

Gazeta

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

Pioneering Women's Magazine *EWA* Talk by Eva Plach

On April 13, Dr. Eva Plach, Assistant Professor at Wilfred Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, was the AAPJS guest speaker in Cambridge, MA. Her topic was, "EVA: A Jewish Women's Magazine in Interwar Poland."

The magazine *Ewa*, which was published in Poland for just five years, 1928—33, was designed specifically to appeal to Polish-Jewish women. The magazine began as a weekly supplement to *Nasz Przegląd* (Our Review), a Jewish newspaper published in Warsaw by Jakub Apenszlak. His wife, Halina, became the editor of *Ewa*.

Articles in *Ewa* dealt with many modern controversial issues, such as women's rights, reproduction, abortion, discrimination, mores, and the role of women in society. Although women had gained suffrage rights in Poland in 1918, they were not yet members of the *Kahal* (Jewish council), so suffrage was also a current topic.

Dr. Plach received her doctorate from University of Toronto. Her fields of interest include history of modern east and west Europe and Poland, particularly, Polish-Jewish women's history. She won the Hadassah International Research Institute on Jewish Women Award for her thesis on *Ewa*. As the recipient of a Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council post-doctoral fellowship, she studied at Brandeis University in the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies.

Deadline for Holocaust Insurance Claims

The International Commission of Holocaust-Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) has extended the deadline for the filing of claims relating to Holocaust-era unpaid life insurance to September 30, 2003. The telephone number for inquiries in the U.S. is 800-957-3203.

The ICHEIC also has a Web site with the names of those already identified as policy holders, and the forms for filing a claim: <<http://www.icheic.org>>.

Polish Jewry: Changes and Assimilation Talk by Julian Bussgang

On May 11, Dr. Julian Bussgang gave a talk to the AAPJS at Harvard Hillel in Cambridge entitled "Polish Jewry Before World War II: Changes and Assimilation."

Bussgang challenged the American image of Polish Jewry, derived from colorful depictions of shtetl life in Yiddish literature. He explained that much integration into the general Polish society gradually took place after World War I, when Poland regained independence.

Bussgang's talk retraced briefly the history and evolution of the Jewish community in Poland and documented the gradual changes that were taking place. He discussed some objective indicators of assimilation such as the modernization of religious practices and dress, attendance at public schools, the growing use of the Polish language, and participation in Polish political and cultural life.

The speaker reviewed historical facts, showed data from Polish census records, and cited personal observations. A lively discussion followed.

Bussgang, who grew up in Lwów, Poland (now Lviv, Ukraine) in an assimilated Jewish family, lived in Lwów until mid-September 1939, when he escaped with his family, first to Romania, and then to Palestine.

Bussgang is a board member of the American Association for Polish-Jewish Studies and coeditor of its newsletter *Gazeta*. He serves on the National Polish American-Jewish American Council.

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AAPJS Board News

The board reelected Mrs. Irene Pipes as president and elected Professor Antony Polonsky as vice president. Alexandra Hawiger will continue as treasurer. Bill Frusztajer, Dr. Jana Prot, Joanna Ross, and Eugenia Shrut were elected directors. Attending the AAPJS board meeting in May was Ms. Phyllis Meyers of Washington, D.C., who recently joined the board. She was asked to explore the formation of a D.C. chapter of our association.

Plans are under way to set up a Web site for the association. Professor Polonsky reported that volume 15 of our annual journal, *POLIN*, has been distributed, and volumes 16, 17, 18 and 19 are making progress.

Much discussion centered on future programs, in particular, organizing panel discussions of members willing to share their remembrances. A fall meeting is planned for this purpose.

Virtually Jewish

Ruth Ellen Gruber, a frequent correspondent on current Jewish life in Central and Eastern Europe is the author of a new book, *Virtually Jewish: Reinventing Jewish Culture in Europe*, University of California Press, 2002.

Gruber, who frequently visits Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, Italy, and neighboring countries, discusses the reclaiming of Jewish heritage sites and museums. Another phenomenon is the revival of Jewish music, often by non-Jews.

The author believes that some of the newly established Jewish festivals, performances, publications, study programs, and restorations are related to tourism promotion. Gruber points out that although many of these attractions have become popular with curious non-Jewish spectators, local Jews and Jewish communities have also responded and are affected by this revival of Jewish life in Europe. Much of it has been made possible by assistance from Jews in the United States.

Project SEARCH

Project Search is a service operated by the American Red Cross to help locate family members lost during World War II or to establish the evidence of their fate. The collected data may help ascertain what happened and may also be of assistance in securing reparations.

For more information on Project SEARCH, please contact your nearest Red Cross office, or call 877-665-3463 (FIND).

POLIN: Studies in Polish Jewry, Vol. 16

by Antony Polonsky

The theme of the next volume of *POLIN* will be "Jewish Popular Culture in Poland and its Afterlife."

Scholarship on the civilization of Polish Jews has tended to focus on elite culture and canonical literature. Even modern Yiddish culture has generally been approached from the perspective of 'great works.' This special issue on Jewish popular culture will focus on relatively less explored but historically vital forms of culture that have previously been relegated to the margins of scholarly interest. Most of the articles will look at the period before the Second World War, but there will also be several studies of the traces of this culture in the contemporary world. The volume is intended to help reconfigure our understanding of Polish-Jewish civilization in its true richness and variety.

Subjects discussed in depth will include *klezmerim* (Jewish musicians) and Jewish recorded music; the development of Jewish theatre in Poland, theatrical parody, and the popular poet and performer Mordechai Gebirtig; Jewish postcards in Poland and Germany; the early Yiddish popular press in Galicia and cartoons in the Yiddish press; working-class libraries in inter-war Poland; the photographs of Roman Vishniac; contemporary Polish wooden figures of Jews; and the Kraków Jewish Culture Festival. Also, a Polish Jewish popular song is traced to Auschwitz, the *badkhn* (wedding jester) is rediscovered in present-day Jerusalem, and Yiddish cabaret turns up in garage-band garb.

There will also be translations from the work of two writers previously unavailable in English: excerpts from the ethnographer A. Litvin's pioneering five-volume work *Yiddishe neshomes* (Jewish Souls) and several chapters from the autobiography, notorious in inter-war Poland, of the writer and thief Urke Nachalnik.

As in earlier volumes of *POLIN*, substantial space will also be given to new research into a variety of topics in Polish-Jewish studies. These include the origins of anti-Semitism in Poland; what is known about the presence of German forces in the vicinity of Jedwabne in the summer of 1941; and the vexing question of Jews in the communist security apparatus in Poland after 1944.

The review section will include an important discussion of what should be done about the paintings in Sandomierz cathedral, which represent an alleged ritual murder in the seventeenth century, and an examination of the 'anti-Zionist' campaign of 1968.

Anders Army Exhibit in Boston

The Polish American Congress of Eastern Massachusetts (PACE) brought to Northeastern University in Boston a special photographic exhibition depicting the origins and battles of the Polish Second Corps, known by the name of its commander, Władysław Anders, as the Anders Army.

The Anders Army was organized in the Soviet Union after Hitler attacked the USSR in 1941. From 1939 to 1941, when the Soviets occupied eastern Poland, 1,500,000 Poles, including many Jews, were deported into the depths of the Soviet Union, the majority to Siberia. In 1942, after Germany attacked the Soviet Union, Stalin agreed to release these so-called Polish political prisoners and allow the Polish Government-in-Exile in London to form a Polish army within the USSR.

Under an Allied agreement, General Anders led this army out of the USSR, first to Iran, then to Iraq, and then to the Middle East. The Anders Army became part of the British 8th Army and participated with distinction in the Italian campaign. Its best known battle was the bloody Battle of Monte Cassino.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition, on June 30, was a special event to memorialize the Siberian Exile of Poles during World War II and the Battle of Monte Cassino. *General Anders and His Soldiers*, an English-language film produced in England, which contains original footage of the forming of the army, its training, and battles, including the Battle of Monte Cassino, was shown at the exhibition. The video was followed by a panel of former Polish soldiers who were participants in the battle—eye-witnesses of those heroic, little known aspects of history. AAPJS board member Julian Buszgang, who joined the Anders Army after completing Polish High School in Tel Aviv, was one of the panelists.

The exhibition consists of photographic panels assembled by Ms. Grażyna Jonkajtis of Poland with the assistance of the Piłsudski Institute in New York. One panel is dedicated to the Jewish soldiers who fought and died in the Anders Army.

The exhibition is scheduled to remain at the Curry Student Center at Northeastern June 30–July 10 but may be extended for a few days. Hours are: 10 A.M. to 3 P.M., M–F. For further information, call (617) 889-6730, or see <<http://www.paceasternmass.org/index3.html#Siberia>>.

President Bush Tours Auschwitz

On his recent trip to Poland at the beginning of June, President George W. Bush and his wife toured the concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Robert Remak & Modern Biology

In December 2002, the noted magazine *Science*, on its "Portraits of Science" page, featured the profile of Robert Remak (1815–65). Remak, an embryologist, physiologist, and neurologist, was one of the most remarkable and yet least-known scientists who contributed to the development of modern cell biology.

A Polish Jew born in Posen (Poznań), then a part of Prussia, Remak received his medical degree in Berlin and supported himself as a medical practitioner while carrying out microscopic studies at home. His early research was on the microscopic anatomy of the nervous system. He also pioneered in the use of electrotherapy for the treatment of nervous diseases. He studied the nerve cells of the heart, now called Remak's ganglia. Remak's most significant contribution was demonstrating that new animal cells are a product of the binary fission of preexisting cells.

His work on cell division was first met with disbelief and criticism but was eventually accepted. Today, it forms the basis of much modern cell biology.

Remak was the author of the book *Untersuchungen über die Entwicklung der Wirbelthiere* (Investigations on the Development of the Vertebrates), G. Reimer, Berlin 1866, which explains how cell division is the main mechanism for generating new cells in animals and men. This fundamental concept, particularly related to the growth of an embryo and to tumor development, was later promulgated by Rudolf Virchow, who eventually, but belatedly, acknowledged Remak's contribution.

Remak was the first Jew in Prussia to be given the *habilitacja* (habilitation) without giving up his Jewish faith. Nonetheless, because he was Jewish, he was repeatedly denied a senior academic position. He died in 1865 at age 50.

His son was neurologist Ernst Julius Remak (1849-1911), and his grandson was the mathematician Robert Remak, born 1888, who perished in Auschwitz.

***Quo Vadis* coming to America**

A new, dramatic production of the film *Quo Vadis* by Jerzy Kawalerowicz, based on the famous book of the same title by Henryk Sienkiewicz (1845–1916), is scheduled to appear in the U.S. this fall.

Sienkiewicz was the recipient of the Nobel Prize for literature in 1905. His monumental *Trilogy*, which consists of *With Fire and Sword*, *The Deluge*, and *Fire in the Steppe*, is classic reading in Poland.

March of the Living Revised

In the past, neither Jews nor Poles in Poland were happy with the manner in which the March of the Living, an annual pilgrimage of American and Israeli youth to Poland, had been conducted. The American and Israeli youngsters only visited the death camps and had no contact with Polish youth or with the Jewish community in Poland.

In the last few years this situation has evolved considerably. During this year's March of the Living, an organization in Poland, the Forum for Dialogue Among Nations Foundation, organized meetings in Krakow, Warsaw, and Gliwice between Polish students and Jewish groups coming from various countries—the U.S., Canada, Australia, India, Israel, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, and Slovenia.

The new policy encourages encounters between the visiting Jewish youngsters and the local youth and has provided opportunities to combat prejudice and stereotypes. The participants can now acquire a better understanding of Polish-Jewish relations and exchange ideas with their contemporaries in Poland.

Tombstones in Szczebrzeszyn

Szczebrzeszyn, a small town south east of Lublin, has one of the oldest preserved Jewish cemeteries in Poland. Andrzej Trzciniński, who researched the cemetery, reported seeing tombstones as old as 1545 [A. Trzciniński: *Śladami zabytków kultury żydowskiej na Lubelszczyźnie*. (Traces of monuments of Jewish culture in Lublin) Lublin, 1990]. Only Lesiek, Lublin, and Kraków have cemeteries as old as the cemetery in Szczebrzeszyn.

A young student from Wrocław heard by word of mouth that in addition to the tombstones at the Szczebrzeszyn cemetery, there were many displaced Jewish tombstones dispersed among various private properties. Maria Zaporowska writes in *Przegląd Tygodniowy*, a weekly Magazine of *Trybuna*, that she found in Szczebrzeszyn a number of ancient Jewish tombstones with Hebrew letters used as steps, thresholds of farmer's huts, parts of a wall, a walk covering, or simply tossed behind a barn.

Zaporowska describes how she was able to locate numerous old *matsevo*t (ornamental engraved gravestones) by talking to the local residents. After brushing off grass and dirt, she did extensive photographing of these tombstones and plans to write a book about the Szczebrzeszyn Jewish cemetery.

A New Internet Magazine

A new Internet magazine, *Forum*, published by "Znak," the Christian Culture Foundation in Kraków, Poland, is dedicated to Polish-Jewish events and accounts. Its chief editor is Stefan Wilkanowicz.

Forum appears in two languages, Polish and English, and is dedicated to reports of Jewish events in Poland, press and book reviews, and profiling individuals of interest to the Polish-Jewish theme. Collaborating on the project are the Christian-Jewish Council in Poland, the Canadian Foundation of Polish-Jewish Heritage, Montreal Chapter, and the Internet service EuroDialog.

The Web site is <www.forum-znak.org.pl>

Jewish Day at Warsaw University

Forum-Znak, the new Internet magazine, reports that May 8th was "Jewish Day" at Warsaw University (UW). Presentations included klezmer music, Jewish dances (with instruction), meetings with artists and historians, debates and discussions, and an exhibition dedicated to Mordechai Anielewicz, hero of the Warsaw ghetto. Shown were films *W poszukiwaniu utraconych lat* (In search of the lost years) directed by Jan Sosiński, and *Polanija*, by Amnon Teitelbaum.

Professor Węgleński, president of UW stated, "This is a very important day for the University. I am glad that after the political changes of 1981, we may celebrate these kinds of anniversaries and pay homage to people who played a crucial role for both Warsaw and the entire Poland—especially to those who, like Mordechai Anielewicz, fought the Germans."

Professor Jerzy Tomaszewski, head of the Jewish Studies program at UW, said, "The 'Jewish Day' is dedicated both to the memory of the fighters of the uprising in the ghetto and to various aspects of Polish-Jewish relations and Jewish culture in Poland."

The program was organized with the assistance of the Jacek Filderbaum Foundation, the Shalom Foundation, the Israeli Embassy in Poland, and the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

Hungary Sets an Example

Dateline: World Jewry of March 2003, a publication of the World Jewish Congress, reports that the new Hungarian government has made an agreement with World Jewish Congress to make payments to about 100,000 children of Holocaust victims from Hungary, now living throughout the world.

Three Oscars for *The Pianist*

Roman Polanski's film *The Pianist*, a most memorable and moving film about the Holocaust, won three "Oscars" from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The Best Actor Award went to Adrien Brody, who played Władysław Szpilman, a Jewish pianist for Polish radio, who survived the horrors of the Warsaw ghetto but whose family perished. In receiving the award, Brody said, "My experiences in making this film has made me very aware of the sadness and dehumanization of people in times of war and the repercussions of war."

The Oscar for the Best Adapted Screenplay went to writer Ronald Harwood, who wrote the screenplay for *The Pianist*.

The Best Director Award went to Roman Polanski, a Jew who grew up in Poland, though born, in 1933, in Paris. Polanski, who started his career as an actor, is a graduate of the State Film College in Łódź. He gained fame as the movie director of *Knife in the Water*, which was widely acclaimed and nominated for an Academy Award as Best Foreign Language Film. Later, while living in the U.S., Polanski made such well-known films as *Rosemary's Baby* and *Chinatown*. He now lives in France but shot *The Pianist* in Poland and Germany.

The Fifth Anniversary

The month of May of this year was the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Forum for Dialogue Among Nations Foundation. The Foundation is headquartered in Gliwice, Poland, a city of about 220,000 residents in Silesia, Gliwice is in the Silesian territories acquired by Poland from Germany after World War II. The German name of the city was Gleiwitz, and it is the site of the Silesian Technical Institute

The Ambassador of Israel to Poland, Szewach Weiss, attended the anniversary event as the guest of honor.

The Foundation, chaired by Andrzej Folwarczny, is very active in promoting improved relations between people of various backgrounds. It maintains a Web site at: <www.dialog.org.pl>.

The Foundation recently established another Web site <www.jewishmemory.gliwice.pl>, dedicated to the history of the Jewish community of Gliwice. The current small Jewish population consists mostly of those who moved west when Poland was forced to cede its eastern territories to the USSR.

The Gliwice synagogue was destroyed by the Germans on Kristallnacht.

President of Israel Visits Poland

Moshe Katsav, President of Israel, visited Poland in April on the 60th anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising.

Katsav met with Polish President Aleksander Kwaśniewski, who said, "We pay tribute to many centuries of common history, to Holocaust victims, and all the people who over the years have contributed to dialogue and cohabitation of Poles and Jews."

Katsav described Polish-Israeli relations as "warm" and added that both nations "have gone through great traumatic experiences over the last 50-60 years."

Katsav and Kwaśniewski participated in the annual March of the Living between Auschwitz and Birkenau.

Warsaw Jewish Museum Project

Dr. Jerzy Halbersztadt, director of the planned Museum of Polish Jewry in Warsaw, announced at the beginning of May that he had been officially informed that the Polish government will contribute 25% of the total budget for the creation of the museum.

This significant and critical commitment was made on behalf of Prime Minister Leszek Miller by the chief of his chancellery minister, Marek Wagner, on April 28, during a special meeting of the Polish committee for the support of the museum. What tilted the scales was the participation at the meeting of a group of American businessmen, donors, supporters, and rabbis, led by Wiktor Markowicz and Stephen Solender, who offered to match any funds contributed by the Polish government.

President Kwaśniewski had encouraged the support by the Polish government, saying that the the decision to create this museum has been made, and now is the time to make an architectural design and start the construction

The decision by the Polish government breathes new life into the project, which can now move forward.

Biały Orzeł – The White Eagle

A new Polish language biweekly publication, *Biały Orzeł—The White Eagle*, has been launched in Massachusetts and is available by subscription. It is in newspaper format and updates its readers on local Polish-American events and on happenings in Poland. Some articles are in English, others in Polish. The publisher is Darek Barcikowski, and the editor-in-chief, Marcin Bolec.

The White Eagle welcomes news reports and advertising. The Web page with additional information is <www.whiteaglenews.com>, or call 617-307-6306.

Henry Vars – Henryk Warszawski

Henry Vars (1902-78), a Polish-Jewish composer born in Warsaw, became known as a music writer for many American films. His song “*Miłość Ci wszystko wybaczy*,” (Love will Forgive You Everything) was used in Spielberg’s *Schindler’s List*. Many of his prewar songs continue to be popular in Poland today.

Known as Henryk Warszawski before the war, he directed his own jazz band in Lwów and composed many prewar hit songs in addition to “*Miłość Ci wszystko wybaczy*,” such as “*Zimny drań*” (Cool rascal), “*My daj, oba cwaj*” (The Two of Us, One and the Other) and “*Tylko we Lwowie*” (Only in Lwów).

During the war, Warszawski first served in the Polish army and then became a German prisoner-of-war, but he managed to escape to the Soviet Union. After Germany attacked the USSR in 1941, he was able to join the Polish army commanded by General W. Anders and thus leave the Soviet Union. Warszawski went on with the Anders Army to the Middle East and then to Italy.

After the war, he emigrated to the United States, changed his name to Henry Vars, and became a composer of songs for American movies.

Who will Say Kaddish?

Larry Mayer and Gary Gelb collaborated on a new book, *Who will Say Kaddish? A Search for Jewish Identity in Contemporary Poland*, published in 2002 by Syracuse University Press.

In the late 1990s, Mayer, who writes for *Boston Phoenix*, and Gelb, a professional photographer, friends from childhood, toured Poland as part of a project to study and document the current Polish-Jewish community. They spent several months interviewing and photographing Jews who live in Poland. Though they themselves both grew up in America, Mayer’s parents are both Polish Holocaust survivors.

Who will Say Kaddish? presents a remarkable visual and written account of the renewed Jewish life in Poland, depicting a community reborn after the fall of Communism. They interpose their observations of the special situation of Jews in Poland today with their own American-Jewish experience.

Mayer and Gelb comment that while in major cities, such as Warsaw and Wrocław, Jewish community life is being reborn, in many smaller towns, there are so few Jews that, as the title suggests, the handful who survived wonder who will be there to say Kaddish for them.

Jews of Przemyśl

Dr. John J. Hartman and Dr. Jacek Krochmal have collaborated to produce the book, “*I Remember Every Day...: The Fate of the Jews of Przemyśl During World War II*,” Remembrance and Reconciliation, Inc., Ann Arbor, 2002. The book, first published in Poland, was translated into English by Agnieszka Andrzejewska.

The book includes accounts of twenty-two Holocaust survivors as well as of eight Catholic witnesses in a section entitled “Views from the other side of the ghetto.” It is enriched by photographs and articles providing the historical background of Przemyśl, a description of prewar Polish-Jewish relations, and an account of the events that took place during the Holocaust. It gives both historical and psychological perspectives. Its elaborate footnotes aptly explain the history and context of the events.

This book is the product of a remarkable collaboration between an American Jew of Polish descent and a Polish Catholic to tell the story of the Holocaust in Przemyśl as seen and understood by ordinary people who went through these extraordinary experiences. Once the third largest city in Galicia, Przemyśl is now located in southeastern Poland near the Ukrainian border. Before the war, approximately one-third of its inhabitants were Jewish.

Dr. Hartman is a psychoanalyst and clinical associate professor of psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan and a research associate at the Center for Russian and European Studies. He is Executive Director of Remembrance and Reconciliation, Inc., a non-profit foundation dedicated to bettering ethnic relations between the Jewish and Eastern European communities. Dr. Krochmal is a historian and archivist at the Polish State Archives in Warsaw.

“Bialy” Buns

The book *The Bialy Eaters: The Story of Bread in the Lost World*, Broadway Books, 2001, by Mimi Sheraton, is devoted to the history of the *bialy*, the crusty roll with onion-filled center that seems to have originated in Białystok, Poland. Bialy is a simplified name for *Bialystoker kuchen* (baked goods from Białystok).

Sheraton is a former *New York Times* and *Time* magazine restaurant critic. The book was developed after she traveled to Poland and talked to a handful of Jewish residents there, as well as to some former Bialystokers in New York. She wrote the book lest the history of the bialy be forgotten. Kossar’s Bialy Bakery in the Lower East Side still specializes in the bialy.

Essay Contest in Ożarów

Norman and Hannah Weinberg, who previously organized the restoration of the Ożarów Jewish cemetery, have established an annual prize for the best essay on Polish Jews by non-Jewish students attending Polish high schools. The Weinbergs report that this year’s winner is Anna Czajkowska, a senior at the lyceum in Ożarów.

In order to gather material for her essay about Jews in her town, Czajkowska studied census records and interviewed her

grandmother and other long-time residents in the town of approximately 5,000 inhabitants.

Before the war, according to the 1931 census, Ożarów had 4,410 inhabitants, of whom a great majority (64%) were Jewish. Jews settled in Ożarów gradually, beginning in the 17th century, when their number reached 302. In 1787, there were 1,429; in 1857, 1,450; and in 1921, 3,456. Ożarów Jews were primarily craftsmen and merchants. It was reported that there was friendly and neighborly interaction between Poles and Jews, particularly among children in school.

Among Jewish neighbors and friends mentioned by the interviewees were the surnames Aronów, Bleiwass, Epstein, Fisher, Fried, Grumann, Heim, Hochmann, Klaper, Kleinminz, Ledermann, Murawiak, Pik, Sherman, Szpilman, Waksman, and Weitzmann.

Headmistress of the lyceum, Alicja Rosanka Cembrowska, will be honored by the Israeli Embassy at the Kraków Festival this summer for her part in encouraging the project.

The Weinbergs plan to establish a similar scholarship award for Jewish youth in Poland.

About *POLIN*: Studies in Polish Jewry

POLIN is an annual journal on the history of Polish Jewry (in book form) edited by a board of international scholars, chaired by Antony Polonsky of Brandeis.

POLIN, which began in 1986, is currently published by the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization in London and is sponsored by AAPJS and the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies in England. Each year a new volume of *POLIN* is mailed automatically to the fully paid-up members of AAPJS.

The topics covered in *POLIN* include history, politics, religious studies, literature, linguistics, sociology, art, and architecture—as they relate to Polish Jewry.

Leszek Kolakowski, noted Polish philosopher and historian of philosophy who taught at Warsaw University, Oxford, and in Chicago, described *POLIN* as follows, “Nobody can doubt that systematic study of Polish-Jewish history is of the highest scholarly interest. . . . *POLIN*, having many prominent Polish and Jewish scholars among its contributors, will be able to inject a new life into those studies. All scholars in the humanities will certainly hail it as a most welcome event.”

The late Eugene Kusielewicz, a leading spokesman on Polish and Polish-American affairs and former Associate Professor of History at St. John's University, said in the *Polish-American Journal*, “The articles and reviews were remarkably objective . . . perhaps the most valuable source book on Polish-Jewish relations . . . I sincerely recommend it to all interested in the history of Poland.”

POLIN was awarded the 1999 National Jewish Book Award in the Eastern European category.

To: American Association for Polish-Jewish Studies

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