



Polish American Historical Association Newsletter

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PAHA's 75th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. January 2018



Awardees and Attendees at PAHA's 75th Annual Meeting and Awards Gala in Washington, D.C.

The 75th Annual Meeting of the Polish American Historical Association started with a roundtable on Teaching Polish and Polish-American History on Thursday, January 4, 2018, and ended on Sunday, January 7, 2018, with a session on new books on political activism of Poles. In between, PAHA scholars and guests talked about teaching, researching, and promoting Polish American history and culture; discussed issues in immigration history, identity and gender studies; learned about how Americans saw Poland and represented their views in novels and on stamps; discovered the unique activities of composers, artists, and art groups; and found out about the role of Poles in the American Civil War, memoirs of Polonia members, and much more. [See Page 6](#)

Address by Prof. Piotr Wilczek, Ambassador of Poland

PAHA's 2017 Awards Ceremony was held on January 6, 2018 at the Residence of the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, Prof. Piotr Wilczek in Washington D.C. The event began with the Ambassador's welcome:

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

Let me start by saying that I am very happy to be the host this evening of the annual Polish American Historical Association Gala dinner. As a Professor of the history of literature, I am both honored and pleased to welcome for the first time PAHA members to my residence.

We are meeting today to present the Polish American Historical Association's Prizes and Awards. These include: the Haiman Award for sustained scholarly effort in the field of Polish American Studies, the Halecki Prize for the best book on a Polish American topic, and the annual Swastek Prize for the best article appearing in Polish American Studies, which are all widely recognized in the community of Academic Historians.

Events such as today offer us an opportunity to celebrate all that PAHA and its members accomplished this past year, and to recommit ourselves to work even harder for our common good in the year to come. I would personally like to take a moment to thank all those gathered here this evening, as well as those who could not make it but who

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nevertheless have contributed to the storied history of the Polish American Historical Association. Your dedication and hard work are known, appreciated, and very important for the Polish-American community.

Since its founding during the tumultuous and uncertain days of World War II to today, PAHA has become a modern, interdisciplinary academic and professional organization with a diverse, international membership of individuals and institutions. As a scholar and Ambassador, I can attest that PAHA is an organization that all of Polonia can be proud of, and should appreciate for their important work.

Ladies and Gentlemen, all of you here in the audience need no reminder that we have just inaugurated our centennial year of Poland's rebirth, and what an incredible opportunity this presents for Poles everywhere to celebrate our history. As the Ambassador in Washington, D.C. I look forward to this centennial not only to celebrate with Polonia, but also to remind our American friends and partners about the rich history of our relations. I am sure that many of you know that Monday is the anniversary of Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points Address. Anniversaries such as this present scholars, teachers, but also diplomats and journalists opportunities to reinvigorate public memory of these momentous events and their lasting ramifications. Throughout the year and years to come we will celebrate those great heroes on whose shoulders we stand today, especially those with ties also to the United States. Here specifically I am thinking about Ignacy Jan Paderewski – a great pianist, composer, statesman, prime minister, close friend of Pres. Woodrow Wilson. I am pleased that PAHA has also decided to commemorate Him this evening.

In closing, I wish you a memorable evening and very productive meeting tomorrow. I hope that when you return home from this 75th jubilee conference in Washington you will again take up the challenge of uncovering Polish American history and bringing Poland and the United States closer together.

On the beginning of a new year I wish you all the best in your personal and professional life. I believe that your professional successes are the best possible way to promote Polish history and culture, and to shape the image of Poland – a country which is worth visiting, getting to know, and cooperating with.

Madame President Mazurkiewicz, the floor is yours.

Ambassador of the Republic of Poland
Professor Piotr Wilczek



Letter from the PAHA President, Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz



Dear Members of Polish American Historical Association,

Thank you for your continued interest in the study of Polish experience in the Americas. We are truly grateful for your continued support and very glad you continue to be our members. Thank You!

This is a very special year for PAHA as we are celebrating the 75th Anniversary of our founding. Established in 1943 PAHA is the oldest, continuously existing, scholarly organization devoted to the study and promotion of the Polish American experience. The observance of the Anniversary was officially inaugurated on January 6, 2018 at the residence of H.E.

Ambassador of Poland in Washington – prof. dr hab. Piotr Wilczek. At this time, we have also officially unveiled a special publication – initiated and edited by James Pula, published with the support of the PAHA Board – that covers the entire history of PAHA. The 75 years described in this volume are presented through the eyes of PAHA members at various periods of Association's history – including texts by former presidents who continue their work for PAHA: John Bukowczyk, Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann and the editor of the volume: James S. Pula. Together with annexes listing the former officials, awardees – for the first time gathered in a single publication – we now have a complete account of the 75 year long history with all the historical flavors of the times and phases this organization went through.

Our celebrations are far from over though. The highlight of our year-long anniversary program will be a special conference at Loyola University in Chicago which will be held on September 7-9, 2018. This three day event will consist of an academic program on Friday, networking sessions on Saturday, as well as a tour of "Polish Chicago" on Sunday. The first day of the conference will be devoted to the examination of PAHA's contribution to the field of ethnic studies, review of scholarship on American Polonia

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as reflected in PAHA's academic journal: *Polish American Studies*, followed by sessions featuring young and upcoming scholars of Polish diaspora and presentations of PAHA's current projects. The second day of the conference will be spent on discussing ways and means to present the Polish American experience in museums, promote it among the larger public, and engage the cooperation of Polish American social, cultural and media organizations. Please check our website, PAHA blog and Facebook page for more details and registration forms – to be uploaded by the end of May 2018.

You will be pleased to see the modern form our website has recently adopted. While we have kept all of the previously developed sections, we have been adding new segments to it. Please take the time to explore the website. We look forward to receiving your feedback on it. Comments, suggestions, contributions are welcomed and appreciated. Please help us grow! Among other recent developments in PAHA there are: reinvigorated Facebook page content and a brand new LinkedIn profile for professional networking among researchers of Polish diaspora. Please do not hesitate to join us there as well. The year-long anniversary program will conclude with the Annual Meeting (again in Chicago), where PAHA will hold its annual meeting on Jan. 3-6, 2019. The Call for Papers has just been issued. Please consider submitting your paper proposal if you have not done so already.

Seventy five years old and we are thriving! This would not have been possible without the outstanding devotion of the PAHA Officers and Board Members who volunteer countless hours each week to keep PAHA growing. It would also not have been possible without Your – Our Members' - continued support. Please rest assured we greatly appreciate it and ask that you please keep it up - on to PAHA's centennial and beyond!

Anna Mazurkiewicz

University of Gdańsk, Poland

President of the Polish American Historical Association



PAHAs 75th Anniversary Conference in Chicago, 9/2018



Meet us in Chicago! On Sept. 7-9 PAHA will hold its birthday celebration at Loyola University in Chicago. The director of the Polish Studies Program at Loyola, Bozena McLees, will serve as host to PAHA and its guests at the conference venue located right on the waterfront of Lake Michigan. Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (Kraków, Poland) is a proud partner to this event. Our program includes academic sessions related to PAHA's contribution to the fields of migration and ethnic studies, association's current research as well as community outreach projects. You will hear from some of the most prominent PAHA's scholars—of all generations. Our plan includes plenty opportunities for PAHA scholars to meet, interact and plan future programs with members of American Polonia. Dominic Pacyga, the key PAHA expert on history of Chicago, whose energy and talent continue to go into promoting Polish heritage in this city, will chair a session on Polish American history in Museums - both in the USA and in Poland. As a teaser to what's coming up give a listen to a series of podcasts presented by Pacyga (part 1: <http://wpna.fm/podcast/za-chlebem-part-1-journey-from-a-little-village-to-the-port-of-bremen/>). The complete program for PAHA's 75th Birthday in Chicago will be available by May under this link: <http://polishamericanstudies.org/text/97/75th.html>. Come and join us! Please remember to register by August 1, 2018.



Photos of Loyola College Campus by Anna Mazurkiewicz



PAHA Presents its 2017 Awards and Awardees



The 75th Annual Meeting of the Polish American Historical Association in Washington D.C. featured PAHA's Awards Ceremony on January 6, 2018 at the Residence of the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, Prof. Piotr Wilczek. The event began with a welcome by the Ambassador himself (see p. 1-2). PAHA President, Prof. Anna Mazurkiewicz then discussed the rich and fruitful history of PAHA and its role in stimulating and expanding the field of research into Polish American topics - history, culture, sociology, politics, and more. Prior to presenting PAHA Awards and Awardees, Prof. Mazurkiewicz invited Dr. Maja Trochimczyk, PAHA Board Secretary and Communications Director to present a program: "Poland 1918-2018: Remembering Ignacy Jan Paderewski." The presentation featured Paderewski playing Paderewski on piano rolls recorded on CD and in a fragment of "The Moonlight Sonata" film of 1937, a display of Paderewski piano rolls and vintage postcards, and a recitation of Paderewski-themed poetry celebrating his advocacy on behalf of Poland that resulted in adding Poland's independence as point 13 to President Woodrow Wilson's 14 Points for the Paris Peace Conference in 1918. Poignantly, Paderewski's last composition was the 1917 hymn for the Polish troops gathered in Canada and the U.S., "Hej Orle Bialy!" He sacrifices his musical talents to serve the Polish cause. His role as Poland's "savior" was praised by American poets Robert Underwood Johnson, John Huston Finley and Charles Phillips.

Assisted by PAHA's Executive Director, Prof. Pien Versteegh, PAHA President presented the following Awards and Prizes to distinguished individuals selected by the Awards Committee chaired by PAHA's Second Vice-President and Executive Director of the Pilsudski Institute, Dr. Iwona Drag-Korga.



1. OSKAR HALECKI PRIZE – DR. JOANNA WOJDON

The 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 award. The 2017 Halecki Prize was presented to Joanna Wojdon for *White and Red Umbrella: The Polish American Congress in the Cold War Era 1944-1988* (Helena History Press, 2017). The award was received by the publisher, Katalin Kadar Lynn, Publisher of Helena History Press and faculty member at Eotvos Lorand University. The *White and Red Umbrella* recounts the goals and everyday activities of the Polish American Congress under the

presidencies of Charles Rozmarek (1944-1968) and Aloysius Mazewski (1968-1988) who shaped the organization's image in the Cold War era. It deals with the issues of both the effectiveness and ineffectiveness of the PAC in representing Polish American interests, as a coordinator of various Polish American endeavors, as a lobbying organization, and as an institution providing cultural and social unity for Americans of Polish descent in America. It discusses internal and external factors that influenced the Congress and portrays the personalities of its activists and examines the PAC's achievements and failures. Joanna Wojdon is an Associate Professor at the Institute of History, University of Wrocław. The history of Polish Americans after World War II is one of her major research interests, alongside the history of education under communism. Her research in the Polish American archives was made possible thanks to a Kosciuszko Foundation Fellowship (2003) and a Fulbright Senior Award (2014).

2. MIECISLAUS HAIMAN AWARD – DR. JOANNA WOJDON

The Miecislau Haiman Award of the Polish American Historical Association is "offered annually to an American scholar for sustained contribution to the study of Polish Americans." These Awards commemorate a historian, writer, journalist, translator and Polonia activist, Mieczysław Haiman (1888-1949), who was the first director of the Polish Museum of America, and the first historian of American Polonia. The Haiman Award Joanna Wojdon's seminal works on the Polish American Congress ["W imieniu sześciu milionów..." Kongres Polonii Amerykańskiej w latach 1944-1968 (Toruń: Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, 2005) and "W jedność siła!" Kongres Polonii Amerykańskiej w latach 1968-1988 (Toruń: Wyd. Adam Marszałek, 2008)] have both been reviewed positively and are major contributions to the understanding of that organization.



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In addition, some of her other works over the years have also addressed with excellently documented research issues essential to understanding the Polish American experience. Not the least of these is "Polish Americans in the Press of the People's Republic of Poland (1952-1989) [Polish American Studies, Vol. LIX (2002), No. 2] which reverses the usual view of studying the Polonia press in order to see how Polonia was actually portrayed abroad, and "The Image of Tadeusz Kościuszko in Postwar Polish Education" (*The Polish Review*, 2014).

3. JOSEPH SWASTEK PRIZE – DR. MARTA CIEŚLAK

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 the Polish American Historical Association. For the Swastek Prize for the best article in volume 73 (2016) of *Polish American Studies*, the Editorial Board nominated Marta Cieślak's "Crossing the Boundaries of Modernity: The Post-Abolition Journey of Polish Peasants to the United States." As some of the board members noted, this original piece is based on the author's 2014 dissertation and does not only reflect extensive archival research but also a thorough understanding of the social and economic conditions in mid-19th century Poland, of the transatlantic migration, and the social and economic situation of emancipated slaves in the postbellum South. Cieślak's argument is original and compelling, and constitutes a historiographically significant project.



4. JAMES S. PULA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD - DR. GRAŻYNA KOZACZKA

Given occasionally to a member of PAHA who has rendered valuable and sustained service to the organization, the Distinguished Service Award was renamed in 2017 to honor Prof. James S. Pula, a long-time editor of the *Polish American Studies*, PAHA's past president, current treasurer, awards recipient, and the editor of two PAHA flagship publications, the *Polish American Encyclopedia* (McFarland, 2011) and *PAHA: The 75th Anniversary of the Polish American Historical Association* (PAHA, 2017). Professor of English at Cazenovia College in New York state, Dr. Kozaczka is a long-time PAHA Board Member, PAHA President in 2015-2016 and a faculty member at Cazenovia College since 1984. She currently directs the college-wide Honors Program and took a leadership role in securing trademarks for PAHA's logo and name, organizing many PAHA conferences, and representing the organization at international events, especially in Poland. Dr. Kozaczka's research interests include ethnic American literature, women's literature, literature of the Holocaust as well as traditional Polish folk dress and adornment. She has published scholarly essays, short fiction and popular articles in both English and Polish. She is currently working on a monograph devoted to the representation of immigrant and ethnic women in Polish American literature after WWII.



5. SKALNY CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS - JERALD RACHFAL AND ROBERT SYNAKOWSKI

The Skalny Civic Achievement Awards honor individuals or groups who advance PAHA's goals of promoting research and awareness of the Polish-American experience and/or have made significant contributions to Polish or Polish-American community and culture. The two 2017 Skalny Awards were presented to Jerald Rachfal and Robert Synakowski.

5a. SKALNY AWARD - JERALD RACHFAL

For many years now, Jerry Rachfal has been a recognized leader of the Rochester, NY Polonia. He has been associated with the Polish Historical Society of Rochester, NY and currently serves as board member of this organization taking an active role in promoting Polish history and culture. As a close associate of Dr. Frederic Skalny, he has also been associated with the Skalny Foundation and Charitable trust. Jerry Rachfal's commitment to serving others goes beyond his involvement with these organizations.

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He is a former member of Boler School of Business Advisory Committee at his Alma Mater, John Carroll University and together with his wife Janice Rachfal, works with the Flower City Habitat for Humanity in Rochester, NY.

5b. SKALNY AWARD - ROBERT SYNAKOWSKI

Robert Synakowski has dedicated his life to promoting Polish American culture and serving Polish American communities in New York State and nationwide. As the President of The Polish Home in Syracuse, NY he works tirelessly to both secure the physical well-being of this historic home and to make it into a welcoming educational space for Polish Americans and their friends. Under the directorship of Robert Synakowski, The Polish Home became a new location for the Polish Heritage Society of Syracuse which Robert also leads as its president. His focus on education is also evidenced in his involvement with The Polish Scholarship Fund which annually awards college scholarships to students of Polish descent. Robert Synakowski also serves his second term as a PAHA board member and as the First Vice-president of American Council for Polish Culture, a



national organization uniting groups and individuals in cities across the United States in promoting Polish culture, heritage and history, and intercultural understanding. *PHOTO: Robert Synakowski (center) with Prof. Neal Pease. Dr. Ewa Barczyk, Prof. Grażyna Kozaczka, Dr. Maja Trochimczyk, Mr. Stanley Kozaczka. Photo by Marcin Szerle.*

6. AMICUS POLONIAE AWARD - THERESE CLARKE

The Amicus Poloniae Award recognizes significant contributions enhancing knowledge of Polish and Polish-American heritage by individuals not belonging to the Polish-American community. Therese Clarke was born in Buffalo NY to an Irish Father and French Mother. Therese graduated from D'Youville College with Honors in Buffalo NY and Majored in French Education. She was a career French Teacher in the Williamsville NY School District. A founding member, (the only original member actively involved since 1990) of the 1990 creation of Pomost International, a local organization which has been sending volunteers annually to Rzeszów, Poland, Buffalo's Sister City. Therese went to Rzeszów alone (not knowing any Polish) to make the arrangements. She returned 15 times as leader of the program. Since 1991 more than 125 Americans (many non-Poles) have gone to Poland to facilitate a two-week Intensive English Language and American Culture. Therese regularly attends the Chopin Singing Society Concerts, UB Polish Student's Association, Polish American Congress of WNY & Polish Arts Club of Buffalo Wigilias and Swieconkas. Dyngus Day, Paczki Day, Dożynki, Kosciusko Foundation of Buffalo, Orchard Lake Seminary Fundraising, Polish Businesswomen's Association, Casimir Pulaski Association, Polish Genealogy Associations.

7. CREATIVE ARTS PRIZE - DR. CZESŁAW KARKOWSKI

PAHA's Creative Arts Prize, established in 1999, "recognizes contributions in the field of creative arts by individuals or groups who have promoted an awareness of the Polish experience in the Americas." Czesław Karkowski philosopher, journalist, novelist and an academic, has been a prolific writer authoring novels, memoirs, collections of essays, and creative nonfiction. His long and distinguished career as a journalist began in the early 1980s in Berlin where he found himself with other political exiles of the Solidarity era, and was followed up by many years in the editorial offices of the New York City's Polish language newspaper, *Nowy Dziennik*. His publications include contemporary interpretations of *The Iliad* by Homer, a historical novel entitled *Drugi w Sztuce*, as well as a novel of immigrant experience *Kamienna Drabina*. This immigrant experience returns in his *Dziennik Jednego Roku* and *Na Emigracji*. Czesław Karkowski using his own emigrant/immigrant experiences provides a sensitive commentary on immigrant identity and the immigrant connection to the home country.



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8. GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT - MS. SARAH 'MOXY' MOCZYGEMBA

Established in 2008, the Graduate Student Research Paper Award recognizes outstanding research into Polish-American history and culture by a young scholar in the humanities or social sciences. In 2017, it was replaced by the Graduate Student/Young Scholar Travel Grant. The winner receives a travel grant to present the paper at the PAHA Annual Meeting.

Sarah "Moxy" Moczygemba is a Religious Studies doctoral student at the University of Florida. Her dissertation will focus on ethnic identity, historical memory, and Catholicism in the Silesian Polish Texan community. Ms. Moczygemba presented a lecture during PAHA conference in Washington DC in January 2018 exploring the relationship between space and memory in the contemporary Polish American Catholic community in South Texas associated with the Panna Maria settlement, focusing on efforts to remember and commemorate the experience of immigration by emphasizing its historical and present-day ties to Roman Catholicism.

PHOTOS of Awardees with PAHA President, Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz by Marcin Szerle



Submit Your Papers to PAHA's Journal *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.

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

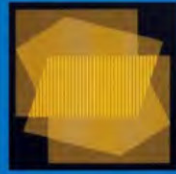
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POLISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



POLSKO-AMERYKAŃSKIE TOWARZYSTWO HISTORYCZNE

PROGRAM OF PAHA'S 75TH ANNUAL MEETING, WASHINGTON, D.C.

[1] Thursday, January 4, 2018, 1:30 pm-3:00 pm

Roundtable: Teaching Polish and Polish-American History. Governor's Boardroom (Omni Shoreham, East Lobby) Chair: Anna Muller, University of Michigan-Dearborn. Papers:

- 1) "Surveying Polish History" - Patrice Dabrowski, independent scholar;
- 2) "Poland Is Europe, Poland Is the World" - Elizabeth Morrow Clark, West Texas A M University;
- 3) "Red, White, and Gray: Modern Polish History" - Nathaniel David Wood, University of Kansas;
- 4) "But My Babcia Says" - Michal Janusz Wilczewski, University of Illinois at Chicago

Comment: The Audience

Thursday, January 4, 2018, 3:30 pm-5:00 pm

PAHA Board Meeting, Omni Shoreham Hotel

[2] Friday, January 5, 2018, 8:30 am-10:00 am

Americans on Poland. (Governor's Boardroom, Omni Shoreham – all sessions held in the same room). Chair: Anna Mazurkiewicz, University of Gdańsk. Papers:

- 1) "Rupert Hughes's Ode to Poland" - Jill Noel Walker Gonzalez, La Sierra University;
- 2) "US Third Army and the Displaced Persons: The G-5 Reports to the Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, 1945-47" - Wojciech Kruczkowski, University of Gdańsk;
- 3) "Philatelic Iconography of Poland and America" - John P. Dunn, Valdosta State University
- 4) "The Myth of the Third: Henryk Mikołaj Górecki in California" - Maja Trochimczyk, Moonrise Press

Comment: The Audience

[3] Friday, January 5, 2018, at 10:30 am-12:00 pm

National and Ethnic Identity Construction in Transatlantic Context

Chair: Neal Pease, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

- Papers: 1) "Race, Nation, and Self-Determination in Poland and Germany, 1918-39: The Case of Danzig" - Jesse Kauffman, Eastern Michigan University;
- 2) "The Uncertainty of Empire: Polish, American, and Polish-American Responses to the Austrian Pavilion at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition" - Claire Orenduff-Bartos, Santa Fe College;

- 3) "Becoming Polish: Growing Nationalism of Polish Migrants in the United States, 1870-1940: - Pien Versteegh, Avans University of Applied Sciences; 4) "From 'Low Polish' to 'Proud Kashubian': The Case Study of David Shulist" - Aleksandra Kurowska-Susdorf, University of Gdańsk

Comment: The Audience

[4] Friday, January 5, 2018, 1:30 pm-3:00 pm

Race and Ethnicity on the Battlefields of the Civil War.

- Chair: Christian Keller, United States Army War College. Papers: 1) "The 'Springtime of Nations' Comes to America" - James Pula, Purdue University Northwest; 2) "The Shadow of Slavery and Racial Discrimination in the Experience of African American Soldiers" - Joseph P. Reidy, Howard University; 3) "'Brothers in Arms' or 'Beastly Set of Men': Poles on the US Colored Troops during the Civil War" - Piotr Derengowski, University of Gdańsk; 4) "In the Community but Not of It: Polish Migrants, Urban Poverty, and American Nation after the Civil War" - Marta Cieślak, University of Arkansas, Little Rock

Comment: The Audience

[5] Friday, January 5, 2018 at 3:30 pm-5:00 pm

Ethnic Political Mobilization

Chair: Iwona Korga, Józef Piłsudski Institute of America.

- Papers: 1) "Call to Fight for Independence Recorded in the Artworks of Polish Artists Living and Working in the United States" - Anna Rudek-Śmiechowska, Polish Institute of World Art Studies; 2) "Military Mobilization Movements in Exile: From the Hungarian Legion to the Löveszek Movement, 1942-70" - Katalin Kadar Lynn, Eotvos Lorand University 3) "Sixty-Eight Publishers: A Czechoslovak Exile Publishing House in Toronto" - Francis D. Raska, Charles University; 4) "Migrants Mobilizing for the Homeland: The Relation between Political Activism in Poland and the United States in the 1980s" - Mary Patrice Erdmans, Case Western Reserve University

Comment: The Audience

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[6] Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 8:30 am-10:00 am

Daily Lives in the Polish American Communities

Chair: Mary Patrice Erdmans, Case Western Reserve University

Papers: 1) "Difficult Beginnings in a New Land: Social and Ethnic Relations in the Americas in the Memoirs of Polish Immigrants" Marcin Szerle, independent scholar; 2) "Memories of Immigration: Rearticulation of Ethnoreligious Identity in the South Texas Polish Community" - Sarah Moxy Moczygemba, U. of Florida; 3) "Stills in the Hills: Moonshine Memories from Canada's First Polish Community" - Joshua Blank, independent scholar; 4) "The Holler House: Beer, Bowling, and Bras on Milwaukee's Polish South Side" - Neal Pease, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Comment: The Audience

[7] Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Female Friendships: Emotions, Experiences,

Memory, and Narratives. Chair: Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, Eastern Connecticut State University.

Papers:

1) "Female Friendship in Homosocial Context: Sociological and Historical Perspective" - Anna Muller, University of Michigan-Dearborn; 2) "Between Friends and Enemies: Women's Same Gender Relationships in Recent Polish American Fiction" - Grażyna Kozaczka, Cazenovia College; 3) "Cloud Beauties and Flower Sisters: The Role of Female Friendship in the Emerging Identity of Chinese-American Women" - Patrycja Kordel, University of Gdańsk. Comment: The Audience

[8] Saturday, January 6, 2018, at 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Polish Immigrants in the United States since the

1970s. Chair: Karolina Łukasiewicz, New York University.

Papers: 1) "Not All in the Family: American Polonia in the Decade of the 1970s" - Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, Eastern Connecticut State University; 2) "Between Now and Then: Contemporary Processes of European Migration to the United States" - Anna Fiń, Pedagogical University of Kraków; 3) "Seeing Greenpoint Change: Polish Americans and Gentrification in Brooklyn" - Jerome Krase, Brooklyn College, City U. of New York; 4) "Polish Greenpoint and New York City: Gentrification, Ethnoracial Relations, and Immigrant Labor Market at the Turn of the 21st Century" - Anna Sosnowska, University of Warsaw.

Comment: The Audience

[9] Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 3:30 pm-5:00 pm

Polish Immigrants in Greenpoint, Brooklyn: Exploring the Transformations of a Polish Ethnic

Enclave. Chair: Jerome Krase, Brooklyn College, City University of New York

Papers:

1) "Greenpoint, Brooklyn Then and Now: A View from the Street" - Judith DeSena, St. John's University; 2) "'Living Is Simply Different Here': The American Dream in Greenpoint" - Ewa Dzurak, College of Staten Island, City University of New York; 3) "Aging in an Ethnic Enclave: Barriers and Opportunities for Older Polish Migrants in Greenpoint" - Karolina Łukasiewicz, New York University; Marta Pawlaczek, New York University; 4) "Tadeusz Chabrowski and Greenpoint: The History of Polish Neighborhood Seen through the Biography of Its Prominent Resident" - Izabela Barry, College of Staten Island, City University of New York; Ewa Maliga, College of Staten Island, City University of New York
Comment: The Audience

Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 7:00 pm

PAHA AWARDS CEREMONY, Residence of Prof. Piotr Wilczek, Ambassador of Poland in Washington, D.C.

[10] Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 9:00 am-10:30 am

The Wish to Be a Red Indian: The Native American Dream in East-Central Europe.

Chair: Grażyna Kozaczka, Cazenovia College

Papers: 1) "The Figure of the Native American in East-Central European Literature" - Katarzyna Jerzak, Pomeranian University in Słupsk; 2) "The Poet Maurice Kenny in Prague" - Derek Maus, State University of New York, College at Potsdam; 3) "Building Relationships between Native American Communities and European Museums" - Annaick Keruzec, Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum, Washington, D.C.

Comment: The Audience

[11] Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 11:00 am-12:30 pm

New Books on the Transnational Political Activism of Poles: From World War II to the Fall of Communism

Chair: Katalin Kadar Lynn, Eotvos Lorand University

Papers:

1) "Catholics on the Barricades: Poland, France, and 'Revolution,' 1939-56" - Piotr H. Kosicki, University of Maryland, College Park; 2) "Third Europe: Polish Federalist Thought in the United States, 1940s-70s" - Sławomir Łukasiewicz, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin and IPN; 3) "Political Exiles from East Central Europe in American Cold War Politics, 1948-54" - Anna Mazurkiewicz, University of Gdańsk

Comment: A. Ross Johnson, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Hoover Institution and Michael C. Kimmage, Catholic University of America



Teaching Polish and Polish-American history at an American University

On January 4th 2018, we gathered in an elegant room at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, to listen to four Polish historians share with us their thoughts on what it means to teach Polish and Polish American history. This was the first day of the annual Polish American Historical Association convention that meet during the American Historical Association convention.

The group of historians gathered around the table included a range of specialists. Patrice M. Dabrowski is the author of a book on the history of Poland entitled *Poland: The First Thousand Years*, which was referred to often by the other panelists. Elizabeth Morrow Clark is a specialist on Polish-German relations and author of a monograph soon to be published on the free city of Danzig. Nathaniel D. Wood is a cultural historian and author of a monograph on Kraków entitled *Becoming Metropolitan*; his recent research investigates the attitudes toward bicycles, automobiles, and airplanes from their introduction until WWII. The final speaker was Michał Wilczewski, a recently anointed doctor of history who examines the daily life of farmers during the interwar period, focusing on local rural activism, transformations in traditional gender roles, generational tensions and family life, and rural-state relations.

Why Poland?

The panelists talked about the profile of their students, shared anecdotes from their classes, and reflected on the value of teaching Polish history in 21st century American academia.

In general, their experiences come either from teaching specifically Polish history courses or from integrating elements of Polish history into their European or world history courses. As it became very clear during the presentations and ensuing conversations, Polish history can serve to illuminate many different issues from the past and present.

Polish history certainly serves as a case study for various “-isms” in history courses (Romanticism, communism, et al). It provides a good framework for teaching about the “transition of identity and belonging from an Enlightenment understanding to the Romantic, ethnic ideal” (Clark). It also can be used to emphasize that “nation” and “state” are not always synonymous. As Dabrowski stressed: “This [last point] is more evident than most in a Polish history course, given the long stretch of multiethnic coexistence within the various permutations that we label Polish (although we should be careful about appropriating that which was the history of more than just Poles).”

Clark singled out specific aspects of Polish history that can be integrated into courses dealing only tangentially with the Polish past:

The very characteristics of Polish history and culture which have made it easy to mythologize and to justify particularism -- elected kings, liberum veto, the Commonwealth, the Constitution of May 3, ethnic diversity, being the object of imperialism, a perpetual “underdog” status in the modern era, and a kind of scrappy patriotism that occasionally blossoms into resistance, revolution or rampant Messianic and virulent nationalism – those same characteristics make Poland an easy go-to in a world history classroom.

Is Poland a good case study for teaching globalization and trans-border studies? As some of the panelists emphasized, Brian Porter-Szücs (the author of *Beyond Martyrdom*) has definitely influenced their willingness to break out of nation-driven models in studying Poland. The history of Poland can help engage in conversations about postcolonialism or about European modernization. Our panelists also teach courses on regions and cities, borderlands and peripheries, as well as historical memory that have a Polish component.

Finally, by studying Polish history, students can learn a lot about a sense of obligation toward the state and, perhaps more than anything else, towards fellow citizens. The example of World War II serves well in this regard. Some of the participants of the panel emphasized that, while they do talk about the unique creation of the Polish underground state during the Second World War, they do not refrain from assigning controversial readings and discussing the sense of responsibility of Poles for crimes committed during the war. Discussions of Jan Błosiński's essay on Poles as bystanders and Jan Gross' book *Neighbors* have proven fruitful.

» See Page 11

Polish-American history did not come up often in the discussions, although references to classes being taught on the Polish diaspora appeared frequently. At times, academics engage with issues of Polish migration that is part of a larger conversation about nationalism.

As the speakers emphasized, each group of students presents its own challenges. Wilczewski, who has taught courses in Chicago, stated: "In my thousand-year survey of Polish history which is typically capped at 60 students, I almost always have 50/60 students who are of Polish heritage and 10 others who do not identify with Poland in any way. My students are similar to me in that we are Polish-Americans, heritage speakers of Polish, some of whom attended Polish School on Saturdays and grew up going to Poland to visit family members." He stressed that his students always think: "Hey, I know Polish history," and that kind of approach to learning comes with its own challenges. He continued: "I once even had a student's mother read all of the readings along with us. I also once had a friend's mother remind me that I 'need to teach good Polish history.' My response to her was, 'Is there bad Polish history?'"

One of the obstacle to make Polish history available is the access to various primary sources. Not every topic from the vast Polish history is available to students who do not read Polish language. The base of translated primary resources is narrow and/or not readily available. Hopefully the knowledge that the PAHA members gathered during the panel will motivate some of us as an organization to look for ways to make that history more available.

~ Anna Muller
University of Michigan, Dearborn



Select Resources For Teaching Polish History



Textbooks:

- Patrice Dabrowski, *Poland: The First Thousand Years* (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2014).
- Brian Porter, *Beyond Martyrdom: Poland in the Modern World* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2014).

Select primary sources available online:

selections from Anonymous Gaul, accessible at http://staropolska.pl/ang/middleages/Sec_prose/Gall.php3

- Jan Długosz, selections of his *Annals*, accessible at http://staropolska.pl/ang/middleages/Sec_prose/Dlugosz.php3
- Marcin Kromer, *Polonia*, accessible at <http://staropolska.pl/ang/renaissance/Kromer/polonia.php3>
- Mikołaj Rey, *Life of an Honest Man*, accessible at http://staropolska.pl/ang/renaissance/M_Rej/life.php3
- Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski, *On the Reform of the Commonwealth*, accessible at <http://staropolska.pl/ang/renaissance/frycz.php3>
- Piotr Skarga, *Sermons to the Diet* (Eighth Sermon), accessible at <http://staropolska.pl/ang/renaissance/skarga.php3>
- The Treaty of Brest, 1595, available at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1595brest.html>
- Jan Słomka, *The Life of a Polish Peasant*, ca. 1900, accessible at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1900polishpeasant.html>
- Woodrow Wilson, *Fourteen Points speech*, accessible at http://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/President_Wilson%27s_Fourteen_Points
- American Jewish Relief Committee, report on Postwar Poland, 1919, accessible at <http://hdl.handle.net/1813/2136>
- Report on Young Women Workers in Poland, 1952, accessible at <http://hdl.handle.net/1813/2143>
- J. Musiałkowski's article on Warsaw women masons, 1949, accessible at <http://hdl.handle.net/1813/2144>



PAHA TEACHING RESOURCES PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Have you ever published on Polish American experience?

☐ Yes, in Polish

☐ Yes, in English

☐ Yes, in _____

☐ Write-in answer: _____

2. Would you like your work to be included in a sample syllabus to be distributed to college/university teachers by PAHA?

☐ If yes, please fill in the table below: ☐ NO (Please tell us why not)

TITLE / TOPIC	CLASS YOUR WORK WOULD BE MOST USEFUL FOR (LABOR HISTORY, RACE AND ETHNICITY, GENDER STUDIES, POLISH STUDIES, MIGRATION, LITERATURE, ART, POLISH AMERICAN STUDIES ETC.)	COMPLETE CITATION (WHERE TO FIND YOUR TEXT)	IS THIS WORK AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY? WHERE	PLEASE WRITE IN 3 KEY WORDS THAT WOULD HELP US TAG YOUR TEXT

3. Have you developed your own syllabus that includes themes relevant to the Polish American experience?

☐ NO _____ ☐ YES, it was designed for a class _____

4. Would you be willing to share it with other scholars (via PAHA website)? _____ Why? _____

5. Please leave us your contact information in case you are interested in working with PAHA for the promotion of the Polish American topics within academic curricula on both sides of the ocean.

Please fill out and return this form to: PAHA at Central Connecticut State University, 1615 Stanley St., New Britain, CT 06050. Or via Email to: Dr. Pien Versteegh, PAHA Executive Director, pien.v@polishamericanstudies.org.



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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 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). 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.

PAHA Newsletter (ISSN-0739-9766) © Polish American Historical Association, 2018. Published semiannually by PAHA and distributed to its members. To join PAHA, or subscribe to the *Polish American Studies*, visit the University of Illinois Press site and select an option: www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/pas.html. **Mailing Address:** PAHA at Central Connecticut State University, 1615 Stanley St., New Britain, CT 06050. **Editor:** Maja Trochimczyk, Ph.D., PAHA Secretary and Communications Director: maja@polishamericanstudies.org. **Contributors:** Anna Mazurkiewicz, Ambassador Piotr Wilczek, Anna Muller, Mary Patrice Erdmans., John Z. Guzłowski, Phil Boiarski, and John Radziłowski.



Call for Papers for PAHA's 76th Meeting – Due April 15, 2018



The 76th Annual Meeting of the Polish American Historical Association will be held in Chicago as part of the 133rd yearly meeting of the American Historical Association, January 3–6, 2019.

The theme for the AHA conference is “Loyalties.” As explained in the general CFP “... loyalties function on multiple levels. Individually, or in groups, humans commit themselves to communities, loved ones, principles, a leader, a nation, a religion, an ideology, or an identity.”

<https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/october-2017/loyalties-the-theme-of-the-133rd-annual-meeting>

The multivalent and rich nature of the concept of ‘loyalty’ and ‘loyalties’ is a fitting theme for the PAHA conference as 2018 is a year when PAHA celebrates its 75th anniversary and Poland celebrates the 100th anniversary of 1918 – the year when after 123 years of political partitions, Poland regained its independence.

The conference thus offers a unique chance to reflect on various levels of loyalties (individuals, family, traditions, old and new communities) and how they change over time and space. What contributes to the sense of loyalty and duty that came with it? What forms did they take? And how did the Polish Americans of different generations and social standing deal with the conflicting, changing, or perhaps double loyalties to the old and new country?

We invite scholars who study the Polish American communities or the greater Polish diaspora as well as those who deal with migration, ethnic, and regional studies and would like to join the discussions related (but not limited) to the following topics:

- 🏰 Polish Americans and the restoration of Poland’s independence, 1918
- 🏰 1918 and Polish migration, new understandings of citizenship, settlement, and assimilation patterns
- 🏰 Intersections of ethnicity, class, gender and race
- 🏰 Ethnic lobbying and occurrences of ethnic mobilization
- 🏰 Rituals, imagery, and symbols of continued loyalty
- 🏰 The relationships between different loyalties – loyalty to the old country vs. new country
- 🏰 Immigration to the USA and state building in Poland
- 🏰 Diplomacy, outreach, and relationships between Poles in the country and abroad
- 🏰 Polish American experience and various forms of nostalgia for the old country
- 🏰 Polish American experience

We invite proposals for sessions as well as individual papers related to all aspects of the Polish American experience (in history, sociology, literature, art, music, etc.) on both American continents.

The deadline for submissions is April 15, 2018.

Abstracts for papers and panel proposals are now being accepted and should be submitted to: PAHA Chair of the Program Committee
Anna Muller, Ph.D. anmuller@umich.edu
University of Michigan-Dearborn
4901 Evergreen, SSB 2192
Dearborn, MI 48128
(313) 583-6539 (phone)
(313) 593-5645 (fax)

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 (up to 250 words) for each participant
- 🏰 Mailing and e-mail address for each participant
- 🏰 Chair (required) and commentator (optional) for the session
- 🏰 Audiovisual needs, if any.

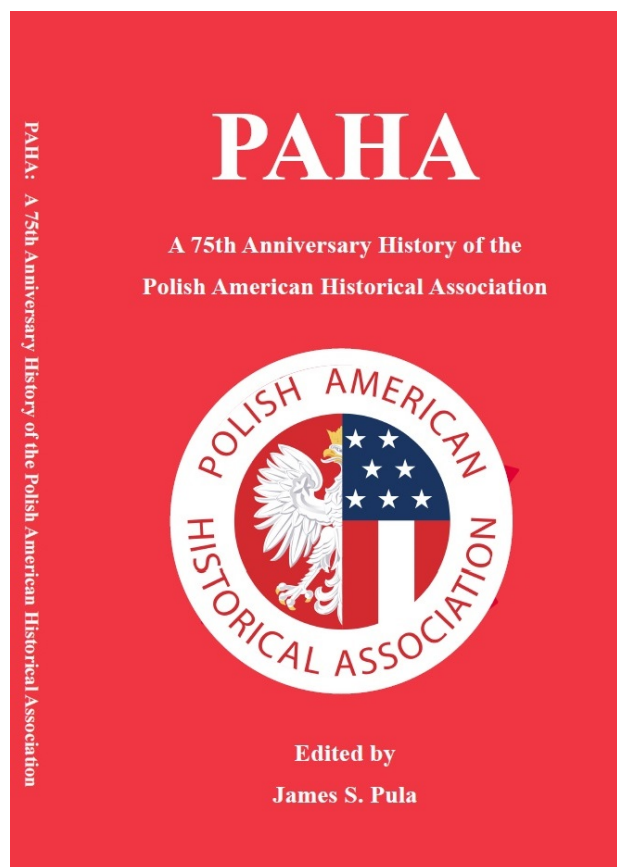
Please be advised that it is not always possible for PAHA to provide AV equipment for all sessions due to the high cost of mandatory rental from AHA. All presenters are encouraged to consider submission of their papers for publication in PAHA's peer-reviewed journal: “Polish American Studies.”

For more information please see PAHA's website: www.polishamericanstudies.org



CFP for PIASA – Due April 15, 2018

The Annual Meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America will take place on June 8-9, 2018 in New York. Please consult PIASA.ORG website and submit your proposals of papers or sessions to Chair of the Program Committee at: alicia.brzyska1@gmail.com



PAHA proudly presents the first account of its 75-year-long history to appear in a book form. This special Anniversary volume was initiated and edited by James Pula, and published with the support of the PAHA Board. Established in 1943 as a separate section within the newly formed Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America, "the new Commission on Research on Polish Immigration held its first conference and meeting December 29-30, 1943, in New York City" – in the words of Prof. John Bukowczyk who then explains: "at its second meeting, held at Orchard Lake Seminary in Michigan in October 1944, the organization changed its name to the Polish-American Historical Commission and that year began to publish its own scholarly journal, *Polish-American Studies*. In June of 1947, both the organization and journal dropped the hyphen from their names, and the Commission formally joined both the American Historical Association (AHA) and the Catholic Historical Association."

The 75th years described in this publication are presented through the eyes of PAHA members at various periods of Association's history – including texts by former presidents who continue their work for PAHA: John Bukowczyk, Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann and the editor of the volume: James S. Pula (past PAHA President, former editor of the

Polish American Studies, and a long-time PAHA Treasurer; PAHA's Distinguished Service Award is named after him). Entitled *A 75th Anniversary History of the Polish American Historical Association*, the book was designed by Prof. Pula to commemorate the history, changing goals and lasting achievements of the organization. Fittingly, it offers complete account of the 75-year-long history with all the historical flavors of the times and phases this organization went through. The volume contains reprints of earlier histories of PAHA published in the *Polish American Studies* by Konstantin Symmons-Symonolewicz, Anthony F. Turhollow, John J. Bukowczyk, Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann. These histories are complemented with the editor's update bringing the account to the present era. A valuable section of the Anniversary History consists of appendices listing PAHA founding members, presidents, and award winners. *Available from amazon.com. Use search term: PAHA Anniversary Polish American Historical Association*

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Left: Scholars from Gdańsk, Poland: Anna Muller, Patrycja Kordel, Aleksandra Kurowska-Susdorf, Dr. Kurowska-Susdorf; Piotr Derengowski, Anna Mazurkiewicz, and Wojciech Kruczkowski. Photo by Marcin Szerle. Right, Mostly Annas: Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, Anna Sosnowska, Aleksandra Kurowska-Susdorf, Anna Fin, and Anna Mazurkiewicz. Photo by Maja Trochimczyk.



Left: Mary Patrice Erdmans, Marcin Szerle, Sarah "Moxy" Moczygemba. Photo by Anna Mazurkiewicz. Right: John P. Dunn, with Grażyna and Stanley Kozaczka. Photo by Marcin Szerle.



Polish American Librarians Association - April 28, 2018



Join us! Polish American Librarians Association Annual conference April 28th, 2018, at Loyola University, Chicago. The very rich and diverse program includes: Marek Sroka, Assoc. Prof Library Administration & Librarian, University of Illinois, Champagne-Urbana, the keynote speaker on the American Libraries Association's role in the reconstruction of Polish library collections in the aftermath of World War II; panel discussion with Prof. Neal Pease and others on the 100th anniversary of Poland's independence; discussion and preview of a new documentary with Rafal Muskala (creator of *4th Partition*), *A Night on Milwaukee Ave.* which focuses on Polish Chicago nightclubs in the 70's and 80's.

Everyone is welcome. There is a small registration fee to cover lunch --- more information will be available on PALA website shortly (www.palalib.org).



POETRY CORNER: PHIL BOIARSKI



SKETCHES OF WARSAW

We walked Bednarska Street
where my father's father's
grandfather and his brother lived.
It was one of the few places
not totally destroyed in the wars.
Nothing else in the Olde Towne
was old, although
everything looked quite old.
Even the cobblestones
were copies of what
once was but now is dust.

North of the city,
in a wooded park
dotted with hikers and bikes
bundled against the first cold
October winds, we found the Archives.
They had the aura of both library
and chapel, a quiet that can
only be achieved with
the quiet accumulation
of decades of dust.

Grandfather said,
"The wolf was always at our door,
like the ghost of an old pet."
On Wilcza Street we dined
in a fancy restaurant
and paid in Euros.
The Germans next to us
were whispering
words that sounded
suspiciously like dust.

In the park, we passed
the old palace where the gods,
arranged formally in the gardens
appeared antique, and later
we sat on a bench of singing stone.
Chopin poured from the marble
as leaves whirled in the wind
around his statue, dancing
with the dust.



Phil Boiarski has been writing and publishing poems for fifty years. His work has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *The California Quarterly*, *The Rocky Mountain Review*, *The Ohio Journal*, *Aspen Anthology*, *Indiana Writes*, *Green House* and numerous other publications. Boiarski's poems have been translated for the stage, and also been translated and published in various foreign publications, including *Nowa Okolica Poetow*, a Polish literary journal, *OFF_Anthologie*, a Polish and English literary collection in print and on digital media, *Private Photo Review*, an Italian poetry/photo magazine, and *The Tangled Bank*, an anthology of poetry and prose published in Australia.

His books include: *Coals & Ice*, *Ordinary Things* (available from Amazon) and *The Barber's Boy*, free at <http://online.anyflip.com/qdvq/wxfj/mobile/index.html>



Plac Zamkowy in Warsaw's Old Town (Photo by M. Trochimczyk)



The Grasinski Girls Grow Old

by Mary Patrice Erdmans



Twenty years ago I started to research the life stories of five sisters (my aunts and mother) – fourth-generation Polish Americans who had grown up in Southwestern Michigan. Their stories were published in *The Grasinski Girls: The Choices They Had and the Choices They Made* (2005, Ohio University Press). In the last few years, several people have asked me what happened to these sisters who were between the ages of 67 and 82 when the book was published.

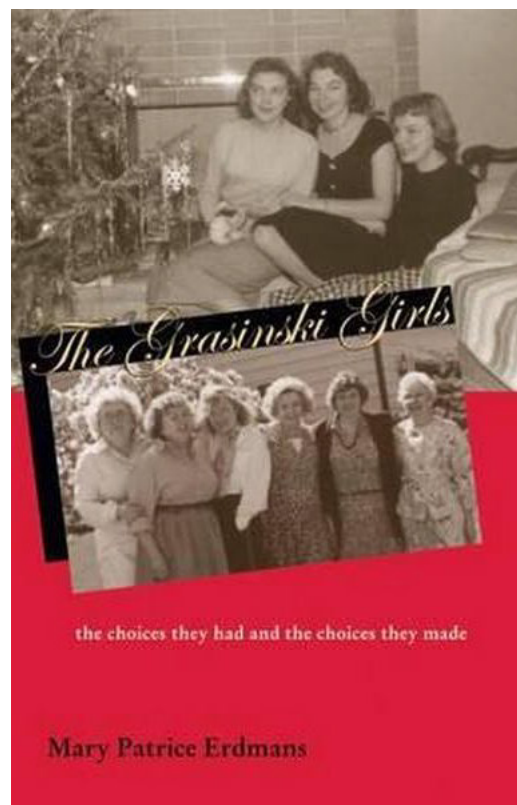
Well, today, the oldest, Caroline, is 94. I met with her in August 2017, sharing a quiet Sunday afternoon on her yellow wrap around porch, sitting at the turquoise wrought iron table. Her husband died in 2011, but she continues to live in the Grasinski-family farmhouse in Wayland. Caroline painted the front door purple in 2014. When I last saw her, she looked elegant and healthy, which surprised me somewhat, given she had gone through a five-week course of radiation for ovarian cancer. Asking her how she was feeling she said: “I have a great appetite,” and then repeated what she had said to me when she first found out about the diagnosis, “I want to live.” She is planning her 95th birthday party and tells me that she is the oldest member of St. Stanislaus parish, which was established in 1892.

Unfortunately, or perhaps otherwise, Fran the next oldest is no longer alive. She died in September 2016, at the age of 88, and her husband died eight months later. Fran had a strong faith in God and a belief in heaven along with profound grief after losing her only son to cancer. A part of her died with her son. She did not like doctors or physical therapy. After years of being sedentary her body atrophied – she was no longer able to walk up the stairs or even brush her hair. She sat at her kitchen table, always welcoming of guests and sweets, and said the rosary, listened to Tiger baseball and ETWN, and waited. I believe God was merciful.

Nadine is still the Countess of Chateau Chantal Winery in northern Michigan, and her husband took her on a cruise to Europe for her 85th birthday. Nadine has significant short-term memory loss. She is a joy to be around because she is present in the sensory delights of the moment – the color of the roses on a couch, the morning light of the sun, the sounds of notes on a guitar. She can still sing all the words to *Sunday Morning Coming Down* but she does not know that I am her niece, Angel’s daughter.

Angel and Mari, the youngest are both well – physically, mentally and emotionally. Mari lost a home during the recession of 2009 and bought a new home in Las Vegas where she has retired. Angel went to Rome for her 80th birthday and was recently the flower girl at her granddaughter’s wedding. Angel has only lost one of her grandchildren, as did Mari – both were young men who died as a result of car accidents when they were only 19. Mari has a new grandchild (as does Nadine). Mari and Caroline both have new knees

~ Mary Patrice Erdmans



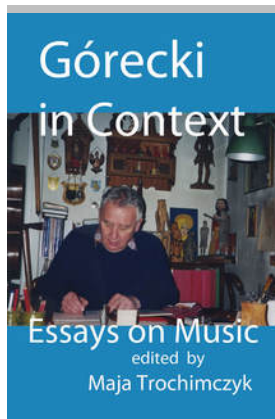
Public History Summer School in Wrocław, Poland



In the summer of 2018 (July 2-5), the University of Wrocław will present international public history summer school under the auspices of the International Federation for Public History. International students and Ph.D. candidates (including Polish Americans) are welcome. The costs of meals and accommodation will be covered! Details: <https://publichistorysummerschool.wordpress.com>. The Public History MA program, taught entirely in English, will be launched at the University of Wrocław in October 2018. Admission is still open. More information may be found at: <https://international.uni.wroc.pl/en/master/public-history> or <https://international.uni.wroc.pl/en/study-english>.



Górecki in Context: Essays on Music by Maja Trochimczyk



This 420-page volume gathers interviews and studies of the life and music of the Polish composer, Henryk Mikołaj Górecki (1933-2010). Contributors include the composer himself – in a series of seven interviews spanning his entire career, from 1962 to 2008 – as well as leading Górecki scholars from Poland, the U.S., and Australia. Chapters highlight the Second Symphony, *Copernican* (Kinga Kiwała), the Third, *The Symphony of Sorrowful Songs* (Maja Trochimczyk) and the Fourth *Tansman Episodes* (Andrzej Wendland). Two studies by eminent Polish scholar and Górecki's personal friend, Prof. Teresa Malecka, present the composer's links to Polish musical traditions and an overview of his piano music. An overview of Górecki's career and a study of his visit to Los Angeles in 1997 round up the volume. With a list of works, examples, photographs, and bibliography. www.moonrisepress.com/gorecki-in-context-by-maja-trochimczyk.html.



New Books about Chicago by Leslie Pietrzyk



Leslie Pietrzyk's novel *Reversing The River* has been published electronically, via the Great Jones Literary app and Medium; the book is set in 1900 Chicago as the city neared the end of its massive engineering project that reversed the flow of the Chicago River. The story follows Józef, a Polish immigrant, and Lucy, an affluent young woman--each desperate to reverse the flow of their own lives. Link via Medium: <https://medium.com/s/reversing-the-river> OR you can download it from the Play or Apple Store. Pietrzyk's novel *Silver Girl* appeared in February 2018. Also set in Chicago, in the 80s--during the time of the Tylenol murders--this book is about the destructive and complicated friendship between two college girls, one wealthy and the other working class. The working class narrator feels lucky to have escaped the secrets of her past, ending up at the "fancy school by the lake"...but she worries about her little sister, left behind. More information: www.lesliepietrzyk.com



John Radzilowski's 2018 Lecture Tour in Poland



In February 2018, John Radzilowski was a public Affairs Speaker for the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw. He spoke to audiences across the country on the topic of the U.S. role in the restoration of Polish independence in 1918 after 123 years of foreign, colonial rule. The embassy is commemorating the 100th anniversary of Poland's rebirth and U.S.-Polish diplomatic ties. He spoke to International Civil Society Institute in Warsaw on "Ignacy Jan Paderewski: an outstanding artist, statesman and champion of independent Poland. Mentor for modern civil society?" (Feb. 12). He traveled to Katowice and spoke to two separate groups, a group of English-proficient high

school students and teachers at the Regional Teacher Training Institute on the U.S. role in Polish Independence (Feb. 13). On Feb. 14 he was in Opole where he first addressed English speaking high school students and their teachers and Opole Public Library and then faculty and students of Opole University on the same topic. The following day, he was in Wrocław where he spoke again to English speaking classes from a number of high schools at Wrocław Library's American Corner and then to the teachers at the regional teacher training institute. On Feb.17, he gave the opening address at the National Museum in Warsaw for the new exhibit on pianist and statesman Ignacy Jan Paderewski, the first in a series of lectures running through May. Throughout the visit, he also met with academic, museum and educational leaders to learn about their new and ongoing projects. PHOTO: Dr. Stankomir Nicieja, English Language Studies at Opole University; Prof. John Radzilowski, University of Alaska, Prof. Marek Masnyk, President of Opole University, and Dan Hastings of the U.S. Embassy in Poland. www.uni.opole.pl/page/2110/prof-john-radzilowski-i-attache-kulturalny-ambasady-usa-gosci-rektora-uo



Pulaski Day at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago



Chicago Polonia had an opportunity to celebrate Pulaski Day at the Polish Museum of America (PMA) on Monday, March 5, 2018. Officials from national, state, county, and city governments and leaders of Polonian organizations paid tribute to the Polish community by honoring Revolutionary War hero Casimir Pulaski. The program included the traditional wreath-laying ceremony at Stanisław Batowski's painting of Pulaski at Savannah.

General Casimir (Kazimierz) Pułaski (b. Warsaw, Poland, March 6, 1745 – d. near Savannah, Georgia, October 9-10, 1779) is recognized as the “Father of the American Cavalry.” He offered his services as an experienced military leader to the American Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. “I came to hazard all for the freedom of America,” stated Pulaski in a letter to the Congress. Even before he was officially commissioned by Congress, Pulaski joined the American Army as a volunteer. At Brandywine, in 1777, he greatly distinguished himself by leading a daring attack against the British, thereby saving the retreating American Army.

At the insistence of General George Washington, Pulaski was made a Brigadier General and the first Commander of the American Cavalry. He established the Pulaski Legion, a corps of Frenchmen, German Hessians, and Poles, who were instrumental in saving the City of Charleston, South Carolina, from British occupation in 1779. In October of 1779, at the age of 34, General Pulaski paid the ultimate price for freedom: he died from mortal wounds received while leading a cavalry charge in Savannah, Georgia. The General's mortal remains were ceremoniously reinterred at the Pulaski Monument at Monterrey Square in Savannah, GA in October of 2005. Posthumous honorary US citizenship was granted to General Pulaski in 2009. In 1977, Illinois made Casimir Pulaski Day an official state holiday, the only state in the union that has done so. Additional information is on the PMA website: www.PolishMuseumOfAmerica.org



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The diversity of Polish radio broadcasts is always increasing. In addition to regular radio, we now have satellite and internet radio programs, also with Polish content. The POLcast programs made in Toronto, Canada, have reached their 51st installment. Each program, available on contains several interesting stories about Polish culture and Polish émigrés doing good work around the

world. The star of the 51st Podcast, for instance is Sylvia Beauchain, A Polish-Canadian artist who lives in Japan, who has devoted her life to her two great passions – art and helping those in need. You can listen to POLcast on the radio if you are in Toronto (tune to 1280AM every Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 am). You can visit their website any time you want to listen to current and past episodes, you can also subscribe to these podcast for the phone, tablet, or car. <http://www.mypolcast.com/category/episodes/>



SILVIA G. DAPIÁ presented a paper on "Transitional Historical Memory and the Chilean Dictatorship" at the Sixth World Congress on Polish Studies held at the Polska Akademia Umiejętności in Kraków, Poland, where she also chaired three sessions on the Polish-Argentine writer Witold Gombrowicz. She was named to the editorial board of *LL Journal* published by the CUNY Graduate Center and attended the Modern Language Association annual meeting in New York in January.

MARY PATRICE ERDMANS presented the following papers: "Zbigniew Kowalewski: 'A political child of the Cuban revolution'" at the annual meetings of the Association for Humanist Sociology, in Havana, Cuba on November 2; "Transnationalism and Return Migration among Solidarity Refugees," at the conference on Poles and Polish Diaspora in North America, at the Emigration Museum in Gdynia, Poland on September 22.

ANNA D. JAROSZYNSKA-KIRCHMANN gave paper presentations at the conferences organized by the Polish Academy of Science (Kraków, October 2017), Social Science History Association (Montreal, November 2017), and Polish American Historical Association (Washington, D.C., January 2018). Each of the papers addressed a different aspect of Kirchmann's new research project on the impact of urban renewal and ethnic revival on various ethnic groups, including American Polonia, in the post-World War II decades.

STEPHEN LEAHY was appointed to represent Shantou University in China at a Global Studies Conference to be held in Moscow June 7-9.

ANNA MAZURKIEWICZ, Associate Professor of History at the University of Gdańsk, has completed her Fulbright Senior Research Fellowship at Stanford's Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREEES). Much of that time she spent in the Hoover Library & Archives with an extensive research agenda combined under a tentative title: "National Committee for a Free Europe: American Uses of Political Exiles During the Cold War." Combined with the programs offered by CREEES (part of Stanford's Global Studies) during her stay, Mazurkiewicz enjoyed the benefits of a genuine academic hub for Cold War scholars and gave a well-received talk entitled "The American Friends of Captive Nations."

In November 2017 **NEAL PEASE** spent a week in Poland on a speaking tour, arranged by the U.S. Department of State, devoted to the subject of relations between the United States and Poland, in anticipation of the centennial of the start of the formal relationship of the two countries. His itinerary included a series of academic and public presentations in Warsaw, Kraków, and Łódź, as well as discussions with U.S. diplomatic personnel, and radio and television interviews.

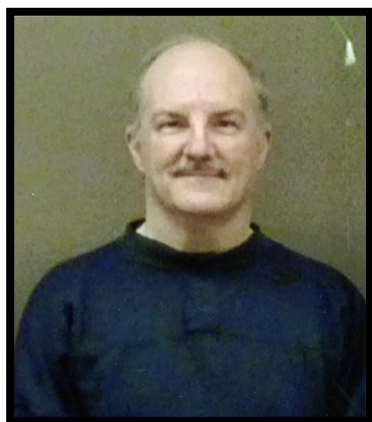
JAMES S. PULA had his book *Under the Crescent Moon with the Eleventh Corps in the Civil War. Volume 1: From the Defense of Washington to Chancellorsville* published and also edited *PAHA: A 75th Anniversary History of the Polish American Historical Association* (Polish American Historical Association, 2017) in which he authored the introduction and concluding chapter. He also delivered a paper titled "The 'Springtime of Nations' Comes to America" at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Washington, DC, and published a review of Mark Bielaski's, *Sons of the White Eagle in the American Civil War: Divided Poles in a Divided Nation*, in *Polish American Studies* (Vol. LXXIV, No. 2).

MAJA TROCHIMCZYK presented six conference papers last year: "Poland 1918-2018: Remembering Ignacy Jan Paderewski" and "The Myth of the Third: Henryk Mikolaj Gorecki in California" at the 75th Annual Meeting of PAHA, Washington D.C. (January 2018); "Obecność Polonii amerykańskiej w sieci internetowej: formy i funkcje" at the Fifth Congress of Polish Scientific and Scholarly Associations in the World, Kraków, Poland, Polska Akademia Umiejętności (October 2017); "Tansman in 'Tempo Americano,' 1941-1946" and "Górecki Conducts Górecki in Los Angeles, 1997 at the Sixth Congress of Polish Studies (PIASA AND PAU, Kraków, Poland, June 2017) and "The American Years of Alexander Tansman, 1941-1946" at the International Conference "Homage to Aleksander Tansman," Wrocław, Poland.

PIEN VERSTEEGH gave a presentation at PAHA's 75th Annual meeting in Washington D.C. about the persistence of ethnicity of Polish migrants 1850-1914: its development and revival. She also has been re-appointed as Executive Director of PAHA for the next five years: 2018-2023.

JOANNA WOJDON received PAHA's Halecki Prize and Haiman Award at the 75th Annual Meeting in Chicago. She authored introductions to the comic book *Yankee at Heart or Thaddeus Kościuszko in America* by Szczepan Atroszko, published by the National Museum in Wrocław in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Kościuszko's death. She published "Trzy polonijne kobiety sukcesu z Chicago w świetle ich relacji" – an article based on her interviews of 2014 with three Polish American women of success from Chicago: Lucyna Migąła, Christine Long and Maria Bronny-Cieśła. The article (in Polish) is available on-line at http://kbnm.pan.pl/images/pdf/SM_PP_1_2017/Studia-Migracyjne-1-17-5Wojdon.pdf. Wojdon also has edited "Historia w przestrzeni publicznej" – a book that introduces public history as an academic discipline in Poland. This collection of essays on various aspects of public history from the theory of memory and historical narratives to history-related pop songs and video games has been co-authored by over fifty scholars and practitioners from the field. It will be published this spring by Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN. <https://ksiegarnia.pwn.pl/Historia-w-przestrzeni-publicznej,739784302,p.html>

IN MEMORIAM – MARK KULIKOWSKI



Colleagues and friends of Prof. Mark Kulikowski were saddened by news of his unexpected passing on January 14, 2018. A member of PAHA for decades, he was best known to researchers of Polonia for the installments of his bibliographies that periodically appeared in *Polish American Studies*.

Mark earned his BA, MA, and PhD degrees from SUNY-Binghamton (now Binghamton University) after which he embarked on a long and successful career at SUNY-Oswego where he taught courses in Russian and East European history and carved out an international reputation as a Russian bibliophile. Searching through libraries and archives in the former Soviet Union and other East European repositories, he accumulated vast amounts of materials that he invariably donated to research facilities to make them available to other scholars and students. A colleague at Oswego, John Kares Smith, expressed shock when hearing of Mark's passing. He "was one of my

favorite faculty colleagues; I did my dissertation on Upton Sinclair and was doing research on the Russian perspective of Upton Sinclair; Mark guided me to several significant sources ... complete with translations. Often, in his early years at SUNY- Oswego, he would send me citations in Eastern Europe and Russia on Upton Sinclair." Another colleague, Christopher Mack, said that Mark "was renowned around the department for just dropping into people's offices. What looked like it would be a 10 minute conversation would turn into a two hour discussion, and that's what I'll remember the most about him, just those moments of extended discussion and friendship."

His classes were always full, an indication that students also appreciated him. Former student Nicole Nadworniak recalled that "Dr. Kulikowski was an amazing teacher. He inspired my passion for Russian history and was a gifted and enthusiastic lecturer. The world will miss him." Sophomore Brianne Branco was quoted in *The Oswegonian*, the campus student newspaper, describing his classes thusly: "One thing I love about learning from him was that you could feel his passion for what he was teaching, which made it all the better for me as his student. He was friendly, amicable, approachable, and most importantly, he was there to help you, always."

I recall when I lived in Binghamton thirty years ago, next door to Mark's hometown of Johnson City, he and I would often meet for coffee or lunch. I invited him over for dinner several times and he became very fond of my *bigos*. Over the years he would send me bigos recipes that he thought were a little different in case I might like to experiment further. He sent another in early January, the last communication I had from him. At the time he was working on his latest update to his series of bibliographies on Polish American history and culture. Sadly, we will not see that in print. It will be a loss to everyone interested in studying American Polonia, as his passing is a loss to his many colleagues, students and friends.

~ James S. Pula



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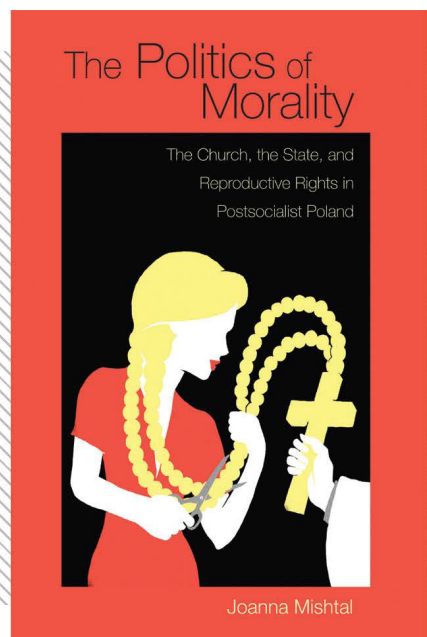
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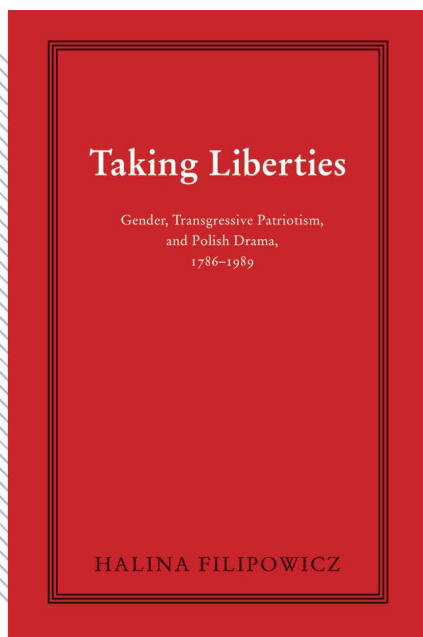
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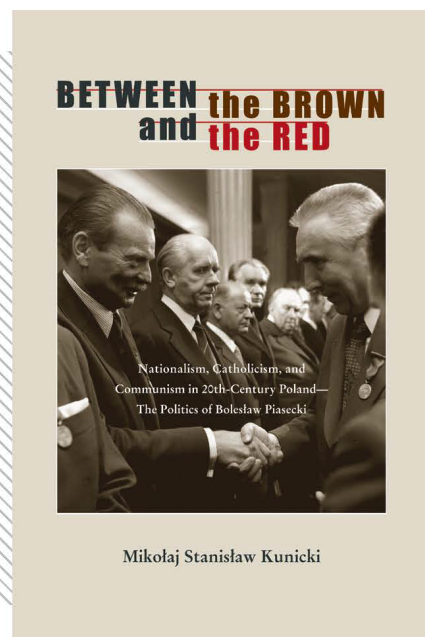


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