

# G a z e t a

Newsletter of the American Association for Polish-Jewish Studies  
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Fay and Julian Bussgang, Editors

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## AAPJS Anniversary Dinner to be held Monday, June 14, 2001

The American Association for Polish-Jewish Studies will celebrate its Fifteenth Anniversary with a festive reception and dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club on Monday June 14, 2001 at 6:30 PM.

Two distinguished guests will lead the celebration:

**Professor Richard Pipes** will speak about his recollections of prewar Poland, his home until October 1939. Leaving Warsaw with his parents after the country had already been occupied by the Germans, he traveled through Germany, Italy, and Spain before reaching the United States in July 1940.

Prof. Pipes is Research Professor of History and former director of the Russian Research Center at Harvard University. A member of the faculty since 1950, he has been the recipient of two Guggenheim fellowships.

Pipes has also had an extensive career in government, including service as Director of East European and Soviet Affairs in the National Security Council (1981-82). He is the author of numerous books on Russian and Soviet history. Serving as vice president of AAPJS, he is married to Irene Pipes, our president.

**Roman Totenberg**, virtuoso violinist emeritus of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, will perform for us.

Roman Totenberg was born in Poland ninety years ago. His family moved to Moscow, where his father, an architect designed bridges. Totenberg started playing the violin at the age of six; a year later his family returned to Warsaw. He made his debut at the age of eleven as soloist with the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, and his career quickly blossomed. He moved to Berlin, where he began performing with world-famous orchestras, and then to Paris, in 1933, and the United States, in 1938.

Totenberg collaborated with pianist and composer Karol Szymanowski and toured with Arthur Rubinstein. He introduced Penderecki's *Capriccio* in the U.S.

Totenberg, who continues teaching at Boston University, where he has been for four decades, has received many awards and made hundreds of recordings.

For reservations and further information, please contact Lilka Elbaum at 617-247-7419 or <lilbaum@igiture.net>. Please send your check for \$90 per person promptly to AAPJS, 1583 Mass. Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138.

## Index to POLIN Volumes 1-12

We are pleased to report that the Index to Volumes 1-12 of *POLIN* has been published and is available for purchase. This volume presents the table of contents of each of the first twelve volumes of *POLIN* as well as a chronological table of contents referring the reader to articles covering events during specific years. Obituaries that were published in the first twelve volumes completes this section.

To order a copy of the Index to Volumes 1-12, please write to AAPJS, 1583 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138, enclosing a check or money order made out to AAPJS for \$25 plus \$3 for U.S. postage and handling or \$5 for foreign mailing.

## Tenth Anniversary of Kosiński's Death

The Center for Jewish Culture in Krakow, 17 Meiselsa Street, organized a program commemorating the tenth anniversary of the death of author Jerzy Kosiński. The program includes a photographic exhibition, "The Painted Bird," by Erwin Schenkelbach of Israel, which opened on May 14; a film showing by Franciszek Pawłowski dedicated to Kosiński, on May 21; and a lecture by Jerzy Jarniewicz, translator and critic, editor of the monthly, *Literatura na Świecie*, on May 28.

Kosiński was a founder of the predecessor of AAPJS.

## New Consul General in New York

In April 2001 Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska became Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York.

Dr. Magdziak-Miszewska, born in 1957, studied at the University of Warsaw and later at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. She worked for the liberal Catholic monthly *Więź* until 1991 when she was named counselor at the Polish Embassy in Moscow. In 1995 she returned from Moscow to *Więź* as Associate Editor.

Dr. Magdziak-Miszewska joined the Center for International Relations of the Institute of Public Affairs in Warsaw and became director of the Russian Program at the Institute of Eastern Studies located in Warsaw. In 1996 she visited the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute at the invitation of the Ukrainian Center's director (and AAPJS Board member), Professor Roman Szporluk.

In 1997 Magdziak-Miszewska became foreign affairs advisor to Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek, and in July 1998 she was one of the originators of a project to open a radio station broadcasting from Poland to Belarus as a response to the Belarus government's restrictive monopoly of radio and television stations there. She helped secure U.S. funding for the project.

In 1998 Dr. Magdziak-Miszewska was appointed Special Adviser to the prime minister on Jewish issues. In this capacity, she participated in the Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets. When Poland was dealing with the removal of the illegally planted crosses at Auschwitz, she was quite outspoken in insisting that the issue needed to be resolved. In June 2000 Prime Minister Buzek named her to the International Auschwitz Council.

Dr. Magdziak-Miszewska contributed a short article "A Most Serious Examination" (*Najpoważniejszy egzamin*), *Więź* of April 2001. She refers to the enormous shock in Poland following the appearance of the book *Neighbors (Sąsiedzi)* by Jan Gross detailing the 1941 massacre of Jews in Jedwabne. She does not accept the argument that guilt should be attributed to the entire Polish nation, but reminds us that while great nations take pride in their history, they also acknowledge that which is ugly. She believes that the examination that Poland is undergoing will determine whether it is indeed a great nation.

### **Gazeta, Newsletter of AAPJS**

*Gazeta*, the newsletter of the Association, reports on coming events and activities of the Association, as well as news items relating to current Jewish life in Poland. We give priority to news items unlikely to appear in US press.

## Letter from the President

*Dear Members and Friends:*

*Never since 1939 when my family and I left Poland, or I should say escaped from our home in Warsaw just before the Germans invaded, have I spent so much time in that country as I have in the last twelve months. I have mentioned my visits in my previous letters and concentrated mainly on my meetings with people active in Jewish life there and on their activities.*

*This last trip a few weeks ago was quite different, not just because we spent most of the time in Toruń, a small town north of Warsaw with a long history of invasions and destruction. Toruń is a rather attractive town, with its old market square, a small edition of the beautiful one in Krakow, and old narrow streets and houses that are being brought into shape. My husband was invited there to give a series of lectures in Polish, and there was a lot of interest among the students and faculty of Copernicus University.*

*I managed to be in Warsaw in time for the celebration of Israeli independence on April, given by the Israeli Ambassador to Poland, Szevach Weiss. It was a grand and festive occasion, but all around the large ballroom one could hear conversations and debates about Jedwabne. It is a subject which many there do not want to discuss. Nonetheless, I found that among the influential people, such as Foreign Minister Władysław Bartoszewski, it is met with an open mind and feeling that the truth has to be told if Poland is to be a truly Western and democratic nation. The National Polish American–Jewish American Council, to which our Association is affiliated, is organizing a trip to Poland that will participate in the important ceremonies of the unveiling of the new monument in Jedwabne on July 10, 2001.*

*We look forward to the celebration of the Fifteenth Anniversary of our Association in the Boston area and of my presidency. We hope that many of you will join us on June 14 (details on another page). If the price seems high, I can only add that we are doing it at cost and only wish it could be less expensive.*

*Volume XIV of POLIN will be ready in the fall. It will examine the situation of Jews in the borderland of the former Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth.*

*We are planning an interesting program for all next fall. We hope you will join us.*

*Irene E. Pipes*

**PLEASE RENEW YOUR AAPJS MEMBERSHIP**

## Jedwabne Continues in the News

On May 4, *Rzeczpospolita*, a major Warsaw newspaper, carried an interview with Professor Leon Kieres, Chairman of the Institute of National Memory in Poland (Instytut Pamięci Narodowej). Prof. Kieres affirmed that the murder of the Jews of Jedwabne was committed by their Catholic neighbors.

Kieres said it is important that the people of Poland recognize and acknowledge this tragic fact. Nonetheless, the Institute will continue its research so as to try to understand and fully document the events that took place.

President Aleksander Kwaśniewski announced that on behalf of the Polish people he will issue an apology on July 10, the sixtieth anniversary of the Jedwabne massacre. Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek has stated that while Poland must recognize the guilt of those who took part in the killings, today's residents of Jedwabne should not be blamed for what happened sixty years ago.

Foreign Minister Władysław Bartoszewicz, recognized as a Righteous Gentile by Yad Vashem for his underground assistance to Jews during the war, spoke about Jedwabne when he visited the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. He declared that the truth can come out only under conditions of freedom and democracy. The truth could not be discussed under the conditions of a totalitarian system, but it can be discussed now. He likened the current debate over Jedwabne in Poland to U.S. deliberations over crimes committed by American soldiers against the citizens of Vietnam.

According to *Rzeczpospolita*, the current mayor of Jedwabne, Krzysztof Godlewski, acknowledged to the reporter

### Radziłów Preceded Jedwabne

There are now new reports that the incident in Jedwabne was not a totally isolated one. On 7 July 1941, three days before the massacre in Jedwabne, a similar incident occurred in a neighboring town, Radziłów, approximately ten miles from Jedwabne.

Paweł Machcewicz, an official with the Polish National Institute of Memory, wrote in *Gazeta Wyborcza* that according to testimonies Poles began assaulting Jews as soon as the Russians left Radziłów in 1941.

Machcewicz stated that even though the Germans may have instigated the killing of several hundred Jews in Radziłów, that Poles were the perpetrators of the burnings of the rounded-up Jews both in Jedwabne and Radziłów.

The Institute is also investigating murders that were committed elsewhere in the Łomża district.

that the existing monument attributing the murder of Jedwabne Jews solely to the Germans was a falsification of history. The mayor said that a new plaque must state that the actual murderers were Poles.

Cardinal Joseph Glemp, primate of Poland, in his March talk on the diocese radio program, declared that unlike politicians, the Church should not engage in repentance without remembering those who saved Jews. He went on to say that it is, however, by all means "desirable that we as the Church should apologize to God for any sins against the truth revealed in the Bible." He added that we should also thank "the Righteous Ones" of both nations who made sacrifices.

Stanisław Stefanek, Bishop of Łomża, the district which includes Jedwabne, gave a sermon in Jedwabne on 12 March saying that blaming the massacre on the town is a provocation by outsiders.

Rev. Adam Schulz, spokesman for the bishops' conference in Poland, however, announced at the beginning of May that Polish bishops will apologize on 27 May both to God and to the people who suffered (meaning Jews) for what happened in Jedwabne.

Under Communism, Polish people saw themselves as victims of the Nazi invasion in conjunction with Jews. The notion of any culpability by Polish people for the annihilation of Jews was a total shock to the modern Polish public. The spotlight on the historical facts about what happened in Jedwabne brings a revelation that many Polish people find difficult to absorb.

### Begin's Birthplace

The late Menachem Begin, former prime minister of Israel was born in Brześć Litewski, Poland, now Brisk, Belarus. Begin survived because he was deported by the Soviets to Siberia and was later able to leave the Soviet Union with the army of General Anders. He chose to leave the Anders Army and remain in Palestine, joining Irgun Zvei Leumi, the secret fighting organization of the Jewish anti-British underground.

*World Jewry*, the publication of the World Jewish Congress, reports that the municipal council of Brisk has agreed to transfer all the documents relating to Begin and his family to the Menachem Begin Heritage Center in Jerusalem. The city will also initiate projects commemorating Begin in Brisk and organize seminars about the town's Jewish past.

## Recalling the Pogrom in Przytyk

Archival documents on the Przytyk "incidents" of 7 March 1936 were published in *POLIN* Volume 5 (p. 327) by Dr. Penkalla, specialist in social history of Jews in the Radom Gubernia in the nineteenth century.

The pogrom was preceded by several months of a nasty campaign by the followers of the National Democratic Party, the so-called *Endeks*, attacking Jews and peasants trading with Jews. In the end, Jews started throwing stones and even used firearms against their attackers. Police were not successful in separating the parties and containing the fighting, and some forty Jews, many of them women and children, were beaten up.

In the trial that followed, Jews who had defended themselves were given harsher sentences than their attackers, which caused the Bund to call a very successful, nationwide half-day strike (see *POLIN* 8, p. 211).

Attorneys from Warsaw Ludwik Fenigstein and Szumański traveled to Przytyk in June 1936 to examine the situation and help defend the accused Jews. Dr. Richard Fenigsen, Ludwik's son, who traveled with his father to Przytyk as a young boy, remembers the trial. Dr. Fenigsen, member of the AAPJS, provided editorial comments when Vol. 5 was published.

Piotr Gontarczyk, recently published a book in Poland, which presents the 1936 events in Przytyk as a clash between two armed sides and not as a pogrom against Jews. On March 9, the 65th anniversary of the events, *Gazeta Wyborcza* in Warsaw ran a review by Mrs. Jolanta Żyndul, of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, critical of Gontarczyk's presentation.

In a letter to the editor of *Gazeta Wyborcza*, Dr. Richard Fenigsen supported Żyndul's criticism of Gontarczyk's book. He also shared his comments with us. He declared categorically that Jews did not provoke the fighting. They were outnumbered and fought and fired guns only because they were being attacked.

## Roman Polański in Warsaw

As mentioned in the last issue of *Gazeta*, Director Roman Polański is making a movie based on the autobiographical book of the late Władysław Szpilman, *Pianist*. This book describes Szpilman's experiences in the Warsaw Ghetto during the war, displaying not just the misery seen there but also the courage and hope.

Polański is now in Poland shooting the Warsaw street scenes. This is his first production in Poland since his famous *Knife in the Water*.

## Board Member Profile: Bill Frusztajer

AAPJS board member Boruch "Bill" Frusztajer was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1930. The primary school he attended had a dual curriculum. One part consisted of the subjects taught in conventional Polish schools, the other included the study of Hebrew and Jewish scriptures.

On 6 September, six days after the outbreak of the Second World War, Bill's family left Warsaw to escape the Nazis and traveled to Eastern Poland. A few days later the region was occupied by the Soviets, who labeled Bill's parents as "Socially Dangerous Elements" and deported the family to the Irkutsk Region in Eastern Siberia. Bill's mother died under the harsh conditions there. He and his father were saved essentially by the German invasion of Russia in 1941. Almost overnight Germany's attack changed the status of Polish deportees such as Bill's group from that of enemy aliens to allied nationals. They were moved from KGB-operated settlements to Russian villages. Though put to work in gold mines at the age of twelve, Bill was able to attend Russian schools where he received a respectable secondary education.

In 1946 Bill and his father were allowed to return to Poland, and a year later, despite the Iron Curtain, Bill managed to emigrate to England. In 1952 he graduated from the University of London with a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering. After a brief training period, Bill directed a team that developed and later manufactured the first transistors in England.

In 1956 Bill was recruited as a development engineer by a Boston based company and emigrated to the U.S. Since 1959 he has started several high-tech companies manufacturing specialized materials and electronics for both aerospace applications and commercial use.

Bill has served on several boards of directors of public and private companies and also on boards of trustees of nonprofit organizations. He has given a number of talks at Harvard Business School and University of Stockholm and has participated as a panelist at Northeastern University Entrepreneurship Seminars.

Bill joined the board of AAPJS because of his belief in its cause of documenting Polish-Jewish history. He helped with the arrangements and served as the treasurer for two international AAPJS conferences.

Bill and his Brazilian-born Russian wife, Olga, have two daughters, one son, and two grandchildren.

Order your copy now of the <b>Index to <i>POLIN</i> Volumes 1-12</b> (See page 1)
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## **Jerzy Zachariasz, 1923-2001**

Jerzy Zachariasz of Boston, a member of the AAPJS, passed away in Sarasota, Florida, on 5 February 2001. Zachariasz, born in Łódź, found himself in the Łódź Ghetto, after the Germans occupied Poland, and became active in the resistance there. When the ghetto was liquidated in 1944, he was taken to Auschwitz and later Dernau. After liberation, he returned to Łódź.

Zachariasz was later sent to study at the Moscow Institute of Economics. After his studies, he worked for the Polish Central Planning Commission and became Head of the Department of Cost and Pricing Policy. In this position, he published several significant economic policy and pricing-strategy papers that attracted international attention.

In 1968 when the anti-Semitic policy of the Communist government swept Poland, Zachariasz, like so many other Jews, was fired. He and his immediate family decided to leave Poland. Upon arrival in the United States, he first taught at universities in New Jersey and then worked at Chase Manhattan Bank, where he was advisor to several large corporations. He later joined the New Jersey State Office of Economic Policy, from which he retired in 1990. In recent years he lived in Boston.

Zachariasz leaves his widow, Nina, whom he met in the Łódź Ghetto, and their daughter, Gail. Gail has set up a lovely web page commemorating the life of her father at: <http://users.rcn.com/gail-zacharia/jerzy/>.

### **Kosher for Passover**

Kosher-for-Passover food arrived in Poland just in time for the Passover holiday, reported Ruth E. Gruber in April for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The shipment, arranged by the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, was delayed in the port of Rotterdam due to the danger of foot-and-mouth disease in Europe.

Fearing further delays at the Polish border, because of a quarantine on food from outside, Jonah Bookstein, the Warsaw office director of the Lauder Foundation, sought help from the office of President Aleksander Kwaśniewski.

Kwaśniewski's office quickly contacted the head of Polish customs. The container with Passover food for the Polish-Jewish community was cleared immediately, and the matzahs, gefilte fish, and other traditional provisions arrived in Warsaw in time for the Passover seder.

## **Museum of the History of Polish Jews: Progress Report**

President Aleksander Kwaśniewski was recently briefed on the progress of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews Director Jerzy Halbersztadt and Prof. Feliks Tych, Director of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. The president was accompanied by Ministers Barbara Jabłońska and Mark Siwiec. Kwaśniewski, who assumed patronage over the formation of the museum, said he was "full of admiration for the team's appropriately modern approach to the challenge that it faces, above all for their substantial and educational vision of the History of Polish Jews."

The architect of the project is Frank Gehry of the U.S. Members of the international council of the museum who gathered recently in Warsaw included: Prof. Władysław Bartoszewski, Marian Turski, Andrzej Celiński, Michał Friedman, Naftali Lavi, Kalman Sultanik, Marcin Ąwięcicki, and Feliks Tych.

The project has received support from the Polish-German Cooperation Foundation, other funds must to be collected, both in Poland and abroad.

The Foundation of the Jewish Community in New York is planning a special Grant Assistance Program to help finance architectural design and construction costs.

The address of the Warsaw Office of the Museum is: ul. Jelinka 48, 01-446 Warsaw, tel. (48 22) 833-0021, or e-mail: <museum@jewishmuseum.org.pl>.20

### **Years of Solidarność - Exhibit & Panel**

June 11-22 the Polish American Congress of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc. in conjunction with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland is sponsoring a Photographic Exhibition of 20 Years of Solidarność by the Polish Information Agency (Polska Agencja Informacyjna).

On June 11 at 2:00 p.m. a special exhibition-opening panel will include Poland's Foreign Minister Władysław Bartoszewski, former US National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzeziński, former Director of Radio Free Europe Jan Nowak-Jeziorański, and Poland's Ambassador to the United States, Przemysław Grudziński, and others. The panel will take place at Northeastern University in Boston, the Eugene Blackman Auditorium in the Carl S. Ell Hall, Northeastern University. The event will be followed at 4:00 p.m. by a Reception for the general public in the Ballroom of the Curry Student Center. The "Solidarity" Photographic Exhibit will be formally opened at 4:45 p.m. The exhibit will end June 22.

## Gallery Director Resigns

Anda Rottenberg, noted art historian and critic who had rendered distinguished service since 1993 as director of the Zachęta National Gallery in Warsaw, recently resigned. Her resignation was directly related to the fact that a member of the Polish Parliament, Witold Tomczak, wrote to the Minister of Culture that it was inappropriate for a civil servant of Jewish descent to head a Polish national history and art gallery. Tomczak, who declared that Rottenberg should work for Israel instead, collected signatures from ninety other members of the Polish Parliament asking for her resignation.

In an interview by Dorota Szwarzman presented in the March issue of *Midrasz*, Anda Rottenberg commented that although her father was Jewish, her mother was not, and her focus was on art, not religion.

Much of the motivation to dismiss her seems to stem from the disapproval of Tomczak and others of two recent modern art exhibits at Zachęta. In November 2000 controversy developed over an exhibit by Piotr Uklański of photographs showing well-known film actors wearing Nazi uniforms. One of the actors so portrayed objected so strongly that he entered the gallery and slashed his photograph with a sword. After the incident, the Minister of Culture ordered the exhibit closed.

Further controversy erupted in March when an exhibit marking the 100th anniversary of the gallery included a sculpture by the Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan depicting John Paul II crushed by a meteorite. This sculpture had been part of an exhibit of modern art called "Apocalypse: Beauty and Horror of Contemporary Art" displayed at the Royal Academy in London. Tomczak and a colleague entered the gallery, removed the meteorite, and then claimed parliamentary immunity against prosecution.

Rottenberg had accomplished much for Zachęta during her term there. In 1998 she suggested an ambitious plan for rebuilding the inadequate and crowded, post-war building of the Zachęta Museum by replacing it with a magnificent new museum building. The new building was to be designed by the noted architect Frank Gehry.

Rottenberg's idea was to create a major art facility in Warsaw that could attract tourists just as the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre do in Paris. Some of the art was to be on loan as traveling exhibits from other great museums. The plan was actually well received, and Rottenberg received much credit for her bold thinking.

Many people consider her departure a serious loss for Polish art.

## Crisis Management Editorial Comment

Imagine that an automobile company discovers that its cars, due to instability, have overturned on a number of occasions and that the occupants have been killed. How would they react? Would the company deny that it had happened? Would they say that the victims were at fault? Would they claim that it was a plot by the victims' families to defame their company in order to get compensation? Would they assert that because the tragedies happened under a previous management team that they are not responsible?

If they truly want to diffuse the situation and restore faith in their company, they would do none of these things. They would be more likely to go before the public, as soon as possible, and announce the company's profound regrets, apologize for the mishaps, and express sympathy to the families of the victims. They would assure the public that the company was investigating the matter and taking immediate measures to insure that such tragedies would not happen again. They would also say that although the mistakes occurred on the previous management's watch, the current leaders, caring for the good name of the company, accept responsibility and will make amends.

With regard to Jedwabne, President Kwaśniewski, Prime Minister Buzek, Władysław Bartoszewski, and a few others have followed the type of advice a crisis manager might recommend. They were quick to express their regrets when the Jedwabne situation came to light.

But what about other politicians and clergy? Some say it didn't happen at all or that it is old news and is being brought to light now only to defame Poland and get restitution. Others claim that it was provoked and forced onto the Poles by the Germans. Some are claiming that since it did not happen on their watch, they are not responsible. But in industry one learns that if the good name of the company is in question, it does not matter whether a different management team was in charge.

It hardly helps the situation to attack the bearer of bad news for bringing the situation to light. Rather, Jan Gross and Agnieszka Arnold should be thanked for drawing the attention of the new management team to the fact that there is a problem that needs fixing.

In the words of Minister Bartoszewicz, Poland can benefit if it emphasizes the fact that it has learned from the tragic situation and institutes proper educational programs to prevent such events from ever happening again.

## Prof. Paczkowski at Brandeis

by Gwido Zlatkes

Andrzej Paczkowski, a prominent Polish historian, lectured at Brandeis on "Nazism and Stalinism in Polish Memory" on 22 March. Professor Paczkowski is Deputy Head of the Institute for Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, council member of the Institute of National Memory, co-author of *The Black Book of Communism*, and author of *Pół wieku dziejów Polski, 1939-89* (Half a Century of Polish History).

During the fifty years of Communist rule, according to Paczkowski, propaganda enforced a uniformly black-and-white picture of the German occupation, while the fact that there was later a Soviet occupation was completely obliterated. Polish society responded to this by mythologizing the suppressed issues. The darker side of the past was largely pushed out of the picture. There is an understandable reluctance to dig into such issues as the Polish agents of the Gestapo, wartime banditry, etc.

In the postwar years various attitudes towards communist authorities ranged from total rejection to affirmation but with grades of adaptation-acceptance dominating in the society. This makes the question of accountability for Polish communism particularly difficult, because if everyone was involved, ultimately, nobody was responsible. The Jedwabne discussion now forces Poles to confront the complexity of their history.

Though the Paczkowski lecture only touched in passing on the issue of Polish-Jewish relations, it provided valuable insights into its broader context.

## Selling the Holocaust

by Gwido Zlatkes

On March 28, Professor Timothy Cole of the University of Bristol (England), the author of *Selling the Holocaust from Auschwitz to Schindler: How History is Bought, Packaged and Sold*, spoke at Brandeis University about the co-existing and clashing layers of memory involved in injecting messages into Holocaust narratives.

In the case of Auschwitz, three different visions of the camp competed with each other—communist, Jewish, and Catholic. Even Holocaust memorial institutions in different countries convey different messages. The Holocaust Museum in Washington is organized around the message of how “un-American” (contrary to American values) the Holocaust was. Yad Vashem in Jerusalem emphasizes the importance of Israeli independence vis-à-vis the Holocaust. The Auschwitz Museum in Poland stresses Polish suffering during the occupation.

In plays and movies for the general public, Anne Frank and those saved by Oskar Schindler have been de-Judaized and sanitized to deliver a liberal and humanistic redemptive tale.

“Packaging” history includes a paradoxical situation for a Holocaust historian. Even Cole's own book, *Images of the Holocaust*, was renamed *Selling the Holocaust* by its American publisher so as to enhance its marketability.

Responding to questions, Prof. Cole said that the wave of Holocaust memorialization is probably passed its peak and that he expects public interest to gradually decrease and be redirected toward other contemporary atrocities.

### To: American Association for Polish-Jewish Studies

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*Gazeta*, Newsletter of AAPJS

The American Association for Polish-Jewish Studies is dedicated to the study and documentation of the history of Polish Jews. Our main publication, an annual journal, *POLIN*, publishes scholarly papers on the subject.

*Gazeta*, now in its tenth year of existence, is the newsletter of the Association and reports coming events and activities of the Association, as well as news items relating to current Jewish life in Poland. We give priority to news items unlikely to appear in local press.

We invite you to join our Association, volunteer to assist us in organizing future events, and submit news items for publication. Please fill out, cut out, and mail to us the subscription form on page 9 with your donation.