



## Polish American Historical Association Newsletter

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### PAHA Presented its 2019 Awards in New York on 4 January 2020



At its 77th Annual Meeting in New York (January 3-5, 2020) the Polish American Historical Association announced the recipients of its Annual Awards for 2019. During a well-attended Awards Ceremony held at the elegant ballroom of the Kościuszko Foundation in New York, on Saturday, January 4, 2020, the Awards were presented by PAHA's President Dr. Anna Müller and PAHA's Vice President, Dr. Marta Cieślak, assisted by Dr. Pien Versteegh, PAHA's Executive Director. The ceremony started from a welcome by Marek Skulimowski, President and Executive Director of the Kościuszko Foundation, expressing delight about this renewed collaboration and hope for a variety of joint projects between PAHA and the KF in the future. [See p. 2-4.](#)

### Send Family Memoirs and Letters to the Polish Heritage Collection

With the outbreak of World War II on September 1, 1939, the Polish nation faced an overwhelming experience of displacement and dislocation. As a consequence, close to six million Poles found themselves outside Poland's new borders; at the end of the war, nearly 500,000 Poles remained in exile, scattered over many countries on all continents. About 140,000 Polish immigrants—political exiles, civilian refugees, displaced persons, former soldiers, slave laborers, and prisoners of concentration camps—settled permanently in the United States. With this war generation passing, it becomes ever more urgent to tell their story, to preserve the record of their experience and make it available to the next generations. PAHA is alarmed by the disappearance of documentation on the history of the World War II and immediate postwar wave of Polish migration to the United States. Recognizing the contributions of Polish migrants to Polish American as well as American history, PAHA appeals to the members of the exile generation, their families, and their organizations to deposit their existing records in archival and research institutions. To facilitate the preservation effort, PAHA is inaugurating a new project titled "Polish Migrant Memoirs and Letters: Documenting the World War II Diaspora." In collaboration with the Central Connecticut State University's Library (Polish Heritage Collection), Stanislaus A. Blejwas Chair in Polish and Polish American History, and the Polish American Librarians' Association, PAHA is announcing search in the United States for the following documents among members of the WWII Diaspora in North America: memoirs (published and unpublished); diaries; letters; interviews; and photos. The war and immediate post-war periods are the main focus of the search, however, we are interested in the entire life of these migrants, not just the war years. *The documents, with the Deed of Gift (see p.19) should be sent to: Central Connecticut State University / Elihu Burritt Library / Attention: Ewa Wolynska, Head, Special Collections / PAHA Memoirs Project / 1615 Stanley St. / New Britain, CT 06050. For more information, please contact: Dr. Ewa Barczyk ([ewa@uwm.edu](mailto:ewa@uwm.edu); or by phone 414-412-6456). [polishamericanstudies.org/text/182/dpmemoirs.html](http://polishamericanstudies.org/text/182/dpmemoirs.html).*



## PAHA's 2019 Awards Presented at the Kościuszko Foundation



Marek Skulimowski, KF President/Exec. Director



The Halecki Prize for Dr. G. Kozaczka



Dr. Anna Müller, PAHA President

Prof. Neal Pease, First Vice President of PAHA, discussed a history of the collaboration between PAHA and the Kościuszko Foundation, and Prof. Anna Müller presented PAHA's achievements in the past year, and the role of PAHA Awards and Awardees in Polish and Polish American culture.

**The Oskar Halecki Prize** recognizes an important book or monograph on the Polish experience in the United States. The Prize was presented to **GRAŻYNA J. KOZACZKA**, for *Writing the Polish American Woman in Postwar Ethnic Fiction* (Ohio University Press, 2019). Kozaczka's book investigates the construction of Polish American womanhood in the fiction by Polish American authors of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. It demonstrates how Polish American women writers have responded to the gender expectations of their communities, societies, and nations and how their heroines sought empowerment. One of the reviews calls it a unique scholarly work that "positions ethnic gender construction and performance at an intersection of social class, race, and sex."

**The Swastek Prize** is awarded annually for the best article published during the previous year 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 the *Polish American Studies* for many years, and a past president of PAHA. It was presented to **STEPHEN M. LEAHY** for his article "George Wallace and the Myth of the White Ethnic Backlash in Milwaukee, 1958-1964" (PAS 75, no. 2, Autumn 2018). While the PAS Editorial Board members valued all of the contributions to volume 75, Stephen M. Leahy's article "George Wallace and the Myth of the White Ethnic Backlash in Milwaukee, 1958-1964" (PAS 75, no. 2, Autumn 2018) has been selected for the Swastek Award for its many merits. Leahy's article is a timely and careful analysis of the heated political atmosphere during the Civil Rights era. Leahy effectively questions the sweeping thesis that working-class Polish Americans were particularly receptive to Wallace's racist message in Milwaukee, WI. Leahy's article is a fine example of meticulous research, which challenges a long-established opinion by cross-checking and triangulating a variety of sources. It offers a compelling political microhistory and it should have an impact on the historiography of race relations in twentieth-century America.

**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. **TEOFIL LACHOWICZ** is a historian, archivist, journalist, and teacher with a long list of projects that all contribute to the popularization and preservation of Polish and Polish American experience in the US. Mr. Lachowicz is a historian and history teacher but his work includes also a wide variety of activities in the Polonia community. He has been an archivist at the Polish Army Veterans Association in America since 1998 and is also editor of the monthly *Weteran*. He is an author of several works on military Polish American history and has also contributed to Polish

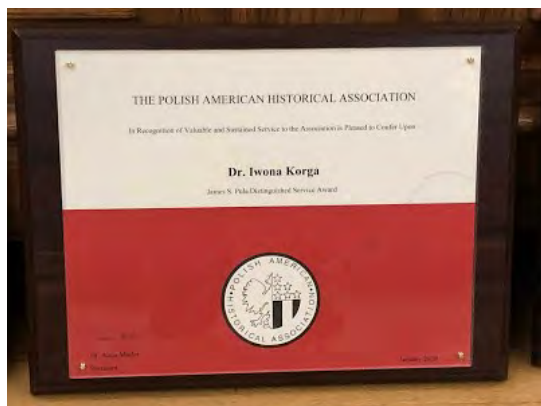




Geoffrey Gyrisco and Michael Retka



Dr. Norman Kelker accepts his award, with Dr. Anna Müller and Dr. Marta Cieslak.



Pula Service Award for Dr. Iwona Korga.

American newspapers. **Dr. JOHN GUZLOWSKI**, a former PAHA Board Member and Awardee, has published in a wide range of genres: poetry, prose, literary criticism, reviews, fiction and nonfiction. Born in a refugee camp in Germany after World War II, Guzowski came to America with his family as a Displaced Person in 1951. His parents were Polish slave laborers in Nazi Germany during the war. In much of his work, Guzowski remembers and honors the experiences and ultimate strength of these survivors. His critically acclaimed 2016 volume of poetry *Echoes of Tattered Tongues* is as beautiful as it is harrowing. In his very frequent public speaking engagements, he is commemorating the experience of Polish immigrants in the post-WWII years.

**SPENCER HOWE, STANISLAW POSZWA, GEOFFREY GYRISCO and MICHAEL RETKA** are a team of scholars and activists spanning Minnesota and Wisconsin who conduct research and community engagement efforts regarding the work of early 20th century Polish American architect **VICTOR CORDELLA**, active in Minnesota. Fr. Spencer Howe and Fr. Stanisław Poszwa represent the Holy Cross Church in Minneapolis, MN. Dr. Geoffrey Gyrisco is a resident of Madison, WI and Michael Retka resides in Little Falls, MN. Over the past two years they have come together to document Cordella's extensive body of architectural design in Minnesota and Wisconsin and assess his lasting impact and influence on two dozen mostly Polish Roman and Eastern Rite Catholic communities. Cordella was a graduate of the Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts who immigrated to the US in 1893 and was in active architectural practice between the 1890s and mid-1930s. The list of the team's achievements includes preservation, popularization, and academic efforts that highlight, investigates, and brings to the general and academic audiences Cordella's legacy.

**The Amicus Poloniae Award** recognizes significant contributions enhancing knowledge of Polish and Polish American heritage by individuals not belonging to the Polish American community. It was presented to Dr. Norman E. Kelker and JoAnn Falletta. Dr. **NORMAN E. KELKER** has had a long career as a microbiologist. For many years now Dr. Kelker has been an active member of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America and a supporter of the Kościuszko Foundation. His interests in history and family history resulted in his many presentations. Most recently, Dr. Kelker presented his research on Ernestine Rose, a Polish Born Leader of the American Suffrage Movement and Herbert Hoover's support for Poland. Dr. Kelker is a long-time friend of Poland and Polonia. The second Amicus Poloniae Awardee was **JOANN FALLETTA**. Ms. JoAnn Falletta, Music Director of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra received the award for continuous support of Polish and Polish American composers and musicians. Falletta has led numerous projects and events that showcased Polish and Polish American composers as well as invited Polish musicians to play with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

**James Pula Distinguished Service Award** is given to a member of PAHA who has rendered valuable and sustained service to the organization. Dr. **IWONA KORGA**, Executive Director of the Pilsudski Institute was nominated by several individuals and an excerpt from one nomination reads as follows: "For years she has



Dr. Norman E. Kelker, Amicus Poloniae.



Dr. Puchalski and Mr. Avramchuk

been promoting Polish history and culture through both research and public programming as Executive Director of the Piłsudski Institute and more recently as a member of the Board of Directors of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union." Dr. Ewa Hoffman Jędruch, who is a Board Member of the Piłsudski Institute received the award on behalf of Dr. Korga.

**Joseph W. Zurawski Prize** is awarded for the best article or book published on the topic of Polish American screen images in films or television presented to audiences in the United States and released by American companies. The Prize was presented to **SONIA CAPUTA** for "Stereotypes of Polish American Women in American TV Series" from volume *Histories of Laughter and Laughter in History*, (ed. Rafał Boryśławski, Justyna Jajszczok, Jakub Wolff, and Alicja Bemben), Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2016.

**The Young Scholar Travel Grant** supports a graduate student's/young scholar's participation in the PAHA upcoming annual conference. **OLEKSANDR AVRAMCHUK** is a Ph.D. student at the University of Warsaw. He is currently writing a doctoral dissertation on the vision of Ukraine in Polish émigré historical thought in the United States during the Cold War. The scope of his academic interests ranges from Polish-Ukrainian relations to modern nation-building processes in Central and Eastern Europe. He is an author of several scholarly articles and essays on Polish, Ukrainian and Russian historical thought in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as the American attitudes toward Eastern Europe.

Dr. **PIOTR PUCHALSKI** was a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison at the time of selecting awardees. Dr. Piotr Puchalski was born in Warsaw, Poland and moved to New York City at the age of thirteen. He attended high school in Brooklyn and earned Bachelor's degrees in European Studies and French from New York University. When Piotr applied for this award, he was still a Ph.D. candidate in modern European history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Since then, not only did he defend his doctoral dissertation, but also accepted the position of an assistant professor of history at the Institute of History and Archival Studies of the Pedagogical University of Kraków, Poland.



At the Awards Ceremony: Dr. Pien Versteegh, PAHA Executive Director; Dr. Neal Pease; Dr. Anna Müller and Dr. Marta Cieślak





## Call for Papers, PAHA's 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Seattle, January 2021



The Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) will hold its 78th Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA as part of the 135th yearly meeting of the American Historical Association from January 7-10, 2021. 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 discussions related (but not limited) on the following topics:

- Polish Americans and their relationship to Poland
- Polish Americans and their contribution to the civic, institutional, and political life of the U.S.
- Intersections of ethnicity, class, gender, and race (in relation to Polonia)
- The changing understanding of the ethnic heritage (in relation to Polonia)
- Identity politics and the role of Polish migrations in the past and contemporary world
- Immigration to the USA and state building in Poland and in the United States
- Transatlantic migrations to the Americas and state building in Poland and migrant communities in North and South America
- Polish heritage, legacy, and an understanding of the role that ethnicities play in the modern world
- Polish Americans vs. other ethnic groups in a comparative perspective on both American continents and in Europe
- Responses to Polish transatlantic migrations in Europe, also in a comparative perspective

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. We are committed to putting together well-researched and argued proposals in panels consisting of 3 participants with commentators.

Individual participants should include the following information when submitting a proposal:

- Paper title(s) and short abstracts (of no more than 300 words)
- Affiliation and e-mail address
- Biographical paragraph (up to 250 words)
- Please indicate if you are willing to serve as a chair and/or a discussant for a session
- Also, note if you need A/V.

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

- Paper/Session abstract(s) (up to 300/500 words)
- Affiliation and e-mail address for each participant
- Biographical paragraph (up to 250 words) for each participant
- Chair and commentator for the session
- Also, note if you need A/V.

Please be advised that it is not always possible for PAHA to provide A/V equipment for all sessions due to the high mandatory rental fee from AHA. Most likely we will try to gather all presentations that require A/V equipment in one day. It is therefore important for the presenters to indicate their need for A/V when submitting their proposal. The A/V equipment will be provided only when absolutely necessary.

All presenters are encouraged to consider submission of their papers for publication in PAHA's peer-reviewed journal, *Polish American Studies*:

<https://polishamericanstudies.org/text/13/polish-american-studies.html>.

**The deadline for submissions is April 15, 2020. Abstracts for papers and panel proposals are now being accepted and should be submitted to Neal Pease at [pease@uwm.edu](mailto:pease@uwm.edu).**



## OFFICERS AND COUNCIL OF THE POLISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION IN 2019-2020

**President: Dr. Anna Müller, University of Michigan, Dearborn**

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Dr. Marta Cieslak, University of Arkansas, Little Rock – Second Vice President  
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### PAHA MISSION STATEMENT

PAHA's goals are: 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; and to support collection and preservation of historical sources regarding the Polish past in America.



PAHA Officers and Council in Chicago, January 5, 2019. L to R, seated: Maja Trochimczyk, Anna Mazurkiewicz, Pien Versteegh, Anna Müller. L to R, standing, James Pula, Robert Synakowski, Dominic Pacyga, Bożena McLees, Neal Pease, Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann.

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**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](mailto:maja@polishamericanstudies.org).



The *Polish American Historical Association's* interdisciplinary refereed double-blind scholarly journal (ISSN 0032-2806; eISSN 2330-0833) has been published continuously since 1944. It appears biannually and is available world-wide through JSTOR. 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; PubMed; TOC Premier and EBSCO. To subscribe visit: [www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/pas.html](http://www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/pas.html).

The editors welcome scholarship 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 groups. Contributions from any discipline in the humanities and social sciences are welcome. The Swastek Prize is awarded annually for the best article published in *Polish American Studies*.

Manuscripts or inquiries should be submitted in Microsoft Word via e-mail attachment to the Editor, Dr. Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann at [anna.k@polishamericanstudies.org](mailto:anna.k@polishamericanstudies.org) (or mailed to Eastern Connecticut State University, Department of History, Webb Hall 333, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226). Manuscripts of 8,000-10,000 words should include an abstract (200 words), a brief biographical note, and email address. Editors will not review works previously published in any form or ghost-written. Authors should follow *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th edition. Contributors whose first language is not English should have their work reviewed prior to submission.

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

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With this new issue of *Polish American Studies*, PAHA continues to celebrate 75 years of its history by presenting a keynote address delivered by John J. Bukowczyk, PAHA's past president and an eminent historian of Polonia, at a special anniversary conference in Chicago in September 2018. As she completes her tenure in office, Anna Mazurkiewicz, the first Poland-based PAHA president, shares her reflection on PAHA's future and its mission. In the three articles which follow the keynote and presidential address, our readers will find a wealth of new research. Anna Fin, Witold Nowak, and Michał Nowosielski analyze social and organizational activities among Polish immigrants in the United States and Europe. Anthony J. Bajdek looks at the legacy of Tadeusz Kościuszko at West Point. Donald E. Pienkos highlights the period of New Ethnicity in the 1960s and 70s and Polonia's contribution to the New Ethnicity movement. In "Varia" we are introducing Museum of Emigration in Gdynia, Poland. The book review section features discussions of books by authors Anna Sosnowska, Jan S. Plachta, Victor Vazquez-Hernandez, Kasia Jaronczyk and Małgorzata Nowaczyk, Richard Moss, as well as a historical exhibit at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago.

*Polish American Studies*



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## POETRY CORNER KONRAD TADEMAR WILK



Konrad Tademar is an American poet living in Los Angeles. His works range from single sonnets to epic poems on themes including current events, myth, and philosophy. In addition to American subjects, his work is strongly informed by international events and history, especially those of freedom and oppression. Tademar's early childhood was spent in Poland where he was particularly influenced by the rise of the anti-communist Solidarity labor union. Following his return to the U.S., he studied philosophy and literature at Los Angeles City College where he was president of the Poet's Platform. He then went on to graduate from UCLA.

He has appeared in Los Angeles venues such as the Onyx, Ground's Zero, Magicopolis Theater, Wilshire Art Gallery, and Pig and Whistle. In 1991, he founded the Witching Hour Poetry Gathering which has met continuously for over 20 years. Additionally, he is a founding member of the Pecan Pie Organization, dedicated to artistic promotion, stage performances. His poetry book "Fifty Sonnets, titles like labels only get in the way..." is available on line. In September 2019, he edited and directed *Warsaw at War 80/75*, performance to celebrate WWII anniversaries, held at Santa Monica Playhouse.

### The Eleventh Day of the Eleventh Month

Heart quickening within the hearth of the homeland  
Sending smoke signals from the first nations, hawkeyes—  
—tears flowing as a river trail, a scattered band  
Snake like memory on a warpath against lies

*Pamiętaj, że bez serca nie ma narodu  
Pamiętaj, że bez łez nie ma pamięci*

Blood raptures the senses, vessels of truth and will—  
—to breathe like a wild horse, I run like the wolf, free  
Graves of my forefathers, where warriors' bones lie still—  
—beneath my feet, unchained, sovereign, like the sea

*Pamiętaj, że bez krwi nie ma wolności  
Wiesz, że nie ma niepodległości bez grobów*

Speech, in the flames of old earth words meandering—  
—through spacetime, betrays, defines my identity  
Family, allegiance, obligation, bearing—  
—the weight of mother on my back, tribal duty

*Wiesz, że bez mowy nie ma tożsamości  
I wiesz, że bez rodziny nie ma szczepu*

God's wind fills my lungs, sets in motion, muscles, steel  
Each season in its time, we hope by what we feel

*Pamiętaj, że nie ma nadziei bez Boga  
Bo wiesz, że nigdy nie ma dymu bez ognia.*

#### NOTES ON THE POLISH LANGUAGE TEXT:

- Lines 5-6 - Remember that without the heart there is no nation / Remember that without tears there is no memory
- Lines 11-12 - Remember that without blood there is no freedom / Know that there is no independence without graves
- Lines 17-18 - Know that without speech there is no identity / And know that without family there is no tribe
- Lines 21-22 - Remember that there is no hope without God / Because you know that there never is smoke without fire

NOTE: Written in Los Angeles, California, on November 10, 2017 - On the eve of Armistice Day, Veterans Day - the 99th anniversary of the end of the Great War that destroyed Europe and the world between 1914 and 1918 - and on the 99th anniversary of the resurrection of Poland after 123 years of Russian and Germanic captivity - Polish Independence Day.





## The Tatra Eagle Ends its Publication and Issues an Index



### INDEKS/ INDEX



In anticipation of the digitalization of *The Tatra Eagle* that recently ceased its publication, Dr. Thad Gromada and Jane Gromada Kedron, the co-editors of the journal, have published an 150 page "Indeks/Index" available from Tatra Eagle Press, 31 Madison Ave., Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604 for \$14.95 plus \$2.00 postage. The end of this publication was eulogized by scholars. Dr. Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann wrote: "It is with sadness that I have recently received the very last issue of *Tatrzański Orzeł*, *The Tatra Eagle*. The long-time co-editors, Janina Gromada-Kedron and Professor Thaddeus Gromada announced that after 72 years their excellent publication is closing its doors. Although the digitization and indexing projects will make the entire run accessible to interested readers and researchers alike, I will miss *The Tatra Eagle*, which has been a guardian and chronicler of the górale culture in American Polonia. I will miss "Syckiego po krapce," "Góralskie dowcipy," fragments of beautiful writings by Przerwa-Tetmajer, Ks. Tischner and others, and smart and informative editorial notes by Dr. Gromada. But 72 years is a long time, so I thank the editors for their great work and wish them *dużo zdrowia!*"



## Polish American Newspapers Scanned and Posted by Newspapers.com



Newspapers.com continues to add Polish language Polish immigrant newspapers to their library of scanned, searchable papers. The site has started to post searchable scans of *Ameryka-Echo*! So far, issues from the years of 1902-1906, the Chicago edition are posted in the online database, with 1,890 searchable pages. [www.newspapers.com/title/22459/ameryka-echo/](http://www.newspapers.com/title/22459/ameryka-echo/). In addition, two papers from Winona, Minnesota, have been added to the database: newspapers *Wiarus* (1886-1919) and *Katolik* (1893-1895). The *Katolik* was a short-lived, renamed version of *Wiarus* (Veteran), an important immigrant newspaper established and edited by a well-known Kaszubian writer, Hieronim Derdowski (1852-1902).



## Marsz, Marsz, Batory by Karkowska and Cailott-Dubus



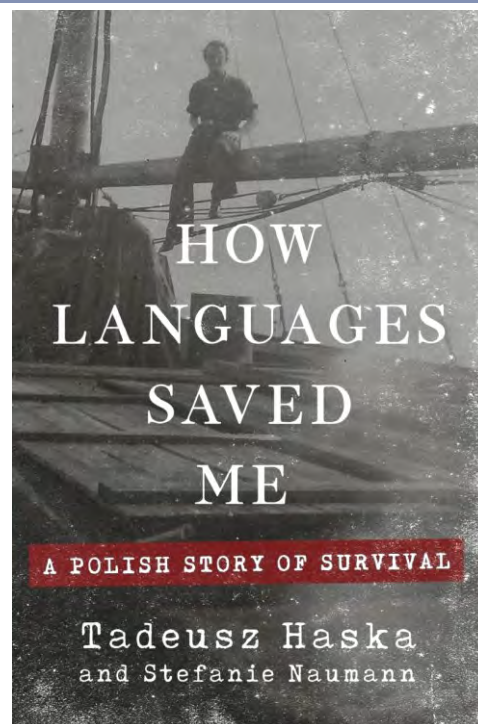
*Marsz, Marsz Batory* is a new book on Polish emigrants to the U.S. written by Polish authors Aleksandra Karkowska and Barbara Cailott-Dubus. This volume documents the story of the Polish immigrant passengers who came to America on the famed *MS Batory* ocean liner from the 1930s to 1960s. Nicknamed the Lucky Ship, *Batory* left Gdynia just a few days before the attack of German troops that started World War II on September 1, 1939. The transatlantic arrived safely in New York. Later, the ship helped evacuate troops from Dunkirk and transported 500 British children to safety in Australia. Finally, many emigres came to America, brought to this country by the *MS Batory*. The book was published in Poland, by Oryginaly (240 pages).



## How Languages Saved Me: A Polish Story of Survival



In the growing repertoire of "post-memory" books written by children and grandchildren of Polish survivors of WWII—deportations, exile, concentration camps, persecutions—"How Languages Saved Me" (Koehler Books, 2019) takes the place of honor. Written by Stefanie Nauman, Professor of Management at the University of the Pacific, and based on unfinished memoirs of her grandfather, Tadeusz Haska, as well as many other primary sources, documents, memoirs, letters, etc., this book is a story of survival and resilience. It would make a great mandatory reading for high school and college classes in the U.S., established to teach American students about immigrant history. This slim volume (127 pp.) contains great lessons about responsibility, hard-work, dedication and ingenuity of an emigre to America who survived the war in German-occupied Poland, and had to escape prosecution by Soviet-run government of the Polish People's Republic in 1947. In a notable stunt, he smuggled his wife to Sweden in a coffin! They lived in Sweden for a while, but in search of a better future, they decided to emigrate to America. A talented linguist who spoke nine languages, Haska received a Ph.D. from University of California at Berkeley and taught at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA. The value of this well-researched-and-written book stems from its factual content, portraying a man of outstanding virtues and talents, an exemplar of surviving adversity, without becoming a victim, resentful and enraged at the world that treated him so unfairly. Illustrated with family photos, documents and translations of letters, this book is a valuable contribution to the fields of immigration studies, Polish-American history, and the history of Poland.

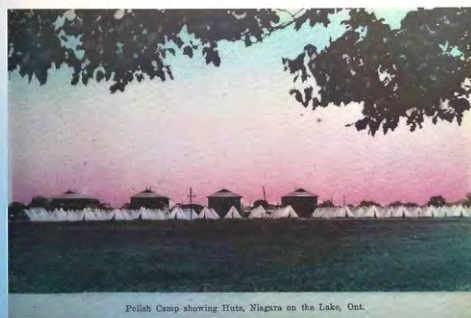


## 1917-19 Documents about Polish Army Camp Gathered in a Book



### The Polish Army Camp Kosciuszko Niagara Camp, 1917-1919

The Newspaper Columns of Elizabeth  
Ascher  
St. Catharines Standard, 1917-1920



Polish Camp showing Huts, Niagara on the Lake, Ont.

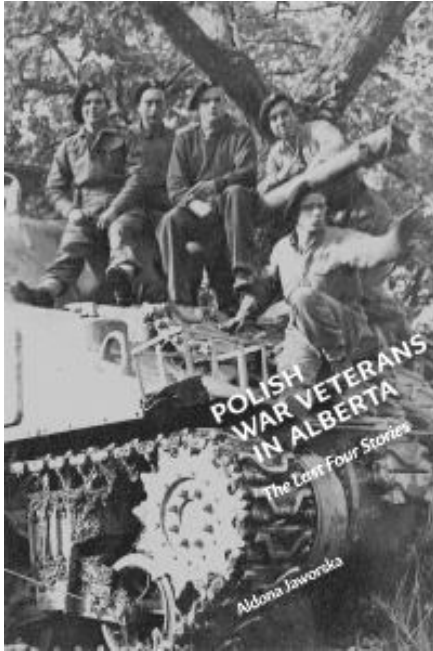
Stan Skrzyszewski

*The Polish Army Camp Kosciuszko, Niagara Camp, 1917-1919: The Newspaper Columns of Elizabeth Ascher, St. Catharines Standard, 1917-1920. Edited by Stan Skrzyszewski*

This volume presents a chronology of life at the Polish Army Camp at Niagara-on-the-Lake based on the news items and columns which appeared in *the St. Catharines Standard* from 1917-1920. St. Catharines is the largest city in the Niagara area on the Canadian side. The *Standard* was the major newspaper in the area, and Mrs. Elizabeth Ascher, was their correspondent reporting from Niagara-on-the-Lake. Ascher wrote almost daily columns which present an amazing detailed day-to-day report on what was happening at the camp and describes conditions in the camp and in the town. They provide a remarkable snapshot of the life of Polish soldiers in Niagara Camp from the establishment of the camp in 1917 to its closure in 1919 and the Polish relief efforts and pilgrimages to Niagara-on-the-Lake which followed. This work speaks to topics ranging from accommodations, special visitors, dances and to baseball. Many of the volunteers at the camp were having the time of their lives. Mrs. Ascher was nicknamed the

"Godmother of the Polish Army" and was awarded the Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta in 1922, the Haller Medal in 1923, Miecze Hallerowskie in 1926 and a lifetime membership in the Polish Army Veteran's Association. The book (219 pages) is available for \$25.00 plus shipping. Order by sending an email to Stan Skrzyszewski, [stan874@gmail.com](mailto:stan874@gmail.com).





In the aftermath of World War II, over 250,000 Polish soldiers and their families ended up in Great Britain – these were the troops fighting alongside the Allies and led by Gen. Władysław Anders. In 1947, the British government decided to disperse them among the Commonwealth countries and passed The Resettlement Act. More than 4,500 Polish veterans were resettled in Canada as farm workers; 750 of these men were accepted by the province of Alberta. They were paid 25% less than the prevailing wages, but managed to rebuild their lives, and create a lively émigré community. *Polish War Veterans in Alberta* examines how these former soldiers came to experience their new country and its sometimes-harsh postwar realities. This compelling work of social history is brought to life through the words and stories of four veterans, whose remembrances provide an intimate first-hand look at a moment of Canada's past that is at risk of being forgotten. Published by the University of Alberta Press in 2019, the book was based on oral histories of veterans, such as Władysław Niewinski, Zbigniew Rogowski, and Anatol Nieuwierzycki. It was written by Aldona Jaworska who was born and raised in Poland and came to Canada as a refugee in 1990, to settle in Calgary.

<https://www.uap.ualberta.ca/titles/913-9781772123739-polish-war-veterans-in-alberta>



## A Little Piece of Home – by Jeremy W. Kilar



*This story has been included in PAHA's ongoing Special Project, "Objects that Speak" Curated by Prof. Anna Müller and posted on PAHA's website.*

Władysław (Walter) Kilarski arrived in the U. S. on June 16, 1914, just 12 days before the Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated, the event that soon started World War I. He was accompanied by his mother Luise, his younger brother, Mieczysław (Mitchell), and two younger sisters Dormicel (Decillia) and Emilie. Their father, Jan Kilarski, who had arrived in October 1913, was a minor officer in the Austrian Emperor's army and probably fled Poland well aware of the oncoming war. According to family legend, Jan had to flee Austrian-Poland because he possessed some illegal weapons. Walter Kilarski was 9 years old when he arrived in the U.S. and the family settled in Saginaw, Michigan. Walter carried with him a matchbox in which he had placed soil from his Polish home in Cieszyn. He was aware that he probably would never return to Poland and in a way this was part of the "old country" that he would always have with him. Although he never asked his sons to bury a part of Poland with him, on Walter's and his brother Mitchell's death a bit of matchbox soil was placed in each casket. In 1921, at 16, a troubled relationship with his father prompted him to run away and join the navy. He remained in the navy, serving aboard the *USS Arizona* when it was assigned to the Pacific Fleet in 1921. After being honorably discharged in 1925 he returned to Saginaw, attended Alliance College, founded by the Polish National Alliance, and settled in Detroit, with his wife, Sophie Jaworek. Walter eventually became a tool and die designer in the local auto industry until he retired. He valued and emphasized education to his three sons who attained graduate degrees. Throughout the years, Walter kept his matchbox in a small metal box in the top drawer of his highboy dresser... Walter was a Pole who wanted to be an American. He shortened his last name, and his children could frequently hear him reciting Edgar Allen Poe's poems perfecting his accent-free English. He became a Mason, a bowler, and competitive chess player. His sons were brought up not as Polish-Americans, but just as "Americans." Only later in life did he "rediscover" his roots and develop a renewed pride in his heritage. Walter died in 1984, and with him was buried a part of his ancestral homeland. [https://polishamericanstudies.org/text/159/a\\_little\\_piece\\_of\\_home.html](https://polishamericanstudies.org/text/159/a_little_piece_of_home.html).





## Five Polish Writers Featured at the Polish Fest in June 2020



Every year the Latham, NY PolishFest showcases novels, memoirs, non-fiction, poetry and cookbooks that celebrate Polish, Polish-American and Slavic culture. Authors travel from around the world to share their stories and sell their books. Throughout the day on Saturday, June 13 and Sunday, June 14, 2020 (250 Old Maxwell Road in Latham, NY) authors will be presenting readings. The following writers will be featured:

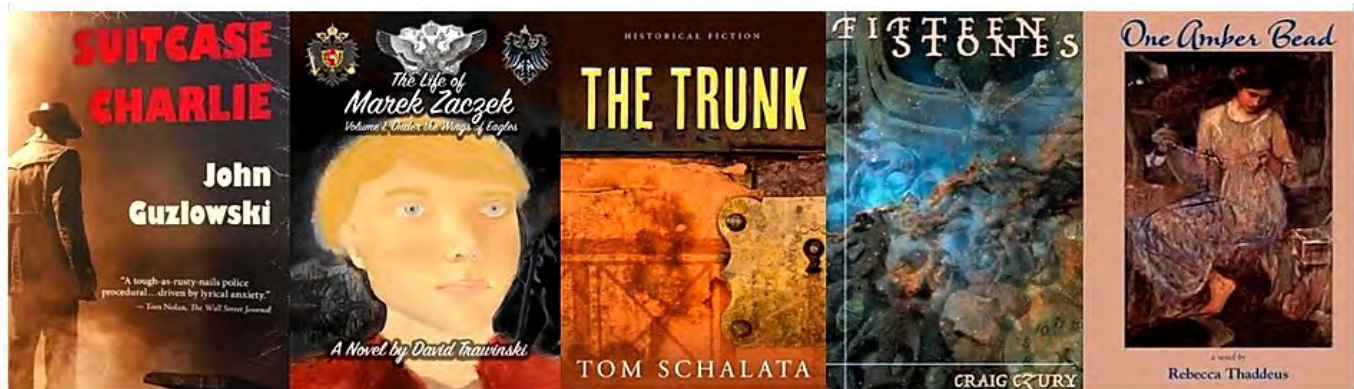
**Craig Czury** is a poet, editor, and arts advocate who earned his Master of Fine Arts degree from Wilkes University, where he was awarded the prestigious Norris Church Mailer Fellowship. He spent 15 years hitchhiking North America, working in carnivals, warehouses, canneries, construction crews, restaurant kitchens, and organizing community poetry readings. Czury is the author of over 20 books of poetry, and his poems have been translated into 11 languages. He was the 2011 Laureate of the Ditet e Naimit International Albanian Poetry Festival in Macedonia and served from 2010-2012 as Poet Laureate of Berks County, Pennsylvania. His work has won numerous significant awards and fellowships.

**John Guzowski** will be presenting his crime novel, *Suitcase Charlie*, which takes place in a hardboiled Polish-American neighborhood in Chicago. John has had a writing career that spans more than 40 years, amassing a significant body of published work in a wide range of genres: poetry, prose, literary criticism, reviews, fiction and nonfiction. Born in a refugee camp in Germany after World War II, John came to America with his family as a Displaced Person in 1951. His parents had been Polish slave laborers in Nazi Germany during the war. Growing up in the tough immigrant neighborhoods around Humboldt Park in Chicago, he met hardware store clerks with Auschwitz tattoos on their wrists, Polish cavalry officers who still mourned for their dead horses, and women who had walked from Siberia to Iran to escape the Russians. In much of his work, John remembers and honors the experiences and ultimate strength of these voiceless survivors.

**Tom Schalata** will be presenting his novels *The Trunk*, an historical fiction that chronicles an immigrant family's journey from Poland to Philadelphia in 1902, and *Kolęda: A Polish Christmas Carol*, focusing on how a small congregation's effort to keep their parish from closing in the village of Humniska, Poland. Tom is a 40-year newspaper veteran, who worked for many Pennsylvania papers: *The Guardian*, *Pottstown*; *The Daily Republican* /*The Phoenix*, *Phoenixville*; *The Daily Local News*, *West Chester*, and *The Tri-County Record*.

**Rebecca Thaddeus** will be presenting *Coming to Be*, is a self-discovery novel about Carly, a Polish-American woman whose parents own a Polish restaurant. As she faces the end of her marriage, she relies on the wisdom of her mother and the help of her two best friends to survive, thrive and succeed in ways she never could have imagined. Rebecca will also discuss her earlier novel, *One Amber Bead*, is a historical fiction about two cousins, one in the USA and one in Poland, during WWII. Rebecca taught English for 38 years (mostly at the university level) and during that time co-authored three textbooks and a number of journal articles. Now retired, Rebecca writes, edits and assists beginning writers, facilitating writers' retreats.

**David Trawinski** will be presenting his novel, *The Life of Marek Zaczek: Volume I - Under the Wings of Eagles*. It is the story of a peasant child born into a Duke's Galician estate during the times of the Partitions of Poland, the American Revolution and the French Revolution. The history of the Bar Confederation, Kazimierz Pulaski and Tadeusz Kościuszko will also be explored as this fictional story is told of a peasant boy's passage to adulthood in the ever-changing world surrounding him and his family. His previous works include the *Chopin Trilogy*. <https://DavidTrawinski.com>.







## A Prize-winning Musical Celebrates Ignacy Jan Paderewski



*3 Paderewskis*, a musical written by Jenni Bradon to libretto by Olivier Mayer, was recently honored The American Prize in Composition for 2018-19 in the music and performing arts division. The musical is a reflection about the great Pole's complicated life, narrated at his grave by three versions of his personality: "Ignacy the virtuoso pianist/ composer, Jan the politician/founder of the Polish nation, and Paderewski the éminence grise/ Paso Robles wine-maker." They recount the multiple lives that Paderewski lived and summon the ghost of Antonina, his beloved long-dead first wife, who portrays "the spirit of Poland itself." The lively music and well-crafted story has led to positive reception of the musical during its successive stagings: at USC Polish Music Center in Los Angeles (as part of the annual Paderewski Lecture-Recital), at a festival by Teatr Muzyczny of Gdynia, Poland; and at the Kennedy Center in New York (October-November 2019). This project has been commissioned by The Adam Mickiewicz Institute as part of the international cultural program POLSKA100 accompanying Poland's Centenary of regaining independence. It was co-financed by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland.



## 2019 Modjeska Prize for Agata Pilitowska & Maria Nowotarska



On January 31, 2020, the Helena Modjeska Art and Culture Club in Los Angeles presented its annual Helena Modjeska Prize to two eminent Polish Canadian actresses, Maria Nowotarska and Agata Pilitowska of the Polish Theater from Toronto. The mother-daughter team of actresses have performed for many Polish American communities and starred in many plays, focusing on great Polish émigré women, such as Pola Negri, Ordonka, Tamara Łempicka, and others. The award presentation took place after their performance of *Dobry wieczór, Monsieur Chopin*, a new play based on Chopin's letters, written and directed by Maria Nowotarska. Established in 2010, the Modjeska Prize honors distinguished Polish actors and actresses, and serves as a Lifetime Achievement Award in the field of acting. So far, awardees included Jan Nowicki, Anna Dymna, Barbara Krafftówna and, in 2018, Jadwiga Barańska. Ms. Nowotarska and Ms. Pilitowska are the first recipients who are émigrés and permanently live in Canada, while performing around the world.

MARIA NOWOTARSKA, from the time of her graduation at the Krakow Theater Academy, was an actress in the Słowacki Theater in Kraków. Her artistic achievements include a number of significant roles in dramatic and comedy repertoire. She cooperated with outstanding Polish directors - among others with E. Axer, K. Braun, K. Dejmek, B. Dąbrowski, B. Korzeniowski, R. Niewiarowicz, and R. Ziolo. Nowotarska also appeared in Polish films, including the roles of "Andrzejowa Korczyńska" in *Nad Niemnem*, "Tekla



Ostrowska" in *Between Lips and the Edge of the Chalice* (*Między Ustami and Brzegiem Pucharu*). In the Television Theater, she starred in many great performances, including *Barbarians*, *Świętoszek*, *Iwanów*, *Maple Brothers*, *A Forgotten Devil*, *Mary and Magdalene*, etc. Nowotarska moved to Canada in 1990. Due to her extensive experience, she became a co-creator of theatrical life in Toronto. She has been the creator, artistic director, screenwriter, director as well as actress in the theater known as Salon of Poetry, Music and Theater of the Polish Canadian Music Society. The repertoire of the Salon includes a whole array of the greatest Polish poets from Kochanowski to Szymborska and Twardowski. Together with Agata Pilitowska, Nowotarska has developed a series of plays about the Great Polish Emigrant Women written especially for actresses by Kazimierz Braun and directed by him as well: *Helena*, *A Thing about Modjeska*, *American Dreams*, *Tamara L.* about Tamara Łempicka, *Radiation* about Maria Skłodowska-Curie, *Stories of Pola Negri*, and *Mysteries of Ordonka*. These plays have been translated into seven languages and performed by Nowotarska and Pilitowska in many theaters around the world. At the same time, Maria Nowotarska has conducted teaching activities at the Acting School operating at the Salon, preparing youth of Polish descent for work as actors. She received awards from the Adam Mickiewicz Foundation and the Turzans Foundation. In 1995 she received the title "Woman of the Year" for her artistic activity, and in 2000 she was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. In 2004 she was awarded the title of "Meritorious for Polish Culture" by the Polish Ministry of Culture, and in 2006 she was honored with the Medal Gloria Artis. Other awards include the 2011 Golden Owl statuette for achievements in the field of theater (Vienna) and the 2011 Gold Medal of the American Institute of Polish Culture.



AGATA PILITOWSKA graduated from the National Academy of Theatre Arts in Kraków, Poland and came to Canada in 1986. She played many English-speaking roles in Toronto's theatres. From 1992 she is associated with the Salon of Poetry, Music, and Theatre, where she played in more than 100 productions, most notably in the series of dramas, written especially for Agata Pilitowska and Maria Nowotarska by Kazimierz Braun. These plays were performed not only in Toronto, but also in many cities in Canada, the United States, Europe, as well as in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Her evening of poetry, *Szymborska Nobel 96*, was performed in Polish and English at the Concordia University in Montreal, Georgetown University in Washington DC, and as part of the International Writers Festival in Ottawa. Since 1999 she was a presenter



and journalist of the TV OMNI, where she was the host of a weekly program *Z Ukosa*. For the OMNI TV she dubbed thirty three hourly TV programs *Canada, the Peoples' History*. Agata Pilitowska was given the title "Distinguished Advocate of Polish Culture," the medal "Gloria Artis," the statue "Golden Owl" for her achievements in acting and theatre in Vienna, the Polish Golden Cross of Merit, the statuette "Politka" for her role of Pola Negri, the "Golden Leafs Awards" for the roles of Pola Negri & Hanka Ordonówna. L-R: Seated: Agata Pilitowska, Maria Nowotarska. Standing: Board members of the Modjeska Club, Chris Justin, Dr. Elżbieta Trybuś, Dr. Maja Trochimczyk, Beata Czajkowska, Anna Sadowska, Elżbieta Przybyła, Ewa Barsam, and Vice Consul Pawel Lickiewicz.





**James S. Pula** presented a paper on “Roman Pucinski: Fourteen Years of Congressional Leadership” at a conference dedicated to Pucinski at Loyola University in Chicago in November and published the following articles: “‘Death is Not a Wedding’: The Cemetery as a Polish American Communal Experience,” in Allan Amanik and Kami Fletcher, eds., *Till Death Do Us Part: American Ethnic Cemeteries as Borders Uncrossed* (Jackson, MS: University of Mississippi Press, 2020), 35-83; “The ‘Fourth Partition’ and the Restoration of Polish Independence,” *Rocznik Przemyski*, 55:3 (2019), 9-29; and “When Policy Meets Politics: An Analysis of U.S. Immigration Issues, 1998-2018,” *Studia Migracyjne-Przegląd Polonijny*, No. 3/173 (2019), 93-118.

**Maja Trochimczyk** was elected President of the California State Poetry Society in October and will lead the organization to 2021. She edited the *California Quarterly* Vol. 45: 3 (Autumn 2019). Her book chapter on “Jewish Composers of Polish Music after 1939: A Story in Lists and Numbers” appeared in *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry Volume 32: Jews and Music-Making in the Polish Lands* (London, 2020), edited by François Guesnet, Benjamin Matis, and Antony Polonsky.



### The Polish Room at SUNY, Buffalo



The Polish Room, room 517 in the State University of New York at Buffalo’s Lockwood Library, is open by appointment to the general public as well as to the UB community. The collection includes over 12,000 volumes. Its website notes: “Its strengths are in literature and history, but the genealogical literature and the language sections are very strong for a collection of this size... In addition to the book collection, the Polish Room possesses a number of unique materials, which include; 21 manuscripts of the Polish kings from the 16th to 18th centuries; letters and other signed documents of important people of the 20th century, including writers such as: Stefan Żeromski, Maria Konopnicka, and Maria Dąbrowska. Other items include hundreds of video recordings, some Solidarność documents; 135 underground press books on microfiche, along other microfiche documents. <https://library.buffalo.edu/polish-room/>



### New Photographic Collection at the Polish Museum of America



The Polish Museum of America in Chicago, IL, is pleased to announce adding a photographic collection by Jerzy “George” Skwarek to its permanent collection. Mr. Skwarek grew up in German-occupied Poland and spent his youth in Soviet-occupied Poland after WWII. After emigrating to the U.S. and settling in Chicago in 1971, he became a photographer and journalist documenting Polish American life. Since moving to Chicago, Skwarek worked as an author and travel guide; he published Polish-language travel books on the National Parks, Florida and an “Around The World” guide. As photographer and journalist for the *Polish Daily News*, Skwarek was given an opportunity to document major events in cultural and social life of Polish Americans.



Pope John Paul II's Mass in Brighton Park 1979, Skwarek's photo (Polish Museum of America, Chicago, IL.)

## **† OBITUARY FOR DANIEL STEPHEN BUCZEK †**

**DANIEL STEPHEN BUCZEK**, American history educator died on January 12 2020 . Born on September 9, 1923 in Dunkirk, NY. He was with United States Army, 1943-1945, in the European Theatre of Operations. He was the Member of the Polish Heritage Society that he founded in 1966, also of the Kościuszko Foundation, the Medieval Academy American, the Catholic History Association, and the Polish American Historical Association. He held a Bachelor's degree from Canisius College, 1948; Master of Arts, Fordham University, 1950; Doctor of Philosophy, Fordham University, 1958. He worked as Instructor of history at Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey, 1950-1955. Then he moved on to become the Assistant professor at Fairfield University, 1955-1959, where he became an associate professor, 1959-1965, professor, 1965-1990, and professor emeritus, since 1990. He also served as visiting research professor at Warsaw University, on a Kosciusko Foundation grant, 1970-1971. He published a book on *Immigrant Pastor: The Life of the Right Reverend Monsignor Lucyan Bojnowski of New Britain, Connecticut*.

## **† OBITUARY FOR EDWARD G. PINKOWSKI †**

**EDWARD G. PINKOWSKI** (b. August 11, 1916 to Polish immigrant parents in Holyoke, MA), was a historian, author, and journalist who reached the age of 103 years old and died on January 12, 2020 at home in Florida. Among his lifetime achievements, he was responsible for the identification and establishment of the Thaddeus Kościuszko National Memorial under the auspices of the National Park Service in Philadelphia and the promotion of Casimir Pulaski commemorative ceremonies in Savannah, Georgia of Casimir Pulaski, Polish American hero of the American Revolution and founder of the United States Cavalry.

When Walter Pinkowski was 14 years old, the family moved to the hard coal fields of Pennsylvania, where his father and grandfather previously worked in coal mines of the Mount Carmel area. There, he started a writing career while still in high school. During World War II, he was a writer in the U.S. military and rose to the rank of Chief Specialist. In 1967, he received the Kościuszko Sesquicentennial Medal in Toronto from the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) for locating General Kościuszko's last residence in America, saving it for the purpose of creating a National Monument, and placing an historical marker at 3rd and Pine Streets in Philadelphia. In 1976 the house opened as the Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial, under the auspices of the National Park Service.

Mr. Pinkowski was a member of the Philadelphia Historical Commission from 1969 to 1985, and earlier was president, for four years, of the Spring Garden Civic Association in Philadelphia. He was the first lay chairman of the nominating committee and vice president of PAHA. He served as the chairman of the Ethnic Council and vice president of the Philadelphia 1976 Bicentennial Corporation. He was the oldest surviving male founder of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, an affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), and the person who created the name of that local organization. He served as a board member of the American Center of Polish Culture in Washington, DC. He erected a monument at the gravesite and a roadside marker in Douglassville, Pennsylvania to Anthony Sadowski, a Polish American frontiersman, 300 years after his birth.

In 1989, Mr. Pinkowski earned the Mieczysław Haiman Medal from PAHA "for outstanding Contribution in the field of Polish American studies." In 1997 the ACPC recognized his lifetime of contributions to research in Polish American history by awarding him the Distinguished Service Award. Over the years, he devoted countless hours to research on Kościuszko and Pulaski, not to mention hundreds of other figures. He is the author of several books and many articles.

In 2001, Edward Pinkowski was a recipient of the Cavalier's Cross of the Order of Merit (Krzyż Kawalerski Orderu Zasługi RP) awarded by President of Poland Aleksander Kwaśniewski. Among the awards in recognition for his work are: the Ellis Island Medal of Honor (2004), the Kościuszko Foundation Medal (2006), and the Pride of Polonia plaque (2009). He was presented with the Distinguished Service Award from the American Institute of Polish Culture in Pinellas County, Florida (2003). He received international recognition for his work at the Museum of Kazimierz Pułaski in Warka, Poland. To continue his lifelong commitment and dedication to the preservation of Polish heritage in America, Edward and his son, Jack Pinkowski, Ph.D., established the Poles in America Foundation, Inc., [www.poles.org](http://www.poles.org). It is a repository of his research and resource materials related to the Polish American experience and contributions to America.



# Poles in Illinois

John Radzilowski and  
Ann Hetzel Gunkel

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**John Radzilowski** is a professor of history at the University of Alaska and the author or coauthor of sixteen books, including *Poles in Minnesota* and *A Traveller's History of Poland*.

**Ann Hetzel Gunkel** is an award-winning associate professor of cultural studies and humanities at Columbia College Chicago and a former Fulbright Professor at the Jagiellonian University. Her essays have appeared in *Popular Music and Society* and *Polish American Studies*. She serves on the editorial boards of *Polish American Studies* and *Ad Americam: Journal of American Studies*.

## POLES IN ILLINOIS



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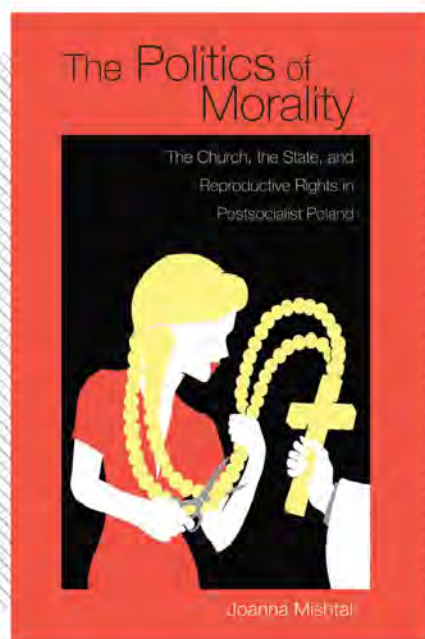
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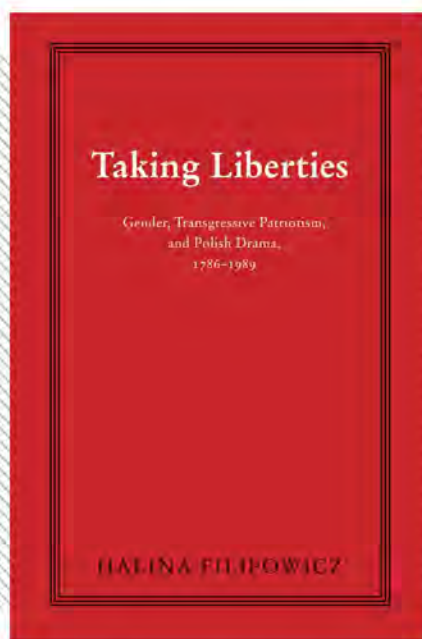
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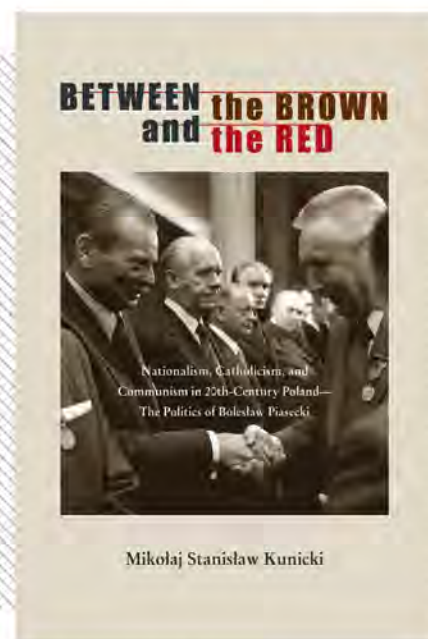


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