrice Erdmans and Neal Pease.
Submit Your Paper for Publication in the *Polish American Studies*

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. 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.

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### Contents of Recent Issues of the *Polish American Studies*

**Polish American Studies, Vol. 72, no 1 (Spring 2015)**

- Troubles with "Mela": A Polish American Reporter, the Secret Services of People's Poland, and the FBI, by Paweł Ziętara
- Cold War Airwaves: The Polish American Congress and the Justice for Poland Campaign, by Robert Szymczak
- Leaving Koźuchów, a Village in Dobrzchów Parish, Galicia, by Patricia B. Yocum
- The Khaki Boys Series: Images of Polish Americans, 1918-1920, by Thomas J. Napierkowski

**Polish American Studies, Vol. 72, no. 2 (Fall 2015)**

- The Polish Political System in Exile, by Sławomir Łukasiewicz
- Exiles and the Homeland: The State of Research, by Paweł Ziętara
- Polish Political Emigration in the 1980s: Current Research, Perspectives and Challenges, by Patryk Pleskot
- Political Emigration from East Central Europe During the Cold War, by Anna Mazurkiewicz
- Perspectives on Research on the Post-1939 History of Polish Americans, by Joanna Wojdon
Polish American Studies Vol. 73, no. 1 (Spring 2016):
- Forum: Bringing the Notion of “Ethclass” to Life: Victor Greene’s Contributions to the History of American Industrial Workers, by Ewa Morawska
- Victor Greene, the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, and Urban Studies, by Ronald Bayor
- Victor Greene: Colleague, Friend, and Mensch, by Dominic A. Pacyga
- Victor Greene, the Polish Immigrant Miner, and the Origins of the New Labor History, by James R. Barrett
- Remembering Victor Greene, by James S. Pula
- Victor Greene as Immigration Historian: Themes and Contexts, by Dorothee Schneider
- Were There Really Poles in New-Netherland? by James S. Pula and Pien Versteegh
- Crossing the Boundaries of Modernity: The Post-Abolition Journey of Polish Peasants to the United States, by Marta Cieślak
- Nationally and Religiously: Commemorations in the Life of the Polish Diaspora in Sweden, 1945-1989, by Arnold Kłonczyński

Polish American Studies Vol. 73, no. 2 (Fall 2016):
- James S. Pula: Bibliography of Works, by Thomas Duszak
- Introducing the Polish Experience into American History, by James S. Pula
- “So They Will Know their Heritage:” Reflections on Research post Polish Americans, by Mary Patrice Erdmans
- Has the “Salt Water Curtain” Been Raised Up? Globalizing Historiography of Polish America, by Adam Walaszek
- Writing Poland and America: Polish American Fiction in the Twenty First Century, by Grażyna J. Kozaczka
- Polonia’s Ambassador to the United States: The Mystery of Jerzy Jan Sosnowski, 1917-1918, by M. B. B. Biskupski

See Poles in Canada caption on p. 8
The exhibition “Poles in the Canadian Mosaic. 150 Years of History” was organized by the Emigration Museum in Gdynia, Poland in cooperation with the Embassy of Canada in Warsaw. The idea of creating the exposition is connected with Canada’s 150th Anniversary which took place this year (1867 – 2017). The exhibition featured information about both the history and the contemporary achievements and presence of Poles in Canada. What is unique about this particular exhibition is the concept of showing the same exhibition at the same time in many different places on two continents. The most complex and extensive version of the exhibition is presented in the Emigration Museum in Gdynia.

The Museum conditions allowed to display some interesting objects. Direct contacts with representatives of the Polish ethnic group in Canada and winning their trust have enabled the Museum to gather and present objects for display along with their owners’ personal stories. For example a part of the exhibition devoted to the time of the Solidarity movement is arranged without copies of archival photographs at all. Instead, this story is being told through the items which belonged to people in Canada who organized protests against martial law in Poland and helped immigrants from Poland. The narrative and explanatory texts of the exhibition are in Polish and English. The design and scenography plays an important role in articulating the themes of the exhibition. For instance, the image of the maple leaf accompanying light wooden display cases serves to emphasize the role of natural environment in Canada. All visual and media materials are prepared in red and white tones – in the colors of Canadian and Polish national flags.

The exhibition in the Museum was opened on 1 July 2017 and will be open until 15 December 2017. His Excellency Stephen de Boer, the Ambassador of Canada to Poland, took part in the opening ceremony. (The exhibition is presented under the honorary patronage of the Ambassador of Canada to Poland as well as the Mayor of Gdynia, Wojciech Szczurek.) The most important photographs and data from the exhibition are presented in the form of twenty display boards. The texts of this version of exposition have been prepared in three languages: Polish, English and French. The board exhibition was opened in Warsaw in the Embassy of Canada to Poland on the 29th June, 2017. The opening of the exposition was a part of an official celebration of the Canada Day in the Embassy. Starting from July 2017, the 20-board exhibition is also being presented in Canada. It will be available to the public in, among others, the cities of Hamilton, London, Mississauga and Toronto.

The traveling exhibition is entitled “Polacy w kanadyjskiej mozaice. 150 lat historii” / “Poles in the Canadian Mosaic. 150 Years of History” / “Les Polonais dans la mosaïque canadienne. 150 ans d’histoire”. The concept of the exhibition was created by Sebastian Tyrawski (Vice-Director of the Emigration Museum in Gdynia) and Dr. Michalina Petelska (University of Gdańsk). Prof. dr hab. Anna Reczyńska (Jagiellonian University in Kraków), dr Michalina Petelska, dr hab. Dagmara Drewniak (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań), and Sebastian Tyrawski participated in designing the exhibition’s narrative. The realization of the project was possible thanks to cooperation with the Embassy of Canada to Poland. The support of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto and the Polonia Canadian Institute for Historical Studies made it possible to show the exposition in Canada.

~Dr. Michalina Petelska, University of Gdańsk, Poland

Caption for Photos on p. 7: Left: Exhibition hall at the Museum in Emigration, Gdynia; Poland. Right: Exhibition Organizers and Guests: Jerzy Barycki, Canadian Polish Congress, three volunteers; Władysław Lizoń, President of Canadian Polish Congress; prof. dr hab. Anna Reczyńska, UJ; His Excellency Stephen de Boer, Ambassador of Canada; Anita Wasik, designer; Marek Stepá, deputy mayor of Gdynia; Dorota Terlecka, graphic designer, and Sebastian Tyrawski, deputy director of the Emigration Museum in Gdynia.
The Piłsudski Institute of America is a major Polish-American research and educational institution, known for its vast and unique special collections, educational efforts, public lectures, events, as well as its Annual Awards. For 2017, four medals have been awarded by the Institute:

- Beth Holmgren, professor of Slavic and Eurasian studies at Duke University who has been researching the history of 20th century Poland for many years was awarded Waclaw Jędrzejewicz History Medal.
- Professor Tadeusz Malinski, a chemist at Ohio University, received the Marie Curie Science Medal as a remarkable scientist and a pioneer in the new field of medicine – nanomedicine.
- The Ignacy Paderewski Arts and Music Award had two recipients in 2017: Leszek Długosz and Lubomir Tomaszewski. Leszek Długosz is a poet, singer, radio and television host and journalist educating Poles in a patriotic spirit. Lubomir Tomaszewski is a Polish-American artist, sculptor, painter, designer who fought in the ranks of the Home Army for the 63 days of the Warsaw uprising as commander of the anti-tank division.

The Award ceremony, held in the spring 2017 included a concert by Leszek Długosz and a photo exhibition by Janusz Skowron, showing the most important events at the Piłsudski Institute. The Institute continues its efforts to convert paper archives into digital format to meet two basic goals of the archives, security and access. Documents, particularly 19th and 20th century documents on acid paper, cannot withstand touching and turning by many users. So far, the digitized resources include over 180,000 pages viewed by over 30,000 researchers per year. The newest additions to the Digital Institute archives are documents “Adjudancy-Commander in Chief” from the period of the Paris Conference and the Treaty of Versailles in 1918. The Institute also created an online exhibit about Ignacy Paderewski, wystawy.pilsudski.org, featuring many unique photographs and documents. Other new digitization projects consist of documents from the Second Polish Republic, documents from the Silesian Uprisings, and photographs from World War II. These projects are carried out by volunteers, members of the Board and staff, and sponsored by a number of supporters, both private and institutional.
OFFICERS AND COUNCIL OF THE POLISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION IN 2017-2018

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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. 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 journal, *Polish American Studies* (published by the University of Illinois Press, with past issues on JSTOR, [www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/pas/isubscribe.php](http://www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/pas/isubscribe.php)). The organization sponsors an annual conference 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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On September 23, 2017 at the Museum of the American Revolution, 101 South 3rd Street, Philadelphia, a lecture entitled “Friends of Liberty: Thomas Jefferson, Tadeusz Kościuszko and Agrippa Hull” will be given by Gary B. Nash, PhD, Distinguished Research Professor and Director Emeritus, National Center for History in the Schools, and Professor Emeritus of History, UCLA. In “Friends of Liberty,” Dr. Nash explores the little-known story of General Tadeusz Kościuszko, Polish-born military engineer and freedom fighter in the American Revolution, and his role as a pioneer of abolition.* Kościuszko was an ardent advocate for the rights of European serfs, African slaves, Jews, women and other disenfranchised groups on two continents. Kościuszko’s relationship with Agrippa Hull, a freeborn black New Englander who served as his orderly during the Revolutionary War, provides poignant testimony to the bonds that form between freedom-loving people. As a pioneer of abolition, Kościuszko gave Jefferson instructions that upon his death, Kościuszko’s U.S. funds be used to liberate and educate as many of Jefferson’s slaves as the money allowed. The lecture tells of the tragic betrayal of Kościuszko’s trust. The lecture is free but reservations are required: [https://Kosciuszkomar.eventbrite.com](https://Kosciuszkomar.eventbrite.com). Additionally tickets at $80/person may also be obtained for a Reception following the lecture. The event is sponsored by the Kościuszko Foundation, Philadelphia Chapter in cooperation with the Museum of the American Revolution and the U.S. National Park Service.

This lecture marks Kościuszko’s legacy of freedom and the 200th anniversary of his passing. UNESCO and the Parliament of Poland have declared 2017 as the Year of Tadeusz Kościuszko. The UNESCO press release stated: “Tadeusz Kościuszko lived at the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth century. In recognition of his activity for the sake of peace, independence and democracy – the equality of people regardless of their skin colour or religion – he is considered a national hero in Poland and in the United States. He emphasized the role of both practical and citizen education, so that men and women who regained freedom should be aware of their rights, but also their duties with respect to the freedom and welfare of others.”

## Praise for Piotr Florczyk’s Poetry Volume, *East & West*

“Each day we wake and begin an interior dialogue about what is ethical and what is tolerable on this planet. Poet and translator Piotr Florczyk demonstrates in his lyrical evocations what that conversation might look like as he negotiates the distance between urban and wild, settled and migrant, Kraków and Los Angeles. Piotr Florczyk’s literary elders showed us all how to think wisely, deeply, and with dark humor, about the last hundred years, and now Florczyk himself leads us boldly forward into the 21st century, weaving those very same gifts into fabulist’s miniatures of wonder and play.”

~ Sandra Alcosser

“Beneath the deceptive, plain speech of Piotr Florczyk's best poems lies a jarring assessment of American society that only a poet fluent in two tongues might tell: a backyard where field mice show up with ‘BB gunshot wounds,’ where newlyweds bring ‘suitcases full of sticks, tin foil scraps, dead flies,’ and where under the ‘quilt of lawn’ one finds "hands waving in the air.’ We discover that within our once pastoral life, ‘No one complains if, out of / boredom, I slingshot rocks at their windows, but when I stagger with a story of the sun / climbing a fire escape in the rain, they ask not for the ending but for silence, something / like a furrow or a dagger.’ *East & West* is an outstanding book.” ~ Mark Irwin.

More information: [www.piotrflorczyk.com/east-west](http://www.piotrflorczyk.com/east-west)
**POETRY CORNER: PIOTR FLORCZYK**

**OMAHA BEACH**

Returning here, it hasn’t been easy for them to find their place in the black sand—always too much sun or rain, strangers driving umbrellas yet deeper into their land. The young radio host said so, speaking of the vets. When the sea had come, some curled up inside the shells; others flexed and clicked their knuckles on the trigger of each wave, forgetting to come up for breath. Then, as now, there was no such a thing as fin-clapping fish, quipped the host—his voice no more than an umlaut going off the air. But he didn’t give us a name at the start or the end. Nor did he explain how to rebury a pair of big toes jutting out from the mud at the water’s edge. In the end, it’s a fluke. A beach ball gets lost. And a search party leads us under the pier, into the frothy sea impaling empty bottles on the rocks.

**THE KITCHENWARE**

Between the fork, spoon, knife and, my favorite, the two-faced meat tenderizer, an entire commando force can be assembled.

No one beats the wiry eggbeater or the black spatula, even the food processor shoved behind the Dutch oven. A jar opener is for sissies who’ve never squeezed a tennis ball. Better they stick to the frying pan or the wooden citrus reamer. Tongs are fine for dealing with sauerkraut or Polish sausages, but they share a drawer with the measuring cups that often go missing.

Stir-frying noodles in a wok is easier than it looks. The peeler loves the grater the way the heirloom tea cup loves the saucer. The carafe of icy water is a beauty. From the center of the table, it reflects sunlight onto the plates and mugs of mortals.

Piotr Florczyk is a poet, essayist, and translator of Polish poetry. His most recent books are *East & West*, a volume of poems from Lost Horse Press, and two volumes of translations published by Tavern Books, *My People & Other Poems* by Wojciech Bonowicz, and *Building the Barricade* by Anna Świrszczyńska, which won the 2017 Found in Translation Award and the 2017 Harold Morton Landon Translation Award. In addition to many books, he has published poems, translations, essays, and reviews in many journals, including *The American Scholar*, *Boston Review*, *Harvard Review*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *The New Yorker*, *Notre Dame Review*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Pleiades*, *Poetry International*, *Slate*, *The Southern Review*, *Threepenny Review*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *West Branch*, and *World Literature Today*. He is one of the founders of Calypso Editions, a cooperative press, and serves as Translation Editor for *The Los Angeles Review*. After earning his M.F.A. from San Diego State University in 2006, he taught at Antioch University Los Angeles, Cecil College, Claremont McKenna College, University of California-Riverside, University of Delaware, University of San Diego, and San Diego State University. A doctoral candidate at the University of Southern California, Florczyk lives in Mar Vista with his wife and daughter. For more info, please visit: www.piotrflorczyk.com
In PAHA Newsletter for Spring 2017 we announced the publication of Kossakowska’s A Homeland Denied. Here’s an excerpt from this book:

“The wooden cattle trucks rattled laboriously along at an uneven pace, their cold metal wheels clattering noisily on the iron railway tracks, jolting their occupants.

The bitter Arctic wind easily found its way through the poorly fitted slats of wood, chilling the fifty men inside each truck. Crammed like sardines shoulder to shoulder, they were unable even to move their arms from their sides, and the suffocating smell of unwashed bodies combined with the overpowering stench of urine and vomit was nauseating.

Pressed tightly into a far corner of the truck was a young Polish soldier, fresh from Warsaw University. Without any warning, Germany had invaded Poland on 1 September 1939, and Vadek Kossakowski had volunteered immediately on hearing the news. But the Poles were hopelessly outnumbered as the Germans advanced with over one million troops on several fronts – and when Soviet forces unexpectedly invaded from the east just two weeks later, Warsaw had to admit defeat. However, the Polish government never officially surrendered, and its exiled leaders fled to London while its people continued to fight with the Underground, the Polish resistance movement.

Under a Soviet agreement with Hitler which remained in force until June 1941 – and which had included a secret protocol to partition conquered territories – Poland was now split between Germany and Russia. The Soviets took the eastern half, and almost two million Polish citizens were sent to labour camps in Siberia. Here they would be forced to build runways in readiness for the military airbases Stalin planned to construct there.

Vadek remembered only too well the brutality of the Russian prison on the outskirts of Kozielsk village, one hundred and fifty miles from the capital of Moscow and ninety from the city of Smolensk. With the other cadets from the army training school who had been arrested that grim day of 19 September, he had endured several months of interrogation and harsh treatment in the detention centre on the Polish border with Latvia, before being taken to Kozielsk (in Russia).

Once the centre had been the important Orthodox monastery Optina Pustyn, comprising a chapel and several outbuildings connected by long corridors centred around a large and tranquil quadrangle – but now it served as a military prison. With views across the pine forests and gentle rolling hills not far from the river, its peaceful, rather quaint, setting belied its now forbidding interior.

He had been desperately scared, wondering if he could endure another beating, unable to prevent himself from shaking whenever he heard those heavy boots echoing on the hard stone floor as they came slowly and menacingly nearer to his bare but filthy cell. At each dreaded footfall along that long narrow corridor, he had frozen, as if moving would in some way bring that which he feared closer toward him. Hardly even daring to breathe, he felt that every fibre of his being was stretched taut with fearful trepidation as they reached his door; almost collapsing with relief when they passed. If they passed; sometimes they did not.

Every day there were incessant interrogations, and roll calls at all hours of the day and night. His name, his identity, was taken from him, and from that day forth he answered to a cold, impersonal number. He wasn’t brave, or did not think so. No-one he knew of had been prepared for war, and events had escalated so quickly there was no option but to fight. Kill or be killed. There was no other choice – but the only thing he had had brandished before was a pen, for he was a mathematician not a soldier. Though not particularly religious, but brought up in the Catholic faith as most Poles were, he now found himself uttering a prayer more frequently than he had ever done before. Death was always at the forefront of his mind, and he did not want to die. The terrible uncertainty consumed him every day, and he felt he was trapped in a terrifying nightmare with no
possibility of waking up. And his family, what of them? He had so desperately wanted to get a message to them, but there had been no warning of the approaching Red Army. And no time. No time to do anything, for it had all happened so quickly. How could he have sent it anyhow – who would have taken it? There was no-one. Now it was too late. No-one knew where he was or where he was going. But he did. He was on his way to Siberia. He had not known what to expect and had been terrified that he would be shot like so many others. Every day he had been asked to give up his Polish citizenship, to deny his heritage. But he had not. He would not.

Then one cold grey dawn he had heard his number called, followed by a loud hammering on the door before it was pushed open and a surly guard brusquely ordered him out of his cell …

Echoes of Tattered Tongues: Memory Unfolded by John Z. Guzlowski (Aquila Polonica Publishing, 2016) was named the winner of the 2017 Montaigne Medal by the Eric Hoffer Award, which is presented each year to the most thought-provoking books. The Montaigne Medal recognizes books that either illuminate, progress, or redirect thought. It is given under the umbrella of the Eric Hoffer Award in honor of the great French philosopher Michel de Montaigne, who influenced people such as William Shakespeare, René Descartes, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Friedrich Nietzsche, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Eric Hoffer. The Eric Hoffer Award is one of the largest international book awards for small, academic, and independent presses, http://www.hofferaward.com.

“Being awarded the 2017 Montaigne Medal is an incredible honor. My publisher and I are both thrilled with this additional recognition that my book Echoes of Tattered Tongues is one of the most important books published this past year,” said author John Guzlowski. “We did not even know that my book was being considered for this award until we were notified several weeks ago that it was one of the finalists.”

The Montaigne Medal is the second major award won by Echoes of Tattered Tongues. In April 2017, this book won the Gold Award for Poetry at the 2017 Benjamin Franklin Awards administered by the Independent Book Publishers Association. In this major tour de force, author John Guzlowski traces the arc of one of the millions of immigrant families of America, in this case, survivors of the maelstrom of World War II. Publishers Weekly describes Echoes of Tattered Tongues as “gut-wrenching, narrative lyric poems,” and Foreword Reviews called it a “devastating, one-of-a-kind collection.” “A searing memoir,” said Shelf Awareness, naming the Echoes of Tattered Tongues book trailer its Book Trailer of the Day. Kelly Cherry, Poet Laureate of Virginia (2010–2012) said about this book: “Deeply moving. A powerful, lasting, and sometimes shocking book. Superb.” Using an innovative weave of poetry and prose, Guzlowski unfolds the story of his own family backwards through time. His parents, young Christian Poles, were taken by Germans to work as slave laborers in German concentration camps, and barely survived. The author and his sister were born in refugee camps in Germany after the war. The family was finally able to immigrate to the United States in 1951 as Displaced Persons, and settled in a tough immigrant neighborhood in Chicago. To learn more: www.polww2.com/AboutEchoes.

John Guzlowski is Professor Emeritus of English Literature at Eastern Illinois University, and currently lives in Lynchburg, Virginia. He received his B.A. in English Literature from the University of Illinois, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in English from Purdue University. Over a writing career that spans more than 40 years, Guzlowski has amassed a significant body of published work in a wide range of genres: poetry, prose, literary criticism, reviews, fiction and nonfiction. His work has appeared in numerous national journals and anthologies, and in four prior books. Guzlowski’s work has garnered high praise, including from Nobel Laureate Czesław Miłosz, who called Guzlowski’s poetry “exceptional.”
The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life at the University of California, Berkeley recently acquired The Arthur Szyk Collection and Archives. The collection—the world's largest and most important collection of Szyk art assembled by Irvin Ungar over more than 25 years—will be formally known as the Taube Family Arthur Szyk Collection. With the acquisition of this collection, made possible through Tad Taube, chairman of Taube Philanthropies, the Magnes will become the institutional custodian of the legacy of Arthur Szyk. The Magnes is the third largest Jewish museum in the U.S. and plans to welcome future Szyk researchers, students and scholars, into its doors on the UC campus and, in cooperation with UC Berkeley, one of the most prestigious public universities in the United States, extend Szyk's art globally for generations to come. Licensing requests for use of Arthur Szyk art should be directed to magnesrights@berkeley.edu. Questions regarding information about the collection should be directed to magnesresearch@berkeley.edu. The Magnes Collection for Jewish Art and Life is located at 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley CA 94720. www.magnes.org

Music by Henry Vars at the Holocaust Museum in Los Angeles

On August 26, 2017, the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, in association with the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland and the USC Polish Music Center presented a concert “The Music of Henry Vars” dedicated to the work of one of the most important composers of popular and film music in Polish and Polish-American history. Vars, born Henryk Warszawski (1902-1977), came from a musical family but decided to follow a popular music path, fascinated with the American jazz and involved in film music. After the war started in 1939, he was in eastern Poland (Kresy); he later joined the Anders Army and left Russia with the Polish troops to Persia, Iraq, Palestine and Italy. After the end of the war, he came to California and became a film composer for the Universal Studios, scoring a series of John Wayne westerns, as well as the Flipper (a dolphin story). His songs were featured in the Schindler's List and The Pianist – and remain among the most popular Polish songs. In addition to composing popular and film music, he also wrote many symphonic compositions, such as Symphony No. 1, Piano Concerto, City Sketches and Sonatina for Orchestra.

The concert was presented by jazz pianist Kuba Stankiewicz from Poland with Darek Oleszkiewicz, jazz basist based in Los Angeles, and Kristina Raymond, jazz percussionist. Kuba Stankiewicz has made many recordings and participated in numerous concerts in Poland and the U.S. The most recent project is recording jazz versions of standards by Polish-American jazz and film composers, Victor Young, Bronislaw Kaper and Henry Vars. Darek Oleszkiewicz is a professor of California Institute of the Arts who came to the US in 1989 after an extensive jazz career in Poland. Since 2002 he has also been a jazz faculty member at the University of California, Irvine. His performance and recording credits are extensive and include collaborating with a long list of jazz greats.
The Boy Who Wanted Wings: Love in the Time of War, by James Conroyd Martin, has won the prestigious Gold Medal IPPI from the Independent Book Publishers Association. The plot outline for the novel is as follows: “Aleksy, a Tatar raised by a Polish peasant family, holds in his heart the wish to become a hussar so that he could battle the Turks at Vienna (the first 9/11 in 1683). As a Tatar and a peasant this is an unlikely quest. When he meets Krystyna, the daughter of a noble, winning her love seems just as unlikely a quest. Under the most harrowing and unlikely circumstances, one day Aleksy must choose between his dreams.”

Historical Novels Review: ”This classic different-worlds love affair provides the human grounding for a larger story replete with well-researched period details about the struggle of 17th-century Europe against the forces of Islam, and Martin is a skilled enough storyteller to keep the whole narrative moving forward briskly to a very satisfying conclusion. The author has written a pitch-perfect follow-up to his Poland Trilogy.”

Kirkus Reviews: “Sprawling but never slow, the plot moves naturally from battle to intimacy and back again. A gripping, transporting story of self-determination set against fate.” In the thirty some years that Martin worked on his Poland Trilogy, he kept hearing about the winged hussars at the Battle of Vienna. “My curiosity was aroused and I was determined to tell the story in human terms.” Martin taught high school English and Creative Writing for many years. He has retired from teaching in the Chicago area and continues to write in Portland, Oregon.

Here’s his response to our question about his connection to Poland: “I had gone out to Hollywood years ago to study screenwriting. One of the new friends I made there showed me the diary of his great-great-great-grandmother, which he had translated. Long story short, that became the basis for Push Not the River. Then when St. Martin’s wanted a sequel I was on my way learning further about this fascinating history and culture. I am a good part Irish, English, and Norwegian and didn’t know I had any Polish genes, but it turns out I do have significant ancestry in Central Europe, which includes Western Poland. I’ve been warmly welcomed into the Polish American community, even receiving a Gold Medal from the American Institute of Polish Culture in 2007, the first one in literature since James Michener thirty years previous.” www.JamesCMartin.com.

My Sister’s Mother by Urbikas Collects Awards

Donna Urbikas’s memoir about her family ordeal during World War II – deportations to gulags in Siberia and survival – My Sister’s Mother: A Memoir of War, Exile and Stalin’s Siberia, was published by the University of Wisconsin Press in April 2016 and has, until now won several prizes for memoir/biography category of nonfiction: Finalist with the Chicago Writers Association, Society of Midland Authors, Midwest Independent Publishers Association, and Bronze medal winner with Foreword INDIES. All were in the memoir/biography category in nonfiction.

Summary: Donna Urbikas’ half-sister Mira was five when she and her mother Janina were taken from their small family farm in eastern Poland and shipped to a hard-labor camp in Siberia amid the turmoil of World War II. That shared experience of war and exile created a bond between mother and daughter—an exceptionally close relationship that Donna, born years after the war and raised in the Midwest, would struggle to achieve with either of them. For more information, see www.danutaurbikas.com.
Interview with Professor Neal Pease

A. Ziolkowska-Boehm

Professor Pease, you have a master's degree from the University of Kansas, a second master's degree and a doctorate from Yale University. What was the subject of your master's thesis and doctoral dissertation?

-The subject of my master's thesis, done at the University of Kansas, under the direction of Professor Anna Cienciała, had to do with the portrayal of Poland and issues dealing with Poland in the British press during the interwar years. My doctoral dissertation, completed at Yale in 1982, under the direction of Professor Piotr Wandycz, focused on relations between the Second Polish Republic and the United States in the years following the First World War, with an emphasis on financial relations, and their political and diplomatic repercussions, between the two countries. This became the basis of my first book, Poland, the United States, and the Stabilization of Europe, 1919-1933.

How did you become interested in the subject of Polish history?

-I am often asked this, since I have no Polish ancestry. It was unusual in my day for a “niepolak” to go into this field of study—less so, nowadays, when Polish studies have gone more “mainstream” in the United States, and many of the better scholars of Polish matters, of generations younger than mine, are of non-Polish background. In my particular case, the initial motivations were purely accidental, even trivial. I grew up in a college town, and as it happened, a goodly number of the kids I went to school with, and chummed around with, were sons and daughters of faculty in Slavic studies at my hometown University of Kansas. When I was starting my second year at KU, one of these friends suggested I join him in signing up for a course in Polish and east European history that, by fortuitous chance, was taught by Anna Cienciała. I found the course fascinating, in part because its material was entirely unknown to me. Professor Cienciała encouraged me to pursue my studies further, and convinced me to spend a year abroad participating in an exchange program between Kansas and Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań—and I never looked back, as we say. It also helped that these were the early 1970s, when very interesting things were starting to happen in Poland.

So, it can be said that to a large extent American historians of Polish origin - professors Anna Cienciała and Piotr Wandycz- contributed to the development or orientation of your interests and your research?

-I can safely say that, had I not had the good fortune of having been trained and mentored by Anna Cienciała and Piotr Wandycz, I never would have entered the field of Polish and east central European history. The debt I owe to their erudition, their example, and their kindly interest is beyond repayment. I can only hope that, in the course of carrying out my own career, I will have reflected well on, and done justice to the excellent preparation they gave me.

In your books and essays there are many interesting topics. One of them is the role of the Catholic Church in contemporary Polish history. You conduct courses on the history of Poland and Central Europe, the history of Christianity, including the Catholic Church. What archives do you use?

-Naturally, one uses different archives, depending on the particular subject one is researching, so my lifetime itinerary to various archives and libraries will reflect my list of publications. Over the years, I have probably spent most of my time in state and ecclesiastical archives in Poland itself, but because documents relating to Poland have been spread throughout much of the globe owing to the disruptions of war, dictatorship, and emigration, I have logged a good many hours and miles in the United States and London as well. Other
Another topic of your lectures is the so called "Jewish revival" in contemporary Poland. Can an American student develop positive thinking about it?

-This is an extraordinarily interesting and important subject. It is not one that readers will find in my own published work to date, but it is one that I hope to get the chance to address in projects I am now working on that I hope to get into print eventually. In the meantime, there are numerous excellent scholars and commentators working on this subject, and I am eager to promote their work in my capacity as editor of the journal The Polish Review.

You lecture on the history of Western civilization - from the year 1500 to the present day. Other courses: Poland and its neighbors in 1795-1914, Poland and its neighbors - 1914-1945, Catholic Church from 1500 to the present. Can we expect books based on your lectures?

-The possibility of writing one or two books of this sort has occurred to me. For the time being, any of them would need to be added to the lengthy list of “things I’d like to get around to doing someday.”

You are a member of the Board of Directors of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences (PIASA), also in the Polish American Historical Association (2011-2012 - President), and as well you are a member of the editorial board of Polish American Studies. Since 2014 you have been the editor-in-chief of The Polish Review, a reputable scientific journal opened in 1956. It is available in 575 not only American libraries. Do you agree that the ability to read selected texts is an important aspect because it is possible to influence the elites?

-I am honored to have been entrusted with the editorship of The Polish Review, with its distinguished history. It has a slightly unusual profile, in comparison with other journals in our scholarly profession. On the one hand, it is an academic publication, and of course we seek to maintain a high standard of scholarship, but it is not purely academic, in the strict sense: it is the organ of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America, whose membership and leadership is composed not merely of academics, but professionals in other fields of Polish identity, or strong interest in Polish matters. For this reason, our potential audience might be somewhat broader than is typical for most scholarly journals, and to the extent this is so, we see this as a sign that the Review is fulfilling its mission.

You are the author of important books, essays, and scholarly papers. Interesting is your book: "Rome's Most Faithful Daughter: The Catholic Church and the Independent Poland, 1914-1939". (Ohio University Press, 2009). You write that when Poland reappeared on the map of Europe it was perceived as the most Catholic country on the continent. You write that, despite this, relations between the Polish Church and the Vatican were not entirely good, and at times were even difficult. You show the intricate relations between Poland and the Vatican. The Vatican counted on Poland’s plan to "convert Russia into Catholicism", while the Polish government was reluctant to take part in this plan. These are not commonly known issues. How did you reach them? Was it mainly thanks to the recently released Vatican archives?

-This was precisely the subject that, to my mind, turned out to be the most complex and fascinating aspect of the book as I progressed through the project. In brief: the Holy See, under the leadership of Pope Pius XI (who had served as papal nuncio to Poland before becoming pope) thought that the Bolshevik revolution in Russia, while monstrous in itself, opened a historic opportunity to expand Catholicism eastward into the lands historically Orthodox; this was opposed resolutely by the interwar Polish governments, and to a large extent, by leadership of the Church in Poland, because the Vatican wished to convert the Orthodox to eastern-rite Catholicism, regarded as undesirable by its Polish counterparts as a hindrance to assimilation of Ukrainians and Belorussians into Polish culture, and out of fear that these efforts might further complicate the difficult relationship between Poland and the Soviet Union. Now, these matters were not entirely unknown, and careful readers of my book will note that I made use of a wide variety of published work. But I had an advantage over my predecessors in that I was able to make use of a goodly number of archival sources in order to fill out the picture. I did indeed find some relevant material in the Vatican Archives—but on the whole, I gained the most information from documents in Polish state archives, since this was a matter of considerable discussion—usually unsympathetic discussion—within Polish official circles.
Another book entitled "Poland, the United States, and the Stabilization of Europe, 1919-1933" (Oxford University Press, 1986) is the first publication on the relationship between Poland and the US after the First World War when Poland turned to America to improve its precarious situation. Based on the numerous archives, you show how the Polish leaders in the 1920s were expecting America to support stability in Europe, as Poland regained its independence after gaining the United States of America for political and financial support. How far has this policy and expectations of the United States maintained or changed?

- The heart of that book is summed up in the joking response I would make to colleagues and friends when they asked what I was working on: I would tell them it was a detailed account of something that did not happen, the „something“ being the creation of a solid economic and political partnership between the fledgling 2RP and the United States. After the First World War, as is widely known, the US decided to reject President Wilson’s vision of a permanent American role in underwriting European peace and security, preferring to limit itself to financial investment in the Old World. What I discovered was that the Polish governments hoped to overcome American reluctance to support Poland politically and to win an alliance with the transoceanic superpower “through the back door,” so to speak, by attracting US loans and investments in the country on the theory that, sooner rather than later, Washington would feel the need to protect the independence and territorial integrity of a country where many American dollars were at stake. The flaw in the plan was that Americans by and large avoided investing in Poland—precisely because the country was so obviously at risk to the unfriendly ambitions of Germany and Soviet Russia, so it became a vicious cycle discouraging American commitment to interwar Poland.

That said, it strikes me now that I wrote that book during the era of the Cold War and the PRL, and in many ways my approach to the topic reflected a prevalent view of the time, that the absence of close ties between Poland and the United States was somehow a “natural” state of the relationship, dictated by unpleasant but stubborn geopolitical realities. In light of the strong partnership that has developed between the two countries since 1989, now I might approach the subject differently, and invite readers to regard the Polish policies of the 1920s as perhaps premature, but foresighted and prophetic, rather than simply chimerical.

In an essay titled "This Troublesome Question": The United States and the ‘Polish Pogroms’ of 1918-1919. "Ideology, Politics and Diplomacy in East Central Europe". (Ed. Biskupski, M. B. University of Rochester Press, 2003) you quote a fragment of Herbert Hoover’s journals (1874-1920). Hoover writes that in the news in April 1919 information about the “Pinsk massacre” was reported - the execution of 50 Jews executed at the command of the General of the Polish Army. Americans - at the request of President Wilson, with the approval of Paderewski - sent a delegation to investigate what had happened. It turned out that such an accident did not occur, that it was a lie. In the meantime, I read, for example, in Polish wikipedia, that historians do not judge the massacre in Pińsk unequivocally. Do you think it is important and possible to clarify this matter?

- Over the years there has been considerable discussion and controversy over the sufferings inflicted on Jews dwelling in the kresy in the chaotic aftermath of the First World War, particularly those areas affected by the warfare between Poland on the one hand, and the Bolsheviks and advocates of an independent Ukraine, on the other. These gave rise to lurid reports of perhaps thousands of Jews slain in pogroms at least partially attributable to the encouragement or negligence of Polish military or governmental leadership. While emphasizing that historians still disagree on these matters, in good faith, I think it is fair to say that most commentators agree that these accusations, while not groundless, were considerably exaggerated. The significance of the Pińsk incident was that it was reasonably well documented and verifiable, enough so to prompt the American government to launch an official inquiry into the broader charges of Polish mistreatment of Jews—and there is reason to believe that the U.S. State Department hoped that the verdict of the investigation would largely absolve Poland of blame, and, going further, that the American diplomats cared considerably less about the welfare of the Jews of eastern Europe than they did about protecting the image of the Poland they saw, in that interlude right after the war, as an important European ally of the United States.

But your question raises the larger issue, of the necessity of re-examining the history of relations between gentiles and Jews in the Polish lands. This is of primary and urgent importance, and has been much discussed since 1989, primarily having to do with the years during and immediately after the Second World War, but it can, and should, pertain to the entirety of Polish history. One of the principal signs of a mature and confidently
democratic country is its willingness to explore and confront its history, including those issues that are painful or challenging. The record of Polish scholars since 1989 in filling in the "blank pages" of the country’s past, of challenging old taboos, and of correcting the historical record as needed, has been admirable. One hopes they will be able to continue this valuable work, and that they will encounter no such obstacles as those that have hampered the free inquiry of Polish historians in the past.

Interesting is the subject - how Americans write about their "mistakes and distortions". In my opinion they do it usually without tearing robes and lamentations. I read a very interesting book by Lynne Olson entitled "Those Angry Days. Roosevelt, Lindbergh and America’s Fight Over World War II, 1939-1941", N.Y. 2013. The author, a well-known historian, writes about the years before America joined the Second War, and how strong were the anti-war and pro-German moods. Charles Lindbergh - American pioneer of aviation - in 1938 received a medal from Hermann Goering. The book has a separate 18 page chapter titled "Setting the Ground for Anti-Semitism," where the author writes that most American universities, including almost all "Ivy League" institutions, had a strict quota system (numerus clausus) for admission to studies. The university Yale Daily News quoted anti-Semitic commentary. The author writes that even after graduation the Jews had problems finding a job. The book has a lot of reviews, none of the reviewers referred to this chapter, a topic that almost nobody knows. Ability to reject, perhaps rather: retraction of many topics - this is an American characteristic (and can be seen from different perspectives). Maybe that’s why the average American is so aware of America’s "unique role"? Even Indians do not want to remind them of the painful periods in their history. The National Museum of the American Indian (opened in 2004) does not show the period of suffering, "Trail of Tears". When I was collecting material for the book, the Indians themselves did not bring it up, but they proudly talked about their participation in the Second World War, the code talkers.

-Generally speaking, all people everywhere find it easier to speak of, let us say, the more glorious moments in their histories, and more difficult to recognize or admit those that do not reflect well on them—and all countries have them. In the case of the United States, you mention the destruction and displacement of the American Indians, and a long heritage of class based, “genteel” antisemitism. There is no denying these. Of course, there is also the matter of slavery and its legacy, which lasts to this day. At the same time, historians in the United States have been examining these questions, and others, quite vigorously in recent, and it is likely that their findings will gradually gain more acceptance in wider American society with the passage of time.

You are also interested in sport - soccer in Poland and baseball in the United States. In the essay "Diamonds Out of the Coal Mines: Slavic Americans in Baseball", you write about the baseball star, very well-known, and much admired, Stan Musial. The legendary baseball player Stan Musial was of Polish descent. (I remember my husband talking about him with admiration and respect). Do you agree that team sport is a form of teamwork and that it is important especially in the early years of youth?

-I am indeed interested in sport, as a pastime of my own, and, as a historian, in the ways sport can reflect and make connections with what we might call „real” history, the meatier affairs of politics, society, economy, and culture. So I have taught, or plan on teaching, courses in the role baseball has played in American history, and soccer (piłka nożna) in world history. For instance, sport has played an important role in the history of the Polonia of the United States, largely because athletics traditionally has served as a significant entryway for acculturation of immigrant populations into American ways of life. And yes, Stan Musial is, by all odds, the greatest American athlete of Polish ancestry.

The question you pose about the usefulness of team sport in teaching youth the values of teamwork, fair play, and citizenship is very interesting. In fact, one can argue the point both ways, either that it does encourage these positive social attributes, or that it can do the opposite. There is probably no one answer. By the same token, there is no question that over the years many social thinkers, in the English speaking world at least, with its vibrant and highly developed sporting culture, have believed that sport can serve these desirable purposes, and that this is the main practical virtue of having young people learn and play these vigorous, organized games—one thinks of the British saying that the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton, which, while undoubtedly overstated, certainly summarizes an argument for the social benefit of sport.
Piotr S. Wandycz died peacefully at the Connecticut Hospice on Saturday morning, July 28, 2017. Born in Kraków in 1923 during the Second Polish Republic and raised in Lwów, Piotr S. Wandycz left the country during World War II in 1939. He and his family crossed into Romania, and in 1940 went to France. Graduating from the Polish Lyceee in Villard de Lans, he studied at the University of Grenoble. In late 1942 he reached the United Kingdom where he served in the Polish army until 1945 as a second lieutenant. After the war he studied at the University of Cambridge (B.A. and M.A.) and the London School of Economics (Ph.D. 1951). Later he moved to the United States, where he taught at Indiana University before coming to Yale University in 1966 as an associate professor. He was promoted to a full professorship in 1968 and was named Bradford Durfee Professor in 1989. At Yale, he has served as director of graduate studies in Russian and East European studies and in history, chair of the Council on Russian and East European Studies, and director of the Language and Area Center. He is the author of 18 books and over 500 articles and book reviews. Piotr S. Wandycz was a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America, the Polish Academy of Learning, and was an honorary member of the Polish Historical Association. His many other honors include the Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta and honorary doctorate degrees from the University of Wroclaw, the Sorbonne, the Jagiellonian University, and the Catholic University of Lublin. He is survived by his wife, Teresa, his three children, Kasia, Joanna and Antoni and his grandchildren, Alexander and Leticia.

Farewell to Prof. Piotr Wandycz by Mieczysław B.B. Biskupski

Piotr S. Wandycz is dead. He was the finest historian of East Central Europe in twentieth century North America. His standing in the scholarly community was extraordinary on both sides of the Atlantic. He was the author of many books, deemed by the German historian, Hans Gatzke, “models of scholarship.” all of them celebrated, and countless superb articles and shorter pieces. His writing was characterized by grace, indeed, elegance. His ability to intertwine vast quantities of documentary evidence, and conflicting interpretations, in many languages, into a brief presentation was incomparable. What others grouped about to convey ambiguously and at length, he presented succinctly and convincingly. It seemed effortless, but, in reality, was the product of endless research and contemplation. His lectures were always models of organization, and concluded with what was, or at least, seemed to be, the only possible interpretation. Poland’s role in modern Europe, its relationship with other states is now understood in substantial conformity with his teaching. He created a framework for subsequent scholarship.

His possession of knowledge and insight was formidable, but his ability to convey the fruits of these attributes was rare indeed. He was, simply, a great teacher. He presented the role of Poland in the world with honesty and fairness, indulging in no prejudicial inclination. This alone was of great importance because he was a devout Polish patriot and the son of a brave son of Poland who served with the iconic Polish Legions of Pilsudski.

But, and perhaps most importantly, he was a Polish gentleman: elegant, charming, and strikingly old-fashioned. To know him was to harken back to an earlier-and now, obviously, better day. All conversations with him were not only intellectually stimulating, but delightful: a pleasure on many levels. We are the poorer by his passing. We have lost a scholar, a patriot, and, indeed, an inspiration for a scholarly generation. It is an honor for me to add that I have lost my mentor, and my friend. We are bereft. May God rest his soul.

~ Mieczysław B.B. Biskupski
JOHN BUKOWCZYK has stepped down as editor of the Journal of American Ethnic History, effective September 1, 2017. He continues to serve as Professor of History at Wayne State University in Detroit.


MARY PATRICE ERDMANS was promoted to Full Professor at Case Western Reserve University.

ANNA D. JAROSZYŃSKA-KIRCHMANN was awarded the title of the CSU Professor, the highest honor that the Connecticut State Universities System confers at a faculty member in recognition of their scholarship and contribution to the university. Not more than three of those professorships can be awarded at any given institution in a system of four universities. CSU Professors retain their title for the duration of their service to the system.

ANNA MAZURKIEWICZ continues her service as the President of PAHA. In June 2017 she obtained habilitation at the University of Gdańsk, Poland. She is currently a Visiting Scholar (Fulbright) at the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at Stanford University. Her recent publications include a chapter on East Central European émigrés in a volume edited by Agnieszka Malek and Dorota Praszałowicz: The United States Immigration Policy and Immigrants’ Responses (Peter Lang Edition: Frankfurt am Main 2017). This publication is a part of the series: Migration -Ethnicity-Nation: Cracow Studies in Culture, Society and Politics and features many prominent PAHA members. www.peterlang.com/view/product/25063.

DOMINIC A. PACYGA has retired as Professor of History from Columbia College/Chicago where he served for the last 37 years. His latest book, Slaughterhouse: Chicago’s Union Stock Yard and the World It Made will appear in paperback from the University of Chicago Press in 2018. He will deliver to that same press a manuscript tentatively titled, Polish Chicago: From Peasantry to Working Class to Middle Class this coming fall. The expected publication date is 2019. Pacyga will appear on a panel at the National Museum of American History of the Smithsonian Institute during Food History Weekend (October 26-28) where he will discuss changes in the food industry and ethnic food traditions.


MAJA TROCHIMCZYK organized and chaired two music sessions for the Sixth World Congress of Polish Studies held by PIASA and PAU in Krakó w, in June 2017: On Symphonies of Henryk Mikołaj Górecki (1933-2010) and 120 lat Tansmana: O muzyce i życiu kompozytora-emigranta (1897-1986). She gave papers on “Tansman ‘In Tempo Americano,’ 1941-1946” and, “Górecki Conducts Górecki: The Third Symphony in Los Angeles.” In June, she joined the editorial board of the California Quarterly, issued by the California State Poetry Society. She currently edits a volume of interviews and studies, Górecki in Context: Essays on Music.
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