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

A Letter from the PAHA President Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz

Dear Readers,

Thank you for taking the time to catch up with PAHA. We are truly glad to have you as a member. Since the annual PAHA meeting January 2017 in Denver, the PAHA Board met again in June – this time in Poland (see the text about PAHA’s participation in the Sixth World Congress on Polish Studies in Kraków in this newsletter). Our association is currently mobilizing its resources and focusing its energy on preparations for a double anniversary.
The 2018 marks the centennial of Poland’s regaining independence after 123 years of partitions, as well as the 75th Anniversary of PAHA. The Board confirmed there that the official celebration of PAHA’s 75th Anniversary will be held on 7-9 September 2018 in Chicago at Loyola University. A special Committee was established within our Board to coordinate this effort. It is co-chaired by Bożena Nowicka-McLees and Dominic Pacyga. In addition to the planned event, James Pula has been working on a special anniversary publication on PAHA’s history and achievements. We will let you know once it is available in print.

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

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

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

Thank You!

Anna Mazurkiewicz
President of the Polish American Historical Association

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

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

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

**Sessions with Participation of PAHA Members:**

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

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


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


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

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

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

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

► **Editor:** Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, Eastern Connecticut State University, [anna.k@polishamericanstudies.org](mailto:anna.k@polishamericanstudies.org)
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M. B. Biskupski, Central Connecticut State University; Tobias Brinkmann, Pennsylvania State University; John J. Bukowczyk, Wayne State University; Silvia Dapia, John Jay College, CUNY; William J. Galush, Loyola University Chicago; Ann Hetzel Gunkel, Columbia College Chicago; Grażyna Kozaczka, Cazenovia College; Karen Majewski, University of Michigan; Anna Mazurkiewicz, University of Gdańsk; Thomas J. Napierkowski, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs; Neal Pease, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee; Angela Pienkos, Polish Center Wisconsin; James S. Pula, Purdue University; John Radzilowski, University of Alaska – Southeast; Francis D. Raska, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic; Suzanne R. Sinke, Florida State University; Dariusz Stola, Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw, Poland; and Adam Walaszek, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland.

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

*Polish American Studies*, Vol. 72, no 1 (Spring 2015)
- Troubles with “Mela”: A Polish American Reporter, the Secret Services of People’s Poland, and the FBI, by Paweł Ziętara
- Cold War Airwaves: The Polish American Congress and the Justice for Poland Campaign, by Robert Szymczak
- Leaving Kożuchów, a Village in Dobrzechów Parish, Galicia, by Patricia B. Yocum
- The Khaki Boys Series: Images of Polish Americans, 1918-1920, by Thomas J. Napierkowski

*Polish American Studies*, Vol. 72, no. 2 (Fall 2015)
- The Polish Political System in Exile, by Sławomir Łukasiewicz
- Exiles and the Homeland: The State of Research, by Paweł Ziętara
- Polish Political Emigration in the 1980s: Current Research, Perspectives and Challenges, by Patryk Pleskot
- Political Emigration from East Central Europe During the Cold War, by Anna Mazurkiewicz
- Perspectives on Research on the Post-1939 History of Polish Americans, by Joanna Wojdon
**Polish American Studies** Vol. 73, no. 1 (Spring 2016):
- Forum: Bringing the Notion of “Ethclass” to Life: Victor Greene’s Contributions to the History of American Industrial Workers, by Ewa Morawska
- Victor Greene, the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, and Urban Studies, by Ronald Bayor
- Victor Greene: Colleague, Friend, and Mensch, by Dominic A. Pacyga
- Victor Greene, the Polish Immigrant Miner, and the Origins of the New Labor History, by James R. Barrett
- Remembering Victor Greene, by James S. Pula
- Victor Greene as Immigration Historian: Themes and Contexts, by Dorothee Schneider
- Were There Really Poles in New-Netherland? by James S. Pula and Pien Versteegh
- Crossing the Boundaries of Modernity: The Post-Abolition Journey of Polish Peasants to the United States, by Marta Cieślak
- Nationally and Religiously: Commemorations in the Life of the Polish Diaspora in Sweden, 1945-1989, by Arnold Klónczyński

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

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

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

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

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

~Dr. Michalina Petelska, University of Gdańsk, Poland

Caption for Photos on p. 7: Left: Exhibition hall at the Museum in Emigration, Gdynia; Poland. Right: Exhibition Organizers and Guests: Jerzy Barycki, Canadian Polish Congress, three volunteers; Władysław Lizoń, President of Canadian Polish Congress; prof. dr hab. Anna Reczyńska, UJ; His Excellency Stephen de Boer, Ambassador of Canada; Anita Wasik, designer; Marek Stepas, deputy mayor of Gdynia; Dorota Terlecka, graphic designer, and Sebastian Tyrawkowsi, deputy director of the Emigration Museum in Gdynia.
The Piłsudski Institute of America Presents its 2017 Awards

The Piłsudski Institute of America is a major Polish-American research and educational institution, known for its vast and unique special collections, educational efforts, public lectures, events, as well as its Annual Awards. For 2017, four medals have been awarded by the Institute:

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

The Award ceremony, held in the spring 2017 included a concert by Leszek Długosz and a photo exhibition by Janusz Skowron, showing the most important events at the Pilsudski Institute. The Institute continues its efforts to convert paper archives into digital format to meet two basic goals of the archives, security and access. Documents, particularly 19th and 20th century documents on acid paper, cannot withstand touching and turning by many users. So far, the digitized resources include over 180,000 pages viewed by over 30,000 researchers per year. The newest additions to the Digital Institute archives are documents “Adjudancy-Commander in Chief” from the period of the Paris Conference and the Treaty of Versailles in 1918. The Institute also created an online exhibit about Ignacy Paderewski, wystawy.pilsudski.org, featuring many unique photographs and documents. Other new digitization projects consist of documents from the Second Polish Republic, documents from the Silesian Uprisings, and photographs from World War II. These projects are carried out by volunteers, members of the Board and staff, and sponsored by a number of supporters, both private and institutional.
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ABOUT PAHA
The Polish American Historical Association is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, interdisciplinary organization devoted to the study of Polish American history and culture, and its European origins. Founded in 1942 as part of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America, PAHA became an autonomous scholarly society in 1948. As an affiliate of the American Historical Association, PAHA promotes research and dissemination of scholarly materials focused on Polish American history and culture, as part of the greater Polish diaspora. PAHA publishes a newsletter and a biannual scholarly peer-reviewed journal, Polish American Studies (published by the University of Illinois Press, with past issues on JSTOR, www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/pas/isubscribe.php). 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.
Lecture on Jefferson, Kościuszko and Hull in Philadelphia

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

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

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

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

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

More information: www.piotrflorczyk.com/east-west
POETRY CORNER: PIOTR FLORCZYK

OMAHA BEACH

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

THE KITCHENWARE

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

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

Stir-frying noodles in a wok is easier than it looks. The peeler loves the grater the way the heirloom tea cup loves the saucer.

The carafe of icy water is a beauty. From the center of the table, it reflects sunlight onto the plates and mugs of mortals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

John Guzlowski Wins Franklin Prize and Montaigne Medal

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

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

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

Music by Henry Vars at the Holocaust Museum in Los Angeles

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

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

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

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

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


My Sister’s Mother by Urbikas Collects Awards

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

Summary: Donna Urbikas’ half-sister Mira was five when she and her mother Janina were taken from their small family farm in eastern Poland and shipped to a hard-labor camp in Siberia amid the turmoil of World War II. That shared experience of war and exile created a bond between mother and daughter—an exceptionally close relationship that Donna, born years after the war and raised in the Midwest, would struggle to achieve with either of them. For more information, see www.danutaurbikas.com
Piotr S. Wandycz died peacefully at the Connecticut Hospice on Saturday morning, July 28, 2017. Born in Kraków in 1923 during the Second Polish Republic and raised in Lwówo, Piotr S. Wandycz left the country during World War II in 1939. He and his family crossed into Romania, and in 1940 went to France. Graduating from the Polish Lycee in Villard de Lans, he studied at the University of Grenoble. In late 1942 he reached the United Kingdom where he served in the Polish army until 1945 as a second lieutenant. After the war he studied at the University of Cambridge (B.A. and M.A.) and the London School of Economics (Ph.D. 1951). Later he moved to the United States, where he taught at Indiana University before coming to Yale University in 1966 as an associate professor. He was promoted to a full professorship in 1968 and was named Bradford Durfee Professor in 1989. At Yale, he has served as director of graduate studies in Russian and East European studies and in history, chair of the Council on Russian and East European Studies, and director of the Language and Area Center. He is the author of 18 books and over 500 articles and book reviews. Piotr S. Wandycz was a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America, the Polish Academy of Learning, and was an honorary member of the Polish Historical Association. His many other honors include the Commander’s Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta and honorary doctorate degrees from the University of Wroclaw, the Sorbonne, the Jagiellonian University, and the Catholic University of Lublin. He is survived by his wife, Teresa, his three children, Kasia, Joanna and Antoni and his grandchildren, Alexander and Leticia.

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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


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

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